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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY JOSH SCHMIDT/

The State Highway Administration has bought nine new "quad axle" trucks to supplement their standard fleet. These new trucks, pictured here Nov. 8, 2017, in Hanover, Md., can carry more than double the amount of salt and 40 more gallons of fuel

Maryland Shows Off New Snow Plow and Infrared Reader

By JOSH SCHMIDT
Capital News Service

HANOVER, MD—The Maryland State Highway Administration is preparing for winter with improved technology that the agency said will clear roads more efficiently, curb salt usage and provide more information to drivers.

On November 8, the highway agency demonstrated an infrared measurement system

and a larger truck, which they hope will help improve drivers' experience.

Whether and when the state will be hit with inclement weather is unknown, but the agency is striving to

be prepared for the worst case scenario, highway administration spokesman Charlie Gisclair said.

See SNOW PLOW Page A3

Panel Weighs New School-Construction Funding Bill

By GEORGIA SLATER
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Building additional schools and pushing for more up-to-date, efficient and innovative design proposals is under review by a state panel charged with examining school construction.

Today, an estimated 65,297 students in Maryland public schools are in temporary classrooms such as trailers, and there is \$23.3 billion in estimated statewide school construction needed through fiscal year 2023, according to the Maryland State Department of Education and local schools.

Maryland Sen. Jim Rosapepe, D-Anne Arundel and Prince George's, discussed a revised version of an earlier bill, the Maryland Overcrowding Reduction Act of 2018, at Tuesday's meeting of the 21st Century School Facilities Commission in hopes of combatting school overcrowding problems across the state.

The legislation did not pass last spring, however Rosapepe said he is confident in his revisions and efforts for the upcoming session.

"Facilities are one thing—we need them. I don't see us educating in cornfields. They're just as important as the programs taught," said Martin G. Knott Jr., chair of the commission.

Rosapepe explained that this \$23 billion construction estimate is unaffordable, and the state and local governments will not significantly boost borrowing for schools in order to pay for all of the projects. All 24 jurisdictions have the ability to build and repair schools at much lower costs, Rosapepe told the commission.

Schools prioritize their money in different ways, he said, and one school might spend more on a building's upkeep and another on hiring a new math teacher.

According to the state's Department of Legislative Services, the average cost for a new public school is \$46,000 per student, however recent construction costs in Maryland have ranged from \$19,000 to \$87,000 per student, a large gap that Rosapepe wants to narrow.

The goals of the legislation are to reduce overcrowding, repair old buildings and to end the need for portable classrooms. By designing, approving and building schools faster, reducing costs per student for new schools and incentivizing 21st century construction methods, Rosapepe said, change can be made.

For example, Rosapepe said, there no longer is a need for computer labs in schools now that students can bring their own devices. By cutting out an entire

See FUNDING Page A5

Rushern L. Baker and Redevelopment Authority Break Ground For the Artisan

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

LARGO, MD—County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III and the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County (RDA), local and municipal elected officials and community leaders joined together on Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. for a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the construction of Artisan, 4100 Rhode Island Avenue,

Brentwood, MD in the heart of the Gateway Arts District.

This new state-of-the-art, mixed-use building, will include 84 market rate apartments, 4800 square feet of ground floor retail space and music studios. The building is designed to LEED Gold standards and will be powered by solar photo voltaic panels. In addition, the building will in-

See ARTISAN Page A5

Baysox Winterfest to Be Held At Prince George's Stadium

Tickets Available for Holiday Pancake Supper to Benefit Local Charities—FREE Photos With Santa Claus

By PRESS OFFICER
Baysox

BOWIE, MD—The Bowie Baysox will host Baysox Winterfest at Prince George's Stadium on Friday, December 8, 2017, from 6–8 p.m.

Come out and celebrate the Holiday season with the Baysox as there will be an appearance

by Santa Claus, arts and crafts, hot chocolate and holiday cookies for guests and more! Skip the line at the mall and bring a camera to take FREE PHOTOS with Santa Claus during the event from 6:30–8:00 pm. The Baysox team store will also be

See BAYSOX Page A5

400 Animals Admitted to MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center

By PRESS OFFICER
MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital

CLINTON, MD—MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center recently welcomed 400 stuffed animals through their doors, a donation from LaPlata High School senior Sidney Monk.

Monk collected the brand-new stuffed animals through friends, family, acquaintances and a donation from the LaPlata Chick-fil-A restaurant. She was inspired to perform this philanthropic mission after her own experience receiving a stuffed animal during a hospital stay as a child. She has collected and donated stuffed animals to hospitals ever since, totaling thousands.

MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center plans to distribute the donated stuffed animals, first to young visitors in our Emergency Department.

"Stuffed animals for pediatric patients really help," said Emergency Department Nurse Kristin Quade. "Parents are also grateful and floored we go through the trouble to have them here."

The animals will also go to elderly patients. Care of elderly patients is something MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center prides itself on, having achieved the highest level of care possible in the Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders (NICHE) program just a few months ago.



PHOTO COURTESY MEDSTAR

Left; Sidney Monk, Right; Holly Miller



PHOTO COURTESY MEDSTAR

Holly Miller and Sidney Monk pose with MedStar Staff.

"When patients are elderly and/or confused, having something to help that helps soothe them will be great," said Nursing Director Anne Johnson, who helped receive Monk's donation.

Monk was accompanied on her trip to donate the stuffed animals by her best

friend and fellow LaPlata High School senior Holly Miller. She was also accompanied by her mother Cheri, a teacher, who recalled, "When Sidney was six years old, she was in the hospital after an asthma attack, and she received a stuffed bear. Sidney asked if all kids in the ER received stuffed animals and was told no, the hospital often runs out. She said, 'That's really sad, I'll see what I can do to help,' and later created Sidney's Dream Foundation to bring brand-new stuffed animals to kids in hospitals."

MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center would like to thank Sidney Monk, Dave and Cheri Monk, Holly Miller and Sidney's Dream Foundation. This is Monk's second donation to MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center.

About MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center:

MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center, located in Clinton, Maryland, is a 182 bed acute care hospital serving the Washington, D.C., metro and Southern Maryland area. The hospital is focused on caring for patients and their loved ones utilizing advanced technology under the guidance of expert clinicians. Quality, Safety, Wellness, and Patient Satisfaction are achieved through a spirit of patient centered services that connect us to the community we serve.

INSIDE

On Damp Days, Wet Leaves can Become a Serious Driving Hazard

When traveling too fast for conditions, layers of wet leaves on the roadway or in traffic lanes can cause the loss of vehicle control, collisions, and make the simple tasks and maneuvers of "braking, steering and stopping" more difficult for drivers to accomplish.

Community, Page A3

House Passes NDAA Conference Report Including Brown Priorities

The FY18 NDAA includes several provisions supported by Congressman Brown and over \$607 million in projects that will strengthen Maryland's role in our national security.

Commentary, Page A4

International Travel Company Lands in Prince George's County

Cheap World Tours, Inc. is an Inbound Tour Operating company based in New Delhi, India, that specializes in inbound group tourism in the United States, Corporate M.I.C.E (Meetings, Incentives, Conferencing, and Exhibitions) for International Companies and Luxurious Holiday packages.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: The Dark Tower

The film hints at deeper, richer mythologies than it has time for (or than it has interest in, I guess; the movie's pretty short). There's a glossed-over, watered-down feel to everything—not rushed, exactly, but disinterested. The stakes seem low even though they are not.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

I know what C Corporations, S Corporations and LLCs are, but what are "B Corporations" and how does this status help the environment?

—Robert Gendarme, Chicago, IL

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Groundbreaking for Town Square at Fed Center—development expected to revitalize Suitland

County Executive Rushern Baker, local and elected officials, and community leaders came together Nov. 16 to break ground for the construction of the Town Square at Suitland Federal Center. The Square will be at the corner of Suitland Road and Silver Hill Road. Already, one building at the corner has been demolished, and leases are not being renewed.

This project is being hailed as a premiere example of sustainable master planning, and recently won an award from the American Society of Landscape Architects for Master Planning and Landscaping.

The Square will eventually include 895 apartments and single-family attached homes, 98,000 sq. ft. of retail, and a 50,000 sq. ft. Performing Arts Center. The groundbreaking begins Phase One with grading and infrastructure construction. In Spring 2018, construction will begin for 219 for-sale townhouses and a 137-unit senior apartment building. Phase Two begins in 2020 with the construction of 538 apartments and 2 Net Zero Energy homes. Phase Three will include 80,000 sq. ft. of new retail space and the Performing Arts Center.

The economic impact of the project will be tremendous for the area with more than \$400,000,000 in construction costs and an estimated 1,200 construction jobs. The word is out: "Buy Suitland." This project will be the foundation of what many hope will be the rebirth of Suitland.

For more information, the media contact is: Alexis Revis Yeoman, Public Information Officer, Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development, 301-883-2760. Or go to <http://suitlandtowncenter.com>.

People

Lt. Tim Cordero, who grew up in Skyline, is retiring from the Prince George's County Police after 25 years. He was honored at the November meeting of the Skyline Citizens Association.

Cpl. Gonzalez, COPS officer for Skyline, is the proud father of a new 8-pound son, August Jace Gonzalez, born Sept. 6.

Ju'Wann Jones, facility director of the Suitland Community Center, 5600 Regency Lane, told those of us who attended the Skyline Citizens meeting about all the recreation activities available—most of them free. Activities include line dancing, culinary club, community gardens, drum line, basketball (co-ed), computer education, and much more. Go by your local Community Center and pick up a schedule.

Skyline President Stan Holmes put in a plug for our local heroes: the men and women firefighters of the Morningside Fire Department, all of whom are volunteers. He suggested dropping off a few pizzas at the firehouse once in a while. Leave a note of thanks with your name and phone number. They'll surely thank you. Big time.

My daughter Therese Gallegos is staying with me for a few weeks. She's in town from Brownsville, Texas. She retired last year from the University of Texas at Brownsville. There she is a 1972 graduate of Crossland. She went on to State U. of New York at Binghamton, earned a master's at the U. of New Mexico and a doctorate from Harvard.

Bible Museum opens its doors

The Museum of the Bible had its Grand Opening Nov. 17 at 400 4th Street SW, in Washington. It's open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Also, it's open until 9 p.m. Thursday nights through the end of the year. Tickets are free but donations are wel-

come. Request tickets at museumofthebible.org/tickets.

An 18th Century County Christmas

Take the bus with the Surratt Society as they journey to Sinking Springs Herb Farm in Elkton, MD, to tour its beautifully decorated farmhouse and the gift shop before enjoying a festive Christmas luncheon. You can also make a small memento to take home. Fee: \$85. Info: 301-868-1121.

Changing landscape

In response to demand for more private rooms at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital, an entire floor of private rooms has opened in the hospital's Bed Tower II.

In Clinton, a vacant commercial building (corner of Woodyard and Brandywine roads) has been donated to the Surratt House next door. They are awaiting demolition of the building.

Somebody dumped 97 tires on McKeldin Drive in Skyline. It has been reported to the police who will further report it to the agency that deals with such outrageous dumps.

Do you really need that straw?

According to Washington Post's Jessica Contrera and Caitlin Gibson: "Straws are not recyclable. They will sit, defiantly undecomposed, in landfills. They will float out into the clear blue sea and end up lodged in the nostril of an endangered sea turtle..."

So, tell your waiter you don't need a straw in your ice water. Or in your soda. Or in your Bloody Mary. I have started doing that and will continue with my no-straw message.

Morningside Memories, 1957

Sixty years ago, Nov. 23, 1957, the new Morningside

See **MORNINGSIDE** Page A3

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday to Sonia Douwana, Ronald Crawford, Sr., Darius Paul Kerrick, Dunstana Nicol-Wilson, Markell S, Dabney, Dion Jalloh, Owen Johnson, Ugo Mbakwe, Shurrell Bell, Ronald Crawford, Tiffany Knight, Daphne Rojas, Evangeline Crawford, Sheila Holmes, Dorothea Belt Stroman, Maly Escanilla, Wade Garrett, Beverly Holman, Grace Omoregbe, Pauline Clark, Dorothy Glasgow-Reid who are Clinton United Methodist Church Members celebrating birthdays during the month of November.

NOVEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Happy wedding anniversary to Barron & Kendra Neal who are Clinton United Methodist Church Members celebrating a wedding anniversary during the month of November.

CANCER REHABILITATION

Dr. Katherine Power from Medstar Rehabilitation will provide a general overview of the specific aspects of rehab medicine that can be used to help patients who are undergoing cancer treatment and/or those patients who have completed treatment for cancer. This is a free and confidential program. Please call 301-634-7500 or email us at info@hopeconnectionsfor-

cancer.org for more information or to RSVP.

MELWOOD CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Melwood Child Development Center (License # 161632), a ministry of Melwood Church of the Nazarene is currently enrolling 2-5 year olds for the 2017-2018 school year. This is a quality Christian Preschool in a licensed Child Care Center. Year round programing Monday-Friday 6:00 AM-6:00 PM. Call 301-599-6704 to schedule a tour. The Center is located at 6906 Woodyard Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

BRANDYWINE-NORTH KEYS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Brandywine North-Keys Civic Association, Inc. was formed in 1980 as a non-partisan, non-political, and non-sectarian non-profit organization, reserving the right to advocate or oppose any legislation affecting the welfare of the Brandywine-North Keys area. The organization shall endeavor to stimulate interest in and to devise ways and means to promote civic, community, and general welfare, giving special attention to public improvement beneficial to the Brandywine-North Keys area.

The members and interested persons meet regularly in Brandywine Elementary School 7:00 PM on the 3rd Wednesday from September to June.

CHILD SAFETY WORKSHOPS

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) Department of Family and Community Engagement and Division of Human Resources will host the workshop for parents and guardians. The workshop includes fingerprint background check and Child Protective Services (CPS) clearance sessions for family and community members who are interested in volunteering more than once a year in their neighborhood schools. Visit www.pgcps-family.org for required pre-registration. Free childcare is available for pre-kindergarten through fifth-grade students. Call the Department of Family and Community Engagement at 301-618-7356 for more information.

31ST ANNUAL WINTER FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Come and enjoy a spectacular holiday drive-through event of more than one million twinkling lights from Friday, November 24—Mon, January 1, 5:00 PM-9:30 PM daily at Watkins Regional Park. Please bring a canned good to donate to local food banks.

Fee: (cash only) \$10/ cars and vans; \$20/mini-buses and limos; \$30/buses; \$15/multi-visit passes for cars and vans. Telephone number is 301-699-2456.

Neighborhoods

WGL's Day of Weatherization Prepares Homes Across Region for Winter Conditions

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On November 4, 2107, WGL Holdings, Inc. (NYSE: WGL) held its fifth annual "Day of Weatherization," a community initiative helping hundreds of local residents in need across the region to stay warm and lower heating bills when temperatures drop this winter. More than 225 WGL volunteers worked in neighborhoods in Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia and West Virginia on a range of efforts from weatherizing houses to installing solar arrays.

When volunteers finished today, more than 150 homes across the region were ready to enjoy reduced energy expenses and added warmth in advance of the chilly temperatures and icy conditions expected this winter. According to industry estimates, the typical low-income home saves an average of 25% on energy consumption and saves an average of more than \$275 annually in heating and cooling costs after weatherization services.

The annual WGL event is a tradition started in 2005 with the company's regulated utility, Washington Gas, leading the weatherization of area homes. Today marks the fifth year that WGL's other entities, including WGL Energy, Hampshire Gas and WGL Midstream, joined together to provide energy efficiency support to low-income residents across all of its service territories.

"WGL is proud of our ongoing commitment to support the communities we serve, and help people in the national capital region to take proactive energy saving steps as winter approaches," said Terry D. McCallister, Chairman and CEO of WGL Holdings, Inc., and Washington Gas. "We appreciate the dedication of our highly valued employees who continue to give back to the communities we've been honored to serve for more than 169 years."

Throughout the day, volunteers worked to help lower-income families fend off the cold and reduce energy costs by implementing low-cost upgrades:

- installing plastic film on windows;
- replacing or installing caulking on windows and doors;
- replacing furnace filters;
- providing weather stripping; and
- installing faucet aerators that reduce the amount of hot water used.

In addition to these efforts, for the third consecutive year, WGL partnered with GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic, a DC-based non-profit organization delivering solar power to underserved communities, to support the installation of a roof top solar system on a home in Northwest, D.C. This is part of the program's initiative to expand the use of renewable options to lower energy bills and drive energy efficiency for those in need.

Click here to learn more about what you can do to prepare for the colder months.

About WGL

WGL (NYSE: WGL), headquartered in Washington, D.C., is a leading source for clean, efficient and diverse energy solutions. With activities and assets across the U.S.,

WGL consists of Washington Gas, WGL Energy, WGL Midstream and Hampshire Gas. WGL provides options for natural gas, electricity, green power and energy services, including generation, storage, transportation, distribution, supply and efficiency. Our calling as a company is to make energy surprisingly easy for our employees, our community and all our customers. Whether you are a homeowner or renter, small business or multinational corporation, state and local or federal agency, WGL is here to provide Energy Answers. Ask Us. For more information, visit us at www.wgl.com.

About GRID Alternatives

GRID Alternatives is a national 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that makes renewable energy technology and job training accessible to low-income communities. We bring together community partners, volunteers and job trainees to implement solar power and energy efficiency for low-income families, providing energy cost savings, valuable hands-on experience, and a source of clean, local energy that benefits us all. More than 7,500 families have benefited from our work to-date, saving \$212 million in lifetime electricity costs, and over 28,000 people have received solar training. www.gridalternatives.org/midatlantic.

BGE Ready to Provide Safe and Reliable Service This Winter

BALTIMORE, MD—As temperatures begin to drop, Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) asks customers to prepare for a return to normal winter temperatures after mild winters during the past few years. Colder weather can cause heating systems to work harder in order to maintain comfort, increasing energy usage and average bills. To ensure that customers' energy needs are met this winter, BGE has completed natural gas and electric infrastructure system upgrades throughout its service area.

"BGE's commitment to reliably meeting our customers' energy needs is vitally important during the cold, winter months," said Stephen Wornner, president and chief operating officer of BGE. "Our employees work year-round to keep our systems running so our customers can live their lives without electric or gas service interruptions, no matter the weather. We also appreciate the efforts our customers take to prepare their homes and explore ways to use energy more efficiently and safely. This way they can better manage energy costs when temperatures drop."

By the end of 2017, BGE will invest approximately \$500 million in the natural gas system to provide safe and reliable service for customers. This work includes equipment inspections, repairs and replacements, preventive maintenance, and new construction such as recently completed pipelines along Veterans Highway in Anne Arundel County and in the Hamilton neighborhood of Baltimore City. Since 2010, major gas system reinforcements have also been installed in Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties.

BGE also replaces existing gas mains with durable new pipes that will deliver gas safely and reliably to communities well into the future. Part of this work is the replacement of cast iron and unprotected steel mains at an accelerated rate under BGE's Strategic Infrastructure Development and Enhancement (STRIDE) gas system modernization plan. Through STRIDE, BGE will have replaced more than 150 miles of gas mains and more than 25,000 service pipes connecting customers to the gas system by the end of 2017. BGE has also secured natural gas contracts and filled its storage facilities to maintain gas supply for customers who purchase natural gas from BGE.

Electric system upgrades and maintenance in preparation for winter weather have occurred on schedule as part of the approximately \$1.1 billion BGE is investing in the company's electric system during 2017. In addition to inspecting more than 4,500 circuit miles of overhead power lines and more than 40,000 utility poles this year, the company is also taking steps to minimize the threat to power lines by trees weakened by heavy snows and winter storms with \$24 million in vegetation trimming near overhead lines.

As BGE prepares for winter, customers are reminded to prepare as well by following these tips:

- **Maintain Your Heating Systems**—Most of your cold weather energy expenses are related to heating your home. Schedule service for your heating system to find out what maintenance is required to keep your system operating efficiently.

- **Lower Your Water Heating Costs**—Water heating accounts for about 18% of the energy consumed in your home. Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F) and save.

- **Adjust the Temperature**—When you are at home and awake, set your thermostat as low as it is comfortable for you. When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back 10° to 15° for eight hours and save around 10% a year on your heating bills. A programmable thermostat can make it easy to set back your temperature. If you have a heat pump, maintain a moderate setting or use a programmable thermostat specially designed for use with heat pumps.

- **My Account Online Tools**—Your BGE online account contains tools and detailed energy usage information. By tracking your energy usage right after you use it, comparing usage trends, and discovering the results of energy-saving practices, you can manage your energy more efficiently. Log onto BGE.com/MyAccount to get started.

- **Keep Your Natural Gas Appliances Vents Clear**—Know where your natural gas appliances vent to the exterior and ensure the vents are clear. Some high efficiency gas appliances, such as water

See **WINTER** Page A3

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

A Positive Attitude And Your Child's Health

Hello, cold and flu season. With damp, chilly winter weather, and school contact with all those other little germ factories, it's not that surprising if your child suddenly is coughing, sneezing or worse.

While most of us are well aware of the medical steps to help our child get better, we sometimes forget there are emotional things we can do to help our child, too. This is important because our kids often feel bad about feeling bad. Have your kids ever apologized for being ill, saying, "Mom, I'm sorry I'm sick"?

What can you do? Start with a smile. If you're looking worried and concerned when approaching your ill child, he or she is going to begin worrying about why you look so worried.

Instead of asking, "How are your feeling?" when it's already clear that he or she is not feeling well, try to offer something positive. Tell your child that he or she is looking a little better, or has gotten some of that color back or seems a little cooler. Assure him that your job is to get him well.

One of that best medicines for a sick child, regardless of age, is being generous with your hugs and cuddles. While it can be tempting to plop him or her in front of that TV and just checking in occasionally, offering physical contact that encourages positive feelings of safety brings better results.

Instead of TV time, trying sitting your young child on your lap while reading a story, or maybe spending some time together coloring. If there is to be some TV time, spend at least part of it with him or her, holding hands while watching together.

There's no question that our minds have the power to affect our health. Talk with your child about imagining feeling better and you might find it can actually help him or her feel that way.

You also want to listen to your child. Encourage him or her to talk about what's being felt. If it's something as simple as a tummy ache, you may find the cause to be the stress of the day, not an illness.

None of us ever wants our child not feeling well. When illness does strike, try combining being a health care giver with being a loving, supportive parent who encourages a positive attitude. It really can help your child feel healthier faster.

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

Winter from A2

heaters and furnaces, vent along the foundation of buildings. If these vents become blocked by snow or ice, exhaust may back up resulting in carbon monoxide build-up or a release of natural gas.

Customers should also explore the BGE Smart Energy Savers ProgramSM to identify new ways to save energy, money and the environment. The program, which supports the EmPOWER Maryland Energy Efficiency Act, has

provided \$464 million in rebates to BGE customers and helped customers save more than 2.8 million megawatt-hours of electricity. EmPOWER Maryland programs are funded by a charge on your electric bill. EmPOWER programs can help you reduce your electricity consumption and save you money. Help in paying winter bills is also available to income-qualified customers. Call (800) 352-1446 or visit <http://www.dhr.state.md.us> and click on "Services."

Morningside from A2

Town Charter became effective, and a Book of Ordinances was being prepared. Also, a telephone was installed in the Town Hall. The number was REdwood 6-8806.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Ray Call, Avanna Williams, Andrew Gryskewicz and Mary Gaither,

Nov. 25; Darryl Moss, Nov. 26; Arthur Rose, Nov. 27; Thomas Shipman, Sr., Nov. 28; Devin Kane Blade, Nov. 29; Karen Windsor, Alexis R. Paige, Ramona Britt, Patricia Branch and Kimberly White, Nov. 30.
Happy anniversary to Gary and Ivy Kline on Nov. 28.

Happy Thanksgiving to all my readers!

On Damp Days, Wet Leaves can Become a Serious Driving Hazard

If it is Rainy and Soggy, Watch for Patches of Damp Leaves on Roadways

By PRESS OFFICER
AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Wet leaves reportedly caused a spate of crashes on the George Washington Memorial (GW) Parkway on Sunday, November 5, 2017, according to traffic reports. The GW Parkway has a "total of 99 species of trees," and they are giving up their dead leaves. If it is rainy and wet, watch for patches of damp leaves in the roadway. When the weather forecast is calling for rain showers in the morning, afternoon or throughout the day in your immediate area. It can have the makings of drizzly commutes for several days. Although the peak fall foliage viewing season is fading fast, its remnants—those fallen leaves—deposited and discarded on soggy roadways, saturated sidewalks and soaked surfaces can spawn hazardous conditions for motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists and anyone trying to negotiate the terrain. Layers of leaves line area roadways and neighborhoods in leafy suburbs.

Driving over wet leaves on the GW Parkway on a damp day reportedly caused some drivers to spin out of control. Crashes took place on the 25-mile Long Parkway near the scenic Potomac overlook, and reportedly in the northbound lanes near Virginia State Route (SR) 123 around the Fort Marcy Park Area, and in the southbound lanes near the Francis Scott Key Bridge. It is a reminder that in damp weather, wet leaves reduce traction on wet roadways. Keep in mind, the first 15 minutes after showers or a rainstorm are the most dangerous because of the oils that are released onto the road from the dry leaves.

The GW Parkway boasts numerous "forested areas," warns the National Park Service, which maintains the Parkway. Such crashes are not uncommon on other roadways throughout the Washington metro area this time

of year. So slow down and take other safety precautions, advises AAA Mid-Atlantic. Leaves blown across roadways by heavy wind gusts can make it more difficult for drivers to see road surfaces, potholes and other road debris and hazards. With the end of Daylight Saving Time yesterday, the sun rises later and sets earlier, making it more difficult to see large patches of sodden leaves on the road.

"Drivers should slow down when roads are covered with soaked leaves and they must learn to take turns and off-ramps more carefully," warns James Spires, Regional Manager, AAA Car Care Centers. "Fallen leaves can cover potholes and act as camouflage for curbs, causing damage to tires and suspension systems when drivers drive over or smash into them. A blown tire or broken suspension part can cause you to lose control of your vehicle. For safety's sake, before starting your vehicle, remove any leaves from your windshield to prevent them from getting stuck under wiper blades."

The GW Parkway is graced with 15 species of oak trees or shrubs (genus: Quercus). A single big oak tree will yield "1.25 million to 2 million" fallen leaves. Wet leaves are "slicker than ice," the saying goes, and they can make traveling on highways hazardous during the autumn and early winter. Drivers are urged to slow down and to use extra caution on leaf-covered roadways, especially on turns and around curves. Drive slowly through leave and avoid hard or panicky braking. To remain safe and sound, it is also imperative for drivers to increase their following distances from the vehicles in front of them when traveling over leaves because "wet leaves make stopping more difficult." It also gives drivers more room and time to react to road conditions.

In addition to littering roadways, leaves present a road hazard

and cause slippery and slick roads when it rains and the fallen foliage is wet, warns AAA Mid-Atlantic. "Most people don't realize that driving on wet leaves can be just as dangerous as driving on black ice," insurance underwriters and traffic safety advocates warn.

When traveling too fast for conditions, layers of wet leaves on the roadway or in traffic lanes can cause the loss of vehicle control, collisions, and make the simple tasks and maneuvers of "braking, steering and stopping" more difficult for drivers to accomplish.

Wet leaves in the fall and frozen leaves in the fall are perilous. Sopping wet leaves on sidewalks and walking surfaces can be hazardous for pedestrians, children and the elderly, causing them to slip and fall. The odds of that happening increases once Daylight Saving Time ends in November, and the darkness makes it more difficult for walkers to see the leaves under foot in poorly lit areas. Water-logged leaves on roadways can also imperil the lives and limbs of motorcyclists, who say "wet leaves be as slippery as an oil slick and can suddenly take away the remaining traction and lead to a fall."

Fallen leaves pose a hazard to cyclists too. "As leaves decompose, they create a greasy film, which becomes pretty slippery when mixed with water," notes a cycling blog, which advises bicyclists to avoid accelerating and braking on leaves, and to "avoid biking on leaves altogether." Research shows the rates and ratios of crashes on slippery roads "were greatest among the youngest drivers," according to a study published in the American Journal of Public Health. "Multiple leaf piles in the street might cause drivers to swerve and risk running into oncoming traffic or obstacles in the road," safety advocates say.

• **Watch for patches of wet leaves on the road or on road**

lines. Pay extra close attention on wet and damp days, when temperatures are around the freezing point.

• **Don't panic if your vehicle skids on a plot of wet leaves.** Stay cool, calm, and collected. Don't slam on your brakes and steer the car in the direction you wish to go.

• **Slow down if there are large patches of leaves on the road.** This reduces the chances of being in a crash, or spinning out of control.

• **Increase your following distance on driving on leaves.** This will give you plenty of "stopping room" when following other vehicles.

• **Don't drive over a pile of leaves.** Kids and some dogs love to play in piles of leaves. Wet leaves on the roadway cause hazards to vehicles attempting to stop, start or change direction."

• **Don't park on a pile of leaves.** Dry leaves can also present a problem to your vehicle. Avoid parking your vehicle near leaf piles to prevent fires that could start from your vehicle's catalytic converter.

• **Don't park under trees.** Let unchecked, the "sap, tannic acid, and pollen" in fallen leaves can despoil car parts and deface the exterior car paint finish of vehicles. Wash it away without delay.

The George Washington Memorial (GW) winds its way along the south bank of the Potomac River under the "canopies of beautiful trees." The roadway was "designed for the sole purpose of recreational driving," the National Park Service advises, and commercial vehicles, including trucks, are prohibited, on the GW Parkway. As the leaves of "deciduous trees" undergo a spectacular transformation in the fall, many fall foliage aficionados and earnest "leaf-peepers" traverse the GW Parkway to "enjoy the colors of fall from their cars."

Snow Plow from A1

While the *Washington Post's* Capital Weather Gang predicts more snow than in recent years, those estimates will likely change over the coming weeks, said Tim Canty, associate research professor in the Atmospheric and Oceanic Science Department at the University of Maryland, College Park.

"We're in a transition region, so it's difficult to assess," Canty said. "We're at the border between the north and south. Then we have the sea to our east and mountains to our west so it's very difficult to forecast."

While the new trucks should help ease commutes, the infrared system will help forecasters and residents alike, WBAL-TV meteorologist Lowell Melsler told the University of Maryland's *Capital News Service*.

The Lufft NIRS31-UMB, a non-invasive infrared system, can be used to instantly measure road temperature, freeze point temperature, ice depth and friction. These machines, which are placed on highway signage and other tall poles near the road, provide data on the state highway agency's website and can be accessed by anyone, Jerad Hoke, of Communications Electronics, said.

Communications Electronics is a contractor for the highway agency that provides, installs and maintains the infrared machines.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY JOSH SCHMIDT/
The main control room for the State Highway Administration, pictured here on Nov. 8, 2017, in Hanover, Md., is where head administrators meet during winter storms to devise a plan for road cleanup

This sensor, which is going into widespread use this winter, was tested last year. All the data it provides is immensely helpful, and surface temperature will be particularly helpful to predict whether snow will stick to the roads, Melsler explained.

"Forecasting is so unreliable, so you can just get lost in this trove of information," Melsler said.

Additionally, the state will be using more salt brine, a water mixture of 23 percent salt,

which is more environmentally friendly, agency officials said. This year they have designated certain routes in the state as "liquid only snow routes" where they will only use brine unless there are blizzard conditions.

In case of blizzard-like conditions, the agency will send out "heavy-duty tow trucks to strategic locations" and use the standard granular salt.

Last year, they reduced their salt usage by 50 percent using more salt brine than granular salt, agency officials said.

While too little salt isn't effective, too much salt actually promotes freezing, said Ben Durbin of Communications Electronics.

SHA also presented their purchase of nine new "quad axle" trucks. These trucks, which cost \$212,000—\$56,000 each more than a standard truck—can carry more than double the amount of salt and 40 more gallons of fuel.

These trucks are helpful for clearing roads in rural Maryland, where there are long stretches of road and little time to refill, multiple snow plow drivers said. Quad axle trucks will allow longer, more efficient trips so certain routes don't require extra salt.

The highway administration identified high-traffic routes in Anne Arundel, Allegany, Montgomery and Prince George's counties where these trucks will be stationed.

With so many factors impacting meteorology, it's unknown how much snow or ice the region will receive this winter, Canty said. If Maryland is hit hard, the State Highway Administration hopes that their new trucks, infrared machines and salting procedures will make a difference.

"We hope that these changes can help ease the impact of winter conditions" in Maryland, highway agency administrator Gregory Slater said. "With more transparency from these machines, citizens can be better prepared and safer."



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COMMENTARY

Cong. Chris Van Hollen United States Senator for Maryland



Van Hollen, Cardin, Norton, and Harris Announce President Trump Signs Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commission Act into Law

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On November 2, 2017, U.S. Senators Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Representatives Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) and Andy Harris (R-MD) announced that President Trump signed their Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commission Act (H.R. 2989) into law. The bill establishes a commission to plan, develop and carry out programs and activities to honor and celebrate the life of Frederick Douglass, the country's greatest slavery abolitionist, during the bicentennial anniversary of his birth, in 2018. In addition, the commission must make recommendations to Congress by August 1, 2018, on programs and activities that the federal government should carry out to honor Douglass. The Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commission will be only the 16th commemorative commission created by Congress since 1989, and only six of those commemorated specific individuals, none of them African American. The other individuals were: Abraham Lincoln, James Madison, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Ronald Reagan and John F. Kennedy.

"Now more than ever, it's important that we remember the work and passion of Frederick Douglass," said Senator Van Hollen. "He fought tirelessly to improve our great nation and create a more perfect union. His impact on Maryland can be seen across our state and still has lasting

impacts on our communities. This commission will explore how we can learn from his legacy and continue to apply these lessons today. As Douglass once stated, 'The life of the nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful, and virtuous.' We should never stop fighting to move our country forward."

"Frederick Douglass, who was born in 1818 in the State of Maryland, escaped from slavery and became a leading writer, orator, publisher, and one of the United States' most influential advocates for abolitionism and the equality of all people," said Senator Cardin. "Honoring Douglass on his bicentennial allows the nation to look back at the incredible life and work of this great man. It also gives us a unique lens to view our world and nation today and the continuing fight for civil rights and equality."

"Frederick Douglass was one of the most transformative figures in our nation's history," said Congresswoman Norton. "It is only fitting that the federal government and the nation celebrate and honor his life on the 200th anniversary of his birth. Commemorative commissions for individuals are understandably rare, but there is perhaps none more deserving than Douglass. We in the District of Columbia are particularly proud he

See DOUGLASS Page A5

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



The History of the Thanksgiving Celebration in the U.S. is a Quest for Unity

"This history [of Thanksgiving] teaches us that the American instinct has never been to seek isolation in opposite corners; it is to find strength in our common creed and forge unity from our great diversity. On that very first thanksgiving celebration, these same ideals brought together people of different backgrounds and beliefs, and every year since, with enduring confidence in the power of faith, love, gratitude, and optimism, this force of unity has sustained us as a people. It has guided us through times of great challenge and change and allowed us to see ourselves in those who come to our shores in search of a safer, better future for themselves and their families."

—President Barack Obama, 2016

While Thanksgiving is clearly a celebration of gratitude for a bountiful harvest, its origin and history in the United States tell an unexpected tale of unity that is particularly relevant in these divisive times.

While the early history of the United States is rife with atrocities committed against Native Americans, the "first Thanksgiving" — a three-day feast in 1621—was a peaceful moment of fellowship between the English settlers and the Wampanoag among whom they lived.

In one of two existing accounts of that feast, Edward Winslow wrote of the "many of the Indians coming amongst us, and amongst the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted." Another English settler who arrived shortly after that first feast, William Hilton, wrote in a letter to his cousin described "the Indians round about us" as "peaceable and friendly."

Over the next century and a half, Thanksgiving was celebrated at different times by the separate colonies. The Continental Congress issued the first National Proclamation of Thanksgiving in 1777: "It is therefore recommended to the legislative or executive Powers of these United States to set apart Thursday, the eighteenth Day of December next, for Solemn Thanksgiving and Praise ..." Over the year, various days of Thanksgiving would be proclaimed by Congress and Presidents, as well as governors, but an annual, recurring, nationwide holiday would not be proclaimed until 1863, in the middle of the Civil War.

He was prompted by the writings of magazine editor Sarah Josepha Hale, who wrote to him on September 28, 1863: "You may have observed that, for some years past, there has been an increasing interest felt in our land to have the Thanksgiving held on the same day, in all the States; it now needs National recognition and authoritative fixation, only, to become permanently, an American custom and institution."

Lincoln's proclamation was more than a declaration of a holiday, but a heartfelt plea for the end of the war and a reunification of the nation. He invited his fellow citizens not only to set apart the last Tuesday of November "as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens," but also to "ferently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union."

In an effort to lengthen the Christmas shopping season and stimulate the economy in the midst of the Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt briefly changed the date of the holiday to the next-to-last Thursday, but the move was considered an affront to Lincoln's memory and triggered partisan outrage. November 30, 1939, was considered "Republican Thanksgiving" and November 23 as "Democratic Thanksgiving" or "Franks-giving". The experiment appeared to fail, with no measurable boost to the 1939 and 1940 Christmas shopping seasons. On December 26, 1941, Congress passed a law making Thanksgiving the fourth Thursday of November, where it has remained—a bipartisan celebration—ever since.

It's instructive that we find the pivotal moments in the development of modern Thanksgiving in the United States at the time of the Civil War and the Great Depression. We are once again facing a crisis of division. As we give thanks for the blessings that have been visited upon us, let us also remember to pray for healing and a reunification of our nation.

It's instructive that we find the pivotal moments in the development of modern Thanksgiving in the United States at the time of the Civil War and the Great Depression. We are once again facing a crisis of division. As we give thanks for the blessings that have been visited upon us, let us also remember to pray for healing and a reunification of our nation.

Winter Festival of Lights



Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: WATKINS PARK

WINTER FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS AT WATKINS PARK

301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Runs November 24, 2017–January 1, 2018 from 5–9:30 p.m. daily. \$10 per car; \$20 for mini-buses and limos; \$30 for buses; \$15 for multi-visit passes for cars and vans (good for three visits). The festival is FREE on December 25. You may bring canned food items to donate to local food banks for the holidays. Winter Festival of Lights is Prince George's County, Maryland's spectacular drive-through Christmas light display featuring more than a million twinkling lights.

The park is also home to the following facilities: Watkins Nature Center, the Chesapeake Carousel, Old Maryland Farm, the Watkins Regional Park miniature train and the Watkins Miniature Golf Course. Those who enjoy nature, sports, picnics, hiking, camping, or outdoor family activities will find plenty to do at Watkins Regional Park. Throughout the year the park hosts a variety of exciting special events including summer concerts in the park, the Winter Festival of Lights, National Senior Health Fitness Day, and charity runs/walks.

Anthony Brown

U.S. Congressman
4th District of Maryland



House Passes NDAA Conference Report Including Brown Priorities

Bipartisan Measure Includes Important Provisions for Maryland

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congressman Anthony G. Brown (D-MD), member of the House Armed Services Committee, joined fellow Democrats and voted in favor of the Conference Report to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2018 (H.R. 2810). The FY18 NDAA authorizes \$634.2 billion for national defense, and an additional \$65.7 billion for overseas contingency operations. This NDAA raises military pay by 2.4%, recognizes that climate change is a direct threat to U.S. national security interests, expands resources for victims of sexual assault in the military, improves our nation's military readiness, supports military families, recommit resources to our efforts against ISIS, the Taliban and Russian aggression, and strengthens our nation's defense against cyberwarfare and terrorism.

"The increased investments in training, equipping, recruiting and retaining our forces will improve our nation's combat readiness. Investments in modernization will ensure the United States maintains our technological and warfighting edge," said Congressman Brown. "But in the same way we put partisan politics aside and worked together to strengthen our national defense, we must now end sequestration and dedicate the necessary resources to infrastructure, education, workforce development and public health. We owe it to our service men and women not only to have the resources needed to fight abroad, but to live a life at home that guarantees the American Dream - good schools, a family supporting job and safe neighborhoods."

The FY18 NDAA includes several provisions supported by Congressman Brown and

over \$607 million in projects that will strengthen Maryland's role in our national security. These include:

Investment in Maryland's Military Installations:

- Joint Base Andrews: \$117.5 million for construction of a Presidential Aircraft Complex to support operations of new aircraft and to accelerate the fielding process for the Huey, or the UH-1N helicopter.
- Pax River: \$7 million to complete the broadband data link connecting Wallops Island Flight Facility and the Atlantic Test Ranges at Naval Air Station Patuxent River Project.
- Fort Meade: \$314 million for continued recapitalization of the National Security Agency.
- Bethesda Naval Hospital Medical Center: \$123.8 million for additions and alterations.
- Sykesville Freedom Readiness Center: \$19 million for con-

tinued construction of the Army National Guard's Freedom Readiness Center.

- National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center at Fort Detrick: Requires the Secretary of Defense to submit a report on the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center, a unique facility that defends the nation against biological threats.
- U.S. Naval Academy: Permits leasing of land for construction of a joint headquarters for the Naval Academy Alumni Association and Naval Academy Foundation in Annapolis, MD.

Education:

- Provides \$40 million for continued research at Historically Black Colleges & Universities and other minority-serving institutions, over \$14 million

See NDAA Page A8

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BUSINESS

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty—Maximizing Widow's Benefits

by Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I am 64 years old, born in October of 1952, and in rapidly declining health. I took my Social Security early, as soon as I was 62, and now get \$1838 per month in Social Security benefits (before Medicare premiums are taken out). My wife of many years also took her Social Security at age 62 and she gets \$787 a month. From what I understand, when I pass away she will get my full benefit instead of what she gets now. I'm hoping that's true because she won't be able to make it with only \$787 a month.

Signed: Planning for her.

Dear Planning: First, you're to be commended for planning ahead for that time when your wife will be left without you. Dealing with such a loss is devastating enough without adding a severe loss of income into the mix. Let me quickly put your mind at ease—once she reaches her full retirement age, your surviving spouse will get at least as much as your benefit amount, currently \$1838 per month. This is known as her survivor's, or widow's benefit. However, if she takes her widow's benefit before her full retirement age it will be reduced somewhat, depending upon her age when she applies. The following assumes your wife will have reached her full retirement age when you pass.

Normally, the Widow's Benefit equals the benefit amount that the deceased spouse was receiving, meaning your wife would get the same amount you were receiving when you died—in this case \$1838 per month. There is, however, a somewhat obscure exception, which may apply here. The exception I'm speaking of is a Social Security rule, which applies when the deceased spouse, claimed benefits before full retirement age and the surviving spouse is eligible for widow's benefits. The surviving spouse has the option of either keeping their own benefit or claiming the widow(er)'s benefit, and in this case your wife would obviously claim the widow's benefit because it's higher than her own. But (and this is a big but) because you claimed your Social Security benefit early, your widow is entitled to either of the following, whichever is more:

The amount of benefit you (the deceased spouse) were receiving at your death, or,

82.5% of what your benefit would have been had you (the deceased spouse) waited until your full retirement age to start your Social Security benefits.

Using the numbers you gave me as an example, since your current benefit amount is \$1838/month, taking out COLA increases granted since you applied early means your original early retirement benefit was about \$1780. That means that your benefit amount at your full retirement age of 66 (known as your Primary Insurance Amount, or "PIA") would have been about \$2374. Adding past COLA increases onto your PIA brings your PIA amount up to \$2458. Using the above 82.5% exception rule, your wife would be entitled to \$2027 per month (82.5% of \$2458), instead of the \$1838 you are now receiving. And that extra \$189 per month will, I'm sure, be important to her after you're gone. Any future COLA increases will add to both the early retirement benefit you receive while living and your full retirement age PIA amount, and your surviving widow will get the higher benefit amount at your passing. Note that your wife should not wait past her full retirement age to apply for survivor's benefits, as they do not earn delayed retirement credits.

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.

Baysox from A1

open for some great holiday shopping on merchandise and Baysox 2018 Ticket Packages

Fans that purchase a holiday ticket pack during Winterfest will be able to take home a FREE Trey Mancini Holiday Garden gnome collectible

The Charity Holiday Pancake Supper will be held in the climate controlled Diamond View Restaurant from 6–8 p.m. and the menu includes a pancake station with toppings, bacon, maple sausage, scrambled eggs, home fries, fresh fruit, coffee, hot chocolate and juices.

Tickets for the pancake supper are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children with proceeds benefiting Louie's Holiday Hope Project and the Bowie Food Pantry. Pancake Supper tickets

are available for purchase online at BaysoxShop.com. A maximum of 100 tickets will be sold for the pancake supper. Those looking for additional information on the Pancake Supper event can call 301-805-6000 or e-mail us at info@baysox.com.

The Bowie Baysox 2018 season is presented by Money One Federal Credit Union. The Baysox will return in 2018 to celebrate their 26th Season. Season ticket and holiday ticket packages are now on sale at baysoxshop.com. The team's 2018 home opener will be Thursday, April 5 against the Harrisburg Senators at 6:35 p.m. To keep up with Baysox news during the offseason, visit baysox.com and be sure to follow the Baysox on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

International Travel Company Lands in Prince George's County

EDC's India Business Center Welcomes Another Dynamic Entrepreneur to Its Ranks

By R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—On November 2, 2017, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) welcomed another successful company into its India Business Center as Cheap World Tours, Inc. (CWT) opened its first office in the United States. Joined by international business development executives from the EDC, and local hospitality industry leaders, EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman and EDC Executive Vice-President Dr. Pradeep Ganguly celebrated this new addition to the business accelerator with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and words of support.

"Our India Business Center is flourishing because of companies like Cheap World Tours," said Coleman. "We're more than excited to be an international gateway for companies based overseas. Today is just the first day of many that Vikram Singh

and his powerful family business will make their mark on the American market. The EDC is honored to be 'success partners' with this great company and we look forward to collaborating with other international companies to create even more wins for the County."

Cheap World Tours, Inc. is an Inbound Tour Operating company based in New Delhi, India, that specializes in inbound group tourism in the United States, Corporate M.I.C.E (Meetings, Incentives, Conferencing, and Exhibitions) for International Companies and Luxurious Holiday packages. Clients from India spend an average of six nights and seven days in various destinations across the United States.

The significance of CWT signing a lease in the EDC's India Business Center was evident on the face of Mr. Singh who shed tears of joy throughout the afternoon's festivities. He is realizing the next phase of his entrepreneurial journey



PHOTO COURTESY R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS

Clockwise from left: Jim Coleman, EDC President and CEO; Mayank Kapur, EDC Business Development Director; Dr. Pradeep Ganguly, EDC Executive Vice President; Vikram Singh, CEO of Cheap World Tours, Inc. (CWT); Pujah Singh, Cheap World Tours, Inc.

as the Largo, Maryland office is his first in the United States. While the office in New Delhi, India will continue to provide sales and marketing support, the U.S. office will provide direct support to visitors from the Indian Sub-Continent.

The EDC's India Business Center is a part of its international business accelerator pro-

gram that assists foreign companies in creating an immediate footprint in the United States.

To learn more about how to do business internationally with Prince George's County and about the EDC's business accelerator program, contact Dr. Pradeep Ganguly at pganguly@co.pg.md.us or call 301-583-4650.

Artisan from A1

clude works from local Gateway Arts District artists. Officials and community leaders gathered for the groundbreaking ceremony at Brentwood Arts Exchange at 3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD for speeches and remarks and then walked across Rhode Island Avenue to the Artisan site for the ceremonial groundbreaking.

"We have two market rate developments within blocks of each other which exceed \$60 million in development cost and create over 250 construction jobs in the Gateway Arts District," says County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "These are the types of projects that fuel the economic engine in Prince George's County."

The mix of financing includes developer's equity, loans, Prince George's County Revenue Authority financing, Maryland state financing and conventional financing, making this a \$29 million dollar project.

"This project can serve as a model for how the County and a municipality can work with the community and a capable developer to provide the kind of housing and retail amenities that help make a community walkable and livable," said Eric C. Brown, Director of the Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development.

"We are making tremendous progress in the Gateway Arts District," says Howard Ways, Executive Director of the Redevel-

opment Authority. "The Artisan will blend into the fabric of the diverse and rich communities of the Arts District and expand our commercial tax base."

"We are thrilled to be continuing our investment in the Gateway Arts District. The Arts play a very critical role in our society; it forces us to push boundaries and take a reflective look at ourselves," said Mr. Peter Siegel, CEO of Landex Development, LLC, the developer. "This is an exciting and dynamic area with great art and restaurants. It is a fantastic place to visit and explore."

The RDA selected the Landex Development, LLC for the development of the Artisan 4100. Landex is also the developer of

Studio 3807, located a few blocks away from the Artisan. Studio 3807 is a LEED Gold designed community comprised of 147 market rate apartments, 6,000 square feet of retail, 3,000 square feet of artist work space and an art gallery displaying the works of Gateway Arts District artists.

The Redevelopment Authority is supporting five redevelopment projects in the Gateway Arts District: two in Brentwood, two in Mount Rainier and one in North Brentwood that will result in over 240 new units of market rate housing and 25,000 square feet of new retail.

For media inquiries, please contact Alexis Revis Yeoman on (301) 883-2760 or by email at aryeoman@co.pg.md.us

Douglass from A4

called D.C. home for most of his adult life. His home here in Southeast is an official national historic site and one of our city's treasures, visited by thousands of tourists and residents annually. I am grateful that the House and Senate passed the bill with unanimous bipartisan support and that the President signed it in time for the commission to do its important work."

"I commend my colleagues in Congress for their bipartisan and bicameral efforts to pass this legislation, and I am grate-

ful to President Trump for his attention to this important matter. As we approach the bicentennial of Frederick Douglass' birth, it is critical that Douglass' contributions to our nation are recognized and celebrated. Frederick Douglass was the father of the abolitionist movement and left a lasting imprint on American culture," said Congressman Harris. "Now that the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commission Act is law and the commission can be formed to develop its recommendations, I am eager to hear the commission's rec-

ommendations, and participate in the activities honoring this American hero and Eastern Shore native."

Members of the commission must be appointed within 60 days (January 1, 2018). The commission will have 16 members. The members will be appointed as follows:

- Two members appointed by the President.
- Four members appointed by the President on the recommendation of each of the Mayor of the District of Columbia and the Governors of Maryland,

Massachusetts and New York.

- Three members, at least one of whom must be a Member of the House, appointed by the Speaker of the House.
- Three members, at least one of whom must be a Senator, appointed by the Senate Majority Leader.
- Two members, at least one of whom must be a Member of the House, appointed by the House Minority Leader.
- Two members, at least one of whom must be a Senator, appointed by the Senate Minority Leader.

Funding from A1

room, this is demonstrating 21st-century development techniques and is just one way that schools can be more cost-effective.

Similarly, old buildings can be converted to save money. Baltimore's Monarch Academy, which enrolls 990 students, was formerly a Coca Cola Bottling Plant.

According to Rosapepe, with these strategies, the number of

school construction projects can increase by 50 percent at no additional cost by just reducing the average cost per student. However, there would be no mandated changes for local school systems and governments who do not opt in to these recommendations, under the bill.

Additional recommendations dealt with setting funding goals and reviewing school designs. Recommendations in discussion included conducting

statewide facility assessments and streamlining the review process for projects.

"These recommendations are spot on, they are a great step forward and we support the senator's recommendations," Stephen Baldwin, a commission member, said.

Before the final meeting in December, Knott said, the commission will hone their recommendations and are expecting members of the commission and others to weigh in on them.

"If anyone thinks we're stuck in the past, we're not. We're moving forward. We're taking bold initiatives," Knott said.

At a meeting last Wednesday, Maryland's Board of Public Works unanimously approved \$426 million for Baltimore City public schools' construction and revitalization—a 21st Century Schools project.

Capital News Service correspondent Julie Depenbrock contributed to this report.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

The Dark Tower

The Dark Tower
Grade: C
Rated? PG-13, a lot of action violence and gunslinging, barely within the PG-13 range
1 hr., 35 min

The Dark Tower is a bland, benign mediocrity that's probably significantly worse if you've read the Stephen King novels it's based on. As a non-reader (of those; I've read other books), I don't know what level of violence has been done to the source material by director Nikolaj Arcel (*A Royal Affair*) and the unremarkable 87-minute (without closing credits) screenplay for which he and three other men are credited, nor can I speak to which of the eight books the film's half-baked story is drawn from/has ruined.

On the screen, it's the story of Jake Chambers (Tom Taylor), an adolescent New Yorker with a strong "shine" (psychic power) that manifests itself as vivid dreams that his mother (Katheryn Winnick) and stepfather (Karl Thanning) think are signs of mental illness. Like all movie children, Jake draws detailed pictures of his dreams, which are of an Old West-ish planet called Mid-World where a cool Gunslinger (Idris Elba) seeks revenge against the Man in Black (Matthew McConaughey), a Satany magician who, with his well-organized multi-world army of human-skin-wearing minions, is trying



ROTTENTOMATOES

There are other worlds than these. Stephen King's *The Dark Tower*, the ambitious and expansive story from one of the world's most celebrated authors, makes its launch to the big screen. The last Gunslinger, Roland Deschain (Idris Elba), has been locked in an eternal battle with Walter O'Dim, also known as the Man in Black (Matthew McConaughey), determined to prevent him from toppling the Dark Tower, which holds the universe together. With the fate of the worlds at stake, good and evil will collide in the ultimate battle as only Roland can defend the Tower from the Man in Black.

to destroy the Tower in the clouds that protects the universe from being overrun by extra-dimensional monsters.

But again, that's the movie. For all I know, the books are about old English ladies who solve mysteries.

Thanks to portals (this is the kind of universe where there are portals), Jake travels to Mid-World and meets the Gunslinger, who is impressed by Jake's powerful shine. The Man in Black, whose name is Walter, is im-

pressed, too. He learns of Jake's abilities by having one of his underlings (Jackie Earle Haley) taste some of Jake's blood (analysis: "His shine is pure"), which they have because the floorboards in the dilapidated Brooklyn house where the portal is hidden came to life and tried to prevent the boy from using it, drawing blood in the process. It's a tale as old as time.

The film hints at deeper, richer mythologies than it has time for (or than it has interest

in, I guess; the movie's pretty short). There's a glossed-over, watered-down feel to everything—not rushed, exactly, but disinterested. The stakes seem low even though they are not. But Elba's stoic Gunslinger is aces, McConaughey is a sonorous, low-key ham, and the kid is fine. Though there are bumpy patches in the narrative, it mostly avoids being ludicrous, remaining a few (but not many) steps above a made-for-SyFy series pilot.

Healing Oils

Plant Based Essential Oils Boost the Mind, Body & Spirit during the Holidays

By Melinda Myers

Ease into the hectic holiday season with the help of aromatherapy. The fragrances of plant-derived essential oils have long been used to improve the health of our mind, body and spirit.

Boost your energy and increase your focus as you work to balance work, family and holiday fun. Peppermint has long been prized for this and so much more. You'll find it also helps relieve headaches and indigestion.

Freshen your home with the scent of grapefruit. It's the perfect solution when unexpected guests drop by for a visit. You may also find the grapefruit aroma, along with your company, help to lighten your mood.

Use eucalyptus essential oil in the fight against colds and flu this winter. Just place a few drops into a diffuser on your desk at work, in your bedroom or family room. The diffusers come in a wide array of shapes and sizes. Some use heat, ultrasonic vibrations, fans or wood wicks to disperse the fragrance throughout the room. Others, like the Eden Aroma Diffuser, allow the fragrance to seep through the porous portion of the diffuser pot and into the room.

Or use a eucalyptus eye mask to help relieve sinus pressure and sooth tired eyes. Just gently heat or cool the mask, cover your eyes and relax into a bit of relief.

End your day with relaxing lavender. It helps reduce anxiety, relieves headaches and improves sleep. Turn up the heat and fragrance with the Ultimate Lavender Wrap (gardeners.com). Simply pop the flax, rice and lavender infused insert into the microwave. Place it back into the cloth cover and drape it over your neck and shoulders. This can provide relief for those suffering from tense or aching muscles and winter chills.

Encourage a good night's sleep by tucking a lavender-filled sachet under your pillow. Or set a bundle of dried lavender stems in the bathroom, bedroom or anywhere you want to enjoy the fragrance of a summer garden and a bit of relaxation.

When you incorporate some aromatherapy into your routine you'll find yourself smiling and more relaxed. The boost in energy and reduced stress will help you navigate the many gatherings, rich food and busy schedules ahead. And consider giving the gift of aromatherapy to someone you love, so they too can enjoy improved harmony and health into the New Year.



PHOTO COURTESY GARDENERSUPPLY COMPANY

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



RAIN CHECK REBATE Contractor Training

November 29, 2017

DAY 1

Course topics include:

- ▶ Urban Tree Canopy
- ▶ Rain Barrels
- ▶ Cisterns
- ▶ Rain Gardens
- ▶ Permeable Pavement
- ▶ Pavement Removal
- ▶ Green Roofs

DETAILS

DATE / TIME

November 29, 2017
8:15AM - 4:30PM

LOCATION

1801 McCormick Drive
Largo, MD 20774
1st Floor Conference Room

COST

Free of Charge for
Landscape Professionals!
BYO Lunch!

Did you know that Prince George's County's Rain Check Rebate Program offers rebates to homeowners, businesses and others to install best management practices (BMPs) intended to capture stormwater runoff? This training is designed to provide landscape professionals with practical hands on information on the seven Rain Check Rebate practices and processes. Special emphasis is placed on rain gardens, pavement removal and permeable pavement.

This all-day training teaches landscape professionals how to plan, design, construct and maintain Rain Check Rebate practices. Classroom exercises provide guidance on practice selection, site assessment and site selection. After completion of the classroom training, participants are eligible to sign up for Day 2, which will be a field day to further hone their skills and help install or assess stormwater BMPs. Participants who successfully complete both presentations (classroom training + field day) will be added to the County's public list of landscape professionals who have completed the Rain Check Rebate Contractor Training.

HOW TO REGISTER

Go to: <https://raincheck.eventbrite.com>.
Click "Register" and RSVP for FREE!

Questions?
Contact scho@lidcenter.org or
ediffion@lidcenter.org



Calendar of Events

November 23 — November 29, 2017

Black Friday Sale

Date and time: Friday, November 24, 2017, 10:00 am–7:00 pm
Description: This is what holiday shopping was meant to be: calm, friendly, local, and full of beautiful items. One day a year, fittingly the day after Thanksgiving, we reduce our commission on sales and mark down everything 20 percent in the store—but still pay the artists the same as with a regular sale. Support artists who are, of course, themselves also small businesses.

Our Craft Store features unique, one-of-a-kind handmade jewelry, blown glass, ceramics, handbags, cards, and more.
Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Brentwood Arts Exchange
3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD
Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-699-2544

18th Annual Gingerbread House Contest and Show

Date and time: Friday, November 24–26, 2017, 12:00 pm–5:00 pm
Description: For a sweet treat, come and view an amazing display of edible gingerbread houses. No nibbling allowed! Visitors will have the opportunity to vote for the Viewer's Choice Competition. If you are interested in entering the contest, please contact the museum for further details. The deadline to enter the contest is November 10, 2017.

Groups of 10 or more are welcome by appointment.
Cost: \$1/per person
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Darnall's Chance House Museum
14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive,
Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-952-8010; TTY 301-699-2544

Live Animal Show

Date and time: Friday, November 24, 2017, 2:00 pm–3:00 pm
Description: Do you fancy yourself to be a Dr. Dolittle? The Nature Center is offering you a chance to meet their group of live animals including insects, reptiles, amphibians, and birds of prey. Let's talk!

Cost: Resident: \$3; Non-resident: \$4
Ages: 2 and older
Location: Watkins Nature Center
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens Xtreme Party

Date and time: Friday, November 24, 2017, 7:00 pm–10:00 pm
Description: Come join us every 4th Friday of the month for a live DJ; PS4 competitions, Glow in the Dark basketball, Trick Shot shootout, Giant games and so much more! Refreshments are provided.

Cost: FREE
Ages: 10–17
Location: Berwyn Heights School Community Center
6200 Pontiac Street, Berwyn Heights, MD
Contact: 301-345-2808; TTY: 301-699-2544

Nature Craft & Story

Date and time: Saturday, November 25, 2017, 10:00 am–11:00 am
Description: Participants will enjoy a story, meet a live animal and do a hands-on nature craft activity! Come join us and don't miss the fun!

Cost: Resident: \$3; Non-resident: \$4
Ages: 2–10
Location: Watkins Nature Center
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544

Einstein Alive!

Date and time: Saturday, November 25, 2017, 1:00 pm
Description: Marc Spiegel brings Albert Einstein to life! Professor Einstein talks about his childhood, the challenges he faced, and the "adventures" he had within his mind. He speaks about his fame and what it means to be a theoretical physicist. Professor Einstein uses song, humor, and audience participation to show how "strong motion" is and what the terms "relative" and "frame of reference" really means.

Cost: FREE with M-NCPPC Youth ID,
Resident \$2, Non-Resident \$3
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Upper Marlboro Community Center
5400 Marlboro Race Track Road,
Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-627-2828; TTY 301-699-2544

3D Printing Projects

Date and time: Monday, November 27, 2017, 6:30 pm
Description: Using a 3D printer, students can use their imagination and fabricate their own 3D projects!

Cost: FREE
Ages: 11–16
Location: John E. Howard Community Center
4400 Shell Street, Capitol Heights, MD
Contact: 301-735-3340; TTY 301-699-2544

Junior Official Basketball Referee Program

Date and time: Tuesday, November 28, 2017, 6:30 pm–8:00 pm
Description: Junior Basketball Referees will be given the training to become basketball referees for the pee-wee basketball league. Candidates should be mature, able to run up and down the court, enjoy kids and able to work as a team.

Cost: FREE
Ages: 16 and older
Location: Largo/Kettering/Perrywood Community Center
431 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-446-6824; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... "B Corp" to the Earth's Rescue

Dear EarthTalk:

I know what C Corporations, S Corporations and LLCs are, but what are "B Corporations" and how does this status help the environment?

—Robert Gendarme,
Chicago, IL

C Corporations, S Corporations and LLCs are legal business structures distinguished by how they pay their taxes under U.S. federal income tax law, whereas a B Corporation (or "B Corp," with the "B" standing for "Benefit") isn't actually a legal entity and is still taxed based upon its chosen C, S or LLC structure.

"B-Corp" is a certification awarded by the non-profit B Lab to for-profit companies which meet rigorous standards of social and environmental performance, accountability and transparency. "B Corp is to business what Fair Trade certification is to coffee or USDA Organic certification is to milk," reports B Lab, which has certified upwards of 2,100 companies from 50 countries and across 130 industries. To qualify as a B Corp, a company must be working primarily to solve an environmental or social issue through its work as a business entity.

B Lab launched in 2006 with the first B Corp certification of 19 companies coming a year later. The non-profit began

lobbying efforts across the country in 2008. In 2010 Maryland passed the nation's first B Corporation Law, followed closely by California in 2011. When Patagonia and 11 other well-known California companies registered as B Corps on the first day possible in January 2012, major national news outlets covered the story, putting the B Corp concept "on the map," so to speak. And later that year, the movement went global when companies in Africa and Brazil became certified B Corps.

"I think B Corp ... will allow the values of my company to continue, even after it's sold and it's way down the line and we're dead," says Yvon Chouinard, Patagonia's founder, adding that he compares it to a conservation easement on a piece of property. "It's a conservation easement on a business." Besides Patagonia, some of the better-known companies now certified as B Corps include Ben & Jerry's, Etsy, Warby Parker, Plum Organics, New Belgium Brewery, Stonyfield Farm, King Arthur Flour, Cabot Cheese, Badger and Seventh Generation.

Today 33 U.S. states recognize Benefit Corporation status while six more—Alaska, Georgia, Iowa, Mississippi, New Mexico and Oklahoma—are considering it. Companies that want to pursue B Corp status should check whether it's rec-



CREDIT: EARTH TALK

Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard was an early and outspoken proponent of the B Corp concept.

ognized in their state by looking it up on benefitcorp.net's State-by-State Status page. If the answer is yes, the next step is taking B Lab's "B Impact Assessment," which assesses the overall impact a company has on its stakeholders, including a heavy emphasis on sustainability and environmental considerations. The assessment takes two to four hours to complete depending on company size, sector and location. Several of the questions concern sustainability issues such as energy efficiency, waste and pollution

mitigation efforts. For instance, one of the assessment questions asks: "What percent of energy (relative to company revenues) was saved in the last year for your corporate facilities?"

Companies that qualify must then revise their articles of incorporation so that managers and directors can start factoring in how their decisions affect all stakeholders, not just financial shareholders, while recertification every two years requires that companies maintain that commitment to all stakeholders in order to keep their status.

CONTACT: B Lab, www.bcorporation.net.

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Kidde Recalls Fire Extinguishers

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland State Fire Marshall

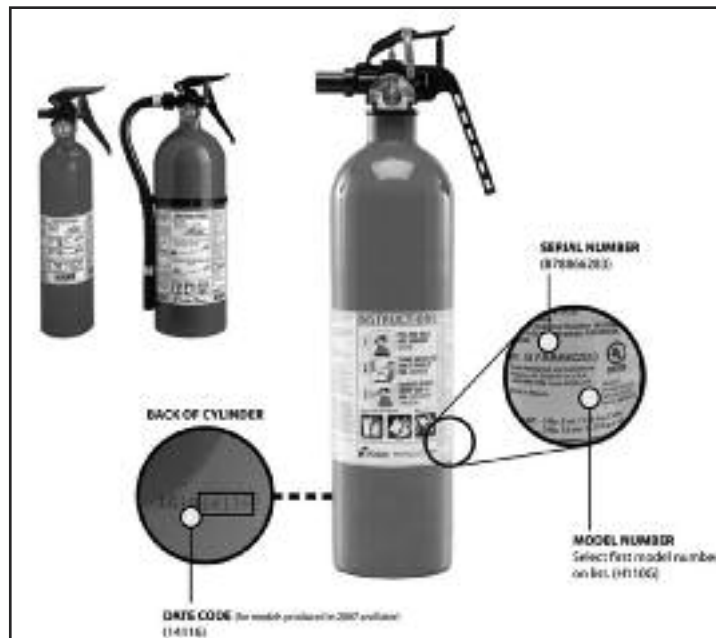
PIKESVILLE, MD—The Maryland State Fire Marshall's Office is sharing this information in an effort to provide the public with a life threatening concern about a recent recall of portable fire extinguishers manufactured by the Kidde Corpo-

ration. The extinguishers listed in the recall are revealed in the link within this article. Please take a moment to read the information on the link provided and check to see if your extinguishers model numbers are a match to those on the recall.

On Nov. 2, 2017, Kidde announced a recall of almost 38 million fire extinguishers in the

United States. They may not work during a fire emergency if they become clogged and require a lot of force to use. Also, the nozzle can come off with enough force to strike and hurt someone. Kidde recommends owners immediately replace these fire extinguishers. The company is aware of one death when emergency

responders couldn't get the recalled extinguishers to work. There have been almost 400 reports of problems related to these Kidde fire extinguishers. <https://www.epsc.gov/Recalls/2018/Kidde-Recalls-Fire-Extinguishers-with-Plastic-Handles-Due-to-Failure-to-Discharge-and-Nozzle-Detachment-One-Death-Reported>



CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Kidde plastic handle fire extinguisher



CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Kidde push-button Pindicator fire extinguisher

WHAT IS ORGANIC FARMING & FOOD?

Organic is a term that defines the way farmers grow and process products such as fruits, vegetables, grains, dairy products and meat. Organic farming practices enhance soil and water quality, reduce pollution and provide safe, healthy livestock habitats. Organic farmers do not use synthetic fertilizers or pesticides, genetic engineering, antibiotics or growth hormones.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has established product labeling guidelines for organic fruits, vegetables, eggs, meat and other foods. The next time you visit your local supermarket, look for these helpful product labels that distinguish "100 percent organic" products from those products that include "organic ingredients."

- USDA Organic or 100% Organic: A product that contains 100 percent of all certified organic ingredients
- Organic: A product with at least 95 percent certified organic ingredients
- Made with Organic: A product with at least 70 percent organically produced ingredients

*Note: Organic A County Second Priority to an Article of the Department of the Environment, Planning and Urban Development of the State of Prince George's County and is not a trademark of the State of Prince George's County.

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