

# The Prince George's Post



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The Cheltenham Youth Detention Center in Cheltenham, Maryland, on Nov. 17, 2017, has the capacity to fill 72 beds total.

## Concerns Persist Over School System for Juvenile Offenders

By JESS FELDMAN  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland—Various systematic issues within the Maryland's Juvenile Services Education System have consistently interfered with students receiving instruction at the same quality as that available to pupils in traditional public schools, according to quarterly reports from an independent monitoring unit.

The Juvenile Services Education System, more commonly referred to as JSES, was established in 2004 by the state Legislature in effort to provide a comprehensive education program for children within the state's Department of Juvenile Services.

Under the supervision of the state's Department of Education, all offenders are required to have six hours of education daily, with lesson plans stemming from the state's College

and Career Readiness Standards, including core courses like language arts, mathematics and sciences.

Inmates who participate in correctional education programs are 43 percent less likely to return to prison than those who did not, according to a study released in 2013 from the RAND Corp., a research organization in California.

A more individualized structure within Maryland's juvenile

detention and placement centers could be beneficial to the education system, the Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit housed in the Office of the Maryland Attorney General found.

"We conduct unannounced visits, but we tend to prioritize facilities that we think are struggling," said Nick Moroney, the director of the mon-

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## Council Chair Dannielle Glaros Announces Committee Assignments and Appointments for Legislative Year 2018

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Council

Upper Marlboro, MD—Prince George's County Council Chair Dannielle Glaros has announced Council committee assignments and appointments to County boards and commissions for Legislative Year 2018.

Council Member Mary Lehman will serve as Health, Education and Human Services Committee (HEHS) chair, assisted in this work by Council Member Obie Patterson who will serve as committee vice chair. Committee members include Council Members Andrea C. Harrison, Mel Franklin and Derrick L. Davis.

Included among the agencies, institutions and issues of concern to HEHS: Prince George's County Board of Education—Transfers and Budget Amendments; Prince George's Community College; Citizens Complaint Oversight Panel; University of Maryland Capital Region Health; Board of Elections; Family Services-Americans with Disabilities Act and related items; County Health Department; all Board of Health issues; Human Relations Commission; Board of License Commissioners; Prince George's County Memorial Library System; and Social Services.

Council Member Andrea C. Harrison will chair the Planning, Zoning and Economic Develop-

ment Committee (PZED) for the second consecutive year. Council Member Mel Franklin is committee vice chair. PZED Members include Council Chair Dannielle Glaros and Council Members Karen R. Toles and Obie Patterson.

In addition to County zoning and subdivision bills, and planning and land-use regulations, PZED is also responsible for reviewing the Economic Development Corporation budget; the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, including bi-county concerns, the Planning Department, Parks and Recreation, and the Planning Board; as well as the People's Zoning Counsel.

Council Member Derrick L. Davis will serve as Chair of the Public Safety and Fiscal Management Committee (PSFM) and Council Member Deni Taveras will serve as vice-chair for the second consecutive year. Committee Members include Council Members Todd Turner, Mary Lehman and Obie Patterson.

PSFM is responsible for reviewing 18 County agencies, and several issues and policies related to law enforcement, crime prevention and criminal justice, emergency preparedness, labor agreements, bond issues, budget and financial

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## County Library Takes On Beanstack's Winter Reading Challenge

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCMLS

LARGO, MD—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) now offers the Kill A Watt P4400 as a part of its circulating collection. The large LCD display counts electricity consumption by the kilowatt-hour, just like your local utility; therefore, you

can calculate your electrical expenses by the day, week, month or year.

Since a fifth of our electric bills, according to the U.S. Department of Energy, come from items that are left plugged in when they are not in use, or items that are in standby mode,

See **READING** Page A6

## Check Out the Kill A Watt P4400 @ Your County Library to Save on Electricity

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCMLS

LARGO, MD—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) now offers the Kill A Watt P4400 as a part of its circulating collection. The large LCD display counts electricity consumption by the kilowatt-hour, just like your local utility; therefore, you

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See **LIBRARY** Page A3

## HUD Marks 25 years of Helping Maryland Families Become Self-Sufficient

By PRESS OFFICER  
HUD

PHILADELPHIA, PA—On December 15, 2017, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) marked the 25th anniversary of its Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program, awarding \$2.1 million to public housing authorities throughout Maryland (see list below) to help public housing residents and Housing Choice Voucher Program participants become gainfully employed.

"A necessary part of what we do is to help families move beyond HUD assistance by providing the tools they need to become self-sufficient," said Secretary Ben Carson. "For 25 years, HUD and our local partners have been connecting residents to job training, childcare and other resources that expand their opportunities and lead them towards higher paying jobs and self-sufficiency."

The FSS program helps local public housing authorities hire service coordinators who



Robert C. Weaver Federal Building, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development headquarters in Washington, D.C.

work directly with residents to connect them with programs and services that already exist in the local community. The program

encourages innovative strategies that link public housing and housing choice voucher assistance with a broad spectrum of services. These serv-

ices enable participating families to find jobs, increase

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### INSIDE

#### Health Equity Conference Addresses Community Collaborations

Conference presentations focused on Maryland's Primary Care Program, public health implementation strategies for improving population health, Maryland's Two-Generation Approach, collaborative opioid overdose prevention efforts. **Community**, Page A3

#### Urban League Movement Reflects on a Year of Empowering Americans through Jobs, Education, Financial Literacy and Health Care

Like so many of you, the National Urban League will take stock and gather courage for the twelve months ahead. We resolve to invest in those communities hardest hit by the inequities and injustices in our society. **Commentary**, Page A4

#### Movie Review: Thor: Ragnarok

In Marvel Studios' Thor: Ragnarok, Thor is imprisoned on the other side of the universe without his mighty hammer and finds himself in a race against time to get back to Asgard to stop Ragnarok—the destruction of his homeworld and the end of Asgardian civilization—at the hands of an all-powerful new threat, the ruthless Hela. **Out on the Town**, Page A6

#### Ask Rusty—Losing Benefits Yu Have Earned

Although you were eligible to take your benefits without reduction at age 66, waiting past that earned you 8% per year in delayed retirement credits, up to the time you turned 70 when your benefit was 32% higher than it was at 66. **Out on the Town**, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk: I always assumed the train was the greenest form of mass transit, but a friend told me I would be better off taking the bus. Could this be true?

—Jane McNeil,  
New York, NY

**Features**, Page A7

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Darnall's Chance announces Gingerbread House winners

Visiting Darnall's House Museum in Upper Marlboro has become a Christmas tradition for the McHales. We enjoy, and discuss, the entries and vote for our favorites in three categories.

This was the 18th year for the Show and Contest. There were 23 entries and more than a thousand visitors.

At the end of the show's three-week run, the votes were counted and the winners announced. The grand prize Viewers' Choice Award winners are:

- Adult Category: Reindeer Flight School by Ami Hazell
  - Child Category: Fiona's Festive Farmyard by Fiona Murray
  - Family Category: Christmas Coaster by The Collins Family
- Meghan Decker, who sent me the list, included pictures of the winning entries, taken by one of the Prince George's Parks' photographers, Cassi Hayden. The photos helped me relive the delight of my visit to Darnall's Chance House Museum.

### Suitland High Lunch Reunions

Maria Ferrell hosts lunch reunions for Suitland High School alumni every few months. Unfortunately, I didn't get the word in time to announce the January 10 event at the Olive Garden in the Bowie Town Center.

The next lunch will be on a Saturday three months from now. Notices will be posted on the Suitland Classmates' sites on Facebook. Also, Maria will email those who don't do Facebook. You can contact Maria for information or to be put on the reservation list. Go to maria.ferrell@gmail.com.

She would like you to forward this information to alumni who may not be aware of the Suitland High Classmates Regular Lunch Reunions.

### People

Do I have any current Morningsiders reading this column? If so, I wish they'd contact me with information about the Town

and its townspeople. I have run out of Morningside reporters. Go to muddmm@aol.com or call 301-735-3451.

My grandson, Sam Mudd of Laurel, is avoiding this cold weather by touring in Costa Rica this month. The trip is a mid-term class for Salisbury University where he is a junior.

I've enjoyed a weeklong visit from my son Mike and his wife Sandy, in town from El Paso, Texas, and earlier, daughter Kathleen Shearer, her son Richard, his wife Dejuana and her ferret, all from West Chester, Ohio.

### Changing landscape

In an effort to strengthen spiritual fitness among dorm residents in the Joint Base Andrews community, the 11th Wing Chapel opened the Airmen Ministry Center in building 1631 on Nov. 16. The center features religious studies, but also includes communal activities like watching movies, playing video games, studying or stopping by for a cup of coffee.

The Catholic Deaf Center building in Landover Hills has been renamed the Pope Francis Center to better reflect the varied ministries located in the building. Cardinal Donald Wuerl officially blessed the newly-named building on Nov. 4.

### Morningside Memories: January 1988

• The Fun Lunch Bunch—membership of which was open to past or present Morningsiders—held their monthly gathering at the Aloha Restaurant in Smallwood Village. Among them: Audrey Holmes, Jeanne West, Mary Nash, Zola Paterno, Winnie Chase, Zeb Young, Blanche Abernethy, Hazel Loughmiller, Doris Daniel, Edythe Neale, Lil Lewis, Grace Carruth, Zeldia Holmes, Mary Dennison, Jean Davis and Audrey Cook.

By the way, among these Fun Lunchers were two who once wrote this column for the Enquirer-Gazette—Mary Nash and Jeanne West.

• President Ronald Reagan addressed an enthusiastic audience of more than 2,200 students, teachers and guests at Suitland High School on Jan. 20. He told them he likes what he sees in their magnet school and he'll ask for more federal support of magnet schools in the upcoming budget.

• The Fortner resident on Boxwood Drive won 1st place in the 1987 Morningside Christmas House Decorating contest.

### May they rest in peace

Gloria (Corbin) Stencil, 71, a 1964 graduate of Suitland High School and former North Forestville resident, died in Lakeland, Fla., on Jan. 2. She was a registered nurse who served as Director of Student Health Services at Cumberland College in Kentucky. She was predeceased by her parents and brother David. Survivors include her husband of 48 years, Dr. John L. Stencil, Sr., son David, daughter Lara, three grandchildren and two sisters.

Ruth Ann Chappeler Kulp, 90, longtime resident of Ft. Washington, died at home Nov. 20. She was widow of Dr. Bernard A. Kulp, Sr., who had retired as Chief Scientist, Scientific Advisory Service, Deputy Chief of Staff for Science & Technology at Andrews. He died in 2014. Ruth was the mother of Dr. Bernard Jr., F. Peter, John, Marie, Elizabeth, Matthew, Karen, Andrew and the late James. She leaves 15 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and a sister. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Columba, with burial at Resurrection.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Martin Miller, Frank Binsted and Roc Wheeler, Jan. 13; Curtis DeMarco Knowles, my son Mike McHale, Kathleen Giroux and Joanie Mangum, Jan. 14; Dolly Wood, Jan. 16; and Nikial M. Boston, Jan. 17.

Happy anniversary to Gary and Melody Barnes, Jan. 14; and to Frank and Sharleen Kelly Cappella, their 63rd on Jan. 15.

## Neighborhoods

### WSSC is Winter Ready This Chilly Season

LAUREL, MD—WSSC is winter ready as the Washington area braces for a continuing winter deep freeze with:

- A 24/7 rapid response call center that quickly dispatches crews: 1-800-828-6439 or (301) 206-4002.

• More than 200 personnel strategically placed throughout Montgomery and Prince George's counties to respond to breaks and leaks.

• Hundreds of pieces of heavy equipment at the ready.

• Independent contractors available to assist WSSC repair breaks.

The sooner a water main break or leak is reported, the sooner repairs are can be made.

WSSC customers with smartphones are encouraged to download WSSC's Mobile App to report water main breaks and receive alerts based on a specific location.

The "Report a Problem" feature allows customers to easily snap a picture of water and sewer problems and send it directly to our Emergency Call Center. The application uses GPS to pinpoint the location of the image, which allows WSSC dispatchers to send an inspector to the trouble spot in the field.

Customers can always call or email us 24 hours a day to report a problem.

301-206-4002  
EmergencyCallCenter@wsscwater.com.

Remember, if a pipe breaks on your property, it is your responsibility. WSSC maintains the pipes in the streets and the connections up to the property line.

If a pipe in your home should freeze:

- Completely open the cold water faucet nearest the

frozen pipe. This relieves the pressure and reduces the chance of breakage.

• Use a hand-held dryer if you decide to thaw the pipe yourself.

• If you're not certain what to do, please call a registered plumber.

### Home winterization tips:

• Turn off the water to outside faucets, remove hoses and drain the pipes

• Keep the temperature inside your home above 55 degrees to prevent pipes from freezing

• Repair broken windows, doors and walls

• Tightly close all doors and windows

• Insulate outside walls

• Inquire with your local hardware store about materials to insulate pipes and meters

• Seal all leaks in crawl spaces and basements

• If vents don't close, cover them with insulation, cardboard, plastic or even a section of newspaper

There are more winterization tips in this video, including how to locate the main water shutoff valve in your home.

### Department of Parks and Recreation is Searching for Centenarians

RIVERDALE, MD—Do you know any Prince Georgians that are 90 years old and older? If so, we need your help! The Maryland—National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County is looking for county residents who are ages 90 and older to invite them to a special Centenarian Celebration to be held in May. Special recognition will be given to Centenarians—residents who are 100 years old and older.

If you know someone who resides in the county, and is 90 years old or older (as of January 1, 2018), please share their information with us. Your help is greatly appreciated! Please forward their information to us no later than February 16, 2018. Contact the Centenarian Coordinator at 301-206-3375; TTY 301-699-2544. Names provided will be mailed invitations and RSVP confirmations will be required. For additional details visit, <http://www.pgpcas.org/2666/Signature-Events>.

### Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)/ Prince George's County Public Service Announcement: Become a voice for a child in foster care!

RIVERDALE, MD—Want to make a difference in the life of abused or abandoned children in your community? There are over 500 youth in foster care in Prince George's County and Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is looking for compassionate and motivated individuals to advocate for these youth. In about 10 hours a month, CASA volunteers create relationships with youth in foster care to ensure that the court and child welfare systems remain focused on their specific needs and finding a safe permanent home. Apply today for our Fall Training that will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 9pm in Hyattsville, MD beginning January 18th and ending February 15th. Will you speak for abused and neglected children in your community? Applicants must be 21 or older and willing to complete a background check. For more information, please visit our website at [www.pgpcas.org](http://www.pgpcas.org) or call 301-209-0491 or email [volunteer@pgpcas.org](mailto:volunteer@pgpcas.org)

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

### BWC SCHOLARSHIPS

Once again the Baltimore Washington Conference will be awarding scholarships for qualified students currently attending college as well as high school seniors who plan to attend college in the fall of 2018. Please visit [www.bwcumc.org/administration/finance/local-church-resources/scholarships/](http://www.bwcumc.org/administration/finance/local-church-resources/scholarships/) for details about individual scholarships or to apply. Deadline for application is March 7, 2018. Point of contact is Cheryl Cook, 410-309-3446.

### DEMENTIA AWARENESS WORKSHOP

Please join us for a Community Dementia Awareness Workshop Saturday, February 10, 2018 11:30 AM sponsored by Westphalia United Methodist Church. Rev. Dr. Timothy West, Senior Pastor. Topic What You Can Do. Let's Talk with Dr. Thorne. Address is Westphalia United Methodist Church, 9363 D'Arcy Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774. For more additional information, call 735-9373 or [emailumwomen@westphaliaum.org](mailto:emailumwomen@westphaliaum.org).

### AFTERNOON TEA

Join us Wednesday, February 21, 2018, 2:00 PM for afternoon tea with Esther Williams Trio. There will be an exciting pro-

gram of jazz standards, Rhythm and Blues with a touch of gospel. Esther shares a passion for and commitment to music and art along with her husband, David Yarborough in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan community. Esther and David developed the Washington Jazz Arts Institute teaching young musicians to excel in an exciting and stimulating environment.

All ages: Tickets cost \$18/person. The location is Arts at Harmony Hall Regional Center, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744. Telephone 301-203-6070; TTY 301-699-2544. Website: [HarmonyHallArts@pgparks.com](mailto:HarmonyHallArts@pgparks.com).

### TINY TOTS THURSDAYS

Short programs designed for small children are offered on Thursdays at the Publick Playhouse. Programs feature puppets and performers who know how to make children smile while they learn. The address is 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, Maryland 20784. Telephone 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544 or visit [arts.pgparks.com](http://arts.pgparks.com).

*Baba Jamal Koram: The Story Man* will be presented Thursday, February 22, 2018, 9:30 AM and 11:15 AM. African American and Africa cultures come alive

when The Story Man's wisdom and wit captivates youngsters' imagination through music, drumming, call and response games and inspired light-hearted stories. The program is recommended for grades Pre-K-2. Tickets: \$5.00 per person.

### JANUARY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to George Brooks, Stephone Contee, Jessica Farmer, Clara Hawkins, Melvin Jackson, Christopher Makle-Lewis, Ellen Scott, Juanita Turley, Tiffany Walls and Alice Wright who are members of Nottingham Myers Church celebrating birthdays in January.

### THE SHOW PLACE ARENA

The Suburban Maryland Spring Home Show will be held Saturday, January 27, 2018 from 10:00 AM-8:00 PM and Sunday, January 28, 2018 from 10:00 AM-6:00 PM at the Show Place Arena. The address is 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Admission is free. Contact: 301-952-7900; TTY 301-699-2544.

The goal at the Home Show is to motivate, inspire and excite people for their upcoming home improvement whether it is a major remodel or minor renovation. All ages are welcome.

**Council Member**  
**MEL FRANKLIN**  
Prince George's County Council, District 9

**IS PROUD TO CO-SPONSOR** with  
**Sonya Williams**  
School Board Member  
Prince George's County Board Of Education, District 9

**District 9 HIGH SCHOOL CAREER ACADEMY SHOWCASE**  
Thursday, January 11, 2018 • 6:30p.m.  
**STEPHEN DECATUR MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
8200 PINEWOOD DR., CLINTON, MD 20735

**Frederick Douglass High School:**  
P-TECH Program  
- Hospitality Services Management  
- Health Information Services  
International Baccalaureate

**Gwynn Park High School:**  
Academy of Consumer Services, Hospitality & Tourism  
Academy of Environmental Studies  
Academy of Information Technology  
Automotive Technician Career Technology  
Fire Science Cadet Program

**Surrattville High School:**  
Academy of Law Education & Public Service  
Academy of Graphic Art & Media Communication

**Friendly High School:**  
Health & Science Academy  
ProStart Culinary Academy

**Croom Vocational High School:**  
Carpentry Program  
Electrical Program  
Information Technology Program

Bringing the World to Prince George's County  
**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL**

# COMMUNITY

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### Be A Weight Loss Helper, Not A Hinderer

Know someone trying to lose weight as one of their New Year's resolutions? Probably yes, since weight loss is traditionally the most common resolution that people make.

While dropping a few pounds is clearly highly personal, if you have a spouse, family member, co-worker or friend aiming for a trimmer waistline, there are a number of ways you can support bringing their resolution to fruition.

A good starting point in being helpful is often not trying to be so helpful. Sometimes things we do or say may feel like they're providing assistance when they actually are having a negative effect. Activities that you may want to avoid include:

- acting as the food police;
- buying exercise equipment or pointing out new diets;
- citing health risks of being overweight, or constantly asking for weight loss updates;
- depriving the person of favorite foods; and
- saying things like "weight loss is easy and just a matter of willpower."

Such actions can, in reality, be sending destructive messages which reinforce the person's negative feelings that something is wrong with him or her unless they lose weight. Even more eating may occur as a way to temporarily overcome these negative feelings.

Instead, your goal is to practice positive behaviors that can assist the weight loss effort. You might start by encouraging the person trying to lose weight to express his or her feelings, especially negative ones that may be triggering eating. Allowing the person to talk about such things might help them focus on what may be the real problem that affects their eating habits. It might be relationship problems, a work situation, a family loss or other major concerns. Feeling stressed often leads to eating because food is a great way to temporarily feel better.

You also want to offer ongoing encouragement, not about weight loss, but about the person in general. Sending sincere, honest, positive messages is a good way to help combat negative feelings, such as low self-esteem, that often trigger eating.

It also helps to be a positive role model. You don't have to diet yourself, but can set an example by making healthy, sensible food choices.

Being a person who understands the challenges of losing weight and is willing to listen and support, rather than lecture about weight, can go a long

*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*

### Library from A1

the Kill A Watt P4400 can monitor the energy eaters in our homes and cut down our electric bills at the same time. Connect your standard 115 VAC appliances (15 amps maximum) to the Kill A Watt monitoring device to determine their energy efficiency.

Is it time for a new refrigerator? Is that old air conditioner still saving you money? Kill A Watt can uncover power-wasting

appliances that you can unplug so as to reduce your utility bills. This energy cost saving device joins our thermal mobile accessory—FLIR ONE (for both Android and iOS)—which adds infrared camera functionality to your mobile device to assess whether or not heat or cool air is escaping from your home, increasing utility cost. Go "green" at your library, and check out a Kill A Watt electricity usage monitor and a FLIR ONE thermal camera today.

### HUD from A1

earned income and reduce or eliminate the need for rental and/or welfare assistance.

"As I travel throughout the region to visit HUD-assisted communities, I am especially interested in hearing how efforts like the Family Self-Sufficiency Program are helping families and individuals progress financially," said Joe DeFelice, Regional Administrator of HUD's Mid-Atlantic region. "As they achieve economic independence and move on, affordable housing becomes available to those who need it most."

Participants in the program sign a five-year contract that requires the head of the household to obtain employment and no longer receive cash welfare assistance at the end of the five-year term. As the family's income rises, a portion of that increased income is de-

posited into an interest-bearing escrow account. If the family successfully completes its FSS contract, the family receives the escrow funds, which can be used for any purpose—including improving credit scores, paying educational expenses or a down-payment on a home.

Between 2007 and 2016, the average household income of a program participant nearly doubled from approximately \$10,000 at the beginning of the program to more than \$27,000 upon the completion of the program.

To learn more about the program's successes and how it has helped families across the country, read 25 Years of Family Self-Sufficiency Program: Families Working, Families Prospering.

The full report can be found at the following website: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/fss/25-years/>

## Health Equity Conference Addresses Community Collaborations

*Minority Health & Health Disparities annual Conference Focuses on Bridging Health Equity Across Communities*

By PRESS OFFICER  
MDH

BALTIMORE, MD—On December 7, 2017, The 14th Annual Maryland Health Equity Conference, which focuses on needed coordination, collaboration, and available opportunities to address population health and health disparities in Maryland, was held in Baltimore. Each year, this statewide conference brings together representatives from health departments, state and local government, Minority Outreach and Technical Assistance grantees, health service and clinical providers, and others to collaborate on ways to advance health equity for all Marylanders.

"This year's conference highlights population health strategies, as well as approaches to addressing health disparities in Maryland communities, which will ultimately close health care gaps for all Marylanders," said Department of Health Secretary Dennis R. Schrader. "The Department's recent launch of a \$7.2 million initiative to reduce lead poisoning and improve asthma is an important example of collaboration and coordination among state agencies to ensure better health outcomes."

### School from A1

itoring unit. "Kids are coming in off the street and they have different needs educationally."

The Juvenile Services Education System is a year-round program, unlike a traditional public school that is open for around 10 months with vacation time. Average time for a youth within a detention center is about 30 days, but can vary from a few weeks to six months, according to the Department of Juvenile Services.

In the 2016 fiscal year, the number of youths in detention before conviction was 2,033, while the number of youths awaiting placement in a treatment facility was 742.

The three most common offenses for children in detention are second-degree assault, robbery, and burglary, and the age of youths average between 14 and 19 years old, with more than 70 percent between 15 and 17, according to the Department of Juvenile Services.

All detention facilities within the Juvenile Services Education System are organized by living unit, which is based on individuals' charges and the relationships the youths have with one another, rather than by grade level, according to the monitoring unit.

Grace Reusing, an assistant public defender within the Public Defender's Office, has been filing complaints on behalf of families in the Juvenile Services Education System since 2014, all of which state that practices within the program, including failure to provide Individualized Education Programs for those with special education needs, are in violation of federal law.

When a violation is found, the administrative staff of the Juvenile Services Education System is required to address the complaint and document the reparations, according to Deborah Grinnage-Pulley, executive director of the system.

In one-and-a-half-hour classes, with about 12 students per classroom, teachers are expected to teach curriculum that fits the needs of each student, regardless of the skill level of each individual.

The Healthy Homes for Health Kids program, an initiative of the Departments of Health, in conjunction with the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Department of Housing and Community Development, expands lead identification and abatement programs throughout the state.

The conference is sponsored by the Department of Health's Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and co-sponsored by the Behavioral Health Administration's Office of Workforce Development and Training and the University of Maryland's School of Public Health, Maryland Center for Health Equity. This year's theme is "Bridging Health Equity Across Communities: Coordination, Collaboration, & Opportunities in Maryland."

Speakers and panelists included Secretary Schrader; Minority Health and Health Disparities Acting Director Stephanie Slowly; state Senator Shirley Nathan-Pulliam; and Dr. Stephen Thomas, director of the Maryland Center for Health Equity in the University of Maryland's School of Public Health.

"As a healthcare professional and state Senator, I have expe-

rienced, first hand, how important it is for communities to address health disparities here in Maryland," said Senator Shirley Nathan-Pulliam. "The strategies and programs discussed at the conference highlight a number of opportunities for organizations to work together to address the social determinants of health and achieve health equity for all Marylanders through collaboration, coordination, and integration."

E. Albert Reece, Vice President for Medical Affairs, University of Maryland and John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor, and Dean of the School of Medicine, is the 2017 recipient of the annual Shirley Nathan-Pulliam Health Equity Award, and delivered the keynote address.

Conference presentations focused on Maryland's Primary Care Program, public health implementation strategies for improving population health, Maryland's Two-Generation Approach, collaborative opioid overdose prevention efforts, National Minority Health Month 2017 community conversation insights, and workforce development of community health workers.

For more information on the department's Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities, please visit <https://health.maryland.gov/mhhd/>.

Marylanders who need help finding substance-use-disorder treatment resources should visit [MdDestinationRecovery.org](http://MdDestinationRecovery.org) or call the Maryland Crisis Hotline, which provides 24/7 support, at 1-800-422-0009. For information on many of the policies currently implemented to fight substance use disorder and overdose in Maryland, see <http://goo.gl/KvEzQw>. If you know of someone who needs treatment for a substance use disorder, treatment facilities can be located by location and program characteristics on our page at <http://goo.gl/rbGF6S>.

The Maryland Department of Health is the State agency that protects Maryland's public health. We work together to promote and improve the health and safety of all Marylanders through disease prevention, access to care, quality management, and community engagement. Stay connected: [www.twitter.com/MD-HealthDept](http://www.twitter.com/MD-HealthDept) and [www.facebook.com/MarylandDHMH](http://www.facebook.com/MarylandDHMH).

Funding for the program comes from three places: \$16,602,385 from the state, making up 83.1 percent of total funding, \$1,013,311 from the federal government, with 5.1 percent of total funding, and \$2,365,221 from local system reimbursement, contributing 11.8 percent of total funding, according to the state's Department of Education.

Maryland state Sen. Dolores Kelley, D-Baltimore County, has advocated for an increase in funding for JSES programming in order to attract and retain teachers and other staff.

"I was really trying to get them to agree to a bill that didn't get anywhere because I was asking for comparable pay and standards," Kelley told the University of Maryland's Capital News Service. "Many things that are very basic that any public school would be taken to the woodshed for not doing, haven't been done. The vision is just not there on part of the department."

The Maryland Department of Budget and Management determines salary based on a variety of factors, including years of service and regional location of the school, according to the state Department of Education. While annual wages can be similar for teachers in the Juvenile Services Education System and teachers in local public schools, educators who work in the Department of Juvenile Services' facilities do not get summers off.

All facilities are equipped with computer labs, smart boards and iPads for student use, but there are several factors that prohibit the children from benefiting from technology, according to Kelley and agency monitors.

"Our observation on that is that technology is not consistently available to kids and teachers in MSDE (Maryland State Department of Education) JSES (Juvenile Services Education System) schools," Moroney told Maryland's Capital News Service in an email. "Stuff breaks and takes forever to get fixed."

The state's Department of Education provides professional development to teachers on the most effective ways to integrate technology into their daily lessons, according to Grinnage-Pulley.

"The kids are very aware of the fact that one really promising way to get back on track is school, they very much understand that," Eliza Steele, one of the monitors from the Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit, explained. "But they're stuck in a system that doesn't represent a fair opportunity to get out of it."

Mitchell, as well as the team of monitors, explained that many educators and principals will have ideas for how to introduce programs that they feel will be meaningful for the kids, but they'll be shot down by the administration for not following the current system.

"Adhering to (the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards) is critical to the future success of those students," Grinnage-Pulley told the University of Maryland's Capital News Service in an email. "There is plenty of room for teacher creativity within the parameters set forth."

Grinnage-Pulley noted that the standards, which are used by Maryland public schools, are designed to make certain students who return to traditional schools do not fall behind.

According to a 2012 study from the Federal Interagency Reentry Council, 66 percent of youths do not return to school after they are released from juvenile services facilities.

"You come in thinking that you are going to be a change agent and what you quickly realize is that what they want you to do is be a soldier and implement bureaucratic strategies that you know don't work," Mitchell stated.

Cheltenham Youth Detention Center, which was renovated and reopened on Nov. 16, 2016, prides itself on having a computer lab, smart boards in every classroom and elective courses, such as pottery, available in its education hall.

The facility is in Prince George's County and has the capacity to fit 72 male inmates; as of Nov. 17, 42 boys were housed in the facility.

The principal of Cheltenham, Michael Dodson, requires his

# COMMENTARY

## Rushern L. Baker, III Executive of Prince George's County



### Passing of Southern Management Corporation Founder and CEO David Hillman

Upper Marlboro, MD - Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, released this statement following the recent passing of Southern Management Corporation Founder and CEO, David Hillman.

"On behalf of the citizens of Prince George County, I offer my thoughts and prayers to the family and friends of my dear friend and Southern Management Corporation Founder and CEO, David Hillman. David was an incredible humanitarian and businessman who also spread goodwill throughout Prince George's County and the National Capital Region.

David Hillman built one of the largest real estate management firms in our region that offered housing to a very diverse group of people. In recent years, he began building boutique hotels and he lived to see the opening of The Hotel at the University of Maryland, a high-end hotel located near the University of Maryland, College Park. But David was most known for the rental apartments he owned throughout the National Capital Region and he was committed to providing people from all income levels with safe, attractive, and livable communities. In addition,

through The David H. and Suzanne D. Hillman Family Foundation, his philanthropic efforts greatly benefited our community. David and Suzanne Hillman created the Hillman Entrepreneurs Program to support community college students who might not otherwise be able to afford a college education by offering them scholarships to help cover the costs of tuition and books and then supporting them in a seamless transfer to the University of Maryland in pursuit of their bachelor's degree.

As Prince George's County Executive, I was honored to have the support and partnership of David Hillman. My family and I will greatly miss David and we extend our prayers, condolences and support to his wife, Suzanne, and the entire Hillman family during this difficult time.

David Hillman was a giant in the business community of the State of Maryland and National Capital Region and his influence will be felt for generations ahead, but, more importantly, the impact on the thousands of young people he helped support and educate will far exceed his legacy as a businessman. He will be greatly missed."

## Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



### Urban League Movement Reflects on a Year of Empowering Americans Through Jobs, Education, Financial Literacy and Health Care

*"From your founding, amid the great migration, to the struggles of the civil rights movement, to the battles of today, the Urban League has been on the ground, in our communities, working quietly—day in, day out—without fanfare; opening up opportunity, rolling back inequality, making our union just a little more perfect."*

—President Barack Obama

The New Year is a time to reflect and assess, and organizations like ours are not immune from the impulse. Since our founding in 1910, The National Urban League has remained resolute in its foundational resolution to invest in the economic empowerment of underserved urban communities. Every year, for more than a century, we have reflected on and tallied the economic and societal effects of the programs and initiatives provided by the National Urban League and its nationwide network of affiliates. This census provides keen insight on the people we serve, the communities we empower, and the work that always lies ahead.

Through the hard work of our 88 affiliates in 36 states and the District of Columbia, our latest figures show the Urban League was able to offer services ranging from job placement to education programs to more than 1.4 million people nationwide. Some of the highlights of our movement's work, from the latest census:

- More than 35,000 participants were placed in jobs, at an annual salary of \$26,360—a salary increase of \$5,199 from the previous year.
- Urban League affiliates counseled or trained 6,374 welfare-to-work clients, of which 2,115 were placed in jobs.
- Nearly 15,500 entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs received information on financial and credit management and marketing their businesses—and increase of more than 6,000 over the previous year.
- The Movement's 152 housing and community programs counseled 71,697 residents in diverse housing and community development programs, ranging from financial literacy to support services for veterans and foreclosure prevention.
- There were 11,168 participants in homeownership programs, of whom nearly 1,600 be-

came first-time homeowners at an average purchase price of \$148,882.

- The Urban League Movement provided more than 326,000 people with healthcare services and information, ranging from sickle cell awareness, nutrition, mental health and services for women, infants and children.
- The movement's 298 affiliate-led programs actively prepared 141,190 students for college, work and live with a variety of education initiatives, including STEM programming and workforce alternatives.
- Activities elevating awareness and support for inclusive and equitable social policies – addressing police misconduct, voter protection and registration, civil rights and social justice – engaged 567,300 citizens nationwide, and increase of 13,000 over the previous year

But the struggle to continue to make strides in civil rights and racial progress is thwarted by the open hostility of the Trump administration to longstanding civil rights laws. The struggle to continue to make strides in social policy that narrows the wealth and equity gaps and lifts whole communities out of poverty is thwarted by tax cuts that would benefit the very, very rich and corporations, policies that rip holes into our social safety net and drain our government of money it needs to provide even the most basic of services to its citizens.

It is at moments such as this that I am reminded of Coretta Scott King's response to those who questioned the success of the civil rights movement. She reminded the skeptics that, "the struggle is a never-ending process. Freedom is never really won. You earn it and win it in every generation."

Like so many of you, the National Urban League will take stock and gather courage for the twelve months ahead. We resolve to invest in those communities hardest hit by the inequities and injustices in our society. We will continue to protect our progress against any and all threats. We will sound the alarm and stand at the frontline of the battle to create a more just and equitable society for all.

So, Happy New Year to you and your family, and if you're still looking to make and keep a resolution, what could be nobler than protecting our nation's hard-fought-for progress?

## Clara Barton National Historic Site



Open to the Public

### CLARA BARTON NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

The Clara Barton National Historic Site, was established in 1974 to interpret the life of Clara Barton (1821–1912), an American pioneer teacher, nurse, and humanitarian who was the founder of the American Red Cross. The first national historic site dedicated to the accomplishments of a woman, it preserves the early history of the American Red Cross and the last home of its founder. Clara Barton spent the last 15 years of her life in her Glen Echo home (1897–1912), and it served as an early headquarters of the American Red Cross as well. The National Park Service has restored eleven rooms, including the Red Cross offices, parlors, and Clara Barton's bedroom. Visitors to the site are led through the three levels on a guided tour emphasizing Barton's use of her unusual home. The house is shown by guided tour only. Tours start on the hour: 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 12 Noon, 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., and 4:00 p.m. Admission is free. Please call 301-320-1410 for more information or to schedule a reservation.

## The Children's Guild Names Prince George's County School Building

New name honors longtime supporters Terry and Debbie Carnes

By PRESS OFFICER  
TranZed Alliance

BALTIMORE, MD—The Children's Guild, which serves children and youth with differing behavioral, emotional and learning abilities, named its Prince George's County campus school building The Terry and Dojuan Carnes Building. The new name honors Terry and Debbie Carnes, who have raised more than \$550,000 to support The Children's Guild's work, including construction of a new multipurpose gym on the Prince George's County campus.

"When I first came to know Terry and Debbie, it was obvious they were at one with our mission and understood the plight of the children and families who depend on this organization as a lifeline," said Andrew Ross, president and CEO of the TranZed Alliance, which includes The Children's Guild. "They wanted to provide opportunity for children who were dealt a bad hand."

Ross spoke during a ceremony on the Prince George's County campus in December honoring Terry and Debbie Carnes and introducing the new name of the building. In addition to financial support, Terry Carnes chaired the TranZed Alliance's board of directors and has led the organization's golf tournament fundraiser for 10 years. Terry and Debbie Carnes are Prince George's County residents and own CECA, LLC, and ConTest, LLC, respectively, professional engineering consulting firms with offices in Lanham, Maryland, and Washington, D.C.

"I did not want to look back on my life and feel that I just talked about the things that were wrong with our society, our communities, our schools, our children. I knew I needed to find somewhere to serve," Terry Carnes said. "I was so struck by the love and commitment of the teachers, teachers' aides and administrators in this school. It was immediately clear to me that this was an organization I could become involved with."

The Children's Guild's Prince George's County campus



WIKIPEDIA PHOTO COURTESY TRANZED ALLIANCE

Pictured left to right: Maryland Sen. Victor Ramirez, Debbie and Terry Carnes, Children's Guild student Paris Goode, Children's Guild Principal Tarlesha Wayne, TranZed Alliance President and CEO Andrew Ross

is a nonpublic school for children in kindergarten through eighth grade with autism and emotional and behavioral issues. The school serves students in Prince George's and Montgomery counties and surrounding areas in Maryland and Washington, D.C.

The TranZed Alliance is a nonprofit organization serving children, families and child-serving organizations and is dedicated to transforming how America educates and cares for

its children through education, behavioral health and national training and consultation services. Affiliates of the TranZed Alliance include The Children's Guild, Monarch Academy Public Charter Schools, The Children's Guild D.C. Public Charter School, The Upside Down Organization, the National At Risk Education Network, the TranZed Alliance Conference Center and The National Children's Guild Fund. ([www.childrensguild.org](http://www.childrensguild.org))

## The Prince George's Post

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# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK  
Movie Review

## Thor: Ragnarok

Thor: Ragnarok  
Grade: B  
Rated PG-13, a little profanity,  
some mild suggestive dialogue,  
a CGI butt  
2 hrs., 10 min

The mighty Norse god Thor, as played by Chris Hemsworth, is a fun presence in the Marvel Cinematic Universe®, but his last stand-alone film (*Thor: The Dark World*) was the worst of the franchise. The latest, *Thor: Ragnarok*, regains its sense of humor and gives Thor plenty of entertaining interaction with others, redeeming this particular thread in the Marvel tapestry. Yet like the thunder god himself, the film is stuck between two worlds: the one where you want to tell a lively fantasy-adventure story, and the one where you have to make it tie in with the other movies.

As foretold by a teaser scene at the end of *Doctor Strange*, Thor and his mischievous/murderous brother Loki (Tom Hiddleston) have come to Earth in search of their father, Odin (Anthony Hopkins), whom Loki deposited here and misplaced. Dad has news: The boys have a sister! An older sister, totally forgot to mention her, sorry! She's been in space-jail for eons because of her genocidal impulses, but Odin's imminent death will free her, whereupon she is expected to return to Asgard and unleash a demon that will bring about Ragnarok, aka the Norse apocalypse (like the regular apocalypse, only blonder).

Sure enough, big sis Hela arrives, played by actual space-queen Cate Blanchett and looking every inch like the goddess of death that she is. While racing



ROTTENTOMATOES

**In Marvel Studios' *Thor: Ragnarok*, Thor is imprisoned on the other side of the universe without his mighty hammer and finds himself in a race against time to get back to Asgard to stop Ragnarok—the destruction of his homeworld and the end of Asgardian civilization—at the hands of an all-powerful new threat, the ruthless Hela. But first he must survive a deadly gladiatorial contest that pits him against his former ally and fellow Avenger—the Incredible Hulk!**

back to Asgard to protect it from her, however, Thor and Loki are knocked out of the rainbow tunnel and land on a random junk planet run by a Grandmaster (Jeff Goldblum, now at the stage of his career where he starts playing himself) who befriends Loki and forces Thor to be a gladiator. You'll never guess who Thor's opponent is, unless you've seen even one second of advertising for the movie, in which case you know it's the Hulk (Mark Ruffalo), who's been here since he left Earth at the end of *Avengers: Age of Ultron*.

The gladiator planet is a comedy goldmine in the hands of director Taika Waititi (*What We Do in the Shadows*, *Hunt for the*

*Wilderpeople*) and screenwriters Eric Pearson, Craig Kyle, and Christopher Yost (all veterans of Marvel's TV properties). There is the Grandmaster, of course, in all his Jeff Goldblumian dorkiness, and his bitter assistant (Rachel House). There's the drunk scavenger (Tessa Thompson) who first captures Thor and turns out to be a fellow Asgardian. There's Korg (Waititi in a motion-capture suit), a creature made of rocks who welcomes Thor to the gladiator pen and speaks in a polite New Zealand accent. Many people are hit on the head or fall off of things, to the amusement of all. If nothing else, *Thor: Ragnarok* is among the funniest Marvel films.

And there may indeed be nothing else. The action is fine (Led Zeppelin's "Immigrant Song" is used to great effect), the story is fine (though the whole gladiator planet sequence feels like a tangent), the outcome is ... typical. As much as Blanchett gives herself to the role of Hela, the character is yet another lackluster villain without interesting dialogue or a long-term purpose, a Monster of the Week. Meanwhile, unsure what to do with a semi-reformed Loki, the film has him stick mostly to brotherly antagonization, which is diverting for now but unsustainable in the long run. But hey, lotsa laffs! You could do worse than a superhero movie that's merely hilarious.

## PG County Planning Department Seeks Feedback on Draft Solar Energy Systems Guidelines

By PRESS OFFICER  
MNCPPC

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George's County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPCC) is seeking input from County residents on the draft Solar Energy Systems (SES) guidelines for Mandatory Referral cases. SES are also known as solar arrays or solar farms. All SES that require approval from the Maryland Public Service Commission or other public agencies are subject to the Prince George's County

Planning Board's Mandatory Referral process.

Applications for SES have become more frequent in our community just in the last year. The draft SES guidelines are developed to provide uniform standards to ensure consistency in the review process. The guidelines will also support the goals of the County's General Plan (Plan Prince George's 2035), the Resource Conservation Plan, and functional, area and master plans, and implement zoning policies. The guidelines contain site preferences, location restrictions, buffering requirements and other standards to

help ensure these facilities are good neighbors. Mandatory Referral is a review process through which all public-sector development projects (from federal, state, and local governments) and public and private utilities are referred to the Planning Board for review.

The Planning Department will host a community meeting to provide an overview of the draft SES guidelines and the Mandatory Referral process to gather public feedback.

WHO: The Prince George's County Planning Department  
WHAT: Overview and feedback on the draft Solar Energy Systems Guidelines

WHEN: January 11, 2018  
6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.  
WHERE: 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive,  
4th floor Board Room  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

All comments and feedback on the SES guidelines are due no later than January 26, 2018. To review the draft SES guidelines for mandatory referral, visit the Prince George's County Planning Department web site: <http://www.pgplanning.org/> All feedback on the draft guidelines may be sent to Ted Kowaluk at [ted.kowaluk@ppd.mncppc.org](mailto:ted.kowaluk@ppd.mncppc.org) or call 301-952-3209.

### Schoolfrom A3

teachers to submit a semester schedule, as well as weekly lesson plans to ensure teachers from the state Department of Education and employees from Maryland's Department of Juvenile Services are on the same page.

As of last month, there were 11 teachers—six dedicated to core courses, four for classes geared toward special education and one resource teacher—who work at the facility.

When Dodson arrived in July, he made an effort to transform the designated classrooms into real workspaces by asking the teachers to decorate the white, cinder block walls with things that would typically sit in

a public school classroom. The math classroom is filled with colorful posters, while the social studies room has a map on the back wall.

"The atmosphere is very important because if a classroom looks like the schools these kids used to go to, they'll be more engaged and willing to learn," Dodson explained. "Our kids have great relationships with their teachers, and the ones who have been here longer are very protective of their teachers."

He also requires teachers to incorporate technology—either the computer lab or iPads—at least once a week. Programs such as office skills management and career research development

are also offered for the young men at the facility.

While Dodson is having success at Cheltenham, the system in its entirety is not promoting the best solution for children in the juvenile justice system, according to the monitoring unit.

"It seems to us it doesn't make sense to keep doing the same thing and seeing the same result," Moroney said. "MSDE (Maryland State Department of Education) itself really needs to advocate in a much better way for the JSES (Juvenile Services Education System) to be properly resourced."

The state should evaluate the feasibility of the Department of Education Juvenile Services Education System continuing to

maintain responsibility for education services within the facilities, monitors wrote in their most recent report.

Moroney told the University of Maryland's Capital News Service that he suggests some laws and regulations be revisited, or that pilot programs and charter schools could be the better route for these children.

"It should be the most direct, high-impact program because you have an audience that is captive until their release, for a lack of a better word—they want to learn," Ivor said. "Their back is against the wall, life has moved on without them and they know it. They want an opportunity not just to learn but to progress their educational futures."

## Social Security Matters

### Ask Rusty—Losing Benefits You Have Earned

by Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

#### Dear Rusty:

I'm 73 years old and have finally decided to call it quits from working and start taking life easy. My wife is 72 and has never worked outside our home, but we're both in good health and are looking forward to "the good life" just doing what we want to do. I haven't taken my Social Security yet because I've been working, but now that I'm retired from work we'll need the extra money to do the things we want to do. How and when should I apply for benefits?

#### Signed: Finally Retired

**Dear Finally:** Oh my, yours is a classic example of why everyone should seek the advice of a qualified advisor before making Social Security decisions. And by qualified advisor I don't mean a friend who thinks they know what you should do, or how you personally think the program works. I'm afraid that by not applying sooner you have forfeited a considerable amount of money because, even though you were still working full time, your Social Security benefit reached its maximum when you became 70 years of age, so you should have applied then. You should now immediately apply for your Social Security benefits and your wife should simultaneously apply for spousal benefits, which will be ½ of the benefit you were entitled to when you became 66, plus any COLA increases and benefit increases due to any higher earnings you had since that time.

Although you were eligible to take your benefits without reduction at age 66, waiting past that earned you 8% per year in delayed retirement credits, up to the time you turned 70 when your benefit was 32% higher than it was at 66. In fact, once you reached your full retirement age of 66 you could have applied for benefits and continued to work, and would not have been subject to Social Security's "earnings limit". Since your benefit reached its maximum at age 70, there was no advantage to you by waiting past that to file.

When you apply now, you and your wife should both set your benefit start date as six months prior to the date you apply, because Social Security will pay up to six months retroactive benefits. Unfortunately the 2 ½ years of benefit you didn't take since you turned 70 are lost, as are the 2 ½ years of spousal benefits that your wife was entitled to as soon as you reached 70 - tens of thousands of dollars depending upon your benefit amounts. This is an unfortunate reality of the system: the onus to apply for benefits is on you and your wife; Social Security doesn't automatically enroll you in the program at any time.

This is another example of how far too many people misunderstand how the Social Security program works and make decisions based upon incorrect assumptions. And the result is often many thousands of dollars in lost benefits.

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

### Reading from A1

number of books read. "The mission of First Book is well-aligned with the work libraries do, so it's no surprise that our clients voted to give the prize money to that organization," commented Zoobean co-founder and Chief Client Success Officer, Jordan Lloyd Bookey. "It is truly an honor to be selected by these libraries," said First Book's president, co-founder and CEO Kyle Zimmer.

First Book provides affordable brand-new, high-quality

books and educational resources, sports equipment and snacks to more than 325,000 educators who exclusively serve kids in need. More than 170 million books and educational resources have been distributed by First Book to programs and schools serving children from low-income families, thereby creating equal access to quality education.

To participate in this Winter Reading Challenge, visit [www.pgmls.info](http://www.pgmls.info) or click here. Every minute counts, so please join us in advancing literacy in our communities.



## Calendar of Events

January 11 — January 17, 2018

### Civil War Soldiers: Discovering the Men of the 25th United States Colored Troops

Date and time: Friday, January 12, 2018 through Sunday, March 11, 2018, 11:00 AM–4:00 PM  
Exhibit is closed on Wednesdays

Description: After viewing an antique photo album of 17 Black soldiers from the Civil War, artist Shayne Davidson researched, created a family tree, wrote a biography, and drew a life-sized, colored pencil portrait of each man. The result is now a book and exhibit of the same name. Illustrations and biographies from the book will be on display.

Cost: \$5/ages 18–59; \$4/ages 60 and better; \$2/ages 5–17; FREE/4 and under

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Montpelier Mansion/Historic Site

9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD  
Contact: 301-377-7817; TTY 301-699-2544

### Relics and Prospect

Date and time: Saturday, January 13, 2018 through Sunday, February 25, 2018, 8:30 AM–5:00 PM

Description: Montpelier Arts Center is proud to honor Black History Month through an exhibition of contemporary artwork that reflects the lives and perspectives of the African-American experience. Using symbolism and found objects, artists explore the journey and history of being Black through painting, mixed media, and sculpture.

Public Reception for this exhibit is Saturday, February 10, 2018, 1:00 PM–3:00 PM

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Montpelier Arts Center

9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD  
Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

### JAPA Presents: "Ace It!" Acting Audition Workshop

Date and time: Saturday, January 13, 2018, 9:00 AM–1:00 PM  
Description: Want to audition for musicals and plays in your school and community? Don't fear your next audition - Ace it! Join us for three audition-intensive workshops to learn and discover the skills needed to stand out at your next casting call. No prior experience necessary.

Cost: FREE

Ages: 8–15

Location: The Prince George's County Room at the Clarice

Smith Performing Arts Center  
8270 Alumni Drive, College Park, MD

Contact: 301-446-3259; TTY 301-699-2544

### Seniors on the Move: Visit Museum of the Bible

Date and time: Tuesday, January 16, 2018, all day  
Description: Experience the "Book" that shapes history. Museum of the Bible is an innovative, global, educational institution that aims to provide an unparalleled experience. Journey through immersive exhibits with cutting-edge technology.

Cost: Resident: \$7; Non-resident: \$10

Ages: 60 and better

Location: College Park Community Center

5051 Pierce Road, College Park, MD  
Contact: 301-441-2647; TTY 301-699-2544

### A Curator Collects: Highlights from the collection of H. Elaine Jackson

Date and time: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 through March 16, 2018, Monday–Friday, 10:00 AM–7:00 PM, and Saturdays 10:00 AM–4:00 PM  
Exhibit is closed on Sundays

Description: Local collector and independent curator H. Elaine Jackson has, over a period of nearly four decades, acquired and exhibited work by prominent mid-20th-century artists of color drawn from the continental U.S., as well as practitioners from the Caribbean basin and Africa, with a deliberate focus on the graphic mediums.

The exhibition at the Brentwood Arts Exchange in February 2018 will feature selected works representative of four decades of collecting. The corpus of the exhibit focuses on four prominent mid-20th century NYC based practitioners—Romare Bearden, Herbert Gentry, Vincent Smith and Norma Morgan but also brings together a cross-section of work spanning several generations of female artists offering a referential point-of-view touching on the multiple roles imposed on and displayed by women—mother, goddess, object, muse.

Opening Reception: Saturday, January 20, 2018, 5:00 PM–8:00 PM

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

### Chicago Style Steppin'

Date and time: Wednesday, January 17, 2018, 7:00 PM–9:00 PM  
Description: This drop-in activity is a fun way to have you steppin' into an active healthy lifestyle! Chicago Steppin' is a specific form of swing dance. Learn to dance with a partner with stylish and soulful steppin'! Synchronize your movements to the rhythm and beat of the music. This class is taught using the eight-count method.

Have fun, meet new people and make sure you make it to the next drop-in session!

Cost: Resident: \$8; Non-resident: \$11

Ages: 16 and older

Location: Glenarden Community Center

8615 McLain Avenue, Glenarden, M  
Contact: 301-772-3151; TTY 301-699-2544

## EARTH TALK ... What the Bus? I Thought Trains Were the Greenest Transit Mode?

Dear EarthTalk:

I always assumed the train was the greenest form of mass transit, but a friend told me I would be better off taking the bus. Could this be true?

—Jane McNeil,  
New York, NY

Most of us assume that train travel—whether for getting around town, commuting to work or for long hauls—is the most eco-friendly mass transit “mode.” Indeed, trains seem greener, with some relying exclusively on electricity while others utilize a single diesel-powered locomotive to pull dozens of passenger cars.

But even though trains are no slouch when it comes to fuel efficiency, buses, even though they spew diesel exhaust and get only about six miles per gallon, may be even better.

“The reason ... is that they are usually full of people, giving [buses] the highest miles per gallon per passenger, at 208,” reports CNN’s Steve Hargreaves based on his research digging into Department of Energy data. He adds that trains are the next best choice for the eco-conscious traveler, whether commuting or doing a longer haul. “A city train (think subway or light rail) gets 52 mpg per passenger (or the equivalent, if it’s electric), while a commuter train—usually used to connect

the suburbs to a city—gets about 44 mpg per passenger.”

A landmark 2013 study in Environmental Science and Technology by researchers at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and the Center for International Climate and Environmental Research (CICERO) backs up these findings. The researchers found that bus travel noses out rail travel in fuel efficiency and carbon impact on typical business or holiday trips ranging from 500–1000 kilometers (300–600 miles), generating only about 20 percent of the per passenger emissions as driving alone in a typical gas-powered car.

“Motor coaches leave carbon in the dust,” reports the non-profit Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), adding that a couple can cut their travel carbon emissions in half by boarding a motor coach instead of taking their Prius. “And if they take the motor coach rather than flying, they will cut their emissions by 55 to 75 percent, depending on the distance they travel.” And given that many bus companies have ditched their old buses in favor of new models replete with not only more efficient engines but also reclining seats, on-board entertainment and WIFI, the bus could become your new favorite way to travel.

Though buses are the current green leader, trains are catching up fast. All of Amtrak’s trains



CREDIT: DON MCCULLOUGH, FLICKRCC

**While train travel may be better for the environment than flying or driving your own car, hopping on a bus may still be the best choice from an environmental perspective.**

in its busiest Northeast Corridor now eschew the old diesel generators that used to power their locomotives, and run instead on an increasingly renewable supply of electricity. Some \$10 billion in investment in high-speed rail by the Obama administration means trains are getting more efficient across the country as well.

While Candidate Trump promised he would pour hun-

dreds of millions of dollars into further boosting high-speed rail infrastructure, his 2018 budget does more to decimate Obama’s progress on the issue than augment it. Whether he will follow through with a plan to further bolster U.S. rail travel remains to be seen. In the meantime, while trains remain a viable green choice, choosing Greyhound over Amtrak might be the better option for the time being.

CONTACTS: UCS, [www.ucsusa.org](http://www.ucsusa.org); Amtrak, [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com); IIASA, [www.iiasa.ac.at](http://www.iiasa.ac.at); CICERO, [www.cicero.uio.no](http://www.cicero.uio.no); Greyhound, [www.greyhound.com](http://www.greyhound.com).

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## As We Find Ourselves Further into the Winter Season, We Must Be Even More Vigilant of Fire Safety

By PRESS OFFICER  
State Fire Marshal

PIKESVILLE, MD—State Fire Marshal Brian S. Geraci reminds all Marylanders to check for fire safety where they live, where they work and even where they attend classes, trainings and meetings. “Fire and life safety is everyone’s responsibility; by testing smoke alarms and CO detectors, keeping exits clear of obstructions, and maintaining fire alarms and fire sprinkler systems, we can all avoid injury or death from the effects of fire,” stated the State Fire Marshal.

To ensure your best chances of surviving a fire, the State Fire Marshal offers the following tips on both escaping a fire and preventing one to begin with:

- Test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors to ensure they are working properly. Remember, the effects of toxic

smoke and gases can quickly overcome your ability to think clearly. Every second counts when escaping the ingredients of fire. Also check the dates on your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, if they are 10 years old or older, they should be replaced.

- Check exits from both your home and any place you go to ensure you will be able to get to safety. Blocked exits resulting from improperly placed chairs or tables can result in the delay of getting out quickly and safely. Be vigilant of these safety concerns whether at church, school or even your local favorite eatery. Ensure snow is removed from the outside of doors as well.

- When using portable unvented fuel-fired heaters, such as kerosene heaters, make sure to use only the recommended fuel specified in the owner’s manual and NEVER use gaso-

line. Note: Portable kerosene heaters are banned for use in Baltimore City.

- If you find it necessary to use an electric space heater, use only one that has been approved by an authorized testing laboratory such as UL. Plug space heaters directly into an outlet, never use an extension cord or power strip as they can easily overheat and cause a fire.

- Keep all portable space heaters at least three feet away from anything combustible.

- If heating equipment fails, do not use kitchen stoves or ovens to supply heat. These appliances are not designed for that purpose and the chance of a fire improves greatly.

- When using fireplaces, woodstoves or pellet stoves; please ensure these heat sources have been installed and properly serviced by trained technicians according to state and local codes, allowing them to work at

peak efficiency and lower the risk of a catastrophic failure. Place ashes in a metal container with a lid.

- Please ensure you have the chimney cleaned and inspected before use.

- Never leave candles burning unattended. Extinguish the flame before leaving the room. Consider battery operated candles instead of flaming candles for safety.

- Prevent fires from starting on the stove by staying in the kitchen and monitoring the food as it is being prepared. If a fire would occur in a pot or pan on the stove, calmly place a lid on it and turn off the burner. Allow it to cool before removal from the stove.

- If a fire occurs inside your home, close the doors behind you as you vacate to the outside, call 911 and never go back inside the home. Tell arriving first responders if anyone is still inside.

## Blu-ray Movies, New at Your Library

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCMLS

LARGO, MD—The Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) introduces Blu-ray movies to its collection beginning January 10, 2018. The Library will have more than 300 Blu-ray DVDs to

choose from, including titles such as *Despicable Me 3*, *Victoria & Abdul* and *Dunkirk*.

“Several customers contacted us with the question: ‘Why didn’t we have Blu-rays?’ We thought about it for a few minutes, and said, they’re right. Why don’t we have Blu-rays? We are now pleased to offer Blu-ray

movies at all library branches in the New Year,” announced Interim Co-Chief Executive Officer Michael Gannon.

PGCMLS prides itself on keeping up with the latest technology of interest to our customers. We have Kill A Watt P4400 electricity monitors, FLIR ONE thermal cameras,

Educational Smartspots, 3D printers, iPads and special needs devices such as Optelec® CCTV (close circuit television) magnifier with Optical Character Reading (OCR) capabilities. Stop by your local library, or visit [www.pgcmls.info](http://www.pgcmls.info) to learn more about what your Library has to offer.

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