

# The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1932

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PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
Artists Rendering of the Proposed University of Maryland Medical Center in Prince George's County, which broke ground in argo Maryland on November 30, 2017.

## Governor Hogan Touts School Spending Among Budget Priorities

By KATHERINE BRZOZOWSKI  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—On Wednesday, January 17, 2018, Governor Larry Hogan released the state's upcoming budget, citing his priorities in education, public safety and the environment.

The budget will apply to the 2019 fiscal year, which begins July 1 and ends June 30, 2019.

This year, Hogan, a Republican, is up for reelection in a Democrat-controlled General Assembly.

Hogan announced that 70 percent of capital spending in this year's budget is dedicated to education—\$365 million dedicated to school construction and \$348 million to higher education.

Higher education spending includes \$13 million in funding for private colleges and universities.

The operating budget totals \$17.7 billion.

Hogan has set aside \$6.5 billion for K-12 education. In a press conference Tuesday, Hogan said this would translate to every school jurisdiction seeing increased funding.

Hogan has touted decade-high funding for education, putting in \$15.2 million more than what he was originally mandated to offer, according to a state analysis.

Delegate Carlo Sanchez, D-Prince George's, said his biggest concern is that even though it appears the county is receiving a lot of money, they are still underfunded.

"Every year we're able to come in and say we had record funding, but the reality is that we're not getting the proportional amount of money that we

See BUDGET Page A5

## PG County Executive Baker Celebrates County Successes in 2017

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—On January 5, 2018, Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, released the following statement regarding Prince George's County's successes in 2017:

"I want to thank the hard-working employees of the Prince George's County government, along with our residents, businesses, and stakeholders, for helping this County to achieve a number of incredible successes in 2017. Together we have made tremendous strides that have enhanced the quality of life for our community. From being ranked #1 in the State of Maryland, and 21st in the nation in job growth this year among large counties, to reductions in violent crime and homicides, and increases in property values over the last six years, according to the latest round of assessments, we are experiencing noticeable progress on many fronts.

In 2017, Prince George's County has become one of the primary economic engines of the State of Maryland, the National Capital Region, and one of the most robust and growing economies in this nation. This year we broke ground on the new University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center in Largo, the Purple Line that

will provide much needed relief to our County's traffic congestion, and a new headquarters for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) at the Branch Avenue Metro Station to house 3,700 employees.

With millions of dollars in private sector investments, the redevelopment of communities that have been overlooked in the past, from Brentwood to Suitland to Capitol Heights to Glenarden, indicate continued growth and market demand. Companies such as 2U, Inc., a Prince George's County based digital education company, are flourishing. We have attracted 850 Kaiser Permanente jobs to a new regional facility at the New Carrollton Metro station and Children's National Regional Health System is building a new outpatient clinic in Woodmore Town Centre at Glenarden. Additionally, Prince George's County welcomed its first Whole Foods Market to the new Riverdale Park Town Center.

The County is in the midst of a hotel boom and has become a State leader in tourism, thanks to the opening of facilities such as MGM National Harbor and The Hotel at the University of Maryland. We also continued to lead the State in recycling and were honored with recognition from

See SUCCESSES Page A3

## Prince George's County Council Concludes 2018 Annual Retreat

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Council

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George's County Council concluded its 2018 Annual Retreat with Board of Health updates provided by Board of Health Consultant, Dr. Joseph Wright, and an overview of University of Maryland Capital Region Health on Friday, January 5, 2018.

Council Chair Glaros, addressing her colleagues and session facilitators, noted the

tremendous progress taking place in the area of healthcare and the work that lies ahead.

"There is a lot happening in healthcare in Prince George's County. The conversations happening today wouldn't have been possible eight years ago, or even three years ago. We are at a remarkable point in time, really, truly changing the health outcomes for our residents here in Prince George's County and

See RETREAT Page A5

## Update on Emergency School Closings and Make-Up Days

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) lost a third day of instruction on Wednesday, January 17 after closing schools due to unsafe weather and road conditions affecting school transportation. With little flexibility in the 2017-2018 school calendar due

to constraints imposed by Governor Larry Hogan's school calendar Executive Order, teachers and students now will be required to attend school on February 9, 2018, to meet the State's 180-day mandated school year.

The teacher professional development day originally sched-

See CLOSINGS Page A7

## John A. Nelson Promoted to Deputy Chief

By PRESS OFFICER  
MD State Fire/EMS

PIKESVILLE, MD—On Wednesday, January 17, 2018, Senior Deputy Fire Marshal John A. Nelson was promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief State Fire Marshal. Deputy Chief Nelson, started his career with the Office of the State Fire Marshal in 2004. Nelson has been assigned to the Southern Regional Office since being hired. In 2008 he was accepted into the Agencies K9 Unit and successfully completed the ATF Accelerant Detection Canine Program with his partner, the late K9 Charlie. After K9 Charlie's retirement in 2016, Nelson had the opportunity to continue his superb handling with another ATF canine, K9 Zorro. In 2010, Nelson was honored as the Deputy State Fire Marshal of the Year, now the James C. Robertson, Deputy State Fire Marshal of the Year Award.

Deputy Chief Nelson will now command the Southern Regional Office. Nelson's promotion to Deputy Chief has been well deserved and we wish him all the luck in his new position and future career development.



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND STATE FIRE MARSHALL

### INSIDE

#### Rural Summit Momentum Catapults Rural Maryland Stakeholders into the New Year

The Summit's luncheon guest speaker Dr. William E. Kirwan, chair of the Maryland Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, spoke of needing to make bold changes in Maryland's educational system in order to connect students with future, good paying jobs.

Community, Page A3

#### The State of America's Children Demands Your Action Right Now!

How are the leaders of our wealthy nation addressing the grim child survival needs of children like Janie across the country? Making them worse. It is a disgrace. What kind of leaders and people cut essential food and health care from babies and children to give massive tax cuts to billionaires and corporations?

Commentary, Page A4

#### Steny Hoyer Inspires Manufacturing Exec's With Outlook on "Make it in America" Initiative

One of the primary concerns local manufacturers expressed at the Roundtable, was the need for both creative financing options as well as access to the wide talent pool with the County.

Business, Page A5

#### Movie Review: Justice League

Fueled by his restored faith in humanity and inspired by Superman's selfless act, Bruce Wayne enlists the help of his newfound ally, Diana Prince, to face an even greater enemy. Together, Batman and Wonder Woman work quickly to find and recruit a team of metahumans to stand against this newly awakened threat.

Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Is there any truth to the assertion that e-bikes recharged off the fossil-fuel grid actually generate fewer carbon emissions overall than conventional human-powered bikes?

—Sandy McClave,  
New York, NY

Features, Page A7

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Remembering Christa McAuliffe and the Challenger disaster

On the morning of Jan. 28, 1986, the Space Shuttle Challenger broke apart 73 seconds into its flight, off the coast of Cape Canaveral, FL. All seven aboard died, including Payload Specialist Christa McAuliffe who would have been the first teacher in space. She was chosen for the honor from among 114 semi-finalists.

Benjamin Foulois Junior High in Morningside was her first teaching assignment. She taught American History (perhaps some of you might have been in her class). Later she taught at Thomas Johnson Middle School in Lanham and earned her master's at Bowie State. At the time of her death she was at Concord High School in Concord, NH.

Scholarships and approximately 40 schools have been named for Christa McAuliffe. On July 23, 2004, President George W. Bush posthumously awarded her the Congressional Space Medal of Honor, along with the other 13 astronauts lost in the Challenger and Columbia disasters.

She left to mourn, her husband Steven and two children. Steven, who has a Georgetown law degree, remarried and is now a federal judge. Their son Scott completed graduate studies in marine biology, and daughter Caroline is a teacher, like her mother.

Christa is buried at Blossom Hill Cemetery in her hometown of Concord, NH.

### Ice-skate at The Wharf

Located on the Transit Pier of The Wharf, this rink at 960 Wharf St. SW offers nifty views of the Washington Channel and East Potomac Park.

But don't get mesmerized watching the comings and goings of water taxis or you might bump into another skater on this petite

oval of ice. You'll also want to bundle up: This riverside rink is unprotected from prevailing winds and tends to be blustery.

Open: Mondays & Tuesdays, noon–7 p.m., Wednesdays and Thursdays, noon–9 p.m., Fridays, noon–11 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m.–11 p.m., Sundays, 11 a.m.–7 p.m. Admission: adults and teens, \$10; kids 12 and under, \$8. Skate rental: \$6.

Even if you don't ice-skate, you should check out The Wharf, Washington's latest entertainment venue, with lots of good restaurants. Just across the street from Arena Stage.

### Valentine fun—mark your calendar

Old Maryland Farm invites you to bring your kids (ages 2–12) to Valentine Theme Farm Story & Craft on Wednesday, Feb. 14, 10 to 11 a.m. Participants will enjoy a story, hands-on craft activity, and a farm animal. The fee is \$3.00.

The event may be cancelled due to inclement weather. Call 301-218-6770 beginning two hours before the program. The Farm is at 301 Watkins Park Drive in Upper Marlboro.

### Coming up in February

Morningside has two meetings—a work session on the 2nd Tuesday (Feb. 13) and the general meeting the 3rd Tuesday (Feb. 20). All meetings are held at the Morningside Municipal Center, 6901 Ames St.

Skyline has a board meeting on the 1st Wednesday (Feb. 7) and a general meeting the 3rd Wednesday (Feb. 21), both at the Morningside Firehouse.

I urge all of you to be engaged with your community organization—whatever it is. You make a difference!

### Morningside Memories with Jan and Patricia

The first Mayor of Morningside, June Stocklinski, and her

husband Ray had three children, Jan, Lisa and Kim. In 1957 new neighbors moved in next door on Woodland Road (318 and 320), the Miller clan, with six children, Patricia, Sheila, Rory, Frank, Theresa, Richard, and their dog Blue Boy. And the fun began between the two families.

Now fifty-five years later, Jan Stocklinski (oldest daughter of June and Ray) and Patricia Miller (oldest daughter of Frank and Aurora) sit together in Calabash, NC, writing this article and reminiscing about life long gone. Patricia has flown into Calabash from Covington, KY, to visit with Jan for a few days in the New Year.

"One of our fondest memories is that of our treks to Suitland Parkway to watch the Presidents being driven from Andrews Air Force Base to the White House. When we knew they were coming, Patricia and Jan, Lisa and Sheila would run through the woods behind our homes, walk a log across Henson Creek, and up the hill to the Parkway. Suitland Parkway was guarded by men with rifles, all the way from Andrews into Washington. It was a thrill!

"Of course, "Jan and Patricia say, "today helicopters carry our President from Andrews to the White House, and little children would never be allowed to stand and watch and wave at such close range."

### May they rest in peace

Marjorie S. Holt, 97, the first Republican woman elected to Congress from Maryland, died Jan. 6 at her home in Severna Park. A native of Birmingham, Ala., she graduated from the University of Florida law school, served as clerk of the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court before winning election in 1972 in Maryland's newly-created 4th

See **MORNINGSIDE** Page A5

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

### SOUTHERN MARYLAND GOSPEL SINGING REUNION

Citizens for Rodney Taylor presents The Southern Maryland Gospel Singing Reunion Sunday, January 28, 4:00 PM at Baden Volunteer Fire Department. The address is 16608 Brandywine Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613.

Groups appearing on the program are Gospel Inspirations of Brandywine, Maryland, Gospel Disciples of Southern Maryland, Mighty Wonders of Aquasco, Maryland and Southern Maryland Harmonizers of Waldorf, Maryland. Admission is free. All proceeds will benefit Citizens for Rodney C. Taylor, Candidate for Prince George's Council District 9. Dinners will be sold. Please log-on to [www.facebook.com/voterodneytaylor](http://www.facebook.com/voterodneytaylor).

### MUSIC CLASSES

Join us for Piano and Saxophone classes on Saturdays beginning January 20, 2018. Piano for children ages 6–12 (9:30–10:30 AM). Piano, Children (Ages 13 and up) 10:30–11:30 AM. Saxophone, Children (Ages 6–12) 11:30–12:30 PM. Saxophone, Mixed Ages (Ages 13 and up) 12:30–1:30 PM. Fees are \$48.00 (Resident) and \$63.00 (Non-resident) for six classes. The classes will be taught at Baden Community Center, 13601 Baden-Westwood Road,

Brandywine, Maryland 20613 Telephone number is 301-888-1500, TTY 301-699-2544.

The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities. Please contact the facility at least two weeks in advance of the program start date to request accommodations (i.e. sign language interpreters, support staff, etc.). Prince Georges County Public Schools is not sponsoring, endorsing, or recommending these activities listed above.

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH EXHIBITION

A public reception will be held Saturday, February 25, 2018. Montpelier Arts Center will honor Black History Month through an exhibition of contemporary artwork. The art work reflects the lives and perspectives of the African American experience. Artists explore the history and journey of being black through sculpture, painting, and mixed media.

The Montpelier Arts Center is located at 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, Maryland 20708. Telephone number is 301-377-7800, 410-792-0664, TTY 301-699-2544. Visit [arts.pgparcs.com](http://arts.pgparcs.com) or [Montpelier.arts@pgparcs.com](http://Montpelier.arts@pgparcs.com).

### NOTTINGHAM MYERS FAMILY LIFE CENTER

The Family Life Center is a 24,000 square foot multi-purpose

building. The facility has a full sized gymnasium, a commercial kitchen, conference rooms, and multiple classrooms. It is one of the finest venues for weddings, small business meetings, family reunions, corporate retreats, organizational events, recreational activities and all of your special occasions available in lower Prince George's County. The main room can hold up to 350 people for a sit down dinner and up to 500 people theater style. The address is 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Rev. Constance C. Smith, Pastor. Telephone number is 301-888-1316.

### BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

Join us on Valentine's Day for dinner and entertainment as William "Smooth" Wardlaw pays tribute to Luther Vandross with love, respect, and faithful accuracy. "Smooth is an exceptional entertainer whose resemblance, mannerism, laugh, and voice is the spitting image of Vandross. This event will raise funds for the Department of Fine and Performing Arts. Doors open at 5:00 PM, dinner at 6:00 PM, show starts at 7:30 PM. Cost is \$65.00. Event contact is Clarence Knight at 301-860-3751 or [cknight@bowiestate.edu](mailto:cknight@bowiestate.edu). You can buy tickets in person at the Bulldog Ticket Office or online (service fees apply).

## Neighborhoods

### St. John Properties Attracts IIC Technologies as Inaugural Tenant in 5600 Rivertech Court Within the Discovery District at the University of Maryland

IIC Technologies leases 5,000 square feet of space and will relocate from Columbia

BALTIMORE, MD—IIC Technologies Inc. has signed a 5,000 square foot lease with St. John Properties, Inc. as the inaugural office tenant for 5600 Rivertech Court, a 52,680 square foot Flex/R&D building within The Discovery District at the University of Maryland. IIC Technologies, a multi-national company with offices in Canada, UK, Australia, India & UAE, expects to relocate to the Greater College Park area in spring 2018. Together with 5650 Rivertech Court, a 57,120 square foot Flex/R&D building, and 5751 Rivertech Court, a 50,170 square foot Flex/R&D building 100% leased to the College Park Academy, St. John Properties has developed nearly 160,000 square feet of space in the 150-acre business community located less than one mile south of the University of Maryland, College Park campus in Prince George's County.

IIC Technologies provides a full range of consultation and services for the geospatial industry which includes terrestrial, aeronautical and marine surveying, charting & GIS, C4 mapping, airborne laser and satellite imagery, specialized software development, customized geospatial surveys and navigation information for defense contractors, government agencies and private companies, as well as assorted end-users. The company will employ specialized geospatial engineers and technicians and undertake research at the new location, according to Gerd Glang, Director for IIC Technologies.

"Moving to The Discovery District will bring us closer to key customers such as NOAA, NGA and the US-ACE," Glang explained. "We anticipate this move helping us to establish and benefit from a relationship with the advanced technologies incubating from University of Maryland, as well as the other information technology, research companies and government agencies located within the Discovery District. A strong attraction is the coming Purple Line and the five stops that will be placed on the University of Maryland campus, which will facilitate the use of Maryland students as interns at our new location."

Both 5600 and 5650 Rivertech Court feature 16 foot ceiling heights, dock and drive-in loading capabilities, free parking on adjacent surface parking lots and data connectivity to ISP providers via fiber backbone within the infrastructure of the business community. The buildings are in UMD's Discovery District, less than one mile from the College Park Airport, four miles from MD Route 295 and seven miles from Interstate 95. Downtown Washington, D.C. is approximately ten miles from the site and the College Park Metro/MARC Station is within walking distance.

"Proximity to Metro, the development of the Purple Line, access to talented University of Maryland researchers and students, and new restaurant and retail options are important elements



PHOTO COURTESY LAWRENCE HOWARD & ASSOCIATES, INC.  
The new Discovery District at the University of Maryland.

of our Greater College Park effort," said Ken Ulman, Chief Strategy Officer for Economic Development for UMD. "We are thrilled that companies like IIC are choosing to plant the flag in Prince George's County."

"The Discovery District offers an unparalleled environment for companies closely connected to academia and research, and the business community's presence immediately adjacent to the University of Maryland provides critical advantages to end-users," explained Richard Williamson, Senior Vice President of Leasing and Marketing for St. John Properties. "The amenity package fulfills every business and employee need including The Hotel at the University of Maryland, featuring complete conference facilities, as well as walkable retail such as Whole Foods and restaurants at all price points. As build-out continues, the business community is quickly approaching a critical mass of companies and employees to create a one-of-a-kind, thriving mixed-use environment."

In addition to NOAA, existing tenants at The Discovery District includes Earth Science Interdisciplinary Center; Food and Drug Administration Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition; The University of Maryland/Pacific Northwest National Lab Joint Global Change Research Institute; the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Inspection Service and the UMD/FDA Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition.

Also contained within the business community is the College Park Academy, a public charter school; and The Art Walk, an outdoor public gathering area offering food trucks, art and creative seating areas. Coming soon is the Food/Art/Innovation Hall which will combine dining options, arts, entertainment, and a teaching kitchen and performance space. In addition to retail offerings, the adjacent Riverdale Park Station will include nearly 1,000 residential units.

"The Town of Riverdale Park has been working hand-in-hand with the University of Maryland and St. John Properties to bring the new buildings to completion as quickly as possible so that innovative companies like IIC Technologies could locate here, with easy access to the University of Maryland, public transportation, affordable housing, and nearby retail and restaurants," stated Alan K. Thompson, Mayor of The Town of Riverdale Park. "At-

tracting companies such as IIC Technologies adds energy and momentum to The Discovery District and their presence significantly improves the visibility of this campus."

St. John Properties, Inc., founded in 1971, owns and has developed more than 18.5 million square feet of Flex/R&D, Office, Retail and Warehouse space in Maryland, Colorado, Louisiana, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Utah and Wisconsin. For more information about the company, visit us at [www.sjpi.com](http://www.sjpi.com)

### Council Member Derrick L. Davis Re-Elected to COG Leasanship Post

*Davis to Serve as 2018 Board of Directors Vice Chair for Second Year*  
UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Council Member Derrick L. Davis (D), District 6, has been elected to serve as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) for the second consecutive year. Loudoun County Supervisor Matthew Letourneau will serve as Chairman and District of Columbia Council Member Robert White will also serve as Vice Chair.

Council Member Davis says he looks forward to continuing his service on the COG Board as Vice Chair.

"I appreciate the confidence and support of my fellow COG board members, and I am honored to continue serving in this regional leadership position for the second consecutive year. As a board member, I have the unique opportunity to work across jurisdictional lines to address a number of critical issues in our region, including transportation, workforce development, economic development and emergency preparedness. I look forward to continuing this work alongside Chairman Letourneau and Vice Chair White."

COG is an independent, nonprofit association of 23 local governments supported by financial contributions from its member governments, Federal and State grants and contracts, and donations from foundations and the private sector. COG connects leaders across borders to help shape strong communities in Metropolitan Washington.

The Board of Directors is COG's governing body and is responsible for its overall policies, functions, and funds. Board members are appointed each year by the participating local governments and by caucuses of state legislative delegations from the region.

# COMMUNITY

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### Getting Kids To Do Their Chores Doesn't Make You A Bad Person

When it comes to assigning our kids family chores to do around the house, virtually all parents think it's a great idea. But many of us also find it can be a big hassle when we try to get the kids to actually do the assigned work.

Yes, it may sometimes seem easier to just take out that bag of trash yourself than to get into a big argument with the kids over whose turn it is, or why that simple job can't be done now. But what the experts advise is not to let such household responsibilities slide.

Having your kids do assigned chores can be an important factor in helping them develop in positive ways. Chores are a way for a child to feel part of the family, and to gain a sense of contributing toward the family good. These early life lessons make it easier for a person to feel like an active, contributing member of society later in life.

Chores are also a means for learning about responsibility and meeting expectations, skills necessary for success in school and the workplace. They may involve simple activities, like making a bed daily or helping with the family pet, but the lessons derived from successfully completing family chores carry over into later life.

Getting chores completed successfully, however, does require planning and work on the part of parents. You want to make assignments that are appropriate for a child's age and abilities so successful completion and positive experiences are most likely.

You also have to keep your expectations reasonable. If you are a perfectionist and criticize how every chore is done, you're setting your child up for failure, unable to meet your expectations. Instead, set realistic, attainable goals. And don't let your child get away with little or no effort since that is teaching him or her to have their own low expectations and to question their abilities to do good work.

Talk to your child about setting up a chore system. Clearly explain responsibilities and what constitutes successful completion of a task. Develop rewards for work well done, and take the time to monitor chore activities and to offer honest praise for carrying out assigned tasks successfully.

Starting a child early in life to accept chores and do them well builds self-esteem and helps develop stronger life skills.

*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*

### Notice of Community Forum DHCD Annual Action Plan FY 2018

The Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development is developing the County Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Annual Action Plan for Housing and Community Development and hereby solicits public comments from residents of the County.

The Annual Action Plan ("AAP") for Housing and Community Development is a comprehensive strategy that describes actions, activities, and programs that will take place during FY 2019 to address priority needs and specific objectives identified in the FY 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan. The AAP also serves as an application for Federal funds: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solution Grants (ESG), and the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME).

The purpose of the Forum is to give citizens an opportunity to address housing and community development needs, the development process for proposed activities, and program performances.

#### Community Forum

Date and Time: Tuesday, January 30, 2018  
6:00 PM– 8:00 PM

Inclement Weather

Date and Time: Thursday, February 1, 2018  
6:00 PM– 8:00 PM

Location: Prince George's County Sports and Learning Complex  
8001 Sheriff Road,  
Landover, MD 20785

Sign Language for the hearing impaired and interpretive services can be made available. To request these services, contact the Department of Housing and Community Development at (301)883-5540 or TTY (301) 669-2544.

Written comments may also be sent to the Department of Housing and Community Development at 9200 Basil Court Largo, Maryland 20774. For more information please contact Shirley E. Grant, CPD Administrator at (301) 883-5428.

Prince George's County affirmatively promotes equal opportunity and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, ethnic or national origin, disability, or familial status in admission or access to benefits in programs or activities.

By Authority of:  
Eric C. Brown, Director  
Department of Housing and Community Development  
9200 Basil Court, Suite #500  
Largo, Maryland 20774  
Date: January 11, 2018

## Rural Summit Momentum Catapults Rural Maryland Stakeholders into the New Year

By PRESS OFFICER  
Purplecatpr

ANNAPOLIS, MD—When nearly 300 rural stakeholders gathered recently for the Rural Summit "Bridging the Divide: Strengthening Rural and Urban Communities" challenging issues in agriculture, community development, economic development and health care were discussed and impressive speakers gave inspirational keynotes. However, what may be the greatest impact of the event can be summed up in one word: connections.

Attendees made connections with other attendees. Conversations from breakout sessions spilled out into the hotel's hallways for informal meetings and plans for future meetings. The Summit's luncheon guest speaker Dr. William E. Kirwan, chair of the Maryland Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, spoke of needing to make bold changes in Maryland's educational system in order to connect students with future, good paying jobs. In addition, a session presented by the Taskforce on Rural Internet, Broadband, Wireless and Cellular Service gave an update on its draft plan to provide equal access by connecting all Marylanders to high speed internet.

"The goal of every event is to provide a compelling narrative which will inspire the attendees to action," says Charlotte Davis, executive director, Rural Maryland Council. "This year's Summit had all the right ingredients. We had leaders from all levels speaking on topics they are passionate about and hard-hitting issues like needing to compete despite lacking equal access to important pieces of the puzzle like broadband. You

could almost see "the aha" moments happening," she adds.

#### Highlights of the event included:

- The inaugural AgPitch where five finalists presented their ideas/business plans to compete for cash and related business services. The grand prize winner of \$7,500 cash and prizes was Ben Lee of Rockville. Lee's firm NABAS Group, Inc., (Nano Air Bubble Aeration System) increases crop yields by 20 percent and extends the harvest's freshness for an additional seven days. AgPitch 17 was sponsored by the MidAtlantic Farm Credit with support by Clearview Group, North Central Insurance Agency and Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr LLP.

- Dr. William E. "Brit" Kirwan, chancellor emeritus of the University System of Maryland (USM), former president of the Ohio State University, former USM president and recipient of the TIAA-CREF Theodore M. Hesburgh Award for Leadership Excellence. Dr. Kirwan spoke about education reform.

- Amy Goldstein, staff writer at the Washington Post, and author of Janesville: An American Story. Named Financial Times and McKinsey Business Book of the Year, Janesville is the story of a small, proud Wisconsin city that lost the nation's oldest operating General Motors assembly plant and the lessons it offers about economic pain and resilience.

- Updates from Maryland Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford and Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh, and a secretary panel that included the Maryland departments of Natural Resources, Budget and Management, Environment, Housing and Community Development and Commerce.



PHOTO COURTESY HARRY BOSK  
Maryland Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford addresses attendees at the recent Rural Summit in Annapolis.



PHOTO COURTESY HARRY BOSK  
The Honorable Anne Hazlett, assistant to the Secretary of Rural Development, USDA Rural Development, talks about her passion for small towns and rural life at the recent Rural Summit, hosted by the Rural Maryland Council.

Founded in 1994, the Rural Maryland Council (RMC) serves as the state's federally designated rural development council and functions as a voice for rural Maryland. To learn more about

RMC visit [rural.maryland.gov](http://rural.maryland.gov) or call (410) 841-5774, email [rmc.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:rmc.mda@maryland.gov) or connect with them at [facebook.com/RuralMaryland](https://www.facebook.com/RuralMaryland) or on Twitter @RuralMaryland.

#### Successes from A1

the National Association of Counties (NACo) for our signature community engagement model, the Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI) and our Department of Environment's "LitterTrak" mobile app that is helping to clean up Prince George's County communities. And we are investing in our school system, community college and libraries to enable all County residents to be prepared and trained for our new jobs and industries

In 2018, we will continue our progress, our growth, and our success as well as continue to address our challenges. We will compete aggressively for Amazon HQ2 and for a consolidated FBI Headquarters to be located in Prince George's County. We will execute and monitor needed improvements in our public school system to make sure that every Prince George's County student is receiving a quality education and becomes more career and college ready. And, finally, we are going to continue to tell the world about why Prince George's County is the "place to be" to live, work, and play.

We did not achieve our successes overnight or simply by happenstance. I am proud of the hard work and dedicated leadership of my senior staff, department directors, appointees, and, most importantly, the thou-

sands of Prince George's County government employees who have worked so diligently to achieve these successes.

Congratulations Prince George's County on a remarkable 2017, and, from my family to yours, I wish everyone a safe and prosperous 2018. Happy New Year!"

#### 2017 Events and Developments in Prince George's County:

##### January:

Grand Re-Opening of the Renovated Library at Brandywine Elementary School

##### February:

Grand Re-Opening of the Weight Room at Bladensburg High School

##### March:

Launch of the Prince George's County "Litter Reduction Movement"

##### April:

Opening of Prince George's County's 1st Whole Foods Market in Riverdale Park  
Capital Court Groundbreaking in Largo  
Launch of Street Smart Pedestrian Safety program

##### May:

Groundbreaking of Cadillac Crossing in Brandywine  
Grand Opening of Riverview Ballroom at Gaylord National in National Harbor  
Launch of the Hampton Park Project in Capitol Heights

##### June:

Grand Opening of N'Style Grooming Salon in Bowie  
Groundbreaking of the New Upper Marlboro Town Hall  
Groundbreaking of Medical Pavilion at National Harbor

##### July:

Groundbreaking of Prince George's County Law Enforcement Firearms Range in Upper Marlboro  
Grand Opening of the Art Works Now Studio School and Pizzeria Paradiso in Hyattsville

##### August:

Groundbreaking of Liberty Sports Park in Bowie  
Kevin Durant Day in the City of Seat Pleasant  
Groundbreaking of the Purple Line

##### September:

Opening of The Hotel at the University of Maryland  
Opening of the new Fairmont Heights High School  
Proposing Prince George's County Amazon HQ2 Potential Locations

##### October:

Opening of the University of Maryland College Park Academy Charter School  
Opening of the Catholic Charities Susan Denison Mona Center in Temple Hills  
Groundbreaking of a new Kaiser Permanente

building at the New Carrollton Metro Station  
Groundbreaking of the new U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Headquarters at the Branch Avenue Metro  
Announcing New Prescription Drug Price Gouging Law

##### November:

Groundbreaking of Prince George's County's first Homewood Suites Hotel  
Groundbreaking of Artisan Building in Gateway Arts District  
Groundbreaking of Towne Square at the Suitland Federal Center  
Signing of Purple Line Community Compact Agreement  
Groundbreaking of Glenarden Phase I Community  
Groundbreaking of new University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center in Downtown Largo  
Launch of Prince George's County Conference and Visitors Bureau Market Campaign and County New Entrance Way Signs

##### December:

Groundbreaking of new Children's National Regional Outpatient Center at Woodmore Town Centre at Glenarden  
Dedication of the new Prince George's County "Wayne K. Curry Administration Building" in Largo

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# COMMENTARY

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



### Van Hollen Discusses Urgent Need to Fix DACA

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On January 10, 2018, U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen joined FOX 5 DC to discuss DACA, his bipartisan North Korea legislation, and other urgent issues facing Congress. Highlights of his interview are below and video of the full interview is available at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o2xyeG-ToWK8&feature=youtu.be>.

“People want effective border security—they want their taxpayer dollars to be spent wisely. Every expert has said that building a wall for \$18 billion over the next couple of years—and even more over time—is not the smartest way. And if you look at the Trump Administration budget, they’re actually cutting effective border security programs in order to pay for an ineffective wall. So let’s get together, we can all agree we want a secure border. We need to pass DACA, and then there are all sorts of other issues that are part of this debate leading up to January 19th. Children’s Health Insurance Program funding, community health centers funding, making sure we tackle the opioid epidemic with resources and not just rhet-

oric, and other issues like pension security. So, there’s a whole lot on the table. We need to resolve this piece and the other pieces.”

“You know, part of the other discussion on the budget is making sure that as we invest in a strong military, we also invest in our kids’ education, invest in medical research, and other things that are important to the economy. So you’ve got a whole bunch of issues, this is a very important one, and we’re trying to resolve it. People are willing to compromise—and the big issue is, when it comes to the border security piece, making sure we have strong border security but not be throwing away people’s money. I mean this is one that Trump as a candidate did say that Mexico was going to pay for, and a lot of us just don’t like to see taxpayer money wasted on ineffective border security.”

“If you were to put the clean DACA bill up for a vote in the House and the Senate, I think it would pass ... we can also work on these other

See DACA Page A7

## Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



### Passing the Baton: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Anti-Poverty Crusade Experiences a 21st Century Revival

*“We read one day, ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.’ But if a man doesn’t have a job or an income, he has neither life nor liberty nor the possibility for the pursuit of happiness. He merely exists.”*

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,  
American Civil Rights Activist,  
*Remaining Awake Through a Great Revolution*,  
March 31, 1968

It is near universally known that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream. For the most part, that dream is closely tied to his courageous work around racial inequality and injustice. This dream conjures up images of little Black boys and girls joining hands with little white boys and girls as brothers and sisters.

But Dr. King had another dream. It was a dream of economic justice for all of our nation’s poor. Tragically cut down by an assassin’s bullet before the start of the new Poor People’s Campaign, Dr. King would not live to see the launch of his dream for economic justice. Fifty years later, as the baton passes from the legacy of Dr. King to the leadership of Rev. William J. Barber II, the poor of our nation have another advocate to fight on their behalf.

Rev. Barber is no stranger to social justice movements centered on fighting for the poor and the most vulnerable. During his time as the president of the NAACP’s North Carolina chapter, Rev. Barber led “Moral Mondays” protests at the North Carolina state house. His coalition of protesters transcended race, socio-economic or ideological divides. They were united in a multi-issue struggle, mirroring the kind of coalition Dr. King and Ralph Abernathy envisioned for the Poor People’s Campaign a half century ago.

The conditions of poverty that spurred Dr. King to action in 1968 continue to motivate Dr. Barber in 2018. According to the latest census figures, more than 40 million Americans live below the federal poverty line today. During Dr. King’s time, 35 million Americans lived in poverty. While the latest job figures show that racial gaps in employment are slowly closing, yawning income inequality and the consolidation of wealth at the top of the economic food chain remain stubborn fixtures of our top-one-percent centric economy.

Dr. King spoke of “the presence of a kind of social insanity which could lead us to national

ruin” in 1968. Today, we are bracing for the impact of the regressive Tax Reform law—legislation that permanently cuts taxes for corporations, but offers this relief temporarily for middle and working-class Americans. Members of Congress pushed hard to give tax cuts and breaks to the wealthiest Americans, but have not found the same political will to fund the Children’s Health Insurance Program, leaving millions of American children at risk of losing vital healthcare coverage.

Politically, our country is a far cry from the “war on poverty” declared by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964, when the federal government’s priority was “not only to relieve the symptoms of poverty, but to cure it and, above all, to prevent it.” Today, as we watch the social safety net is systematically unraveled beneath our feet, it is clear that we are fighting a targeted war on the poor.

For thousands, that fight will be fought under the banner of “The Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival,” led by Revs. Barber and Liz Theoharis. The agenda is “to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, ecological devastation and the nation’s distorted morality” with close to five weeks of action at statehouses around our country and at our nation’s capital.

We in the Urban League Movement were privileged to engage with Rev. Barber and discuss his mission and vision first-hand when he spoke at our 2017 Conference in St. Louis. His address left us energized and inspired to continue the work of my predecessor, Whitney M. Young, who worked hand-in-hand with King and other leaders of the era as executive director of the primary civil rights organization dedicated to economic empowerment.

The work of the Poor People’s Campaign culminated with a Poor People’s March on Washington shortly after Dr. King’s assassination, and a six-week occupation of the Washington Mall by march participants and advocates. With campaign’s revival soon upon us, it is clear that the spirit of 1968 is alive and well—and its spirit has a new-found home in Washington.

I was recently honored with an invitation to discuss Dr. King’s economic justice dream at the new exhibit of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, “City of Hope: Resurrection City & the 1968 Poor People’s Campaign.” We stood among the relics and pictures of past but felt very connected to our struggles in the present. Dr. King’s struggle remains our nation’s struggle, and we must continue to move towards equality and economic justice for all.



Maryland State House

Open to the Public

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS PHOTO BY: MARTIN FALBISONER

#### MARYLAND STATE HOUSE

Completed in 1779, it was the site of nationally important events during the American Revolution, including George Washington’s resignation as commander in chief of the Continental Army from the army, and the ratification of the Treaty of Paris. The rich architecture and history of the building was recognized in 1960 when the State House was designated as a National Historic Landmark. The State House is open to the public every day from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except Christmas and New Years Day. To help make your visit to the Maryland State House more enjoyable, and to provide you with an understanding of its rich and historic past, self-guided tour information is available in the Office of Interpretation on the first floor.

## Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



### The State of America’s Children Demands Your Action Right Now!

It is a national disgrace that children are the poorest Americans. The Children’s Defense Fund’s new report *The State of America’s Children® 2017* details the immoral, costly and preventable poverty, homelessness, hunger, health problems, poor education and violence plaguing children who are America’s responsibility and future. The U.S. has 73.6 million children. Nearly 1 in 5 are poor—more than 13.2 million. Children of color, who will be a majority of our children by 2020, are disproportionately poor. About 1 in 3 Black, 1 in 3 American Indian/Alaskan Native and 1 in 4 Hispanic children are poor compared to 1 in 9 White children. Nearly 70 percent of poor children are non-White. Imagine a young girl—let’s call her Janie—who is one of those millions of poor children. Maybe she lives in California or Texas, the states with the biggest numbers of poor children, or in New Mexico, Mississippi, Louisiana, or Kentucky, the states with the highest child poverty rates. What else do we know about what Janie’s life may be like?

Janie may be one of the 3.9 million children who still lack health coverage or one of the nearly 9 million children at risk of losing coverage because of Congress’s shameful inaction in funding the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). She might be one of the nearly 1 in 5 children—14.8 million—who live in food-insecure households and don’t have enough to eat. As a poor child she probably didn’t get the best chance to start school ready to learn because less than half of poor children are ready for school at age 5 compared with 75 percent of their wealthier peers. Only 5 percent of eligible infants and toddlers are in Early Head Start and 54 percent of eligible 3- and 4-year-olds are in Head Start. As she grows up, Janie may never catch up: The majority of all public school fourth and eighth graders cannot read at grade level and more than 75 percent of lower-income fourth and eighth grade public school students could not read or compute at grade level compared with less than 55 percent of higher-income students.

Growing up poor means Janie is more likely to be involved in the child welfare system—every 47 seconds a child is abused or neglected. This is one of the scariest times America’s children have faced in the struggle to level the playing field as the last 50 years of progress in child health coverage, nutrition, education, and other child and family programs are ravaged. We should be building on what we know works and moving forward, not backwards, to improve the odds for children who need our protection. We urge the American public to stand up and stop this savage war on children. The White House and Republican members now celebrating the massive and morally obscene tax cuts are expected to add to the outrageous injustice by slashing Medicaid, SNAP, education, housing and other crucial child investments to pay for welfare for non-needy millionaires, billionaires and corporations.

How are the leaders of our wealthy nation addressing the grim child survival needs of children like Janie across the country? Making them worse. It is a disgrace. What kind of leaders

and people cut essential food and health care from babies and children to give massive tax cuts to billionaires and corporations? This is one of the scariest times America’s children have faced in the struggle to level the playing field as the last 50 years of progress in child health coverage, nutrition, education, and other child and family programs are ravaged. We should be building on what we know works and moving forward, not backwards, to improve the odds for children who need our protection. We urge the American public to stand up and stop this savage war on children. The White House and Republican members now celebrating the massive and morally obscene tax cuts are expected to add to the outrageous injustice by slashing Medicaid, SNAP, education, housing and other crucial child investments to pay for welfare for non-needy millionaires, billionaires and corporations.

We can and must do better – and need to follow up on proven solutions that work to improve the odds for America’s children at the same time that we fight all efforts to take away the gains we’ve already made after labo-

See WATCH, Page A12

## The Prince George’s Post

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# BUSINESS

## Social Security Matters

### Ask Rusty — Applying for Social Security Disability Benefits

by Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** My question is how to apply for disability? I suffer from blepharospasms (facial dystonia) of both eyes, non-diabetic neuropathy in both feet and lower legs, and have a hearing loss related to my occupation as a police officer (now retired). I also suffer from an old injury that occurred while on duty to my lower back which inhibits my ability to lift anything very heavy or be on my feet for very long. Can you please help with the procedures for filing for disability with Social Security?

**Signed: Disabled Public Servant**

**Dear Disabled Public Servant:** First, I'd like to point out that Social Security Disability isn't available to anyone who has already reached their Social Security "full retirement age," or "FRA". You didn't tell me your age, but if you were born anywhere from 1943 to 1954 your full retirement age for Social Security purposes is 66 (up to 67 if your birth year is later). If you're older than your FRA now, you can no longer apply for SSDI; in fact, anyone on SSDI automatically converts to retirement benefits when they reach their full retirement age. If you're younger than your FRA and totally disabled, you can apply for SSDI benefits online, however we suggest that you instead apply in person at your local office. I recommend you first get the SSDI starter kit at [https://www.ssa.gov/disability/disability\\_starter\\_kits\\_adult\\_eng.htm](https://www.ssa.gov/disability/disability_starter_kits_adult_eng.htm).

This kit will tell you everything you need to know about qualifications, and how to apply. Although you can apply online, applying in person will ensure the process is fully initiated as early as possible. You can find your local office information at [www.ssa.gov/locator](http://www.ssa.gov/locator).

You should be aware that about 2/3rds of initial applications are denied, but there is an appeals process you can pursue if that happens. It could take several months for an initial decision and, if denied, 1 to 2 years for the appeals process to play out. Be aware too that the qualifications for SSDI are quite stringent, including not only that you're physically disabled but also that you have earned disability benefits by paying SSDI premiums via withheld FICA taxes from recent employment. Your entitlement to SSDI benefits can expire; you must have worked in SS-covered employment at least 5 of the last 10 years to be eligible.

As you can see, SSDI can be quite complicated which is why many people choose to engage a Social Security Disability lawyer to facilitate the process. An SSDI lawyer should not charge a retainer or any upfront fees, and Federal law limits the amount a disability lawyer can charge in contingency fees. The fee is limited to no more than 25% of any retroactive benefit you are awarded up to 12 months or \$6,000, whichever is lower. The amount of back pay depends on the onset date of your disability and when you filed for your benefits. Lawyers' contingency agreements do not require you to pay any fees unless you win; however some attorneys will charge a nominal fee (usually around \$100) for expenses such as paperwork, regardless of whether or not you win. Be sure to check the agreement before you sign it. Thank you for your service, and good luck with your application for Social Security Disability 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).*

### Retreat from A1

moving healthcare forward. This is a pivotal moment, we can lose momentum or we can gain it and really hit those outcomes that we want to see in Prince George's County. That task is for us as a team."

Chair Glaros and the Council also recognized the dedicated service of outgoing University of Maryland Capital Region

### Morningside from A2

District, which included Anne Arundel and southern Prince George's. She opted not to run again in 1986. Her husband of 67 years, Duncan Holt, died in 2014. Survivors include three children, 10 grandchildren 16 great-grands and a great-great-grandson.

Iron Man guitarist Al Morris III, 60, died Jan. 10, and according to the Washington Post has "left behind heavy-hearted

Health President and CEO Neil Moore, thanking him for his work to provide access to quality healthcare for the residents of Prince George's County. He will continue with the healthcare system until June.

The day's events concluded with a discussion focused on preparing for At-Large Council seats after the 2018 General Election and administrative process updates.

heavy metal fans from Bethesda to Bavaria." He was a graduate of Central High School in Capitol Heights.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Father Thomas LaHood and Yvonne Garvin, Jan. 27; Sister Zion and Lisa Call, Jan. 29; David Call and Joanne (Clark) Bunch, Jan. 30; Donna Young and Robin Sawyer, Feb. 1.

**Will the Groundhog See His Shadow on February 2?**

## Steny Hoyer Inspires Manufacturing Exec's With Outlook on "Make it in America" Initiative

By LORI C. VALENTINE  
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—On January 16, 2018, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) kicked off 2018 with a bang at its "More Jobs for Marylanders: Innovative Manufacturing (IM) Forum". This program, which drew over 100 manufacturing professionals, provided top executives from the local manufacturing community with access to millions of dollars in capital for business expansion, access to human capital and access to operating cost reductions through a plethora of new programs. A group of eight panelists shared their expertise on accelerated depreciation, lucrative tax credits, incentives and rebates. The executives were also privileged to hear from U.S. Congressman Steny Hoyer who talked about why his "Make It in America" initiative is vital to keeping America's workforce making something that has an economic value. EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman was ecstatic to begin the new year by providing economic opportunity for the business community.

"I couldn't think of a better way to start the new year than to thank our manufacturers for making such a big difference in Prince George's County," said Coleman. "Prince George's County manufacturers are the key drivers in this incredible economy that we are experiencing today. Over the last 12 months, more than 11,000 new jobs were created thanks to private sector manufacturers putting everything on the line, taking risks, and empowering our residents to change their lives in a positive way. The EDC is delighted to be able to provide them with innovative ways to gain access to financing capital, a skilled innovative manufacturing workforce, and new programs that can reduce their energy costs. Starting our manufacturing community's year off with business opportunities is what we're all about here at the EDC."

The EDC launched its first Innovative Manufacturing Roundtable last July, as EDC Business Development Director John Mason leveraged his relationships to begin a powerful discussion with industry, government agencies and the education community about the



PHOTO COURTESY LORI C. VALENTINE

**Jim Coleman, EDC President and CEO and Congressman Steny Hoyer (c) surrounded by Manufacturing Forum panelist**

opportunities and challenges in the manufacturing arena. One of the primary concerns local manufacturers expressed at the Roundtable, was the need for both creative financing options as well as access to the wide talent pool with the County. In response to those concerns, the EDC brought together State and regional manufacturing leaders, including power broker Congressman Steny Hoyer, to talk about where manufacturing is going in the future and what workforce partnerships and solutions are necessary to connect the companies to the innovative resources for innovative manufacturing.

"The extraordinary surge of traditional manufacturing over the last century created the success of the middle-class in America, however, as wages have stagnated over the last few decades, the opportunities that success brought is slipping away," said Hoyer. "Revitalizing manufacturing in this country is not just about creating jobs, it's about launching careers that last a life-time and bring opportunities that can sustain workers in the middle class. The core of "Make it in America" is about turning economic challenges into opportunities for our businesses and our workers. Today is our opportunity to hear from you about what government and the private sector needs to do to make manufacturing more successful. Thank you for helping people 'Make It' in America."

Following Hoyer's keynote address, there were two panel discussions. The first panel, focusing

on access to human capital, featured representatives from the Eaton Company, the EDC and Prince George's Community College. Leah Kunzelman and Craig Skelly spoke about the numerous high-wage job opportunities available at Eaton, as well as the type of workforce that they are consistently developing. Jeff Swilley, Deputy Director of Workforce Services at the EDC, spoke about how companies like Eaton can search for and hire quality talent, as well as participate in the 'Hire Prince George's' program, which partially reimburses qualified businesses for hiring and training eligible Prince George's County residents. Further, Dr. Yvette Snowden, Associate Vice President at the Prince George's Community College (PGCC), discussed the steps that the Community College has taken to ensure that a talented workforce is being prepared. She also discussed how the innovative manufacturing sector can partner with PGCC to develop training programs specific to industry needs.

The second panel featured representatives from the Maryland Department of Commerce, the Regional Manufacturing Institute, the Maryland Manufacturing Extension Partnership and Baltimore, Gas & Electric who discussed innovative ways by which companies operating in Prince George's County can gain access to capital as well as reduce their costs. The highlight of this panel the Department of Commerce's 'More Jobs for Marylanders' incentive pro-

gram. Participating manufacturing businesses who create multiple jobs can receive several tax credits that last up to 10 years. The tax credits include real property tax exemptions, waiver of State fees, and tax refunds for certain purchases.

"I'm very thankful to the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation for including the Department of Commerce in the Forum today," said Kristen Shock, Senior Director, Strategic Industries and Entrepreneurship with the Maryland Department of Commerce. "We often partner with the Regional Manufacturing Institute and the Maryland Manufacturing Extension Partnership to serve manufacturers throughout the State. Now that the 'More Jobs for Marylanders' Act has been operationalized to encourage our businesses to create jobs in the areas that need it most."

The Manufacturing Forum was graciously sponsored by the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation and JGL Law.

Manufacturing companies that are interested in learning more about the 'More Jobs for Marylanders' Act, and other State and local incentives to prepare a skilled innovative manufacturing workforce, gain access to financing capital, reduce their company's energy and operating costs, and funding to reduce energy costs to be encouraged to contact John Mason, EDC Business Development Director ([jmason@co.pg.md.us](mailto:jmason@co.pg.md.us)) or call 301-583-4650.

### Budget from A1

should be getting ... We're not receiving enough to actually be able to keep up with our growing student population. So that's really the biggest concern."

\$11.5 billion of the operating income is dedicated to Medicaid, which provides healthcare to 1.4 million Marylanders.

The capital budget also devotes \$53 million to hospitals and health care resources, including constructing the University of Maryland Medical Center in Prince George's County.

Sanchez said he was concerned about funding for the medical center and funding for infrastructure to make Prince George's County more attractive for a possible move of FBI headquarters.

Mandated 3.5 percent rate increases for health providers were capped at 2 percent, and at 1 percent for serving the developmentally disabled, according to a state analysis.

In a statement on Hogan's budget, The Maryland Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence announced that they were disappointed that the budget did not include their mandated funding, despite Hogan having signed the HOPE Act last year—a bill that detailed a multi-

year commitment to increase funding for community behavioral health providers.

"In the midst of a deadly opioid crisis and with rising demand for mental health and substance use disorder treatment, we are deeply disappointed that the budget shortchanges the urgent needs of Marylanders who desperately need treatment," said Howard Ashkin, president of the Maryland Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence.

The Opioid Crisis Fund increased from \$3.7 million to \$13.7 million, according to a state budget summary.

\$2.9 billion in capital transportation spending includes \$1.2 million to establish the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission to oversee the safety of the Metro system.

The budget dedicated \$255.8 million to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, including \$99.9 million in federal funds that would go directly to the Metro system. The remaining \$155.9 million is mostly dedicated to the WMATA capital improvement program and Maryland's match to the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act safety program.

The capital budget includes also \$25 million for public safety

projects, including a new state police barracks in Cumberland, and the demolition of outdated buildings at the Baltimore City Detention Center.

In a press release Wednesday, Hogan announced that the state reached a contract agreement with major employee unions to provide for two holidays and a 2 percent general salary increase, effective Jan 1, 2019.

A \$500 bonus and an addition one-half percent raise will also be paid to state employees in April 2019 if revenues for the end of the 2018 fiscal year exceed projections by more than \$75 million.

"Unlike in many previous administrations, there have been no furloughs or layoffs, and we are very proud of that," said Hogan in a news release. "State government cannot work without our dedicated employees."

The budget also includes \$6.9 million to improve retention of certain correctional officers at state facilities. According to Hogan's press conference, this will come in the form of \$5,000 signing bonuses and \$3,000 retention and attendance bonuses.

Hogan also said that the budget would fully fund Program Open Space, the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Coastal Bays

2010 Trust fund, and the Maryland Park Service.

In a press release from the Department of Natural Resources, the total funding for the Maryland Park Service exceeds the level provided during the previous four years by 25 percent. The increase would allow for seven new positions, supporting record-breaking park attendance and visitation at parks and other public lands.

In a December 20th press release, Hogan said the new federal tax policy will likely cost Marylanders hundreds of millions of dollars as a result of the loss of several long-standing deductions and exemptions.

However, according to a state analysis, the estimates used to create the budget for fiscal year 2019 did not include the impact of the new federal tax plan.

Hogan said Comptroller Peter Franchot, D, will be conducting an analysis in the next few weeks to determine exactly how the new federal tax policy will affect the state.

In the press conference Tuesday, Hogan said he was committed to submitting legislation to address this issue.

\*CNS reporters Zach Shapiro and Layne Litsinger contributed to this story.

# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review

### Justice League

Justice League  
Grade: C+  
Rated PG-13,  
moderate profanity, a lot of  
fantasy violence  
2 hrs.

Superman is dead. He was killed by a monster (not Batman) at the end of *Batman v Superman* and is still dead when Justice League picks up the story some time later. The titular coalition of superheroes doesn't exist yet, but Bruce Wayne (Ben Affleck)—not generally a team player—is trying to assemble one to protect Earth against an invasion of humanoid flying insect aliens that portend a graver threat, and so forth. You know, the usual world-saving business.

That's as good a reason as any to assemble the Superfriends, but *Justice League* is a rocky start to what Warner Bros. hopes will be an *Avengers*-sized franchise. It doesn't help that one of the founding members of the group is dead and that the audience knows he won't be dead forever (Henry Cavill's name is second in the opening credits) and is just waiting for the movie to get on with it. Superman's absence hangs over the story like a fog, making Batman grumpier than usual, making Lois Lane (Amy Adams) and Martha Kent (Diane Lane) sad, making the world fall apart without a protector.

It's a dismal set of circumstances, and there's plenty of director Zack Snyder's trademark moroseness and brooding (and slow-motion action and spandex-enhanced butts) to be had. But there's lightness, too, thanks to Diana Prince (Gal Gadot), aka Wonder Woman (though nobody calls her that), who was eager to accept Batman's call to action and serves as a humanist counterpart to his growling pessimism. Even more enthusiastic is Barry Allen (Ezra Miller), aka the Flash (though nobody calls him that), a super-fast kid whose wide-eyed, golly-gee excitement is tempered by the fact that he's never been in battle and is terrified. He's little more than comic relief, but that relief is much needed.



ROTTENTOMATOES

**Fueled by his restored faith in humanity and inspired by Superman's selfless act, Bruce Wayne enlists the help of his newfound ally, Diana Prince, to face an even greater enemy. Together, Batman and Wonder Woman work quickly to find and recruit a team of metahumans to stand against this newly awakened threat. But despite the formation of this unprecedented league of heroes—Batman, Wonder Woman, Aquaman, Cyborg and The Flash—it may already be too late to save the planet from an assault of catastrophic proportions.**

Because you know who else is onboard? Two more gloomy-pusses. One is Arthur Curry (Jason Momoa), aka Aquaman, an Atlantis-dweller who fights underwater crime (I guess?) and helps his friends in Scandinavian villages by bringing them fish (i.e., his other friends) to eat. Part frat boy, part death-metal dude, Aquabro is an above-it-all loner who joins up only after the forces of evil threaten Atlantis. His powers include being very strong and sort of being able to control water, which comes in handy once. Bruce Wayne asks him if he talks to fish, and he scowls and says something like, "The water talks to them," which sounds like deflection. Aquaman talks to fish but is too cool to admit it.

The final member of the group is Victor Stone (Ray Fisher), aka Cyborg (though nobody calls him that), a young man whose scientist father (Joe Morton) experimented on him with Kryptonian technology that mutated him into a cybernetic hybrid with powers that Victor himself does not understand and

cannot control. Victor is unhappy about this.

As you can see, there are a lot of moving parts here, so many that there's no room for an interesting villain. Instead we get Steppenwolf (voiced by Ciaran Hinds), a CGI demon who's seeking three powerful McGuffins called Mother Boxes that can do a variety of things ranging from turning Earth into a ruined hellscape to resurrecting Superman. (Pretty wide skillset on those Mother Boxes.) Steppenwolf is eminently forgettable, a common disappointment in the sub-genre of superhero movies.

The heroes are far more engaging, especially the ones we know anything about. Rather than tell us everyone's backstories, the movie is content to tell us that there ARE backstories and ask us to wait for the stand-alone Aquaman, Flash, and Cyborg movies to elaborate. I can do without Aquadude and Cybore for now, but the groundwork is laid for them both to be compelling characters later on. The Flash already is, thanks to

Ezra Miller's exuberant energy, and though Wonder Woman doesn't build much on the work she did in her own film (this one is too busy for individual heroics), her presence is welcome. Ben Affleck is still a good choice for an older, bruised, more jaded Batman, but there's not a lot of Bat-action here. I like this exchange, though:

WONDER WOMAN: You know you can't do this forever.

BATMAN: I can barely do it now.

Considering the behind-the-scenes difficulties—Snyder left the film due to tragic personal reasons, leaving it to be completed (and partly rewritten and reshot) by Joss Whedon—it's impressive that Justice League isn't messier than it is. Keeping it under two hours probably helped (better to rush than meander), but it would have been better if they'd restructured the story to have Superman return in the first half, not the second. The team needs its leader, and the DC Extended Universe needs its idealistic Boy Scout.

## A Little This, A Little that

### Top 4 Nutrition Predictions in the New Year

(BPT)—Several food and nutrition trends were in the spotlight this year, including the continued rise of plant-based diets, non-dairy ice creams and superfoods that are blasts from the past—legumes, apples and cabbage. It can be easy to experience nutrition whiplash in the New Year, but don't be a victim. Get a jump-start on understanding the top nutrition trends that will impact quality of life and make it easier to add important vitamins and nutrients to the body.

"The start of a fresh year always ushers in new opportunities to make one's health better," said Elizabeth Somer, MA, RD and author of "Eat Your Way to Sexy." "Study after study consistently finds that most Americans don't meet even minimum standards of a balanced diet, so it's important to be aware of advances in nutrition, so you can optimize your health all year long."

There are four key nutrition predictions that will top 2018.

#### No. 1—Personalized nutrition

A one-size-fits-all approach that can be applied to vitamins, minerals, omega-3s and other essential nutrients doesn't align with what research reveals about individual nutrient needs. Many factors tweak the basic recommendations, including age, gender, health status, medication use, stress level, sleep habits, exercise routines and more.

For example, when the body is exposed to ultra violet (UV) light, it manufactures vitamin D; however, as we age, the body becomes less and less efficient at making vitamin D. This is when dietary and supplement sources become increasingly more important while the needs for the vitamin increase.

It is no wonder there will be a growing trend and demand for personalized nutrition recommendations in 2018. Nutrition innovators—like [www.vitaminpacks.com](http://www.vitaminpacks.com)—are already responding by developing comprehensive nutritional assessments to curate unique combinations of vitamins and nutrients designed specifically to the individual consumer.

#### No. 2—Awareness of drug nutrient interactions

According to a recent paper published in the European Journal of Nutrition, vitamins and other nutrients play a crucial role in metabolism—the process in the body that supports overall health. How vitamins and phytonutrients interact with prescription medications can impact metabolism.

In one example, anticancer medications can interfere with vitamin B12 and calcium absorption, so requirements for these and other nutrients may increase, yet people don't make the adjustment in their supplement plans. Therefore, it is important to consult a health care practitioner before adding a dietary supplement, so prescription medications and vitamin supplements can live in harmony.

#### No. 3—Go with your gut

Probiotics are live bacteria that are good for health, especially the digestive system. It may be easy to think of bacteria as something that causes diseases, but the body is full of bacteria, both good and bad. Probiotics are the "good" or "helpful" bacteria because they have been known for years to help keep the gut healthy. What's more, research has shown that the benefits of probiotics may span more than the gut, including the circulatory, hormonal and nervous systems. Probiotics are naturally found in the body to varying degrees, and there are high levels of probiotics in some foods and supplements.

Encouraging the growth of probiotic bacteria is important in maintaining an effective intestinal barrier, enhancing nutrient absorption and blocking toxins and pathogens. A focus on gut health and spotlighting food and dietary supplements that support a healthy belly will top 2018 nutrition trends.

#### No. 4—Vitamin K2

Don't confuse this K2 with the mountain in the Himalayas. Vitamin K2 is an overlooked vitamin that helps control calcium movement in the body and supports healthy arteries and bone health. It is found at sub-optimal levels in the traditional diet, but can be found at high levels in fermented foods, like sauerkraut and the Korean dish kimchi. Vitamin K2 will no longer be overlooked in 2018. Ask a health care practitioner about adding this important vitamin to the diet, especially if fermented foods aren't served regularly for dinner.

It doesn't take a crystal ball to predict what will be the hottest nutrition trends in 2018; it only requires a look at the latest nutrition research and connecting with a health care provider or registered dietitian.



PHOTO COURTESY BRANDPOINT

## Hogan Administration, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Announce Extension of Maryland's All-Payer Hospital Model

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Governor Larry Hogan, together with the Maryland Department of Health and the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), today announced an extension of Maryland's All-Payer Hospital Model Contract. The federal government has agreed to approve a one-year extension to allow it to complete its review and to consider additional data through the end of 2017 before finalizing the contract for the new Maryland Total Cost of Care All-Payer Medicare Model (Maryland Model), the draft terms of which were announced in August 2017.

As a result of this agreement, Maryland's current All-Payer Hospital Model Contract and amendments will be extended from an expiration date of December 31, 2018 to December 31, 2019. The one-year extension was mutually agreed upon by the state and CMS and

will not affect existing contractual terms, and it will ensure continuity for Maryland patients and providers.

"This is a significant win for Maryland's health care delivery system, and the direct result of the tireless advocacy on behalf of all Marylanders by Secretary Dennis Schrader and his team," said Governor Hogan. "Our administration is committed to working with our federal partners to ensure we continue to lead the nation when it comes to innovation in health care access and affordability for our citizens."

"This extension reflects the Hogan administration's continual commitment to improving health care quality while reducing costs. We look forward to working with CMS to finalize the new Maryland Model, which will extend our efforts beyond hospitals to serve even more Marylanders," said Maryland Department of Health Secretary Dennis Schrader.

The Maryland Model is an innovative Medicare per capita

savings model that maintains financial stability in rural hospitals and provides opportunities for health care providers to transform care delivery model by improving health and quality. The continuing negotiations will incorporate the latest directions received from stakeholders in the hospitals, physicians, insurance, and patient sectors, as well as from federal policymakers. Building on the state's track record of innovation in the health care sector, the model is designed to coordinate medical treatment for patients served in both hospital and non-hospital settings, to improve health outcomes, and to rein in the growth of health care costs.

The model limits cost shifting by various health care payers, including Medicare, and protects the individual consumer. It also addresses primary care and allows for greater coordination among the medical community. The model also enables the state and provider communities to collaborate on critical health

care issues, including opioid use, diabetes, hypertension, and other chronic conditions. This collaborative approach draws upon a strong partnership with key players in Maryland's health system—hospitals, payers, physicians, long-term care providers, and regulatory agencies, along with state and federal partners.

The Hogan administration is proactively working with stakeholders to finalize the updated model contract as quickly as possible with common priorities which include further discussions of the Maryland Model, including the Maryland Primary Care Program, and additional updates to the Care Redesign Participation Agreement, including efforts to obtain MACRA eligibility for Care Redesign Program participants.

Additional details on the proposed structure of the new model, including the process and timeline of negotiations with the federal government, can be found at <http://hscrc.maryland.gov/Pages/progression.aspx>.

# Calendar of Events

January 25 — January 31, 2018

## Xtreme Teens: Karaoke Party

Date and time: Friday, January 26, 2018, 7:30 PM–9:30 PM  
 Description: Come sing your heart out with your favorite song at our karaoke party! Refreshments will be served.  
 Cost: FREE! with Center ID  
 Ages: 12–17  
 Location: Oakcrest Community Center  
 1300 Capitol Heights Blvd, Capitol Heights, MD  
 Contact: 301-736-5355; TTY 301-699-2544

## Family Boot Camp: New Year, New You!

Date and time: Saturday, January 27, 2018, 9:00 AM–10:00 AM  
 Description: Kick off the New Year with a healthy and fun family boot camp program! We invite you and your family to take part in a healthy start to 2018 with a series of FREE fitness sessions that will leave you feeling motivated and confident! Call us at 301-446-6842 for more information.

\*Scheduled to take place outdoors; weather permitting. In the event of inclement weather, classes will be held in the gymnasium.

Cost: FREE  
 Ages: 13 and older  
 Location: Southern Regional Technology & Recreation Complex  
 7007 Bock Road, Fort Washington, MD  
 Contact: 301-749-4160; TTY 301-699-2544

## Suburban Maryland Spring Home Show

Date and time: Saturday, January 27, 2018, 10:00 AM–8:00 PM and Sunday, January 28, 2018, 10:00 AM–6:00 PM  
 Description: At the Home Show, their goal is simple: to inspire, motivate, and excite you for your upcoming home improvement—whether it is a minor renovation or a major remodel. Their events feature a wide selection of home improvement professionals in a fun, interactive environment.  
 Cost: Admission is FREE  
 Ages: All ages are welcome  
 Location: The Show Place Arena  
 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD  
 Contact: 301-952-7900; TTY 301-699-2544

## 35th Annual Choreographers' Showcase

Date and time: Saturday, January 27, 2018, 3:00 PM and 8:00 PM  
 Description: For 35 years, the popular Choreographers' Showcase has been "a rite of passage in the DC-area dance community" (The Washington Post). This evening of works by new and established choreographers is presented in partnership with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. The Showcase has been inspiring dance audiences and supporting scores of dance makers since 1983. In this celebration year, past laureates will converge to honor the influence that the showcase has had on their careers and the dance community.  
 Cost: General public \$25; Student/youth \$10  
 Ages: All ages are welcome  
 Location: Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center  
 8270 Alumni Dr, College Park, MD  
 Contact: 301-405-2787; TTY 301-699-2544

## Blue Sky Puppet presents "Rufus the Dog"

Date and time: Saturday, January 27, 2018, 3:00 PM–4:30 PM  
 Description: Rufus, a lost and lonely dog, finds friendship and learns about individuality in this educational and interactive puppet show presented by Blue Sky Puppet. Experts describe the show as, "the funniest mouth-moving, rod-style puppets that will have your whole family laughing." Don't miss out on this rip-roaring time with your family!  
 Cost: \$5  
 Ages: All ages are welcome, this is a family event.  
 Location: Kentland Community Center  
 2413 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover, MD  
 Contact: 301-386-2278; TTY 301-699-2544

## Black History Exhibit: We Return Fighting: World War I and the African-American Experience

Date and time: Sunday, January 28, 2018, 8:30 AM–8:00 PM  
 Gallery Exhibit Hours: Monday–Friday: 8:30 AM–8:00 PM  
 Saturday: 10:00 AM–4:00 PM  
 Sunday: 10:00 AM–2:00 PM  
 Description: In honor of the 100th anniversary of the United States' involvement in World War I, this exhibit explores the experiences of African-Americans both at home and abroad during this war and the years surrounding it. Despite the oppressive racial climate in America in the opening decades of the 20th century, African-Americans staunchly supported the war effort in a variety of ways. This exhibit highlights the experiences of Black men and women during this era, with a special focus on the African-American soldiers from Prince George's County and their families.

This exhibit is curated by the M-NCPPC Black History Program. Guided tours are available for schools and community groups. To schedule a tour, contact the Black History Program at Abraham Hall at 240-264-3415.  
 Cost: FREE  
 Ages: All ages are welcome  
 Location: Arts/Harmony Hall Regional Center  
 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, MD  
 Contact: 301-203-6040; TTY 301-699-2544

## Harlem Nights Auditions

Date and time: Auditions will be held on Wednesdays, January 31, 2018, February 7, 2018 and February 14, 2018, from 6:30 PM–8:30 PM  
 Description: The spirit of the Harlem Renaissance is alive and well! Youth and teens will showcase talents from singing and dancing to poetry and drama in honor of the many influential artists and musicians of the Harlem Renaissance era. The evening includes entertainment, refreshments, an art gallery, and a photo booth for attendees.  
 Cost: FREE  
 Ages: All ages are welcome  
 Location: «Vansville Community Center  
 6813 Ammendale Road, Beltsville, MD  
 Contact: 301-937-6621; TTY 301-699-2544

# EARTH TALK ... E-Bikes: Better For Your Carbon Footprint Than Regular Bikes?

Dear EarthTalk:

*Is there any truth to the assertion that e-bikes recharged off the fossil-fuel grid actually generate fewer carbon emissions overall than conventional human-powered bikes?*

—Sandy McClave, New York, NY

Well, actually, there could be ... E-bike pioneer Justin Lemire-Elmore argues that e-bikes are better for the environment, at least if you compare the carbon emissions associated with producing enough extra food to fuel the rider of a standard bicycle against the emissions from coal-derived electricity used to charge an e-bike.

"Although counterintuitive that a vehicle fueled by something as dirty as coal can be considered clean and green, the fact is that food production is much dirtier," reports Lemire-Elmore. "All things being equal, an electric bicycle produces 8.5 times less greenhouse gases than a standard bicycle."

Lemire-Elmore goes on to argue that considerations of the carbon impact of the food we eat should take into account every step "from fork to farm" including greenhouse gas emissions from creating fertilizers, operating farm machinery, delivering raw foodstuffs to factories for processing and then transporting processed goods to a final production and packaging facility

before being once again shipped to the grocery store shelf and finally to your pantry via the way-back of your car.

In fact, the average American diet produces .005 pounds of carbon dioxide per calorie of food produced, according to researchers from the University of Chicago. Lemire-Elmore uses this formula to assert that a bicycle commute of 15 miles each way would require the rider to consume an extra 800 calories which in turn would produce almost four pounds of carbon dioxide per day (or 1,444 pounds per year). And if you charge up your bike's battery with renewable energy (say, from the solar panels on your roof), fuhgeddaboutit! The e-bike wins every time.

Of course, there's no question that an electric bicycle, however it's powered, is a far better mode of transport when it comes to environmental impact compared to any of the other choices as well—even walking. According to research by Mirjan Bouwman of the University of Groningen in the Netherlands, travelling one kilometer by bike (electric or conventional) requires approximately five to 15 watt-hours (w-h) of energy, while travelling the same distance by foot requires some 15 to 20 w-h. (Meanwhile, covering that kilometer in a train requires 30 to 40 w-h and over 400 w-h in a car with just the driver.) An e-bike needs only about 10 percent



CREDIT: JOE HAUPT, FLICKRCC

**If you factor in the carbon emissions associated with producing and delivering the extra food required to feed a rider of a conventional bicycle, charging up an e-bike from your grid-based electrical outlet may be better for the environment.**

of the energy required to power a car, and is 13 times more energy efficient than a typical four-door sedan and six times more efficient than rail transit.

The fact that it might be even better than riding a conventional bike when it comes to your carbon footprint might be just the impetus you need to justify spending the extra dollars for a new-fangled "battery-assist" bike. If everyone knew that you

were being even more environmentally friendly by NOT pedaling up that steep hill, who wouldn't go for an electric bike? And with municipalities pouring millions of dollars into improving infrastructure for bikes and new routing apps making biking safer and more fun, now is a great time to embrace the idea of a two-wheeled commute. Maybe it'll even convince you to get rid of that car altogether ...

CONTACTS: "The Energy Cost of Electric and Human-Powered Bicycles," [www.ebikes.ca/documents/Ebike\\_Energy.pdf](http://www.ebikes.ca/documents/Ebike_Energy.pdf); "An environmental assessment of the bicycle and other transport systems," [goo.gl/Lt4Bp6](http://goo.gl/Lt4Bp6).

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

## Closings from A1

uled for February 9 has been cancelled. Schools will follow a B Day schedule on both February 8 and 9.

PGCPS developed its school calendar to meet Governor Hogan's requirements for students to have a school year beginning after Labor Day and ending by June 15. So far this school year, PGCPS has closed schools due to unsafe weather conditions on January 4, 5 and 17.

Any additional school closures will impact Spring Break. One ad-

ditional emergency school closure will require attendance on April 5 and a second emergency closure will require students and staff to come to school on April 6.

School delays or closures greatly impact students, families and staff. The decision to delay or close schools is based on safety and a variety of other factors, including National Weather Service reports, recommendations from PGCPS transportation supervisors and building maintenance directors, who survey conditions throughout the county as early as 3 a.m. Facility staff report on

power outages, HVAC/heat issues and any plumbing issues that could impact schools and offices. PGCPS executive staff members communicate with County government agencies. The school system's top consideration is safety for buses, motorists and students who walk to school.

By 4:30 a.m., the Chief Operating Officer recommends a delay or closure and provides additional information to support the recommendation to Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, who makes a final decision.

For the latest updates when inclement weather occurs, visit: PGCPS website ([www.pgcps.org](http://www.pgcps.org))  
 Social media sites (facebook.com/pgcps, Twitter and Instagram: @PGCPS)  
 PGCPS-TV (Channel 96/38)  
 Local media outlets  
 E-alerts  
 PGCPS Weather Line  
 301-952-6000 (option "1")

View Emergency Weather Codes and Plans at <http://www.pgcps.org/page.aspx?Pageid=234147&id=256881>

## DACA from A4

pieces especially border security, but it needs to be smart. We just don't want to throw away people's money."

"We also have the issue that arose just a couple days ago with respect to the TPS, people here on temporary protective status. A large population, primarily from El Salvador here but also from Honduras and others, who are at risk—and these are people

here legally. It's really important to understand that they were granted the status because of awful conditions in their country, and the conditions in these home countries are still very violent. San Salvador has been called the murder capital of the world. There are folks have been here, for close to two decades."

"I do believe that this tax plan is going to be very damaging to the country, increase our national debt by 1.5 trillion—the Mary-

land legislature is already talking about measures they have to take to protect a lot of middle class Maryland families from tax increases. But there has been some good news. For example, Senator Toomey ... from Pennsylvania, a Republican, and I teamed up to pass a very tough sanctions bill against North Korea. And the important thing about this bill is that we have sanctions against North Korea, the key is making sure they're effective.

And this is a secondary sanctions bill—meaning if you're a business in China, or anywhere else in the world, and you facilitate transactions with North Korea, our sanctions will apply to you. So it's a very simple message: you do business with North Korea or the United States; you can't do business with both. That passed unanimously out of the Banking Committee, and I'm hopeful it will pass the Senate soon."

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