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Bowie Selects La Plata Town Manager Daniel Mears as Assistant City Manager

By PRESS OFFICER
City of Bowie Government

BOWIE, MD—After an exhaustive search, the City of Bowie has selected a new Assistant City Manager to replace John Fitzwater, who retired earlier in January after 28 years in the position. Daniel Mears, who is currently the Town Manager of La Plata, Maryland, will join the City's management team on February 19, 2018.

Mr. Mears is a 20-year veteran of municipal government, with management expertise in many of the areas he will oversee in Bowie. La Plata, a town of 9,000 residents in Charles County, has grown in size and complexity over the last several years. During his ten years there, Daniel Mears has standardized operations and managed other challenges associated with rapid growth. He has introduced new fiscal and management practices and overseen the formulation of the town's first Recreation Plan and the first Transportation Plan. He has also been successful in taking advantage of grant opportunities, in expanding the use of technology in various aspects of municipal government, and in involving residents and other stakeholders in their government.

Prior to his time in La Plata, Mears was Assistant City Manager/Economic Developer



PHOTO COURTESY THE CITY OF BOWIE
Daniel Mears, Town Manager of La Plata

for Hazelwood, Missouri and City Manager of Ellisville, Missouri. He is a graduate of Shippensburg University and holds a Master of Public Policy Administration from the University of Missouri. Since 2007, he has been recognized as a Credentialed Manager by the International City Management Association.

The Assistant City Manager is the second in charge of the City. He serves in the City Manager's absence and the role is critical to successfully managing the seven departments that make up the City of Bowie government.

City Manager Alfred Lott, who has been at the helm of Bowie's government since December 2016, said, "I was very

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PHOTO COURTESY DAN KECK

Strawberry Production

UMD Researchers Find Gene That May Greatly Increase Strawberry Production

Work Has potential to Significantly Bolster Grower Production and Enhance Nursery Industry With New Control Over Propagation and Popularization of New Plant Varieties

By SAMANTHA WATTERS
University of Maryland

COLLEGE PARK, MD—UMD researchers have identified and isolated a gene that is directly linked to the strawberry production process. With the ability to turn this gene on and off to produce runners (a long horizontal stem ideal for producing young strawberry plants for sale) or flowers (ideal to produce fruit) and a greater un-

derstanding of how to control this process, this work has the potential to greatly increase strawberry productivity.

Strawberries are a \$3 billion per year agricultural industry in the United States alone. However, the demand has only been growing over the years. There is infinite potential to enhance this industry further by understanding the mechanisms behind breeding and production of strawberry plants.

Julie Caruana under the direction of Dr. Zhongchi Liu, Affiliate Professor with the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture and Professor in the Department of Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics, has come significantly closer to this level of understanding by finding this gene and honing the ability to produce runners. "We know at least one gene that is definitely involved, and going forward,

we can determine what other genes are involved and how they interact," said Caruana.

There are many environmental factors that affect flowering and runner behavior. These include temperature and day length, which is why strawberries typically produce runners in the summer months and flower in the fall, winter, and

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Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund Annual Report

By PRESS OFFICER
DNR

ANNAPOLIS, MD—The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has released the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund 2018 Annual Report, which details the program's activities, expenditures and initiatives, including restoring 2,700 acres of wetlands, installing 1,161 acres of riparian buffer and educating and engaging over 34,600 students and volunteers.

The Trust Fund focuses limited financial resources on the most cost-effective and efficient pollution control and mitigation projects.

Governor Larry Hogan has continued to demonstrate his commitment to Chesapeake Bay restoration by fully funding the Trust Fund for the last three years.

"The Trust Fund is so successful enhancing and improving our environment and natural resources because of its singular focus on reducing nutrients and sediment before they reach our treasured watersheds, but the



PHOTO COURTESY DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Bishopville Dam Removal Project

benefits reach far beyond improved water quality," Natural Resources Secretary Mark Belton said. "By leveraging local partnerships and utilizing innovative technologies, these critical state investments also work to improve our state's resilience to climate change, expand natural habitats and grow and sustain local communities and economies."

Since 2009, the environmental financing program has directed \$400 million to local

governments and nonprofits for more than 2,200 nonpoint source pollution projects. Staff works with local partners on using natural systems and stormwater best management practices to improve the Chesapeake Bay, coastal bays and local waterways.

Governor Hogan's investment of \$52.9 million in the Chesapeake and Atlantic

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Council Chair Dannielle Glaros Appointed to Council of Governments Leadership Post

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Council

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Council Chair Dannielle Glaros (D)—District 3, has been appointed to serve as Chair of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Region Forward Coalition. City of Falls Church Vice Mayor Marybeth Connelly and DC Council Member Robert White will both serve in the position of Coalition Vice Chair. The Region

Forward Coalition convened its first meeting of 2018 on Friday, January 26, 11:00 a.m. at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, 777 N. Capitol Street, Washington, DC.

"This year, the Region Forward Coalition will focus on several overarching goals, but we want to do this through a lens of equity and inclusion so we can grow jobs and increase opportunities for more of our neighbors," said Chair Glaros. "I look forward to working with Vice Chair Connelly, Vice Chair

White, and Coalition members on the policies, practices and programs that support Region Forward's vision of creating a more prosperous, accessible, livable and sustainable Metropolitan Washington."

Region Forward is a commitment by COG and its member governments, who together seek to create a more prosperous, accessible, livable, and sustainable metropolitan Wash-

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Compensation Review Board Presents Recommendations to County Council

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Council

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George's County Council has received the 2017–2018 Prince George's County Compensation Review Board report and recommendations, publicly presented during Council session on Tuesday, January 23, 2018.

The seven-member Compensation Review Board, established by CB-70-2017 and authorized in County Charter Sections 308 and 406, is charged with making recommendations regarding a fair and reasonable compensation package for the Prince George's County Council Members and County Executive elected in the November 2018 General Election.

Council Chair Dannielle Glaros (D)—District 3, noted the conscientious work of the Compensation Review Board, and thanked them for their service.

"The Compensation Review Board has worked diligently, conducting an extensive review of the salaries, benefits and

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INSIDE

County Executive Baker Announces Filing of Prince George's County's Opioid Lawsuit

The crisis of opioid addiction, and the lethal impact opioid overdoses has on the victims and the families of our residents, is a growing challenge in the state as well as around the country.

Community, Page A3

Haiti Slur: Reprehensible, But Not Surprising

The slur is reprehensible and deeply disappointing, but it is not surprising. It lives in a universe of targeted travel bans with discriminatory religious preferences, a candidacy kicked off slandering Mexicans, sympathizing with white supremacists, attacks on protesting Black athletes, and so on.

Commentary, Page A4

Governor Larry Hogan Announces Amazon Incentive Legislation

The legislation is one component of a major incentive package that includes a budget allocation of \$10 million per year to the state's Sunny Day Fund over 15 years and billions of dollars in road, transit, and infrastructure upgrades.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: Lady Bird

Gerwig packs an impressive amount of relatable teen angst into just 93 minutes, covering such topics as virginity-loss, homosexuality, depression, and class struggles, all while maintaining a sharp sense of humor and an authentic voice. There's not an ounce of contrivance or phoniness.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Can you settle this age-old question for me once and for all: Is it greener to take showers or baths? And how can I save water either way?

—Tim Jackson, Queensbury, NY

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Mike Shwedick brings his reptile show to Watkins Nature Center

"Snakes of the World," is coming to Watkins Nature Center on Saturday, Feb. 3, in celebration of World Wetlands Day. Among the reptiles that could be included in the program: boa constrictor, anaconda, tropical lizard, Chinese alligator, a Mexican milksnake, an alligator snapping turtle, and an Indian rock python.

Bring yourself, and your kids (ages 4 and older), to the Nature Center, 301 Watkins Park Drive in Upper Marlboro for the show, 11 a.m. to noon. Admission is \$3. For information: 301-218-6702.

Special guest is Michael Shwedick, whose Reptile World has been introducing America to the fascinating world of reptiles since 1970. More than 100,000 a year come to experience Reptile World, which has been featured in National Geographic World and hundreds of newspaper articles throughout the U.S.

Mike is "one of ours"—he graduated in 1972 from Crossland High School with my daughter Therese who once told me Mike used to bring snakes to school (and, maybe, kept them in his locker?). I also remember that Mike and his snakes were a favorite at the Summer Playgrounds held years ago in schools throughout the County. The last time I saw his amazing show was about 15 years ago at the National Theater in Washington.

Shrove Tuesday means pancakes

St. Philip's is hosting its annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, Feb. 13, 5 to 7 p.m., in the Parish Hall. Adults, \$6; children, 5 to 10, \$3; 4 and under, free. For reservations or information, call Karin Yeatman, 301-899-7784.

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. And Lent ends with Easter, which is April 1 this year.

Savor the Flavor: tour & tasting

This winter, history is a little sweeter at Darnall's Chance Mu-

seum. Get a guided tour by a costumed interpreter of the 18th century house and then learn some interesting facts about why chocolate was so popular in Colonial America. Visitors will get to taste hot chocolate made from an authentic 1750s recipe.

Saturday, Feb. 17 at 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Fee: \$8 per person includes house tour, hot chocolate and other delectable sweets. Advance registration is recommended but walk-ins are welcome. Darnall's Chance is at 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive in Upper Marlboro. Information/reservations, 301-952-8010.

Changing landscape

Toys R Us is closing in Clinton. It's among the 20% shutting down across the country. Closures are slated to begin in early February and continue through mid-April.

Wing-Stop restaurant, "The Wing Experts," had its Grand Opening Dec. 18 at 7706 Old Branch Ave, in Clinton. Hours: 11 a.m. to midnight.

Chipotle Mexican Grill has opened at 3443 Donnell Drive in Forestville. Right now, until March 11, you get free chips and salsa with the purchase of a burrito, burrito bowl, salad or order of tacos. Hours: 10:45 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Former Morningsider, outstanding baker, George Walls dies at 89

George Naylor Walls of Waldorf and Gladys, VA, died at his home on Dec. 19, surrounded by his loving family and beloved dogs.

He was born in Suitland, and—according to an old-time Morningsider—he and his brother Benjamin grew up in Morningside. He was originally a tile-setter by day and a Washington Post distributor at night. He was also one of the early members of the Brandywine Volunteer Fire Dept., WWII Army vet and reservist.

But most of all, he was the original owner and operator and most outstanding baker of Walls Bakery in Waldorf for more than 37 years.

He was preceded in death by his wife Christa S. (Dorr) Walls; sons George Jr., David, Steven, Johnny and Donald Walls, and grandson Michael Raydean Howard.

Survivors include his son Robert and daughter Christine; seven grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandson. Services were at Raymond Funeral Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Gardens in Waldorf.

He also leaves his cherished pets, Dog #1, Dog #2, Dog #3 (Pete), Big Dog, Marley, Tabby, Baby, Hope, Bella, Cairo and Blue.

May they rest in peace

Deacon Richard Anthony Fisher, 83, of Ft. Washington, a Naval Research Lab retiree, died Jan. 19. He was a native of Topeka, KS, and an Air Force veteran. He retired from Naval Research as an electronic technician and as a deacon of 43 years at St. Columba Church in Oxon Hill. Survivors include his wife Rachel, daughter Marie A. Norment, and four siblings. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Columba with burial at Resurrection Cemetery.

Charlotte Maryann Hesse, 91, of Temple Hills, president of the Andrews Women's Golf Association, died Jan. 1. A native of Leopolis, WI, she later saw the world as she accompanied her husband Arthur, a US-AAC officer. She regularly golfed at Andrews and was once the women's club champion. Her husband of 62 years, Col. Arthur Hesse and six siblings preceded her in death. Survivors include son Scott and two grandchildren.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Skyline Citizens President Stanley Holmes, Feb. 2; Ashley Lee, Feb. 3; Adam Cook, Feb. 5; Diane McCrone, Feb. 6; Theo Carter, Rita Beall and J.B. Thomas, Feb. 7; Jesse Ritter and my great-granddaughter Molly McHale, Feb. 8.

Happy 68th (!) anniversary to William & Betty Fitzpatrick, on Feb. 4.

old). 'FREE' for children (4 years and under). Dinners will include Good 'Ole' Homemade Spaghetti or Chili, Tossed Salad, French Bread, Water, fruit cup and a desert.

Pre-orders and payments are always greatly appreciated. Points of contacts regarding this matter are Shirley Ann or Doretha Ann. Please call 301-888-1536. Benefit St. Philip's Church.

BLACK HISTORY EXHIBIT

Black History Exhibit: We Return Fighting: World War 1 and the African American Experience, Saturday, February 3, 2018 from 8:00 AM-8:00 PM. In honor of the 100th anniversary of the United States involvement in World War 1, this exhibit explores the experiences of African Americans both at home and abroad during this war and the years surrounding it. This exhibit highlights the experiences of Black men and women with a special focus on the African American soldiers from Prince George's County and their families.

Location for the Exhibit is Arts/Harmony Hall Regional

Center, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744. Contact number is 301-203-6040; TTY 301-699-2544. E-mail for questions about guided tours (mailto:blackhistory@pgparks.com).

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Help form a DEFENSIVE LINE against hunger in our community. Score a Touchdown and kick hunger off the field Super Bowl Sunday, February 4, 2018 to benefit Community Support Systems' Programs. CSS has been serving our community since 1995. Call (301) 372-1491.

CSS operates Food Pantries in Baden and Accokeek, a Shared Living Home in Brandywine, and an Advocacy Program to help people access resources. CSS is UW/ CFC #8411 and Maryland Campaign #9101. Please contact them for more information. Community Support Systems, PO Box 206, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. You can visit on the web at www.CommunitySupportSystems.org or visit them on Facebook.

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Neighborhoods

BGE Highlights Options for Customers Affected by Extreme Cold Weather

BALTIMORE, MD—Between Dec. 25, 2017 and Jan. 8, 2018, high temperatures in central Maryland were 35 percent colder than normal for that same period last year, causing BGE customers to use more energy as heating systems worked harder. According to the National Weather Service, Baltimore set a record for the coldest first week of January with an average temperature of 15.2 degrees.

During the first week of January, BGE recorded three of its top 10 highest natural gas customer-use days in the company's history and PJM, the mid-Atlantic's electric grid operator, saw two of its 10 highest winter electricity-use days.

Customers have a number of options to manage accounts to help offset the period of extreme cold. BGE is offering to accelerate customer enrollment into the company's Budget Billing program, which averages payments over a 12-month period to help spread costs of higher usage months throughout the year. Typically, the enrollment process takes a full billing cycle. Budget Billing is available to customers who have up to \$500 in arrearages. In addition, customers who are in good standing and current on their accounts may request a due date extension for more time to pay their bill.

More information on these and other options are available in the MyAccount section of BGE.com under Billing Options and Assistance Programs. In addition, customers who seek further assistance can call 2-1-1 Maryland.

Despite the frigid start, BGE reminds customers to save energy and balance against periods of higher use by following these simple energy-saving tips:

- **Sign up for Energy Usage Alerts:** Receive an early warning by phone, email or text if you are headed towards a bill that is higher than usual. This gives you time to reduce your usage before your next bill and helps to prevent billing surprises. Go to BGE.com/MyAccount to sign up.

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

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

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

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

- **Take Advantage of the Sun's Heat:** Open curtains on your south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and then close them at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.

- **Use Your Ceiling Fan:** You can reverse the motor and airflow direction of ENERGY STAR® certified ceiling fans to operate the fan year-round. In the winter, reverse the motor and operate the ceiling fan clockwise at low speed to produce a gentle updraft that forces warm air near the ceiling down into the occupied space.

- **Use Energy Efficient Lighting:** Install efficient LED bulbs to reduce lighting costs year-round.

- **Quick Home Energy Check-up:** This is a fast, easy and free way to increase the energy efficiency of your home and help you start saving immediately. When you schedule a Check-up, an energy efficiency professional will come to your home and identify simple ways to help save energy and money. Visit www.bgesmartenergy.com to schedule.

- **Download the BGE Mobile App:** BGE's new mobile app allows you to easily access your account information on the go. The app makes it simple to manage more than one account at a time and is available to both residential and business customers on a smartphone or tablet.

For customers who want to help others with their energy bills with gift payments, or through the Fuel Fund of Maryland and the Dollar Donation Fund, please visit BGE.com under Assistance Programs.

Chesapeake Bay Trust Announces 2018 Annual Award and Scholarship Winners

ANNAPOLIS, MD—On January 11, 2018, the Chesapeake Bay Trust announced the recipients of its 2018 Annual Awards and Scholarship Program at a ceremony held in the Maryland General Assembly. During the event, more than 150 environmental leaders and Maryland legislators came together to honor six exceptional individuals for their outstanding contributions to environmental education, watershed restoration, and volunteerism. Launched in 1998, the Chesapeake Bay Trust's Annual Awards Program recognizes awardees each year for a variety of environmental leadership roles and achievements.

This year's winners embody the spirit of the Trust's family of grantees, approximately 400 per year, who work tirelessly to restore and protect their local natural resources and engage community members in those efforts. Awards are made each year to two students for environmental and community leadership,

to one educator for excellence in environmental education, to one business for green efforts, to one organization for a notable watershed stewardship project, and to one community leader or volunteer who goes routinely above and beyond in improving the streams, rivers, parks, forests, or other natural resource within our watershed. This year, the Trust honors Reverend Gail Addison, President/CEO of End Time Harvest Ministries, with its community environmental leadership award.

"I am grateful and very blessed to be among the distinguished recipients who have received this award that honors a phenomenal lady, Ms. Ellen Fraites Wagner," said Reverend Addison, "I am deeply moved and humbled to be among people who have made tremendous environmental education contributions in this region. Thank you to the Trust for your faith in End Time Harvest Ministries' environmental work of educating youth and families about the importance of being environmental stewards in their communities and schools."

Chesapeake Bay Trust's 2018 Award Winners

2018 Ellen Fraites Wagner Award:
Reverend Gail A. Addison
President/CEO, End Time Harvest Ministries, Prince George's County

Ellen Fraites Wagner, a colleague of Governor Harry Hughes, helped establish the Chesapeake Bay Trust, and this award, named in her honor, recognizes a natural resources leader who works or volunteers to motivate and inspire others by promoting environmental awareness. This description perfectly fits Reverend Gail A. Addison. Reverend Addison is the CEO and Founder of End Time Harvest Ministries, Inc. (ETHM), a faith-based, community and school-based non-profit organization founded in 1996 and based in Prince George's County. End Time Harvest Ministries is bridging education, poverty, health, and moral gaps in urban communities through its Bridging The Gap (BTG) initiative which focuses on equipping youth with workforce readiness, leadership, and character skills and engaging youth in community service. ETHMs programs and initiatives empower youth to remain in school and graduate on time and enter college and/or the workforce upon graduation. Annually, ETHM partners with local watershed societies and others to engage youth and families in stormwater management projects such as Earth Day celebrations, tree plantings, establishing and maintaining community gardens, working on ECO City's Port Towns' Farms, storm drain stenciling, and placing students in summer jobs with Prince George's County businesses to work on stormwater management projects. Reverend Addison's leadership has earned ETHM the distinguished Maryland Non-profits Award—Standards for Excellence Accreditation. The success of her organization is

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COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Fighting the Winter Blahs

Yes, on a chilly winter day it can feel really good to curl up with a good book or binge on that favorite TV series. While such activities are enjoyable, they may leave you feeling worse if not balanced with other, more active parts of your life.

The "winter blahs," or "winter blues," are feelings of being depressed about the shorter days, colder weather, gray skies and fewer opportunities to be outdoors for fresh air and exercise. In most parts of the country winter means we have to make a real effort to go outside.

And so we reach for that book or that TV clicker once again. Tempting, yes, but only in moderation.

Our physical activity level affects our well-being in a variety of ways. One way is the impact it can have on our waistline. Winter is the most common time to add a few pounds. We're often less active but usually don't really change our eating habits. The resulting weight gain doesn't improve anyone's mood.

There is also a very real form of clinical depression called Seasonal Affective Disorder, commonly referred to as SAD. Experts aren't sure of its exact cause, but SAD seems to be linked to the reduced amount of sunlight in the winter. It can run the gamut from mild feelings of sadness to extreme depression that can lead to mood swings, anxiety, sleep problems and even suicidal thoughts.

While mild cases of SAD can be helped by getting more outdoor time in the sun, or getting treatments with special lamps that mimic sunlight, more severe cases should be treated by a physician or professional counselor, since that level of depression can involve serious symptoms.

The most effective antidote to the winter blahs is to get regular exercise. An ongoing exercise program provides many physiological benefits, including reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease, Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure and several other health issues.

Exercise also improves mental health by increasing self-esteem, overcoming depression, reducing stress, and even improving memory and overall thinking, according to a variety of studies.

So don't let winter weather get the best of you. Find that warm coat. Slip on a pair of gloves. Go out for a walk every day, or head to the gym if the weather's too bad, and don't let the winter blahs win the fight.

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

Mears from A1

fortunate to have Assistant City Manager John Fitzwater here when I arrived. I am grateful for the support and guidance he provided, but after 28 years, I think he has earned a bit of relaxation."

"Daniel Mears will be an excellent replacement for John. He is experienced in many facets of municipal government and he has tackled complex issues and been a problem solver throughout his career. I look forward to having him join our management team."

Brandywine from A1

DEMENTIA AWARENESS WORKSHOP
Community Dementia Awareness Workshop sponsored by Westphalia United Methodist Church, Rev. Dr. Timothy West, Senior Pastor. What You Can Do,

Let's Talk with Dr. Thorne Saturday, February 10, 2018 at 11:30 AM. Westphalia United Methodist Church is located at 9363 D'Arcy Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774. For more information, call 301-735-973 or e-mail umwomen@wesphaliaum.org.

Trust Fund from A1

Coastal Bays Trust Fund, includes \$23.13 million to aid local communities meet their nutrient and sediment reduction goals in support of the state's Watershed Implementation Plan. In addition to competitive grants, the Trust Fund will also provide \$11.25 million for cover crops and \$3.29 million

to support local soil conservation districts.

The Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund is a collaborative effort between the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Department of Agriculture, Maryland Department of the Environment, Maryland Department of Planning and University of Maryland.

County Executive Baker Announces Filing Of Prince George's County's Opioid Lawsuit

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—On January 24, 2018, at the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department (PGFD) Station 26 in District Heights, MD, Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, was joined by PGFD Chief Benjamin Barksdale, Prince George's County Health Officer Pamela Creekmur, Prince George's County Police Department (PGPD) Department of Corrections Director Mary Lou McDonough, PGPD Chief Hank Stawinski and County Attorney Jared McCarthy to announce the County's lawsuit against opioid manufacturers. Prince George's County hired the firm of Napoli Shkolnik, PLLC to serve as lead counsel in the County suit against all facets of the opioid business which the County argues is causing addiction as well as increased use of resources to

combat the growing problem. The crisis of opioid addiction, and the lethal impact opioid overdoses has on the victims and the families of our residents, is a growing challenge in the state as well as around the country.

"Over the last several years, we have seen a dramatic rise in opioid and fentanyl overdose deaths and the detrimental impact they have had on our citizens and this government," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "PGFD paramedics are running twice as many opioid and fentanyl overdose calls as they have in previous years and our Health Department has been working tirelessly to promote public education, prevention, and to identify resources regarding opioid abuse. The scourge of this health crisis is affecting Prince Georgians countywide. Families are losing loved ones to overdose deaths and need financial resources to get family members help from addiction.

This crisis is also costing the County government and it is incumbent upon us to hold the opioid manufacturers accountable for the damage they have done to our communities."

Prince George's County has filed suit against 26 companies and individuals. As noted in the introduction of the complaint;

"This case is about one thing: corporate greed. Defendants put their desire for profits above the health and well-being of Prince George's County consumers at the cost of Plaintiff. Prince George's County spends millions of dollars each year to provide and pay for health care, services, pharmaceutical care and other necessary services and programs on behalf of residents of its County whom are indigent or otherwise eligible for services, including payments through services such as Medicaid for prescription opioid painkillers ("opioids") which are manufactured, marketed, promoted, sold,

and/or distributed by the Defendants. Prince George's County also provides a wide range of other services to its residents, including law enforcement, services for families and children, and public assistance. In recent years, Prince George's County has been forced to expend exorbitant amounts of money, described further below, due to what is commonly referred to as the "opioid epidemic" and as a direct result of the actions of Defendants." (see attachment for full complaint)

According to the last reporting data period from the Maryland Department of Mental Health and Hygiene (MDMH) about Unintentional Drug- and Alcohol-Related Intoxication Deaths in Maryland comparing January–June 2016 to January to June 2017, Opioid-Related Deaths increased 26% to 63 in the first six months of 2017 from 50 in the first six months of 2016.

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Releases Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report

Report Details Department Initiatives and Successes in FY 2017

By PRESS OFFICER
DHCD

NEW CARROLLTON, MD—On January 25, 2018, the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development released its Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report. During this period, the department generated an economic impact of nearly \$4

billion for the state, including the creation of approximately 17,000 full-time equivalent jobs and \$941 million in wages and salaries. Each dollar of state funds supporting the department's programs created more than \$28 of impact statewide.

Project C.O.R.E. (Creating Opportunities for Renewal and Enterprise) experienced another

successful year helping Baltimore City address blight. From program inception through FY17, 1,186 units of blight have been removed through a partnership between the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, the Maryland Stadium Authority, and Baltimore City. Sixty-five projects received awards to re-

develop and beautify the city, making it a more attractive destination for businesses and families alike.

The department expanded Maryland's portfolio of high quality affordable housing options. In FY17, the department funded 41 different projects, totaling \$979 million, creating or preserving 4,254 housing units.

Neighbors from A2

a testament to her ability to inspire others.

2018 Student of the Year Scholarship:
Mercedes Thompson
Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, Baltimore City

Mercedes Thompson is a senior at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, and has been actively involved in the environmental movement from a young age. She began doing marine biology work at the National Aquarium's Henry Hall Summer Camps, and has continued her love throughout high school. She is actively involved in the environmental club at Poly, and started a high school synthetic biology research team at the Baltimore Underground Science Space, where she and her team are developing a bacterial remediation model capable of breaking down PET plastic in the Baltimore Inner Harbor. Most notably, however, is Mercedes' role as Communications Director of the local environmental organization, Baltimore Beyond Plastic, which she co-founded in December of 2016.

2018 The Honorable Arthur Dorman Scholarship:
Darrea Frazier
Homeschooled, Baltimore City

This award was named after Senator Arthur Dorman, Trust board member and pioneer in efforts to engage individuals of color in natural resources issues, and is awarded to a student of color who is active in connecting environment and community issues. This year's awardee, Darrea Frazier, is a 15 year old homeschooled student and is dual enrolled in the Gifted and Talented program at The Community College of Baltimore

County. She is an award winning artist in addition to being award winning environmentalist. A veteran volunteer at Patterson Park Audubon Center, Darrea co-lead a program without staff supervision at the age of 12. She was recently selected for the National Aquarium's prestigious Aquarium on Wheels Work-Study program. She is a Six-time National American Miss Maryland State Finalist and has won over 30 awards with NAM including the coveted Heart of Service Award last August.

2018 Educator of the Year:
Francis J. Cardo
Cecil County Public Schools

The Environmental Educator of the Year is awarded to a K-12 educator who has shown an outstanding commitment to environmental education. Francis (Frank) Cardo has been in education for over 25 years. He has worked as an educator in Florida, North Carolina, and Maryland. He has been a high school science teacher, a high school Assistant Principal, and now serves as the Program Coordinator for Science and STEM for Cecil County Public Schools. Frank has been instrumental in embedding systemic environmental education into the curriculum for every student during every academic year in the Cecil County Public Schools. He has established creative partnerships to further teacher professional development, including collaborations with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NorthBay Adventure Camp, Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, and the Department of Public Works of Cecil County. Thanks to Frank's leadership, Cecil County is now home to 9 Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor

Education Green Schools. Frank is an inspiration to students, teachers, and the community and his work to educate the next generation of environmental stewards will be an enduring legacy.

2018 Commercial Stewards Award:

Shockley Honda

Frederick County

This award, established to honor previous Chairpersons of the Chesapeake Bay Trust, recognizes an outstanding corporate or commercial entity that strives to make a difference in the community, has made a significant contribution to natural resource restoration and protection in the Chesapeake region, and engages its employees and members of the community in environmental issues. Shockley Honda is a family owned and operated dealership with a long-standing legacy of community involvement and community service. It is their mission to serve the community that supports them. They support numerous charitable causes, notably the Maryland School for the Deaf, and have made the dealership a community space hosting special events, offering complimentary yoga classes, American Sign Language classes, and more. This spring the team at Shockley Honda enthusiastically embraced the Trust's "Just Ask!" Bay Plate sales contest, winning in all four contest categories and increasing their Bay Plate sales by more than 60%. They are truly a model for the positive impact that car dealers can make on our environment and natural resources.

2018 Melanie Teems Award:

Housing Initiative

Partnership, Inc.

Prince George's County

Named after the longest-serving staff member of the Trust,

this award recognizes an exemplary project or program that engages residents in efforts to improve the region's natural resources, serving as a model for other organizations. Housing Initiative Partnership, Inc. is an innovative, green nonprofit housing developer based in Prince George's county. HIPs accomplishments are many, though the award particularly honors their Home Restoration Program's work with Prince George's County's Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative which focuses on lifting up neighborhoods that have faced significant economic, health, public safety, and educational challenges. Through their work in the Kentland/Palmer Park neighborhood they have installed approximately 25 rain barrels, removed over 4,000 square feet of concrete, installed 3,735 square feet of permeable pavers, and planted over 200 street trees. They acquired and rehabbed 6 vacant homes which were then sold to first-time homebuyers. They will soon begin construction on 9 new attached homes in Palmer Park on undeveloped land which will be built to the U.S. Department of Energy's "Net Zero Ready" standard. HIP's Home Restoration Program creates a groundswell of resident engagement in neighborhood improvements, encouraging residents to invest in their homes and property, and alerting them to the availability of funds to assist with critical home repairs, while creating an overall sense of community pride.

For more information on the Chesapeake Bay Trust, visit

See NEIGHBORS Page A5

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COMMENTARY

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



Statement and Analysis From County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III

Governor Larry Hogan's Proposed FY 2019 State Budget

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, released this statement and analysis following the announcement of funding details of Governor Hogan's Proposed FY 2019 State of Maryland budget and its impacts on Prince George's County:

"For the fourth year in a row, Governor Hogan's proposed budget for the State of Maryland adversely impacts the residents of Prince George's County and throughout the State of Maryland. Governor Hogan wants to prioritize State resources toward paying for President Trump's and Congressional Republicans' tax hike and divert needed resources for our most vulnerable populations and issues—our children's education, our fixed income and senior residents' health, and individuals and families suffering from addiction, mental health, and developmental disabilities.

Over the last seven years as Prince George's County Executive, I have fiscally governed under the mantra of "funding our priorities." We have increased funding every year during my administration toward the Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) at unprecedented levels. We have invested in public safety which has led to over a 50% reduction in both violent and overall crime for seven consecutive years. We have also invested in improving access to health care that has led to a 50% reduction in the County's uninsured rate and the building of our new University

of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center. And we have invested in ourselves by generating an unprecedented amount of economic development that has created jobs and made Prince George's County 1st in the state for job growth and 21st amongst large jurisdictions in the nation.

All of these efforts have resulted in our County leading the State in increased property values, job creation, and expansion of our commercial tax base. And instead of continuing to cut services, amenities, and funds greatly needed by Prince George's County and the rest of the State to move forward and compete, Governor Hogan should take note of our fiscal methods and our success rather than playing from same old conservative playbook of cutting services in exchange for tax cuts to benefit the wealthy."

Analysis of Governor Hogan's Proposed FY2019 State of Maryland Budget Impact on Prince George's County

Defers \$29 million in capital funding for the University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center from FY 2019 to FY 2021

• Since the 2015 Maryland General Assembly, Prince George's County and the University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS) have advo-

See BUDGET Page A5

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



Haiti Slur: Reprehensible, But Not Surprising

"Since 1804 Haiti has maintained national independence. I fling these facts at the feet of the detractors of the Negro and of Haiti. They may help them to solve the problem of her future. They not only indicate the Negro's courage, but demonstrate his intelligence as well. No better test of the intelligence of people can be had than is furnished in their laws, their institutions and their great men. To produce these in any considerable degree of perfection, a high order of ability is always required. Haiti has no cause to shrink from this test or from any other."

—Frederick Douglass, American Abolitionist, Lecture on Haiti, January 2, 1893

President Donald Trump's timing could not have been more ironic—or revealing. On the eve of the eighth anniversary of the January 12 earthquake that devastated the island nation of Haiti (and the start of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend), President Trump sat in a bipartisan meeting on immigration reform and publicly questioned why the United States—a nation founded and built by immigrants—should continue to accept immigrants from Haiti, El Salvador and Africa. With a slur heard round the world, President Trump is quoted to have uttered an obscenity to describe those countries—and Haiti, in particular.

This would not be the first time Haiti has been on the receiving end of President Trump's ridicule and contempt. Only weeks before, it was reported that during an earlier cabinet meeting on immigration, the president allegedly complained that immigrants from Nigeria would "never go back to their huts," and that people coming from Haiti "all have AIDS." And despite then-candidate Trump's pledge at a Miami rally to be the "greatest champion" of Haitian people, the Trump administration has given 60,000 Haitians living in this country under temporary protected status—granted after Haiti's catastrophic 2010 earthquake—until July 2019 to leave or be deported.

The slur is reprehensible and deeply disappointing, but it is not surprising. It lives in a universe of targeted travel bans with discriminatory religious preferences, a candidacy kicked off slandering Mexicans, sympathizing with white supremacists, attacks on protesting Black athletes, and so on. The reported obscenity is, quite frankly, in keeping with past and current sentiments the

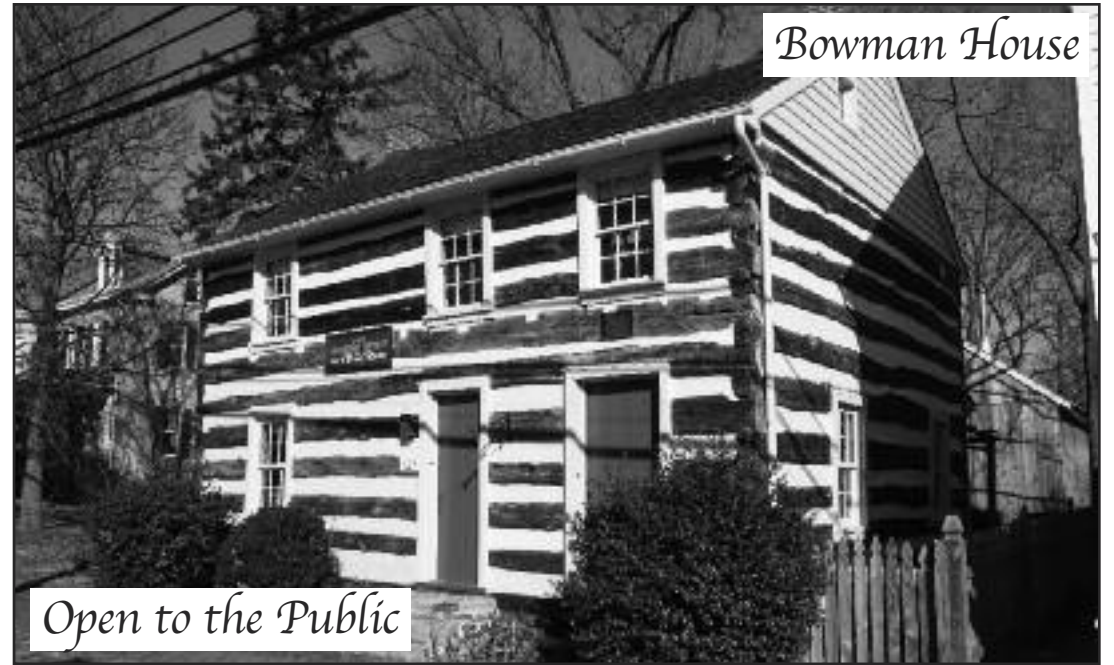
president has expressed publicly and via proxy through his administration's policies.

The true obscenity is that our nation's president is shaping immigration policy, not based on purported American ideals of inclusiveness, but based on the demonization of countries that are primarily Black or Brown; not based on facts, but by stoking fear; and not based on knowledge, but influenced by a narrow-minded worldview.

Haiti is not a slur. It is the first Black republic in the world. It is the second oldest independent nation in the Western hemisphere after the United States. Haiti achieved its independence by launching the only successful slave revolt in history. But Haiti's fight did not end on the battlefield. It moved to the global arena where external forces would punish and destabilize the young island nation for claiming its freedom, resulting in lasting economic and political turmoil. France forced Haiti to pay more than \$20 billion in today's dollars as reparations for losing a profitable slave colony—drowning Haiti in debt. The United States, which provided aid to the French to help stop the rebellion, subjected Haiti to a crippling economic embargo until it recognized its independence in 1862. Over the years the United States would go on to invade and occupy Haiti, as well as play an oversized role in its politics and elections.

Nonetheless, Haiti is deeply woven into the fabric of America's history and founding. Haitians fought in the Revolutionary War. The city of Chicago was founded by a Haitian immigrant from St. Marc. Haitian music, art and food transformed and shaped the city of New Orleans. And the Haitian slave rebellion was directly responsible for the Louisiana Purchase, which doubled the size of the United States.

As a citizen who believes Trump's slander is inconsistent with who we should aspire to be, I abhor the president's misrepresentation of America. As a former mayor of New Orleans, a city richly cultivated by the presence of Haitians, I am distressed by the president's miseducation of the valuable contributions of Haitian immigrants. As the proud descendant of a family who emigrated from Haiti in 1805, I will always challenge the president's wrong-headed assumption that immigrants are the living embodiment of the flaws and failures or upheavals of their countries of origin and cannot contribute positively in their adopted homes.



Bowman House

Open to the Public

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS PHOTO BY: ACROTHERION

BOWMAN HOUSE

The Bowman House, built by Jacob Powles during the first half of the 19th century, is typical of log houses built in Western Maryland. In 1868, John E. Bowman purchased the log house and established the Boonsboro Pottery. His kiln was about 75 feet to the rear of the building. The pottery closed in 1908, succumbing to mass-produced materials. The building is now the office of the Boonsboro Historical Society. Located at 323 North Main Street. Open May to October on the fourth Sundays, 1 PM to 4 PM. Call 301-432-8410.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Charles Merrill: The Crucial Importance Of Lanterns in Young Lives

I have been so blessed with an abundance of lanterns in my life who have been indispensable guides and supports over many decades. I shared many of them in my book *Lanterns: A Memoir of Mentors*. It has been very painful to lose so many in recent years but they are still very alive with me. Charles E. Merrill, Jr., a crucial lantern, died in November at age 97. A son and heir to the founder of Merrill Lynch, he endowed a scholarship that opened up the whole world to me as a young 18-19-year-old Black girl from a small segregated South Carolina town—a priceless gift. For the first time in my life in Europe as a Spelman College Merrill Scholar I felt what it meant to be free, to explore and savor new places and cultures and learn that I could comfortably navigate the world and connect with human beings of all races and cultures and faiths. His influence will live on in my children and grandchildren who already are exploring the world and questioning barriers to justice and individual strivings free of unjust social constructs. Equally priceless was his caring friendship and mentorship and example over the years. I thank him from the bottom of my heart for his commitment to empowering the young and his modesty and capacity for friendship that lasted a lifetime. I prayed for his peaceful passage knowing that the many seeds he planted live on in gratitude.

The first morning I woke up in freedom in a Paris hotel across from the Luxembourg Gardens, I jumped up and down and yelled and pinched myself again and again. Having no one, parent or teacher or chaperone, to prescribe the day was a miracle. That's how I learned I could travel the world without losing my moral compass and common sense and not to fear, indeed to enjoy, being alone. I learned to be comfortable in strange lands with people who speak a different language, worship God in many different ways, have different political systems and ideologies, and the same human longing for freedom. They gave me a chance to get outside myself, outside seg-

regated America, and roam around inside myself where one dreams, prays, and connects with our Creator and others.

When I was 18 years old and a sophomore at all women's Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia I'll never forget my fear when summoned to President Albert Manley's office wondering what infraction I'd been caught doing. And I'll never forget my elated disbelief at being told I'd been chosen as one of two Merrill Scholars—the greatest campus honor—providing a year of study and travel abroad. I ran back to my dorm in tears to call my Mama to share the exciting news which spread like wildfire throughout my hometown of Bennettsville, South Carolina.

I thought how pleased Daddy would be as I still think at every accomplishment. I then ran to thank Howard Zinn who had nominated me. Soon Howie and Spelman's elegant French department chair and I began discussing where to go and with which group. Smith College and Sweet Briar College were among those offering structured academic and travel programs which lent social protection and guidance abroad. But Howie in-

sisted that I not go with any group but travel on my own. This was a radical suggestion in the sheltered, planned-down-to-the-minute, closely supervised life of Spelman College.

Impressed with the confidence and pride of Morehouse men he had met in the army, Charles Merrill later sought out Morehouse College and Dr. Benjamin E. Mays and eventually chaired Morehouse's Board of Trustees. His lasting contributions include founding the Commonwealth School in Boston and establishing Merrill Scholarships for a year's travel and study abroad for Morehouse students which he later, thank goodness, extended to one Spelman student in 1957 and then two in 1958 and I was one of the lucky two. That year transformed my life and Charles Merrill's friendship enriched it.

Charles Merrill did not just give a scholarship; he gave himself in long conversations, letters, and visits. He became a life-long friend whose confidence and expectations I wanted to live up to and reciprocate. I still do.

See WATCH, Page A11

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty—Suspending Benefits to Return to Work

by Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: At the age of 63 I applied for Social Security benefits after double knee replacement. I am considering returning to work and am curious whether to stop benefits while working. Is it a better avenue to continue to receive benefits and monitor my total earnings and connect with Social Security as I reach my maximum earnings level? If so what is my responsibility to maintain proper correspondence with the Social Security Administration? And am I responsible to report earnings so I am not overpaid and penalized? I turned 64 on October 23.

Signed: Returning to Work

Dear Returning: I'm glad you've recovered from your knee surgery and are back on the road to working. I assume that when you applied at age 63 you claimed regular Social Security early retirement benefits. If that is the case, and if more than one year has passed since you started collecting benefits, you cannot suspend your benefits until you reach your full retirement age of 66. If less than a year has passed since you first filed, you can exercise the "do over" option and withdraw your application for benefits, but you'll have to repay everything you have collected, including any spousal benefits your wife may be receiving and any withheld income taxes. If you work before your full retirement age while collecting Social Security and you exceed the annual earnings limit (\$17,040 for 2018), Social Security will withhold from future benefits \$1 for every \$2 you earn over the limit. This is the case up until the year you will reach your full retirement age when the earnings limit increases substantially (\$45,360 in 2018; the limits change annually) and the benefit reduction is less (\$1 for every \$3 over the limit). Any time you know you're going to exceed the earnings limit, you should call your local Social Security office (find it at www.ssa.gov/locator) and let them know. They will compute the amount to withhold and take it out of future benefits. If you don't correspond with them (by phone is okay) about exceeding the limit, they will eventually catch up to you when you file your income tax return, send you a notification letter and withhold what's due them from your benefits at that time. Basically the onus is on you to advise them you will be over the limit, but they will catch up to you if you don't. Once you reach your full retirement age the earnings limit goes away and you can earn as much as you want without it affecting your Social Security benefit. One final note: When you reach your full retirement age, Social Security will give you time credit for any months they withheld benefits due to you exceeding the earnings limit. That means that your benefit amount at full retirement age could increase slightly, essentially giving you back over time some of the benefits they withheld.

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.

Glaros from A1

ington. The Region Forward Coalition provides cross-cutting regional policy capacity and long-range regional planning recommendations to the COG Board of Directors.

COG is an independent, nonprofit association of 23 lo-

cal 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.

Neighbors from A3

www.cbtrust.org. With requests for photos and/or contact information of the awardees, please contact Erin Valentine at evalentine@cbtrust.org or 410.974.2941, Ext. 113.

About the Chesapeake Bay Trust

The Chesapeake Bay Trust (www.cbtrust.org) is a nonprofit grant-making organization dedicated to improving the natural resources of Maryland and the Chesapeake region through environmental education, community engagement, and local watershed restoration. Since 1985, the Trust has

awarded \$90 million in grants and engaged hundreds of thousands of individuals in projects that have a measurable impact on the waterways and other natural resources of the region. The Trust is supported by the sale of the Maryland Treasure the Chesapeake license plate, donations to the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund on the Maryland State income tax form, donations from individuals and corporations, and partnerships with private foundations and federal and state agencies. Fully 92 percent of the Trust's expenditures are directed to its restoration and education programs.

*Proudly Serving
Prince George's County
Since 1932*

Governor Larry Hogan Announces Amazon Incentive Legislation

PRIME Act Provides Historic, Sweeping Tax Incentives—Part of \$5 Billion Plus Package Designed to Win HQ2

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Governor Larry Hogan today announced that the administration is filing the Promoting *ext-Raordinary Innovation in Maryland's Economy (PRIME) Act of 2018*, which provides a package of state income, property, and sales tax credits and exemptions to enable Maryland to put forward the most competitive bid possible for Amazon's second headquarters, HQ2. The proposed legislation follows Amazon's selection of Montgomery County, Maryland as one of just 20 finalists out of hundreds of bids for this historic economic development project.

"Amazon sent a clear signal that Maryland truly is open for business by selecting Montgomery County as one of an elite group of contenders for this transformative project," said Governor Hogan. "HQ2 is the single greatest economic development opportunity in a generation, and we're committing all of the resources we have to bring it home to Maryland. I look forward to continuing

to work closely with Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett and all county leadership as we do everything possible to secure this incredible opportunity."

The legislation is one component of a major incentive package that includes a budget allocation of \$10 million per year to the state's Sunny Day Fund over 15 years and billions of dollars in road, transit, and infrastructure upgrades. The state's package for Montgomery County totals over \$5 billion in incentives and transportation improvements.

"I want to thank the Governor for his strong support for our compelling case to Amazon for locating their second world headquarters in Montgomery County," said Montgomery County Executive Leggett.

The PRIME Act provides the following tax incentives for a period of 10 years:

- A state income tax credit equivalent to 5.75 percent of wages for each new qualifying headquarters job. To qualify, a job must be established within the first 17 years of the project and pay between \$60,000 and \$500,000.

- A state and local property tax credit, including a requirement for the state to reimburse the local jurisdiction for half of the property tax that would have been collected.

- A state sales and use tax exemption for construction material or warehousing equipment used in the project.

Once signed into law, the PRIME Act will be administered by the Maryland Department of Commerce and specifically applies to a Fortune 100 company creating a new headquarters facility in the state with employees earning an average salary of at least \$100,000 per year. Additionally, the company must commit to spending a minimum of \$5 billion in capital expenditures over 17 years, including \$500 million in initial project costs, and employ at least 40,000 people over this 17-year period. Amazon's HQ2 is projected to fulfill these requirements, according to the company's Request for Proposal (RFP). The incentives being provided through this legislation based on the RFP, in combination with support from the Sunny

Day Fund, will total over \$3 billion.

The bill contains claw back provisions, enabling the state to recoup any or all tax credits if the company does not meet the requirements, and stipulates that the company will cease to receive tax credits if the number of jobs declines.

"The Hogan administration has put forth an incentive package that makes Maryland competitive with any state or city in the country—we're playing to win," said Commerce Secretary Mike Gill.

The PRIME Act is part of Governor Hogan's 2018 jobs legislation, which includes the More Jobs for Marylanders 2.0 to expand and diversify the administration's successful More Jobs for Marylanders program, which incentivizes manufacturing companies to locate and grow in areas of the state with higher-than-average unemployment. Landing HQ2 in Maryland would build on the administration's major economic development successes, including retention and expansion of major companies like McCormick, Northrop Grumman, and Marriott.

Budget from A4

cated for funding certainty from our State partner. Unfortunately, the Hogan Administration has consistently been an uncertain partner over the past 4 years.

- For the past 2 sessions, the Maryland General Assembly enacted legislation mandating both the State's operating and capital budget commitments to show that the State is a partner. Chapter 19 of the 2017 Laws of Maryland provided additional capital funding flexibility by lowering the State's funding in FY 2018 (only \$11.3 million), and provided an additional year (FY 2020) to spread out the State's capital funding.

- In Governor Hogan's proposed FY 2019 budget, he defers \$29 million in capital funding from FY 2019 to FY 2021. Under State law, the Governor was required to provide \$48 million in FY 2019 and \$56.2 million in FY 2020. Instead, he provided only \$19 million in FY 2019, \$56.2 million in FY 2020, and \$29 million in FY 2021.

- In a health care industry with tremendous uncertainty, Prince George's County residents and the residents of Southern Maryland need all of our State partners to be fully committed to this transformative regional medical center.

- UMMS and Prince George's County have shown their commitments by providing funding certainty. Our region needs the same from the Hogan Administration.

Shifts 90% of the Costs of the State Department of Assessments and Taxation to Maryland Counties

- Shifts approximately \$20 million in costs to Maryland counties and Baltimore City for the operations of the State Department of Assessment and Taxation, including the Director's Office
- The estimated impact to Prince George's County will be an additional \$3 million in costs in FY 2019.

- The counties and Baltimore City already pay about \$22 million in costs for the State's as-

essment operations. Prince George's County pays approximately \$2.8 million to the State.

Level Funds the State's Grant to Local Health Departments

- The proposed budget reduces funding to the State's local health departments by \$900,000 by level funding the State grant.

- The impact to Prince George's County is approximately \$100,000.

Reduces State Funding to the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Providers by \$15 million

- The proposed budget limits the increase in the State's contribution to DDA providers to only 1%

- DDA organizations provide critical care to some of the most vulnerable populations throughout the State

- These providers need full funding of the DDA program to allow them to provide critical care to our developmentally disabled population

- Prince George's County understands the importance of these organizations and will

provide approximately \$3.5 million in FY 2018 as a stop-gap measure to fill the funding gap by the State

- The Governor needs to fully fund the DDA providers so that they can retain quality staff to care for this vulnerable population

Reductions in targeted K-12 Education Programs by \$17.1 million Across Maryland

- Reduces the Public School Opportunities Fund program by \$5 million - program to expand or create extended day and summer enhancement programs

- Reduces the Next Generation Scholars Program by \$5 million—program that enhances college and career awareness for low-income students

- Reduces the Teacher Induction and Retention Program by \$5.0 million—program that assists first-time teachers induction in the classroom and assists in the retention of teachers across Maryland

- Reduces the Quality Teacher Stipend Program by \$2.1 million—program to attract and retain qualified teachers

Strawberry from A1

spring months. Controlling this trait and understanding the process, genetically and environmentally, is very important to the strawberry industry. "When you are trying to fruit strawberry plants, turning off runner production would really help the growers," explains Mike Newell, Senior Faculty Specialist and Horticultural Crops Program Manager at the Wye Research and Education Center,

who works with strawberry growers. "Depending on the strawberry production system used, runner production may or may not be desirable, and they may have to be manually removed. Nurseries on the other hand would love runners so they can sell more tips to growers. Controlling this would certainly help growers and nurseries from different sides."

This work not only has the potential to improve strawberry production with currently popu-

lar varieties and growing methods, but could increase yields even more with the popularization of different varieties that are less viable at the moment due to runner behavior. "Most strawberry plants in use today are known as June bearers, or plants that only produce berries once per year," explained Dr. Liu. "Since strawberry plants are only kept for two years due to significant production drop off with age, farmers only get two harvests from a typical June bearer.

Ever-bearers on the other hand can produce multiple harvests each year, increasing overall strawberry yield. But they are relatively unpopular at the moment for farmers and at nurseries because they are poor runner makers—it is difficult to propagate ever bearers. If we can find a way to induce runner production in ever-bearers, the market for these strawberry plants could open up, increasing strawberry yield and having major impacts on production."

Review from A1

psions of Prince George's County elected officials, and those in our neighboring jurisdictions, and we are thankful for their dedication to this effort. The Council will be reviewing the recommendations and supporting documentation in the weeks and months ahead."

Compensation Review Board Member M.H. Jim Es-

tepp noted the significant work of Prince George's County's public officials.

"We have some outstanding public servants and elected officials working on behalf of County residents and the public is generally unaware of the effort that is expended on their behalf. While we cannot provide compensation similar to that of a corporate entity, the Compensation Board's recommendations are moderate

and in line with the work done on behalf of the citizens."

The Compensation Review Board studied information on salary, benefits and pensions, providing the basis for its recommendations, which included a one-time salary adjustment for Council Members in December 2018, and adjusting salaries for the County Executive and County Council in accordance with the Consumer Price Index.

To view the full Compensation Review Report and recommendations, please click [HERE](#).

Pursuant to Charter Section 308 and Charter Section 406, the Council may, within ninety days of the receipt of the Compensation Review Board's recommendation, amend the recommendation by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the full Council; otherwise the recommendation shall stand approved.

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

Lady Bird

Lady Bird
Grade: A-

Rated R, some harsh profanity,
some moderate sexuality,
brief graphic nudity seen
in a magazine
1 hr., 33 min

Greta Gerwig, the pixie-like pillar of indie film and an indomitable screen presence, recently starred in and co-wrote *Frances Ha* and *Mistress America* with her boyfriend, Noah Baumbach, who directed them. But for her latest effort, the outstanding autobiographical comedy *Lady Bird*, she takes the director's chair herself and casts Saoirse Ronan as her 17-year-old avatar, Christine McPherson, who has given herself the nickname "Lady Bird" as a quirky affectation. It's a fine nickname, but now what are they going to call the movie about Lyndon B. Johnson's wife?

The year is 2002, because why not? *Lady Bird* lives in Sacramento ("the Midwest of California"), much to her own chagrin, and wants to go as far East as possible for college, much to the chagrin of her mother (Laurie Metcalf). Typical of girls her age, *Lady Bird* has a fractious relationship with her mom and adores her dad (Tracy Letts), who putters around quietly in the background while Mom plays bad cop about *Lady Bird*'s grades, college applications, and such. When they argue yet again about in-state schools being cheaper than East Coast ones, *Lady Bird* expresses her anger by jumping from a moving car, breaking her arm, and writing "F*** YOU MOM" on her cast. So it's like that.

The film spans *Lady Bird*'s senior year at a Catholic girls' school where she has not always put forth her best effort, academically speaking. She and her zafzig



ROTTENTOMATOES

In *Lady Bird*, Greta Gerwig reveals herself to be a bold new cinematic voice with her directorial debut, excavating both the humor and pathos in the turbulent bond between a mother and her teenage daughter. Christine "Lady Bird" McPherson (Saoirse Ronan) fights against but is exactly like her wildly loving, deeply opinionated and strong-willed mom (Laurie Metcalf), a nurse working tirelessly to keep her family afloat after *Lady Bird*'s father (Tracy Letts) loses his job. Set in Sacramento, California in 2002, amidst a rapidly shifting American economic landscape, *Lady Bird* is an affecting look at the relationships that shape us, the beliefs that define us, and the unmatched beauty of a place called home.

best friend, Julie (Beanie Feldstein), aren't exactly unpopular, but *Lady Bird* is self-conscious about living in the "wrong" part of town when so many of their classmates lives in tonier neighborhoods. ("How in the world did I raise such a snob?" her mother wonders, not without reason.) *LB*'s social circle expands when she starts seeing Danny (Lucas Hedges), a boy she meets at auditions for the school musical, and then Kyle (Timothée Chalamet), a willowy bass player, both of whom have popular friends like queen bee Jenna (Odeya Rush). This being a coming-of-age story about a teenage girl, you may rest

assured *Lady Bird* ditches frumpy Julie for cooler friends, with equal reassurance that she eventually repents of this.

Gerwig packs an impressive amount of relatable teen angst into just 93 minutes, covering such topics as virginity-loss, homosexuality, depression, and class struggles, all while maintaining a sharp sense of humor and an authentic voice. There's not an ounce of contrivance or phoniness. (Joking aside, that's why the film is set in 2002: because it's where Gerwig's memories of this stage of life are.) I don't know if a teenage Gerwig really did throw herself from a

moving vehicle out of exasperation with her mother, but that moment and all of the film's other moments feel true.

The performances are spot-on, especially the two that matter most: Saoirse Ronan as *Lady Bird* and Laurie Metcalf as her mother. Both characters are vivid and flawed, and both actresses play them with compassion and nuance. *Lady Bird* is self-centered; her mother is reflexively critical; yet they're bonded in the unbreakable way of mothers and daughters. When it's over, you may want to pick up the phone and call Laurie Metcalf (or your own mom, whatever).

Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, Hosts FY 2019 Proposed Budget Hearings

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, hosts public hearings to present residents with an overview of the proposed FY 2019 Prince George's County budget which began on January 30th at Oxon Hill High School, and continues on February 8th at Prince George's Community College (PGCC), and February 13th at Laurel High School. Each budget hearing will begin at 7:00 p.m.

"I encourage residents to join us for this year's budget hearings to share your opinions and ideas about the upcoming FY 2019 budget," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "The FY 2019 Budget will be the last one of my administration and as I have learned over my tenure as Prince George's County Executive, these hearings really do matter. The sessions and the feedback we receive from engaged members of our communities give my administration an opportunity to hear directly from the people we serve. The issues that residents

highlight during these hearings provide insight that is helpful during our budget deliberations."

Residents are encouraged to attend the public hearings and provide comments for the County Executive to consider for inclusion into the overall budget. Residents interested in testifying are encouraged to pre-register by calling (301) 952-4547 or to register online at <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/2404>

Comments will be timed and limited to three (3) minutes per person or one representative per organization or agency. All Budget Hearings will be streamed

live on the County's website at www.princegeorgescountymd.gov on the dates scheduled below.

Schedule of FY 2019 Budget Hearings:

Thursday, February 8, 2018,
7:00 p.m.
Prince George's
Community College
Rennie Forum
301 Largo Road
Largo, MD
Tuesday, February 13, 2018,
7:00 p.m.
Laurel High School
8000 Cherry Lane
Laurel, MD

Changes Made at DuVal High School to Ensure Academic Integrity

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) has made changes to the leadership team and staff at DuVal High School due to non-compliance with district grading and graduation procedures. A support team of central office supervisors has been assigned to DuVal High School to assess the situation, assist in the improvement process, and support the school during this transition.

"As I stated previously, intentional violations of school system policies and procedures will not be tolerated," said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer. "Changes are being made to improve student achievement and strengthen the DuVal community's confidence in its school."

An investigation by the Prince George's County Board of Education's Office of Internal Audit and the recent State performance audit of grading and graduation rates corroborate evidence that some DuVal

High School staff made inappropriate decisions that impacted the grading and graduation certification processes. The school system will continue to review this matter and keep parents informed.

Information obtained through the PGCPS compliance hotline led to the review of grading practices and graduation certification for the 2016 and 2017 school years. Internal Audit turned over its information to State auditors to be included in the State's recently released review of PGCPS graduation rates.

PGCPS remains committed to addressing confirmed evidence of violations of school system policies and procedures. The details of personnel actions are confidential.

The school system will be working with DuVal High School to provide additional academic support for current students as needed. Recent graduates with questions or concerns related to grading and graduation certification should contact us at the following email; gradsupport@pgcps.org for assistance.

Keep Pests Outside

Safely Manage Insects on Indoor Plants

By Melinda Myers

Winter can be hard on gardeners and our indoor plants. Low light, shorter days and dry air stress our houseplants while helping insects thrive. Don't despair if insects have moved in and your plants are struggling with yellow or speckled leaves. Instead, invest a bit of time and effort managing these pests and keeping your plants looking their best.

Start by making sure your plants receive the proper amount of light and water. A healthy plant is better able to resist and recover from insect infestations. Check the plant tag, internet or plant book for the recommended growing conditions.

Make needed adjustments in your plant's care. Then take a closer look at the upper and lower leaf surfaces and stems of the plants for clues to the cause of the problem. Here are some of the more common indoor plant pests and organic options, safe for children and pets, for managing them.

Fungus gnats are those small fruit fly-like insects that flit around your house. They feed on plant roots and organic matter in the soil. They usually don't harm the plants, but certainly are annoying.

Just sprinkle an organic insecticide like Summit Mosquito Bits, that contain the active ingredient *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* on the soil surface. This naturally occurring bacterium only kills the larvae of fungus gnats, black flies and mosquitoes.

Aphids are common pests of indoor and outdoor plants. These small teardrop shaped insects suck plant juices, causing the leaves to yellow, brown, wilt or become distorted. They secrete a clear sticky substance known as honeydew.

Mites cause similar damage, but are too small to see without a hand lens. If you suspect mites, shake a leaf over a white piece of paper and watch for specks, the mites, moving across the paper. Don't wait until you see webbing to control these pests. At that point there are thousands of mites making it difficult to control.

Both these types of pests can be managed in the same way. Start by placing plants in the sink or tub and knock the insects off the plant with a strong blast of water. Follow with several applications of insecticidal soap to kill the adults. Repeat as needed. Or suffocate all stages of the insects with a lightweight horticulture oil like Summit Year-Round Spray Oil (SummitResponsibleSolutions.com).

Bumps on the stems and leaves of plants that can be easily scraped off with a thumbnail are scales. Their shells protect the adults and eggs from predators, weather and most insecticides. A similar pest, mealybug, has white waxy strands on its body for protection. Mealybugs can be found on stems, leaves and area where leaves and stems meet.

Both types of insects suck the plant juices, causing leaves to yellow and plants to decline. And just like aphids and mites, they secrete honeydew. Both are difficult to control and require persistence on your part.

For mealybugs, remove the hard scale covering with your thumbnail or old toothbrush. Use a cotton swab dipped in alcohol to dissolve its waxy covering and kill the insect. Then spray with insecticidal soap to kill the immature insects. This takes time and persistence to control these pests.

Or apply a lightweight horticulture oil, like that used for mites and aphids, to suffocate both the adult and immature stages of these pests. Continue to watch for outbreaks and treat as needed.

No matter what products you choose, natural or synthetic, make sure they are labeled for the plant and pest you are treating. And always read and follow label directions carefully.

Investing time in managing pests as soon as they appear means healthy and more attractive plants to brighten your indoor décor now and for years to come.

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



PHOTO COURTESY MELINDA MYERS

Aphids on plants

Calendar of Events

February 1 — February 7, 2018

The Plummer Family: From Slavery to Freedom

Date and time: Friday, February 2, 2018, 12:15 PM–3:15 PM
Description: Adam Francis Plummer, the patriarch of the African American Plummer family, lived at Riversdale. In this exhibit, we recognize the 20th anniversary of the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998 by recounting how some members of his family successfully escaped to freedom, while others waited for legal emancipation. We continue the family's stories after freedom and into the 20th century.
Cost: \$5 for ages 19–59; \$4 for 60 and better; \$2 for 5–18
Ages: 5 and older
Location: Riversdale House Museum
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

Film Screening: The Great War

Date and time: Saturday, February 3, 2018, 12:00 PM– 3:00 PM
Description: Drawing upon memoirs, letters, and unpublished diaries, this expansive documentary tells the story of American participation in World War I and how the war forever changed the world. This tale is told through the voices of journalists, aviators, nurses, and American troops who served both at home and abroad. This screening will focus on the African-American experience during World War I with excerpts from this new documentary. Docents will also be available to lead tours of the M-NCPPC Black History Program's exhibition on World War I and the African American experience. Exhibit hours are below:
Exhibit Gallery Hours: Monday–Friday: 8:30 am to 8 pm
Saturday: 10 am to 4 pm
Sunday: 10 am to 2 pm
Cost: Admission is 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

Underground Performance Road

Date and time: Saturday, February 3, 2018, 12:00 PM– 2:30 PM
Description: Program participants of all ages from the community come together to sing, act, tap dance, and rhyme to commemorate significant historic events during the time of the Underground Railroad.
Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Prince George's Plaza Community Center
6600 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD
Contact: 301-864-1611; TTY 301-699-2544

Blacks in Classical Music Panel

Date and time: Saturday, February 3, 2018, 1:00 PM
Description: In honor of Black History Month, music experts help clarify, solidify, and highlight the strong role Blacks have had in the world of classical music—past, present, and future—as well as the popular idea of adapting a variety of genres into classical music including jazz, R&B, hip-hop, and gospel.
Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD
Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Honoring African-American Contributions in Sport

Date and time: Saturday, February 3, 2018, 1:00 PM–4:00 PM
Description: Join us as we celebrate the many African-Americans who have made a difference in sports on and off the field of play. Enjoy live music, a sports museum, live entertainment, dynamic speakers, vendors, and much more.
Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Southern Region Technology and Recreation Complex
7007 Bock Road, Fort Washington, MD
Contact: 301-749-4160; TTY 301-699-2544

Afternoon Aviators: Simulators and African American Pilots

Date and time: Saturday, February 3, 2018, 2:00 PM
Description: Many barriers stood in the way of African Americans becoming pilots, notably access to education. This month we will learn about African American pilots who persevered through many obstacles while we try “flying” aircraft from different eras of aviation on simulators.
Cost: \$5/person includes museum admission
Ages: 6 and older
Location: College Park Aviation Museum
1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD
Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

Black History Gospel Celebration

Date and time: February 3, 2018, 6:00 PM–8:00 PM
Description: Join us as we celebrate gospel music's contributions to Black history with performances from local church choirs and dancers. Refreshments will be served.
Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Hillcrest Heights Community Center
2300 Oxon Run Drive, Temple Hills, MD
Contact: 301-505-0896; TTY 301-699-2544

Daniel Beaty: Emergency

Date and time: Saturday, February 3, 2018, 8:00 PM
Description: A slave ship suddenly appears in present-day New York City harbor, setting off a series of events and reactions from more than two dozen characters, all embodied in this astonishing, Obie award-winning, one-man performance. Heralded by the Cincinnati CityBeat as “a masterful performer,” actor, poet, singer, and writer Daniel Beaty (a regular of Russell Simmons' Def Poetry Jam) weaves a narrative that is a stirring commentary on what it is to be human with the longing to be free.
Cost: \$25/person; \$20/for seniors, students & groups of 20 or more
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Publick Playhouse,
5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Shower or Bath: Which Is Better for the Environment?

Dear EarthTalk:

Can you settle this age-old question for me once and for all: Is it greener to take showers or baths? And how can I save water either way?

—Tim Jackson,
Queensbury, NY

Like most good questions, it depends... The main variables are how long the shower takes and the flow rate of the shower head. A typical bathtub holds 36 gallons of water, but most of us only fill it up partially. For baseline purposes, let's assume a typical bath uses 25 gallons. Meanwhile, a typical shower head does out 2.5 gallons per minute (GPM). (In 1992 the federal government mandated that all new shower heads sold in the U.S. had to be 2.5 GPM, although California, Colorado and New York have since instituted even lower limits for their own states.) According to this scenario, a 10-minute shower would use as much water as 25-gallon bath.

If you can spend less than 10 minutes in the shower, all the better for the environment. Likewise, if you install a low-flow shower head—some models go as low as 1.5 GPM now—you can save even more water and money on your water bill. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) “WaterSense” label marks shower heads that are particu-

larly miserly when it comes to water usage.

But just because a new shower head is low-flow doesn't mean it has to feel like it, given the genius of engineering going into new products from fixture makers. Delta may be leading the pack with its “H₂Okinetic” design that uses physically larger water droplets to provide what it describes as “the feeling of more water without using more water.” Its budget-oriented 75152 model (~\$30 online) can be toggled between 2.5 GPM and a stingy 1.8 GPM, and is a top pick on leading review site Wirecutter. “On its 2.5 GPM setting...the Delta 75152 delivers a powerful, soaking spray through its four nozzles, which create a much denser spray pattern than the ring of spray holes found on most budget showerheads,” reports Wirecutter.

Yet another way to cut down on water waste in the shower is by using a so-called “shower timer” that lets you know how long you've been scrubbing. Waterproof timers go from anywhere between \$6 and \$20 online; it might be the best investment in water conservation you could make. A more elaborate version is the \$149 Shower Manager, a battery-powered device that you install between an existing shower head and its supply pipe in order to ratchet down the flow significantly or shuts the shower off completely after a pre-set period of time.



CREDIT: JON RAWLINSON, FLICKRCC

Whether or not a shower or bath uses less water depends on various factors including how much you fill the tub, how long you spend in the shower and the “gallons per minute” rating of your shower head.

For those of us who just can't give up our baths, there are some things we can do to keep the water waste to a minimum. For starters, plug the drain before you start running the water and adjust the temperature as it fills up. Also, only fill up the tub to the minimal level you'll

need to get your body wet and washed. And truly committed environmentalists can find a way to reuse the “graywater” from the bathtub to irrigate your garden or water your houseplants, either by rigging up some kind of hose system or just with a plain old bucket.

CONTACTS:

EPA Watersense Showerheads, www.epa.gov/watersense/showers; Delta's “H₂Okinetic” Design, www.deltafaucet.com/design-innovation/innovations/shower/h2okinetic-showers; “Best Showerhead: Reviews by Wirecutter,” thewirecutter.com/reviews/the-best-shower-head; Shower Manager, www.showermanager.com.

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DRAFT Performance Report Update and Comment Period on the State of Maryland's Consolidated Plan

By PRESS OFFICER
MDHCD

LANHAM, MD—Notice is hereby given that the State of Maryland has opened a 30 day public comment period on the draft Consolidated Plan Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

The Consolidated Plan is a planning document required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and is prepared by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). It covers a five year period (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2019) and is designed to coordinate Federal and, to a lesser extent, State resources to provide decent housing, economic opportunities, and an acceptable living environment for Maryland's citizens. The Plan is updated every year during the five year period through an Annual Action Plan, and includes a series of one year goals toward meeting the overall five year goals of the Plan.

Maryland's Consolidated Plan covers the state's non-enti-

tlement jurisdictions. Entitlement jurisdictions—those that receive funding directly from HUD, including Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Harford, Howard, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, and the Cities of Annapolis, Baltimore, Bowie, Cumberland, Frederick, Gaithersburg, Hagerstown, and Salisbury - prepare their own Consolidated Plans and are not covered by the State plan.

As part of the Consolidated Planning process, the State submits a CAPER to HUD which describes the progress the State has made in carrying out the one-year goals contained in the five year Plan. DHCD has just completed the third year of the five year Plan that ended June 30, 2017, and the draft CAPER details the progress DHCD made toward it housing and community development goals both in the last year, the previous year and for the full five years of the Plan.

DHCD is interested in public input and comment on the draft CAPER. We will take written comments (via either email or standard post) on the report

THROUGH COB WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2018 at the address listed below. In addition, we will hold a series of public meetings on the CAPER at the following dates, times, and places:

Monday, February 5, 2018

at 7:00 PM
Towson Library
320 York Road
Wilson Room
Towson, MD

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

at 10:30 AM
Caroline County
Central Library
100 Market Street
Small Meeting Room
Denton, Maryland

Thursday, February 8, 2018

at 10:30 AM
Fairview Branch Library
Small Meeting Room
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road
Owings, Maryland

Friday, February 9, 2018

at 1:30 PM
Allegany County
Office Complex
701 Kelly Road
Potomac Room 230
Cumberland, MD

All of the hearing rooms are accessible to persons with disabilities. Persons requiring a translator should request one at least three days prior to the hearing they plan to attend.

The draft Performance Report is available on-line on DHCD's website at <http://dhcd.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx>. It can be found under the “Publications” heading at the bottom of the website. In addition, copies of the draft Annual Plan are available at the following libraries: the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, the Blackwell Library in Salisbury, the Washington County Free Library in Hagerstown, the Lewis J. Ort Library in Frostburg, the Frederick Douglas Library in Princess Anne, and the Southern Maryland Regional Library in Charlotte Hall. A large print version is available at the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in Baltimore. Free copies of the draft Performance Report are also available by calling, or emailing me at 301-429-7445, TTY 1-800-735-2258, or janai.street@maryland.gov.

TAKE BACK THE TAP

BOTTLED WATER IS NOT SAFER THAN TAP WATER

TUESDAY TIP

Tap water is subject to more stringent regulation and is more frequently screened for dangerous pollutants. Through production and transport, bottled water uses the equivalent of between 32 and 54 barrels of oil, enough to fuel about 1.5 million cars for a year.

ENVIRONMENTAL

RICHARD I. BAKER, III
County Executive