

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1932

Vol. 86, No. 13 March 29 — April 4, 2018

Prince George's County, Maryland

Newspaper of Record

Phone: 301-627-0900

25 cents



Stairway on the campus of the University of Maryland, College Park

PHOTO COURTESY BGERVALS; WIKIMEDIA

In-State Tuition Bill Aimed at 'Dreamers' Advances in MD

By HANNAH BROCKWAYR
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—A bill that aims to ensure young, undocumented Maryland students referred to as “Dreamers,” can pursue higher education by giving qualified

individuals access to in-state tuition is advancing in the Maryland General Assembly.

The circumstances under which Dreamers and residents with temporary protective status are exempt from paying the out-of-state tuition rate at public institutions of higher education

will be altered under House bill 1536, which is cross-filed as Senate bill 546.

Under the legislation, qualified students would soon be able to pay the in-state tuition rate at any Maryland public higher education institution or the in-county rate at any com-

munity college, regardless of whether they live in that county.

The current state Dream Act, passed in 2012, says that an individual who attended a Maryland high school for at least three

See DREAMERS Page A5

University of Maryland Business Students Providing Tax Filing Assistance

By PRESS OFFICER
University of Maryland

COLLEGE PARK, MD—For the fourth consecutive year, students of the University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business are preparing income tax returns for UMD students and staff, as well as individuals from the surrounding community.

Smith's Master Service Club is providing the service from 6-9 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, in 3505 Van Munching Hall on UMD's College Park campus.

The club, comprised of undergraduates and graduate students, is serving as an IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance chapter. Accordingly, the service is designed to serve low-to-mid-income individuals and families, the elderly, students and persons with disabilities. Tax filers with incomes in 2017 under \$54,000 are eligible for the service at UMD.

For the participating students, “the tax-filing assistance is a realistic work experience, as the

See TAX HELP Page A3

County Council Launches “Council Connections”

E-Newsletter Provides Residents with a Weekly Overview of Council Actions, Initiatives and Events

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Council

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George's County Council, in an effort to heighten public awareness and civic engagement, has launched “Council Connections” a weekly e-newsletter providing subscribers with an overview of Council actions, initiatives and events. Council Connections highlights the Council's weekly activities, and provides important links to upcoming meetings and events

posted to the Council website, pgccouncil.us

Council Chair Danielle Glaros (D) - District 3, says the Council's e-newsletter should prove a useful tool for residents.

“This Council is working hard to stay connected with residents and to help constituents remain engaged with us as we move the County forward together. Beyond a summary of our work during the week, we include links that lead readers

See CONNECTIONS Page A3

Laurel Historical Society Names New Executive Director

By PRESS OFFICER
Laurel Historical Society

LAUREL, MD—The Laurel Historical Society (LHS) is pleased to announce the selection of Ann Bennett as its new Executive Director beginning

April 1, 2018. Bennett has more than 20 years' experience working in museums, education and archaeology. She brings to the LHS a broad set of skills and hands-on experience in many ar-

reas, including education, grants, volunteer management, exhibits, and collections management. “We are so pleased to have someone of Ann's caliber lead the LHS. She will bring a multitude of interests and a skill set that matches our needs. When combined with her can-do attitude, I believe the LHS is set to write our next chapter in Laurel's history,” stated LHS Board Chair Jhanna Levin.

Noted Bennett: “I am excited to join the Laurel Historical Society because it is such a great asset to our community. I believe that small museums and historical societies are where the real treasures are, and there is some-

thing honest about collections and programs that connect so directly to the community in which

See LAUREL Page A6



PHOTO COURTESY THE LAUREL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Ann Bennett stands next to The Laurel Museum sign

April 1, 2018. Bennett has more than 20 years' experience working in museums, education and archaeology. She brings to the LHS a broad set of skills and hands-on experience in many ar-

Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention Announces Nearly \$40,000 in State Grants for Deaf Crime Victims

Funding Will Provide Services Through the Deaf Survivors Project

By PRESS OFFICER
Governor's Press Office

ANNAPOLIS, MD—The Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention today announced a grant of \$37,882 to the Deaf Abused Women Network (DAWN) for the Deaf Survivors project. DAWN's mission is to promote healthy relationships and end abuse in the deaf community.

“Our administration is committed to ensuring the safety of all of our citizens, and this includes supporting crime victims who are members of the deaf community in Maryland,” said Governor Hogan. “This community has unique needs and this program will ensure that deaf victims have access to the resources and services they need to be safe.”

The purpose of the Deaf Survivors project is to develop and implement strategies



SCREEN SHOT COURTESY THE GOVERNORS COORDINATING OFFICE VIA YOUTUBE
Governor Larry Hogan announces nearly \$40,000 in State Grants for deaf crime victims.

specifically intended to provide assistance to deaf survivors of abuse. The project will provide accessible advocacy services to deaf residents who experience domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human traffick-

ing, and/or bullying to help them heal and progress with their lives.

“This is a great first step in addressing this serious issue by meeting the community's specific needs through

culturally and linguistically accessible services in Maryland,” said Kelby Brick, Executive Director of the Gov-

See CRIME Page A3

INSIDE

Governor Appoints Two New Members to Chesapeake Bay Trust Board of Trustees

Through \$10 million in 400 grants made each year, 80,000 students and 40,000 volunteers plant thousands of trees, install hundreds of rain barrels, and accomplish a variety of other improvement activities.

Community, Page A3

Van Hollen, Tester Introduce Legislation to Fully Fund Special Education

IDEA Full Funding Act would require regular increases in IDEA spending to finally meet our commitment to America's children and schools.

Commentary, Page A4

House Appropriations Committee Weighs Bill to Enforce Maryland Hiring Law

An email from March of 2017 obtained by Capital News Service summarized a new hiring policy for at-will employees at the health department that would require vetting by the governor's office of appointments for three types of positions.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: *Insidious: The Last Key*

BA prologue depicting Elise's childhood in New Mexico shows she's always had “the gift” for communicating with spirits, which her mother (Tessa Ferrer) tried to foster and her prison-guard father (Josh Stewart) tried to beat out of her.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

I need to get my roof replaced as a result of storm damage (thanks global warming!). Is Tesla's solar roof a good deal and do other companies offer similar products—with the photovoltaic cells integrated into the roofing material?

—Kenny S., Vero Beach, F

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Founded in Washington, Toys R Us announces closing a week before its founder dies

When the McHales moved to Maryland from California in 1958 with our big family, we made an amazing find—Children's Supermart at 5th & K NW. Discounted toys of all kinds! The name soon evolved into Toys R Us (with the R backwards) and with Geoffrey the Giraffe as "spokesanimal."

The company was founded in Washington by Charles Lazarus during the post-war baby-boom era in 1948 as a baby-furniture retailer. Its first location was at 2461 18th St. NW. In about 1957 it opened at 5th & K, and in time, moved to Marlow Heights, then Camp Springs and then Clinton, where it still is. Other nearby stores today are at Tanger Outlets in Oxon Hill, St. Charles Towne Center in Waldorf, and Annapolis. Currently, Toys R Us has 1758 stores worldwide and includes Babies R Us.

On Sept. 18, 2017 the company filed for bankruptcy. On March 15 it was revealed that Toys R Us is officially going out of business, selling all 800 of its U.S. stores.

On March 22 its founder, Charles Lazarus, died of respiratory failure at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. He was 94.

Changing landscape

As Toys R Us folds, there'll be giant going-out-of-business sales, followed by landlords with big empty spaces. What, for instance, is likely to go in the Toys R Us site in Clinton? (Also, if you have a Toys R Us gift card, use it fast.)

Allentown Andrews Gateway Center is under construction at Branch Avenue and Allentown Road. It will include 36,000

square feet of retail, a Lidl grocery, Wawa gas station, 60 townhouses, park landscaping with courtyards, plazas and parks.

People

Condolences to Phil Eppard, of Auth Village, on the death of his sister, Suzie Eppard, who died March 19 in Miami.

Morningside VFD volunteers headed over, on March 16, to the Metro Area Transit Authority to get training on Metro's system elevators and escalators. Prince George's Fire Department and partners coordinated this. As their website states, "We are always training to improve ourselves."

I have enjoyed having daughter Therese Gallegos visiting for two weeks from her home in Brownsville, Texas. She has been a wonderful help and great fun.

Breakfast coming up for Mother & Family

The Mother/Family Breakfast (formerly, Mother-Daughter Breakfast) is coming to the Parish Hall at St. Philip's in Camp Springs on Sunday, May 6, following the 9 a.m. Mass. For information, contact Karin Yeatman, 301-899-7784.

St. Philip's Sodality held its first Mother-Daughter Breakfast, under the chairmanship of Alma Broderick, on April 3, 1960 at Wallace's Restaurant in Marlow Heights. (Any of you remember Wallace's Restaurant?)

Did you know?

Prince George's County has the 21st highest rate of employment growth (3.5%) among the 347 largest counties in the U.S. This is according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

More about Eva

In my last column, I ran a short obituary for Eva Frances

Blakeney Hay, of Morningside, who died Feb. 9. Her daughter Ruth Anthony emailed with lots more about her mom:

Eva was born April 15, 1928, grew up in Washington and graduated from Chamberlain High School. She met Jack Hay at the Warner Theatre where she worked for several years. They married in 1951.

She worked for a time at National Capital Bank. But she returned to the movies and had a long career in area theaters—the Coral Hills, Highland, New Carrollton and finally Marlow Heights. She started at Marlow Heights when it was a single theater, stayed on when it became a twin and when it grew to six screens. She retired in 1988 as manager of the Marlow Heights Theatre. And then, as Ruth says, "She enjoyed 30 years of retirement with her family."

Eva's husband of 61 years, Jack, died in 2013 and all seven of her siblings preceded her in death. Survivors include son Jack II and his wife Kim, daughter Ruth and her husband John Anthony, grandchildren Amy Wade, John Anthony III and Eva Marie Anthony, and four great-grandchildren, one of whom, Peyton, shares Eva's birthday. This April 15 Eva would have turned 90.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Ruth Anthony, my great-grandson Jack McHale, and Hudson Murphy Glaubitz, March 23; Lewis Woods, March 24; Ken Kyser and Jay Rollins, March 25; Gina Foster, March 26; Walter Dimes, March 27; Robert Hay, Jr. and David Righter, March 28; Kimberly Smith, March 29; Akwete Bedewi, March 30;

See MORNINGSIDE Page A5

Neighborhoods

Baysox Unveil 2018 Promotional Schedule

BOWIE, MD—There's so much happening at the Bowie Baysox in 2018! The packed promotional event and giveaway schedule features 19 post-game fireworks shows including a special display for the 4th of July, along with great premium giveaways including a Trey "Iron" Mancini Bobble Head (1st 1,000 fans ages 13+) on "Superhero Day" Sunday, July 8 and a Jonathan Schoop Bobble Head (1st 1,000 fans ages 13+) on Orioles Pride Day, slated for Sunday, July 22. Both Bobble Head giveaways are presented by 2018 Baysox season sponsor, Money One Federal Credit Union.

The Baysox will once again honor their similar namesake in the third annual David Bowie Tribute event on Friday, July 20 as the Baysox honor the legendary musician with an event that features music, specially designed game worn jerseys and more. Maryland Pride Day returns to the schedule on Sunday, June 3 with a Baysox Hat Giveaway (1st 1,000 fans ages 13+), sponsored by Money One Federal Credit Union, that features the Maryland Flag on the hat's bill. After the game on June 3, all kids in attendance can take part in the Helicopter Candy Drop presented by Pump It Up Lanham-Bowie where over 10,000 pieces of candy will be dropped onto the outfield for kids to collect and enjoy. The ever popular Star Wars Night returns on Saturday, June 16 with appearances by Star Wars characters, light saber battles and more. Actor Danny Woodburn, who played Mickey Abbott on Seinfeld and has appeared in over 130 television shows and 28 films, will make an appearance during Salute to Seinfeld Night on Saturday, July 21.

Former American League MVP, Rookie of the Year, two-time World Series Champion and six-time All-Star José Canseco will make his first ever appearance at the Baysox on Thursday, June 14. Canseco will be on hand to sign autographs for fans during the game. The former Outfielder/DH had a 17-year Major League Baseball career with Oakland, Texas, Boston, Toronto, Tampa, New York and Chicago White Sox.

Mystery is back on Thursday, May 3 with the Mystery Bobble Head (1st 350 fans ages 13+) giveaway when the Baysox clean out the promo closet and give away bobble heads of Babe Ruth, Zach Britton, Dylan Bundy, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, Manny Machado and more. The Baysox will celebrate Mother's Day on Sunday, May 13 with a Baysox Wine Glass giveaway (1st 250 moms ages 21+) presented by Money One Federal Credit Union. Sunday, June 17 is Father's Day and fans can come out early for a pre-game autograph session with Baysox Players and help attempt to set a new World Record for most people simultaneously playing catch before the game. There will be a Baysox baseball giveaway (1st 700 Dads) courtesy of the City of Bowie.

Sunday, August 5 is Margaritaville Day at the ballpark and the Baysox will take the field as the Baysharks to celebrate Shark Week with a game-worn jersey auction.

While the whole family can enjoy the best fireworks in the region 19 times this season, there are a number of activities planned for younger fans highlighted by appearances from animated television characters. Sunday, April 8 is Our Little Pony & Petting Zoo Day as special ponies Rainbow Dash and Twilight Sparkle join the fun along with a live petting zoo and pony rides for kids. Sunday, May 6 is one of two Character-A-Palooza days featuring appearances by Peppa & George and the famous pet vet Doc McStuffins. The second Character-A-Palooza of the season is slated for Sunday, August 26 with appearances from Shimmer, Shine & Vampirina.

Sunday, August 26th brings the first annual Chrome Run Car Show presented by the Asphalt Angels of Maryland Car Club and will feature dozens of vintage vehicles on display, vying for trophies and awards with Baysox fans being able to vote on their favorites.

Bring Out The Doggies on Mondays! Every Monday home games (six in all) fans can bring their well-behaved and leashed four-legged friends out for Mutt Mondays presented by Bark! Pawssitive Pet Food. Tuesdays feature Dollar Dog Night with \$1 hot dogs and Baysox Live! Happy Hour beginning at 5:00 pm until game time with live music and beer specials. The Baysox will again orange pride by hosting Orange Wednesdays during each Wednesday night home game. Fans who wear Baysox or Orioles gear on select Wednesdays will receive \$5 off a box seat ticket purchased at the box office the day of the game. Select Wednesdays are also Military Appreciation Nights with a half-priced box seat tickets for those who show proof of military service and purchase their ticket at the box office on game day.

Other Notable Promotions in 2018 (all games 6:35 PM unless noted)

- Thursday, April 5—Opening Night & 2018 Magnet Schedule Giveaway presented by Money One Federal Credit Union
- Friday, April 6, 7:05 PM—Rock Your Sox Night: Baysox Socks Giveaway (1st 250 fans 13+)
- Saturday, April 7, 1:35 PM—Spring Fling Day w/ appearance by the Easter Bunny. Pre-game Easter Egg Hunt for Louie's Kids Club Members (Advance Ticket Purchase Required through BaysoxShop.com)
- Sunday, April 8, 1:35 PM—Our Little Pony & Petting Zoo Day w/ Twilight Sparkle, Rainbow Dash along with a live petting zoo featuring Pony Rides, calf, sheep, goats, pigs, turkeys, geese, ducks, chickens, rabbits and a mini-horse courtesy of Stone Eagle Stables in Hanover, MD.
- Friday, April 20, 7:05 PM—Pi(e) Night & Educator Appreciation Night presented by Educational Systems Federal Credit Union
- Saturday, April 21—Fireworks & Read & Hit a Home Run Reading Night

(Southern MD) by Educational Systems Federal Credit Union

- Sunday, April 22, 1:35 PM—Bark in the Park presented by Bark! Pawssitive Pet Food & Read & Hit a Home Run Reading Day (Southern MD) by Educational Systems Federal Credit Union
- Thursday, May 3—Mystery Bobble Head Giveaway (1st 350 fans ages 13+)
- Friday, May 4, 7:05 PM—Fireworks & Read & Hit A Home Run Reading Night (P.G./MONT Co.) by Educational Systems Federal Credit Union.
- Saturday, May 5—Fireworks, Read & Hit A Home Run Reading Night (P.G./MONT Co.) by Educational Systems Federal Credit Union. Tribute to the Negro Leagues, Art in the Park—artists, projects for kids & more w/ Prince George's Arts & Humanities Council.
- Sunday, May 6, 1:35 PM—Character-A-Palooza (Peppa, George, Doc McStuffins), Minefest Day (special ticket required for Minefest Day available at BaysoxShop.com)
- Friday, May 11, 7:05 PM—Fireworks by Omegacor Technologies. Read & Hit A Home Run Reading Night (AA/QA/HOW Co.) by Educational Systems Federal Credit Union.
- Saturday, May 12—Fireworks, Read & Hit A Home Run Reading Night (AA/QA/HOW Co.) by Educational Systems Federal Credit Union, All American Girls Professional Baseball League: "A League of Their Own" Tribute with appearances by former AAGPBL Players.
- Sunday, May 13, 1:35 PM—Baysox Wine Glass Giveaway (1st 250 moms 21+) presented by Money One Federal Credit Union, Mother's Day Brunch (Must pre-purchase tickets)
- Friday, June 1, 7:05 PM—Boy/Cub Scout Camp Out (Pre-registration required at BaysoxShop.com), Home Run for Autism Night & Knock Bullying, Harassment & Intimidation Out of the Park w/ Prince George's County Schools
- Saturday, June 2—Fireworks presented by Johns Hopkins Community Physicians, Harry Potter Night, Knock Cancer Out of the Park
- Sunday, June 3, 1:35 PM—Maryland Pride Day with Maryland Flag Baysox Hat giveaway presented by Money One Federal Credit Union, Helicopter Candy Drop Sponsored by Pump It Up Lanham-Bowie. Pre-game Yoga in the Outfield (Special Ticket Required at BaysoxShop.com)
- Friday, June 15, 7:05 PM—Fireworks, Fort Meade Appreciation Night

See BAYSOX Page A6

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

BULL OYSTER ROAST

Join us for our Bull Oyster Roast Saturday, April 7, 2018 from 3:00 PM–6:00 PM (Open to the Public) at American Legion Post #227. The address is 13505 Cherry Tree Crossing Road. Telephone number is 301-782-7371.

Advance tickets are \$40 thru April 5, after April 5th and at the door tickets cost \$45.00. The Bull Oyster Roast includes all you can eat Beef; Raw Steamed and Fried Oysters; side dishes, desserts, Tea and "Draft Beer". There will be a 50/50 Raffle and Auxiliary Silent Auction.

SOUTHERN MARYLAND RAPID TRANSIT COMMUNITY MEETING

Please join Council Member Mel Franklin, Prince George's County Council District 9 and the Southern Maryland Alliance for Rapid Transit on Thursday, April 5th, 6:30 PM, when they discuss and advocate for Light Rail and Rapid Transit on the MD-5/US-301 corridor. This is the single biggest improvement that the State can make to reduce traffic in southern Prince George's County ("South County") and Southern Maryland. It would reduce traffic on the MD-5/US-301.

"This will be an opportunity for you to hear a status report on recent transit plans, a call for State action and ask questions about the project. Planning for future Mobility, Economic Growth, Community Revitalization and Jobs in the MD5-301 Corridor from the Branch Avenue Metrorail Station to Waldorf."

The meeting will be at Gwynn Park Middle School from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. The address is 8400 Dyson Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Telephone number is (301) 952-3820, E-mail address is MFranklin1@co.pg.md.us, web: pgccouncil.us/district9. Bringing the World to Prince George's County.

MARYLAND STATE ATHLETIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

District 3 Central High School and Oxon Hill High School have new athletic directors. Bryan Trueblood at Central and Cecile Greenfield at Oxon Hill. District 3 Athletic Director of the year is George MvClure, CAA, Suitland High School. Potomac High School is getting a new turf field and Oxon Hill will be adding lights to their stadium. All the high schools will soon have full-time athletic trainers. They will be provided by Pivot and MedStar.

Gwynn Park High School and Potomac High School had two former student athletes in this year's Super Bowl. Both Tre Sullivan and Ronald Darby play for the Philadelphia Eagles.

DINNERS

Peter A. Gross, Sr. Scholarship/Memorial Fund, Inc. will sponsor dinners Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 11:30 AM. Dinners will be Chicken \$11.00, Fish \$13.00, Pig Feet \$13.00. Sandwiches will also be on sale. Pre-order to guarantee your selec-

tion. The address is St. Philip's Church Hall, 13801 Baden-Westwood Road Brandywine, Maryland 20613.

Contacts are Michele Chase 240-882-3369, Vivian Rich 804-301-9530, Shirley Cleaves 302-690-4260. "Thank you for your support in advance". Day of Dinner call 301-888-1536.

2018 SPRING SOCCER ACADEMY

Join the Opdea Soccer Club for the fun and games 2018 Spring Soccer Academy (coed players, ages 4–12, April 15–June 10, 2018 in Clinton. Sunday Soccer Academy (all teams are coed, boys and girls, learn the rules and skills of soccer, dribbling, passing, goalie, offense and defense positions, and team work. Academy graduates are recruited for Opeda Eagles 2018 Fall PG County recreation soccer teams.

Where: Francis T. Evans Elementary School, 6720 Old Alexandria Ferry Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735. Cost is \$150 per player (2–3 Payment plans available). Teams fill fast, so don't wait to register. Fee covers: 7 sessions, 2018 new uniforms (jersey, shorts and socks) snacks, awards, training and field rental. Registration payment due on or before April 6. Late fee \$25 on April 7 for single uniform orders.

Register on line at: www.Opdealnc.org or email: OpdeaSoccerClub@gmail.com. Director: Coach Steven Perry. Opdea Inc., PO Box 1691, Clinton, Maryland 20735.

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Have You Been Losing the “Joy” in Your Life?

According to the dictionary, joy is the emotion brought on by well-being, success or good fortune. When we're feeling joy, we're happy and finding good things in our lives.

While measuring joy might seem hard to do, there's one test you can try. Think about what your initial feelings are when you wake up in the morning. Are they about the joy and excitement the coming day should bring, or are they thoughts of dread and anxiety for all the pressures and responsibilities you'll have to face? If finding joy is difficult for you to do, it's time to take action to put some pleasure back into your life.

A first step should be understanding what joy means for you. It's not the same for everyone. Close your eyes and think about pleasant people, places, things and experiences that have brought you real joy. Joy should come from significant things, not just fleeting gladness because there was less traffic today or that you're having your favorite dinner tonight.

Our sense of joy grows from our emotional, physical and mental well-being. There are a number of ways to significantly improve all those.

A starting point is to enjoy your relationships. Look for the things in your family, friends and even your job that are important to you, make you feel good and bring you joy.

And it's important to look for the positive. Often we focus on the negative, ignoring the numerous little things in our day that make us happy.

It's also helpful to realize that life is too short to see only negative things or people when there is so much around that can bring you satisfaction. Take time to watch a sunset, to appreciate nature, and to spend a few moments each day meditating on the positive things in your life.

You need to also take care of yourself. Eating right, staying active and getting plenty of rest are all ways to find more of the joy in life. While most days might bring something problematic or stressful, when you make time for yourself to focus on the good in your life, it becomes easier to minimize the stress and tension you may be facing.

Finding the joy in your life is not something that simply happens to you. Your goal, on a daily basis, is to actively seek out the things that bring you joy.

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

Crime from A1

ernor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

These grant funds will provide for personnel, operating, travel, programs, and contractual services. This program is made possible through the inter-departmental cooperation of the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention and the Governor's Office of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing within the Governor's Coordinating Offices.

“My office is dedicated to ensuring all victims receive the highest level of services and care, and that includes

those who are deaf or hard of hearing,” said Glenn Fueston, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention. “These grants make a real difference by offering a full range of assistance and services for victims in this community.”

To view a short video of Executive Directors Kelby Brick from the Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Glenn Fueston from the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention discussing the collaboration of their respective offices, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvFGF6oOWqo>.

Connections from A1

to additional information that may be of interest. Council sessions, standing committee meetings, briefings and community meetings are also highlighted. I want to encourage residents to subscribe and get

a closer look at how we are working together to strengthen our communities.”

For additional information on Council Connections, or to subscribe, please visit Council Connections at <https://pgc-council.us/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=450>

Tax Help from A1

program operates just a like a CPA firm's tax department,” says accounting lecturer Samuel Handwerger, who helps guide the project. “Student volunteers take on various roles such as tax preparer and quality tax reviewer.”

The service runs through April 11, 2018, including through UMD's spring break. Appointments are recommended. To schedule an appointment or for more information, call 240-516-6301 or 240-516-6270, email vita@mslc-vita.org or visit the website at <http://www.mslc-vita.org/>.

**Proudly Serving
Prince George's County
Since 1932**

Governor Appoints Two New Members to Chesapeake Bay Trust Board of Trustees

By PRESS OFFICER
Chesapeake Bay Trust

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Two Baltimore-based professionals, Coretta Bennett and Thomasina Poirot, have been appointed to the Chesapeake Bay Trust's Board of Trustees by Governor Larry Hogan. Their appointments fill spots vacated by departing Board members, Terence Smith, PBS NewsHour Special Correspondent, who as a former Trust chairman will remain active on the organization's Trustees' Council, and Steve Linhard, Chief Operating and Financial Officer for Chesapeake Medical Imaging.

The Chesapeake Bay Trust, a nonprofit grant-making organization established in the 1980s by the Maryland General Assembly, supports grants for teachers to get their students outside, community groups to install natural resource restoration projects, faith-based groups to install stormwater practices on their grounds, science that advances watershed restoration, and other projects in the K-12 environmental education, watershed restoration, and community engagement realms. Through \$10 million in 400 grants made each year, 80,000 students and 40,000 volunteers plant thousands of trees, install hundreds of rain barrels, and accomplish a variety of other improvement activities.

“I am pleased to appoint Coretta Bennett and Thomasina Poirot to the Chesapeake Bay Trust's Board of Trustees,” said Governor Hogan. “The Chesapeake Bay is our greatest natural treasure, and protecting and preserving it for future generations is a responsibility our adminis-

tration takes extremely seriously. We are proud to partner with the Trust in their work to support vital watershed restoration and environmental education work throughout our region. I am confident the combined experience and technical expertise of Ms. Bennett and Ms. Poirot will be a great asset to the Trust and their efforts to engage and inform Maryland citizens.”

Bennett is Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Bithenergy, an award-winning renewable energy development and engineering firm. As COO, she oversees day-to-day operations, strengthens B2B relationships, implements corporate initiatives in energy production and management, and provides oversight of investors and financial institutions. A Baltimore native, Bennett is a graduate of Baltimore Polytechnic Institute. She earned her B.S. in Civil Engineering from Morgan State University, an MBA in Strategic Business Policy and Finance from Rutgers University, and is a LEED Accredited Professional BD+C.

Bennett is an active advocate for women in engineering, advising numerous women engineering development programs. She is deeply committed to the education and well-being of youth. Bennett serves as the Vice President of the ACE Mentor Program of America Baltimore chapter, which encourages high school students to pursue careers in architecture, construction, and engineering. Additionally, she serves as an adjunct lecturer at her alma mater, and is PTA President and a group leader in her church.

“I am humbled and inspired by the opportunity to serve the

great State of Maryland and the entire Chesapeake region through the Chesapeake Bay Trust,” said Bennett. “It is a tremendous responsibility and privilege to collaborate with such an esteemed board working to propel sustainability, promote innovation, and endorse programs that positively benefit communities throughout the region.”

Poirot is an associate with the Baltimore office of Venable LLP, a nationally ranked general practice law firm. As a member of Venable's Product Liability and Mass Torts Practice Group, her practice focuses on complex pharmaceutical litigation and insurance coverage matters, including advising nonprofits on insurance and risk management issues. She received her undergraduate degree from Villanova University and her law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law.

Poirot is a dedicated volunteer and has a strong presence in the Baltimore community. She serves as co-chair of the Board of Directors for the Baltimore Tree Trust, and is also on the Board Directors of South Baltimore Learning Center, Volunteering Untapped, and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture. She has previously served as the Chair of the Advisory Board of Business Volunteers Unlimited's GIVE program for young professionals and on the Board of Directors of the Friends of Great Kids Farm. She is the Defense Research Institute Young Lawyer's Liaison for Maryland Defense Counsel.

“I am beyond excited to join the very talented Board and staff of the Trust and their unwaver-

ing commitment to environmental awareness and restoration,” said Poirot. “The Trust is making a huge difference in our state and the Chesapeake region, particularly through its grant programs, and I am elated to be a part of the process. As Co-Chair of a nonprofit organization which received one of the Trust's generous grants, I have first-hand knowledge of the tremendous impact these grants have upon environmental projects spanning throughout the region. I'm dedicated to helping other organizations with their projects and assisting the Trust in its continuing effort to fulfill and grow its mission.”

“We are thrilled and very fortunate to have Coretta and Thomasina join the Trust board, and greatly appreciate of the service of Terry Smith and Steve Linhard, who have been with the Trust for over eight years,” said Benjamin Wechsler, chairman of the Trust's Board of Trustees. “Coretta and Thomasina are both highly respected in their fields, have a track record of dedicated service to their communities, and each brings a unique and relevant perspective that will strengthen the Trust's grant programs and operations as we take on new and exciting opportunities.”

The Trust is governed by a 19-member Board of Trustees composed of fourteen members appointed by the Governor, two members of the Maryland General Assembly designated by the Senate President and Speaker of the House, and designees of the Secretaries of the Maryland Departments of Natural Resources, Environment, and Agriculture.

Kidde Recalls Dual Sensor Smoke Alarms Due to Risk of Failure to Alert Consumers to Fire

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of State Fire Marshal

PIKESVILLE, MD—The Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office is sharing this information in an effort to provide the public with a concern about a recent recall of Kidde Dual Sensor Smoke Alarms—Models PI2010 (AC/hardwired—Date Code 9/10/2016-10/13/2017) and PI9010 (DC/battery powered - Date Code 9/10/2016 - 10/13/2017) manufactured by the Kidde

Corporation. The smoke alarms listed in the recall are revealed in the link <https://kidde-smokealarm-recall.usen.expertinquiry.com/instructions>.

Please take a moment to read the information on the link provided and check to see if your smoke alarm model numbers are a match to those on the recall.

On March 21, 2018, Kidde announced a recall of almost 500,000 smoke alarms in the United States. They may not work due to a yellow protective

cap that may have been left on one of the two smoke sensors in affected products during the manufacturing process. This could compromise the smoke alarms' ability to detect smoke which poses a risk of consumers not being alerted to a fire in their home.

Kidde recommends owners immediately replace any of these smoke alarms that they have.



PHOTO COURTESY OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHALL

Kidde Dual Sensor Smoke Alarm

ALERT: Sheriff Impersonator Phone Scam

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Sheriff

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George's County Office of the Sheriff's Communications and Public Relations Division has received several calls from victims of a telephone scam involving someone attempting to scam money while claiming to be a representative of the Sheriff's Office.

The Office of the Sheriff does not make phone calls on behalf of the courts regarding jury duty, nor do we ask citizens for money. Scammers use the law enforcement angle to scare victims into giving them money. Scammers often ask for a trans-



fer of funds through the use of gift cards or wire transactions. Please do not engage these individuals over the phone because they are attempting to obtain your personal information for their financial gain.

Sheriff Melvin C. High is asking the media to advise citizens of these scams. If anyone receives a call to contact the Prince Georges County Police at 301-772-4420 to file an incident report.

**Christmas in April
Prince George's County
to Repair
Approximately 80 Homes
on
Saturday, April 28, 2018**

**URGENT NEED FOR ALL
SKILLED TRADES PEOPLE!**

Christmas in April • Prince George's County will be repairing the homes of approximately 80 disadvantaged homeowners with the help of approximately 3,000 volunteers on Saturday, April 28, 2018.

In order to assist our neighbors we are in URGENT NEED OF ALL SKILLED TRADES PEOPLE (such as carpenters, painters, plumbers, roofers, jack-of-all-trades and contractors). If you can help us, please contact Mary Kucharski, Executive Director of Christmas in April • Prince George's County at 301-868-0937 or email us at cinapp@aol.com

Thank You For Your Assistance!

COMMENTARY

Cong. Chris Van Hollen United States Senator for Maryland



Van Hollen, Tester Introduce Legislation to Fully Fund Special Education

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) and Jon Tester (D-Mont.) introduced the IDEA Full Funding Act. This legislation would finally ensure Congress' commitment to fully fund the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA). In 1975, Congress passed IDEA to ensure that every child with a disability has access to educational opportunity. This legislation was a historic step forward, but since its passage Congress has failed to provide the funding promised under this bill.

"All schools should have the resources they need to provide a quality education to students with disabilities—it's past time that Congress made good on its commitment to educators, students, and parents. That's why I'm proud to introduce this legislation in the Senate to ensure a first-class education for every child. I urge my colleagues to pass this important legislation immediately," said Senator Van Hollen, who also championed this legislation in the House of Representatives.

"Every student has a unique set of needs, experiences, and capabilities that should never prevent them from getting a quality public education," said Tester, a former public school teacher and school board member. "Unfunded federal mandates handcuff our local school districts, draining their already meager resources and eroding local control. This bill will empower local educators and ensure every Montana student has access to a quality education."

"Investment in education matters, and when it comes to federal government support for our nation's public K-12 schools, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a cornerstone program that has proven critical to helping level the educational playing field for students with disabilities. When created in 1975, Congress

committed to supporting 40 percent of the additional costs associated with educating students with disabilities, a commitment that has continually fallen far short. In fact, the federal share for both FY17 and FY18 is below 15 percent, less than half of the federal commitment. We are very appreciative for Senators Van Hollen and Tester and their tireless leadership on this issue, providing a legislative pathway forward for Congress to realize its commitment. We applaud their commitment to this issue and are very proud to strongly support the IDEA Full Funding Act," said Daniel A. Domenech, Executive Director, AASA, The School Superintendents Association.

"We thank Senator Van Hollen for remaining a steadfast champion in urging Congress to finally live up to its decades-long promise to fully fund special education and help our students most in need. Congressional failure to do so hurts not only students with disabilities, but all students—as states and school districts face greater financial pressure to make up for the federal shortfall," said Marc Egan, Director of Government Relations, NEA.

"Full funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a top legislative priority for the Association of Educational Service Agencies. Our students with disabilities are general education students first, and the lack of funding from the federal government for IDEA hurts state and local education budgets and our ability to support students with disabilities as well as the broader general education programming. We applaud Senators Van Hollen and Tester for their continued leadership on the issue of IDEA full funding. We are proud to strongly

See EDUCATION Page A5

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



Razor-Thin Election results Show the Importance of Voting

"Eight days after Bloody Sunday, President Lyndon Johnson spoke to a joint session of the Congress and made one of the most meaningful speeches any American president had made in modern time on the whole question of voting rights and introduced the Voting Rights Act. And at one point in the speech, before President Johnson concluded the speech, he said, 'and we shall overcome.' I looked at Dr. King. Tears came down his face. And we all cried a little to hear President Johnson say, 'and we shall overcome.' And he said to me and to others in the room, we will make it from Selma to Montgomery, and the Voting Rights Act will be passed."

—U.S. Rep. John Lewis

As the nation this month marks the 53rd anniversary of the Selma-to-Montgomery voting rights marches, the nation's attention was riveted to a special election to fill Pennsylvania's 18th Congressional district, widely seen as a bell-weather for the upcoming Congressional elections in November.

The buzz around the Pennsylvania race centered on the possibility of a solidly-Republican district flipping into Democratic hands. But as a civil rights organization staunchly committed to defending voting rights, we were much more interested in the voter turnout.

In the last midterm election for Pennsylvania's 18th district, about 166 thousand people voted. In this year's special election, more than 228 thousand people voted—an increase of about 37 per-

cent. And the margin of victory there was less than one half of one percentage point.

Pennsylvania was seen as one of three states where a razor-thin margin decided the Presidential race in 2016. It's also a state where a strict voter ID law, passed in 2012 as a deliberate effort to reduce turnout among people of color, was struck down by a federal court.

Despite the court's action, voters in Pennsylvania reported they were wrongly asked for photo identification by poll workers in the 2016 election.

With the future of the nation dependent upon extremely thin margins like those in Pennsylvania, communities of color must remain vigilant. In 2016, 14 states had new voting restrictions in place for the first time in a presidential election. In 2017, seven other states added even more restrictions.

The unexpected competitiveness in the Pennsylvania race is sure to spark interest in an upcoming special election in Arizona, in a district where one-party dominance was seen as so insurmountable, Democrats didn't even field a candidate in the last two elections. Arizona does have a strict voter ID requirement in place and for years required proof of citizenship, until the Supreme Court struck down that provision.

The National Urban League is part of the national non-partisan Election Protection coalition, formed to ensure that all voters have an equal opportunity to participate in the political process.

Election Protection focuses on the voter - not on the political horse race—and provides guidance, information and help to any American, regardless of who that voter is casting a ballot for.

Deadlines to register to vote in this year's congressional elections are fast approaching. Call or log onto 866OURVOTE.org for help with registering, finding your polling place, voting by absentee ballot, or to volunteer.

Marietta House Museum



Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: MARIETTA HOUSE MUSEUM

MARIETTA HOUSE MUSEUM

Marietta, the Federal style brick home of Gabriel Duvall, an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Built ca. 1813, Marietta remained under ownership of the Duvall family until 1902. Justice Duvall's law office and root cellar still remain today. Marietta is situated on 25 acres of lawn and wooded areas and the grounds boast two County Champion trees and lovely old boxwood. Marietta operates as an historic house museum and is furnished and interpreted to reflect the three generations of Duvall's that occupied the house. The Society of Maren Duvall Descendants has relocated the family graveyard from its original location to the serene surroundings at Marietta. Located at 626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD, the museum is also the headquarters of the Prince George's County Historical Society. Open to the public year round. Admission: \$3/adults, \$2/seniors/groups, \$1/ages 5-18, FREE/ages 4 & under \$2/person for groups of 10 or more. For information call 301-464-0590.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Our Children's Cry: Do Something

On March 14th, Americans witnessed a remarkable scene as tens of thousands of students across our country walked out of their classrooms to honor the tragic and preventable loss of 17 students and staff members killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida one month earlier and to demand that adults, especially political leaders, take common sense and life saving steps against epidemic gun violence in our nation. Students from Washington, D.C. and surrounding areas demonstrated outside the White House and marched on the U.S. Capitol to get politicians to protect them. In city after city across our country young people gathered on campuses, held lie-ins on sidewalks, and took to the streets begging adults to do something to help keep them safe and to protect children, not guns. One high school student said she and her friends can no longer stand feeling "hunted" just going to school. Another said she wanted to tell Congress, "We need fewer prayers and more action." What kind of values drive political leaders to think the NRA and guns are of higher value and importance than precious children?

I have written in this space far too often about children whose lives and futures have been snuffed out by guns—some as infants. A few weeks after the December 2012 massacre of 20 six- and seven-year-olds and six educators at Sandy Hook Elementary School, I wrote what shamefully still remains true today: "Gun violence saturates our children's lives and relentlessly threatens them every day. It has romped through their playgrounds; invaded their birthday parties; terrorized their Head Start classrooms, child care centers, and schools; frolicked down the streets they walk to and from school; danced through their school buses; waited at the red light and bus stop; lurked behind trees; run them down on the corner; shot them through their bedroom windows, on their front porches, and in their neighborhoods. Gun violence has taught, entertained, and tantalized them incessantly across television,

movie, and video game screens and the Internet. It has snatched away their parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, brothers, sisters, friends, and teachers; sapped their energy and will to learn; and made them forget about tomorrow ...

"It has nagged and picked at their child and youthful minds and spirits and darkened their dreams, day in and day out, snuffing out the promise and joy of childhood and inflicting them with post-traumatic stress disorders—often chronic. It has caused them recurring nightmares and made them afraid to go outdoors or to the movies. It has made them want to or feel they have to get a gun or join a gang to protect themselves because adults can't or won't protect them. It has made them plan their own funerals because they don't think they'll live to adulthood ... It terrifies them and makes them cry inside and wonder if and when enough adults are ever going to stand up and make it stop and make children safe."

In a nation obsessed with guns and unwilling to give up easy access to weapons of war, this generation has quickly learned a sad truth many adults already knew: There is no safe

space in America. Not an outdoor concert. Not a dance club. Not a church or temple. Not an office party. Not a movie theater. Not a military base. Not a college campus. Not a first grade classroom, and not what should have been an ordinary day at an ordinary American high school. Bullets have no boundaries and gun violence against children and teens cuts across race, ethnicity, age and location. But unlike many adults who seem to have become numb to the violence, changed the channel, and shaken their heads thinking nothing was ever going to change, courageous and visionary young people are standing up to say: Enough. No more. No more in our schools or our communities. Do something—now. Children are leading irresponsible uncaring adults!

Today's children still don't know whether adults are ever going to stand up and make them safe, so now some are starting to take matters into their own hands. Every child has a right to live and to dream and to strive for a future that is not

See WATCH, Page A8

The Prince George's Post

The Prince George's Post
P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151
Phone: 301-627-0900 • Legal Fax: 301-627-6260
Email: pgpost@gmail.com
Contents © 2018, The Prince George's Post

Publisher/Senior Editor Legusta Floyd	Editor Michal W. Frangia
General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager Brenda Boice	Typesetter/Page Layout Jennifer Sheckels
Legal Advertising Assistant Robin Boerckel	Web Manager Kyler Quesenberry

Prince George's County, Md. Member National Newspaper Publishers Association, and the Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia Press Association. The Prince George's Post (ISSN 10532226) is published every Thursday by the New Prince George's Post Inc., 15207 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151. Subscription rate: 25 cents per single copy; \$15 per year; \$7.50 senior citizens and students; out of county add \$1; out of state add \$2. Periodical postage paid at Southern Md. 20790. Postmaster, send address changes to Prince George's Post, P.O. Box 1001, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151.

BUSINESS

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty—Social Security, Military Pension and Disability

by Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I am 61 years old. I have a disability rating from the VA and I draw a military pension for my years of service. How might my disability rating and my military pension affect my Social Security?

Signed: Disabled Vet

Dear Disabled Vet: First of all, thank you for your service to our country. Your military pension will not affect your future Social Security benefit in any way, since military pay for service after 1957 contributed to and participated in the Social Security program. In other words, you paid Social Security "FICA" taxes from your military earnings during your years of service, and your earnings during those years contributed toward the 35 years which will be used to determine your Social Security benefit amount. So when you finally decide to apply for Social Security (you must be at least 62 to apply for retirement benefits) you need not worry about any reductions as a result of receiving your military service pension.

Similarly, your Veterans Administration disability rating will not affect your Social Security retirement benefit. But, for your awareness, depending upon the extent of your disability you may be eligible for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits in addition to your military pension and in lieu of regular Social Security benefits. You can get SSDI benefits before your normal eligibility age of 62, and they are paid instead of regular Social Security retirement benefits up to your full retirement age, which for you is 66 years and 6 months. Then, at your full retirement age, SSDI benefits will automatically convert to regular Social Security retirement benefits. Note that, if awarded, your SSDI benefit may be more than your early retirement benefit if, for example, you claimed your retirement benefit as soon as you became eligible at age 62.

Even though you have a VA disability rating, to get SSDI benefits you would still need to satisfy Social Security's own definition of "disability" and meet their other eligibility requirements. But if your disability prevents you from working and is expected to last for more than a year, it is surely worth investigating. While it is possible to apply for SSDI benefits online, we recommend you contact your local Social Security office (find it at www.ssa.gov/locator), make an appointment and apply in person. If you'd like to read up on this before contacting them go to www.ssa.gov/people/veterans/. Note too that while it doesn't guarantee approval, if your VA disability rating is "100% Permanent & Total", Social Security may provide you with expedited processing of your SSDI application. And you don't have to wait until you are 62 to apply for and collect Social Security disability benefits. Once again, thank you for your military service.

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.

Education from A4

support the IDEA Full Funding Act and the pathway it provides towards realizing a past-due commitment to a historically disadvantaged population which include students with disabilities" said Joan Wade, Executive Director, Association of Educational Service Agencies.

Under the 1975 IDEA legislation, the federal government committed to pay 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditure for special education. However, that pledge has never been met, and current funding is at just 15.7 percent. The *IDEA Full Funding Act* would require regular increases in IDEA spending to

finally meet our commitment to America's children and schools. In addition to Senators Van Hollen and Tester, this legislation was cosponsored by Senators Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), Bob Casey (D-Pa.), Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), and Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.).

A letter of support from over 20 education groups can be found at: <https://www.vanhollen.senate.gov/sites/default/files/IDEA%20Coalition%20Senate%20BILL%20support%20031318.pdf>.

The full text of the legislation can be found at the following location; <https://www.vanhollen.senate.gov/sites/default/files/IDEA%20Full%20Funding%20Act%20115th.pdf>.

Morningside from A2

Sylvia Barbour and Mark Cummings, March 31; Wayne Booth, Susan Frostbutter, Douglas Mangum and James Whipple, April 1; Melissa Lytton, Sophia Cordero and Bernie Saylor, April 3; Motoko Howard, April 4; Earlene Er-

hardt Righter, Jimmy Shipman and Kaitlin Woods, April 5.

Happy anniversary to Terry and Gina Foster, March 26; Antoinette and Charles Mattison, March 29; and Walter and Fannie Dimes, Easter Sunday.

*And to all my Readers,
a Blessed Easter!*

House Appropriations Committee Weighs Bill to Enforce Maryland Hiring Law

By ALEX MANN
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—The Maryland House Appropriations Committee debated a bill regarding the hiring of state employees that would add more oversight to enforce laws enacted by the legislature more than a decade ago.

Delegate Clarence Lam, D-Howard and Baltimore counties, introduced House bill 1788 in response to his concerns over a possible change in the hiring practice at the Maryland Department of Health.

An email from March of 2017 obtained by Capital News Service summarized a new hiring policy for at-will employees at the health department that would require vetting by the governor's office of appointments for three types of positions.

The policy otherwise appears to have been unwritten.

A representative from the state health department in a statement to Capital News Service last week said there had been no change.

"I have some serious concerns about what's taking place in state government," Lam said in his testimony on Tuesday. "I have no direct information showing that currently the workforce is being politicized, but I don't know what criteria the appointments office is using to determine who can be employed or if someone can receive their promotion."

The governor's office and Republicans on the committee on Tuesday said that the appointments office is not directing agencies on whom to hire, and that vetting employees upon request of an agency is standard practice.

Lam said the practice potentially undermines state legislation enacted in 2007 that prohibits the appointments office from hiring candidates for certain positions, and promoting or firing employees in certain positions.

"In general, the office's primary function is to help ensure these taxpayer-paid employees don't have obviously disqualifying criminal histories or clear conflicts of interest. What they don't do is determine whether an applicant's technical expertise meets the requirements of the position—the agencies do that," Amelia Chasse, spokeswoman for Hogan, wrote in a statement to Capital News Service last week.

There is no evidence of inappropriate firings, Lam told the committee, rather it's the vetting process itself that he says, in some cases, goes against state law.

Republicans on the House Appropriations Committee con-

tested Lam's claims, calling them hearsay.

An informational letter provided to legislators on the committee from Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan's Office of Appointments on Tuesday also aimed to clarify the agency's role in the hiring of state employees.

The letter from Secretary of Appointments Christian Cavey explained in detail that the appointments office is involved in the hiring of special appointees—a class of state employees that is exempt from the 2007 laws prohibiting the appointments office's involvement in the hiring of certain employees.

The appointments office and the governor are allowed by statute to be involved in the hiring of special appointees, which Lam acknowledged.

Cavey's letter said that his agency only participates in hiring when state agencies request the appointments office's help, is not involved in the hiring of merit-based employees—those below grade 18 in the state grading scale—and does "not make a recommendation to the agency regarding whether they should or should not hire a particular candidate."

But the letter did not directly address Lam's concern that all health department candidates for positions above grade 18 roles—known as "at-will" employees—were being sent to the appointments office for vetting.

There are six classifications for state employees. The 2007 law bars the governor's office from presiding over four of those classifications: Management service, skilled service, executive service and designated appointments.

The governor and appointments office can direct hires, promotions and terminations for two other classifications of employees: executive service and special appointments—aka special political appointments.

"One of the roles of the governor's appointments office is to—upon request—perform basic background checks, including criminal and public records, to ensure that prospective employees for high-level, at-will positions are suitable for employment by the state," Chasse wrote in the statement to Capital News Service last week.

The 2017 email among Health Department employees detailed "a new process for at-will hiring, with a greater emphasis on using the Governor's Appointments Office."

The appointments office "will need to vet the candidates" the health department selected for some employees, including leg-

islative liaisons and communications or executive associates, technical positions and program managers, the email said.

"I can confirm there has been no policy change at the Department of Health," Brittany Fowler, deputy director of communications at the health department, wrote last week in an email to Capital News Service. "For countless administrations, the Office of Appointments has assisted state agencies with finding appropriate potential new hires."

Lam said he's concerned that the governor's appointments office is overstepping its authority.

"I stand by my statement that the Maryland Department of Health is requiring all new applicants and positions being considered for promotions to go through the appointments office," Lam told Capital News Service.

According to a letter from Sandra Brantley—the counsel to the General Assembly at the Office of the Attorney General of Maryland—to Lam, a practice of delegating all appointment authority to the appointments office would be "inconsistent with state law."

"The hearing itself and the numerous false accusations made during (it) were nothing more than a weak political stunt that ultimately failed," Chasse on Wednesday wrote in an emailed statement to Capital News Service. "This administration is committed to hiring the best and most qualified people possible and we aren't going to allow deliberately uninformed and partisan politicians stop that from happening."

The appointments office said in its letter that the office is not making hiring decisions. Instead, they are vetting—performing background checks—for certain positions when asked by other state agencies. The vetting, the letter explains, is based on a form on the appointments office website, which asks candidates biographical, resume and other questions. You can visit the website at <https://govapps.md.gov/appointments/apply/>

"There's a difference between vetting someone and telling someone who to hire," Delegate Jefferson Ghrist, R-Kent, Queen Anne's, Cecil and Caroline, said at the hearing. "When you vet someone, you're just asking questions, following up on their application, making sure that what they're giving you is accurate."

But at least one organization and a handful of Democratic delegates are worried about how hiring decisions are made in some employees' cases.

"What I'm concerned about is the vetting that takes place prior to the hiring. If a cabinet secretary is hiring somebody only after they've been vetted by the governor's appointments office," Sue Esty, legislative and political director for the state employees' union, AFSCME Maryland, told the committee. "That seems to be quite out of line with the way things are supposed to function."

Ghrist said he didn't see an issue with vetting from the appointments office.

"You would think that you would actually want another set of eyes on these applications in the background so that way you know for sure that you're hiring somebody that's actually qualified for the position," Ghrist said.

It has to do with the "integrity of state government," Esty said. "In each one of these departments you should have a certain degree of specialization and understanding of what happens, and as soon as that begins to erode and appointments are not made based on expertise, that's when you see the potential for deterioration of the quality of state government."

Lam plans to proceed with his legislation—should the Democrat-majority committee vote it onward—which would allow the Maryland State Ethics Commission to investigate violations of existing statutes that prohibit the Governor's Appointments Office from participating in the hiring or promotion of certain state employees, according to his testimony.

Michael Lord, executive director of the state's ethics commission, testified before the committee in opposition to Lam's bill. He also submitted written testimony.

"The (ethics) commission has no position on the issues that give rise to this bill, we don't know anything about those issues," Lord said before the committee. "We're opposed to this bill quite simply because ... the commission believes it is absolutely not the right vehicle to enforce the particular bill."

Delegate Kirill Reznik, D-Montgomery, asked Lord at the hearing, "if this committee and this body was to say that this bill as drafted is appropriate and passes it this way, do you believe that you would be able to fulfil this charge, or do you believe that you are expressly prohibited by law from doing the job that is intended in this bill?"

"We can and will do whatever this body tells us to do," Lord said, adding that the ethics commission would need more resources to fulfil the duties outlined in Lam's bill.

Dreamers from A1

years and graduated or received the equivalent of a high school diploma pays the same tuition rates that resident students pay.

Current law also states that students are required to begin at a Maryland community college in the same district as the high school they graduated from. Once the student completes 60 credits, they may enroll at a public four-year institution and pay in-state tuition.

The new bill removes the credit requirement and would allow students to directly enter any public state college or university, and extends the period of eligibility from four to six years after graduating from high school. It would go into effect on July 1.

"Countless students who qualify (for in-state tuition) are

more than ready to begin higher education at a four-year university right away. This bill will allow these Dreamers to continue their academic career at the college of their choice," said sponsor Delegate Sheila Hixson, D-Montgomery, in a statement to Capital News Service.

High school senior advocate for CASA, an immigrants-rights advocacy group, Jesus Vicuña, 18, one of the 9,700 Dreamers under protective status in the state, worries that his time will run out before he is able to pursue his dream of running track at Coppin State University, which just sent him an acceptance letter.

"I started to feel a sense of stability, I no longer had to live in the shadows ... For the first time I started to picture myself at a university and I finally had

the opportunity to make my parents' sacrifices worth it," said Vicuña, who lives in Baltimore and attends Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, a public high school, about receiving DACA at the age of 15 after immigrating from Mexico with his family at 9 months old.

His DACA waiver runs out in April 2019, he said.

Vicuña got involved in CASA and his high school's Hispanic club to promote legislation that helps students like him and testified in front of the Maryland House Ways and Means committee in favor of House bill 1536.

"This is a big step towards progress because everything is so unsure at the federal level," he said.

The Trump administration announced Sep. 5 it was phasing out the Deferred Action for

Childhood Arrivals program and gave Congress six months to figure out a solution. It was further delayed by rulings from federal judges in California and New York, who both ordered the Trump administration to resume processing DACA renewal applications.

While the deadline has passed without a fix from Congress, the case is still going through the federal appeals process, leaving DACA recipients in limbo.

A recent Supreme Court ruling has given DACA participants a reprieve.

The University System of Maryland is monitoring this legislation and will continue to welcome qualified students as they have since the Dream Act was enacted, according to a representative for the University System.

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

Insidious: The Last Key

Insidious: The Last Key
Grade: B-
Rated PG-13, a little profanity,
a little violence and scariness
1 hr., 43 min

First of all, the number of sequels with “Last” or “Final” in the title that have actually turned out to be the last one is vanishingly small, so don’t take *Insidious: The Last Key* at its word. Franchise writer Leigh Whannell has configured things to allow for infinite additional stories (audiences willing), though this barely recommended effort doesn’t offer much hope for the series’ creative energy.

The fourth entry in the haunted-house franchise is another prequel, like 3 was, set after 3 but before 1 and 2, and focused on Elise Rainier (Lin Shaye), the sixty-something psychic ghost-hunter who has emerged as the series’ unlikely protagonist. Aided by her comic-relief technical assistants, doofuses Specs (Whannell) and Tucker (Angus Sampson), Elise is the one that the main characters in previous films have called for help with their house-demons, but now we learn Elise’s own backstory.

A prologue depicting Elise’s childhood in New Mexico shows she’s always had “the gift” for communicating with spirits, which her mother (Tessa Ferrer) tried to foster and her prison-guard father (Josh Stewart) tried to beat out of her. In the present (well, 2010), Elise is rattled when she’s contacted by someone seeking her services who now lives in the very house she



ROTTENTOMATOES

Adam Robitel helms the fourth entry of the *Insidious* series, with Chapter 3 director Leigh Whannell providing the script, centering around parapsychologist Elise Rainier (Lin Shaye) and her continued voyage into the “further”.

grew up in, still haunted after all these years. The current resident, Ted Garza (Kirk Acevedo), reports the standard creepy noises, weird sightings, and so forth, and Elise, still bearing the physical and emotional scars of what happened to her and her family there, determines to get to the bottom of it once and for all.

Tropes familiar to “Insidious” fans appear again, including the mysterious coma that is actually an astral projection into a realm called the Further. This installment also has an undercurrent of feminine outrage,

with women standing up to the men (living and dead) who mistreat them, though this never quite gels into a fully developed theme. The plot doesn’t have any twists that you haven’t seen elsewhere, but it’s just unpredictable enough to keep things mildly interesting, and director Adam Robitel (*The Taking of Deborah Logan*) achieves two or three good, quick scares without any cheap tricks.

You’ll notice my endorsement is not terribly enthusiastic. If one’s feelings about a movie could be chemically an-

alyzed, mine on *The Last Key* would come in at just a few percentage points above “meh.” What tips the scales ever so slightly is Lin Shaye, a veteran actress with more than 125 film credits spanning 43 years finally playing the top-billed main character. And she earns it! She’s deeply committed to portraying Elise’s pain, remorse, and strength with sincerity, and her performance is more tragic heroine than B-movie scream queen. She seems to be enjoying herself, which is good, since she’ll be playing this role indefinitely.

Baysox from A2

presented by USAA & Girl Scout Sleepover

- Saturday June 16—Fireworks, Star Wars Night presented by Taco Bell, 1K Beer Run (Pre-registration required at BaysoxShop.com)
- Sunday, June 17, 1:35 PM—Father’s Day Celebration, Meet the Team Day, Pre-Game Catch on the Field and World Record Attempt, Father’s Day BBQ (Advance ticket purchase required at BaysoxShop.com)
- Monday, June 25, 7:05 PM—Mutt Monday presented by BARK! Pawsitive Pet Food & Christmas In June
- Wednesday, July 4—Independence Day Celebration with HUGE post-game Independence Day Fireworks presented by Johns Hopkins Community Physicians

- Friday, July 6, 7:05 PM—Fireworks by Omegacor Technologies
- Saturday, July 7—Fireworks & Island Luau Night with music, musical performances & fire knife dancers! Mother/Son Night Out (Advance ticket purchase required at BaysoxShop.com)
- Sunday, July 8, 1:35 PM—Superhero Day with Trey “Iron” Mancini Bobble Head (1st 1,000 fans 13+) presented by Money One Federal Credit Union, Louie’s Birthday Bash
- Friday, July 20, 7:05 PM—Fireworks presented by EZ Pass Maryland, David Bowie Tribute Night, 49th Moon Landing Anniversary Event w/ NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. Family Camp Out (advance tickets required at BaysoxShop.com)
- Saturday, July 21—Fireworks presented by Omegacor

- Technologies, Salute to Seinfeld Night with appearance by actor Danny Woodburn (Mickey Abbott)
- Sunday, July 22, 1:35 PM—Orioles Pride Day, Jonathan Schoop Bobble Head Giveaway (1st 1,000 fans 13+) presented by Money One Federal Credit Union
- Friday, Aug. 3, 7:05 PM—Fireworks, Navy Night presented by Navy Federal Credit Union
- Saturday, Aug. 4—Fireworks presented by NATELCO, Pirates & Princesses Night. Daddy/Daughter Date Night (Advance Ticket Purchase required)
- Sunday, Aug. 5, 1:35 PM—Margaritaville Day
- Thursday, Aug. 16, 7:05 PM—Washington Wizards & Washington Mystics Night
- Friday, Aug. 24, 7:05 PM—Fireworks by Johns Hopkins Community Physicians,

- Military Heroes with Military Card Set Giveaway. Military Heroes Nominations can be submitted beginning mid-April at Baysox.com
- Saturday, Aug. 25—Fireworks, Kids Appreciation Night, Touch-A-Truck Day, Louie Bobble Head Giveaway (1st 750 fans ages 3-12) presented by Miss Utility
- Sunday, Aug. 26, 1:35 PM—Character-A-Palooza (Shimmer, Shine & Vampiria), Chrome Run Car Show presented by Asphalt Angels of Maryland Car Club
- Saturday, Sept. 1—Fireworks & Hispanic Heritage Night
- Sunday, Sept. 2, 1:35 PM—Fan Appreciation Day, Meet the Team Day, Pre-Game Catch on the Field. Baysox T-Shirt Giveaway (1st 500 fans 13+) by Money One Federal Credit Union

Laurel from A1

they have always been. I look forward to meeting many new people from Laurel and beyond, and I invite everyone to stop by our museum during open hours.”

Ann Bennett has worked in cultural resource management for many years. She served as the curator of the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum, as coordinator of the Hays-Heighe House at Harford Community College, and worked at PastPerfect Museum Software. She is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh,

with an MA in historical archaeology from the College of William and Mary in Virginia. She is very active in local and regional historical and cultural organizations, and is the past-president of the Archaeological Society of the Northern Chesapeake. Mrs. Bennett is an also adjunct professor in anthropology and sociology at Cecil College. She has presented at the Small Museum Association, and at a number of professional meetings and is the author of “From Resident to Relevance: Making an Academic Museum

at Harford Community College,” in *Academic Museums: Beyond Exhibitions and Education* Ed. Mark Gold (London: Museum-ETC Ltd, 2012). She is interested in kayaking, genealogy, traveling, and living history interpretation. Mrs. Bennett and her husband Robert live in the Laurel area.

The Laurel Historical Society was founded in 1975. Since 1996 it has operated the Laurel Museum, whose current exhibit “We the People: How Civic Engagement Shaped Laurel,” runs through December 2018. The

Laurel Museum is open Wednesdays and Fridays 10-2, Sundays 1-4. Group tours by appointment. Admission is free. The Laurel Library and digitized Laurel Leaders and other items from the LHS collection are open to researchers by appointment Monday-Friday and online to members. The Laurel Museum is located at 817 Main Street, Laurel, Md. For appointments or for additional visitor information contact 301-725-7975 or info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org or visit www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org ##

Spring is on it’s Way!

Shopping For Yard Equipment: Things To Know

(NAPSI)—If you’re like most people, when spring comes, you’re ready to get outside and make your yard both beautiful and functional. Maybe you’re aiming to have the best yard on the block, want to install an outdoor family room, or want to expand your space for entertaining. Perhaps your kids or pets could use a better space for play. Regardless of need, now is the time to get “backyard ready.”

The Tools You’ll Need

“Completing big outdoor jobs is always easier with help from outdoor power equipment,” said Kris Kiser, president and CEO of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI). “The right outdoor power equipment can help you get the work done faster and can help you safely maintain your yard.” These tips from Kiser can help you select the machinery you need to get the job done.

• **Plan your needs.** Draw a sketch of your yard. Include any major features such as trees, bushes, an herb or vegetable garden, flower beds, lawn furniture, play or sports equipment, an outdoor patio, or birdbath. Note where maintenance may be required. Will bushes need to be trimmed back from your home or garage? Do you want to put in some flowering bushes or a tree? Are you planning to install a fence and more grass because of your pet? Now list the tools and equipment needed to take care of your yard and what will make the job easier.

• **Consider equipment needed.** Visit your garage or shed and find all your lawn and garden tools. Wheel out your mower and get out other equipment. Look it over and make a list of what’s needed or could be upgraded. Repair anything that needs attention or identify where a newer or other machine is required. If you have a large vegetable garden, you need a cultivator or tiller. If you have a large lawn, an upgrade to a riding lawn mower might make mowing easier. A string trimmer might make caring for bushes or trimming grass near a fence line easier. A pole pruner can help trim back limbs that are too high to reach safely with a saw and a leaf blower can clear leaves faster than a rake.

• **Research equipment online before you buy.** Think about efficiencies of scale. The right equipment can mean more time for other activities and make doing yard work more enjoyable, too. Doing online research in advance can help you pick the right equipment for the job. Outdoor power equipment can be gas, electric or battery powered and technology is rapidly affecting product design. There are even robotic lawn mowers available today. Equipment may be sized to handle a smaller job or a massive one. Ultimately, your decision should be based on your needs.

• **Ask questions.** Talk with the staff at the store or ask online about the equipment. In the store, ask to pick up and hold equipment to determine its “fit” for you. Discuss safety features and ask about fueling and care instructions. Find out how often equipment may need to be serviced.

• **Make a plan for storage and maintenance.** Store your equipment in a cool and dry place. It should typically be serviced at the end of the fall and the beginning of the spring. Put service dates on your calendar with a reminder.

Learn More

For safety information and to find out which manufacturers make various outdoor power equipment products, go to www.opei.org.



PHOTO COURTESY NAPSI

With the right equipment, you can make the grass greener on your side of the fence.

ADVERTISE!
in
The Prince George’s Post
Call Brenda Boice at
301 627 0900

Calendar of Events

March 29 — April 4, 2018

Eggstravaganza

Date and time: Thursday, March 29, 2018, 11:00 AM–1:30 PM
 Description: Come out and enjoy an egg hunt, light refreshments, crafts, and pictures with Mr. Bunny.
 Cost: Resident: \$5; Non-resident: \$7
 Ages: 2-11
 Location: Bowie Community Center
 3201 Stonybrook Drive, Bowie, MD
 Contact: 301-464-1737; TTY 301-699-2544

Discovery Cart Days

Date and time: Friday, March 30, 2018, 11:00 AM–2:00 PM
 Description: Drop by the Discovery Cart to explore various historical and STEAM related aviation topics. A Museum Educator will engage you with hands-on materials from the collection that will help explore these topics through interactive questions, experiments, and activities!
 Cost: Included with museum admission
 Ages: All ages are welcome
 Location: College Park Aviation Museum
 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD
 Contact: 301-864-6029

Xtreme Teens: 5-on-5 Basketball Tournament

Date and time: Friday, March 30, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM
 Description: Hoopers will complete in a single elimination 5-on-5 tournament.
 Cost: FREE with M-NCPPC Youth ID
 Ages: 10–17
 Location: Vansville Community Center
 6813 Ammendale Road, Beltsville, MD
 Contact: 301-937-6621; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Bowling

Date and time: Friday, March 30, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM
 Description: Line 'em up and knock 'em down! That's how we'll do it on this exciting trip to AMF Laurel Bowling Lanes. Please bring \$20 to cover cost of bowling and shoe rental. STRRRRIKKKEEE!!
 Cost: \$20/person
 Ages: 10–17
 Location: Beltsville Community Center
 3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville, MD
 Contact: 301-937-6613; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Skate Night

Date and time: Friday, March 30, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM
 Description: Enjoy a night of fun with outdoor skating under the stars. Whether it's freestyle, forward, backward, tandem or solo - it doesn't matter! - come show off your roller skating skills! Bring a friend and double your fun!
 Cost: FREE with M-NCPPC Youth ID
 Ages: 10–17
 Location: Kentland Community Center
 2413 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover, MD
 Contact: 301-386-2278; TTY 301-699-2544

Ballet: Children

Date and time: Saturday, March 31, 2018, 9:00 AM–9:45 AM
 Description: Learn the beauty of ballet through this program that develops proper body alignment and muscle training with Cecchetti ballet techniques. This method is used to train for classical ballet and adheres to a strict program of planned daily exercise routines pinpointing the laws of anatomy. Secure your child's spot. Sign up today!
 Cost: Resident: \$50; Non-resident: \$65
 Ages: 6–12
 Location: Bowie Community Center
 3209 Stonybrook Road, Bowie, MD
 Contact: 301-464-1737; TTY 301-699-2544

Family Fun Walk/Run

Date and time: Saturday, March 31, 2018, 9:00 AM–10:00 AM
 Description: We're calling all Prince George's County walkers and runners to join us for a fun walk/run at the Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex. Bring the whole family, lace up your shoes and meet us on the outdoor track! Call us at 301-446-6842 for more information.
 *Scheduled to take place outdoors; weather permitting. In the event of inclement weather, classes will be held in the gymnasium.
 Cost: FREE
 Ages: All ages are welcome
 Location: Prince George's County Sports & Learning Complex
 8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD
 Contact: 301-583-2400; TTY 301-699-2544

High Intensity Interval Training

Date and time: Saturday, March 31, 2018, 9:00 AM–10:00 AM
 Description: Want to increase your calorie-burning in a short amount of time? Join us for High-Intensity Interval Training (HIIT)—a fun, effective, 45-minute, high-intensity class that combines several different workout methods including HIIT, cardio, bodyweight strength training, plyometrics, super-setting, and multi-planar movements! Improve your fitness, build muscle, and increase your metabolism! Sign up and get active today!
 Cost: Resident: \$35; Non-resident: \$46
 Ages: 16 and older
 Location: Bowie Community Center
 3209 Stonybrook Road, Bowie, MD
 Contact: 301-464-1737; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Popcorn Night

Date and time: Saturday, March 31, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM
 Description: Transform your favorite popcorn into a tasty treat! You can use chocolate syrup, butter, and other toppings to make something yummy. If you have any allergies please let the teen director know.
 Cost: FREE with M-NCPPC Youth ID
 Ages: 10–17
 Location: Beltsville Community Center
 3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville, MD
 Contact: 301-937-6613; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Ready For A New Solar Roof?

Dear EarthTalk:

I need to get my roof replaced as a result of storm damage (thanks global warming!). Is Tesla's solar roof a good deal and do other companies offer similar products—with the photovoltaic cells integrated into the roofing material?

—Kenny S.,
 Vero Beach, FL

It would be a stretch to call Tesla's new Solar Roof a "good deal" given that it costs more than just about any other rooftop solar option, but there are some scenarios where it might make sense anyway. For instance, some housing developments or homeowners' associations don't allow traditional photovoltaic panels to muck up roof sightlines for aesthetic or other reasons, so solar collectors integrated into a traditional looking roof may be worth the extra expense.

According to EnergySage, a solar information clearinghouse and matchmaker for 500-plus pre-screened solar installers, replacing a roof on a 3,000 square foot home in Southern California with another regular roof and then adding photovoltaic panels on top would run around \$34,000 in gross costs all told (\$8,000 for a new asphalt or slate roof and \$26,000 for the photovoltaic equipment and installation). Of course, some solar installers will lease the panels to you, so you would just pay a

smaller monthly fee akin to your old electricity bill.

Meanwhile, gross costs for putting in a full Tesla Solar Roof top out over \$50,000, a 33 percent price premium for the sleeker look and added cool factor. But given all the turbulence in the solar industry in recent years, Tesla customers are also happy to pay a premium for the peace of mind of knowing they are dealing with a company that won't be going out of business anytime soon. Tesla is already the dominant force in the sector given its 2016 acquisition of leading residential solar installer SolarCity and vertical integration with electric cars and lithium-ion battery arrays. They also have pretty deep pockets: Tesla went public in 2010 and has been a darling of tech investors ever since. The first Tesla Solar Roofs have already started going up in California, with a roll out to other states planned by the end of 2018.

But Tesla is far from the only game in town when it comes to so-called "building integrated" photovoltaics (BIPV). Forward Labs, a venture capital backed Silicon Valley start-up, has started installing its own integrated solar roofing systems around the San Francisco Bay Area and plans to expand beyond California in 2019. Unlike Tesla's tiled roof design, Forward Labs' "single-surface" look—more akin in style to a metal roof—features layers of solar cells and tempered glass



PHOTO COURTESY EARTH TALK

Forward Labs, a venture-backed Silicon Valley start-up, is one of a small number of companies vying to compete with Tesla on so-called "solar roof" technology.

that can take on any color the customer chooses. The start-up claims its solar roofing technology can produce almost double the energy output of Tesla's tiles while costing 33 percent less. While we know less about the technical details, the Japanese company Solar Frontier plans to roll out its own solar roof technology across Japan in 2019.

Yet with all the hype about solar roofs, we can't forget about the technology's forebear, solar

shingles. While not technically integrated into the roof, solar shingles lay flat on existing roofing, keeping a low-profile and requiring less installation time than traditional photovoltaic panels or fully-integrated solar roofs. RGS Energy's PowerHouse and CertainTeed's Apollo have been around since 2011 and can achieve efficiencies similar to traditional photovoltaic panels at a price point far below fully integrated solar roofing.

CONTACTS: EnergySage, energysage.com; Tesla Solar Roof, tesla.com/solarroof; Forward Labs, www.forwardlabs.com; RGS PowerHouse, rgspowerhouse.com; CertainTeed Apollo, certain-teed.com/solar/products/.

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

The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism is Now Accepting Nominations for the 2018 Governor's Service Awards

By PRESS OFFICER
 Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD —The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism today announced the opening of the nomination period for the 2018 Governor's Service Awards, marking the 35th year for this awards ceremony, which will be held this fall. The Governor's Service Awards recognize Marylanders who have provided significant volunteer contributions to communities around the state during 2017 (or longer for Lifetime Achievement Category), and are working to change Maryland for the better.

"The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism remains committed to Governor Hogan's directive to recognize, promote, and encourage volunteerism throughout the state," said Van Brooks, Director of the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism. "In addition

to the upcoming Governor's Service Awards, we celebrate the service of Maryland's outstanding volunteers through various initiatives, including the Black History Month Community Leaders Awards introduced earlier this year. Our office has recognized the significant contributions of volunteers to our communities by giving over 1,400 volunteer certificates just since the beginning of 2018."

"The continued efforts of the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism, through initiatives such as the Governor's Service Awards, help to grow Maryland's volunteer community — an important partner in ensuring that all citizens have access to the resources they need to thrive in Maryland," said Steve McAdams, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives. "Recently, my office utilized these very relationships to connect volunteer networks

to an initiative led by Governor Hogan to distribute hundreds of thousands of food kits to Marylanders in need."

In 2017, over 150 nominations were received for the prestigious Governor's Service Awards. Among last year's award recipients were Grace Callwood, a youth survivor of stage IV Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma and the founder of the We Can Move Movement, Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to finding swift solutions for homeless, sick, and foster children; Miriam Zadek, a lifelong advocate for the deaf and hard of hearing community in Maryland; and Champion of Service Award winner Mr. J.W. Marriott.

The deadline to submit a nomination is Friday, June 1, 2018. Nominations are encouraged to include strong narrative writing within the word limit, focus on the previous year of service (excluding the Lifetime Achievement category), and

provide comprehensive quantitative data to support service efforts, such as the number of people served and number of hours volunteered. Nominations may be submitted for individuals and groups in one of 15 categories:

- AmeriCorps Alum**
- Corporate Business**
- Emerging Leader**
- Exemplary Service Learning**
- Faith-Based**
- Lifetime Achievement**
- Member of the Board**
- National Service**
- Nonprofit Volunteer Program**
- State Employee**
- First Responder Veteran Group/Team**
- Youth**
- Individual**

To learn more about the awards and submit a nomination, visit govs.maryland.gov/governors-service-awards.

TUESDAY TIP

WOMEN: INFLUENCING EARTH DAY, EVERY DAY

As women (and men), we are targeted for single-use items, especially in our bathroom routine. Reduce your waste with these hygienic tips.

- Switch to certified organic cotton or GOTS certified (Global Organic Textile Standard) disposable sanitary items, which are free of rayon, plastic and GMOs. Reusable products also help reduce this exposure.
- Opt for reusable cloth when removing make-up or cleaning your face, instead of disposable facial wipes.
- Make your own products, like face or lip scrubs, from sugar, coconut oil, or honey.
- Recycle hair care, skin care, cosmetic packaging, mouthwash bottles, toothpaste tubes, toothbrushes, deodorant and more through Terracycles numerous recycling brigades. Find your closest drop-off location at bit.ly/terracyclesbrigades.

Prince George's County Sealed Nature is an affiliate of the Department of the Environment, Planning and Public Works, and Office of Central Services to promote cost savings and sustainability in our everyday behavior.