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Baysox to Host Annual Bark in the Park Day on April 22

Fans Will Have Opportunity to Meet WBAL-TV's Jason Newton & WBAL-TV's "Puppy with a Purpose", Camden

By PRESS OFFICER
Baysox

BOWIE, MD—Don't forget to Bring your pup to the ball-park for the Baysox 18th annual Bark In The Park Day, presented by BARK! Pawssitive Pet Food, on Sunday, April 22 @ 1:35 PM when the team hosts the Akron RubberDucks.

Enjoy interactive dog related exhibits throughout the stadium and everyone will be encouraged to Bark for the Baysox during the game. All dogs are admitted free and must be on a leash and be up to date with tags/vaccinations to be allowed into the stadium.

The Baysox will also be bringing out a special guest on Sunday, April 22 with WBAL-TV's "Puppy with a Purpose", Camden and WBAL-TV's "11 News Today" morning anchor Jason Newton. Fans will have the chance to meet both guests during the game.

Camden is WBAL-TV's "Puppy with a Purpose" and future service dog from America's VetDogs. Once she completes her training, she will be a service dog for a veteran or a first responder. Camden is part of the NBC Today Show's "Puppy Squad", with brothers being trained for service in New York, Boston, Atlanta, and Los Angeles. All the dogs will be future guide or service dogs for the Guide Dog Foundation and Amer-

ica's VetDogs. You can follow along with Camden's updates on Instagram @wbaltvpuppy, and the rest of her brothers by following the hashtag #TODAYpuppysquad, and by watching The TODAY Show on WBAL-TV.

Jason Newton is an anchor on WBAL-TV's "11 News Today", on from 4:30AM-7:00 AM weekdays, and the host of the public affairs show "11 TV Hill" on Sundays at 11:30 AM. Jason is originally from Baltimore (a proud alumni of Baltimore City College), and an alumni of the University of Maryland. Jason worked in Salisbury, Maryland and Milwaukee, Wisconsin before returning home and joining WBAL-TV in 2013.

Fans that come out and join us for Bark in the Park Day will get the chance to watch a Baysox team that is home to four of the Top 10 prospects in the Baltimore Orioles system according to MLB.com.

The Bowie Baysox 2018 season is presented by Money One Federal Credit Union. Baysox single game tickets are available online, visit the website to purchase tickets at baysox.com, or via phone by calling 301-464-4865 or in person at the stadium ticket office. The Baysox ticket office is open Monday through Friday

See BAYSOX Page A3



Clerks process administrative paperwork as Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller Jr. presides. The Senate passed 42 bills as the session closed, covering issues from sexual harassment to cyber-bullying.

Election-Year 2018 General Assembly Session Ends With an Eye on November

By CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE STAFF
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Overhauling state tax code in response to sweeping federal tax cuts, bolstering school safety after a shooting at a Southern Maryland high school and stabilizing health insurance markets in the wake of Congressional action were just a few of the myriad policy decisions the

Maryland General Assembly addressed in 2018 during the 90-day legislative session.

Legislators also overturned vetoes and passed a bill left from last year that takes aim at the lack of diversity in the state's nascent medical marijuana industry.

Republican Gov. Larry Hogan on Tuesday signed 114 pieces of legislation, including on school safety and health insurance. The governor also

signed legislation related to organ donation; House Speaker Michael Busch, D-Anne Arundel, underwent a liver transplant last year.

"This has been our most successful legislative session," Hogan said. "I believe it was a big win for the people of Maryland."

Hogan on Monday said his biggest disappointment was legislation removing power from the Board of Public

Works on school-construction funding, calling it a "purely political move."

In an election year, changing faces next year are expected, but federal criminal proceedings and the death of a lawmaker meant notable absences in the Senate before Monday's midnight close of the session, known as "Sine Die."

See 2018 SESSION Page A3

Maryland School-Extension Bill in Governor's Hands

By PRESS OFFICER
Public News service

BALTIMORE, MD—Spring Break is considered a necessity for many students and teachers, but Maryland schools have been forced to cut into that "unwind time" to make up for lost days earlier in the academic year.

A bill passed by the Maryland General Assembly would change that. Senate Bill 7029 allows schools to add the missed days onto the end of a school year, keeping vacation breaks intact. But for now, schools in places like Prince George's County will have three fewer Spring Break days this month.

John White, public information officer with the school district, said rough winter weather is to blame.

"Our community wanted to protect Spring Break, but we had six snow days this year, so we didn't have enough days in the calendar to use," White said. "So, we had to start taking away from Spring Break."

A spokeswoman for Gov. Larry Hogan said the governor



PHOTO COURTESY PIXABAY

Maryland lawmakers have passed a bill that could give school systems more flexibility with their school calendars.

is supportive of the legislation and will sign it into law. The change most likely wouldn't take effect until next school year.

In 2016, the governor signed an executive order requiring that Maryland's school year start after Labor Day and end no later than June 15. This new bill would keep the same start date, but change the ending date depending on how many school days need to be made up.

"They value Spring Break, they wanted us to protect Spring Break in our school calendar."

In 2016, the governor signed an executive order requiring that Maryland's school year start after Labor Day and end no later than June 15. This new bill would keep the same start date, but change the ending date depending on how many school days need to be made up.

"Well, parents and students have been very vocal," he said.

MDTA Police Honor Top Cops

Prince George's County Resident Named Officer of the Year

By PRESS OFFICER
MDTA

BALTIMORE, MD—On April 4, 2018, Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) Police Chief Col. Woodrow W. Jones honored sworn and civilian members of the MDTA Police who distinguished themselves during 2017.

"Our officers positively impact the lives of the citizens of Maryland each and every day. Their outstanding work can be seen when they remove dan-

gerous drugs and firearms from our communities, when they interdict an impaired driver and when they save the life of someone in need," said Colonel Jones.

Among those honored was our very own, Prince George's County resident Officer William Harris, Officer Harris has been a member of the MDTA Police since May 2014, who was named MDTA Police Officer of the Year. He earned his honor after being selected as Detachment Officer of the Month for

the Governor Harry W. Nice Memorial Bridge 9 out of 12 months during 2017. Officer Harris conducted 3,058 traffic stops, making 24 arrests. In addition, he participated in the Toys for Tots campaign and Shop with A Cop and continues to explore ways to improve the community. Officer Harris was recognized for taking the initiative to make the public roadways around the Nice Bridge a much

See MDTA Page A3

New Diabetes Fitness and Education Classes to Help People Manage Complex Disease

By PRESS OFFICER
Doctors Community Hospital

LANHAM, MD—The Joslin Diabetes Education Center at Doctors Community Hospital now offers diabetes fitness and education classes. Covered by most insurance plans, these weekly classes include a one-hour diabetes self-management education session and one-hour

physical exercise session. This combination has been shown to lower blood glucose levels and contribute to healthier outcomes for people living with diabetes.

These diabetes and fitness education classes are held every Tuesday morning at the Joslin Diabetes Center Education Affiliate at Doctors Community Hospital. Classes are taught by an experienced certified diabetes

educator, a registered dietitian and certified fitness trainers. Participants will learn about:

- Role of physical activity in controlling glucose levels
- How different activities affect blood glucose
- Exercise safety precautions for people who have diabetes

See DIABETES Page A3

INSIDE

Governor Larry Hogan Signs Comprehensive School Safety Bill Into Law

Governor Larry Hogan was joined today by Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller and Speaker of the House Michael Busch to sign 114 bills into law at a signing ceremony at the Maryland State House in Annapolis

Community, Page A3

10,000 Small Businesses Has Potential to Close the Racial Wealth Gap

A recent study on Black entrepreneurship concluded that Black-owned businesses could be a key to closing the racial wealth gap. While white adults have 13 times the wealth of Black adults, the gap between white and Black business owners is only three to one.

Commentary, Page A4

Prince George's County Celebrates Being Maryland's #1 Job Creating Jurisdiction for the 5th Quarter in a Row

In addition, our award winning Economic Development Incentive Fund (EDI Fund) continues to support business investment in Prince George's County.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: A Wrinkle in Time

The basic story is simple enough. Awkward, outcast teenager Meg Murry (Storm Reid) and her adopted genius 6-year-old brother, Charles Wallace (Deric McCabe), miss their father (Chris Pine), a scientist who was studying wormholes and space travel when he suddenly vanished four years ago.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

I recently read about the toxic dangers of particle board. I still am using the same laminate on particle board bedroom furniture that I bought new 30 years ago. Do you think it's still harmful to my health after all this time, and is there any way to make it less unhealthy?

—Jane Woodard, via e-mail
Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

It's finally Spring! Ed's Plant World and the Surratts Library celebrate with workshops

Ed Marson, of Ed's Plant World, is offering workshops, one in April and one in May, "for people looking to hone their skills with potting, planting, lawn and garden maintenance, landscaping and hardscape design." Ed's Plant World, on Branch Avenue in Brandywine, was founded in 1981 and continues to be our closest resource for plants, mulch, and almost anything else needed for your yard.

The Master Gardeners of Prince George's invite you to Surratts-Clinton Library for Spring Gardening Workshops: Plants That Work Well in the Shade Workshop, on Saturday, April 21, and Vertical Gardening Workshop, Saturday, May 12. Both begin at 2 PM.

D.C. police officer dies in Clinton crash

We were driving Old Branch Avenue on April 6, about 3 PM, when we saw yellow tape stretched across Piscataway Road, in front of the gas station. And then I saw it: a crumpled motorcycle beneath the bumper of a car. I later found out that the bike belonged to a D.C. Officer, Jamal P. Shaw.

The Post reports the accident: "Shaw was going west on Piscataway Road when a west-bound vehicle changed lanes in front of him ... he was forced to take evasive action which caused his motorcycle to slide on its side. ... then he was struck by a car going in the opposite direction." Jamal Shaw died in the hospital; he was 27.

He grew up in Prince George's where his parents still

live, but in recent years he lived in Southeast and was assigned to the First District. He had a degree in criminal justice from the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore and planned on getting a master's. His parents, two sisters and a brother survive him.

The driver that hit him stayed at the scene. The County police are trying to identify the driver who changed lanes.

Air Expo at Pax River

The Blue Angels will perform at the Naval Air Station Patuxent River Air Expo June 2 and 3 in celebration of the base's 75th anniversary. The Expo will be a weekend of free, family fun, aerial acrobatic performances, ground exhibits, food, vendors and kids' activities.

People

- Twenty kids from District Heights sang with the Cherry Blossom Parade Choir.

- Father Jeffrey Samaha celebrates the 40th anniversary of his ordination on Sunday, May 6 at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Forestville, beginning at 1 p.m. Luncheon will follow at the Knights of Columbus Hall. For information, call Chuck Vandenbossche, 301-233-1134. Fr. Samaha is the chaplain at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital.

- The Surratt Society is saddened by the death of one of their longtime members and supporters, Betty Borrell, who died Dec. 30. She was a Clinton resident and is survived by her husband and Robert George Borrell Sr., two children and four grandchildren.

- Condolences to Serena Moore, organist for several local churches, on the death of her mother, Margaret Hopp, in Ore-

gon. Mrs. Hopp died Feb. 19 at the age of 100.

- Condolences to my son-in-law, John Dobson Mudd, on the death of his cousin Brenda Marie Dobson, 68, who died at her home in La Plata on April 4. She worked for the Charles County Board of Education and, later, in the family business, Southern Maryland Gas, Inc. Survivors include her husband David; three children, Katherine, Braden and Loren, and nine grandchildren.

Academia

Bishop McNamara High School has announced their 2018 Moreau Scholarship Recipients. Among them: Tiffany E. Obina and Aaron Randolph Carmichael of St. Columba School, Oxon Hill, and Katelyn Marie Weslowski of St. Mary's School, Piscataway.

I will be delighted to announce your graduate in my column. Call 301-735-3451 or email muddmm@aol.com. Let me know his/her school and plans for the future (college, military service, travel, Disney World, etc.).

Morningside & Skyline elections: 30 years ago

Morningsiders went to the polls May 2 (1988) and reelected two incumbents, Charles Kiker and Audrey Cook. There were write-ins for James Ealey and Jean Williams.

Skyline residents voted for Jim Prince, president, at their May 18 election. Other officers: Elnora McCall, 1st vice president; Mabel Harper, 2nd vice president; Jack Boone, treasurer;

See MORNINGSIDE Page A5

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

SPRING CRAFT & VENDOR FAIR

Come sip, shop and relax the afternoon away at our Spring Craft & Vendor Fair Sunday, May 6 from 1:00-5:00 PM. The event is hosted by Romano Vineyard & Winery. Gerry Swarbrick will be performing live at the Fair. Food will be available for purchase. Vendors will be announced soon. The address is 15715 Bald Eagle School Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613.

CLINTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Annual National Day of Prayer Breakfast will be held on April 28th at 8:30 AM. Rev. Brian K. Fleet will be our Guest Speaker, sponsored by the Evangelism Ministry. Stephanie Samuel is the Chairperson. Pastor is Rev. Dorothea J. Belt Stroman. The church address is 10700 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735.

COLUMBIA AIR CENTER

The Columbia Air Center is located at Patuxent River Park's Jug Bay Natural Area. The center was the first licensed African American owned and operated airport in Maryland. When you visit the center you will find that there is an outdoor exhibit that tells the story of the center. You will also learn about the group of African American aviators known as the Cloud Club. The address is 16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Telephone number is 301-627-6074.

ST. PHILIP'S DAY

You are invited to come and celebrate St. Philip's Day with us Sunday, May 6, 2018. Join us in our Worship Service at 9:30 AM. Our Guest Speaker is Evangelist Thomasine Brooks from "Save by Grace Full Gospel Ministry Inc.", Pastor Dr. Holly Maxwell. Social hour immediately following the service. St. Philip's Church is located at 13500 Baden Westwood Road Brandywine, Maryland 20613.

CONGRATULATIONS

It's been a busy two weeks for Miss Makayla Eugene who attends Gwynn Park Middle School in Brandywine, Maryland. Third Quarter Grading period ended with a 4.0 GPA (Grade Point Average), induction into the National Junior Honor Society, D.C Tap Festival (Jam Youth Project) performance and classes, Gwynn Park Middle Dance Team MAPDA 1ST place in all categories and Grand Champions, 3rd Place Solo Spinner.

Makayla who resides in Brandywine, Maryland with her parents Curtis and Stephanie Eugene and her sister Morgan Eugene, is also the granddaughter of Frank and Gwen Deville. We are grateful for the Village-Supporting Young Leaders.

KAPPA HARBOR TAKEOVER 2018

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. presents the All Black Affair featuring the live band "Spur of The Moment" and special guest "Maysa" at MGM National Harbor Grand Ballroom Friday June

22, 2018. For more information, visit www.Kappatakeover.com. Early Bird sales end April 30, 2018. Red Carpet Entry 8:30 PM, 9:00 PM-2:00 AM, Dress to impress, DJ CYD. Food will be served. A portion of the proceeds will go to Women and Children Charities.

ZION WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

You are invited to Zion Wesley United Methodist Women Celebrating their XXIX Anniversary Sunday, April 22, 2018, 3:00 PM at Zion Wesley UMC, Waldorf. The church is located at 11500 Berry Road, Waldorf, Maryland. Rev. Gladman Kapfumvuti, Pastor. Mary Cooper, President and Irene Hawkins, Vice President. Theme: "Youth Standing for Christ". Speaker: Sister Pearl Chase, Asbury UMC 4004 Accokeek Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613.

Special Guest: Footsteps of Faith and Guided by Faith from Redeeming Life Ministries International 7845 Port Tobacco Road, Port Tobacco, Maryland 20677. Come out and show our children some love. Colors are red and white.

SUMMER 2018 YOUTH PROGRAMS

Prince George's Community College offers activities for Grades 2-11. Register the campers for the highest grade they have completed. Make summer memorable and enroll today for OWL SCHOLARS CAMPS. Visit www.pgcc.edu or call 301-546-0120.

Neighborhoods

CALEA Accreditation Unanimously Awarded to the Office of the Sheriff



UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George's County Office of the Sheriff announced at a press conference today that it has been awarded a 'Certificate of Accreditation' from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) for the first time in the agency's history. The Office of the Sheriff's CALEA Team was officially notified of the award on March 24th in Dallas, TX. Sheriff High was awarded the certificate of accreditation by CALEA Executive Director, Mr. W. Craig Hartley, Jr.

CALEA standards require an established reporting process for monitoring and measuring performance. As such, it ensures best practices, continual growth and improvement, and a methodology to confirm that law enforcement agencies practice what is established in their written directives. Accreditation by CALEA represents the Office of the Sheriff's completion of a comprehensive agency-wide self-evaluation that concludes with a rigorous outside review by a team of independent assessors. Accreditation has been sought by the agency for many years.

Sheriff High thanked County Executive Baker for his support of Public Safety in general and of the

Office of the Sheriff specifically, saying of the CALEA award, "This is yet another demonstration of the professionalism that is a great source of pride for us and for the men and women of the Agency. This 'Certificate of Accreditation' from CALEA - on our first time testing our work against their rigorous standards - is an outstanding validation of our General Orders that substantiates that our policies and procedures are clear and consistent with best practice guidelines for how we do our work every day."

Chief Assistant Sheriff Darrin Palmer attended the CALEA conference in March, along with Captain Shawn Davenport and members of the CALEA Team said, "Our members depend on the integrity of our policies and procedures; accreditation tells citizens, government officials and our colleagues in law enforcement that our agency meets the highest professional standards."

Captain Davenport, who said he was proud that the award came under his watch said, "This is a proud day in our agency's history and I think we're all proud and honored to be here at this time, continuing to demonstrate that we have the best interests of the citizens and

our members firmly in the forefront of our mission."

The press conference also included a presentation and demonstration of the Office of the Sheriff's Body-Worn Camera Program and its plan for roll-out of the cameras. Lt. Brian Endlich, who spearheaded the camera project said, "In addition to developing and vetting our policy before we did anything, we also tested several of the best camera brands before we chose the one for our agency."

Major Sharon Saunders, Deputy Bureau Chief and Commander of the Office of Professional Responsibility, in recognizing the CALEA Team staff said, "It's been quite the experience and pleasure to be in command as we moved into the final phases of this work. The effort by them and all the members we depended on to help us get here makes this award truly an agency award." Of the body-worn camera roll-out she said, "We are ready to roll-out body-worn cameras to help us do our work because we took the time we needed so that our training and implementation would be successful."

For more information contact the Communications and Public Affairs Division at 301-780-7354.

BGE 2018 Green Grants Program is Now Accepting Applications

Grants Support Area Nonprofits That Promote Environmental Stewardship

BALTIMORE, MD—Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) is now accepting applications for its 2018 Green Grants program. All 501c3 nonprofit organizations within the BGE service area are eligible to apply for grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 to fund projects or programs demonstrating a commitment to environmental stewardship. Applications may be submitted at bge.com/giving and must be received by the close of business on May 15, 2018.

"We are excited about the innovative ideas and initiatives that are sure to come from the

minds of some of the region's most dedicated environmental advocates," said Alexander Núñez, BGE's senior vice president of regulatory and external affairs. "Since 2013, we've provided more than \$1.6 million in Green Grants to nonprofits throughout the region in support of our steadfast commitment to powering a cleaner and brighter future for our customers and communities. We again look forward to partnering with these organizations to help improve the quality of life for all Marylanders."

BGE's commitment to environmental stewardship aligns

with the goals of its parent company, Exelon Corporation. Together, Exelon and its Maryland subsidiaries committed as part of a 2012 merger to maintaining an average of \$7 million in annual charitable giving in the state over ten years. The annual BGE Green Grants program is a significant part of that commitment.

Applications for BGE's Green Grants are reviewed by an external committee of community stakeholders.

For more information on the BGE Green Grants program, visit bge.com/giving.

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COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Taking Control of Those End of the School Year Tests

From elementary through high schools, our children are faced with tests meant to measure just how well the school year has gone. Schools need to know how much of the knowledge that was being handed out all year has managed to sink in.

While most students may dread those end of year tests, most schools today recognize good testing as a means of improving their teaching. Once upon a time, schools and teachers might have used the "smile and file" approach with test results, handing out test results with a smile, then simply filing away and forgetting them.

Educators today, however, use the test results as a measure of how well current education methods are actually working, and as a means to make changes for more effective teaching in the future.

Testing may be a necessary and required end of year activity, but for too many students it produces lots of stress and anxiety. However, with a bit of planning, tests can be much easier to handle.

A starting point is for students to have a clear understanding of what tests they're facing and when they're going to occur. Regular school year pop quizzes may be unexpected, but something as important as a final exam is never a surprise.

When the test schedule is set, it's time to plan. Which tests are going to present the biggest challenges? Those are the ones that deserve some extra studying time. This doesn't mean pulling all-nighters and cramming, but instead starting days or even weeks ahead of time to re-read notes, review end of chapter summaries, to perhaps study with a friend, and even ask a teacher for extra help if some parts of the material are difficult or confusing. Teachers want to help. That's why they often hand out study guides. Use them!

Students also need to prepare physically and mentally for testing. This means eating right and avoiding sugary, junk foods. A healthy breakfast, avoiding highly caffeinated drinks, and getting a good night's sleep before test day are all strategies to success.

When a student enters a test well rested and having eaten well, it's easier to feel relaxed and less anxious. If the test material has been studied calmly and carefully, then all that's needed is a couple of deep breaths in order to calmly focus. The result will be less stress and better scores.

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

Diabetes from A1

Diabetes continues to be a major healthcare concern throughout the area. Statistics indicate that African Americans and Latinos are disproportionately affected by diabetes at 12.7 percent and 12.1 percent respectively. In its 2017 Community Health Needs Assessment, the Prince George's County Health Department estimated that 9.2 percent of county residents had diabetes. Additionally, diabetes was reported as the fourth leading cause of death in Prince George's County. If not managed, this complex condition can lead to an increased risk for blindness, kidney failure, non-traumatic amputations, cardiovascular disease and stroke and even death.

Exercise has been shown as an effective tool to combat diabetes. According to American Diabetes Association guidelines, diabetes self-management training can help improve glucose levels. In fact, it reported that physical activity can lower blood glucose levels up to 24 hours or more after workout. Other benefits of physical activity and exercise include:

- Increased insulin sensitivity
- Reduced cardiovascular risk
- Improved muscle strength
- Reduced A1C levels
- Increased weight loss
- Improved well-being

For more information or to register to, call the Joslin Diabetes Education Center at Doctors Community Hospital at 301-552-8661.

Baysox from A1

from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on non-game days, until the top of the 7th inning on non-fireworks game days and at the end of the fireworks show on fireworks game days.

To keep up with Baysox news, visit baysox.com and be sure to follow the Baysox on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram or register for the all new Baysox Text Insider Club for free by texting the keyword BAYSOX to 50700.

MDTA from A1

safer environment through his pro-active enforcement.

In addition to naming the 2017 Officer of the Year, the MDTA Police presented officers and civilians with more

than 100 awards, including Awards of Excellence, Life-saving Awards, Law Enforcement Supervisor of the Year, Motor Carrier Inspector of the Year, Dispatcher of the Year and Chief's Commendations, among other.

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

Governor Larry Hogan Signs Comprehensive School Safety Bill Into Law

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Governor Larry Hogan was joined today by Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller and Speaker of the House Michael Busch to sign 114 bills into law at a signing ceremony at the Maryland State House in Annapolis. The signing followed the conclusion of the 2018 session of the Maryland General Assembly on Monday, April 9.

"Today is a great day for the people of Maryland. The success of our legislative session shows that, unlike the partisan gridlock we see in Washington, here in Annapolis, we work together in a common sense, bipartisan way to get things done," said Governor Hogan. "I want to thank the legislature for

joining with us to make our schools safer, protect our communities from violent crime, provide tax relief for hardworking Marylanders, ensure our citizens have access to health care, and create even more jobs."

Among the bills signed into law were the *Maryland Safe To Learn Act (SB 1265)*, a landmark school safety package that includes key provisions from Governor Hogan's *Safe Schools Act Of 2018*, including increased funding for the Maryland Center for School Safety, the creation of aggressive statewide standards for school safety, requirements for the standardized training and certification for all school resource officers, and requirements for each school system to develop behavioral assessment teams to identify and provide interven-

tions for students who may pose a threat to safety.

"No mom or dad should ever have to worry when they send their kids off to school whether their son or daughter is going to come home safely," said Governor Hogan. "I want to thank legislators on both sides of the aisle for coming together and working with us to make our schools safer."

The governor also signed *Senate Bill 387* and *House Bill 1782*, which completed the successful bipartisan effort to stop health care costs from skyrocketing due to inaction by the federal government. Governor Hogan and the presiding officers signed the centerpiece of this health care initiative (*HB 1795/SB 1267*), which creates the structure for a reinsurance program to be

administered by the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, into law on April 5, 2018.

Additionally, the governor signed House Bill 96, legislation introduced by Speaker Busch and supported by the governor, to establish a tax credit for living organ donations, and House Bill 427, a common sense measure to allow students to use and bring sunscreen to school, which the governor supported following his recent surgery to remove skin cancer cells.

"I want to thank our presiding officers and legislators on both sides of the aisle for their hard work over the past 90 days. This has been one of the most productive legislative sessions in the history of our state and a win for the people of Maryland," said Governor Hogan.

2018 Session from A1

Here is a roundup of the changes and happenings in Annapolis during the 2018 General Assembly session:

BUDGET: Schools, environment, opioids

Hogan touted a record \$6.5 billion in funding for K-12 education and included \$13.7 million to fight the opioid crisis. The state continued to fund efforts to clean up the Chesapeake by allocating more than \$52 million to the The Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund. The governor's budget also allocated \$11.5 billion for Maryland's Medicaid program.

TRANSPORTATION: Highways, Amazon and Metro

The state Department of Transportation has several large projects under way, including the new Purple Line light rail and a planned \$9 billion public-private highway plan Hogan called the largest transportation project in the "known universe." The planned widening of I-270, I-295 and I-495 has been closely tied to the state's multi-billion dollar bid for Amazon's second headquarters—including up to \$5.6 billion in tax incentives, which lawmakers approved (*HB0989/SB0877*) and about \$2 billion in transportation projects. The state also set aside \$167 million (*HB372/SB277*) annually to improve the Metro system, as part of a joint commitment with Virginia and Washington, D.C.

TAXES: Federal and state changes

Tax-relief legislation increases the maximum standard deduction to \$2,500 for single taxpayers and \$5,000 for those filing jointly (*SB318*), in tax years 2018 through 2020, according to a state analysis. In January, Comptroller Peter Franchot explained a national tax overhaul, which touts savings for Maryland taxpayers of \$2.8 billion on the federal side, would also increase state and local taxes for many Marylanders, according to a state report. Hogan proposed legislation (*SB733/HB875*) that would encourage standard deductions for federal taxes while allowing taxpayers to itemize state and local taxes. That bill failed.

ENVIRONMENT:

Forest conservation, oysters, climate alliance
A bill (*SB610*) that would have strengthened replanting requirements for developers under the state's Forest Conservation



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY AARON ROSA

Senator James Rosapepe, D-Prince George's and Anne Arundel, right, makes last minute negotiations on a bill in the final hours of the 2018 session. Rosapepe sponsored four bills passed on the last day.

Act was stripped of its teeth. The amended measure creates a task force to study forests in Maryland. And lawmakers passed a bill (*HB572*) that will increase tax credits for restaurants to recycle oyster shells. The Democrat-controlled legislature also passed a bill (*HB 3*) that will require Hogan to include Maryland in the U.S. Climate Alliance—a coalition of governors committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Republican President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from the Paris Climate Agreement in June.

OPIOIDS: Funding, overdoses

The Maryland General Assembly targeted "pill mill" doctors—physicians who unscrupulously supply opioid prescriptions—by passing a bill (*HB 359*) requiring the state's health department to establish a tip line to report suspicious prescribing practices and to examine the prescription and treatment history of those who died from opioid overdoses.

ME TOO: Parent rapists; domestic violence; sexual harassment

Hogan in February signed a bill (*HB 1*) allowing rape victims to terminate parental rights of their attackers. In keeping with the growing "#MeToo" movement this session, another bill changed the definition of abuse to include revenge porn and "generally relating to domestic violence" (*SB121*). A bill (*HB1342*) also passed that makes several changes related to anti-harassment procedures, policies and training within the state's legislative branch. And Sen. Cheryl Kagan, D-Montgomery, became the first legis-

lator to share her #MeToo moment this session when she said a lobbyist—who has denied the accusation—groped her in an Annapolis pub.

VETO OVERRIDES: Sick leave; 'ban the box'; school construction and personnel

The legislature overrode four bills this session. Mandated paid sick leave and "ban the box"—removing questions about criminal history on college applications—were vetoed by Hogan in the 11th hour of the 2017 session, and overridden by the Legislature in January. Late in this session, Delegate Maggie McIntosh, D-Baltimore, added an amendment to a school funding bill (*HB1783*) that stripped the Board of Public Works of power to approve school-construction funding—essentially a rebuke of Democrat Comptroller Peter Franchot's involvement in local school issues. The same day, both chambers overrode legislation (*SB639*) that alters procedures for suspending or dismissing public school personnel, among other changes.

EDUCATION:

Gaming revenues
The General Assembly passed legislation (*SB1122*) that could amend the Maryland Constitution to require the governor to use commercial gaming revenues to fund public education, beginning in fiscal year 2020. If approved in November, the funding would total \$125 million the first year, increasing to more than \$500 million by 2023, according to a state analysis.

HEALTH: Insurance, tobacco

Bills to stabilize the insurance market (*SB1267/ HB1795*)

passed, with the governor's support, to counterbalance recent healthcare decisions at the federal level. The two measures focused on applying for a federal-funds waiver and creating a reinsurance pool based on approval of the waiver. A bill also passed that prohibits and penalizes distribution of electronic nicotine delivery systems to minors (*HB1094*). Legislation that allows the holder of an electronic nicotine delivery systems retailer license to make sales through the mail (*HB47/SB90*) passed.

MEDICAL CANNABIS:

More licenses, diversity
After its dramatic failure in the final minutes of Sine Die in 2017, a bill diversifying Maryland's medical cannabis market passed this year. Despite assurances from the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus that it would be on the governor's desk in January, it slowly crept to the finish line. The bill offers more funding for the Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission while attempting to draw more women and minorities into the industry. The law funds free or discounted medical cannabis to some patients. On Monday, Hogan said he had yet to read the amended bill and wouldn't sign it until he does.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Schools, crime, 'red flag'; police corruption
The Maryland Safe to Learn Act of 2018 (*SB1265*) will require all Maryland public schools to have an armed school resource officer by 2019, and establishes a School Safety Sub-

COMMENTARY

Cong. Steny H. Hoyer
House Democratic Minority Whip



Maryland Congressional Delegation Urges Governor Hogan to Take Necessary Steps to Secure State Election Security

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) today joined Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), along with Congressmen John Sarbanes (MD-03), Elijah E. Cummings (MD-07), C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger (MD-02), John Delaney (MD-06), Anthony Brown (MD-04) and Jamie Raskin (MD-08), in sending a letter to Governor Larry Hogan, pressing him to allocate the required state matching funds to improve Maryland's election infrastructure ahead of the 2018 midterms.

"As you know, the Maryland State election system was the target of an attempted intrusion by hostile actors during the 2016 election," the Members wrote. "While there is no indication the perpetrators were successful in breaching the state election network, federal officials have made clear they expect continued assaults on our election infrastructure in 2018 and beyond. In response, we in Congress have acted swiftly to better understand the threat and to appropriate the resources needed to harden our election systems."

The Members continued: "With the 2018 midterm elections fast approaching, we hope you work quickly and collaboratively with the Maryland State Board of Elections to ensure Maryland has access to this critical federal funding."

The Members requested a response from Governor Hogan by April 20, 2018.

Full text of the letter follows.

April 9, 2018

The Hon. Lawrence J. Hogan Jr.
Governor
State of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Governor Hogan:

We write to encourage you to quickly take the necessary steps to access the \$7,063,699 in federal resources recently made available to the Maryland State Board of Elections by Congress for the purposes of enhancing election technology and instituting election security improvements.

As you know, the Maryland State election system was the target of an attempted intrusion by hostile actors during the 2016 election.[1] While there is no indication the perpetrators were successful in breaching the state election network, federal officials have made clear they expect continued assaults on our election infrastructure in 2018 and beyond.[2] In response, we in Congress have acted swiftly to better understand the threat[3] and to appropriate the resources needed to harden our election systems.[4]

Specifically, Congress—as part of the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115-141)* - directed

See SECURITY Page A7

Marc Morial, President and CEO
National Urban League



10,000 Small Businesses Has Potential to Close the Racial Wealth Gap

"Investing to support the launch and growth of Black-owned businesses could build wealth for individuals and their families, assist with closing the wealth gap, revitalize communities, and contribute to an overall healthier economy, which benefits us all. To do so, thoughtful and innovative approaches are required to overcome the exponential effects of the interplay among the wealth gap, the credit gap, and the trust gap. While challenging, this is worth striving for so that we can move one step closer to an inclusive economy."

—Association of Enterprise Opportunity,
"The Tapestry of Black Business Ownership In America"

Applications Are Being Accepted for Goldman Sachs Entrepreneurship Program through Babson College

If every Black-owned business with employees added two Black workers and 15% of those with no employees hired just one Black worker, the racial unemployment gap in the United States would be virtually eliminated.

A recent study on Black entrepreneurship concluded that Black-owned businesses could be a key to closing the racial wealth gap. While white adults have 13 times the wealth of Black adults, the gap between white and Black business owners is only three to one. The median net worth for Black business owners is 12 times higher than Black nonbusiness owners.

That's why supporting and nurturing small business growth is one of the National Urban League's top priorities, and Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses is one of our most important partnerships. Through greater access to education, capital and business support services, 10,000 Small Businesses graduates are able to grow their revenues and create jobs at rates that outperform the economy in general.

In 2016, 47 percent of businesses grew their revenues. But 30 months after graduation, nearly 78 percent of 10,000 Small Businesses alumni increased revenues. About 25 percent of businesses added jobs. But, at 30 months, more than 56 percent of 10,000 Small Businesses alumni created jobs.

In this 50th anniversary year of examining racial progress since the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., the enormous role of Black-owned businesses in the Civil Rights Movement cannot be overstated. As Boston University historian Louis Ferleger notes, the success of the Montgomery bus boycott depended upon Montgomery's 18 black-owned taxi companies, operating more than 200 cabs.

"Histories of the civil rights movement that emphasize the glory and successes of charismatic leaders only tell part of the story," Ferleger writes. "Small Black-owned businesses were critical because they were empowered to engage in civic participation. These businesses were uniquely situated to support the civil rights movement and also parted the waters."

Today's Black entrepreneurs, supported and empowered by partnerships like 10,000 Small Businesses, are a continuation of that civil rights legacy.

About 700 of the more than 7,200 graduates of the program have received their training through the Babson College cohort - a blended online and face-to-face program that delivers intensive entrepreneurship training and practical training from Babson's business experts and peers, alongside educational teams who teach the 10,000 Small Businesses program at community colleges across the country.

For 11 weeks, these small business owners connect with peers and work together through practical business education delivered through a blend of online and in-person sessions.

To apply for the 10,000 Small Businesses business and management education program, please visit www.10KSBAppl.com.



The Prince George's County Genealogical Society
Open to the Public
PHOTO COURTESY THE CITY OF BOWIE

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
The Prince George's County Genealogical Society was founded in 1969 and is the oldest county genealogical society in continuous existence in the State of Maryland. Initially the Founding and Charter members loaned books from their personal libraries to one another. As the Society acquired books through purchase or gift, a Library Committee was appointed and the Librarian transported the small collection to and from meetings. The library is housed in a circa 1961 Bowie ranch-style house. The library is open to the public 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. each Wednesday except the first Wednesday of the month (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.) and also on the last Saturday of each month 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. While the Library is open to the public, only Society members may borrow books, periodicals and video media.

Child Watch
by Marion Wright Edelman



Remembering Dr. King

I first heard Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. speak in person on April 19, 1960 at Spelman College's Sisters Chapel during my senior year in college. Dr. King was just 31 but he had already gained a national reputation during the successful Montgomery Bus Boycott five years earlier. The profound impact on me of hearing Dr. King that first time is evident in my diary where I repeated long portions of his speech that had vibrated the chords of my freedom- and justice-hungry soul. It is not often that great leaders and great turning points in history converge and sweep us up in a movement.

Dr. King became a mentor and friend. Many children today have come to see him as a history book hero—a larger-than-life, mythical figure. But it's crucial for them to understand Dr. King wasn't a superhuman with magical powers, but a real person—just like all the other ministers, parents, teachers, neighbors, and other familiar adults in their lives today. Although I do remember him as a great leader and a hero, I also remember him as someone able to admit how often he was afraid and unsure about his next step. But faith prevailed over fear, uncertainty, fatigue, and sometimes depression. It was his human vulnerability and ability to rise above it that I most remember. "If I Can Help Somebody Along the Way" was his favorite song.

Dr. King's greatness lay in his willingness to struggle to hear and see the truth; to not give into fear, uncertainty and despair; to continue to grow and to never lose hope, despite every discouragement from his government and even his closest friends and advisers. He would say: "Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step." That first time I heard him at Spelman he told us to always keep going: "If you cannot fly, run; if you cannot run, walk; if you cannot walk, crawl. But keep moving. Keep moving forward."

Ten years ago I wrote a letter to Dr. King in my book *The Sea Is So Wide and My Boat Is So Small: Charting a Course for the*

Next Generation. I rewrite just a small part of it here:

Although you have been gone fifty years, you are with me every day. We have made much but far from enough progress in overcoming the tenacious national demons of racism, poverty, materialism, and militarism you repeatedly warned could destroy America and all of God's creation. So I wanted to write you a letter on what we have done and still have to do to realize your and America's dream. What a privilege it was to know, work with, and learn from you in the struggle to end racial segregation, discrimination, and poverty in our land.

Just as many Old and New Testament prophets in the Bible were rejected, scorned, and dishonored in their own land in their times, so were you by many when you walked among us. Now that you are dead, many Americans remember you warmly but have sanitized and trivialized your message and life. They remember Dr. King the great orator but not Dr. King the disturber of unjust peace. They applaud the Dr. King who opposed violence but not the Dr.

King who called for massive nonviolent demonstrations to end war and poverty in our national and world house.

They applaud your great 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech but ignore the promissory note still bouncing at America's bank of justice, waiting to be cashed by millions who are poor and non-White. And they forget your repeated nightmares: the deaths of the four little girls in the Birmingham church and of three young civil rights workers in Mississippi's Freedom Summer and others across the South; the cries for Black Power begun during James Meredith's March Against Fear that you and others completed after he was shot; the growing violence in urban ghettos in southern and northern cities; the horrible, relentless violations of your human rights by FBI director J. Edgar Hoover; the storm of criticism that greeted your opposition to the Vietnam War, which you saw was stealing the hopes and lives of the poor at home and in that poor country; the outbreak of vi-

See WATCH, Page A24

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty — Why the Big Deal About COLA iIncreases?

by Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: Seems like everyone makes a big deal out of the annual Social Security increase. The way I see it, why bother? For the 2017 benefit year my wife's Social Security increased by .03% but her Medicare increased by 3% for a net gain of 0 dollars. My Social Security increased by the same .03% but my Medicare increased by 5% for a net gain of 0 dollars. For the 2018 benefit year my wife's Social Security increased by 2% but her Medicare increased by 17% for a net gain of 0 dollars. My Social Security increased by the same 2% but my Medicare increased by 22% for a net gain of only \$8.10 (.005%). Why does the government even bother with all these changes since the end result is that you net out no increase or just a small fraction of the actual increase? Makes no sense to me. Thanks for your column. I enjoy it.

Signed: Disillusioned

Dear Disillusioned: I must say I fully appreciate your point; I too received none of the 2017 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and only a small part of the 2018 increase. And although I know it's very little consolation, millions of others like us are in the same boat. What it boils down to is that healthcare costs (thus Medicare Part B premiums) are rising more than, and faster than, the inflation index used to compute Social Security COLA increases. Social Security and Medicare are two entirely different programs and, even though Medicare premiums are usually automatically deducted from Social Security payments, this is done as a convenience. The Medicare premium deducted from your Social Security benefit goes directly to Medicare, not to Social Security. Think of it this way: If you paid for your Medicare Part B premium separately rather than by a deduction from your Social Security benefit, for years you would have been paying Medicare the full Part B premium amount, which was more than you have been paying via deduction from your Social Security benefit. This is because there's a rule which states that your Social Security benefit can't go down because of a Medicare premium increase, and many of us (including me) were paying an artificially lower than normal Medicare premium.

But the same law which says that your Social Security benefit can't go down also says that any increase in your Social Security benefit can be used to bring your Medicare premium up to, or closer to, the standard Part B premium amount (\$134 per month in 2018), and this is why so many of us have seen all or most of our COLA increases going to Medicare. Note too that the COLA increases we are seeing in recent years (or not seeing in the case of 2010, 2011 and 2016) have been much lower than in years past because inflation has been so low for so many years (at least as measured by the Consumer Price Index). So while I share your frustration, I hope that since we're both now paying the full Medicare Part B premium each month via Social Security, that perhaps next year we'll be able to get the full amount of any Cost of Living Adjustment that is made to Social Security. That is, of course, if there is a COLA increase and also if there is no increase in the Medicare Part B premium (and the latter is doubtful). In case you missed it, here's a link to an article I recently wrote about this whole situation: <http://socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-cola-medicare-premiums-and-the-hold-harmless-provision/>.

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.

Morningside from A2

Judy Busky, corresponding secretary; and Joan Lipscomb, administrative assistant.

Grand Knight of K of C in Forestville dies at 86

Clifford Lyle Bates, formerly of Hillcrest Heights, died at his home in Charlotte Hall on Jan. 20. He was grand knight of the St. Pius X Council of the Knights of Columbus in Forestville.

He served in the Marines during the Korean War and--as an amphibious tank driver--saw battle at Inchon and the Chosin Reservoir. He was a Washington firefighter from 1954 to 1977, and was active with the National Guard, Civil Air Patrol, VFW, American Legion, Catholic War Veterans and was a leader with the Boy Scouts.

Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Margaret Paduda Bates, sons Clifford and Timothy, daughters Sharon and Peggy, brother Gerald, and seven grandchildren.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Devaughn Branham, April 20; Jill (Gilmartin) Booth and Tiffany Jackson, April 21; Taylor Foster, April 22; Jim Reilly, David Titus and Barbara Sparks, April 23; Edna Lucas, April 24; Sue Stine McConkey-Mason, Daisy Young, Kenia Spivey and my grandson David McHale, April 25; G.A. DeFelice, April 26; and Michael Call, Apr. 27.

Happy anniversary to Jim and Pat Conlon, their 44th on April 20; John and Ruth Anthony, Jr., their 40th on April 22; Lewis and Trisha (Pitts) Woods, their 29th on April 22; and Janet and Brian Spivey, April 23.

Prince George's County Celebrates Being Maryland's #1 Job Creating Jurisdiction for the 5th Quarter in a Row

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Recently released data from the State of Maryland's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) shows that Prince George's County added over 6,100 jobs from the 3rd Quarter of 2016 to the 3rd Quarter of 2017. This is the fifth consecutive DLLR quarterly report in which Prince George's County has led the State of Maryland in total new job growth over the previous year. Prince George's County's 1.97% rate of job growth was more than double the 0.86% of the State of Maryland. Howard County was second in the State of Maryland with 1.27% job growth rate and Baltimore City was third highest with a 1.26% job growth rate.

"No one would have imagined when I took office that Prince George's County would lead the state of Maryland in job growth for five consecutive reporting quarters" said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "Our success is based on a series of specific strategies and policies that we implemented to reform the way Prince George's County does business with the private sector and through our collaborations with our partners in the Prince George's County business community, the Prince George's County Council, the Prince George's County General Assembly Senate and House delegations, and the Prince George's County Congressional delegation. I want to thank my economic de-

3rd Quarter Jobs Data				
	3Q 2017	3Q 2016	Change	%Change
Maryland	2,649,506	2,626,991	22,515	0.86%
Anne Arundel	272,368	270,103	2,265	0.84%
Baltimore City	341,166	336,920	4,246	1.26%
Baltimore Co.	370,500	369,656	844	0.23%
Howard	171,075	168,929	2,146	1.27%
Montgomery	463,173	459,157	4,016	0.87%
Prince George's	319,367	313,192	6,175	1.97%

Source: DLLR, April 6, 2018

velopment team for their outstanding efforts to provide Prince Georgians with opportunities to work in our own County."

A summary of the County's job growth achievements based on DLLR's data is outlined below:

- Prince George's County created 6,175 jobs from 3rd Quarter 2016 to 3rd Quarter 2017.

- Prince George's County had a 1.97% job growth, compared with 0.86% for Maryland.

- Prince George's County created 27% of all net new jobs in Maryland from 2Q 2016 to 2Q 2017.

- The hottest job sectors in Prince George's County are Government, Information, Professional and Business Services, and Construction.

Beyond the data and numbers, Prince George's County also had several economic development and job growth successes recently. In February, Giant Food announced relocating their headquarters from Pennsylvania back to Prince George's County and, last

week, cyber security company, ID Agent, announced moving their headquarters from Washington, DC to Bowie, MD. Additionally, Bowie-based healthcare technology company, Inovalon acquired Minneapolis based ABILITY Network. Next month, Prince George's County will celebrate the Grand Opening of Futurecare that will continue to grow "Downtown Largo" with the first new free-standing rehabilitation facility coming to Prince George's County in more than 20 years. Futurecare will bring 150 new beds to patients and 220 new jobs to the County's healthcare epicenter as the nearby University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center is actively being built.

In addition, our award winning Economic Development Incentive Fund (EDI Fund) continues to support business investment in Prince George's County. Susan Gage Caterers, an EDI Fund recipient, at the end of this month will receive a

major award from the Maryland Economic Development Association (MEDA). And last month, the Washington Business Journal announced their top 25 real estate business deals of 2017. Deals in Prince George's County accounted for 20% (5) of WBJ's list, the most ever for the County in the 20 year history of this list. The Prince George's County business deals highlighted as best in the Capital Region are:

- The Hotel at University of Maryland in College Park
 - The Kaiser Permanente Administrative Building in New Carrollton
 - The United States Immigration and Citizenship Services in Camp Springs
 - The University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center in Largo
 - Sale of The Washington Bible College site in Lanham
- Shown above are the job numbers and growth rates for the State of Maryland and the largest jurisdictions.

2018 Session from A3

cabinet. State costs for Senate bill 1265 are projected to be \$15 million in 2019, according to a fiscal note, while local costs for the officers will total around \$98 million. Another measure, part of (HB1783), calls for new security equipment and safe zones for refuge.

The General Assembly compromised on a mix of punishment and rehabilitation measures to address crime in Baltimore City. Tougher laws and sentencing for repeat gun offenders were met with funding for preventative programs. One measure makes it easier for certain felons to erase offenses from their record. Another makes it easier to crack down on gun crimes through wiretapping. Funding comes from two public safety acts -- one of which is named after Delegate Talmadge Branch's grandson, who was killed by a repeat gun offender in September 2017. (Bill numbers: SB1137, SB101, HB113 and HB432.)

And a new "red flag" law would allow individuals who are concerned that a gun owner is dangerous to petition a court or law officer to remove the firearms for a period of time. (HB1302)

Maryland passed a law (SB270) to allow a court, during prosecution for certain sexual offenses, to admit evidence of "sexually assaultive behavior" by the defendant that occurred before or after the offense on trial.

On the back of police corruption, the Legislature passed a bill (SB1099) to establish a commission that will investigate the practices of the Baltimore Police

Department's former Gun Trace Task Force, many of whom were indicted on federal charges.

OTHER MATTERS: Other matters of note that passed in the 2018 General Assembly session include:

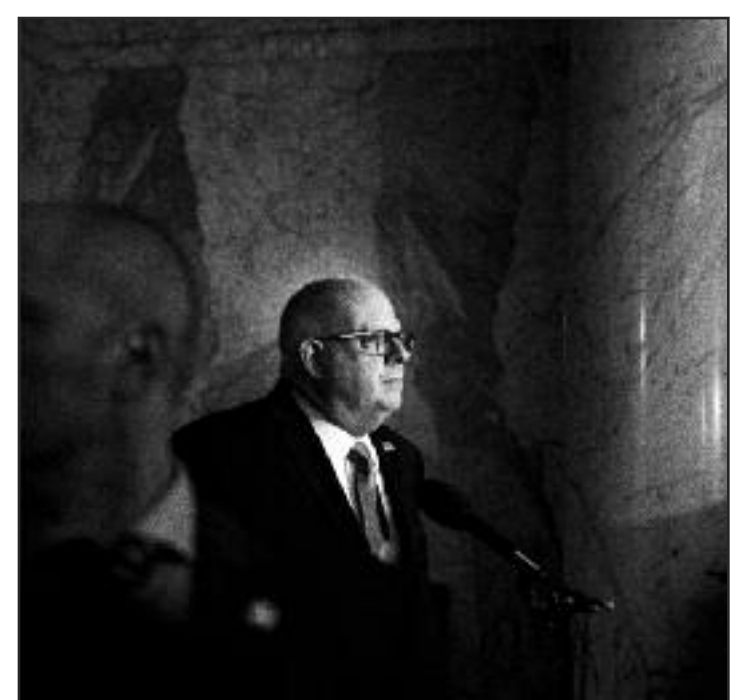
- Hemp: Legalization of an industrial hemp pilot program passed this session. It's main uses are for fiber, fuel, food and medicine. (HB698/SB1201)

- Divorce: A court will be able to allow divorce on the grounds of mutual consent if the parties have minor children. Sponsor Bobby Zirkin, D-Baltimore County, said the measure helps to eliminate a drawn-out process of divorce that can take years to conclude.

- Pink hunting gear: A bill (SB341/HB1118) adds bright pink as an approved color for hunting gear in Maryland.

- Richard Collins scholarship: After Bowie State University student Richard Collins III was fatally stabbed in May on the University of Maryland, College Park campus, the state's General Assembly created a scholarship in his honor for minority students in ROTC programs at historically black colleges or universities (SB1202). Prior to his death, Collins had been commissioned into the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant.

- Gay conversion: Delegate Meagan Simonaire, R-Anne Arundel, who will not run for re-election, opened up about her sexuality when discussing a bill that bans conversion therapy for minors (SB1028). She discussed how her parents—including Sen. Bryan Simonaire, R-Anne Arundel, who argued passionately against the bill—wanted to put her through the



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY AARON ROSA
Gov. Larry Hogan addresses reporters following the official closing of the session on April 9, 2018. Of the 892 bills passed by the legislature, Hogan vetoed two: a bill that he said would strip oversight of school construction from the Board of Public Works, and a bill that he said would strip power from local school boards to fire certified teachers.

therapy when she opened up to them. The legislation passed in both chambers.

NOTABLE FAILURES: Some measures did not advance this session, among them:

- State hiring: Delegate Clarence Lam, D-Howard and Baltimore counties, introduced legislation (HB 1778) that would add a layer of oversight to state hiring practices. The late bill failed to pass the Senate.

- Cyber bullying: After passing unanimously in the Senate, *Grace's Law 2.0*, an update to a cyberbullying law designed to reflect modern media, was shelved in a House committee. The ACLU opposed the "over-broad" bill.

- Addiction: A bill (HB 326) with wide-ranging support, which would create supervised drug consumption sites, and another (HB 499) that would authorize parents to involuntarily admit their adult children for addiction treatment, failed to make it through the general assembly this session.

- HBCUs: Legislation to equalize funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities did not progress, but a lawsuit against the state and a settlement offer of \$100 million over 10 years from Hogan remain.

- Physical Education: A bill that would require 150 minutes

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

A Wrinkle in Time

A Wrinkle in Time
Grade: B+ C
Rated PG, mild Disney peril
1 hr., 50 min

Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time*, first published in 1962, is one of the most beloved young adult novels not to have already been turned into a movie (except for a 2003 TV version that nobody, least of all L'Engle, liked), so Disney's new big-screen adaptation has a lot riding on it. Unfortunately, it's *The Chronicles of Narnia* all over again: a popular Christian-themed series of books whose movie version makes you wonder what everyone sees in the books.

Directed by Ava DuVernay (*Selma*) from a screenplay by Disney regular Jennifer Lee (*Wreck-It Ralph*, *Frozen*), *A Wrinkle in Time* feels like a random series of fantastical and often beautiful but still very random events. Cause and effect are not always clear; whimsical things just sort of happen. Someone turns into a giant leaf and lets the kids hop on her back to fly around like a magic carpet, then forgets about gravity and lets one of the kids fall thousands of feet to the ground, only he's saved because Oprah tells the flowers to go catch him. Oprah is all-powerful here (as in life), but she doesn't lift a finger herself, just bosses flowers around. Someone else only speaks in famous quotations, except when she doesn't. The powers and forces at play are vaguely defined, nebulous in purpose. How do you access a wormhole and travel billions of light years in a few seconds? "You just have to find the right frequency and have faith in who you are." What?!

The basic story is simple enough. Awkward, outcast teenager Meg Murry (Storm Reid) and her adopted genius 6-year-old brother, Charles Wallace (Deric McCabe), miss their father (Chris Pine), a scientist who was studying wormholes and space travel when he suddenly vanished four years ago.



ROTTENTOMATOES

Meg Murry (Storm Reid) is a typical middle school student struggling with issues of self-worth who is desperate to fit in. As the daughter of two world-renowned physicists, she is intelligent and uniquely gifted, as is Meg's younger brother Charles Wallace (Deric McCabe), but she has yet to realize it for herself. Making matters even worse is the baffling disappearance of Mr. Murry (Chris Pine), which torments Meg and has left her mother (Gugu Mbatha-Raw) heartbroken. Charles Wallace introduces Meg and her fellow classmate Calvin (Levi Miller) to three celestial guides—Mrs. Which (Oprah Winfrey), Mrs. Whatsit (Reese Witherspoon) and Mrs. Who (Mindy Kaling)—who have journeyed to Earth to help search for their father, and together they set off on their formidable quest. Traveling via a wrinkling of time and space known as tessering, they are soon transported to worlds beyond their imagination where they must confront a powerful evil. To make it back home to Earth, Meg must look deep within herself and embrace her flaws to harness the strength necessary to defeat the darkness closing in on them.

Now three fabulously dressed ladies—Mrs. Whatsit (Reese Witherspoon), Mrs. Who (Mindy Kaling), and Mrs. Which (Oprah Winfrey)—arrive at the Murry home pledging to use their powers as "warriors who serve the good in the universe" to help the kids find Dad. For no apparent reason, they are joined on their journey by a boy in Meg's class, Calvin (Levi Miller), whom they barely know, while their mother (Gugu Mbatha-Raw) is left behind.

The goddess ladies have a great deal of power, though it is limited and not well explained. They whisk the kids to a foreign planet where their father spent some time, then discover he's been imprisoned on another planet, a totally dark one. ("Dark" just means evil; the planet is well lit.) The ladies, being pure light, CAN-

NOT teleport to a dark planet, except when they can. But then it's only because Meg has such strong will, in that one instance, for a moment.

Most of the time—and this is the point (?) of the story—Meg is riddled with self-doubt and insecurity, which she must overcome. Yet despite "you just have to believe in yourself" being the most common of all Disney lessons, it falls flat here because of Storm Reid's distinctly uncharismatic performance and the script's general blandness. The conclusion is anticlimactic, again because of the vagueness of it all: They overcome evil through the power of love, activated by Meg listing her flaws to Charles Wallace. The struggles and victories are too internal to carry a movie that's so visual.

And yet there's a pure-hearted sweetness to everything.

Words like "sincere" and "earnest" will probably appear in most of the reviews because those descriptors are as indisputably applicable as words like "fantasy" and "PG-rated" are. It's not a matter of opinion; the movie is sincere.

The question is, sincere about what? Any overt Christianity in the book (I haven't read it) is missing here, replaced by a flavorless "good vs. evil" philosophy and a lot of Oprah-like platitudes. ("You just have to find the right frequency and have faith in who you are" might be straight out of L'Engle, but it sounds like something Oprah would say, doesn't it? Well-meaning but not helpful in any practical way?) It's a nice movie that's pretty to look at, but its niceness and prettiness are all it has going for it. Whether that's sufficient is up to you.

2018 Session from A5

of physical education per week for elementary school students failed for the eighth year.

- Adultery: A bill aiming to repeal the crime of adultery, a misdemeanor with a fine of \$10, failed to advance.

LEGISLATURE CHANGES:

Senate loses two: Norman; Oaks; lawmakers out

Sen. H. Wayne Norman Jr., R-Cecil and Harford, 62, unexpectedly died in his sleep on March 4. His wife, Linda Norman, was sworn into his seat on March 16, for the remainder of the session.

Sen. Nathaniel Oaks, D-Baltimore, resigned on March 29. He wrote that his reasoning was "to eliminate all clouds that have

hovered over the 2018 Legislative Session, due to any potential concerns or questionable activities on (his) behalf." Oaks plead guilty to federal corruption charges on the same day, and awaiting sentencing, scheduled for July 17.

A number of lawmakers have retired or declared their candidacy in another public office, so both chambers of the Legislature will have vacant seats up for grabs in the 2018 election.

BEYOND THE LEGISLATURE: *News in Annapolis and the rest of the state since the beginning of 2018, included a fatal school shooting; burgeoning transportation plans; lawsuits by the state's attorney general; and the governor's health.*

- Great Mills: Jaelynn Willey, 16, died two days after being shot in the head by 17-year-old student Austin Rollins at Great Mills High School on March 20. The shooter, who had been in a relationship with Willey, died on March 20. He had exchanged fire with the school resource officer, Blaine Gaskill, 31, but authorities determined his cause of death to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound. A 14-year old student was also injured.

- Board of Public Works: This session, the Board of Public Works and its three members—Franchot, Hogan and Treasurer Nancy Kopp—approved millions in emergency funding to fix mold issues in Carroll County hospitals and preventative maintenance and replacement issues in the state's

Department of Corrections. Kopp approved the sale of \$475 million in AAA rated tax exempt bonds, and \$50 million in taxable bonds.

Franchot also called attention to the transportation administration's cost of property needed to construct the Purple Line. Franchot was criticised this session for using his seat on the board as a "platform for political theatre," especially as it related to heating and cooling issues in local schools.

- Hogan's cancer: Hogan posted a selfie on Twitter captioned "Larry - 2 Cancer - 0" in February after he announced that he had minor surgery to treat a common form of skin cancer.

He remains in remission after being diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in 2015.

A Little This, A Little that

Shade Gardening Beyond Hostas

By MELINDA MYERS

A shady spot provides welcome relief from the summer heat; but it can make growing a beautiful garden a bit more challenging. Take heart, your landscape may receive more sunlight than you suspect and if not, there are quite a few shade-tolerant plants you can grow.

Evaluating the sun and shade patterns throughout the day, season, and year is a good place to start. Sun-loving bulbs need lots of sun early in the season before most trees leaf out, while other plants need sunlight throughout the growing season. If you work all day, you may assume those shady spots in the morning and evening never light up, so take some time to evaluate the sun and shade conditions throughout the season.

Make a list of plants that you have had success with and those that failed in the shady location. Use these to help you select or avoid plants with similar light requirements. For example, if peonies bloom and tomatoes produce fruit this area receives quite a bit of sunlight, perhaps more than you thought.

If your landscape is too shady to grow the plants you desire, try increasing the sunlight reaching ground level plantings. Hire a certified arborist to thin the overhead tree canopy. They have the training and experience to do the job safely and correctly. You don't want to damage the health and structure of established trees, so critical to the beauty of your landscape.

If there's too much shade to grow even shade-loving plants, consider mulch to keep the mud in place, permeable pavers and a table or chair for relaxing, or a few steppers and moss to create a moss garden.

Once you've made your selections and planted your garden, you need to adjust the care to compensate for the limited light conditions. Plants growing under large trees or overhangs need to be watered more often, especially the first year or two until they become established. The dense canopy of many trees and impervious overhangs prevent rainfall from reaching the ground below. Plus, the extensive root systems of trees and shrubs absorb much of the rainfall that does make it through, so check soil moisture several times a week and water thoroughly as needed.

Tree and shrub roots can also compete with plantings for nutrients. Use a low nitrogen, slow release fertilizer like Milorganite (milorganite.com) that promotes steady above and below ground growth. The 85% organic material further helps improve the soil. Apply slow release fertilizers at planting and once again for annuals mid-season. Fertilize new and established perennials in early spring and again in mid-summer as needed.

Avoid high nitrogen, quick release fertilizers that promote lush succulent growth that is more susceptible to insects and diseases. And with limited light as a potential plant stressor, this can increase the risk of problems.

When planting under or near trees be careful not to kill them when creating your shade garden. Adding as little as an inch of soil over the roots can kill some tree species. And deep cultivation can damage the feeder roots critical for water and nutrient absorption since the majority grow within the top 12 inches of soil.

Here is a list of just a few shade-tolerant perennials to consider. As always make sure the plants also tolerate your region's climate. And once you start reviewing the internet and plant catalogues you may find it difficult to narrow down your choices to fit in your new shade garden.

Woodland Wildflowers

Spring Flowering Bulbs; Grape hyacinths; Checkered lilies; Camassia; Daffodils; Virginia Bluebells; Perennial Flowers; juga; Astilbe; Barrenwort (Epimedium); Bleeding Heart; Bugbane/Snakeroot (Actaea); Columbine; Coral Bells; Deadnettle (Lamium); Ferns; Foam flower (Tiarella); Ginger (Asarum); Hostas; Japanese Forest Grass (Hakonechloa); Lungwort; Sedges; Siberian Bugloss (Brunnera); Variegated Solomon Seal



PHOTO COURTESY MELINDA MYERS

Shade garden

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

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Calendar of Events

April 19 — April 25, 2018

Platinum Movie: *13th* (2016)

Date and time: Friday, April 20, 2018, 11:00 AM
 Description: A provocative 2016 documentary about the prison industry and mass incarceration, *13th* takes its name from the Constitutional amendment, which abolished slavery for everyone “except as a punishment for crime.” As *13th* weaves through history, activism, racism, and politics, the film exposes the bleak soul of American criminal justice in this explosive call to conscience.
 Cost: FREE
 Ages: 60 and older
 Location: Publick Playhouse
 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD
 Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

G.E.A.R.: Earth Day

Date and time: Friday, April 20, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM
 Description: Celebrate Earth Day by taking a pledge to reduce waste and recycle more. It's your neighborhood, your environment, and your Earth! Make the commitment to not only take care of the present but future generations as well!
 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

Xtreme Teens: Scavenger Hunt

Date and time: Friday, April 20, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM
 Description: Do you fancy yourself a detective? Are you swift with noticing trends and breaking down clues? Well here's your chance to live out your dream! Join us in this friendly competition to determine which teens can find all the clues the fastest!
 Cost: FREE! with M-NCPPC Youth ID
 Ages: 10–17
 Location: Good Luck Community Center
 8601 Good Luck Road, Lanham, MD
 Contact: 301-552-1093; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Spring Party

Date and time: Friday, April 20, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM
 Description: Who is ready for blooming flowers, warmer weather and chirping birds of the Spring Equinox? Well, we certainly are! Join us for a Spring celebration complete with snacks and music.
 Cost: FREE! with M-NCPPC Youth ID
 Ages: 10–17
 Location: Vansville Community Center
 6813 Amendale Road, Beltsville, MD
 Contact: 301-937-6621; TTY 301-699-2544

Live! at Montpelier: Cissa Paz

Date and time: Friday, April 20, 2018, 8:00 PM
 Description: Brazilian singer-songwriter Cissa Paz shares her diverse cultural experiences with every audience she encounters. She composes and arranges songs that are filled with the rich traditions of Afro-Brazilian and Luso-African concepts. Cissa's captivating stage presence and soulful voice bring music that is fresh, fun, and rhythmic.
 Cost: \$25/person; 10% discount for Montpelier members and seniors
 Ages: All ages are welcome
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center
 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD
 Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

2018 Anime Film Festival

Date and time: Saturday, April 21, 2018, 11:00 AM–6:00 PM
 Description: Montpelier Cultural Arts Center presents a showcase of great works in Anime, a look at the cross-cultural influence of the art and animation style native to Japan.
 Cost: FREE
 Ages: All ages are welcome
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center
 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD
 Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Recycled Garden: Earth Day Celebration

Date and time: Saturday, April 21, 2018, 11:00 AM–2:00 PM
 Description: Join us for a day of celebrating the resources and beauty the Earth provides. Enjoy participating in fun and educational Earth Day activities for the whole family. Learn ways to turn your trash into garden treasures, while earning special prizes and incentives to help with your future outdoor projects.
 Free Composting Workshop presented by the City of Bowie Green Team. Free Weed Warriors Workshop presented by the City of Bowie Green Team.
 Cost: Resident: \$4; Non-resident: \$6
 Ages: All ages are welcome
 Location: Bowie Community Center
 3209 Stonybrook Drive, Bowie, MD
 Contact: 301-464-1737; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Team Building Activities

Date and time: Saturday, April 21, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM
 Description: Are you up for a challenge? Can you solve the riddles of our outdoor scavenger hunt? Here's your chance to prove your investigative skills. Grab a friend—or two!—and head over to participate in this sleuth-driven, team-building activity!
 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

Home School Science Club: Nature Friends

Date and time: Wednesday, April 25, 2018, 1:00 PM– 3:00 PM
 Description: A home-school science club where children will experience nature through multimedia presentations, discussion, stories, hikes, and hands-on activities. Each class focuses on a different nature theme.
 Cost: Resident: \$24; Non-resident: \$32
 Ages: 10–14
 Location: Watkins Nature Center
 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD
 Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Particle Board Blues: Could Your Furniture Be Making You Sick?

Dear EarthTalk:

I recently read about the toxic dangers of particle board. I still am using the same laminate on particle board bedroom furniture that I bought new 30 years ago. Do you think it's still harmful to my health after all this time, and is there any way to make it less unhealthy?

—Jane Woodard,
via e-mail

Sadly, much of the furniture we enjoy every day is “off-gassing” toxins into the air, especially if it’s made out of particle board, which traditionally relies on formaldehyde—a colorless, flammable, strong-smelling chemical and known respiratory irritant and carcinogen—to bond the wood chips and other filler together. If you’ve had the furniture for many years, the good news is that most or all of the formaldehyde fumes have long off-gassed out. Of course, the bad news is that you’ve likely been breathing it in for years.

“New particleboard presents the biggest health concern, making installation of new materials the most dangerous,” reports DoItYourself.com. “As the material ages, any formaldehyde gas emissions are reduced, but cutting it can release toxic dust into the air.”

Formaldehyde isn’t something to mess with. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease

Control & Prevention (CDC), its exposure can make you sick, with symptoms including sore throat, cough, scratchy eyes and nosebleeds. And it’s been linked to an increased risk of allergies and asthma in children.

The U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) adds that “chronic exposure to formaldehyde may also cause general damage to the central nervous system, such as increased prevalence of headache, depression, mood changes, insomnia, irritability, attention deficit, and impairment of dexterity, memory and equilibrium.”

Furthermore, the American Cancer Society reports that exposure to formaldehyde—classified by the federal government as a “known human carcinogen” since 2011—has caused cancer in laboratory test animals, and that humans exposed to relatively high amounts of formaldehyde in medical and occupational settings are at greater risk for cancers of the nose and throat, among others.

“Scientific research has not yet shown that a certain level of formaldehyde exposure causes cancer,” reports CDC. “However, the higher the level and the longer the exposure, the greater the chance of getting cancer.” CDC researchers also worry that exposure to formaldehyde “might increase the chance of getting cancer even at levels too low to cause symptoms.”

One precaution is to apply sealant designed to lock in po-



PHOTO COURTESY EARTH TALK

Uniboard is one of the leading particle board alternatives out there that don't use toxic formaldehyde to bind its filler material together.

tentially harmful fumes (AFM Safecoat's Safe Seal is one). Or to just make the problem go away, maybe it's time for new, greener furniture anyway. Avoid the formaldehyde trap and look for products made out of solid wood, no resin required.

Keep an eye out for products made with sustainable alternatives to particle board, like Uniboard's woodchip-based NU

Green Zero, Environ's newsprint and soy waste Biocomposite, and Pfleiderer's renewable wheat straw PrimeBoard. These greener choices are bound with a polyurethane base free of formaldehyde and are popping up increasingly in the Targets and Walmarts of the world for those willing to read labels and ask questions in the quest to find the greenest versions of what's available.

CONTACTS: Safe Seal, goo.gl/2oWodG; CDC's “What You Should Know About Formaldehyde,” www.cdc.gov/nceh/dry-wall/docs/whatyoushouldknowaboutformaldehyde.pdf; Uniboard, www.uniboard.com; PrimeBoard, www.pfleiderer.com/row/PrimeBoard/PrimeBoard.

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.

Special Thanks for Public Service!

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

LARGO MD—In these rapidly paced times, it is worth pausing to such noteworthy human endeavor, as exemplified in the workings of the Windsor Family Father-Son duo, Bernie, and Barry. Between the two of them, the Father-Son duo has provided 50 years (and still counting), toward the highly productive, and environmentally responsible disposal work activity that occurs daily at the

Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill (BSRSL).

Father, Bernie, a long since retired BSRSL Disposal Crew Supervisor, taught Son, Barry, everything he knows about operating heavy disposal equipment. The teachings started when Barry was only six years old. Barry vividly recalls sitting on his father's lap and eagerly listening to the process of digging deep holes for efficient disposal of waste materials. The quiet leader and masterful heavy equipment operator that Barry is today hearkens back

to those precious times experienced with his dad, Bernie.

Barry is from a fourth-generation family of heavy equipment operators, all from Prince George's County.

We here at the Department of the Environment would like to say: Thank you! Your hard work and influence have filtered throughout the BSRSL operations and crew, benefiting all County residents.



PHOTO COURTESY
PG COUNTY GOVERNMENT
Father Bernie

Security from A4

rected an additional \$380,000,000 in Election Security Grant funds to be dispersed to state election officials immediately. Maryland is entitled to receive \$7,063,699 based on the grant formula. To access these funds, Maryland is obligated to allocate a modest 5 percent state-provided match—or \$353,185—to be provided within two years of receiving the federal funds. We urge you to dedicate the requisite state matching funds promptly.

The federal funds must be deployed for purposes of election security and are to be used con-

sistent with the requirements of *Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-252) (HAVA)*. As you know, the State Administrator of Elections is responsible for the deployment of HAVA funds. Recognizing that the State Administration ultimately has the clearest insight into the election-related security needs, we are hopeful these funds be used for the following much needed security upgrades and investments to the Maryland State election system:

- Creation of Chief Information Security Office for the Maryland State Board of Elections to oversee all cybersecurity

efforts, liaise with appropriate officials to monitor and respond to credible threats and to maintain information security and technology for the Maryland State Board of Elections;

- Implementation of comprehensive post-election audit and recovery systems;
- Expansion of two-step security verification for all state and local election systems; and
- Comprehensive best practices and ongoing security training for state and local election officials to harden election system defenses.

We are confident that the State Administrator will, as she

has done with prior HAVA funding, create a short-term and long-term plan to prioritize the needs of the State to enhance election technology and institute election security improvements.

With the 2018 midterm elections fast approaching, we hope you work quickly and collaboratively with the Maryland State Board of Elections to ensure Maryland has access to this critical federal funding. To that end, we request a response from your office by April 20, 2018 detailing the State's plan to allocate the required matching funds.

We appreciate your attention to this matter.

TUESDAY TIP

GREEN YOUR RIDE

If you don't own an electric or hybrid vehicle, here are a few tricks to help you up your miles per gallon in your current vehicle.

- 1 Slow Down**
Driving 10 mph above 60 is like adding nearly 50 cents to the price of a gallon of gas, since higher speed equals more guzzling.
- 2 Get Pumped**
Once a month, check the pressure of each of the tires against the guidelines listed in your car's manual; add air if needed. Doing this can improve mileage by about 3 percent.
- 3 Air Out**
Replace filters regularly. A new oxygen sensor alone can improve mileage by as much as 1.5 percent.

Prince Georges County, Maryland, is proud to be a member of the Department of the Environment's "Green Team." Activities and Office of the Environment can provide additional information. Visit www.pgc.gov.