

# The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1932

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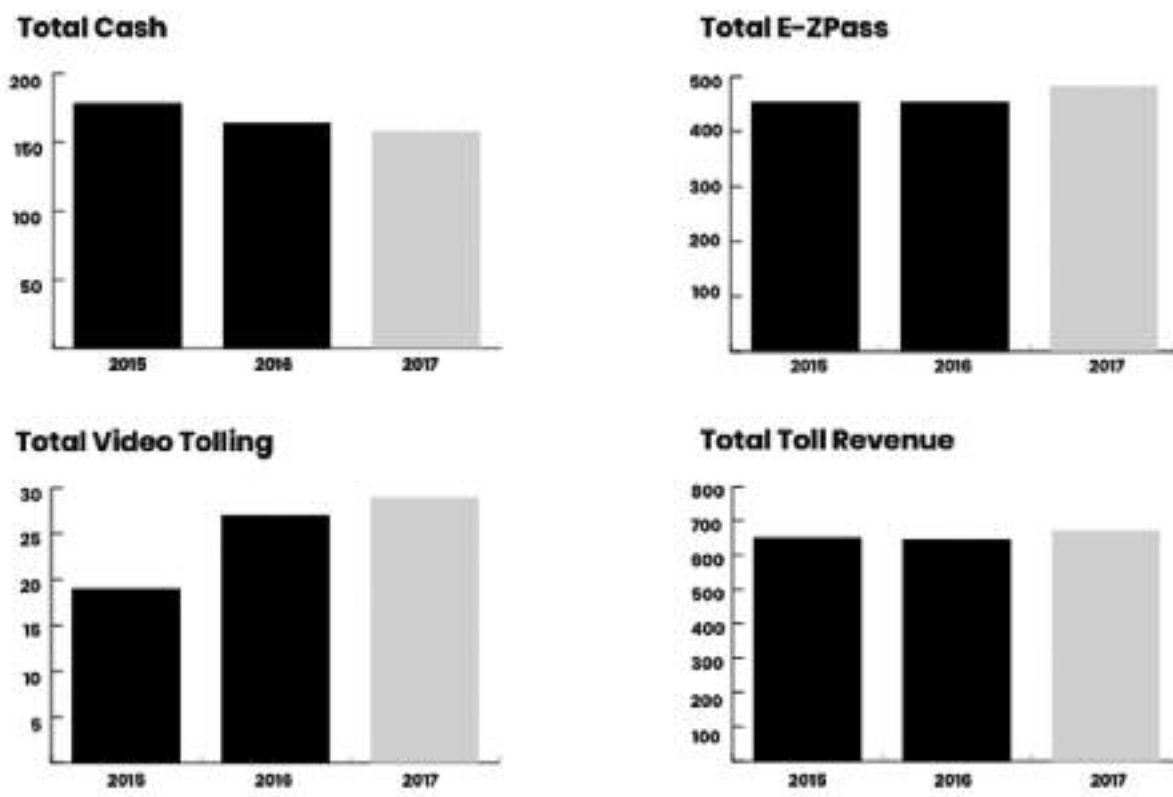
Prince George's County, Maryland

Newspaper of Record

Phone: 301-627-0900

25 cents

## Toll revenue Collection in Maryland by Method in millions of dollars



GRAPHIC SOURCE: MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

In 2016, the Hogan administration eliminated the monthly pass-holder fee, and discounted E-ZPass tolls by about 25 percent statewide. On the Bay Bridge, E-ZPass tolls were reduced to \$2.50 per round trip—compared to \$4.00 for cash and \$6.00 for video tolling.

## Maryland Transportation Authority Explores Changing to Electronic-Only Tolling

By KATHERINE BRZOZOWSKI  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—The Maryland Transportation Authority has started exploring phasing out all cash toll booths across the state.

Today, tolls are collected three ways: by cash, or electronically, by either an E-ZPass transponder or by video tolling—when the state uses a license-plate photo and mails drivers their bill.

Transportation officials say that the transition to all-electronic, high-speed toll collection will: save drivers time on their commute, save the state money, reduce accidents at toll plazas, and reduce CO2 emissions as less fuel is being burned, according to a national study by the University of Central Florida.

Drivers in Maryland could start seeing new plazas that only collect tolls electronically at highway speeds by the summer of 2019, said Kevin Reigrut, executive di-

rector of the Maryland Department of Transportation. "We are looking at the summer of 2019, said Kevin Reigrut, executive di-

See TOLLING Page A5

## Prince George's County Council Adopts \$4.09 Billion FY19 Budget

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Council

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George's County Council adopted a \$4.09 billion balanced County Budget for Fiscal Year 2019 on Thursday, May 24, 2018. The FY 2019 County Budget becomes effective with the new Fiscal Year which begins July 1, 2018.

Prince George's County Council Chair Dannielle Glaros (D)—District 3, during budget adoption remarks, recognized the active involvement of Prince George's County residents during the budget process, and thanked her colleagues for their commitment to review the budget in a public and open manner.

"To the residents of this great County, this is your budget. From the testimony provided by our young people, to the comments of our County's more seasoned citizens, you have been incredibly engaged in the Council's budget process, telling us what your community needs, sharing your priorities, helping to guide this process from budget proposal to today's budget adoption," adding, "I also want to thank each of my colleagues. We have listened, dialogued and debated to be sure we reached a final budget package that is both responsive

and responsible with the hard-earned dollars for which we have been entrusted."

Overall, 64% of the FY 2019 Budget, over \$2 billion, has been appropriated for education, which fully funds the budget requested by the Prince George's County Board of Education and exceeds the state-mandated Maintenance of Effort by \$13 million. Additional education funding enhances library security measures and expands the Prince George's Community College COAST program which provides special academic counselors in high schools for students who need remedial help following graduation. The Council has increased education investments by a total of \$133 million since FY 2015 and exceeded the state-mandated Maintenance of Effort for four consecutive years.

The newly-adopted spending plan also restores recession-related funding cuts to the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) budget to support road and sidewalk repair; the improvement of County maintenance of medians, and trimming street trees to sustain and enhance the health, safety, social and economic well-being of our community.

See FY19 BUDGET Page A3

## Tulip Grove Elementary Educator Named Prince George's County Teacher of the Year

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Daleisha Myers, a fifth-grade teacher at Tulip Grove Elementary School, is the 2018 Prince George's County Teacher of the Year. The announcement was made Monday at the school system's annual Teacher of the Year Gala.

Myers has spent more than 13 years serving students at Tulip Grove in Bowie.

"Mrs. Myers epitomizes the level of excellence we look for in our Teacher of the Year," said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer. "Her dedication and outstanding instruction prepare students for future academic challenges."

As Teacher of the Year, Myers will compete statewide for Maryland Teacher of the Year, coordinated by the Maryland State De-

See EDUCATOR Page A5

## PG County Hosts 25th Annual "Be Kind to Animals" Poster Contest and Awards Ceremony

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Government

LARGO, MD—The Department of the Environment (DoE) Animal Services Division (ASD) announced the winning entries of the "Be Kind to Animals" Poster Contest during a special awards ceremony held at the Animal Services Facility in Upper Marlboro. This is the

25th year the County has held the event.

More than 2,000 entries were submitted into the 2018 contest. Of those, 22 creative posters, designed by student artists in kindergarten through sixth grade, were honored during the ceremony. Through the contest,

See AWARDS Page A7

## 30th Annual Candlelight Vigil Honored 360 Fallen Peace Officers at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial

By PRESS OFFICER  
NLEOMF

WASHINGTON, DC—The names of 360 law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty—including 129 who died in 2017—were formally dedicated on Sunday evening, May 12, 2018, during the 30th Annual Candlelight Vigil, held on the National Mall and produced by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Memorial Fund Chairman John Ashcroft delivered poignant remarks. The Attorney General then commenced the reading of the fallen officers' names. Later in the program Attorney General Sessions and Concerns of Police Survivors National President Cheryl Schultz led the lighting of candles.

The Candlelight Vigil—an annual tribute to our nation's law enforcement officers—has become a signature event of the



PHOTO COURTESY NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEMORIAL FUND

National Police Week observance in the nation's capital. The evening's program also featured moving musical tributes and a special recognition of survivors of fallen officers. The event concluded with the lighting of candles.

In addition to the 129 officers who died in 2017, the names of 231 officers, who died in prior years, were added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial this spring. The national monument now contains the names of 21,541 fallen law en-

forcement officers—from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, federal, corrections, railroad, and military police agencies—who died in the

See MEMORIAL Page A6

### INSIDE

#### PGCMLS Earns National Achievement Award for Using Data Visualization to Improve Performance

Started in 1970, NACo's annual Achievement Awards program is designed to recognize county government innovations. Each nominee is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received. Community, Page A3

#### Diane Nash: A Civil Rights Icon Celebrates her 80th Birthday

In 1960, at age 22, she led the Nashville Sit-Ins, aimed at desegregating lunch counters. A few months later, she helped coordinate the Freedom Rides, riding interstate buses into the south to challenge the southern states' failure to enforce a desegregation ruling by the Supreme Court. Commentary, Page A4

#### Economic Development Corporation Announces Nigeria Trade Mission Delegation Ambassador

An entrepreneur, graduate of Prince George's County public schools and a first-generation Nigerian-American, Ms. Alale has strong connections to both the County and Nigeria. Business, Page A5

#### Movie Review: A Quiet Place

I have a special fondness for films that actively encourage silence. The tense and thrilling *A Quiet Place* does it by putting its characters in a situation where making noise is fatal and then making us forget that it's only a movie. Viewers with limited lung capacity, be advised that you'll be holding your breath a lot. Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

It's finally time for me to retire my trusty old Nalgene and upgrade my water bottle. Are any brands or models particularly greener than others?

—Cyndi Bland, Tempe, AZ

Features, Page A7

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Morningside's Volunteers free child with head stuck in car window

Morningside rescue squad and ambulance were called to a local hotel the afternoon of May 9 because a small child had his head caught in the window of a car, which would not start.

After trying several non-invasive techniques and avoiding breaking the glass, the squad crew dismantled the door panel and manually disengaged the window. Child freed in less than ten minutes by what they call the #southsiderescuecompany.

We're mighty proud of our all-volunteer fire department, which had 6,792 calls for service in 2017 and upped their numbers with 31 new members. MVFD is among the busiest departments in the country and is so respected that some applicants come from other states.

The annual Live-in Recruitment Weekend July 5-8 is coming up at the Morningside VFD. Applicants must have firefighter 1 and have or obtain EMT prior to potential move-in. They must arrive between noon and 3 p.m. on July 5.

Or they—or you—can just schedule a ride-along. For more information about the department, go to their website at [morningsidevfd27.com](http://morningsidevfd27.com).

### Joint Base Andrews makes history. Again

On May 10 three Americans, newly freed by North Korea, arrived at Joint Base Andrews. They are Tony Kim, Kim Dong-chul and Kim Hak-song. Their release appeared to set the stage for a summit between President Trump and Kim Jong Un. Which has been cancelled as of last week.

### People

Father Jeffrey Samaha and Father Klaus-Werner Sirianni have been honored by The Archdiocese of Washington for their 40th anniversaries as priests. Both formerly served at St. Philip's in Camp Springs. Fr. Samaha, chaplain at Southern Maryland Hospital, was in residence at St. Philip's from 1993 to 2005. Fr. Sirianni was associate pastor at St. Philip's from 1980 to 1982.

The Knights of Columbus, in Forestville, has named Robert Weiler the Knight of the Month for March and Robert La Chance, for April. Family of the Month in March was the William Malkowski Family and for April, the Robert Jacobs Family.

Antonio Miguel "Tony" Murgia was born May 2 in El Paso, Texas, to Mike and Becky Murgia. Baby Tony He has two big sisters, Sophia, 4, and Liliana, 2, and is grandson of my son Mike McHale and his wife Sandy.

Condolences to Marilyn and Elijah Thorne, of Auth Village, on the death of their son Jerome and Marilyn's sister Oprie Lee Applewhite, both in the same week. I'll pay tribute to them in next week's column.

### Academia

Suitland High Class of 1958 plans an area reunion on Sept. 22. For information, call Jack Woods, 540-663-3256.

John Kelly, Washington Post columnist, ran this item recently. He'll announce your reunion, too, if you email him at [john.kelly@washpost.com](mailto:john.kelly@washpost.com), put "Reunion" in the subject line, and include the name of the school, the class year, the date of the reunion and contact information that he can print.

### Congratulations

A special greeting to Westphalia United Methodist Church, in Upper Marlboro, on their 50th anniversary. They will be commemorating the event in September with—among other festivities—a souvenir book. They welcome contributions from former parishioners. For details go to [www.westphaliaum.org](http://www.westphaliaum.org).

### Changing landscape

An architect has been selected for the new Suitland High School. The firm of Cox Graae+Spack is especially known for designing the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington. Almost anything is on the table, even replacement of the school. The campus will include the neighboring Drew Freeman Middle School (which I remember as La Reine High School which my four daughters attended).

A large new room is being added to the Morningside Firehouse to make room for Truck 27, now being readied for action. It is affectionately known as #Journey. And a second ambulance is also coming.

CVS in Clinton (and maybe other drugstores) have added a Medication Disposal drop box for your expired, unused or unwanted medications. Check it out.

### Words of Wisdom from Stan

Stanley Holmes, president of the Skyline Citizens Association, gave me a few Words of Wisdom for our recent Skyline Newsletter. They are worth repeating:

- (1) Stop signs are real.
- (2) Kids do play and balls do roll into the street. Don't make

See MORNINGSIDE Page A5

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

### SUMMER READING SKILLS PROGRAMS

Phonics, fluency, comprehension, love of reading, textbook skills and speed reading are offered in Mitchellville: Largo Community Church, 1701 Enterprise Road and Upper Marlboro Maryland: Trinity Episcopal Church, 14515 Church Street.

Programs are sponsored by Loyola University Maryland, School of Education, a nonprofit organization. Classes are taught by instructors from the Institute of Reading Development. All programs meet once each week. Tuition varies by program grade. Family discount is offered.

For more information or to register call 1-800-903-0162, Monday-Friday 8:00 AM-10:00 PM, Saturday 8:00 AM-7:00 PM and Sunday 10:00 AM-6:00 PM. Inquire early because class size is limited.

### CAFÉ AGAPE PRESENTS

CAFÉ AGAPE presents Friday, June 15, 2018. On the third Friday of each month, CAFÉ AGAPE creates a musical space filled by fantastic musicians, music, fellowship, and informal dancing in their Fellowship Hall from 7:00 PM-9:00 PM. Cost is \$5.00 entertainment fee; food at additional cost.

The address is St. Paul United Methodist Church 6634 St. Barnabas Road, Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745. Telephone number is 301-567-0057.

### ST. PAUL'S CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S CENTER

The Center is open Mondays thru Fridays from 6:30 AM-6:00 PM. The Center offers a valu-

able education, nurturing environment and strong values. Some of the activities offered are Music, Art, Bible Study, Homework Time, Field Trips, Science, Games, Crafts, Learning Centers and Dramatic Play. A snack is also offered. Call for an appointment today: (301) 627-4202. The school offers Full-Time Child Care (A Pre-school program and all day care for children ages 3 thru 5). Open from 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

Before and After School care for children in grades K through 6. Open from 6:30-7:30 AM to 2:00-6:00 PM. School Age Summer Program offers care for Children K through 6. Open from 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM. The Center is located at 8505 Heathermore Boulevard Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772 in the Marlton Community.

### EVENING RECEPTION WITH SYDNEY HARRISON

Please join Stacy Lattisaw-Jackson for an evening reception with Sydney Harrison, Prince George's County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Candidate for Prince George's County Council District 9 Thursday, May 31, 2018 from 6:30-8:30 PM.

The evening reception will be held at 9135 Piscataway Road, Suite 100 Clinton, Maryland 20735. Tickets: Gold Sponsor-\$2,000 (8 tickets), Silver Sponsor-\$1,000 (4 tickets); Bronze Sponsor-\$500 (2 Tickets); Guest-\$150. No actual tickets will be mailed for this event. You can contribute securely online at: [www.votesydneyharrison.com](http://www.votesydneyharrison.com) or make checks payable to: Sydney Harrison for

a Better Way c/o Rice Consulting 17 W. Courtland St., Ste. 210, Bel Air, Maryland 21014. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Rice Consulting at 410-838-6355 or [info@riceconsultingllc.com](mailto:info@riceconsultingllc.com).

### B-NKCA FACEBOOK PAGE

Todd Johnson who lives in Brandywine, Maryland has developed a "Facebook" website for the Brandywine-North Keys Civic Association. The website is [www.facebook.com/bnkcciac](http://www.facebook.com/bnkcciac). "He suggested that members visit the bare Facebook page and think about ideas of what they would like to see for a graphical representation of the Association (i.e. group picture, B-NKCA banner or some sort of logo or symbol or any other ideas that he can make notes about)".

### MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Morgan State University Southern Maryland Alumni Chapter 13th Annual Blue and Orange Scholarship Dinner Dance & Awards Program will be held on September 8, 2018 at Waldorf Jaycees Community Center. The address is 3090 Crain Highway, Waldorf, Maryland 20601.

What can a \$5.00 investment do for you? Buy a ticket to support this event and the return on your investment could be as much as 1st Prize—\$1000.00, 2nd Prize—\$500.00, 3rd Prize—\$300.00. Drawing will be held on September 8, 2018. You do not need to be present to win.

Make check out to MSU-SMAC. For tickets contact Victor D. Watson, 202-215-3656 or [Watson.watson1220@aol.com](mailto:Watson.watson1220@aol.com).

## Neighborhoods

### Construction of Atlantic Coast Pipeline Could Be Halted by Endangered Species Concerns

By Whitney Pipkin,  
Bay Journal News Service

One of the federal permits required to build the Atlantic Coast Pipeline through three states and a portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed was rendered invalid late Tuesday by a federal appellate court.

Environmental groups say the decision should completely halt the pipeline's construction, at least temporarily, but Dominion Energy, which is backing the project, disagrees.

The permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allowed for the construction of the 600-mile pipeline to result in the "incidental take" of certain threatened or endangered species, but the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the permit did not provide specific limits that could be enforced or monitored.

The case was brought by the Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife and the Virginia Wilderness Committee and argued by lawyers from the Southern Environmental Law Center, who contend that the decision means all construction on the pipeline must stop because this permit is the basis for several others.

"Like other agencies, the Fish and Wildlife Service rushed this pipeline approval through under intense political pressure to meet developers' timelines," D.J. Gerken, managing attorney of SELC's Asheville, NC, office, wrote in a statement. "It's foolish and shortsighted to risk losing rare species for an unnecessary and costly pipeline boondoggle."

But Jen Kostyniuk, a spokeswoman for Dominion Energy said the court's decision prevents construction from continuing only on portions of the project.

"This decision only impacts activities directly covered by the Incidental Take Statement in certain defined areas along the route," Kostyniuk wrote in an emailed statement. "We remain confident in the project approvals, and the ACP will continue to move forward with construction as scheduled."

The court's brief order does not make the impact of the decision clear but mentions that a longer opinion is forthcoming. The order says that, while the incidental take permit does address the project's potential impact on five threatened or endangered species along the pipeline's route, the details are so "indeterminate" that compliance cannot not be easily enforced or monitored.

The lawsuit is one of several legal challenges facing the sprawling pipeline project at both federal and state levels. The pipeline's path begins in West Virginia, cuts through the middle of Virginia and continues through eastern North Carolina, delivering natural gas from hydraulic fracturing operations in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

In Virginia—where the pipeline would wind through portions of the Chesapeake Bay watershed—the State Water Control Board decided in April to open the pipeline project to another public comment period.

The board is seeking public input on whether additional permits should be required for each of the project's stream

crossings to ensure water quality is protected. In addition to the "blanket" permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers required for utility lines that cross waterways, the board—consisting of governor-appointed citizen members under the umbrella of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality—could invoke a section of the Federal Clean Water Act that requires additional certifications for each stream crossing.

That comment period closes May 30. The board also approved late last year another project to build the Mountain Valley Pipeline across the southwest corner of the state, where construction has begun.

Last year, about 20,000 public comments poured in about the projects, and hundreds of people attended public meetings, most of them opposing construction. But DEQ officials contended they did not have the regulatory authority to recommend that the board deny project permits that had already received federal approval.

### WSSC's Pipe Protection Program Passes 100+ Miles to Become Longest Active System in the Country

LAUREL, MD—On May 10, 2018, WSSC announced it has the longest active Acoustic Fiber Optic (AFO) pipe protection system in the country at 102 miles. The cutting-edge AFO cable floats inside WSSC's largest water mains, constantly monitoring the condition of the pipe and alerting the utility to impending breaks. The \$21 million investment in this innovative technology has alerted WSSC 20 times to major breaks and saved customers more than \$42 million.

"Our investment in this innovative technology is saving money for our customers and protecting public safety," said WSSC General Manager and CEO Carla A. Reid. "This technology has helped WSSC avoid costly emergency repairs, lengthy water service shutdowns for residents and businesses, and damage to roadways and nearby buildings."

General Manager Reid made the announcement along River Road in Bethesda, above a 66-inch diameter water main that is now monitored 24/7 by AFO. Nearly a decade ago, before AFO, this same section of pipe burst without warning, sending millions of gallons of water down River Road as dramatic rescue efforts unfolded on live TV.

"We are proud to partner with WSSC, who continues to take a long-term, strategic approach to using technology to maintain the integrity of its vital system," said Michael Higgins, Senior Vice President of Pure Technologies, the company that maintains the AFO technology for WSSC.

WSSC began installing AFO in 2007 to detect the sounds associated with wire breaks in prestressed concrete cylinder pipes (PCCP), which are the largest water mains in WSSC's system. The pipes range in size from 36 to 96 inches in diameter. In total, WSSC has 145 miles of large diameter PCCP.

The AFO system monitors the integrity of these large

pipes 24/7 and provides notification to trained personnel if a potential problem is detected, thus allowing for planned repairs. In conjunction with AFO, WSSC has an aggressive PCCP inspection program. Pipes ranging from 48 to 96 inches in diameter are inspected every five to six years. Pipes that are 36 to 48 inches in diameter are inspected every seven to eight years.

### BGE Employees Volunteer 1,200 Service Hours During National Volunteer Month

BALTIMORE, MD—BGE employees celebrated arts & culture, supported community development, championed the environment and supported education initiatives in celebration of National Volunteer Month in April, volunteering more than 1,200 volunteer hours to power a cleaner and brighter future for communities in company-sponsored service events throughout central Maryland.

"BGE employees have been strong supporters of our nonprofit and civic partners for many years, and this year is no different. It should come as no surprise to anyone that our employees rolled up their sleeves and stood shoulder-to-shoulder with community organizations working to enhance the lives of our customers in a myriad of ways," said Valencia McClure, vice president of governmental and external affairs for BGE. "We're honored to continue this tradition of supporting neighbors and communities through volunteerism, not just for National Volunteer Month, but throughout every month each year."

Service highlights during the month included:

- For the fourth consecutive year, BGE employees volunteered with the Community Action Council in Howard County. Their community garden provides fresh fruits and vegetables for the Howard County food bank.

- BGE Vice President of Support Services Carol Dodson and BGE employees participated in a "Fun Day" with the clients served by The League for People with Disabilities. Volunteers completed puzzles, played games, passed out snacks and read books to adults who are part of the Adult Medical Day program.

- Twenty BGE employees volunteered with Habitat for the Humanity of the Susquehanna, assisting with rehabbing a home for a family in need in Joppa, Harford County.

Employee service projects for National Volunteer Month extended across the Exelon family of energy companies.

BGE and its employees are committed to enhancing the quality of life for its customers and their families in communities throughout central Maryland. In 2017, BGE employees logged more than 22,000 hours volunteering with nonprofit organizations. To learn more about BGE's commitment to philanthropic giving and volunteerism, visit the website at <http://www.bge.com/SafetyCommunity/Community/Pages/CharitableContributions.aspx>.

# COMMUNITY

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### What are Your Realistic Parenting Goals?

Being a parent is certainly an experience in extremes. There are times when you can be so fulfilled and rewarded for what you've accomplished as a parent, yet plenty of other times when the best you can feel is stressed and frustrated.

Nearly every parent will admit to sometimes feeling over their heads in a job that no one has trained them for, but most of us still find that being a parent is wonderful and challenging. And, when one approaches parenting in a positive way, it's possible to increase the wonderful while helping to reduce the stress of the job.

One way is to bring a bit of the business world into your work as a parent. A good businessman almost always starts with a business plan, setting goals and outlining how those goals will be reached. You can do a very similar thing to help bring more consistency to your parenting, rather than simply reacting to situations or disciplining haphazardly.

Start by writing down reasonable, positive goals in regard to what you'd like to achieve with your child. They can be as broad as wanting to support your child by expressing your love and acceptance. They might include not wanting to withdraw affection simply because you're angry with your child.

Your next step is to figure out how to reach those goals. If it's a broad goal, add specifics to it. If your goal is to be consistent in regard to discipline, think about how you and your child can work together to set limits and boundaries, and develop reasonable penalties when those limits are ignored. If a goal is to more consistently demonstrate your love and support, consider ways to make that abstract goal a real world happening.

The last step is to put your goals into practice. Realize that it may take time and repeated tries to achieve a number of these. You may find some are unattainable and need to be revised. Parenting is always going to be a dynamic experience that requires time, patience and practice.

Allow your child, and yourself, to make mistakes as you try to work toward your goals. And reward both your child and yourself when you succeed. When a businessman has a solid business plan, success is what finally comes. That's what you want to shoot for in setting your goals as a parent.

*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*

### FY19 Budget from A1

To support critical redevelopment and revitalization of our communities, the 2019 County Budget includes full funding to rebuild the Tucker Road Ice Rink; \$250-thousand to the Redevelopment Authority for Northern Gateway revitalization; and \$150-thousand for FSC-First to support businesses affected by Purple Line construction. Funding is also being provided to the Small Business Development Center to address impacted businesses along the Purple Line.

The Council will continue its commitment to affordable housing with \$2.5 million dollars in Gap Financing for new workforce housing and senior housing projects, and strengthen its social safety net of services by funding several additional ongoing Council initiatives addressing health care, telehealth, domestic violence, Federally Qualified Health Centers, nonprofits and immigrant services.

Chair Glaros addressed the importance of adopting a spending plan that will continue to celebrate the best of Prince George's County.

"With the adoption of this budget, we celebrate our County's growth, and our commitment to sound and responsible fiscal management. We can be proud of the collaborative and progressive work we have achieved together. We can look forward to a sustainable financial future. We are committing to a stronger, better Prince George's County where people want to build, live, raise families, work, worship, start businesses and play. We are, together, strengthening our communities."

In Bi-County budget action earlier this month, lawmakers from Prince George's and Montgomery counties unanimously adopted the FY 19 Operating and Capital budgets for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC); the Bi-County portion of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC); and the Washington Suburban Transit Commission (WSTC). Both Councils approved the WSSC FY 2019 Operating and Capital budgets of \$1.4 billion. The new budget includes a 4.5 percent rate increase for water and sewer customers.

## PGCMLS Earns National Achievement Award for Using Data Visualization to Improve Performance

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCMLS

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) has been recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents.

NACo recognized PGCMLS for Using Data Visualization to Improve Performance in the category of Libraries. The County Library System uses Tableau Software to track collections activity in order optimize Library resources and services for the benefit of our customers. Tableau is used to create statistical reports that facilitate data driven decision making. The Library's data is converted into appropriate actions and goals that enhance our customer's experience.

PGCMLS Co-CEO Michelle Hamiel had this to say about the NACo award: "We are delighted to receive this honor! Using data allows the Library to make customer focused decisions. We get insight into our customers' journeys and behaviors with library resources, giving us the opportunity to connect all Prince George's County residents with the best resources to meet their needs."

NACo President Roy Charles Brooks said, "Counties seize opportunities to deliver services more efficiently and build stronger communities every day. Achievement Award-winning programs are examples for counties that are determined to enhance services for our residents."

Nationally, awards are given in 18 different categories that reflect the vast, comprehensive services counties provide. The categories include children and youth, criminal justice, county administration, information technology, health, civic engagement and many more.

NACo will recognize award-winning counties at its 2018 Annual Conference and Exposition July 13-16 in Nashville/Davidson County, Tennessee.

Started in 1970, NACo's annual Achievement Awards program is designed to recognize county government innovations. Each nominee is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received.

### About Prince George's County Memorial Library System

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), consisting of 19 branches, offers strategies for lifelong learning. Skills development library resources include: Rosetta Stone Library Solution, Lynda.com, Brain-



fuse's HelpNow and JobNow, ArtistWorks for Libraries and Learning Express Library. Early literacy resources are: Ready 2 Read Centers, Ready 2 Read Backpacks, ABCmouse, AWE Early Literacy Stations, Beanstack, Playaway Launchpads and PebbleGo. All these services are free with your PGCMLS library card. Also, enjoy Minecraft, 3D printing, DREAM (Digital Resources for Electronic Applications in Media) lab, chess clubs and MAC (Manga and Anime Clubs) free at your library. Engage with us on social media: Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, Pinterest, Instagram and YouTube. Check out our mobile apps!

Learn more about what your Library has to offer at [www.pgcmls.info](http://www.pgcmls.info).

### About National Association of Counties

The National Association of Counties (NACo) unites America's 3,069 county governments. Founded in 1935, NACo brings county officials together to advocate with a collective voice on national policy, exchange ideas and build new leadership skills, pursue transformational county solutions, enrich the public's understanding of county government and exercise exemplary leadership in public service. Learn more at [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org)

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT  
PRESENTS

## CAREER & VOLUNTEER FIRE/EMS RECRUITMENT EXPO

# 2018



**Saturday  
June 2nd  
9AM-3PM**

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# COMMENTARY

## Cong. Steny H. Hoyer House Democratic Minority Whip



### Hoyer, Raskin Discuss the Importance of Protecting Election Infrastructure

WASHINGTON, DC—Earlier this week, at an election security forum hosted by Committee on House Administration member Jamie Raskin (MD-08) and special guest Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05), members of the public heard from election security experts and public officials about the safety of our election infrastructure headed into the 2018 midterm elections.

At the forum, Hoyer and Raskin were joined by Election Assistance Commission (EAC) Chair Tom Hicks, who provided an update on state efforts to secure their election systems, as well as Danielle Root, Voting Rights Manager for the Center for American Progress, and Liz Howard, Counsel for the Brennan Center for Justice's Democracy Program. The members and panelists took questions from the audience on how best to secure voting systems.

Hoyer and Raskin were instrumental in securing an additional \$380 million in the recently-passed omnibus for funding that will help states secure their election systems and replace their most vulnerable voting machines. Chairman Hicks estimated that more than 40 states will apply for these new funds to help update their aging election equipment by July. However, the Members stressed that Congress must do much more to protect our democracy from foreign interference, and that \$380 million is just a down payment on the full investment that will be required. The Brennan Center has estimated that it would cost \$500 million for states to replace only their most vulnerable election equipment.

Despite this, the Republican Congress has not held a single full committee hearing in the committees of jurisdiction to examine the attacks on our 2016 elections, nor scheduled a vote on any legislation to secure our elections.

"Ensuring our election systems are secure is one of the most critically important issues facing our nation," said Congressman Hoyer. "Unfortunately, Republicans in Congress have worked to undermine the important work of the Election Assistance Commission. Congress must do all that it can to protect our democracy by ensuring our citizens votes are counted, and counted correctly. Americans must have faith in their election systems, and I'm pleased to work with Congressman Raskin on this important issue."

"It's been nearly two years since Russia's sweeping and unprecedented assault on our country's 2016 elections," said Congressman Raskin at the forum. "This attack is now undisputed, but the intelligence community warns that we are at real risk of experiencing another cyber-attack in a few months in the 2018 Election. The continued passivity of the GOP majority Congress is baffling and seemingly invites aggression. Speaker Ryan has refused to hold hearings or develop a plan to ensure we are not attacked again. Fortunately, Democrats are not asleep at the wheel, and we have introduced legislation to provide the funding needed by states to secure our elections against cyber-interference."

The Election Security Act (H.R. 5011), introduced in February after the Congressional Task Force on Election Security released a final report on the state of the nation's election infrastructure, would provide states with necessary funds to replace their most vulnerable voting equipment, as well as ensure continued funding to increase cybersecurity and IT training and staff for state and local election officials.

Video from the forum is available at <https://www.facebook.com/RepRaskin/videos/1955034701176179/>.

## Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



### Diane Nash: A Civil Rights Icon Celebrates her 80th Birthday

"She would not be moved. I felt my voice go up another decibel and another decibel and soon I was shouting. 'Young woman, do you understand what you're doing? You're going to get somebody killed!' And there's a pause, and she said, 'Sir, you should know, we all signed our last wills and testaments last night before we left. We know someone will be killed. But we cannot let violence overcome non-violence.' Here I am, an official of the United States government, representing the President and the Attorney General, talking to a student at Fisk University, and she, in a very quiet but strong way, gave me a lecture."

—former Assistant to the Attorney General John Seigenthaler, on trying to talk Diane Nash out of the Freedom Rides in 1961.

Happy birthday to Diane Nash.

Women have always been the spirit of the Civil Rights Movement, at every point in our history, but many never seem to garner the acclaim they deserve. Diane Nash, who turned 80 this week, has been a leader among leaders.

Unlike many African Americans of her generation, Nash as a child in Chicago was seldom confronted with the depth and breadth of segregation's brutality. She has said her family rarely spoke about racism when she was young, and her first real encounter with serious prejudice was her rejection from a modeling school that did not accept Black students.

"I had never traveled to the south at that time," she told an interviewer for the PBS documentary *Eyes on the Prize*. "And I didn't have an emotional relationship to segregation."

Her arrival as a at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, as a transfer student from Howard, changed all that.

"When I actually went south and saw signs that said "white" and "colored" and I actually could not drink out of that water fountain or go to that ladies' room, I had a real emotional reaction to that," she said.

It would have been easy for Nash to retreat back to Chicago, back to her comfortable middle-class life and loving family. But she chose to confront injustice head-on.

She quickly discovered James Lawson, who was then the southern director for the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and was conducting non-violence workshops in a church basement.

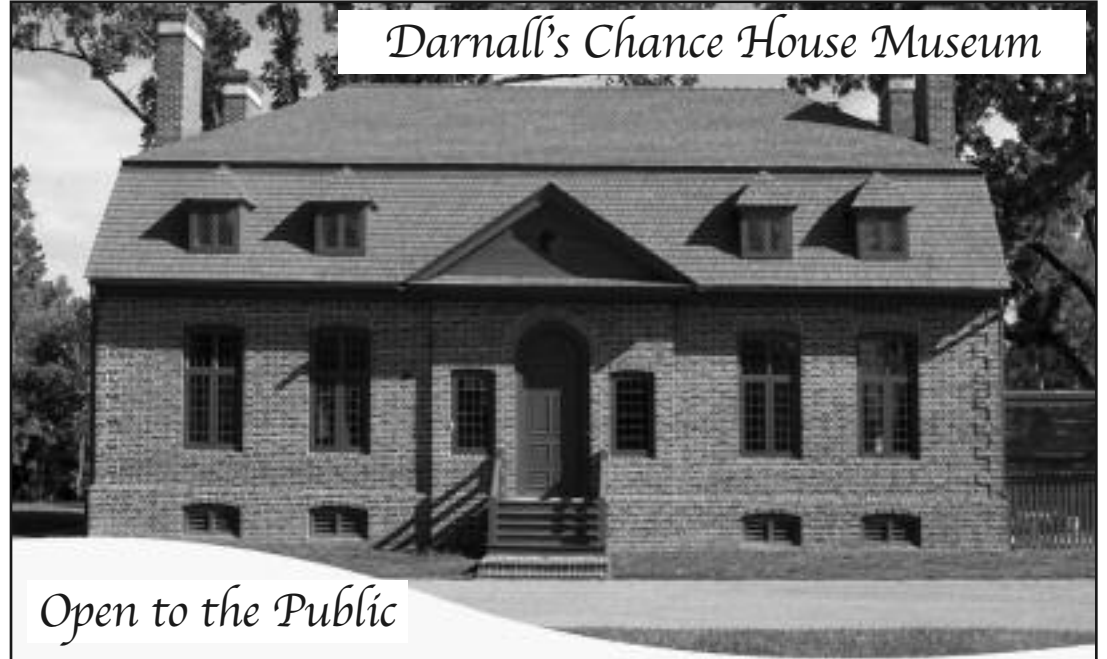
In 1960, at age 22, she led the Nashville Sit-Ins, aimed at desegregating lunch counters. A few months later, she helped coordinate the Freedom Rides, riding interstate buses into the south to challenge the southern states' failure to enforce a desegregation ruling by the Supreme Court.

She would be jailed dozens of times over the years—once while pregnant and facing the possibility of giving birth in prison. She and her then-husband James Bevel initiated the Selma to Montgomery Marches, credited with spurring passage of the Voting Rights Act.

She and Bevel soon turned their efforts toward protesting the war in Vietnam. She had her passport revoked after traveling to Moscow, Peking and Hanoi, where she participated in an interview with North Vietnamese President Ho Chi Minh.

Though she often is described as the only woman within Martin Luther King's inner circle, she told a local television interviewer in 2016 she never considered King her leader. "I always considered myself at his side and I considered him at my side," she said. "I was going to do what the spirit told me to do. So if I had a leader, that was my leader."

## Darnall's Chance House Museum



Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: PG PARKS & RECREATION

### DARNALL'S CHANCE HOUSE MUSEUM

Opened to the public as a historic house museum in 1988, Darnall's Chance House Museum is dedicated to the interpretation and study of the history and culture of 18th century Prince George's County, Maryland with special emphasis on the lives of mid-18th century women. The Museum will seek to interpret the story of the widow Lettice Wardrop Thomson Sim, who lived at Darnall's Chance in the decades just prior to the American Revolution. The house and grounds will reflect 1760, the year Lettice Wardrop's first husband died and a room by room inventory was taken of the contents of the house. Darnall's Chance will also strive to accurately reflect the African American community on the site and town life in mid-18th century Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

## Child Watch by Marion Wright Edelman



### Help Us Keep Dr. King's Promise

*In a few weeks ... we are coming to Washington in a Poor People's Campaign. Yes, we are going to bring the tired, the poor, the huddled masses. We are going to bring those who have known long years of hurt and neglect. We are going to bring those who have come to feel that life is a long and desolate corridor with no exit signs. We are going to bring children and adults and old people, people who have never seen a doctor or a dentist in their lives.*

*We are not coming to engage in any histrionic gesture. We are not coming to tear up Washington. We are coming to demand that the government address itself to the problem of poverty. We read one day, 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.' But if a man doesn't have a job or an income, he has neither life nor liberty nor the possibility for the pursuit of happiness. He merely exists.*

*We are coming to ask America to be true to the huge promissory note that it signed years ago. And we are coming to engage in dramatic nonviolent action, to call attention to the gulf between promise and fulfillment; to make the invisible visible.*

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in his last Sunday sermon at Washington's National Cathedral, March 31, 1968

As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the mule trains making their way from Marks, Mississippi to Resurrection City and the Poor People's Campaign, we must honor Dr. King's impassioned plea for America to "help bridge the gulf between the haves and have nots."

God, help us to end poverty in our time.

The poverty of having a child with too little to eat and no place to sleep, no air, sunlight and space to breathe, bask, and grow.

The poverty of watching your child suffer hunger or get sicker and sicker and not knowing what to do or how to get

help because you don't have another dime or a car, money, or health insurance.

The poverty of working your fingers to the bone every day taking care of somebody else's children and neglecting your own, and still not being able to pay your bills.

The poverty of having a job which does not let you afford a stable place to live and being terrified you'll become homeless and lose your children to foster care.

The poverty of losing your job, running out of unemployment benefits, and having no other help in sight.

The poverty of working all your life caring for your own children and having to start all over again caring for the grandchildren you love.

The poverty of earning a college degree, having children, opening a day care center, and taking home \$300 a week—or a month—if you're lucky.

The poverty of loneliness and isolation and alienation—having no one to call or visit, tell you where to get help, assist you in getting it, or care if you're living or dead.

The poverty of having too much and sharing too little and having the burden of nothing to carry.

The poverty of convenient blindness and deafness and indifference to others.

The poverty of low aim and paltry purpose, of weak will and tiny vision, of big meetings and small actions, of loud talk and sullen grudging service.

The poverty of believing in nothing, standing for nothing, sharing nothing, sacrificing nothing, struggling with others for nothing.

The poverty of pride and ingratitude for God's gifts of life and children and family and freedom and home and country and not wanting for others what you want for yourself.

The poverty of greed for more and more and more, ignoring, blaming, and exploiting the needy, and taking from the weak to please the strong.

The poverty of addiction to more and more things, drugs, drink, work, self, violence, power, fleeting fame, and an unjust status quo.

See WATCH, Page A8

## The Prince George's Post

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# BUSINESS

## Social Security Matters

### Ask Rusty—State Employees Getting Reduced Social Security

by Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** I'm retired for almost 17 years, and want to know why Massachusetts is one of only 6 states in the US that went along with President Reagan's double-dipping proclamation regarding Social Security? I worked for 15 years whereby I contributed to Social Security and accumulated my 40 quarters. I then left my job to take care of my family and went back to work for the county under our state's retirement plan. When I finally retired at the age of 65, I learned that I couldn't receive the full amount of monies earned under Social Security. I am now receiving my pension from the county, and I've written to our Federal representatives asking them to vote to revise President Reagan's policy of not double dipping. I have received replies saying that they would investigate this subject, but nothing has changed. This policy not only affects me but many other people who are being short changed for working both under Social Security and working for the State and contributing towards their retirement. Why are there only 6 states in the United States participating in this double-dipping policy?

#### Signed: Disappointed

**Dear Disappointed:** Without getting into too much history, what you're referring to is The Social Security Amendments of 1983, a bill passed by the 98th Congress and signed by President Reagan in April 1983. This was a large bipartisan effort to avert a serious issue with Social Security being unable to meet its short and long-term benefit obligations beginning later that year. Both political parties joined together to enact numerous changes to the program, including the one you're referring to known as the Windfall Elimination Provision, or "WEP." WEP essentially says that employees who receive a pension from an employer (such as the Federal, State, or Local government), which did not contribute to the Social Security program cannot "double-dip" and collect both their non-covered pension as well as full Social Security benefits. The rule applies not to just 6 states but to all employers and their employees who do not participate in Social Security and, in fact, has caused some employers (such as the Federal Government) to change their retirement plan to contribute to Social Security. While that is helpful for recent employees, past employees who already receive a pension under the old systems, which did not contribute, are nevertheless still impacted by the law enacted in 1983. And, as you note, many public service employees are still affected by this law, including those in Massachusetts (as well as some other States). It's worthy of note that the change wasn't targeted to any specific State or employer; rather it applies generally to any employers who doesn't contribute to the Social Security program but instead funds their own retirement plan. That any State chooses to continue funding its own retirement system in lieu of contributing to Social Security is that State's choice. And while we cannot know the thoughts of those 1983 legislators about WEP, it's a safe bet that their main motivation was rescuing Social Security from defaulting on its obligations. Those Amendments have obviously sustained the program at least until now, some 35 years later.

You'll be happy to know that there is a bill before Congress now which addresses this issue and proposes to eliminate the impact that WEP - and a sister provision called the Government Pension Offset (GPO) - have upon the Social Security benefits of retired Federal, State and Local Government employees. This bill is known as the Social Security Fairness Act of 2017 (H.R. 1205). The bill has about 180 co-sponsors and has been referred to the Subcommittee on Social Security where, unfortunately, little action has been taken so far. My suggestion is that you contact your State legislators and ask them why your State's public service employee plan does not contribute to Social Security, and to contact your Federal representatives to demand action on H.R. 1205 to eliminate WEP and GPO.

*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

yourself or your car a victim of a child hitting you.

(3) Valuables left in a vehicle will be removed by a concerned thief.

### Morningside Memories: 1978

Mr. & Mrs. Roscoe Smith's Boy Scouts Troop 282 received awards April 27 at Bell's UMC. They were: David Bowman, David Morris, Michael Burns, Brian Lewis, Mark Talbott, Lars Bales, Mark Foland, Dante Ross, John Matthews, Evan Thomas,

Erik Wagner Phillips, Scott Peele and Mark Lewis.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Kathleen Stahl, June 1; Paul Elborne and Jacob Cook, June 2; Darius Nalley-Stoddard, June 3; Fay Norton-Cummings and Malik Reed, June 6; and Trisha Reamy, June 7.

Happy anniversary to Tyonda Simms-Taylor and Michael Taylor on their 23rd, June 1; Carol (Kline) and Tom DeGraba, their 24th on June 4; and Bucky and Debbie Tretler, their 42nd on June 5.

## Economic Development Corporation Announces Nigeria Trade Mission Delegation Ambassador

Miss Africa USA, 1st Princess Poised to Connect Her County with Her Country

By R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS  
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—The Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation has just announced its official Delegation Ambassador for the upcoming Nigeria Trade Mission taking place August 13—19, 2018. Elaine Alale, Miss Africa USA, 1st Princess has agreed to spearhead the delegation to connect Prince George's County to her country of origin. An entrepreneur, graduate of Prince George's County public schools and a first-generation Nigerian-American, Ms. Alale has strong connections to both the County and Nigeria. EDC's President and CEO, Jim Coleman, is ecstatic to have Ms. Alale join the delegation as the ambassador.

"We are blessed to have Elaine Alale agree to be our delegation ambassador," said Coleman. "Because of her international upbringing, she offers special insight into the business communities of both Prince George's County and Nigeria. Her love for her home and home country as well as her intelligence and entrepreneurial spirit is just what we need to make our trade mission even more effective. We are excited to have a success partner in Ms. Alale. I can't wait to go to Nigeria!"

The EDC has perfected the art of international trade missions. Within the past few years, it has led successful trade missions to China, Korea and Cuba. This year's Trade Mission will be the first in the continent of Africa in several years and there are plans to soon explore South Africa. While there, delegates will attend the 'Networking with the USA Conference' in Lagos. At the conference the delegates be connected to over 400 Nigerian businesses. Future trade missions are also being developed to connect local business leaders to Canada, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands. The EDC works hard to be able to offer business leaders as many resources as possible. The ambassadorship of Ms. Alale is the first of its type and she is poised to aid the delegation in navigating the Nigerian business culture.

"My goal is to serve the delegation, the County, and the people," said Alale. "I grew up in both Prince George's County and Nigeria and I am excited to connect the business community in my County with the business community in my country. Nigeria has the leading economy in Africa and Prince George's County-based businesses will surely be successful by creating and nurturing relationships with their soon to be partners across the pond."



PHOTO COURTESY R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS

Elaine Alale, Miss Africa USA, 1st Princess(R) with Jim Coleman, EDC President and CEO

If you are interested in joining the delegation headed to Nigeria in August, please contact Sangrea Watkins at [swatkins@co.pg.md.us](mailto:swatkins@co.pg.md.us) or (301) 583-4619.

### Educator from A1

partment of Education (MSDE). She received a pre-paid, three-year lease on a new 2018 Honda Accord LX from Pohanka Honda, the gala's major sponsor.

Myers was nominated by her peers for her engaging instruction, passion for teaching and dedication to developing the next generation of teachers. She has taken on many leadership roles, including Professional Development Lead Teacher, serving on the school management team and administrative intern.

"I truly believe Mrs. Myers is an ideal Teacher of the Year," said Jaime Coffen, principal of Tulip Grove. "Her involvement in education provides a solid platform and the insight needed to speak eloquently about the state of public school education."

Her service outside the classroom focuses on mentoring and developing aspiring teachers. She is an adjunct pro-

fessor at Bowie State University, where she has been described as by her colleagues as "a committed and dedicated academician who believes in championing student success." In addition, Myers is a school volunteer, giving her time at the Tulip Grove health fair, fundraisers, Reading Night and PTA Fall Festival.

A recipient of the City of Bowie Excellence in Teaching Award, Myers was also honored with the Bowie State University Teacher Leader Award and recognized by the university for her work as a Professional Development School Coordinator.

Four other educators were finalists for this year's Teacher of the Year award: Charina Pacheco, J. Frank Dent Elementary; Luis Javier Pentón, Laurel High School; Jason Venezia-Walerstein, Buck Lodge Middle School; and Arnice Williams, Largo High School. Other nominees included:

- Doris Cline, Chesapeake Math & IT High School
  - Andre Collins, Patuxent Elementary
  - Joshua Davis, International High School@Largo
  - Samuel Gachelin, Edward M. Felegy Elementary
  - Stephen Isler, Robert R. Gray Elementary
  - Danica Justsen, Chesapeake Math & IT Middle School
  - Kelly Lewis, Calverton Elementary
  - Joisabeth Manapul, Cooper Lane Elementary
  - Benora McCain, Chesapeake Math & IT Elementary—North
  - Bridget McCoy, Capitol Heights Elementary
  - Marites Melad, Benjamin Tasker Middle School
  - Megan Milko, Deerfield Run Elementary
  - Janet Oosterhous, Hollywood Elementary
  - Jennifer Palo, Thomas S. Stone Elementary
  - Lynn Charisse Parsons, Accokeek Academy
  - Julieta Perez, Oxon Hill Elementary
  - Trifon Perges, Kenilworth Elementary
  - Monica Smack, Gwynn Park Middle School
  - Aaron Smith, Benjamin D. Foulis Creative & Performing Arts Academy
  - Julie Suarez, Nicholas Orem Middle School
  - Patricia Taylor, High Bridge Elementary
- In addition to Pohanka Honda, this year's sponsors were NTA Life Management, Inc., Kaiser Permanente, Educational Systems Federal Credit Union, Excellence in Education Foundation, Chick-fil-A (Capital Centre, Steeplechase), Cole Stevens Salon, Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, Giant Food (Largo), MGM National Harbor, Olive Garden (Capitol Heights) and Whole Foods (Riverdale Park).

### Tolling from A1

rector of the Maryland Transportation Authority.

However the state has no specific timetable or budget for all-electronic tolling at this time, Maryland Transportation Authority Communications Director Cheryl M. Sparks told Capital News Service.

The transition would also mean that anyone driving on Maryland toll roads could soon need an E-ZPass to avoid paying higher fees, and 218 toll operator positions will be phased out across the state.

If you pay using video tolling, Reigrut said, you pay 1.5 times the base rate for that road—and if drivers don't have an E-ZPass by the time Maryland's electronic tolls are phased in, that's the price they'd pay across the state.

This means that drivers from other states who use Maryland roads will be forced to pay more if they don't have an E-ZPass by the time of the transition.

As part of the transition, which has been a strategic goal of the transportation authority since 2004, the state has eliminated the monthly fee and offered toll discounts to pass holders to prompt more Marylanders to buy an E-ZPass, Gov. Larry Hogan said at a Board of Public Works meeting Feb. 21.

Drivers who use E-ZPass save 25 percent at tolls on all but two roads across the state and 37.5 percent on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, compared to paying cash, said Reigrut.

The two exceptions are the Intercounty Connector and the I-95 Express Toll Lanes, which already reflect the cost savings, and already collect tolls electronically at highway speeds, via video tolling or E-ZPass.

The state has already seen the advantages of all-electronic tolling facilities at the Intercounty Connector—the second-most used toll facility and the quickest route for commuters who are traveling east-west across the state. This is because

drivers can travel through tolls on this road at highway speeds.

The discount was funded by a \$270 million toll relief incentive over 5 years by the Hogan administration in July 2015—the first time tolls have been cut across the state in 50 years—according to a May 7, 2015, press release.

"There is no better time to be a Maryland E-Zpass customer than right now," Reigrut told Capital News Service.

The budget is still under development for the entire All Electronic Toll project, Reigrut said, but the initial contracts were approved by Maryland's Board of Public Works on Feb. 21. Sparks explained that the contract does allow for all-electronic tolling but a start date has not yet been set.

The two, 13-year option contracts totaled more than \$360 million—\$89 million to Kapsch USA Inc. for tolling systems and services and \$273 million to Transcore LP for customer service center services.

A toll increase isn't likely when the all-electronic tolls are entirely phased in, Reigrut said.

In the long term, Reigrut said, there will be cost savings as a result of this project because there won't be a need to pay for toll collector salaries and benefits, armored cars to transport money to secured rooms at the transportation building or for significant auditing functions relative to using cash.

The transition would phase out 218 toll collector positions over the 13-year contract, and the transportation authority is no longer hiring for the positions, Reigrut said. They will be using temporary employees to fill vacant positions to minimize the number of employees affected by the project.

As toll facilities are converted, collectors will be given the opportunity to serve at nearby toll plazas, and can apply

# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review

### A Quiet Place

A Quiet Place  
Grade: B+  
Rated PG-13, intense situations and themes, a little violence  
1 hr., 30 min

As a proponent of the “shut up and watch the movie” school of thought, I have a special fondness for films that actively encourage silence. The tense and thrilling *A Quiet Place* does it by putting its characters in a situation where making noise is fatal and then making us forget that it's only a movie. Viewers with limited lung capacity, be advised that you'll be holding your breath a lot.

A few years from now, humanity is bedeviled by vicious reptilian monsters that are seemingly indestructible, their one weakness—total blindness—compensated for by an extraordinary sense of hearing. Nonetheless, if you don't make any noise, they can't find you. We join the story some months after the initial invasion, the details conveyed to us through the convenient exposition-delivery system of Newspaper Clippings on a Bulletin Board Annotated by Obsessed Researcher. That's Lee (John Krasinski, who also directed), who lives with his wife, Evelyn (Emily Blunt), and their children Regan (Millicent Simmonds) and Marcus (Noah Jupe) on an isolated (and now mostly sound-proofed) farm in upstate New York. Fortuitously—some might say conveniently—Regan is deaf, so the family already knew sign language and didn't have to learn it when speaking aloud became deadly. The families that didn't know how to communicate silently must have been first to die.

But there was a tragedy in the prologue, for which Regan blames herself (accurately) and fears her father no longer loves her. It isn't so, of course; her father actually spends much of his time in the base-



ROTTENTOMATOES

**In the modern horror thriller *A Quiet Place*, a family of four must navigate their lives in silence after mysterious creatures that hunt by sound threaten their survival. If they hear you, they hunt you.**

ment tinkering with hearing aids in the hopes of reversing her deafness. The family has lived like this—walking barefoot on sand-covered paths, communicating in gestures and signs, replacing hard Monopoly tokens with soft ones—for more than a year, but they seem optimistic that the crisis is not permanent, or that if it is, they can manage. There's no better indication of their hopefulness than the fact that Evelyn is due to give birth any day. We have no record of whether the pregnancy was planned, whether any efforts were made to prevent or abort it, but Evelyn and Lee's behavior suggests that it is very much wanted now and that the work necessary to prepare for its arrival is done out of love.

There's very little dialogue, of course, so Krasinski (finally directing a good movie after his awful *Brief Interviews with Hideous Men* and *The Hollars*) uses the camera to focus our attention. It shouldn't surprise us that a man best known

for his wordless reactions on *The Office* has made a movie that hinges on nonverbal communication, but it's impressive how well the former Jim Halpert pulls it off, aided by Bryan Woods and Scott Beck's efficient screenplay (which Krasinski revised). We understand all the ways the family's situation is fraught with peril without needing to have them spelled out. Childbirth is loud! Babies are loud! Regan's deafness has advantages as well as disadvantages! The film regularly sets up details whose significance isn't initially clear, trusting us to wait until it is. We learn the “rules” of this world, how quiet you need to be, when it's safe to make noise (when there's a louder noise drowning you out).

We should also mention the excellent work by sound editors Erik Aadahl and Ethan Van der Ryn, who put us on edge by amplifying the tiny sounds of everyday life. (Stop breathing! They'll hear you!) When a shot is from Regan's

point of view, the sound drops out entirely, which somehow makes us even more nervous. (She won't hear the creatures approaching!) There is a musical score, by Marco Beltrami, but Krasinski uses it judiciously to relieve tension (extraneous noise implies that we're safe for now) and to ratchet up the adrenaline in the scenes where all hell has broken loose and silence no longer matters.

This is ultimately about a family's resilience and dedication to one another (the real quiet place ... was love), with each of the four family members given a crucial role in the fight, everyone required to sacrifice something. The resolution is maybe a little too convenient (there's that word again), almost cute, though not enough to squander the terrific premise, and the movie ends on a perfect note that outweighs any prior missteps. See it with someone you love who is also quiet, if you know anybody like that.

### Memorial from A1

performance of duty throughout U.S. history, dating back to the first known officer death in 1791.

“The 21,541 fallen heroes, whose names embrace us this evening, came from different states, counties and towns across America,” said Craig W. Floyd, Chief Executive Officer of the National Law Enforcement Of-

ficers Memorial Fund. “And tonight as we formally dedicate the names of these men and women; we honor their courage and we salute their sacrifice.”

An estimated 30,000 people attended the ceremony in person, including surviving family members, friends, law enforcement colleagues, and others. Thousands more participated via a live webcast of the ceremony pro-

vided by the Memorial Fund and Officer.com. Supporters dedicated virtual candles participating in the Memorial Fund's United By Light campaign, with viewing events hosted across the country.

Note: In tribute to American law enforcement officers, as part of the historic crime bill that President Clinton signed into law in 1994, Public Law 103-322 designates Peace Officers Me-

morial Day (May 15) as one of only two days each year during which government agencies, businesses and residents are to fly their U.S. flags at half-staff. The other is Memorial Day.

For more information, including the names of officers added this year to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, visit the website at [www.LawMemorial.org/2018RollCall](http://www.LawMemorial.org/2018RollCall).

## Gardening for Pollinators

### Twelve Must Plant Pollinator-Friendly Flowers

By MELINDA MYERS

Fill your garden with colorful annuals you and the pollinators can enjoy all season long. Look for outstanding varieties chosen by All-America Selections (AAS), a non-profit plant trialing organization, to brighten your garden, attract pollinators and outperform other varieties on the market.

Attract hummingbirds and second looks from passersby with the vibrant bright orange flowers of *Canna South Pacific*. This compact variety can be started from seed and was selected as a 2018 AAS winner for its vigorous, full and uniform growth habit.

Whether it's spikes of lavender, pink, white or red your garden and container need, you'll find them in the *Salvia Jewel* series. Watch the butterflies and hummingbirds stop by for a sip of nectar and the finches feast upon the seeds later in the season.

Add more vertical interest and pollinator appeal in the garden and large planters with *Asian Garden Celosia*. The bright pink blooms hold their color all season long atop sturdy stems 31 to 40 inches tall.

Include a few *Cupheas*, also known as Mexican Heather in containers, borders and mass plantings. *FloriGlory Diana* has more and larger flowers than its counterparts. The season long bloom of intense magenta flowers made this a winner.

Incorporate beauty even in challenging locations with *EnduraScape Pink Bicolor Verbena*. As the name implies it is tough as nails, tolerating drought, heat and temperatures in the low teens. Use this spreader in large containers and baskets where you can appreciate the soft pink blooms with their darker center.

Wow visitors and lure pollinators to your garden and containers with *Vinca Mega Bloom Orchid Halo*. The bright purple blooms with a white eye stand up to heat and humidity without succumbing to disease.

Grow winning varieties of a traditional favorite, zinnia. These low maintenance sun-loving annuals can be started from seed directly in the garden. Add vibrant color to the garden with *Queeny Lime*, *Zowie!* *Yellow Flame* and *Magellan Coral*. Include smaller scale beauty with *Profusion* and *Zahara* varieties.

Gardeners and pollinators love purple coneflowers (*Echinacea*). Two colorful winning varieties, *Cheyenne Spirit* and *PowWow Wild Berry* will fill your garden with color for seasons to come.

*Cheyenne Spirit* coneflower produces a mix of purple, pink, red and orange flowers along side lighter yellows, creams and white. This compact plant stands tall in wind and rain and is drought tolerant once established.

*PowWow Wild Berry* coneflower lives up to its name. The vivid deep rose-purple flowers retain their beautiful color all season long. You'll enjoy continual bloom without deadheading or grooming.

Add more perennial beauty with *Twizzle Purple Penstemon*. The spikes of vibrant purple blooms are favorites of hummingbirds and other pollinators. Include them in containers for added height or high-impact color anywhere in the landscape.

Extend your budget and increase perennial plantings next year by starting these three winners indoors by late January. Your efforts will be rewarded with flowers that same season.

Don't let shade stop you from inviting pollinators into the garden. *Bounce Pink Flame Impatiens* has all the flower power of common impatiens but is resistant to downy mildew. Plus, they are a bit more forgiving if you allow them to wilt. Just add water and they bounce back.

Plant *Sunpatiens Spreading Shell Pink* in full sun or shade. Enjoy the season long, soft pink flowers even in high heat, rain and humidity. This variety has all the low maintenance beauty of impatiens but is resistant to downy mildew.

Once you've added these beauties to your landscape, sit back and enjoy. You and the pollinators will reap the many benefits of these winning additions to your gardens and containers.



PHOTO COURTESY ALL-AMERICA SELECTIONS

***Echinacea PowWow Wild Berry* is a perennial that provides continual bloom without deadheading or grooming.**

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](http://www.melindamyers.com).

**LITTER-FREE PGC**

**TUESDAY TIP**

- Make a commitment to always carry a reusable bag, bottle and/or mug to reduce single-use products.
- Buy in bulk to eliminate unnecessary packaging.
- Recycle more, trash less. Start a home compost bin so food remnants can be turned into mulch.
- Check out our Earth Month calendar for more information on several clean-ups throughout the region.
- Report illegal dumping to County Click 3-1-1.

More info about our Litter Reduction Program at [btlj/PGCCleanweep](http://btlj/PGCCleanweep)

Prince George's County is a member of the Department of the Environment, and Office of Contract Services to provide cost savings and sustainability to our citizens, visitors.

# Calendar of Events

May 31 — June 6, 2018

## Xtreme Teens: Business Night

Date and time: Friday, June 1, 2018, 6:00 PM–9:00 PM  
Description: Join us on this night to have a discussion on the structure and the workings of the business world. We will be creating a business model and have all participants play a role in the world of business. May it be a lender, investor, entrepreneur or a supporting staff, come out and learn about the wonderful world of business.

Cost: FREE with M-NCPPC Youth ID  
Ages: 10–17  
Location: Columbia Park Community Center  
1901 Kent Village Drive, Kentland, MD  
Contact: 301-341-3749; TTY 301-699-2544

## Xtreme Teens: Campfire

Date and time: Friday, June 1, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM  
Description: Sit safely by an open fire with friends, roast marshmallows, make s'mores, and share funny stories. We'll sing songs, tell jokes, and have CHAT ROOM to openly discuss relevant peer topics and overcome situations in which you may be struggling. See you around the campfire!

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

## Xtreme Teens: Game Night

Date and time: Friday, June 1, 2018, 7:00 PM–9:00 PM  
Description: It's your night and your choice! Video games, board games, sports games—you name it!—just play! Don't miss this opportunity to build friendships, have fun and get your "game" on! Light snacks and drinks will be provided.

Cost: FREE with M-NCPPC Youth ID  
Ages: 12–17  
Location: Glenn Dale Community Center  
11901 Glenn Dale Boulevard, Glenn Dale, MD  
Contact: 301-352-8983; TTY 301-699-2544

## Katherine Hart

Date and time: Saturday, June 2, 2018, all day  
Description: Hart works with encaustic techniques to cast stories among layers of pigment and wax. Inspired by everything that surrounds or encounters her, she does not premeditate but, rather, lets the materials direct the course of the work. The result is a composition emboldened by her organic pursuit, the inherent emotions and challenges of that pursuit – a vivid example of art imitating life.

Cost: FREE  
Ages: All ages are welcome  
Location: Publick Playhouse  
5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD  
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY: 301-699-2544

## Dinosaur Park Open House

Date and time: Saturday, June 2, 2018, 12:00 PM–4:00 PM  
Description: Meet paleontologists, learn about Maryland prehistory, and search a real fossil quarry for 110 million-year-old fossils.

Cost: FREE  
Ages: All ages are welcome  
Location: Dinosaur Park  
13100 Mid Atlantic Boulevard, Laurel, MD  
Contact: 301-627-1286; TTY: 301-699-2544

## Xtreme Teens: Movie Night

Date and time: Saturday, June 2, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM  
Description: Come out, enjoy the weather, and watch a staff-picked movie outside on our big screen! Bring your family and friends - there is plenty of room for everyone! Don't worry, the popcorn is on us!

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

## Men in Black: Mozart to Motown

Date and time: Sunday, June 3, 2018, 4:00 PM–6:00 PM  
Description: The Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts brings another fascinating multi-genre program to the Playhouse, this time featuring eight male singers with instrumental accompaniment performing works in a variety of genres to include classical, jazz, Broadway, R&B, and more.

Cost: \$15/person  
Ages: All ages are welcome  
Location: Publick Playhouse  
5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD  
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY: 301-699-2544

## Yoga in the Parks at Tucker Road Community Center

Date and time: Tuesday, June 5, 2018, 6:00 PM–7:00 PM  
Description: Yoga is an excellent form of exercise regardless of your age or practice level. It combines body movements, breathing, and mental relaxation to build strength, relieve stress, and to maintain health and well-being. Learn basic moves to strengthen your body, increase flexibility, and free your mind.

Cost: FREE  
Ages: 13 and older  
Location: Tucker Road Community Center  
1771 Tucker Road Fort Washington, MD  
Contact: 301-248-4404; TTY 301-699-2544

## Lunchtime Lawn Concert

Date and time: Wednesday, June 6, 2018, 12:00 PM–1:30 PM  
Description: Stop by on your lunch break, and listen to Memphis Gold Blues and the Scrap Iron Blues Band with special guest Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark!

Cost: FREE  
Ages: All ages are welcome  
Location: Darnall's Chance House Museum  
14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD  
Contact: 301-952-8010; TTY 301-699-2544

# EARTH TALK ... Reusable Water Bottles: Glass and Stainless Steel Take Over From Plastic

Dear EarthTalk:

*It's finally time for me to retire my trusty old Nalgene and upgrade my water bottle. Are any brands or models particularly greener than others?*

—Cyndi Bland, Tempe, AZ

buying wasteful single-use plastic water bottles. But today we have many more options for going green when it comes to water bottles. When evidence started coming out that Bisphenol A (BPA) and other chemical additives in even reusable plastic water bottles could be harmful to human health, consumers started looking for other, safer materials. These days it's hard to find a reusable water bottle made out of plastic as glass and metal versions have become the more popular choices.

Glass is readily available and easy to recycle. Contigo's Purity glass water bottle is wrapped in a silicone sleeve to make it easier to handle and pad it in case it takes a tumble. Soma Bottles are likewise made from glass and wrapped in rubber for protection and a better grip. The Zing Anything Citrus Zinger glass water bottle comes with a built-in juicer so that you can infuse your water with fruit essences.

Stainless steel is another popular water bottle choice among eco-conscious consumers, given

its ruggedness and insulation as well as how easy it is to recycle. S'well's bottles come in a variety of designs but all share a base made out of recyclable stainless steel. Mira's stainless steel bottles have similar but more basic designs—but for half the price. Klean Kanteen also sells a variety of sleek stainless-steel based bottles with cool modern styling.

In those situations where you don't have your own reusable water bottle handy, it would be nice to know that you could buy water in a disposable container that neither comes from petroleum nor requires lots of transport and energy to recycle. Boxed Water Is Better and Just Water think they have the solution: paper cartons (like for milk) derived from sustainably harvested timber. These paper cartons are better than their plastic counterparts in many ways. For starters they can be shipped empty and flat and are so light that their transportation carbon footprint is much less than glass or plastic. But they have proven difficult to recycle (let alone compost) given that they include not only paper but also aluminum foil (to shield the contents from light and oxygen which could contaminate the water) and plastic inlays for strength.

Another improvement on the single-use plastic water bottle is



CREDIT: EARTH TALK

**Stainless steel, like this model from Klean Kanteen, and glass are taking over the reusable water bottle market these days given consumers' growing distaste for all things plastic.**

one made from biodegradable plant-based material, like the algae-derived prototype developed by Ari Jónsson, a student at the Iceland Academy of the Arts. Jónsson's bottle is derived from red algae powder and water to form a gelatin-like substance that can be shaped into the form of a bottle after a process of heating, molding, cooling and then filling with water. The bottle keeps its shape as long as it has water in it; when it's empty, it loses its rigidity and begins to decompose—you can bury it or throw it in your compost bin. While the concept is far from mainstream, and probably never will be, it nevertheless proves that single-use bot-

tles don't have to be such a burden on the environment.

CONTACTS: S'well Bottle, [swellbottle.com](http://swellbottle.com); Zing Anything, [zinganything.com](http://zinganything.com); Contigo, [contigo.com](http://contigo.com); Soma Bottles, [drinksoma.com](http://drinksoma.com); Klean Kanteen, [kleankanteen.com](http://kleankanteen.com); Boxed Water Is Better, [www.boxedwaterisbetter.com](http://www.boxedwaterisbetter.com); Just Water, [www.justwater.com](http://www.justwater.com).

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**Send questions to:** [earthtalk@emagazine.com](mailto:earthtalk@emagazine.com).

## Awards from A1

Prince George's County recognizes elementary school students for their poster designs supporting responsible pet care and kindness to animals.

"We are honored to celebrate the 25th year of this contest focusing on educating students on the proper care for their pets," said ASD Associate Director and Rodney Taylor. "Thanks to all the elementary-aged students in Prince George's County, their parents, schools, and teachers for continuing to support this effort and submitting these amazing pieces of art that we honor here tonight."

Taylor also recognized and thanked Mr. Roger & Mrs. Judy McClain for their generous contribution and ongoing support of the contest and awards ceremony. Another generous funder, Ms. Mary Jacobs, was recognized in memoriam for her long-standing support of the event.

Emphasizing the importance of providing lots of love and care to your pets, grand prize poster contest honoree Evangeline Posten, a third-grade student at-

tending Dora Kennedy French Immersion, received a \$100 gift card and a commemorative prize bag. Honors were presented in first, second and third places, which included \$75, \$50 and \$25 gift cards respectively, and commemorative prize bags.

### Winners and their prizes include:

**Grand Prize—\$100 and commemorative gift bag**

- Evangeline Costen, 3rd Grade, Teacher: Dr. Mills; Dora Kennedy French Immersion

**First Place—\$75 gift certificate and commemorative gift bag (per winner)**

- Deborah Aryeequae, Kindergarten, Teacher: Ms. Ahrens; Beltsville Academy
- Patience Njoku, 1st Grade, Teacher: Mrs. Lee; Seabrook Elementary
- Brad Urbiztona, 2nd Grade, Teacher: Mrs. Magowitz; Whitehall Elementary
- Lillian Williams, 3rd Grade, Teacher: Ms. Teitsworth; Beltsville Academy
- Donald Ross, 4th Grade, Teacher: Ms. Brewer; 1st Baptist of Laurel

- Shabad Singh, 5th Grade, Teacher: Ms. Brzozowski; Heather Hills Elementary
- Natalie Osorio, 6th Grade, Teacher: Ms. Burst; Cherokee Lane Elementary

**Second Place—\$50 gift certificate and commemorative gift bag (per winner)**

- Carrsyn Fullenwilder, Kindergarten, Excellence Christian
- Camille Soriano, 1st Grade, Teacher: Mrs. Singhateh, Dora Kennedy French Immersion
- Nhyla Miles, 2nd Grade, Teachers: Ms. Carter/Ms. Wilcher; Springhill Lake Elementary
- Amani Wilson-Adisa, 3rd Grade, Teacher: Mrs. Althoff, Pointer Ridge Elementary
- Alan Calderon, 4th Grade, Teacher: Mrs. Danos, Beltsville Academy
- Trent Taylor, 5th Grade, Teacher: Ms. Farmer, Excellence Christian
- Leo Nguyen, 6th Grade, Teacher: Mrs. Hinkley, St. Pius X Regional

**Third Place—\$25 gift certificate and commemorative gift bag (per winner)**

- Ricard Harris, Kindergarten, Teacher: Ms. Sapp; Panorama Elementary
- Destiny Metlock, 1st Grade, Teacher: Ms. Johnson; Panorama Elementary
- Maya Gareri, 2nd Grade, Teacher: Mrs. Lahlou; Dora Kennedy French Immersion
- Joseph R. Harrison IV, 3rd Grade, Teacher: Mrs. Graham; St. Pius X Regional
- Makayla Curtis, 4th Grade, Teacher: Mrs. Sliko; Montpelier Elementary
- Madison Harris, 5th Grade, Teacher: Mrs. Browne; Pointer Ridge Elementary
- Denise Fantem, 6th Grade, Teacher: Ms. Farmer; Excellence Christian

For information on how your school can participate in the 2019 "Be Kind to Animals" Poster Contest, contact Joanne Brown, Volunteer Coordinator/Humane Educator, Animal Services Facility at (301) 780-7200.

## Tolling from A5

for other jobs within the state, Reigrut said.

The transportation authority's approach to the project is to address one to two facilities at a time, starting with toll plazas that have the highest number of people who already use E-ZPass.

The first two areas that will be prioritized are the Thomas J. Hatem Memorial Bridge in Cecil County—where 93 percent of those who cross use E-ZPass—and the Francis Scott Key Memorial Bridge on I-695 in Baltimore County—where 78.5 percent of those who cross use E-ZPass, according to Reigrut.

There will "never" be an issue where lanes will be closed during the all-electronic transition, and any work that requires traffic changes will occur in off-peak hours, said Reigrut.

The all-electronic toll conversion at the Key bridge will not be completed by the start of the I-895 project, and therefore won't offer traffic relief at the onset.

## CITY OF DISTRICT HEIGHTS NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Mayor and Commissioners of the City of District Heights proposes to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2018, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 6.65% from \$372,688,990 to \$397,440,416.
2. If the City of District Heights maintains the current tax rate of \$0.8175 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 6.65% resulting in \$202,343 of new real property tax revenues.
3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$0.7666, the constant yield tax rate.
4. The City is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The City proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$0.8175 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 6.65% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$202,343 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 7:00 p.m. on June 7, 2018 at the E. Michael Roll Municipal Building, 2000 Marbury Drive, District Heights, Maryland 20747.

The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged.

Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call (301) 336-1402 for further information.

# COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

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Saturday Worship:  
6:30 p.m.

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12 noon (The Power Hour) and 6:45 pm

**"A Time of Prayer, Praise, Worship, & The Word"**  
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**301-474-3995**  
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Sunday School 9:30a.m.  
Sunday Worship 11a.m.  
Holy Communion 1st Sunday  
Wednesday Bible Study 7-8p.m.  
Wednesday Prayer Service 8p.m.

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14418 Old Marlboro Pike,  
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**Church (301) 627-5088**

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Morning Worship Celebration - 10:30 a.m.  
Wed. Night Bible Study - 7:45 p.m.  
Elder Willie W. Duvall, Pastor

**Watch from A4**

The poverty of fear which keeps you from doing the thing you think is right.

The poverty of convenient ignorance about the needs of those around you and of despair and cynicism.

God help us end poverty in our time, in all its faces and places, young and old, rural, urban, suburban and small town too, and in every color of humans You have made everywhere.

God help us to end poverty in our time in all its guises—inside and out—physical and spir-

itual, so that all our and Your children may live the lives that you intend.

Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information go to [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org).

Mrs. Edelman's Child Watch Column also appears each week on The Huffington Post.

**Tolling from A7**

I-895 has two safe, but "structurally deficient" bridges, according to Reigrut, that need to be rebuilt. The first stage of the project included reconfiguring the lanes leading up the bridges and began in March.

The second phase of the project will begin around Thanksgiving of 2018 and will direct north- and southbound traffic across one of the bridges, knocking down and rebuilding the other, and then channeling the two-way traffic across the new bridge while the second is completed, according to a Dec. 21, 2017, press release by the transportation authority.

The entire I-895 project is scheduled to be completed by 2021.

In anticipation of the I-895 project, the transportation department announced a \$49.4 million project in March 2017 to reconfigure 4 miles of I-95 roadway, north of the Fort McHenry Tunnel, by the summer of 2018, according to a March 31, 2017, press release by Maryland's Department of Transportation.

According to Reigrut, facilities undergoing change will start with the installation and coverage of signs to signal the cashless transition.

Then, at existing toll plazas, booths will be converted for non-cash operations to encourage drivers to keep moving without stopping, and overhead tolling equipment will be built and activated.

Finally, the old equipment will be turned off and the booths themselves will be gutted, one to two booths at a time, and the roadways will be reconfigured.

For example, 10 toll lanes that merge to two lanes on a bridge will see new speed limit signs, new road striping, and construction to narrow the road to a consistent two-lane approach to the bridge.

Though drivers can start to see non-cash toll at some plazas within the next year, the Customer Service Center system cannot transition into the new system until all the toll lanes across the state have been transitioned, according to state documents.

Customers will start seeing these changes two years into the project start, Reigrut said.

Customer service improvements will include a mobile app for payments, notifications and account management, a Web chat service, a modernized website and a content manage-

ment system, according to state documents.

Customers will also have the ability to transfer video tolls to a prepaid account and receive faster notification. A "robust" system will also be implemented for toll users who have credit issues or have missed paying their mailed video toll charge, Reigrut told Capital News Service.

Today, E-ZPass has slightly more than 1 million customers in the state, which has a population of about 6 million people. In 2017, 78 percent of toll transactions—including out-of-state drivers—were recorded using E-ZPass, Reigrut said.

The transportation authority expects to engage in nine to 12 months of "aggressive public outreach" to notify Maryland drivers of facilities they will be converting, said Reigrut. This outreach would include attending city council meetings in person, posting information online, direct marketing and paying for radio and billboard advertisements.

John Townsend, AAA's public affairs manager in the District, said he worries about the people who don't have E-ZPass and agrees that there needs to be an aggressive marketing campaign to create awareness for the transition.

Out-of-state drivers, who are not from E-ZPass states, often use the Bay Bridge; and the Baltimore tunnels will be most vulnerable to this change, because outreach is only happening in-state, Townsend said.

When Virginia began converting Route 66 inside of the Capital Beltway to electronic lanes, the Virginia Department of Transportation engaged in marketing and also increased the number of vendors selling E-ZPass transponders, said Townsend.

In Maryland, the transportation department is using a similar strategy—selling E-ZPasses at the cash toll booths, in some supermarkets, and on their website when drivers register their vehicle.

"You'd have to work hard not to get this information," Reigrut said.

Today, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia and West Virginia use E-ZPass.

*\*This story has been updated to indicate that a timetable for all-electronic tolling, which the state is exploring, has not yet been set.*

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SAVE loads of money with your advertising BUDGETS—CONNECT with the Multi-Media Specialists of the MDDC Advertising Networks. GET Bulk Advertising Opportunities NOW. CALL TODAY—With One Call; With One Ad Placement & One Bill, You'll Reach the Entire Mid-Atlantic Region! Call 410-212-0616.

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Allstate American grew its business with this ad.

**THIS AD RAN IN 3 MILLION NEWSPAPERS AND COST LESS THAN \$1,500!**

**WHAT'S THEIR SECRET?**

**WET BASEMENTS STINK !!**

Mold, mildew and water leakage into your basement causes health and foundation damage. What can be done to fix the problem? Allstate American Waterproofing is an honest, hardworking local company. We will give you a FREE evaluation and estimate and a fair price. We have repaired thousands of basements in the area, we can provide local references. When your neighbors needed waterproofing, they called Allstate American. Why don't you? Call now to receive a 20% discount with your FREE ESTIMATE. MHIC#36572

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Increase frequency with your advertising—call one of MDDC's Multi-Media Specialists to grow your business. Call Wanda at 410-212-0616 or email [wsmith@mddcpress.com](mailto:wsmith@mddcpress.com).

Place a business card ad in the Regional Small Display 2x2/2x4 Advertising Network—let MDDC help you grow your business! Call TODAY at 410-212-0616 to increase your customer base and get results.

**The Prince George's Post**  
*Proudly Serving Prince George's County since 1932*

