

# The Prince George's Post



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## Team Maryland Brings Federal Law Enforcement Leaders to Washington for Frank Discussion on Crime and Safety in Maryland

By PRESS OFFICER  
The Office of Ben Cardin

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On Wednesday, May 16, 2018, During the height of National Police Week, Team Maryland gathered as a bipartisan delegation for a dialogue with federal law enforcement partners based in Maryland, including the newly confirmed U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland Robert K. Hur. Also joining the meeting were the Maryland Special Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), along with Maryland Public Safety and Correctional Services Secretary Stephen Moyer, Maryland's Director of Homeland Security Peter Landon, and the Director of the [Baltimore] Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice Andrew Vetter.

At the top of the agenda was a discussion of the spike in violent crime in Baltimore City, as well as the federal-state-local partnership to combat drugs and illegal guns statewide. There was a thorough review of the specific challenges communities are facing due to gang activity. Across all topics was an overwhelming call for strong partnership among all levels of government and law enforcement.

"I thank all of our law enforcement leaders for their service and the sacrifices they make to keep

Marylanders safe. It is abundantly clear that we must work to maintain strong partnership at the federal, state, and local levels to achieve significant reductions in crime for Baltimore and statewide. It is unacceptable to me how many lives are lost, and how many families are destroyed and scarred forever, due to deadly violence," said Senator Ben Cardin. "As a federal delegation, we delivered a clear message to our law enforcement partners that we will continue to strongly support their needed funding for federal, state, and local law enforcement programs to combat gun violence, gang violence, and drug and opioid addiction. We also must do everything possible to promote a constructive dialogue between law enforcement and the communities they protect."

"During National Police Week, I was glad to join my colleagues in the Maryland Delegation to meet with U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland Robert Hur and other federal law enforcement officials," said Congressman Steny Hoyer. "I appreciated the opportunity to discuss the ways we can work together to improve the safety of our citizens. We must continue to provide support for the men and women who protect our communities."

"Our federal law enforcement team in Maryland helps ensure

See SAFETY Page A5



Bayside boat ramp in Ocen City Maryland

PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## Maryland Waterway Improvement Fund Awards \$12.5 Million

Projects Funded Statewide for Better Boating Access, Navigation and Safety

By PRESS OFFICER  
MDDNR

ANNAPOLIS, MD—The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is providing \$12.5 million in Waterway Improvement Fund grants to enhance and improve public boating access, facilities and navigation throughout the state.

This critical Fiscal Year 2019 funding will go toward 57 projects in 18 counties, from Garrett to Wicomico counties as well as Baltimore City.

"Boating is a cherished way of life our state, both as an industry and for recreation," said Governor Larry Hogan. "We are committed to expanding opportunities for our citizens and visitors to appreciate all that our waterways, coastal bays, the Chesapeake Bay, and the Atlantic Ocean have to offer, and

these grants will allow even more Marylanders to make memories out on the water."

Funded projects include the dredging of local and federal navigation channels, maintaining public boating access facilities, improving and upgrading existing infrastructure such as bulkheads, parking, piers and ramps, and purchase of rescue equipment for emergency and first responders.

"Boating is a way of life in the Old Line State, with the boating and maritime industries supporting thousands of jobs in Maryland and contributing billions of dollars to our economy and environment," Maryland Natural Resources Secretary Mark Belton said. "The Waterway Improvement Fund is a vi-

See BOATING Page A2

## 26 Maryland Parks and Playgrounds Receive \$2.5 Million in Funding

By PRESS OFFICER  
MDDNR

ANNAPOLIS, MD—On May 22, 2018, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources announced the awarding of 26 Community Parks and Playgrounds Program grants—totaling \$2.5 million—to local municipalities across Maryland.

From new playground equipment in Bowie and softball field lights in Delmar to tennis court repairs in Friendsville and new basketball courts in Vienna, the program provides essential state funding for the creation, enhancement and renovation of local recreational amenities and facilities in Maryland's incorporated cities and towns.

"Through this dedicated funding stream, Maryland's communities and towns can build, maintain and upgrade local playgrounds and parks, improving the quality of life of children and families," Maryland Natural Resources Secretary Mark Belton said. "The program enhances accessibility and outdoor recreation while encouraging youth to play outdoors."



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## County Planning Department Announces Enhancements to "PGAtlas" Mapping Tool

By PRESS OFFICER  
MNCPPC

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George's County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission recently introduced several new enhancements to PGAtlas, a no cost web-based mapping tool that offers users immediate access to a wealth of information throughout Prince George's County.

A robust web application developed over the past eighteen

years, PGAtlas displays a wide range of digital map information linked to commonly requested data such as Parcel Boundaries, Zoning, Overlay Zones, Development Activities, Tax Assessment, Tree Conservation Plans, Floodplain, Municipality and Political Boundaries and current and historic Aerial Photography. With the addition of its newest enhancements, PGAtlas now gives users the option to:

- Provides direct access to Google Street View imagery, and oblique (side view) imagery. Users can now search for an ad-

dress and retrieve aerial, oblique and street view imagery.

- Adds several elevation datasets (shaded relief and digital elevation model).
- Locate new construction projects and multifamily sites
- Create address labels.
- Receive weekly Development Notification updates of development applications accepted by the Planning Department.

According to Michael Shean, PGAtlas Supervisor, "the Plan-

See PGATLAS Page A3

## Council Adopts Legislation Addressing School Construction and Renovation

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Council

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George's County Council, during the budget adoption session on Thursday, May 24, adopted Council Resolution CR-33-2018 establishing a Public-Private Partnership Alternative Financing School Infrastructure Work

Group to explore a Public Private Partnership (P3) concept for school construction and replacement projects in Prince George's County.

The P3 concept offers an opportunity to create new and innovative methods of constructing, financing, maintaining, and operating public school construction and replacement projects quicker,

and without overburdening County resources.

Prince George's County Council Chair Dannielle Glaros (D)—District 3, during budget adoption remarks, noted the critical groundwork set in place by the Maryland General Assembly for the establishment of a P3 AI-

See LEGISLATION Page A5

### INSIDE

#### Legislation Aims to Improve Oversight of Nursing Homes

The same report reveals the state did not investigate 74 percent of high-level nursing home complaints within the federal deadline of 10 days, averaging 47 days to respond, all while being "historically understaffed," according to the report.

Community, Page A3

#### California's Chance to Lead for Poor Children

One in 5 California children was poor in 2016, and 1 in 12 children lived in deep poverty. In a high cost-of-living state where the monthly fair market rent for a 2-bedroom apartment is \$1,608, many families lack the resources to cover rent and all their children's basic needs.

Commentary, Page A4

#### Business Leaders Get the Real Deal About Federal Tax Cuts

M&T Bank joined Wilmington Trust and the EDC as sponsors for the event. The sponsors are also discussing ways in which they can continue to collaborate to demystify the federal tax codes for the local business community.

Business, Page A5

#### Movie Review: Chappaquiddick

The scandal and mysterious events surrounding the tragic drowning of a young woman, as Ted Kennedy drove his car off the infamous bridge, are revealed in the new movie. Not only did this event take the life of an aspiring political strategist and Kennedy insider, but it ultimately changed the course of presidential history forever.

Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Can fertility techniques pioneered for humans or other animals be used to try to bring back endangered wildlife species?

—James E.,  
Richmond, VA

Features, Page A7

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

With Mary McHale, will return next week

### Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

#### THE PLATTERS

The Platters Show at Dover Downs Casino with buffet lunch and \$25 slot play will be Thursday, December 6, 2018. The cost is \$125. Initial deposit of 25 due by June 15. Suggested Payment Plan: \$25 by July 15, 2018; \$25 by August 15, 2018, \$25 by September 15, 2018. Final payment of \$25 due by October 15, 2018. No exceptions and absolutely no refunds. Price includes transportation, show, meal and rebate. Bus leaves Brandywine (8:30 AM) and Clinton (9:00 AM).

Points of contact are Shirley Cleaves (302) 690-4260, Vivian Rich (804) 301-9530, Michele Chase (240) 882-3369 and Ruby Hinnant (301) 943-2816. Benefit- Peter A. Gross Sr. Scholarship Memorial Fund Inc.

#### ALUMNI DAY & 5K WALK

Come out and celebrate Alumni Day with a charity walk, campus tour, family cook-out and games June 16, 2018 from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM. There's no better feeling than coming home, whether you've been away for months or years. The event is hosted by the Office of Alumni Relations, Office of Annual Giving and Bowie State University National Alumni Association.

Agenda: Association Meeting at 9:00 AM, 5K Walk starts at 10:30 AM, 5K Ceremony begins at 11:30 AM, Campus Tour at 11:45 AM, Cookout and Music at 12:00 PM. The Shred-it Truck will be onsite from 12:00-3:00 PM to allow you to securely destroy personal/confidential documents. Location is Goodloe-Alumni house, 9300 Laurel Bowie Road, Bowie, Maryland 20715. Cost is \$20 for

5K registration. Event contact is Annette Wedderburn aweddenburn@bowiestate.edu telephone number is 301-575-7616.

#### SUMMER BASKETBALL CAMP

Gwynn Park's Glick to host Basketball Camp for boys ages six to 17 years old. The boys can participate in five one week sessions running from June 20 through July 25 at Gwynn Park High School. The address is 13800 Brandywine Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. The cost of the camp is \$90 per week. Accumulating over 430 career wins. Glick has built a yearly contender in his nine years at Gwynn Park. Visit the website at <https://www.facebook.com/coachglick>.

#### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our Scholar Athlete Morgan Eugene (Frederick Douglass High School Class of 2018. Morgan is a Maryland Scholastic Award Recipient (Graduating Class top 5%), Scholastic Honors (Graduating 3.5 GPA or above), National Honor Society, MYP Certificate, International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidate.

Morgan is the daughter of Curtis and Stephanie Eugene, sister to Makayla, and granddaughter to Frank and Gwen DeVillie who resides in Brandywine, Maryland.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL 2018 GRADUATES

I would like to congratulate all 2018 High School and College Graduates of Prince George's County for your major achievements. I sincerely wish everyone the best of luck in all your future endeavors.

#### COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLNESS FAMILY FUN DAY

My Girlfriend's House (MGH) a local 501(c)(3) mentoring program for young girls in Prince George's County is hosting a Community Health & Fitness Family Fun Day to celebrate healthy living and healthy lifestyles. There will be healthy vendors and fitness activities to get your heart jumping, family games, and activities. "Now more than ever, families are focused on becoming and staying healthy and MGH is committed to moving forward."

Visit the website at <https://www.evenbrite.com/e/vendor-opportunity-community-health-wellness-family-fun-day-tickets-43976266196> if you are interested in vending for your business.

The event will be held on Saturday, June 16, 2018 from 11:00 AM-3:00 PM. The location is Tucker Road Community Center 1771 Tucker Road Fort Washington, Maryland 20744.

#### ALL PRO FOOTBALL CAMP 2018

Phil Taylor of the Washington Redskins, Kyle Arrington Super Bowl Champion, former San Francisco 49ers, Oakland Raiders Navorro Bowman, and former Houston Texas/Philadelphia Eagles Rashad Carmichael will present their annual Free All Pro Football Camp at Gwynn Park Senior High School in Brandywine, Maryland June 23 from 9:00 AM-3:30 PM. It will be a great day of learning Football Skills from the NFL's best for ages 7-18. You must register on line.

*City Dock, Annapolis*  
Dinghy landing improvements—\$99,000

**Baltimore City**  
*Middle Branch Park*  
Improvements to pier and parking lot including Americans with Disabilities Act access—\$99,000

*Baltimore City Fire Department*  
Purchase of inflatable fire/water rescue vessel and motor—\$20,000 in matching funds

**Baltimore County**  
*Merritt Point Park, Dundalk*  
Repair and rehabilitation of boat launch facilities—\$99,500

*Bowleys Quarters Volunteer Fire Department, Middle River*  
Purchase replacement fire/water rescue vessel—\$50,000 in matching funds

**Calvert County**  
*Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons*  
Boat basin pier and bulkhead replacement—\$75,000 in matching funds

*Hallowing Point State Park, Prince Frederick*  
Maryland Natural Resource Police boatlift—\$30,000

*Calvert County Department of Public Safety Fire-Rescue-EMS*  
Purchase of inflatable fire/water rescue vessel—\$10,000 in matching funds

**Caroline County**  
*Choptank Marina, Preston*  
Boat ramp and marina renovations—\$98,000

*Crouse Park, Denton*  
Installation of floating dock—\$95,825

**Cecil County**  
*Elk River Park, Elkton*  
Engineering for dredging of channel—\$55,000

**Charles County**  
*Smallwood State Park, Sweden Point Marina*  
Replacement of parking lot lights with energy efficient fixtures—\$60,000

**Dorchester County**  
*Cambridge Marine Terminal, Cambridge*  
Construction of 645 foot steel bulkhead with utilities and paving—\$2 million

*Elliott Island Marina*  
Replacement of jetty—\$150,000

*Town of Vienna Waterfront, Vienna*  
Boat ramp and dock improvements—\$99,000

*Taylor's Island Road*  
Replacement of bulkhead and restoration of parking area at landing—\$80,000

*Town of Secretary*  
Replacement of pier at boat ramp—\$60,000

**Garrett County**  
*Deep Creek Lake, Arrowhead Cove*  
Engineering, permitting and dredging of cove—\$1.115 million in matching funds

*Deep Creek Lake State Park, Swanton*  
Replacement of dock at park boat ramp—\$150,000

See **BOATING** Page A3

## Neighborhoods

### Commissioners Approve Contract to Transform Sewage into Renewable Energy

*Innovative Bio-Energy Project Saves More Than \$3 Million Per Year and Underscores WSSC's Commitment to Green Energy*

LAUREL, MD—WSSC Commissioners have approved the first phase of a \$250 million project that will turn poop to power by transforming sewage into renewable energy. The \$44 million contract will allow WSSC to begin design and early construction of the Piscataway Bio-Energy Project located at the Piscataway Water Resource Recovery Facility in Prince George's County. The innovative facility is the largest and most technically advanced project ever constructed by WSSC in its 100-year history.

"The Piscataway Bio-Energy Project will save our customers more than \$3 million per year and underscores our commitment to green energy," said WSSC General Manager and CEO Carla A. Reid. "WSSC has always been at the forefront of innovation and this transformative project continues our innovative spirit. Through cutting-edge technology, we will be able to recover vital resources from the wastewater treatment process and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions."

The Bio-Energy Project will transform how WSSC handles biosolids—the nutrient-rich organic materials resulting from the wastewater treatment process—from five existing WSSC water resource recovery facilities (formerly known as wastewater treatment plants). Using cutting-edge "green" technology, the new facility will significantly reduce the amount of biosolids left over from the treatment process, thus reducing costs to haul and dispose of the product. The remaining biosolids will be significantly cleaner (Class A), making the disposal process much easier and allowing the final product to be sold and distributed as fertilizer. With cleaner Class A biosolids, WSSC will also save money by eliminating the use of lime, which is currently applied to Class B biosolids to control odor.

As an added benefit, the process to create the Class A biosolids will generate renewable fuel to help run the plant. This new process produces methane gas, which will be captured to provide the Piscataway facility with a reliable power source that is completely off the grid. The new process will reduce WSSC's greenhouse gas emissions by 15 percent.

The \$44 million contract was awarded to PC Construction Company. Phase One services include design and early construction, which entails demolition of existing on-site facilities and relocation of existing utilities. Phase Two is expected to be awarded fall 2019. The entire project should be complete and operational in spring 2024.

#### BGE Opens State-of-the-Art Customer Contact Center

BALTIMORE, MD—BGE today unveiled its new state-of-the-art customer contact center, which consolidates approximately 200 employees from two separate locations into a bright, new space at the company's headquarters in downtown Baltimore. Em-

ployees began assisting customers from their new work environment in mid-April.

"BGE believes that great people need great spaces to do great things, and with that in mind, our new contact center is bigger, brighter and more conducive to innovation and collaboration than ever before," said Rodney Oddoye, vice president of customer operations and chief customer officer. Bringing customer care representatives back downtown to our headquarters puts them in the center of the city, gives them better access to great amenities and provides an environment for them to provide exceptional service to our customers."

Just as BGE provides options for customers to be more energy efficient and better manage their energy use, the contact center was designed to be energy efficient and respectful of the environment. Features include:

- Automation systems which control HVAC and lighting to improve comfort, energy efficiency and life cycles of building systems, reducing energy consumption and operating costs
- Programmed timers for outlet receptacles set to operate only during office hours
- Sensors which turn lights off when motion is not detected for extended periods of time
- Enclosed offices located in center of the floor with glass walls to provide maximum natural light
- Waste disposed of in accordance with Green Building Standards.

The U.S. Green Building Council is currently reviewing BGE's application for LEED certification.

Other benefits of the new contact center include:

- Three walls of natural light to reduce the use of HVAC
  - Flexible work spaces for privacy and impromptu collaborations
  - Conference rooms with enhanced audio and video technology including tablet-controlled flat screen displays
  - Sit-to-stand desks which let employees choose how they work and improve ergonomics
  - Low-paneled work stations for easier collaboration with colleagues
  - Faster computers and new phones
- In addition to calling BGE, customers can connect with BGE via text, email, mobile app and social media.

#### Joseph L. Wright to Join University of Maryland Capital Region Health as Chief Medical Officer

CHEVERLY, MD—Joseph L. Wright, MD, MPH, FAAP has been named the new Senior Vice President & Chief Medical Officer for University of Maryland Capital Region Health, effective September 10. After a national search, Wright was selected to join the senior executive team to champion the overall clinical vision,

direction and partnership with medical staff across UM Capital Region Health. He is expected help drive the mission of the organization to provide state-of-the-art clinical care and community leadership with compassion while meeting the highest standards of patient safety.

Wright most recently served as Professor and Chairman of Pediatrics at the Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, DC. He previously served as Senior Vice President within the Children's National Health System, where he provided strategic leadership for the organization's advocacy mission, public policy positions, community partnership initiatives, and served as founding director of the Child Health Advocacy Institute.

"I am thrilled to have Dr. Wright join us in this critical role in service to our patients," says Sherry B. Perkins, PhD, RN, FAAN, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. "Dr. Wright has a keen understanding of UM Capital Region having served as a member of the board of directors for the past two years. His experience and leadership acumen for a large, academically-affiliated, complex healthcare delivery system will propel us to greater heights."

Wright maintains adjunct appointments as professor of emergency medicine and health policy and management at the George Washington University Schools of Medicine and Public Health. He also holds an appointment as professor of family science at the University of Maryland School of Public Health. Wright served 17 years as the state pediatric medical director within the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, in addition to eight years as principal investigator and medical director of the federally-funded Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) National Resource Center.

"I have tremendous respect for UM Capital Region Health and anticipate joining a talented and dynamic team that is poised to offer premiere health care in Prince George's County and throughout the southern Maryland region," says Wright. "Having served as a board member, I know first-hand the excellent and high quality care that the community can expect going forward."

Currently, Wright is chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Committee on Pediatric Emergency Medicine after having served as inaugural chair of the AAP Violence Prevention Subcommittee. He is also currently chairing the AAP Task Force on Addressing Bias and Discrimination.

Wright has been recognized throughout his career for his advocacy work highlighted by receipt of two lifetime achievement awards from the American Academy of Pediatrics for distinguished contributions to the disciplines of injury prevention and emergency medicine, re-

See **MEDICAL** Page A3

### Boating from A1

tal state resource that ensures that residents and visitors alike can access world-class recreational boating opportunities safely and enjoyably."

#### Waterway Improvement Fund Projects for FY19 include:

**Anne Arundel County**  
*Solley Cove Park, Curtis Bay*  
Construction of new boat launch facility—\$500,000 in matching funds

*Bodkin Creek, Pasadena*  
Entrance channel maintenance dredging—\$329,000 in matching funds

*Cypress Creek, Severna Park*  
Maintenance dredging—\$379,000 in matching funds

*Eli, Sloop and Long Cove, Pasadena*  
Maintenance dredging—\$353,000 in matching funds

*Lake Ogeleton, Annapolis*  
Entrance channel maintenance dredging—\$329,000 in matching funds

*Cornfield Creek, Lake Shore*  
Maintenance dredging—\$267,750 in matching funds

*Sandy Point State Park*  
Renovation of marina comfort station—\$200,000

*Cox Creek, Curtis Bay*  
Entrance channel maintenance dredging—\$196,250 in matching funds

*Snug Harbor, Shady Side*  
Access channel dredging—\$161,500 in matching funds

*Cattail Creek, Severna Park*  
Maintenance dredging—\$133,000 in matching funds

# COMMUNITY

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### Learning to See Change as A Positive Force

Life is full of changes. In business, in our families, and in our relationships with friends, nothing ever stays exactly the same.

While most change is gradual and easy to accept, sometimes we face a major transition, often unexpected, that can be potentially frightening and stressful. It doesn't have to be. It's our choice whether we view a change as an opportunity, or whether we try desperately to maintain the status quo and stay within our comfort zone.

One step in making the most of change is to see it as a chance to add to or improve your world. Maybe this is a time to learn something new, to take a class, to improve your skills or to explore a hobby you've never had enough time for.

A big transition can also go easier when you live healthfully. Some change can be emotionally depressing and when you add a poor lifestyle it all can seem much worse, so fight back with a healthy approach to life. Exercise, eat well, and don't give in to habits like drugs or alcohol as a means of hiding from the change you're facing.

A major transition is a time when you may need to turn to your support network. If this change has you feeling sad, confused or overwhelmed, it's a time to ask for help from others. Talk to those close to you who can listen in a non-judgmental way. Simply explaining how things are affecting you can often help you move forward, and sometimes you may find assistance coming from unexpected places.

Adding small changes that you can control to your life is another way of working through a major transition. Maybe it means volunteering or taking some time to just do things for yourself. It can help to make a list of all the stable things still in your life, despite the big change you're facing.

You might want to keep a daily journal where you write about your feelings and needs and how this transition is affecting you. It can be a place to grieve a little if the transition is making you lose things important to you.

Change can be difficult, but it can also provide opportunities that otherwise might be overlooked. Approach change as a positive experience, and you just may find it is.

*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*

### Medical from A2

spectively. He is also a recipient of the prestigious Shining Star Award from the Los Angeles-based Starlight Foundation for outstanding service to communities of color and was recently named by National Medical Association as an honoree in its inaugural salute to outstanding African Americans in Medicine.

Wright earned a B.A. from Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT, his M.D. from Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, and a Masters of Public Health in Administrative Medicine and Management from the George Washington University.

### University of Maryland Capital Region Health

Providing primary and specialty health care services to Prince George's County and the neighboring area, University of Maryland Capital Region Health was established in September 2017 upon the formal affiliation of the University of Maryland

Medical System (UMMS) and the former Dimensions Health-care System. University of Maryland Capital Region Health operates the University of Maryland Prince George's Hospital Center in Cheverly, University of Maryland Laurel Regional Hospital, University of Maryland Bowie Health Campus, and the University of Maryland Family Health & Wellness Center in Suitland. University of Maryland School of Medicine (SOM) faculty direct several University of Maryland Capital Region Health clinical programs, including anesthesiology, critical care, emergency medicine, neonatology, orthopaedics and vascular surgery, and the State's second-busiest Trauma Center. University of Maryland School of Medicine faculty also lead the highly-regarded cardiac surgery program at UM Prince George's Hospital Center. A new state-of-the-art regional medical center is expected to open in Largo in 2021. For more information, visit <http://www.umcapitalregion.org/>

### PGAtlas from A1

ning Department is committed to increasing public access and transparency of geographic information by providing data through a variety of formats and creating leading edge applications." Applications are available on the Planning Department's map gallery page <http://gisdata.pgplanning.org/publicgallery/>.

For questions regarding GIS applications or data, please contact the M-NCPPC Planning Department's Information Management Division at 301.952.3918, [ppd-gis@ppd.mncppc.org](mailto:ppd-gis@ppd.mncppc.org). Periodic PGAtlas training sessions are also offered at the Planning Department's offices in Upper Marlboro, Maryland and staff are available for presentations to civic organizations and community groups.

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Since 1932**

## Legislation Aims to Improve Oversight of Nursing Homes

By SEAN WHOOLEY  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Nursing homes in Maryland would get better oversight under two bills passed this year by the General Assembly.

The two Senate bills each passed on the Legislature's final day, outlining the state's effort to address a need for better quality in its nursing homes.

Sen. James Mathias, D-Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester, the sponsor of one of the two bills, made that clear in his testimony on Senate bill 386 before the House Health and Government Operations Committee on March 27.

"We always tout with great pride how great we do in Maryland," Mathias said. "Unfortunately, with our nursing homes, we haven't done so well."

Mathias' bill requires the Maryland Department of Health to, within 10 business days of a complaint alleging actual harm in a nursing home, initiate an investigation. If a complaint alleges immediate jeopardy to a resident, the department must make every effort to investigate within 24 hours and is required to investigate within 48.

Additionally, the Office of Health Care Quality, which responds to nursing home complaints in Maryland, starting in fiscal year 2020 and ending in fiscal 2024, will annually receive 10 new, full-time merit positions.

A 2017 report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Inspector General lists Maryland as the seventh-worst state in the nation for on-time investigation of nursing home complaints.

The same report reveals the state did not investigate 74 percent of high-level nursing home complaints within the federal deadline of 10 days, averaging 47 days to respond, all while being "historically understaffed," according to the report.

Sen. Shirley Nathan-Pulliam, D-Baltimore City and County, who brought these problems to the attention of the General As-

sembly about 19 years ago, said little has changed for the better in that regard.

She introduced Senate bill 4, which will make changes to the Oversight Committee on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities.

Testifying in front of the Senate Finance Committee on Feb. 1, Nathan-Pulliam described an instance in October 2017 when her son, rehabilitating from surgery, was in a facility reported to have bed bugs. Nathan-Pulliam said she had the facility investigated and they reported back with finding one bed bug, which indicated to her that there could be more.

A call from a constituent recounting a nursing home's failure to bathe her paralyzed husband inspired Nathan-Pulliam to act on the issue, she said. The senator, who walks with a cane, said the poor treatment wasn't limited to others.

"I was sent for rehab in one that I signed myself out of overnight for that very same poor quality of care," Nathan-Pulliam said.

Nathan-Pulliam's legislation adds new members and adjusts roles and responsibilities within the nursing home oversight committee. The additions include the secretary of disabilities, a state long-term care ombudsman and the director of the Office of Health Care Quality.

"Senate Bill 4 and Senate Bill 386 offer additional guidance from the Maryland General Assembly regarding how to best meet state and federal mandates for these facilities," the Maryland Department of Health told Capital News Service in a statement.

Gov. Larry Hogan, R, has yet to take action on the bills, which would become law unless he vetoes them.

Michele Douglas of the lobbying firm Public Policy Partners testified in support of both nursing home bills on behalf of the Alzheimer's Association.

"What we're trying to do through Senate bill 4 is really revitalize the committee," Douglas said.

While she set out to improve nursing home quality, Nathan-Pulliam said not all nursing homes in Maryland are lacking in quality, but the ones that fall short need fixing, fast.

The Maryland Department of Health's Office of Health Care Quality 2017 annual report showed that, between fiscal year 2016 and 2017, the number of complaints and facility self-reported incidents in nursing homes increased by 856—a 34.4 percent increase. There were 3,342 total in the last full fiscal year.

There were also 1,749 quality of care allegations and 941 resident abuse allegations in nursing homes across the state during fiscal year 2017, which constitute 34.5 percent and 25 percent decreases from 2016, respectively, according to the report.

The official U.S. website for Medicare has a rating system for nursing homes by state. In Maryland—according to data collected through Dec. 31—20 nursing homes were below average or worse in terms of quality measures. Twenty were below average or worse with regard to staffing.

Sixty-two nursing homes earned a two-star overall rating or lower, meaning more than 27 percent of the 226 listed nursing homes in Maryland are considered by the federal government to be, at best, below average in terms of quality.

According to a family satisfaction survey by the Maryland Health Care Commission, where the most recent data comes from 2016, 1,140 out of 8,302 family members of patients in nursing homes said they would probably or definitely not recommend their family member's nursing home to someone seeking nursing home care.

The timing of the bills links up with a February Maryland Court of Appeals decision upholding Attorney General Brian Frosh's authority to prevent patient dumping from nursing homes.

Mathias told Capital News Service that his bill was not re-

lated to Frosh's efforts, but it adds another aspect to the attempts to improve nursing home conditions.

A September 2016 Capital News Service investigative report examined nursing home discharges and oversight in Maryland. (<http://cnsmaryland.org/discharging-trouble-maryland-nursing-homes/>)

In December 2016, Frosh sued Neiswanger Management Services after uncovering that, during a seven-month period ranging from Jan. 1, 2015, to May 31, 2016, Neiswanger's five facilities in Maryland issued at least 1,061 involuntary discharge notices. During that same time frame, the other 225 licensed nursing facilities issued just 510 notices combined, according to Frosh's lawsuit.

Neiswanger Management Services moved to dismiss Frosh's suit, alleging he didn't have the authority to sue them over the patient dumping. However, in February, the Court of Appeals of Maryland upheld Frosh's power to proceed.

The Office of the Attorney General said last month there was no update on the case.

Meanwhile, in March, a federal judge upheld a lawsuit by Neiswanger, which alleges state officials targeted their nursing homes, violating constitutional rights with enforcement procedures.

Attorney Brian Glasser, who is representing Neiswanger, told Capital News Service this week both cases are in the discovery phase, meaning each side is giving depositions and producing documents to one another.

While the cases are still in the early stages, Douglas said the new legislation could bring about improvements that address patient dumping if the problem persists.

Particularly, Nathan-Pulliam's bill gives the committee opportunities to look at issues like the one Frosh addressed, Douglas said.

"This is the Legislature and advocates coming together and looking to constantly look at ways to continually improve quality of care for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities," Douglas said. "That job is never done. We can always improve at any point."

### Boating from A2

#### Harford County

Otter Point Creek and Bush River, Abingdon  
Maintenance dredging—\$750,000

#### Otter Point Creek

Boat Launch, Abingdon  
Repairs to the existing finger piers, boat ramp and adjacent parking lot—\$99,000

#### West Taylors Creek, Joppa

Maintenance dredging of channel west of Mariner Point Park boat ramp—\$63,250 in matching funds

#### Rumsey Island and Taylor Creek, Joppa

Maintenance dredging of channel to restore access—\$45,000 in matching funds

#### Havre de Grace

City Yacht Basin  
Redecking of pier and finger piers—\$29,000

#### Kent County

Chestertown Marina  
Improvements including ramp, piers, bulkhead and parking—\$99,000

#### Quaker Neck Landing

Road, Chestertown  
Replace existing pier at landing with new Americans with Disabilities Act accessible pier above flood elevation—\$97,500

#### Montgomery County

##### Seneca Landing

Park, Poolesville  
Construct and install a Americans with Disabilities Act accessible boat ramp and floating dock—\$99,500

#### Prince George's County

National Park Service, Fort Washington Marina  
Removal of a derelict Dock D—\$99,500

#### Queen Anne's County

Prices Creek, Stevensville  
Maintenance dredging—\$800,000 tax district loan

#### Kent Narrows, U.S. Army

Corps of Engineers  
Channel, Chester  
Maintenance dredging of north side of channel—\$400,000

#### Chesapeake Heritage & Visitor

Center, Chester  
Replacement of failing bulkhead and dredging—\$202,500 in matching funds

#### Matapeake Marine Terminal, Stevensville

Purchase of Maryland Natural Resources Police Patrol Boat—\$100,000

#### Centreville Wharf

Boat slip improvements including water, electric and lighting—\$85,000

#### Grasonville Volunteer

Fire Department  
Purchase of thermal

imaging camera—\$10,000 in matching funds

#### Somerset County

##### Rumbley Harbor

Replace deteriorating county dock and retaining walls—\$99,000

##### Ewell County Dock, Smith Island

Repairs to stringers, mooring piles, curbing and decking—\$50,000

#### St. Mary's County

##### Leonardtown Wharf

Construction of transient boat dock and slips—\$99,500

##### Ridge Volunteer Fire

Department  
Purchase side scan sonar for fire boat—\$14,000 in matching funds

#### Talbot County

##### Tongers Basin, Knapps

Narrows, Tilghman Island  
Maintenance dredging—\$100,000

##### Oxford Boating Facilities

Install floating dinghy dock at F-dock and improvements at new boat ramp—\$50,000

##### Back Creek Park, St. Michaels

Dredging at San Domingo Creek town dock—\$36,000

#### Washington County

##### National Park Service,

##### Four Locks Boat Ramp,

##### Clear Spring

Construction of Americans

with Disabilities Act accessible sidewalk, boat ramp repairs and new floating dock—\$183,427 in matching funds

##### Greenbrier State Park,

##### Boonsboro

Boating facility improvements—\$75,000

#### Wicomico County

##### Cedar Hill Marina, Bivalve

Bulkhead and finger pier replacement—\$99,000

#### Regional and Statewide

Funds toward replacement of J.

Millard Tawes icebreaking buoy tender—\$1 million

Dredging/navigation/storm

damage in designated public

shallow water channels or

publicly owned boating

facilities that occur outside

the budget cycle or exceed

statewide appropriated

funding amount—\$370,998

General maintenance and im-

provements at Eastern Region

boating facilities—\$50,000

The Waterway Improvement

Fund was created in 1966 to sup-

port the development, enjoyment

and use of Maryland's waters for

the benefit of the general boating

and cruising public. It is prima-

riarily derived from a five-percent

vessel excise tax on boat pur-

chases and titling.

# COMMENTARY

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



### Chris Van Hollen Fights ICE Effort to Deport New Carrollton Resident

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen is fighting to prevent the deportation of New Carrollton resident Prince Gbohoutou. The Senator has called senior leadership of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and sent an urgent letter to the Secretary of Department of Homeland (DHS) urging that the Department not remove Mr. Gbohoutou.

“Prince Gbohoutou was a child when he legally entered the United States. After violence broke out in the Central African Republic, his family began the process of seeking asylum in the U.S. Prince has continually sought legal status in the U.S. since then. He is now a part of our community—he has married an American citizen and has a budding career. Despite this, ICE plans to remove him before he can fully pursue his options. Not only is his removal unjust, it may also put him in imminent danger. I urge the Administration to reconsider this disturbing decision, and I will do all in my power to prevent his removal,” said Senator Van Hollen.

Prince Gbohoutou was legally brought to the U.S. as a minor by his father, a diplomat for the Central African Republic. As violence in his home county escalated, Prince’s father applied for asylum for him and his son. That asylum application was denied in 2011 and unsuccessfully appealed in 2012. Shortly thereafter, Prince’s fa-

ther passed away and his mother was killed in the Central African Republic, by the regime currently in power. Prince was then ordered to be removed from the United States.

Prince has since married his high school sweetheart, Shaniece, a U.S. citizen. Shaniece has filed an immigration petition for Prince which is currently pending, but in a routine check-in at the Baltimore ICE office earlier this month Prince was taken into custody. He now faces imminent deportation and danger in returning to the Central African Republic, where his family was part of the ruling party prior to the coups that led to the current governing party.

Senator Van Hollen’s letter to DHS can be found here and below. The calls and letter come after weeks of work by Senator Van Hollen’s office to prevent the removal of Mr. Gbohoutou.

Dear Secretary Nielsen:

I am writing on behalf of my constituent, Prince Gbohoutou, regarding his status with ICE. This situation is extremely time-sensitive.

This morning I tried to reach the Director of ICE, Thomas Homan, but was informed that he was out-of-town and unavailable. At 3:00 p.m. to-

See ICE Page A6

## Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



### Centuries Before Meghan, The Ancestry of Another Royal Wielded Far-Ranging Influence on the World

“Descended from the warlike Vandal race, She still preserves that title in her face. Tho’ shone their triumphs o’er Numidia’s plain, And and Alusian fields their name retain; They but subdued the southern world with arms, She conquers still with her triumphant charms, O! born for rule, - to whose victorious brow The greatest monarch of the north must bow.”

—“On His Majesty’s Intended Marriage to the Princess of Mecklenberg, and her Arrival in England,” 1761

For the first time in history, an American woman descended from enslaved people has joined the British Royal Family. Whatever views one may hold on the monarchy, Black Americans unabashedly rejoiced in the inspirational sermon of African-American Bishop Michael Curry, the soaring harmonies of the gospel group Kingdom Choir, and the virtuosity of the first Black BBC Young Musician of the Year, 19-year-old cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason.

Yet the question of whether Meghan Markle is the first Royal of African descent is hardly settled, and intense interest has been roused in Queen Charlotte, wife of the King George III. Charlotte, who married George III in 1761, was descended from the 13th-century Portugese ruler Alfonso III and his lover Madragana, who has been described as a Moor.

Whether “Moor” at the time meant “African” or simply “Muslim” is the subject of much debate. But Charlotte’s true ancestry may have less significance than the deliberate way she was portrayed in portraits to fuel the anti-slavery movement of the time.

The artist responsible for most of Charlotte’s portraits, Sir Allan Ramsay, was an abolitionist, and had painted two formal portraits celebrating the friendship of his own Black grand niece and her white cousin. According to historian Mario de Faldes y Cocom, the portraits were “obviously prompted by or meant to appeal to abolitionist sympathies.”

Ramsay’s known sympathies, combined with the expectation of portraitists to obliterate “undesirable” traits in their subjects, led Valdes to

conclude “it would be surprising if the Queen’s negroid physiognomy was of no significance to the Abolitionist movement ... Queen Charlotte’s coronation picture, copies of which were sent out to the colonies, signified a specific stance on slavery held, at least, by that circle of the English intelligencia to which Allan Ramsay, the painter belonged.”

Britain would not abolish slavery in most of the empire until 1807, but the court case believed to have galvanized the movement, *Somerset v Stewart*, was decided in 1772, about a decade after George III’s marriage to Charlotte. In the 1790’s, opposition to slavery took the form of a sugar boycott. Though historians disagree about King George’s motivation—he opposed abolition—he did approve the boycott.

Born a princess in the duchy of Mecklenburg-Strelitz of the Holy Roman Empire, Charlotte married at 17, and bore 15 children, 13 of whom survived to adulthood. She was a connoisseur of music, who sang and played the flute. A series of Mozart symphonies, Opus 3, were dedicated to her. Queen Charlotte’s and Chelsea Hospital in London is named for her. The heartbreak of her life appears to have been her husband’s mental illness, which resulted in her son’s appointment as Prince Regent. She preceded him in death but he was too ill to be aware of her passing.

Did Queen Charlotte’s presumed ancestry—and her possibly enhanced appearance in her portraits—influence the abolition movement? Historians will disagree. But there is no question that Charlotte’s son, Prince Augustus Frederick, the first Duke of Sussex, was an outspoken abolitionist. It is apt that Harry and Meghan have inherited his title.

There is also no question that the cultural influence of the new Duchess of Sussex is certain to have a far-ranging impact. The Commonwealth of Nations is incredibly racially and ethnically diverse, including dozens of primarily Black countries. It’s powerfully symbolic for all the people of the Commonwealth to see themselves reflected not only in the Royal Family but in the embrace of the international community.

## The National Capital Trolley Museum



Open to the Public

PHOTO BY FRANK HICKS

### THE NATIONAL CAPITAL TROLLEY MUSEUM

The National Capital Trolley Museum preserves and interprets the heritage of electric and interurban railways of Washington, D.C. and environs for the benefit of present and future generations, while supplementing its collections with significant national and international objects to enhance its interpretive programs. The National Capital Trolley Museum was founded in 1959 after the abandonment of streetcar service in the District of Columbia had become a certainty. The Museum opened to the public in 1969 at its present location in Northwest Branch Park in Montgomery County, Maryland. The Museum is open Saturdays and Sundays, Noon to 5pm and Thursdays and Fridays from 10am to 2pm (March 15–May 15; June 15–July 15; and October 1–November 15). Admission is \$7 for Adults and \$5 for Children (17 and under) and Seniors (65 and over). For more information, visit <http://www.dctrolley.org/>.

## Child Watch by Marion Wright Edelman



### California’s Chance to Lead for Poor Children

When I was a young civil rights lawyer for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund in Mississippi, I was called in 1967 to testify before Congress about the embattled Head Start program in Mississippi that was serving thousands of children after the state turned its federal funding down and community groups exercised their option to apply. But after defending the Child Development Group of Mississippi overseeing Head Start, for which I served as counsel, I added my urgent concern about the deep poverty and high levels of hunger in Mississippi. I asked the Senators to come see the hungry children and families with no income. A delegation of U.S. Senators, including Robert F. Kennedy, came to Jackson, Mississippi to hold hearings about the Head Start and War on Poverty programs and I testified again and asked them again to visit children and families in the Mississippi Delta so they could see for themselves the very hungry poor including children in our very rich nation. Senators Kennedy and Joseph Clark agreed to do so and we visited homes—many of them shacks with dirt floors and empty cupboards—and saw a level of hunger many people did not believe could exist in America. We saw listless young children with bloated bellies and families with no income who could not afford even the \$2 cost to buy food stamps which had replaced free food commodities.

What Senator Kennedy experienced there profoundly moved him and he returned to Washington and went the very next day to see U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman to urge immediate relief for desperately poor and hungry children and families. Senator Kennedy’s passionate leadership and commitment echoed my frustration at the foot dragging of the federal government in getting food to hungry Mississippi children and helped spark the Poor People’s Campaign launched by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that began 50 years ago this month. Robert Kennedy told me to tell Dr. King to bring the poor to Washington. Although the assassinations of Dr. King and Robert Kennedy dampened

the campaign, it set in motion a series of expansions of the federal food safety net programs that continue to provide an indispensable lifeline for millions of children and families today.

Although these nutrition and other federal programs have helped reduce child poverty as we saw it in Mississippi 50 years ago, the shameful truth is that pangs of hunger and the pain of deprivation remain, not just in the Mississippi Delta but hidden in the shadows all across our nation. Despite the abundance of many in our very wealthy nation many parents face the harsh choice between paying the rent or buying a bag of groceries at the end of the month.

It is a national moral disgrace that children remain the poorest age group in the United States. It also is unnecessary, costly and the greatest threat I believe to our future national, economic and military security and soul. Nearly 1 in 5 children was poor in 2016—more than 13.2 million children. More than 6 million of them lived in deep poverty at less than half the poverty level, below \$9,553 a year or \$796 a month for a family of three for all expenses, including housing, transportation, food, clothing, health and other basic necessities.

It remains devastatingly clear that child poverty and racial inequality are inextricably linked with Black, Native American and Latino children far more likely to experience deep poverty than White children.

The crisis of deep child poverty persists in California which recently surpassed the United Kingdom as the 5th largest economy in the world. One in 5 California children was poor in 2016, and 1 in 12 children lived in deep poverty. In a high cost-of-living state where the monthly fair market rent for a 2-bedroom apartment is \$1,608, many families lack the resources to cover rent and all their children’s basic needs.

Kevilyn Conley, a mother of two in Los Angeles and a participant in the Children’s Defense Fund-California’s Parent Engagement Institute, recounts the struggle to make ends meet when her first son was born eight years ago. Kevilyn and her husband were evicted from their home and the stresses of poverty led to the breakup of their marriage. Between 2010 and 2013 Kevilyn was homeless with her young child, sleeping

See WATCH, Page A8

## The Prince George’s Post

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# BUSINESS

## Social Security Matters

### Ask Rusty—Spousal and Survivor Benefits

by Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** I worked in my career, but I now get Social Security disability. My husband retired in 2015 at age 66 and took his Social Security at that time. When he is 70 can I get spousal benefits from his Social Security or is that not allowed? And if I can't get them when he turns 70, can I get them if he dies before me? I am 5 years younger than my husband, but my health is up and down, so if I die before him can he get spousal benefits from my Social Security?

**Signed: Kentucky Woman**

**Dear Kentucky Woman:** Since your husband is already receiving his Social Security retirement benefits, you are eligible to collect spousal benefits at any time after you reach age 62, even though you are collecting Social Security Disability benefits (you don't have to wait until he's 70); however, if you start those spousal benefits before you reach your full retirement age (FRA) they will be reduced. How much of a reduction depends upon how soon before your full retirement age that you claim your spousal benefit. If you claim at or after your full retirement age (66+2 months) your spousal benefit would be 50% of your husband's full retirement age benefit; but if you start earlier than your FRA it would be less. If you file for spousal benefits at age 63, you would get 37.5% of your husband's FRA benefit, instead of 50%.

Please note too that your Social Security Disability Insurance benefits will automatically convert to regular Social Security benefits when you reach your full retirement age but will continue at the same amount you were receiving on disability (including the spousal portion). If your husband predeceases you, and you have already reached your full retirement age, you will get 100% of whatever Social Security benefit he was receiving, instead of any disability benefit or spousal benefit you may be receiving. If he passes and you claim survivor's benefits before you reach your full retirement age, those benefits will be reduced to something less than 100% of the benefit he was receiving. How much of a reduction depends upon how many months before your FRA that you start the survivor's benefit. If you were to predecease your husband, he would get survivor's benefits from you only if that benefit is higher than the amount he is already receiving from his own work record.

*The information presented in this article is intended for general information purposes only. The opinions and interpretations expressed are the viewpoints of the AMAC Foundation's Social Security Advisory staff, trained and accredited under the National Social Security Advisors program of the National Social Security Association, LLC (NSSA). NSSA, the AMAC Foundation, and the Foundation's Social Security Advisors are not affiliated with or endorsed by the United States Government, the Social Security Administration, or any other state government. Furthermore, the AMAC Foundation and its staff do not provide legal or accounting services. The Foundation welcomes questions from readers regarding Social Security issues. To submit a request, contact the Foundation at [info@amacfoundation.org](mailto:info@amacfoundation.org).*

## Legislation from A1

ternative Financing School Infrastructure Work Group in Prince George's County.

"The 2018 Maryland General Assembly also enacted SB-92 this session, establishing an incentive pilot program to encourage local school systems in three counties, including Prince George's, to pursue innovative, public school construction projects," adding, "The P3 Work Group will reflect a joint commitment to work together to apply this initiative in Prince George's County by identifying projects and soliciting private sector support. As part of this joint agreement, the Council looks forward to working with our school system and County Executive to hire a consultant to create the structure to launch a Public-Private Partnership, to best address the significant capital needs of our schools."

Chair Glaros also addressed the potential cost savings and construction efficiencies associated with a P3 approach.

"This creative partnership approach, which could save precious tax dollars in the process, has exciting potential for strengthening our community by helping us to build and renovate our schools faster and better, using a new method of financing, constructing, maintaining and operating public school construction, that reduces contracting and financing costs as well as construction time. It is anticipated that five to seven projects may be initially identified."

Under the legislation, the P3 Alternative Financing School Infrastructure Work Group will provide quarterly status reports to the County Council, County Executive, the Prince George's County Board of Education and the CEO of Prince George's County Public Schools summarizing the status of implementation; key initiatives or studies planned and estimated timetable for delivery of recommendations for program implementation. The first quarterly report will be due on October 1, 2018.

## Business Leaders Get the Real Deal About Federal Tax Cuts

Wilmington Trust Experts Tell Local Companies How New Tax Codes Affect Business

By R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS  
PGCEDC

UPPER MERIDEN, MD—On May 24, 2018, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) hosted an information seminar, 'Learn About the Impact of the 2018 Federal Cuts' at their headquarters in Largo, MD. The seminar, featuring guest facilitators W. Christopher Kreicker of Wilmington Trust, and Bruce F. Hoffmeister from the National Business Owners Advisory Services Group, drew a crowd of over 60 local business leaders to hear how the changes to the federal tax code could impact their businesses. EDC President and Jim Coleman expressed his desire to continue to provide important resources and information to the Prince George's County business community.

"Knowing how the tax structure impacts the business culture is important," said Coleman. "The tax cuts that the federal government enacted will prove to be monumental in the life of County business

leaders. I am proud to connect them to the information that they need so that they can make informed business decisions to create more jobs for our residents. Our partners for today's event have poured a world of wisdom into our business community and I look forward to seeing continued growth in the County!"

Yesterday's event was prompted by the recent tax reform legislation that was passed by the federal government. Bruce Hoffmeister, Director of Wealth and Fiduciary Planning for the National Business Owners Advisory Services Group spoke about the tax reform environment and how it affects businesses depending on their classification and revenue levels. W. Christopher Kreicker, Senior Managing Director for Wealth advisory for the Wilmington Trust provided a capital market forecast detailing what he and other experts agree will be sound strategies for businesses in the coming years. Both Mr. Hoffmeister and Mr. Kreicker also facili-



PHOTO COURTESY R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS

**Left to right: Pam Scott, M&T Bank; Bruce F. Hoffmeister, National Business Owners Advisory Services Group; Jim Coleman, EDC President and CEO; W. Christopher Kreicker, Wilmington Trust; John Halley, M&T Bank; Nichelle Holmes, EDC Development Manager"**

tated a question and answer period in which audience members were able to gain a deeper understanding of the information in the presentation.

M&T Bank joined Wilmington Trust and the EDC as sponsors for the event. The sponsors are also discussing ways in

which they can continue to collaborate to demystify the federal tax codes for the local business community.

Learn more about how to do business in Prince George's County by contacting the EDC at [www.pgcdec.com](http://www.pgcdec.com) or call us at (301) 583-4650.

## VICTORY! Governor Hogan Signs Conversion Therapy Ban and Ending Youth Homelessness Act Into Law

By PRESS OFFICER  
FreeState justice

ANNAPOLIS, MD—On Tuesday, May 15, 2018, FreeState Justice, Maryland's LGBTQ advocate, claimed victory as Maryland Governor Larry Hogan signed into law SB 1028 and SB 1218—two critical pieces of legislation protecting LGBTQ youth. SB 1028 protects LGBTQ youth from the dangerous and debunked practice of so-called "conversion therapy." With Governor Hogan's signature, Maryland joins the growing number of states and municipalities adopting critical protections for LGBTQ youth. SB 1218 creates a grant fund within the Department of Housing and Community Development to expand housing and support services to unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness—a disproportionate number of whom iden-

tify as members of the LGBTQ community.

FreeState Justice Executive Director Mark Procopio said, "Governor Hogan and Maryland's General Assembly send an important affirmation to LGBTQ youth across our state with the signing of these two bills. LGBTQ youth are perfect as they are and are deserving of every opportunity to help them thrive." Free State Justice, along with the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), and WISE of Anne Arundel County advocated for the passage of SB 1028 during the 2018 legislative session.

SB 1028 was introduced in the Maryland State Senate by Senator Richard Madaleno and in the House of Delegates by Delegate Bonnie Cullison and passed the legislature with bipartisan support. SB 1218 was introduced in the Maryland State Senate by Senator William Smith, Jr. and in the House of Delegates by Delegate Mary

Washington and also passed with bipartisan support.

"At a time when teen suicide rates are on the rise, we need to do everything we can to encourage young people to live true and fulfilling lives. That's why I have fought so hard to this important bill passed, and that's why I am relieved that it is now signed in to law," said Senator Madaleno.

There is no credible evidence that conversion therapy can change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. To the contrary, research has clearly shown that these practices pose devastating health risks for LGBTQ young people such as depression, decreased self-esteem, substance abuse, homelessness, and even suicidal behavior. The harmful practice is condemned by every major medical and mental health organization, including the American Psychiatric Association, American Psychological

Association, and American Medical Association.

Connecticut, California, Nevada, New Jersey, the District of Columbia, Oregon, Illinois, Vermont, New York, New Mexico, Rhode Island, and Washington all have laws or regulations protecting youth from this abusive practice. A growing number of municipalities have also enacted similar protections, including cities and counties in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Washington, Florida, New York, Arizona, and Wisconsin. In addition, the Hawaii and New Hampshire state legislatures recently passed similar protections which await their Governor's respective signatures.

According to a recent report by the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law, an estimated 20,000 LGBTQ minors in states without protections will be subjected to conversion therapy by a licensed healthcare professional if state officials fail to act.

## Safety from A1

the safety and security of our communities. Working together across all levels of government is crucial to addressing crime, violence, opioid abuse, and other challenges Maryland faces," U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen said. "I am committed to continuing to work with our local, state, and federal partners to move forward on these issues. And in my role on the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will keep fighting for the resources Maryland needs to get this done."

"I want to thank Maryland's new U.S. Attorney, Robert Hur, and representatives from federal law enforcement agencies for meeting with the Maryland congressional delegation today," said Congressman Elijah Cummings. "I look forward to supporting continued efforts to address critical issues in our state, including reducing violent crime in Baltimore and stopping illicit drug trafficking. I know these officials are committed to upholding the rule of law, and I hope they will continue pursuing justice

with independence, impartiality, and fairness."

"If we are going to tackle issues like Baltimore City's crime rate and our state-wide gang problem head-on, we need seamless coordination between our state and federal law enforcement partners," Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger said. "My focus is on how I can best assist our new U.S. Attorney and our local field offices of the FBI, ATF and DEA as a House Appropriator."

"I really enjoyed meeting Maryland's new U.S. Attorney, Robert Hur, today," said Congressman John Sarbanes. "We had an important and wide-ranging conversation about how we can keep Maryland's communities safe."

"With 343 homicides last year and 523 opioid-related deaths from January to September, Baltimore City is in crisis. As lawmakers, we must work with our federal, state, and local law enforcement to curb these epidemics of violence and substance abuse, and to prevent the spread of violence to neighboring communities," Congressman Andy Harris

said. "Thank you to U.S. Attorney Hur and Special Agents Board, Colder, and Johnson for their continued service and commitment to keeping Maryland safe. Together, we can make Baltimore City safe and prosperous again."

"I appreciated the opportunity to meet with our federal law enforcement officials and hear firsthand about the work they're doing, the challenges they face, and how we can work together to protect communities throughout Maryland," said Congressman John K. Delaney.

"I was pleased to meet Maryland's new U.S. Attorney Robert Hur and representatives from the FBI, ATF, and DEA at today's Maryland delegation meeting," said Congressman Jamie Raskin. "We had a productive and informative conversation about a variety of critical issues facing our state, and I look forward to working with all of them in the future to protect the public and defend the independence and integrity of our justice system."

"The mission of the United States Attorney's Office is to reduce crime and to make our com-

munities safer. Strong partnerships and close collaboration with our state, local, and federal law enforcement partners are critical to achieving our goals. My office is committed to continuing and strengthening these partnerships," said Robert K. Hur, U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland.

"The Hogan Administration is committed to working with our federal partners to address violent crime in Baltimore City. At Governor Hogan's direction, over 200 Maryland Parole and Probation agents are working directly with the Baltimore Police Department to assist with locating and arresting violent offenders," said Stephen T. Moyer, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. "State law enforcement agencies recently partnered with the U.S. Marshals and other federal partners to conduct joint operations resulting in over 500 arrests in Baltimore City, including numerous violent offenders. It will take all of us working together — at the federal, state, and local levels — to put a stop to the violence terrorizing our communities."

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# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review

### Chappaquiddick

Chappaquiddick

Grade: B-

Rated PG-13, two F-words,  
mature themes?

1 hr., 46 min

Based on the infamous 1969 incident in which a young woman drowned after a probably-drunk Sen. Ted Kennedy drove his car off a bridge into a pond, *Chappaquiddick* is unusual for a docudrama in that its point of view is different from its main character's. Our protagonist, 37-year-old Kennedy (played by Jason Clarke in big white teeth), has this reaction to the event: "I'm not gonna be president." The movie, directed by John Curran (*We Don't Live Here Anymore*, *The Painted Veil*) and written by first-timers Taylor Allen and Andrew Logan, has this reaction: "Look at this entitled rich a-hole."

Curran doesn't hit us over the head with it, though, and the film is not the anti-Kennedy manifesto that some were hoping for. It has the look and feel of a respectful biopic, starting with Kennedy being interviewed about JFK's legacy on the eve of the Apollo 11 moon mission. (The Chappaquiddick incident occurred while Neil Armstrong and friends were en route.) It's after a party for former staffers of the late Bobby Kennedy's presidential campaign that Ted gives one of those staffers, 28-year-old Mary Jo Kopechne (Kate Mara), a ride back to her hotel but goes over the bridge instead.

The rest of the film, save for a few snippets of flashbacks, is about the aftermath. Ted initially seeks to evade responsibility and shift the blame, telephoning his ancient father (Bruce Dern) for advice and hearing the old man croak one word: "alibi." He has a team of fixers who alternate between berating him for being so careless (he was even driving with an expired license) and con-



ROTTENTOMATOES

In the riveting suspense drama, *Chappaquiddick*, the scandal and mysterious events surrounding the tragic drowning of a young woman, as Ted Kennedy drove his car off the infamous bridge, are revealed in the new movie starring Jason Clarke as Ted Kennedy and Kate Mara as Mary Jo Kopechne. Not only did this event take the life of an aspiring political strategist and Kennedy insider, but it ultimately changed the course of presidential history forever. Through true accounts, documented in the inquest from the investigation in 1969, director John Curran and writers Andrew Logan and Taylor Allen, intimately expose the broad reach of political power, the influence of America's most celebrated family; and the vulnerability of Ted Kennedy, the youngest son, in the shadow of his family legacy.

vincing him they can beat this thing and he can still run for president. (Note for younger readers: There was a time having done immoral things in one's private life meant you had no hope of winning an election.) Ted's cousin, lawyer Joe Gargan (Ed Helms), is presented as a man of conscience who persuades Ted to do the right thing, but Ted's version of "the right thing" is to issue a written statement that still doesn't tell the whole truth, and then to show up at Mary Jo's funeral wearing an unnecessary neck brace.

It's fascinating, tragic, and sometimes darkly funny to see Ted's oblivious, self-serving behavior. Without letting him off

the hook, the film grants us a few opportunities to sympathize with him. He lives in the shadow of his three dead brothers (the oldest, Joe Jr., died in WWII) and feels his only value to the family is that he's still alive. He doesn't know who he is, and now his foolish behavior has ruined his chances of achieving his only goal. Jason Clarke (who, fun fact, was born the day before all of this happened) finds the humanity in Ted Kennedy, a privileged but damaged man who also experienced a great deal of tragedy that was not of his own making. Ed Helms is good, too, as his conscience-stricken cousin.

But the film suffers from too much explanatory dia-

logue—"So-and-so? Why, he's the paper's chief political correspondent and executive editor!" "This person standing right here is the U.S. attorney of Massachusetts!"—and from its bifurcated allegiances. The film's opinion of Kennedy being different from Kennedy's opinion of himself adds nuance but reduces clarity. What is the point? Why does this movie exist? It covers events that have faded from the public memory, concerning people who are no longer alive, and has little to say about how those events might have parallels today. But if it's just meant to be a competent bit of historical drama, it does that well enough.

## ICE from A4

day I spoke with the Assistant Director of Congressional Relations, Raymond Kovacic, and I gave him some of the information outlined below. Mr. Kovacic informed me that this matter would be reviewed immediately and that he will keep me informed about the situation.

Mr. Gbohoutou was reportedly taken into ICE custody on April 19, 2018. Since then, my staff has met with his U.S. citizen wife, Shaniece, and received inquiries regarding Mr. Gbohoutou's detention with ICE from numerous advocacy groups, constituents, and concerned members of the community. I understand that although a Final Order of Removal has been issued for Mr. Gbohoutou and that deportation efforts are underway, there is legal recourse available to him that has not yet been reviewed by the agency.

As the facts below demonstrate, this case is a prime example of some of the totally misdirected efforts of DHS and ICE. In 2006, Mr. Gbohoutou was brought into the U.S. legally as a minor from Central African Republic by his father, a diplomat from the Central

African Republic. Violence in his home county escalated (Central African Bush War) and his father applied for asylum with Mr. Gbohoutou as a derivative beneficiary on his petition. Mr. Gbohoutou's father's asylum application was denied in 2011 and unsuccessfully appealed in 2012. Mr. Gbohoutou's family was then ordered removed from the U.S. Mr. Gbohoutou was a minor throughout this time and, consequently, was not able to file for an adjustment of status himself. His mother was brutally murdered shortly after in the Central African Republic. Soon after, his father passed away as well.

Mr. Gbohoutou has been a member of his community in Maryland nearly his whole life. He attended High Point High School in Prince George's County, Maryland and graduated in 2011. He married his high school sweetheart, Shaniece (Hodges) Gbohoutou. Shaniece filed an immigration petition for Mr. Gbohoutou in 2017 that is pending with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Despite Mr. Gbohoutou's having a pending immigration petition,

ICE has been monitoring his presence for several years because of the earlier final order of removal. I understand that ICE recently obtained a travel document for Mr. Gbohoutou's removal and took him into custody, detained him, and is now in the process of deporting him.

Other than minor traffic violations, Mr. Gbohoutou has no criminal offenses. He has not been the beneficiary of any public assistance and is legally married to Shaniece Gbohoutou. I have been advised that his attorney, Adam Crandall, Esq., has filed a Motion to Reopen to apply for adjustment of status so that Mr. Gbohoutou may continue to pursue his efforts to obtain legal immigrant status in the U.S. Further, I was advised that a Supplement to the Request has been filed based in part on changed country conditions in CAR that permit Mr. Gbohoutou to pursue a new claim for asylum in the United States. Specifically, as a Christian, he is at risk of being targeted by the violent Muslim Séléka armed group. Moreover, Mr. Gbohoutou's parents, both of whom shared his last name, were tortured and killed by the Bozizé regime, and the

current leader of the CAR is a former prime minister of that regime. As a result, Mr. Gbohoutou possesses a well-founded fear of returning to CAR at this time.

Significantly, the U.S. Department of State recently ordered the departure from the Central African Republic of all non-emergency U.S. government officials and raised its travel advisory to "Level 4: Do Not Travel." If removed, Mr. Gbohoutou will be forced into circumstances that endanger his life. Moreover, his wife would be unable to relocate to—or even travel to—be with her husband.

Mr. Gbohoutou is a member of our community and wishes to return to his home in New Carrollton, Maryland with his wife. Mrs. Gbohoutou, Mr. Gbohoutou's legal counsel, and hundreds of constituents from the State of Maryland request your consideration of Mr. Gbohoutou's request for release from ICE custody into ICE Intensive Supervision Appearance Program (ISAP) and the approval of his Motion to Reopen to Apply for Adjustment of Status.

I would appreciate your reviewing this urgent matter as expeditiously as possible.

## Outdoor Yard Work

### Make the Most of Your Landscaping Projects This Year With These Tips

(BPT)—Home improvement projects aren't constrained to a single season, but during these warmer months, your focus is no longer simply on your home's indoors. Now there's outdoor yard work to do as well, and if you're looking to recreate your outdoor space, your outside projects may include some landscaping. If you have landscaping as part of your to-do list this season, the right strategy can ensure that you get the most benefit from your landscaping goals with the least amount of headache.

To that end, here are five tips to simplify your landscaping projects this year.

- **Plan for the entire year.** Landscaping projects can be hard work, and because of that, you deserve to enjoy them for as long as possible. That's why it's important to plan your landscaping layout with the entire year in mind. Research your plant and flower options based on bloom periods and plant a variety so your yard is always being introduced to new pops of color. You should also add evergreen shrubs and other such plant life to your overall plan to give you a spot of color in the winter and preserve your landscaping look.

- **Be mindful of other tools outside your home.** When developing your landscaping strategy, you need to be aware not only of your home but the other vital components outside as well. Many homeowners are not mindful of their home's HVAC units and may place landscaping solutions too close to the unit, which makes it difficult for techs to service the unit and exposes your system to the harmful effects of debris. Instead, plan to keep all landscaping at least two feet away from your HVAC system. This allows units like the Champion Momentum Variable Capacity Residential System to operate at peak efficiency and allows service techs to utilize its built-in advanced monitoring system to provide accurate readouts for faster annual service, maximized service life and improved comfort in your home.

- **Touch every corner of your yard.** Your home is naturally the focal point of your yard, but it doesn't have to be the only one. Creating a berm - a mound-type space that you can fill with rocks, wood chips or a flower garden - can add a pop of color and visual appeal to an otherwise plain area. These visual attractions can be placed anywhere, but adding one to an otherwise deserted corner of your yard is a great way to tie the entire space together and make the most of an unused area.

- **Add plants that fit your lifestyle.** When planning your landscaping project, it's important to remember this isn't just a one-time solution. Your landscaping will need continual work, and as such, your landscaping plan should be based partly on the time you have to dedicate to the project. For example, if you're a person who appreciates beautifully colorful flowers but doesn't want to replant them every year, you should start your project by planting perennials instead of annuals. Your time commitment in year one will be roughly the same, but you'll ease your time requirements in the years ahead.

- **Monitor your budget.** Like many things, a lavish landscaping project can get away from you very quickly in the financial department. Veteran landscapers know that it becomes very easy to get swept up in the project and before you know it, you've added a slightly larger tree or another bush or two. Then you suddenly have unexpected costs heading your way. Instead of ending your exciting project on a bad note with a higher bill, plan out your budget ahead of time. Try to get as specific as possible with where you plan to spend every dollar. The more you can hold to each line item in your budget, the better you'll be able to avoid unnecessary expenses throughout the process.

Making landscaping improvements to your yard can be a fun and rewarding project provided you follow a strategy that makes the best use of your time and money. Apply the tips above and you'll be rewarded with a beautifully landscaped yard that you can enjoy every day of the year. To learn more about the Champion Momentum Variable Capacity Residential System, visit [championhomecomfort.com](http://championhomecomfort.com).



PHOTO SOURCE: ©JENNIFER HAGLER

Make your landscaping a family event.

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## Calendar of Events

June 7 — June 13, 2018

### Yoga in the Parks at Ellen E. Linson Splash Park

Date and time: Friday, June 8, 2018, 9:00 AM–10:00 AM  
 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: Ellen E. Linson Splash Park  
 5211 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, MD  
 Contact: 301-277-3717; TTY 301-699-2544

### 37th Annual Invitational Sculpture Exhibition

Date and time: Friday, June 8, 2018, 10:00 AM–5:00 PM  
 Description: The 37th Annual Montpelier Invitational Sculpture Exhibition will take place in the Main Gallery at Montpelier Arts Center. Various artists from the region are invited to exhibit contemporary sculpture.  
 Cost: FREE  
 Ages: All ages are welcome  
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center  
 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD  
 Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-254

### Gymnastics Workshops

Date and time: Friday, June 8, 2018, 6:00 PM–7:00 PM  
 Description: Looking for a fun activity for your children? Need them to burn some energy? Bring them to our gymnastics workshops. The workshops are open play time for your children to explore gymnastics in a safe and fun environment. Please be advised, these workshops are not structured taught classes, but open play!  
 Spaces are available on a first-come, first-served basis (Maximum 3 children to 1 adult). Parents are required to be on the floor with the children.  
 Cost: \$7/per participant  
 Ages: Walking to 12 years  
 Location: Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex  
 8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD  
 Contact: 301-583-2400; TTY 301-699-2544

### Xtreme Teens: Movies and Munchies

Date and time: Friday, June 8, 2018, 6:00 PM–9:00 PM  
 Description: Invite your friends and tell them to bring a friend, so you all can enjoy a movie with us! Our staff members will decide the movie title, and we guarantee it will be great! Snacks will be provided during the movie as well. Good company, great movie, and delicious snacks—what more can you ask?! Don't miss out on a super fun time!  
 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: NBA 2K Tournament

Date and time: Friday, June 8, 2018, 6:00 PM–9:00 PM  
 Description: Who is the best on the sticks? Come test your skills during our NBA 2K tournament to determine the best of the best! Food 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

### Xtreme Teens: Water Madness

Date and time: Friday, June 8, 2018, 6:00 PM–9:00 PM  
 Description: You heard correctly—we're having a water-balloon volleyball game! Join in the fun, and wear clothes you do not mind getting wet! We will also have a Slip and Slide adding to the fun! Bring your towels and swim shoes—see you there!  
 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

### Beltway BBQ Showdown

Date and time: Sunday, June 10, 2018, 12:00 PM–7:00 PM  
 Description: The 12th Annual Beltway Barbeque Showdown contest highlights the art of barbecuing in Prince George's County and the Mid-Atlantic region! This Kansas City Barbeque Society nationally-sanctioned event offers live music, a classic car show, food and craft vendors, and a children's area full of fun things to do!  
 Festival favorite events occur under the "Tasting Tent" and include grilling demonstrations, the finger-licking "Buck-A-Bone" ribs team competition, as well as the "People's Choice" BBQ Sauce Boss contest!  
 Cost: All ages are welcome  
 Ages: Ages 3 & Under- FREE!; Ages 4 to 12- \$3; Ages 13 & Older- \$10; VIP - \$50/per person  
 Location: The Show Place Arena  
 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD  
 Contact: Visit the website at: <http://www.mncppc.org/710/Beltway-BBQ-Showdown>

### Exhibition: Neil Feather: Ball Movies

Date and time: Wednesday, June 13, 2018, 10:00 AM–5:00 PM  
 Description: *Ball Movies* experiments with the physics of balls of all kinds, sizes, and materials. Neil Feather combines the balls of bowling, billiards, ping-pong, marbles, croquet, and magnetic in moving situations with tilted turntables, springs, serving trays, drums, pendulums, and speakers to create a unique musical experience. Short videos will be used to showcase this musical concert.  
 Cost: FREE  
 Ages: All ages are welcome  
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center  
 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD  
 Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

## EARTH TALK ... In Vitro Fertilization to the Rescue for Endangered Species Fertility

Dear EarthTalk:

*Can fertility techniques pioneered for humans or other animals be used to try to bring back endangered wildlife species?*

—James E.,  
 Richmond, VA

No doubt, humans have come a long way in engineering medical solutions to our own fertility problems. The most common techniques to help people have babies today include: using medication to stimulate unresponsive ovaries to develop mature eggs; artificial insemination whereby healthy sperm is placed directly into a woman's uterus and conception happens normally thereafter, and In Vitro Fertilization (IVF), which entails combining eggs and sperm outside the body and then inserting one of the resulting fertilized embryos (so-called "test tube babies") into the woman's uterine cavity and letting the rest of the pregnancy proceed to term naturally.

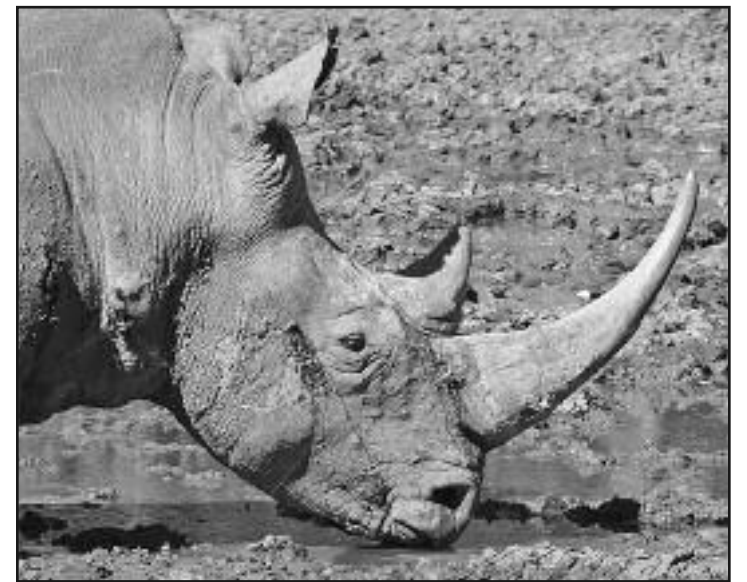
While such techniques have helped millions of couples around the world bear healthy babies, only recently have scientists applied such techniques to bringing endangered wildlife species back from the brink of extinction. "The genetics of human fertility can give a better understanding of fertility in more exotic species," reports Dr. Sherman Silber, a pioneering human fertility expert at St. Luke's Hospital in Chesterfield, Missouri who has had success applying the lessons learned on hu-

mans to animals.

To date, Silber and his colleagues have helped a half dozen leading U.S. zoos maintain healthy populations of chimpanzees, gorillas, South American bush dogs, Mexican wolves, orangutans and Mongolian wild horses using surgical techniques, artificial insemination, IVF and gestational surrogacy (whereby another female besides the genetic mother carries the pregnancy to term).

"We have frozen ovaries in animals that are destined to die off for later ovary transplantation back to related species to be able to increase their population," reports Silber, who has of late been ramping up efforts to bring back dwindling populations of still-wild endangered species.

Another leading light in the field is Thomas Hildebrandt, who heads the reproduction management program for Berlin's Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research and is well known among wildlife veterinarians for his pioneering work in endangered species insemination. Hildebrandt, who helped conceive upwards of 50 endangered elephant calves by artificially inseminating their mothers is now focusing his attention on trying to rescue the Northern White Rhino using IVF techniques. Rampant poaching in the 1970s and 1980s and surging demand in Asia for rhino horns decimated the animal's populations in Africa—only two individuals, Fatu and Najin (both female and incapable of carrying babies due



CREDIT: BERNARD DUPONT, FLICKRCC

**Researchers are now using fertility techniques developed for people—like In Vitro Fertilization (IVF)—to try to bring back endangered species like the Northern White Rhino.**

to health complications) remain alive today; the last male, Sudan, died in March 2018.

Now Hildebrandt and colleagues want to bring them back. They froze the sperm from Sudan and four other males before they died and hope to combine it with eggs harvested from Fatu and Najin while using less endangered but genetically similar Southern White Rhino females as preg-

nancy surrogates. While this "baby step" won't be enough to achieve the genetic diversity required to create a sustainable long-term population, Hildebrandt hopes it can open funders' eyes to the possibility of actually reviving populations of Northern White Rhinos and other species through stem cell research and other techniques researchers haven't even dreamed up yet.

CONTACTS: "Infertility Treatment for Endangered or Near Extinct Species," [www.infertile.com/infertility-treatment-endangered-near-extinct-species/](http://www.infertile.com/infertility-treatment-endangered-near-extinct-species/); Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research, [www.izw-berlin.de/welcome.html](http://www.izw-berlin.de/welcome.html).

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

## Wild Turtles Should Never Be Taken as Pets

*Lovable Maryland Reptiles Belong in their Natural Habitat, So Let's Leave Them There*

By PRESS OFFICER  
 MDDNR

ANNAPOLIS, MD—It's that time of year when turtles may be seen more frequently. Irresistible as turtles may be, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources urges people to resist the temptation and to leave these reptiles in the wild.

Helpful Marylanders do sometimes move turtles off roads to protect them from traffic. This should only be done with extreme caution, and the turtle should only be removed far enough to be out of danger. That should be the extent of human interference.

There are no good outcomes to removing a turtle from the wild. Baby turtles are cute but they become big, can live for decades, and may outgrow their aquariums or other artificial habitats. Captive turtles often do not survive being released

into the wild and released pet turtles may introduce diseases into wild populations, especially if they were kept in a home with other animals.

To protect turtles, the law prohibits the removal of some species from the wild. It is also illegal to possess any turtle under 4 inches in length. Reptiles that have been bred in captivity, or which are not native to Maryland, may not be released into the wild, and only if:

- They have not been held in captivity with any other reptile or amphibian,
- They have not been in captivity for more than 30 days, or;
- Written authorization is given by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

People who are interested in keeping a turtle as a pet can obtain more information from the



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**Let wild turtles remain in the wild.**

Mid-Atlantic Turtle and Tortoise Society, which provides opportunities to adopt turtles and tortoises that cannot be released into the wild.

The rules and regulations surrounding the taking and keeping of turtles and other reptiles as pets are designed to

protect native wild populations and prevent the spread of disease. More information about permits for captive reptiles and conditions for release into the wild, as well as species lists, is available at <http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/Licenses/captive.aspx>.

**TUESDAY TIP**

**REPEL**

**BIOLOGICAL PEST CONTROL**

Insects and wildlife can be beneficial to our ecosystems and economy. Mosquitoes and ticks are not among them. Learn how to combat pests without harsh chemicals.

- Remove any standing water in your yard, these are breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Includes bird baths, empty flowerpots, leaves and pools. Remove leaves, mow regularly and if you have a pool, cover it when not in use.
- Use natural repellents on yourself or pets. Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus and IR3535 are bio-repellents (derived from natural materials) and approved by the EPA.
- Promote the habitat for bats by creating or buying a bat home. Bats love to eat mosquitoes and you'll help their dwindling population as well!

NAT'LIFE Prince Georges County Second Nature is a division of the Department of the Environment, Recreation, and Planning. Contact us at [www.pgc.org](http://www.pgc.org) for more information on how to live more sustainably in our everyday lives.

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Wed. Night Bible Study - 7:45 p.m.  
Elder Willie W. Duvall, Pastor

**Watch from A4**

on the floors and couches of relatives and in temporary shelters. "Poverty stagnates you," she said. "It limits you from doing so many things. It forces you to make compromising decisions ... I felt inadequate."

Growing up in deep poverty impairs children's ability to learn, develop and thrive. Children living every day with deprivation suffer toxic stress and delayed brain development that disrupts their ability to succeed in school and in life. Deep poverty damages the chance that a child will ever escape poverty and fuels an intergenerational cycle of poverty. Children born in deep poverty are three times as likely to be deeply poor at age 40 than children not born in deep poverty.

The United States of America, one of the richest countries in the world, can and must end child poverty now before another generation is impacted and the cycle is perpetuated. Most urgently, we must take steps immediately to protect children from the harms of deep child poverty as I hope California is about to do. State Senator Holly J. Mitchell, the Children's Defense Fund's California office, and more than 100 organizations across the state are championing an effort to end deep childhood poverty in California by increasing cash assistance available to all families through CalWORKs, California's Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) program.

The CalWORKs program helps more than 800,000 low-income children stave off the worst destitution. Nearly 80 percent of CalWORKs recipients are families of color. They all struggle as CalWORKs monthly checks have lost nearly one-third of their purchasing power over the past decade. The current monthly maximum grant for a family of three is \$714, which

is just 41 percent of the federal poverty level and far short of what a family needs to make ends meet in California. In Los Angeles, for example, the combination of CalWORKs and food assistance barely covers half the median rent for a two-bedroom apartment, let alone child care, food, transportation, clothing, and everything else it takes to raise a family.

Hearing the cries of California's poorest children and families, the California Senate voted last week to raise cash assistance levels to ensure no child receiving CalWORKs lives in deep poverty. A family of three would be eligible for \$1,046 a month by 2021-22. Over the next two weeks legislative leaders and Governor Jerry Brown will negotiate a final state budget. For the sake of California children and as a moral pacesetter for our nation, that final budget must include an end to deep child poverty.

America has made important progress since Robert Kennedy's 1967 trip through the Mississippi Delta, but much more is needed. The CalWORKs benefit increase is an important step in the right direction. Children deserve no less. And I hope our nation will follow what I hope and pray will be California's positive example.

*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.*

## CLASSIFIEDS

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DONATE AUTOS, TRUCKS, RV'S. LUTHERAN MISSION SOCIETY. Your donation helps local families with food, clothing, shelter, counseling. Tax deductible. MVA License #W1044. 410-636-0123 or [www.LutheranMissionSociety.org](http://www.LutheranMissionSociety.org)

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Place a business card ad in the Regional Small Display 2x2/2x4 Advertising Network—reach 3.6 million readers with just one call, one bill and one ad placement in 71 newspapers in Maryland, Delaware and D.C. TODAY! For just \$1,450.00, Get the reach, Get the results and for Just Pennies on the Dollar Now. Call 1-855-721-6332 x 6 or email Wanda

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Let the Multi-Media Specialists of MDDC Advertising Network assist you in growing your business and increasing your customer base. Call today at 410-212-0616 and start seeing results NOW. [www.mdcpres.com](http://www.mdcpres.com).

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**Lutheran Mission Society**

Alan Amrhine, Communications Director  
Lutheran Mission Society

**"MDDC has connected donors with the LMS Vehicle Donation Program for over six years! Great exposure, cost effective, and Wanda is so helpful."**

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Delaware New Move-In Ready Homes! Low Taxes! Close to Beaches, Gated, Olympic pool. New Homes from low \$100's. No HOA Fees. Brochures Available 1-866-629-0770 or [www.coolbranch.com](http://www.coolbranch.com).

**SERVICES MISCELLANEOUS**

Increase your customer base and get great results by placing your ads in the MDDC Classified Advertising Network! Call today—410-212-0616 Ask for Multi-Media Specialist Wanda & watch your results grow.

Enter To **WIN \$4,000**

\$100 awarded weekly \$3,000 Grand Prize  
Newspaper sponsored - Local shopping survey

Enter to win now, go to: [www.pulsepoll.com](http://www.pulsepoll.com)

Place your ad on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Google AdWords through MDDC's Social Media Ad Network. Call today to find out how to maximize your presence on Social Media. 410-212-0616 or email Wanda Smith @ [wsmith@mddcpres.com](mailto:wsmith@mddcpres.com).

Allstate American grew its business with this ad.  
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**ATTENTION GOLFERS!**  
**Christmas in April Needs You!!**

**Help Us Celebrate 30 Years in the County!**

**Andrews Air Force Base**  
**September 24, 2018 all day,**  
**The Courses at AAFB**

Prince George's County Christmas in April is sponsoring its 30th Annual Christmas in April • Prince George's County Susan Mona/John Denison Golf Tournament on September 24, 2018, at the Courses at Andrews Air Force Base. All profits from the tournament go toward funding the 2019 program, which renovates the homes of the elderly and disabled residents of Prince George's County at no cost to the homeowner.

**Golfers and sponsors are needed!**

Please call 301 868-0937 to register for the tournament. Fees include a buffet, cart, tee and green fees, prizes, refreshments on the course, and more. Your participation will enable Christmas in April to repair the hearts and homes of 80 needy families in 2018. Please call soon as space is limited.