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Federal Workers to Get Back Pay, But Tales of Woe Mount

By EUGENE "JESSE" NASH IV, BRIAN ABATE AND AMBRIAH UNDERWOOD
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON (Jan 16, 2019)—Furloughed federal workers will be compensated for the time they spent working without pay, thanks to a bill sponsored by Maryland's senators and signed into law Wednesday by President Donald Trump.

The bill, sponsored by Maryland Democratic Sen. Ben Cardin and co-sponsored by Maryland Democratic Sen. Chris Van Hollen and dozens of other senators, became the first of the 116th Congress to pass through both the House and the Senate on Jan. 11.

But Cardin and Van Hollen weren't celebrating at the time of the signing. Instead, they sat with fellow Democratic Sen. Tina Smith of Minnesota around a table with federal security guards and janitorial workers in a discussion about the effects of the shutdown on contract workers.

While the bill the president signed Wednesday afternoon promises back pay to federal furloughed employees, it offers nothing to government contractors who were told to not show up to work in December.

Before the meeting started, Smith announced another bill she is sponsoring that would aid "folks

that a lot of people don't see" like cafeteria workers and Smithsonian Institution museum security guards.

Hosting the second round table talk with furloughed employees, Van Hollen said he wanted to give those contractors a voice and show how the shutdown situation is getting worse for Maryland and District of Columbia residents.

"The consequences of the shutdown are having an increasingly harmful and damaging effect every day around our country," Van Hollen said.

Although a few jokes popped up into the discussion, most of the meeting had a somber tone as affected workers told their stories to the senators and the press.

Smithsonian Institution security worker Tamela Worthen of Prince George's County, Maryland, said that she hasn't had access to her diabetes medication in a week since she's been unable to pay any associated costs. Worthen cited religion as one of the factors keeping her strong despite financial constraints.

"But, you still got to deal with reality," Worthen noted. "With the creditors, they don't want to hear nothing about faith in God and stuff like that."

A self-described "workaholic not a sit-around-at-home-aholic," Worthen said she and other furloughed workers at the meeting are seeking to reestablish a way to provide for their families.

"I want the government to open again so I can get back to work," said Maria Marquez through a translator, while holding her son, Oscar, in her arms.

Audrey Murray-Wright is a single mother who lost her husband of 27 years and works two jobs to support her family. She said they rely on her to be a provider. She has worked at the Smithsonian for 18 years and the State Department for 27 years.

"I leave my house in the dark and I come back in the dark," said Murray-Wright, tearing up. "And now I can't work."

In the past weeks since the shutdown started, Cardin has repeatedly appeared on the Senate floor to urge his colleagues to end the shutdown. Together with Van Hollen, he has also sent multiple letters to

2019 Women's March



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT: VICTORIA GOMES-BORONAT/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON—A woman dressed as Wonder Woman holds up a double-sided sign at the 2019 Women's March held on Saturday, January 19.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Federal Government Shutdown Assistance

Many Prince Georgians are living in uncertain times as the partial federal government shutdown continues. While our friends and neighbors are faced with making tough financial decisions, your government and its partners have worked collaboratively to provide relief. We hope these resources will offer some level of security and stability for your families during this difficult time. Please know that while things may have grinded to a halt in Washington, we are continuing to fight and serve on your behalf.

Visit www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/3053/Federal-Government-Shutdown-Assistance

—Angela D. Alsobrooks, County Executive
Prince George's County

See FEDERAL WORKERS Page A8

PGCPS Schools Receive National Health and Wellness Award

Schools Recognized for Nutrition and Physical Activity Programs

By OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
Prince George's County Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, MD (January 16, 2019)—Thirteen Prince George's County Public Schools earned Bronze and Silver-level awards in the HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSC) by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Sponsored by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service, the HUSC is a voluntary national certification initiative for schools participating in the National School Lunch Program. The initiative recognizes schools that are making strides in healthy meals, nutrition education and physical activity. Each school will receive an award plaque, a banner to display and a monetary award.

Since the beginning of the HealthierUS School Challenge in 2014, 370 Maryland schools have received HUSC awards. PGCPS will be the final Maryland public school district to receive HealthierUS School Challenge recognition, as the USDA initiative has been discontinued.

HUSC Award-winning Schools

Buck Lodge Middle School (Gold Award of Distinction)
Chillum Elementary School (Bronze)
Doswell E. Brooks Elementary School (Bronze)
Gladys Noon Spellman Elementary School (Bronze)
Melwood Elementary School (Bronze)
Montpelier Elementary School (Bronze)
Panorama Elementary School (Bronze)
Patuxent Elementary School (Bronze)
Robert R. Gray Elementary School (Bronze)
Samuel Ogle Middle School (Bronze)
Scotchtown Hills Elementary School (Bronze)
Spring Hill Lake Elementary School (Silver)
Thurgood G. Marshall Middle School (Bronze)

Maryland's 'Red Flag' Law Prompts More Than 300 Court Orders

By NATALIE JONES
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland (January 15, 2019)—In the three months since its implementation, Maryland's "red flag" gun safety law has prompted more than 300 protective orders across the state, law enforcement officials told state lawmakers Tuesday.

In effect since Oct. 1, the Maryland Extreme Risk Protective Order—also known by the acronym ERPO—or "red flag" law is a court-issued civil order that temporarily requires an individual posing an immediate danger or threat to surrender their firearms and ammunition to law enforcement. It also prohibits the individual—or respondent—from purchasing or possessing firearms or ammunition while in effect, according to the Maryland Courts website.

The petition for the order asks for details concerning the respondent's risk of danger to themselves or others, their behaviors, and their firearms—and is then filed with a District Court.

Petitioners able to request orders in Maryland include spouses and intimate partners, family members, law enforce-

ment officers or medical professionals who have examined the respondent.

From Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 302 petitions have been filed across the state, with Anne Arundel, Harford and Baltimore counties having the most orders, said Montgomery County Sheriff Darren Popkin, D.

Since going into effect, use of the law has alleviated concerns that it was just an "inappropriate gun grab," and has "saved lives," said Delegate Geraldine Valentino-Smith, D-Prince George's, one of the bill's initial sponsors.

When the order is terminated or expires, the respondent may request return of their firearms and ammunition, provided they're not otherwise prohibited from possessing them.

Still, organizations promoting gun owners' rights in Maryland have expressed their opposition to the law, even before it was signed and placed into effect.

In a letter written by Maryland Shall Issue, an organization dedicated to the preservation of gun owners' rights, the group's president, Mark Pennak, urged Gov. Larry Hogan, R, to veto the bill last year, stating that it

was "a grossly illegal, partisan attack on gun ownership in Maryland."

Hogan signed the bill on April 24. A majority of the "red flag" orders in Maryland were filed by family members or household members, primarily about mental health concerns, with others being placed by law enforcement officials or health professionals, Popkin said.

"Orders are not only being issued appropriately, but are also saving lives," Popkin said.

After high school shootings in Florida and Maryland prompted conversations about gun safety in early 2018, it was decided that the petitions can be filed against a minor.

At least five of the orders have been school-related threats, with four being significant enough to seize firearms, Popkin said.

There was no "red flag" process in Maryland before this law went into effect Oct. 1, and Valentino-Smith said she supports re-evaluating the law after its first year.

In November, an armed Anne Arun-

See 'RED FLAG' Page A8

INSIDE

Come One and Come All ...

Join County Executive Alsobrooks and members of the administration's leadership team for a Community Conversation. This will be a great opportunity for you to meet the leadership of your government, gain in-depth knowledge of the 2019 Legislative Agenda items and preview the upcoming FY2020 Budget priorities. RSVP.
Community, Page A3

ChildWatch:

A Call to Conscience

The existential choice before us has become more urgent today than at any time in our lives since our beloved friend and pastor was assassinated more than fifty years ago.

"We cannot repair America and the world with hate, only with love."

Commentary, Page A4

Cold and Costly: Frozen/Burst Pipes Cause Homeowners Havoc

AAA Insurance offers suggestions that can help homeowners and renters prevent pipes from freezing and bursting.

Business and Finance, Page A5

Honoring Dr. King: A Reading and Open Mic With the Poet Laureate

This Saturday, January 26 event is sponsored by the Prince George's County Office of the Poet Laureate and kicks off the 2019 Poet Laureate Reading Series.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Has the recent "border wall" shutdown affected the federal government's ability to safeguard our air and water quality and otherwise protect our environment and public lands?

—Peter Nicholson, via e-mail

Features, Page A7

TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Remembering my Dad, from Anacostia to Saginaw

Happy birthday (in Heaven) to my father, Dr. Richard Dyer Mudd. The son of Dr. Thomas and Mary Elizabeth Mudd, he was born at home Jan. 24, 1901 in Anacostia on what is now Good Hope Road. He attended St. Teresa of Avila School, graduated from Gonzaga High, earned four degrees, including medical, at Georgetown and interned at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

At Henry Ford Hospital he met a nurse from Ravenna, Nebraska, Rose Krummack, whom—he always said—won him with a really good chicken sandwich. He proposed to her in a Chinese restaurant where he serenaded her with, “Let me call you sweetheart, I’m in love with you...” (He sang this to her on every anniversary, until she died one day after their 70th.)

They were married at St. Mary’s Church in Ravenna on June 20, 1928. Nine months later I was born at Henry Ford Hospital, the first of their seven children.

Dad was physician for auto plants in Cincinnati and in Saginaw, Michigan. He also served in the Army Air Corps (later, Air Force Medical Corps), retiring as a colonel after WWII.

My father was the grandson of Dr. Samuel A. Mudd, the Charles County doctor who set the leg of John Wilkes Booth, assassin of President Lincoln. Dr. Sam—who barely escaped being hanged for treating Booth—was sentenced to life in prison at Ft. Jefferson in the Gulf of Mexico. President Andrew Johnson pardoned him in 1869 and he returned home to his family in Charles County. (The Dr. Samuel A. Mudd House Museum, in Waldorf, will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of that homecoming in July.)

Dad gave hundreds of talks on the Lincoln Assassination and the plight of his grandfather. He authored the 1800-page genealogy of the Mudd Family of Maryland. He was also a champion of healthy living and exercise, and played handball until he was 90 when he finally sent his gym clothes home from the locker at the Y.

Dad died at home in Saginaw in

2002 at the age of 101. I miss him every day.

Changing landscape

Thanks to Rich Landon, here’s news about changes coming to our greater area:

The first set of three brand new one- and two-car townhomes are up and for sale in the Village at Towne Square in Suitland, walking distance of the Census Bureau and Suitland Federal Center.

The townhomes are directly across from Suitland Elementary School on what used to be Homer Avenue. Now, that section of Homer Avenue has been renamed Towne Park Road.

A new Royal Farms is coming to the site of the old John Hanson Bank Building at Pennsylvania Avenue and Donnell Drive, across the street from Penn Mar Shopping Center and Starbucks.

Global Auto Outlet is coming to 4608 St. Barnabas Road where Certified Used Cars once was.

Fresenius Kidney Care Dialysis Services will be moving to a new building on the corner of Walker Mill and County roads, on the edge of District Heights.

Neighbors and Other Good People

Suitland Road Baptist Church hosts Community Outreach every first Saturday, 10 a.m. to noon, with free food and clothing, and more. Also, Dr. Kelvin McCune invites you to join him Fridays at 10:30 a.m. to discuss the Gospel of Mark. Info: 301-219-2296.

Pearl M. emailed a request: “I would like to say happy birthday to my daughter. Her name is Karen Anderson, living in Texas at the present time. She will be 50 years old on January 26, 2019. ‘Happy birthday, Karen!’ I have been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and unable to go see her and she is on oxygen 24/7, unable to come see me.” Pearl also mentioned that she went to Suitland High with Dave Williams and his wife Carolyn, and worked at the Alexandria Police Dept.

Get well prayers for Father Everett Pearson, pastor of Mount Calvary

Church in Forestville. He has been hospitalized and is in critical condition.

Remember when the Challenger exploded?

On Jan. 28, 1986, the Challenger Space Shuttle exploded 73 seconds after liftoff taking the lives of Francis Scobee, Michael Smith, Judith Resnik, Ronald McNair, Gregory Jarvis, Ellison Onizuk and Christa McAuliffe. Christa was the New Hampshire schoolteacher who won a national competition to become First Teacher in Space.

She began her teaching career at Benjamin D. Foulois Junior High in Morningside.

Richard Wagner, Suitland High grad, Mount Calvary volunteer

Richard Willard Wagner, 82, of Forestville, General Electric retiree, died Jan. 10. He was born in Hodgeville, W. Va., and his family moved to Prince George’s when he was five. He graduated from Suitland HS and served four years in the Air Force. On July 4, 1964 he wed Adalgisa Ida Servilio. She died in 1994 after 53 years of marriage.

During time in the Air Force, Richard was baptized Catholic and later became a devout member of Mt. Calvary Church in Forestville. Over 50 years, he served in numerous volunteer positions at the church, including Parish Council, usher, greeter, Bereavement Committee, Food Pantry worker, church cleanup crew and office worker.

He leaves to mourn, his church-family including adopted son Fr. Everett Pearson, adopted daughter Diane (Andre) Harley, adopted sister Merina (Jimmy) Jacobs, and a host of relatives and friends. Mass of Christian Burial was at Mt. Calvary with burial at Mount Olivet Cemetery.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Kenneth Brown and Michelle Willis, Jan. 25: Karen Anderson (see Neighbors, above), Jan. 26, Father Thomas LaHood and Yvonne Garvin, Jan. 27; Sister Zion and Lisa Call, Jan. 29; David Call and Joanne (Clark) Bunch, Jan. 30.

Around the County

Local Students Honored

Leilani Djaouga Named to the Dean’s List at the University of New Haven

WEST HAVEN, Conn. (January 15, 2019)—**Leilani Djaouga, of Glenn Dale**, a student in the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of New Haven has been named to the Dean’s List for the fall, 2018.

Djaouga is working on a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.

The University of New Haven, founded on the Yale campus in 1920, is a private, coeducational university situated on the coast of southern New England. It’s a diverse and vibrant community of more than 7,000 students, with campuses around the country and around the world. Information is available at www.newhaven.edu.

—Carolyn Meyer, University of New Haven

SU Students Present Research to Maryland General Assembly

SALISBURY, Md.—Nineteen Salisbury University students share their undergraduate research with members of the Maryland General Assembly during the presentation “Posters on the Bay” noon–2 p.m. Thursday, January 17, in rooms 170 and 180 of the Lowe House Office Building in Annapolis. [Prince George’s County students listed below.]

SU Undergraduate Research Fellows presenters and topics include:

Abiodun Adeoye, history and political science major, of Hyattsville, MD—“Life After Slavery: African American History on the Eastern Shore”

Kayla Davis, early childhood education major, of Laurel, MD—“Classroom Strategies for Students with Upper Limb Differences”

Cameron Kane, computer science and interdisciplinary studies major, of Glenn Dale, MD—“Developing New Accessibility Features Using Deep Learning and Data Generation”

SU’s Graduate Studies and Research Office and the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity sponsor the poster session.

For more information call 410-543-6030 or visit the SU website at www.salisbury.edu.

—Yesenia Vega, Salisbury University

NIU Announces Fall 2018 Graduation List

DEKALB, Ill. (January 18, 2019)—Northern Illinois University celebrated commencement weekend, December 15 and 16. Included among the more than 1,450 graduates were the following students from your area:

Bowie, MD

Rachel Jollie, Bachelor of Science, Psychology

Rachel Jollie, Bachelor of Science, Sociology

Northern Illinois University is a student-centered, nationally recognized public research university, with expertise that benefits its region and spans the globe in a wide variety of fields, including the sciences, humanities, arts, business, engineering, education, health and law. For more information, visit www.niu.edu.

—Mary Spring, Northern Illinois University

Local Student Earns Degree from University of Northern Colorado

GREELEY, Colo. (January 18, 2019)—The following local student was among those who received degrees from the University of Northern Colorado during fall 2018 commencement ceremonies Dec. 7–8.

The students, degrees, areas of study, honors and hometowns are:

Bowie, MD

Kelsey Meiklejohn, Master of Arts in Theatre Education

For more information about fall commencement ceremonies and a profile of the class of fall 2018, visit <https://www.unco.edu/news/articles/commencement-fall18.aspx>.

—Nate Haas, University of Northern Colorado

Circuit Court for Prince George’s County Welcomes Stephanye R. Maxwell, Esq., CMP As Court Administrator

By TIA LEWIS

Prince George’s County MD

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (January 11, 2019)—The Circuit Court for Prince George’s County is pleased to announce Stephanye R. Maxwell, Esq., CMP as its new Court Administrator. Mrs. Maxwell began her tenure on Monday, January 7, 2019.

Mrs. Maxwell returns to the Circuit Court after serving as the Director of the Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM) for the Prince George’s County Government. In this executive leadership role, Mrs. Maxwell lead and directed a staff of approximately 65 human resources professionals and approximately 18 contractual positions who provided staffing, compensatory, labor and employee management services to more than 6,000 county employees and 2,500 retirees.

“Mrs. Maxwell brings a wealth of experience in Administration, Human Resources, Government Operations and Court Operations to the Circuit Court,” says the Honorable Sheila R. Tillerson Adams, Administrative Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George’s County. “With her diverse experience, Mrs. Maxwell is the perfect fit for the role and will contribute

to furthering the strategic goals and vision of the Circuit Court.”

Prior to joining the Circuit Court from 2006 to 2010 as Deputy Court Administrator, Mrs. Maxwell held the position of Deputy Director at OHRM for the Prince George’s County Government. She also held the position of Associate County Attorney for Prince George’s County, where she specialized in employment law.

“It’s truly a pleasure to return to the Circuit Court as the Court Administrator,” says Mrs. Maxwell. “In collaboration with Judge Adams, my goal is to ensure implementation of technological enhancements, provide effective leadership, prepare and identify employee skills to ensure a successful organizational alignment and maintain an environment where employees are actively engaged in their work. Additionally, I look forward to serving the citizens of Prince George’s County.”

Mrs. Maxwell received her bachelor’s degree from Boston College where she majored in Communications and Human Resources Management. She received her juris doctor degree from The Catholic University of America and a Certified Public Management designation (CPM) from George Washington University.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

SPAGHETTI DINNER AND BAKE SALE

St. Philip’s Church, Baden Parish will be having their Annual ‘Super Bowl Spaghetti Dinner’ and Bake Sale on Sunday, February 3, 2019 immediately following our worship service. Dinner cost will be \$5.00 for adults and \$2.50 for children (5-10 years old). Free for children (4 years and under).

Dinners will include Good “Ole” Homemade Spaghetti by ‘Mitty’, Tossed Salad, Garlic French Bread, water and Bake Sale items. Pre-orders and payments are always greatly appreciated. Points of contact regarding this matter are Shirley Ann, Doretha Ann and Vivian. Benefit St. Philip’s Church 301-888-1536. The church is located at 13801 Baden Westwood Road Brandywine, Maryland 20613.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE SITES

“St. Paul United Methodist Church is thought to be the oldest black congregation in the county”. The church address is 6634 St. Barnabas Road, Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745. The church telephone number is 301-567-4433.

“In 1867, the congregation acquired land and by 1888 had built a Methodist meeting house. They may have been affiliated with an even earlier group of freed blacks who had built their own meeting house in the Oxon Hill area in the late 1700s. A new sanctuary was constructed in 1915 and was later expanded to for the present-day church complex.”

“The Holy Family Catholic Church located at 12010 Woodmore Road, Mitchellville, Maryland 20721 was built in 1890. Telephone number is 301-249-2266. “Holy Family Church served the African American Catholic community of rural Woodmore-Mitchellville. The land for the church was deeded to the congregation by Isaac Wood, a white carpenter who recognized the need for a local Catholic mission for the community’s African American families. The parishioners, primarily black tenant farmers, built the structure which now serves both African American and white families.”

CAFÉ AGAPE

On the third Friday of each month, CAFÉ AGAPE creates a musical space filled by fantastic musicians, music, fellow-

ship, and informal dining. Proceeds from CAFÉ AGAPE benefit St. Paul’s outreach to community schools.

Artists performing are David Cole on February 16, March 16 Ray Apollo Allen. March 23 Wes Watkins & Count the Cost Jazz Band will perform (‘free event for Warm Night Guests and community”).

St. Paul United Methodist Church address is 6634 St. Barnabas Road Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745. Telephone number is 301-567-4433. Contact information is Webadmin@Stpuncmd.org @2018St.PaulUMC@Oxon Hill. You will need to make reservations to attend. There is a \$5 entertainment fee.

SUBURBAN MARYLAND SPRING HOME SHOW

There will be a Suburban Maryland Spring Home Show January 26, 2019 from 10:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m., Sunday, January 27, 2019, 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. at The Show Place Arena. At the Home Show, their goal is simple: to inspire, motivate, and excite you for your upcoming home improvement—whether it is a minor renovation or a major remodel. Their events feature a wide selection of home improvement professionals in a fun, interactive environment. All ages are welcome. The event is free to the public.

Show Place Arena is located at 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Visit <http://www.mncppcapps.org/pgparks/discl> <https://www.mdhomedshows-sp.com/> for more information about this event. Telephone number is 301-952-7900.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers for the family of Ruth Estelle Turner. Celebration of Life for Ruth Estelle Turner (mother of Joyce Sampson: mother-law of Gordon Sampson: grandmother of Lisa Sampson). Viewing Thursday, January 24, 2019, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Service 12:00 p.m. Westphalia United Methodist Church, 9363 D’Arcy Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland, 20774.

Celebration of Life for Donald Sampson, Sr. (brother of Gordon Sampson) Saturday, January 19, 2019. Viewing- 11:00 a.m., Service 12:00 p.m. Union Baptist Church, 233 Glenwood Avenue Easton, Maryland 21601.

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Do Your Kids Think Vaping Is a Safe Alternative?

While we're all aware that cigarette smoking is dangerous and unhealthy, it's still a very serious and difficult addiction for many. And while most smokers may want to quit, most of them certainly don't want their children to ever start smoking.

Unfortunately, many kids have turned to vaping, those electronic substitutes for cigarettes, because they, and often their parents, are under the mistaken impression that it's safer. It's not. The nicotine in electronic cigarettes is highly addictive and the other chemicals involved can harm health.

Vaping manufacturers were quick to realize the appeal this new form of smoking could have for young people. They produced various fruit flavors to make the product more enjoyable for young people. Although the Food and Drug Administration has said it may regulate vaping, for now kids are still vaping in growing numbers.

The health issues associated with vaping are many. It's not a product regulated by the FDA. This means that when a package shows the amount of nicotine in the product, it may not always be accurate. Some vaping cartridges labeled "no nicotine" were still found to have nicotine present when tested.

The chemicals used in these products are also dangerous. Most vaping cartridges use propylene glycol to create the clouds of "vapor" that these products produce. It's a chemical used in many household products, such as hand sanitizer, antifreeze, and deodorants—nothing you ever want to put in your mouth. Did we mention it's also used as an aircraft de-icer?

Most vaping cartridges contain over 720 milligrams of nicotine, although it's released in small doses when "smoked." Nicotine is highly addictive and can be fatally poisonous in amounts as small as 40 to 50 milligrams. These cartridges are a real, possibly fatal danger if a small child or a pet should eat one.

Vaping is still a new enough activity that there are no studies on what the long term health effects might be. What has been shown already is that there's no evidence that it helps an individual stop smoking, and studies have found that vaping for as little as 10 minutes can worsen lung function.

If your kids think vaping is a safe alternative, have a serious talk with them. The unknown health risks they may be facing aren't worth "looking cool" with this new addiction. Discouraging this practice now can mean healthier kids in the future.

Counseling Corner is provided by the American Counseling Association. Send comments and questions to ACACorner@counseling.org or visit the ACA website at www.counseling.org.

The Prince George's County Local Development Council is Now Accepting Local Impact Grant Applications For FY 2019

Non-profit organizations serving the impact area surrounding MGM National Harbor are encouraged to apply

By PRESS OFFICER

Office of The Prince George's County Executive

LARGO, Md. (Jan 18, 2019)—The Prince George's County Local Development Council (PGCLDC) announced today the release of the FY 2019 Local Impact Grant application. The Local Impact Grant Program is for non-profits that serve Prince George's County in the defined impact area around MGM National Harbor. Local, non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations are encouraged to apply for funding that will assist them in providing community-based programs and services within the three-mile radius around the MGM National Harbor gaming facility. Working with non-profits, the PGCLDC hopes to positively impact residents and communities in the affected area.

Organizations interested in receiving funding must submit their application via email at PGCLDCGrants@co.pg.md.us and by mail or hand delivery by February 15th. Email applications (without five hard copies received) will NOT be accepted, and any application submitted after the deadline will be disqualified from competitive review.

The PGCLDC, in consultation with the Prince George's County Office of the County Executive and the Prince George's County Office of Management and Budget, will offer an optional Grants Workshop on Wednesday, February 6th, 2019 from 6:30–8:30 p.m. at the Addison School, 7100 Oxon Hill Road, Oxon Hill Maryland 20745 for those applicants that would like additional information prior to submitting their application.

The PGCLDC was created by state law as a mechanism for ensuring the public is engaged and has input into how the government mitigates any negative impacts a new gaming facility may have on the surrounding area. According to state law, each jurisdiction where a gaming license is in operation must establish a local development council. The Prince George's County Local Development Council also consults with the County on the following:

- The development of a multi-year plan for the expenditure of local impact grant funds, and
- The development of a comprehensive transportation plan for the gaming facility.

Non-profits located or providing services within the defined three-mile radius surrounding MGM National Harbor gaming facility in Prince George's County can apply.

Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, February 15, 2019.

Get more information at www.princegeorgescountymd.gov

Submit completed applications via email at PGCLDCGrants@co.pg.md.us AND five (5) hard copies mailed or hand delivered to: Prince George's County Local Development Council Local Impact Grants, Attention: Renee Adams, Prince George's County Administration Building, 1301 McCormick Drive, Suite 4000, Largo, MD 20774, 301-952-4264

County Executive Angela D. Alsobrooks
Cordially invites you to

A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

JANUARY 30TH @ 6PM - 8PM
WISE HIGH SCHOOL
12650 BROOKE LANE • UPPER MARLBORO 20772

RSVP:
ZAHRA ISAACS
ZISAACS@CO.PG.MD.US

Come and meet
Local Government Leaders

County Executive Angela Alsobrooks
to preview the county's
FY2020 budget priorities

Be informed about Prince George's
County's legislative priorities

Registration Now Open For Maryland Leadership Workshops Summer 2019 Programs

Maryland's premier leadership development program for middle and high school students will again be held at UMBC

By LINDSAY HEBERT
Devaney & Associates

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (January 14, 2019)—Maryland Leadership Workshops, a division of Leadership Maryland, announces that registration for its Summer 2019 programs is now open for middle and high school students. The University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) will host the summer curriculum for the second consecutive year.

Maryland Leadership Workshops offers five peer-led, week-long residential programs that empower and inspire middle and high school students to succeed and be more engaged in their schools and communities:

- Middle School Experience in Leadership (July 21–27, 2019): For students entering grades 6–8 in Fall 2019. Students begin to develop their individual leadership skills and learn how to identify and take advantage of opportunities for leadership in their schools and communities.
- Bridge (July 14–20, 2019): For experienced student leaders entering grades 7, 8 or 9 in Fall 2019, who are ready for more intensive training and practice prior to entering Senior High Workshops.
- Senior High Workshop (July 28–August 3, 2019): For students entering grades 9–12 in Fall 2019. A fun, challenging, inspiring,

and fulfilling week-long experience for teens that helps them develop leadership skills needed to succeed in diverse environments.

- Advanced Leadership Seminar (July 14–20, 2019): For high school students who have attended Senior High Workshop or have completed an equivalent program/leadership experience. This program challenges students to re-examine themselves as individuals and leaders through innovative workshops crafted according to their unique needs, individual goal setting and a culminating project focused on real-world application of leadership skills.
- Journey (July 14–20, 2019): For Howard County girls entering 7th, 8th or 9th grade in Fall 2019. Support for this program has been provided by the Women's Giving Circle, a fund of the Community Foundation of Howard County. At this unique program, each student identifies her own leadership skills, strengths, and weaknesses in a supportive and fun environment, which fosters increased self-esteem and confidence.

Each program offers a supportive and fun environment to foster increased independence, self-esteem and confidence for a diverse composition of students from around Maryland and the country. Program participants, known as delegates, develop concepts and skills dur-

ing workshops, group projects, committee responsibilities and small group discussion sessions. Other activities include games, variety shows, dances, and opportunities for delegates to lead activities for their peers.

Registration for the Summer 2019 programs is available online at www.MLW.org. Registration closes on April 30, 2019. A deposit of \$25 is due upon registration, and monthly tuition payments will be accepted through June 2019. Scholarships are available. For more information, please contact Anita Durall Anderson at 301-444-8623 or anita@leadershipmd.org.

Maryland Leadership Workshops is Maryland's premier leadership development program for middle and high school students. In existence since 1955, Maryland Leadership Workshops has provided generations of participants—known as delegates—with an incomparable experience to discover and develop strengths and skills essential to lifelong leadership. Using the model of facilitative instruction unique among youth leadership programs, delegates take ownership of personal development as they grow in self-awareness, set measurable goals, and collaborate with peers in diverse groups. To learn more, please call Maryland Leadership Workshops at 301-444-8623 or visit www.mlw.org.

Hospice of the Chesapeake Earns Highest Status With National Veterans Program

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (January 16, 2019)—The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization recently announced that Hospice of the Chesapeake's We Honor Veterans program has achieved Level 5 status. It is one of nine hospices in the nation to earn this new level of excellence, and the only Level 5 partner in the Delmarva region.

The status is a result of a yearlong pilot program initiated by WHV that included a pilot group of Level 4 hospice partners who implemented activities to expand their efforts and services provided to veterans and communities they serve. Aside from existing requirements, Level 5 will ensure that partners place a greater emphasis on staff education and caring for combat veterans. Additionally, Hospice of the Chesapeake will join its other Level 5 partners in taking on the role of regional mentor to other partners working to enhance their programs.

NHPCO President and CEO Edo Banach said that the expansion of the program to include a new level of excellence demonstrates that We Honor Veteran partners are committed to providing quality veteran-centric care to the veteran patients they serve. "We are incredibly proud of the Level 4 partners that participated in the pilot program and look

forward to working with other partners eager to begin the process of attaining Level 5—a journey that will include a lot hard work and dedication," Banach said.

Hospice of the Chesapeake's Volunteer Services Director Mary Jermann, who leads the organization's WHV program, said meeting the difficult milestones required to achieve Level 5 status has enhanced an already robust program. It not only benefits veterans on its census, but other patients, as well as the organization's staff and volunteers. "As our We Honor Veterans program has matured, it has extended beyond the Honor Salute to include many other veteran services activities and events," Jermann said. "We are excited to carry our mission forward to mentor other hospices to do the same."

The We Honor Veterans program is part of the national Hospice-Veteran Partnership, a collaborative effort between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the NHPCO. The campaign's goal is to help improve the care dying veterans receive from the nation's hospice and palliative care providers.

Hospice of the Chesapeake has been a partner since 2010. On any given day, the organization's staff and volunteers care for more than 125 Veterans in Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties. The We Honor Veterans program supports veterans and their

families with Honor Salutes, the Veteran-to-Veteran Volunteer Program; Veterans celebrations, educational programs and partnerships with the U.S. Naval Academy, Fort George G. Meade and Anne Arundel County Public Schools and more.

One signature event that exemplifies Hospice of the Chesapeake's commitment to veterans is its annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day celebration. The event provides an opportunity for the community to thank Vietnam Veterans for their service and to give them the welcome home they should have received decades ago. Now in its fifth year, the celebration will take place at 5:30 p.m. Friday, March 29, at the Hilton Baltimore BWI Hotel. The doors will open at 4 p.m. for veterans to enjoy hors d'oeuvres, socialize and speak with representatives from veterans' service organizations. The event is free for Vietnam Veterans and one guest and \$30 for all others. To reserve seating, visit <https://www.hospicechesapeake.org/2019-whvvd/>.

For details, email veterans@hospicechesapeake.org or call Nicole Malatesta at 443-837-1513.

For 40 years, Hospice of the Chesapeake has been caring for life throughout the journey with illness and loss. For details, visit www.hospicechesapeake.org.

COMMENTARY

Marion Wright Edelman
President, Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

A Call to Conscience

January 15th would have been Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 90th birthday. How should we honor him today? Earlier this month Dr. King's personal attorney and friend Clarence Jones convened an intergenerational, interracial, interfaith group for the launch of the Gandhi King Institute for Nonviolence and Social Justice to try to answer that question and issued "A Call to Conscience." It opens:

"Today, as we remember Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we watch in anguish as many achievements toward a more just and equal society we believed were secure are being eviscerated in front of our eyes.

"In this hour of constitutional crisis and moral emergency, do we wish to truthfully honor Dr. King's life and further his legacy?

"If we wish to honor Dr. King, we must shake the foundations of our grotesquely unequal social and economic order. 'We as a nation must un-

dergo a radical revolution of values,' he warned us. 'We must rapidly begin the shift from a thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights, are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered.'"

Our nation is at a critical inflection point where evil and greed are running amok and it is not enough to simply celebrate Dr. King. We need to figure out what he would be doing right now and follow him through nonviolent action: from voting to organized protest.

"A Call to Conscience" goes on: "Dr. King's mission was 'to redeem the soul of America.' His life's work was to hold fast to the Spirit of the Lord and attend to the needs of 'the least of these'—to help feed the hungry, provide shelter to the homeless, release the captives, free the op-

pressed, and to follow the Lord's commandment to have no other gods before Me. Thus, Dr. King decried the blasphemy and idolatry of Americans who had increasingly come to worship 'the false god of nationalism,' a religion that 'affirms that each nation is an absolute sovereign unit acknowledging no control, save its own independent will.' He warned us against the prophets and preachers of this false religion, specifically 'the advocates of white supremacy, and the America First movements.' To his Christian brothers and sisters, he declared: "One cannot worship this false god of nationalism and the God of Christianity at the same time. The two are incompatible..." As usual our greatest American prophet's prescient words speak to us right now.

"A Call to Conscience" continues: "Today we face the gravest danger to democracy and rule of law since 1877, when federal troops withdrew from the former Confederate states, crushing the hopes of former slaves that Reconstruction would bring them equal rights as promised under the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments. We believe that the threat of civil unrest and violence is higher today than at any time since the riots and uprisings that followed Dr. King's assassination more than fifty years ago. If we do not pull our nation back from the brink, find ways to confirm our common humanity in all interactions and communications, and unite in the common struggle to defend the core principles of our democracy, we are at risk of moral, social and national collapse...." And it ends with the conviction that it is time for a mas-

sive new nonviolent movement for justice and peace to save America's soul:

"We will not stop until we eradicate the systemic violence inflicted on our brothers and sisters, and all of us, by white supremacy, and the legacy of chattel slavery; mass incarceration and militarism at home and abroad; sexism and gender discrimination in all forms; poverty in America among children, their families and adults who are alone; hunger and homelessness in the cities and rural areas of America and throughout the world; the proliferation of guns and opioids into our communities; environmental degradation and the urgent threat of catastrophic climate change.

"Are we still able to hear Dr. King's trumpet of conscience? Do we have the collective will to reset the course of our society to realize his vision of the Beloved Community?"

"We have a choice today, and it is the same choice Dr. King identified before his death: 'The choice today is no longer between violence and nonviolence. It is either nonviolence or nonexistence.' The existential choice before us has become more urgent today than at any time in our lives since our beloved friend and pastor was assassinated more than fifty years ago.

"We cannot repair America and the world with hate, only with love."

The choice is ours. Please honor Dr. King by identifying the ways you—as an individual and working collectively with others—will use this Call to Conscience from his friends as a call to urgent and sustained action.

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

The Next Attorney General Must Enforce Civil Rights Laws. William Barr Won't.

"The responsibility of the attorney general is to change things and bring us closer to the ideals expressed in our founding documents."

—Eric Holder

This week I was proud to represent the Urban League Movement as I testified to the Senate Judiciary Committee in opposition to the confirmation of William Barr as Attorney General of the United States.

As the nation's top law enforcement officer and leader of the U.S. Department of Justice, the Attorney General is responsible for safeguarding our civil and constitutional rights. In light of this Administration's relentless attacks on the enforcement of our civil rights laws, our nation desperately needs and deserves an Attorney General who is committed to that mission and to our country's ongoing progress toward equal justice and racial equality.

For the past two years, the Justice Department

has been led by an Attorney General intent on restricting civil and human rights at every turn. From rolling back voting rights enforcement to reverting to failed and harmful criminal justice policies, Attorney General Jeff Sessions used his office to carry out the extreme, anti-civil rights agenda he had advanced for decades in the U.S. Senate.

The nation needs an Attorney General who will dramatically change course and enforce federal civil rights laws with vigor and independence. Based on his alarming record, we are convinced that William Barr will not do so. Indeed, in a recent op-ed, Mr. Barr called Jeff Sessions "an outstanding attorney general" and offered praise for his anti-civil rights policies. It's clear Mr. Barr intends to follow the same regressive roadmap Jeff Sessions has drawn.

The confirmation of William Barr as Attorney General, who espouses former Attorney General Sessions' policies, would enormously exacerbate our nation's current civil rights crisis.

In comments to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights last month, we raised the following concerns about the Justice Department's civil rights actions under Sessions:

- Overturning a memo from former Attorney General Eric Holder aimed at reducing mass incarceration by avoiding mandatory sentencing. Sessions instead ordered federal prosecutors to seek the maximum criminal charges possible.
- Proposing to eliminate the Community Relations Service, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1964—a key tool that addresses discrimination and community conflicts.
- Announcing the Justice Department's 'school safety' plan, which that militarizes schools, overpolicing children, and disproportionately harms students of color.
- Ordering a sweeping review of consent decrees with law enforcement agencies relating to police conduct—a crucial tool in the Justice Department's efforts to ensure constitutional and accountable policing. The department also tried, unsuccessfully, to block a federal court in Baltimore from approving a consent decree between the city and the Baltimore Police Department to rein in discriminatory police practices that the department itself had negotiated over a multi-year period.
- Arguing that it should be easier for states to purge registered voters from their rolls—reversing not only its longstanding legal interpretation, but also the position it had taken in the lower courts in that case.

Mr. Barr has a troubling record that tells us that there will be no redress of the Sessions'

blunders on civil rights.

African Americans face racial bias at every stage of the justice process. are more likely to be stopped by the police, more likely to be detained while awaiting trial, are charged with more serious crimes for the same offenses and sentenced more harshly than white people.

In 2018, after years of arduous work, we finally saw enactment of bipartisan legislation that finally begins to reform our criminal justice system through the First Step Act and the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018. William Barr's record on criminal justice places these achievements at serious risk and gives us no confidence that these hard-fought reforms would be implemented:

- As Attorney General under George H.W. Bush, Barr pursued harsh criminal justice policies that escalated mass incarceration and the foundering "war on drugs." More recently and alarmingly, he has supported mandatory minimum sentences and latitude for abusive police officers.
- Barr's 1992 book, "The Case for More Incarceration," argued that the country was "incarcerating too few criminals."
- Barr led efforts in Virginia to abolish parole, build more prisons, and increase prison sentences by as much as 700 percent.

The Attorney General has a duty to vigorously enforce some of our nation's most critical laws; to protect the rights and liberties of all Americans; and to serve as an essential independent check on the excesses of an Administration. The evidence is overwhelmingly clear that William Barr is unfit to serve as chief enforcer of our civil rights laws.

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan Releases FY 2020 Budget

By DAVID JAHNG
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland (Jan 18, 2019)—Gov. Larry Hogan, R, this week released a \$44.6 billion state budget for the upcoming 2020 fiscal year, fortifying his objectives for the 2019 General Assembly session—education, economic growth, health, state employees, transportation and the environment—into writing.

The budget grew 4 percent over last year, and includes \$19.6 billion for operating expenses.

At a press conference on Thursday, Hogan said he made a record investment of \$6.9 billion for Maryland's K-12 education, and has set aside \$438 million in a "Building Opportunity Fund," a \$3.5 billion five-year school construction program.

Maryland senators and delegates said based on the budget highlights, many of the priorities of the legislature were funded as they liked.

Senate President Mike Miller, D-Prince George's, Charles and Calvert, said a proposed salary increase for state employees and correctional officers, money for retirement relief, and provisions for much-needed facilities in some areas of the state were all good things.

"Obviously there's going to be changes (to the budget)," Miller said Friday. "But the initial reflections ... is that it's a very positive budget."

Hogan said he ignored formulaic recommendations to decrease some school funding and instead raised money for all jurisdictions in Maryland.

"Every single penny that every single jurisdiction anticipates from the state for education (will) be funded at 100 percent," Hogan said Thursday.

The budget sets aside \$56.5 million for a tax credit to be given to businesses that expand in "Opportunity Zones," or low-income areas.

"More businesses are open and more people are working than ever before," Hogan said.

In addition, he said that Marylanders should be allowed to deduct 100 percent of interest paid on student loans for income tax returns.

Hogan said no new taxes were implemented for the fifth year in a row, and all state employees will receive at least a 3 percent raise, including members of the AF-SCME trade union who Hogan said refused to negotiate.

He said these proposals were made with the goal of easing tax burdens on hardworking families and individuals.

Transportation expenditures rose 4 percent, with a total of \$3.3 billion funding the state's transportation network.

\$1.7 billion of support went to state highways, \$221 million to the Purple Line, and \$167 million to improvements for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

Hogan said Program Open Space, a initiative that works to restore the Chesapeake Bay, would return to full funding of \$62.6 million.

However, total expenditures for natural resources and the environment fell 5 percent since last year, to about \$1.03 billion.

Hogan said "fiscal discipline" and "belt-tightening" have been and will be the priority for his budgets, and warned against reckless spending.

\$1.3 billion were put in reserves in the case that the state faces an economic downturn.

"We want to remain vigilant about maintaining savings," said Hogan. "That is what our budget has once again accomplished."

Funding for health remained the same at \$14.6 billion, with \$1.3 billion for the developmentally disabled and about \$250 million for those with substance use disorders.

In the budget, revenues across

the board are expected to rise an average of 2 percent, though lottery and other special funds are expected to bring in \$172 million less.

However, Miller said there was not enough money set aside for the city of Baltimore.

He said the city has a major crime problem, with a lack of funding for police officers and an "embarrassing" response time of 15 minutes.

"People need respect, they need their properties to be protected," said Miller. "They need their personal lives to be protected, and we're not doing that in Baltimore City."

House Majority Leader Kathleen Dumais, D-Montgomery, said she was happy to see the increase in salary for state employees, but said she hopes more correctional officers will be hired.

She said the budget funded many legislative priorities, but that "the devil would be in the details," after she had read more than just the highlights.

Delegate Maggie McIntosh, D-Baltimore, said the Kirwan Commission—a panel nicknamed for its chairman and charged with developing educational improvements—had asked for \$325 million, but only received \$200 million.

House Minority Whip Kathy Szeliga, R-Baltimore and Harford

counties, had no criticisms of the proposal, and said Hogan presented a balanced budget that fully funds education and other priorities.

"It should diminish partisan rancor over the budget, that is our only constitutionally mandated duty," said Szeliga.

Here is a look at some additional highlights:

- \$1.45 billion was provided to

the University System of Maryland, with a focus on S.T.E.M. programs.

- \$11.5 billion for Maryland's Medicaid program
- Correctional officers receive a 4 percent raise.
- Doubles funds available as tax credit for zero-emissions vehicles from \$3 million to \$6 million.

The Prince George's Post

The Prince George's Post
P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151
Phone: 301-627-0900 • Legal Fax: 301-627-6260
Email: pgpost@gmail.com
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Publisher/Senior Editor Legusta Floyd	Editor Lisa Duan
General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager Brenda Boice	Administrative Assistant/ Billing Julie Volosin
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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Spouse Benefits vs. Survivor Benefits from Husband Who Delayed

By RUSSELL GLOOR,
AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor
Association of Mature American Citizens

Dear Rusty:

My husband is taking retirement next year and we went through the application process yesterday. No surprises until we found out that his delayed benefits do not apply to spousal benefits. His whole purpose of delaying retirement was to maximize benefits for me in case of an unexpected death (isn't death most of the time unexpected?). I have been reading and preparing for this retirement for several years, and I have never come across this information. I personally would like to have known this before now. If it has been covered in your column, I missed it. Anyway, I have found your column most informative. Thank you. *Signed: Upset Spouse*

Dear Upset Spouse: It's true that the question of delayed retirement credits and whether they apply to spousal benefits and/or survivor's benefits is widely misunderstood. Delayed retirement credits, or "DRCs," are accumulated when one delays claiming Social Security retirement benefits until after their full retirement age. DRCs are earned at the rate of 2/3rds of 1% for each full month of delay, or 8% per year of delay. At age 70 that can mean a benefit amount as much as 32% higher if your full retirement age is 66. DRCs don't accumulate after age 70.

The confusion for many comes from believing that the living spouse of the person delaying will be entitled to a spousal benefit based upon the amount increased by DRCs, which is not true. Benefits for a living spouse are based upon the other spouse's full retirement age benefit, not the increased benefit earned by delaying past full retirement age. Simplified, if you have reached your full retirement age when you claim your benefit as a living spouse you will get 50% of your husband's "primary insurance amount," which is the amount he was due at his full retirement age, not his DRC-increased benefit amount at age 70.

Survivor's benefits, on the other hand, are based upon the DRC-increased benefit amount, so if your goal is, as stated, "to maximize benefits in case of an unexpected death," then you and your husband have achieved that goal. If your husband should predecease you and you have reached your full retirement age, you will get 100% of the increased benefit your husband achieved by waiting until he was 70 to apply (including all DRCs). If you claim the survivor's benefit before you reach your full retirement age, that benefit will be actuarially reduced based upon the number of months earlier that you claim it, but you also have the option to delay claiming your widow's benefit until you reach your full retirement age (FRA) and get the full 100% of your deceased husband's benefit at his death. And, incidentally, your FRA as a widow may be a little less than your normal FRA. Please note too that the survivor's benefit doesn't grow beyond your full retirement age, so make sure you do not wait beyond your FRA to claim it.

The Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] [https://www.amac.us] is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. We act and speak on their behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at https://amac.us/join-amac.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Maryland Small Business Development Center Workshop

Digital Marketing & Social Media

January 29, 2019 • 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Location: Morgan State University

Earl G. Graves School of Business

4100 Hillen Road, Room 308, Baltimore, MD 21218

Cost: \$35

Contact Information: Sandra Conaway

Register at: <http://www.marylandsbdc.org>

This Digital Marketing workshop will cover important aspects you need to successfully create and execute a digital marketing strategy for your organization. We will show you how to use digital marketing tools to drive business results and keep you on the leading edge of business change as growth grows in digital media.

What will be covered?

- Digital Marketing Concept
- Finding the right key for your website
- Social Media
 - Instagram
 - Facebook
 - Twitter
 - YouTube
- Branding
 - What is Branding?
 - Building a Brand that Sells
 - Listening to Your Authentic Brand Voice

Prince George's County December Real Estate Market Sets All Time Highs for Median Sales Price Gains Amid Lower Sales Unit Volume Compared to Prior Year

647 Closed Sales in December represent a 21.8% decline from December, 2017, both Single Family and Attached Units decline in monthly sales. Median sales price reached \$300,000, an all-time high showing that higher priced homes are selling rapidly.

By ERICA KALEDA
Prince George's County Association
of Realtors®, Inc.

LANDOVER, Md. (January 14, 2019)—Veera Phillips, President of the Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® and a professional REALTOR® at Keller Williams Preferred Properties reports that the local area market continues to remain vibrant and active, even with a decline in sales unit volume in December, according to statistics provided by MarketStats by ShowingTime and Bright MLS.

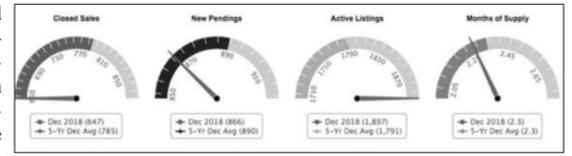
This December's 647 sales recorded show a weaker sales month by historical standards. Sales were down 21.9% from 2017's 828 units during a typically slower seasonal market. In all, over \$198.4 million in homes were sold by PGCAR members. The Median Sold Price reflected an increase of 7.1%, and Average Sold Price jumped by 5.7% from the same period in 2017. While closed sales units dropped considerably, the growth in both Median and Averages sold prices is a positive sign for the market.

The chart above details December ac-

tivity compared to the 5-year Average, an important longer-term measure of market trends. Note that Closed Sales and Pending Sale

activity has slowed below the 5-year average. Also note that there's a healthy supply of homes for sale with a 2.3-month supply (1897 units) available for sale. This statistic means that if no new listings come on the market and with continued forecasted demand, the supply will go to zero.

Phillips added: "It is encouraging that the typical seller received 98.1% of the original List Price showing that homes priced well sell for close to asking price. Sellers who engage the service of a REALTOR® are best equipped to compete in today's marketplace. We are also pleased to report that homes are more valuable in Prince George's County with strong increases in both median and average price per square foot. Purchasing a home in Prince George's has never been a more a solid investment. Combined



© 2018 MARKET STATS BY SHOWINGTIME

	Dec '18	YoY	MoM
Total Sold Dollar Volume	\$198,444,642	-17.4%	-5.4%
Closed Sales	647	-21.9%	-8.4%
Median Sold Price	\$300,000	+7.1%	+4.3%
Average Sold Price	\$306,715	+5.7%	+3.2%

with the ample supply of starter and move-up homes for buyers in every price point, we believe that Prince George's County continues to offer one of the

best buying opportunities in the DC metro region."

Monthly housing statistics for Prince George's County are compiled by data as reported by Bright MLS. For the purposes of this report, "units" are defined as the closed sales and "pending units" are properties under contract. Months of inventory are based on the current active inventory and monthly sales for the corresponding month.

The Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® is the voice for real estate in Prince George's County, Maryland, representing more than 3,000 real estate professionals in the national capital area, PGCAR is an affiliate of the Maryland and National Association of REALTORS®. We are proud to serve our members and our community and work to ensure professionalism in the industry. Our volunteers and staff work to offer services to real estate professionals and to provide avenues for our members to become more successful. We proudly work to promote and protect home ownership and private property rights.

Cold and Costly: Frozen/Burst Pipes Cause Homeowners Havoc

By JOHN B. TOWNSEND II
AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON, D.C. (January 18, 2019)—With the Arctic blast delivering the coldest temperatures of the season, Washington area homeowners could find themselves dealing with damage caused by frozen or burst pipes. It is a fate that befalls a quarter of a million homeowners and property owners in the United States each winter, with an average cost of \$2,586. During a polar vortex accompanied by subzero wind chills, pipes are at risk of freezing due to sudden temperature drops, poor insulation or incorrect thermostat settings. Freezing often occurs because home plumbing is above the frost line or pipes are near drafty basement windows. Set home thermostats above 55 degrees during cold weather.

"Wind chill values as low as 5 below" is a recipe for frozen pipes. If the pipes in your home burst after freezing, find your water meter and house-side shutoff valve, and turn the water off quickly to avoid flooding.

"Freezing temperatures put your pipes at risk, and recovery can be difficult and costly," said Kendall Bramble, an Insurance Counselor with AAA Mid-Atlantic Insurance Agency in Washington, D.C. "With periods of brutally cold weather emanating from Winter Storm Harper, or any other wintry storm tapping into cold air, both plastic and copper pipes can burst. A crack as small as 1/8-inch can spew up to 250 gallons of water per day, causing flooding, serious structural damage and the potential for mold."

"Protecting household plumbing from clogs and other damage requires year round effort, but your wallet and the region's water supply will benefit," advises the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG). Cleanup costs can range from "\$5,000 to \$70,000 or more," according to the property insurance industry. "Frozen pipes are one of the biggest risks of property damage when the temperature drops," said John B. Townsend II, AAA Mid-Atlantic's Manager of Public and Government Affairs. "Approximately 37 percent of all frozen pipe failures occur in a basement. Knowing ways to keep your pipes from freezing and how to effectively manage the aftermath, from cleanup to insurance claims, is key."

"Throughout the winter, it's also important to be prepared for the cold weather's effect on your pipes," advises MWCOG. "Water utilities are responsible

for water mains and pipe lines that connect to your home, but not pipes located on your property." AAA Insurance offers suggestions that can help homeowners and renters prevent pipes from freezing and bursting:

Preventing Frozen Pipes:

- Make sure everyone in your family knows where the water shut-off valve is and how it works.
- Insulate pipes in your home's crawl spaces and attic, even if you live in an area where freezing temperatures are unlikely.
- Seal gaps around pipes that allow cold air inside. You also should look for air leaks around electrical wiring, clothes dryer vents and pipes. Use caulk or insulation to keep the cold out.
- Disconnect garden hoses. If possible, use an indoor valve to shut off and drain water from pipes leading to outside faucets. This reduces the chance that pipes inside the house will freeze.
- If a freeze is expected, consider allowing warm water to drip slightly overnight, preferably from a faucet on an outside wall. Even a slight trickle may keep your pipes from freezing.
- When there is the possibility of a freeze, don't turn down the thermostat at bedtime. Instead, maintain the same setting day and night. Drops in temperature, which are more common overnight, could freeze your pipes.
- Open cabinet doors. This will allow heat to reach uninsulated pipes located under sinks.
- If you're going on vacation or leaving your home for an extended period of time, consider maintaining minimal heat to prevent freezing.

Insurance claims from frozen pipes exceeded \$4 billion over the period of a decade, according to the Institute for Business and Home Safety. AAA Insurance provides these additional tips when encountering frozen/burst pipes and for managing resulting home insurance claims:

Recovering from Frozen Pipes:

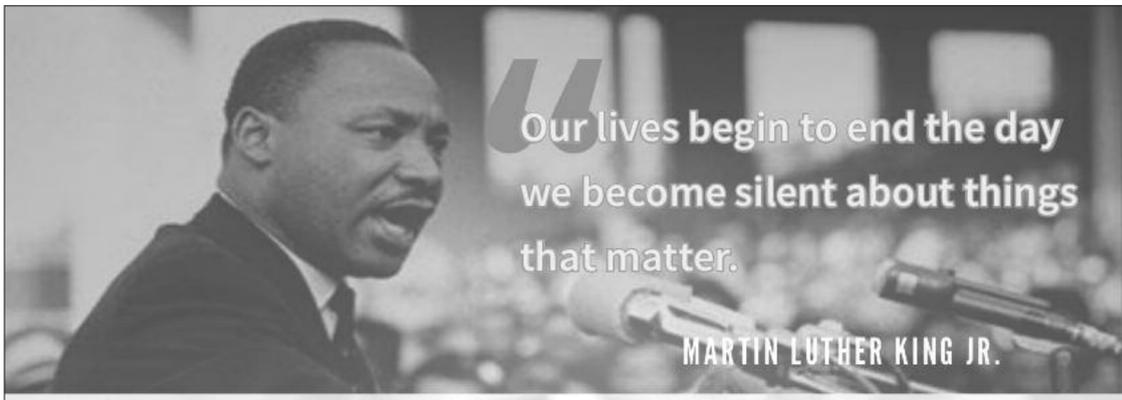
- If you turn on your faucets and nothing comes out, your pipes are likely frozen. Don't wait for them to burst. Take measures to thaw them immediately, or call a plumber for assistance.
- You may be able to use a hair dryer to thaw a frozen pipe. Begin by warming the section of pipe closest to the faucet, then work your way out toward the coldest part of the pipe.

- Never use a hair dryer or any electrical appliances in areas of standing water. You could be electrocuted.
 - Never try to thaw a pipe with a torch or other open flame. It could cause a fire.
 - If your water pipes have already burst, turn off the water at the main shutoff valve in the house, leave the water faucets turned on, and call a plumber.
 - Mop up spills. You do not want the water to do more damage than it already has.
 - Call your insurance company claims department as soon as you can. An insurance adjuster does not need to see the spill before you take action. However, the adjuster will want to inspect any damaged items.
 - Make temporary repairs and take other steps to protect your property from further damage. Remove any carpet or furniture that can be further damaged from seepage.
- "Throughout this period of extreme cold, area water utilities are urging homeowners to prevent frozen pipes and meters," notes the COG. "Prevention is the key to protecting your home this winter. A few simple steps can help you avoid a frozen pipes nightmare," said Bramble. "For added peace of mind, it's a good idea to make sure you have adequate homeowners insurance."

Managing Home Insurance Claims:

- Make a list of the damaged articles and take photos.
 - Save the receipts for what you spend—including additional living expenses if you must leave your home until repairs are completed—and submit them to your insurance company for reimbursement.
 - Standard homeowner's policies will cover most of the kinds of damage that result from a freeze. For example, if house pipes freeze and burst or if ice forms in gutters and causes water to back up under roof shingles and seep into the house. You would also be covered if the weight of snow or ice damages your house.
 - If your home sustains water damage, it is important to make sure that it is properly dried and repaired to prevent any potential problem with mold. Remember, mold cannot survive without moisture.
 - Check with your agent or insurance company to be sure of what your policy covers.
- "Frozen and burst pipes also cost businesses millions each year," according to the insurance industry. MWCOG has launched a "Protect Your Pipes" campaign. To find out more about homeowners or renters insurance, contact your local AAA Mid-Atlantic Insurance agent, call 202-481-6822 or visit www.aaa.com/insurance.

OUT on the TOWN



Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

HONORING DR. KING

A Reading & Open Mic with the Poet Laureate

January 26

Saturday, 1:00 - 3:00 PM

FREE

Bowie Branch Library,
15210 Annapolis Rd., Bowie, MD



**Prince George's County
2019 Youth Poet Laureate
Mi'Jan Credle**



**Prince George's County
Poet Laureate
J. Joy "Sistah Joy" Alford**

Performances by Soloist *Karen Wiggs-Wilbanks*
and Djembe Drummer *Doc Powell*

Light refreshments served.

This event is sponsored by the Prince George's County Office of the Poet Laureate, and kicks off the 2019 Poet Laureate Reading Series. *All ages are welcomed.*



Calendar Spotlight

Junior Academy for the Performing Arts (JAPA) Open House

Saturday, January 26, 2019, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Join us for the JAPA Open House! Discover the Magic of Musical Theatre with JAPA. Meet our Spring Show Directors and find out more about how you can dance, sing, and act your way to the stage! The Winter/Spring session for the Junior Academy for the Performing Arts starts on Saturday, February 2, 2019, and runs through Saturday, May 18, 2019. Rehearsals are on Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The 12-week intensive program fee is \$500 for residents and \$650 for non-residents. Whether a seasoned performer or new to the stage, all levels are welcome to join our team of rising stars!

Cost: FREE!
Ages: Open to performers from 8 to 15
Location: The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center—University of Maryland, 8270 Alumni Drive, College Park, MD 20742
Contact: 301-446-3232; TTY 301-699-2544

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center

PHOTO CREDIT: UMD

The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center is a vibrant community of artists, students and audiences, where great work happens both on- and offstage. We present approximately 1,000 events each year spanning all performing arts disciplines. Transformative performances, workshops, lectures, dialogues and other events featuring visiting artists from around the world, as well as students and faculty from the university's academic departments of music, dance and theatre, allow for unparalleled engagement. The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at Maryland is located at the corner of Route 193 (University Blvd.) and Stadium Drive on the campus of the University of Maryland.

The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center:
8270 Alumni Drive, College Park, MD 20742 • 301-405-7794
• <https://theclarice.umd.edu/>

ERIC D. SNIDER'S IN THE DARK
.... *Movie Review*

A Dog's Way Home

A Dog's Way Home
Grade: B-
Rated PG, animal peril,
thematic elements
1 hr., 36 min.

If you think you would enjoy an uncomplicated, PG-rated movie about a dog traveling 400 miles to be reunited with her humans, there's an excellent chance you will enjoy "A Dog's Way Home," which is exactly that and does exactly what you'd expect it to do (albeit with more CGI cats).

Based on W. Bruce Cameron's novel and directed by "Air Bud" and "Dolphin Tale" auteur Charles Martin Smith, this "Incredible Journey"/"Homeward Bound" re-tread follows an adorable pit bull mix named Bella (her thoughts narrated by Bryce Dallas Howard) who's adopted as a feral puppy by an adorable medical student named Lucas (Jonah Hauer-King) and his depressed veteran mom, Terri (Ashley Judd). They live in Denver, though, where—and this is true—pit bulls are illegal. ("It's basically racism for dogs," says Lucas' girlfriend.) The only solution: send Bella to live with friends in Farmington, N.M. I guess Lucas and

Terri don't know anyone who lives, say, just outside of Denver.

The plot is harebrained, with a lot of extraneous human-related complications, including a heartless property owner named Gunther (not listed on IMDb; nice work, Columbia Pictures) with a vendetta against Lucas because he tried to stop him from developing his land while

there were still feral cats living on it. But once Bella runs away from Farmington and we get to the dog's-eye-view of a perilous journey home, it's qualify comfort food. (Bella is SUCH A GOOD GIRL! YES SHE IS!) She has mini-adventures with other dogs, cougars, a well-meaning gay couple, a depressed homeless man, and more. Military veterans are a recurring motif throughout the movie, for no apparent reason other than to boost its bona fides as a story for Decent, Upstanding people. (What's more American than dogs and veterans?)

The feral cats and the cougars are mostly CGI, which is only a problem insofar as they look fake next to a real dog. I know cats are hard to train, but come on. In my day,

if you couldn't train an animal to do something, you either filmed around it or you used a hilariously unconvincing puppet.

Like many wholesome movies about animals, this one has its morbid aspects: Bella's mother is ripped away from her in the opening minutes; a dog is temporarily chained to a corpse; etc. But the target audience can rest assured there are no dog deaths, and the inevitable reunion is suitably tearjerking and slobbery. By the time we get to the veterans at the VA hospital doing an "I am Spartacus" routine to keep Bella from being confiscated by the mean animal-control officer, it won't matter how contrived it all seems. Not when she's SUCH A GOOD GIRL!



Separated from her owner, a dog sets off on an 400-mile journey to get back to the safety and security of the place she calls home. Along the way, she meets a series of new friends and manages to bring a little bit of comfort and joy to their lives.

Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park Events Celebrate Black History Month

Stories of Underground Railroad Heroes
Come to Life this February

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (January 14, 2019)—In celebration of Black History Month, Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park and Visitor Center invites everyone to free, family-friendly programs every Friday, Saturday and Sunday in February.

The park, located in Dorchester County, is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and houses an exhibit hall, immersive displays, a gift store and an information desk. Throughout the month, the park's expert staff and special guests will lead special programs to honor the life and legacy of Maryland native Harriet Tubman and the struggle for freedom that she embodied.

Each Friday—Feb. 1, 8, 15 and 22—programs will begin at 10 a.m., noon and 4 p.m. with a ranger-led introduction highlighting the symbolism of the park and visitor center. At 2 p.m., the program, "Fighting for Freedom: Lewis Hayden and the Underground Railroad," includes screening of a National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom movie.

Each Saturday—Feb. 2, 9, 16 and 23—includes a full day of varied programs:

- "The Park in Pictures" takes place at 11 a.m., with Ranger Harris discussing what makes an image timeless and meaningful. Attendees should bring a camera or device with camera capabilities, creativity and a sense of humor.
- "The Instrumentalities of War" at 1 p.m. with Ranger Nwakudo explores the ways that wars in Africa impacted the culture and identity of those involved with the slave trade.
- "The Songs of Enslaved People" at 2 p.m. involves guests in learning about the songs used by Harriet Tubman and other freedom seekers on the Underground Railroad. Participation is not required but it is heavily encouraged.

On Feb. 9, Tubman biographer and scholar Dr. Kate Clifford Larson will be speaking about Tubman's strong faith and spiritual influences and how they can be interpreted for

Calendar of Events

January 24–January 30, 2019

Suburban Maryland Spring Home Show—Upper Marlboro

Date and Time: Saturday, January 26, 2019, 10 a.m.–8 p.m. and Sunday, January 27, 2019, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Description: At the Home Show, their goal is simple: to inspire, motivate, and excite you for your upcoming home improvement—whether it is a minor renovation or a major remodel. Their events feature a wide selection of home improvement professionals in a fun, interactive environment.

Cost: FREE to the public!

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: The Show Place Arena, 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Contact: 301-952-7900, American Consumer Shows: 855-523-5319, www.mdhomedshows-sp.com

2019 ZumbaThon: No Excuse for Dating Abuse

Date and Time: Saturday, January 26, 2019, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Description: *This is a national effort to raise awareness about abuse in teen and 20-something relationships and promote prevention programs.* Zumba helps improve participants' self-confidence and motivation to exercise. When we love and value ourselves, it translates into our relationships and how we allow others to treat us. Come party with us for a great cause in addition to the following: Health and Wellness information, Counseling, Healthy snacks

Cost: In advance—Residents: \$5; Non-residents: \$8. Purchase your tickets through PARKS DIRECT! On event day—Residents: \$10; Non-residents: \$15

Ages: 11 and older

Location: Largo/Kettering/Perrywood Community Center, 431 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Contact: 301-249-7200; TTY 301-699-2544

A Slice of History: The Story of Pie

Date and Time: Saturday, January 26, 2019, 1–2:30 p.m.

Description: **Reservations required in advance.** Call the museum at 301-952-8010 for reservations or with questions. Celebrate National Pie Day with Darnall's Chance House Museum! Join us as Debbie Waugh of Green Spring Garden tells us about the history of pie from its medieval origins to today. Enjoy a pie and coffee reception following the presentation.

Cost: \$15/person

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Darnall's Chance History Museum, 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Dr., Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Contact: 301-952-8010; TTY 301-699-2544

Brass Trio

Date and Time: Sunday, January 27, 2019, 3 p.m.

Description: Featuring Doug Wilson, trumpet; Brad Tatum, horn; and James Martin, trombone

Cost: Pay As You Can donations are greatly appreciated

Ages: Adults

Location: Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Rd, College Park, MD 20740

Contact: info@cpae.org

Pop-Up Locations: Independent Film Series

Date and Time: Monday, January 28, 2019, 7–9 p.m.

Description: "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" An intimate look at Fred Rogers, a creative genius who inspired generations of children with compassion and imagination in his T.V. program, Mister Rogers' Neighborhood.

Cost: Free

Ages: Adults

Location: University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Rd., Hyattsville, MD 20782

Contact: www.pgcmls.info/website/event/1334019; 301-864-1520

Kush & Axum: Great Black Kingdoms of the Nile Winter 2019 African History and Culture Lecture Series

Date and Time: Tuesday, January 29, 2019, 7–8:30 p.m.

Description: Join our Winter 2019 African History and Culture Lecture Series. Historian C.R. Gibbs will present *Kush & Axum: Great Black Kingdoms of the Nile*. Series continues: Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019: "Migrations: The African Presence Around The World, Past & Present"; Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019: "Lost Kingdoms & Ancient Mysteries of Africa"; Tuesday, March 5, 2019: "From Jamestown to Freedom: 1619–2019"

Cost: Free

Ages: Adults

Location: Greenbelt Branch Library, 11 Crescent Rd., Greenbelt, MD 20770

Contact: 301-345-5800

Dark Side of the Moon Tribute Concert

Date and Time: Thursday, January 31, February 1 and 2, 2019, 7 p.m.

Description: Featuring young musicians from College Park's Calvert Hills neighborhood. Hosted by Eric Maring "Mr. M"

Cost: Pay As You Can donations are greatly appreciated

Ages: Adults

Location: Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Rd, College Park, MD 20740

Contact: info@cpae.org

ReUse-a-Palooza: A Conservation Event

Date and Time: Friday, February 1, 2019, 7–9 p.m.

Description: The main theme of this event is, "Recycled art & music project, and conservation swag". Each environmental event will feature a mini-Recycling Expo, featuring educational booths providing information on recycling and conservation resources. We'll also have food, themed conservation films, and friendly "best of" competitions amongst participants. Make sure you're a part of this good cause to help preserve our environment!

Cost: FREE!

Ages: 6–17

Location: Kentland Community Center, 2413 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover, MD 20785

Contact: 301-341-3749; TTY 301-699-2544

Find more events happening this week by visiting www.pgpcmls.com/Calendar.aspx

MPT Series *Maryland Farm & Harvest* Visits Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, and Worcester Counties

By TOM WILLIAMS
Maryland Public Television

OWINGS MILLS, Md.—Maryland Public Television's (MPT) popular original series *Maryland Farm & Harvest*, now in its sixth season, features farms and other locations in Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, and Worcester counties during a new episode airing Tuesday, January 22 at 7 p.m.

Maryland Farm & Harvest takes viewers on journeys across the state, telling stories about the farms, people, and technology required to sustain and grow Maryland's number one industry: agriculture. During the past year, MPT's production team has filmed episode segments at more than four dozen farms in preparation for the new season. [Prince George's County] segments featured on the upcoming episode are:

- **The Local Buy: Food Forest (Prince George's County).** During this week's The Local Buy, segment host Al Spoler discovers the bounty of the forest. It may not look like farming as we know it, and that's because it's not supposed to. Instead, the team at **Forested—a 10-acre food forest in Bowie**—is intent on prov-

ing that there's more than one way to feed the world. After helping to harvest chestnuts, Al gets a taste of forest garden hash, using chestnut and other forest crops. The recipe is available to viewers at mpt.org/farm.

Agriculture continues to be Maryland's largest commercial industry, contributing more than \$17 billion in revenue each year. The state currently has some 12,200 farms—84 percent of them family-owned—and nearly 6,000 full-time farmers. These farms account for more than two million acres, which translates into 40 percent of Maryland's land being used for agriculture. Approximately 350,000 Marylanders are employed in some aspect of agriculture.

More than six million viewers have tuned in to *Maryland Farm & Harvest* since its fall 2013 debut. The series has taken MPT viewers to nearly 250 farms, fisheries, and other agriculture-related locations during its first five seasons, covering every Maryland county, as well as Baltimore City and Washington, D.C.

Maryland Farm & Harvest airs on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. on MPT-HD and is **rebroadcast on Thursdays at 11:30 p.m. and Sundays at 6 a.m.** Each show also airs on MPT2

on Fridays at 7:30 p.m. More information about the series is available at mpt.org/farm, and viewers can join the conversation on social media at the hashtag #MDFarmHarvest-Fans. You can find *Maryland Farm & Harvest* pages on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture is MPT's co-production partner for *Maryland Farm & Harvest*. Major funding is provided by the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board.

Additional funding is provided by Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit; Maryland's Best; the Maryland Agricultural Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation; the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation; and the Maryland Soybean Board.

Other support comes from the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts; Wegmans Food Markets; the Maryland Nursery, Landscape & Greenhouse Association; the Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.; the Rural Maryland Council; the Maryland Seafood Marketing Advisory Commission; the Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.; Mar-Del Watermelon Association; and the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission. For more information visit mpt.org.

National Law Enforcement Museum Hosts Free Family Fun Day!

Free admission on Saturday, February 2, 2019 plus K9-focused activities for the whole family.

By ROBYN SMALL
National Law Enforcement Museum

WASHINGTON (January 16, 2019)—The National Law Enforcement Museum at the Motorola Solutions Foundation Building hosts its first free Family Fun Day on Saturday, February 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a look into the world of working K9s. As the nation's only museum dedicated to exploring nearly every facet of American law enforcement, the Museum offers a unique "walk in the shoes" experience with a wide range of content suitable for every family member.

There are many special activities slated for the Museum's free Family Fun Day, including a K9 Scavenger Hunt and a K9 Activity Cart that lets visitors participate in a K9 breed matching game or smell test. There will also be craft activities for visitors to create their own K9 or Mounted Patrol Horse, as well as design a dog collar or K9 badge. Visitors can also snap a photo in our photo booth using some of our many props. In addition, the free Family Fun Day will offer a book nook and coloring activities in the Learning Center for those visitors seeking a calmer, quieter space.

One featured activity during the free Family Fun Day will be Dog Toys for a Cause. Participants will make dog toys using recycled fabric strips. The completed dog toys will be donated to local animal shelters through a partnership with the Humane Rescue Alliance and Animal Welfare League of Arlington, Virginia. Participants will also be able to make a toy to take home to their own dog.

The Museum also welcomes special guest Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority K9 Russell. K9 Russell and his handler Matthew Werner will be on hand to meet and greet guests throughout Family Fun Day.

"Our Museum offers one of the most family-friendly and unique experiences in the Washington, DC area," said David L. Brant, executive director of the National Law Enforcement Museum. "By offering free admission during our Family Fun Day, we hope many people who haven't had the opportunity to visit our Museum will be able to experience it first-hand during this free admission day that's chocked full of activities for everyone."

In addition to the free Family Fun Day for all visitors, the Museum continues to of-

fer free admission to all furloughed federal government employees during the current partial government shutdown. Visitors who present a valid federal government ID will enjoy free admission. The Museum will also offer a \$5 discount off its general admission price for all other visitors who present a paid admission ticket from the following Washington, DC-area museums and attractions: ARTECHOUSE, Madame Tussauds DC, Newseum and The Observation Deck at CEB Tower. Please note, this special offer is not valid in combination with other offers or discounts.

Located in downtown Washington, DC, at the Judiciary Square metro station, the Museum is easily accessible by public transportation and convenient to many other museums and attractions in the nation's capital. The Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with the last visitor entry at 5 p.m. On Thursdays, the Museum is open until 9 p.m., allowing visitors to experience the Museum in a less-crowded atmosphere.

For more information on the National Law Enforcement Museum and a list of upcoming programs, please visit LawEnforcementMuseum.org or call 202-737-3400.

Earth TALK™ What Are the Environmental Impacts Of the Shutdown?

Dear EarthTalk:

Has the recent "border wall" shutdown affected the federal government's ability to safeguard our air and water quality and otherwise protect our environment and public lands?

—Peter Nicholson, via e-mail

No one is happy about the recent partial shutdown of the federal government in the U.S. as President Trump plays hardball with Congress on allocating funds for his "border wall." While essential government services typically remain open in any government shutdown, it's up to individual agencies and their administrators to decide how much of a presence to maintain during a shutdown and whether or not to furlough some or all staff.

For its part, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) curtailed the vast majority of its work once federal funding dried up on December 28, with only national security and emergency staff staying on. Some 13,000+ EPA employees have been furloughed with more than 100 agency offices across the country now closed until further notice. Until the border wall impasse is broken, the EPA has no staff to continue hazardous waste clean-up work at Superfund sites, inspect power plants to ensure compliance with air quality standards, review toxic substances and pesticides nor respond to Freedom of Information requests.

According to the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), the environmental protections we otherwise take for granted "grind to a halt" during a shutdown: "Chemical facilities are not inspected. Agricultural technical assistance projects are shut down. The protection of species stops. Research is also disrupted, which can lead to gaps in data or entire lost field seasons (and huge wastes of taxpayer dollars)."

As for national parks, about two-thirds remain open but have limited services, so visitors shouldn't expect the same level of sanitation or monitoring that is customary. While there is no one to collect entrance fees, likewise there is no one to pump out toilets, empty trash or intervene in case of interpersonal disputes or wildlife encounters. All National Parks Service (NPS) personnel (except firefighters monitoring active burns or watch areas and essential leadership at headquarters) have been furloughed.

The Department of Interior has authorized individual parks to dip into their entrance and recreation fees to help pay for essential/emergency services during the shutdown, although the use of these funds will likely slow down maintenance projects by months or years as a result.

While this closure of national parks is an annoyance to Americans planning a visit, it's also an economic problem. The non-

profit National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) reports that NPS has lost upwards of \$5 million in entrance fee revenue since the shutdown began, while local businesses and concession operators dependent upon servicing park visitors are also losing out on much-needed income.

Despite closures at the EPA, the NPS and other agencies related to the environment, the federal push to open up more land and offshore waters to fossil fuel extraction continues unabated. According to *The Guardian*, the Interior Department hasn't slowed down efforts to issue permits for oil drilling on federal land and in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska's Arctic. "While he's closed the government to the American people, Trump has hung up an 'open for business' sign for corporate polluters," reports Melinda Pierce, legislative director at the non-profit Sierra Club.

CONTACTS: EPA, www.epa.gov; UCS, www.ucsusa.org; NPS, www.nps.gov; NPCA, www.npca.org; Sierra Club, www.sierraclub.org.

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

CHRISTMAS IN APRIL*PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY To Repair Approximately 80 Homes on Saturday, April 27, 2019

Urgent need for all skilled trades people!

Christmas in April*Prince George's County will be repairing the homes of approximately 80 disadvantaged homeowners with the help of approximately 3,000 volunteers on Saturday, April 27, 2019.

In order to assist our neighbors we are in **urgent need of all skilled trades people (such as carpenters, painters, plumbers, roofers, jack of all trades and contractors)**. If you can help us, please contact Mary Kucharski, Executive

Director of Christmas in April*Prince George's County at 301-868-0937 or email us at cinapg@aol.com

Thank you for your assistance!

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Federal Workers from A1

the president's office urging the same, and both have spread further concerns on Twitter.

"I just sent @realDonaldTrump a letter asking that he listen to the stories of those suffering under his #shutdown," Cardin tweeted Tuesday. "But he needs to hear directly from you. To all those impacted, to our federal workers—share your #ShutdownStories here. Help us put an end to this chaos."

"As the shutdown continues, our federal workers shouldn't face losing their homes or defaulting on their student loans because @SenateGOP are taking orders from the President instead of the people they represent," Van Hollen tweeted.

Smith also weighed in on Twitter with a personal tie-in: "The human toll of Trump's shutdown is very real. Derek, a Farmington air traffic controller, wrote me, 'It is quite ridiculous that an air traffic controller would be affected by political games. Take us off the bargaining table.' Couldn't agree more. #EndTheShutdown."

Van Hollen also left Capitol Hill on Friday to meet with other federal employees affected by the shutdown in Silver Spring on Jan. 11.

In addition to the legislation and meetings to push for an end to the longest government shutdown in history, Van Hollen is refusing to accept his paychecks, according to a WBAL radio news report.

Besides Van Hollen, CNN reports more than 70 federal lawmakers are foregoing pay during the shutdown, including Maryland Reps. Dutch Ruppersberger and David Trone, both Democrats.

Looking to the future, Cardin is teaming up with Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Virginia, to try to create legislation that will guarantee back pay on a more permanent basis in case of future shutdowns, according to the *Washington Business Journal*.

'Red Flag' from A1

del County man was fatally shot by county officers during a struggle over a gun while he was being served a red flag order.

"It makes you take a double take and question due process," said Delegate Robin Grammer, R-Baltimore County, commenting on how someone had been fatally shot in the few short months the law has been in place.

Confidentiality rules included with the law do not allow for the disclosure of case details.

In Anne Arundel County, 47 orders have been filed between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31, the highest in the state. This could be due to a greater awareness in the county, Popkin said.

At the *Capital Gazette* newsroom in Annapolis, Maryland, five staff members were fatally shot in June.

The man charged in the killing had a long-running grudge against the newspaper. He has pleaded not guilty.

Harriet Tubman from A6

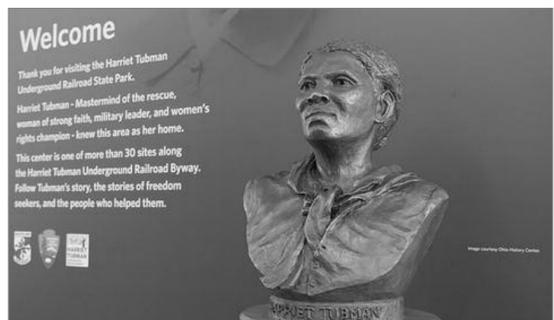


PHOTO COURTESY OF MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Photo of Harriet Tubman bust at Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park and Visitor Center.

the 21st century. "This Far By Faith: Harriet Tubman's Spiritual Journeys to Freedom" takes place at 3 p.m.

Each Sunday—Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24—programming begins at 11 a.m. with "Story Time with Mama Mary," exploring the concept of self-liberation through engaging storytelling and self-reflection with Ranger "Mama Mary" Dennard. Also on Sundays (except for Feb. 17), "Important Women in Harriet Tubman's Life" begins at 3 p.m. exploring the lives of three influential women in Tubman's life: her mother, the author of her first biography and a famous women's suffragist.

The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park and Visitor Center, soon to begin its third year of operation, has hosted hundreds of thousands of visitors from 70 countries and territories and all 50 states. This state-of-the-art, green facility is managed in partnership with the National Park Service.

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MARYLAND ARTS DAY

Thursday, February 14, 2019
Annapolis, Maryland
8:15 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Early Bird Registration Fee \$25
After January 31, Registration \$40

The date for Maryland Arts Day 2019 is set for Thursday, February 14. Register NOW for the most important arts advocacy event of the year. Join the chorus of voices that will be making the case for public funding for the arts to Maryland lawmakers. This exhilarating event brings together more than 500 arts advocates, artists, educators, administrators, board members, volunteers, and more from across the state. In addition to remarks from lawmakers passionate about the arts and the presentation of the annual Sue Hess Arts Advocate of the Year Award, attendees will hear from dazzling keynote speaker Stephanie Ybarra (Artistic Director, Baltimore Center Stage), and have the opportunity to champion the arts directly with their lawmakers. Be on the lookout for future updates on the Maryland Arts Day site, as well as our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages.

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The MDDC Press Foundation is looking for an outstanding senior staff member from a high school newspaper (print or online) in Maryland, Delaware or D.C.

Win a \$1,500 CASH SCHOLARSHIP!

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Application Deadline: March 1, 2019

Michael S. Powell
High School Journalist of the Year