

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SINCE 1932

Vol. 87, No. 12 March 21 — March 27, 2019

Prince George's County, Maryland

Newspaper of Record

Phone: 301-627-0900

25 cents

PGFD Fire Investigator Graduates Police Academy With Distinction

By MARK E. BRADY
Prince George's County
Fire/EMS Department

LARGO, Md. (March 13, 2019)—A Prince George's County Firefighter/Medic joined the County Police Basic Training Academy Class 138 in order to qualify for the position of Fire Investigator. Fire Fighter/Medic Andi Inez Villasenor graduated [March 13] with her class and did so with distinction.

Villasenor was presented with three top honors during the ceremony including; Sergeant Robert J. Talbert Memorial Award for

Physical Fitness, Sergeant F. Gaughan Memorial Award for Achievement in Criminal Law and the Sergeant Joseph K. Brown Memorial Award for the Highest Academic Class Average (97.8%). "I am impressed and honored to have a Fire/EMS Department member graduate with such high accolades," said Fire Chief Benjamin M. Barksdale.

Joining Fire Chief Barksdale at the graduation ceremony in Largo were Deputy Fire Chief Alan Doubleday, Assistant Fire Chiefs BJ Harris and Gary Krichbaum as well as the majority of the personnel from the

Fire/EMS Department's Office of the Fire Marshal.

"I could not be more proud of Fire Investigator Villasenor. Her achievements during her time at the Police Academy reflect favorably upon her as an individual and on the Fire/EMS Department as a whole," said Fire Chief Barksdale.

Deputy Chief Alan Doubleday who oversees the Office of the Fire Marshal said, "Fire Investigator Villasenor is joining a talented group of personnel. Her skills and talents will be put to good use as a member of the Office of the Fire Marshal."

Statement: Council Chair Todd M. Turner on Proposed FY 2020 Budget

Council Begins Budget Review Process Following Receipt of County Executive's Proposed Spending Plan

By ANGELA ROUSON

Prince George's County Council Media

UPPER MARLBORO (March 14, 2019)—[On March 14], the Prince George's County Council received an overview of the Fiscal Year 2020 Operating and Capital Budget proposals from County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. Addressing the County's budget priorities in Fiscal Year 2020 demands efficient and effective management of the County's finances and we appreciate the great vision, focus and diligence of the Executive Branch in formulating this proposed spending plan.

This Council is committed to an open, inclusive and participatory budget process, and we look forward to working collaboratively with County Executive Alsobrooks and her budget team, County residents, and all stake holders to produce a final spending plan that reflects our shared priorities for education; crime reduction and safe neighborhoods; economic development; quality of life; transportation; infrastructure and the environment.

The 2020 Fiscal Year begins July 1, 2019. Pursuant to the County Charter, the County Council, in its role as fiscal steward over taxpayer dollars, must adopt a balanced spending plan for Prince George's County on or before June 1.

Over the next few months, the County Council will engage in a careful and deliberate review of the FY 2020 budget proposal. This process includes work through the Council committees, staff reviews, and vitally important public engagement. The Council will hold several public meetings and hearings regarding the budget before it is adopted. Citizens and residents are strongly encouraged to attend the following County Council Public Hearings on the proposed FY 2020 County Budget.

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) Budget—April 9, 2019, 2:00 p.m.

Community Development Block Grant—April 16, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Budget—April 23, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

FY 2020 County Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program—April 29 and May 7, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

All Council budget public hearings will be held in the Council Hearing Room, First Floor, County Administration Building, 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive, in Upper Marlboro. To testify, contact the Clerk of the Council at 301-952-3600, TDD 301-925-5167.

Public hearing dates and times are subject to change. All Council meetings, including budget sessions, are live-streamed and available via the Council's website, <https://pgccouncil.us>, for on-demand viewing. For updated information on the Council budget process, committee work sessions and public hearings, visit the Council's FY 2020 Budget Portal.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT

Fire Investigator Villasenor has the honor to present the class flag of Police Basic Training Class #138.

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration Honors Year of the Veteran

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (March 13, 2019)—Last month, Governor Larry Hogan proclaimed 2019 the Year of the Veteran in Maryland. The proclamation raises awareness of the service of Maryland's 380,000 veterans as well as highlights several significant military anniversaries. At the top of that list is the fifth anniversary of the first piece of legislation signed into law by Hogan which established Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.

Hospice of the Chesapeake is honored to be part of that historic moment, as it was at the nonprofit's request that the legislation was introduced by state Sen. John Astle in 2015. The intent of the law was to celebrate and acknowledge every Vietnam Veteran and give them the warm welcome and gratitude they deserved five decades ago.

Just as they have done the last four years, the nonprofit invites Vietnam Veterans and their guests to find resources,

a time of fellowship and a warm and hearty welcome at its 5th annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration. The event will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. March 29 at Baltimore BWI Hilton Hotel, 1739 W. Nursery Road, Linthicum, Maryland.

The doors will open at 4 p.m. so Vietnam Veterans can enjoy hors d'oeuvres and beverages while catching up with fellow brothers and sisters of the war. The 90 minutes prior to the start of the program also will be a time to visit with representatives from a number of agencies and organizations dedicated to assisting veterans.

The program will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will feature remarks from Dr. Scott Shreve, National Director of Hospice and Palliative Care for Veterans Affairs and retired Army Sgt. Major Rodwell L. Forbes, Fort George G. Meade's former Garrison Command Sergeant Major, among others. Other highlights will include patriotic music performed by the U. S. Naval Academy Band and Voices

of Vets, Honor Salutes led by Fort George G. Meade's Garrison Command Sergeant Major Brian S. Cullen and the premier of an inspirational video about the importance of volunteering to care for and honor veterans. The event is sponsored by TowerCares Foundation and Bill and Rose Lovelace.

Tickets are required to attend and can be obtained online at <https://www.hospicechesapeake.org/2019-whvvd/>. They are free for Vietnam Veterans and one guest. All others may attend for \$30 per person.

With offices in Pasadena and Largo, Maryland, the nonprofit is a Commemorative Partner in the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration as well as a Level 5 Partner in the We Honor Veterans program, a national hospice initiative honoring the men and women from all branches of the military who have served our country.

For 40 years, Hospice of the Chesapeake has been caring for life throughout the



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT: JIM WELDAY

(March 29, 2018) Retired Navy Lt. Cmdr. Bobbi Hovis shows off her Woman Veteran hat as she attends her fourth Hospice of the Chesapeake Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. Hovis was the first Navy nurse to volunteer to go to Vietnam in 1963.

journey with illness and loss. For more information, please visit www.hospicechesapeake.org.

Editor's Note: See page A8 for information on the 9th annual Maryland Veterans Creative Arts Festival in Bowie.

INSIDE

To Be Equal: College Admissions Scandal Highlights Rampant Inequality in Educational Access

Given the outrageous advantage wealthy families already legally have, the cheating scandal throws new light on the disparity of opportunity for low-income students and children of color.

Commentary, Page A4

Doctors Community Hospital's Four-Star Quality Rating Highest in Prince George's County

According to medicare.gov, "Health Compare has information about the quality of care at over 4,000 Medicare-certified hospitals, including over 130 Veteran Administration (VA) medical centers, across the country."

Community, Page A5

Coalition Vows to Reform Dark Underbelly of Timeshare Industry

"The timeshare is expensive, and the maintenance fees continue to increase," said Tanyelle Dyson. "Every time I try to book something there is nothing available and I'm not able to go on any vacation."

Business and Finance, Page A5

Movie Review:

Green Book

Whatever flaws the film has, its two leads are well-matched, with an easy-going rapport. And there's an undeniable thrill to seeing racist crackers get their comeuppance, no matter how contrived or manipulative it may be.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

I saw a news item about overhauling classic old cars with electric engines, and wondering if this can be done with any old car, such as my 1999 Subaru Outback?

—Tim St. Germain, Boise, ID

Features, Page A7

TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Mary's life and times, or how are things going so far?

I turned 90 last week. I was feted with a big family bash at daughter Elaine's Turning Pointe Dance studio in Hanover. It was great fun.

But, to start at the beginning: I was born March 12, 1929 at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit to Dr. Richard Mudd, an intern from Washington D.C., and Rose Krummack Mudd, a nurse from Nebraska. I grew up in Dearborn, Cincinnati and Saginaw, Michigan, and got my education with the nuns at Catholic elementary schools.

By 1941 America was at war. Dad moved us to Kelly Field in San Antonio where he headed the medical department and I attended Our Lady of the Lake High School. World War II ended, and the Mudds—Mom and Dad and seven kids—house-trailed back to Saginaw.

I went off to St. Mary's College in South Bend, majored in Spanish, minored in journalism and edited the school paper. St. Mary's was just across the road from the University of Notre Dame. That changed my life.

And then...

I met Jack McHale at a tea dance. (They really had those back there, but tea was never served. Instead we gathered in the Social Hall, with a Victrola and stack of big band records. And we danced.) He was a Notre Dame journalism major from Houston, Texas. In 1950 we both graduated. On Jan. 3, 1951, we wed at St. Mary's Cathedral in Saginaw, packed the car with all my earthly belongings and motored to Houston.

Jack was a reporter for The Houston Press but soon joined the FBI. We drove to Washington for FBI training and to meet Mr. Hoover. Jack's first office was Los Angeles, then San Francisco, before transfer in 1958 back to Washington. We settled in Skyline where we raised our seven children. I still live in the same house.

As my children grew up and moved away, I became involved in St. Philip's School Library and continued my education by earning a master's in library science at Catholic University. I retired from St. Philip's Library in 1999.

I had started editing the Skyline

Newsletter in 1970 and writing this column in 1976. I continue to do both.

And now...

In 2004 I lost my Jack and in 2016, my son Brian. I miss them so much!

My children—Kathleen, Mike, Therese, John, Elaine and Sheila—did a remarkable job putting together my 90th celebration. Most of my grand- and great-grandchildren and my sister Stella were there. All told, about 40.

But there was an unexpected guest...

Flu! About a quarter of those who attended came down with it. Me, too. I'm typing, still coughing and sneezing, but enjoying sharing my life with you.

Neighbors and other good people

The Morningside Volunteer Fire Department has been All Volunteer for six years now and continues to do a great job. The 2018 numbers are impressive: 95,200 hours of participation with 7,562 responses.

The Knights of Columbus in Forestville honor some of their members each month: Tom Corbett was named January Knight of the Month and Dave Cropper, February Knight of the Month. Carl & Opal Crawford were named Family of the Month for January, and George & Ruth Hoehl, Family of the Month for February.

Morningsiders go to the polls the first Monday in May to elect a Mayor and two Council Members. I'll soon have a list of who's running.

Changing landscape

Burlington is hosting its Grand Opening in Clinton, and with any purchase, they'll gift you with a free umbrella, though March 31. The new store is just off Route 5 at 8831 Woodyard Road. Hours: 9 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., except Sunday when it closes at 10. Info: 240-318-9372.

A replica of Air Force One, the President's plane, is now the centerpiece of an exhibit at 801 National Harbor Blvd. in Oxon Hill. Tours are available from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. daily. For information, call 844-302-1379 or www.airforceoneexperience.com.

The Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum closed March 13 for a

seven-month renovation to upgrade its entrance, increase usable outdoor space and its community garden. The Museum, at 1901 Fort Place SE, opened in 1957.

Morningside Memories: 49 years ago

Benjamin D. Foulois Junior High School was dedicated March 10, 1970 with Harold E. Bayes, Principal. Fr. Francis Dolan, Assistant Pastor at St. Philip's Church, gave the Invocation.

Less than a year later, on Jan. 31, 1971, Fr. Dolan suffered a massive cerebral hemorrhage while playing basketball with teens during Open Gym, at Foulois. He died. He was 42.

Dick Krueger, CIA Director, Broad Creek activist

Richard A. "Dick" Krueger, of Fort Washington and former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, died Jan. 15. During his 40-year intelligence career, he was advisor to U.S. Presidents, served in Japan, Iran and Australia, and met with such interesting people as the Shah of Iran and Einstein. He played a role in designing the U-2 spy plane.

But he always returned to Southern Maryland where he lived in Glassmanor before moving to Broad Creek. He was a founding member of the Indian Head Highway Area Action Council, chairman of the Broad Creek Historic District Advisory Committee, and active member of the Agricultural Preservation Work Group, county Department of Public Works and Transportation Community Group to redesign Oxon Hill, Community Liaison and Architectural Review Board for the District 7 Police Station. He was a great friend of St. John's Episcopal Church.

Mary, his wife of 50 years, predeceased him. Survivors include children Mark and Jack Krueger and Karen Dugleby, and seven grandchildren.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Ruth Anthony, my great-grandson Jack McHale and Hudson Murphy Glaubitz, March 23; Ken Kyser and Jay Rollins, March 25; Gina Foster, March 26;

Walter Dimes, March 27; Robert Hay, Jr. and David Righter, March 28.

Happy anniversary to Terry and Gina Foster on March 26.

Around the County

Local Students Honored

Maryland Students Among Fall 2018 Graduates Of Fort Hays State University

HAYS, Kan. (March 12, 2019)—Local and area students from Maryland are among the 867 who completed associate, bachelor's or graduate degrees at Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kan., in the fall 2018 semester.

Graduates are listed with their degrees and majors and, in parentheses, areas of concentration.

Upper Marlboro: Julie Ann Gordon, a Bachelor of General Studies (literature).

The university conferred 222 graduate degrees (master's, Education Specialist and Doctor of Nursing Practice), 625 bachelor's degrees and 20 associate degrees.

Fort Hays State, one of six public universities in the Kansas Board of Regents system, does not release degree lists until transcripts have been verified as having met all requirements for graduation.

—*University Relations and Marketing, Fort Hays State University*

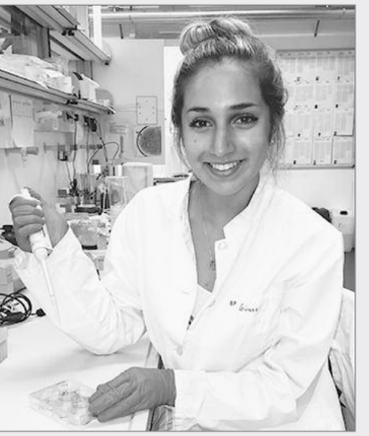
Salisbury University Celebrates Student Success

SALISBURY, Md. (March 13, 2019)—Salisbury University is celebrating the following student success:

Senior **Lauren DeLong of Laurel, MD**, president of SU's American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) student chapter, recently was featured in the organization's national magazine, *ASBMB Today*.

She discussed how she began her SU experience as a high school student, reaching out to ask professors about their research. Once enrolled, she became involved in undergraduate research. Upon graduating, she hopes to pursue a Ph.D. in molecular biology and molecular genetics, aspiring to become a professor.

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



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY SALISBURY UNIVERSITY

Lauren DeLong

—*Kathryn Sullivan, Salisbury University*

Salisbury University Fall 2018 Grad List

SALISBURY, Md. (March 14, 2019)—Some 17 Prince George's County students recently graduated from Salisbury University. They were among the 714 students who received 606 bachelor's degrees, 107 master's degrees and one doctoral degree during a ceremony at the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center.

Clinton area residents include **Derick Boyd**, B.S., information systems; **Sonaya Caldwell**, B.S., exercise science; and **Eric Spangler**, M.S., applied health physiology.

Greenbelt area residents include **Abigail Flores-Cruz**, B.A., psychology; and **Njei Teke**, B.S., interdisciplinary studies.

Laurel area residents include **Brian Hammond**, B.S., physical education; **Jordan Lew**, B.A., political science; **Victoria Myles**, B.A., sociology; and **Martina Maya-Callen**, B.F.A., magna cum laude, B.A., conflict analysis and dispute resolution, magna cum laude.

Other area residents include **Treasure Thompson**, B.A., sociology, of Accokeek; **Nicholas Thompson**, B.F.A., of Bowie; **Azia Terry**, B.S., exercise science, of Capitol Heights; **Tajeh Frazier**, B.S., early childhood education, of District Heights; **Jordan Burrows**, B.S., business economics, of Fort Washington; **Adijat Adeyemi**, B.S.N, of Hyattsville; **Myles Jackson**, B.S., exercise science, of Springdale; and **Charyssa Norris**, B.A., music, of Temple Hills.

—*Raven Collic, Salisbury University*

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

MARCH BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to Elizabeth Davis, Brewer Clark, Marquis Wallace, Shirley Brown, Dezmood Wood, Anthony Oghogho, Elena Gatling, Safiya Terry-Joseph, Brittany Baker, Denise Reid Bourne, Mildred Edwards, Vedall Grant, Lloyd Brown, Patricia Stephens, Tina Fields, Maya Stammer, Aja LayLonie Bell, Henry Thomas, Bonnie Fauber, Shirley Jackson, Dr. Kenneth Newby, Judy Jones-Terry, Amiya Knight, Shonnel Noel, Daniel Jones, Daniel Glee who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating birthdays during the month of March, 2019.

"OH, SAY" CAN SHE SING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Basketball fans who were in their Hytche Athletic Center seats early to take in the 2019 homecoming games February 16 against Coppin State were treated to a rare, live performance of the national anthem. Chanda Brown-Wilson, UMES class of 2010, sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" a cappella, creating an instant buzz among fellow alumni and adding to her growing resumé of public performances of the tricky song.

A year ago, Brown-Wilson answered an open audition call by the Washington Nationals baseball team, which gives polished local singers a chance to perform the pre-game tradition. She impressed the judges and earned the chance to appear on the field at an early season game April 9, a performance that boosted her confidence to pursue singing professionally.

With support and guidance from friend Kris Hicks, who posted a recording of the 2018 baseball game performance on social media, Brown-Wilson has since done encores at other public events, including D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser's inauguration and the National Park Service's 2018 Juneteenth celebration on Theodore Roosevelt Island. "Those were all pretty exciting opportunities," Brown-Wilson said. How does being invited to sing for a UMES homecoming rank?

"Pretty high, I'm excited," she said before rehearsal. "I've always been someone who enjoyed singing along at all sporting events," especially at UMES volleyball matches when she was an undergraduate majoring in math.

Chanda Brown-Wilson, UMES class of 2010 who lives in Clinton, Maryland delivered a flawless rendition at Homecoming, drawing a robust round of applause from an appreciative audience. Singing has been a part of her life since her youth; she attended Suitland High School in Suitland, Maryland because the school had a performing arts magnet program with voice training and continued singing while a UMES student under the tutelage of Dr. Sheila Harleston.

"She was very nurturing, and concerned for each student," Brown-Wilson said of Harleston. "She took the time to explain the content of the music, which I really appreciate." Brown-Wilson, who has worked in business development and is a praise-worship leader at her church, Metropolitan in Largo, describes her national anthem singing style as a mix of gospel and inspirational. The goal is to deliver it in about two minutes "give or take". "It's not as easy as it may sound," she said. "I want to be known for producing quality work." UMES alumni at Homecoming 2019 would say she delivered.

I really enjoyed meeting Chanda at Homecoming. It was indeed a pleasure to sit at the table with this young lady during halftime at the game and fellowship. Chanda, good luck in all your future endeavors.

2019 CLUBHOUSE SUPER SUMMER CAMP

Worldview Clubhouse 2019 Super Summer Camp will be June 17–August 30, 2019. Our activities include devotions, academics, field trips every day, sports camp and other activities. The camp is open to ages 3–teens. Weekly cost is \$130 w/out lunch. Sign up today. Please call for more information 301-372-0053 or visit our website www.wvelc.com. Registration for the 2019–2020 Before & After Care Program is now open. Enroll today.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: Over the last several years drug overdoses have continued to increase. At this point, the Surgeon General has issued a statement for all communities to increase Narcan availability since research shows when communities increase education and availability, the number of overdose deaths decrease. For more information, visit: <https://www.narcononnewliferetreat.org/blog/where-to-get-narcan.htm>. **Addiction Screenings:** Narconon can help you take steps to overcome addiction in your family. Call today for free screenings or referrals. **1-800-431-1754**

Davon Carroll Competed in NCAA Indoor Track and Field

PITTSBURG, Kan. (March 9, 2019)—Bowie State University freshman Davon Carroll was the lone competitor in NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field Championships held in Pittsburg, Kansas at the Robert W. Plaster Center.

Carroll first competed in the men's 60-meter dash and the first-year runner placed 15th with the time of 6.93 in the preliminary race.

"I'm so proud of this freshman Davon Carroll who had a choice to go anywhere, and he chose Bowie State University. He is a humble young man that doesn't let his wins go to his head. Davon was a stellar high school athlete and this year as a freshman, he was able to perform well to not just qualify for nationals but make it to the big dance," said BSU track and field coach Michelle Latimer.

In the 200-meter dash preliminary race, Carroll was timed at 21.87 and finished 15th to end his NCAA Championship bid.

"Coach Dennison Long prepared him [Carroll] for the dance to be one of the top sixteen in Division II in the nation, but Davon fell short. He ran his slowest time out of the past three meets," said Coach Latimer. "What I liked about it was when he came to stand; he was able to critique his on 60. In the 200-meter dash, he said wow, they got out. Davon had his first-ever race on a 300-meter track, so it was a different race."

"I told Davon to forget the race, forget the defeat and let's prepare to get back here in outdoor and work towards a better outcome. If I could do something different as a head coach for this young man and anyone else on the team that qualifies for indoor is to keep them in competition mode because waiting almost three weeks to perform is hard on any athlete. I believe in prayer, patient and time will help us achieve more. I'm proud of this Davon Carroll and Coach Long," stated Latimer.

Bowie State [opened] its Outdoor Track and Field season March 14th at the Alan Connie Shamrock Invitational in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

—*Gregory C. Goings, Bowie State Sports Information*



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COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

College Admissions Scandal Highlights Rampant Inequality in Educational Access

I have probable cause to believe that the defendants conspired with others known and unknown: (1) to bribe college entrance exam administrators to facilitate cheating on college entrance exams; (2) to bribe varsity coaches and administrators at elite universities to designate certain applicants as recruited athletes or as other favored candidates, thereby facilitating the applicants' admission to those universities; and (3) to use the facade of a charitable organization to conceal the nature and source of the bribe payments.

—FBI College Admissions Bribery Scheme Affidavit

In a few weeks, the National Urban League will release report cards on states' plans to address

inequity in their education system—plans they are required to submit to the federal government under the Every Child Succeeds Act.

The task is daunting, as inequities are stark, everywhere in the United States.

That's why the nation was outraged by the news that wealthy parents—whose children already have inconceivable advantages over low-income families—allegedly resorted to outright bribery and fraud to get their children into elite colleges.

More than 50 people, including two Hollywood actresses, were charged on allegations that ranged from included cheating on entrance exams and bribing college officials to claim falsely that certain students were athletic recruits.

That money plays a big role in elite college admissions has been no secret. A donation of \$500,000 or more can equal 500 points on the SAT, according to journalist Daniel Golden, author of *The Price of Admission: How America's Ruling Class Buys Its Way into Elite Colleges—and Who Gets Left Outside the Gates*.

Given the outrageous advantage wealthy families already legally have, the cheating scandal throws new light on the disparity of opportunity for low-income students and children of color. Disadvantaged students and their families who are striving with all their might and resources to overcome systemic challenges viewed the scandal with particular despair.

"Just knowing that due to circumstances outside of school, you do give your best in all that you can, but you also have to kind of balance being an adult," High school senior Khiana Jackson of Kansas City told *The New York Times*. "To know that these parents are throwing money at all of these people and being like, 'Can you do this for my child,' it's kind of discouraging. Some of us will probably have to work our whole lifetime to see money like this."

African-American students have far less access to college preparatory courses. According to the United Negro College Fund, only 57 percent of Black students have access to a full range of math and science courses necessary for college readi-

ness, compared to with 81 percent of Asian American students and 71 percent of white students.

When Black students do attend schools that offer honors or advanced placement courses, they are vastly underrepresented. Black and Latino students comprise 38 percent of students in such schools, but only 29 percent of students enrolled in at least one AP course.

African American students are often located in schools with less qualified teachers, teachers with lower salaries and novice teachers, according to UNCF.

Black students are twice as likely to have their education disrupted by suspension, nearly four times as likely to receive out-of-school suspensions, and more than twice as likely to be referred to law enforcement or subjected to a school-related arrest.

Students of color are much more likely to attend schools where three-quarters of the students or more are poor or low-income, and poor districts with a higher proportion of students of color have been shown to receive substantially less state funding than comparably poor districts that have more white students.

Anyone convicted of engaging in criminal activity to bypass an already-rigged college admissions process should be punished to the full extent of the law. But more importantly, we need to address a system riddled with bias and inequality.

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Continued Cruel Threats to Hungry Families and Children

Once again children and families are under attack. After failing in past efforts to slash funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, also known as food stamps), the Trump administration is taking a new approach to crippling the program millions of families in the United States depend on to survive and alleviate their hunger pangs. Recently the administration proposed regulations to tighten restrictions on access to SNAP benefits for unemployed and underemployed people who can't document sufficient weekly work hours. This rule would take food assistance away from an estimated 755,000 people who cannot find work. It is also a callous response to the bipartisan Farm Bill which passed in the fall and rejected harmful

cuts to SNAP. If this rule goes forward, it's not just unemployed and underemployed adults who will go hungry—poor children suffer when adults in their household lose access to food assistance. But it's not too late to protect these children if you make your voice heard immediately and tell the Department of Agriculture not to take food away from needy families.

Children need reliable access to healthy food to thrive. Hunger and malnutrition jeopardize children's health, development, school readiness and job readiness. SNAP helps feed more than 40 million low income people in America including nearly 20 million children—more than one in four—and lifted more than 1.5 million children out of poverty in 2016,

more than any other government program. Given the critical role SNAP plays for children and families in communities across the country, the proposed changes that would kick hundreds of thousands of people off SNAP are mean spirited, short sighted, and harmful, will increase food insecurity, and must be stopped.

While current law doesn't permit SNAP work requirements for children or adults with children, the ripple effects of these expanded restrictions extend beyond the people they target. Imposing work requirements on able bodied adults without dependents harms children too because children living in poverty often depend on pooled resources including SNAP benefits from extended family members, such as older siblings, who don't claim them as dependents. This means time limits will hurt not only the adults cut off from the food they need to survive but also children and others they may be helping support. Studies also show low-income parents without primary custody of children often rely on the availability of SNAP and other forms of assistance including the Earned Income Tax Credit to help them stretch available dollars from work and afford child support payments. In both scenarios additional burdensome restrictions on SNAP eligibility for these adults means fewer available resources to support the health and well-being of children.

Young people aging out of foster care without permanent families also will be at increased risk.

They may continue to suffer the trauma that led them into care or resulted from their time in care, leading to high rates of unemployment, poverty and increased need for food assistance. This vulnerable population already faces enough formidable barriers to accessing SNAP due to existing work requirements. Any efforts to further restrict access or eliminate state exemptions from these requirements would be particularly harmful.

The newly released 2020 Trump Budget makes clear this administration is willing to slash programs needy families depend on to make ends meet while increasing military spending and diverting billions to the border wall. The President's harsh budget calls for \$220 billion in spending cuts to SNAP over the next decade. Let's fight back at a White House that takes aim at basic supports millions of children depend on.

The Children's Defense Fund will be joining many other organizations and individuals submitting comments opposing this SNAP rule before the April 2 deadline and you can too. Learn more about this harmful policy and submit your comments with this easy-to-use tool from our friends at the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC). Join us right now in speaking out against harmful changes to SNAP! As the Food Research and Action Center puts it, echoing the gospels, prophets and teachings of every major religion: *Food for the hungry shouldn't have a time limit.*

County Council Formally Welcomes Amazon HQ2 to the Region; Council Letter to Amazon Says County Is Ready For Partnership Opportunities

By KAREN D. CAMPBELL
Prince George's County Council Media

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (March 15, 2019)—The Prince George's County Council, during session on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, unanimously voted to authorize a letter welcoming Amazon HQ2 to the Washington Metropolitan Region. The Council letter also echoes County Executive Angela Alsobrooks' sentiments in her February correspondence to Amazon, announcing the County's readiness to partner with the multinational E-commerce company.

Council Chair Todd M. Turner says the Council looks forward to Amazon's future in the region and potential opportunities in Prince George's County.

"We stand ready, along with the County Executive, our Economic Development Corporation and our private sector partners, to help Amazon explore opportunities in Prince George's County now that the decision has been made to come to the Washington, D.C. region."

Addressed to Worldwide Economic Development Director Holly Sullivan, the Council letter notes that Prince George's County is "uniquely

positioned to assist Amazon in the creation of the neighborhood it seeks in the Greater Washington region," citing housing opportunities for employees and growth and development opportunities for ancillary businesses.

Specifically, the letter references the County's strategic focus on Transit-Oriented Development, the County's General Plan 2035, Zoning Ordinance Rewrite Process, Economic Development Incentive Fund, and the Comprehensive Housing Strategy, as seeds for growing ancillary and entrepreneurial enterprises that will emerge from Amazon HQ2 presence in the region, and as a re-

source to help address Amazon's workforce housing needs.

The letter also shares a conclusion of the County's Economic Development Policy "A Targeted Economic Development Strategic Plan for Prince George's County," that the County has a diverse, high-value economy, with numerous assets that would be attractive to Amazon—federal installations, institutions of higher learning, a well-developed transportation and mass transit network, a highly-educated workforce pipeline, and available land for development at highly-competitive real estate costs.

Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin Statement on the Terrorist Attack On Mosques in New Zealand

WASHINGTON (March 15, 2019)—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin, a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance, expressed deep condolences and called for tolerance and respect for all in the wake of the terrorist attacks on mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand that left at least 49 people dead:

"We mourn the loss of 49 innocent worshippers who were tragically killed by terrorists driven by Islamophobia, racism, and xenophobia. We cannot let hate and violence continue to poison our world and must stand united against those who only wish to tear down and hurt others who are different. No one should ever fear for their

life because of their faith. Compassion, freedom, and love for thy neighbor must win out over prejudice and xenophobia. We express our condolences to the people of New Zealand and are ready to assist in this time of need. We must stand together and show the world that the good and sacred in our communities will always be more powerful than fear and hate."

In 2015, Senator Cardin was appointed to serve as the first Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance in the OSCE's Parliamentary Assembly. In this role, as well as through his ongoing work in the U.S. Senate, Senator Cardin remains dedicating to combat hate, prejudice and discrimination worldwide.

The Prince George's Post



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The Prince George's Post

The Prince George's Post
P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151
Phone: 301-627-0900 • Legal Fax: 301-627-6260
Email: pgpost@gmail.com
Contents © 2019, The Prince George's Post

Publisher/Senior Editor Legusta Floyd	Editor Lisa Duan
General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager Brenda Boice	Administrative Assistant/ Billing Julie Volosin
Legal Advertising Assistant Robin Boerckel	Web Manager Kyler Quesenberry

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

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Benefitting From The Silence

As you've probably noticed, it's a noisy world. All our technology helps ensure we're never sitting in silence. But experts advise that may not be the best thing for us.

Silence and solitude have been shown to improve our physical and mental wellbeing. And gaining the benefits of silence in our lives really isn't that difficult.

Researchers found that even a quiet walk in a park can stimulate brain growth in the hippocampus, leading to better memory. They found that three walks per week of forty minutes were enough to stimulate such growth.

The noise of our lives has a measurable effect on our brains. Sounds we hear cause our bodies to react, stimulating the release of stress hormones. Silence has an opposite effect. One study found silence could reduce tension after just two minutes. Silence was more relaxing than music, helping lower blood pressure and improving blood circulation in the brain. Silence has also been shown to benefit the body's immune systems, reduce plaque formation in arteries and help fight insomnia.

So how do you reduce the noise in your life? It starts with a conscious choice to seek the silence. You need to put away the tech devices, escape from the demands of family, friends and work, and instead find silence, even if only in small bites of quiet time.

One easy way is to get outside in nature and take a walk. If you want to walk with someone else, that's fine, but just agree that at least part of the walk will be in mutual silence.

You might also start off your day with a five-minute delay in getting out of bed. Use the time to awaken slowly, enjoy the early morning quiet, and think warm, pleasant thoughts rather than rushing into the worries and pressures of the day.

Another simple way to focus on silence is with deep breathing exercises during the day. Focusing on your breathing, even for just a minute or two, can help calm your mind and shut out the noises of the world.

Meditation is another path to silence for many. Whether you teach yourself, use an online app or take a class, it can help you silently focus on your thoughts.

Silence may seem hard to find at times, but putting some silence in your life can bring you considerable benefits.

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

Doctors Community Hospital's Four-Star Quality Rating Highest in County

By ANGELA WILSON
Doctors Community Hospital

LANHAM, Md. (March 12, 2019)—Doctors Community Hospital earned a four-star quality rating from Hospital Compare. This rating was the highest among all hospitals in Prince George's County. Hospital Compare was developed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) in collaboration with other organizations and federal agencies to help consumers make well-educated decisions about where to seek quality medical services and encourage providers to improve their delivery of care.

"We are honored to contribute to the health and well-being of the tens of thousands of residents who choose Doctors Community Hospital each year for great care. Our receiving CMS' four-star rating was achieved because of our dedicated team of doctors, nurses and healthcare professionals who prioritize the care and comfort of our patients," stated Phil Down, president, Doctors Community Hospital. "We are proud of this recognition that high-

lights our tradition of delivering quality medical and surgical services to the community."

According to medicare.gov, "Health Compare has information about the quality of care at over 4,000 Medicare-certified hospitals, including over 130 Veteran Administration (VA) medical centers, across the country." This online resource rates how well healthcare providers deliver the right patient care at the right time by assessing various key indicators: mortality rates, safety of care, readmission rates, patient experiences, effectiveness of care, timeliness of care and efficient use of medical imaging.

A component of Doctors Community Hospital's quality assurance strategy includes nurturing a culture of quality. "We value accountability, transparency and collaboration at our hospital. By continuously educating employees about their quality-related roles and sharing assessment data, we have developed an engaged culture that embraces the adoption of industry best practices. At the same time, we welcome

open communication that allows us to regularly identify improvement opportunities," stated Dr. Sunil Madan, chief medical and population health officer.

As mentioned by Down, "Our exceptional team passionately cares about the health and well-being of area residents. They can continue to count on us to provide high-quality services that save lives and strengthen the community."

Doctors Community Health System is a network of medical and surgical services provided throughout Prince George's County and in Anne Arundel County. At the heart of this network is its flagship—Doctors Community Hospital in Lanham, Maryland. To complement the hospital's high-quality and comprehensive services, the system has more than a dozen centers of care in Bowie, Camp Springs, Crofton, District Heights, Greenbelt, Hyattsville, Lanham, Largo, Laurel, Riverdale and Temple Hills. Also, the hospital is a primary stroke center as designated by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems.

Governor Hogan Statement on Trump Administration's Cuts to Chesapeake Bay Program

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (March 13, 2019)—Governor Larry Hogan today issued the following statement on the Trump Administration's proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Budget, which would drastically cut funding for Chesapeake Bay restoration:

"As Governor of Maryland and Chairman of the Chesapeake Executive Council, protecting the Chesapeake Bay remains

one of my top priorities. The EPA Administrator himself called the Chesapeake Bay Program a 'high priority,' making this week's cut in the budget a total betrayal. These cuts are potentially devastating to restoration efforts at such a critical time.

"Here in Maryland, leaders from both sides of the aisle have taken a strong stance on environmental conservation, and we hope our leaders at the federal level will do the same. As I have every year, I will

continue to urge our federal partners to protect these critical investments into ongoing Bay restoration efforts and work with our congressional delegation to restore funding.

"The Chesapeake Bay is a state and national treasure, and federal support is essential to improving the waterway's health. We will not allow several decades of environmental restoration to be dismantled. We will continue to fight hard against any cuts to the cleanup program."

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Maximizing Social Security Benefits

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

Dear Rusty:

I am currently 68 and am waiting to take maximum benefits at age 70. I have been retired for 3 and a half years. My wife turned 62 in February of this year. She stopped working around 1994. What is the best way to maximize our SS benefits? Both of us have longevity on our side. My wife's parents lived into their 80s, her grandmother lived to 96. My mother lived to 84, my father to 98. We are both very active, no big health issues. **Signed: Planning Ahead**

Dear Planning: You're already on a path to maximize your benefits by waiting until you are 70 to claim. Given that both of you are in good health and assuming you both live a long life, maximizing your wife's benefit will yield you the most in cumulative Social Security benefits.

Assuming you are the higher-earner, your wife's highest benefit will probably be her benefit as your spouse, so maximizing her spousal benefit would be an excellent strategy. Although your wife is eligible to collect her own SS benefit at age 62, if she does so her eventual spousal benefit will be reduced to something less than 50% of your full retirement age (FRA) benefit.

Here's how that works: A spousal benefit, if taken at one's full retirement age (66 ½ for your wife), is 50% of the higher-earning spouse's benefit at his full retirement age (not the increased benefit you get by waiting until age 70). But if the spousal benefit is taken earlier than full retirement age it is reduced actuarially according to the number of months before FRA it is claimed. If your wife claims her own SS benefit at age 62, her eventual spousal benefit will be less than 50% of your benefit, because the spousal boost is added to her early benefit amount. Said another way, any time a Social Security benefit is taken earlier than one's full retirement age it is reduced. In your case, when you claim your benefits at age 70, your wife will be 63 ½. If she is already receiving her own SS benefits she will be automatically deemed to be filing for a spousal benefit at that time, and the amount of her spousal benefit will be reduced due to starting it earlier than her FRA.

However, if she is not yet receiving her own SS benefit, she will not be deemed as filing for her spousal benefit until she files for her own SS on her own work record. The only way your wife can get the full 50% of your FRA benefit amount is by waiting until her full retirement age to claim her benefits. And if you are both in good health and expect to live at least until your mid-80's, your wife waiting until her FRA to apply will give you the most in cumulative lifetime benefits (as well as the highest combined monthly benefits).

But keep in mind that the decision of when to claim benefits must always take into account current financial needs, current health and lifestyle, and anticipated longevity. If you don't need the money right now, and if you're both in good health and expect a long life, then maximizing both of your benefit amounts as described above would be a very sound strategy.

The 1.7 million member 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.

Coalition Vows to Reform Dark Underbelly of Timeshare Industry

By BRANDON REED
founder of The Coalition to Reform Timeshare

The timeshare industry is infamous for perceived high-pressure sales techniques, for locking millions of people in perpetuity with noncancelable contracts, and for practices that can make it difficult for owners to vacation where and when they want. Dozens of lawsuits have alleged that consumers are subject to fraud, deception, preying on the elderly, and violations of numerous local, state and federal regulations. Now, the Coalition to Reform Timeshare (CRT) has been launched to advocate for the rights of over 9 million timeshare owners in the U.S.

"The timeshare industry has a dark underbelly and it is time for reform," said Brandon Reed, a founding member of the Coalition. "The Coalition to Reform Timeshare will be forcefully advocating for a strict code of ethics for timeshare companies, transparency in their sales techniques, and for the rights of all timeshare owners."

Large numbers of timeshare owners regret their purchases. Contributing to this dissatisfaction are the financial burdens of steadily growing maintenance fees that average almost \$1,000 a year, high interest rates on financing, a virtually nonexistent resale market, and the inability for owners to ever cancel their timeshares, according to recent industry reports.

LaShawn Gaines, from Clinton, Maryland, recently tried to get out of a timeshare contract that she and her husband Sebastian Gaines, were sold, but found it would be nearly impossible, locking her into a financial burden she can no longer afford.

"We went through a significant hardship and they offered to help us out," LaShawn said. "We did all this paperwork and they still denied us and said there was nothing else they could do."

"We just need out..." LaShawn added.

Tanyelle Dyson, from Upper Marlboro, Maryland, is stuck in a different, but equally disappointing, situation.

"The timeshare is expensive, and the maintenance fees continue to increase," said Tanyelle. "Every time I try to book something there is nothing available and I'm not able to go on any vacation."

LaShawn and Tanyelle are not alone. According to an August 2017 Timeshare Exit Team Brand Awareness and Sentiment Survey, 47 percent of timeshare owners want out of their contract because of money-related issues. However, the resale market for timeshares is virtually nonexistent. A quick search on the Internet shows that hundreds of timeshares are listed on eBay for as little as a penny.

"Together, we are going to change the way the timeshare industry works by finally holding the big developers' feet to the fire of honesty and consumer fairness," said Reed.

The Coalition to Reform Timeshare is inviting individual timeshare owners and organizations to become members to share personal stories of problems with timeshare ownership and bring change to the industry. To join the Coalition or share your story, go to www.ReformTimeshare.org.

The Coalition to Reform Timeshare is inviting individual timeshare owners and organizations to become members to share personal stories of problems with timeshare ownership and bring change to the industry.

OUT on the TOWN

Events at The B&O Railroad Museum

By DANA KIRN
B&O Railroad Museum

Autism Friendly Program Now Offered

The first of these Sensory Friendly Days is scheduled for Sunday, March 24

BALTIMORE, Md. (March 10, 2019)—The B&O Railroad Museum announced today that it is now an autism friendly museum, offering a series of Sensory Friendly Days for its guests with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and sensory processing differences. The first of these Sensory Friendly Days is scheduled for Sunday, March 24. The Museum will open early that morning at 10 a.m. to accommodate guests who may need smaller crowds or specialized activities with less sound and light stimuli.

Kris Hoellen, Executive Director of the B&O Railroad Museum, commented "Our goal at the B&O Railroad Museum is to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all our guests. We are thrilled to make our museum more accessible and enjoyable for our ASD guests, and look forward to bringing the magic of trains alive."

B&O personnel completed their sensory awareness training through the program's sponsor: the Autism Society of Baltimore-Chesapeake. Certified museum staff will wear "Autism Friendly" lapel pins to make guests aware that they are in an environment that is respectful of their sensory needs.

Autism Society of Baltimore-Chesapeake president and program trainer Debbie Page revealed that when her son was first diagnosed with autism, the B&O Railroad Museum and its Day Out With Thomas the Tank Engine event gave him an outlet to express his joy and excitement, because trains were his "passion." Ms. Page went on to add that "Trains are a passion of many autistic children, because they are structured and have predictability."

Now Debbie Page's son and other ASD guests of the B&O Railroad Museum have the tools, quiet rooms and sensory signage they need to explore the museum. Additionally ASD guests may use sensory kits stationed throughout the Museum's campus that will provide them with feeling charts, break timers, fidgets, stress balls, and noise canceling headphones.

Guests who pre-register with Museum Educator Rebecca Funk will also receive a specialized sensory story that will help them prepare for their Sensory Friendly Day visit on Sunday, March 24. RSVP to Rebecca Funk at rfunk@borail.org.

B&O Railroad Museum is located at 901 West Pratt St., Baltimore, MD 21223, 410-752-2490 / www.borail.org. Admission: \$20 adults, \$17 seniors (60+), \$12 children (ages 2-12), free for B&O Members.

Day Out With Thomas™: The Steam Team Tour 2019—Thomas & Friends' Most Exciting Year Yet!

Enjoy a day of family fun with Thomas The Tank Engine™ on April 26-28 and May 3-5, 2019

BALTIMORE, (February 11, 2019)—All aboard! Thomas the Tank Engine invites little engineers to go full steam ahead for a day of engaging activities and fun adventures at Day Out With Thomas: The Steam Team Tour 2019. Children are invited to spend the day with their friend Thomas when the #1 Engine pulls into Baltimore April 26-28 & May 3-5, 2019. Day Out With Thomas: The Steam Team Tour 2019 is presented by Mattel.

Day Out With Thomas is a fun-filled event that provides children of all ages the opportunity to climb aboard and take a ride with Thomas as well as participate in Thomas & Friends™ themed activities. The tour, now in its 24th year, will make 37 stops across the U.S. and Canada, and is expected to welcome nearly one million passengers in 2019. For two back-to-back weekends at the B&O Railroad Museum little engineers and their families are invited to take a 25-minute train ride with their favorite engine, Thomas the Tank Engine, meet Sir Topham Hatt, Controller of the Railway and enjoy a day of Thomas & Friends fun with crafts, photo ops, and more.

For the first time, children will be able to meet Thomas's new friend Nia in the form of a ten-foot inflatable—perfect for photo ops! Nia appears in the Thomas & Friends episodes as one of the newest members of the Steam Team, joining Thomas, Percy, and the other engines at Tidmouth Sheds. Nia is always a helpful friend, and especially loves to help animals.

Train rides with Thomas depart every 45 minutes, rain or shine. Departure times begin on Fridays at 10 a.m. through 1:45 p.m., Saturdays at 9:15 a.m. through 4:45 p.m., and Sundays 9:15 a.m. through 4 p.m. each day of the event. Tickets for Day Out With Thomas are \$22-\$26 for ages two and up.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at www.dayoutwiththomas.com or by calling Ticketweb toll-free at 866.468.7630. For more information and directions, contact the B&O Railroad Museum at 410-752-2490 or www.BORAIL.org.

Thomas the Tank Engine™ is the star of Thomas & Friends the award-winning global brand franchise enjoyed by families in more than 160 territories and in over 55 languages across multiple touch-points and formats

For general information about the tour or to find a Day Out with Thomas: The Steam Team Tour 2019 event near you, visit www.dayoutwiththomas.com.

Women's History Month Spotlight

Opening Reception for "Hometown Girl: The Quilts of Mimi Dietrich"

Date and Time: Saturday, March 23, 2019, 2 p.m.

Description: This yearlong exhibition features traditional and contemporary quilts by Mimi Dietrich and the personal stories behind them, along with historic quilts from the MdHS collection. Mimi is a Maryland-born quilter, teacher of quilting and honoree in the Quilters Hall of Fame.

Cost: \$10/mbrs; \$15/nonmbrs, wine & cheese reception

Ages: Adults

Location: Maryland Historical Society, 201 West Monument St., Baltimore, MD 21201

Contact: 410-685-3750

"On Some Auspicious Day": Antonia Ford Willard and the Civil War

Saturday, March 23, 2019, 4-5:30 p.m.

Description: Celebrate Women's History Month with the story of Antonia Ford Willard, who gained notoriety in 1863 for her suspected involvement in a Confederate raid on her hometown of Fairfax Courthouse, Virginia. Imprisonment led to romance and marriage to Union Major Joseph C. Willard, leading to a life mixed with Confederate and Union sympathies. Michelle Krowl of the Library of Congress will examine how living and loving on both sides of the divide affected Willard, her family, and her communities.

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Surratt House Museum, 9118 Brandywine Road, Clinton, MD 20735

Contact: 301-868-1121; TTY 301-699-2544

Arrive early:
limited
seating.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



PHOTO COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Surratt House Museum is open to the public mid-January through mid-December. Walk-in tours are available with costumed guide on Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays from 12 noon-4 p.m. Weekday group tours for 10 or more are available by appointment by calling 301-868-1121. Surratt House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Admission is \$5 per adult, \$4 for Seniors (age 60+), \$2 for students ages 5-18, and free to children under 5.

Surratt House Museum: 9118 Brandywine Road, Clinton, MD 20735
• 301-868-1121 • <http://www.surrattmuseum.org>

PLAN AHEAD

The Power of the Ballot—Meet the Author Event

Date and Time: Thursday, March 28, 2019, 6-8 p.m.

Description: Join us as Dr. Ida E. Jones shares her revealing research on Baltimore Civil Rights Leader, Victorine Q. Adams. Book signing to follow the lecture. Dr. Ida Jones is the University Archivist at Morgan State University. She has served the Executive Council of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History and is a former National Director of the Association of Black Women Historians.

Cost: Free of charge; donations appreciated. **Space is limited; registration recommended:** www.lilliecarrolljacksonmuseum.org

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Lillie Carroll Jackson Civil Rights Museum, 1320 Eutaw Place, Baltimore, MD 21217

Contact: LCJMuseum@morgan.edu, 443-885-5300

ERIC D. SNIDER'S IN THE DARK

... Movie Review ...

Green Book

Green Book
Grade: B-
Rated PG-13, a lot of profanity
including two F-words
2 hrs., 9 min.

Racism is solved one moron at a time in "Green Book," a light-hearted, vaguely true story set in 1962, with bigoted Bronx-Italian meathead Tony "Lip" Vallelonga (Viggo Mortensen) hired as chauffeur and bodyguard for refined black concert pianist Dr. Don Shirley (Mahershala Ali) as he tours the racist Midwest and the RACIST-racist South. Forced to see firsthand how racism affects an actual black person, Tony softens his own prejudice and becomes a defender.

That's basically the whole movie, but I haven't spoiled it for you. How else was this story going to play out? Touring with a black man makes Tony dislike minorities even more than before? (Please do not make a movie like that.) Directed by Peter Farrelly (his brother Bobby sat this one out) from a screenplay by Tony Lip's son Nick Vallelonga and Brian Currie, it's a pleasant, humorous movie, affable but extremely shallow. It provides a glossy look at the racism that was

often deadly in real life, told from the perspective of the white guy who overcomes his own prejudice, not the black guy who actually experienced it. As likable as the movie is, I couldn't shake the feeling that Shirley's story would have been so much more interesting than Tony's.

Not that Tony isn't an intriguing character himself (at least the way he's depicted here). A sly, streetwise opportunist who tries to ingratiate himself with the mobsters who frequent the club where he's a bouncer, he's the sort of striver who enters (and wins) a hot dog eating contest when funds are low. His racism, suggested by the language he uses, is firmly established when he throws away the water glasses that his wife (Linda Cardellini) let the black repairmen use while working in their apartment. Later, when Dr. Shirley interviews him for the chauffeuring job and asks if he would have a problem working for a black man, Tony assures him he wouldn't. "Just the other day my wife and I had a couple of colored guys over," he says. "For drinks." Good thing Viggo is charming or his character would be despicable.

The elegant Don Shirley, who

lives in an apartment above Carnegie Hall, is initially humorless and guarded, though he warms up over time as he and Tony spend two months on the road, guided by the Negro Motorists' Green Book, which told African Americans in the segregated '60s which hotels and restaurants were safe to patronize. Their odd-couple dynamics, made more amusing by Tony's obvious discomfort at being a black man's flunky, give way to mutual respect: Don helps Tony write letters home; Tony helps Don learn how to be black. Trained in classical music before being forced to shift to jazz (people wouldn't accept a black guy playing Chopin), Don has heard of Little Richard and Aretha Franklin but doesn't know their music until Tony introduces him to it. He's never eaten fried chicken, either, and must be taught how by Tony. This is cringeworthy, but it leads to one of Tony's best dumb-guy lines as he relishes a dining opportunity in a particular state: "Kentucky Fried Chicken! In Kentucky! When's that ever gonna happen?!"

Mortensen's excellent performance makes Tony slightly more than just a stereotype, his spot-on accent and mannerisms supported by the hint of depth in



ROTTENTOMATOES.COM

When Tony Lip (Mortensen), a bouncer from an Italian-American neighborhood in the Bronx, is hired to drive Dr. Don Shirley (Ali), a world-class Black pianist, on a concert tour from Manhattan to the Deep South, they must rely on "The Green Book" to guide them to the few establishments that were then safe for African-Americans. Confronted with racism, danger—as well as unexpected humanity and humor—they are forced to set aside differences to survive and thrive on the journey of a lifetime.

the character. Ali's performance is richer, though, embodying Don Shirley's loneliness and repressed anger (not to mention his musical prowess, which Ali fakes admirably). Whatever flaws the film has, its two leads are well-matched, with an easygoing rapport. And there's an undeniable thrill to seeing racist crackers get their comeuppance, no matter how contrived or manipulative it may be.

But I keep coming back to

this. The film begins with the words "inspired by a true story," and we recognize that "inspired by" grants filmmakers more artistic license than "based on," which implies fidelity to the truth. And that's fine. But then the film ends with photographs of the real Don Shirley and Tony Lip, with onscreen titles telling us about the rest of their lives. This undercuts the "inspired by" disclaimer and leaves us with the impression that what we've just

seen is true. It revokes, somewhat, the artistic license, leaving less room for excuses when we learn (for example) that Shirley was never estranged from his brother and certainly did not have to be taught by a white dude how to eat fried chicken. It adds to the slightly sour taste we already had in our mouths because of the movie's point of view, making it seem all the more like a well-intentioned but rather clueless feel-good effort.

Calendar of Events

March 21–March 27, 2019

Puppet Show

Date and Time: Saturday, March 23, 2019, 10–10:45 a.m.
 Description: Join the naturalists as they present a seasonal-themed puppet show and then meet a live animal featured in the show! Afterward, kids can try their hand at puppetry in the kid-friendly puppet theater in our exhibit hall.
 Cost: Resident: \$3; Non-resident: \$4; purchase online through PARKS DIRECT!
 Ages: 2–10
 Location: Watkins Nature Center, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774
 Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544

The Chemistry of Spring

Date and Time: Saturday, March 23, 2019, 11 a.m.
 Description: Learn about the botany of spring vegetation and the natural chemistry that brings leaves to the trees of the Greenbelt forest. Look at leaves under a microscope to see sap flow and the green of chlorophyll. Meet at the Ranger Station.
 Cost: Free
 Ages: 8 and above.
 Location: Greenbelt Park, 6565 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
 Contact: 301-344-3944, <http://www.nps.gov/gree>

Beech Tree Puppets and the Calyx Players present "The Fisherman and His Wife"

Date and Time: Sunday, March 24, 2019, 3–4 p.m.
 Description: A classic fairy tale from the Brothers Grimm, presented in Beech Tree's serene and mesmerizing style.
 Cost: Pay As You Can donation
 Ages: Recommended for ages 5 and up.
 Location: Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road, College Park MD 20740
 Contact: info@cpae.org

(In)justice Systems

Date and Time: Monday, March 25, 2019 (to May 18), 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
 Curated by Erin Devine, Associate Professor of Art History, Northern Virginia Community College, this exhibition presents the investigations of a group of contemporary artists as they explore the impact of mass incarceration on prisoners, families, and communities in the United States—which holds the highest incarceration rate in the world. The exhibit also seeks to provide a space for broader meanings of "incarcerations" that are global, racial, and gendered, with works that engage community action, spatial concepts, and history.
 Cost: Free
 Ages: All ages are welcome
 Location: Brentwood Arts Exchange, 3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD 20722
 Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-699-2544

Brown Bag Book Talk: "Maryland: A History"

Date and Time: Monday, March 25, 2019, 12 p.m.
 Description: In celebration of Maryland Day, the Maryland Historical Society is hosting a free Brown Bag Lunch & Learn lecture by Jean Russo, co-editor and co-author of the Johns Hopkins Press's "Maryland: A History." Gallery tours will take place after the lecture.
 Cost: Free
 Ages: Adults
 Location: Maryland Historical Society, 201 West Monument St., Baltimore, MD 21201
 Contact: 410-685-3750

Community in the Courthouse

Date and Time: Tuesday, March 26, 2019, 8:30–10 a.m.
 Description: Community in the Courthouse is a monthly event where members of the community can come to the courthouse and learn firsthand about the justice system in the County. It brings concerned members of the community together to learn about the court system, the operations of the State's Attorney's Office and other County agencies. Participants engage with prosecutors about how rulings, sentences, and various outcomes of cases affect the rights of all residents of the County. In addition, participants are invited to witness courtroom proceedings to hear actual cases.
 Cost: Free
 Ages: Adults
 Location: Prince George's County Courthouse, 14735 Main Street, Room M0421, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
 Contact: <http://sao.mypgc.us>, <http://twitter.com/PGSAONEWS>

Dine 'N' Learn Healthy Cooking Demonstration: Root Vegetable Salad

Date and Time: Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 11 a.m.–12 noon
 Description: March is National Nutrition Month! Learn how to prepare delicious, healthy meals and snacks in these step-by-step cooking demonstrations. Enjoy a sample of the delicious creations and take home new recipes! No registration required. Classes may be canceled due to inclement weather. Call 301-927-0822 for weather-related cancellations.
 Cost: Free
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Langley Park Senior Activity Center, 1500 Merrimac Drive, Hyattsville, MD 20783
 Contact: 301-446-6800; TTY 301-699-2544

Women of Color in Legislative Roles

Date and Time: Thursday, March 28, 2019, 6–8 p.m.
 Description: Join us for a panel discussion with expert women legislators as they share their experiences and encourage other women of color to seek roles in legislative positions. This event will take place in Verda Welcome Hall in recognition of Maryland's first female African American, State Senator, the Honorable Verda Freeman Welcome. Come be empowered and encouraged; you don't want to miss this event.
 Cost: Free, Register at: bdmuseum.maryland.gov/events/
 Ages: Adults
 Location: Banneker-Douglass Museum, 84 Franklin Street, Annapolis, MD 21401
 Contact: 410-216-6180

Earth TALK™

EV Swap: Convert Your Old Junker Into an Electric Car?

Dear EarthTalk:

I saw a news item about overhauling classic old cars with electric engines, and wondering if this can be done with any old car, such as my 1999 Subaru Outback? If this is feasible, maybe I should reconsider my plan of trading up for a new Prius.
 —Tim St. Germain, Boise, ID

It's true that there's never been a better time to convert an old gas guzzling car into an emissions-free electric vehicle (EV), but some makes and models are better suited for a so-called "EV swap" than others.

Michael Bream of San Marcos, California's EV West, which made news recently with its conversions of old VWs and Porsches into EVs, says you could convert a '99 Subaru—but EV Swaps are typically reserved for classic cars. "A newer Subaru has a ULEV certified (low emission) engine, so it's not as bad a polluter as a classic car, and doesn't suffer from reliability and power issues that classic cars typically suffer from," he says. "A typical conversion of a Subaru would cost about the same with parts and labor as a brand-new all-wheel drive Tesla Model 3, so unless your vehicle is extremely well loved, or you can't stand the thought of selling it, then it might be a better solution to buy or lease a new EV."

EV West is one of a handful of garages across North America now specializing in EV conversions. Some others include: Zelectric Motors (San Diego, CA), ElectricGT (Chatsworth, CA), Make Mine Electric (Sebastopol, CA), Electric Vehicles of Washington (Bellingham, WA), Shockwave Motors (Russellville, TN), Epic Car Conversions (Toronto, ON) and Green Shed Conversions (Crystal River, FL).

If you don't want to wait to get your car converted by one of these shops, you'll just have to do it yourself (or find a local mechanic looking for an interesting project). Luckily lots of companies now sell EV conversion kits (Canadian Electric Vehicles, Electro Automotive, Wilderness Electric Vehicles, DIY EV, EV Source, Metric Mind Corporation, EV Drive) that include new engines, batteries and components. Expect to spend at least \$8,000 on all the parts needed for the job (and tack on an additional ~50 percent more if you opt for longer-range lithium ion batteries). The labor will be up to you. DIYers should check out EVRater.com's "How to Build Your own Electric Vehicle in 5 Easy Steps" or Mechanic Doctor's "How to Convert Your Car to an Electric Vehicle" for step-by-step instructions. Meanwhile, California-based EV4U runs "3-Day Hands-On Conversion Workshops" near Sacramento for \$495.

With a new base model Prius starting at \$23k, you may well be better off doing the EV Swap on your old car. According to



CREDIT: TODD LAPPIN, FLICKRCC

You never know these days whether the engine inside an old VW bus or other classic car is the original gas guzzler or a new "restomod" all-electric one—unless you hear it rumbling at a stop light.

EVW, the operating costs of driving a Prius hybrid (\$0.14/mile) are about four times what it costs to get around in an EV (whether native or a conversion). "In addition to the fuel savings, electric cars do not need oil changes, spark plugs, distributors, timing belts, etc.," EVW adds.

What you won't get is that new car smell or the nervous feeling of driving a brand-new car off the dealer's lot. But you will get the satisfaction of knowing that you saved two tons of metal from the junk heap—and saved the world the trouble of sourcing materials for and building another brand-new Prius.

CONTACTS: EV West, www.evwest.com; Zelectric Motors, zelectricmotors.com; Make Mine Electric, makemineelectric.com; Electric Vehicles of Washington, www.electricvehicleswa.com; Epic Car Conversions, epiccarconversions.com; Green Shed Conversions, greenshedconversions.com; EVRater, evrater.com/build-your-own-ev; Mechanic Doctor, www.themechanicdoctor.com/convert-car-electric-vehicle; EV4U Workshops, ev4unow.com/EVWorkshops.html; Canadian Electric Vehicles, canev.com; Electro Automotive, electroauto.com; Wilderness Electric Vehicles, e-volks.com; EV Source, evsource.com; Metric Mind Corporation, metricmind.com; EV Drive, evdrive.com.

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PLAN AHEAD

CeeLo Green to Headline 2019 Cherry Blast at MGM National Harbor

OXON HILL, MD (March 15, 2019)—Cherry Blast, one of the National Cherry Blossom Festival's premier celebrations, will host five-time Grammy Award-winning CeeLo Green as the headliner of its 2019 event, taking place at MGM National Harbor Saturday, March 30. Completely transforming the intimate Theater at MGM National Harbor, Cherry Blast will immerse guests in an Instagram-worthy secret garden with cultural performances, multiple DJs, food & beverage offerings, art installations and more.

"We are honored to be the Host Sponsor for this year's National Cherry Blossom Festival, as well as to have the incredibly talented CeeLo at The Theater at MGM National Harbor," said Chris Gumiela, vice president of brand and national marketing for MGM National Harbor. "Cherry Blossom season is an iconic time of year for the Capital Region, so we look forward to welcoming fans to this unique and gorgeous party."

Tickets start at \$25 a person, including an open bar from 7–8 p.m. VIP tickets, priced at \$125, include access to the exclusive VIP suite level, curated by MGM Japan an all-inclusive open bar for the duration of the event; dedicated seating; and authentic Japanese cuisine such as a sushi buffet, tonkatsu sandwiches, a cherry blossom-themed dessert buffet and assorted mochi.

During his DJ performance, CeeLo will perform a few of his unforgettable songs. Born in Atlanta, CeeLo has been hailed as an acclaimed singer-songwriter-producer, television personality, actor, entrepreneur and a pop culture and fashion icon.

Guests must be ages 21+ to attend. The event will run from 7–11 p.m., with CeeLo set to take the stage at 10 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at MGM NationalHarbor.com.

CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Mayor and City Council of Seat Pleasant propose to increase real property taxes.

- For the tax year beginning July 1, 2019 the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 5.7% from \$ 285,961,067 to \$ 302,366,631.
- If the City of Seat Pleasant maintains the current tax rate of \$.58 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 5.7 % resulting in \$ 95,152 of new real property tax revenues.
- In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax should be reduced to \$.5485, the constant yield rate.
- The City is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The City proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$.58 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 5.7 % higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$ 95,152 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 6:30 pm on April 8, 2019 at City Hall, 6301 Addison Road Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743.

The hearing is open to the public and public testimony is encouraged. Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call Adeoye-Aganga Williams, Chief Financial Officer at (301) 336-2600 for further information.

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Kaiser Permanente-Holy Cross Health Launch Unique Joint Residency Program

By KEITH MONTGOMERY and KRISTIN FELICIANO
Kaiser Permanente and Holy Cross Health

ROCKVILLE, Md. (March 8, 2019)—Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States is excited to announce the launch of its first-ever Internal Medicine Residency Program with Holy Cross Health. Just accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, the program is a partnership with Holy Cross Hospital. Residents will be trained in and around Washington, D.C., and will provide rotations in outpatient, inpatient, critical care, and emergency medicine settings, as well as affiliated clinics for the underserved.

"Our physicians are recognized as national leaders for providing the highest-quality care. We are thrilled to train the next generation of doctors on how to best prevent and treat disease," said Richard McCarthy, MD, associate executive director for the Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group, the region's largest integrated, private group practice that exclusively serves Kaiser Permanente members. "We carefully hire, train and equip Permanente physicians to provide care in a way that cannot be replicated in fee-for-service medicine, and as a result, our patients are healthier, and our physicians are more satisfied. Our residency program will be one-of-a-kind in the Mid-Atlantic."

During their residency, participants in the program will be taught and mentored by world-class physicians at both the Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group and Holy Cross. Upon completion of the program, resi-

dents will be eligible to join the highly selective Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group.

"Holy Cross Health is very excited to continue our partnership with Kaiser Permanente through this innovative new internal medicine residency program. Holy Cross' vibrant hospital services make it an ideal partner for the hospital-based portion of the clinical training necessary for the residents. The program will allow us to jointly train the next generation of primary care physicians for our community," said Blair Eig, MD, chief medical officer, Holy Cross Health.

"This residency program will offer future health care leaders the opportunity to learn our model of award-winning, high-quality care," said Kim Horn, president of Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States. "As a result, more qualified physicians will practice excellent medical care in our region and may become part of our health system—one whose health plans are rated among the top one percent in the nation by the National Committee for Quality Assurance."

With the Internal Medicine Residency Program officially starting in July of 2020, candidates for Kaiser Permanente's first class of residents will begin applying this summer and interviews will take place in the fall. Prospective residents and those interested in learning more about the program may visit residency-mas.kp.org or contact Marc John D. Barredo, residency program coordinator, at 240-813-8740.

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Veterans to Exhibit Artwork and Talent in Bowie

Works of art to be exhibited at the 9th annual Maryland Veterans Creative Arts Festival have now been selected. The festival, sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Maryland, will be held on March 24, 2019 in the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts. The exhibit features work created by veterans who use the arts as an aid in their recovery from physical and mental health issues through the Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) Recreation Therapy Departments throughout Maryland and the District of Columbia. Over 30 works of art will be displayed representing a variety of media including clay, ceramics, photography, needlework, painting and kit construction. These pieces of art were entered in competition at the local VAMC level in hopes of earning a spot in the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival to be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan in October.

Artwork and creative writing will be on exhibit beginning when the doors open at noon and end at 1:45 p.m. All are invited to browse through the exhibit, visit with the artists and authors who are on hand and maybe get some autographs. The doors of the auditorium will open at 1:30 p.m. with a stage show beginning at 2:00 p.m. Performers have entered the competition in categories such as instrumental and vocal music, dance and drama.

This event is open to the public. A donation of \$10 per ticket to support the National and local Veteran's Creative Arts projects is requested for those attending the stage show. However, complimentary tickets are available for ROTC/JROTC members who come in uniform and active duty military.

For information: Rusty Beeg 301-602-7214 or rbeeg5908@gmail.com, American Legion Auxiliary.

—Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs newsletter

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