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Governor Hogan Participates In Prince George's County Opportunity Zone Roundtable

Tours New Carrollton Redevelopment, Meets with Small Business Owners

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (March 19, 2019)—Governor Larry Hogan today hosted a roundtable discussion with small business owners, developers, and government officials on bringing small businesses to Maryland Opportunity Zones. Following the roundtable, he toured Urban Atlantic's New Carrollton redevelopment project in Hyattsville, Md. The governor was joined by Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford, who chairs the Maryland Opportunity Zone Leadership Task Force; Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks; Maryland Department of Commerce Secretary Kelly Schulz; Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Kenneth C. Holt; Urban Atlantic Development Manager Alan Lederman; and additional state and local leaders and community members.

"Projects like the redevelopment taking place at New Carrollton demonstrate that Maryland is leading the way on the federal Opportunity Zone program," said Governor Hogan. "It was especially heartening to hear firsthand from local small business owners about the tremendous impact the Neighborhood BusinessWorks program has had on their businesses. By partnering our programs with federal incentives, we can ensure that Maryland remains the most competitive state in the nation when it comes to bringing new businesses and jobs to our Opportunity Zones."

During the roundtable, small business owners shared their experiences with the Neighborhood BusinessWorks (NBW) program, which through the expansion of the Opportunity Zone initiative, will receive \$8 million in this year's budget to grow small businesses across the state and create

new jobs. One such business owner who benefited from the program is Michael Franklin, owner of Franklins Restaurant, Brewery, and General Store in Hyattsville. Mr. Franklin was one of the first participants in the NBW program, receiving a \$500,000 loan in the late 1990s to turn a vacant hardware store in a disinvested area of Route 1 into a successful restaurant. Although not located in an Opportunity Zone, this NBW investment helped turn this part of Hyattsville into the bustling corridor it is today and represents the type of growth that the state hopes to replicate in Opportunity Zones through the expansion of the NBW program.

Urban Atlantic has set up an Opportunity Zone fund with approximately \$20 million in equity to leverage as part of its redevelopment in New Carrollton. The plan calls for 2.6 million square feet of mixed-use transit-



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT: GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Governor Larry Hogan and County Executive Angela Alsobrooks tour the near complete Kaiser Permanente regional headquarters at New Carrollton with Vicki Davis, Managing Partner, Urban Atlantic.

oriented redevelopment, including market rate apartments, retail, office space, and a hotel. The redevelopment also includes more than \$20 million in infrastructure improvements. Kaiser Permanente's 200,000-square-foot administrative regional headquarters is nearing completion, with an adjacent 282-unit,

market-rate multifamily project called "The Stella" set to break ground in the near future.

Earlier this year, Governor Hogan announced a series of initiatives and legislation to further expand the thriving Maryland Opportunity Zone program, including a total of \$56.5 million dedicated to attracting new busi-

nesses and development and continuing to invest in Maryland's workforce. These initiatives will foster an environment of economic opportunity to create thousands of new Maryland jobs and to transform and revitalize the cities, towns, and local communities that need support the most.

Upper Marlboro Sailor Earns Enlisted Warfare Specialist Designation



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT: U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS RUBEN REED

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. (March 18, 2019) Personnel Specialist 2nd Class Anisha Tucker, from Upper Marlboro, Maryland, assigned to USS Gerald R. Ford's (CVN 78) supply department, receives her Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist designation at an awards-at-quarters ceremony. Ford is currently undergoing its post-shakedown availability at Huntington Ingalls Industries-Newport News Shipbuilding.

Venture Philanthropy Partners Hosts Inaugural Signature Event

By MONISHA SOM
Venture Philanthropy Partners

WASHINGTON, DC (March 15, 2019)—On Saturday, April 6, Venture Philanthropy Partners (VPP) will host its inaugural signature event, "All Stars Night" at MGM National Harbor. The event supports and celebrates VPP's nearly twenty years of investing in nonprofits and networks to achieve better outcomes for youth in Greater Washington and its *Ready for Work* initiative in Prince George's County, MD.

Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks joins as the Honorary Chair of the event, which will honor three leaders who have helped build the *Ready for Work: Champions for Career- and College-Ready Graduates in Prince George's County* initiative and have served as model partners: The Honorable Rushern L. Baker III, Kaiser Permanente, and Milton Peterson and the Peterson Family.

All Stars Night brings together local leaders in government, business, education, nonprofit and philanthropy for an evening of live entertainment, performances and a program that showcases the impact of *Ready for Work*. The initiative strengthens young people's academic, career and life skills to prepare them for career and college—and to contribute to our region's success.

"The power and potential of VPP lies in bringing together partners across the region and across sectors," says VPP President and CEO, Carol Thompson Cole. "We are excited to celebrate these partnerships. By working together, we are breaking down the barriers that get in the way of our young people's success, and I am proud of the results that we've seen in Prince George's County."

VPP takes a private equity model of investing and puts it to work for people—by building strong nonprofits and strategic networks to improve the lives of youth throughout Greater Washington. Since its founding, VPP has raised and deployed more than \$110 million to help vulnerable young people gain access to quality education, health care, career training—setting them on the right path to learn, graduate and become successful, healthy adults.

Ready for Work is a county-wide initiative to help more students earn college credits and industry certifications while in high school; graduate on time; improve nonprofit networks and connect students to the services they need; and gain meaningful work experience. *Ready for Work* operates across the County and directly in Suitland, Oxon Hill and High Point High Schools.

For tickets and more information, please visit <https://www.vpppartners.org/signatureevent>.

Maryland May Raise Smoking Age to 21, Limit Vape Marketing

By CHARLIE YOUNGMANN
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (March 15, 2019)—Several bills in the Maryland General Assembly could raise the age to purchase tobacco and vape products from 18 to 21 as well as prohibit certain types

of "vape" packaging that target minors. Usage of electronic nicotine delivery systems—known as vapes—has increased among high school students nationwide from over 11 percent in 2017 to nearly 21 percent in 2018, according to the United States Surgeon General.

In addition to raising the legal age,

House bill 1169—sponsored by Delegate Derek E. Davis, D-Prince George's—would change the definition of tobacco products to include vapor devices, parts and juices.

Nearly 9 out of 10 cigarette smokers had tried smoking by the age of 18, according to the Centers for Disease Con-

trol and Prevention. This bill is intended to prevent more minors from trying cigarettes before they are of legal age, Davis said.

"The information about smoking is irrefutable. You can drink responsibly, you can gamble responsibly but you can't smoke responsibly," Davis said.

"Those are carcinogens and anything else is just hype," he said.

Another bill would prohibit the sale of vape products that feature cartoons, teen celebrities or the likeness of a person who appears to be younger than 27 on their packaging. Sponsored by Delegate Ned Carey, D-Anne Arundel,

See **SMOKING AGE** Page A8

INSIDE

Proposed Federal Budget Will Worsen Housing Affordability in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties

In the Washington D.C. Metro area, a household working minimum wage jobs must work 3 jobs to afford fair market rent for a one-bedroom apartment.

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To Be Equal: It's Time to Sign Colin Kaepernick

It's hard to deny that the NFL appears to be an institution that is tolerant of domestic violence, but intolerant of social activism.

Commentary, Page A4

2019 Keep Maryland Beautiful Grants Total \$215,505

Many of these grants focus on developing and supporting communities, families, youth and students who take personal responsibility for the health of their communities, protecting nature in their backyards and seeking ways to help reduce or resolve environmental challenges.

Business and Finance, Page A5

2019 One Maryland One Book: True Tale of Doctor's Fight to Uncover Flint's Lead Contamination

Gripping and emotional, Dr. Mona's personal account reads like a scientific thriller as she vividly recounts the effects lead poisoning had on her young patients and the evidence she gathered to share with the world.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

I've heard that China and other nations have gone gangbusters with reforestation projects that are ambitious enough to have a significant impact on cutting carbon emissions. Why aren't we also doing this here in the U.S.?

—Mickie Infurcia, Hamden, CT
Features, Page A7

TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Sad news for the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department—Charlie Phillips has died

Morningside Mayor Benn Cann emailed me this sad news: “It is with a heavy heart I report that Life Member, current member of the Board of Directors, past Chief and President of the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department and past Board of Directors of the Prince George’s County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association, Mr. Charlie Phillips, passed away last night, March 20th at approximately 23:30 hours.

“Charlie began his career in Morningside in 1949 and has accrued 70 years of service to the citizens of Prince George’s County. He will be greatly missed.”

I’ll pay tribute to Charlie in next week’s column. But it’ll never be the same at the Morningside Fire Department.

Spring Sign Blitz coming up

Everywhere you look, illegal signs litter local roadways. They may divert drivers’ attention, may even block drivers’ line of sight. But, at the very least, they are unsightly.

On April 1–2, the Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE) will conduct its annual Spring Sign Blitz to remove as many illegal signs as possible. DPIE will be assisted by the Department of the Environment (DOE), the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) and the State Highway Administration (SHA).

All citizens are asked to participate. During the two-day blitz, you are invited to safely remove any illegally posted signs and throw them away. The signs can be discarded in your trash or brought to the DPIE rear parking lot for disposal.

For several years now, DPIE has held this event just prior to the Spring Community Partners Meeting, scheduled this year for 9 to 11 a.m. on April 3, at the DPW&T Maintenance Operations Center (MOC), 8400 D’Arcy Road in Forestville.

Light refreshments will be served at 8:45 a.m., prior to the start of the meeting.

Lunch with the Bunny

Morningside is hosting Bingo Bunny Lunch on Saturday, April 6, at 11 a.m. in the Town Hall: ten games of Bingo,

door prizes and lunch. Bring your camera for photos with the Bunny. Admission, \$4 per person—pre-registration essential (301-736-2301).

Academia

Salisbury University has announced the Fall 2018 Graduate List. From our area are: Tajeh Frazier of District Heights, B.S. in early childhood education; Charyssa Norris of Temple Hills, B.A. in music; and Eric Spangler of Clinton, M.S. in applied health physiology.

Tiara Brown, a college student and volunteer guide at the Surratt House, has been accepted into the Berkley School of Law in California.

Email me with news of your graduate: muddmm@aol.com

Morningside Memories: In the Beginning

Morningside is celebrating its 70th Anniversary this year. Over the coming weeks, I’ll write about the Town’s earliest history, particularly from the pages of Charles Kiker’s 50th Anniversary book.

Morningside, in the beginning, was nothing more than woods and farmlands, a few houses mixed in. The original farmhouse, renovated, still stands on Maple Road. About 1938, developers Morgan Wayson and Randolph Hopkins began developing the Town.

But where did the Town name come from? A person, unknown, is said to have rationalized its name by the location on the east side of the Capitol and the morning-side of Washington.

Within two or three years, prior to World War II, a number of single-family homes were constructed on the lower (north) end of Town, which led to the formation of the Morningside Village Association.

The members held their first meeting in Mr. Yost’s basement on Jan. 28, 1941. Mr. Bell was elected chairman. Other officers were: Mrs. Diefenbauch, secretary; Mr. Yost, vice-president; Mrs. Stocklinski, treasurer; Mrs. Woodland, ways and means; Mr. Claggett, public relations; Mr. Carlock, membership; Mr. Adams, maintenance; and Mr. Woodent, entertainment.

Al Turner, McNamara Board of Directors member

Alvin Andrew Turner, 89, of Upper Marlboro and formerly of Camp Springs, PEPCO retiree, died at his

home on Feb. 6, a month short of his 90th birthday.

Al was born in Washington, the only child of Helen and James Alvin Turner. He grew up in Maryland Park, graduated from Gonzaga College High School, class of ’48, and joined the Navy. In 1952, he married Rosemarie Antonelli.

He retired in 1986 after many years with the Real Estate Department of PEPCO, and was active in County politics and economic development.

He was past Grand Knight of Pius X Council of the Knights of Columbus and served on the board of Bishop McNamara High School. When St. Philip’s Church was founded in 1957, a Soper family cemetery was located on the Henderson Road site. Al negotiated with the family to clear the title, making development possible. Al was also involved in the CCD program at St. Philip’s.

He’s survived by his wife of 66 years, Rose. He was the father of Helen, Christine, Andy, Katie, Thomas (died in infancy), Carolyn and Matthew; grandfather of 16 and great-grandfather of six. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Mary of the Assumption in Upper Marlboro, with burial at Resurrection Cemetery. He was a lot of fun; I’ll miss him!

Roosevelt Askew, detective and Marine

Roosevelt Askew, Sr., 72, of Oxon Hill, retired Washington Metropolitan Police Dept. Detective and retired Station Manager for WMATA (Metro), died Jan. 17. He served in the Marines and was honored for his service in Vietnam.

Survivors include his wife Barbara, children and grandchildren. Visitation was at J.B. Jenkins Funeral Home in Landover, with final homegoing at St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Lake Lure, N.C.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Ruth Anthony, March 23; my grandson Jack McHale and Hudson Murphy Glaubitz, March 23; Lewis Woods, March 24; 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

Tamia Byrom and Kayla Bridgett Named CIAA Tennis Players of the Week

By GREGORY C. GOINGS
Bowie State Sports Information

CHARLOTTE, N.C.(March 20, 2019)—The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) released its Week 3 Tennis Players of the Week. Bowie State captured both honors. Freshman **Tamia Byrom** (Upper Marlboro, Md.) was named Rookie of the Week while sophomore

Kayla Bridgett (Upper Marlboro, Md.) was selected Player of the Week. Byrom won her #3 singles match vs. Virginia Union by scores of 6-7, 6-4, 1-0. The freshman psychology major is 2-1 on the season in singles play. Bridgett won her #2 singles match over Virginia Union by scores of 6-4, 4-6, 1-0 while teaming with Devinity Apollon for a no.1 doubles win by a score of 6-1.

Annual Carson Scholars Fund Awards Banquet

Honoring 611 scholars in Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic

By AMY WARNER
Carson Scholars Fund, Inc.

BALTIMORE, Md. (March 19, 2019)—The Carson Scholars Fund is excited to announce that 505 scholarships have been awarded to exceptional students across the nation. Maryland, and surrounding states, celebrate 217 new and 394 recognized students being named 2019 Carson Scholars. These young adults are exceptional, not only in the academic setting, but in their communities. One Carson Scholar parent celebrated her son’s achievement via social media, sharing, “Be kind, stay humble and work hard! Dr. Ben & Candy Carson have inspired countless academic scholars and servant leaders.” Carson Scholars are individuals in grades 4–11 who display outstanding academic achievement (at least a 3.75 GPA) and humanitarian qualities. New scholars receive a \$1,000 college scholarship and the coveted honor of being named a Carson Scholar. The recipients being honored in Prince George’s County are below. Information on all 2019 Carson Scholars can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2VnN5rb>

To celebrate their accomplishments, 611 scholars from the Mid-Atlantic area will be recognized at the **Maryland Awards Banquet on Sunday, May 5, 2019 starting at 2:00 p.m. at Martin’s West.**

The Carson Scholars Fund will also recognize scholars across the country at six additional regional banquets.

2019 Scholars

Scholar	Gr.	School	City
Joseph Bailor	8	Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle	Beltsville
Nohemy Juarez	8	Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle	Laurel
Princess-Nicole Thomas	8	Beltsville Academy	Beltsville

2019 Recognized Scholars

Scholar	Gr.	School	City	# of times won
Emmanuela Otunuga	12	Eleanor Roosevelt High School	Greenbelt	3
Demilade Tinubu	10	Eleanor Roosevelt High School	Greenbelt	3
Ashley Wilson	10	Oxon Hill High School	Oxon Hill	5

The Carson Scholars Fund (CSF) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) public charity founded in 1994 by retired, world-renowned pediatric neurosurgeon Dr. Benjamin Carson and his wife, Candy. The CSF is dedicated to impacting the nation in a positive way by cultivating future leaders who demonstrate academic excellence and commitment to their communities.

Chesapeake Life Center’s Prince George’s County 2019 Spring Grief Support Schedule

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

LARGO, Md. (March 20, 2019)—Chesapeake Life Center will offer a variety of grief support groups April through June 2019 through its Prince George’s County office at 9500 Medical Center Drive, Suite 250, Largo.

- **Coffee and Conversations Monthly Morning Grief Support Group** is an informal gathering that provides a safe place for sharing and learning about grief while exploring coping strategies. The group will meet from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on the second Thursday of the month April 11, May 9 and June 13.
- **Monthly Evening Grief Support Group** is similar in format to the morning group and will meet on the fourth Thursday of the month from 6 to 7:30 p.m. April 25, May 23 and June 27.
- **Sudden Loss Support Group** is for adults who are grieving some-

one who has passed from unexpected or sudden deaths, including suicide, homicide, accidents, natural causes such as an accident or allergic reaction or from advanced terminal illness that was undiagnosed or when death occurred within two months of diagnosis. The group will meet on the evenings of April 22 and June 17. Call for times and to speak with a counselor prior to attending your first meeting.

- **SoulCollage Grief Support Group** has participants create a series of collages to commemorate lost loved ones and to visually journal the grief process. The group will meet from 5 to 7:30 p.m. April 8, May 6 and June 3. The cost is \$10. Child care is not provided, and children are not permitted in any of these groups. Registration is required for all groups and can be completed by calling 888-501-7077 or emailing griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

HBCU

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland hosted HBCU at Bowie State University-Student Center on Tuesday, March 5, 2019. Our vision for HBCU Night was to join Maryland lawmakers, current HBCU students, alumni, friends, and family in a night of networking and celebration. HBCU Night honored the academic, social, and societal impact that Historically Black Colleges and Universities have on our students and our state. This year’s Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland, Inc. highlighted the Bowie State University.

ARTS IN THE CLASSROOM

Harmony Halls Art Center offers a host of wonderful classes in a variety of specialties including pottery, watercolor, sculpture, photography, painting, drawing, ballet, as well as African, modern, street, and belly dance.

Register for classes online at pgparks.com or at any staffed M-NCPPC facility in Prince George’s County. For more information call 301-203-6070, TTY 301-699-2544.

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

“March is the month when we take the time to look back and honor the many achievements of women through history and the vast strides made by women today. Learn more about some of the world’s greatest women, the struggle for women’s rights, and a bit about the history of women’s history.”

“**Oscar winner:** In 1940, Hattie McDaniel, was the first African-American performer to win an Academy Award, the film industry’s highest honor for her portrayal of a loyal slave governess in *Gone with the Wind*.”

“**Into Space:** In 1992, Dr. Mae Jemison became the first African woman to go into space aboard the space shuttle Endeavor. During her eight-mission, she worked with U.S. and Japanese researchers, and was a co-investigator on a bone cell experiment.” Thanks to Dr. Sandra Jones for submitting the Women’s History Month information.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL

Congratulations Frederick Douglass Dance team Mid Atlantic Pom & Dance Championships for First Team, Captain, Best Choreography-Jazz, 1st place Captain & 2nd place Team-HIP Hop, 2nd place Captain & Team-Pom, 1st place Jumps; 2nd place spin; 3rd place Jumps, Top 5 Teams Overall & Fan Favorite Eagles.

PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY COUNCIL

Council Member At-Large Mel Franklin presented building generational wealth and equity in communities of color March 1, 2019 at the UMD Academic Center in Largo, Maryland. This was part of their prosperity for all town hall meeting series, from minority business opportunities, financial literacy, to funding for schools and other critical public services, generational wealth is critical but often missing link for communities of color. The town hall meeting was to explore solutions to these challenges.

SPRING GOSPEL PROGRAM

Join us Sunday, April 28, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. at St. Philip’s Church, 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Master of Ceremony is Rev. Tyrone Johnson. Gospel groups are Asbury United Methodist Men’s Choir, Asbury United Methodist God’s Creation Dancers, Zion Wesley United Methodist Men’s Choir, New Hope Fellowship Men’s Choir and Abundant Life Ministries (ALM) Women’s Choir. Tickets are \$10.00, children 12 and under free. Tickets will be sold at the door. Light refreshments will be served after the program. Benefit St. Philip’s Church.

CHILDREN’S GLOBAL READINESS ACADEMY

Spring Break Camp 2019 is from April 15–19, 2019. The camp includes full immersion language camp, Spanish, French or Mandarin Chinese, daily breakfast and snack, mediaeval times (lunch and tournament show). Before & After care is offered from 7:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. For availability and enrollment, contact: info@cgrkids.org or 301-842-4056.

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—Prince George’s County Department of Parks and Recreation

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

We Can Do Something About Teen Suicide

Many parents are, unfortunately, not aware of how common the problem of teen suicide is. In America, it's estimated there is an average of more than 3,000 suicide attempts every day by young people in grades 9 to 12. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people ages 10 to 24, killing more teens and young adults than cancer, heart disease, AIDS, birth defects, stroke, pneumonia, influenza and chronic lung disease combined.

Studies have found that four out of five teens who attempt suicide have given clear warning signs, yet too often such signs are ignored or simply not noticed or recognized.

Life today can seem overwhelming for many adolescents. Young people are confronted with physical and hormonal changes, school grade anxieties, being socially accepted and making life decisions about college or employment choices. Other factors, such as a parental divorce, a seriously ill relative or even moving to a new home can bring added levels of stress and anxiety. Being bullied, whether in person or online, will also contribute to the negative feelings a teen may be experiencing.

Teens affected by such factors are often suffering from depression and suicide may simply seem the easiest way to escape the blackness they are feeling. Depression is a mental health issue that doesn't cure itself, but it does have a number of signs that can help a parent spot a teen in trouble.

Teens suffering from depression will often exhibit changes in eating and sleeping habits. They often are withdrawn, losing interest in friends and family, and no longer participating in favorite activities. Their school work may be suffering, they may have difficulty concentrating, and may not pay much attention to their personal hygiene and appearance.

In some cases the teen may verbalize feelings of wanting to die or simply outright threaten suicide. The warnings given may be more subtle, like saying "I won't be a problem much longer." Any such references to death or suicide are clear cries for help and shouldn't be ignored.

Depression, whether in a teen or adult, is a mental health problem that can be treated. Any signs that a teen may be considering suicide should call for immediate action. Talk to your family physician or a professional counselor. There's also information and help from the National Suicide Prevention hotline at 1-800-273-8255. Acting early can help save a young life.

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.

Maryland Could Become First State to Ban Foam Food Containers

By TRIMMEL GOMES
Public News Service (MD)

BALTIMORE (March 15, 2019)—Maryland soon could become the first state to ban Styrofoam food containers and cups.

A bill passed this week by the House of Delegates prohibits restaurants, supermarkets, vending trucks, movie theaters and schools from providing polystyrene food containers. Even egg cartons would have to be made of alternative materials. The Senate approved its version of the ban a week ago, and violators who insist on using foam plates and trays would face a \$250 fine.

Cities such as Baltimore already have banned them, but Adam Lindquist, director of the Baltimore Waterfront Partnership's Healthy Harbor Initiative, said it still wasn't enough.

"We know the Styrofoam containers that end up in the Baltimore Harbor, they just don't come from the city," he said. "Our streams flow across political boundaries—and so, foam can come from all over the place. So really, a statewide ban will have a much bigger impact."

Opponents, such as the Maryland Retailers Association, have claimed that the cost of using alternative packaging is too great, adding that consumers would spend almost \$35 million more each year to replace the banned products.

House and Senate negotiators are expected to hammer out differences in the bills before final approval.

The Healthy Harbor Initiative is known for its famous "Trash Wheel family"—Mr. Trash Wheel, Professor Trash Wheel and Capt. Trash Wheel. They use sustainable energy to churn around the harbor and collect floating trash. Lindquist said they'd prefer to put the Trash Wheel family on a diet.

"Since we started this project in 2014, over 1 million foam containers," he said. "It is by far one of the biggest pollutants that we see coming down our waterways, and it's really hard to capture, because it keeps breaking up into smaller and smaller pieces."

According to the group Trash Free Maryland, polystyrene, also known as Styrofoam, is a major pollution risk for marine life as well as people. Lindquist said the goal is not just to collect trash, but to inspire people to make change—including legislative change to help reduce consumer waste.

GREENBELT ORGANIZATIONS
Grant Writing Workshop • Wednesday, April 3, 2019 • 7-8:30 p.m.
Springhill Lake Recreation Ctr, 6101 Cherrywood Ln, Greenbelt
Register at Info@GreenbeltFoundation.org
The Greenbelt Community Foundation is offering a free workshop to Greenbelt organizations and cooperatives interested in applying for a grant. This workshop will use the GCF application form and focus on writing a successful application for funding for projects in Greenbelt. Bring a copy of the grant application and your ideas about your project description.

Proposed Federal Budget Will Worsen Housing Affordability in Montgomery And Prince George's Counties

By SARAH REDDINGER
Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland

SILVER SPRING, Maryland (March 19, 2019)—The administration's 2020 budget request, released this month, proposes to eliminate funding for programs that support affordable housing, a move that would worsen the affordable housing shortage facing Montgomery and Prince George's Counties and communities across the United States.

"We want to make sure that people in our community have access to decent housing that doesn't force them to make impossible choices, like whether to pay their rent or buy food to eat," said John Paukstis, President & CEO. "If we do not speak up now, these measures could have tremendous and damaging impact on generations of families to come." The budget proposed by the White House reduces or eliminates funding that Habitat uses to build and improve affordable housing. The Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Home Investment

Partnerships Program (HOME), Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP), Section 4 program and Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI) are all slated for elimination. AmeriCorps, a 25-year-old public service program that helps local and national organizations and agencies meet critical needs in the community is also slated for elimination. More than 10,000 AmeriCorps members have served their communities through Habitat, helping to build new affordable homes and rebuild those in disaster-stricken areas. Shutting the Corporation for National and Community Service, which administers the program, would be a significant loss for Habitat and other organizations that rely on this substantial volunteer workforce.

Across the nation, 1 in 6 families pays more than 50% of their income on housing, 30% is considered affordable. In the Washington D.C. Metro area, a household working minimum wage jobs must work 3 jobs to afford fair market rent for a one-bedroom apartment. These federal housing programs

allow Habitat, and other organizations, to help people build better lives for themselves and their families by giving them greater access to safe and affordable shelter.

"The funding for these programs really does strengthen the reach of Habitat's work. We see the impact it has every single day. We sincerely hope that our elected officials will not lose sight of the important role these programs play in their communities," said John Paukstis. "We strongly encourage our supporters and all advocates for affordable housing to contact their members of Congress and urge them to fight for adequate funding of these programs in the fiscal year 2020 budget."

Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland, Inc. (HFHMM) is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International that serves Montgomery and Prince George's Counties in Maryland. Habitat for Humanity is about changing lives, one home at a time. Better quality of living leads to stronger citizens and families. Visit our website at www.HabitatMM.org.

Community Event Successfully Raises Awareness About Colorectal Cancer

By CHONDRIA ANDREWS
Doctors Community Hospital

LANHAM, Md. (March 20, 2019)—On Sunday, March 17, Doctors Community Hospital hosted its third annual colorectal cancer awareness walk/run at Schrom Hills Park in Greenbelt, MD. This year, Mayor Emmitt Jordan, City of Greenbelt, helped to kick off this community event.

"We want to empower people with the knowledge needed to make well-educated decisions about their health. That includes educating them about colorectal cancer, which is among the top four cancers with a high mortality rate in Prince George's County," stated Kwanza Graham-Sykes, program administrator at Doctors Community Hospital's Cancer Prevention, Education, Screening and Treatment (CPEST) Program.

Colorectal cancer is often preventable and curable with early detection. However, the American Cancer Society estimates that there will be 2,620 diagnosed cases of colorectal cancer and 880 related deaths in 2019. "These startling numbers are a few of the reasons why awareness and education is so important," ex-

plained Graham-Sykes. "Equipped with the right information and access to the right tools, people can improve their health. At the same time, they can educate others within their sphere of influence—creating a cycle of improved health and wellness."

In addition to taking part in a walk and run around Schrom Hills Park, participants learned about the importance of colonoscopy screenings and the availability of other free health resources at the hospital. As mentioned by Mayor Jordan, "We are so fortunate in Greenbelt to have a great institution like Doctors Hospital so close to us with all of the outreach activities, screenings and what not. They make it a lot easier to maintain a healthy lifestyle."

Facts about Colorectal Cancer

Colorectal cancer is a disease that often occurs in the colon or rectum. A colonoscopy screening is recommended for men and women starting at age 50 or earlier if they have a family history of the disease. Also, African Americans should start at age 45. Though some people who have this disease may not experience symptoms, a few may include:

- Blood in or on the stool (bowel movement)
 - Lump in the abdomen
 - Cramps or pain in the abdomen
 - Constipation
 - Flat or ribbon-shaped stool
- In addition to colonoscopies, people may help prevent this disease by:
- Being physically active
 - Maintaining a healthy weight
 - Transitioning to a healthy eating lifestyle
 - Drinking alcohol in moderation
 - Not smoking

To improve access to life-saving screenings, Doctors Community Hospital provides free colonoscopies throughout the year. At no cost to them, community members may qualify if they are:

- Prince George's County residents
 - Ages 50 to 75
 - Younger than age 50 with a family history of colorectal cancer
 - Uninsured or underinsured
- For more information, contact Doctors Community Hospital's Cancer Prevention, Education, Screening and Treatment (CPEST) program at 301-324-4968 or 301-552-7705.

Five D.C.-Area Students Participated in Disney Dreamers Academy Mentoring Program at Walt Disney World Resort



Mickey Mouse welcomes Ilyna Fontaine [from Waldorf], Kendyll Gabriel [from Stafford, VA], Lauryn Howell [from Upper Marlboro] and Lauren Taylor from Washington D.C., Thursday, March 21, to Magic Kingdom in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. during the 12th annual Disney Dreamers Academy. The event, [which took place] March 21-24, 2019 at Walt Disney World Resort, is a career-inspiration program for distinguished high school students from across the U.S. (Not pictured: Gabrielle Williams [from Accokeek])

PHOTO CREDIT:
TODD ANDERSON,
PHOTOGRAPHER

COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

It's Time to Sign Colin Kaepernick

"Though this legal battle with Kaepernick has been resolved, he isn't going away either. The league will forever have to live with the fact that it was complicit in destroying someone's career simply because he wished to bring attention to the injustices suffered by his people. If owners and Roger Goodell believe that they no longer will have to face questions about why Kaepernick isn't in the league, they're wrong. No matter what an arbitrator rules, how the NFL treated Kaepernick will always be the mistake they can never amend."

—Jemele Hill

Over the last several weeks, two incidents have served to remind us of the hypocrisy and racism that still permeates the National Football League.

First, the league reached a settlement with San Francisco 49ers Colin Kaepernick and Eric Reid, who accused the league's 32 teams of colluding to keep them from playing because they knelt through the national anthem to protest racism and police brutality.

Second, yet another in a seemingly endless stream of reports surfaced about a player accused of domestic violence. This time: Kansas City Chiefs wide receiver Tyreek Hill, who has a history of domestic violence, is being investigated for assault of a child.

It's hard to deny that the NFL appears to be an institution that is tolerant of domestic violence, but intolerant of social activism.

The excuse that signing Kaepernick would be a bad business decision was obliterated last fall by sportswear giant Nike. After unveiling an ad campaign featuring Kaepernick, sales rocketed and its stock price soared. As sportswriter Jason La Canfora noted of the "bad for business" argument, "Oh really? How's it working out for Phil Knight? You think he did this as a publicity stunt? It ain't warm and fuzzy in the Fortune 500, brother, it's just business—cutthroat business at that in sporting apparel—and Nike made this cal-

culated decision to make money. And that they are doing."

The excuse that Kaepernick simply isn't a good enough player, also is laughable. Even the most casual football fan can observe quarterbacking every week that is not up to Kaepernick's standards. Since 2011, Kaepernick is tied for 14th in QB rating, tied with Carson Palmer and Andy Dalton. Plenty of quarterbacks with lower ratings not only are playing, but have secured deals worth more than \$10 million per year.

The facts simply do not bear it out that Kaepernick's skill and abilities don't measure up.

Sports news site The Athletic in January surveyed 85 defensive NFL players from 25 different teams about their favorite and least favorite quarterbacks. "There is one quarterback the defensive players surveyed were nearly unanimous on: Colin Kaepernick," The Athletic wrote. Only two of the 85 said he should not be on an NFL roster and another two chose not to comment."

Audio recording of a meeting between owners and players last spring revealed a simpler—and feebler—answer for why Kaepernick isn't signed: the owners are afraid of the President's Twitter account.

"The problem we have is, we have a president who will use that as fodder to do his mission that I don't feel is in the best interests of America," Patriots owner Robert Kraft said. "It's divisive and it's horrible."

Buffalo Bills owner Terry Pegula shared Kraft's fear. "All Donald needs to do is to start to do this again."

Fear of a Tweet is keeping a talented athlete in the prime of his career from earning a living at the sport in which he excels. It's depriving the league and its fans of that talent.

Signing Kaepernick would not just be good for Kaepernick. It would be good for the NFL, good for the fans, and good for American. The NFL must right this wrong and give the fans and the players what they want.

Todd M. Turner

Prince George's County Council Chair



Council Responds to Massacre At Mosques in New Zealand

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (March 19, 2019)—The Prince George's County Council joins with global voices condemning the massacre that took the lives of 50 Muslim worshippers, and injured 50 others during Friday Prayer at Al Noor Mosque and the Linwood Islamic Centre in Christchurch, New Zealand.

This appalling act of terrorism, motivated by hate, is the deadliest mass shooting in modern New Zealand history, and a painful experience for all humanity. We mourn with the families and loved

ones of the victims in this tragedy.

In Prince George's County, where our diversity is our strength, we stand in solidarity with the Muslim community in New Zealand, around the world, and in our own communities. We encourage all Prince Georgians to pause with us to recall the names of the victims, learn their stories, pray for their families, and continue to work for peace and civility in our communities and around the world.

For a rich cultural experience and to learn more about the Mus-

lim community, residents may consider a visit to the Diyanet Center of America, in Lanham. This venue of peace, provides religious and social services to Turkish people and Muslims living in the United States, and serves the entire surrounding community as well, which hosts a significant Muslim population. Nearby, there is also a Mormon church, and Sikh temple—a clear demonstration of our County's rich diversity, and acknowledgement that love is greater than hate.

Chris Van Hollen

United States Senator for Maryland



Van Hollen Statement on Barr Summary of Mueller Report

WASHINGTON (March 24, 2019)—Today, U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) released the following statement regarding the summary of Special Counsel Mueller's report sent to Congress by Attorney General Barr:

"The Mueller report confirms that the Russians interfered in our 2016 election, a point that President Trump continues to deny. I know our country is relieved that Mueller did not find that the President participated in

a criminal conspiracy with Putin and Russia, but the President is simply wrong to claim he has been exonerated with respect to charges that he sought to obstruct justice. In fact, the Mueller report expressly indicates that they did not reach a determination on that question. It is alarming but perhaps not surprising that Attorney General Barr—who was handpicked by President Trump—would try to exonerate the President of obstructing justice within 48 hours of

getting a report that did not reach such a conclusion. This is the same individual who signaled to President Trump that he did not believe presidents could be liable for obstruction of justice in such circumstances and was likely nominated by Trump for that reason. All this shows why it is imperative that the Congress and the American people immediately get access to the full report and its supporting materials. The country deserves the whole truth and nothing but the truth."

Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin, Van Hollen Announce Over \$17 Million in Funding to Fight Opioid Epidemic

WASHINGTON (March 21, 2019)—Today, U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen (both D-Md.) announced \$17,314,430 in federal funding for Maryland to combat the opioid epidemic. These funds, provided through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' State Opioid Response Grants aim to address the opioid crisis by increasing access to medication-assisted treatment using the three Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder, reducing unmet treatment need, and reducing opioid overdose related deaths through the provision of prevention, treatment, and recovery activities for opioid use disorder. Senators Cardin and Van Hollen have consistently fought to increase this funding in the budget and appropriations process and through the passage of the Opioid Crisis Response Act of 2018.

"These federal funds will save lives and better our communities," said Senator Cardin, member of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Health Care. "Maryland received over \$17 million in federal funding for the State Opioid Response Grants, which will provide flexibility for local governments and local communities to do what they need to do in order to expand access to substance use treatment and re-

duce opioid overdose deaths, while at the same time providing Federal Government partnership and resources that can really make a difference."

"Opioid addiction has wreaked havoc in our state and across the country, leaving no community unscathed. This investment will provide crucial resources to Maryland's efforts to combat the crisis—from increasing access to treatment

to providing our emergency responders with the tools they need to save lives," said Senator Van Hollen, member of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committees. "I was proud to work in the Senate for increased funding to tackle this epidemic—together, we must keep expanding prevention, treatment, and recovery services for individuals struggling with addiction and other mental health issues."

MD Senate Committee Bill Advances End-of-Life Option Act With Troubling Amendments, Advocacy Group Says

Compassion & Choices Urges Senate to Pass More Patient-Friendly Bill

By SEAN CROWLEY
Compassion and Choices

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (March 21, 2019)—The Senate Judicial Proceedings voted 7 to 3 to advance the Maryland End-of-Life Option Act (SB311/HB399), after hours of debate last night on troubling amendments the committee added to the bill. The bipartisan legislation would give mentally capable, terminally ill adults with six months or less to live the option to get a doctor's prescription for medication they can take if their suffering becomes intolerable and die peacefully in their sleep. The House of Delegates passed the bill, which has 69 cosponsors, on March 7 by a 74 to 66 vote.

"We appreciate the strong leadership of committee vice chairman Will Smith in advancing the bill. Unfortunately, the new drastically revised version of this bill includes troubling amendments that we know from our experience in other states will make the bill nearly impossible for patients to access," said Kim Callinan, CEO of Compassion & Choices, which is leading the grassroots campaign to pass the bill. "The bill in its current form would create many needless hoops and roadblocks for dying patients and put doctors at risk for baseless lawsuits against them for helping dying patients relieve intolerable suffering."

Today, the Senate Judicial Proceedings approved the bill with amendments that individually appear reasonable, but collectively make the bill unworkable. They include:

- Stripping the bill of civil immunities for doctors, patients, family members and witnesses.
- Adding nearly impossible, time-consuming and vague requirements for doctors that expose them to baseless, expensive, wrongful death suits.
- Erecting barrier after barrier for dying patients: a mandatory psychological evaluation, numer-

ous additional witness requirements, and the cruel reality that they will never find a doctor willing to prescribe aid-in-dying medication.

- Putting the dying person's family members in the untenable position of fearing baseless, expensive lawsuits and preventing them from enjoying the precious time they have left with their loved one.

Other supporters included the ACLU, Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ, League of Women Voters of Maryland, Libertarian Party of Maryland, Maryland Congressmen Elijah Cummings and Anthony Brown, Marylanders for End-of-Life Options, Suburban Maryland Psychiatric Society, Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland, United Seniors of Maryland, and WISE (Women Indivisible Strong Effective).

A Public Policy Polling last month showed Marylanders support medical aid in dying by a 3-1 margin (66% to 20%), including majority support from African Americans (59%) and every other demographic group (Independents: 73%, Democrats: 70%, Republicans: 53%, Whites: 69%, Catholics: 65%, Protestants: 62%, Jews: 67%, and Muslims: 52%). The Maryland State Medical Society adopted a neutral stance on the bill after a 2016 survey showed most of its members supported it.

In addition, four local newspapers have editorialized in support of passing the End-of-Life Option Act: *The [Annapolis] Capital Gazette*, *The Washington Post*, *The [Easton] Star Democrat* and *The [California, MD] Enterprise*.

Compassion & Choices is the nation's oldest, largest and most active nonprofit working to improve care, expand options and empower everyone to chart their end-of-life journey. More information is available at: CompassionAndChoices.org/Maryland

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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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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

No Special “Extra Dollars” For Veteran’s Monthly Benefit

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

Dear Rusty:

I am within a few weeks of applying for SS. My 70th Birthday is in April and I have stayed in my job for the maximum benefit from SS. I am also a veteran and so am taking my DD-214 with me to apply for the \$300.00 or so extra dollars that is offered per month. Are there any other extra items I need to apply for? I keep hearing about a \$16,000 benefit that I should apply for from SS but of course they never actually give you the specifics. **Signed: Veteran Applying for SS**

Dear Veteran: Please accept my gratitude for your service to our country, and congratulations for choosing a great strategy by waiting until you are 70 to get the maximum Social Security benefit available to you. However, I’m afraid I must clarify something regarding that “\$300 or so extra dollars that is offered per month.” What you’re referring to is called “special extra earnings” for military service, but that provision doesn’t provide you with \$300 in additional monthly SS benefits because of your military service. Rather it is a provision, which adds dollars to your recorded military earnings, with the amount added dependent upon the years during which you served.

Those who served between 1957 and 1977 get \$300 added to their military earnings record for each quarter of active duty service. For example, if their actual military earnings for a given year of active duty were \$2,700, their military earnings for that year for Social Security purposes will be shown as \$3,900 (\$300 per quarter times 4 quarters = \$1200 additional earnings for that service year). Those who served between 1978 and 2001 would also receive an addition to their military earnings record, but it would be computed somewhat differently—they receive an additional \$100 in earnings for every \$300 in active duty military pay, up to a maximum of \$1,200 additional for each service year.

But these credits are not added to your monthly Social Security benefit payment; they are additions to your military earnings record, which may influence the amount of your Social Security benefit if your military service years are among the 35 years used to compute your SS benefit amount. Put simply, your earnings records for each year of active military service are increased by up to \$1200 per year for each year of active duty so that when your SS benefit is computed the higher earnings may increase your benefit amount. You can read all about this at the following link to Social Security’s rules on this topic: <https://www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/military.html>. As you will see in this document, if you served between 1968 and 2001 you do not need to do anything to receive these additions to your military pay record; the special extra earnings have already been credited to your military pay records. And no “special extra earnings” are credited for military service after 2001.

As for your question about “any other extra items” you need to apply for, there really aren’t any for you. By claiming your SS benefit to start in the month you attain 70 years of age you will be getting a benefit which is 32% more than you would have received at your full retirement age of 66, and that is the maximum you can receive.

Regarding what you hear about “a \$16,000 benefit” you should apply for; those advertisements are marketing hype designed to get you to buy something or enroll in some program. If you keep digging (as I have) you will find that they’ll finally suggest that you may be able get that much more if you delay claiming benefits until you are 70 years old, which, of course, you have already done. Please keep this adage in mind—“if it sounds too good to be true, it usually is.” And once more, thank you for your military service and congratulations for choosing a Social Security strategy that yields you the highest possible Social Security benefit available.

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.

SBA Deadline For Maryland Small Businesses to Apply For Working Capital Loans For the May 2018 Severe Flooding Is April 25

By MICHAEL LAMPTON
The U.S. Small Business Administration

ATLANTA (March 20, 2019)—The U.S. Small Business Administration is reminding businesses in Maryland that working capital loans are still available to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives; small businesses engaged in aquaculture and private nonprofit organizations affected by severe flooding on May 27, 2018.

“Businesses that suffered economic losses as a result of the disaster and want to apply for low-interest loans from the SBA are urged to do so before the April 25 deadline,” said Kem Fleming, director of SBA Field Operations Center East.

Low-interest disaster loans are available in the following counties: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Baltimore City, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery and Prince George’s in Maryland.

Working capital disaster loans up to \$2 million are available at 3.61 percent for small businesses, and 2.5 percent for private nonprofit organizations with terms up to 30 years. The loans are intended to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other expenses that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred. To be considered for this assistance, eligible entities need to apply by the deadline.

Survivors may apply online using the Elec-

tronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA’s secure website at DisasterLoan.sba.gov.

Businesses may also obtain information and loan applications by calling the SBA’s Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing), or by emailing disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Loan applications can also be downloaded at sba.gov/disaster. Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The deadline to return economic injury applications is April 25, 2019.

The U.S. Small Business Administration makes the American dream of business ownership a reality. As the only go-to resource and voice for small businesses backed by the strength of the federal government, the SBA empowers entrepreneurs and small business owners with the resources and support they need to start and grow their businesses. It delivers services to people through an extensive network of SBA field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations. To learn more, visit www.sba.gov.

2019 Keep Maryland Beautiful Grants Total \$215,505

Grants Supports Communities, Projects and Schools

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Natural Resources

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (March 20, 2019)—Maryland Environmental Trust (MET), a unit of the Maryland Department of Resources, has awarded 71 grants totaling \$215,505 toward environmental education, community cleanup and beautification projects through the Keep Maryland Beautiful program.

These annual grants are funded by Maryland Environmental Trust, the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT).

“The Keep Maryland Beautiful grants program is an ideal tool to support local solutions for improving our communities and environment across the state,” Maryland Natural Resources Secretary Jeannie Hadaway-Riccio said. “This longstanding partnership reflects the pride and sense of stewardship we all share for Maryland’s outdoors.”

“Through a cooperative multi-agency partnership led by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, the Keep Maryland Beautiful program focuses on neighborhood beautification through increasing greening, citizen stewardship, community education, and litter removal,”

explained DHCD Secretary Kenneth C. Holt. “I’m gratified on behalf of the Hogan administration that DHCD is able to support Keep Maryland Beautiful through substantial investment in the grants program, a partnership with Maryland Environmental Trust and MDOT that is one of the most visible ways we are able to accomplish the overall Keep Maryland Beautiful mission.”

“These grants are a great way for MDOT to partner to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay watershed while meeting Marylanders’ day-to-day transportation needs,” said MDOT Secretary Pete K. Rahn.

Recipients included schools, nonprofit groups, municipalities and land trusts in 15 counties and two major urban municipalities, Baltimore City and Washington, D.C. Many of these grants focus on developing and supporting communities, families, youth and students who take personal responsibility for the health of their communities, protecting nature in their backyards and seeking ways to help reduce or resolve environmental challenges.

“A core part of our mission at Maryland Environmental Trust is to support nonprofits and community organizations that promote stewardship of our open spaces, environmental education and neighborhood

greening activities,” MET Director Bill Leahy said. “We continue to seek paths of expanding our Keep Maryland Beautiful grants program to increase its impact across the state.”

2019 recipients of Keep Maryland Beautiful Grants include:

Prince George’s County

- **Alice Ferguson Foundation** (partners with watershed residents to remove litter from communities and green-spaces. This proposal seeks funding to support a site leader training that will empower individuals to lead cleanups and engage their fellow residents in community-based stewardship)
- **City of Greenbelt Department of Public Works** (The City of Greenbelt has over 200 acres of protected forests. Parts of these forests were historically used as unofficial dump sites. The City of Greenbelt will remove the large trash items from these forests)
- **The Town of Colmar Manor** (The Clean up & Green up Grant will allow the Town of Colmar Manor to place trash cans throughout the town, to help with litter prevention and trash removal. This will help keep the town clean and beautiful with enhancements of the streetscape)

House Minority Caucus Asks Governor to Veto Wage Increase Bill

Citing Concerns Bill Will Hurt the Very People It Claims to Help

By CARRIE SIMONS-SPARROW
House Minority Caucus
Maryland General Assembly

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (March 25, 2019)—The House Minority Caucus this morning sent a letter to Governor Larry Hogan requesting his veto of House Bill 166 and Senate Bill 280, legislation increasing Maryland’s Minimum Wage to \$15.00 per hour. The letter outlined the Caucus’ strong misgivings with the legislation, including concerns that increasing Maryland’s minimum wage will likely reduce the number of available jobs and harm the very people it aims to help. The letter was sent by House Minority Leader Nic Kipke and House Minority Whip Kathy Szeliga, on behalf of the entire House Minority Caucus.

“We all want people to make more money, allowing them to provide for their families and achieve their goals”, said House Minority Leader Nic Kipke. “However we face a harsh reality

that with this forced wage increase jobs will disappear, either because businesses reduce their number of employees to stay afloat, businesses relocate to another state, or businesses close altogether. Higher wages do not matter if the jobs themselves disappear.”

The letter also highlights the manner in which some members of the General Assembly treated the pleas of small business owners, including the accusation that they were “crying wolf” when expressing concerns with the legislation.

“We have worked under a belief that the majority party in the General Assembly simply does not understand the impact these changes have to businesses”, said House Minority Whip Kathy Szeliga. But it has become increasingly obvious that it is not that they do not understand, but rather that many of our colleagues simply seem not to care about the tremendous negative impact of their actions. That is terribly unfortunate.”



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
US 301 at MD 5 Mattawoman Beantown Road—
Flyover Ramp Recommended
Upcoming Project Video and Public Comment Period



The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA), in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), invites interested persons to comment on the study team’s recommendation for a flyover ramp at the US 301 at MD 5 Mattawoman Beantown Road intersection in Charles County. The study team is in the process of re-evaluating the MD 5 Relocated Project Planning Study, which was approved in 1991. The focus of this re-evaluation is the only portion of the project that remains unconducted: the proposed flyover ramp from US 301 southbound to MD 5 southbound. The study team has confirmed that the flyover design presented in the 1991 environmental document best meets the needs for a flyover at this location.

An opportunity for public comments to be included in the current environmental document will extend from April 8, 2019 to May 6, 2019; however, comments on the project are always welcome. MDOT SHA will maintain public involvement throughout the US 301 at MD 5 Mattawoman Beantown Road re-evaluation process. Representatives of MDOT SHA are available to meet with community groups, civic associations, and other organizations. To request a meeting, receive project information, submit a comment, or add your name to the project mailing list, please contact the study team by email at: us301project@sha.state.md.us

For your comment to be included in the re-evaluation document, you must submit it by the close of the comment period on May 6, 2019.

The US 301 at MD 5 Mattawoman Beantown Road Project Video will be available online in early April. Please continue to check MDOT SHA Projects Page at www.roads.maryland.gov for updates on when you can view the video on a personal computer, smartphone, or tablet at your convenience. The video is approximately 10 minutes long and discusses the project need, the current design, and findings from environmental and engineering analyses.

Project Video Viewing Session

For those who are unable to access the video, MDOT SHA representatives will present the video at the **Charles Co. Public Library—Waldorf (West Branch) on Thursday, April 11, 2019 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** The video will be shown on a loop, so arrive at any time. This meeting will be limited to presentation of the video and will not include additional mapping or displays. Members of the study team will be available to answer project related questions and receive comments.

WHEN: Thursday, April 11, 2019 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (Arrive at any time during video viewing hours.)
WHERE: Charles Co. Public Library—Waldorf (West Branch)—SOAR Room, 10405 O’Donnell Pl, Waldorf, 20603
CONTACT: Mr. Eric Holmberg, MDOT SHA Project Manager, Project Management Division
Phone: 410-545-8039 (Toll-Free: 1-800-548-5026) Project Email: us301project@sha.state.md.us

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE: The MD Relay Service can assist teletype users at 7-1-1. Persons requiring assistance to participate, such as an interpreter for hearing/speech disabilities or assistance with the English language, should contact Mr. Holmberg by April 4, 2019.

March 2019
A-0920

Gregory I. Slater
State Highway Administrator

OUT on the TOWN

True Tale of Doctor's Fight to Uncover Flint's Lead Contamination Is 2019 One Maryland One Book

By SARAH WEISSMAN
Maryland Humanities

BALTIMORE, Md. (March 21, 2019)—Maryland Humanities is pleased to announce the selection of *What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resilience, and Hope in an American City* by Mona Hanna-Attisha for the 2019 One Maryland One Book program. Dr. Hanna-Attisha, a pediatrician, helped expose and make known the lead in Flint, Michigan's water. The book was chosen by a committee of librarians, educators, authors, and bibliophiles in February from more than 231 titles suggested last fall by readers across the state under the theme, "Nature."

"One Maryland One Book brings together a wide range of residents from every corner of the state to talk about issues that matter to them," says Phoebe Stein, executive director at Maryland Humanities. "I know Marylanders will find Dr. Hanna-Attisha's book about her work in Flint and its profound impact compelling and relevant. I'm looking forward to hearing the important discussions this book will generate."

Dr. Hanna-Attisha says: "I'm humbled and psyched that *What the Eyes Don't See* has been selected as the 2019 One Maryland One Book. I am looking forward to engaging with Maryland readers about the many timely issues that the book magnifies including poverty, race, industrial decline, inequality, toxic stress, austerity, and immigration," she continues. "I'm especially happy that the committee recognizes that environmental justice fits neatly within this year's theme of 'nature.' In Michigan and Maryland—states with an abundance

of natural beauty—the burden of environmental harm does not fall equally."

About the Book

This year's inspirational read is *What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resilience, and Hope in an American City* by Mona Hanna-Attisha. The book chronicles Dr. Mona's relentless pursuit to uncover the contamination of Flint, Michigan's drinking water, which would lead to her testifying in front of Congress. Gripping and emotional, Dr. Mona's personal account reads like a scientific thriller as she vividly recounts the effects lead poisoning had on her young patients and the evidence she gathered to share with the world.

About the Author

Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha is the crusading pediatrician who first researched and revealed the lead in the blood of Flint, Michigan's children. Named one of Time magazine's "100 Most Influential People in the World," she continues to work to mitigate the impact of the water crisis on Flint's children. In her powerful book, *What the Eyes Don't See*, and her personal and inspiring speeches, she motivates audiences to speak out against injustice.

About One Maryland One Book

When we read a great book, we can't wait to share the experience and talk about it with others. That's one of the joys of reading.

In that spirit, through its Maryland Center for the Book program, Maryland Humanities created One Maryland One Book

(OMOB) to bring together diverse people in communities across the state through the shared experience of reading the same book. We invite readers to participate in book-centered discussions and related programs at public libraries, high schools, colleges, museums, bookstores, and community and senior centers around the state.

OMOB programs, including an author tour, take place each year in the fall. A calendar of free public events will be available online beginning this summer.

Want to discuss the book now or get updates on upcoming events? Join the conversation on the Maryland Center for the Book page. Connect with Maryland Humanities on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

One Maryland One Book is presented in partnership with Enoch Pratt Free Library and is sponsored by The Institute of Museum and Library Services via the Maryland State Library, as well as PNC Foundation and BGE, with additional support from M&T Bank.

About Maryland Humanities

Maryland Humanities is a statewide non-profit organization that creates and supports educational experiences in the humanities that inspire all Marylanders to embrace lifelong learning, exchange ideas openly, and enrich their communities. For more information, visit www.mdhumanities.org. Maryland Humanities is generously supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the State of Maryland, private foundations, corporations, small businesses, and individual donors.

ERIC D. SNIDER'S IN THE DARK

... Movie Review ...

Captain Marvel

Captain Marvel
Grade: B-
Rated PG-13, a little mild profanity, a lot of the usual fantasy violence.
2 hrs., 4 min.

Many of the people seeing "Captain Marvel" (myself included) won't know anything about the character going in except that she's from Marvel Comics and that you'd think she'd be a bigger deal given that she's named after the company. After seeing the movie, a middling, good-enough episode in the Marvel Cinematic Universe series, I still don't know much about her except that she derives her massive power from one of the MCU's many enchanted trinkets—the Tesseract, whose powers are also not clear to me—and that she will likely be the key to defeating Thanos in next month's "Avengers: Endgame" (which will finish the story that "Avengers: Infinity War" half-told last year).

Directed by the "Half Nelson" team of Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck from a screenplay credited to them and Geneva Robertson-Dworet ("Tomb Raider"), "Captain Marvel" does highlight the filmmakers' resourcefulness. Faced with having to concoct an origin story that will mesh seamlessly with the moving parts already flying around the MCU, they turned the formula on its head. We start on the planet Hala, populated by warrior-heroes of the Kree race, where a soldier named Vers (Brie Larson) is being trained by exacting sensei Yon-Rogg (Jude Law) on the art of killing Skrulls, the Kree's shapeshifting enemies. When Vers is captured in battle, the Skrulls dig around in her memory for a detail they need—thus

giving us a brief overview of Vers' life without having to spend the first half of the film on it.

This narrative choice also ramps up the mystery factor. Vers' memories seem to take place on planet Earth, which is strange for an alien from the planet Hala. In her memories, she was a pilot, and her mentor was the brilliant Dr. Lawson (Annette Bening), whom Vers now sees whenever she visits her planet's A.I. leader, which takes the form of the viewer's most trusted and revered person (mine, as you know, is Carrot Top). The Skrulls, led by a rather nice-seeming fellow named Talos (Ben Mendelsohn), are after a light-speed engine that Dr. Lawson was supposedly working on, which the Kree fear would allow the Skrulls to terrorize even more galaxies than are currently on their route. And over all of this hangs the question of Vers' true origins.

Most of the action takes place on Earth in 1995, where Vers comes in pursuit of the Skrulls. She teams up with S.H.I.E.L.D.'s Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson), who still has both eyes in 1995, and there are brief interactions with our beloved Agent Coulson (Clark Gregg), who is still alive in 1995 (and I guess is alive again now, but only on the Marvel TV shows, which doesn't count, sorry). The Blockbuster video stores and dial-up internets and grungy music of the mid-90s are also on display, mostly for humorous purposes.

The dynamic between Larson and Jackson as Vers and Fury is lively and fun. He's an upbeat butt-kicker who has just learned that aliens exist; she's a no-nonsense butt-kicker who might be an alien and has no

patience for Earth men who tell her to smile more. When she ditches her space costume ("dressed for laser tag," someone says) for a less conspicuous outfit, it includes a Nine Inch Nails T-shirt and makes her look, as Fury puts it, "like someone's disaffected niece." Which is perfect.

The Skrulls' ability to turn from ugly reptilians into any other person just by looking at them results in amusing situations like Vers fighting with an "old woman" on a train in front of stunned passengers. Vers and the other good guys are constantly on guard with each other, asking deeply personal questions to make sure no one's been replaced by a Skrull impostor. We also learn details about the Skrulls and their past that suggests the issue is more complicated than *Us vs. Them*, with talk of "refugees" and someone calling Earth a "s***hole" that will call certain current events to mind.

But the shifting alliances and carefully parceled-out informa-

tion, while keeping things interesting, also create a problem that several Marvel films have had: There are obstacles but no real villain. Vers' challenges are largely internal. This pays off in a stirring moment where she recalls all the times she's gotten up after being knocked down, underscoring perhaps the most admirable thing about humans (female humans in particular) ... but it's not the adrenaline-fueled climax we've been conditioned to expect.

The whole thing feels like Marvel paused the main story (the Avengers and their friends) to quickly tell the backstory of a new character who's about to show up and be important, like a flashback in a Tarantino movie. It's necessary—think how annoyed we'd be if "Avengers: Endgame" hinged on someone we'd never seen before—but it does the character a disservice. She's named after the franchise, for crying out loud! Can't we come up with something more exciting and fully formed?



ROTTENTOMATOES.COM

The story follows Carol Danvers as she becomes one of the universe's most powerful heroes when Earth is caught in the middle of a galactic war between two alien races. Set in the 1990s, *Captain Marvel* is an all-new adventure from a previously unseen period in the history of the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

Calendar Spotlight

Get Out Into Nature With These Events!

Night Hike

Date and Time: Friday, March 29, 2019, 7–8:30 p.m.

Description: Wear comfortable shoes and bring a flashlight! Come join a Naturalist on a nocturnal nature-themed hike in the park. Night hikers will be encouraged to sharpen their senses to be able to spot signs of animal life and learn more about the inhabitants of the park. This is primarily an outdoor activity, so please contact the facility in the case of inclement weather.

Cost: Resident: \$4; Non-resident: \$6. Purchase through PARKS DIRECT!

Age: 4 and older

Location: Watkins Nature Center, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544

Creature Feature: Trickster Animals

Date and Time: Saturday, March 30, 2019, 10–11 a.m.

Description: From camouflage to mimicry, to playing dead... Come and learn how some animals celebrate April Fool's Day all year long! You'll even get a chance to meet the creatures up close!

Cost: Resident: \$3; Non-resident: \$4. Purchase through PARKS DIRECT!

Ages: 3 and up

Location: Watkins Nature Center, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Watkins Nature Center

PHOTO CREDIT M-NCPPC

Watkins Nature Center, in Watkins Regional Park, offers close-up wildlife investigation with its resident live animals, hands-on exhibits, interpretive programs, and special events. Live animal displays include insects, amphibians, reptiles, and birds of prey. The nature center also features indoor and outdoor ponds, a songbird feeding area, a butterfly/hummingbird garden, composting area, and an outdoor nest box exhibit. Nature hikes, campfires, animal shows, puppet shows, crafts, summer day camps, and other programs attract over 90,000 visitors each year. Specialty programs are offered for school groups, Scout groups, home-school students, and adults. Volunteer opportunities are offered year round for teens and adults ages 14 and over. Admission is free, but nominal fees apply for programs. Open Monday–Saturday, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.; Sundays and Holidays, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Watkins Nature Center, 301 Watkins Park Drive,
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774 • 301-218-6702
• <http://outdoors.pgpc.com/3297/Watkins-Nature-Center>

Bike With a Ranger

Date and Time: Saturday, March 30, 2019, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Description: Call the Park Ranger Office for more information, or to inquire about borrowing a bike. Meet at Selby's Landing Parking Area. Enjoy a guided, easy-paced bike ride along a scenic trail. Bring your own bike, helmet, snack, and water and dress appropriately for the weather. Bike must be in good working order.

Cost: Free

Ages: 13 and older

Location: Patuxent River Park, 16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Contact: 301-627-7755; TTY: 301-699-2544

Greenbelt Park Potomac Watershed Cleanup

Date and Time: Saturday April 6, 2019, 8:45 a.m. Participants meet at the Sweetgum Picnic Area. Wear clothes that can get dirty and sturdy boots. We will have gloves and bags. **Pre-registration is required.** Go to www.nps.gov/gree and hit the link Potomac Watershed cleanup. There is also an Event Brite link via National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) to sign up.

Cost: Free

Location: Greenbelt Park, 6565 Greenbelt Road, Sweetgum Picnic Area, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Contact: 301-344-3944

16th Annual Crime Victims Fund Run/Walk

Date and Time: Saturday, May 18, 2019. Registration check in and packet pick up at 7:00 am, Warm up at 7:30a.m., Runners begin at 8 a.m., Walkers begin at 8:30 a.m.

Description: Prince George's County State's Attorney Aisha N. Braveboy will host. The Crime Victims Fund Run is an important cause designed to establish and maintain an emergency funding source to compensate victims of crimes of violence. The funds may be used for assistance with insurance deductibles, crime related counseling services, and victim relocation assistance. In addition, the Fund can also be used for home repairs such as broken windows, doors, locks, as well as other minor property damage including graffiti or cleanup efforts. You can participate in the Fund Run as an individual runner/walker or an organized team by registering at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/fundrun2019>.

Cost: \$20–30

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Watkins Regional Park, 301 Watkins Park Dr., Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Contact: Thelmetria Michaelides: 240-508-2018, tamichaelides@co.pg.md.us

Calendar of Events

March 28–April 3, 2019

Show Place Spring Festival Horse Show

Date and Time: March 28–March 31, 2019, 8 a.m.–9 p.m.
 Description: 2019 Spring Festival Horse Show promoted by Belfield Farm Show Management
 Cost: Free for Spectators
 Ages: All ages are welcome
 Location: The Show Place Arena, 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
 Contact: <http://www.bfshowmanagement.com/showplace-spring-horse-show/>

Movie Premiere & Relationship Panel: Nothing But Love, Women's History Month

Date and Time: Friday, March 29, 2019, 7–9 p.m.
 Description: Nothing But Love is a powerful short film that reveals what can happen when one person in a relationship loves the other person way too much. The film journeys the innermost thoughts of a woman in her 50's who survives a controlling relationship with a man in his 30's. To heal from the aftermath, she seeks help from other broken souls at a counseling group. Following the film, the audience will hear from a panel of three relationship experts who will lead a discussion on relationship trauma, healing, and recovery. There will be other refreshments, snacks, and movie memorabilia for sale.
 Cost: \$10–\$20, includes a complimentary glass of wine.
 Ages: Adults
 Location: Joe's Movement Emporium, 3309 Bunker Hill Road, Mount Rainier, MD 20712
 Contact: 301-699-1819

Washington Women in Jazz

Date and Time: Friday, March 29, 2019, 8–10 p.m.
 Description: Created by pianist Amy K. Bormet in 2011, the Washington Women in Jazz hosts an annual festival each March to celebrate the women of the DC jazz community. Bormet and her colleagues develop, promote, and lead a wide array of concerts, jam sessions, lectures, panels, discussions, and master-classes throughout the festival. During the Montpelier concert, you will see the passion, devotion, and talent these Women in Jazz possess. ADA:Yes
 Cost: \$25/person; 10% discount for Montpelier members and seniors. Purchase through PARKS DIRECT!
 Ages: All ages are welcome
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center, 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD 20708
 Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Liberty Girls: An American Girl Book Club

Date and Time: Saturday, March 30, 2019, 10:30–12 p.m.
 Description: Our Liberty Girls book club is back in 2019 with American Girls Marie-Grace and Cecile! Read about the exciting adventures of these two 19th-Century girls from New Orleans, Louisiana. At each meeting, members will participate in a book discussion with a Prince George's County librarian, do a period activity or craft, and enjoy light refreshments. Membership fee covers the book discussions, activities, refreshments, and a 2019 Liberty Girl t-shirt and canvas bag. **Reservation and payment required in advance.**
 Cost: \$30/person
 Ages: 7–13
 Location: Darnall's Chance House Museum, 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
 Contact: 301-952-8010; TTY 301-699-2544

Poet Laureate Reading Series

Date and Time: Saturday, March 30, 2019, 1–3 p.m.
 Description: This 3rd Poet Laureate Reading Series activity is in celebration of Women's History Month. The Honorable Dorothy F. Bailey, former County Council Chair will bring greetings. This month's event will feature Prince George's County's own Dyone Mitchell, Youth Poetry Ambassador Kaliyah Greene, and Djembe drummer Doc Powell who will accompany Prince George's County Poet Laureate Sistah Joy. An open-mic session will follow the featured performances. The Poet Laureate Reading Series is a monthly event that will include at least one featured poet and an open mic.
 Cost: Free
 Ages: All ages are welcome
 Location: Joe's Movement Emporium, 3309 Bunker Hill Rd., Mt. Rainier, MD 20712
 Contact: sistahjoy@pgahc.org; Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council, 301-772-8943

National Philharmonic Celebrates American Jazz With "Sounds of New Orleans: A Tribute to Louis Armstrong" With Trumpeter and Singer Byron Stripling

Date and Time: Saturday, March 30, 2019, 8 p.m.
 Description: Witness the unforgettable jazz musician Byron Stripling's electrifying performance with the National Philharmonic, led by Maestro Piotr Gajewski. Stripling got his start as the lead trumpeter in the Count Basie Orchestra and will perform Armstrong's greatest hits, including his signature version of *When the Saints Go Marchin' In*. Stripling will perform other Armstrong hits, including *Saint Louis Blues*, *Stachmo Scattin' & Swingin'*, and *What a Wonderful World*. Stripling has performed as lead trumpeter and soloist with symphonies around the country, as well as at Carnegie Hall.
 Cost: \$10-\$72; www.nationalphilharmonic.org
 Ages: All ages are welcome
 Location: The Music Center at Strathmore's Concert Hall, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda, MD 20852
 Contact: 301-581-5100

Land and River Conversations: Exploring Race and Culture through Stories from the Earth, First of a Series

Date and Time: Sunday, March 31, 2019, 2–4 p.m.
 Description: Be part of the conversation about the complicated history and complex relationships that have shaped our region and continue to influence our interactions with one another and with the environment. Topics will include non-traditional perspectives on landscape conservation, culture, history, and specifically connectedness of Native Americans and African Americans to this landscape.
 Cost: Free. **Register at accokeekfoundation.org**
 Ages: Adults
 Location: Piscataway Park, Education Center, 3400 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek, MD 20607
 Contact: 301.283.2113, info@accokeek.org

PLAN AHEAD FOR THESE EVENTS

Daryl Davis Band / Afternoon Tea

Date and Time: Wednesday, April 3, 2019, 2–3 p.m.
 Description: Chicago native Daryl Davis was personally trained by legendary blues, boogie-woogie, and rock 'n roll pianist Pinetop Perkins and Johnnie Johnson. They both claimed him as their godson and praised his ability to master a piano style that was popular long before he was born. Along with leading the Daryl Davis Band, Davis has worked with Elvis Presley's Jordanaires, Chuck Berry, Jerry Lee Lewis, The Coasters, The Platters, The Drifters, and many others. Davis graduated from Howard University with a degree in Jazz.
 Cost: \$18/person, purchase through PARKS DIRECT!
 Ages: All ages are welcome
 Location: Harmony Hall Arts Center, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744
 Contact: 301-203-6070; TTY 301-699-2544

Carl Grubbs

Date and Time: Friday, April 5, 2019, 8–10 p.m.
 Description: Carl Grubbs is an award-winning jazz saxophonist with a distinguished career as a performer, composer, music educator, and recording artist. He has toured with his ensemble in major cities worldwide. Early in his career, Grubbs received extensive training from his brother Earl and one of the music world's greatest legends in jazz, John Coltrane. ADA: Yes
 Cost: \$25/person; 10% discount for Montpelier members and seniors. Purchase through PARKS DIRECT!
 Ages: All ages are welcome
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center, 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD 20708
 Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Spring Lecture Series: African American Women in Music The Music of Ella Fitzgerald

Date and Time: Saturday, April 6, 2019, 1 p.m.
 Description: Join Marietta House Museum and Prince George's County Historical Society as they celebrate International Jazz Month. They bring you Ella Fitzgerald, "The First Lady of Song", 1917–1996. Ella Fitzgerald was the most popular female jazz

singer in the US for more than half a century. She won 13 Grammy awards, and sold over 40 million albums. Ella often used her voice to take on the role of another horn in the band. In her rendition of "You Have to Swing It", she began experimenting with scat singing, and her improvisation and vocalization wowed her fans. Ella would master scat singing and turn it into an art form. In 1987, Ella was awarded the National Medal of Arts. Light refreshments will be served following the program.
 Cost: \$5/person. Call 301-464-5291 to reserve your seat!
 Ages: All ages are welcome
 Location: Marietta House Museum, 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD 20769
 Contact: 301-464-5291

Ava's Works Productions presents... The God of Oz One Show Only!

Date and Time: Saturday, April 6, 2019, 5 p.m.
 Description: The story of a young girl who faced tragedy that held her captive until she was drawn into a whimsical world of love, hope and forgiveness. DeeDee was lost and gave up on her belief in God until she found her way to a place called Oz.
 Cost: General Admission \$18.00, Student (K–12 & College with valid ID) \$10.00, www.bowiecenter.org
 Ages: All ages are welcome
 Location: Bowie Center for the Performing Arts, 15200 Annapolis Rd, Bowie, MD 20715
 Contact: 301-805-6880

With Pen in Hand: Spotlight on Poetry

Date and Time: Monday, April 8, 2019, 6 p.m.
 Description: Novice-to-experienced writers are welcome to share their creative voice through poetry. Bring a poem to read or just listen to local poets.
 Cost: Free
 Ages: Adults
 Location: Glenarden Branch Library, 8724 Glenarden Pkwy., Glenarden, MD 20770
 Contact: 301-772-5477

Earth TALK™

China Leads the World in Greening Thanks to Massive Reforestation Program

Dear EarthTalk:
 I've heard that China and other nations have gone gangbusters with reforestation projects that are ambitious enough to have a significant impact on cutting carbon emissions. Why aren't we also doing this here in the U.S.?
 —Mickie Infurcia, Hamden, CT

A recent Boston University (BU) study tracking satellite data of vegetation coverage found that the world is indeed getting greener overall, largely thanks to an ambitious reforestation program underway in China.

"China alone accounts for 25 percent of the global net increase in leaf area with only 6.6 percent of global vegetated area," says lead researcher Chi Chen of BU's Department of Earth and Environment. "This is equal to the net greening in the three largest countries, Russia, the United States and Canada, that together hold 31 percent of the global vegetated area."

China's reforestation efforts date back to the 1970s when the government started requiring every citizen over age 11 to plant at least three saplings every year to augment official government-backed reforestation projects. The result has been the planting of some 66 billion trees across some 12,000 miles of Northern China over the last few decades, with the so-called "Great Green Wall of China" expected to snake along some 2,800 continuous miles by 2050.

China isn't the only country hell-bent on reforestation. Pakistan embarked on its Billion Tree Tsunami campaign in 2014 and is well on its way of achieving its goal of restoring healthy forests to some 350,000 hectares of degraded land. Meanwhile, Australia's "20 Million Trees Program" aims to re-establish green corridors and urban forests across the country while mitigating climate

impacts by facilitating the planting of 20 million trees by 2020. Another major reforestation effort with global impact is happening in Brazil, where the non-profit Conservation International is helping restore 30,000 of the hardest hit hectares across the so-called "arc of deforestation" in the Amazon rainforest as a key part of that country's Paris climate agreement goal of reforesting 12 million hectares by 2030.

Here in the U.S., our forebears chopped down practically every tree they could until around 1920, but then we started to regain some of the lost tree cover over the next 40 years as abandoned farms reverted back to forest. Since then, we are barely net positive in forest cover as tree planting campaigns by the U.S. Forest Service and the non-profit Arbor Day Foundation have made up for losses from development and logging. That said, increased reforestation is not a major part of American efforts to meet climate mitigation targets given more practical ways we can achieve quicker overall emissions reductions.

Beyond the U.S., though, there is still lots of "low-hanging fruit" around the world in the form of other areas that would be good candidates for reforestation. The non-profit World Resources Institute (WRI) maintains the Atlas of Forest & Landscape Restoration Opportunities, which includes global overlay maps on current forest cov-



IMAGE CREDIT: GARRAT, FLICKRCC

China, Australia, Pakistan, Brazil and other countries have undertaken massive reforestation campaigns, but the United States? Not so much.

erage, potential forest coverage, forest condition and human pressure on forest landscapes. According to WRI, upwards of two billion hectares of degraded or logged over forest lands around the world are ripe for restoration work if only we can muster the political will to make it happen.

CONTACTS: Chi Chen, sites.bu.edu/cliveg/people/doctoral-students/chi-chen/; EarthTalk's "What Is The Great Green Wall of China?" earthtalk.org/green-wall-china/; Australia's 20 Million Trees Program, nrm.gov.au/national/20-million-trees/; Arbor Day Foundation, arborday.org; WRI's Atlas of Forest & Landscape Restoration Opportunities, wri.org/applications/maps/flr-atlas.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. To donate, visit www.earthtalk.org. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

GREEN CLEANING

Clean your home with environmentally friendly products that reduce indoor air-pollution, minimize waste while reducing health and safety risks.

TUESDAY TIP

- Look for EPA's "Designed for the Environment" and "Safer Choice" labels.
- Watch out for warning words such as "Danger," "Caution," "Warning," and "Irritant" on conventional cleaners but if you have to use them, make sure the room is properly ventilated.
- Consider making your own all-purpose cleaner with lemon juice and vinegar or baking soda.

Prince George's County Second Nature is an initiative of the Department of the Environment, Redevelopment Authority, and Office of Central Services to promote cost savings and sustainability in our everyday behavior.

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Smoking Age from A1

House bill 1185 would also require products to be sold in child-safe, tamper-evident packaging.

This bill was proposed by members of the vapor industry as a means of self-regulation, Carey said.

Lawmakers and industry professionals have criticized certain types of vape packaging as marketing targeted at minors. Various vape juices emulate the flavors of candies and breakfast cereals, and their labeling often bears a striking resemblance to their edible counterparts, according to Vapor Technology Association representative Rob Garagiola.

"There should not be Cocoa Puffs or Tony the Tiger-type marketing," Garagiola said.

This bill would also require retailers to keep all vape products behind the counter and display signs that prohibit minors, as well as increase the maximum fine for the sale of these products to a minor from \$1,000 to \$2,500 for a second offense within two years of the first, according to Garagiola.

"Vape shops and vape shop owners like myself are in this business to get people off combustible cigarettes," Maryland Vapor Alliance member Mary Yaeger said. "I don't want (vapes) in the hands of children, not my grandchildren, not my friends' children, not my own children," she said.

Both measures have corresponding legislation in the Maryland Senate. On Thursday [March 14], Senate bill 708 was heard by a Senate committee; Senate bill 895 advanced with amendments in the chamber. House bills 1169 and 1185 were heard by a House of Delegates committee Feb. 27.

Maryland Native Goalie, Andrew Takacs Secures First NAHL Victory

*The Former Team Maryland Goalie
Won Second Star Honors*

By COLIN MACCARTHY
Maryland Black Bears

ODENTON, Md. (March 22, 2019)—Maryland Black Bears Goalie Andrew Takacs helped lead his team to a win this past Saturday against the New Jersey Titans. Takacs gave Black Bear Nation the royal treatment during the last home game of the 2018-2019 season and a possible look into the future for the Black Bears. The goalie played all sixty-five minutes in the overtime victory, made 31 saves, and put up a .939 SV%.

The Maryland native was born and raised in Dunkirk, Maryland. The 6'2 185-pound goaltender previously played on Team Maryland's 16U team and attended DeMatha Catholic High school, a WCAC sports powerhouse. During his high school career, Takacs averaged an impressive 2.29 GAA and a 908 SV%. His performance signifies the bright future for the Maryland Black Bears and the growth of hockey in the Maryland region.

"We were very impressed with Andrew's composure in his first Junior A start with the Black Bears," said Head Coach Clint Mylymok. "It was exciting to see another Maryland native play in front of the home fans in a Maryland Black Bears uniform. He did his part all game long, and made the big save when needed."

"Takacs is a hockey player that is easy to root for," said Team Maryland Hockey Director Chris Ceransky. "Andrew is a great young man, has an amazing work ethic, and is highly skilled. It is great to see a Team Maryland product earn this opportunity, and there is no better ambassador for Team Maryland than Andrew. The sky is the limit for Andrew Takacs."

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