

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SINCE 1932

Vol. 87, No. 14 April 4 — April 10, 2019

Prince George's County, Maryland

Newspaper of Record

Phone: 301-627-0900

25 cents

Maryland House Overrides Hogan Veto of School Start Date Bill

By DANIEL OYEFUSI
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (March 29, 2019)—Maryland school districts will now have the ability to again start their school year before Labor Day, overturning a previous executive order by Republican Gov. Larry Hogan.

One day after the Maryland Senate voted to override Hogan's veto of a bill that would give power to local school boards to determine their respective calendars, the House

of Delegates voted Friday to override the measure as well.

The House voted 93-43 to join the Senate in overriding Hogan's veto.

Delegate Anne Healey, D-Prince George's, who served on a year-long task force to study a post-Labor Day start for Maryland public schools, said Hogan's veto "short circuited" the work of the task force.

Healey said more flexibility was required for schools that needed to account for additional religious holidays and athletics.

Delegate Haven Shoemaker, R-Carroll, argued against overriding the veto, pointing to numerous businesses that would benefit from the additional week of summer vacation.

On Thursday, the Senate voted 32-15 along party lines to override Hogan's veto.

Hogan on Wednesday vetoed Senate bill 128, saying that the legislation "unravels years of bipartisan work and study" and citing polls revealing that the bill runs counter to the wishes of most Marylanders.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Paul Pinsky, D-Prince George's, overturns Hogan's 2016 executive order mandating schools start after Labor Day.

"The executive order does not respect the diversity of our state," said Delegate Eric Luedtke, D-Montgomery.

This was the last of three veto overrides to occur this week. Both chambers also voted Thursday to override Hogan's veto of a bill to strip alcohol and tobacco regulation from the state comptroller, and a bill to gradually increase the minimum wage to \$15.

—CNS reporter Natalie Jones contributed to this story.

District 8 Council Member Monique Anderson-Walker Launches #DrivingItHome—A Safe Driving Initiative

Encouraging Public Safety on County Roads and Highways

By ANGELA J. ROUSON

Prince George's County Council Media

UPPER MARLBORO (March 26, 2019)—Prince George's County Council Member Monique Anderson-Walker (D)—District 8 officially launched #DrivingItHome, an initiative to raise awareness about driving safety in District 8 and Prince George's County through community engagement, during a press conference on Friday, March 22, 2019 at Oxon Hill High School.

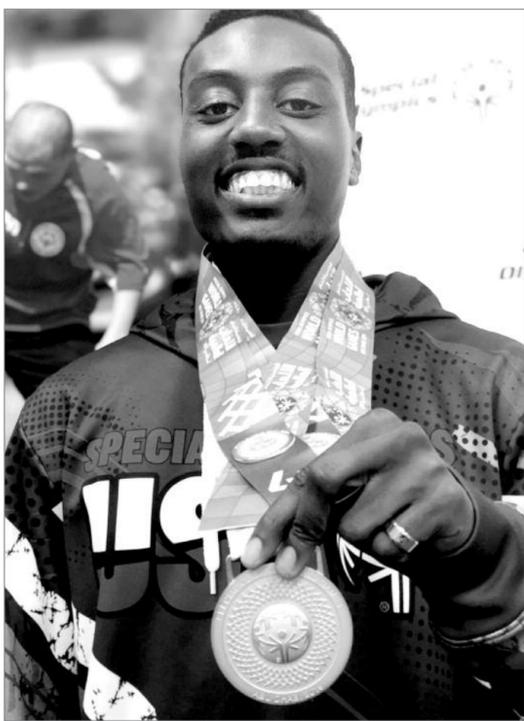
Joined in the press conference by Council Member Calvin S. Hawkins, II (D)—At-Large, Council Member Mel Franklin (D)—At-Large, Council Member Tom Dermoga (D)—District 1, Council Member Sydney Harrison (D)—District 9, Prince George's County Fire Chief Benjamin Barksdale, Deputy County Administrative Officer for Public Safety Mark Magaw, and a host of other public safety officials and community stakeholders, Council Member Anderson-Walker introduced #DrivingItHome to Oxon Hill High School students, encouraging them to "Drive Home" the message of safe and responsible road behavior. Council Member Anderson-Walker also visited Friendly High School in Fort Washington, Maryland.

#DrivingItHome was launched in response to a series of deadly accidents on Indian Head Highway/Route 210, which extends through District 8 in Prince George's County. This ongoing initiative is focused on changing the driving culture in Prince George's County, and stresses the importance of safe and responsible driving in six areas critical to highway safety: seatbelt use; texting and driving; driver distractions; drunk driving; highway speed; and aggressive driving.

Council Member Anderson-Walker further explains the need to shift the driving culture in Prince George's County.

"In recent months, Prince George's County has seen a rising number of vehicle accidents and related fatalities, especially along Indian Head Highway in District 8. Unsafe driving behavior is a contributing factor to highway collisions, and it is important to have real conversations about how to change the driving culture while reinforcing some well-known preventative measures for staying safe on County roads," adding, "We really wanted to take the #DrivingItHome message to our high schools, because this is where many of our County's new drivers are engaging and sharing ideas, and we want #DrivingItHome to be a part of that conversation. If we can get the message to our young people and encourage them to share it with their friends and

See #DRIVINGITHOME Page A8



Special Olympics Maryland Rocks the 2019 World Games in Abu Dhabi

The Special Olympics World Games 2019 was hosted in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates March 13–20, 2019. More than 7,000 athletes from over 170 countries competed in 24 different individual and team sports. Special Olympics USA sent a 300+ member delegation to represent the United States, including one athlete from Prince George's County:

Calvin Massenburg, who came back from Abu Dhabi with some hardware: Gold—100M Run, 4th—200M Run, 4th—4X100M Run.

Find out more about the athletes that attended the Special Olympics World Games by going to <https://www.somd.org/world-games-athletes/>.

Special Olympics Maryland (SOMD) is a year-round sports organization dedicated to providing quality sports training and competition opportunities to Maryland's children and adults with intellectual disabilities and/or closely related development disabilities. SOMD currently provides thousands of sports experiences annually for athletes statewide, and offers 27 sports, all at no cost to the athletes or their families. For more information about SOMD visit www.somd.org or call 410-242-1515.

—Kira Northrop, Special Olympics Maryland

PHOTO COURTESY SPECIAL OLYMPICS MARYLAND

Prince George's County Department of Social Services Director Gloria Brown Burnett Wins 2019 Gladys Noon Spellman Public Service Award

Prestigious County Honor Awarded during Women's History Month

By BUEL YOUNG

Department of Social Services

LANDOVER, Md. (March 28, 2019)—Gloria Brown Burnett, Director of the Prince George's County Department of Social Services (PGCDSS) was presented with the coveted Gladys Noon Spellman Public Service Award during Prince's George's County's 34th Annual Women's History Month Luncheon, held Thursday, March 21, 2019, at Martin's Crosswinds, Greenbelt, Maryland. The award is presented in honor of Gladys Noon Spellman who was a Prince George's County educator, County Council member, and served three terms in the United States Congress.

The award is given annually to a woman in Prince George's County Government who embodies the essence of Congresswoman Spellman's commitment to service and excellence. This year's recipient, Gloria Brown Burnett, has dedicated the last 23 years to serving Prince George's County residents in need. Within the PGCDSS she has served as the Deputy Director for Administration, the agency's Assistant Director, and in 2009 she became the Director. As the Director, she has made it her mission to ensure resident

seeking service receives "Quality Service at Every Interaction".

During Gloria's 10 years of leadership as the Director of the PGCDSS, she has shaped the agency to become more responsive and aligned with the needs of residents. In order to improve the customer experience, she initiated community engagement meetings to hear its concerns, developed staff training, and implemented a division to monitor programs and increase accountability. She has focused on improving the outcomes of children and their families. She has aligned agency and judiciary work to attempt to reduce the interaction of children in the department's care or at risk of coming into care with the juvenile justice system. She has and continues to, encourage public-private partnerships to reduce hunger, and connect children with resources through a community-based school-based partnership program. She has increased agency efficiency by reducing silos between agencies with shared missions in order to leverage resources for service expansion.

Like Gladys Noon Spellman's work to prevent discrimination based on marital status, the handicapped and elderly, Gloria has been a champion of preventing discrimination

in all its forms, especially of the LGBTQ community in which many of the children in care identify.

Gloria stated, "When I was notified that I was going to be this year's recipient, I was at first overwhelmed, very surprised, and just grateful and thankful because it doesn't escape me the symbolism of the award." She also added, "It was especially a privilege to be the first awardee under our new history-making County Executive, Ms. Angela Alsobrooks."

Gloria is a graduate of Leadership Greater Washington and serves as a professional and personal mentor to rising professionals, especially women who aspire to make a change and positive impact in their professional careers. Her commitment to improving the world in which she lives goes beyond her professional work. She often gives without fanfare, recognition, or acknowledgment. She plants seeds of hope, encouragement, and support in organizations that improve communities so that she can bear witness and watch those investments grow to do great thing in the lives of those being served.

See PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD Page A8

PG Valor Team Thank You



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY PG VALOR

On behalf of your PG Valor Basketball Team—we would like to thank each and every one of you for your support during the 2018–19 season. Whether you posted on social media; emailed us; called us; purchased items in our fan store; came to a game; came to one of our fund raising events; provided us media coverage or simply prayed for us your thoughts and kindness is greatly appreciated.

Although, we ended the regular season with a 9-5 record and in the second round of the post season playoffs, we learned and grew tremendously as an organization both on and off the court. We will continue to be active throughout the off season by attending and participating in events; hosting fund raisers and giving back to the community. Should you have an interest in the team coming out to one of your events—please do not hesitate to reach out to us via this email address (pgvalorbasketball@gmail.com).

We have many anticipated things scheduled for the 2019–20 season so watch out for exciting news and updates!

Thank you again and look out for an explosive fourth season during 2019–20!

We love and appreciate you all!

INSIDE

PGFD Captain Receives Emergency Services Award From Fire Chief

During the presentation Chief Barksdale stated, "I was notified ... of your heroic actions that occurred on Friday, July 20, 2018, when you noticed a vehicle swerving in and out of the lanes on Route 50, nearly colliding with a bus.

Community, Page A3

ChildWatch: American Exceptionalism At Its Worst

... we must redouble our efforts here at home to create a noble response from our leaders to children dying from guns and renew our commitment to Protect Children, Not Guns.

Commentary, Page A4

Bowie Business Innovation Center Launches "8(a) Accelerator"

The 8(a) Accelerator program consists of a series of three-hour morning sessions conducted once-a-week over a six-week period at Bowie BIC's headquarters at Bowie State University.

Business and Finance, Page A5

Movie Review:

How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World

This chapter, about growing up and moving on, has heart but lacks the warmth and comfort of its predecessors. The two 6-year-olds who sat near me loved it, though, so who cares what I think?

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Given all the advances in residential household efficiency, can you paint a picture of what the home of the future will look like?

—Jennifer C., Valmeyer, IL

Features, Page A7

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Charlie Phillips dies at 84; Rescue Engine 27 dedicated to him

This tribute—edited—was presented at Chief Phillips' repast at the Morningside Firehouse on March 24:

It is with heavy hearts that Fire Chief Michael Poetker and President Michael O'Brien of the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. report that Active Life Member Charles Phillips passed away on March 20th. He was 84.

Charlie dedicated 70 years to the citizens of Prince George's County and has brought us all together once again. He has truly touched all of our hearts and he will be greatly missed.

In 2015 we were honored to be able to dedicate Rescue Engine 27 to Charlie. We could not think of a better way to memorialize his service, but with an apparatus that does the same every day.

He was a current Board of Director, past Chief and President of the MVFD, past Board of Director of the Prince Georges County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association, past Fire Commissioner of the Prince George's County Fire Commission, and past President of Local 1619 of the International Association of Fire Fighters.

Charlie began serving the citizens of Prince George's County in 1949 at the MVFD and has accrued 70 remarkable years of dedicated service. The Morningside Volunteer Fire Department is entrenched in its belief in service to others, and Charlie was not only a shining example of that, but was a cornerstone of our organization.

Charlie is the husband of Sharon Phillips; father to Vincent, Pamela, Angela and William; stepfather to Christopher, Patrick, Troy and Jackie; grandfather of 21 and great-grandfather of four.

As the March 24 celebration of the life of Charlie Phillips wrapped up, family and friends placed flowers on the memorial at the fire station. For them, it was wonderful seeing old friends, members and others who came to pay respect. The stories shared are reflective of what makes Morningside, the PGFD and the Fire Service so special.

E-mailers have answers to 1951 tragedy

I recently ran a 1951 story about a driver, James William Ferguson, age 24, of 503 Allies Road, Morningside,

who died when a tractor-trailer crashed into his tractor-trailer, which he had pulled over to make a repair. At that time a Ruth Ferguson lived at 503 Allies. I had wondered how she was related to James.

I received three emails reporting that Ruth was James' wife. And she was left with four children (ages 5, 3, 2 and 1) when he died in that terrible accident. One e-mailer said three of those children—Linda, Margie and Janet Ferguson—continued to live on Allies Road until recently.

And here's another mystery

One of my readers emailed, "I know there is a very old cemetery across the parking lot from Benjamin Foulois School. Maybe you can ask if any of your readers know the history of that." Well, I've heard about the cemetery but don't know more than that. Do you know the answer? Call or email.

Changing landscape

Shoppers Food & Pharmacy stores are closing as the chain's parent company gets out of the retail business. Some of those stores will become a Giant or other grocery.

Wave MAX Laundry has just opened at 1434 Addison Road in Capitol Heights. (The owner is Paul Perry a 2003 graduate of Oxon Hill HS.)

Academia

Ashley Wilson, a 10th-grader at Oxon Hill HS has been awarded a Carson Scholarship, for "displaying outstanding academic achievement and humanitarian qualities." The Carson Scholars Fund is a public charity founded by world-renowned pediatric neurosurgeon Dr. Benjamin Carson and his wife Candy.

Coming up

April 16: Morningside Town Meeting, 7 p.m. at the Town Hall

April 21: Easter Sunday

April 22: Earth Day

May 4: Girl Scout Day at Darnall's Chance House Museum (301-952-8010)

May 5: Annual Mother/Family Breakfast at St. Philip's (301-423-4244)

May 6: Morningside Town Election, to vote for Mayor and two Council Members (301-736-2300)

May 18: 23rd Annual Oxon Hill Food Pantry Walkathon (oxonhillfoodpantry@gmail.com)

Morningside Memories: the early 1940s

In May 1940, houses in the Town were advertised at \$2,680 with "more room than the average \$45 apartment." Terms: \$180 down and \$20.90 per month. By June 1940 the price was \$2,730 and by August, \$2,780. 80 houses were sold by that time.

School bus service for Morningside began in 1940.

In 1941, the new water system was completed, with water piped to every house. And a clubhouse for the Citizens' Association was built with 40'x40' floor space. It was later taken for the Military Highway (now, Suitland Parkway).

In July 1942, the first directory of residents (109 families) was published by the Citizen's Association.

In September 1942, work started on Andrews Field.

Jackson Zickafoose, OAS retiree

Jackson Konrad Zickafoose, 89, formerly of Ft. Washington, OAS retiree, died March 3 in Martinsburg, W.V. He was born in West Virginia, grew up in Washington, graduated from Eastern High School, and served in the Army during the Korean War.

He was retired from the Organization of American States (OAS), and was an active member of the Jr. Order of United American Mechanics.

Survivors include his children, Jeanne, Mary, Jayson and Kelly; two grandsons; and brother Donald. A memorial service was held for him at Bethany Christian Church in Ft. Washington with burial later at Cheltenham.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Kimberly Smith, March 29; Akwete Bedewi, March 30; Sylvia Barbour and Mark Cummings, March 31; Wayne Booth, Susan Frost-butter, Douglas Mangum and James Whipple, April 1; Melissa Lytton, Sophia Cordero and Bernie Saylor, April 3; and Motoko Howard, April 4.

Happy anniversary to Antoinette and Charles Mattison on March 29, and to Walter and Fannie Dimes, their 30th on April 1.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

BADEN COMMUNITY CENTER

Spring Basketball is offered at Baden Community Center on Saturdays April 20–May 18, 2019 from 9:30–10:15 a.m. Basketball skills: Pre-School ages 3–5 (Parks Direct #27114-204). Resident fee is \$30 and Non-Resident fee is \$39. Basketball beginning children April 20–May 18, 2019 for ages 6–12 from 10:30–11:30 a.m. (Parks Direct #27228-204).

The address is 13601 Baden-Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Telephone number is 301-888-1500, TTY 301-699-2544.

The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities. Register at least a minimum of two weeks in advance of the program start date to request and receive a disability accommodation.

DOUBLING UP ON PUBLIC POLICYMAKING

The Brown sisters of Laurel, Keriesha and Teneisha, have both chambers of the Maryland General Assembly covered. The University of Maryland Eastern Shore alumnae are working as interns in Annapolis during the 2019 legislative session as they weigh graduate school options; Keriesha in the office of state Sen. Melony Griffith and Teneisha in Del. Erik Barron's office.

The Democratic lawmakers represent districts in Prince George's County, which the Browns also call home. The twins had little interest in state government until a year ago. They participated in a statehouse rally in support of historically black institutions organized by UMES' Student Government Association.

As both completed work on their criminal justice degrees, the Browns saw a bulletin board notice about Annapolis internships posted by Dr. Emmanuel C. Onyeozili. "We realized it was an opportunity to get more actively involved in policymaking," Keriesha said.

Delegate Barron said Teneisha "has been a pleasure to work with, and certainly fits well in our fast-paced, drama-free environment. We appreciate her help responding to constituents, preparing for hearings and generally keeping the office organized as we work to give all Marylanders the best opportunity to succeed."

Keriesha has attended committee meetings and learned

"there's a whole lot of information to take in." It can be overwhelming at times. I'm in awe of how they do it." Keriesha said she is enjoying the internship experience 'so far. It got busy here very quickly. You really have to manage your time wisely."

Observing lawmakers, Teneisha said, has taught her the importance of listening carefully and "the art of asking good questions." Teneisha said she's also impressed by how engaged and knowledgeable Barron's constituents are in topics they're interested in advocating for or opposing.

Keriesha has her eye on earning a master's degree in public affairs, which she hopes will lead to a government job. Teneisha is interested in a graduate degree in human resources.

DINNERS–BAZAAR

Stop, eat and shop April 6, 2019 at St. Philip's Church Hall, 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 12 noon til sold out. Chicken \$12.00, Fish \$14.00, Pig Feet \$14.00. Sandwiches will be on sale (all dinners served with String Beans, Sweet Potato, Potato Salad, and bread). "Pre-Order to guarantee your selection." There will be table space for Bazaar \$20.00.

Contacts are Shirley Cleaves 302-690-4260, Vivian Rich 804-301-9530, Michele Chase 240-882-3369. Day of dinners please call 301-888-1536. "Thank you for support in advance." Sponsored by: Peter A. Gross, Sr. Scholarship/Memorial Fund Inc.

BECOME A FOSTER PARENT

Win Family Services, a faith based foster care agency, is always looking for individuals wanting to make a difference. They need parents with a BIG heart to provide homes for youth who have big needs. Make a difference in a young person's life and become a Foster Parent. As you know, it takes a village to raise a child and there are thousands of youth in Maryland that need a loving home. They need compassionate adults like you to nurture and love our young people. Visit www.winfamilyservices.org or contact them today at 410-578-8004 to learn more.

Around the County

Bowie State Completes First Outdoor Competition of 2019

RICHMOND, Va. (March 26, 2019)—The Bowie State University men's track & field team completed its first outdoor competition in 2019 at Virginia Commonwealth University Invitation on Friday, March 22 and Saturday March 23.

Freshman Davon Carroll was impressive in 100-meters by placing first with the time of 10.75, while sophomores Stedman Cook (11.11) and Xavier Williams (11.48) managed fifth and 20th, respectively. Carroll (22.14) and Stedman (22.29) were right behind each other in 200-meters placing second and third.

First-year runner Demontay Snowden placed 10th in 400-meters, while junior Jalen Sykes (51.12) and Larry Colbert III (52.84) secured 11th and 20th, respectively.

Senior Robert Thomas managed fourth in 800-meters at 2:00.08, while junior Markese Miller (2:10.37) and sophomore Yeabsera Teferra (2:16.97) placed 17 and 21. Yeabsera was placed 23rd in 1500-meters at 4:43.49, while Miller (4:43.99) and senior Juantré Rush

(4:50.17) placed 24th and 27th, respectively.

Freshman Chicha Benvindo placed 14th in 110 Hurdles at 17.01, while Thomas (56.93) and sophomore Koby Willis (1:04.23) placed seventh and 19th in 400 Hurdles. In 2000 Steeplechase, senior Juantré Rush placed third at 7:57.24.

Bowie State squad (Snowden, Cook, Powers and Carroll) secured fourth in 4x100 Relay with the time of 43.34, while squad A (Snowden, Powers, Sykes and Thomas) in 4x400 Relay placed 6th at 3:29.13.

Freshman Derrick Corley placed 10th in Long Jump with 6.16m, while freshman's Isaiah Coe (13.11m) and Benvindo (11.85) placed sixth and eighth in Triple Jump. Sophomore Kenny Fuentez placed third in Shot Put with 14.52m.

BSU [was] back in action on Friday, March 29–30 at the Fred Hardy Invitational in Richmond, Va.

—Written by Moussa Traore (Bowie State Sports Information Graduate Assistant)

Local Student Honored

Northern Vermont University Announces Winter 2018 Graduates

JOHNSON, Vt. (March 25, 2019)—The following student[s] completed their degree requirements at Northern Vermont University in the summer or fall 2018 semester. December 2018 ceremonies were held on NVU's Johnson and Lyndon campuses to celebrate the graduates' accomplishments.

Cameron L. Taylor, Bachelor of Arts, Business, Hyattsville

Northern Vermont University is a two-campus institution of higher education that combines the best of our campuses' nationally recognized liberal arts and professional programs. At Northern Vermont University, our goal is to guide curious, motivated, and engaged students on their paths to success and their places in the world. NVU Online offers flexible, affordable, high-quality options for learners pursuing their bachelor's degree. Learn more at NorthernVermont.edu.

—Sylvia Plumb, Northern Vermont University

FAME Summer Music Program at University of Maryland School of Music, Applications Are Open!

This unique and fun-filled summer program at the UMD School of Music is designed for rising 7–12 graders who are interested in music careers or learning more about music composition, recording or production, and singing. The program includes our signature Music Technology Workshop & Vocal Music Workshop. Open until filled. www.FAMEmusic.org.

When: Monday, July 8, 2019 at 9 a.m. through Friday, July 19, 2019 at 4 p.m.

Where: University of MD School of Music, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, 8270 Alumni Dr, College Park, MD, MD 20742-1625. Contact: Barbara Blair, FAME – Foundation for the Advancement of Music & Education, Inc., 301-805-5358, info@fameorg.org.

—FAME – Foundation for the Advancement of Music & Education, Inc., P O Box 2228, Bowie, MD 20720

Club Celebrates Work of 12 of Its Members With Artists' Reception in Gallery 90

PASADENA, Md. (March 26, 2019)—Members of the Digital Photography Club of Annapolis were celebrated on March 20 during its Meet the Artists Reception in the Hospice of the Chesapeake's Gallery 90. The art gallery is located throughout the nonprofit's administrative building at the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, Maryland.

Throughout the afternoon, artists mingled with guests and fellow members, pausing at their work to tell its story, including how they achieved a certain effect or the details behind the moment that was captured.

The club's exhibit of work by 15 of its members is on display in the gallery through May 3. The art is available to purchase, with portions of the proceeds benefitting Hospice of the Chesapeake and the club. To visit the exhibit, contact Renate Little at rlittle@hospicechesapeake.org.

—Elyzabeth Marcussen, Hospice of the Chesapeake



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT: ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN

Lloyd Eby of Cheverly poses with his piece, "Hawk," during the Digital Photography Club of Annapolis artists' reception held March 20 in Gallery 90 at Hospice of the Chesapeake in Pasadena.

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Learning to Let Your Children Make Mistakes

What parent doesn't want to protect their children, to see them safe, healthy and happy? Such concerns are part of our DNA, inherited from our cave dwelling ancestors and their dangerous world.

While today's kids don't need protection from saber-toothed tigers, there are still numerous ways for children to make mistakes. As parents we need to realize that some mistakes are "good mistakes," errors in decision making that may result in the wrong outcomes, but that can be valuable learning experiences for our children.

Parents always have a responsibility to try and keep truly dire, life-threatening consequences from occurring. But trying to ensure that children never make a bad decision, whether as toddlers, teens or even young adults, is really not doing them any favors.

The modern term for overly-protective moms and dads is "helicoptering." It describes parents who constantly are hovering over their child, trying to ensure that all goes well. It's parents keeping in constant contact and trying to help their child make all the right decisions.

Unfortunately, being over-protective can inhibit a child's natural growth and independence. When Dad is up all night finishing that school science project, it isn't helping prepare the child for the future. Kids with overly-protective parents often have trouble making their own decisions because they know mom or dad is always there to jump in. Such children can also end up rebelling strongly as their desire and need for independence grows.

And no, it isn't always easy to give your kids room to make their own decisions, good or bad. However it's important that they do so for healthy development. And parents can still be involved. You can be there while they work through their dilemmas and to help point them toward good solutions, but your job isn't to find the solutions for them.

Yes, you should be ready to step in when a child's decision could be dangerous or life threatening, but giving your kids more space helps build confidence and independence. It encourages them to try new things, even things that might seem scary. You want to offer sympathy and understanding when things go wrong, but don't always try to make things right.

When a child is allowed to face possible failure, and even sometimes to experience it, he or she will learn valuable lessons about growing up.

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

Maryland State Arts Council Offers Multiple Grant Opportunities this Spring

BALTIMORE (March 20, 2019)—The Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) is accepting applications this spring for two grant programs:

- **Public Art Project Grants**—for County Arts Councils and Arts & Entertainment Districts. Grants up to \$5,000 that fund Maryland artists producing public art projects Details: <https://www.msac.org/programs/public-art>. Deadline: April 29, 2019
- **Creativity Grants**—for independent artists; arts organizations or arts programs operating under \$50,000 annually. Grants between \$1,000 and \$3,500 to support projects, collaborations, initiatives, and smaller arts organizations Details: <https://www.msac.org/programs/creativity-grants>. Deadline: Applications are due three months prior to the requested funding; deadlines are rolling.

PGFD Captain Receives Emergency Services Award From Fire Chief

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

Fire Chief Benjamin Barksdale presented an Emergency Services Award and Meritorious Service Coin to Firefighter/Medic Captain Ryan G. Adkins for his actions keeping motorists safe. The award presentation was made at St. Josephs Fire/EMS Station in Springdale on Monday, March 25th.

During the presentation Chief Barksdale stated, "I was notified by Assistant Fire Chief Darren Ware of your heroic actions that occurred on Friday, July 20, 2018, when you noticed a vehicle swerving in and out of the lanes on Route 50, nearly colliding with a bus. I am extremely proud of your selfless actions and sense of duty that prompted you to place your vehicle between the car and other motorists. I am most thankful that your actions were taken without any serious personal injury to yourself."

Captain Adkins quick thinking and immediate actions on the scene of this incident, which possibly prevented loss of life and



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT

L to R—Fire Chief Barksdale, Captain Adkins and Assistant Chief Ware

multiple serious injuries, are commendable and worthy of recognition.

"You are hereby awarded a Fire/EMS Department Emergency Services Award. Your

actions reflect well on you personally and professionally and exemplify the excellent caliber of service we strive to provide in every circumstance," concluded Barksdale.

Bowie Sailor Serves With the U.S. Navy Band



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT: U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY SENIOR CHIEF MUSICIAN ADAM GRIMM/RELEASED

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (March 17, 2019) Chief Musician William Edwards, from Bowie, Md., performs with the U.S. Navy Band Sea Chanters chorus at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn. The group performed in 18 cities in nine states, connecting Americans to their Navy.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Alzheimer's Association Report Reveals Significant Disconnect Between Seniors and Physicians When It Comes to Cognitive Assessment

By CINDY SCHELHORN
Alzheimer's Association

MCLEAN, Va. (March 9, 2019)—Despite a strong belief among seniors and primary care physicians that brief cognitive assessments are important, only half of seniors are being assessed for thinking and memory issues, and much fewer receive routine assessments, according to the Alzheimer's Association 2019 *Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures* report released on March 5.

The Facts and Figures report found that just 1 in 7 seniors (16 percent) say they receive regular cognitive assessments for memory or thinking issues during routine health checkups, compared with blood pressure (91 percent), cholesterol (83 percent), vaccinations (80 percent), hearing or vision (73 percent), diabetes (66 percent) and cancer (61 percent).

A brief cognitive assessment is a short evaluation for cognitive impairment performed by a health care provider that can take

several forms—including asking a patient about cognitive concerns, directly observing a patient's interactions, seeking input from family and friends or using short verbal or written tests that can be administered easily in the clinical setting. An evaluation of cognitive function is a required component of the Medicare Annual Wellness Visit, but findings from the report show that only 1 in 3 seniors are aware these visits should include this assessment.

"Routine cognitive assessments provide an opportunity for thinking or memory issues to be detected and addressed early," said Ana Nelson, Vice President of Programs and Services with the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter. "Seeking an early diagnosis can help determine if someone's cognitive changes are truly due to Alzheimer's or some other, perhaps even treatable, condition. If the diagnosis is Alzheimer's, seniors and their families can begin to seek out educational and support programs and start plan-

ning for legal, financial and end-of-life decisions. It also allows individuals to enroll in clinical trials that advance research and may provide medical benefits."

Both seniors and primary care physicians share a widespread understanding of the benefits of early detection of cognitive decline and the importance of brief cognitive assessments. In fact, most seniors believe it is important to have their thinking and memory checked, and nearly all primary care physicians consider it important to assess all patients age 65 and older for cognitive impairment.

However, the report revealed a troubling disconnect between seniors and primary care physicians regarding who they believe is responsible for initiating these assessments and reticence from seniors in discussing their concerns. While half of all seniors are aware of changes in their cognitive abilities—including changes in their ability to think, understand or remember—only 4 in 10 have ever discussed these concerns with a health care

provider, and fewer than 1 in 7 seniors report having ever brought up cognitive concerns on their own.

Instead, most seniors say they trust their doctor to recommend testing for thinking or memory problems if needed. Yet fewer than half of primary care physicians say it is their standard protocol to assess all patients age 65 and older for cognitive impairment. Only 1 in 4 seniors report having a physician ever ask them if they have any concerns about their cognitive function without seniors bringing it up first.

Nearly all physicians said the decision to assess patients for cognitive impairment is driven, in part, by reports of symptoms or requests from patients, family members and caregivers. Physicians who choose not to assess cognition cite lack of symptoms or complaints from a patient (68 percent), lack of time during a patient visit (58 percent) and patient resistance (57 percent) as primary factors.

In addition, most physicians

say they welcome more information about assessments, including which tools to use, guidance on next steps when cognitive problems are indicated, and steps for implementing assessments efficiently into practice.

The Alzheimer's Association encourages people to initiate a conversation about brief cognitive assessments with their doctors during a Medicare Annual Wellness Visit or if they have thinking or memory concerns. Learn about warning signs, how to prepare for the visit and issues to discuss with the doctor at alz.org/10signs or by calling the Alzheimer's Association free 24/7 Helpline at 800.272.3900.

The Alzheimer's Association 2019 *Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures* report is a comprehensive com-

pilation of national statistics and information on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The report conveys the impact of Alzheimer's on individuals, families, government and the nation's health care system. Since its 2007 inaugural release, the report has become the preeminent source covering the broad spectrum of Alzheimer's issues. The *Facts and Figures* report is an official publication of the Alzheimer's Association.

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's®. Visit alz.org or call 800.272.3900.

— NOTICE —

Dr. Arvind M. Mehta

is retiring from his
medical practice of Cardiology.

Patient's medical records are transferred to
Capital Cardiology. Patients can reach them
at 301-552-1200.

COMMENTARY

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

American Exceptionalism At Its Worst

On March 15, a terrorist carrying two semi-automatic weapons and three rifles attacked worshippers at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, killing 50 men, women, and children—some of them refugees who had fled war zones seeking safety. In the hours that followed nearly 70,000 New Zealanders signed petitions calling for gun control reform, and New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern led the nation's elected leaders in vowing to take swift action. On March 21, less than a week later, Prime Minister Ardern announced the introduction of a national ban on all military-style semiautomatic weapons and assault rifles, high-capacity ammunition magazines, and parts that allow weapons to be modified into semiautomatic guns, as well as provisions for a government funded buyback of existing assault weapons. In her announcement, she said, "I absolutely believe there will be a common view amongst New Zealanders—those who use guns for legitimate purposes, and those who have never touched one—that the time for the mass and easy availability of these weapons must end."

That was leadership. As Nick Kristof wrote in a recent *New York Times* opinion piece: "Contrast that with the United States, where just since 1970, more Americans have died from guns (1.45 million, including murders, suicides and accidents) than died in all the wars in American history (1.4 million). More Americans die from guns every 10 weeks than died in the entire Afghanistan and Iraq wars combined, yet we still don't have gun safety rules as rigorous as New Zealand's even before the mosques were attacked."

I have written about this question before: *How have other countries responded after a gun mas-*

sacre or mass shooting? In 1996, 35 people were killed and 23 others were wounded by a gunman at the Port Arthur tourist site in Tasmania, Australia, in one of the largest massacres ever committed by a single shooter at that time. Within twelve days of the shooting, spurred by strong public support, the Australian federal and state governments agreed to the historic National Firearms Agreement (NFA), which banned semi-automatic and pump action rifles and shotguns and required registration of all firearms, strict standards for gun licenses, and a permit for each gun purchase subject to a 28-day waiting period. The NFA also prohibited private sales, regulated ammunition sales, and required licensees to receive firearm safety training and store firearms safely. To get banned rifles and shotguns off the streets, the federal government bought back or accepted turn-ins of over one million guns which were then destroyed. New Zealand's proposed changes are based in part on Australia's successful model. In the 18 years before the NFA there were 13 mass shootings in Australia in which five or more people were killed. In the 23 years since there has been one.

Just weeks before the Port Arthur massacre in Australia, 16 five- and six-year-olds and their teacher were killed in a devastating school shooting in Dunblane, Scotland. The shooter owned his guns legally and the outrage over his crime started a public campaign for tighter gun control culminating in a petition being handed to the government with over 700,000 signatures. A 1987 mass shooting by a man who killed 16 people and wounded 15 others had already led Great Britain to ban semi-automatic and pump action rifles and shot-

guns. This time, eleven months after the Dunblane murders, Great Britain passed the Firearm (Amendment) Act of 1997 instituting tighter controls over handguns. Soon after, the country went a step further and prohibited all handguns in civilian hands. The government also instituted firearm amnesties across the country resulting in the surrender of thousands of firearms and rounds of ammunition.

In 2015, six children and teens were killed by guns in the United Kingdom, which includes both Great Britain and Northern Ireland and had a total of 15.4 million children and teens. That same year in Texas, Florida, and Pennsylvania, with a similar combined population of 15.5 million children and teens, 495 children and teens were killed by guns. What a difference guns make.

Some will argue that the United States is a very different place than Australia, Great Britain, or New Zealand, with entrenched attitudes equating guns with personal freedom, tens of millions more people, and tens of millions more guns, and we may never be able to expect the same success reducing the number of gun murders or mass shootings to near zero. This argument is not a valid reason to dismiss anything other countries are doing to act in favor of continuing to do nothing here. In all three of those countries extraordinary tragedies pushed a groundswell of citizens to stand up, say "no more," and demand elected leaders take significant action.

If Americans had said no more in 1999 after Columbine, there may never have been a Virginia Tech. If we had said no more after Virginia Tech, there may never have been a Fort Hood. If we had said no more after Fort Hood, there may never have been an Aurora. If we had said no more after Aurora, there may never have been a Newtown. If we had said no more after Newtown, there may never have been a Charleston. If we had said no more after Charleston, there may never have been a San Bernardino. If we had said no more after San Bernardino, there may never have been an Orlando. If we had said no more after Orlando, there may never have been a Las Vegas. If we had said no more after Las Vegas, there may never have been a Sutherland Springs. If we had said no more after Sutherland Springs, there may never have been a Parkland. And if our leaders had acted as swiftly as Prime Minister Ardern along with the groundswell of students, parents, faith leaders and others saying no more after Parkland, there

may never have been a Pittsburgh and some of the tens of thousands of other American gun deaths each year might also have been prevented.

This is American "exceptionalism" at its very worst. *When are Americans and our elected leaders going to say "no more?"*

As we recognize and admire the noble response of leaders in New Zealand to the horrific anti-Muslim massacre, we must redouble our efforts here at home to create a noble response from our leaders to children dying from guns and renew our commitment to Protect Children, Not Guns.

Ten Facts on Child Gun Deaths in America

- Guns killed a child or teen in America **every 2 hours and 48 minutes** in 2017. That year 3,410 children and teens were killed by a gun—68 times the 50 slain in New Zealand.
- U.S. child and teen gun deaths could have filled **170 classrooms** of 20 children in 2017.
- **2017 marked the greatest number of child and teen gun deaths since 1998.** 282 more children died in 2017 than in 2016.
- **Guns killed more children under 5 than law enforcement officers in the line of duty.** 93 preschoolers died from guns compared with 42 law enforcement officers in the line of duty.
- **1,397 Black children and teens were killed** by guns in 2017. Black children and teens were 41 percent of child and teen gun deaths, although only 14 percent of their peer population.
- The gun death rate for Black children and teens was nearly **four times** that of White children and teens and more than **10 times** that of Asian and Pacific Islander children and teens.
- The majority of Black child and teen gun deaths were homicides; for White children and teens, the majority were suicides.
- Between 1963–2017, 67,421 Black children and teens were killed by guns—nearly **17 times** the number of recorded lynchings of all Black people in the 74 years between 1877–1950.
- Since 1963, **3.5 times** more children and teens died from guns on American soil than U.S. soldiers killed in the Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq wars abroad.
- **Our nation has more guns than people.** Although less than 5 percent of the global population, U.S. residents own nearly half (46 percent) of all civilian guns in the world—an estimated 393 million firearms.

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

One Year Out, Efforts to Sabotage 2020 Census Must Be Defeated

"The same folks who don't want people of color to vote don't want us to be counted. The Census is about three things: money, power and information. And unless we rise up to save Census 2020, this rigged, intentional undercount will cost us political power at all levels; billions in federal funding; and vital information to help lift up the communities that we fight so hard for."

—U.S. Rep. Lacy Clay

The principle of "one person, one vote" is enshrined in the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

It means that one person's voting power should be equivalent to another person. While the Elec-

toral College and the U.S. Senate give far more voting power to the citizens of sparsely populated states than densely populated ones, the one place where "one person, one vote" comes closest to being true is in the U.S. House of Representatives.

But we can't achieve equal representation without a fair census.

Monday, April 1, marks the one-year countdown to the 2020 Census. Elected officials and communities across the country are holding special events to mark this important occasion and raise awareness about the 2020 Census.

African American children and Black men are undercounted in great numbers, disproportionate

to their numbers in the overall population. The National Urban League has formed a 2020 Census Black Roundtable to address these concerns.

At the same time organizations like ours are working toward a fair count, sinister forces are trying to sabotage a full and complete count of the total American population—as required by the Constitution—by planning to add a controversial "citizenship question" to the 2020 Census questionnaire.

The question is intended to deter immigrants of all races, ethnicities and legal status from participating in the census, leading to a severe undercount of vulnerable population and diminishing their voice in public life.

Census data also guide the allocation of more than \$800 billion in federal funding to programs that are crucial to families and communities. A skewed census means inequitable distribution of resources.

Federal courts in New York and California struck down the Citizenship Question in February and March of this year. The case has been appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which will hear the case next month, April 23, 2019.

The National Urban League joined other civil rights groups in filing a "friend of the court" brief opposing the citizenship question. As stated in the brief, "Given its foundational importance to

American government and society, the census must be above partisan politics. The misguided decision to reverse seventy years of consistent census practice and insert an untested citizenship question undermines the integrity of the count, damages our communities, and violates the Census Bureau's constitutional and statutory duties to conduct a full enumeration of the U.S. population."

Furthermore, deterring minority populations from participating in the census would undermine enforcement of the Voting Rights Act because it would undercount the minority populations who rely on that data to bring VRA claims.

The 2020 Census will take place at the height of the US Presidential Campaign. Dirty politics, racist messaging and campaign theatrics will detract from 2020 Census messaging encouraging the public to Be Counted. Similar to what we saw in the 2016 Presidential campaign, "bad actors" on social media platforms will try to deter communities of color from participating in the Census to suppress redistricting efforts and the allocation of seats in Congress.

Conducting a fair count is a Constitutional obligation, that must not be subject to partisan sabotage. We're committed to spending the next year raising awareness about the importance of a fair census and fighting back against any attempts to deter minority participation.

Chris Van Hollen

United States Senator for Maryland



Van Hollen Amendment on Prescription Drug Costs Passes Budget Committee Markup

WASHINGTON (March 28, 2019)—The U.S. Senate Budget Committee voted 14-6 in favor of Senator Chris Van Hollen's amendment to tackle rising prescription drug costs during today's markup of the Fiscal Year 2020 Senate Republican budget resolution. The amendment would create a mechanism to pass legislation to improve access to, and affordability of, prescription drugs for all Americans, hold the health care industry accountable for the prices that consumers and federal programs pay for critical medications, and address issues that artificially increase the costs of drugs, such as price gouging and pay-for-delay.

"Reducing prescription drug costs shouldn't

be a partisan issue. I've heard from so many Marylanders about their struggle to afford the lifesaving drugs that their families need. They are frustrated—and they are right to be. But far too often, partisan fighting gets in the way of moving forward on this critical issue," said Senator Van Hollen. "I'm pleased today that my colleagues were willing to come together and send a clear message to the American people that we must work together to tackle this problem. Moving forward, I hope that Republicans will set aside their political goal of sabotaging our health care system and focus on providing meaningful relief to families across the country."

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The Prince George's Post

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Email: pgpost@gmail.com
Contents © 2019, The Prince George's Post

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

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Increasing Your Social Security Benefit Amount

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

Dear Rusty:

I turned 67 in September 2018. My benefit estimate is \$1478 a month if I claim benefits now. I work and will continue working as long as I can. My 35-year earnings period includes about ten years of zeros when I was married (twice for about 5 years each). If I claim benefits now will my monthly amount go up if I continue to work? I read that the SSA recalculates each year and uses your high years. I make about \$57k a year now and hopefully will continue to do so. Does the SSA replace one of the zero years with the years I work after claiming benefits and raise my monthly benefit accordingly and how much? I truly appreciate your help with this as I would like to decide this month. I have read on SSA that if I don't claim it will go up 8% but I also have read I could be drawing benefits and working too, and this would be a better financial situation. **Signed: Working Senior**

Dear Working Senior: Yes, if you have 10 years of zeros in your 35-year earnings history, your more recent earnings each year will replace one of those zero years, if the earnings are what Social Security considers "substantial" (which your \$57,000 income would be). Social Security gets your earnings information from the IRS as soon as your W-2 is available each year and makes any benefit adjustment necessary at that time (if you're self-employed the adjustment is made after you file your income taxes). When Social Security receives your income information each year, they will recompute your "average indexed monthly earnings" (AIME) with your revised 35-year earnings history (including one less zero year), adjust your "primary insurance amount" (or "PIA"), and increase your benefit accordingly. I can't tell you how much of an increase it would be because I don't have access to your lifetime earnings records, but you shouldn't expect it to be a major increase each year. After all, your new earnings will only represent 1/35th of your AIME, so the increase to your benefit won't be big. But if you continue to work with significant earnings your benefit will continue to increase over time and each increase you get will last for the rest of your life.

You are correct that for each year you delay claiming benefits beyond your full retirement age of 66, you'll earn delayed retirement credits (DRCs) of 8%, up until you are 70 when your benefit would be 32% higher than at your full retirement age. You're earning those DRCs now at a rate of 2/3rds of 1% each month after your FRA and will continue to earn them until you claim (but not after age 70). However, if you are trying to compare the increase you will get by claiming benefits and continuing to work, versus the 8% per year increase you will get by delaying claim of your SS, please be aware that the 8% annual increase will be much more than any increase you'll get from working and replacing a zero year. And the fact is, if you continue to delay and also continue to work, you'll still be improving your eventual benefit from your earnings and you'll still earn those delayed retirement credits until you are 70. In other words, you can do both.

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 ssad-visitor@amacfoundation.org.

African American Heritage Preservation Program Grant Workshop

The African American Heritage Preservation Program (AAHPP) provides capital grants up to \$100,000 to assist in the preservation of buildings, sites, or communities of historical and cultural importance to the African American experience in Maryland. Non-profit agencies, local governments, businesses, and individuals are eligible to apply.

Grant funds can be applied to costs of rehabilitation, restoration, acquisition, pre-construction, and some new construction projects. Join us for a free workshop to learn more about AAHPP Grants.

For more information, please visit our website: https://mht.maryland.gov/grants_africanamerican.shtml

The workshops will cover eligibility, grantee requirements, tips on developing your project, and guidance on filling out the online application.

Thursday, April 18, 2019 • 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Prince George's African American Museum
& Cultural Center

4519 Rhode Island Avenue, North Brentwood, MD 20722

On-site parking available

To register for the workshop, use this link: <https://fy2020aahpp6.brownpapertickets.com/>.

Bowie Business Innovation Center Launches "8(a) Accelerator"

Government Contracting Program Increases Business Growth for 8(a)-Certified Firms

By JACK SPIRAKES
U.S. Small Business Administration

WASHINGTON (March 22, 2019)—In collaboration with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), the Bowie Business Innovation Center (Bowie BIC) launches a new, six-week training and mentoring program April 18 called the "8(a) Accelerator," an initiative funded by Capital One to help 8(a)-certified companies develop the capture strategy they need to win more government contracts. Bowie BIC, a business accelerator and collaborative work space for technology companies and government contractors in Bowie, MD is now accepting applications from SBA 8(a)-certified entrepreneurs to participate in this new initiative targeting 8(a)-designated firms located in Prince George's County.

The initial cohort for the Bowie BIC 8(a) Accelerator will consist of 15 to 20 entrepreneurs who will learn from subject matter experts representing the SBA; the Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC); the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

and various government contracting resources, such as EZGov Opps. In addition, participants will benefit from experiences shared during the sessions by business executives who are themselves, successful graduates of the SBA's 8(a) Business Development program. Participants also will be matched with a mentor who is a successful graduate of the 8(a) program.

To be eligible to participate, companies must already be enrolled in the SBA 8(a) Business Development program and have annual revenues of less than \$1 million. The 8(a) program is administered by the SBA and specifically helps socially and economically disadvantaged business owners by providing participants with free business development education classes, training workshops, and match-making opportunities with federal buyers.

The 8(a) Accelerator program consists of a series of three-hour morning sessions conducted once-a-week over a six-week period at Bowie BIC's headquarters at Bowie State University. The program begins April 18, 2019 and runs through May 23, 2019. The cost of the program is \$595,

which includes a complimentary three-month Bowie BIC Affiliate membership for access to its meeting and co-working space, plus access to other valuable business development tools.

Visit www.bowiebic-8a.com for additional information about the 8(a) Accelerator program and to apply online. Please direct questions about the program to Mr. Q.C. Jones, Project Manager of the Bowie BIC 8(a) Accelerator at QC.Jones@bowiebic.com.

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, grow or expand their businesses, or recover from a declared disaster. It delivers services through an extensive network of SBA field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations. To learn more, visit www.sba.gov.

Sixty-five Local Nonprofits Now Better Prepared to Fulfill Their Missions Thanks to More Than \$272,000 in BGE Emergency Response and Safety Grants

Local Non-Profit Groups Receive Thousands for Vital Equipment and Programs

By TASHA JAMERSON
BGE

BALTIMORE (March 25, 2019)—Today, BGE awarded more than \$272,000 in BGE Emergency Response and Safety Grants to 65 area nonprofit organizations at a ceremony held at the Arbutus Volunteer Fire Department in Baltimore County. The grant recipients are located throughout the BGE service area in nine Maryland counties and Baltimore City.

"At BGE, there is nothing more important than the safety of our employees and customers, and we are grateful for the partnerships we have with organizations that share our commitment to safety," said

Alexander Núñez, senior vice president of regulatory and external affairs for BGE. "First responders risk their lives each and every day, often advancing toward danger in order to keep the rest of us safe. They play a critical role in our communities and it is our pleasure to help support them in their selfless mission."

BGE's Emergency Response and Safety Grant program, now in its seventh year, supports area nonprofits by providing strategic funding that enables the success of their emergency response and safety programs. Some of this year's grants will assist agencies in purchasing vital equipment, such as defibrillators, ice rescue equipment, and funding for emergency

preparedness drills and active shooter training. Over the last seven years, BGE's program has provided over \$2 million to 398 nonprofit organizations who share BGE's commitment to the safety of central Maryland residents.

The following is a list of the organizations awarded with a BGE Emergency Response and Safety Grant this year:

- Prince George's County:**
- **Disaster Aid USA**—Disaster Response Preparedness
- **Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad**—Emergency Scene Lighting
- **Prince George's County Fire Chiefs Community Advisory Council**—Public Safety Education

WSSC Now Accepting Applications for Prestigious Commissioners' Engineering Scholarship Program

Applicants Tasked with Examining Why Tap Water is Better Than Bottled

Winning Answer Could Earn Two Aspiring Engineers Scholarships and Paid Internships Valued at More Than \$10,000

By LUIS MAYA
WSSC

LAUREL, Md. (March 28, 2019)—Why is tap water better than bottled? That's what engineering students will answer as part of their application to WSSC's annual Commissioners' Engineering Scholarship Program, worth up to \$10,000 in scholarship money and paid internship experience over four years. The scholarship program, which officially opened today, supports the Commission's ongoing efforts to attract aspiring engineers to careers in the water industry.

Students are asked to address the benefits of tap water in response to the following essay topic:

As the largest water utility in Maryland, and one of the largest in the country, WSSC is proud to produce and deliver safe, clean and reliable tap water to our 1.8 million customers daily. We are passionate about our water and even prouder of our superior track record in delivering this excellent product to our bi-county residents for the past 100 years. In 1,500 words or less, tell us why tap water is better than bottled water. Please be sure to address all relevant factors and scenarios in making your case.

"This scholarship is designed to help engineering students financially and professionally. We hope that it helps to lessen some of their load while at the same time, introduce them to WSSC and the pivotal role we play in our local community and nationally," said WSSC Commission Chair T. Eloise Foster.

"Delivering safe, clean water is at the heart of everything WSSC does, and we have the 100-year track record of zero water quality violations to prove it," said WSSC General Manager and CEO Carla A. Reid. "This scholarship, and the opportunities it provides, will attract the next generation of WSSC engineers to ensure we continue to deliver safe, seamless and satisfying water services for another 100 years."

Each year, up to two new \$1,000 scholarships may be awarded. Scholarship recipients are eligible for additional awards for up to four consecutive years, which may include post-graduate studies in engineering. Scholarship recipients also are given priority

consideration for WSSC's paid summer internship positions while enrolled in school. The scholarships and internship opportunities total a potential value of more than \$10,000 over four years.

New this year, instead of a cover letter, applicants are asked to submit an introductory video telling a little about themselves and why tap water is better than bottled water.

To qualify for the 2019 scholarship program, applicants must also:

- Provide proof of permanent residency in WSSC's service district; students may attend school outside the WSSC district or out of state;
- Be enrolled full time in a degree program at an accredited college or university that leads to an engineering degree in one of the following areas: Civil Engineering (i.e., Environmental, Sanitary, Structural, Geotechnical, Water Resources, Fire Protection, Transportation, Project Management, Construction Management); Electrical Engineering; Material Science and Engineering; Chemical Engineering; Mechanical Engineering or Computer Science/Engineering. High school seniors who have been accepted into any of these programs are eligible; proof of acceptance/enrollment must accompany application materials; and
- Complete an application and have it received by the WSSC Corporate Secretary by Monday, June 3, 2019.

In addition to the essay, introductory video and proof of residency, all applicants must submit an official transcript and two letters of reference. Applicants may apply online at www.wsscwater.com/engscholar or by U.S. mail to: WSSC Corporate Secretary Sheila Finlayson, Esq., WSSC, 14501 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD 20707.

For additional information, visit www.wsscwater.com/engscholar, or contact Sheila Finlayson at 301-206-8200 or Sheila.Finlayson@wsscwater.com.

For 100 years, WSSC has proudly served the citizens of Prince George's and Montgomery counties—providing drinking water that has always met strict Safe Drinking Water Act standards and protecting the environment through vital water resource recovery services. Our vision is to be THE world-class water utility, where excellent products and services are always on tap.

OUT on the TOWN

Raising Money for Reuse

The DC Region's Salvage Warehouse Hosts a Party with Pre-Loved Garden Supplies, Big Hats, and Local Bands

By RUTHIE MUNDELL
Community Forklift

HYATTSVILLE AREA, Md. (March 22, 2019)—On Saturday, April 6th, Community Forklift will host its annual Garden Party and Spring Fundraiser. Now in its 10th year, the Garden Party has become a local tradition, drawing hundreds of gardeners, farmers, designers, homeowners, treehuggers, and families from across DC, Maryland, and Northern Virginia to celebrate the start of the growing season.

It's a bit like Black Friday for gardeners! Each winter, the nonprofit collects donations of lawn and garden supplies, then makes the items available to the public during the event at up to 70% below retail prices. The warehouse opens at 9 a.m., and shoppers line up even earlier, eager to dig through piles of gently-used gardening tools, patio furniture, bricks, and planters. The first folks in line win prizes, but late risers should not worry—

the sales floor will be restocked throughout the day.

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the free festival will include gardening and sustainability experts; vendors offering seeds, seedlings, and other homemade garden goodies; and workshops on composting, beekeeping, and sustainable home landscaping. There is entertainment for all ages, including free face-painting; live music from Roxanne Jarrett, Vico Cycle, HusBand; and local food from Shortcake Bakery and the County Manners food truck.

There will be prizes for the most stylish people and pets, so attendees are encouraged to wear seersucker suits, fancy hats, frilly dresses, and other garden party finery.

The Garden Party is Community Forklift's biggest fundraiser each year. Proceeds from the sale support their work to create green jobs for returning citizens and people facing barriers to employment, reduce environmental harm, educate the public about reuse, and provide free home improvement

supplies to nonprofits and neighbors in need.

For more information go to: <https://communityforklift.org/news-events/10th-annual-garden-party/>

Community Forklift turns the waste stream into a resource stream for local communities. The nonprofit organization picks up donations of gently-used and salvaged building materials, working appliances, and vintage furniture throughout the DC region. Then, these items are offered to the public online and at their large warehouse, and provided free to community groups and neighbors in need. Since 2005, Community Forklift has created over 40 green jobs, and made it possible for thousands of local homeowners, nonprofits, and small businesses to make repairs and improve neighborhoods. Their 40,000 square-foot warehouse is located at 4671 Tanglewood Drive, Edmonston, MD 20781 (in the Port Towns neighborhood, near the Hyattsville Arts District, just outside NE DC). CommunityForklift.org / 301-985-5180.

Calendar Spotlight

5th Annual Lattes with Lambs Barnyard Festival
Saturday, April 6, 2019, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Meet the National Colonial Farm's new baby lambs and calves! Enjoy coffee from local WeeBean Coffee Roasters and Krispy Krems donuts, sheep shearing demonstrations, milking demonstrations, wool spinning demonstrations, a 4-H livestock show, and live music. **PLUS! This year's Lattes includes a very special treat:** Farm favorite Sir Nigel the Hog Island sheep will be getting married to Lady Aster in a special ceremony during the event. The couple invites all event guests to join in their nuptial celebration. Music by Broad Run String Band and activities for the whole family.

Cost: \$10 for adults, \$5 kids, members, active military
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: National Colonial Farm, 3400 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek MD 20607
Contact: 301.283.2113, info@accokeek.org

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



National Colonial Farm & Piscataway Park

PHOTO COURTESY NPS

Founded in 1957 to protect the view from Mount Vernon across the Potomac River, the Accokeek Foundation, an educational nonprofit, became one of the nation's first land trusts. Today, the Foundation stewards 200 hundred acres of Piscataway National Park in Accokeek, MD, where visitors can hike a network of trails winding through wetlands, visit a native tree arboretum, and observe an award-winning forest restoration project. The Foundation also runs the National Colonial Farm, a living history museum that depicts a Maryland middle-class family farm on the eve of the American Revolution. Through their heritage breed livestock and seed saving programs, nearly extinct heirloom crops and animals are preserved for future generations. The Foundation's organic Ecosystem Farm emphasizes the future of agriculture as farmers learn the tools of a new trade and practice sustainable use of natural resources. "Shares" of the farm's organic produce are sold to area households. The park's beautiful grounds, trails, and programs are open to the public year 'round from sunrise to sunset. The National Colonial Farm and the Visitor Center is open March–December, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday–Sunday.

The Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park: 3400 Bryan Point Road Accokeek, MD 20607 • (301) 283-2113 • accokeekfoundation.org

Park Quest 2019 Registration Kicks Off April 3

"Off the Beaten Path" Adventures Begin May 1

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Department of Natural Resources



ANNAPOLIS, Md. (March 28, 2019)—The Maryland Department of Natural Resources opens registration April 3 for Park Quest, the beloved family-based outdoor adventure program in state parks throughout Maryland. This year's theme is "Off the Beaten Path—Arts, Activities and Adventures in Maryland State Parks."

Park Quest aims to engage families in outdoor activities to experience Maryland's vast cultural, historical and natural resources on public lands and parks.

Through this annual program, 1,000 qualifying teams—usually families—will get an opportunity to complete outdoor excursions in at least 20 different sites from May 1 through Oct. 31.

"We have prepared fun and challenging adventures for families to pursue in our beautiful parks around the state," Maryland Natural Resources Secretary Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio said. "To all our guests, as you explore and discover our rich culture, history and nature, I hope you will also find a lifetime of wonderful memories."

From "Blending with Nature" at Herrington Manor State Park

in Western Maryland to "Oyster Wars of the Chesapeake" at Janes Island State Park on the Eastern Shore, each planned adventure provides a unique challenge that offers education, entertainment and exercise for the whole family.

Teams must include at least one member 16 years of age or younger and at least one adult, with a maximum of 10 participants per team. Cost to participate in the program is \$10 per team, which is then provided with a Park Quest passport booklet.

Registration is first-come, first-served and will remain open until 1,000 team slots are filled. Families who miss the registration process may still participate in Park Quest, by accessing the Park Quest worksheets on the Maryland Park Service website and paying the appropriate day-use service charges at certain participating state parks.

Another affordable option is the Maryland Park Service Annual Passport, which provides unlimited day-use access to all 75 state parks through the calendar year.

Teams can take advantage of cabin and campsite reservations and spend a night or two under the stars as they explore the state's network of parks.

Registration and more information for this year's program can be accessed at the Park Quest webpage: <http://dnr.maryland.gov/parkquest/Pages/Home.aspx>.

ERIC D. SNIDER'S IN THE DARK

.... Movie Review

How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World

How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World
Grade: B-
Rated PG, mild action violence
1 hr., 44 min.

I loved the first two animated adventures about the Viking boy and his fire-breathing friend, but "How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World" falls a bit flat. Maybe too much time has passed? It's been five years since Part 2, nine years since

the first one, and as much as I enjoyed them, I never felt compelled to watch them again. When "The Hidden World" began—with Hiccup (Jay Baruchel) and friends rescuing dragons from trappers—I recognized all the characters but didn't feel anything for them. That turned out to be a problem because the film assumes we're already all-in on these folks—which, to be fair, is a safe assumption. The target audience

has probably re-watched both films multiple times. I understand that I'm the problem here.

Written and directed by franchise veteran Dean DeBlois, "The Hidden World" is aesthetically as beautiful as ever, with melancholy themes reminiscent of "Toy Story 3." Hiccup, chief of the village since his father died, is growing up and being urged to marry Astrid (America Ferrera). He has turned the island of Berk into a "dragon-Viking utopia," but they're running out of room for everyone because dragons are large. Complicating matters: Some rival Vikings who aren't down with the "be nice to dragons" philosophy have hired a dragon hunter, Grimmel (F. Murray Abraham by way of Bela Lugosi), to capture Toothless so they can use him as bait for the rest. And what bait do they use to catch Toothless? A female Night Fury, white

in color and as feline in her mannerisms as Toothless is canine. Toothless is smitten. Seems Hiccup isn't the only one approaching adolescence.

John Powell's soaring musical score is a great boon, especially during the wordless scenes of Toothless and New Girl courting and cavorting. (They have a romantic flying scene that reminded me of its equivalent in the first "Superman" movie.) Thanks to dreams and flashbacks, Hiccup's connection to his father (Gerard Butler) is still a driving force in the story, but his long-lost mother (Cate Blanchett), introduced in Part 2, might as well have remained lost. This chapter, about growing up and moving on, has heart but lacks the warmth and comfort of its predecessors. The two 6-year-olds who sat near me loved it, though, so who cares what I think?



Now chief and ruler of Berk alongside Astrid, Hiccup has created a gloriously chaotic dragon utopia. When the sudden appearance of female Light Fury coincides with the darkest threat their village has ever faced, Hiccup and Toothless must leave the only home they've known and journey to a hidden world thought only to exist in myth. As their true destinies are revealed, dragon and rider will fight together to the very ends of the Earth to protect everything they've grown to treasure.

ROTTENTOMATOES.COM

Springtime at Montpelier Arts Center

Cultural Arts Programming by the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (March 19, 2019)—Gaze upon playful art installations or move and groove to relaxing tunes at M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation's many arts and cultural heritage events! Join us this spring at the Montpelier Arts Center to witness these talented local and international artists, musicians, and vocalists. The Montpelier Arts Center is located at 9652 Muirkirk Rd, Laurel, MD 20708.

INCOMMUNICADO: Montpelier Art Center's April Public Reception

Date and Time: Sunday, April 7, 2019, 2–4 p.m. Cost: FREE
Celebrate the artists of Maryland at Montpelier Art Center's April Public Reception. All three galleries will be filled with beautiful artwork that is guaranteed to inspire and evoke conversation. In the main gallery, Incommunicado, an exhibition that investigates the art and installations of various artists who use text in playful and meaningful ways to explore communication and human expression. In the library gallery, Jill Tanenbaum and Cathy Abramson showcase glassworks and paintings that feature the colors, shapes, and energy found in and around urban settings. In the resident artist gallery, Patricia Phillips Bowden experiments with other painting media as well as 3D objects to present an interesting exhibition on cultural ancestry and the passage of time. In this exhibition, Bowden begins to explore her heritage using images that evoke time, poetry, and culture.

Live! at Montpelier: Carl Grubbs

Date and Time: Monday, April 8, 2019, 8–10 p.m.
Cost: \$25/person; 10% discount Montpelier members and seniors
This evening of jazz with a legendary musician. 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. Through his own family, Carl Grubbs was close to many of the history-making musicians of the 1950s and 1960s. **Reservation required by 4/5/2019.**

Live! at Montpelier: Cyrille Aimée

Date and Time: Friday, April 12, 2019, 8–10 p.m.
Cost: \$25/person; 10% discount Montpelier members and seniors
Improvisation is not just a technique for Cyrille Aimée, it's a way of life. The acclaimed vocalist ventured from singing on street corners in Europe to dazzling audiences at the world's most prestigious jazz festivals; from sneaking out to sing in gypsy encampments in her native France to acting on Broadway; from braving the notoriously tough audiences at New York's Apollo Theatre to being called a "rising star in the galaxy of jazz singers" by the *New York Times*.

—Kira Calm Lewis, Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

Calendar of Events

April 4–April 10, 2019

Negro Baseball League Exhibit

Date and Time: Saturday, April 6, 2019, 12–4 p.m.
 Description: Join James Nelson and Mr. James Bland as they share their love of the game and tell fascinating stories of the Negro Baseball League.
 Cost: Free. No Reservations
 Ages: All ages are welcome
 Location: Belair Mansion, 12207 Tulip Grove Drive, Bowie, MD 20715
 Contact: 301-809-3089

Marietta House Museum and Prince George's County Historical Society present our Spring Lecture Series: African American Women in Music: The Music of Ella Fitzgerald

Date and Time: Saturday, April 6, 2019, 1 p.m.
 Description: As we celebrate International Jazz Month, we 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

CAAPA Movin' On Up—Poetry and The Great Migration

Date and Time: Saturday, April 6, 2019, 1 p.m.
 Description: The Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts (CAAPA) presents this music, dance and poetry event featuring JoNay Aiken, dancer, and Alex Strachan, violinist. Hosted by Prince George's County Poet Laureate Sistah Joy Alford. Open mic segment. Prizes awarded for poems inspired by The Great Migration.
 Cost: Free
 Ages: All ages are welcome
 Location: Oxon Hill Branch Library, 6200 Oxon Hill Rd., Oxon Hill, MD 20745
 Contact: 301-839-1444; info@4caapa.org

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 tickets \$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

Raq Out! 10th Anniversary Show

Date and Time: Saturday, April 6, 2019, 7:30–9 p.m.
 Description: Celebrating one decade of exploring the cultural diversity of bellydance!
 Cost: Pay As You Can donation
 Ages: Adults
 Location: Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road, College Park, MD 20740
 Contact: 301-927-3013 (leave message)

Remembered: The Burial Ground at Serenity Farm

Date and Time: Monday, April 8, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
 Description: Come hear Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. tell how a skull found in 1982 on Serenity Farm—the Robinson family farm in Benedict, MD—led to the discovery of a previously unknown slave burial ground.
 Cost: Free
 Ages: Adults
 Location: Baden Branch Library, 13803 Baden-Westwood Rd., Brandywine, MD 20613
 Contact: 301-888-1152

Craftersnoon: Design Your Own Bookmarks

Date and Time: Wednesday, April 10, 2019, 4 p.m.
 Description: Come celebrate National Library Week by designing your own bookmark.
 Cost: Free
 Ages: 5–12
 Location: Beltsville Branch Library, 4319 Sellman Rd., Beltsville, MD 20705
 Contact: 301-937-0294

Smooth Sounds for Seniors: Avon Dews

Date and Time: Thursday, April 11, 2019, 12–1:30 p.m.
 Description: Avon Dews is a Washington, D.C., native who started playing the harmonica at a young age. His style is classic, cool, and jazzy with a little old school and a touch of funk and blues. A professional harmonica player, Dews has played at venues including the Kennedy Center, the American Market at the National Harbor, the 2015 Cherry Blossom Festival, and the Bethesda Blues and Jazz Supper Club.
 Cost: \$12, Pre-registration required through ParksDirect.
 Ages: 60 and better
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center, 9652 Muirkirk Rd, Laurel, MD 20708
 Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Easter Egg Dyeing—Fun, Glitter, Eggs!

Date and Time: Saturday, April 13, 2019, 2–4 p.m.
 Description: Create beautifully decorated eggs that will impress your friends and even the Easter bunny.
 Cost: FREE! Children receive their first two eggs for free. Additional eggs are available 2 for \$1.
 Ages: All ages are welcome
 Location: Brentwood Arts Exchange, 3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD 20722
 Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-699-2544

Help NASA Measure Trees With Your Smartphone

By KATE RAMSAYER
 NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Healthy forests play a crucial role in Earth's ecosystem as growing trees take up carbon from the atmosphere. NASA satellites and airborne missions study forests to see how carbon moves through ecosystems—and now citizen scientists can help investigate this key question as well by using their smartphone to measure tree height.

The GLOBE Observer app provides a step-by-step guide for people to collect scientific data on their surroundings. With the new GLOBE Trees feature of the app, observers record tree height by tilting their phone up and down to align the screen with the tree's top branch and base, and pace off the distance to the tree; the app does the rest to calculate the tree's height.

"With the GLOBE Observer, everyone can become a citizen scientist and easily take measurements to better understand their local ecosystem," said Brian Campbell, GLOBE Trees science lead. Observers can measure one tree or hundreds. The data points—along with a GPS tag of the tree's location—are sent back to NASA and collected in a database. Anyone can visualize all of the tree height and other GLOBE data simply by visiting the GLOBE website.

The GLOBE program has helped teach-

ers and students gather scientific data for more than 20 years, and expanded in 2016 with GLOBE Observer to bring in other citizen scientists as well. The tree-height project is the latest in a suite of tools that people can use to study their surroundings, following efforts to observe clouds, mosquito habitat, and land cover.

The land cover tool allows citizen scientists to document the vegetation and terrain around them, Campbell said, and adding in the height measurements gives a more complete, three-dimensional portrait of the ecosystem. Scientists need that third dimension to calculate how much carbon is stored in a tree or in a forest—and now citizen scientists can collect the data as well.

Tree height measurements could also help scientists working on NASA missions like the Ice, Cloud and Land Elevation Satellite-2 (ICESat-2), which uses a laser to measure the height of Earth's surface below them as they orbit our planet.

"ICESat-2 will measure the heights of forest canopies worldwide—and the GLOBE Observer app is another way to collect even more data," said Tom Neumann,



CREDIT: GLOBE OBSERVER

With a new tool from GLOBE Observer, citizen scientists can measure the height of trees to better understand the ecosystem around them.

ICESat-2's project scientist at NASA Goddard. Citizen scientists in the United States and in more than 100 other countries will gather tree heights from many more places than the ICESat-2 scientists alone could measure.

"GLOBE measurements are going to be useful for the validation of tree heights we're getting from ICESat-2," Neumann said. Once the GLOBE data starts coming in, the mission will analyze the information to see where a cluster of citizen scientist measurements overlap with ICESat-2's measurements, and compare the two sets. "It'll be interesting to see what the difference is."

The GLOBE Observer app can be downloaded for free on Google Play and the App Store.

For more information on GLOBE Observer, visit: <https://observer.globe.gov>
 To access GLOBE data, visit: <https://vis.globe.gov/GLOBE/>

Earth Day Network Launches Great Global Clean Up

Event Kicks Off with Earth Day 2019 Clean Ups in Cities Across the U.S.

By DENICE ZECK
 Earth Day Network

WASHINGTON D.C. (March 18, 2019)—Earth Day Network is implementing a nationally coordinated environmental volunteer Clean Up in honor of Earth Day 2019. In collaboration with partners across the U.S., including National Clean Up Day.

Building on best practices and verifiable metrics from 2019, this event will then be scaled-up for the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day in 2020 as the Great Global Clean Up with more than 100,000 events globally and one billion pieces of trash collected.

Volunteers in 13 cities across the U.S. will come together with grassroots organizations for Earth Day 2019 to clean up U.S. green spaces, urban landscapes, and waterways.

Clean Ups will take place on or around Saturday, April 27 in Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Honolulu, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Richmond, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington, D.C.

Volunteers are invited to sign up at earthday.org/cleanup. Volunteer registration [began] on March 15 and will continue until

April 25. Check back often for additional Clean Up events.

With approximately 25 Clean Up locations in each city and over 300 total Clean Ups, the Earth Day 2019 Clean Up aims to inspire volunteerism and achieve tangible impacts on waste in our environments. The unified campaign includes mobile registration, digital mapping, social media, photo sharing, corporate volunteer engagement, and data collection on Clean Up results.

"The Great Global Clean Up will bring together millions of people around the globe to create the largest coordinated volunteer event in history," says Earth Day Network president Kathleen Rogers. "We are excited to kick off in cities across the U.S. in 2019, and to expand globally in 2020 in honor of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day."

For more information, go to earthday.org/greatglobalcleanup

Earth Day 2019 Clean Up sponsors include Toyota, Kiehl's Since 1851, Dos Gardenias, Burton Snowboards and Fetzer.

Earth Day Network's mission is to diversify, educate, and activate the environmental movement worldwide. Growing out of the

first Earth Day (1970), Earth Day Network works with more than 50,000 partners in 190 countries to build environmental democracy. More than 1 billion people now participate in Earth Day activities each year, making it the largest civic observance in the world.

Earth Day 2019 Clean Up: Greater Washington D.C. Locations

• **Clean Up: NPS SCA—Greenbelt Park**
 Location: 6565 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Date and Time: Saturday, April 6, 8:45 a.m.
 More Information: <https://www.nps.gov/gree/getinvolved/potomac-watershed-cleanup.htm>

• **Clean Up: Anacostia River**
 Location: 4302 Bladensburg Rd., Bladensburg, MD 20710

Date and Time: Saturday, April 13, 9 a.m.
 More Information: www.anacostiaws.org

• **Clean Up: SCA—Greenbelt Park**
 Location: 6565 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Date and Time: Saturday, April 27, 9 a.m.
 More Information: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/greenbelt-md-dc-metro-area-sca-earth-day-at-greenbelt-park-tickets-58106563295>

Earth TALK™ Future Home: Green Upgrades Becoming the Norm

Dear EarthTalk:

Given all the advances in residential household efficiency, can you paint a picture of what the home of the future will look like?

—Jennifer C., Valmeyer, IL

No doubt, homes in the future, whether single family dwellings or apartments in larger buildings, will be much greener than what we are all living in these days. For starters, the use of sustainable, locally sourced (and ideally recycled) materials will be the norm, not the exception, so as to avoid the unnecessary emissions and resource consumption required to make new stuff and ship it around the world.

Homes of the future will be energy efficient. Part of this efficiency will come from better insulation, doors and windows to

keep the heat/cold inside where you want it. The other part will come in the form of using renewable energy generated on-site, whether from rooftop photovoltaic solar panels, thin-film window treatments, solar shingles, micro wind turbines, kinetic energy harvesters, or other newfangled technologies. And all this self-sustaining energy will be stored in your own high-capacity batteries probably not so different from Tesla's Powerwall array.

Homes of the future will also be smart. Your appliances, A/C, lighting, home security, motorized blinds, garage door openers and other systems will be connected to your network with controls available through apps over the Internet. And chances are, your future home will be smaller. The "tiny house" movement highlights how much homeowners can save on utility bills when space is limited. Efficiency can also be about use of space as much as about use of energy. While we won't all live in tiny homes, downsizing will definitely continue to be "in."

And what about outside your home? Don't be surprised if your perfect lawn has been replaced by native plants attuned to the surrounding ecosystem. These hardy local plants won't need chemical fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides to thrive. Rainwater from your roof will be collected in cisterns, with the resulting "graywater" used to irrigate your land-

scaping. A green roof or vertical garden could top it all off.

While the picture painted above may seem far-fetched, it's really not, given that you could build a home that met all of the above criteria today for not much more than a conventional home. That said, it might be greener still to retrofit your existing old-school home with eco-friendly upgrades than to tear it down and build a new one, given the emissions associated with manufacturing, materials transport and assembly on a new structure. While the new home will be more efficient, it could take decades to "pay back" the "carbon debt" accrued by building from scratch.

Of course, all buildings run their course eventually, so when it is time to tear-down, it's good to know there are plenty of green options out there to replace the old homestead. And with California adopting new building codes that go into effect in 2020 calling on all new construction of single-family homes and low-rise apartments to meet zero net energy standards (whereby they generate as much power from on-site renewables as they consume from the grid), the future may be here sooner than we imagined.

CONTACTS: Tesla Powerwall, tesla.com/powerwall; "Tiny Homes Are Big On Energy Efficiency," ase.org/blog/tiny-homes-are-big-energy-efficiency; "CA Building Code Takes Big Step Toward Net-Zero Energy," nrdc.org/experts/pierre-delforge/ca-building-code-takes-big-step-toward-net-zero-energy.

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.



IMAGE COURTESY EARTHTALK

This small rooftop wind turbine from Netherlands-based start-up The Archimedes can generate 1,500 kilowatt-hours of energy each year, which would account for about 15% of the typical American household's annual energy needs.

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#DrivingItHome from A1

family, I really believe we can change the driving culture for the long-term and most importantly, save lives."

Council Member Anderson-Walker and the District 8 team, in a series of events taking place during the weekend launch, also visited Ebenezer AME Church in Fort Washington and the Community of Hope AME Church in Temple Hills to share the #DrivingItHome initiative and encourage community support. The #DrivingItHome campaign will feature several additional community initiatives focused on keeping our roads safe.

For additional information, or to learn how you can participate in #DrivingItHome, please visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=26G2YqoYsZA.

Public Service Award from A1

Five Prince George's County Pride Awards were also presented during the Women's History Month Luncheon. Awardees included: Prince George's Community College President Charlene Dukes, recipient of a Education Pride Award; McDonald's franchise owner Mary Hopkins-Navies, recipient of a Business Pride Award; Economic Development Corporation Latino Small Business Liaison, Rocio Tremino-Lopez, recipient a Business Pride Award; President and CEO of the Latin American Youth Center Lupi-Qinteros, recipient of a Nonprofit Pride Award; and, Executive Director of The Training Source Inc. Evelyn Kim Rhim, recipient of a Nonprofit Pride Award.

The Prince George's County Department of Social Services (PGCDSS) provides an array of services designed to ensure the safety and well-being of at-risk children and vulnerable adults, as well as stabilize families. PGCDSS provides opportunities for residents to become independent, responsible and stable members of the community, by providing intervention services that strengthen families, protect children and vulnerable adults, encourage self-sufficiency and promote personal responsibility.

Maryland Native Nominated to Head Marine Corps

By EUGENE "JESSE" NASH IV
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON (March 27, 2019)—For the first time in history, a Maryland native is poised to step into the highest-ranking position in the United States Marine Corps.

After a likely Senate confirmation of President Donald Trump's nomination, Lt. Gen. David H. Berger, 59, would take over command of the Marines from the current commandant, Gen. Robert Neller, in the summer. He also would be promoted to general.

Born and raised in Woodbine, Maryland—a rural town in between Frederick and Baltimore—the three-star general attended Tulane University in Louisiana and graduated with an engineering degree in 1981. While there, he played on the college's lacrosse team, according to a yearbook.

After graduation, Berger was commissioned in the Marine Corps as an infantry officer. He served as a company commander in a reconnaissance battalion of the 2nd Marine Division during the first Gulf War.

Berger later served in higher command roles during Operations Iraqi Freedom in Iraq and Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

In addition to his qualification as a reconnaissance marine, Berger also completed other elite warrior schools like the Army Ranger School, U.S. Navy Dive School and Marine Corps Amphibious Reconnaissance School, according to the *Marine Corps Times*.

The Maryland native holds a master's degree in international public policy from Johns Hopkins University and a master of science in military studies.

Berger currently serves in Quantico, Virginia, as a ranking officer for combat readiness in the Marine Corps.



PHOTO CREDIT: SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS CHARLOTTE C. OLIVER/
U.S. MARINE CORPS

WASHINGTON—Lt. Gen. David H. Berger, a Maryland native, has been nominated by President Donald Trump to be the next commandant of the Marine Corps.

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