

The Prince George's Post



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Happy Thanksgiving from The Prince George's Post

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Diversity Matters as a Member of the American Legion

2ND IN 3 PART SERIES

By LINDA POULSON, Media Contact
Clinton Post 259

On March 16, Clinton Post 259 celebrated the Centennial celebration of the American Legion. The keynote speaker, American Legion (AL) Department of Maryland Second Vice Commander Ronald Holcombe, gave a history of the American Legion by pinpointing important events that happened during the 100-year era.

Holcombe spoke of two main topics in his speech: "Who Are We?" and "Are We Still Serving Our Veterans?"

Holcombe stated that the beginning of forming the American Legion was a concern for American troops, whose morale was low due to being part of World War I (28 July 1914–11 November 1918), of officers trying to formulate a plan, and racial discrimination, which was the biggest problem.

During that time the U.S. armed forces was segregated. Despite the overt racism which took place, black men continued to volunteer for the price of freedom and the right to full citizenship.

When black soldiers came back to America, they continued to fight discrimination and were treated horribly. Many were lynched, beaten, and murdered. Race riots occurred in major cities.

National Commander Jimmie L. Foster, at the American Legion's 92nd National Convention in Milwaukee in 2011, expressed his desire to see more diversity among the ranks.

"One of our founders, Hamilton Fish, is probably best known as the commander of the first all-black U.S. combat unit shipped overseas in World War I - the Harlem Hellfighters, who in 191 days of duty at the front didn't have any men captured or ground lost. Two of the country's most prominent civil-rights voices, Earl Dickerson and Corneal Davis, were among the first black veterans to join the newly formed American Legion and organize posts for black soldiers."

In the article "True Sons of Freedom" by Jennifer D. Keene, the following was written—"Ensuring fair and equal access to vet-



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY LINDA POULSON

Black Soldiers in WWI

eran's benefits was another critical part of the burgeoning civil-rights crusade. Wherever possible, black veterans joined The American Legion—usually as members of segregated posts. Attempting to organize a "colored post" in Baton Rouge, La., a group of black veterans stressed that as Legionnaires they would know "just what the Government is doing for us in the way of benefits for ourselves, our wives, mothers and children." Chartering decisions were made by the states, however, and some, including Louisiana, refused to sanction black posts. Nonetheless, by 1925, black veterans had successfully established 100 African American posts nationwide, naming them in memory of comrades listed among the 773 African Americans killed in action during the war."

The concentration of race remains but the diversity has expanded to gender, sexual orientation, and age.

Women have always been major contributors to the American Legion. The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA), a woman-run organization, prides itself in its "mission to support the American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad." The ALA, which was established also in 1919, is celebrating their Centennial with the American Legion. Their four pillars—Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Amer-

icanism, and Children and Youth—represents a major influence due to the various programs the organization believes in.

Women Legionnaires play an important part as leaders in the American Legion. The American Legion Department of Maryland has post commanders, a Third Vice Commander and two District Commanders.

The biggest historical impact women made in the American Legion was the election of PNC Denise Rohan, who became the first woman to hold the prestigious position as National Commander in its 99-year history (2017–2018).



Denise Rohan

See DIVERSITY Page A8

County Council Adopts Community Inclusiveness Act Addressing Immigration Policy And Policing

Police Department Administrative Policy regarding ICE detainers and Law Enforcement Now Codified in County Code

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

UPPER MARLBORO (November 19, 2019)—The Prince George's County Council, on Tuesday, November 19, during the final session of Legislative Year 2019, and following a public hearing on the matter, voted unanimously to adopt Council Bill-062-2019, also known as the Community Inclusiveness Act.

The Community Inclusiveness Act, proposed by District 2 Council Member Deni Taveras, codifies Prince George's County's administrative policy that County law enforcement agencies shall not honor Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainers in non-criminal interactions, and mandates that all County agencies not engage in immigration enforcement. The Prince George's County Police Department released this policy in July 2019, prohibiting officers from stopping, searching, arresting, or detaining a person based solely upon administrative immigration warrants.

Council Member Taveras says this measure enhances the relationship and trust between community and law enforcement. "This measure keeps us all safer. It provides added assurance that the County's Police Department

will not perform the work of ICE, and that all residents, regardless of immigration status, can report crimes and rely on police protection, without fear of deportation. Just as importantly, the passage of this bill sends a strong message to the immigrant community that it is alright to cooperate with government entities in light of the upcoming Census, ensuring that all our County residents feel comfortable being counted."

The enactment of CB-062-2019, follows recent cases in which County residents were deported or faced deportation proceedings, after interaction with police involving traffic-related incidents.

The Community Inclusiveness Act is part of a public safety legislative package introduced by Council Member Taveras. The District 2 Council Member plans to propose a bill expanding the county police body-camera program for officers, and another measure addressing transparency in the police database targeting gangs, in Legislative Year 2020. "Together," says Council Member Taveras, "these measures will help to ensure that all residents are treated equally, regardless of race or immigration status."



PHOTO BY ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN

(11/9/2019) Members of the U. S. Naval Academy Midshipmen Action Group perform an Honor Salute for the veterans attending the Patriotic Breakfast at the St. John Neumann Knights of Columbus Assembly 1763 in Bowie.

Hospice Program Celebrates Veterans With Knights, Seniors and Elementary Students

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (November 18, 2019)—Since it was formed in 2010, Hospice of the Chesapeake's We Honor Veterans Committee members consider it their duty to help the community understand how important it is to thank veterans for their service while they are living. With veterans comprising more than 25 percent of its patient base, the days leading up to and around Veterans Day has the committee stepping up to the task double-time.

This year, the nonprofit began the celebration on Nov. 9 by helping the St. John Neumann Knights of Columbus Assembly 1763 in Bowie celebrate its annual Patriotic Breakfast. Later that morning, another contingency of veteran and military volunteers performed a group Honor Salute at Somerford

Place in Annapolis. Two more group honor salutes were performed over the weekend—one on Nov. 10 at Arbor Terrace Waugh Chapel in Gambrills and then at a ceremony held at Brightview Senior Living in Annapolis on Nov. 11. The celebrating wrapped up with a rousing welcome from the students at Jones Elementary School in Severna Park on Nov. 12, who proudly presented two colorful stacks of thank you notes created by its fourth- and fifth-grade classes.

The five events are public representations of how Hospice of the Chesapeake partners with community groups and individuals to meet the unique needs of veterans experiencing advanced illness and at the end of life. The Bowie Knights delight in having members of the U. S. Naval Academy Midshipmen Action Group attend its Veterans events to perform the honor salute which is coordinated by nonprofit's We Honor Veterans committee.

The senior living centers are care partners, with a number of residents who are patients of the nonprofit. Public and private schools throughout Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties participate in the program's Operation Gratitude and have over the last nine years created thousands of thank you cards that are cherished by the Veterans who receive them at honor salutes.

It is all part of the national We Honor Veterans program, a partnership with the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and the Department of Veterans Affairs. The program is focused on providing the best care for veterans and their families through respectful inquiry, compassionate listening and grateful acknowledgment.

Director of Advancement and Volunteer Services Chris Wilson, whose department

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INSIDE

Police Chief Anthony Morgan Travels to Capitol Hill to Tell Congress "No Bigger Trucks"

"If we allow longer double tractor-trailers this problem would not get any better and as Chief I want to ensure our roadways are safe for all drivers," said Mount Rainier Police Chief Anthony Morgan.

Community, Page A3

ChildWatch: More Truths About Guns in America

It is outrageous and irresponsible that the only unregulated consumer product in America is one that takes the lives of nine children and teens a day and injures another 50.

Commentary, Page A4

Library Names New Chief Operating Officer for Communication and Outreach

Nicholas A. Brown will use his talents to broaden the Library's programming and outreach efforts in the county.

Business and Finance, Page A5

National Ballet Company Presents The Nutcracker at The Bowie Center For Performing Arts

This "acclaimed production of The Nutcracker is splendid in every way, and it is especially heartening that the National Ballet Company showcases this classic holiday show with such an inclusive, diverse cast."

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

How are American supermarket chains doing in regard to cutting back on single-use plastics?

—B. Weston, Jacksonville, FL

Features, Page A7

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Victorian homes at Christmas, Festival of Lights, Gingerbread Houses and more

- Victorian Christmas at the Dr. Samuel A. Mudd House. See the House decorated, as it would have been in 1865. There may be a Civil War encampment and a Civil War Santa. And there is an admission fee, payable at the door. Hours are Friday, Dec. 6, 4 to 8 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 7/8, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. The House is in beautiful, rural Charles County, 3725 Dr. Samuel Mudd Road in Waldorf. Info: 301-274-9358.
- History's Home for the Holidays at the Surratt House Museum, through Dec. 15. The historic house will be decorated in the style of the mid-1800s with exhibits of antique toys, cards and more. On Dec. 14 at 4 p.m. there'll be a free Merry Christmas Magic Show starring Michael Cantori. The Surratt House is at 9118 Brandywine Road in Clinton. Info: 301-868-1121. (*Editor's Note: See more on page A6*)
- The 33rd Annual Winter Festival of Lights—more than 2.5 million of them!—opens Nov. 29 and will continue through New Years Day, from 5 to 9:30 p.m. each night. Cost: \$10 car/van; \$20 minibus/limo; \$30/bus; \$20/multivisit pass. Bring canned goods for local food banks. The address is 301 Watkins Park Drive in Upper Marlboro. Info: 301-218-6700. Free festival spectacles while supplies last.
- The Gingerbread House Contest & Show begins Friday, Nov. 29 and continues through Sunday December 15 at Darnall's Chance House Museum. You'll be able to cast votes for Best in Viewer. The winner gets \$275! And I promise you'll enjoy the Show. Darnall's Chance is in Upper Marlboro, on a hill overlooking Schoolhouse Pond. Admission: \$2.00.
- ICE! continues though Dec. 30 at National Harbor, featuring the 1957 Dr. Seuss classic, How The Grinch Stole Christmas! which you enjoy while walking through the ice sculpture. Prices: \$25/child and \$33/adult.
- The Knights of Columbus, in Forestville, is hosting Christmas Cookie Decorating Sunday on Dec. 15, 2 to 4 p.m. All cookies and dec-

orating items will be provided—for decorating and for eating. The event is open to all.

Breakfast with Santa in Morningside

Morningside's annual Breakfast with Santa! is coming up Dec. 14, 10 a.m. at the Morningside Fire House. Menu: pancakes, sausage, fruit, water & orange juice. All kids 12 & under will receive a gift from Santa.

There'll be an Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest, entertainment, raffles/door prizes, and Santa.

Cost: \$6 per person. Registration required: Call Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., 301-736-2301, or email kblade@morningsidemd.gov.

Also, bring unused gloves, hats, socks, scarfs or blankets for the needy, and receive an entry for a special raffle—one raffle ticket per item.

Changing landscape

Panera Bread opened Nov. 25 at The Landing in Clinton, Woodyard Road at Branch Avenue.

Another Silver Diner opened Nov. 18 at Woodmore Towne Centre in Glenarden. It's the 2nd Silver Diner in Prince George's County; the other is in Greenbelt.

I follow house sales in several papers and note that there are quite a few on Towne Park Road in the new Suitland. That street name replaces an old Suitland road which has been expanded through the new, and growing, neighborhood.

Neighbors and other good people

Ray Short, formerly of Morningside and now of Hughesville, is proud of his wife Jill. On her website she is "wife, mom, grandma, court interpreter, Child Abuse Advocate, and Mrs. Southern Maryland International 2020." She was born in Micronesia and speaks the language. I went to the Net and looked up the country: "The Federated States of Micronesia is a country spread across the western Pacific Ocean comprising more than 600 islands."

Suitland High Class of 1969 celebrated its 50th anniversary Oct. 12 at Ocean Pines Yacht Club near Ocean City. I know it was a great time and wish someone had let me know before-

hand. Morningside/Skyline grads that attended, email me (muddmm@aol.com) with a report.

The Knights of Columbus, in Forestville, have announced their Knights and Families of the Month: Robert White was the Knight of the Month for September, Dave Cropper for October. The Weilers were Family of the Month for September, Karle & Opal Crawford for October.

I did it again. In last week's column I reported Bill Stephens worked at "DoD for 25 years, retiring in 1907." Sorry about that, Bill.

Seeking St. Philip's School alumni

In August 1960, at the request of Washington Archbishop Patrick O'Boyle and St. Philip's Pastor, Father Joseph Teletchea, the Bernardine Sisters arrived in Suitland to prepare for the opening of St. Philip's School. The Bernardines, a branch of the Franciscan Third Order, founded La Reine High School on Silver Hill Road, next to Suitland HS.

Though construction was still underway, St. Philip's School officially opened Sept. 19, 1960 with 1st and 2nd grades in an unoccupied wing of La Reine. (My son Mike was in the 2nd grade, daughter Therese in 1st.) The newly-constructed St. Philip's School finally opened in 1962.

Next September marks St. Philip's 60th anniversary.

Ms. Deanna Johnson, Principal at St. Philip's, would like alumni of the school to reach out to them, to get back in touch leading up to the school's big 60th Anniversary next September.

Alumni interested in reconnecting with St. Philip's can email stpaoffice@gmail.com.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Karen Windsor, Alexis R. Paige, Ramona Britt, Patricia Branch and Kimberly White, Nov. 30; Mary Doyle and Jon Foster, Dec. 1; John Anthony, Jr., Vonn Branch and Tyonda Simms-Taylor, Dec. 2; Louise Lantz, Mary Straud and Sen. Mike Miller, Dec. 3; Mark Witherow, Jr. and La'Keshia Johnson, Dec. 4; Denise (Es-kew) Simms, Dec. 5.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Around the County

Circuit Courts in Maryland Celebrate Adoptions As Part of National Adoption Day

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (November 18, 2019)—In recognition of National Adoption Day on Nov. 23, Maryland circuit courts [held] adoption proceedings and family celebrations Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Nov. 21, 22, and 23. National Adoption Day honors adoptive families and draws attention to the need for permanent, loving families for children in foster care.

Prince George's County

On Thursday, Nov. 14, Judge Sheila R. Tillerson Adams, the Chief and Administrative Judge for the Circuit Court for Prince George's County and the Seventh Judicial Circuit, presided over "Celebrating Families," a National Adoption Day ceremony, with Prince George's County Circuit Court Judges Cathy H. Serrette, Beverly J. Woodard, who is an adoptive parent, and Family Coordinating Judge DaNeeka Varner Cotton. The event was held in the Prince George's County Courthouse in Upper Marlboro. The celebration included guest speakers and sponsors, a reception, and the presentation of gifts to the children and families by Senator Ben Cardin. The ceremony was in coordination with the Prince George's County Department of Social Services.

—Public Information Officer, Government Relations and Public Affairs

Bowie State Football Remains No. 11 in AFCA Poll

WACO, Texas (November 18, 2019)—Fresh off repeating as CIAA Champions on Saturday (11/16), Bowie State remains No. 11 in the latest AFCA Poll following the Bulldogs victory over the Broncos of Fayetteville State. With the victory, Bowie State earned a berth into the NCAA playoffs and [hosted] Carson-Newman on Saturday (November 23) at 1 p.m. in Bulldogs Stadium. This w[as] the third year in a row, Bowie State host[ed] an opening round game.

The defending NCAA Division II national champions are rolling heading into the 2019 playoffs. Valdosta State (Ga.) beat West Georgia, 42-14, clinching the Gulf South Conference title and earning the Blazers a No. 1 seed in the playoffs. They also stayed ranked No. 1 in the AFCA Division II Coaches' Top 25 poll. Valdosta State has a bye in the first round and awaits the winner between No. 16 Wingate (N.C.) and No. 20 West Florida.

No. 2 Ferris State (Mich.) also earned a first-round bye while No. 3 Tarleton State (Texas) hosts conference rival and No. 21 Texas A&M-Commerce. Rounding out the Top 5, No. 4 Minnesota State is another of the No. 1 seeds in the playoffs that received a bye while No. 5 Ouachita Baptist (Ark.) plays host to Lindenwood (Mo.), winners of the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

Twenty-three of the Top 25 teams earned a spot in the Division II playoffs, with No. 23 Truman State (Mo.) and No. 24 Henderson State (Ark.) earning post-season bowl game appearances. The Bulldogs will play in the American's Crossroads Bowl against Ohio Dominican while the Reddies will face Missouri Western State in the Agent Barry Live United Bowl. Both bowl games will be played on December 7.

—Gregory C. Goings, Bowie State Sports Information

The Cheverly Police Department Welcomes Their New Lieutenant

Cheverly Police Department to make history on Thursday, December 12, 2019

CHEVERLY, Md. (November 18, 2019)—At the regularly scheduled December town meeting, Chief Towers will have the pleasure of swearing-in Georgia Miltenberger, as Cheverly Police Department's first female, and first African American, lieutenant in the department's 88-year history. After two searches, spanning nearly three and a half months, Georgia Miltenberger, undoubtedly stuck out as the best candidate for the Cheverly community. Miltenberger, until her most recent appointment as Cheverly's second-in-command, had served as the Chief of Police for both the Town of Cottage City and the Town of Colmar Manor.

Miltenberger brings with her a diverse perspective and a proven track record for being a 21st century policing executive. Miltenberger was born in Asmara, Ethiopia. As a military child, she moved to Hawaii where she lived for 6 years before moving to Washington, D.C., when her father, a Sergeant Major in the Army, was transferred to Bolling Air Force Base. At the age of ten, Miltenberger relocated to Prince George's County where she attended and graduated from Crossland High School. Miltenberger, now a mother of three adult children, remains a resident of Prince George's County.

Having served in municipal policing for nearly two decades, Miltenberger is a seasoned law enforcement executive who has been referred to as a community policing expert and has a proven track record for being fiscally responsible, transparent, and accountable.

Chief Towers invites the community to join the department in welcoming our next second-in-command at an informal reception, beginning at 7:15 p.m. in the Cheverly Community Center, located at 6401 Forest Road, Cheverly, MD 20785.

—Cheverly Police Department

8(a) Government Certification

December 4, 2019 • Times: 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Location: Bowie City Hall, 15901 Excalibur Road, Bowie, MD 20716

Cost: \$55 **Register:** <http://www.mdsbdc.umd.edu>

Contact Information: 410-706-5463

Do you want to do business with the federal government? Did you know obtaining a federal certification could increase your chances of awarded a federal government contract? Do you wonder whether your company would be eligible, and if so what the process is to apply for 8a certification? Agencies spend over \$600 billion dollars in federal procurement annually and have a 23% small business goal. The SBTDC's 8(a) Certification workshop provides information on how small businesses can better position themselves to compete more effectively in the federal marketplace. Our subject matter expert on the 8(a) certification process will review this business development program and discuss the many federal set-aside opportunities available. The workshop will provide information on the following: eligibility requirements; benefits of the program; application process; After approval; business development assistance available; overview on how set-aside contracts are awarded.

—Maryland Small Business Development Center

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

SAARC

Mr. Eric Bowman who works for Councilman Sydney Harrison mentioned at the Brandywine-North Keys Civic Association meeting October 16, 2019 "that the County will probably take possession of the keys to the Southern Area Aquatic and Recreation Complex (SAARC) in January." It will probably need an additional 2 months to get everything tested and up and running before it can open. Mr. Bowman "stated that the county was able to obtain \$300,000 from the Capital Improvement Budget to pour the sidewalk from the facility to Brandywine Road to provide convenience for individuals who cannot drive to the SAARC."

Mr. Earl Mitchell "noted that the final construction and development of SAARC is expected to be completed in November 2019. However, the Complex will probably not be open to the public before early spring 2020. This is primarily due to the need to continue the process of hiring people for positions at the Complex, training of staff and testing of equipment." The facility is located at 13601 Missouri Avenue, Brandywine, Maryland and will operate 7 days a week with operating hours on Monday–Friday (5 a.m.–10 p.m.), Saturday (6 a.m.–10 p.m.) and Sunday (10 a.m.–6 p.m.).

NOTTINGHAM MYERS UMC

Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church Usher Ministry invites you to attend their good old-fashioned Prayer Breakfast Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 9 a.m. in the Family Life Center. Pastor, Rev. Dorothea Stroman of Clinton United Methodist Church will be the guest preacher. The address is 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Contact Zilpha Pinkney at CUMC, 301-868-1281 or at her e-mail address, zapinkney@yahoo.com if you need a ticket. The cost is \$10.00.

Nottingham Myers Ushers will celebrate their 51st Usher's Anniversary Sunday, December 8 at their 11 a.m. service in the Family Life Center. Guest Minister is Rev. Dr. Stacey Cole-Wilson. Rev. Constance C. Smith, Pastor Nottingham Myers.

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Save the date for Small Business Saturday, November 30 from 12 Noon–6 p.m. at Robin Hill Farm and Vineyards.

The address is 15800 Croom Road, Brandywine, Maryland. There will be live music, delicious food by Smokey Oak BBQ, their spiced mulled wine and over a dozen vendors featuring local, handmade, and unique products. It's going to be the perfect post-Thanksgiving Day excursion, and a great way to start working on your holiday gift list #Buy Local.

The current vendor list includes Shop Delmarva Crop Queen, KK Jewelry Kreations, Creative Vision, Yarn Candy, Annapolis Custom Graphics, LLC, One million Wonders, Brandywine Soap Garden, H&H Farms, Little turquoise Barn, Sweets by Suarez, Aww Nuts, Organically Me, Vintage Soul, Carpentress Lawless, Floral Fantasies, Linda Macpherson.

The product list includes local honey, cupcakes and cookies, handmade soaps, custom jewelry, candied pecans and cashews, handcrafted signs and cards, crocheted goods, rustic home goods and boutique clothing.

TEACHER HIRING EVENT

Saturday, December 7, 2019 from 8–12 p.m. at Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School, 12650 Brooke Lane, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772 there will be a teacher hiring event. Prince George's County Public Schools is looking for talented educators who are committed, focused on making a difference, and hold (or are eligible for) a teacher certificate issued by the Maryland State Department of Education. Hiring decisions will be made at the event for immediate openings and for the 2020–2021 school year. Registration is required.

Visit online <https://erp.pgcps.org> and apply for a position in your area of certification, include the following documents with your application. A resume, two current professional letters of recommendation, unofficial transcript(s), teaching certificate if applicable, and praxis or state specific test reports if applicable. Eligible applicants will receive an email from a Human Resources representative to invite you to interview at the job Fair.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. Sincere thanks for your support over the years.

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Reducing the Conflicts of That Relationship With Your Boss

If you're in a work situation where you have a strong, positive relationship with that supervisor or boss above you, congratulations. While it definitely does happen, this is not always the case for many of us in our jobs.

Good relationships with a supervisor require effort on your part, but it's effort that pays dividends. Studies have shown that one of the most important things affecting someone's job performance, stress levels, and overall job satisfaction and happiness is the relationship they have with the person above them.

Your work relationship will usually improve when you take a more proactive role in creating that relationship. You can start by trying to understand what is important to him or her as a person. Are there pet peeves or things about your department or company that matter greatly to him or her? Is your boss stuck with having a difficult boss?

A basic rule is to try to understand what your supervisor actually expects from you. It isn't always obvious. You may need to ask questions and seek clarification. Does he or she value timely reports, meeting deadlines and showing initiative? Is a certain dress code important? Are there things that may seem trivial to you but that matter to him or her? Understanding what's important to your boss makes it easier to meet those goals or to discuss alternatives that will keep him or her satisfied.

It also helps to be flexible and understanding. It may not be clear why a meeting was rescheduled or that deadline moved, but it wasn't done simply to upset you. Understand that your boss also faces deadlines and pressure. Most bosses appreciate employees who can accept that there was usually a good reason for the changes.

It's important to open up communication. Take the initiative. Keep him or her up to date on how things are progressing, and make it easy for your boss to talk to you. Share ideas and concerns, and give weight to the things that your boss seems troubled by.

Make building a positive relationship with your boss part of your responsibilities. Recognize that it starts with you. None of us is capable of changing another person, only ourselves. Working to establish a relationship with your boss that shows your understanding and flexibility can lead to a more positive, enjoyable work environment where sharing ideas and positive accomplishments can flourish.

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.

Alley Cat Allies Congratulates Prince George's County for Ordinance Protecting Cats

County Embraces Mainstream Trap-Neuter-Return Policy

By PRESS OFFICER
Alley Cat Allies

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (November 20, 2019)—Alley Cat Allies congratulates Prince George's County, Maryland, for unanimously passing an ordinance on November 19 that endorses county use of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), the mainstream approach that effectively and humanely addresses community cat populations.

"We're thrilled that Prince George's County is joining thousands of other communities across the country who value, respect and protect the cats who live among us by embracing TNR," said Becky Robinson, president and founder of Alley Cat Allies.

Prince George's County becomes the latest county in Maryland to embrace TNR. Alley Cat Allies worked closely on the ordinance for many months with advocates and elected officials in Prince George's County to ensure it takes the right steps to protect cats from being killed and reflect the humane values of county residents.

Through TNR, cats are humanely trapped, spayed or neutered, and vaccinated. The tip of one ear is painlessly removed to indicate the cats are part of a TNR program. They are then returned to their outdoor homes where they live and thrive, ending the cycle of producing new litters of kittens.

TNR is good public policy. It reduces animal shelter intake, "euthanasia" numbers and calls to animal control agencies, which saves tax dollars. Hundreds of communities have adopted official TNR ordinances and policies, and thousands more conduct grassroots, volunteer-led TNR programs. Those numbers continue to grow because the programs have proven to be successful in a wide variety of environments.

Alley Cat Allies, headquartered in Bethesda, Md., is the global engine of change for cats. Alley Cat Allies is the leading advocacy organization dedicated to protecting and improving the lives of all cats through its innovative, cutting-edge programs. Founded in 1990, today Alley Cat Allies has grown into a powerful force with over half a million supporters. The organization has helped and inspired countless individuals, communities and other organizations to save and improve the lives of cats and kittens worldwide. Alley Cat Allies works with lawmakers, animal shelters and advocates to change attitudes and advance lifesaving policies that best serve the interests of cats. Alley Cat Allies' website is www.alleycat.org, and the organization is active on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

Police Chief Anthony Morgan Travels to Capitol Hill To Tell Congress "No Bigger Trucks"

By BRADLEY ROSEBERRY
Coalition Against Bigger Trucks (CABT)

MOUNT RAINIER, Md. (November 18, 2019)—As Congress considers legislation to deal with America's infrastructure problems, law enforcement leaders from across the country are heading to Washington, DC to tell Congress heavier and longer trucks are not the answer to making our roads safer and will cause more damage to our infrastructure. The current transportation funding bill, the FAST Act, expires in 2020.

One of the leaders headed to Washington is Anthony Morgan, Chief of Police, City of Mount Rainier Police Department, who strongly opposes any increases to truck length or weight. Chief Morgan [met] on Tuesday, November 19 with members of the Maryland congressional delegation, including his Representative Anthony Brown, and Senators Chris Van Hollen and Ben Cardin.

"A few years ago several traffic lights in Mount Rainier were converted into roundabouts and they're simply not big enough for tractor-trailers, yet alone double tractor-trailers. They're made for cars, not trucks. You've got the truck in the left lane and a trailer in the right, so if there is a car alongside this creates a very dangerous blind spot. If we allow longer double tractor-trailers this problem would not get any better and as Chief I want to ensure our roadways are safe for all drivers," said Police Chief Anthony Morgan.

A handful of the country's largest trucking companies including FedEx, UPS and Amazon are lobbying Congress to require every state to allow even longer double-trailer trucks, the so-called "Double 33s," which are 17 feet longer than today's 53-foot single-trailer trucks.

Another proposal being floated in Washington by large shippers, including Anheuser-Busch, is to increase national truck weights from the standard 80,000 pounds to 91,000 pounds—an increase of 5.5 tons.

In 2015, Congress soundly rejected both of these proposals and in 2016 the U.S. Department of Transportation's Comprehensive

Truck Size and Weight Final Report to Congress recommended against any changes in current truck size and weight laws.

USDOT found that both longer and heavier trucks meant added dangers on the highways:

- Longer double-trailer trucks needed 22 additional feet to stop compared to double-trailer trucks on the road today.
- In limited state testing, heavier trucks had significantly higher crash rates: 47 percent higher crash rates for 91,000-pound trucks; from 99 to 400 percent higher crash rates for 97,000-pound trucks.
- Both double-trailer trucks and heavier trucks had higher out-of-service violation rates compared to single-trailer trucks operating at 80,000 pounds.

This is a critical finding because the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) published a large-truck study in 2016 that found a truck with any out-of-service violation was 362 percent more likely to be involved in a crash.

There were 2,995 large-truck crashes in Maryland in 2018—unfortunately, 68 people lost their lives in those crashes, while 1,618 people sustained injuries (FMCSA). Our bridges rank 14th worst in the nation by percentage with 3,600 bridges in fair/poor condition—that is over 67 percent of all bridges statewide (FHWA 2018)

"Mount Rainier experiences a high volume of traffic and allowing bigger trucks will only make things worse because of many safety issues such as longer stopping distances and greater risk of rollovers. US Route 1 leaves Washington D.C. and then after 4 miles enters straight into the City of Mount Rainier and then continues through a densely populated residential area. US Route 1 is paralleled by several major highways including I-95, Baltimore-Washington Parkway, US 29 and US 301 so when there is an accident on one of these roads traffic is



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY CABT

L to R: Congressman Anthony Brown, Fourth Congressional District, and Mount Rainier Police Chief Anthony Morgan

sometimes diverted onto Route 1 and creates even more congestion in our city. With the volume of traffic in this area, these bigger trucks are simply too dangerous to be on our highways here in Maryland," explained Police Chief Anthony Morgan.

The American public also opposes increases in truck size or weight. A nationwide survey conducted last year found that 7 out of 10 likely voters oppose heavier and longer trucks on the highway.

Chief Morgan joins like-minded law enforcement officials in making the trip to Washington at the invitation of the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks (CABT), a nonprofit grassroots organization committed to promoting safe highways by maintaining sensible limits on truck size and weight.

CABT is a nonprofit grassroots organization with coalitions of approximately 3,500 local supporters in over 30 states. CABT supporters include law enforcement officers, local elected officials, truck drivers, motorists, safety advocates, railroads and trucking companies. To learn more, please visit www.cabt.org.

Laurel Teen Has Wish Granted

By PRESS OFFICER
Make-A-Wish® Mid-Atlantic

When Laura found out Make-A-Wish® Mid-Atlantic would be granting her a wish, the 14-year-old wasn't sure of what her exact wish could be. She wanted to have something that would make school easier and allow her to relax at her home in Laurel, MD, while living with a rare disease. The wish-granting volunteers told her about shopping spree wishes, which Laura thought was the perfect fit! She wished to have a shopping spree so she could buy all the things on her mind and make it a special day all about her.

Laura visited a local mall previously, so that was the only experience she had with shopping. Not anymore! Laura and her family rode in style to a much larger mall with more stores and surprises for throughout the day. She was able to use the money from Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic to buy herself a laptop for school and lots of clothing and accessories, as well as a new camera

to continue her hobby of taking pictures. In each store, Laura received special treatment from the employees, who helped her pick out the best clothing and allowed her to skip the long checkout lines. One of the highlights of the day, however, came at the Cheese-cake Factory during lunch. Laura loves to eat burgers and she was served a burger as large as her head.

In the end, Laura's family was supportive of her wish and excited to see all the different things she would buy. Laura was so grateful for her wish and loved having special attention on her.

If you are Spanish-speaking and wish to help local children battling critical illnesses, become a volunteer for Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic. For more information on volunteering, contact Amy Ballin, Volunteer Specialist, at aballin@midatlantic.wish.org.

At right, Laura and her family on her shopping spree wish granted by Make-A-Wish® Mid-Atlantic



PHOTOS COURTESY MAKE-A-WISH® MID-ATLANTIC

Above, Laura with check in front of limo with family and WGV Amy Ballin



Retired Virginia Marine Goes Above and Beyond For Older Veterans

By BETHANY HARDY
for Capital Caring Health

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (November 19, 2019)—A retired Marine from Rappahannock County who served in Iraq and Afghanistan is making sure that older veterans across Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia receive more than just accolades.

Lieutenant Colonel David Benhoff (Ret.), director of Veterans' Health and Support Services at Capital Caring Health, has made it his mission to provide compassionate care and meaningful assistance to local veterans in their final days.

"Veterans who served in Vietnam, the Korean War, and World War II were raised not to ask for help—they are selfless by nature,"

says Benhoff. "Veterans often don't realize that they can get compensation, health care, and at-home support. Capital Caring Health has cared for, advocated for, and helped literally thousands of these veterans cut through red tape, so they can focus on what's most important to them as they age—staying in the comfort of their home in the community they know."

Nearly 600,000 veterans over age 65 live in the mid-Atlantic region. Since its founding in 1977, Capital Caring Health—the largest non-profit provider of elder health, hospice, and advanced illness care for the Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. area—has served thousands of these veterans and their families through its Veterans' Health and Support Services program.

Under Benhoff's leadership, the program provides care for veterans facing advanced illness while navigating benefits and services, often tied to service-related illness—working directly with federal, state, and local veterans' service agencies to ensure that veterans get what they need, earned, and deserve. Capital Caring Health part-

COMMENTARY

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

More Truths About Guns in America

On November 6, 17-year-old Da'Qwan Jones-Morris, a former Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom Schools® scholar from St. Paul, Minnesota, was killed when he was accidentally shot in the chest by a 15-year-old friend playing with a stolen gun in our gun saturated nation. Da'Qwan and a group of friends were playing video games after school when the boy who had stolen the gun a few days earlier pulled it out of his bag to show it to the 15-year-old, who fired it without realizing it was loaded. Da'Qwan, a high school senior, was the co-captain of his football team and excited about applying to college. His mother said she always sought out positive opportunities like the CDF Freedom Schools program, sports, and the church choir to keep her son busy—but she still couldn't keep him safe.

When will parents be able to protect their children from guns? CDF's Protect Children Not Guns 2019 report sets the record straight about critical truths you need to know about gun regulations, gun laws, and the gun industry in America to fight the scourge of gun violence in our nation that takes 3,410 child lives a year—one every 2 hours and 34 minutes. It is outrageous and irresponsible that the only unregu-

lated consumer product in America is one that takes the lives of nine children and teens a day and injures another 50.

1. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) can regulate teddy bears and toy guns but not real guns. A 1976 amendment to the Consumer Product Safety Act specifically states that the Commission "shall make no ruling or order that restricts the manufacture or sale of guns, guns ammunition, or components of guns ammunition, including black powder or gunpowder for guns." This restriction remains in effect today. As a result, the CPSC can regulate teddy bears and toy guns but not real guns—one of the most deadly consumer products that kills 39,220 Americans every year. This is disgraceful!

2. The gun industry has been granted broad immunity from liability lawsuits, preventing consumers from holding negligent gun manufacturers and dealers accountable for irresponsible behavior unlike every other major industry. The Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA)—passed by Congress in 2005 with pressure from the NRA—grants gun manufacturers and dealers broad

immunity from federal and state liability lawsuits. The PLCAA makes it nearly impossible to hold the gun industry accountable, prohibiting individuals from filing lawsuits against gun manufacturers or dealers when their dangerous products cause harm or their irresponsible practices enable criminals to obtain guns. No other industry enjoys such blanket immunity. Given these special protections, gun manufacturers and dealers face virtually no penalties for failing to make guns safer or preventing their guns from getting into the wrong hands.

3. Virtually anyone can buy a gun without a background check under current law. Federal law requires anyone purchasing a gun from a federally licensed dealer to complete a background check but does not cover private sales at gun shows, sales over the internet, and between individuals. These hugely dangerous loopholes allow people unable to pass a background check—including those convicted of violent crimes and domestic abuse—to easily obtain a gun.

4. Common sense gun safety laws work and have effectively reduced gun violence without preventing law abiding citizens from owning guns.

• Tighter regulation and oversight of gun sellers prevents guns being diverted to criminals. A study with data from 54 U.S. cities found diverting guns to criminals is much less common in states that license retail gun sellers; require careful record keeping that can be reviewed by law enforcement; require potential buyers to apply for a license directly with a law enforcement agency; and conduct regular compliance inspections.

• Requiring background checks for purchases through licensed and private sellers prevents guns from getting into the wrong hands. More than 3 million firearm purchase applications have been denied since the 1994 Brady Law, which instituted a federal background check requirement for sales through licensed dealers.

Evidence from California suggests extending background checks to cover not only licensed but private sellers substantially decreases illegal straw sales in which a purchaser buys a gun for a person who isn't eligible to buy it.

• Firearm prohibitions for high-risk groups reduce the risk of violent crime. A California study suggests denying handgun purchases to people who have committed violent misdemeanors is associated with a decreased risk of arrest for new gun and/or violent crimes.

• Child access prevention laws save lives. Studies of child access prevention laws requiring gun owners to store guns so children and teens can't access them unsupervised have found they reduce accidental child shootings as much as 23 percent and adolescent suicides 8 percent.

• Well-designed assault weapons bans reduce homicides, suicides and mass shootings. An Australian law banning and buying back assault weapons—including semi-automatic rifles, pump-action rifles and shotguns—was associated with lower homicide and suicide rates. No mass shootings occurred in the decade following the law's enactment compared with 11 in the decade before.

5. The majority of American voters, including gun owners, support common sense gun safety regulations. As of August 2019, 60 percent of voters supported stricter gun laws and 93 percent of voters and gun owners supported universal background checks. Three in five voters (60 percent) favored a nationwide ban on assault weapon sales and about 3 in 4 American voters (72 percent) said Congress must do more to reduce gun violence.

The American people want change. Our children are crying for it. Please make sure your lawmakers know and act on the truth about guns. Make sure they have a copy of Protect Children Not Guns 2019 and insist they do something about it.

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

The Rent Is Too Damn High ... And the Candidates For President Aren't Saying Enough About It

"Across the nation, families are struggling with homelessness and housing insecurity. We need to treat the affordable housing shortage like the crisis that it is. Housing is a fundamental human right. It's time we as a nation acted like it and end the housing crisis once and for all."

—U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar, introducing the Homes for All Act, which expands public housing stock and guarantees housing as a human right.

A pivotal moment in the 2020 Democratic primary race that happened [last] Wednesday may

have escaped notice by much of the country. For the first time since the debates began—a total of six nights of debates—the candidates finally were asked a question about the housing crisis.

I was so concerned about the lack of public discussion around this critical issue facing the nation that I sent a letter to the candidates, urging them to share their plans.

"Gentrification is driving families from their homes," I wrote. "A minimum-wage worker needs 2.5 full-time jobs to afford a one-bedroom apartment in most of the United States. The foreclosure crisis of 2008 exacerbated the shortage of afford-

able housing, forcing families out of the homes they lost and into the already-tight rental market.

"Simply put, the rent is too damn high. Mortgages are unattainable. What is your plan?"

We didn't get to hear from every candidate, and none of those who responded were able to share much detail about their plans. But simply having the issue raised was an important first step.

Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, for example, noted the shortage of affordable housing—the federal government has stopped building new housing, and private developers prefer to serve the upper-income market. Significantly, she said:

"Housing is how we build wealth in America," she said. "The federal government has subsidized housing for decades for white people and has said for Black people you're cut out of the deal. That was known as redlining."

The impact of redlining on Black household wealth cannot be overstated. In the mid-20th Century, the federal government color-coded neighborhoods throughout the nation as green for "best," blue for "still desirable," yellow for "definitely declining" and red for "hazardous."

Lenders would not finance homeownership in redlined Black neighborhoods, which exacerbated a Black-white wealth gap that persists to this day. More than 80 years after those color-coded maps were drawn, three out of four redlined neighborhoods continue to struggle economically. White families today have nearly 10

times the net worth of Black families.

Meanwhile home prices are rising at twice the rate of wage growth and nearly half of all renters spend 30 percent or more of their income on rent. About 11 million Americans spend more than half their income on rent.

The average renter's hourly wage is \$5.39 less than the national two-bedroom Housing Wage—the wage needed to afford an apartment at fair market rent without spending more than 30% of income on housing—and \$1.08 less than the one-bedroom Housing Wage, according to the NLIHC.

Black and Hispanic households are more likely than white households to be both cost-burdened and low-income. Twenty percent of Black households and 16% of Hispanic households are extremely low-income renters, compared to just 6% of white households.

Even as this crisis grows, the Trump Administration yet again has proposed drastic cuts to affordable housing programs that would drive up rents for the poorest residents of subsidized housing and wipe out resources for maintaining and improving public housing buildings.

A few minutes on a nationally-televised debate may be a start but it is nowhere near enough to address the magnitude of the affordable housing crisis. Those candidates who do have detailed plans need to talk about them much more often. And those candidates without detailed plans need to develop them, immediately.

A THANKSGIVING MESSAGE

Be Grateful This Thanksgiving Day For Your Family, Friends and the Rich History of Our Nation

WASHINGTON, DC (November 22, 2019)—Throughout the nation, families will come together [this] week to enjoy what may be the most comforting meal of the year—Thanksgiving dinner.

"Give thanks for the companionship; without your family and friends it can be the loneliest day of the year," says Dan Weber, president of the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC]. "Consider the lament of Abigail Adams on Thanksgiving Day, November 29, 1798. Her husband, John Adams, was nearly halfway through his tenure as America's second president. He was busy tending to the needs of a nation still in its infancy and she was all alone at their home

in Quincy, MA. Yet, she took the time to compose a letter to the man she called, 'my dearest friend'."

Her missive begins with these words, courtesy of Massachusetts Historical Society: "This is our Thanksgiving day. When I look Back upon the Yearpast, I perceive many, very many causes for thanksgiving, both of a public and private nature. I hope my Heart is not ungrateful, tho sad; it is usually a day of festivity when the Social Family circle meet together tho separated the rest of the year. No Husband dignifies my Board, no Children add gladness to it, no Smiling Grandchildren Eyes to sparkle for the plumb pudding, or feast upon the mind Eye. Soli-

tary and alone I behold the day after a sleepless night, without a joyous feeling. Am I ungrateful? I hope not."

The celebration of Thanksgiving Day was the brainchild of America's first president, George Washington. In a proclamation he issued on October 3, 1789, he designated November 26, the last Thursday of the month, as "a day of public thanksgiving." But Thanksgiving Day was not officially declared a national holiday to be celebrated annually until Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation of his own on October 3, 1863. In it, Lincoln followed Washington's example and declared that Thanksgiving would be celebrated each year on the last Thursday of November.

Prince George's County Unanimously Passes Community Inclusiveness Bill

Activists Applaud Bill that Protects Immigrant Families and Promotes Trust

By PRESS OFFICERS
CASA

Prince George's County (November 19, 2019)—Today, the Prince George's County Community Inclusiveness bill passed the County Council by a vote of 11 to 0. Initial Sponsor Deni Taveras and Co-Sponsors Calvin Hawkins, Jolene Ivey, and Tom Dernoga, were joined by the remainder of their colleagues in cosponsoring the bill. Together, all eleven members of the Prince George's County voted to approve a critical protection that will prevent cooperation between Prince George's County Departments and ICE for the purposes of civil immigration enforcement.

"We're incredibly grateful for the unanimous support of the Prince George's County Council and look forward to discussing these critical protections with the County Executive," said CASA's Executive Director

Gustavo Torres. "This legislation once again cements Prince George's County's role in advancing civil and human rights for its residents."

The legislation will ensure that immigrant communities can engage with County departments, including public safety departments, with assurance that such engagement will not be used to assist any civil immigration enforcement or federal discriminatory practice.

"I know that I am on the radar of ICE, even though I have no criminal record. I'm so nervous about seeing any kind of authority. By passing CB-

62, I know that in Prince George's County I can go about my day—working, taking care of family—

without constantly fearing the police is working with ICE," said Jhonny Umama.

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Does Paying Social Security Payroll Tax Increase My Benefit?

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

Dear Rusty:

After losing my job of 31 years in 2013 at 63 years of age, I decided to start drawing my Social Security benefits. In 2015 I started a part time job, which I still have. In January 2020 I will fully retire. I have been paying Social Security taxes for the last 4 years without receiving any increase in my Social Security benefit amount. Can I therefore claim an increase in benefits, or even a refund of those taxes? If not, is there anything that I can do? **Signed: Overtaxed Senior**

Dear Overtaxed Senior: I'm afraid it doesn't work that way, nor is there anything you can do to get either an increase in your benefit amount from (or a refund of) those FICA payroll tax contributions you made to Social Security while you were working and also collecting Social Security benefits. Everyone who works and earns—even those who are collecting Social Security benefits—must pay the Social Security FICA payroll tax. But paying that payroll tax doesn't entitle you to a benefit increase. The FICA tax you pay doesn't get credited to a personal account for you; rather it goes into the Social Security general fund to help pay benefits to all current beneficiaries.

Social Security's basic premise since inception in 1935 is that current workers pay for current beneficiaries. Today, there are about 175 million workers contributing to pay benefits to over 63 million beneficiaries. And actually, the ratio of workers to beneficiaries has been declining for years, which is largely responsible for Social Security's current financial issues. For example, in 1950 there were about 16.5 workers for each Social Security beneficiary; today there are about 2.4 workers per beneficiary.

As I said, everyone who works and earns must pay the Social Security FICA tax, but the FICA taxes you pay do not increase your benefit and there is no refund of FICA taxes for those already collecting Social Security benefits. Once you claimed your Social Security benefit, the amount was set and will only change as a result of COLA (cost of living adjustment) increases, or if any of your current/recent earnings are more than any of the inflation-adjusted earnings in the 35 year lifetime work record used to originally compute your benefit. Social Security uses the highest earning 35 years in your lifetime work history (adjusted for inflation) to compute your benefit, and if you don't have earnings in at least 35 years they put in zeros to make a full 35 years. In that case, any current earnings you have would replace any zero earning years in your 35-year history which would slightly increase your benefit. But except for those circumstances, your benefit won't change simply because you are paying Social Security FICA payroll taxes while you are working.

Think of it this way: The Social Security benefits you are now receiving are being paid for by those Americans currently working, and that will continue even after you retire completely in January. And, you'll continue to get those Social Security benefits for the rest of your life, from the payroll taxes paid by those still working.

The 2 million member Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) (<https://www.amac.us>) is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. We act and speak on their behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at <https://amac.us/join-amac>.

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

Library Names New Chief Operating Officer For Communication and Outreach

By DONNA SCOTT-MARTIN
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (November 20, 2019)—Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) announces the selection of Nicholas A. Brown as its Chief Operating Officer for Communication and Outreach. Brown will oversee the public relations and digital services departments. He will use his talents to broaden the Library's programming and outreach efforts in the county. Library Journal named Nicholas a 2019 Mover and Shaker for his innovative programs while at the Library of Congress.

In his most recent position as Director of Special Productions and Initiatives at Washington Performing Arts (WPA), Brown developed large-scale,



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY PGCMLS

Nicholas A. Brown, the library system's New Chief Operating Officer for Communication and Outreach

multi-disciplinary community engagement programs, including Yo-Yo Ma's Bach Project and Latinx in D.C. "My role at WPA built upon the work that I did at the Library of Congress," Nicholas says. "The

performing arts, libraries and cultural heritage organizations all have similar functions in creating spaces for communities to gather, explore ideas and be enriched with cultural experiences."

Nicholas Brown comes to PGCMLS with a master's degree in Library and Information Science from The Catholic University of America and six years of service as a music and program specialist at the Library of Congress. "We are thrilled that Nicholas Brown has decided to advance his love of public service at PGCMLS and look forward to the exciting new ideas he will bring to the county," exclaimed Roberta Phillips, the Library's CEO.

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), consisting of 19

branches, offers strategies for lifelong learning. Skills development library resources include Brainfuse's HelpNow and JobNow, MANGO Languages, ArtistWorks for Libraries and Learning Express Library. Early literacy resources are Ready 2 Read Centers, Ready 2 Read Backpacks, ABCmouse, AWE Early Literacy Stations, Beanstack, Playaway Launchpads and PebbleGo. All these services are free with your PGCMLS library card. Also, enjoy 3D printing, Minecraft, DREAM (Digital Resources for Electronic Applications in Media) lab, chess clubs and TAG (Teen Action Group), free at your library. Engage with us on social media: Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, Instagram and YouTube. Check out our mobile apps! Learn more about what your Library has to offer at www.pgcmls.info.

The Waterfront District at National Harbor Celebrates Small Businesses on Shop Small Business Saturday, November 30

By VICKI BENDURE
for National Harbor

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md., (November 22, 2019)—On Small Business Saturday, the Waterfront District at National Harbor celebrates its boutiques and small businesses. The area has more than 70 retailers and restaurants, in addition to the Capital Wheel, carousel and ongoing activities and programs on the waterfront. Easy parking and walkable streets make it an ideal destination this holiday season. In honor of Small Business Saturday, the Waterfront District is offering free parking from noon until 6 p.m. on Saturday, November 30. Guests will receive their free parking voucher when they purchase anything from any restaurant or store in the Waterfront District.

In addition to favorite small shops such as Brookie Girl (owned by veterans Shawn and Bobby Hand), Betty, The Dough Jar and Pretty Girl Cupcakery—to name a few, the Waterfront District recently welcomed three new shops:

A Beautiful Closet (144 Waterfront St.) is packed with a wide array of treasures—jewelry; gifts; home décor; women's, men's and children's clothing; shoes; fair trade good and inspirational items from the USA and countries around the world. The boutique is artfully curated by a former World Bank staff member and also offers personalized styling consultations.

A Touch of Fancy (164 Waterfront St.) features a "little cottage, a little chic" from a "simple girl from the Midwest who enjoys a touch of fancy." Bonnie Cruea (who worked as a paralegal for 15 years) has been creating spaces and reimagining



PHOTO BY GARY LOPATER ON UNSPLASH

Sunset on the Harbor

everyday items since she was a child. The store has an ever-changing collection of hand-curated items and always a vast selection of seasonal home decor. The decorative accents are hand-selected by Bonnie based on what strikes her fancy. The furniture is almost all hand-painted by her, and the handmade items are created from visions she or her friends have when looking at ordinary items. Everything is then combined and displayed together in a collection of vignettes to give the customer inspiration for using them in their own homes.

ZAAF (189 Waterfront St.) is a premium lifestyle brand with goods made entirely in Africa. Items include beautiful high-end handbags, scarves, shoes and other accessories. It's a store that is truly unique and is helping artisans across Africa in a demonstration of social responsibility.

Abai Schulze is the Founder and Creative Director of ZAAF. Her life journey has taken her from an orphanage in Addis Ababa to the United States and the rest of the world. Abai is committed to using her academic background in economics and fine arts from her alma mater George Washington University to create unique and practical expressions of beauty.

"We're extremely proud to have such a great mix of small and boutique retail shops," said Deborah Topcik, director of marketing at National Harbor. The Waterfront District has been instrumental with businesses such as Brookie Girl (bath and body products) in providing a great environment and support for businesses to thrive and grow.

For more information on Holidays at the Harbor, visit www.nationalharbor.com/hohoho.

BGE and Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh Are Joining Together to Warn Customers of Scams During the Holiday Season

By TASHA JAMERSON
BGE

BALTIMORE (November 20, 2019)—With the holiday season quickly approaching, BGE is reminding customers to always be on alert for potential payment scams targeting utility customers. Scams occur throughout the year, but the company has seen an increase in scam reports during the holiday season. With holiday shopping and family gatherings planned, scammers are using the holiday season to trick utility customers into providing their personal or financial information and making false payments under the pretense of keeping their service active.

BGE is joining more than 100 utility companies across the United States and Canada in the effort to protect customers from scams targeting customers of electric, natural gas, water, and other utilities. Collaborating companies have joined together for a fourth year and designated No-

vember 20 as "Utilities United Against Scams Day." Utility Scam Awareness Day is part of the week-long National Scam Awareness Week, an advocacy and awareness campaign focused on educating customers and exposing the tactics used by scammers. BGE and its sister Exelon companies, Atlantic City Electric, ComEd, Delmarva Power, PECO and Pepco are committed to educating customers and putting a stop to scamming.

This year, Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh's office is also partnering with BGE to help educate Maryland about the need to stay vigilant against scammers. So far in 2019, BGE customers have reported losing close to \$170,000 to scammers and imposters. According to the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division, over the last three years they have received over 61 utility scam complaints and some victims have reported losing as much as \$4,000 dollars to the scams.

"Utilities United Against Scams Day is very important for BGE," said Rodney Oddoye, vice president and chief customer officer for BGE. "Unfortunately, scammers are constantly changing their tactics and it's important that our customers have the most up to date information on these scams in order to help them avoid becoming victims."

"Utility scammers use fear and intimidation to get you to believe your electricity, water, or other utility shut off is imminent," said Attorney General Frosh. "Legitimate utilities would never give only one hour's notice. These scammers don't just go after individuals; business owners should also be suspicious if they receive a call or visit from someone threatening to shut off a utility. Always contact the utility directly using the telephone number on your bill if you suspect there is a problem."

It is not uncommon for scammers to call, text, or email utility customers asking for immediate

payment to avoid service disconnection. As a reminder, utilities will never send a single notification to a customer within one hour of a service interruption, and they never will ask their customers to make payments with a pre-paid debit card, gift card, or any form of cryptocurrency.

Scammers have even duplicated the upfront Interactive Voice Response system of some companies, so when customers call the number provided by the scammer, it sounds like a legitimate business. Some scammers also use caller ID "spoofing" to replicate a utility's phone number.

Red flags for scam activity

- The scammer often becomes angry and tells a customer his or her account is past due and service will be shut off if a large payment isn't made—usually within less than an hour.
- The scammer instructs the customer to purchase a prepaid debit or credit card—widely available at most retail stores

—then call him or her back to make a payment.

- The scammer asks the customer for the prepaid card's receipt number and PIN number, which grants instant access to the funds loaded to the card.
- The scammer asks for a copy of the customer's utility bill.

How to protect yourself

- Utility representatives will never ask or require a customer with a past due balance to purchase a prepaid debit card to avoid disconnection.
- Customers can make payments online, by phone, automatic bank withdrawal, mail or in person.
- Customers with a past due balance will receive multiple shut off notifications—never a single notification one hour before disconnection.
- If a customer ever questions the legitimacy of the call, hang up and call BGE at 800-685-0123.
- BGE already has your account information and past bills. If you are authorizing a legitimate third party energy supplier to switch your energy supply, they will need you to disclose your

electric choice ID or natural gas choice ID at the time you are authorizing to be switched to their service. If you do not intend to switch your energy supplier, do not provide your choice ID number(s) or a copy of your bill to anyone.

Don't Get Scammed: Customers can avoid being scammed by taking a few precautions:

- Never provide your social security number or personal information to anyone initiating contact with you claiming to be a utility representative or requesting you to send money to another person or entity other than your local utility providers.
 - Always ask to see a company photo ID before allowing any utility worker into your home or business.
 - Never give payment in any form—cash, check, or credit—to anyone coming to your door.
- Any customer who believes he or she has been a target of a scam is urged to contact their local police and call BGE immediately at 800-685-0123 to report the situation.

OUT on the TOWN

**Returning by Popular Demand...
Everyone's Favorite Holiday Show!**

National Ballet Company Presents The Nutcracker At The Bowie Center For Performing Arts

By DAVID ANDRUSIA
The Bowie Center for Performing Arts

BOWIE, Md. (November 20, 2019)—Following five years of sell-out performances, The Nutcracker returns to the stage of The Bowie Center for Performing Arts for two shows on December 7 and 8. Featuring a cast of 50 and spellbinding stagecraft, the National Ballet Company's production is the hallmark production of this state-of-the-art, 800-seat regional theatre's holiday performance programming.

"It is an honor to bring Maryland's oldest continuous ballet company to our community," says The Bowie Center's Executive Director, Jason Cook. "Their acclaimed production of The Nutcracker is splendid in every way, and it is especially heartening that the National Ballet Company showcases this classic holiday show with such an inclusive, diverse cast."

Indeed, this cast of The Nutcracker features "both resident company members and a wonderful roster of guest artists," according to the National Ballet's director, Pamela Moore. "We are delighted to bring such a wealth of dance talent to the production this year. In fact, our dancers come from across America, and as far away as China and Japan."

Ms. Moore adds, "This is the perfect version of The Nutcracker for the entire family. I inject the show with lots of humor and great fun and omit some of the scarier aspects of some interpretations, making this show suitable for even the youngest children. Ours is a very traditional, Victorian staging of The Nutcracker," says Ms. Moore, who herself performed as a child in



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY THE BOWIE CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

Young dancers rehearse their roles in the National Ballet Company's production of The Nutcracker, which plays December 7 and 8 at The Bowie Center for the Performing Arts.

New York City Ballet's staging, under the direction of George Balanchine.

Among the principal artists slated to perform:

- Yasu Suzuki (Drosselmeyer), guest artist known for his award-winning character acting in Japan and the US returns to the National Ballet as Drosselmeyer.
- Jessica Stibick (Sugar Plum Fairy), Principal dancer with National Ballet has been a guest artist with Niagara Ballet Company and Italia Performing Arts.
- Aaron Bauer (Cavalier for Sugar Plum Fairy), Principal dancer with National Ballet. Is a former soloist with Ballet Theatre of Maryland.
- Harry Sukonik (The Nutcracker Prince),

who has performed with the Miami City Ballet joins the National Ballet Company for the first time in Nutcracker

- Other dancers include Elizabeth Seibel and Jillian Bonnell from NYC and Falkner Discher from Baltimore.

This performance of The Nutcracker runs two hours, including an intermission.

WHEN: Saturday, December 7 at 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 8 at 3 p.m.

TICKETS: \$25 to \$35

WHERE: The Bowie Center, 15200 Annapolis Rd., Bowie, MD 20715

For tickets, please visit www.bowiecenter.org

Spotlight: History's Home for the Holidays

Date and Time: Friday, November 29, 2019, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.; Saturday, November 30, 12–4 p.m.; Sunday, December 1, 12–4 p.m.; more dates in December

Description: Take time from the hectic pace of modern holiday festivities and enjoy a tour through the decorated halls of a Civil War home. Learn the history behind some of our cherished traditions and delight in the festive decorations, ornaments, and toys. Peek in the museum's gift shop to take advantage of holiday discounts and find some treasures of your own!

Cost: \$5 Adult; \$4 Senior; \$2 Student; free 4 & under

Ages: All ages are welcome

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

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



PHOTO COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

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

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

PLAN AHEAD FOR THESE EVENTS

Greenbelt Arts Center: The Phantom Tollbooth

Date and Time: November 29–December 15, 2019; Friday evenings: November 29, December 6 and 13 at 8 p.m. Saturday matinees November 30, December 7 and 14 at 2 p.m.; Sunday matinees: December 1, 8 and 15 at 2 p.m.

Description: In this play, the beloved children's fantasy adventure comes to life as Milo and the faithful watchdog Tock travel to the Lands Beyond. Play by Susan Nanus, Based on the book by Norman Juster, Directed by Jon Gardner

Cost: \$24 General Admission, \$22 Seniors/Military, \$12 Student/Youth, www.greenbeltartscenter.org

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: The Greenbelt Arts Center, 123 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Contact: 301-441-8770

Maryland Choral Society: A Child's Christmas In Wales

Date and Time: Sunday, December 8, 2019, 4 p.m.

Description: A holiday celebration featuring music from the British isles, including classic carols and more!

Cost: \$20 General Admission, \$15 Senior/Student, Free for children under 10. Buy tickets: https://maryland-choral-society.ticketleap.com/a-childs-christmas-in-wales/dates/Dec-08-2019_at_0400PM

Location: Mt. Calvary Catholic Church, 6700 Marlboro Pike, Forestville, MD

Contact: info@marylandchoralsociety.org, MarylandChoralSociety.org

Banneker-Douglass Museum Kwanzaa Celebration

Date and Time: Saturday, December 14, 2019, 12–4 p.m.

Description: Join us for our annual celebration as we welcome Kwanzaa expert Culture Queen! Learn a fresh approach to celebrating the seven principles of Kwanzaa through interactive music, movement, storytelling and Black History themed games. This signature program is appropriate for all ages and will inspire you to incorporate Kwanzaa into your family traditions. Doors open at noon. Activities begin at 1 p.m. Features: Custom Kwanzaa decorations; Interactive candle lighting ceremony; Hands-on workshops led by Culture Queen.

Cost: Free. Register at: bdmuseum.maryland.gov/events/

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Banneker-Douglass Museum, 84 Franklin Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Contact: 410-216-6180

Community Conversation

Date and Time: Tuesday, December 17, 2019, 6:30–8 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Description: Join County Executive Angela Alsobrooks along with civic leaders, association members and our neighbors for a discussion about the Alsobrooks Administration Policy Priorities and Key Initiatives. There will be an opportunity to ask questions of the County Executive and agency leadership in the County Government, and resources will be available from a variety of County agencies, including the 311-on-the-go program.

Cost: Free; RSVP to Zahra Isaacs at ZIsaacs@co.pg.md.us. Available upon request: sign language, Spanish language

Location: Crossland High School Auditorium, 6901 Temple Hill Road, Camp Springs, MD 20748

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

Ford v Ferrari

Ford v Ferrari

Grade: B

Rated PG-13, a little profanity, thematic elements
2 hrs., 32 min.

There are no legal skirmishes in "Ford v Ferrari." The battles between the automakers take place in boardrooms, racetracks, and other places where men have car-measuring contests. Directed by James Mangold, who brought similar confidence to "Walk the Line" and "3:10 to Yuma," this is a smooth, crowd-pleasing true story about Americans striving to outpace foreign rivals in a feat of engineering—the kind of engineering that goes vroom-vroom! The motives are petty and capitalistic (making a Ford that goes faster than a Ferrari ain't exactly the space race), but the story is calibrated to emphasize the charms of its characters, not the competition or the patri-

otism. The movie also happens to feature some of the best cinematic racing ever filmed.

Carroll Shelby (Matt Damon), a folksy, feisty Texan who quit racing for health reasons but still drives like a racer in his daily life, and Ken Miles (Christian Bale), a mercurial English gear head who's "difficult" to work with but gets results, have known each other for a while when we begin, in 1963. Carroll has his own automotive company; Ken is racing on the side while running a garage that he rules in the manner of a record store snob. Carroll is recruited by the Ford Motor Company after a bright young junior executive named Lee Iacocca (Jon Bernthal) suggests to owner Henry Ford II (Tracy Letts) that they get into—and start dominating—the world of auto racing. Ferrari is the current undisputed leader, and after failing to

vanquish the company the old-fashioned way (i.e. by buying it—Enzo Ferrari refuses to sell), Ford chooses the next best route: pouring unlimited funds into getting the best car designers and drivers to produce a car that will win the 24 Hours of Le Mans race and stick it in stupid old Enzo Ferrari's face. Carroll Shelby is whom they call on to oversee the project; Ken Miles is whom Carroll selects to be the driver, much to the dismay of the Ford execs—especially bootlicking Leo Beebe (Josh Lucas)—who feel Ken's boisterous, unkempt persona isn't a good representation of the Ford brand.

All of this takes some time to set up. The cars move fast; the movie, not particularly. But the screenplay, by brothers Jez and John-Henry Butterworth ("Edge of Tomorrow") and Jason Keller ("Machine Gun Preacher"), though leisurely paced, gives Carroll and Ken plenty to do, separately and together: convincing Ford to let them do their thing; fighting with each other about how to do it; building, testing, driving, and improving the car; navigating the politics and bureaucracy of the Ford company. Carroll's family isn't mentioned (in real life he was married several times and between

wives when the film takes place), but Damon plays him like a chummy dad, comfortable with his legacy as a former racer who still gets asked to sign autographs now and then. Ken has a wife (Caitriona Balfe) to fill the role of Concerned Wife on Phone (a must in any biopic about a bold man), and a son (Noah Jupe) who idolizes him, and the latter relationship yields some sweet moments. Ken, who must learn to be a team player if he wants to get work and support his family, is the only character with an arc, which seems like a shame for Carroll, who has just as much screen time but is essentially the same at the end as he was at the beginning. (Not the same: Henry Ford II, who has a very amusing change of heart about the intricacies of auto racing after Carroll takes him for a spin around the track.)

And the racing! I'm not a car guy. All the jargon about sizes



ROTTENTOMATOES.COM

Academy Award-winners Matt Damon and Christian Bale star in **FORD v FERRARI**, based on the remarkable true story of the visionary American car designer Carroll Shelby (Damon) and the fearless British-born driver Ken Miles (Bale), who together battled corporate interference, the laws of physics, and their own personal demons to build a revolutionary race car for Ford Motor Company and take on the dominating race cars of Enzo Ferrari at the 24 Hours of Le Mans in France in 1966.

of engines and whatnot goes over my head. I couldn't care less who wins a race, and I have no particular affection for the Ford corporation. But watching cars drive very fast around dangerous curves, cameras low to the ground, tires screeching like Satan himself, the action edited for maximum pulse-pounding

effect—it doesn't matter who's driving or for what reason, that stuff is exciting. The danger and thrill of racing come across loud and clear (especially loud), and the participants' enthusiasm for it is infectious. It's a sturdy, old-fashioned movie, made from a template but delivered with gusto.

Calendar of Events

November 28–December 7, 2019

Paij Hardy: Steadfast 400

Date and Time: Friday, November 29, 2019, 7–9 p.m.
Description: Commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first slaves landing in North America by attending an original production that honors them and their descendants. Prince George's native Paij Hardy choreographed this piece for a performance at Fort Monroe, VA, site of the landing. Called Steadfast 400, it draws from revolutionary moments in African American history from the arts, athletics, STEM, and political communities. These communities continue to guide and bind the culture as it remains... Steadfast. Sponsored by arts patron Thelma Boyd Nash and Joe's Movement Emporium. Light reception to follow performance.
Cost: \$20 Adults, \$15.00 Seniors and Students
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Joe's Movement Emporium 3309 Bunker Hill Road Mount Rainier, MD 20712
Contact: 301-699-1819

Trainspotting

Date and Time: Sunday, December 1, 2019, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Description: On the busiest day of travel, watch the trains fly by carrying holiday travelers up and down the Northeast corridor. How many different trains can you see? There will be a special visit by Mr. and Mrs. Claus and much more!
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Bowie Railroad Museum and Old Town Welcome Center, 8614 Chestnut Ave, Bowie, MD 20715
Contact: 301-809-3089, museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

"Happy Holidays" Open House at Belair Mansion

Date and Time: Sunday, December 1, 2019, 12–6 p.m.
Description: Celebrate the start of the holiday season. Tour the mansion decked out in all its finery, enjoy scrumptious goodies, and revel in live holiday music. No reservations needed.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Belair Mansion, 12207 Tulip Grove Drive, Bowie, MD 20715
Contact: 301-809-3089, museumevents@cityofbowie.org

Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony at Belair

Date and Time: Sunday, December 1, 2019, 7–8:30 p.m.
Description: Celebrate the holiday season with the annual tree lighting and a very merry visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Belair Mansion, 12207 Tulip Grove Drive, Bowie, MD 20715
Contact: 301-809-3089, museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

Holiday Tree Lighting

Date and Time: Friday, December 6, 2019, 7 p.m.
Description: In addition to the lighting of the City's Holiday Tree, we'll have holiday music, refreshments, and a visit from Santa! It's also outdoors, so please dress warmly.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Magruder Park, 40th Avenue and Hamilton Street, Hyattsville, MD 20781
Contact: 301-985-5000

Christmas In April*Prince George's County Warehouse Sale

Date and Time: Saturday, December 7, 2019, 9 a.m.–Noon
Description: Proceeds to benefit Prince George's County Christmas in April. Building Supplies, Drywall Nails & Materials, Paint / Caulk, Doors, Sinks, Flooring (Ceramic Tile & Carpet) Light Fixtures, Windows
Cost: \$2.00
Location: 5310 Judges Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 (Behind the Courthouse)
Contact: 301-868-0937

The 2019 Mt. Rainier Craft Fair

Date and Time: Saturday, December 7, 2019, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Description: The 2019 Mt. Rainier Craft Fair is the place to start the holiday season. Festive decor, incredible local crafters from all over the DC-MD-VA area, and a gathering of a loving, accepting community. Join us this December for a HOLIDAY craft fair like no other. GO GREEN! Say no to plastic bags this holiday season. Bring your own reusable bags for all your shopping!
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Joe's Movement Emporium, 3309 Bunker Hill Road, Mount Rainier, MD 20712
Contact: 301-699-1819

Holiday Festival, Parade & Armory Illumination

Date and Time: Saturday, December 7, 2019, 3:30–5:30 p.m.
Description: Kick off the holiday season with our annual Holiday Parade, Holiday festival, and Armory Illumination! Santa and Friends will be in our Winter Wonderland for pictures and visits! Join our holiday parade as a spectator or participant. The Holiday Parade steps off at 3:30 p.m. from the Municipal Center, our Holiday Festival begins approx. 4 p.m. at the Armory.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Laurel Armory - Anderson & Murphy Community Center, 422 Montgomery Street, Laurel, MD 20707
Contact: 301-725-7800, parks@laurel.md.us

Winter's Eve

Date and Time: Saturday, December 7, 2019, 4–8 p.m.
Description: Tour the National Colonial Farm by candlelight while its halls are decked for the holidays, listen to caroling around the bonfire, and enjoy roast-your-own-chestnuts. Visit the crafting tent to create earth-friendly holiday gifts and make a wreath from farm-fresh greenery. Warm-up with a trip to the hot cocoa bar, and don't forget to stop by the Visitor Center to shop National Colonial Farm souvenirs and one-of-a-kind gifts from local artists.
Cost: Free, but some activities are ticketed
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Piscataway Park, 3400 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek, MD 20607
Contact: 301-283-2113, info@accokeek.org

Joe's Movement Emporium Launches New Creative Placemaking Project, "Creative Suitland", in Partnership With The Revenue Authority of Prince George's County

New Arts Center developed with local community engages and strengthens creative industries in Suitland, MD region

By NEENA NARAYANAN
Joe's Movement Emporium

MT. RAINIER, Md. (November 22, 2019)—In partnership with the Revenue Authority of Prince George's County, Joe's Movement Emporium (Joe's) is launching "Creative Suitland", a creative placemaking project that works in partnership with the community of the Suitland, MD area. Joe's was approached by the Revenue Authority based on its proven track record of working with a community to strengthen artist stakeholders and arts organizations within a geographical area. Joe's role in the creation of the Gateway Arts District and the Art Lives Here initiative have positioned the organization as an expert in the field of creative placemaking. A vacant strip mall space, formerly occupied by Hunter Memorial AME Church, is currently in renovation to become the Creative Suitland Arts Center, located at 4719 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, MD. The venue is across the street from the Census Bureau offices and walking distance to the Suitland Metro Station. An opening is planned for January 2020 that will allow all to tour the planned theater, studios, arts education classrooms, offices and meet artist partners. This project will be the second arts center in Prince George's County for Joe's.

Since January 2018, Joe's has worked with community stakeholders, local officials, and the neighborhoods of Forestville, Silver Hill, and Suitland/Coral Hills areas to identify community artists, assets, and areas in need of improvement. The team collected data to identify critical community issues and assess the community's self-identified needs. According to surveys, the biggest areas of concern were public safety, academic readiness, and small business development. More than half of participants reported not knowing artists in the area although 30% of participants identified as an artist. Regarding desired use of the planned arts space, 80% desire live performances, 62% wish for arts

education programming, and 56% mentioned arts exhibitions.

Revenue Authority Executive Director Peter Shapiro shares, "the team is doing a great job with this space, more than I could have ever imagined."

"When I relocated to Temple Hills from Southside DC in 2013, I felt the art scene was very quiet," says Britt Barbour, Community Outreach Coordinator. "I've always known Prince George's county was booming with talent, but I didn't see a lot of spaces where creatives could gather and build."

Handirubvi Indigo Wakatama, the Creative Suitland Project Coordinator reflects, "the vision of our artist partners is what will foster the artistic journey and direction of the Creative Suitland project and Arts Center."

Programming Vision

The programming vision of the Creative Suitland project and Arts Center is based on written and verbal interviews, surveys and feedback from the Suitland area community members, small businesses and representatives. Below is a list of programs envisioned for the completed space.

- **Heritage Works:** a series of workshops teaching culturally specific skilled art forms and/or connecting community with their history and heritage. Examples: hand-dancing, historical tours, model crafts, and more.
- **Artist Development:** planned series of professional development workshops specific for visual and performing artists. Examples: finding artist housing, marketing best practices, starting your own business and more.
- **Space For Artists:**
 - *Visual Arts:* opportunities for local visual artists to teach workshops, exhibit work, and/or rent studio space.
 - *Performing Arts:* opportunities for performing artists to teach workshops and classes, rent affordable rehearsal space and present their work.

- *Theater:* opportunities for performing artists to rehearse and perform in newly renovated theater space featuring top of the line lighting and sound equipment. Technical support in the form of lighting designers, sound engineers and stage managers will be available upon request for approved productions.

- **Food Equity:** supporting options to increase access to healthy food across the Suitland area in conjunction with health-conscious activities. Examples: Poetry & Produce programming and Cooking Classes.
- **Arts Education:** out-of-school programming available after-school and during summer onsite and at local schools featuring visual arts, music, drama, dance, etc. Example: Producers Club partnership with Center for Visual and Performing Arts at Suitland High School, artist presentations to classrooms, summer camps.
- **Community Empowerment:** Office space and rehearsal spaces will be available to non-arts community groups for meetings, fundraisers, classes & workshops, public presentations and more. Examples: Workshops by local government, staff holiday parties for businesses.

Creative Suitland is an arts-based community development strategy to include existing residents and businesses in defining the cultural and creative spirit of Suitland. Through collaboration, community will be invited to choose programs, exhibits, public art, performance series, and murals to showcase the talents and perspectives of local artists and cultural groups. The planning process will define the local creative industry to offer support and opportunity. The outcome desired is a cultural identity to reinforce connection and belonging to the shared spaces of Suitland, to nurture small business, to enhance the local creative industry, and to build a stronger arts audience.

Earth TALK™ U.S. Grocery Chains Plastic Overload Continues, Despite Commitments

Dear EarthTalk:

How are American supermarket chains doing in regard to cutting back on single-use plastics?

—B. Weston, Jacksonville, FL

Not very well, if you ask Greenpeace. The activist group compares 20 U.S. grocery chains by their commitments and actions to reduce single-use plastics in its recently released "Shopping for Plastic 2019" report. Each and every chain—even those you would think are leading the charge on reducing plastic—gets a failing score.

Illinois-based ALDI, with 1,900 stores in 36 states, ranks highest on Greenpeace's list, thanks to its efforts to set a specific plastic reduction target and establish a more comprehensive plastic reduction plan than any of its competitors. That said, ALDI sells mostly its own in-house versions of products so the company has more control over its

entire supply chain than conventional grocery retailers that draw from thousands of different producers. But beyond the product line and its packaging, ALDI has also been more transparent on its plastic practices and Greenpeace gives bonus points for the company's commitment to implement reuse and refill systems across the entire chain.

That's about as nice as Greenpeace gets in the report. While second-place finisher Kroger Co. gets kudos for being the only U.S. retailer of its size to phase out single-use plastic checkout bags (by 2025) and for setting plastics recycling goals for its own branded products, Greenpeace chastises the grocery behemoth with more than 2,400 stores in 31 states for not already taking much bolder steps to scale way back on single-use plastic: "These goals might have been totally rad in the 1990s, but given its size and the scale of the plastic pollution crisis in 2019, Kroger must do far more to reduce its plastic footprint."

Greenpeace didn't have much nice to say about third place finisher Albertsons, either, and is incensed that the company participates in Hefty's EnergyBag Program whereby non-recyclable plastics are incinerated or turned back into fossil fuels. "Plastic incineration in any form threatens human health and the climate," says Greenpeace. "Albertsons

must immediately stop participating in this program."

Whole Foods' 11th place finish on the list begs the question of how the chain known for its green and healthy food selection could be so bad on plastics. Greenpeace says the chain has largely focused on recycling initiatives and using more light weight plastics but needs to "up its game to reduce and ultimately end its reliance on single-use plastics." Whole Foods' past groundbreaking efforts in plastics reduction—it was the first large nationwide U.S. retailer to ban single-use checkout bags as well as plastic straws and then microbeads—aren't lost on Greenpeace. But given the scale of the plastic pollution crisis, Greenpeace says Whole Foods "needs to do much more."

While Greenpeace is working hard to pressure these corporations to go above and beyond minimal efforts to reduce single-use plastics, it's up to individual consumers to really drive the point home by bringing their own reusable shopping bags to the grocery store, staying away from products swaddled in unnecessary amounts of throwaway plastic, and complaining to store managers about all the plastic wrap everywhere.

CONTACTS: Greenpeace's "Shopping For Plastic 2019," [greenpeace.org/usa/shopping-for-plastic-2019](https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/shopping-for-plastic-2019); "Say NO To Dow's Dirty EnergyBag," [no-burn.org/dirtyenergybag](https://www.dirtyenergybag.org/).

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



IMAGE CREDIT: ANNA GREGORY, FLICKRCC

Does that corn really have to be wrapped in so much plastic?

Hospice of the Chesapeake Gala Saturday, April 4, 2020 • 5:30 to 11:30 p.m. The Hotel at the University of Maryland College Park

This year's theme, "An Evening Under the Tuscan Sky," will take guests to the Italian countryside filled with gardens, groves and vineyards. The gala is the organization's signature black tie event and features an open bar, fine cuisine, a silent and live auction, a band and dancing. The gala draws close to 500 attendees and directly supports the mission and programs of Hospice of the Chesapeake.

The nonprofit is celebrating its 40th year of serving the community and continues to celebrate its status as a leader in hospice and palliative care as well as grief support in Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties. For sponsorship opportunities, contact Meg Lawton at 443-837-1531 or mawton@hospicechesapeake.org.

Prince George's County 4-H Presents Adult Spelling Bee Fundraiser

Open to Ages 21 & Up • Compete Solo or in Pairs
Join us December 11, 2019 at the Maryland 4-H State Office as we raise funds to benefit our Scholarship Fund, Camping program and more!

December 11, 2019

6–8 p.m. (Doors open at 5:30 p.m.)

MD 4-H State Office

8020 Greenmead Dr, College Park, MD 20740

Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Registration and additional information:

<https://tinyurl.com/yxlywcs7>

If you have any question or concerns please contact Ariel Delgado (adelgad2@umd.edu) or our office at (301) 868-9636.

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Wednesday Prayer Service 8p.m.

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

Diversity from A1

Rohan's theme as National Commander was "Family First." Her goal was to increase funding in the Temporary Financial Assistance Program, which awards cash grants to children of veterans eligible for American Legion membership. The grants assist families in need of shelter, food, utilities, and healthcare.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY LINDA POULSON
Rohan in parade in 2019

The sexual orientation issue according to Wikipedia goes back as far as 1916 in dealing with removing homosexual service members from duty. Called a "blue discharge" or "blue ticket" the paper it was printed on was blue. Soldiers who received the discharge were denied the G.I. Bill and had minimal chances of finding work. The discharge was also used as a racist tactic against black soldiers. The discharge was finally eliminated in 1947.

A series of policy actions continued to be challenged; from banning gays to join military service, to the regulation of President Bill Clinton's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," in the 90's, to repealing that policy in 2010, which was signed by President Barack Obama.

Due to the Supreme Court ruling of the Defense Marriage Act in June 2013 being unconstitutional, the Department of Defense now gives benefits to spouses of same sex marriages.

The current Trump administration is against allowing transgender people to serve in the military. Wikipedia states that "Directive-type Memorandum-19-004" (DTM) is a March 12, 2019 memorandum signed by David L. Norquist from the Department of Defense. The DTM bans most transgender individuals from serving or enlisting in the United States Armed Forces and applies to all organizational entities including the U.S. Coast Guard."

The policies that have changed regarding these topics have affected the American Legion and the military in general. Millennials (born between 1981-1996) have a lot to do with the changing face of society, with their more open ideas and acceptance of those who are different.

According to the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics, in 2014, non-whites comprised 22.6 percent of the total veteran population in the United States.

The challenge the American Legion now faces is reaching millennial soldiers and veterans to join and get involved in post positions.

Note: Google and Wikipedia research, personal notes, and the American Legion website provided information for this article.

Celebrates from A1

oversees the program, said she continues to be amazed by the community's fervent response to the purpose of the program. "This Veterans Day weekend of events is an incredible demonstration of how volunteers, schools, active-duty and retired military, businesses and more share our commitment to veterans," she said. "Our organization only considers itself the caretaker of the program. Truthfully this is a community program conducted by the most generous individuals we've known."

For details on the program, visit www.hospicechesapeake.org/hospice-palliative-care/care-for-veterans. To volunteer, call 410-987-2003 or email joinus@hospicechesapeake.org.



PHOTO BY ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
(11/9/2019) Members of the Archdiocese of Washington District Supreme Knight J. Kemp Cook 4th Degree District Choir performed the Star Spangled Banner along with several patriotic songs at the Patriotic Breakfast at the St. John Neumann Knights of Columbus Assembly 1763 in Bowie.

Veterans from A3

ners with these agencies alongside its own staff of 900, and its own "army" of more than 1,000 volunteers.

Benhoff says that, just as important as it is to help veterans get the care they need at the end of their lives, supporting their family members is just as rewarding—citing the example of a veteran who passed away before Benhoff's team was able to secure his earned benefits. "After he passed, his widow sent me a note telling me that just knowing we were trying to help him in this way was a huge comfort to her," he recalls. "That note meant the world to me. Providing care and comfort when it matters most is what we do."

Learn more about Capital Caring Health's Veterans' Health and Support Services Program by calling the 24-Hour Care Line at 1-800-869-2136.

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