

# The Prince George's Post



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## Bowie State to Meet Workforce Demands In Medicine and Technology

By DAMITA CHAMBERS  
Bowie State University

BOWIE, Md. (Dec. 11, 2019)—Bowie State University will launch a new Bachelor of Science in chemistry degree program in spring 2020 to prepare students for advanced degrees and careers in chemistry-related fields in the medical and technology industries.

The new chemistry major, within the Department of Natural Sciences, will serve as a pipeline for students to further their education or begin a career in disciplines such as medical sciences, engineering and nanotechnology, which is beneficial in technology and health industries. Chemistry will join the majors in bioinformatics, biology and science education within the department.

Expanding from a minor program, Bowie State's chemistry major will meet workforce needs for qualified graduates from underrepresented minority populations in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) from Maryland's historically black college and universities (HBCUs), which graduated 3 percent of the state's chemistry students in FY2018. The number of people in the state who earned bachelor's degrees in chemistry increased by 27 percent since 2008, according to the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

"The new chemistry program will augment the biology program in providing students the foundation needed to pursue a career in nursing, environmental sciences, pharmacy, drug discovery and



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

Bowie State University student Brenda Tankeu of Lanham.

synthesis, forensics, and related careers that are now in very high demand," said Dr. George Ude, department chair. "The distinguishing character of the new chemistry program will be lectures supported by hands-on and inquiry-based laboratory activities for all students."

See WORKFORCE DEMANDS Page A8

## Join Montpelier Arts Center's Veterans Book Group

Tuesdays, Jan. 21, Feb. 18, March 24, April 21, and May 19, 2020, 7 p.m.

Montpelier Arts Center, 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD 20708

Join us for our third annual Veterans Book Group! Montpelier Arts Center will offer a free, facilitated small-group reading and discussion dinner series for active service members and veterans of all eras. The Veterans Book Group was created to offer veterans an opportunity to connect with one another over the course of monthly discussions centered on their military experiences. Each Veterans Book Group has its own unique set of readings. The readings can be a mix of classics, fiction, memoirs, poetry, short stories, and essays, all of which relate in some way to military experiences or offer a veteran's perspective. Veterans Book Group is coordinated statewide by Maryland Humanities and presented locally in partnership with Montpelier Arts Center. Dinner and all reading materials are provided. Call Montpelier Arts Center at 301-377-7800 for more information and to register. **Spaces are limited; registration is required by Sunday, Jan. 12, 2020.**

\*These discussions will be led by Dr. Karen Arnold, former poet-in-residence at Montpelier Arts Center and discussion moderator for multiple literature groups in Baltimore.

The reading list for this year is as follows:

"When Books Went to War: The Stories That Helped Us Win World War II" by Molly Guptill Manning

"Resist, Endure, Escape: Growing Up in Nazi and Communist Hungary" by Susan F. Darvas

"Soaring to Glory: A Tuskegee Airman's Firsthand Account of World War II" by Philip Handelman with Lt. Col. Harry T. Stewart

"The Frozen Hours" by Jeff Shaara

"A Long Way Gone" by Ishmael Beah

—Montpelier Arts Center Newsletter, Jan. 2, 2020

## 'Wrong' Md. Crime Data Highlights Inconsistent Statistics

By ELLIOTT DAVIS  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Dec. 23, 2019)—The number of rapes in Maryland increased last year by 15% over the previous year, according to an annual FBI Uniform Crime Report, released Sept. 30.

This was significant—the largest year-over-year increase for the state since the FBI's definition of rape was revised in 2013.

It's also wrong.

In fact, many of Maryland's crime statistics reported by government agencies are unusually inconsistent—even "astounding" and "bizarre"—according to a national crime statistics expert.

Numbers for the same crimes over the same time period in the same jurisdiction are different—sometimes markedly different—depending on which agency is reporting them: The FBI, the state police or the local law enforcement department.

In one county, for example, the FBI reported 13 people murdered; the state police listed 23 and the county, 26.

What happened to the other 10 or 13 people not included in the FBI's report? No officials fully explained.

In fact, none of the agencies was able to fully explain how the same type of crime appeared to happen more or less often depending solely on which one reported it.

One of the largest disparities came from Prince George's County, where a difference of more than 100 incidents of sexual assault between the FBI and the local police department's reports dramatically affect the overall 2018 numbers for the state.

The federal report showed that statewide, there were 200 more incidents of rape in 2018 than in 2017—and more than 100 of those came from Prince George's County alone.

According to the FBI, the Prince George's County Police Department reported to them that rapes in the county had more than doubled—from 97 in 2017 to 214 last year.

But when Capital News Service contacted the county police department for a comment on this sharp increase, a spokeswoman revealed that the num-

bers in the FBI report are simply "wrong."

In reality, police spokeswoman Jennifer Donelan said, the department reported 215 rapes in 2017, not 97. And there were 200 reported rapes last year in Prince George's, not 214. Donelan said she is not sure why the FBI reported significantly different numbers at least twice.

An FBI representative told Capital News Service that the bureau "questioned" the 2017 number and "a response was received stating the questioned figures were correct."

"The FBI works with the state (Uniform Crime Reporting) Program and does not contact the submitting agency directly," the FBI representative said, adding that agencies submit data monthly to a "centralized repository" and bureau staff "review the information for accuracy and reasonableness."

Greg Shipley, a spokesman with the Maryland State Police, told Capital News Service that local agencies report their crime data to the state police, which then reports the statistics to the FBI.

The FBI representative noted that the deadline for agencies to be included in the 2017 Uniform Crime Report was April 2018.

"Agencies can send missing or corrected data after the deadline; however, (Crime in the United States) will not be updated to include the new information," the representative added, noting that any updated data will reside on the bureau's Crime Data Explorer website.

The Prince George's County rape data has not been publicly updated as of Monday (December 23).

This reporting inaccur-



CREDIT CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY ELLIOTT DAVIS

A police car parked in front of the State House in Annapolis, Maryland, on Nov. 19, 2019.

racy for Prince George's County is indicative of broader examples of inconsistent crime data in the state, from the FBI to the Maryland State Police to local jurisdictions.

Just as the FBI releases a Uniform Crime Report every year, the Maryland State Police releases its own annual report.

The reports are released at different times. The FBI released its 2017 report in September 2018. The Maryland State Police, however, didn't release its 2017 Uniform Crime Report until March of this year, said spokesman Ron Snyder. Snyder said in October that there was no timeline yet for release of the state police's 2018 report.

With 2018 crime data from the Maryland State Police unavailable, Capital News Service reviewed the FBI, state and local police reports on violent crime from 2017 and 2016.

The numbers were anything but uniform.

The FBI reported that there were 1,691 incidents of rape in Maryland in 2017. The Maryland State Police report lists 1,773. Similarly, the FBI report shows 16,836 incidents of aggravated assault in Maryland in 2017. The number in the state police report, however, is 17,049.

The FBI also reported 23 fewer murders statewide in 2017 than the Maryland State Police did. In the 2016 reports, the FBI listed two more murders than the state police did.

The FBI representative said that with regard to the 2016 difference in murder numbers, "Because not all law enforcement agencies provide data for complete reporting periods, the FBI includes estimates for participating agencies that do not provide 12 months of complete data."

Capital News Service was unable to discern which Maryland crime data sets the FBI had done "estimates" for and which were complete annual numbers provided by the state.

"In my opinion, estimating data or extrapolating a partial data set into a full year's data could lead to very bad data," said Michael Walker, an FBI adviser, and a professor at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York as well as Passaic County Community College in New Jersey.

The inconsistencies are more evident at the county level. While the Prince George's County Police Department says that it reported 215 rapes in 2017 and the FBI lists its number for the county at 97, the Maryland State Police 2017 report says that 130 rapes were reported in that county.

These disparities among law enforcement agencies continue for other counties in the state.

The FBI's 2017 report lists 13 murders for Montgomery County, attributed to the Montgomery County Police Department. But in the county police's

See CRIME DATA Page A2

### Rapes in Prince George's County in 2017, by source

The number of rapes reported in Prince George's County, Maryland, in 2017 differ by the data source. The FBI reported 97 in its annual Uniform Crime Report, which a Prince George's County Police spokeswoman referred to as "wrong." The department actually reported 215 rapes that year, she said. However, in the Maryland State Police's annual crime report, there are 130 rapes listed for the county. A FBI representative said that the bureau "questioned" the county's 2017 numbers and "a response was received stating the questioned figures were correct."

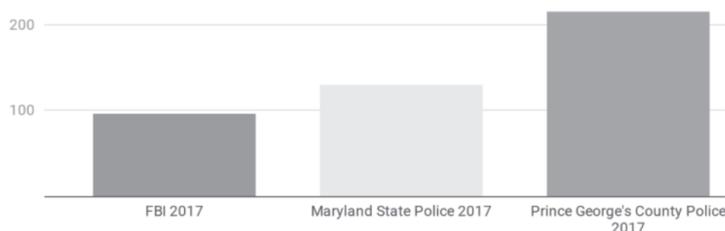


Chart: Elliott Davis • Source: FBI, Maryland State Police, Prince George's County Police • Created with Datawrapper

### INSIDE

#### The Work of the Digital Photography Club of Annapolis Members on Display in Gallery 90

The club is a diverse group of photographers, including beginners, hobbyists, serious amateurs and professionals, who love to take and share their photographs.

Community, Page A3

#### To Be Equal: "Living Legend" Tom Joyner's Career Has Transformed Black Media

Joyner's deep respect for education ... stemmed from the experience of his grandfather, Oscar "Doc" Joyner, a Pullman porter who attended Meharry Medical College and became one of only 3,000 Black doctors in the United States in 1909.

Commentary, Page A4

#### Felton Magee, Jr. Graduates from Leadership Maryland

Leadership Maryland honored Magee, a resident of National Harbor, and the entire Class of 2019 at its 27th annual graduation ceremony

Business and Finance, Page A5

#### Exhibitions Opening at Brentwood Arts Exchange

Three exhibitions open January 13: In the Main Gallery: Cold Hands, Warm Heart: Myths of Black Motherhood by Deirdre Darden; in the Lab Gallery: Playing to WIN by Aziza Claudia Gibson-Hunter; in the Front Window is featured artist: Diane N'Diaye

Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Which companies are taking the lead in commitments to plastics reduction?

—Jason K., Reno, NV

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# TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale will return next week

### Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

#### HONOREES

On behalf of Rev. Constance C. Smith and Christ United Methodist Church in Aquasco, Maryland, Outreach Ministry had a luncheon to honor their Seasoned Saints ages 80 and above on December 14, 2019 at the American Legion in Hughesville, Maryland.

Seasoned Saints honored were Robert Adams, Theresa Banks, James Bond, Catherine Brooks, Alberta Butler, Lillian Duckett, Herman Glascoe, Lula Hawkins, Shirley Hicks, Helen Holland, Smallwood Holland, Nellie Johnson, Evelyn Love, Lillian Makle, Barbara Pinkney, Orville Pinkney, and Ora Wilson.

#### SUPER BOWL SPAGHETTI DINNER

St. Philip's Church, Baden Parish will be having their Annual "Super Bowl Spaghetti Dinner" on Sunday, February 2, 2020 immediately following our worship service. Dinner cost will be \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children (5-10 years old) and free for children (4 years and under).

Dinners will include Good 'Ole' Homemade Spaghetti by 'Mitty', Tossed Salad, Garlic French Bread, Water, with a Fruit Cup. Spaghetti dinner orders will be accepted until Sunday, January 26, 2020. Pre-orders and payments are always greatly appreciated.

Points of contacts regarding this matter are Shirley Ann (302) 690-4260 or Doretha Ann (301) 233-3136. Benefit St. Philip's Church (301) 888-1536.

#### NCA & NDA CAPITOL CITY CLASSIC CHEER AND DANCE COMPETITION

January 11, 2020 will be the competition at The Show Place Arena from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Doors open at 7 a.m. Competition begins 8 a.m. Approximate end time is 8 p.m. Cost is \$15 for Spectators (cash only) ages 7 and under are free. The Show Place Arena is located at 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. All participants must register. Visit the website for more information at <http://www.showplacearena.com/Calendar.aspx?EID=12015> or <https://www.varsity.com/all-star/competitions/brands/>

#### LEGISLATIVE YEAR 2020

The new legislative year 2020 Council Leadership Team, Chair Todd M. Turner and Vice-Chair Calvin S. Hawkins, II was acknowledged by Prince George's County Executive

Angela D. Alsobrooks. "Congratulations to County Council Chair Todd Turner on his re-election as Chair, and to Council member Calvin Hawkins on his election as Council Vice Chair."

#### ART AT SAARC IN BRANDYWINE

Visitors can look up and be greeted by the warm, colorful, and spirited art installation entitled "Family Tree, the Community Circle" when entering the atrium of SAARC by artist Martha Jackson Jarvis and her daughter Njena Surae Jarvis. This vibrant suspended art piece consists of nine individual sculptures that span the entire atrium of the facility. Their desire is for children and adults to be captivated by the colors while experiencing something different each time they see the artwork.

"Martha was struck by how the architect used the basic structure of a "Y" shape to represent the 150-year-old tree. She indicated, "When I first encountered the tree, it was an awakening response to the landscape and history of the site." Thus, the duo based their entire design off of that Y-shaped structure."

#### CHEER & DANCE EXTREME 2020 MARYLAND MADNESS

Cheer & Dance Extreme returns for their Maryland Madness Competition featuring All-Star Cheer, All-Star Prep & Schools at The Show Place Arena. Come out and cheer on your local school February 15, 2020 from 8 a.m.-11 p.m. Doors open at 7 a.m. Competition begins 8 p.m. Approximate end time at 11 p.m. Spectator Fees (Cash only): \$17 ages 12 and older; \$10 ages 5-11; FREE ages 4 and younger.

Sunday February 16, 2020 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Cheer & Dance returns for a second day of competition featuring Recreation and Dance Teams. Come to support your local group and bring the entire family. Doors open at 7 a.m. Competition begins at 8 a.m. Approximate end time is 8 p.m.

The Show Place Arena is located at 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Phone number is 301-952-7900. Visit the website for more information at <http://www.showplacearena.com/Calendar.aspx?EID=12019> or <http://www.cheeranddanceextreme.com/>.

## Around the County

### CALL FOR ARTISTS



### TRAFFIC BOX ART WRAPS

IMAGE COURTESY GATEWAY ARTS DISTRICT

#### Opportunity for Artists!

Our friends at the Hyattsville CDC are looking for artists to submit designs to be considered for their Traffic Box Art Project in Riverdale Park. Selected artists will be paid a \$500 honorarium and will have their art displayed on a traffic box along a major thoroughfare.

This call is open to ALL artists, graphic designers, illustrators, and photographers who currently live or work within the State of Maryland. Submitted designs must be original artwork.

For more information, visit the Hyattsville Community Development Corporation website. See <https://hycdc.org/call-for-artists-traffic-box-art-wrap-project-riverdale-park-md-due-2-14-20/>.

—Gateway Arts District, Dec. 30, 2019

#### Mark Your Calendars: New Spring Competition!

Join The Neighborhood Design Center as we re-envision our traditional friendly team competition event this spring. This year, instead of bowling, we're gearing up for some fun, new, neighborhood-centric team "sports" in both Prince George's County and in Baltimore. First up: a competitive stream clean up, with prizes for spirit, volume, and a found-object trophy design competition, followed by celebratory food and drinks. So start recruiting your team, and mark your calendars for this fun spring event!

Date: March 22, 2020, 1-5pm

Location: Bladensburg Waterfront Park, Bladensburg MD 20710

—The Neighborhood Design Center, Dec. 30, 2019

#### Union University President's and Dean's List Honors

JACKSON, Tenn. (December 23, 2019)—Three hundred forty students have been named to the Union University President's List for the fall 2019 semester, including **Esther Kuhnert** from Bowie, MD.

The President's List includes full-time students who achieve a 4.0 grade point average on a four-point scale.

Four hundred thirty-five students have been named to the Union University Dean's List for the fall 2019 semester, including **Onome Agbaza** from Cheverly, MD, and **Abigail Johnson** from Oxon Hill, MD.

The Dean's List includes full-time students who achieve a 3.5 grade point average on a four-point scale.

—Tim Ellsworth, Union University

### Crime Data from A1

own 2017 crime report, there are 23 listed. The state police reported 26.

Shiple, with the state police, deferred questions about the FBI's much lower numbers to the bureau itself. The FBI maintains it gets the numbers from the state police.

The numbers for murder also don't line up for Prince George's County. The FBI's number in its 2017 report is 54—attributed to the county police department—while the Maryland State Police's number for the county in that same year is 81. This difference could be due to the FBI number not including data from other jurisdictions within the county, but Capital News Service was unable to determine why the numbers were so far apart. Crime statistics from the Prince George's County Police itself are not immediately available—the most recent crime statistics listed on its website are from 2015.

Capital News Service requested more recent crime data from the Prince George's department but did not receive it.

The numbers aren't inconsistent in all places. Despite its high crime rate, figures about the city of Baltimore are relatively consistent.

The number of murders in Baltimore in 2017 and 2016—342 and 318, respectively—match what is reported in both the FBI and Maryland State Police data.

The number of rapes in the city in 2016 also matches up between the two reports. In 2017, the FBI lists 382 rapes in Baltimore, compared to 385 in the state police's report.

But in Carroll County, on the other hand, the FBI lists 81 aggravated assaults from 2017, while the Maryland State Police lists 263 for the county in the same year. Shiple maintained that the difference is "likely due to the timing difference in publication."

While some county data in the FBI's report might contain statistics from all police jurisdictions within a given county, this is not always the case. The FBI representative told Capital News Service that the report's county data tables do not "reflect county totals but are the number of

offenses reported by the sheriff's office or county police department."

However, in the case of Montgomery County, the police department there reports all crime statistics from the county—including those from city police departments within its boundaries—to the Uniform Crime Reporting program, according to Shiple.

#### Maryland crime numbers: 'all hell broke loose'

Walker, a statistical adviser to the FBI, said Maryland's numbers defy nationwide norms.

"I... was somewhat startled by the differences," he said.

Walker is a member of the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting subcommittee on its Advisory Process Board, which reviews policies in the bureau's Criminal Justice Information Services. He is also a former police commissioner and has worked with the FBI's crime data for approximately 12 years.

Provided with the FBI and Maryland State Police reports from 2017, Walker said he reviewed the data for days.

While he said there were some matches between the two reports—such as murders in Baltimore in 2017—"all hell broke loose" in other areas.

"I've been running this data any which way and I can't figure out what the differences are," Walker told Capital News Service.

He said the differences could not be due to definitions, as the crime definitions in the state police and FBI reports are "word for word" the same.

Shiple confirmed that the agency follows "the FBI's reporting procedure" and said he didn't believe there is a difference in methodology.

Shiple said the differences could be tied to when the FBI releases its annual report. He said law enforcement agencies are asked to provide crime data monthly, but this "does not always occur," which means the Maryland State Police's annual report can be "significantly delayed" while waiting for submissions. The FBI, however, "could publish while we are still awaiting data," Shiple noted.

"Our goal is to publish as complete and accurate a report as possible," he

added, referring to the state police's own report.

Shiple said that 156 public safety agencies in the state submit Uniform Crime Reporting data to the Maryland State Police. The agencies are provided with spreadsheets from the FBI to fill out and submit on a monthly basis, which he said is a "fluid and ongoing process."

"The FBI has their own schedule for publication and will publish the data they have been provided, which may not include all data ultimately received by the Maryland State Police from our state's contributing agencies," he said.

Shiple added that another possible reason for "number fluctuations" is a crime originally reported as an assault later being changed to a murder, which "could come months later."

Shiple said his team is "certain of the numbers reported to and by" the Maryland State Police in its annual Uniform Crime Report.

An FBI representative said the Crime in the United States publications provide a "snapshot" of crime.

"For example, the deadline for agencies to provide data to be included in the 2018 publication was in April of 2019," the representative added. "Agencies have until December of 2019 to report missing or corrected data."

Walker said timing could be the reason for the inconsistent statistics. But in his experience working with Uniform Crime Reporting data, he said, "occasionally you'll see a minimum number of differences" in states' numbers, but Maryland's are "astounding" to him.

"It's absolutely bizarre," Walker added.

Nick Pepersack, deputy chief of staff for the Maryland Department of Budget and Management, said that funding for policing can be affected by data points in the state's Uniform Crime Report, referring to the State Aid for Police Protection Fund formula. The fund supplements resources for police protection in

### 2017 and 2016 violent crime data in Maryland, by source

The Uniform Crime Reports from the FBI and Maryland State Police in 2017 and 2016 show inconsistent data for the state. The two reports' violent crime statistics match up more closely in 2016 than they do in 2017.

Violent Crimes	FBI 2017	Maryland State Police 2017	FBI 2016	Maryland State Police 2016
Rapes	1,691	1,773	1,827	1,815
Murder	546	569	536	534
Robbery	11,200	11,295	10,815	10,814
Aggravated assault	16,836	17,049	15,841	15,830

Table: Elliott Davis • Source: FBI and Maryland State Police • Created with Datawrapper

Maryland communities, according to the website for the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention.

Pepersack clarified, however, that a department analyst was "not aware of any specific instances where such data points had any significant impact on a jurisdiction's funding amount."

Robyne McCullough, spokeswoman for the Office of Crime Control and Prevention, told Capital News Service in a written statement that the office uses the Maryland State Police's annual report "as one of several factors used when making funding decisions."

"We cannot speak to the methodology used to compile the FBI's report or the results therein," she added.

Charles Wellford, a professor emeritus in criminology at the University of Maryland, told Capital News Service that it is difficult for police departments to actually use Uniform Crime Reports for planning purposes.

"Law enforcement agencies have, for many years, little use for the Uniform Crime Reports," Wellford said. "... They come out a year after the crime. (Police) really can't use them for planning and strategic work."

Wellford said this is part of the reason why the FBI and law enforcement agencies are shifting to the National Incident-Based Reporting System, which he said counts "everything that occurs in an incident."

Currently, under Uniform Crime Re-

porting rules, only the "most serious" crime is counted in incidents where multiple crimes have occurred, according to Wellford.

The incident-based system was created to "improve the overall quality of crime data collected by law enforcement," according to the FBI's website. Fewer than half of U.S. law enforcement agencies submitted incident-based data in 2017, but the FBI has also received "thousands of commitments" from agencies saying they will be compliant by 2021, when the transition is complete.

One agency that is already using the incident-based system is the Montgomery County Police Department, the one Maryland agency certified for the system in 2017, according to staff with the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program.

Melissa Schulze, a planning manager with the police, told Capital News Service that the combination of a "really old" records management system and the transition to the National Incident-Based Reporting System could be reasons why the FBI's murder numbers for the county from 2017 are different from what the state police and department itself reported.

Sgt. Rebecca Innocenti, spokeswoman for the department, said that

# COMMUNITY

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### Using Love to Help a Sick Child Feel Better

Ah, 'tis the season for many households to find themselves with one or more children suffering from a cold or the flu. Damp, chilly weather and all that contact with other sniffing children at school almost guarantees that winter illness will strike most homes.

Most of us are well aware of the medical steps to help our child get better, or at least feel better, but we sometimes forget there are emotional things we can do to help our child, too. That can be important because our kids often feel bad about feeling bad. Have your kids ever apologized for being ill, saying, "Mom, I'm sorry I'm sick"?

So, how to help? Start with a smile. If you're looking worried and concerned when approaching your ill child, he or she is going to begin worrying about why you look so worried.

Instead of asking, "How are your feeling?" when it's already clear that he or she is not feeling well, try to offer something positive. Tell your child that he or she is looking a little better, or has gotten some of that color back or seems a little cooler. Be assuring that you're doing your job to help the return to good health.

One of the best medicines for a sick child, regardless of age, is being generous with your hugs and cuddles. While it can be tempting to plop him or her in front of that TV and just check in occasionally, offering physical contact that encourages positive feelings of safety brings better results.

Instead of TV time, trying snuggling with your child while reading a story or playing a game. If there is to be some TV time, spend at least part of it with him or her, holding hands while watching together.

There's no question that our minds have the power to affect our health. Talk with your child about imagining feeling better and you might find it can actually help him or her feel that way.

You also want to listen to your child. Encourage him or her to talk about what's being felt. If it's something as simple as a tummy ache, you may find the cause to be the stress of the day, not an illness.

None of us ever wants our child not feeling well, but a loving, supportive parent, encouraging a positive attitude, can often make a child feel better faster.

Counseling Corner is provided by the American Counseling Association. Comments and questions to [ACAcorner@counseling.org](mailto:ACAcorner@counseling.org) or visit the ACA website at [www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org).

### Nearly 1,000 Use Local Soberride Program on New Year's

Free Ride Service to Prevent Drunk Driving Reaches 'Over 80,000 Served' Mark

By PRESS OFFICER  
WRAP

WASHINGTON (Jan. 3, 2020)—Nearly 1,000 (921) persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used the free safe ride service, SoberRide®, this New Year's (from 10 p.m. on December 31, 2019 through 4 a.m. on January 1, 2020) as opposed to possibly driving home drunk.

"For its hours of operation this New Year's, this level of ridership translates into SoberRide® removing a potential drunk driver from Greater Washington's

roadways every 23-seconds," said Kurt Erickson, President of the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the organization conducting the region's SoberRide® effort.

This latest ridership figure places the local, charitable offering in the 'over 80,000 served' mark as, cumulatively and since 1991, WRAP's SoberRide® program has provided 80,047 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

WRAP's most recent holiday SoberRide® offering concluded this past

Wednesday morning (January 1) after kicking-off and running nightly since December 20, 2019 providing a total of 1,121 free safe rides to local residents age 21 and older who otherwise may have attempted to drive home after drinking. The local anti-drunk driving service is offered as a way to keep local roads safe from potentially impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday. During the most recent 12 consecutive evening period, area resi-

See SOBERRIDE Page A8

### The Work of the Digital Photography Club of Annapolis Members on Display in Gallery 90

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN  
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (Dec. 30, 2019)—The work of members of the Digital Photography Club of Annapolis will be featured in an exhibit in Hospice of the Chesapeake's Gallery 90, the art gallery located throughout the nonprofit's administrative building on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus at 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, Maryland. The exhibit will be on display from Jan. 6 through Feb. 28.

The exhibit is comprised of 31 photos by 11 members: Michael Clemens, Don Dement, Wayne Dernoncourt, James Finnerty, Howard Friedman, Carla Mason, Penny Mohr, Don Patterson, Bill Reichhardt, Valerie Rocco and Anne Weathersby.

The club is a diverse group of photographers, including beginners, hobbyists, serious amateurs and professionals, who love to take and share their photographs. It meets at Maryland Hall in Annapolis twice a month from September to June so that digital camera enthusiasts can share their work, hear from well-known local speakers, plan field trips and take part in photo exhibits at venues throughout the community. For details, visit <https://dpca.photoclubservices.com>.  
Gallery 90 was established to realize the vision of creating



ALL PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE

Portland by James Finnerty

a harmonious work environment for Hospice of the Chesapeake administrative staff and visiting nurses, caregivers and volunteers who work directly with patients and their families.

To see the exhibit, people must schedule an appointment. Drop-in visits cannot be accommodated. To arrange for a visit, or to schedule a private tour for a group, contact Renate Little at 443-837-1512 or [rlittle@hospicechesapeake.org](mailto:rlittle@hospicechesapeake.org).

For Charles,  
kayaking  
offers total  
freedom.

His heart  
almost took  
that away  
from him.



**Coronary bypass surgery ranked in the nation's top 10%.** Charles lives to kayak... and he almost lost it all when he developed congestive heart failure and an aortic aneurysm. He was referred to Dr. Jamie Brown at UM Capital Region Health, who is also a faculty physician at University of Maryland School of Medicine. Dr. Brown and his team replaced Charles' aortic valve and restored his life.

Charles is thankful for the outstanding care he received. "This is a miracle to me. I'm back kayaking and playing with my grandchildren—which wouldn't be possible without Dr. Brown."



See Charles' story at [umcapitalregion.org/evidence](http://umcapitalregion.org/evidence)

Bowie • Cheverly • Laurel • National Harbor • Suitland

# COMMENTARY

## Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



### To Be Equal:

## “Living Legend” Tom Joyner’s Career Has Transformed Black Media

*“I learned so much about building a community around content from Tom Joyner. That show was so good at finding commonality within a diverse audience—yes, there is diversity within blackness—and serving many wants and needs simultaneously. It’s hard to be entertaining, informative and educational without ever talking down to your audience. Tom did that day after day for decades. I wish him and everyone who’s worked on that show the best. They’ve done a lot for a lot of people.”*

—Sports journalist Bomani Jones

Even as we enter 2020 with optimism and a sense of renewed purpose, there will be a huge void in our cultural life without the daily voice of radio legend Tom Joyner, who retired last month after nearly 50 years on the air, the last 25 as the host of the iconic Tom Joyner Morning Show.

It’s hard for me to imagine the last 16 years of my life as President and CEO of the National Urban League without Joyner’s enthusiastic support and clear-sighted analysis. Reach Media, the company he founded in 2001, has long been one of

the National Urban League’s most valued media partners.

Whenever the National Urban League has launched a new initiative or announced a campaign, the Tom Joyner Morning Show was always one of our first stops. There was no better forum for reaching Joyner’s devoted and sizeable audience, or for thought-provoking analysis of the issues of the day.

In 2015, the National Urban League honored Joyner with our “Living Legend” at our Conference in Fort Lauderdale. His live broadcast from the Conference was a highlight of the week.

Our most important partnerships with Joyner have been around our education initiatives. A third-generation alumnus of an HBCU, Joyner has been a passionate advocate, with his Tom Joyner Foundation raising more than \$65 million since 1998 to support more than 29,000 students attending HBCUs.

Joyner’s deep respect for education, and for HBCUs in particular, stemmed from the experience of his grandfather, Oscar “Doc” Joyner, a Pullman porter who attended Meharry Medical College and became one of only 3,000 Black doctors in the United States in 1909. Joyner and his father, Hercules Joyner, were featured in the documentary, “Rising from the Rails: The Story of the Pullman Porter.” Hercules Joyner, who served as one of the elite Tuskegee Airmen, earned a degree in chemistry from Florida A&M College and

spent most of his career as an accountant. The Tom Joyner Foundation’s “Hercules Scholarship” is named in his honor.

“The Fly Jock”—a nickname he earned during the eight years he commuted between a morning show in Chicago and an afternoon show in Dallas—told CBS News he got his big break after a protest march in his hometown of Tuskegee, Alabama.

“I’m out there protesting the fact that our radio station in this all black town didn’t play any black music. And this guy who owned a radio station, which was inside a Ford dealership, came out and said I don’t need this, I’m trying to really sell some cars,” Joyner said. “Tell you what, it’s a sun-up sun-down station. Every Saturday, I’ll let one of you play all the Aretha and Temptations that you want.”

In a career spanning nearly five decades, Joyner has never altered his focus on serving Black listeners.

“Don’t worry about crossover. Just super serve, super serve, super serve,” he told CBS News. “Anything that affects African Americans, that’s what you do,” he said. “Just worry about connecting to people and their needs.”

We offer Joyner our gratitude for his many years of entertainment and commentary, wish him well in retirement and look forward to lending our support to his efforts to uplift the community through education.

## Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,  
Children’s Defense Fund



### ChildWatch:

## Our Children Are Leading Us. Hallelujah!

In December Time magazine named then-16-year-old climate change activist Greta Thunberg their 2019 Person of the Year—the youngest person ever honored. Time noted that this brave, determined teenager represents a new wave of young people who refuse to accept the world adults have created for them:

“Her global climate strike is the largest and most international of all the youth movements, but it’s hardly the only one: teenagers in the U.S. are organizing against gun violence and flocking to progressive candidates; students in Hong Kong are battling for democratic representation; and young people from South America to Europe are agitating for remaking the global economy. Thunberg is not aligned with these disparate protests, but her insistent presence has come to represent the fury of youth worldwide . . . She is a reminder that the people in charge now will not be in charge forever, and that the young people

who are inheriting dysfunctional governments, broken economies and an increasingly unlivable planet know just how much the adults have failed them.” Time adds: “Leaders respond to pressure, pressure is created by movements, movements are built by thousands of people changing their minds. And sometimes, the best way to change a mind is to see the world through the eyes of a child.”

When we look at our nation and world through our children’s eyes and hearts we are able to see how much urgently needs action. I am so proud of Greta Thunberg, the young people leading the March For Our Lives protests, and all of the children and youths who are standing up to fight for the future they want and deserve that we adults have failed to create. Courageous children like young Ruby Bridges, the Little Rock Nine, and the Clinton 12 were the front-line soldiers of school desegregation efforts in America. The brave children of Birmingham stood up to

police dogs and fire hoses. They embody the Children’s Defense Fund’s belief that children are never too young to make a difference in themselves, their families, communities, nation, and world. Greta Thunberg’s example is especially powerful because she also has reminded children and adults across the world how one person can make a difference: as one child sitting alone outside Sweden’s Parliament holding a homemade sign, Greta sparked a movement that has galvanized millions worldwide. The fact that the President of the United States is taking time out of his day to tweet bullying remarks about her is sickening and shameful but underscores how much power and attention this single passionate teenage girl demanding we save our planet commands.

As remarkable as our children and youths are and as much hope as they bring for the future, children should never have to take matters into their own hands and act because they see adults not acting. I am so grateful to see all of the brave and brilliant young leaders right now but let’s not sit back and wait to follow them. Adults should be stepping up themselves in every arena to do what they know is right. Greta Thunberg said at her September speech at the United Nations Climate Action Summit: “This is all wrong. I shouldn’t be up here. I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean. Yet you all come to us young people for hope. How dare you! You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words.” She added: “You say you hear us and that you understand the urgency. But no matter how sad and angry I am, I do not want to believe that. Because if you really understood the situation and still kept on failing to act, then you would be evil. And that I refuse to believe.”

How will we answer Greta and the young people

speaking out against gun violence and poverty and indefensible economic inequality? At the beginning of a new decade and on the eve of a new election year with possibilities of new beginnings, I hope adults will struggle to see the world through our children’s eyes and act with urgency to pass on the better nation and world children need.

Dr. Vincent Harding, Dr. King’s and my dear friend and confidant who devoted his life to building the “beloved community” they both believed our world could and must become, paraphrased the following words to the tune of the Negro spiritual “We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder”:

We Are Building Up a New World

We are building up a new world  
We are building up a new world  
We are building up a new world  
Builders must be strong

Steady brothers don’t grow weary  
Courage sisters don’t grow weary  
Joyful children don’t grow weary  
Tho’ the way be long

Rise shine give God the glory  
Rise shine give God the glory  
Rise shine give God the glory  
Children of the light.

Let us all begin this new decade and this new year determined not to grow weary as we applaud our children and youths who are acting to build the new world they deserve and that we adults have failed to provide them.

## Anthony Brown

Maryland Congressional District 4



## With Each Escalation, Trump Puts Us Closer to an Unconstitutional and Potentially Catastrophic War That Will Cost Us Tremendously

WASHINGTON (Jan. 3, 2020)—Congressman Anthony G. Brown, Vice Chair of the House Armed Services Committee and 30-year combat veteran, released the following statement on the assassination of General Qasem Soleimani and escalations with Iran:

“President Trump has failed to effectively engage or counter Iran and has forced the United States into an endless cycle of escalation that risks wider war, endangers American lives, and has made both the region and the world less safe. The assassination of General Soleimani may serve to eliminate one threat, but it most likely undercuts our credibility, isolates us from our allies and partners and emboldens Iran. President Trump has left us with little hope of reducing tensions or deterring Iranian aggression let alone their nuclear program.

It didn’t have to be this way. Donald Trump

could have forced Iran to stay in compliance with the nuclear deal, while engaging our allies to challenge Iran’s malign behavior, human rights abuses and state sponsorship of terror. Instead, the President has gutted the State Department, attacked our intelligence agencies, ignored our military leaders, and acted without customary consultation with Congress or our allies. Our foreign policy is in a state of chaos.

With each escalation, Trump puts us closer to an unconstitutional and potentially catastrophic war that will cost us tremendously in blood and treasure. The only alternative to conflict is robust diplomacy. We must reduce the risk of miscalculation and find an opening for creative dialogue with Tehran. It is time to turn the page on the Administration’s bankrupt policy in the Middle East of the last three years.”

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# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

### Should I Claim Social Security At 63?

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

Dear Rusty:

I'm 63 years old. What are the benefits or negatives of retiring now? How do I begin the process? **Signed: Tired of Working**

**Dear Tired:** Your first question is quite open-ended, but I can give you the basics. Your Social Security benefit is based upon something called your "primary insurance amount" (PIA), which is the amount you would get if you claimed at your full retirement age (66 years and 4 months for you). Your PIA is based upon the highest-earning 35 years in your lifetime working career (past earnings are adjusted for inflation).

If you claim benefits before you reach your full retirement age (FRA) your benefits will be cut by about 6.7% for each full year early, but the reduction is done according to the number of months before your FRA that you claim. If you claim at your current age, your benefit will be cut by about 22%. The reduction will be slightly less for each month that you continue to wait, up to your FRA when you'll get 100% of what you've earned from a lifetime of working. For reference, if you claim at age 64 the reduction will be about 18% and if you wait until you're 65 the reduction will be about 9.7%. Conversely, if you wait beyond your full retirement age your benefit amount will grow by 8% for each full year you continue to delay, up to age 70 when your benefit amount would be 30.7% more than it would be at your FRA. But whenever you claim, that is the amount you'll get for the rest of your life (except for cost of living adjustments (COLA) which may be applied annually).

The benefits or negatives to claiming now? Claiming now gives you money earlier, and if you need the money now, are in poor health and don't expect at least average longevity, then that may be the right choice for you. But if you're okay financially, are in good health and expect to live to at least average longevity (about 84 for a man your age), then you'll get more in monthly and cumulative benefits by waiting until at least your full retirement age to claim benefits. By claiming now, the benefit reduction will be permanent. By waiting, the benefit increase will also be permanent.

Claiming before your full retirement age will also subject you to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits the amount of money you can earn from working before they take back some of your benefits. The earnings test goes away when you reach your FRA.

If you are married, waiting longer to claim will also benefit your surviving spouse should you pass away first. Your surviving spouse will get 100% of the benefit you were receiving at your death (if they have reached full retirement age) and the longer you wait to claim, the more that survivor benefit will be.

Whenever you decide to claim, you can do so either by contacting Social Security directly (preferably by phone) or you can apply online at [www.ssa.gov/retire](http://www.ssa.gov/retire). You will need to create your personal "My Social Security" online account first, but the online process is by far the easiest way to apply, considering that direct contact with SS often subjects you to long wait times (even on the phone).

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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).

## Crime Data from A2

both incident-based and summary data were submitted that year during the transition.

### Murders in Montgomery County: 13 or 14 or 23 or 26?

Capital News Service tried to focus on one narrow set of crimes—murders in Montgomery County—to try to discern how the differences happened.

The county provided a list of those murdered—naming all but one of the 23 they reported were slain in 2017. The FBI did not have names, but it provided a list of victims that included some demographic information.

Though the federal agency crime statistics said that 13 people were murdered, they provided a list of 14 victims, explaining that one death came after their initial deadline.

The state police also shared monthly numbers, but did not provide names of the 26 people they reported were murdered in the county in 2017.

Innocenti provided Capital News Service with the names of nearly all 23 people murdered within Montgomery County in 2017. (The list provided did not include the name of a person murdered in Germantown in February 2017, noting that it was an FBI case.)

The names included Laura Wallen, the pregnant Olney, Maryland, teacher whom police say was killed in early September by her boyfriend, who authorities said later killed himself in jail.

Asked which people did not make it into the FBI's 2017 crime report, Innocenti deferred to the FBI.

The FBI representative provided a list of murders from the county in 2017 with infor-

## Felton Magee, Jr. Graduates From Leadership Maryland

Regent Healthcare President and Chief Executive Officer and National Harbor resident recognized at December 10 ceremony

By PRESS OFFICER  
Leadership Maryland

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Dec. 20, 2019)—Leadership Maryland announced today that Felton Magee, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer of Regent Healthcare, Inc., has completed the professional development program dedicated to building a better Maryland by harnessing the strength of its local business and community leaders. Leadership Maryland honored Magee, a resident of National Harbor, and the entire Class of 2019 at its 27th annual graduation ceremony held December 10 at the Lord Baltimore Hotel.

Magee was one of 50 applicants chosen by committee to complete Leadership Maryland's eight-month hands-on learning program focused on the state's most vital social, economic and environmental issues.

"As this year's Leadership Maryland cohort completes its program, their journey as a graduate of our state's finest organization of professionals begins," said Leadership Mary-

land Board Chairman Dr. Memo F. Diriker '12, director of BEACON at Salisbury University. "Over the past eight months they have learned about our state, the critical issues it faces, and above all, themselves. On behalf of the Board, I congratulate each of them for completing this defining milestone and I look forward to seeing them apply these lessons to accomplish great things for our state."

Leadership Maryland is open to senior-level executives with significant achievements in either their careers and/or their communities. Ideal Leadership Maryland members have a desire to learn more about Maryland's most critical issues and a personal commitment to be a force for positive change in their organizations, their communities, and their state. For more information about Leadership Maryland, please visit [www.LeadershipMD.org](http://www.LeadershipMD.org), call 410-841-2101 or email [Info@LeadershipMD.org](mailto:Info@LeadershipMD.org).

Leadership Maryland is a professional development program dedicated to



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY LEADERSHIP MARYLAND

Felton Magee, Jr.

building a better Maryland by harnessing the strength of its local business and community leaders. Each year, as many as 52 diverse and accomplished executives from Maryland's public and private sectors are selected to come together as a class for an eight-month hands-on learning program focused on the state's most vital social, economic and environmental issues. The first Leadership Maryland class graduated in 1993, and the organization's alumni network now consists of more than 1,100 leaders from all industries and regions of the state. To learn more, please call Leadership Maryland at 410-841-2101 or visit [www.LeadershipMD.org](http://www.LeadershipMD.org).

## 2020 to Bring Good News at the Gas Pump for Some Americans, Not All

The national average gas price in 2020 will be lower than 2019, but a robust economy could mean that some households increase consumption, driving their fuel bill higher

By PRESS OFFICER  
GasBuddy

BOSTON (Jan. 1, 2020)—GasBuddy, the smartphone app helping consumers avoid paying full price for fuel, predicts that 2020 will feature a yearly national average of \$2.60 per gallon, representing a 2 cent drop versus 2019, but warns that the national average will rise as much as 75 cents per gallon from a low in February until an eventual peak in May, leading to localized gas price hotspots that could lead unsuspecting motorists to pay as much as 15–50 cents more per gallon than competitors.

Some highlights from GasBuddy's 2020 Fuel Price Outlook include:

- The nation's yearly gasoline bill will rise to \$373 billion dollars, an increase of over \$1 billion from last year as the average household sees their annual gasoline spending rise to \$1,935.

- The national average is forecast to rise as much as 75 cents per gallon from a low in early February to a possible peak in May, as the seasonal switch to summer gasoline leads to notable jumps and causes some stations to raise prices much quicker than others, leading to buying opportunities for motorists who compare prices.

- 75% of the country's largest metro areas are at risk for seeing average prices hit \$3 per gallon at some point in 2020, including Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Miami, New York City, Philadelphia, Phoenix, and Washington, D.C. while four could see close to or over \$4/gal: Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco, and Seattle.

"Hit the road, America! It will be another year where gasoline prices will be relatively affordable—but don't close your eyes—the price variation between stations and states will ap-

proach record levels. Never has there been a bigger opportunity to spend less, or to spend more, if you aren't checking prices before filling up," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis. "In addition, motorists should feel some comfort that for a sixth straight year, gasoline prices will start with a "2" in most areas amidst a robust economy, with thanks to U.S. oil producers for matching our increasing appetite for affordable energy, which also helps to act as insulation against unpredictable events including production cuts from other nations to keep oil prices from spiraling out of control."

For those making resolutions, GasBuddy suggests shopping around at the pump and driving less aggressively: the savings could add up to \$477 per year, or roughly \$10 per tank. In addition, motorists can sign up for Pay with GasBuddy, a free program that links to your checking account and offers instant savings of up to 25 cents per gallon.

## Maryland Small Business Development Center Events

Register at: <http://www.mdsbdc.umd.edu/>  
Retail Success Strategies | SBC-6460

Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020 • 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

Location: La Plata College of Southern Maryland, 8730 Mitchell Rd, La Plata, MD 20646

Cost: tuition: \$13 / fees: \$70 • Contact: 301-934-7583

Find solutions to most of the challenges and problems involved in opening and successfully operating a retail business. Discover how vendors can be a valuable asset to your business. Take the mystery out of financial information and learn to interpret reports ranging from the income statement and inventory records to calculating the margins. Hiring, training, and motivating employees are essential skills for retail business owners. Don't miss this opportunity to learn the secrets of hiring the best employees and how to motivate and compensate them effectively. Take advantage of this unique 5 hour class and learn how to drive sales from the floor to increase and expand your retail business.

Webinar: Transition From Manager To Leader

Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020 • 12–1 p.m.

County/Sponsor: Maryland SBDC

Location: Maryland

Cost: Free; Registration Required

Contact: Diane McFarland

Most leaders start taking on leadership roles in the position of a manager. Join us for a discussion on the distinction between management and leadership and techniques to transition to leadership.

Branding, Building Your Brand

Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020 • 6–9 p.m.

Location: La Plata College of Southern Maryland 8730 Mitchell Rd, La Plata, MD 20646

Cost: tuition: \$13 / fees: \$62 • Contact: 301-934-7583

What is your company's unique selling proposition? Can you explain your brand value, what it means and how your products and services differentiate you from your competitors? This course will help you to evaluate your existing marketing messages, identify your target market and explore your company's brand personality and key messages. Facilitator: Bill Campbell, CEO, Balancelogic, LLC

## Murders in Montgomery County in 2017, by source

How many murders occurred in Montgomery County, Maryland, in 2017? The annual crime reports from the FBI, Maryland State Police and Montgomery County Police Department provide three different numbers. The number reported by the FBI – 13 – is half of what was reported by the state police – 26. The county police department reported 23 murders that year. A Maryland State Police spokesman deferred questions about the FBI's much lower numbers to the bureau itself. The FBI maintains it gets the numbers from the state police.

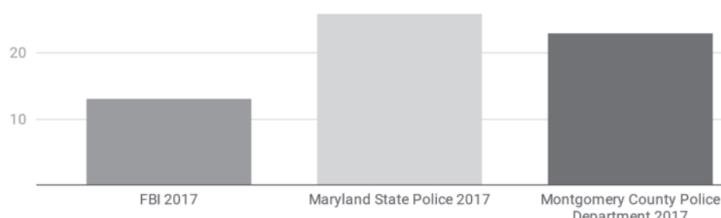


Chart: Elliott Davis • Source: FBI, Maryland State Police, Montgomery County Police Department  
• Created with Datawrapper

mation about the victims, including age, gender and race, but no names or dates associated with the incidents.

The FBI's list of victims does not include someone with the same age, gender and race of Wallen.

Shipley provided Capital News Service with a list of the murder numbers the county reported to state police for the 2017 state report. He said he could not provide matching names because submitting agencies do not provide that information to the state police. The state police list also lacked any demographic information on victims, so accurate comparisons from agency to agency were not possible.

Compared to the county's information, the Maryland State Police lists one more murder from September 2017, two more from October and one more from December. Conversely, the Montgomery County Police Department list has one more murder listed from February 2017.

## Uniform Crime Reporting 'still shows trends'

While it's transitioning to the incident-based system, the FBI is still using the Uniform Crime Reporting summary system. Jurisdictions report their data "voluntarily," according to Adam Wandt, a public policy professor at John Jay College.

"Some states report better than others," said Wandt, who has experience working with Uniform Crime Reporting data.

Wandt told Capital News Service that while "discrepancies are possible" with Uniform Crime Reporting data, the statistics still have value.

"It still shows trends, even though there's a margin for error," Wandt said, before adding that it's "impossible to do crime trending tracking" without such data.

# OUT on the TOWN

## Exhibitions Opening at Brentwood Arts Exchange

Date and Time: January 13–February 29, 2020, 10 a.m.–7 p.m. (Monday–Friday: 10 a.m.–7 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; Sunday: Closed); Reception: Saturday, January 18, 5–8 p.m., Artists Talk: Saturday, February 15, 2–4 p.m.  
 Cost: Free  
 Location: Brentwood Arts Exchange, 3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD 20722  
 Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-699-2544



IMAGE COURTESY M-NCPPC; [HTTP://WWW.PGPARKS.COM](http://www.pgparcs.com)

From “Cold Hands, Warm Heart” exhibition

### Main Gallery: Cold Hands, Warm Heart: Myths of Black Motherhood by Deirdre Darden

Description: Curator Deirdre Darden has assembled a thoughtful and poignant group exhibition featuring artists: Asha Elana Casey, Amber Robles Gordon, Helina Metaferia, and Tseydaye Makonnen. To have “cold hands and a warm heart” means to appear stern on the outside while being truly tender within. Black women are often accused of being intimidating, mad, or stern yet equally given a nurturing, mothering label. This multidisciplinary group exhibition will examine the double consciousness that black people, especially women possess. Removing the mask we wear to reveal what is really underneath; the side we give to our families, communities, and ancestral worlds.

### Lab Gallery Exhibition: Playing to WIN by Aziza Claudia Gibson-Hunter

Description: Aziza Claudia Gibson-Hunter’s methodical mixed-media assemblages comment on the destructive nature of competition and how it relates to our contemporary society. The question of how one wins and why can be essential to understanding the collective character of a country or that of a single individual. Can the goal of “winning” become so significant that it can become a blinding force? Using motifs from classic board games, as well as lotto tickets, playing cards, and game-related quotes, images were created while pondering the implications of the phrase “playing to WIN.”

### Front Window Featured Artist: Diane N’Diaye

Description: Diana N’Diaye, maker and mender, creates art that stimulates and engages viewers in conversations about identity, heritage, peacemaking, healing, transformation, and social justice. She brings us a new line of wearable textile jewelry, informed by her own identity and inspired by traditions of piecing, from African American patchwork quilting, Surinamese Maroon men’s wrappers, the clothing of Senegalese Sufi’s, Japanese boro, and European household needlework.

## Jingle Bells on the Potomac: A Partnership Holiday Reception Was a Success!

By SHAWN HAY

The Prince George’s County Drug Policy Coalition, Inc.

OXON HILL, Md. (Dec. 19, 2019)—The Prince George’s County Drug Policy Coalition, Inc. (PGCDPC) and the Maryland State Legislative District 26 had “A Partnership Holiday Reception” on Thursday, December 19, 2019, from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. at the Oxon Hill Manor, 6901 Oxon Hill Road, Oxon Hill, MD 20745.

The Prince George’s County Drug Policy Coalition, Inc. collected more than 200 toys from guests in attendance. The PGCDPC distributed the toys to an Angel Tree Ministry that serves children who have incarcerated parents and the 1441 Inc. organization that serves families of returning citizens and the homeless. Dr. Valencia Campbell, PGCDPC President, welcomed the guests and thanked them for their donations. Maryland State Senator Obie Patterson and Keisha Monroe (Delegate Turner’s chief of staff) provided attendees with some updates for the upcoming work that will take place in Annapolis in 2020. Maryland State Senator Joanne Benson (District 24), and Prince George’s Central Committee Members, Derrick Coley (District 24), Kent Roberson (District 25), Nora Carmichael (District 26), and Angela R. Jones (District 26) were among the other elected officials who came out to support the event. There were about 150 other community residents from the Prince George’s County, Maryland District 8 (Camp Springs, Clinton, Forest Heights, Fort Wash-

ington, Glassmanor, Marlow Heights, Oxon Hill) area that came out to this holiday celebration. All the guests concluded the evening enjoying music, a free dinner and community fellowship.

Dr. Campbell, indicated that: “Our organization was extremely excited to host this event to help collect toys for the “Children of Incarcerated Parents” for the Christmas holiday!” “We were honored to partner with the Maryland 26 District Legislative team members, Senator Obie Patterson and Delegate Veronica Turner, to help ensure that less fortunate children receive gifts.”

The Prince George’s County Drug Policy Coalition, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that promotes policies and laws that embrace the public health nature of drug abuse. Through our scholarship program, we provide community-based support to families within the county with a focus on students obtaining higher education and living a drug-free life. The Prince George’s County Drug Policy Coalition, Inc. represents one of many local affiliates of the National African American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc. Our national organization consists of a coalition of 25 preeminent organizations. Through the support of our national organization, interested organizational partners, and grassroots members like you, we hope to prevent and reduce illegal drug abuse and related crimes in Prince George’s County. Visit our website at [www.pgcdpc.com](http://www.pgcdpc.com) or email at [pgcdpc@hotmail.com](mailto:pgcdpc@hotmail.com) for more information about upcoming events and how to partner with us.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY PGCDPC

## Banneker-Douglass Museum Hosts Kwanzaa Celebration

20th Anniversary Program Highlighted by Special Guest, Kwanzaa Expert, Culture Queen

By SOO KOO

Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Dec. 30, 2019)—Banneker-Douglass Museum (BDM) celebrated the 20th Anniversary of its signature Kwanzaa Celebration Saturday afternoon in Annapolis, Md. The event included interactive music, storytelling, Black History-themed games, candle lighting ceremony and workshops led by Kwanzaa expert, Culture Queen.

“We are proud to host the 20th year of celebrating Kwanzaa with this signature program,” said Chanel Compton, Executive Director of BDM. “This annual celebration offers Marylanders an opportunity to learn the seven principles of Kwanzaa, establish traditions among their families, and create life-long memories—all in the beautiful setting of Mt. Moriah AME Church in historic Annapolis.”

The annual Kwanzaa Celebration continues BDMs theme of youth-centered and education-focused programming. Attendees participated in hands-on workshops led by award-winning author, entertainer and educator, Culture Queen. Participants learned about the seven principles of Kwanzaa—



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY MARYLAND GOVERNOR’S PRESS OFFICE

### Culture Queen Performing during the 2019 Banneker-Douglass Museum Kwanzaa Celebration.

unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.

“At BDM our programs aim to promote Black History and culture, education, and family. Those themes were definitely on full display during this year’s annual Kwanzaa celebration,” said Sabriyah Hassan,

Programs Director of BDM “This festive celebration provided visitors a fun environment to learn about a holiday deeply rooted in African American practices and traditions.”

To stay informed about future programs and events, please visit: [bdmuseum.maryland.gov/events](http://bdmuseum.maryland.gov/events).

## Calendar Spotlight

### City of College Park Tribute to Dr. King

Date and Time: Saturday, January 11, 2020, 2–3:30 p.m.  
 Description: This inspirational and educational event is free and for all ages. The City’s annual event honors Dr. King’s legacy through speakers, performances, art and a City proclamation. Every year a new theme is selected, showcasing how his work still impacts our community and our country and what we can do to continue his efforts in our current era. Bring a non-perishable food item with you to donate at the event. This year’s theme is “Is His Dream Your Dream Too?” Free event parking is available nearby in University Lots 1b and Z all day on Saturdays (excluding home football games). These lots are about a 2–5 minute walk to the venue. There are also paid parking options in the Stadium Drive Garage as well. The selections and songs presented during the event are chosen by the participants as their way to honor Dr. King. The City, by sponsoring this event, does not endorse any particular religion, belief system or presentation.

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742

Contact: [www.collegeparkmd.gov/mlktribute](http://www.collegeparkmd.gov/mlktribute), 240-487-3500

## OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



PHOTO CREDIT: UMD

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

The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center: 8270 Alumni Dr, College Park, MD 20742 • 301.405.7794 • <https://theclarice.umd.edu/>

## Upcoming Events

### African American Women in Music: The Music of Dinah Washington

Date and Time: Saturday, January 25, 2020, 1 p.m.

Description: Explore the vibrant history of African American Women in Music in our lecture series with contemporary relevance. Discover these legends as barrier breakers, earth shakers, and hit makers who have paved the way for today’s artists.

Dinah Washington, 1924–1963, was an extremely popular singer in the 1950s, who performed jazz, blues, R&B, and traditional pop music. She has her first top ten pop hit with her version of “What a Diff’rence a Day Made” in 1959. In 1986, Washington was inducted into the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame and in 1993, into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

Cost: \$5 per person

Ages: 8 and up

Location: Marietta House Museum, 5626 Bell Station Rd., Glenn Dale, MD 20769

Contact: 301-464-5291; TTY 301-699-2544

### Veterans and Military Families Meet & Greet

Date and Time: Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 7–9 p.m.

Description: Meet Dr. James Dula, Director of Veterans Affairs in the Office of the County Executive. Learn how his department and the library can serve you to help you achieve your goals. Share your voice about what the library could do to better to meet your needs.

Cost: Free

Ages: Adults

Location: PGCMLS, Accokeek Branch Library

15773 Livingston Rd., Accokeek, MD 20607

Contact: 301-292-2880

### Dance Theater of Harlem, presented by PGCC

Date and Time: Thursday, January 30, 2020, 7–9 p.m.; Friday, January 31, 7–9 p.m.; and February 1, 2–4 p.m. and 7–9 p.m.

Description: The 17-member, multi-ethnic company performs a forward-thinking repertoire that includes treasured classics, neo-classical works by George Balanchine and resident choreographer Robert Garland.

Cost: \$59.75 (Level C), \$69.75 (Level B), \$99.75 (Level A) (includes \$4.75 service charge)

Location: Grand Theater, Center for Performing Arts,

Prince George’s Community College

301 Largo Rd, Largo, MD 20774

Contact: 301-546-7422, <https://www.pgcc.edu/arts/events/>

More events:

<http://www.pgparcs.com/calendar.aspx?CID=22>

## Calendar of Events January 9–January 18, 2020

### Cub Corner

Date and Time: Thursday, January 9, 2020, 10:30–11:30 a.m.  
Description: Come to the Cub Corner story time for preschool fun! Ideal for little learners up to five years old to enjoy a flight-themed story and hands-on craft activity. Call ahead for groups of 10 or more!

Cost: Free with Museum Admission  
Ages: Pre-school age children  
Location: College Park Aviation Museum, 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD 20740  
Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

### Unforgettable: A Tribute to Nat King Cole

Date and Time: Friday, January 10 & 17 and Saturday, January 11 & 18, 2020, 8 p.m.; Sunday, January 12 & 19, 2 p.m.  
Description: Don Dillingham accompanied by the North Metro Jazz Collective, joined on stage by special guest vocalists Lynn Veronneau, Jacie Lee, Iva Ambush & Andre Enceneat.

Cost: General: \$22.00, Student: \$18.00 ages 15–21  
Ages: Recommended for ages 15 and up  
Location: Gaithersburg Arts Barn, 311 Kent Square Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
Contact: 301-258-6394

### Keystone Theater Cabaret

Date and Time: Saturday, January 11, 2020, 7–9:30 p.m.  
Description: Keystone Theater and College Park Arts Exchange will host a cabaret of student performances. Keystone Theater is a local theater group run by high school students for theater kids in the area, with the aim of keeping members of the community together.

Cost: Free  
Ages: All ages are welcome  
Location: Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road, College Park, MD 20741  
Contact: 301-927-3013 (leave message)

### Free Second Sundays

Date and Time: Sunday, January 12, 2020, 12–5 p.m.  
Description: Visit our museum for free every Second Sunday! This is your starting place for exploring the people, places and events that shaped Maryland's past.

Cost: Free  
Ages: All ages are welcome  
Location: The Maryland Historical Society, 201 West Monument St., Baltimore, Maryland 21201-4674  
Contact: 410-685-3750

### Career Kickstart: Workforce Digital Resources

Date and Time: Wednesday, January 15, 2020, 6 p.m.  
Description: Introduction to library digital materials for workforce development for adult job seekers.

Cost: Free  
Ages: Adults  
Location: PGCMLS, Hillcrest Heights Branch Library, 2398 Iverson St., Temple Hills, MD 20748  
Contact: 301-630-4900

### Restorative Justice: Impacts, Challenges, and Results

Date and Time: Thursday, January 16, 2020; Reception at 6 p.m. Program and Panel Discussion at 7 p.m.

Description: Moderated by NBC4 investigative reporter Jodie Fleischer. Restorative Justice is an alternative approach to responding to criminal wrongdoing. It addresses causes, harm done, and responses to crime that heal—rather than harm—citizens and relationships that are necessary for safe communities. Listen to our panel of law enforcement, judicial, and social services experts as they discuss restorative justice, what's working and what isn't. Attendees will also hear from someone who's completed a restorative justice program and the impact it's had on her. Panelists and speakers for this informative discussion include:

- Robert (Roman) Hafder, Restorative Justice Coordinator, Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia
- Police Chief Henry (Hank) Stawinski, Prince George's County, Maryland
- Zachary Terwilliger, U.S. States Attorney, Eastern District of Virginia
- Lashonia Thompson-El, Co-Chief of Violence Reduction, Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia

Cost: \$10 registration fee includes museum entry, reception, and program. Visit [lawenforcementmuseum.org](http://lawenforcementmuseum.org)  
Ages: Adults  
Location: National Law Enforcement Museum, 444 E St. NW, Washington, DC 20001  
Contact: [info@LawEnforcementMuseum.org](mailto:info@LawEnforcementMuseum.org), 202-737-3400

### Xtreme Teens: Indoor Field Day

Date and Time: Friday, January 17, 2020, 7–10 p.m.  
Description: Boys against Girls! Are you ready for relay races, obstacle courses, potatoes sack race, and tug a war?

Cost: FREE with M-NCPPC Youth ID  
Ages: 10–17  
Location: North Brentwood Community Center, 4012 Webster St., North Brentwood, MD 20722  
Contact: 301-864-0756; TTY 301-699-2544

### Happenstance Theater: JUXTAPOSE

Date and Time: Friday, January 17 & Saturday, January 18, 8 p.m., Saturday, January 18 & Sunday, January 19, 2020, 2 p.m.  
Description: The Happenstance Theater quintet is developing a Theatrical Collage inspired by the works of Joseph Cornell. Using the manipulation of objects, puppetry, physical theatre, theatrical clown, and vintage spectacle, we will conjure portals for the audience to engage their imaginations and build stories. A series of highly visual vignettes will be woven together by a thematic thread and consistent historical aesthetic. The piece will seek to unify the audience by illustrating our common humanity and reminding viewers of our universally shared condition, mortality. The hope is that through this theatrical journey, audiences might feel buoyed by the limitless possibilities of imagination.

Cost: \$13.00, \$7.00 Seniors/Students. Online at [www.joesmovement.org](http://www.joesmovement.org)  
Ages: Appropriate for families but not a "kids" show.  
Location: Joe's Movement Emporium, 3309 Bunker Hill Road, Mt. Rainier, MD 20712  
Contact: 301-699-1819

# Changing a Flat on the Side or Shoulder Of a Busy Roadway is Always Fraught With Danger, Including For Professionals

*If possible, try to get the vehicle to the nearest safe place*

By PRESS OFFICER  
AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON (Dec. 27, 2019)—Police are still investigating whether a man struck and killed by a tractor-trailer rig was changing a flat tire on his vehicle when he was fatally struck. The crash occurred around 5:30 December 27 morning near the Shady Grove Road exit along Northbound Interstate 270 near Gaithersburg, according to the Maryland State Police. This fatal crash underscores the fact that attempting to change a flat on a busy roadside is dangerous even for professional roadside assistance crews. At least five persons were struck and killed and four other persons suffered serious injuries when they were struck by vehicles while attempting to change a flat on Maryland roadways in 2019. In April, a decorated U.S. Army war hero was killed while changing a flat tire on a Virginia highway.

In November, a local tow truck driver was struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver on Prince George's County. With the flashing yellow lights on his tow truck on, roadside rescuer, David Reinerio Pineda Alvarez, was assisting a local AAA member stranded on the shoulder of the road. That fatal incident occurred shortly after 10:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2019, according to the Maryland State Police Forestville Barrack. The hit-and-run driver is still on the loose.

Stopping to change your tire is dangerous.

If your tire bursts while you're driving, keep a firm grip on the steering and slow down gently, avoiding harsh braking. Keep driving, slowly, and find a safe place to stop. "An average of 515 pedestrians were struck and killed by a motor vehicle on the Interstate each year from 1993 to 2012," previous research by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety revealed. For example, upon their arrival on the scene this morning, Maryland State Troopers dispatched from the Rockville Barrack found "an unattended 2015 Ford Explorer elevated on a jack with extensive damage to the left side of the vehicle on the right shoulder of the highway." Don't change your wheel on the hard shoulder of a roadway, or at the side of a road, advises AAA.

"Don't die trying to change a flat. Turn off or pull over well away from the traffic and call for help," said John B. Townsend II, AAA Mid-Atlantic's Manager of Public and Government Affairs. "The Washington metro area has some of the busiest roadways in the nation. So get off the road, if a flat tire occurs. A busy highway is a dangerous place, so try to find a rest area, weigh station, or other area away from traffic."

Call your emergency roadside assistance provider. Depending on the damage to your tire, and the location of the vehicle, rescuers dispatched by the AAA Roadside Assistance switchboard will either install your spare, re-inflate your tire, or tow your vehicle to a

safe location and replace the flat tire with a spare.

- On Sunday, June 30 2019, a Baltimore man was killed in a hit-and-run crash while changing a bus tire on northbound Interstate 295 near Route 100 in Anne Arundel County, according to the Maryland State Police.
- In August, four persons were struck by a hit-and-run driver while standing outside their vehicle while attempting to change a flat tire. One person was killed in the incident in Southwest Baltimore.
- The commander of the 23rd Quartermaster Brigade, was killed after helping a stranded driver change a flat tire on a Virginia highway on April 22, 2019.

"Pedestrians on the Interstate Highway System present a distinctive traffic safety problem, and account for 10 percent of all pedestrian fatalities each year in the United States," according to research by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. With each passing year more and more new vehicles roll off the assembly line without a spare tire as standard equipment, creating an unnecessary hassle and expense for drivers. Curiously, an estimated 20 percent (39 million) of U.S. drivers do not know how to change a flat tire.

"First of all, the side of any roadway is

See FLAT TIRE Page A8

## Earth TALK™ Ikea, Walmart, Mattel Among Companies Setting a Good Example on Plastics Reduction

Dear EarthTalk:

*Which companies are taking the lead in commitments to plastics reduction?*  
—Jason K., Reno, NV

Our modern world is literally swimming in plastic. According to Plastic Oceans International (POI), we produce over 300 million tons of plastic each year around the world, half of which is for single-use purposes. We then dump eight million tons of it into the oceans annually, where it accumulates up and down the food chain, with some settling into large, mid-ocean whirlpools of plastic waste called gyres.

Since the 1950s, we've produced upwards of 8.3 billion tons of plastic, and production is seemingly only just starting to ramp up: A recent study predicts we're on course to add another 26 billion tons to the planet's existing plastic burden by 2050 if production remains unchecked.

Weaning ourselves off plastic is going to be one of the great challenges of the 2020s. Consumer demand, along with governmental action, is forcing many companies to re-examine their manufacturing processes, supply chains and distribution networks to reduce the use of plastic in both products and packaging.

One leader is Ikea, which recently committed to transition much of its plastic packaging to a mushroom-based renewable alternative that can grow in a controlled environment, and, like plastic, be easily formed into shapes. If kept dry, this "Mycocomposite" can be used over and over. It can also decompose fully in just 30 days. Producing it uses only 12 percent of the energy required to make the same amount of plastic, and with 90 percent lower carbon emissions.

Another step

in the right direction is Mattel's recent commitment to use 100 percent recycled, recyclable or bio-based plastics materials in both its products and packaging by 2030. Early in 2020 the company will debut its first product aligned with this new goal, the Fisher-Price Rock-a-Stack, made from sugarcane-based plastics and packaged in 100 percent recycled or sustainably sourced material.

Walmart announced in February that it seeks to achieve 100 percent recyclable, reusable or compostable packaging for its private brand packaging by 2025 and will encourage other brands it sells to set similar goals. The retailing behemoth is also working with suppliers to eliminate non-recyclable PVC plastic in general merchandise packaging altogether by 2020.

These efforts are laudable, but some worry that shifting to alternatives doesn't fully address the problem: Due to public concerns about plastic pollution, says Greenpeace's Graham Forbes, "we are witnessing a parade of corporations scrambling to look greener" by advancing false solutions that don't address our addiction to single-use packaging. Instead, Greenpeace argues, we need to get away from



CREDIT: ZELENA AKCII, FLICKRCC

The #BreakFreeFromPlastic movement is one of many campaigns designed to convince people to opt for healthier, greener alternatives to plastic.

throwaways and refill our own containers. We'll only see real change, says Forbes, when we prioritize re-use.

**CONTACTS:** POI, [plasticoceans.org](http://plasticoceans.org); "Production, use, and fate of all plastics ever made," [advances.sciencemag.org/content/3/7/e1700782](http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/3/7/e1700782); Ikea: A Sustainable Everyday, [ikea.com/us/en/this-is-ikea/sustainable-everyday/](http://ikea.com/us/en/this-is-ikea/sustainable-everyday/); Mattel Citizenship, [citizenship.mattel.com](http://citizenship.mattel.com); Walmart Sustainability Index, [corporate.walmart.com/global-responsibility/environment-sustainability/sustainability-index-leaders-shop](http://corporate.walmart.com/global-responsibility/environment-sustainability/sustainability-index-leaders-shop); Greenpeace, [greenpeace.org](http://greenpeace.org); #BreakFreeFromPlastic, [breakfreefromplastic.org](http://breakfreefromplastic.org).

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: [question@earthtalk.org](mailto:question@earthtalk.org).




Angela D. Alsobrooks  
County Executive



TUESDAY TIP

# MEANING OF COMMUNITY

We all benefit when we support and take care of our communities. Making small changes now can make a big difference later.

- Buy local and reused to avoid sending unnecessary goods to the landfill, help local businesses and reduce your carbon footprint.
- Avoid single-use plastics like water bottles, bags and straws that can end up in the landfill or contaminate our streets and waterways.
- Don't litter, put it in the bin! County law requires businesses to provide public access to equally sized trash AND recycling containers.
- CountyClick 3-1-1 is a powerful citizen tool, use it to request bulky trash pickup, report illegal dumping or missed collections, and much more.

