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Prince George's County Continues to Make Permitting Easier

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

Upper Marlboro, MD: Prince George's County Council Chairman Mel Franklin (D-District 9), Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) General Manager/CEO Jerry Johnson, and The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) Chairman Elizabeth "Betty" Hewlett will sign Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) between the Prince

George's County Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE) with WSSC and M-NCPPC to offer permitting services for those agencies at DPIE's "one stop shop" permitting location in Largo. During this event, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) for Economic Development and Public Infrastructure Victor Hoskins and DPIE Director Haitham A. Hijazi will discuss

See PERMITTING Page A5

Rushern L. Baker Elected as the New President of County Executives of America

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD – The County Executives of America (CEA) recently announced that Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III had been elected to serve as the organization's new Board President. County Executives of America, the only non-partisan association dedicated specifically to chief elected officers from over 720 counties and consolidated city/counties across the nation. Additionally, CEA represents chief elected officers

before Congress, the White House and all federal departments. County Executive Baker will serve a 2 year term as Board President and is succeeding Montgomery County, MD Executive Ike Leggett who served as CEA President from 2012-2014.

"It is an incredible honor and privilege to lead County Executives of America and follow the great work of my friend and mentor, Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett," said Prince George's

See BAKER Page A7



OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY PETE SOUZA.

President Barack Obama signs H.R. 3230, the Veterans' Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014, at Fort Belvoir, Va., Aug. 7, 2014. The bill provides the Department of Veterans Affairs the resources to improve access and quality of care for veterans.

President Obama Signs Bill to Give the VA Resources It Needs

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the White House

President Obama traveled to Fort Belvoir, Virginia to sign a reform bill giving the Department of Veterans Affairs the necessary resources to improve access and quality of care for the men and women who have served our country in uniform.

In remarks before the bill signing, President Obama addressed the misconduct that has taken place at some VA facilities across the country — veterans being denied the care they need, or long wait times being covered up.

"This is wrong," the President emphasized. "It was outrageous. And working together, we set out to fix it and do right

by our veterans across the board, no matter how long it took."

We've already taken the first steps to change the way the VA does business. We've held people accountable for misconduct. Some have already been relieved of their duties, and investigations are ongoing. We've reached out to more than 215,000 veterans so far to make sure that we're

getting them off wait lists and into clinics both inside and outside the VA system.

We're moving ahead with urgent reforms, including stronger management and leadership and oversight. And we're instituting a critical culture of accountability -- rebuilding our leadership

See VETERANS Page A3

NRP Urges Parents to Say "Yes" to Ninja Turtles, "No" to Baby Turtles

By PRESS OFFICER
MD Dept. of Natural Resources

With only days before the release of the fifth installment in the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles movie series, the Maryland Natural Resources Police is urging parents to buy young Ninja fans action figures rather than live baby turtles.

"Hundreds of thousands of small turtles have been purchased by well-meaning parents nationwide since the first movie premiered in 1990. But these tiny animals aren't toys and they require a commitment to keep them healthy and safe," said NRP Cpl. Michael Lathroum.

Organizations such as American Tortoise Rescue and Mid-Atlantic Turtle and Tortoise Society note that when interest wanes, the baby turtles — mostly red-eared sliders from turtle farms down south — are tossed outside, flushed down the toilet or abandoned at nature centers and wildlife rescue cen-



PHOTO COURTESY MD DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DNR Wildlife and NRP urging the public to Say Yes to Ninja Turtles, No to Baby Turtles.

ters. The estimated fatality rate is 90 percent.

A similar problem arose when children asked for spotted puppies after the release of the movie 101 Dalmatians.

NRP officers are already receiving complaints this summer of small turtles

being sold at street fairs and festivals.

Federal law prohibits the sale of turtles smaller than 4-inches around or captured in the wild. In addition, turtles carry salmonella, which can infect children, people on chemotherapy and those with immune deficiency diseases.

"These are wonderful creatures. They are symbols of a healthy wetland," said Jonathan McKnight, associate director of DNR's Natural Heritage Program. "But if you want to see a turtle, go outside and see them in the wild."

PGCPS Union Contracts

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Lt. Governor

UPPER MARLBORO, MD – Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) will kick off the new fiscal year with a major achievement – successfully negotiated agreements with all four unions representing all employees in the school system. The newly-ratified union contracts represent a major collaborative effort between PGCPS and the Unions, (the Association of Supervisory and Administrative School Personnel (ASASP), the Prince George's County Educators' Association (PGCEA), the Association of Classified Employees (ACE)-AFSCME Local 2250, and Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 400).

"We were able to complete the negotiation process early because of our joint commitment to offering employees fair and competitive wages and working conditions," said Dr. Segun C. Eubanks, Board of Education Chair. "In addition, these new contracts will have a positive impact on the recruitment and retention of high-quality staff."

Two of the contracts – those for ASASP and PGCEA – have been ratified for a two-year term.

The contracts for school administrators and central office staff in ASASP Units II and III include a 2%

COLA and step increase for FY 2015, as well as improvements to salary tables and stipends for national certification. Salary improvements for FY 2016 include provisions to provide an additional step increase for both units if funding is available.

The PGCEA contract for teachers includes a 1.5% COLA in FY 2015, a step increase, improvements to the salary table as well as other negotiated stipends. Additionally, if funding is available, FY 2016 improvements provide a 1% COLA and an additional step.

ACE-AFSCME Local 2250 employees will see a 2% COLA this month, step increases in 2015, expansion of lanes on all pay scales and reimbursement for tools and uniforms. Additionally, nurses in Local 2250 with four year degrees will receive a two grade advancement.

SEIU Local 400 staff will receive an overall 3% COLA in FY 2015, as well as a step increase and top of the scale lane expansion.

"Attracting and retaining highly-qualified staff is critical to our success," said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer for PGCPS.

"Having these contracts in place as we move forward is key to this effort, and helps ensure that we can offer a competitive salary and benefits package that attracts talented employees to Prince George's County."

INSIDE

O'Malley Announces Membership of the Task Force to Ensure Retirement Security For All Marylanders

Continuing his efforts to strengthen and grow Maryland's middle class, Governor O'Malley today announced the names of appointees to the Governor's Task Force to Ensure Retirement Security for All Marylanders.

Community, Page A3

African Leaders Summit: The Ties that Bind

Ben Rhodes explained, "Insofar as we can promote trade and investment, that is going to create new markets for our goods... and ultimately create jobs in both the United States and Africa. So this is about seizing the opportunity of African growth and development in our mutual interests."

Commentary, Page A4

Governor O'Malley Announces BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport and Port of Baltimore Win National Security Awards

A major security and public safety improvement at BWI Marshall, the Consolidated Dispatch Center Upgrades project, was recognized with two first-place awards in the competition.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (2014)"

The city needs heroes. Darkness has settled over New York City as Shredder and his evil Foot Clan have an iron grip on everything from the police to the politicians. The future is grim until four unlikely outcast brothers rise from the sewers and discover their destiny as Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

To what extent is Antarctica really melting and what impact might it have on coastlines around the world?

— Andrea Hutchinson,
Cary, NC

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Murder Mystery Dinner coming to Mama Stella's

A Murder Mystery is on the menu at Mama Stella's Restaurant, in Clinton, the night of Saturday, Sept. 13 (note: 13!), at 6 p.m. The show is by R.I.P. Productions. Dinner will be by the great chefs at Mama Stella's—an excellent three-course meal.

Call to reserve your tickets now, as seats are going fast! The cost is \$32.95 per person, which includes both show and dinner. There's a 10% discount for active military. For information and reservations, call 301-868-3057.

Neighbors

Morningside Vice Mayor Benn Cann has been appointed a member of the Maryland Municipal League's 2015 Convention Planning Committee. This important committee has responsibility of working with the League to formulate the convention theme and to plan workshops, general sessions and social events during the convention.

Dr. Deborah Boston, of Morningside, is proud of grandson, Judah Ball, a Boy Scout with Troop 1869. He attended the Morningside Town Meeting with her on Aug. 19, took notes, and will write a report, all of which will help him towards a merit badge in Communications. It will be his 13th badge.

Joint Base Andrews played an essential role in the first-ever U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit in Washington July 30 to Aug. 4. Twenty-seven aircraft landed at Andrews, carrying 28 heads of state. Planning took more than five months, involving about a dozen government agencies.

The Hat Lady

Last week I wrote about the life and times of Ceil Julian, but I forgot about her hats. She had about 100 and wore a different one every day. Her friend Anna Norris honored her with a poem, "The Hat Lady." This is one verse: "What hat will she wear today?/ The beret or the wide brim,/ Or will it be the one with flowers/ Or the one with suede trim?/ Perhaps the dressy purple / Or the sun bonnet blue./ Maybe she'll wear the Fedora / Or one with a bright hue."

I wonder where all those hats are now.

Mega Community Yard Sale & Back to School Giveaway

The Suitland Civic Association invites you to their Really Big Yard Sale on Saturday, Sept. 13, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Drew Freeman Middle School (soccer field), 2600 Brooks Drive. They'll be selling, furniture, clothing, tools, household items, jewelry, collectibles, baby items, electronics, toys, etc! And there will be food for sale and music.

If you are interested in reserving a table, call 301-485-9766 or email wilkaren@comcast.net. The cost of the tables is \$25, which includes a 6-foot table and one chair. Deadline to reserve your table and to make payment is Aug. 30. By the way, donation trucks should be available to haul off items you don't sell or don't want to keep.

Students under the age of 18, who live in Prince George's (specifically, Suitland), will receive free backpacks & school supplies with proof of residence, as long as supplies last. (If you'd like to reserve your backpack, email wilkaren@comcast.net).

If you are willing to donate school supplies, email the items you'll donate, along with contact information, to wilkaren@comcast.net. Tax ID receipts provided upon request.

Coming up at Davies

A Course in Miracles will be held Mondays, Sept. 8, 15, 22, and 29, at Davies Memorial Unitarian Universalist Church, 7400 Temple Hills Road. It is free.

Also coming up at the church is T'ai Chi, on Wednesdays, Sept. 3, 10, 17 and 24. Advanced T'ai Chi at 7 p.m.; intermediate at 7:30. Practice this movement discipline with a certified instructor to strengthen mind and body. Suggested donation, \$5.

For information about these activities, phone 301-449-4308 or go to the Web at www.dmuuc.org.

Changing landscape

Prince George's Community College is going smoke and tobacco free, effective Sept. 15. The campaign is named Breathe Free.

Wal-Mart in Clinton may be getting bigger. A special exception application has been filed to build a 37,395-square-foot addition to the store.

On August 19, Exelon, based in Chicago, filed an application with the Maryland Public Service Commission to acquire Pepco, which serves about 537,000 customers in Washington and Maryland. Approval is expected in 12 to 15 months. It remains to be seen how this will affect our service and our utility bills.

Here's something you probably didn't know: Pepco traces its history to a streetcar company from the late 19th century. It's been around a long time.

He loved the outdoors

Steven J. Witherow, 49, of North Beach, who grew up in Suitland and Morningside, died Aug. 12 at Georgetown University Hospital. He had many outdoor interests, including fishing, crabbing, hunting, and just being on the river. He had hunting trophies and was most serious about Archie, a six-foot black bear stationed near the entrance to his home. He had great love for his family which includes his mother Judith K. Witherow, a longtime Morningside resident; his father Wayne, of Glen Richey, Pa.; brothers Stacey and Mark; stepmother, Sue Lenaerts, of Morningside; nieces and nephews. Services were at Lee Funeral Home.

Milestones

Happy birthday to my daughter-in-law Michelle McHale, Aug. 29; Wanda Payne Simms, Bria Barbour-Ray, Dennis Wood, Jai McCune, Caitlin Rose Woods and Tom Anderson, Aug. 30; Mary Berkley and Travis Mullins, Aug. 31; Christine Hoehl, Judy Busky, Earl Simms, Rebecca Capps and my great-granddaughter Mary Adela McHale, Sept. 1; Suzanne Kenney, Sept. 2; Andrelic Howard, Fr. Arnold DePorter and Selaine Ealey, Sept. 3; Loretta Carter, Sept. 4, and my dear friend Mary Mitchell, who turns 91 on Sept. 4.

Oh, and happy 1st birthday on Aug. 23 to Bao Bao, the baby giant panda at the National Zoo.

Neighborhood Events

Donna Edwards to Host Job Fair Preparation Workshop

Washington, D.C. — Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) will host a Job Fair Preparation Workshop ahead of the 2014 Job Fair on August 28, 2014. All, including students and young adults, are invited to participate in sessions on winning strategies for targeted resumes and cover letters, interview techniques, and addressing challenges to get noticed in today's competitive job market. The workshop helps job seekers find good-paying middle class jobs that are the key to economic security for millions of families across the country, and a pillar of the "Middle Class Jumpstart: A 100 Day Action Plan to Put the Middle Class First." Congresswoman Edwards will offer additional workshops for job seekers on August 14, 19, and 21, 2014.

The job fair will host over 70 employers, from national and local businesses; federal, state and county government; unions, and nonprofit organizations. Job seekers will also learn about ongoing training and skill enhancement services, and are requested to bring numerous copies of their resume. To find all the information on the upcoming job fair, including a list of workshops, please go to http://donnaedwards.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=655&Itemid=11

Maryland Casinos Generate \$76 Million in Revenue During July

(Baltimore) — The Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency today announced July 2014 revenue numbers for the state's four casinos — Hollywood Casino Perryville in Cecil County, Casino at Ocean Downs in Worcester County, Maryland Live Casino in Anne Arundel County, and Rocky Gap Casino Resort in Allegany County. July 2014's combined statewide revenue totaled \$75,990,338.

Hollywood Casino Perryville generated \$7,510,684 from both slot machines and table games in July. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$178.15 for slot machines, \$2,639.32 for banking table games and \$430.90 for non-banking table games. Hollywood Casino's July 2014 revenue decreased by \$6,393, or .1%, from July 2013. Hollywood Casino Perryville operates 1,158 slot machines and 22 (12 banking and 10 non-banking) table games.

Maryland Live Casino generated \$58,224,177 from both slot machines and table games in July. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$280.68 for slot machines, \$4,530.08 for banking table games and \$1,394.80 for non-banking table games. Maryland Live's July 2014 revenue increased by \$5,769,364, or 11%, from July 2013. Maryland Live Casino operates 4,222 slot machines and 189 (137 banking and 52 non-banking) table games.

Casino at Ocean Downs generated \$6,096,097 in July, and its gross gaming revenue per unit per day was \$245.81. Casino at Ocean Downs' July 2014 revenue increased by \$269,762, or 4.6%, from July 2013. The Casino at Ocean Downs operates 800 slot machines.

Rocky Gap Casino Resort generated \$4,159,380 from both slot machines and table games in July. Gross gaming revenue



Congresswoman
Donna F. Edwards

per unit per day was: \$204.54 for slot machines, \$1,024.81 for banking table games and \$391.35 for non-banking table games. Rocky Gap's July 2014 revenue increased by \$685,064, or 19.7%, from July 2013. Rocky Gap Casino Resort operates 577 slot machines and 17 table games (15 banking and 2 non-banking).

In a year-to-year comparison, July 2014 casino revenue increased from July 2013 by \$6,717,796, or 9.7%. See attached document (or click HERE) for a detailed breakdown of July 2014's fund disbursement, fiscal year-to-date totals for the individual casinos and combined state total.

Hospital Continues Investments in the Community through Greenbelt Farmers Market Sponsorship

Lanham, MD — Doctors Community Hospital continues to invest in the community through the sponsorship of the Greenbelt Farmers Market and launch of a new employee fitness center — both focused on improving the health and well-being of people who live and work in Prince George's County.

In July 2014, Doctors Community Hospital became a sponsor of the Greenbelt Farmers Market to support efforts to encourage residents to make healthier food choices while receiving free preventative health information. Working collaboratively with the Prince George's County Health Department, the hospital's Joslin Diabetes Center (the only multidisciplinary diabetes center in the county accredited by the American Diabetes Association) will provide certificates for free A1C screenings that measure the amount of glucose or blood sugar levels in the blood. Also, market patrons will receive free information about various medical topics to help them make well-educated healthcare decisions. The farmers market is held on Sundays through November from 10 a.m. — 2 p.m. at 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland. Market goers can visit the hospital's booth the last Sunday of each month through October.

As mentioned by Robyn Webb-Williams, vice president of Doctors Community Hospital Foundation and Community Relations Department, "Becoming a sponsor of the Greenbelt Farmers Market is perfectly aligned with our goal of helping people avoid preventable illnesses or better manage chronic diseases, especially given the impact of diet and nutrition on various health conditions. Moreover, from providing free mammograms and colorectal screenings to underserved members of our community to incorporating preventative health information on our newly redesigned website, this sponsorship is another way

that the hospital continues to provide reliable and potentially life-saving care."

The hospital has furthered its focus on investing in the health of the community by developing a new employee fitness center. Paul Hagens, vice president of the hospital's Human Resources Department, stated, "A large number of our employees not only work in this community, they also live here. In fact, of our 1,452 employees, about 816 or 56 percent reside right here in Prince George's County. So, our commitment to investing in the community logically includes ensuring that our employees also have access to tools that help them reach or maintain their health goals."

Opened on August 1, 2014, the fitness center is free to all employees and accessible seven days a week. Located on the hospital's main campus, the center has treadmills, recumbent bikes, spinner bikes, a cross trainer, dumbbells and an elliptical. Also, there are areas designated for aerobic classes and a changing room.

"We are proud of our history of being dedicated to caring for the health of our community. Investments in the health of both our internal and external communities through the Greenbelt Farmers Market, the employee fitness center and other initiatives are just a few ways that the hospital contributes to strengthening this great county," stated Paul Grenaldo, chief operating officer, Doctors Community Hospital.

Edwards Floor Statement on House Republicans' Flawed Supplemental Bill for Humanitarian Crisis on the Southern Border

Washington, DC — Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards spoke today on the House Floor about the House Republicans' supplemental bill to address the humanitarian crisis on the southern border.

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a sad day for the United States when Republicans in this Congress see a problem and then choose not to work with Democrats to solve the problem. And that's exactly what's happened here today: their Draconian way, or the high way. And let's be clear about what the problem is: unaccompanied minor children, frightened, some fleeing violence, needing protection, and deserving due process.

"The solution to this problem is as much about who these children are as it is about who we are. As a mother and a legislator, I know that we should be compelled to act as a matter of humanity, but also as a matter of law. We know we have problems on the border that are in need of solutions. Republicans have rejected one solution — comprehensive immigration reform — to address the problem. They've rejected another solution — the request of the president for a supplemental appropriation that includes resources for judges, representation and services for minor children, and assistance to the countries of origin.

"Now today, in the eleventh hour, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle demonstrate, once again, their lack of humanity and failure to solve yet another problem for the American people. And with that I yield my time."

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

NEW HOPE FELLOWSHIP

Birthday greetings to Alice Brooks, Catherine Brown, Alexis Champion, Jeremy Chew, Robert G Contee, Janice Glascoe, Adrienne Harris, Jerliene Hill, Marvin Jackson Jr., Todd Johnson, Angela Savoy, Rakene Savoy, Leisha Thomas, Dwayne Washington, Catherine Watkins, and James Wilkerson who will be celebrating their birthdays in September.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FAIR

Don't forget to put the County Fair on your calendar Thursday-Sunday, September 4-7, 2014. There will be entertainment for everyone to enjoy. All ages are welcome. The cost for ages 12 and older is \$6.00, ages 6-11 pay \$5.00 and under age 5 is free.

Fair hours are September 4 from 4 PM-11 PM, September 5 from 5 PM-11 PM, September 6 from 11 AM-11 PM and September 7 from 11 AM-6 PM.

The location is Showplace Arena 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro 20772.

Contact 301-442-7393 or info@countyfair.org.

2014 NATIONAL ENDOWMENT (NEA) FOR THE ARTS

National Heritage Fellows will be honored at an awards ceremony on Wednesday, September 17, 2014, and a concert at George Washington University's Lisner Auditorium on Friday, September 19, 2014. Both events will be open to the public and the concert will be live at arts.gov.

The 2014 NEA National Heritage Fellows are recognized for their artistic excellence and efforts to conserve America's culture for future generations.

There will be singing and praying bands of Maryland and Delaware and African-American religious singers. Points of contact: Steven & Denise Carter; carter.steven@gmail.com; Denise: dabcarter@aol.com.

De SOUL CAFÉ

The best kept secret Soul Food Café is no longer a secret. Come out on Friday nights and enjoy

Soul Jazz Music performed by Tony Woods from 6:30 PM to 10:00 PM. Hours of operation are Tuesday thru Thursday 4:00 PM-9:00 PM, Friday 4:00 PM-10:00 PM, Saturday 12:00 Noon-10:00 PM and Sunday 12 Noon-8:00 PM. Join us for Sunday Brunch 12:00 Noon- 3:00 PM. De Soul Café is located at 7651 Matapeake Business Drive Brandywine, Maryland 20613.

DeSoul Café have something to satisfy your palate from seafood to soul food. Call ahead 301-782-9752 for carry out orders. We also provide catering services. Come out and enjoy dinner with family or friends.

JOB FAIR AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Come join us September 22, 2014 from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM at Union Bethel Church in Brandywine, Maryland. You will be able to connect with regional employees that have current job openings. Come prepared to be interviewed. Dress for Success and bring your resume. For more information call Bethel House Inc. at 301-372-1700.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Identity Thieves Target Kids as Well as Adults

I'm sorry to report that child identity fraud is alive and well in 2014. If anything, the problem may be worsening as identity thieves devise new methods to steal — and use — children's personal information. Most commonly, they'll harvest kids' dormant Social Security numbers (SSNs) and use them to illegally obtain jobs or open fraudulent bank and credit accounts, mortgages or car loans.

Many victims don't realize there's a problem until they later apply for a student loan, bank account, job or apartment and are turned down because of the poor credit history someone else racked up. Some families are even hounded by collection agencies or arrested because the debts or criminal activities were so extreme.

There are no completely foolproof methods to protect your children's identities, but here are some precautions you can take:

While it's tempting to simply not register your kids for SSNs until they turn 18, that's not practical in today's world. For one thing, they'll need one to be claimed as dependents on your taxes. You may also need SSNs for your kids to obtain medical coverage or government services or to open bank accounts in their names.

Because each person's SSN is unique, it's not uncommon for schools, healthcare providers, insurance companies, banks and others to require them as ID. However, don't be afraid to ask:

- Why do they need to use an SSN — is there a legal requirement?
- Will they accept alternative identification?
- What will happen if you don't disclose it?
- What security precautions do they take with personal information?
- Will they agree not to use the SSN as your child's personal identification number on correspondence, account statements or ID cards?

Watch for these clues your child's personal data may have been compromised:

- They receive preapproved credit account offers.
- They receive calls or billing statements from collection agencies, creditors or government agencies.
- You're unable to open a bank account in their name because one already exists with the same SSN.
- They're denied credit, employment, a driver's license or college enrollment for unknown or credit-related reasons.

Remember, there could be legitimate reasons why your child is receiving credit offers. For example, it could be a marketing outreach from an affiliate of your bank or because you opened a college fund in their name.

If you strongly suspect or have evidence that identity theft has been committed, you can:

- File a police report and keep a copy as proof of the crime.
- Contact the fraud units at the three major credit bureaus for instructions: Equifax (800-525-6285), Experian (888-397-3742) and TransUnion (800-680-7289).
- Notify the Federal Trade Commission (877-438-4338), whose Identity Theft site contains information on fraud alerts, credit freezes, how to work with police and much more (www.ftc.gov).
- Ask Social Security (800-772-1213) whether anyone has reported income using your child's SSN. Search "Identity Theft" at www.ssa.gov for information.
- Contact the IRS' Identity Protection Unit (800-980-4490).

The FTC recommends contacting the three credit bureaus around your child's 16th birthday to see whether they have credit reports on file. (There usually wouldn't be unless they're an authorized user on one of your accounts.) If there is a report — and it has errors due to fraud or misuse — you'll have time to correct it before you kid needs to use credit.

Warn your kids about the dangers of revealing personal information by phone, email, or social networking. Don't hesitate to monitor their accounts and install parental blocking software. And remember, if they share your computer, a downloaded virus could infect your accounts as well.



Governor O'Malley Announces Membership of the Task Force to Ensure Retirement Security For All Marylanders

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD -- Continuing his efforts to strengthen and grow Maryland's middle class, Governor O'Malley today announced the names of appointees to the Governor's Task Force to Ensure Retirement Security for All Marylanders.

Established by executive order in May, and chaired by former Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, the Task Force brings together representatives from key sectors across the State to find ways to better secure retirement savings for private sector employees in Maryland.

"This Task Force convenes some of the brightest minds in Maryland to tackle one of the toughest challenges facing our State: ensuring that Marylanders are able to enjoy a stable and secure retirement," said Governor O'Malley. "Far too many of our citizens are anxious about how they're going to be able to afford to retire -- I brought this group together to help address that."

The group will begin meeting immediately and work to develop recommendations, present a report to the Governor by December 4, 2014, and will terminate on February 15, 2014. The report will include actionable steps to implement strategies that will address threats to retirement security in Maryland and devise a path toward retirement solvency for Maryland's private sector workforce.

Chairwoman and former Lieutenant Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend added, "The Governor has identified lifelong financial security as a critical challenge facing Maryland families. I look forward to working with the members of the Task Force and hearing from the public to develop solutions which are cost effective and sustainable."

A recent Boston College study found that over one half of Americans stand to outlive their retirement savings, with American households facing a current retirement shortfall of \$6.6 billion. Currently, 49 percent of private-sector workers participate in a retirement plan, and only 16 percent participate in a defined benefit plan, leaving the remaining 36 percent without vital retirement income. The Task Force will look for ways to

Veterans from A1

team, starting at the top with Secretary McDonald. And one of his first acts is that he's directed all VA health care facilities to hold town halls to hear directly from the veterans that they serve to make sure that we're hearing honest assessments about what's going on.

The VA reform bill -- officially the Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014 -- passed Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support, and will expand survivor benefits and educational opportunities and improve care for victims of sexual assault and veterans struggling with traumatic brain injuries. But the main focus of the new law is to ensure that veterans have access to the care they've earned.

The President outlined three important areas the law will address:

- 1. Giving the VA the resources it needs:**
It will help the VA hire more doctors and more nurses and staff

support stable, secure retirements for private sector employees in the State, which will in turn prevent dependency on government programs, create more consumers and inject more money into the State's economy.

The Task Force is comprised of members of the General Assembly, the State Treasurer, labor unions, along with members of the financial services industry and small business community (full membership list below).

Appointees to the Task Force to Ensure Retirement Security for All Marylanders

Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Chair -- Ms. Townsend currently serves as a Managing Director of The Rock Creek Group and she is the founder of the Center for Retirement Initiatives at Georgetown University. Ms. Townsend served as Lieutenant Governor of Maryland from 1995 to 2003 and previously held the positions of Assistant Attorney General for Maryland, Executive Director of the Maryland Student Service Alliance for the State Department of Education and Presidential Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the U.S. Department of Justice. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Literature, cum laude, from Harvard University and her law degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law.

Donna S. Edwards, Labor Union Member -- Ms. Edwards currently serves as Secretary/Treasurer for the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO. She is currently President of the Maryland Social Services Employees Union, AFSCME Local 112 and Vice-President of Central Maryland Community Services. She received her Bachelor of Social Work Degree from the University of West Virginia and her Master of Social Work Administration degree from the University of Maryland, Baltimore. She also studied Labor Studies at the Harvard Trade Union Program.

Steven Hill, Labor Union Member -- Mr. Hill currently serves as Policy Director for Public Services for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). He was the Founding Director of the Maryland Budget and Tax Policy Institute and served as Senior Economist for the U.S. Department of Health and Human

Services. Mr. Hill received his Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Olaf College and his Master of Public Affairs degree from North Carolina State University.

Edward C. Bernard, Financial Services Industry Member -- Mr. Bernard currently serves as Vice Chairman of the T. Rowe Price Group, Inc., Chairman of the T. Rowe Price Mutual Funds and as a member of the T. Rowe Price Board of Directors and Management Committee. Mr. Bernard is also a member of the Board of Governors for the Investment Company Institute, a member of the Board of Trustees for CenterStage and a member of the Board of Directors for the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies and Asian History from Brown University and his M.B.A. degree in International Finance from New York University.

Nailah Gubern Lee, Small Business Community Member -- Ms. Lee currently serves as Co-owner and Chief Operating Officer of Breasia Productions, an event production company. She is also a bilingual Licensed Graduate Social Worker. Ms. Lee is a volunteer for the Health Care for All Coalition and is a board member of the University of Maryland School of Social Work Alumni Association. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Florida State University and her Master of Social Work degree from the University of Maryland School of Social Work.

Sarah E. Mysiewicz, Retiree Representative -- Ms. Mysiewicz currently serves as Senior Legislative Representative for AARP, Inc. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree, cum laude, in Political Science from Illinois Wesleyan University and her Master of Arts degree in Political Studies from the University of Illinois. She also studied abroad at St. Petersburg University, IES London and Peking University.

Diane Oakley, Member -- Ms. Oakley currently serves as Executive Director of the National Institute on Retirement Security. She is a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance and a member and former Public Sector Co-Chair of The Tax Coalition. She received her Bachelor of Science degree, cum laude, in Math-

ematics from Fairfield University and her M.B.A. degree in Finance from Fordham University. Ms. Oakley is also a graduate of the Aspen Institute Leadership Development Program.

Gary Kleinschmidt, Member -- Mr. Kleinschmidt currently serves as Director of Retirement Sales for Legg Mason Global Investment Management. He is a member of the National Association of Plan Advisors and the American Society of Pension and Professionals and Actuaries. Mr. Kleinschmidt received his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the Pennsylvania State University.

Valerie Ervin, Member -- Ms. Ervin currently serves as Executive Director of the Center for Working Families. She previously served as a Council Member and President of the Montgomery County Council and as a member of the Montgomery County Board of Education. She received her Bachelor's degree from the National Labor College and her Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Baltimore.

Howard S. Freedlander, Member -- Mr. Freedlander currently serves as a Senior Consultant for The Artemis Group. He previously served as Deputy Treasurer for External Affairs for the Maryland State Treasurer's Office and as Executive Director and Director of Public Affairs and Legislative Liaison for the Maryland National Guard. Mr. Freedlander is an emeritus board member for the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, board member and secretary for Leadership Maryland and board member for the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy. He served 34 years in the U.S. Army Reserve and Maryland Army National Guard, retiring as a Colonel. Mr. Freedlander received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism and Political Science from the University of Pennsylvania and his Master of Science degree in Military Strategic Intelligence from the Joint Military Intelligence College.

The President of the Senate appointed Sen. James Rosapepe and Sen. Joe Getty and the Speaker of the House appointed Del. Dana Stein and Del. Sandy Rosenberg.

people accountable. We've got to give [Secretary McDonald] the authority so that he can move quickly to remove senior executives who fail to meet the standards of conduct and competence that the American people demand. If you engage in an unethical practice, if you cover up a serious problem, you should be fired. Period. It shouldn't be that difficult. And if you blow the whistle on an unethical practice, or bring a problem to the attention of higher-ups, you should be thanked. You should be protected for doing the right thing. You shouldn't be ignored, and you certainly shouldn't be punished.

The President noted, however, that while this law is focused on immediate needs to reform the VA, we can't lose sight of the long-term goals of our service members and our veterans:

The good news is, we've cut the disability claims backlog by more than half. But let's now eliminate the backlog. Let's get rid of it. The good news is, we've poured major resources into improving men-

tal health care. But now, let's make sure our veterans actually get the care they need when they need it. The good news is, we've helped to get thousands of homeless veterans off the street, made an unprecedented effort to end veterans' homelessness. We should have zero tolerance for that. But we've got to -- still more work to do in cities and towns across America to get more veterans into the homes they deserve.

We've helped more than a million veterans and their spouses and children go to college through the post-9/11 GI bill. But now, we've got to help even more of them earn their educations, and make sure that they're getting a good bargain in the schools they enroll in.

We've rallied companies to hire hundreds of thousands of veterans and their spouses. That's the good news. With the help of Jill Biden and Michelle Obama -- two pretty capable women...But now, we've got to help more of our highly skilled veterans find careers in this new economy.

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COMMENTARY

Barbara A. Mikulski

United States Senator for Maryland



Mikulski Calls for Long-term Solution to Transportation Infrastructure Investments Supporting Maryland Jobs

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) this week renewed her call urging Congress to move forward with a long-term solution to extend the Highway Trust Fund, supporting our nation's transportation infrastructure and thousands of Maryland jobs. "We must provide certainty and a guaranteed funding stream that our state departments of transportation and the construction industry desperately need," Senator Mikulski said. "Without this extension, the federal highway trust fund will go bankrupt in a matter of weeks. Enacting a long-term bill this year will provide certainty with a guaranteed funding stream, allow MDOT to plan for the future, and provide stability to the construction industry."

The Senate on Tuesday voted to pass the Highway Transportation Funding Act of 2014 as a short-term extension of the Highway Trust Fund, which without Congressional action would go bankrupt in the coming weeks. The legislation includes a bipartisan amendment offered by Senator Tom Carper (D-Del.), Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) and Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), which Senator Mikulski voted to support, which extends federal transportation program authorizations through December 19, 2014 to ensure that Congress works to pass this year a long-term solution to federal transportation programs. The legislation approved by the full Senate now moves to the House of Representatives for a vote.

Her renewed call follows an op-ed published in The Baltimore Sun along with Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.) advocating for a long-term transportation solution.

Senator Mikulski's statement, as submitted to the Congressional Record, follows:

"I rise in support of the Carper, Corker and Boxer amendment to the Highway Trust Fund Extension Bill before us today. This amendment will provide certainty and a guaranteed funding stream that our state departments of transportation and the construction industry desperately need. It provides a short-term extension through December 19, 2014 which

will allow Congress to complete its work on a multi-year bill this year. The underlying bill only prolongs uncertainty by extending the solvency of the trust fund to May of 2015.

"In the last transportation authorization bill, I fought for a federal formula that gives the State of Maryland approximately \$780 million annually from the highway trust fund: \$580 million for highway funding and \$200 million for transit funding. The Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) average weekly expenditure of these federal funds is \$10 to \$12 million. Right now during construction season, MDOT is submitting reimbursements to the U.S. Department of Transportation for \$20 million a week.

"Without this extension, the federal highway trust fund will go bankrupt in a matter of weeks. What does this mean for my home state of Maryland? I am advised that MDOT will not meet its commitments. The Department would be unable to begin new projects. It would be forced to focus on safety and system preservation instead of putting shovels into the ground. Existing projects will slow down or stop. The State of Maryland would have to find bond or state revenues to pay existing contracts. Most importantly, over 9,000 construction jobs will be in jeopardy.

"This is why MDOT, other state departments of transportation, and the construction industry support a multi-year bill. Enacting a long-term bill this year will provide certainty with a guaranteed funding stream, allow MDOT to plan for the future, and provide stability to the construction industry. Projects take time and thoughtful planning averaging approximately ten years to complete through construction.

"In addition, a multi-year bill will strengthen our transportation networks improving safety and reducing congestion. It also will create three million jobs and support our economy.

"I urge all my colleagues to vote for the Carper, Corker and Boxer amendment."



Fort Foote Park

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: PG PARKS AND RECREATION

FORT FOOTE PARK

Eight miles downriver from the capital, Fort Foote was considered "a powerful enclosed work" by its chief engineer, "and the most elaborate ... of all the defenses of Washington." The long oval earthwork was constructed on Rozier's Bluff from 1863 to 1865 to strengthen the ring of fortifications that encircled Washington, D.C., during the Civil War. Fort Foote was designed to protect the river entrance to the ports of Alexandria, Georgetown, and Washington and replace the aging Fort Washington as the primary river defense. Today the National Park Service has cleared paths around the ruins of what is considered the best preserved Civil War fort in the region. Fort Foote is located on the Potomac River in Prince Georges County. From the Beltway (I-95), take exit 3A, Indian Head Highway south (MD210) and drive for approximately 3.5 miles to Old Fort Road. Turn right for 1 mile to Fort Foote Road S, turn left. Follow the winding road through the residential area to entrance sight on the left for the fort.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Strong Programs, Strong Mentors, and Strong Mindsets

We know the commonly repeated claim that there are more Black men in prison than in college isn't true—but in 2011 Black men accounted for fewer than 6 percent of undergraduate students and 4 percent of graduate students, though they made up 8.7 percent of 18-29 year olds. Many who go to college never graduate. At a recent symposium co-sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund and the Educational Testing Service on "Advancing Success for Black Men in College," the focus was on solutions and how to get more young men to attend and graduate from college. The marvelous opening panel featured four Black men in college sharing their experiences including the opportunities that helped them most—and the advice they would give to an audience of third grade Black boys.

Shawon Jackson, a rising senior at Princeton University, was quick to credit his parents and the public boarding school he attended an hour away from his Chicago-area home for strong support in getting on the road to college. But the cost of college could have been an immediate roadblock. The whole panel agreed programs that helped them afford college made a key difference. For Shawon the QuestBridge program, which identifies talented low-income students and helps support them as they apply to top colleges and universities, made it possible for him to attend Princeton. Extra support has also given him opportunities to travel and work in Spain and Honduras: "Going to different countries allowed me to develop a different perspective, so by the time I got back to Princeton I was able to say, wow, there's a world outside of Princeton, and there is a world outside of what I saw growing up."

Shawon had this strong advice for young Black boys: "I would tell them that you will make it, and that education is the gateway to whatever you want it to be. I would talk about how it doesn't matter what your background was,

what your parents did or did not do, or what was around your community—if you persevere and if you make education your number one priority, you can quite literally do anything that you want in this world. I would talk about how society may have one expectation for you but that you have to set your own expectations, and if you guide yourself, then you'll be rewarded in the end."

Javon Mullings gave credit to another program designed to help talented students get to college and thrive. The Posse Foundation targets youth leaders from public urban high schools and helps send them to partner colleges and universities in small groups, creating a support "posse" of peers on each campus. Javon, the valedictorian of his New York high school, received a scholarship to "Posse Partner" Wheaton College in Massachusetts where he's had great opportunities including working in a professor's lab and a series of outside summer internships, including one at the Federal Reserve and this summer, a research position at Cornell University. Javon said: "Accumu-

lation of knowledge is the accumulation of power, and knowledge can be acquired in multiple ways, not necessarily just in a classroom. And to what Shawon was saying earlier, the opportunities that college provides that you may not necessarily get elsewhere, like study abroad opportunities and the opportunity to meet people from various socioeconomic classes—you learn from these people, you accumulate knowledge, you accumulate power, and then you can make your dreams come true."

A great teacher and the CDF Freedom Schools® program both made a big difference to Marvin Perry. As a fourth and fifth grader Marvin was in an all-Black male classroom, one of the first of its kind in Cleveland, with a Black male teacher who became a role model. He taught Marvin many lessons in and out of the classroom including how to tie a tie and ultimately inspired Marvin to want to become a teacher too. Attending the CDF Freedom Schools summer reading en-

See WATCH, Page A12

Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



African Leaders Summit: The Ties that Bind

"I stand before you as the president of the United States and a proud American. I also stand before you as the son of a man from Africa. The blood of Africa runs through our family. And so for us, the bonds between our countries, our continents, are deeply personal."

— President Barack Obama

At a time when much of the world seems to be tearing apart in places like Iraq, Israel, Gaza, Syria and Ukraine, last week President Obama hosted leaders from 50 African nations at the White House for a three-day summit, described by the Administration as reflecting "the common ambition that the people and government of the United States share with the people and governments of Africa to leave our nations better for future generations by making concrete gains in peace and security, good governance and economic development." Themed, "Investment in the Next Generation," the summit was the largest gathering of African heads of state in our nation's history.

The President acknowledged the personal aspect of the meeting by referencing his father, Barack Obama, Sr., who was born in Kenya, as well as the painful legacy of the African slave trade. But the primary focus of the meeting was on strengthening economic ties between the United States and Africa in ways that spur African development and create tens of thousands of American jobs. President Obama used the summit to announce a shift in America's relationship with what he called "the new Africa." Where once United States involvement centered on providing humanitarian aid to Africa, it will now concentrate on expanding trade and investments that benefit both America and the African continent. While challenges of health, security and governance remain, the fact is that Africa has six of the 10 fastest-growing economies in the world. Its population is expected to double by 2050, when two-

thirds will be young people under the age of 35. Deputy National Security Advisor, Ben Rhodes explained, "Insofar as we can promote trade and investment, that is going to create new markets for our goods... and ultimately create jobs in both the United States and Africa. So this is about seizing the opportunity of African growth and development in our mutual interests."

In his post-summit press conference, the President announced that the three-day gathering had generated some \$37 billion for Africa's progress on top of substantial efforts that have been made in the past. This includes \$33 billion by U.S. companies in new trade and investment, a U.S. government investment of \$110 million per year for three to five years to help build the peacekeeping capacity of more than a half-dozen African nations to deal with militant extremists like Boko Haram in Nigeria and al-Shabaab in Somalia, a tripling of the United States' Power Africa Initiative goal, which now aims to bring electricity to 60 million African homes and businesses, and an increase in efforts by both the Obama Administration and American non-governmental organizations to combat HIV/AIDS and improve maternal and child health.

The President made it clear that "Africa's prosperity ultimately depends on its greatest resource — its people." None of the investments and trade agreements will matter unless African countries do more to promote good governance, the rule of law, open and accountable institutions, strong civil societies and the protection of human rights for all citizens.

Africa, America and President Obama are inextricably bound by the ties of blood and history. We applaud the President's commitment to bind our futures with stronger partnerships in economic development and in meeting the health and security challenges that affect America, Africa and the world.

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Evaluating Communication Within Your Relationship

Most of us tend to believe we're pretty good at communications. We talk to our boss and co-workers, chat with our friends, try to get our kids to listen -- all communicating, right? Communicating is something we all do every day.

But one place where many of us come up short is in communicating effectively with our significant other. Divorce statistics in this country are still extremely high and one of the common causes cited in virtually all fractured relationships is a lack of communication.

One reason for that may be that many of us never really learned the skills necessary to communicate effectively. In a meaningful relationship, communication isn't just talking. It's about sharing our feelings, emotions, experiences and expectations with each other. It's a bridge that connects us to that person we love.

There are various steps that can help build that communication bridge and strengthen a relationship:

- ❑ Learn to listen to each other, really listen without interrupting or defending yourself when your partner is speaking.
- ❑ Put yourself in your partner's shoes - that doesn't mean agreeing with your partner, but stretching yourself enough to understand the experience that's being shared.
- ❑ Listen not just to the words, but also to the emotions, the hurt, sadness, anger, loss, betrayal or other emotions that are being expressed.
- ❑ Ask for more information when something isn't clear rather than jumping to conclusions.
- ❑ Use "I" rather than "You" messages. Statements starting with "I" open up communication, while "You" statements usually are assigning blame and stifling communication.
- ❑ Be aware of nonverbal messages. Voice tone, hand gestures, facial expressions, posture, eye contact, even the distance between you, can all send powerful messages.
- ❑ Make time for significant discussions. Set an appointment to have a talk rather than suddenly starting an important conversation as you're walking out the door.
- ❑ Stay focused on the issue at hand. Don't bring up old hurts and problems. Your goal in effective communication is to develop intimacy, not to search and destroy.

Communication within a marriage or other close relationship can sometimes be difficult, but it is necessary if the relationship is to succeed. If you find that your relationship is suffering from poor or nonexistent communication, consider meeting with a professional counselor specializing in relationship counseling. He or she can help you in getting your communication bridge building back on track.

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

Permitting from A1

DPIE's first year successes and vision for continued permitting process improvements in the future.

"One of the campaign promises I made was to improve the County's permitting process," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "Since we created and launched DPIE last year, we have heard time and time again that our permitting processes have greatly improved. However, we know that we can continue to do even better and provide more effective and efficient service to both our residents and business stakeholders. The signing of MOUs with WSSC and M-NCPPC will help improve our customers' experiences, save them valuable time, and continue to show both internally and externally that Prince George's County is 'Open for Business!'"

On July 1, 2013, Prince George's County officially opened its newest department, the Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE). This 280-person agency combines under one roof the staff and functions that support the authorization and regulation of building, site/road, and utility permits, inspections and building licenses which drive the local economy and ensure the health and safety of County residents, businesses and visitors. DPIE consolidates at a single location the various functions associated with the County's regulation and approval of economic development and redevelopment projects within the County and positions the County as a national model for building permit processing, inspections, code enforcement, business licensing and environmental stewardship.

Governor O'Malley Announces BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport and Port of Baltimore Win National Security Awards

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced that BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI Marshall) and the Port of Baltimore, both leading economic engines in the State of Maryland, were selected as winners by Government Security News in the magazine's 2014 Airport / Seaport / Border Security Awards Program. Government Security News was founded in 2003 and serves an industry that includes physical, IT, and homeland security individuals, agencies, and companies.

"I want to congratulate BWI Marshall and the Port of Baltimore on this impressive recognition – their efforts to respond to our State's growing security needs is unmatched," said Governor O'Malley. "Since 2007, we've worked to make BWI and the Port more safe and secure for the public and for the thousands of men and women who work there. This award is acknowledgement of the hard work, dedication and collaboration across State government – truly a major accomplishment for the State and the people we serve and protect daily."

"BWI Marshall and the Port of Baltimore play a critical role in Maryland's growing economy, and I'd like to congratulate them on being recognized

for their commitment to safety for both Marylanders and the visitors who use these facilities to travel to Maryland each year," said Lt. Governor Anthony Brown. "As we look to the future, we will work together to ensure that all of Maryland's facilities are leaders in public safety and security."

A major security and public safety improvement at BWI Marshall, the Consolidated Dispatch Center Upgrades project, was recognized with two first-place awards in the competition: Most Notable Airport Security Program, Large Airports and Best Physical Security Information Management System.

The improvement project upgraded the BWI Marshall dispatch center systems for police, security, fire, and medical services. The new technology platform integrates and automates numerous systems in the Airport's consolidated dispatch center. The project scope included:

- an automated dispatching system;
- mobile dispatching equipment in all first responder vehicles;
- emergency call processing system;
- fire station alerting system;
- detailed mapping of the BWI Marshall facilities with emergency apparatus GPS tracking; and

- a new back-up dispatch center.

"This highly successful project provided our security and public safety personnel with cutting-edge emergency response technology," said Paul J. Wiedefeld, Chief Executive Officer of BWI Marshall. "The improvements to the consolidated dispatch center help ensure increased responsiveness and situational awareness. We are honored by the recognition from Government Security News."

The BWI Marshall project was a 12-month, \$5.2 million major information technology initiative to upgrade the Airport's consolidated dispatch center. BWI Marshall and the prime contractor for the project, Intergraph Corporation, were recognized in the awards program. The project was completed in 2013.

The Port of Baltimore was selected as the winner in the category of Most Notable Seaport Security Program (Port Initiative). It was recognized for a number of recent security improvements including:

- a remote-controlled submersible vehicle that secures the Port's public marine terminals and also has the ability to detect Improvised Explosive Devices on ships;
- an underwater intrusion detection system that can de-

tect underwater attempts to attack ships;

- Closed-Circuit Television of the public marine terminals; and

- the E-Modal Trucker Check which requires all companies and drivers transporting cargo to pre-register in an automated software system prior to arriving at the public marine terminals.

"Governor O'Malley challenged us to become one of the most secure ports in the U.S. and through these and other security initiatives in place, we have done that," said Maryland Port Administration Executive Director James J. White. "Through the help of our federal, state, and local security partners, the Port of Baltimore today has a network of comprehensive security initiatives in place that begin well before any cargo arrives, continues through its time at our Port, and right through the time it leaves our Port for worldwide destinations."

Both BWI Marshall and the Port of Baltimore were selected among many other public and private sector nominees. According to Government Security News, the awards program was created to recognize and salute organizations that have created, "cutting edge technologies that continue to strengthen the security of airports, seaports and borders."

Business Outlook Brightens According to American Society of Landscape Architects Survey

By PRESS OFFICER
ASLA

Washington, D.C., August 12, 2014—The outlook remains positive for landscape architecture firms, according to the American Society of Landscape Architects' second quarter 2014 Business Quarterly survey. The survey revealed a marked rise in billable hours and inquiries for new work. Hiring plans rose slightly from the last quarter.

Fully 84.7 percent reported stable to significantly higher inquiries for new work, an increase from 80.2 percent last quarter.

In addition, 82.42 percent indicated stable to significantly higher billable hours, compared to 72.2 percent last quarter.

Year to year, 85.17 percent noted stable to significantly higher second-quarter inquiries for new work, higher than the second quarter of 2013 (83.4 percent). Additionally, 81.32 percent indicated second-quarter billable hours remained about the same or were higher, a jump from the second quarter of 2013 (76 percent).

Of all firms with two or more employees, more than half (51.75 percent) said they planned to hire in the third quarter of 2014, slightly more

than the previous quarter (49.4 percent). Some 62.5 percent of firms with 50-99 employees will be hiring an experienced landscape architect in the third quarter of 2014.

"The survey indicates widespread strengthening of the landscape architecture industry," says Nancy Somerville, Hon. ASLA, executive vice president and CEO of ASLA. "We are very much encouraged by the growth shown during the second quarter and rise in hiring plans, particularly among mid-sized firms. Hopefully, these signs point to continued growth for the rest of this year."

The survey included questions related to ASLA's 2014 public awareness campaign, themed the "Value of Landscape Architecture." Some 12.57 percent of respondents noted that their firms collected statistical evidence that landscape architecture can add economic value to communities. These respondents added that their firms had been able to quantify the following items based on their landscape architecture work: increase in property values (26.09 percent), increase in the number of businesses near multi-use active open spaces (23.19 percent), and reduction in water consumption and costs (20.29 percent).

Lt. Governor Brown Addresses Horse Industry Leaders at Maryland Horse Forum

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Lt. Governor

UPPER MARLBORO, MD (August 7, 2014) – More than 400 leaders of Maryland's equine industry and nationally recognized experts gathered today for the 3rd Maryland Horse Forum at The Show Place Arena and Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, a site important to Maryland's equine history. The industry leaders charted future plans that will strengthen all elements of this agricultural sector. In his remarks, Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown recognized the value of the horse industry to the State's history and its future, outlined the progress that has been made since the last forum five years ago, and pledged support for the

group's continued hard work to bring all parts of the industry together toward a stronger future.

"The continued success of Maryland's horse industry is an important part of growing our economy and creating jobs for more Marylanders," said Lt. Governor Brown. "We're committed to working with our local partners and today's awardees to preserve the heritage of our horse industry while strengthening it for the future and supporting the professionals who help it thrive."

This year's forum, "Celebrating Our Successes, Planning for the Future," included facilitated breakout sessions in which participants discussed four key areas: marketing and promoting the industry; business and regulatory issues; land, greenways and going green; and managing the Maryland horse population.

The outcomes of the forum will be compiled into a comprehensive report, which will serve as a framework to move the industry forward. The forum, which is held once every five years, was co-hosted by the Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB) – a program within the Maryland Department of Agriculture – and the Maryland Horse Council (MHC) – a nonprofit organization. The forum was sponsored by 28 equine organizations.

"We are extremely pleased that such a wide variety of organizations and sponsors from all over the state helped us sponsor the event," said MHIB Chair Jim Steele. "We could not put on an event of this magnitude without their support." "The Maryland Horse Forum is a once-every-five-year opportunity for members of all aspects of

Maryland's diverse equestrian community to come together and explore mutual interests, concerns and ideas for the future," said MHC President Jane Seigler. "Past forums have resulted in numerous successful business, policy and legislative initiatives, and we anticipate a similar outcome this year. We are delighted that over 400 people have taken time out of their busy schedules to join us today. This gathering is vivid testimony to the size, strength and vibrancy of Maryland's horse industry."

Lt. Governor Brown joined Agriculture Secretary Buddy Hance, Deputy Secretary Mary Ellen Setting, MHIB Chair Jim Steele, and MHC President Jane Seigler to present the following awards at the event:

See HORSE FORUM Page A6

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

“Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles”

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (2014)
Grade: C-
Rated PG-13, a few crass jokes, action violence, general buffoonery
1 hr., 41 min

Long ago, in the closing decades of the 20th century, there was a children's cartoon, based on a comic book, called “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles,” in which a quartet of grotesque reptilian vigilantes lived in a sewer and fought criminals under the direction of a wise rat. There were a few live-action movies based on these characters, all of them (the movies) rancid.

Then, many years later, the people who were children back then had grown up to be in charge of making movies now, and they said, “We should make a new ‘Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.’” And everyone who belonged to their generation said “Yes!” while everyone who was 10 years older or 10 years younger said “Ugh.”

The ughs have it. The new “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles” is faithful to its predecessors in that it is loud, dumb, and aimed at 11-year-olds (and not the smart ones, either). Directed by Jonathan Liebesman (“Battle: Los Angeles,” “Wrath of the Titans”) with one or two bursts of energetic fun, this soulless franchise reboot stars game-but-inept Megan Fox as April O’Neil, the New York City TV reporter who becomes the Turtles’ confidante when they start enigmatically thwarting crime, Batman-style, in the dead of night. Her horny, befuddled colleague, Vernon, is played by Will Arnett, who seems like he’s making fun of the material rather than per-



ROTTENTOMATOES

The city needs heroes. Darkness has settled over New York City as Shredder and his evil Foot Clan have an iron grip on everything from the police to the politicians. The future is grim until four unlikely outcast brothers rise from the sewers and discover their destiny as Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. The Turtles must work with fearless reporter April O’Neil (Megan Fox) and her wise-cracking cameraman Vern Fenwick (Will Arnett) to save the city and unravel Shredder’s diabolical plan. (c) Paramount

forming it (and who seems creepy hitting on Megan Fox).

The Turtles themselves are basically interchangeable. One of them wears glasses and is presumably the nerd, and one of them has Johnny Knoxville’s voice, but you could assign most of their dialogue to any of them at random without changing anything. They’re all super-stoked teenage dudes who are always glib yet never funny, more like braying donkeys than turtles.

It’s one of those movies where everything in the plot is connected unnecessarily. The Turtles were mutated in a lab by a scientist, who turns out to be April O’Neil’s dead father, who worked with the guy who’s now the villain, and so forth. The vil-

lain is played by William Fichtner (that’s how you know he’s the villain), who’s often the most entertaining part of a bad movie but is disappointingly tame here. He needs the Turtles’ blood to make a drug that figures into his cockamamie scheme to get richer by poisoning the city or something. There’s also a villain called Shredder who is a samurai in a robot costume.

Product placement includes Skype, Pizza Hut, and Victoria’s Secret, I kid you not. And Whoopi Goldberg shows up for like two seconds as April’s boss, leaving the distinct impression that other scenes were cut.

For a movie about wise-cracking humanoid turtles, this one sure takes itself seriously. It

gets bogged down in the mechanics of its simple-minded plot, at the expense of things like characterization and wit. We also spend far more time with April than we need to; for a while, the title characters feel like supporting roles. You wouldn’t think a lack of Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles would be a problem in a movie called “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles,” but there you go. On the other hand, when they are on the screen they’re obnoxious, so maybe it’s for the best. One of them, or possibly all four of them, has a crush on April, and says upon meeting her, “She’s so hot I can feel my shell tightening.” So now you can think about sexually aroused turtles (YOU’RE WELCOME).

ADVERTISE! in The Prince George’s Post
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Horse Forum from A5

- MHB Distinguished Service Award – John W. Lee, Jr., DVM, Rising Sun, for his 10 years of professional service on the Maryland Horse Industry Board and chairing the Board’s Health Advisory Committee.
- MHB Distinguished Service Award – Joanne Richart-Young, Earleville, for her 13 years of instrumental service as an advocate for the equine industry. She is the first agricultural coordinator hired by the Cecil County Office of Economic Development.
- MHB August “Touch of Class Award” – Hope Birsh, Cockeysville, for her involvement in the equine community since 1985 and leadership for the industry as current President-Elect of the American Equine Trade Association.
- MHC Legislative Leadership Award – Sen. Joan Carter Conway, Baltimore City, for her instrumental assistance with the Maryland Horse Council’s work on several issues including anti-Sunday hunting legislation.
- MHC Legislative Leadership Award – Sen. Roy P. Dyson, St. Mary’s County, for his support of the Maryland Horse Council’s

work and the state’s equine industry.

- MHB Distinguished Service Award – MDA Stable Inspector Pegeen Morgan, Upper Marlboro, for her more than 30 years of dedicated service to Maryland’s equine industry.

The O’Malley-Brown Administration has made real and steady progress toward fulfilling the recommendations of the 2009 Forum. The accomplishments include:

- When Maryland racing was in jeopardy in 2011, Governor Martin O’Malley stepped in and mediated a short-term agreement which kept racing viable until the industry could take the actions necessary to return the sport to its past preeminence.
- These actions led to the development of a 10-year agreement between all stakeholders in the industry, which has become the cornerstone for racing both now and in the future, and provides the economic stability for stakeholders, including the tracks, the horsemen and the breeders to plan and invest in the future.
- The 10-year plan revitalized the rich tradition of the State’s horse breeding industry, which was severely threatened. Maryland had

lost nearly 80 percent of its stallions, mares and foals. The breeding initiative that was developed and put in place resulted in a remarkable resurgence of breeding investment and activity and has already resulted in increased farms and jobs since its inception. This trend is expected to continue exponentially in the future.

- Maryland is leading the way with its medication policies and reforms to keep the industry and its horses healthy and safe. Maryland was the first state to adopt a comprehensive standard policy and medication plan that is to be instituted nationwide.
- The Administration has consistently supported Maryland Horse Industry Board efforts to develop marketing strategies and initiatives to increase participation of spectators and riders in horse events and activities. These projects include: Horse Pals, social media development, a statewide network of 35 Horse Experience Centers, and historic horse trails.

“The O’Malley/Brown Administration has strongly supported all aspects of the horse industry and has demonstrated a significant commitment to strengthening it,” said Agricul-

ture Secretary Hance. “We’ve been able to make important strides with the partnerships we’ve made and the hard work of horse owners, farm operators, the farmers that grow and sell the feed and hay that horses need, pony clubbers, veterinarians and so many others involved in the day to day success of the industry. There is a great deal more to do and the work that goes on at this forum will guide the way.”

According to the latest U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Equine Survey, there are more than 79,100 horses in Maryland worth \$714 million at 16,040 locations where horses are kept. Sixty percent of the horses in Maryland are used for recreation while 40 percent are for racing. There are five racetracks, not including training facilities like Bowie and Fair Hill; 700 licensed stables offer boarding and/or lessons to the public; and there are eight steeplechase race courses. In 2005, the American Horse Council calculated that the Maryland horse industry has an annual economic impact of \$1.6 billion.

The agenda and more details are available online at: <http://mda.maryland.gov/horseboard/Pages/MD-Horse-Forum-2014.aspx>. For more information, contact MHB Executive Director Ross Peddicord at 410-841-5798 or ross.pedicord@maryland.gov.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

His Name Was Ahed Zaqout: Former Palestinian Soccer Star Killed in Gaza



All it took was a recording of Donald Sterling insulting Magic Johnson in a derogatory manner for the twenty-four-hour news world to stop on its axis. Now imagine if Donald Sterling—in all of his paranoid, racist fervor—had an army at his disposal and bombed Magic Johnson in his home, killing him in his sleep.

If such a scenario sounds like hacky Phillip K. Dick fan fiction as written by Mike Lupica, then you have not been paying attention to the dystopian, genocidal panorama in Gaza, where no one is safe. You are unfamiliar with the name Ahed Zaqout.

Ahed Zaqout was a 49-year-old sportscaster and television host in Gaza, a national sports voice for a people without a nation. Two decades ago, he was a soccer star: the midfielder for the Palestinian national soccer team. On Wednesday, he was killed in his bed by the bombs of the Israeli Defense Forces.

As Gaza sports journalist Khaled Zaher told Reuters, “Palestine has lost one of its best players, he may have been the best midfielder we ever had.”

Why the IDF was “defending” itself against Zaqout is a mystery. He was no Muhammad Ali, using sports to advance any kind of political cause. He was that most conventional and familiar of person in sports: the ex-star jock turned broadcaster. But in Gaza, what we may see as conventional can become political. Zaqout was someone whose voice, sharp wit, and trenchant analysis was a source of joy and escape for a people under constant siege. Providing escape to the trapped of Gaza was in and of itself a political act.

Was Zaqout actually targeted, or did he die in yet another pitiless IDF bombing of civilians? If we believe Netanyahu and his defenders—that the reports by journalists and the United Nations of indiscriminate mass killings are a fabrication—then it is worth asking, Why did Ahed Zaqout have to die?

Based on the description and reports of the bombing, it is doubtful that his was a pinpoint assassination. Far more likely, Zaqout was a victim of Netanyahu’s mania for total war—a mania that makes my earlier Donald Sterling comparison frankly insulting to Mr. Sterling. But if he was in fact targeted, it would be yet another example of the ways in which Israel has attacked the soccer community of Gaza as a way to choke any respite or relief that the people could possibly possess.

Soccer is about people feeling a sense of collective joy and hope. It creates scenes, like the ones in earlier this year—it feels like a lifetime ago—of thousands of people on the Gaza beach celebrating the ascension of their national team.

Attacking soccer is about attacking these very national aspirations. It’s the inhumane act targeting a collective expression of humanity.

Currently FIFA is debating sanctions against Israel’s membership in the organization because of formal accusations that it has used state violence to stunt the Palestinian national team.

Ahed Zaqout should be a part of this debate. Whether Zaqout was targeted or was caught up in an indiscriminate killing should be irrelevant to FIFA. One of their own was killed, and that has to count for something.

A critical voice in this debate is FIFA’s European President Michel Platini. Platini has been sharply critical of Israel yet also has championed the staging of tournaments there over international objections. Platini was also once a great player for the French national team. In a 1994 friendly match between France and the Palestinian national squad, Platini played across a fair-haired whippet named Ahed Zaqout. Perhaps he will remember his name as this debate moves forward.

I know it is stunning to think that FIFA could be any kind of force for social justice, but unlike the United Nations, the United States can’t unilaterally block FIFA’s decisions. And unlike the United Nations, FIFA could do something that would have teeth and that people across the world would actually notice. Perhaps in the face of the bloodshed in Gaza and in the memory of Ahed Zaqout, it will send a message that a country that imprisons another has no place in the world of international sports. If the politicians won’t act, then perhaps the world of sports must. After all, even Magic Johnson just cancelled an event in Jerusalem.

Calendar of Events

August 28 — September 3, 2014

Xtreme Teens: Cross Colors Skate Night

Date and Time: Friday, August 29, 2014 7-10 pm
Description: Come join us for a colorful, loud, and wild night on skates. Remember to wear your favorite mismatched outfit to compete in the "coolest outfit contest". Music for the night is by Skating Ryan Richardson.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10-17
Location: Good Luck Community Center
8601 Good Luck Road, Lanham 20706
Contact: 301-522-1093; TTY 301-445-4512

Xtreme Teens: Back to School Party

Date and Time: Friday, August 29, 2014 7-10 pm
Description: Start the new school year with excitement--celebrate it with a back to school party! Bring your friends; refreshments and games will be provided.

Please RSVP by August 26, 2014.
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10-12
Location: College Park Community Center
5051 Pierce Avenue, College Park 20740
Contact: 301-441-2647; TTY 301-445-4512

Power Slam Marvel-ACTS

Date and Time: Saturday, August 30, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm
Description: What does Art, Computers, Technology, and Sports have in common? They are all FUN!!!!!! Come participate in this new innovative program and learn how to use traditional comic storyboards to create computer generated sport strips, and animated videos. Pre-registration at Southern Regional Technology and Recreation Complex is required.

Cost: Free
Ages: 8-13
Location: Southern Regional Technology and Recreation Complex, 7007 Bock Road, Fort Washington MD
Contact: 301-749-4160; TTY 301-203-6030

Xtreme Teens: End of the Summer Cookout

Date and Time: Saturday, August 30, 2014 7-10 pm
Description: Hey teens, come celebrate the end of the summer with a cookout! We promise this night will be full of food and fun, so bring your friends.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10-17
Location: Berwyn Heights Community Center
6200 Pontiac Street, Berwyn Heights 20740
Contact: 301-345-2808; TTY 301-445-4512

Trains and Planes

Date and Time: Saturday, August 30, 2014
Description: Miniature trains, villages, tunnels, and depots spark the imagination as they bring history to life. The National Capital Trackers bring a fascinating and constantly moving display of model railroads to the museum.

Cost: Free with museum admission
Ages: All Ages
Location: College Park Aviation Museum
1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Drive
College Park MD 20740
Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

Seasonal Selections: Cold Meats & Salads

Date and Time: Sunday, August 31, 2014, 12 noon-3:30 pm
Description: Join the Kitchen Guild as they feature early 19th century recipes used when it was too hot to cook over an open hearth, during this FREE demonstration.

Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Riversdale House Museum
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park 20737
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

Doggie Dive-In

Date & Time: Tuesday, September 2, 2014 4-7 pm
Description: Come bring your pal out to the pool for our 2nd Annual Doggie Dive-In! Dogs must be friendly, social, and curbed before entering pool. Please note: proof of up-to-date vaccinations must be presented before entry. There is a limit of 2 dogs per owner. Register online at the PG Parks e-store (Residents use #13721 and Non-Residents use #13722)

Cost: Resident: \$4; Non-Resident: \$5
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Allentown Aquatic and Fitness Center Outdoor Pool, 7210 Allentown Road, Fort Washington
Contact: 301-449-5566; TTY 301-446-6802

Caribbean Party on the Patio

Date and Time: Thursday, September 4, 2014 7-11 pm
Description: Relax at a Caribbean-themed party with the vibrant sounds of the "Let it Flow Band!"

Advance ticket sales only.
Cost: Residents \$25; Non-Residents: \$30
Ages: 21 & up
Location: Prince George's Ballroom
2411 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover 20785
Contact: 301-341-7439; TTY 301-446-6802

Prince George's County Fair

Date and Time: Thursday-Sunday, September 4-7, 2014 (Times vary)
Description: Don't miss out on the County's event that draws people from all over! There will be live entertainment, attractions and other fun events for the entire family to enjoy.

For more information, please visit the official website.
Fair Hours:
Sept. 4: 4 pm-11 pm
Sept. 5: 5 pm-11 pm
Sept. 6: 11 am-11 pm
Sept. 7: 11 am-6 pm
Cost: 12 & up: \$6; 6-11: \$5; Under 5: FREE
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: The Showplace Arena
14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro 20772
Contact: 301-442-7393 or info@countyfair.org

EARTH TALK ... Antarctica's Melting and its Impact on Coastlines

Dear EarthTalk:

To what extent is Antarctica really melting and what impact might it have on coastlines around the world?

— Andrea Hutchinson,
Cary, NC

The Antarctic continent, roughly the size of the United States and Mexico combined, is composed of rock covered by glaciers some 16,000 feet thick. The glaciers form from fallen snow compacting into successive layers of ice, and they eventually move downhill toward the coasts and "calve" into the ocean as icebergs and eventually melt out into the sea. Antarctica and Greenland combined hold about 99 percent of the globe's freshwater ice.

According to the National Snow & Ice Data Center, the result of the entire Antarctic continent melting out completely would be sea level rise of about 200 feet around the world, which could in turn lead to untold devastation. While no one can be sure how hot things will get as a result of global warming, most climate models don't forecast conditions hot enough to cause the wholesale melt-out of Antarctica.

In fact, the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) reports that the East Antarctic Ice Sheet, which constitutes about two-thirds of the world's southernmost and iciest continent, is remaining rela-

tively stable, with some slight melting that is balanced out by new winter snows. Because East Antarctica rests on rock that is higher than sea level, it is unlikely to collapse. In fact, East Antarctica's ice cover may thicken moving forward due to predicted increases in snowfall amounts over the coming decades.

But on the west side of Antarctica, ice across an area roughly the size of Texas called the Amundsen Sea Embayment (ASE) is already thinning rapidly in large part as a result of surrounding waters warming up due to changing ocean circulation patterns. Many scientists believe that these ocean changes are happening as a result of human-induced global warming as well as thinning of the stratospheric ozone layer.

"This is an area that has always caused glaciologists concern, because here the bedrock beneath the ice is a long way below sea-level and the ice is only kept in place because it is thick enough to rest on the bed," reports BAS. "Thinning of the ice around the coast could lead to glacier acceleration and further thinning of the ice sheet. Essentially, the ice sheet may be unstable, and the recent pattern of thinning could be a precursor to wholesale loss of the ASE ice sheet."

Meanwhile, researchers from NASA and UC Irvine studying the ASE ice sheet report a "continuous and rapid retreat" of glaciers there and think that there



CREDIT: CHRIS VEES

Researchers from NASA and UC Irvine studying ice in an area of West Antarctica roughly the size of Texas called the Amundsen Sea Embayment report a "continuous and rapid retreat" of glaciers there. They worry that, perhaps as soon as two centuries from now, the area could melt entirely -- leading to between four and 10 feet of sea level rise around the world. Pictured: melting ice floes in Antarctica.

is "no [major] obstacle that would prevent the glaciers from further retreat." They worry that within a millennium and perhaps as soon as two centuries, the ASE could melt out entirely—leading to between four and 10 feet of sea level rise around the world—if moderate warming models prove to be correct.

Of course, we can all play a role in preventing such scenarios by reducing our carbon footprints. Take fewer airplane trips. Buy organic food. Walk, bike or take public transit to work. If you must drive, get a hybrid or electric car. Wear a sweater instead of turning up the heat. And

urge legislators to push new laws that limit greenhouse gas emissions by industry, utilities and other big polluters. It may be now or never.

CONTACTS: National Snow & Ice Data Center, nsidc.org; British Antarctic Survey, www.antarctica.ac.uk.

EarthTalk® is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of E - The Environmental Magazine (www.emagazine.com).

Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Baker from A1

County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "Throughout this nation, county executives are responsible for leading 56% of the American population and they play a critical role in protecting the homes, educating citizens and providing other essential services needed in their communities. Unlike mayors and governors, most county executives are not known outside of their local jurisdictions and regions. It is my goal to educate the public on the issues that counties face and raise the visibility of these important public officials who affect the lives of so many Americans."

The CEA's mission is to help county governments serve the American people in the most responsive, most efficient way by acting as a national voice for its leaders and representing its interests on all levels of government. From

coast to coast, county executives are being innovative and first in the nation with policy entrepreneurship and experiments such as regionalism and international economic partnerships at the local level. CEA aims to foster an environment in which such experiments can be nurtured and grown into effective government programs.

"Rushern L. Baker, III represents the best that America has to offer in terms of leadership," said Michael Griffin, Executive Director of CEA, "I'm sure that with his integrity and energy our organization will not only continue to grow and prosper but will be the leader for service delivery to the American people."

"I was very proud to have served as Board President of County Executives of America (CEA) and have the opportunity to lead this great organization as we have emerged from trying times for local

governments," said Montgomery County, MD County Executive and Past CEA Board President Ike Leggett. "I am delighted to turn over the reins to my very good friend and capable colleague Rushern Baker. I know through his wise leadership skills and vision, he will help move CEA forward to accomplish even greater success."

About the County Executives of America

CEA began as a league formed by county executives who believed that the job as the chief elected officer of a county was too important to overlook. Their initial desire to create an alliance that would assist county officers in executing their duties sparked a dramatic evolution that produced today's association. CEA's current membership includes County Executives, County Judges, Parish and Borough Presidents, City-

County Mayors, Commission Presidents and Chairs, and all county leaders elected at-large by the public constituency.

A long-time affiliate group of the National Association of Counties, CEA has operated as an independent organization since 1994. With its headquarters in Washington D.C., CEA brings together top-level local officials to discuss and determine policy on wide-ranging issues that affect local governors and the people they serve.

CEA also provides a voice at the national level among the various policy making representatives including members and staff of the United States Congress, officials in the Executive Branch at both the federal and state government level and various interest groups and associations based on Capitol Hill.

CEA is governed by a Board of Directors and selected Executive Officers. The Board President is elected and serves a two-year term.

MDA Launches New Ads for "Manure Happens" Campaign

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Lt. Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD (August 13, 2014) —The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) has launched a targeted information program aimed at farmers as part of its recently introduced "Manure Happens" public outreach campaign.

The end-of-summer campaign includes a series of four educational ads being circulated this month on social media and in agricultural newspapers throughout the state including Delmarva Farmer and Lancaster Farming encouraging farmers to consider using manure as a fertilizer and soil conditioner.

The ads describe the benefits of using manure to improve the soil, increase yields and save on commercial fertilizer costs. Farmers are directed to MDA's new "Manure Happens" web site for more comprehensive insight on the benefits of manure, including information on grants to haul and incorporate manure into fields along with tax breaks for qualifying equipment.

"With the adoption of new nutrient management requirements placing limits on manure use, it is important to open up markets for livestock and poultry farmers who may need to transport their manure to other farms that can use this valuable resource safely using the latest scientific techniques and conservation practices to protect water quality in streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay," said Maryland Agriculture Secretary Buddy Hance.

The farmer education campaign includes four color advertisements. The "Talk is Cheap" ad focuses on the benefits of poultry litter as a soil conditioner and fertilizer. The "Change is Good" and "Strike Pay Dirt" ads highlight the economic benefits of switching to manure as a crop fertilizer. The "Grow with Manure" ad encourages farmers to look into the benefits of using dairy manure on their crop fields. All four ads direct readers to the new MDA webpage www.mda.maryland.gov/manure.

The ads will run on social media and in agricultural pub-



PHOTO COURTESY MD DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

lications throughout August. Additionally, MDA will incorporate the ads into social media (@MdAgDept on Twitter and Facebook/MdAgDept) throughout the spring.

For more information, visit MDA's new manure management resources page at www.mda.maryland.gov/manure. Learn more about Mary-

land's sustainable policies, practices and programs at green.maryland.gov and follow us @GreenMaryland.

For more on the spring campaign aimed at the general public, visit: <http://news.maryland.gov/mda/press-release/2014/03/21/mda-launches-new-manure-happen-campaign/>