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PHOTO COURTESY OF OCEAN CITY PLANNER BOB NELSON.

Proposed smoking areas in Ocean City, Maryland, will feature red, metal 22-gallon ash cans on the beach and 4-gallon plastic receptacles on the boardwalk.

Ocean City Officials Prepping for Tobacco Restrictions

By MAX BENNETT
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS — Beachgoers in Ocean City, Md., will need to be careful where they put their butts next summer.

Smoking restrictions on the beach and boardwalk in Ocean City will take effect next year, and city officials are working out the details for the 2015 vacation season.

Ocean City officials adopted an ordinance designating smoking areas along the boardwalk and beach Aug. 26.

The restrictions will go into effect May 1, but city staffers need to scout potential designated smoking areas for presentation to the city council then develop a strategy for spreading the word to locals and visitors.

"We're kind of still in process of researching," said

Ocean City Communications Manager Jessica Waters.

The topic will go back before the council Oct. 14, and will include a detailed plan locating smoking areas and a publicity strategy, officials said.

Ocean City Planner Bob Nelson laid out the smoking area logistics at the Aug. 26 meeting.

Beach smoking areas will be 50 feet east of either the boardwalk or the toe of the estab-

lished dune and will feature a red, metal, 22-gallon can clearly marked for smokers' use.

On the boardwalk, designated smoking areas will have a 4-gallon plastic receptacle with signage stating the area is for smoking.

Waters said it's important to have areas for smokers and non-smokers.

See TOBACCO Page A3

PG County Begins Application Process for the Local Development Council

Members to provide consultation on various aspects of the new gaming facility at National Harbor

By PRESS OFFICER
County Executive's Office

Upper Marlboro, MD — On September 10th, Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III announced the opening of the application process for persons interested in serving on the Prince George's County Local Development Council, a body of citizens and elected officials that will advise the County on matters related to

the MGM National Harbor gaming facility.

"The Local Development Council ensures that the County hears the input of citizens, businesses and institutions on what matters most to the communities in immediate proximity to MGM National Harbor," said Baker. "I look forward to selecting individuals—in consultation

See COUNCIL Page A3

Maryland Casinos Generate \$80.6 Million in Revenue During August

By PRESS OFFICER
County Executive's Office

(Baltimore) — The Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency today announced August 2014 revenue numbers for the state's five casinos — Hollywood Casino Perryville in Cecil County, Horseshoe Casino Baltimore in Baltimore City, Casino at Ocean Downs in Worcester County, Maryland Live Casino in Anne Arundel County, and Rocky Gap Casino Resort in Allegany County. August 2014's combined statewide revenue totaled \$80,615,570.75.

Hollywood Casino Perryville generated \$7,354,381 from both slot machines and table games in August. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$175.44 for slot machines, \$2,478.08 for banking table games and \$434.54 for non-banking table games. Hollywood Casino's August 2014 revenue decreased by \$326,136, or 4.25%, from August 2013. Hollywood Casino Perryville

See CASINO Page A5

Goodwill® Signs 27,846 sf Lease in Prince George's County

By LARRY LICHTENAUER
Lawrence Howard & Assoc., Inc.

COLUMBIA, MD — NAI KLN B has brokered a 27,846 square foot lease with Goodwill of Greater Washington (Goodwill) for warehouse and distribution space at 8030-8050 Cryden Way, in the Forestville section of Prince George's County. Spence Daw of NAI KLN B represented both the landlord, Cryden Center, LLC and the tenant in this transaction. The new space will be utilized as a state-of-the-art warehouse/distribution center to service fifteen Goodwill retail locations situated throughout the suburban Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Northern Virginia region. Goodwill of Greater Washington intends to relocate from its current building in the Laurel area.

The organization, which operates a 15-store chain of retail outlets selling donated goods and products, expects to take occupancy of the space formerly used by the Department of Justice immediately. The single-story, 82,000 square foot building is situated within close



PHOTO COURTESY LAWRENCE HOWARD & ASSOCIATES, INC.

proximity to MD Route 4 (Pennsylvania Avenue) and the Capital Beltway (Interstate 495) and is approximately 12 minutes from the Virginia state line via the Woodrow Wilson Bridge.

"After conducting a multi-state search for a new location, Goodwill of Greater Washington recognized the solution to each of its specific real estate requirements in this Prince George's County building," explained Spence Daw of NAI

KLN B. "In addition to providing Goodwill with an expansive and flexible space that will enable the organization to stock fifteen stores with a regular supply of inventory, the building provides them with future expansion space as they strive to increase the capacity of their e-commerce division."

The Cryden Center building will house Goodwill's transportation, excess donations and computer recycling divisions, as well.

Established in 1935, Goodwill of Greater Washington is a diversified charitable agency that operates a chain of retail stores, custodial service, pest control, and grounds maintenance businesses. These operations fund Goodwill's mission to transform lives and communities through the power of education and employment, by providing free job training and employment services to people with disabilities and disadvantages.

PG County Council Approves Legislation Supporting SNAP Technology at Farmers' Markets

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Lt. Governor

The Prince George's County Council unanimously adopted Council Bill-37-2014 on September 9, 2014, legislation funding the broader use of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) acceptance and processing technologies at farmers' markets. SNAP offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, lower-income individuals and families across the country.

Proposed by Council Member Mary A. Lehman (D) — District 1, CB-37 will establish a "SNAP to Health" Program requiring the County's Health Department to provide farmers' markets located in Prince George's County with the technical and financial support necessary to accept and process benefits under SNAP.

Council Member Lehman says CB-37 will create a partnership with farmers' markets

to provide access to healthier foods for lower income individuals and families in Prince George's County.

"Some parts of our County have been declared 'food deserts' by the USDA. It is important that we provide County residents with greater access to healthy foods and provide a hunger safety net for those residents who need one. This bill will empower farmers' markets to promote health and wellness among residents in the County."

Currently, six of the County's 21 farmers' markets have SNAP acceptance technology. Under CB-37, \$100,000 in grant funding will be allocated for the "SNAP to Health" program in farmers' markets without SNAP technology. The funding will offset the initial cost of establishing a SNAP acceptance system and the administrative costs of managing SNAP fees associated with hosting an Electronic Bank Transfer (EBT) device.

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PG County Council Approves Legislation Supporting (SNAP) Acceptance Tech. at Farmers' Markets

"Some parts of our County have been declared 'food deserts' by the USDA. It is important that we provide County residents with greater access to healthy foods and provide a hunger safety net for those residents who need one."

Community, Page A3

The Invisible Achievement Gap: Students in Foster Care

A May 2014 agency letter has reinforced the obligation of education and child welfare agencies to implement these protections. California's experience shows us that better federal and state policies are essential but not enough.

Commentary, Page A4

'Governing for Results' Series Highlights the New EARN Maryland Training Series

The boot camp trainings were developed by EARN Maryland partner Maryland Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) as a result of manufacturers expressing frustration in their attempts to recruit and retain qualified candidates.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: "Guardians of the Galaxy"

Adventurer Peter Quill finds himself the object of an unrelenting bounty hunt after stealing a mysterious orb coveted by Ronan, a powerful villain with ambitions that threaten the entire universe. To evade the ever-persistent Ronan, Quill is forced into an uneasy truce with a quartet of disparate misfits.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

How is it that migrating birds are being negatively affected by oil extraction in Canada's Boreal forest?

— Jennifer Chase,
Fort Lauderdale, FL

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Towns and NEIGHBORS

Goucher College First in Nation to Launch Video Application Alternative

New Application Process Aims to Simplify, Equalize the College Admissions Process

By Press Officer
Goucher College

TOWSON, Md. — Goucher College announced it will be the first college in the nation to create an application option requesting student-submitted videos as the decisive factor for admission. Beginning with applicants for the 2015-2016 academic year, students can choose not to submit transcripts, test scores, and other traditional application materials. Instead, applicants can send Goucher a straightforward, two-minute video about how they see themselves flourishing at the college.

Goucher—a private, liberal arts college of more than 1,450 undergraduate students near Baltimore, Maryland—will add the Goucher Video Application (GVA) to its Common and Universal College application options.

While other colleges and universities accept or request videos to supplement their application processes, Goucher is the first to offer an option that will use a student's self-produced video as the crux of the admissions decision. The college admissions process can be confusing, complicated, and costly for many families. The Goucher Video Application represents an innovative step to demystify and de-stress the admissions process and create a more transparent application for students of all socioeconomic backgrounds.

"At Goucher, we believe students are more than the numbers and other data on their academic records," said Goucher President José A. Bowen, Ph.D. "Access to higher education should be about potential and not just previous achievement. With the Goucher Video App, we want to attract capable, passionate students who want a liberal arts education that

leads to solid careers and sustains a lifetime of learning."

As the first college to include study abroad as a graduation requirement, the Goucher Video Application adds to the college's legacy of innovation in undergraduate education. In addition to the video itself, Goucher asks students to supplement video submissions with a brief application form, a signed statement of academic integrity, and two works of scholarship (including a graded writing assignment).

Each application will be closely reviewed by an admissions counselor and a faculty member, and they will make recommendations regarding acceptance to a larger review committee. Production value will not be among the evaluation criteria for the Goucher Video App. Application reviewers will base their admissions decisions on the thoughtfulness and clarity of the student's response.

Applicants who want to be considered for merit scholarship will have to submit a high school transcript and will have the option of submitting test scores, although Goucher has been test-optional since 2007. Need-based financial aid will be available to admitted students who apply using the Goucher Video Application.

While the Common Application and the Universal College Application are convenient for many students, for others, these traditional admissions procedures may not showcase their true talents and abilities. Drawing upon recent research that shows more traditional methods of admissions favor wealthier students, and concerns about ongoing efforts to provide educational opportunity for all students, Goucher has selected this new and innovative approach.

"In the revolution in media and higher education occurring today, colleges need to use all tools at their disposal to encourage students to apply and assess their potential," said Nina Kasniunas, assistant professor of political science, who served as an advisor in GVA's development. "This innovation in admissions is a natural step for Goucher because we are looking for students who embrace the challenge of sharing their intellectual passions and interests through the power of video."

"We have always taken a holistic approach to how we evaluate students for admission to Goucher College," said Christopher Wild, admissions counselor. "The Goucher Video App will help us broaden our pool of applicants and ultimately guide qualified students to Goucher so they can explore their interests and talents and reach their full potential on campus and abroad."

For those interested in learning more, Goucher has produced several informational videos that explain GVA. Prospective students and parents can find more about the admissions process, financial aid, and campus life by visiting Goucher's website. Check out Goucher on Facebook, Tumblr, YouTube, and follow the college at @gouchercollege, #gouchervideoapp #morethananumber.

Goucher College is a selective, private, coed, liberal arts college dedicated to providing a multidisciplinary, international education, and it is the first college in the nation to make study abroad an undergraduate degree requirement. Empowered by rigorous academics, a close-knit, residential campus community, and hands-on experience in the world, Goucher students graduate as true global citizens.

Neighborhood Events

Prince George's Community College Lands Two Spots on CC Week's Top 100 Degree Producers Lists

This month, Community College Week published its annual "Top 100" list featuring the best two-year and four-year institutions for degrees in a variety of disciplines. Prince George's Community College (PGCC) landed two positions on this year's list with positions at #18 and #61 in categories that highlight the top two-year schools for minority students and African American students, respectively.

"We are pleased to be listed on Community College Week's 'Top 100 Degree Producers' list," said Charlene M. Dukes, president of Prince George's Community College. "Maintaining diversity in higher education and providing real learning opportunities and professional pathways for all students, from all backgrounds, so that they can achieve success, is why we are here. It's an honor to be recognized among this group of top institutions of higher learning."

Community College Week's "Top 100 Degree Producers" List is available to view online. To review PGCC's listings click here, and visit www.pgcc.edu for information about the college and its programs.

About Prince George's Community College

Named a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance designated by the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security (2010-2015), Prince George's Community College (PGCC) provides high quality education and training for the progressive and career-oriented residents of Prince George's County. From new high school graduates and career seekers, to more seasoned professionals and senior citizens looking to enhance their skillsets, PGCC comprises students representing a wide range of ages, backgrounds and goals. Serving more than 44,000 individuals annually, the college is the first choice for higher education for residents of Prince George's County. Collaborative partnerships, responsive degree and training programs, and a commitment to student success enables PGCC to address diverse education and workforce development demands. For more information, visit the college website at www.pgcc.edu.

Community Members Support of Prince George's County District 2 Candidate for Board of Education

Volunteers Canvassed Throughout Labor Day Weekend in Greenbelt and Participated in Greenbelt Parade Along with Candidate, Efforts to Continue Until November

(College Park, MD) Following a successful campaign launch in late Spring to promote candidate Lupi Grady's vision of stronger Prince George's County schools that create vibrant communities, the Friends for Lupi campaign heightened its canvassing efforts during Labor Day weekend in support of Grady's candidacy for the Prince George's Board of Education District 2 seat. To date, Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker, Senator Paul Pinsky (District 22) and Senator James Rosapepe (District 21) have endorsed candidate Grady's campaign.

The Labor Day weekend efforts included door knocking

by volunteers and Candidate Grady in Greenbelt neighborhoods on Saturday, August 30, and Sunday, August 31. In addition, Candidate Grady and Friends for Lupi members participated in the Annual Greenbelt Parade on Labor Day, drawing nearly 30 supporters including children to walk along the parade route.

Canvassing efforts will continue weekly until November and they will include visiting all of District 2 municipalities.

The Friends for Lupi campaign is an all-volunteer effort dedicated to getting candidate Grady elected as new board member for District 2 of Prince George's County Board of Education.

Candidate Grady is an engaged Prince George's County resident and a proud parent of two children in the school system. Inspired by her children and fueled to meet the educational needs of all District 2 students, candidate Grady is vested in securing optimal education. Already working to strengthen the Prince George's County educational system through her community work as an appointed member of Prince George's County Commission of Education Excellence, candidate Grady seeks to further her vision of stronger schools that create a more vibrant community by ensuring retention of qualified teachers, engaging parents and elevating their voices, creating viable solutions to current educational system challenges and working collaboratively with families, community leaders, parents, teachers and board members. Candidate Grady has 20 years of experience creating, implementing and leading youth and community programs. She understands the meaning of educational success because of firsthand experience. Of Salvadorian origin, she became the first in her family to graduate from college also gaining a Master's in Curriculum Instruction. For more information visit: <http://www.lupigrady.com>

Board of Public Works Approves \$506,183 in Agricultural Cost-Share Grants

ANNAPOLIS, MD — The Board of Public Works today approved \$506,183 in Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share grants, which help farmers install best management practices that significantly reduce nutrient runoff in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and accelerate Bay restoration. The O'Malley-Brown Administration has supported more farmer pollution reduction projects cost-share program than any other administration in the nearly three decades since the program began.

The Board approved grants for 71 projects in 14 counties that will prevent soil erosion, manage nutrient pollution and safeguard water quality in streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. Together, these projects will prevent 3,789.54 pounds of nitrogen, 1,779.46 pounds of phosphorus, and 1,760.10 tons of soil from entering the Bay and its tributaries. These projects are funded by state general obligation bonds.

"Our farmers are true partners in protecting our natural resources, and Maryland continues

to support their efforts by providing grants to install proven conservation measures and innovative, state-of-the-art practices," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "Working together, we can ensure a smart, green and growing environment for future generations, preserve open space, and maintain the rich agricultural heritage of our State."

For the past 28 years, the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program has been providing farmers with grants to cover up to 87.5 percent of the cost to install conservation measures known as best management practices (BMPs) on their farms to prevent soil erosion, manage nutrients and safeguard water quality in streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay.

Since the program started in 1984, farmers have installed 21,900 water quality projects. The average lifespan of a BMP is 10 to 15 years. Over the last 15 years, farmers spent \$15.8 million of their own money to match \$72.8 million in state cost share to install more than 10,800 water quality projects (not including annual practices like planting cover crops). Installation of agricultural BMPs on farmland is a key feature of Maryland's recent plan submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to reduce nutrient pollution in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Grassed waterways constructed to prevent gully erosion in farm fields, streamside buffers of grasses, trees planted to filter sediment and farm runoff, and animal waste management systems constructed to help farmers safely handle and store manure resources are among more than 30 BMPs currently eligible for MACS grants. For a summary of Maryland Agricultural Cost Share Program Grants by County for Sept. 03, 2014, visit: www.mda.maryland.gov/documents/bpw_macos-09-03-14.pdf

Thompson Creek Window Company Ranked #12 on Qualified Remodeler 2014 Top 500 List

LANHAM, MD — Thompson Creek Window Company, the mid-Atlantic's leading home improvement replacement product company, has made Qualified Remodeler magazine's annual list of top 500 remodelers in the United States.

Thompson Creek is a family-owned company founded in Annapolis, Maryland by the Wuest family in 1980. The company has grown from its beginnings on West Street to become one of the nation's largest home improvement contractors while remaining a community-based company.

Qualified Remodeler, the premier publication serving contractors who specialize in residential and light commercial remodeling, selected Thompson Creek based on its significant and sustained success in terms of installed remodeling dollar volume, total years in business, industry awards, and community service. The Top 500 is the longest ongoing recognition program in the remodeling industry.

"To be recognized as one of the top remodelers in the country validates the company's mission of 100% customer satisfaction," said Rick Wuest.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday to Jane Perry, Lonice Carter, Osayi Omoregbe, Chidinma Makwe, Mariama Davies, Alhaji Davies, Ronald Jones, Pamela Stahl, Donna Cain, Norman Noel, Alexis Glee, Clarkie Kinard, Kirk Samuel, Beonie Pearson, Juanita Brinkley Hall, Idena Thomas, Karen Taylor, Curt Falby, Jo Stolworthy, James Dorsett, IV, Kizzy Savoy, Dandeson Panda (Dr.), Umaru Davies, Rebecca Mosley, Paul Jeffrey Kerrick who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating birthdays during the month of September.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Anniversary to Charles and Janice Moore, Jose and Daphne Rojas, Gloria and Wade Garrett, Rebecca and Ted Mosley, Evangeline and Ronald Crawford who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating Wedding Anniversaries during the month of September.

2014 YOUTH TOUR

During their week-end long study of the nation's capital, stu-

dents learned more about our government. These students met members of Congress and got to see our government in action. Four local high school students from SMECO service territory joined the tour.

SMECO chaperones Charlie Herbert and Natalie Cotton took Lindsey McFadden, from Gwynn Park High School in Brandywine, Maryland, David Maurer from Lackey High School, Jessica Gardiner from Mary's Ryken High School and Jadea Deahl from Patuxent High School to the 2014 Youth Tour in Washington, DC.

REVIVAL IS HERE

Revival will be at Clinton United Methodist Church in September. Rev. Dorothea Belt Stroman, is the Host Pastor at Clinton UMC. You are invited to attend services Friday, September 26, 2014 at 7:30 PM. The speaker will be Minister James Smith from Spring of Living Water, LaPlata, Maryland. Clinton United Methodist Church-Young Adult Ministry will render the music. Pizza Dinner served at 6:15 PM, before the service. Saturday, September 27, 2014 at 5:30 PM, the speaker will be Rev. Gerald

Elston from Brightwood United Methodist Church, in Washington, DC. Brightwood United Methodist Choir and Total Faith A Cappella Gospel Group. Sandwiches and refreshments will be served after the service. Sunday September 28, 2014, 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM the speaker will be Rabbi Neal Surasky Chosen Peoples Ministries. Clinton United Men's Choir will render the music at the 8:00 AM Service and the Mass Choir will render the music at the 10:30 AM Service. International Potluck Luncheon served after 10:30 AM service.

Church address is 10700 Brandywine Road Clinton, Maryland 20735. If you need additional information please call 301-868-1281.

NEW HOPE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Birthday greetings to Corbin Parker Toombs, Matthew Montgomery, James Wilkerson, Pamela Parker Toombs, Jasmine Pinkney, Catherine Watkins, Leisha Thomas, Alicia Young, Alice Brooks and Alexis Champion who are celebrating their birthdays during the month of September.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Under 26? Should You Stay on Your Parent's Health Insurance?

In their quest to land a job, any job, many young adults will sacrifice what used to be called "fringe benefits" to gain a foot in the door. But many entry-level jobs either offer no healthcare benefits, or the employee's cost share is prohibitive for someone barely making minimum wage. Add to the equation that most twentysomethings are in good health and rarely visit the doctor and it's easy to see why many will forego health insurance in favor of paying other bills.

But that's a dangerous choice. One serious accident or illness can rack up thousands of dollars in bills. In fact, over half of all personal bankruptcies result from unpaid medical bills. Plus, there's usually a tax penalty for going uninsured.

Fortunately, since the Affordable Care Act (ACA) rolled out, young adults now have more health insurance options than before. In addition to buying coverage through their employer (if offered), people under age 26 may also choose to enroll in their parent's plan, even if they're married or no longer a dependent, or to buy an individual plan through the health insurance marketplace.

If you're currently without coverage or want to explore better options, this is the perfect time to start researching what's available. Here's why:

For most employer-sponsored benefit plans, the open enrollment period to sign up for 2015 benefits happens in the next few months. Watch for communications from your own employer and ask your parents to do likewise if their company provides dependent health coverage. ACA's 2015 open enrollment period is November 15, 2014 to February 15, 2015.

With both employer plans and ACA, if you miss open enrollment you'll have to wait until the following year to apply unless: you're applying for Medicaid; you qualify for a special enrollment period because of a family status change (e.g., marriage, divorce, birth of child); or you lose your current coverage.

Another good reason to enroll in a healthcare plan is the so-called individual mandate, an ACA regulation that says most people must maintain health insurance with minimum essential coverage for themselves and their dependents or be subject to a penalty for non-compliance.

Certain people, like those whose income falls below the federal poverty line, are exempt from the penalty. But keep in mind that even if you opt to forego insurance and pay the penalty, you'll still be responsible for all your healthcare expenses. For more information, go to www.healthcare.gov/exemptions.

If your parent's plan offers dependent coverage, they can add you until you turn 26, even if you are: married; not living with your parents; attending school; eligible for worse coverage through your own employer; or not financially dependent on your parent. If they're already covering other dependents, there may be little or no cost to add you to their plan. Plus, they can generally pay the premium using pretax dollars if it's an employer-provided plan.

Other coverage options include:

- Those under 30 can buy a catastrophic health plan designed to financially protect against worst-case scenarios like a serious accident or illness. For information, search "catastrophic" at www.healthcare.gov.
- If you can't afford your employer's insurance and your income falls below certain levels, you may qualify for a tax credit that reduces the cost of ACA plan coverage.
- In addition, many states expanded eligibility for their Medicaid programs under the ACA, meaning you could earn more and now qualify for Medicaid. To learn more about subsidies and Medicaid eligibility, search "income levels" at www.healthcare.gov.



PG County Council Approves Legislation Supporting Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Acceptance Technology at Farmers' Markets

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Council

The Prince George's County Council unanimously adopted Council Bill-37-2014 on September 9, 2014, legislation funding the broader use of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) acceptance and processing technologies at farmers' markets. SNAP offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, lower-income individuals and families across the country.

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Council Member Lehman says CB-37 will create a partnership with farmers' markets to provide access to healthier foods for lower income individuals and families in Prince George's County.

"Some parts of our County have been declared 'food



PHOTO COURTESY USDA.

SNAP offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families and provides economic benefits to communities. SNAP is the largest program in the domestic hunger safety net. The Food and Nutrition Service works with State agencies, nutrition educators, and neighborhood and faith-based organizations to ensure that those eligible for nutrition assistance can make informed decisions about applying for the program and can access benefits. FNS also works with State partners and the retail community to improve program administration and ensure program integrity.

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and wellness among residents in the County."

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farmers' markets without SNAP technology. The funding will offset the initial cost of establishing a SNAP acceptance system and the administrative costs of managing SNAP fees associated with hosting an Electronic Bank Transfer (EBT) device.

Full Count: One player's hard-fought journey through the Oriole's minor league system

By Tim Curtis
Capital News Service

FREDERICK - Jerome Pena looks like a baseball player.

Listed at 5 feet, 11 inches, the Arizona native carries himself like the prototypical middle-infielder, like the kind of man who has starred on every team he's ever played for.

But at 13, he was cut from a travel baseball team and he's had to fight for every position since then, from youth baseball through several stops in the Orioles' minor league system.

"Maybe I just didn't understand why, but that was what kind of added a little fuel to the fire and the chip on the shoulder. In a way I'm kind of grateful and thankful for that," Pena said.

He's sitting on a bench outside the team's clubhouse on the concourse level of Harry Grove Stadium, the home of his Frederick Keys. His knees swing back-and-forth while the opposing Wilmington Blue Rocks take batting practice and top 40 music blasts throughout the stadium.

In a couple of minutes he'll join his teammates for dinner and get ready for the game.

Every time the conversation

turns to the field, the 25-year-old second baseman starts talking faster, like that will somehow get him out there quicker.

Pena's father, Frank, helped him realize that getting cut was an opportunity to learn.

"I told him that's how life is going to be when you get in the real world," Frank Pena said over the phone from Arizona. "I told him that's why it's so important to keep working at what you do. All you have control over is how hard you work."

Pena worked hard to get better and in 2006, as the starting shortstop on his high school team, he began to see success.

As a junior, Pena helped lead Cactus Shadows High School, in Cave Creek, Arizona, to the 4A Division II state championship.

Still, Pena received no scholarship offers to play Division I baseball. "You know I just love that feeling of when someone says you can't do it and you can," Pena said.

He traveled to Carson City to play for Western Nevada College, a junior college.

"I remember getting on the plane and leaving...right before school started and I remember just having that sick-to-my stom-

ach feeling and I was like 'Wow,'" Pena said.

He still misses his family, but Pena's never felt homesick again, he said.

As a sophomore in 2009, Pena again helped lead his team, the Western Nevada College Wildcats, to the semifinals of the Junior College World Series.

Pena was also recognized for his individual success and was named to the all-tournament team at catcher.

During the same season, major league teams sent him the questionnaires they send to players they might have an interest in drafting.

"When I got that first questionnaire I thought, 'Wow, I can do this,'" Pena said. "So from then on that's been my biggest goal that I have set for myself."

That June, he was drafted by the New York Mets in the 40th round of the draft, but Pena fulfilled his commitment to play for Texas Christian University.

At TCU, Pena moved back to the middle infield, playing second base for the first time.

He hit .313 with 11 home runs and 52 RBIs and once again found postseason success -- the Horned Frogs advanced to the

semifinals of the College World Series in Omaha.

Coach Jim Schlossnagle still remembers Pena for his smile and demeanor.

"He was one of those guys that always had a smile on his face and kept things loose," Schlossnagle said. "If he was having a bad day, you couldn't tell it."

He wasn't drafted in 2010. But Pena heard his name called in the 38th round of the 2011 draft by the Baltimore Orioles.

His father says he was relieved and happy that his son was going to get an opportunity.

"I think my dad was more excited than I was," Pena said. "He wanted to [play] himself and he couldn't do it himself."

Pena rose through the system quickly and reached High A Frederick just over a year after being drafted.

But now, Pena has stalled in his trajectory and he has been at Frederick for two years.

Some stadium employees enter from a nearby gate while Pena talks. They stop to say hello and he gives them a big smile.

See PENA Page A7

Council from A1

with our partners in the General Assembly and County Council—who will diligently represent these communities as we move forward with this game-changing project."

According to State law, a Local Development Council (LDC) must be established in each jurisdiction where a gaming licensee is in operation. This body, composed of 15 individuals, consults with the County on the development of a multiyear plan for the expenditure of local impact grant funds, reviews a master plan for the facility, and provides input in the development of a comprehensive transportation plan. In addition to three representatives from the General Assembly and one from MGM, the LDC will be composed of seven residents of communities and

four representatives of businesses/institutions located in immediate proximity to the facility.

Information on the Local Development Council as well as the application can be found on the Local Development Council Website. Applications may also be downloaded by clicking here. Questions about the application process may be directed to Jennie Nevin at JFNevin@co.pg.md.us or (301)-952-4724.

All applications must be either emailed by 5pm to LDC@co.pg.md.us or date stamped/postmarked by Saturday, November 15, 2014 and sent by mail to:

Prince George's County,
Office of the County Executive
Attention: LDC Applications
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Dr.
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Tobacco from A1

The group Americans for Non-smokers' Rights reports that as of July 4, 209 municipalities have passed smoke-free beach laws.

"All these beaches aren't going smoke-free because it's hurting their business; they're going smoke-free because it is helping their business," said council member Brent Ashley. "You're driving away more people by having it this way than by going smoke-free."

Ashley, who voted against the ordinance, wants Ocean City to completely ban smoking on beaches in order to guarantee pristine coastlines for visitors, and says the current ordinance does not reach far enough.

He likened not smoking on the beach to refraining in a baseball park or on a flight.

"A vast majority of emails I've gotten have shown support for a total beach and boardwalk ban," he said.

Waters said the city does not want to alienate smokers.

Ocean City officials have used Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, which had its first summer of boardwalk and beach smoking restrictions and bans this year, as a model.

Rehoboth Beach Commissioner Stan Mills fronted the smoking-restriction effort in the Delaware resort town beginning in 2011, and he was included in the Aug. 26 Ocean City council meeting where the ordinance was adopted.

"Stan was really impressive in that meeting. It helps to have a resource who has done this," said Waters.

Mills said the smoking restrictions in Rehoboth were generally verbally enforced.

"We didn't want a strong-arm approach," he said. "We saw education as a key."

The Rehoboth Beach Police Department issued about 300 verbal warnings and about four civil citations, Public Information Officer Lt. William Sullivan said.

"Most people were compliant," said Sullivan. "Naturally, because of the influx of seasonal people, not too many people know about changes. As time goes on more people will know."

Ocean City Police will follow suit in their first year of enforcing the smoking restrictions, according to Ocean City Police Department Communications Specialist Lindsay O'Neil.

O'Neil said the city will mainly verbally enforce the restrictions with the potential to issue written warnings and even fines, which can range from \$25 to \$1,000.

The department is planning an awareness campaign, along with other community groups, including the Chamber of Commerce and the Convention and Visitors Bureau and Department of Tourism.

"We are still working on spreading the knowledge," said O'Neil.

Ocean City patron Diana Georgius of Westminster said she sees the restrictions as "too much government regulation."

"Being in a room with a smoker is one thing, but being in open air is different," she said.

Georgius, an office manager at Spring Grove Hospital Center in Catonsville, Md., and a non-smoker, said while smoke smells bad, she doesn't feel it endangers her health.

The ordinance will not apply to e-cigarettes.

COMMENTARY

Barbara A. Mikulski United States Senator for Maryland



Mikulski, Cochran Introduce Bipartisan Resolution Commemorating 20th Anniversary of AmeriCorps National Service Program

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senators Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) and Thad Cochran (R-Miss.), Co-Chairs of the Senate National Service Caucus, today announced that they have introduced a bipartisan resolution commemorating the 20th anniversary of AmeriCorps. Since 1994, the community service organization has provided more than one billion service hours in communities across America. The anniversary is Friday, September 12, 2014.

"I believe that AmeriCorps is the embodiment of the spirit of volunteerism and service to our country. These members are unflagging, unflinching and determined to make a difference," said Senator Mikulski, a senior member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee. "When creating this program, I did not just want to create another government program. I did not want this to be another bureaucratic agency. What I wanted to do was capture the fervor, passion and dynamic qualities of a social movement that would bring people to arms wielding change. The work that AmeriCorps volunteers do gives me profound hope, because while one person can make a difference, together we can make change."

"Since AmeriCorps' creation 20 years ago, its members have provided vital services to communities and important assistance to first responders during times of disaster. I hope this anniversary will draw attention to this good work and bring a renewed focus to supporting programs that can make our communities better places to live and work," Senator Cochran said.

Senator Mikulski was one of the original founders of AmeriCorps. More recently, she led Senate efforts to expand and strengthen AmeriCorps and other national service programs through the Senator Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, signed into law in 2009.

The bipartisan Senate resolution — available here — recognizes the powerful and positive impact on families and communities that AmeriCorps members make each and every day across our nation. It 'encourages all people of the United States to join in a national salute to AmeriCorps members and alumni for 20 years of service to the United States on September 12, 2014.' It also 'acknowledges the significant impact and value of AmeriCorps members, alumni and community partners over the past 20 years and encourages individuals of all ages to find ways to give back to their communities and the United States through AmeriCorps and other programs.'

AmeriCorps, which is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service programs engage approximately 80,000 individuals each year in intensive, results-driven service at more than 15,000 locations across the country. In exchange for 1,700 hours of service, members earn a \$5,550 Segal AmeriCorps Education Award to help pay for college or pay back student loans. Since 1994, more than 775,000 AmeriCorps members have given one billion service hours in their communities. Interested individuals can learn about available opportunity and apply online by visiting AmeriCorps.gov.

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



Lessons of Ferguson, Part Two: Criminal Justice System on Trial in America

"I am sick and tired of being sick and tired." — Fannie Lou Hamer, legendary civil rights activist and co-founder of the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party

The funeral is over. The protests have died down. The lax and listless wheels of justice in Ferguson, Missouri are beginning to turn. Last week a St. Louis County grand jury convened to consider whether to bring charges against Officer Darren Wilson for the August 9 shooting death of 18-year-old, unarmed Michael Brown. As I have said before, I have never witnessed a situation more poorly handled than this one. While we are pleased that the grand jury has begun its work, questions of fairness in the St. Louis County criminal justice system and in the culture of policing in Ferguson continue to demand answers.

The latest slap in the face to the Ferguson community occurred last week when Missouri State Senator, Jamilah Nasheed, after initially being threatened with arrest, was finally able to deliver a petition with 70,000 signatures to the office of St. Louis County Prosecutor Robert McCulloch. The petition calls for McCulloch to recuse himself from the Michael Brown case because of his close ties to the police and previous questions of impartiality. McCulloch's father, brother, uncle and a cousin were all police officers. In addition, in 2000, McCulloch refused to prosecute two white police officers for the shooting deaths of two unarmed Black men who it was later determined were not advancing towards the officers. Some wonder if McCulloch's decision to release the video of a convenience store altercation involving Michael Brown was a blatant attempt to taint a potential jury pool. As of this writing, the prosecutor has failed to arrest or charge Officer Wilson who remains on paid administrative leave. McCulloch has vowed to stay on the case unless Governor Nixon orders him to recuse himself. Established legal procedures and the concerns of the Ferguson community continue to be ignored.

The heavy-handed, militaristic tactics employed by Ferguson and St. Louis County police in re-

sponse to citizen protests following the killing of Michael Brown are also a powerful wake-up call. While there were isolated aggressive acts by a few rogue protesters, the majority of protests and protesters were peaceful. Yet, the use of tear gas, stun grenades and armored vehicles was reminiscent of ugly police confrontations with citizens during peaceful voting rights demonstrations in the south during the 1960s. It is unthinkable that we find those tactics acceptable today. That is why last week the National Urban League joined a coalition of more than a dozen national civil rights organizations in issuing "A Unified Statement to Promote Reform and Stop Police Abuse." Our statement proposes a number of police reforms in Ferguson and elsewhere that are designed to ensure a greater reliance on community policing and that police departments are more reflective of the racial, ethnic and gender diversity of the communities they serve. These reforms include:

- An independent and comprehensive federal investigation by the Department of Justice of the fatal shooting of Michael Brown
- A comprehensive federal review and reporting of excessive use of force generally against youth and people of color and the development of national use of force standards
- The universal use of dash cameras in police vehicles and police officer body-worn cameras
- Concrete steps to ensure that federal military weapons do not end up in the hands of local law enforcement

Make no mistake about it — in the wake of the killing of Michael Brown, the criminal justice system in America is on trial. Despite the tremendous civil rights progress we have made over the past 50 years, we will never truly "overcome" until we honestly acknowledge and address the insidious vestiges of racial segregation and dehumanization that remain in this country, and unfortunately, in law enforcement.

To view the entire list of proposed police reforms, visit <http://nul.iamempowered.com/content/unified-statement-action-promote-reform-and-stop-police-abuse>

Memorial Peace Cross

The Memorial Peace Cross is an area landmark that has become synonymous with the historic town of Bladensburg.

The Snyder-Farmer Post of the American Legion of Hyattsville erected the forty foot cross of cement and marble to recall the forty-nine men of Prince George's County who died in World War I.

The first enlisted man from Prince George's to die in the line of duty (WWI) was George B. Farmer.

The cross was dedicated on July 13, 1925, by the American Legion.

A bronze tablet at the base of the monument contains the unforgettable words of Woodrow Wilson: The right is more precious than the peace; we shall fight for the things we have always carried nearest our hearts; to such a task we dedicate ourselves.

At the base of the monument are the words, Valor, Endurance,



Open to the Public

Courage, Devotion. At its heart, the cross bears a great gold star.

The cross towers above the convergence of Baltimore Av-

enue, Bladensburg Road and Annapolis Rd. The Memorial is also situated near the WWII, Korean and Vietnam Memorials for those who gave the supreme sacrifice in Prince George's County for our Country.

The memorial has endured alot in it's time including major floods from the nearby river.

Due to it's location at a major roadway junction, pollution and weather have shown some signs of wear to the Memorial. Fortunately, the memorial is maintained regularly and has had some major restoration and repair.

The site is a major landmark in the Maryland, District of Columbia, Bladensburg basin.

But most important of all, is the fact it's memorializes those who made the supreme sacrifice in the Big One, (Over Their World War I. Let us not forget!

Child Watch by Marion Wright Edelman



The Invisible Achievement Gap: Students in Foster Care

Across the country it's back to school time. I hope it is a year full of promise and not disappointment and added stress for all children—especially those most vulnerable. I also hope this school year begins with a renewed commitment by all teachers and school administrators to help every child succeed. Every year too many children don't get the respect and extra help they need to reach their full potential. Children of color, poor children, English learners, and children with disabilities are especially likely to be left behind. And there is another group of children—those in foster care—whose special needs too often are ignored. Many school districts do not even know which students are in foster care and are not tracking their performance. So now I am grateful that in California findings about educational outcomes for public school students in foster care have been well documented in a 2013 study by The Center for the Future of Teaching & Learning at West Ed commissioned by the Stuart Foundation and a 2014 follow-up report by The Center and the California Child Welfare Indicators Project linking student outcomes to their foster care experiences. They found the odds against foster student success are worse than we thought and call this "The Invisible Achievement Gap."

While there has been a positive federal push to improve educational stability and success for children in foster care and some strong advocacy and good laws in California to protect them, these important data reports, a collaboration between California's Departments of Education and Social Services, were the state's first effort to examine and report educational outcomes for these students in every county. They found children in foster care:

- were more likely than other students to change schools during the school year. About 1 in 10 students in foster care attended three or more schools during the

year compared to about 1 in 100 of the general student population and their "low socioeconomic status" peers (those eligible for free and reduced-priced lunch or whose parents have not received a high school diploma).

- were more likely than the general student population to attend the lowest performing schools.

- had the lowest participation rate in the statewide testing program, making it impossible to accurately determine how they are performing.

- fell into "below basic" and "far below basic" performance levels for English language arts and mathematics at twice the rate of the statewide student population and performed worse than their low socioeconomic status peers. They performed similarly to English learners and students with disabilities in English, but did worse than all groups in math.

- had a lower graduation rate; 58 percent compared to 84 percent for all students, 79 percent for low socioeconomic status students, 65 percent for students with disabilities, and 60 percent for English language learners.

- were clustered in a small number of districts. Two-thirds were enrolled in 10 percent of the state's school districts. Identifying where these students are and targeting services there is critical to closing this achievement gap for California and the rest of the nation.

Congress and the Administration have acted to improve educational stability and success for children in foster care, but more is required. The bipartisan Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 requires all states to ensure children entering foster care remain in their original school if it's in the child's best interest. A May 2014 agency letter has reinforced the obligation of education and child welfare agencies to implement these protections. California's experience shows us that better federal and state policies are essential but not enough. Every state must gather and analyze data about students in foster care and how they are doing and then act quickly and decisively to help them. Cali-

See WATCH, Page A12

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Understanding Counseling Professionals And The Help They Offer

Many people have little idea of who professional counselors really are and what they really do. For most of us, our experience has been limited to the school counselors we've known, or the mental health professionals we've seen portrayed on TV.

Fictional counselors we encounter through books, movies and television seldom offer an accurate picture of the profession. Their clients are usually "crazy people" with serious mental and behavioral issues and the counselor's work seldom seems to help.

The reality, however, is that professional counselors fulfill a variety of roles, most of which have nothing to do with people being "crazy." The people most professional counselors see are simply ordinary folks facing problems that may seem overwhelming, or who are at a place in life where they're feeling troubled or unsure of what to do next.

Another misconception is that seeing a professional counselor means someone is weak and in need of being told how to live his or her life. The truth, of course, is that it's a sign of strength to know when to ask for assistance. And a counselor's job is not dictating to clients how to live their lives.

What professional counselors do offer is help. Most counselors, for example, base their interventions on the person's strengths, the things he or she is already good at, not on the person's weaknesses and problems.

The job of a professional counselor is not to make a person feel uncomfortable, guilty or ashamed. Rather, it's to assist the client in growing, in learning new things, and in discovering how to make changes for the better. The counselor is a facilitator and guide, someone who offers suggestions about helpful directions and possible actions, but not someone who magically provides answers. With a good counselor you should feel safe and comfortable as you discover for yourself the answers that will help you.

Counseling is a process that does change and help people. Whether it's dealing with a loss, relationship problems, work issues, child rearing, feelings of anxiety, anger or depression, or any of hundreds of other all too common issues, professional counselors are trained and licensed to provide needed help.

You can learn more about what professional counselors have to offer by making an appointment with a local counselor (check your phone directory for the specialties offered in your area) or through the ACA website at www.counseling.org.

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

'Governing for Results' Series Highlights the New EARN Maryland Training Series to Expand Opportunities for Marylanders and Manufacturers

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Council

BALTIMORE, MD — Governor Martin O'Malley visited Pompeian, Inc. in Baltimore to announce a new series of Manufacturing Boot Camps under the EARN (Employment Advancement Right Now) Maryland program. The visit is the latest event in the 'Governing For Results' series. The series highlights the O'Malley-Brown Administration's 16 strategic goals; today's event specifically highlights the goal to increase the number of Marylanders who receive skills training by 20 percent by the end of 2018.

The Maryland Manufacturing Boot Camp is the first EARN-funded initiative designed by members of industry to provide a mixture of basic employability and manufacturing readiness skills. These skills will be offered to unemployed and underemployed candidates to prepare them for jobs in the manufacturing sector. The boot camp trainings were developed by EARN Maryland partner Maryland Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) as a result of manufacturers expressing frustration in their attempts to recruit and retain qualified candidates.

"We're doing the things that work to get Marylanders the skills they need for the unfilled, in-demand jobs," said Governor O'Malley. "Improving skills training and workforce development is just one of the things we're doing to expand opportunity for all Marylanders so that we can lift people out of poverty and strengthen our middle class."

The EARN Maryland initiative is managed by the Department of Labor, Licensing and



PHOTO COURTESY THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY
Governor Martin O'Malley today visited Pompeian, Inc. in Baltimore to announce a new series of Manufacturing Boot Camps under the EARN (Employment Advancement Right Now) Maryland program.

Regulation (DLLR), and encourages regional workforce training collaborations among businesses, non-profits, institutions of higher education, community colleges, local workforce investment boards, local governments, and various types of workforce training providers. Supported by the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, EARN Maryland is a proven strategy for providing Maryland's employers with skilled workers. Among similar initiatives around the country, this approach led to skills advancement, career building opportunities and increased wages.

"Through EARN Maryland, the state invests in employer-led skills training initiatives in some of our most high-demand sectors such as advanced manufacturing. We are pleased to see the creation of the Maryland Manufacturing Boot Camp and the cultivation of skilled workers to address the needs of Maryland employers," said Maryland De-

partment of Labor Secretary Leonard Howie.

Baltimore based since 1906, Pompeian, Inc. is the largest olive oil importer and producer in the U.S. In addition to being America's largest national brand of olive oil, best-selling wine vinegars and a variety of cooking wines, Pompeian is the first brand to carry the USDA Quality Monitored seal on its extra virgin olive oil.

"As a proud Baltimore resident and leading manufacturer since 1906, Pompeian is excited to partner with EARN Maryland to showcase the benefits and great career paths that manufacturing has to offer," said Pompeian, Inc. Chief Executive Officer, David Bensadoun. "EARN Maryland is exactly the kind of support that we as a manufacturer need to support the growth of our business, and allow us to continue serving as the largest olive oil importer and producer today."

The first full Manufacturing Boot Camp will be held at Pompeian from October 13 to November 21, 2014, and other classes will follow around the state. EARN Maryland has invested \$455,000 in the statewide Maryland Manufacturing Boot Camps Partnership and training is offered to Marylanders looking to obtain new skills and good jobs.

The press conference today continues the 'Governing For Results' series — a statewide effort to promote the O'Malley-Brown Administration's 16 strategic goals and highlight Maryland's progress in the areas of opportunity (jobs and schools), sustainability, public safety, and health. Kicked off in early June, events will continue over the next several months and will chronicle some of the results-oriented, data-driven strategies the Administration is using to make Maryland a safer, healthier place with more jobs and opportunity for all Marylanders.

Casino from A1

Rocky Gap Casino Resort generated \$4,251,549 from both slot machines and table games in August. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$203.63 for slot machines, \$1,257.22 for banking table games and \$396.45 for non-banking table games.

Horseshoe Casino Baltimore generated \$5,745,633 from both slot machines and table games in August. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$292.18 for slot machines, \$1,666.77 for banking table games and \$951.94 for non-banking table games. Horseshoe Casino Baltimore operates 2,500 slot machines and 147 (122 banking and 25 non-banking) table games. The casino opened to the public on August 26, 2014.

Maryland Live Casino generated \$57,326,336 from both slot machines and table games in August. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$290.00 for slot machines, \$4,020.12 for banking table games and \$1,425.33 for non-banking table games. Maryland Live's August 2014 revenue increased by \$3,978,583, or 7.46%, from August 2013. Maryland Live Casino operates 4,222 slot machines and 189 (137 banking and 52 non-banking) table games.

Casino at Ocean Downs generated \$5,937,671 in August, and its gross gaming revenue per unit per day was \$239.42. Casino at Ocean Downs' August 2014 revenue decreased by \$38,772, or .65%, from August 2013. The Casino at Ocean Downs operates 800 slot machines.

Rocky Gap Casino Resort generated \$4,251,549 from both slot machines and table games in August. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$203.63 for slot machines, \$1,257.22 for banking table games and \$396.45 for non-banking table games. Rocky Gap's August 2014 revenue increased by \$240,703, or 6%, from August 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 — excluding Horseshoe Casino Baltimore, which opened in August 2014 — August 2014 casino revenue increased from August 2013 by \$3,854,378, or 5.43%. Visit www.gaming.mdlottery.com/financial-reporting/ for a detailed breakdown of August 2014's fund disbursement, fiscal year-to-date totals for the individual casinos and combined state total.

The Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency (MLGCA) is responsible for all matters relating to regulation of the state's casinos. In this regulatory role, the agency oversees all internal controls, auditing, security, surveillance, background investigation, licensing and accounting procedures for the facilities. To keep Marylanders informed and maintain integrity and transparency in its regulation of the state's casinos, the MLGCA posts monthly financial reports on casino revenue on its website, gaming.mdlottery.com.

New app Puts Power to Help Save Lives in Hands of Blood Donors

New Red Cross Blood Donor App offers features that make it simple, convenient and even more rewarding to give blood

By PRESS OFFICER
American Red Cross

BALTIMORE — The American Red Cross is launching a first-of-its kind Blood Donor App today that puts the power to save lives in the palm of your hand.

The Blood Donor App allows users to schedule blood donations, track their total donations, earn rewards and invite friends to join them on a lifesaving team. The new app is free and available for download now in app stores.

"The Red Cross Blood Donor App is a new way to help meet the constant need for blood," said Linda Voss, CEO for the Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Blood Services Region. "The app makes it easier, faster and more convenient for users to schedule and manage their donation appointments, track the lifetime impact of their donations, and recruit friends and family to roll up a sleeve with them."

As the nation's single largest supplier of blood and blood products, the Red Cross is uniquely positioned to bring this cutting edge technology to blood and platelet donors. In addition to scheduling and managing blood donation ap-

pointments, other features of the app include:

- A blood drive or blood donation locator;
- The ability to sync a blood donation appointment with the user's calendar;
- Personalized "selfies" donors can use as they share their donation experience through social media;
- Special badges donors can unlock as they interact with the app, make donations and spread the word;
- A chance for donors to come together to form teams, tracking their cumulative impact and viewing standings on the Blood Donor Teams Leaderboard;
- Exclusive offers and discounts from some of America's best brands, including Shari's Berries, ProFlowers and 1A Auto, with new rewards added regularly; and
- Uplifting donor and blood recipient stories that show the power of rolling up a sleeve to help save lives.

The Red Cross has become a leader in putting vital safety information in the hands of people who need it during emergencies, with its award-winning disaster and preparedness apps downloaded more than 5 million times



over the past two years. The new Blood Donor App takes it one step further by helping people save lives through blood donations.

The Blood Donor App, along with the others, can be found in app stores by searching for American Red Cross, visiting redcross.org/apps or redcrossblood.org/bloodapp, or by texting BLOODAPP to 90999 for a direct link to download. Message and data rates for texting may apply.

Eligible blood donors do not need a smartphone to schedule an appointment to give blood. Appointments can always be made by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or by visiting redcrossblood.org.

How to donate blood

A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16

with parental consent in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

“Guardians of the Galaxy”

Guardians of the Galaxy
Grade: B
Rated PG-13, some profanity and vulgarity (more than usual for a Marvel film), sci-fi action violence
2 hrs., 1 min

If it weren't for the Marvel label and some minor characters teased in previous films, you'd never know “Guardians of the Galaxy” had anything to do with any superheroes. This is a sci-fi comedy about a group of space rogues of assorted alien races, more “Galaxy Quest” than “The Avengers.” (That's not a criticism, merely an observation.)

Directed with off-kilter mad energy by James Gunn (“Slither,” “Super”), it's a lightweight and very funny adventure about an Earth-born space scavenger named Peter Quill (Chris Pratt) who teams up with some fellow outlaws: sexy green-skinned assassin Gamora (Zoe Saldana), avenging hulk Drax (Dave Bautista), bounty hunter Rocket (voice of Bradley Cooper) — who's a rude, genetically engineered raccoon — and Groot (voice of Vin Diesel), a sentient tree who's only capable of saying “I am Groot.” Their common goal is to prevent a powerful artifact from falling into the hands of Ronan (Lee Pace), a space terrorist who would use it to destroy the galaxy, as one does.

So yes, despite the outer space setting and the lack of super-powered crusaders in tights, “Guardians of the Galaxy” does resemble the other Marvel films in terms of plot. There's always an orb or a cube or a disk or a sword or whatever, and some gravel-voiced villains intoning fiercely about what they'll do when they get it, and an epic-scale battle that levels a city's



ROTTENTOMATOES

From Marvel, the studio that brought you the global blockbuster franchises of Iron Man, Thor, Captain America and The Avengers, comes a new team—the Guardians of the Galaxy. An action-packed, epic space adventure, Marvel's “Guardians of the Galaxy” expands the Marvel Cinematic Universe into the cosmos, where brash adventurer Peter Quill finds himself the object of an unrelenting bounty hunt after stealing a mysterious orb coveted by Ronan, a powerful villain with ambitions that threaten the entire universe. To evade the ever-persistent Ronan, Quill is forced into an uneasy truce with a quartet of disparate misfits—Rocket, a gun-toting raccoon, Groot, a tree-like humanoid, the deadly and enigmatic Gamora and the revenge-driven Drax the Destroyer. But when Quill discovers the true power of the orb and the menace it poses to the cosmos, he must do his best to rally his ragtag rivals for a last, desperate stand—with the galaxy's fate in the balance. (C) Walt Disney

skyline. (Leave it to Marvel to make a film that's not even set on Earth yet still manages to include urban destruction.)

It's the film's tone that's refreshingly different, much more focused on laughs than any previous Marvel entry and possessed of a mischievous attitude. The screenplay (written by Gunn and Nicole Perlman) gives our quintet of rough-around-the-edges heroes many opportunities for tart-tongued interaction and bickering, eventually leading to working together, sharing the burden, being a team, and so forth. The

structure is familiar, but the dialogue is robust and snappy. Chris Pratt, blending his goofy guy mojo from “Parks & Recreation” with a scoundrel's derring-do (Peter Quill is like a sweeter Han Solo), makes a strong case for himself as an action star. He's well-matched by Saldana, Bautista (a pro wrestler with surprisingly good comic delivery), and the deliriously odd pairing of the tree and the raccoon, both of them scene-stealers.

Of course, the trade-off for being funny all the time, at least in this case, is that the stakes

don't feel very high. It's hard to square the insouciance on display here with the gravity found in the other superhero stories, where even wise-crackers like Tony Stark get serious when all of humanity is threatened. Lee Pace's un-campy performance as Ronan is intense and committed, but if Quill and the gang don't take him seriously as a legitimate menace, why should we? Yes, my complaint (if it is a complaint) is that maybe “Guardians of the Galaxy” is too frivolous, too cavalier, too much fun to have any heft to it. You should probably ignore me.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

The Major Problem With Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's Powerful Essay on Ferguson

There is so much good in Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's Time magazine essay about the protests following the police killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, that it almost feels



churlish to raise any kind of criticism. After all, here is a basketball legend, the all-time leading scorer in NBA history, the master of the skyhook, marshaling his platform to speak about poverty and class in the United States. Kareem even references the new book *Unspeakable Things: Sex, Lies and Revolution*, by radical journalist Laurie Penny.

Everyone should read his piece. People in the United States with positions of authority rarely, if ever, talk about class. And yet here is Kareem putting not just Ferguson but the whole of the United States directly under that economic microscope saying, “We have to address the situation not just as another act of systemic racism, but as what else it is: class warfare.”

Kareem says—and this is unarguable in my view—that if the 50 million people who live below the poverty line joined together, they would become “a powerful block if they ever organized in an effort to pursue their common economic goals.”

He talks about the rise in poverty and the ways the modern media and “the 1 percent” keep the poor at each other's throats. He even references how the mammoth success of dystopian teen fiction like *Divergent* and *The Hunger Games* symbolizes the ways that so many young people feel hopeless and helpless about their economic futures.

Thank you, Kareem, for writing about class. Thank you for writing about the ways the wealthy divide to conquer. Thank you for quoting John Steinbeck and Marvin Gaye. The entire essay reminded me of the famous quote that if the poor could be organized to spit at the halls of power simultaneously, corruption would be washed away in a righteous flood.

And yet... there is also a serious and extremely fundamental problem with Kareem's piece. This is first seen when he writes that making Ferguson about the “distractions of everyone's racial agenda distracts America from the larger issue that the targets of police overreaction are based less on skin color and more on an even worse Ebola-level affliction: being poor.”

Michael Brown was shot dead by the police because he is black. If he was white, no matter how poor, he almost certainly wouldn't have died. If that is not your starting point, then you are lost without a compass. Yes, Ferguson is in so many ways a “class issue.” But Ferguson and the death of Michael Brown is about racism. If we don't acknowledge the centrality of racism both in this case and in how racism is used to divide people, then the unity of the 50 million poor people that Kareem wants to see will forever be a pipe dream.

The problems with Kareem's argument come into sharper focus when he brings up the issues that “keep the poor fractured by distracting them.” He brings up “immigration, abortion and gun control” as reasons why poor people “never stop to wonder how they got so screwed over for so long.” Yet immigration and abortion are not “distractions.” They are about race, gender and, yes, class oppression. Immigrant workers are more likely to live below the poverty line than those who are native-born. If immigrant workers can be locked in a purgatory of unorganized, undocumented status and branded as “illegals,” then that serves to drive down the wages and political capital for all workers. Since so much of anti-immigrant rhetoric is built around anti-Latino invective, any kind of class unity will forever be illusory if fighting this kind of racism is not at the heart of how we organize.

The same principle holds true for abortion. The closing down of clinics, the attacks on Planned Parenthood, the fact that 87 percent of counties now have no abortion facilities, amount to an attack on the healthcare available to poor women, particularly black and brown women. If you don't stand up for the reproductive rights of poor women, why would they want to join your 50 million-strong movement?

The point of all of this is to say that fighting racism, sexism and anti-LGBT bigotry is not a distraction from building a united struggle but a precondition for building a united struggle. Oppression acts as a cancer on the solidarity necessary to fight for a better world. If Kareem wants to see class unity, then the people risking their lives in Ferguson should not be seen as people “fist-shaking for a racial agenda” but instead as the brave souls on the front lines in the fight for a better world: a world where people aren't shot dead by cops because of the color of their skin. Kareem wants to see solidarity. It starts with solidarity with the people in the streets of Ferguson. It starts by arguing explicitly with white workers that their sympathies should lie with the people of Ferguson and not the politicians or the police. With one voice, we need to say that the real looters are on Wall Street, and without justice there can never be peace.

A Majority of Americans Haven't Practiced Emergency Preparedness

America's PrepareAthon! Campaign Offers Specific Actions To Prepare For A Disaster

(NAPSI)—A recent survey conducted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) found that nearly 70 percent of Americans have not participated in a preparedness drill or exercise, aside from a fire drill, at their workplace, school or home in the past two years.

Knowing what to do in the event of a disaster or emergency is the message of the America's PrepareAthon!, a nationwide grassroots campaign for action to increase community preparedness and resilience through hazard-specific drills, group discussions, and exercises. The campaign offers easy-to-implement preparedness guides, checklists, and resources to help individuals, organizations, and whole communities practice the simple, specific actions they can take for emergencies and the types of disasters that are relevant to their area. September is National Preparedness Month and a reminder that we must take action to prepare for the types of emergencies that could affect us where we live, work, learn, and worship.

What You Can Do

1. Sign up for local text alerts and warnings and download weather apps to your smartphone. Stay aware of worsening weather conditions. Visit www.ready.gov/prepare and download Be Smart: Know Your Alerts and Warnings to learn how to search for local alerts and weather apps that are relevant for hazards that affect your area.

2. Gather important documents and keep them in a safe place. Have all your personal, medical, and legal papers in one place, so you can evacuate without worrying about gathering your family's critical documents at the last minute. Visit www.ready.gov/prepare and download Be Smart: Protect Your Critical Documents and Valuables for a helpful checklist.

3. Create an emergency supply kit. Be prepared for bad weather by creating an emergency supply kit for each member of your family. Visit www.ready.gov/build-a-kit for ideas of what to include in your kit.



PHOTO COURTESY NAPSI

You and your family can take action now to be prepared in case of an emergency.

4. Develop an emergency communication plan for your family. Come up with a plan so everyone knows how to reach each other and get back together if separated. Visit

www.ready.gov/make-a-plan for communication plan resources.

Visit www.ready.gov/prepare for more information and ways to get involved.

Calendar of Events

September 18 — September 24, 2014

The Cheik Ndoye Group

Date and Time: Friday, September 19, 2014 8 pm
Description: Join us for a night of performance with The Cheik Ndoye Group! Cheik Ndoye, an accomplished bassist, has a musical palette of a rich fusion of jazz and world music, which reflects his Senegalese heritage and love of classic and contemporary American jazz. Other artists performing with Ndoye include violinist Karen Briggs, guitarist Dan Leonard, drummer Tosin, saxophonist Ted Baker, and pianist Ei Staples.
Cost: \$25/person; 10% off for Montpelier members & seniors
Ages: All Ages
Location: Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Road Laurel, 20708
Contact: 301-377-7800; 301-490-2329

Family Movie Night

Date and Time: Friday, September 19, 2014 8:30 pm
Description: Bring blankets and snacks as well as family and friends for a movie night under the stars!
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Mount Rainier Nature and Recreation Center
4701 31st Place, Mount Rainier 20712
Contact: 301-927-2163; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Fun Fantastic Friday

Date and Time: Friday, September 19, 2014 7-10 pm
Description: Come enjoy an awesome night of fun exercises. Activities include wheelbarrows in the gym, sack hopping, and passing the baton. Let's get active while still having fun!
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

Project America's Next Top Master Artist Winners Exhibition

Date & Time: Saturday, September 19, 2014 5-8 pm
Description: Our inaugural competition of Project America's Next Master Top Artist proved to be successful. More than 5,000 votes came in to crown Cheverly-based artist Ellen Cornett as the winner, who was awarded a solo exhibition. Celebrate with us and share the results of connecting artists directly with their audiences.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Brentwood Arts Exchange
3901 Rhode Island Ave, Brentwood 20722
Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-277-2863

Tasting the Past: Herbal Infusions

Date and Time: Saturday, September 20, 2014 2 pm
Description: Flavored vinegars and oils are the hot new trend, but using herbs to flavor your own vinegar has a long history. Spend the afternoon with the Kitchen Guild as you sample popular blends from the 19th century and learn how to make your own at home. Reservations required by September 11.
Cost: Resident \$10; Non-Resident \$12
Ages: 18 & up
Location: Riversdale House Museum
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park 20737
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

Free Family Sundays

Date and Time: Sunday, September 21, 2014 9:30 am-4 pm
Description: Enjoy our Free Family Sundays with a one-hour canoe, kayak, or paddle boat rental!
Please note: Children under 16 years must be accompanied by an adult.
Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Bladensburg Waterfront Park
4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg 20710
Contact: 301-779-0371; TTY 301-699-2544

Hispanic Festival

Date and Time: Sunday, September 21, 2014 12 noon-6 pm
Description: Join us for the 33rd Annual Hispanic Festival! Featuring a variety of fun activities celebrating Hispanic heritage, attendees will have plenty to choose from delicious food to live entertainment. Be sure to wear your countries' colors and to bring a friend!
Cost: Free Admission
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Lane Manor Park
7601 West Park Dr. & University Blvd., Adelphi 20783
Contact: 301-445-4500; TTY 301-445-4512

Fishing Boat Tours

Date and Time: Sunday, September 21, 2014 9 am-12 noon
Description: Enjoy fun fishing boat tours on a pontoon, while you traverse along the Anacostia River.
Please note: Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.
Cost: Residents \$5; Non-resident \$6
Ages: 11 & up
Location: Bladensburg Waterfront Park
4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg 20710
Contact: 301-779-0371; TTY 301-699-2544

Midweek Matinee: Curious George

Date and Time: Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:15 am & 12 noon
Description: Enjoy this great new musical starring everyone's favorite storybook monkey. Curious George's inquisitive, attention-getting stunts make their mark in Rome, where he helps a chef win the Golden Meatball Contest.
Recommended for grades pre-K - Grade 3. Curriculum Connections: Literature, Relationships, Family, Music.
Cost: Tickets: \$8/person, \$6/person for groups of 20 or more.
Ages: Recommended for grades pre-K - 3
Location: Publick Playhouse
5455 Landover Road, Cheverly 20784
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-277-0312

EARTH TALK ... ?

Dear EarthTalk:

How is it that migrating birds are being negatively affected by oil extraction in Canada's Boreal forest?

— Jennifer Chase,
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Each year tens of million of migratory birds "overwinter" in the Canadian Boreal forest, a vast tract of mostly uninhabited coniferous woodlands and wetlands stretching from Newfoundland to the Yukon. The area makes up some 60 percent of Canada's total land mass, and serves as the winter home for more than half of America's avian population. But environmentalists are worried about the impact of increasing "tar sands" oil development there and the impact it might have on wildlife populations continent-wide.

Tar sands are a mixture of sand, clay, water and a dense and viscous tar-like form of petroleum called bitumen. The bitumen is extracted from the tar sands mixture and eventually refined into transportation fuel like gasoline. The extraction process is especially "carbon-intensive" and generates some of the dirtiest fuel around, but its abundance makes it affordable as long as industry keeps turning up new sources.

A recently released report by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and the Natural Resources Council of Maine

(NRCM) concluded that almost half of the 292 different migratory bird species that overwinter in Canada's Boreal forest—as many as 75 million birds—are threatened by future tar sands development. Further, they say, bird losses in the hundreds of thousands have already taken place as a result of overzealous and under-regulated oil development there to date.

"The direct and indirect impacts to birds from tar sands development are immense," states the report. "Waterfowl and shorebirds land in tailings ponds that they mistake for natural water bodies and become oiled with waste bitumen and toxic elements." The result can be birds drowning, dying from hypothermia or otherwise suffering from the ingestion of toxins. "Toxins from the tailings ponds and other pollutants from tar sands operations leak millions of gallons of toxic liquid waste into wetlands and forests each day, further contaminating habitat," the groups add.

Tar sands development also contributes disproportionately to climate change. U.S. State Department analysis shows that tar sands oil is 20 percent more carbon pollution intensive than conventional oil on a "well-to-wheel" basis. The effects of global warming on Canada's Boreal forest are likely to include shifting food supplies, increasing numbers of damaging wildfires in forests, more droughts in wetlands and potentially dramatic changes in veg-



CREDIT: WILLIAM H. MALOROS

Environmentalists are concerned about the impact of "tar sands" oil development in Canada's Boreal forest and the impact it might have on wildlife, including many species of birds. Pictured the Canada Warbler, one of many birds that depend upon the region.

etation and the relationships between predators and prey.

Environmentalists would like to see U.S. lawmakers deny permits for the transport of Canadian Boreal tar sands oil—most of which is extracted in landlocked regions—through the U.S. in hopes of making future tar sands projects there too expensive to be worthwhile.

"Saying no to tar sands is a critical pillar in an effective strategy to protect wildlife from

carbon pollution," says NWF. Furthermore, given Americans' growing desire to get away from costly and polluting foreign oil, it makes sense to pass on adding dirty tar sands oil to the mix. But it remains to be seen if the Obama administration will allow construction of the controversial Keystone XL pipeline to transport the oil from Canada through the U.S. The welfare of millions of birds—and, indeed, our energy future—is at stake.

CONTACTS: NWF, www.nwf.org; NRCM, www.nrcm.org.

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Pena from A3

Pena entered August on a hot streak, going 11-for-24 with four extra-base hits.

He was enjoying the streak, while it lasted.

"It sucks when you're not swinging it well, so you've got to ride these times out, cause you know hitting whatever you're hitting, it doesn't come along too often where you're just on a tear, an absolute tear, so you've got to ride these things out and you've got to enjoy it," Pena said.

His streak ended that night. He went 0-for-4 with two strikeouts.

He went hitless with nine strikeouts in the six games that followed.

During the dog days of summer those struggles can feel worse, Pena says.

"This is when you get out of bed in the morning and you're hurting a little bit," Pena said. "And people don't understand the minor league bus rides, you know, eight hours you're sitting on a bus and that's never good for your back. You get up in the morning and it takes a little bit."

Pena's parents came out to visit him in July for the first time since 2010.

"I love when they come out, you always love when your parents are in the stands and watching you play and you get to go and make them proud," Pena said. "And just

show them all that they did for me and just give thanks back to them."

Pena's father is a big part of his career, helping Pena through the tough times.

"We talk about every game after the game whether it's good or bad," Frank Pena said. "I'm most proud that you wouldn't know that he's struggling because of his smile and big laugh."

When he's out on the field, Pena talks to everyone, after every play, every pitch and in between innings.

"When you keep it lively in the clubhouse and on the field you're going to play better," Pena said.

"There's always chemistry and when you have good chemistry as a team, you win a lot of

ballgames and you mesh a lot with your club."

His parents miss having their son around.

"We're anxious to see him because he lights up the whole place when he's here," his father said.

Players with Pena's profile don't normally make it to the show, but he's still out there working hard.

He goes to the gym every other day and preaches about the importance of breakfast.

"It's just for the love of the game you just have this competitiveness to you that you want to be the best, you want to make it, and when you make it you want to see how far you can go and how good of a player you can be," he said.

Cardin Meets Students, Employers at Civic Works' Baltimore Center for Green Careers

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of Senator Ben Cardin

BALTIMORE, Md. — U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), a member of the Senate committees on Finance and Environment and Public Works, today toured the educational facilities and met with current students and graduates of Civic Works' Baltimore Center for Green Careers. The center is helping to build an inclusive and equitable green economy by providing job training in brownfields remediation, home energy efficiency retrofitting and green space beautification, among other programs.

Senator Cardin participated in demonstrations of the hands-on training laboratory for energy retrofit installers, attended a career fair for recent graduates of Civic Works' brownfields remediation training and participated in a roundtable discussion with graduates, staff and supporters of the program.

"Green jobs are helping our communities and, at Civic Works, providing a fresh start for those willing to work for it. More than 400 people have graduated from these programs since 2003 and the program maintains an average job placement rate of 85 percent," said Senator Cardin. "That's incredibly successful, especially con-



sidering that 9 of 10 graduates had a history of involvement in the criminal justice system. What's more, by gaining skills in brownfields remediation and improving residential energy efficiency, the types of jobs done by the program's graduates enhance the environment for all Marylanders."

The Baltimore Center for Green Careers has a unique model that combines workforce development, social enterprise and demand generation. It

is one of Civic Works' key program areas; others include community improvement, workforce development, and education.

Civic Works builds partnerships between AmeriCorps members and the community. AmeriCorps members tutor and mentor students, create community parks and gardens, help homeowners conserve energy, grow food for low-income residents, rehabilitate abandoned houses, involve

families in Baltimore City schools, make homes safer for older adults, and recruit volunteers. Civic Works also trains Baltimore residents for employment in the healthcare and green job industries.

"The program's success shows what the power of partnerships can do for our communities," Senator Cardin said. "It also proves that we can build greener communities and strengthen our economy at the same time."