

# The Prince George's Post



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## County Receives More Than \$1 Million in Grants

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Government

Largo, MD - Prince George's County Government and the Chesapeake Bay Trust announced funding for 13 new projects to support stormwater restoration efforts throughout Prince George's County. The collaborative Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program was created earlier this year to encourage on-the-ground restoration activities that reduce nutrient and sediment pollution and community education activities that engage Prince George's County neighborhoods, faith-based organizations, non-profits, and res-

idents in the restoration and protection of local rivers, streams, parks, and other natural resources. In total, \$1,050,000 was awarded through 13 projects

"Prince George's County residents and local businesses alike are doing their part to help protect the rivers and streams of our County and the broader Chesapeake Bay watershed," said Adam Ortiz, Director of the Prince George's County Department of the Environment. "Through this partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Trust, we are able to implement projects

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## MD Is Nation's Most Improved State in 2014 America's Health Ranking

By PRESS OFFICER  
DHMH

ANNAPOLIS, MD - The UnitedHealth Foundation today released "America's Health Rankings 2014," which found that Maryland had the greatest improvement of any state this year. Maryland improved eight spots from 24th last year to 16th in 2014. Key areas of improvement cited in the report include increased immunization rates and reductions in rates of preventable hospitalizations, smoking, and binge drinking.

"Over the course of the O'Malley-Brown Administration, we have made better choices to bring low-cost, high quality health coverage to more Marylanders across our State," said Governor O'Malley. "Today's news shows a lot of improvement, but our work is far from finished. We are focused on strengthening Maryland's middle class, and helping to lift families out of poverty -- continuing to ensure that more Marylanders have access to

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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY MEGAN BROCKETT.

On January 9, the President proposed making two years of community college free for anyone who's willing to work for it. His proposal could save a full-time community college student an average of \$3,800 in tuition per year and benefit about 9 million students per year if they earn good grades and stay on track to graduate.

## White House Unveils America's College Promise Proposal

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the White House

Nearly a century ago, a movement that made high school widely available helped lead to rapid growth in the education and skills training of Americans, driving decades of economic growth and prosperity. America thrived in the 20th century in large part

because we had the most educated workforce in the world. But other nations have matched or exceeded the secret to our success. Today, more than ever, Americans need more knowledge and skills to meet the demands of a growing global economy without having to take on decades of debt before they even embark on their career.

Today the President is unveiling the America's College Prom-

ise proposal to make two years of community college free for responsible students, letting students earn the first half of a bachelor's degree and earn skills needed in the workforce at no cost. This proposal will require everyone to do their part: community colleges must strengthen their programs and increase the number of students who graduate, states must invest more in

higher education and training, and students must take responsibility for their education, earn good grades, and stay on track to graduate. The program would be undertaken in partnership with states and is inspired by new programs in Tennessee and Chicago. If all states participate, an esti-

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## Baltimore's Neighborhood Bars Remain the Community Meeting Place

By JOSH LOGUE  
Capital News Service

BALTIMORE - It's game day on a cool Sunday afternoon in Baltimore. Tavern owner Dan Macatee is sitting at the corner of the bar, sipping coffee and wearing a black-and-purple Ravens fleece under a white apron. Three wall-mounted TVs in his quiet Locust Point tavern show the Ravens are holding their own (for now) against the San Diego Chargers.

He's talking about the role his place, and others like it, played in the community 30 years ago.

"The neighborhood bar," he says, "back in the day when we first started, damn near every corner had its own spot. And the community -- people that worked in the community, people in the neighborhood -- it was a spot where they would come to find out what was going on in the neighborhood. It was sort of a meeting place."

An audit of the Baltimore liquor board last year sparked

controversy and a significant overhaul of the state agency, but life in the city's bars proceeds at it has, in some cases, for generations.

Most of those corner bars are long gone, but Macatee's place, Hull Street Blues Café, has survived.

Macatee bought it in 1984 when it was still called Buck's Place after its original owner, Charlie Krepp, who first opened the tavern in 1936.

Its clientele has changed over time, Macatee says, but Hull Street Blues has always attracted a blend of local, blue-collar workers and younger professionals.

"When I first moved to the neighborhood in 2001, it was very working-class," said Melissa Abernathy, a Hull Street regular who was sitting a few seats down the bar from Macatee, watching the game.

"To this day a lot of people live in their grandparents' houses, but over the years that's shifted. There aren't so many of those people. It's shifted so the newcomers to



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY BRANDIE PETERSON

Game day brings bar patrons together at Hull Street Blues Cafe in Locust Point.

the neighborhood like me are taking over the place....

"This has pretty much been my living room for the last eight years."

Since Macatee took over, his bar has weathered the manufacturing slump that killed the nearby Procter & Gamble factory, the rise and fall of the '90s tech bubble that followed, and the influx of new, younger clientele who appeared when Under Armour

moved its national headquarters a few blocks away.

It's still a place where people in the community gather, socialize, and even attend functions like weddings and funerals.

"Of course (that part of the) history of bars probably goes back to Revolutionary times," he says, "You know, to talk

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## Sidewalk Snow and Ice Removal in PG County

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the Lt. Governor

Largo, Maryland - With the first snowfall of the year, Prince George's County's Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE) wanted to make citizens and business proprietors aware that they are responsible for removal of snow and ice from sidewalks abutting their properties. Per Prince George's County Code, Section 23-150, it is the responsibility of the owner or lessor of a residential dwelling or commercial property to remove snow and ice from an abutting sidewalk within 48 hours after snow has fallen or ice has formed as a result of inclement weather.

If possible, residents and business proprietors are encouraged to remove snow or treat ice from an abutting sidewalk prior to the 48 hours to alleviate residual buildup on the sidewalk.

County inspectors will rotate through various areas of Prince George's County to identify trouble spots that could create dangerous conditions for walkers of all ages. If trouble spots are identified, inspectors will leave a door hanger to

"remind residents and business proprietors" to remove the snow and ice from abutting sidewalks.

If a door hanger is left, an inspector will return to the site the next day. If the sidewalk has not been cleared by that time, a violation notice will be left, which carries with it a \$100 fine. Thereafter, the site will be re-inspected every 24 hours to ensure that it has been cleared. If it has not, subsequent violation notices will be issued, each of which carries a separate \$100 fine.

As in all inclement weather conditions, if you know of a neighbor who is elderly or unable to shovel snow or remove ice from areas abutting their properties, please do the "neighborly" thing and try to help him or her. Local middle and high school students also could be contacted to assist, as they can earn community services hours required for graduation.

For more information, contact:

Susan D. Hubbard, Public Information Officer, Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement, 9400 Peppercorn Place, Suite 500, Largo, Maryland 20774, 301.636.2020, sdhubbard@co.pg.md.us

### INSIDE

#### Maryland Department of Planning Releases Guide Incorporating Economic Development

Placing Jobs presents a step-by-step guide to writing economic development elements, from crafting a strong introduction to analyzing fiscal impacts, and provides links to best practices in Maryland.

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#### Every Child Deserves a Fair Chance

Why do we choose to let children be the poorest age group in our rich nation and stand by as millions of children suffer preventable poverty, hunger, homelessness, sickness, neglect, abuse, miseducation, and violence? Why do we continue to mock God's call for justice for children and the poor and our professed ideals of freedom and justice for all?

Commentary, Page A4

#### Statements by Secretary Lew and Secretary Burwell on preparing for the upcoming tax season

Millions of Americans who get their health insurance through work are benefiting from the Affordable Care Act, and millions of others have signed up for the Health Insurance Marketplaces and received financial assistance to lower their monthly premiums.

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#### Movie Review: "The Imitation Game"

During the winter of 1952, British authorities entered the home of mathematician, cryptanalyst and war hero Alan Turing to investigate a reported burglary. They instead ended up arresting Turing himself on charges of 'gross indecency', an accusation that would lead to his devastating conviction for the criminal offense of homosexuality.

Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

How is it that antibiotics are being "overused," as I've read, and what are the potential consequences?

— Mitchell Chase,  
Hartford, CT

Features, Page A7

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### In search of County residents 90 years old or better

The Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation is collecting information about county residents ages 90 & older. They will be invited to a spring event. Special recognition will be given to centenarians—residents 100 years old and older—at the event.

Help is needed to find County residents age 90 and above. If you know someone who resides in the County, age 90 or older as of January 1, 2015, please share the information. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Send us his/her current age and birth date (including year), his/her address, your name, phone number and email address. Provide the information no later than Feb. 28 by calling a staff member at 301-206-3350 (TTY 301-446-3402).

An invitation to the Centenarian Event will be sent to him or her in April. To what address should it be sent?

### Jean Wilhelm, school cafeteria manager, dies at 92

Jean Agnes Wilhelm, of Maple Road in Morningside, died Jan. 8, at Georgetown University Hospital. She was born in Washington on April 19, 1922, the daughter of John Aloysius and Ellen (Murray) Hurley.

Her family moved from the District to Cheltenham and she graduated from Surrattsville High in 1939. She attended Strayer Business College for two years, went to work for Maryland Food Services, and was cafeteria manager at numerous schools in Prince George's County. She retired in September 1999.

Jean married Clarence Gilbert Wilhelm and they settled in Morningside in 1949. She was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Suitland, and enjoyed crocheting, sewing, traveling, bus trips and the Washington Redskins.

She was preceded in death by her husband Clarence and her sisters Catherine Meyers and Josephine Long. Survivors include her children, Margaret E. Hughes, David R. and George M. Wilhelm; four grandsons and seven great-grandchildren. Services were at Rausch Funeral Home in Owings with burial at Cedar Hill.

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

### EXTRAVAGANZA SUNDAY CASINO SLOTS FUN

It's time for a 2015 Extravaganza Sunday Casino Slots Fun to Midway-Harrington Raceway & Casino Slots Harrington DE Sunday, March 15, 2015. Bus leaves Park-N-Ride, Clinton MD at 10:30 A.M. and St. Philip's Church at 11:00 A.M. and returns at approximately 7:30 P.M.

Fun package includes a \$10.00 slot play rebate with a Full Buffet Meal. Oldies but Goodies, 50/50 Raffle Cost: \$40.00 Absolutely No Refunds. Pay early so you won't be left out. Purchase Tickets by March 8, 2015, Point of Contacts, Ruby E. Hinnant (301) 943-2816, Shirley A. Cleaves (302) 690-4260, Doretha A. Savoy (301) 233-3136.

### EVENING HIGH SCHOOL

January 20-22, 2015 students can register for enrollment by appointment only from 4-8 PM. Spring registration for Evening High School January 20-31, 2015. Contact the Office of Communications at 301-952-6001 or communications@pgcps.org

On January 26-29 register from 6-8 PM and January 31 from

### Remembering Kenny

On January 12, the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department remembered one of their own, Kenny Hedrick, who died in the line of duty while fighting a house fire on Walls Lane. He had just rescued a child from the house. According to their website: "We will honor Kenny today by practicing and drilling on our job and ensuring we are ready when we are called upon. Rescue Squad 27 is dedicated to Kenny and has already operated on a fire ground earlier today."

### Applause

Congratulations to County Executive Rushern Baker for being named one of the Washingtonians of the Year by Washingtonian Magazine. The nine 2014 honorees were celebrated at a luncheon Jan. 14 at the Willard Inter-Continental Hotel.

### Burns Night Supper at Darnall's Chance

Raise a dram to the life and continuing legacy of Robert Burns, a famous poet, composer and romantic. Remember the bard of Scotland and celebrate Darnall's Chance's Scottish roots with a traditional Burns Nights supper that includes a ceremonial haggis, whiskey, poems, bagpipes & more, on Saturday, Jan. 31, at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$50 for residents; \$60 for non-residents.

Darnall's Chance is in Upper Marlboro, overlooking Schoolhouse Pond. For information or reservation, call 301-952-8010 or email darnallschance@pgparks.com.

### The Governor invites you

You are invited to join Gov. Larry Hogan and Lt. Gov. Boyd Rutherford for a community food-packaging event partnered with Outreach, Inc., on Sunday, Jan. 25, at Howard County Community College Gym & Athletic Center, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia. RSVP at www.mdnauqual.com.

### Changing landscape

Local Motors, a tech company that designs, builds and sells vehicles, will open a new location at National Harbor in late 2015.

An aquatic center is planned at the Southern Regional Technology & Recreation Complex.

It is set to include a 16,000-square-foot indoor aquatic center with a warm-water pool for teaching and therapy, a larger pool for recreation and lap swimming, and a small spa. It is expected to open in 2017.

After 40 years, Nick Margaritas's Piano Liquidation Center on Baltimore Avenue in College Park is closing, the last piano store in the Washington area. This is sad indeed.

If you haven't driven into Washington lately, when you do you'll find the Capitol dome encased in scaffolding, part of a restoration that's expected to take two years.

### May they rest in peace

Twenty-nine years ago, on Jan. 28, 1986, the Space Shuttle Challenger broke apart 73 seconds into its flight, leading to the deaths of its seven crew members. One of them was Christa McAuliffe, "first teacher in space," whose first teaching job had been at Benjamin D. Foulis Junior High in Morningside.

Frederick C. Rummage, 83, former member of the Maryland House of Delegates, former executive director of the Prince George's County Educators' Association, and former mayor of Colonial Beach, died Nov. 13 in Montross, Va. Years ago he lived in Camp Springs.

Francis "Frank" Richard Cole, 77, a 1956 graduate of Oxon Hill High School and a tile-setter and mason for 50 years with the Tile Setters Union, died Dec. 18. He was a member of the Antique Auto Club and enjoyed going to his farm in Nanjemoy.

Marie Elaine Colarusso Higgs, 60, of Edgewater and formerly of Oxon Hill, a 1972 graduate of Potomac High School, died Dec. 15. She had worked in various positions with the U.S. House of Representatives for 40 years.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Mark Foland, Jan. 23; Claire Kennedy, Jan. 24; Kenneth Brown and Michelle Willis, Jan. 25; Father Thomas LaHood and Yvonne Garvin, Jan. 27; Sister Zion and Lisa Call, Jan. 29.

Happy anniversary to Ernest and Margaret Vilky on their 44th anniversary, Jan. 23.

served following the service. It is absolutely a FREE EVENT!!!! The Life Center is located at 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772. POC Shonnita McCall, nhfcancer-careministry@gmail.com.

### CLINTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Body Recall sessions will continue two days per week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The church is located at 10700 Brandywine Road, Clinton, MD 20735. If you need more information, call the church office at 301-868-1281.

### AQUASCO FARM

Aquasco Farm located at 16665 Aquasco Farm Road, Aquasco, Md. 20608 in rural Prince George's County has special areas set aside for Beagle training and specific regulations govern their use. The property is also managed for bow hunting in conjunction with land owned by Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Hours of operation are from sunrise to sun set daily. If more information is needed, call 301-627-6074; TTY 301-669-2544.

## Neighborhood Events

### Lottery for PGCPs Specialty Programs Open for 2015-2016 School Year

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) specialty programs is accepting online applications for the 2015-2016 school year until March 12, 2015.

All Prince George's County families can apply to a PGCPS specialty program. Interested families must complete an online application at <https://forms.pgcp.org/specialty/> for each child they wish to enroll.

PGCPS specialty programs provide students with a range of unique learning subjects, activities, and/or learning opportunities as an enhancement of choice. Specialty programs include Creative and Performing Arts, French Immersion, Dual Language/Spanish Immersion, Montessori, and Talented and Gifted (TAG).

The admission lottery drawing will be conducted electronically by the Department of Pupil Accounting and School Boundaries on March 20. Parents will be notified by mail the week of March 30.

There are close to 6,500 students currently participating in one of five PGCPS specialty programs. Last year, 6,044 applications were received.

**About PGCPS:** Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), one of the nation's 25 largest school districts, has 208 schools and centers, over 125,000 students and nearly 18,000 employees. With an annual budget of \$1.795 billion, the district serves a diverse student population from urban, suburban and rural communities. PGCPS is nationally recognized for its innovative programs and initiatives, including the expansion of Advanced Placement courses and partnerships with businesses and institutions of higher learning.

### 28 Student-Athletes, Cheerleaders and Managers Graduate Winter 2014 Commencement

BOWIE, Md. — Bowie State University held the 2014 Winter Commencement on Friday December 19 in the Leonidas S. James Physical Education Complex (A.C. Jordan Arena). Twenty-eight current and former student-athletes, cheerleaders and managers were among 380 graduates who received degrees. Dr. Johnetta Cole, Director of Smithsonian National African Art Museum delivered the commencement address to the graduates. Dr. Cole shared with graduates they have a responsibility to "make a good living and have a purpose-filled life, provide service to others and help to change the world."

"This was another great day for the institution and the athletic department. To see our students and student-athletes develop over the years and receive the ultimate prize — their diploma, is so rewarding. We thank all the young men and women who sacrificed their time and committed to athletics at Bowie State University, said Interim Athletic Director Donna Polk.

Congratulations and best wishes as you begin your next journey.

### Latin Honors

SUMMA CUM LAUDE (4.00 – 3.85) – Hayley Flint

CUM LAUDE (3.50 – 3.64) – Iyabode Sodipo

### Current Student-Athletes

Nigel Cross – B.S. Criminal Justice - Football

Khari Lee – B.S. Business Administration - Football

Phillip Quarrie – B.S. Sociology - Football

Paxton Queen – B.S. Business Administration - Football

Eric Walters – B.S. Communications - Football

Hayley Flint – B.S. Business Administration - Softball

### Former Student-Athletes

Akinola Vaughan – B.S. Biology – Men's Track

Jasmine Jacobs – B.S. Psychology – Women's Basketball (Summer 2014 Completion)

Kammera Johnson – B.S. Communications – Women's Basketball

Julian Williams – B.S. Business Administration – Men's Basketball

Omar Fahnbulleh – B.S. Business Administration - Football

Anthony Gary – B.S. Business Administration - Football

Cordell Hawkins – B.S. Psychology - Football

Kyle Jackson – B.S. Sports Management - Football

Jeffery Jean-Baptiste – B.S. History and Government – Football

Jared Johnston – B.S. Criminal Justice – Football

Urijah Johnson – B.S. Sociology - Football

Oladimeji Layeni – B.S. Business Administration - Football

Prince Onuoha – B.S. Business Administration – Football

Delante White – B.S. Sociology - Football

Brelyn Finley – B.S. Sociology – Women's Volleyball/Women's Track

Kendall Reynolds – B.S. Psychology – Women's Cross Country/Track

Andrew Hairston – B.S. Criminal Justice – Men's Track

Dana Smothers – B.S. History and Government – Men's Cross Country/Track (Summer 2014 Completion)

Kiara Washington – B.S. Sports Management – Softball

Iyabode Sodipo – B.S. Criminal Justice – Women's Tennis

### Cheerleading

Shaunice Yearwood – B.S. Computer Science

### Managers

Iesha Lee – B.S. Sports Management - Football

### Year 2014 Ties for Second Most Water Main Breaks Ever Year 2015 Cold Snap Means a New Year Spike in Breaks

Laurel – January 8, 2015 – WSSC is coming out of a record year that saw a total of 2,080 water main breaks, tying the mark set in 2010 for the second most in the history of WSSC.

As the New Year welcomes the Washington area with frigid temperatures, WSSC is not expecting a slowdown in the number of water main breaks in its system. Only seven days into 2015, we've already seen 63 breaks and with forecasts showing temperatures hovering around the freezing mark over the next few days, the possibility of water main breaks increases. WSSC is ready to tackle a heavier workload this weekend and all winter long.

- We have a 24/7 rapid response call center that quickly dispatches our crews: 1-800-828-6439 or (301) 206-4002.

- More than 200 personnel are strategically placed throughout Montgomery and Prince George's counties to respond to breaks and leaks.

- Hundreds of pieces of heavy equipment are at the ready.

- Independent contractors are readily available to assist WSSC to repair large breaks.

The largest number of breaks on record was set back in 2007 with a total of 2,129. On average, WSSC services around 1,700 breaks and leaks a year. During the Polar Vortex last January, WSSC experienced almost 600 breaks alone.

As cold weather enters our area, water temperature in the Potomac River and surrounding water sources begins to drop. When colder than normal water travels through aging pipes, it exacerbates any weaknesses and causes an increase in water main breaks. More than a quarter of the water mains maintained by WSSC have been in service for more than 50 years. Customers can track the direct impact water temperature has on water main breaks at <http://www.wsscwater.com/breaks>.

Smartphone users are encouraged to download WSSC's Mobile App and use it to report water main breaks and receive alerts based on a specific location. The "Report a Problem" feature allows customers to easily snap a picture of water and sewer problems and send it directly to our Emergency Call Center. The application uses GPS to pinpoint the location of the image, which allows WSSC dispatchers to send an inspector to the trouble spot in the field.

CNS is another tool to keep our customers informed about water main breaks, road closures and other important WSSC news. Sign up to receive either text or email alerts today.

The low temperatures can also affect home plumbing. Homeowners are encouraged to take appropriate steps to prevent their own pipes from freezing and/or bursting. Visit our winterization page for tips and additional information to help protect your home this winter.

# COMMUNITY

## Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

### Pros and Cons of Reverse Mortgages

Over the last decade, reverse mortgages have been marketed as an easy way for seniors to cash in their home equity to pay for living expenses. However, many have learned that improper use of the product — such as pulling all their cash out at one time to pay bills — has led to significant financial problems later, including foreclosure.



In actuality, there are some cases where reverse mortgages can be helpful to borrowers. However, it is imperative to do extensive research on these products before you sign.

Reverse mortgages are special kinds of home loans that let borrowers convert some of their home equity into cash. They come in three varieties: single-purpose reverse mortgages, Home Equity Conversion Mortgages (HECMs) and proprietary reverse mortgages.

Who can apply? Homeowners can apply for a reverse mortgage if they are at least 62 years old, own their home outright or have a low mortgage balance that can be paid off with the proceeds of the reverse loan. Qualifying homeowners also must have no delinquent federal debt, the financial resources to pay for upkeep, taxes and insurance and live in the home during the life of the loan.

Consider the following pros and cons as a starting point for trying or bypassing this loan choice. Even though HECM loans require a discussion with a loan counselor, you should bring in your own financial, tax or estate advisor to help you decide whether you have a safe and appropriate use for this product.

#### Pros of reverse mortgages:

- They're a source of cash. Borrowers can select that the amount of the loan be payable in a lump sum or regular payments.
- Proceeds are generally tax-free. Final tax treatment may rely on a variety of personal factors, so check with a tax professional.
- Generally, they don't impact Social Security or Medicare payments. Again, important to check personal circumstances.
- You won't owe more than the home is worth. Most reverse mortgages have a "nonrecourse" clause, which prevents you or your estate from owing more than the value of your home when the loan becomes due and the home is sold.
- Reverse mortgages may be a smarter borrowing option for some downsizing seniors. With proper advice, some borrowers use them to buy new homes.

#### Cons of reverse mortgages:

- You may outlive your equity. Reverse mortgages are viewed as a "last-resort" loan option and certainly not a singular solution to spending problems.
- You and your heirs won't get to keep your house unless you repay the loan. If your children hope to inherit your home outright, try to find some other funding solution (family loans, other conventional loan products) first.
- Fees can be more expensive than conventional loans. Reverse mortgage lenders typically charge an origination fee and higher closing costs than conventional loans. This adds up to several percentage points of your home's value.
- Many reverse mortgages are adjustable rate products. Adjustable rates affect the cost of the loan over time.
- If you have to move out for any reason, your loan becomes due. If you have to suddenly move into a nursing home or assisted-living facility, the loan becomes due after you've left your home for a continuous year.

Bottom line: Reverse mortgages have become a popular, if controversial, loan option for senior homeowners. For some, they may be a good fit, but all applicants should get qualified financial advice before they apply.

## Maryland Department of Planning Releases Guide Incorporating Economic Development into Local Planning

By PRESS OFFICER  
MD Department of Planning

BALTIMORE, MD - How do you attract jobs to your area? Where should those jobs be located? What resources, incentives and best practices are available to guide local governments?

Placing Jobs, a new online resource from the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP), outlines how Maryland jurisdictions can plan for strategically placed economic development using the local comprehensive plan process.

Business and job growth work best when planning lays the groundwork for economic activity where resources, infrastructure, services and human capital already exist. In fact, Maryland's economic development can be most effective when it is integrated with land use planning that encourages activities in targeted growth areas, such as cities and towns. It also can enhance rural places when linked to resource-based activities, services and industries, such as agriculture and tourism.

Placing Jobs presents a step-by-step guide to writing economic development elements, from crafting a strong introduction to analyzing fiscal impacts,



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

and provides links to best practices in Maryland. It offers a framework to local leaders to integrate land use and economic strategies that direct investment toward infill, redevelopment and revitalization in local comprehensive plans.

By promoting local economic development strategies among planners, economic development professionals, elected officials and the business community, Placing Jobs fills a significant gap in comprehensive planning. The resource makes it easy for planners by providing a detailed outline for developing an economic development element and listing an inventory of resources, policies and incentives that can be considered in crafting or eval-

uating economic development strategies. Information regarding data sources is included in the Economic Data section to help jurisdictions use the best available data.



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

#### Grants from A1

that not only reduce polluted runoff from entering local waters, but also educate our residents, neighborhoods, communities of faith, and others on how they can partner with us to help improve our community."

The Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program sought proposals in two specific areas: water quality projects that achieve nutrient and/or sediment reduction (funding from \$20,000 - \$200,000 was available for each project); and engagement projects that aim to involve residents in efforts to improve local watersheds (\$5,000 - \$50,000 was available per project). The projects announced today include on-the-ground efforts such as rain gardens, bioretention practices, and impervious pavement removal as well as outreach campaigns related to green workforce development and stormwater management. Non-profit organizations, community associations, civic groups, and faith-based organizations were encouraged to apply, as well as municipalities, higher educational institutions, and public agencies.

"These stormwater practices truly accomplish two goals: Improving water quality and improving our communities.

It's a classic win-win," said Jana Davis, executive director of the Chesapeake Bay Trust. "This new partnership with Prince George's County allows nonprofit organizations like faith-based organizations, homeowners associations, community groups, and others to play a much-desired larger role in the community effort to restore our collective green spaces and waterways."

#### Grants approved in 2014 include:

1. Alice Ferguson Foundation, \$23,836: This grant funds the development of a clean water educational course for citizens who are interested in obtaining stormwater management jobs.
2. City of District Heights, \$34,862: This grant will support the design and installation of a highly visible rain garden to allow the area to better handle stormwater runoff while promoting green infrastructure.
3. Town of Landover Hills, \$126,578: Funding through this project will install rain gardens, a bioretention swale, and permeable pavers as a centerpiece in a community park.
4. The Low Impact Development Center, Inc., \$55,895: This project will provide a highly visible demonstration area for the seven stormwater practices promoted by Prince

George's County's Rain Check Rebate Program.

5. Town of Forest Heights, \$49,794: This grant will train a team of high school students to water, weed and mulch 500 street trees as well as educate homeowners about the benefits of trees on their own properties.

6. Anacostia Watershed Society, \$48,000: This grant will educate and train residents in watershed protection issues and empower them to design and implement projects that prevent stormwater runoff and engage additional community members.

7. City of College Park, \$66,180: This project will treat stormwater flowing from roadways and demonstrate the use of bioretention, tree planting, and tree boxes for improved stormwater management.

8. City of Greenbelt, \$187,700: This project will include the redesign, retrofit, and treatment of impervious surface, replacing it with low impact development techniques and environmental site design practices.

9. Pheasant Run Home Owner's Association, Inc., \$11,730: This grant will fund a citizen engagement campaign focused on erosion, stormwater runoff, and pet waste reduction.

10. Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, \$25,000: This initiative will include workshops to

It is the 31st installment in MDP's Models & Guidelines series of guidance documents, created to help local governments implement Maryland policies and achieve community development goals. Placing Jobs incorporates economic development resources and incentives from the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, the Department of Labor and Licensing and Regulation, the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Department of Planning. In addition, the Maryland Department of Agriculture and Maryland Energy Administration have programs and incentives that can complement economic development efforts.

educate faith leaders on stormwater runoff and provide tools to help congregations overcome technical and financial obstacles to project implementation.

11. The Empowerment Institute, \$152,145: This grant will remove 20,000 square feet of existing asphalt and replace it with stormwater facilities with native plants to help filter and store rain water.

12. Neighborhood Design Center, \$79,308: Funding will assist community groups, small municipalities, schools, and faith based organizations with creating a comprehensive plan for how they can retain and treat stormwater on their property, rather than having it flow into storm drains and local waterways.

13. Alice Ferguson Foundation, \$188,972: This grant includes construction of a rooftop rainwater collection system and cistern, rain garden and bioswale as well as educational programming for students, teachers, and Prince George's County residents.

In addition to these 13 grants, the Chesapeake Bay Trust also announced funding for five new projects in partnership with Prince George's County through the collaborative Rain Check Rebate Program. For more information on both grant partnerships, visit [www.cbtrust.org](http://www.cbtrust.org).

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#### College from A1

ated 9 million students could benefit. A full-time community college student could save an average of \$3,800 in tuition per year.

In addition, today the President will propose a new American Technical Training Fund to expand innovative, high-quality technical training programs similar to Tennessee Tech Centers that meet employer needs and help prepare more Americans for better paying jobs. These proposals build on a number of historic investments the President has made in college affordability and quality since taking office, including a \$1,000 increase in the maximum Pell Grant award to help working and middle class

families, the creation of the \$2,500 American Opportunity Tax Credit, reforming student loans to eliminate subsidies to banks to invest in making college more affordable and keeping student debt manageable, and making available over \$2 billion in grants to connect community colleges with employers to develop programs that are designed to get hard-working students good jobs.

#### The President's Plan: Make Two Years of College as Free and Universal as High School

By 2020, an estimated 35 percent of job openings will require at least a bachelor's degree and 30 percent will require some college or an associate's degree. Forty percent of college students

are enrolled at one of America's more than 1,100 community colleges, which offer students affordable tuition, open admission policies, and convenient locations. They are particularly important for students who are older, working, need remedial classes, or can only take classes part-time. For many students, they offer academic programs and an affordable route to a four-year college degree. They are also uniquely positioned to partner with employers to create tailored training programs to meet economic needs within their communities such as nursing, health information technology, and advanced manufacturing.

The America's College Promise proposal would create a new

partnership with states to help them waive tuition in high-quality programs for responsible students, while promoting key reforms to help more students complete at least two years of college. Restructuring the community college experience, coupled with free tuition, can lead to gains in student enrollment, persistence, and completion transfer, and employment. Specifically, here is what the initiative will mean:

**Enhancing Student Responsibility and Cutting the Cost of College for All Americans:** Students who attend at least half-time, maintain a 2.5 GPA while

# COMMENTARY

## Rushern L. Baker, III Executive of Prince George's County



### Statement From County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III on attempted Murder of Two Prince George's Police Department Officers

Upper Marlboro, MD – Today, Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, released this statement following reports that a man attempted to murder two Prince George's Police Department (PGPD) officers this week.

"I am shocked by this brazen attempt to physically harm two Prince George's Police Department officers and fortunately no one was injured during this senseless attack. My thoughts and prayers go out to these officers, their families, and the entire Prince George's Police Department as they deal with this very emotional situation.

Attacks against police officers in Prince George's County or anywhere are unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Each day, the men and women of Prince George's Police Department put themselves in harm's way so that we can feel safe in the places we live, work and play. Our police department has worked diligently to cultivate trust-

ing relationships with the people they serve and it is paying off. Not only have we dramatically reduced crime in the County, but we have also significantly improved relations between the police and the community.

It is also reported that this assailant had mental health issues which is why we must also address the cause and reasons behind this unthinkable action. We will continue to encourage and promote our 2-1-1 hotline that should be utilized by any County resident to call, report and find help and resources to deal with mental illness for themselves or loved ones.

This week's event is a reminder of the sacrifices that the people who we expect to serve and protect us take and that their families must endure. In the wake of this incident, I ask all residents to think about our police officers and the incredible work they do in keeping us safe and secure."

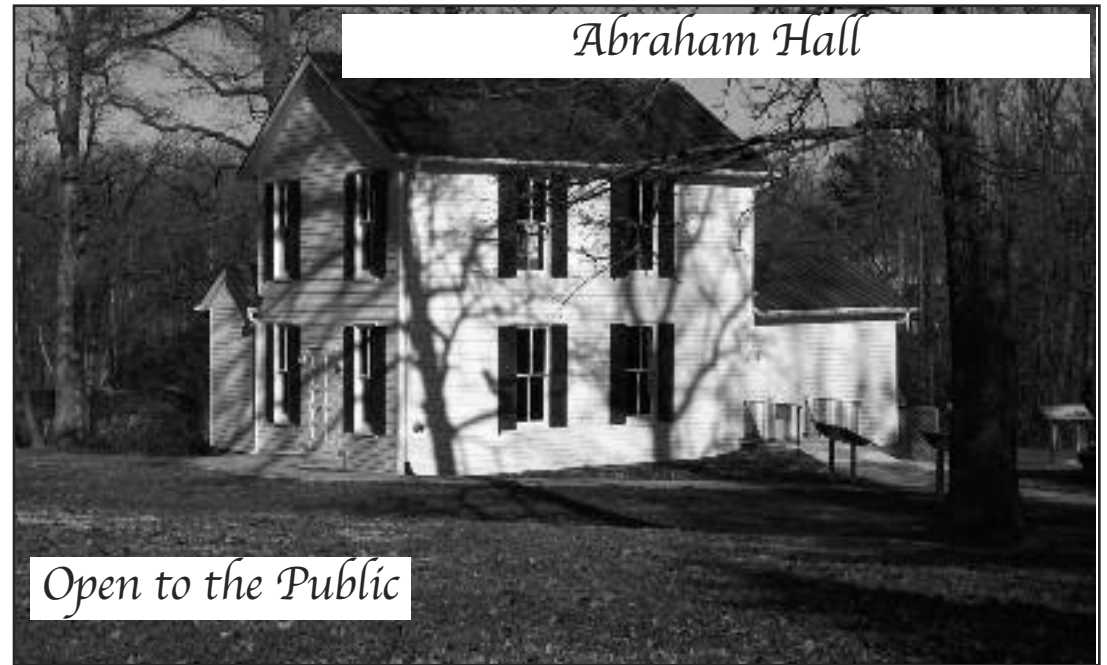


PHOTO COURTESY WIKIPEDIA.

#### Abraham Hall

Abraham Hall was constructed in 1889 by the Benevolent Sons and Daughters of Abraham, an African American society that was established for the social welfare of its members. Originally known as Rebecca Lodge #6 of the Benevolent Sons and Daughters of Abraham, the building was constructed by John W. Jackson in 1889 in the burgeoning community of Rossville. Abraham Hall, an excellent example of a multi-purpose building associated with African Americans, served as a meeting hall, a house of worship, a school, and a social hall for African Americans living in a segregated society. Located at 762 Old Muirkirk Rd., Beltsville, Maryland, Abraham Hall is available for tours, meetings and small social gatherings. Individual or group tours may be scheduled by appointment. Please call 240-264-3415 for more information.

## Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



### More Credit and More Challenges on Jobs for Obama

"The good news is that in 2014 people were increasingly finding jobs. The bad news is that we are still digging our way out of the recession, and wage growth remains stagnant and untouched by recovery."

— Elise Gould,  
Economic Policy Institute, Senior Economist

The country's most popular monthly economic scorecard was released last week with promising results - and mixed messages.

On Friday, January 9, the Department of Labor released the latest jobs report, which showed that the U.S. economy added 252,000 jobs in December. This surpassed analyst projections of 240,000 and brought the nation's unemployment rate down to 5.6% - now at its lowest level since 2008 after 11 straight months of job growth.

Overall, the nation's economy is in its best shape - with consumer confidence at a high - since the 2009 recession, and December marked the best year for the U.S. labor market since 1999. Expectedly, politicians have been quick to take note - and to also attempt to take credit. Before the release of the jobs report, in a pitch for the influence of the new Republican majority in Congress on the nation's improving economy, Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said, "After so many years of sluggish growth, we're finally starting to see some economic data that can provide a glimmer of hope. The uptick appears to coincide with the biggest political change of the Obama Administration's long tenure in Washington: the expectation of a new Republican Congress."

This correlation may be politically expedient, but as it adds to good political theater, it also lacks fair acknowledgment of the actions and policies that have helped contribute to the recovery. With less than a week of legislating under the collective belts of the new Republican majority in Congress, and the track record of its predecessors as the second least productive Congress in modern history, who can take credit for this "glimmer of hope"?

Jason Furman, Chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, highlighted the Obama Administration's achievements in the wake of the report's release, including increasing access to community college, supporting recovery in housing and investing in U.S. manufacturing. I would also point to the President's economic stimulus plan, known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which leading economists agree helped boost the economy; bail-out of the finance and automobile industries; and passing of the Affordable Care Act, which in-

creased health coverage for millions of Americans as well as thousands of jobs in the health care industry. While we absolutely know that there are many factors impacting the nation's economy, we cannot deny the role the current Administration has had in its resurgence.

Still, while the National Urban League celebrates the progress that has been made in our nation's steady climb to economic recovery, we also remain committed to narrowing the job and opportunity gap that finds the African American and Latino communities benefiting from the recovery at disproportionately lower rates than their white counterparts.

As we take a deeper dive into the numbers, we continue to see problems. Earning is down, with average hourly earnings falling by five cents in December, after an increase of six cents in November. Furman conceded the wage decrease was a weakness in the jobs report, saying "Although earnings rose in 2014 as a whole, the December decline in earnings is a reminder that more progress is still needed to overcome the decades-long challenge in this area that preceded the crisis."

Perhaps most concerning is that when we look at unemployment for African Americans and Latinos, it remains high at 10.4% and 6.5% respectively, compared to 4.8% white unemployment.

As a nation, we can help remedy high joblessness within all of our communities with bipartisan policies focused on job creation, such as a transportation infrastructure initiative. Our country is riddled with broken bridges, roads and railways. We can put people to work fixing our deteriorating infrastructure and then keep them working by maintaining it. We can pass a jobs bill and an infrastructure bill that includes education and job-training components that target the needs of millions who are unemployed or under-employed and face multiple barriers to employment. The problem of joblessness and the pervasiveness of the opportunity gap and its disparities are not dilemmas that conclude at the borders of Black and Brown communities. These disparities hold back the whole economy. When we invest in our most vulnerable communities, we invest in strengthening our entire economy and nation.

While the improving jobs picture is to be applauded, more than eight million people in our country are unemployed, and no matter what the political affiliation, we should never forget that there is more work left to be done - and that we must do it together. As the new Congress gets underway, I remain hopeful that those we have elected will begin 2015 by leaving the political rhetoric behind and keeping the interests of all Americans at the forefront.

## Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



### Every Child Deserves a Fair Chance

For many, the start of a new year is a chance to turn over a new leaf and take a hard look at the gap between who we say want and need to be and who we are. As a nation it's time to close our hypocrisy gap in the treatment of our children and value and protect our children—all of them. We need to examine with urgency how we treat our children and the gap between what we say and what we do.

#### If we did, we'd find:

- A public school student is suspended every 2 seconds.\*
- A public high school student drops out every 9 seconds.\*
- A child is arrested every 24 seconds.
- A public school student is corporally punished every 30 seconds.\*
- A baby is born into poverty every 35 seconds.
- A child is abused or neglected every 47 seconds.
- A baby is born without health insurance every minute.
- A baby is born into extreme poverty every 68 seconds.

- A baby is born to a teen mother every 2 minutes.
- A baby is born at low birth-weight every 2 minutes.
- A child is arrested for a drug offense every 4 minutes.
- A child is arrested for a violent offense every 8 and a half minutes.
- A baby dies before his or her first birthday every 22 minutes.
- A child or teen dies from an accident every hour.
- A child or teen is killed by guns every three hours and 18 minutes.
- A child or teen commits suicide every four hours and 11 minutes.
- A child is killed by abuse or neglect every five and a half hours.
- A baby's mother dies from pregnancy or childbirth complications every 11 hours and eight minutes.

\*During the school year.

What do these numbers tell us about who we are as a nation and whether we value the life and potential of every

child? Why do we choose to let children be the poorest age group in our rich nation and stand by as millions of children suffer preventable poverty, hunger, homelessness, sickness, neglect, abuse, miseducation, and violence? Why do we continue to mock God's call for justice for children and the poor and our professed ideals of freedom and justice for all?

It's time to close our hypocrisy gap as a nation and to realize the promise of a fair playing field for all children. We can and must do better.

Marion Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund whose *Leave No Child Behind* mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information go to [www.childrens-defense.org](http://www.childrens-defense.org).

Mrs. Edelman's Child Watch Column also appears each week on *The Huffington Post*

"One isn't necessarily born with courage, but one is born with potential. Without courage, we cannot practice any other virtue with consistency. We can't be kind, true, merciful, generous, or honest."

—Maya Angelou

## The Prince George's Post

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# BUSINESS

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### Helping Someone Make That Weight Loss Resolution Work

Yes, losing weight is always the number one New Year's Resolution. But were you aware that family and friends can play a significant role in helping someone achieve his or her weight loss goal? And now, when most resolutions are already falling by the wayside, is a great time to help someone trying to trim that waistline.

One way to help is by avoiding the negative things we often think are helpful. Acting like the food police is one of the most common, especially if that includes depriving the person of their favorite foods. You can also hurt someone's efforts by what you say. Constantly talking about new diets, citing the health risks of being overweight, or telling someone that losing weight is easy and just a matter of willpower may seem "helpful" but actually hurt the person's effort. Such talk can reinforce the person's negative feelings and make clear that you think something is wrong with him or her unless that weight loss happens.

So what are positive, constructive ways to help? One way is to offer ongoing, positive encouragement, not about the weight loss, but about the person in general. Negative feelings that trigger eating are often tied to low self-esteem and being unhappy with one's appearance and life. Substituting honest, positive messages about the person's actions, personality and appearance can be really motivating.

It can also help to encourage the person to express feelings, especially negative ones, that may be leading to overeating. Often a weight problem is actually a symptom of a different problem in the person's life. It may be relationship issues, a bad work situation or troubling family matters that are causing stress and stress-related eating. Helping identify stress sources can minimize the need to feel better by reaching for food.

You can also help by being a positive role model. That doesn't mean having to diet yourself, but simply setting a positive example, without lecturing, by eating healthy and making sensible food and portion size choices. Starting or continuing an exercise program and inviting the person trying to lose weight can also help. Losing weight is never easy, especially when there are problems and stresses that helped trigger the weight gain. But being someone who truly understands the problem and is willing to listen and help, rather than lecture about weight, can go a long way in promoting weight loss success.

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

### Health from A1

quality, affordable health coverage is a key ingredient of that effort."

"This jump in national rankings is another sign of significant public health improvement in Maryland," said Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. "It reflects efforts in communities and coalitions across the state to support well-being and prevent disease, as well as our strong clinical care system."

The report, which is in its 25th year of production, also found that Maryland is one of the most improved states for health since 1990. The report noted that in Maryland:

- Since 1990, children in poverty driven down by 7 percent from 16.4 percent to 15.3 percent of children.

- Since 1990, infant mortality driven down by 43 percent from 11.6 to 6.6 deaths per 1,000 live births.

- Since 1990, cardiovascular deaths driven down by 40 percent from 415.8 to 250.7 deaths per 100,000 population.

- Since 1990, violent crime driven down by 38 percent from 768 to 477 offenses per 100,000 population.

As part of the O'Malley-Brown Administration's 16 strategic goals to move Maryland forward, the State is working to reduce preventable hospitalizations by 10 percent by the end of 2015 and to reduce infant mortal-

ity in Maryland by 10 percent by 2017. To date, Maryland has reduced preventable hospitalizations by 11.5 percent per 100,000 people since 2011, exceeding the state's goal, and has surpassed the goal to decrease Maryland's infant mortality rate by 10 percent by driving it down by 17.5 percent.

In April 2014, the Commonwealth Fund issued a report highlighting the substantial progress Maryland has made over the last five years. The report noted that Maryland is one of only four states that "stand out for their net improvement across indicators." The State improved in fourteen indicators, while only four indicators deteriorated, making Maryland only one of two states to have a +10 differential. Additionally, Maryland was one of five states that improved on ten or more indicators of health equity, rising from a rank of 30 to a rank of 12.

Additionally, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has embraced CRISP, Maryland's statewide health information exchange (HIE). CRISP's Regional Extension Center for Health IT and HIE efforts serve to advance health and wellness of Marylanders by enabling health-care providers to share clinical data with other providers and hospital systems across the State. These initiatives, and others, were detailed in an August 2014 report from Business Insider titled, "An Amazing Healthcare Revolution Is Happening In Maryland — And Almost No One's Talking About It."

## Statements by Secretary Lew and Secretary Burwell on preparing for the upcoming tax season

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the Lt. Governor

In preparation for the 2015 tax filing season, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Treasury Department are putting in place resources to provide tax filers with the information and resources they need to get their questions answered.

Millions of Americans who get their health insurance through work are benefitting from the Affordable Care Act, and millions of others have signed up for the Health Insurance Marketplaces and received financial assistance to lower their monthly premiums.

Starting this year, consumers will see some changes to their tax returns. While the vast majority of tax filers — over three quarters — will just need to check a box on their tax return indicating they had health coverage in 2014, people who have coverage through the Marketplaces, or decided not to enroll in coverage, should be aware of some additional steps that will be a part of the tax filing process starting this year.

Consumers will have questions about this new process and the Administration is committed to providing the information and tools tax filers need to understand the new requirements. In the coming weeks, the Administration will launch additional resources to help consumers prepare for tax filing season, including online tools to help individuals connect with local tax preparation services

and determine if they are eligible for an exemption.

Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew and Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell released the following statements today providing an overview of the consumer support and guidance their agencies will provide:

#### Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew:

"For the vast majority of Americans, tax filing under the Affordable Care Act will be as simple as checking a box to show they had health coverage all year. A fraction of taxpayers will take different steps, like claiming an exemption if they could not afford insurance or ensuring they received the correct amount of financial assistance. A smaller fraction of taxpayers will pay a fee if they made a choice to not obtain coverage they could afford. We are working to ensure that whatever their experience, consumers can easily access clear information since this is the first year they will see certain changes to their tax returns."

#### HHS Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell:

"Last year, millions of Americans purchased quality, affordable health coverage through the Marketplaces, and the vast majority received tax credits that cut their monthly premiums. This benefit, which in many cases helped make the cost of health care less than the cost of a cell phone or cable bill, enabled these consumers to enjoy the benefits of coverage through-

out the year. In the coming weeks, HHS will work with other agencies, tax preparers and community organizations to arm these consumers with the information they need to know as they prepare to file their taxes. We will also be providing helpful tools so that the millions of taxpayers who qualify for an exemption can receive one."

While including health insurance information will become a routine step in filing taxes, this is the first time families will be asked to answer basic questions regarding their health insurance on their tax returns. Most consumers — over three quarters — just need to check a box to indicate they have coverage. Those with Marketplace coverage will receive a new form in the mail from the Marketplace — Form 1095-A — that they will use to reconcile their upfront financial assistance. While those who can afford to buy health insurance and choose not to will have to pay a fee, individuals who cannot afford coverage or meet other conditions can receive an exemption.

In the coming weeks, consumer-friendly tools and resources will be made available for those tax filers who have health coverage through the Marketplaces, those seeking an exemption, and those looking for information about the fee for those who could afford to purchase health coverage but chose not to. General resources can be found at [www.IRS.gov/ACA](http://www.IRS.gov/ACA) or <https://www.healthcare.gov/taxes/>. A sampling of some of resources already available, include:

- **IRS:** Health Care Law: What's New for Individuals & Families
- **HHS:** 3 Tips About Marketplace Coverage and Your Taxes
- **HHS:** No Health Coverage? What That Means for Your Taxes

To reach consumers with the information they need to prepare for the upcoming tax season, the Administration will employ a variety of outreach strategies. Outreach and consumer education efforts will include:

- **Direct outreach to Marketplace enrollees.** Through email, phone, and text messages the Administration will reach out to people who got coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace with personalized information that is most relevant to their tax status. We will focus on providing targeted messaging to consumers who benefited from an advanced premium tax credit last year to help them offset the cost of their Marketplace premiums.

- **Community-based outreach and in-person assistance.** Working with community organizations on the ground, nonprofit organizations, Marketplace navigators and other in-person assistants, we will provide guidance and resources to consumers looking for answers.

- **Partnerships with top tax preparers.** The Administration will continue to work with top tax preparers to provide consumers with the information they need to prepare for tax season.

### College from A3

in college, and make steady progress toward completing their program will have their tuition eliminated. These students will be able to earn half of the academic credit they need for a four-year degree or earn a certificate or two-year degree to prepare them for a good job.

**Building High-Quality Community Colleges:** Community colleges will be expected to offer programs that either (1) are academic programs that fully transfer to local public four-year colleges and universities, giving students a chance to earn half of the credit they need for a four-year degree, or (2) are occupational training programs with high graduation rates and that lead to degrees and certificates that are in demand among employers. Other types of programs will not be eligible for free tuition. Colleges must also adopt promising and evidence-based institutional reforms to improve student outcomes, such as the effective Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) programs at the City University of New York which waive tuition, help students pay for books and transit costs, and provide academic advising and supportive scheduling programs to better meet the needs of participating students, resulting in greater gains in college persistence and degree completion.

**Ensuring Shared Responsibility with States:** Federal funding will cover three-quarters of the average cost of community college. States that choose to participate will be expected to contribute the remaining funds necessary to eliminate community college tuition for eligible students. States that already invest more and charge students less can make smaller contributions, though all participating states will be required to put up some matching funds. States must also commit to continue existing investments in higher

education; coordinate high schools, community colleges, and four-year institutions to reduce the need for remediation and repeated courses; and allocate a significant portion of funding based on performance, not enrollment alone. States will have flexibility to use some resources to expand quality community college offerings, improve affordability at four-year public universities, and improve college readiness, through outreach and early intervention.

**Expanding Technical Training for Middle Class Jobs.** Additionally, in order to spread the availability of high-quality and innovative programs like those in Tennessee and Texas, which achieve better than average completion and employment outcomes, the President is also proposing the American Technical Training Fund. This fund will award programs that have strong employer partnerships and include work-based learning opportunities, provide accelerated training, and are scheduled to accommodate part-time work. Programs could be created within current community colleges or other training institutions. The focus of the discretionary budget proposal would be to help high-potential, low-wage workers gain the skills to work into growing fields with significant numbers of middle-class jobs that local employers are trying to fill such as energy, IT, and advanced manufacturing. This program will fund the start-up of 100 centers and scale those efforts in succeeding years. Smaller grants would help to bring together partners and start a pilot program. Larger grants would be used for expanding programs based on evidence of effectiveness, which could include past performance on graduation rates, job placement rates and placement wages. Building on the President's community college initiative, known as the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training

Grants and for which 2014 was the final year of funding, these funds will help community colleges become more job-driven.

**Building on State and Local Programs.** In the past year, Tennessee and the City of Chicago initiated free community college programs. In the first year of the Tennessee program, 57,000 students representing almost 90 percent of the state's high school graduating class applied for the program. The scholarship is coupled with college counseling, mentorship, and community service that early evidence suggests supports greater enrollment, persistence and college completion. This is coupled with efforts to spur innovation and improvement by funding colleges using performance outcomes based on student success and an innovative approach to career and technical education through the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology. These Tennessee Tech Centers have a graduation rate of 80 percent and a job placement rate of 85 percent.

**Building on a Record of Progress.** Since taking office, President Obama has taken steps to expand federal support to help more students afford college, while calling for a shared responsibility in tackling rising college costs. Key achievements include:

- **Doubling the Investment in Pell Grants:** The President has raised the maximum Pell Grant award to \$5,730 for the 2014-15 award year — a nearly \$1,000 increase since 2008. The number of Pell Grant recipients has expanded by 50 percent over that same time.
- **Expanding Education Tax Credits:** President Obama established the American Opportunity Tax Credit in 2009 to assist families with the costs of college, providing up to \$10,000 for four years of college tuition.
- **Pay-As-You-Earn Loans:** All new borrowers can now cap loan payments at 10 percent of

their incomes. The Department of Education has begun the process to amend its regulations and will make the new plan available on all direct loans by December 2015. We expect it to benefit up to 5 million borrowers.

- **First in the World Grants:** In September, the Department of Education awarded \$75 million to 24 colleges and universities under the new First in the World grant program to expand college access and improve student learning while reducing costs.

- **College Ratings Program:** The Department of Education continues to develop a college ratings system by the 2015-2016 school year that will recognize institutions that excel at enrolling students from all backgrounds; focus on maintaining affordability; and succeed at helping all students graduate with a degree or certificate of value.

- **Job-Driven Training Grants:** Through the Trade Adjustment Community College and Career Training program more than 1,000 institutions have received \$2 billion in federal funding to design education and training programs, working closely with employers and industry that prepare workers for jobs in-demand in their regional economies, such as health care, information technology and energy. These programs have shown early success -- through the end of FY2013, among the nearly 164,000 individuals who had enrolled in these programs 88 percent either completed a program or continued the program into a second year.

- **White House Summit on Community Colleges:** In October 2010, the President convened community college leaders, faculty and students; business leaders; philanthropic organizations; and other workforce development experts for

# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review

### “The Imitation Game”

*The Imitation Game*  
Grade: B-  
Rated PG-13, a little  
profanity, some vulgar dialogue  
1 hr., 53 min

Alan Turing, the English math genius who cracked Nazi codes and was the father of computer science, deserves to be the subject of a masterful biopic someday. This is not that day. But *The Imitation Game* works as a glossy, conventionally entertaining account of Turing's top-secret military work, with biopic elements before and after the war thrown in for good measure.

Played by velvet-throated otter impersonator Benedict Cumberbatch, the esteemed and eccentric Prof. Turing is seen first in 1951, when he's the victim of a burglary yet behaves oddly enough to make a suspicious cop dig into his background. Then it is 1939, and 27-year-old Alan, already among the world's greatest mathematicians, is chosen by skeptical naval Commander Denniston (Charles Dance) to join a team of cryptographers working feverishly to break the Germans' Enigma code and win the war.

War-time is where the bulk of the film takes place. Alan is logical-minded, socially awkward, prone to not getting jokes, and unfailingly rational. He recruits people with a knack for solving puzzles to help him build a machine of his own design that will theoretically defeat the Enigma code, which has trillions of possible permutations and changes every 24 hours. His teammates include cocky Hugh (Matthew Goode), friendly John (Allen Leech), a couple of nondescript other guys, and



ROTTENTOMATOES

During the winter of 1952, British authorities entered the home of mathematician, cryptanalyst and war hero Alan Turing to investigate a reported burglary. They instead ended up arresting Turing himself on charges of 'gross indecency', an accusation that would lead to his devastating conviction for the criminal offense of homosexuality - little did officials know, they were actually incriminating the pioneer of modern-day computing. Famously leading a motley group of scholars, linguists, chess champions and intelligence officers, he was credited with cracking the so-called unbreakable codes of Germany's World War II Enigma machine. An intense and haunting portrayal of a brilliant, complicated man, **THE IMITATION GAME** follows a genius who under nail-biting pressure helped to shorten the war and, in turn, save thousands of lives. (c) Weinstein

Joan Clarke (Keira Knightley), who everyone is amazed to find can break codes EVEN THOUGH SHE IS A LADY!

Written by Graham Moore from Andrew Hodges' book and directed by Morten Tyldum (*Headhunters*), the movie smoothly falls into a familiar, pleasing, dopamine-producing rhythm. Blustery Denniston keeps threatening to shut down this cockamamie program unless it gets results, while MI-6 operative Stewart Menzies (Mark Strong) sees potential in Turing's advanced ideas. Everyone is glib and witty in the manner of characters in

screenplays, and there are hijinks. Oh, and one of them might be a Soviet spy! It's all very Hollywood.

I should mention that it is also sometimes 1928, and obsessive schoolboy Alan (Alex Lawther), a budding genius, is anxiously separating his peas from his carrots at dinner and finding friendship with a fellow cryptography nerd (Jack Bannon). This is where another detail about Turing — that he was gay — comes to light, informing his wartime demeanor as a sexless, endearing robot baffled by romance. While his co-workers date and

frivolous, he enjoys a platonic partnership with Joan.

Solving the Enigma machine (spoiler alert: they do it) constitutes the story's climax, but there are loose ends to wrap up that keep the movie going a while longer. The 1951 thread addresses Turing's homosexuality and the barbaric way the law treated his kind in those days. These are necessary elements in an Alan Turing biography, but the subject isn't handled with as much care as it warrants. *The Imitation Game* is a rollicking wartime story first, an appreciation of Turing's life a distant second.

#### College from A5

the first White House summit dedicated to the role that community colleges play in our efforts to increase the number of college graduates and prepare those graduates to lead the 21st century workforce.

• **Center for the Analysis of Postsecondary Readiness:** Last August, the Department of

Education launched a new \$10 million Institute for Education Sciences-funded Center for the Analysis of Postsecondary Readiness (CAPR) that is working to strengthen the research, evaluation, and support of college readiness efforts across the nation. CAPR is documenting current practices in developmental English and math education to identify in-

novative instructional practices that improve student success.

• **Call to Action on College Opportunity:** Last December, the President, Vice President, and First Lady joined college presidents and leaders of non-profits, foundations, and other organizations to announce over 600 new commitments to produce more college graduates. Community colleges made

commitments individually, and in partnership with neighboring school districts and four-year institutions, to build seamless transitions among institutions, develop clear educational and career pathways, implement strategies to increase student completion of STEM programs, and establish more accurate measures of student progress and success.

#### Taverns from A1

politics or find out what's going on in the community. That's where you went to get your information, and you went there for social interaction, and then of course you had a few drinks and something to eat while you were there."

Which, according to Nancy Struna, the chair of the Department of American Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park, is absolutely right.

In that respect, Hull Street Blues is preserving, at least in part, the role taverns originally played back in the 17th century.

Back then, Struna said, the term for such a place was "ordinary," and in addition to acting as social centers, ordinaries played the role of workplace and hotel.

"The earliest taverns were actually set up for ... the entertainment of travelers and visitors," she said. "Every tavern had to provide a certain number of beds, food, both cold and hot at particular rates, and stabling...."

"Businessmen conducted business there. People got their mail there," Struna said. "There were weddings. You name it, they did it in the taverns."

Tavern owners were still required to obtain a license, which they could purchase from the Maryland General Assembly for 7 pounds, -- the equivalent of two or three weeks' income, Struna said. State government also set rates for all its services until both those responsibilities were handed to county governments in the 1700s, Struna said.

A "Hot Dinner, with Small Beer, or Cyder," for example, cost 26 pence in 1789, according to a digital copy of the official Tavern Rates that Struna has.

So important were taverns to the social fabric of communities then, that the courts and legislators actively promoted the purchase of new licenses.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY BRANDIE PETERSON

Exterior of Hull Street Blues Cafe, a corner neighborhood bar in Baltimore's Locust Point neighborhood.

"These people were committed to the encouragement of legal taverns," Struna said. "Because they served all these functions."

But by the late 1700s and early 1800s, the advent of boarding houses and the appearance of upper-class, European-style hotels around the country rerouted and undercut the original role of taverns as temporary lodging.

The exodus of wealthier people to those new, expensive hotels also served to link taverns more closely to the working-class, ethnic communities in the city.

Despite the gentrification, Baltimore taverns kept their role as important social centers in working-class communities around the city. And by the turn

See TAVERNS Page A7

## The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

### Athlete-Activists Can't Be Scared Silent After the Murder of Two NYPD Officers



Over the last month, we have seen a veritable "Sports World Spring" as athletes have spoken out on politics in a manner unseen since the 1960s. They have been inspired by the #blacklivesmatter demonstrations directed against the killing of unarmed black men and women by police as well as the inability of the criminal justice system to deliver justice.

The most remarkable part of these protests was not just their breadth nor the stature of the athletes involved but that commissioners and coaches seemed to be allowing it and, in some cases, even nodding in approval. Clearly suspending LeBron James for being upset about the killing of unarmed African-Americans was not seen as savvy public relations.

Now, in the wake of the horrific killing of two NYPD detectives, everything has changed. This eruption of athlete activism will probably not only come to a close but get thrown down the memory hole where the Masters of Sports keep the lost athletic years of Muhammad Ali, John Carlos and Craig Hodges. In other words, management support will die. The sports bosses—and probably friends and family as well—will tell players that it is time to shut up and play. They will be told that it would be the heights of insensitivity to be seen as criticizing the police while officers, their families and many others are in mourning. It would be tasteless, bad for business, and even dangerous.

If the athlete-activists do retreat into silence, it would be a tragic mistake. Now more than ever, players who wore the slogan "I Can't Breathe" a week ago should wear it today. In fact, trying to find your breath when police and media are declaring war against a peaceful movement could not be more critical.

For players to say that standing with the families of Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Tamir Rice and others would now be "inappropriate" is a concession to political actors who are maliciously reframing why they stepped up in the first place. The senseless murder of two police officers by a suicidal lone gunman with a history of mental illness in no way negates the single most important organizing principle of the movement: that black lives matter. Those like Rudy Giuliani, George Pataki, and their ilk who are equating this movement with violence and murder have never given a damn about opposing police brutality. Instead, they see themselves as foot soldiers in a bigger project of chilling, burying or even criminalizing all criticism of anyone who wears a badge.

The entire focus of everyone involved in this movement—from the people in the street to LeBron and Derrick Rose—has been to demand that African-Americans be afforded the same humanity as everyone else: to be treated as people and not "demons" that need to be put down. There is nothing in the slogans "black lives matter" or "I can't breathe" or the marches and die-ins that remotely suggests that projecting violence toward police is a solution to police violence. In fact, we have seen athletes like the NFL's Reggie Bush and pro wrestler MVP who have been both part of the movement and have police officers in their immediate family. Given the explicit calls for vengeance by the NYPD and the rush by the media to place the blame for the shooting on people protesting violence, athletes could use their stature to assert that this movement is just.

I am well aware that this is easy as hell for me to say. It's not my risk. It's not my paycheck. It's not my livelihood. But when you lend support to a movement, you bear a responsibility for that movement's well being. Black lives matter, and in fact that needs to be expressed with urgency. As long-time criminal justice organizer Keeanga Yahmatta-Taylor said to me, "I can hardly imagine the fear coursing through black New York today. Don't let your young sons out of the house. This is what we can't give into—the siege in black communities to avenge murder in the name of the law." It's easy when management is patting you on the back, thousands are in the street and Fox News is in the corner mumbling to itself. But now the sunshine is gone and the chill is settling in. If LeBron or Derrick Rose—hell, if Nik Stauskas or Jeremy Lin—can turn their spotlight into even a little bit of sunlight, it will make a difference. If you believed that LeBron, Kenny Britt, Ariyana Smith, the women of Berkeley and so many other athlete activists were on the side of right a week ago, then there is no reason to not believe that they are still right today. Their voices are needed more than ever.

# Calendar of Events

January 22 — January 28, 2015

## Planning Board Meeting

Date: Every Thursday of every month except August (Planning Board Recess) or any official holiday. Occurs every week(s) on Thursday effective 1/21/2015 until 5/30/2015 at 9:00 AM.

Time: 9:00 a.m. (unless otherwise indicated)

9:00 a.m.—Administrative/Parks and Recreation Items  
10:00 a.m.—Development Review Items

Description: Effective October 1, 2012, all materials for Planning Board consideration must be submitted by noon Wednesday, one day prior to the Planning Board hearing. We cannot guarantee that materials received after noon on Wednesday will get to the Planning Board in time for the hearing, but they will become part of the record. Any materials submitted after the Planning Board has voted on a particular matter will not become part of the record.

The Planning Board encourages all citizens to attend its hearings, at which time any and all materials will be accepted into the record upon presentation, and testimony may be offered.

Anyone wishing to speak and/or to become a party of record should sign up at the desk in the front of the hearing room. Please be advised that persons wishing to speak may be subject to time limits as deemed necessary in order to reasonably accommodate all who wish to speak. Individuals with special needs are asked to contact the Planning Board Office at 301-952-3560, TTY 301-952-3796.

Meeting agenda order is subject to change.

If you have questions, contact Reyna Kosla at 301-952-4148.

Location: First Floor County Council Hearing Room, County Administration Building, 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Contact: Attention: In case of inclement weather, please call 301-952-5330 as to the status of the Planning Board meeting.

## CMIT Annual Student Art Exhibit

Date and Time: Through Friday, February 20, 2015 11 am-4 pm. (Closed Wednesdays)

Description: Each year, different venues host the annual CMIT art exhibit. This year, Montpelier is honored to display the work of these talented young artists from this Laurel charter school. The theme for this year's exhibit is Autumn Landscapes & Scenes; students have interpreted this theme and will display a major art piece from the school year.

Exhibit is free with cost of admission.

Cost: \$3/Adults; \$2/Seniors (60+); \$1/Children 6-18

FREE for children 5 & under

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Montpelier Mansion/Historic Site  
9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD 20708

Contact: 301-377-7817; TTY 301-699-2455  
montpeliermansion@pgparks.com

## Xtreme Teens: Team Building

Date and Time: Friday January 23, 2015 7-10 pm

Description: Travel with us to Bladensburg Community Center to engage in some fun team building games. Learn new ways to have fun, while making new friends. We will depart at 7:30 pm and return by 10 pm. Signed permission by a parent/guardian is a requirement to attend.

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

## Xtreme Teens: Pie Eating Contest

Date and Time: Friday, January 23, 2015 7-10 pm

Description: Love pie, or just eating? Celebrate National Pie Day with us by participating in our pie eating contest.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID

Ages: 10-17

Location: Kentland Community Center  
2411 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover 20785

Contact: 301-386-2278; TTY 301-345-4512

## Xtreme Teens: G.E.A.R: Girls Night In

Date and Time: Saturday January 24, 2015 7-10 pm

Description: Ladies, join us for a night of jewelry making fun. Create your own special jewelry to accessorize your style.

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

## Boy Scout Day

Date and Time: Sunday, January 25, 2015 11 am-2 pm

Description: Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts of all levels are invited to explore the history of aviation and science of flight with a variety of fun, educational activities. In completing these activities, they will fulfill badge requirements. Please call the museum in advance to register.

Cost: \$4/person

Ages: 7-18

Location: College Park Aviation Museum  
1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park 20740

Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

## Tumbling Workshops

Date and Time: January 26, 8:30- 9:30 pm

Description:

Looking to improve your tumbling technique? The gymnastics venue is offering workshops to do just that! These workshops are a great way to focus on your specific tumbling needs, whether you're a beginner or advanced tumbler, our experienced instructors can help you achieve your goals!

Spaces are offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Cost: \$12/per participant

Ages: 8-18 years

Location: Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex  
8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD 20785

Contact: 301-583-2400; TTY 301-583-2483

# EARTH TALK ... Revenge of the Bacteria

Dear EarthTalk:

How is it that antibiotics are being "overused," as I've read, and what are the potential consequences?

— Mitchell Chase,  
Hartford, CT

The development and widespread adoption of so-called "antibiotics"—drugs that kill bacteria and thereby reduce infection—has helped billions of people live longer, healthier lives. But all this tinkering with nature hasn't come without a cost. The more we rely on antibiotics, the more bacteria develop resistance to them, which makes treating infections that much more challenging.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), overuse of antibiotics by humans—such as for the mistreatment of viral infections—means these important drugs are less effective for all of us. Besides the toll on our health, researchers estimate that antibiotic resistance causes Americans upwards of \$20 billion in additional healthcare costs every year stemming from the treatment of otherwise preventable infections.

A bigger issue, though, is our growing reliance on feeding antibiotics to livestock for growth promotion, weight gain and to treat, control and prevent disease. This increasingly common practice is a significant factor in the emer-

gence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, which the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) acknowledges can get passed onto humans who eat food from treated animals. The non-profit Environmental Working Group (EWG) reports that the majority of the ground beef and ground turkey sold in the typical American grocery store contains antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

Last year, 26 animal pharmaceutical companies voluntarily complied with an FDA request to re-label medically important antibiotics used in food-producing animals to warn against using them for growth promotion and weight gain. FDA also recommended that medically important antibiotics be prescribed by licensed veterinarians and only to treat, control and prevent disease. "We need to be selective about the drugs we use in animals and when we use them," says William Flynn of the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine. "Antimicrobial resistance may not be completely preventable, but we need to do what we can to slow it down."

Still some worry that the FDA's action doesn't go far enough, given that farmers will still be able to administer antibiotics to their livestock for disease prevention. The fact that more and more livestock operations are switching over to Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs) whereby animals are confined in crowded



CREDIT: SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE AGRICULTURAL PROJECT, FLICKER CC

According to the EPA, there are more than 450,000 Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs) across the United States like the one pictured where animals are kept and raised in confined situations. Since antibiotics are necessary to keep disease at bay, AFOs are breeding grounds for antibiotic-resistant bacteria, much of which can get transferred to consumers who eat meat.

enclosures (instead of allowed to graze at pasture) means that antibiotics will play an increasingly important role in disease prevention.

For its part, the FDA argues that since veterinarians need to authorize antibiotic use for disease prevention, farmers and ranchers are less likely to overuse antibiotics for their livestock populations. The same can be said about doc-

tors' limiting the prescription of antibiotics for their human patients, but only time will tell whether such newfound restraint is enough in the fast evolving arms race between bacteria and our antibiotics.

Of course, consumers can do their part by avoiding antibiotic medications unless absolutely necessary and eating less meat (or giving it up entirely) to help reduce demand.

CONTACTS: CDC, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov); EWG, [www.ewg.org](http://www.ewg.org); FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine, [www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary](http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary).

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## Taverns from A6

of the century, they had come to resemble the tavern-on-the-corner environment Macatee says has survived.

In those years leading up to Prohibition, "there were a lot of neighborhood bars, and they were on corners," said Rob Kasper, who has written extensively about the history of beer in Baltimore.

"Traditionally people who lived in about a one- or two-block area would go down to the tavern.... It was a focal point for the community."

Taverns would provide services like check cashing, he said, and they often served as hiring halls, particularly for immigrants who, as soon as they arrived in the city, would be directed to a tavern whose owner was connected politically and could find him or her a job.

Prohibition rolled around eventually, but Baltimore and the entire state of Maryland essentially ignored the 1920 constitutional ban on alcohol sales in the United States, Kasper added.

Maryland never adopted a state-level ban, so enforcement in the state fell to federal agents, who couldn't possibly keep up. Baltimore city cops certainly weren't about to help.

"Mencken said, if you come to Baltimore and need a drink, ask a policeman," said Kasper, referring to the well-known writer and one-time Baltimore Sun editor H.L. Mencken.

Still, alcohol was less abundant, even in Baltimore, and it was still technically illegal. Speakeasies in Baltimore would shine red lights to indicate they had booze available.

Prohibition ended in 1933 with the 21st Amendment, and Mencken famously hoisted a glass of Arrow Special beer outside the Rennert Hotel in Baltimore and said, "Pretty good, not bad at all." (Though it probably wasn't good at all, Kasper said. Arrow beer "was pretty terrible stuff.")

The end of Prohibition in Baltimore ushered in the framework for the city's modern liquor regulation. "It became apparent that appropriate controls and licensing of alcoholic beverages at the retail level were necessary in the State of Maryland to insure public safety," according to Baltimore City Liquor License Board website.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY BRANDIE PETERSON

Dan Macatee (right), owner of Hull Street Blues Cafe, and regular patron Paulie Santi (left).

Enter the Baltimore City liquor board and Article 2B of the Annotated Code of Maryland, which still enshrines the city's liquor regulations.

Those laws have changed over time, often acquiring confusing loopholes and exceptions. But taverns continued to act as social centers in working class communities around the city throughout much of the 20th century.

Today, there aren't bars on "damn near every corner," like Macatee says there used to be. Still, "some of these younger professionals are still willing to come in and have a few beers and have lunch and talk a little business," he said.

"And oftentimes they tell me they're somewhat productive here, you know, that they do get some, get a little bit of business done." But the days of factory workers stopping by for a shot and beer at lunch are long gone. And people don't need a local tavern to find out what's happening in their community.

"Now you've hardly got to leave your house," Macatee says. "All you've got to do is open up your computer and you find out what's going on in the neighborhood and what your friends are doing. You go on Facebook and see up-to-the-minute updates on what everybody's doing and going on in their lives."

## REUSABLE BAGS

Here are a few good reasons why you should consider using reusable bags:

- ▶ A plastic bag takes anywhere from 15 to 450 years to decompose.
- ▶ Only 1 percent of plastic bags are recycled in the U.S., the rest ends up in landfills, the ocean or as trash in our neighborhoods.
- ▶ It's estimated that 1 million birds and thousands of turtles and other sea animals die each year after ingesting discarded plastic bags.
- ▶ It takes 12 million barrels of oil to produce an estimated 100 billion plastic bags that are used each year in America.
- ▶ Reusable bags provide more mileage of use than plastic bags and are sturdier.

In addition, more retail stores are discontinuing their use of plastic bags and provide incentives for shoppers to bring their own reusable bag.

Prince George's County  
The Office of Central Services to promote cost savings and sustainability in our everyday behavior.