

The Prince George's Post



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Happy New Year 2019!

From The Prince George's Post

Glenarden Woods Elementary Earns Maryland Blue Ribbon as an 'Exemplary High Performing School'

By COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
Prince George's County Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, MD (December 18, 2018)—The tradition of excellence continued today at Glenarden Woods Elementary when the school was honored as a 2018–19 Maryland Blue Ribbon School. A two-time state Blue Ribbon recipient, Glenarden Woods is one of six statewide selected by the Maryland Department of Education this year as an "Exemplary High Performing School."

"Glenarden Woods is known for its culture of high standards and high performance. Students, staff and community members strive for excellence in all aspects of teaching and learning," said Dr. Monica Goldson, Interim Chief Executive Officer. "Maryland Blue Ribbon awards are among the highest honors in education. The entire Prince George's County Public Schools community celebrates with Glenarden Woods."

Under Principal Cecelia Jones-Bowling, Glenarden Woods earned a five-star rating this year, the top rating in Maryland's new accountability system. On the state's PARCC assessments, 82 percent of students met or exceeded expectations in English Language Arts (ELA) and 79 percent reached or exceeded expectations in mathematics. There also is no gap in achievement: 82 percent of economically disadvantaged students met standards in ELA and 72 percent in math.

"This is a much deserved early holiday gift for Glenarden Woods Elementary School and the Prince George's County School System," said Dr. Alvin Thornton, Board of Education Chair. "I commend the students, faculty and staff for their commitment to excellence, which earned their school this high honor and reflects its distinguished history of academic excellence. The Maryland Blue Ribbon designation speaks to our school system's commitment to nurturing communities of exceptional learners."

Glenarden Woods offers many high-quality learning opportunities for its students, including the Talented And Gifted (TAG) program emphasizing science, technology, engineering,

the arts, and math (STEAM). The school is housed in a newly renovated "green" building that earned LEED certification for its energy-efficient features. Two Destination Imagination teams have participated in global competitions and its Science Bowl teams have won four championships. Glenarden Woods also partners with Bowie State University to develop the next generation of teachers.

"I would like to congratulate and commend the students, principal and teachers of Glenarden Woods Elementary School for their steadfast and combined efforts of excellence," said Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "Our students are truly some of the best and brightest in the state and this

Blue Ribbon award is yet another symbol of the consistency of instruction, administrative best practices and high academic achievement."

Glenarden Woods was named a National Blue Ribbon School in 2006. Since 1982, 14 Prince George's County public schools have received Blue Ribbon awards. Eleanor Roosevelt has earned state and national Blue Ribbon honors twice.

Schools will receive a Maryland Blue Ribbon flag to display proudly along with a monetary prize, plus \$1,000 in office supplies, interactive technology, and a party to congratulate students at their school. Glenarden Woods will now apply for National Blue Ribbon status from the U.S. Department of Education.



PHOTO BY BROOKS DUBOSE/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Maryland Black Bears winger and associate captain Connor Pooley takes a faceoff against Wilkes-Barre/Scranton during their North American Hockey League game at Piney Orchard Ice Arena in Odenton, Maryland, on Friday Nov. 30, 2018.

Md.'s First Junior Hockey Team Offers a Pathway to College

By BROOKS DUBOSE
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland (December 5, 2018)—Quinn Warmuth knew he wanted to play college hockey since eighth grade.

Now, the 19-year-old defenseman is making that dream a reality with the Maryland Black Bears junior hockey team—the first North American Hockey League team in the state.

But first, Warmuth, an Olmstead, Ohio, native and the Black Bears' captain, hopes to establish a winning culture at the Odenton-based team, helping plot a roadmap for future Maryland players to eventually play college hockey.

In April, the Black Bears became the 24th member of the Tier II junior hockey league, which features a highly competitive brand of hockey for 16- to 21-year-olds who aspire to play collegiately. The league has produced several National Hockey League All-Stars in its 42-year history, in-

cluding Phil Kessel of the Pittsburgh Penguins, and the Chicago Blackhawks' Patrick Kane.

The Black Bears arrived at a critical time for local hockey. Youth hockey participation in Maryland has trended upward in the last three seasons, topping 10,000 players for the second consecutive year, according to USA Hockey. The team will fill the gap between youth hockey and the college ranks, providing local talent with the opportunity to play competitively close to home.

"We're put in a unique (position) where we can dictate what the future holds for this place," said Warmuth, the Black Bears' team captain. "Kids now from Maryland can play hockey here. They're never really going to have to leave home for the first time, which is really nice and a unique opportunity that they didn't have before."

In June, the Washington Capitals won the franchise's first Stanley Cup, which could further bolster participation, said Black Bears Head Coach and General

Manager Clinton Mylymok. Mylymok called the timing of starting a junior hockey team the same year as the Capitals winning the Cup "the perfect storm."

"When you win like that to create the buzz, it's not just for us it's for the sport in general," Mylymok said. "You tend to see more people coming out to watch a game or also maybe learn to play the game."

Kevin Erlenbach, the assistant executive director of membership at USA Hockey, said the growth in player registration—mainly among players ages 8 and younger—will continue in the DC metro area for several years.

"Especially the year after (a Cup win) you will see a surge in new players," Erlenbach said. "That wave rides for a while because there's a jump in retention because it's a bigger pool."

Mylymok and the players said the stands at home games—the

See HOCKEY Page A8

Fire Safety For The Holiday Season

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland State Fire Marshal

STATEWIDE SAFETY RELEASE (December 17, 2018)—State Fire Marshal Brian S. Geraci reminds all residents of Maryland to check for fire safety where they live, work, attend classes, training and meetings. "Fire and life safety is everyone's responsibility; by testing smoke alarms and CO detectors, keeping exits clear of obstructions, and maintaining fire alarms and fire sprinkler systems, we can all avoid injury or death from the effects of fire."

To ensure your best chances of surviving a fire, the State Fire Marshal offers the following tips for an enjoyable and safe Holiday Season:

Please ensure you have the chimney cleaned and inspected yearly before use.

Having candles present during your Holiday cel-

ebrations is very festive. However, never leave candles burning unattended. Extinguish the flame before leaving the room. Consider battery operated candles instead of flaming candles for safety.

While preparing the Holiday meals can be fun for all family members, prevent fires from starting on the stove by staying in the kitchen and monitoring the food as it is being prepared. If a fire would occur in a pot or pan on the stove, calmly place a lid on it and turn off the burner. Allow it to cool before removal from the stove.

If using a turkey fryer, please follow all safety precautions and manufacturer's instructions. NEVER put a frozen turkey in a fryer. Make sure it has completely thawed.

If you are using a cut tree for Christmas, special precautions need to be observed: Select a tree with green needles that do not remove too easily from

the branches and the trunk should be sticky to the touch. Place the tree in a location away from heat sources and add water every day during the recommended two-week life span while on display. Make sure the location of the tree does not block any exits in your home.

Never use lit candles to decorate a tree. Ensure candles are placed well away from tree branches. The use of battery operated candles is a much safer alternative.

Dried out trees can ignite more readily. Remove the tree shortly after the holiday and place outdoors for disposal.

Inspect holiday lighting for frayed or damaged

wiring and check for cracked sockets. Replace strands with new sets as they become worn. Follow manufacturer's guidelines when attaching additional strands.

Always unplug or switch off all holiday lights before leaving home or going to bed. Make sure you close the door to all occupied bedrooms before you fall asleep.

Take down holiday lighting after the holidays. Holiday lights are temporary seasonal decorations that should be limited to 30 days use.

If a fire occurs inside your home, close the doors behind you as you vacate to the outside, call 911 and never go back inside the home. Tell arriving first responders if anyone is still inside.

Please enjoy a fire safe holiday season with your family and friends!



INSIDE

Shop With A Cop 2018—A Huge Success!!!

The children enjoyed a ride in the police cruisers, a shopping experience with a Cheverly police officer, lunch at the Cheverly Police station, a surprise visit from Santa, and some extra treats to take home.

Community, Page A3

ChildWatch: We Must Protect Our Children America!

According to the Children's Defense Fund's Parent and Child Trends survey conducted earlier this year by YouGov, children say they are more worried about a shooting happening in their schools than they are about fitting in with other children or experiencing peer pressure.

Commentary, Page A4

Sol Systems Sells 10.8 MW of Maryland Solar Energy Projects to Greenbacker

The first-of-its-kind renewable energy development project in Prince George's County, the facility will be located on a site that has remained vacant for 30 years and has been deemed unsuitable for residential development.

Business and Finance, Page A5

Movie Review:

Fantastic Beasts:

The Crimes of Grindelwald

The story lumbers along without urgency, Yates and Rowling believing they've earned the audience's loyalty just by using the Harry Potter font in the titles, and they keep dropping new details to set up the THREE MORE MOVIES planned for this cycle.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

It seems to me the single biggest potential "environmental" problem we could face ... is a comet or asteroid striking the Earth. Do we currently track these space rocks and if so, how? ...

—James McClintock,
Austin, TX

Features, Page A7

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Darnall's Chance announces Gingerbread House Contest winners

Darnall's Chance House Museum hosted its 19th annual show featuring delightful (and edible) gingerbread houses, farms, stores, cottages, cabins, lodges and more, from Nov. 23 to Dec. 9. All winning entrees were awarded gift certificates.

Winners in Viewer's Choice were: Adult Category, Ami Hazell, Santa's Visit to Venice, Italy; Child Category, Fiona Murray, Fiona's Festive Ski Chalet; and Family Category, McClain-Hosman Family, You'll Shoot your Eye Out: Hyattsville Train Station Christmas, 1940.

Ribbon winners in three categories were:

Child Category: 1st place, Fiona Murray, Fiona's Festive Ski Chalet; 2nd, Jude Morson, Blue Nuns of Christmas; 3rd, Saoirse Hosman, Woods Cabin.

Adult Category: 1st place, Ami Hazell, Santa's Visit to Venice, Italy; 2nd, Michelle Howell, Last Chance Farm Christmas; 3rd, Jamie Wiesner, Enchanted Forest Candy Cottage.

Family Category: 1st place, McClain-Hosman Family, You'll Shoot Your Eye Out: Hyattsville Train Station Christmas, 1940; 2nd, Quinn Family, The Meow Mansion; and 3rd, McHale Family, Snow Day on Gallifrey (Doctor's Day Off). That last entrée was created by my grandson Conor, his wife Heather, and their children Mary and Wesley.

Thank you to Darnall's Chance for holding this contest for 19 years, making Christmas a little nostalgic and more fun.

Angel Donor

Christmas came early for the students, teachers and parents at Holy Family School in Hillcrest Heights. On Dec. 3 the school received an anonymous \$200,000 donation, which allows the financially-struggling school to remain open for the next school year.

Father Matthew Fish, administrator of Holy Family, announced the news to the school community during a morning assembly. Teachers hugged each other and wiped tears from their eyes. And the students clapped and cheered.

"I felt it was a miracle on Callaway Street," said Tamika Evans, whose daughter is a 4th grader.

The Angel Donor has been an encouragement to others to donate as well. The school has been open for years, maybe 70 or more. Such Angel Donors may keep it going another 70.

Last original resident

Bob Shanholtz, who has lived his whole life on Skyline Drive, has moved. He is the son of the late Paul and Dorothy Shanholtz who probably moved here in the late 1940s, just after WWII. The family is listed in the 1952 Morningside Directory.

Bob graduated from local schools and went on to work for the Washington Post and for the Georgetown University Law School. I understand from his next-door neighbor that he has moved in with his sister. He was the last original resident of my neighborhood.

MVFD 2019 Live-in Recruitment Weekend coming up

Looking for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity? Invaluable experience? Lifelong friendships? Endless educational and professional opportunities?

The Morningside Volunteer Fire Department is excited to announce their 2019 Live-in Recruitment Weekend, Feb. 7-10. If you're interested or would like to sign up, visit www.morningsidevfd27.com/recruitment/live-in/. Fill out an inquiry form and let them know you plan to attend! A recruiter will be in contact with you for further details. They say "Hope to see you there!"

Morningside Memories from Judy

Former Morningsider Judy Misenheimer Draheim sent me these delightful memories of growing up in her hometown:

"I lived at the top of the steepest hill in Morningside, Boxwood Drive. When it snowed, the entire town came to sleigh ride in front of my house. It was all well and good until some boys built a fire next to my Dad's car.

"Also, I remember flying down through my front yard on a bicycle. My body flew over the handlebars and into the garden. Boy, did that hurt!

"My friend and I used to walk to a little store (GI Market?) quite frequently and buy a Chef Boyardee Pizza and Lipton Chicken Noodle Soup for lunch.

"We all played on a girls' softball team every summer. It was so much fun. Mrs. Jean Davis and Mrs. Leona Conlon coached our team. Peg Richardson will remember this."

Gladys Rowles, took flying lessons in her 80s

Gladys M. Rowles, 92, died recently. She attended District Heights Elementary, graduated from the old Maryland Park High, and married a classmate, William F. Rowles, now deceased. They purchased a home in Maryland Park and lived there the rest of their lives.

During WWII she worked for the British Government, later for the telephone company, and was among the first women uniformed crossing guards and school bus drivers in Prince George's County. She was also a realtor for five years.

She led her daughters' Brownie Troop, was active in PTA, and ran the teen club. She loved golf and still played through her last twelve years, went to two Super Bowls, visited China and Russia on ocean cruises, and took flying lessons in her 80s. She loved the Redskins and The Young and the Restless.

She's survived by daughters Patricia and Frances, four grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. Years ago daughter Pat was assigned to write an essay on "someone you admire." The teacher wrote on her paper, "highly unlikely." At the PTA meeting, Gladys greeted that teacher with, "Hi, I'm Pat's highly unlikely mother. Now which part do you think she made up?"

Milestones

Happy birthday to Christopher Garri, Anne Lucas and Patsy Anderson, Dec. 28; and my granddaughter Samantha McHale who turns 18 on Dec. 28; Brayden Proctor, Dec. 29; Amy Anthony and Robert Tretler, Dec. 30; Pat Spry, Dec. 31; Sister Haimanot, Dorothy Cullinan and Bridget Vilky, New Year's Day; Evelyn Lozano, Jan. 2; Gene Desmarais and Courtni Bland, Jan. 3.

Happy anniversary to my grandson David and Nina McHale, their 18th on Dec. 30; Tom and Monique Laws, Jan. 3; and my grandson Conor and Heather McHale, their 14th on Jan. 3.

Around the County

Hogan Administration Announces \$300,000 to Preserve Maryland Historical Sites

Ten Organizations to Benefit from Non-Capital Historic Preservation Grants

By DAVID BUCK

Maryland Department of Planning

BALTIMORE, MD (December 18, 2018)—The Hogan Administration today announced that the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), a division of the Maryland Department of Planning (Planning), has awarded ten projects \$300,000 in Non-Capital Historic Preservation Grants to Maryland nonprofit organizations and local jurisdictions for FY 2019.

"Investing in Maryland's historic communities leads to increased economic activity and tourism, as well as a better quality of life for our citizens," said Governor Larry Hogan. "These grants will help identify and record sites across our state, enhancing and preserving Maryland's rich history for generations to come."

The grants, made available through Maryland General Assembly special funds, support and encourage research, survey, planning, and educational activities involving architectural, archeological, and cultural resources.

"This funding provides the important base for documenting Maryland's history to be preserved in a meaningful way and will provide the opportunity to enhance heritage tourism," said Planning Secretary Robert McCord.

The goal of the Non-Capital Grant Program is to identify, document, and preserve buildings, communities, and sites of historical and cultural importance to the State of Maryland.

This year's grant awards range from \$6,000 to \$55,000. MHT received more than \$836,000 in Non-Capital grant requests this year.

The availability of fiscal year 2020 Non-Capital grant funds will be announced in the spring of 2019 on MHT's website (mht.maryland.gov/grants_noncap.shtml). Application deadlines and workshop dates will also be found at the same link.

MHT, the State Historic Preservation Office, is an agency of the Maryland Department of Planning. The Trust was formed in 1961 to assist in identifying, studying, evaluating, preserving, protecting and interpreting Maryland's significant prehistoric and historic districts, sites, structures, cultural landscapes, heritage areas, cultural objects and artifacts, as well as less tangible human and community traditions.

For more information about the grant program, contact Heather Barrett, Administrator of Research and Survey at MHT, at 410-697-9536 or heather.barrett@maryland.gov. Details on the [Prince George's County] projects are below.

Hyattsville Community Development Corporation—Prince George's County (\$21,000 grant awarded)

The project includes comprehensive documentation of restrictive deed covenants historically employed in Hyattsville and the development of educational and outreach programs that incorporates the research.

The Lost Towns Project, Inc.—Anne Arundel and Prince George's Counties (\$43,000 grant awarded)

An interdisciplinary team from the Lost Towns Project, Anne Arundel Co., MNCPPC, and Washington College will undertake Phase I of a three-year/multi-phase project to survey and evaluate the prehistoric archeological resources of the Jug Bay Complex. This grant will contribute to a planned National Register nomination in year three.

Interim CEO Proposes \$2.1 Billion FY2020 Operating Budget to Support Outstanding Academic Achievement For All Students

Priorities Include Employee Compensation, Class Size Reduction and School Safety

By COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Prince George's County Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, MD (December 14, 2018)—Interim Chief Executive Officer Dr. Monica E. Goldson has proposed a \$2.1 billion operating budget for Fiscal Year 2020, prioritizing employee compensation, lower class size and school safety. The majority of budget investments will go toward developing a high-performing workforce, bolstered by the work of a new compensation task force seeking to make Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) competitive with surrounding jurisdictions.

"My goal is to make Prince George's County a school system of choice in the region where employees know they are valued and well-compensated for excellent work," said Dr. Goldson.

The budget framework is anchored by investments in the strategic plan focus areas: \$25.3 million for academic excellence; \$64.4 million to support a high-performing workforce; \$6.8 million towards safe and supportive environments; \$637,000 directed to family and community engagement; and \$2 million for organizational effectiveness.

The budget proposal redirects \$19.3 million from the central office to key school initiatives, including class-size reduction in kindergarten through third grades and student and staff safety.

The budget plan corrects historically underfunded spending areas: employee overtime (\$8.6 million), compensation for instructional lead teachers working additional days (\$800,000), summer school (\$300,000) and classroom furniture (\$300,000). The budget request also supports anticipated enrollment growth and critical programmatic investments while identifying efficiencies.

Immediately upon her appointment, Dr. Goldson reorganized the central office executive-level and managerial positions, redirecting \$2.4 million to schools. The budget proposal continues of this strategy to maximize funds and resources to students.

"If we support our educators and staff, they will meet the needs of our students," said Dr. Goldson. "We will use additional resources in ways that improve the lives of the children we serve."

Board of Education Budget Work Session meetings will be held Jan. 22 at Bowie High School, Jan. 29 at Fairmont Heights High School, and Feb. 5 at Friendly High School, all starting at 5 p.m. Public hearings will follow at 7 p.m. The Board is expected to adopt the budget request at its Feb. 21 meeting and submit the request to the County Executive for approval by March 1. The County Council will consider the budget for approval in May.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

COUNT ON US

Watch episodes on Monday and Wednesday from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for Live Math Homework Help. Audience includes students, teachers and parents. Call us at 301-772-0080 or email us at cou@pgcps.org. Streaming sites: facebook.com/pgcps. Periscope@pgcps. Social Media: @Count on Us on Twitter and Instagram.

Count on Us includes the following segments: Parccing, lot-demo of online tools, coaching connections-problem solving strategies, SMP focus chips, manipulative of the week, fluency activities and of course your live calls.

NCA & NDA CAPITOL CITY CLASSIC

Doors open at 7:00 a.m. for the Cheer and Dance Competition. The competition begins at 8:00 a.m. and the estimated end time is 8:00 p.m. at The Show Place Arena Saturday, January 5, 2019. The address is 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

The admission is \$15 Spectator Fee. Children ages 7 & under are free. Cash only. For more information about this event call 301-952-7900 or visit <http://www.mncppcapps.org/pgparks/disc.1>

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY POINTS OF PRIDE

"Bowie State University is a top historically black university (U.S. News & World Report). Number one for value among Maryland's four-year colleges and universities (The Economist). A top producer of minority degrees (Diverse: Issues in Higher Education). One of Maryland's best four-year colleges or universities (Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education U.S. College Ranking and Best Colleges.com)."

CLOTHING DROP OFF SHED

Did you know that Post 227 located at 13505 Cherry Tree

Crossing Road, Brandywine, Maryland has a used clothing drop off shed? All clothing, shoes, belts, blankets and other items are also accepted. Please put your items in plastic bags.

"You can get a receipt when you drop off your donation. This is a great opportunity for our Post to assist our local veterans and community. Please share and support this drop off site location with families, your church and friends."

MARYLAND VETERANS CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

Join us Sunday, March 24, 2019 at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts, 15200 Annapolis Road (MD Rt 450), Bowie, Maryland 20715. Art show opening at 12:00 p.m. Stage Show at 2:00 p.m. Donations for tickets: \$10.00 (Free to: active duty military & families, ROTC/JROTC, ALA/SAL Jrs. & Senior facilities residents).

Sponsors: American Legion Auxiliary Department of Maryland, Inc. The City of Bowie. Rusty Beeg at rbeeg5908@gmail.com, Ivy Christoffers at ichristoffers@verizon.net. Contact Linda 301-383-0112 or Chris at 410-242-9519 for ticket information. Veterans still serving their communities by sharing their talents.

TEN-MINUTE PLAY FESTIVAL

Enjoy an evening of plays produced, written and directed by BSU students on February 21, 2019, 7:30 p.m. in the Fine and Free Performing Arts Center, Black Box Theater on Bowie State University Campus. Event contact is Bob Bartlett, bbartlett@bowiestate.edu or 301-860-3769.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE

Happy New Year to all my supporters, family and friends. I hope that everyone will have a prosperous New year.

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Taking Control of Sibling Rivalry

If there is more than one child in a family it's usually inevitable to have teasing, arguments and sometimes even fighting. While your children may love one another, disagreements and competition among them is only natural.

The reason behind disagreements among your children is "sibling rivalry." When a family has two or more children, the kids are naturally, even if unconsciously, going to be rivals for their parents' love and attention.

For a young child it starts when there is the birth of a new brother or sister. The older child often sees himself or herself being replaced as number one in the parents' eyes. This child tends to believe there is only so much love for a parent to give, and now there will be less love for him or her.

It's actually a rational fear growing out of the child's observations. An infant, out of necessity, is going to require more time and attention. Simply telling the older child that Mom and Dad can love all their children equally usually has little effect, since young children aren't capable of the abstract thinking necessary to understand this concept. The practical cure is to demonstrate your love for each of your children. Find time to spend with each child, doing something important or special to that child.

As children get older, it isn't jealousy over the amount of parental love but competition for parents' attention that can fuel sibling rivalry. Children will often compete, usually without realizing they're competing, to be "first" in their parents' eyes.

Children will work for better grades in school, display stronger athletic skills, develop musical or artistic talents, or even get into trouble if it makes Mom or Dad pay attention.

While sibling rivalry is a natural occurrence it shouldn't reach a point where physical or emotional damage is done to any of the children, or to the point where it disrupts family functioning. If a parent see one child "winning" all the time, they may want to tip the scales slightly giving the other child more time and attention.

All children have different levels of ability and a little friendly competition can often be a good motivator. But if that competition gets too serious, it can significantly harm a child's development of self esteem. That's when it's a good time to seek help from your school counselor or another professional counselor.

Counseling Corner is provided by the American Counseling Association. Send comments and questions to ACAcorner@counseling.org or visit the ACA website at www.counseling.org.

Chesapeake Life Center's Prince George's County 2019 Winter Grief Support Schedule

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

LARGO MD, (Dec. 14, 2018)—Chesapeake Life Center will offer a variety of grief support groups January through March 2019 through its Prince George's County office at 9500 Medical Center Drive, Suite 250, Largo.

- **Coffee and Conversations Monthly Morning Grief Support Group** is an informal gathering that provides a safe place for sharing and learning about grief while exploring coping strategies. The group will meet from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on the second Thursday of the month Jan. 10, Feb. 14 and March 14.
- **Monthly Evening Grief Support Group** is similar in format to the morning group and will meet from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Jan. 24, Feb. 28 and March 21.
- **Sudden Loss Support Group** is a new group the center began offering in the fall. It is for adults who are grieving someone who has passed from unexpected or sudden deaths, including suicide, homicide, accidents, natural causes such as an accident or allergic reaction or from advanced terminal illness that was undiagnosed or when death occurred within two months of diagnosis. The group meets on the evenings of the third Monday of the month: Jan 21, Feb. 18 and March 18. Call for times and to speak with a counselor prior to attending your first meeting.
- **SoulCollage Grief Support Group** has participants create a series of collages to commemorate lost loved ones and to visually journal the grief process. Formerly held at Church of the Redeemer in Bowie, it will now meet in the Largo office from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on the first Monday of the month: Jan. 7, Feb. 4 and March 4. The cost is \$10.

Child care is not provided, and children are not permitted in any of these groups. Registration is required for all groups and can be completed by calling 888-501-7077 or emailing griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org.

Chesapeake Life Center, a program service of Hospice of the Chesapeake, serves hospice family members and the community with bereavement services and activities aimed at enhancing the quality of life for those grieving the loss of a loved one. For details, visit www.chesapeakelifecenter.org.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOWN OF CHEVERLY

Shop With A Cop 2018—A Huge Success!!!

By PRESS OFFICER
Town of Cheverly, MD

CHEVERLY, MD (December 17, 2018)—As we drop off the last child safely to their home, the members of the Cheverly Police Department look back on today with smiles, and good cheer, as we celebrate another successful Shop with a Cop program. Today, we were able to help more than 15 children, and their families, enjoy a Christmas Holiday with a little less concern and more joy. The children enjoyed a ride in the police cruisers, a shopping experience with a Cheverly police officer, lunch at the Cheverly Police station, a surprise visit from Santa, and some extra treats to take home.

We understand this could not have been as successful as it was without the help of the community, and all those who assisted us in this endeavor. We want to thank all those who provided families for the program, donated, shared our posts, spread the word of our program, and assisted by volunteering their time. Your help allowed us to make this Christmas Holiday that more special for these deserving children and families. We look forward to providing many more opportunities where the department and community can come together for a common goal and the benefit of others.

Happy Holidays!!!

—The Cheverly Police Department

BGE Continues to Deliver 'Energy for the Community' Through Holiday Volunteering

By TASHA JAMERSON
Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE)

BALTIMORE (Dec. 14, 2018)—BGE employees are on pace to log more than 26,000 hours of volunteer service with nonprofit organizations throughout the company's service area. With a full slate of outreach events scheduled throughout the rest of December, BGE's year-round 'Energy for the Community' program peaks during the holiday season.

"For BGE, giving back during the holidays really emphasizes the spirit of the season and underscores our responsibility to support and strengthen the communities we serve," said Valencia McClure, vice president of governmental and external affairs and corporate relations for BGE. "The company has a strong culture of service that resonates with our customers and the communities we serve throughout the entire year."

By participating in close to 300 volunteer projects this year, employees donated their time and energy to local charities in a variety of ways, from assisting with food preparation, to tutoring students at low income schools. In addition to volunteering, employees (and retirees) have contributed more than \$1.3 million dollars through BGE's annual Employee Giving Campaign, with individual pledges, work-site fundraisers, and contributions matched by BGE's parent company, Exelon Corporation, directed to local United Way campaigns.

On Dec. 2, BGE senior vice president of regulatory and external affairs Alex Núñez, Annapolis Mayor Gavin Buckley, and kids of all ages gathered to ring in the holidays at the Annapolis Chocolate Binge Festival. BGE is a third-year sponsor of the event, and along with volunteering also provided LED lights for the West Street Holiday Lights Canopy.

This year's BGE employee-supported holiday projects also include:

- Volunteering at the Festival of Trees sponsored by the Kennedy Krieger Institute which dedicates its research, hospital, and school facilities to helping children and adolescents with disorders of the brain and spinal cord.
- Serving dinner to homeless neighbors at the Baltimore Station coordinated by members of the Baltimore chapter of Exelon Militaries Actively Connected (EMAC).
- Adopting more than 725 "Angels" as part

of the Salvation Army Angel Tree program that provides gifts of new clothing and toys to thousands of area children. The Exelon family of companies based in Baltimore is Maryland's largest corporate partner in the program.

- Packing meals for Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland.
- Volunteering at Art with a Heart Lunch & Craft event completing art to be used to create pop-art inspired trash cans.
- Wrapping gifts that will be given during the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program at Salvation Army Elf Night.
- Volunteering at Our Daily Bread, a Catholic Charities hot meal program, that serves breakfast to seniors and people with disabilities.
- Volunteering at gift giving event at Mercy Medical Center.
- Helping prepare and serve breakfast to residents of the Ronald McDonald House.
- Serving meals to the clients of My Sister's Place Women's Center.

BGE's 'Energy for the Community' engages employees from all parts of the company and recognizes the importance of their efforts in building relationships with our customers and communities to make a positive and lasting impact. Local nonprofit organizations are encouraged to log on to BGE Employee Volunteering for more information.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BGE

BGE overhead mechanic Courtney Lupinek (far right) offers safety instructions and holiday cheer at the Annapolis Chocolate Binge Festival.

Governor Hogan Announces Poet Laureate Appointment

Appoints Grace Cavalieri as Maryland's 10th State Poet Laureate

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 14, 2018)—Governor Larry Hogan today announced the appointment of Grace Cavalieri as Maryland's 10th Poet Laureate. Ms. Cavalieri has published 24 books and chapbooks of poetry, produced 26 plays, and hosted approximately 2,000 weekly radio shows and numerous literary workshops. The Poet Laureate of Maryland is an honorary state position in which the individual selected will serve at the discretion of the governor for up to a four-year term renewable by the governor's consent.

"We're honored to have Grace Cavalieri join the distinguished ranks of Maryland's Poet Laureates," said Governor Hogan. "Her lifelong passion for and dedication to poetry and the arts is nothing short of astounding, and I'm confident Marylanders will enjoy

her readings and develop a greater understanding and appreciation for poetry through her service."

Ms. Cavalieri has written texts and lyrics performed for opera and television and also established two publishing houses, one of which she still operates directly as a small press that focuses on publishing poets.

She is the recipient of many prestigious awards including the inaugural Columbia Merit Award for "significant contributions to poetry," the Pen-Fiction Award, the Allen Ginsberg Poetry Award, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting Silver Medal.

The Maryland Poet Laureate position was formally established by the Maryland General Assembly in 1959 and authorizes the governor to appoint a citizen of the state as Poet Laureate of Maryland. The Poet Laureate provides public readings for the citizens of Maryland, ensuring that people in all geographic regions of

the state have access to at least one reading during the term of service. The Poet Laureate also undertakes projects that make poetry more available and accessible to citizens of Maryland of all ages. The Poet Laureate is appointed by the governor based on a recommendation from the Poet Laureate Review Committee, a diverse committee of qualified individuals who represent various arts and humanities communities throughout the state.

Nine Poet Laureates have served for the state since the inception of this Act in 1959. Past Poet Laureates include (in order of service): Maria B. Coker, Vincent Godfrey Burns, Lucille Clifton, Reed Whitemore, Linda Pastan, Roland Flint, Michael Collier, Michael Glaser, and Stanley Plumly.

More information on Maryland's Poet Laureate can be found at <https://www.msac.org/sites/default/files/files/FACTSHEET-POET.pdf>.

COMMENTARY

Marion Wright Edelman
President, Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

We Must Protect Our Children America!

Six years ago December 14 started off like an ordinary morning in classrooms across our country. Children rushed in to school bundled against the cold, chatting and laughing and trying to contain all of their extra energy and excitement from the bright holiday season. Concerts were scheduled, classroom parties were planned, and teachers were squeezing in their last few lessons before winter break. It was the same in Newtown, Connecticut—but that was the unforgettably horrible day 20 first graders and six adults walked into Sandy Hook Elementary School and never walked back out.

When he spoke two days later at a prayer vigil for the victims of the mass shooting at Sandy Hook, President Barack Obama said: "This is our first task—caring for our children. It's our first job. If we don't get that right, we don't get anything right. That's how, as a society, we will be judged. And by that measure, can we truly say, as a nation, that we are meeting our obligations? Can we say that we're truly doing enough to give all the children of this country the chance they deserve to live out their lives in happiness and with purpose? Can we honestly say that we're doing enough to keep our children—

all of them—safe from harm?" President Obama said if we were honest with ourselves we knew the answer: no.

He continued: "Since I've been President, this is the fourth time we have come together to comfort a grieving community torn apart by a mass shooting. The fourth time we've hugged survivors. The fourth time we've consoled the families of victims. And in between, there have been an endless series of deadly shootings across the country, almost daily reports of victims, many of them children, in small towns and big cities all across America ... We will be told that the causes of such violence are complex, and that is true. No single law—no set of laws can eliminate evil from the world, or prevent every senseless act of violence in our society. But that can't be an excuse for inaction. Surely, we can do better than this. If there is even one step we can take to save another child, or another parent, or another town, from the grief that has visited Tucson, and Aurora, and Oak Creek, and Newtown, and communities from Columbine to Blacksburg before that—then surely we have an obligation to try."

President Obama did try, but once again, as a na-

tion we failed. We failed every person in America who has been injured and killed by guns since the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School including most heartbreakingly thousands of children. We failed the high school students murdered at Marjory Stoneman Douglass High School. We failed the toddlers, children, and teenagers among the worshipers killed at First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas. And we've failed thousands of children killed in their homes and communities across our nation and the family members, classmates, and friends all of them left behind.

We failed Makiyah Wilson, the 10-year-old girl who was shot and killed in front of her Washington, D.C. home in July while trying to buy a treat from the ice cream truck. We failed seven-year-old Taylor Hayes, who died in Baltimore that same month after being shot while riding in the back seat of a car. And in a coincidence almost too terrible to be true, we failed Taylor's five-year-old half-sister Amy Hayes, who was shot and injured on November 19 walking to buy juice at the corner store. Amy's great-grandmother said that when she saw Amy fall to the ground she thought the young girl had tripped in her Pink Panther sneakers because she hasn't learned how to tie her shoelaces very well yet.

We are still wantonly and sinfully continuing to fail every day in our duty to protect our children. According to the Children's Defense Fund's Parent and Child Trends survey conducted earlier this year by YouGov, children say they are more worried about a shooting happening in their schools than they are about fitting in with other children or experiencing peer pressure. Even children too young to be in kindergarten are at risk: more preschoolers are killed from guns each year than law enforcement officers in active duty. In 2017, 93 children under 5 were killed by guns. Between 1963 and 2017, 67,521 Black children and teens were killed by guns—nearly 17 times the number of recorded

lynchings of Black people of all ages in the 74 years from 1877 to 1950. Have we no shame or sense of responsibility to place our children's lives ahead of guns? But there is hope.

Since the massacre at Sandy Hook, growing numbers of people in America have been saying no more. Mothers and fathers and now children and teenagers themselves are demanding that we protect children, not guns. Even some gun owners are demanding action. Overall, about 6 in 10 American voters support stricter gun control and believe more guns will only make our nation less safe according to a recent Quinnipiac University National Poll conducted in November 2018. This is a critical opportunity for members of Congress and state legislators to move forward early in 2019 on essential common sense gun safety and ensure all children the right to grow up safely—free from fear and violence. With great urgency, we must:

- Expand background checks to cover all gun sales—including gun sales at gun shows, on the internet or between private individuals. More than 9 in 10 American voters and gun owners support universal background checks.
- Keep guns out of the hands of children and those who would use them against children through Child Access Prevention laws as well as Extreme Risk Protection Orders which empower families and law enforcement officers to temporarily limit gun access for those who pose a danger to themselves or others.
- Fund research on the causes and consequences of gun violence to arm all of us with more information, not more guns.

As today's students become the next generation of voters and leaders a new groundswell of powerful voices is starting to shout surely, we can do better than this to protect our children. We must do better for our children. This holy season is a very fitting time to begin.

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin Praises Bipartisan Passage of the First Step Act by 87-12 Vote, Says It Must Be the Start of Criminal Justice Reform Efforts, Not the End

"With this first step toward repairing our broken criminal justice system, let us pledge to work together to make further improvements in the new Congress."

WASHINGTON (Dec 18, 2018)—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), a cosponsor of the First Step Act, offered the following remarks during Senate floor debate and passage of the criminal justice reform legislation on Tuesday night:

"I'm very pleased that the Senate passed the First Step Act tonight, with strong support from both parties. My colleagues on both sides of the aisle understand that our criminal justice system is badly broken and in need of repair, and just as the name suggests, passage of tonight's bill is a critical first step toward making those fixes. This legislation makes key sentencing and prison reform improvements—necessary changes for a more reasonable, equitable justice system. I thank Senators Grassley and Durbin for their leadership on getting this done, and I urge my colleagues in the House to pass this bill and President Trump to sign it into law without delay.

"I am especially pleased that the revised First Step Act passed tonight reauthorizes the Second Chance Act. This critical federal program helps individuals returning to the community from prison or jail and has a proven track record of reducing recidivism and saving money for the taxpayers.

"In my own state of Maryland, we know the importance of criminal justice reform after the death

of Freddie Gray in Baltimore Police Department custody in 2015. Baltimore is a good example of the necessary federal and state partnership we need in order to reform the criminal justice system.

"In 2016, Maryland also passed the Justice Reinvestment Act, which seeks to reduce Maryland's prison population and use the savings to provide for more effective treatment to offenders—before, during, and after incarceration. This is intended to reduce the likelihood of reoffending, as well as to benefit victims and families and reduce costs to taxpayers.

"As a next step, in the new Congress, I look forward to consideration of my End Racial and Religious Profiling Act, S. 411. Racial and discriminatory profiling is wrong, counterproductive, and a wasteful use of resources. This amendment would prohibit racial, religious, and other discriminatory profiling by any federal, state, or local law enforcement, setting a national standard. It would create a cause of action for such profiling, condition the receipt of federal law enforcement grants on the elimination of profiling, and create grants for best practices and training of law enforcement officers.

"Congress should also take up and pass my Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act, S. 3195, to address the issue of police accountability and build trust between police departments and the communities they serve. This legislation provides incentives for local police organizations to voluntarily adopt performance-based standards to ensure that incidents of misconduct will be reduced through appropriate

management, training and oversight protocols. Finally, this legislation authorizes funds for the implementation of consent decrees and judgements entered into between the Department of Justice and local police departments, such as the Baltimore Police Department.

"I had filed two amendments to this legislation that I will work with my colleagues to be considered in the new Congress. The first is the text of S. 1588, the Democracy Restoration Act (DRA). This legislation would strengthen American communities by restoring voting rights to individuals after they have returned to their communities after being released from incarceration. Studies indicate that former prisoners who have voting rights restored are less likely to reoffend, and that disenfranchisement hinders their rehabilitation and reintegration into their community.

"I was pleased that last month the citizens of Florida, by a nearly two-thirds margin of 65 to 35 percent, voted to amend their state constitution to automatically restore the right to vote for most individuals with prior felony convictions. Under the previous law, people with prior felonies never regained their right to vote in Florida unless a state board used its discretion to individually restore your voting rights.

"The United States is one of the few Western democracies that allows the permanent denial of voting rights for individuals with felony convictions. It's simply wrong that state disenfranchisement laws deny citizens participation in our democracy. Casting a vote is one of the most fundamental rights in a democracy and gives you a say in the future of your community. Congress has a responsibility to ensure that right is protected and should be leading an effort to remove barriers and make it easier for more people to register to vote, cast their vote, and make sure their votes are counted.

"In the United States, an estimated 6.1 million adult citizens are currently disenfranchised as a result of a criminal conviction. While 16 states and the District of Columbia already restore voting rights upon release from prison, 34 states continue to restrict the voting rights of people who are no longer incarcerated. In 10 States, a conviction can result in lifetime disenfranchisement. Several States deny the right to vote to individuals convicted of certain

misdemeanors. Since March 2016, Maryland automatically restores voting rights after individuals are released from prison. The law went into effect after the legislature successfully overrode a veto from Governor Larry Hogan (R-Md.). The new law immediately restored voting rights to approximately 40,000 Marylanders.

"Second is the Private Prison Information Act, or PPIA. This amendment would apply the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to private prison. This would ensure that non-federal prisons are held to the same standard of information sharing and record keeping as federal detention facilities, and would increase transparency and accountability. Private prisons account for 20 percent of our federal prison and detention population but hide behind loopholes in the law when it comes to how they perform their job on behalf of the American people. Security breaches, overcrowding and misuse of funds were among the many reasons the Justice Department under President Obama and Attorney General Lynch rightly began to phase out the use of private prison contracts. These companies receive federal funds and provide the same service as governmental agencies. They perform the 'inherently governmental function' of incarcerating individuals convicted of a crime by the federal government. They must be held accountable to the same standards.

"I would note that the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and the American Civil Liberties Union sent a joint letter of support for the First Step Act. These groups also said: 'The First Step Act is not the end. We must address these concerns and create a system that is just and equitable, significantly reduces the number of people unnecessarily entering the system, eliminates racial disparities, and creates opportunities for second chances.

"With this first step toward repairing our broken criminal justice system, let us pledge to work together to make further improvements in the new Congress."

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator for Maryland



Van Hollen Pushes for Federal Employee Pay Raise in Short-Term Funding Bill

WASHINGTON (December 19, 2018)—Today, U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen announced that he will file an amendment to the short-term funding bill to provide federal employees with a 1.9 percent cost of living increase. President Trump announced a pay freeze for civil servants for 2019, which he

can do unilaterally unless Congress acts. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Van Hollen secured the same pay increase as part of the Fiscal Year 2019 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, which passed the Senate with strong bipartisan support.

of the aisle to support this modest cost-of-living adjustment, despite the Trump Administration's constant attack on our civil servants, and I am going to keep fighting until it becomes law. If we can't get it done as part of this short-term package, it should be the first order of business when we return."

"Our federal workforce protects our nation, ensures the safety of our food and medicine, delivers Social Security and veterans' benefits, and carries out countless other responsibilities on behalf of our citizens. But President Trump is poised to give them the gift of a pay freeze if Congress fails to act before the end of the year," said Senator Van Hollen. "I was proud to work with my colleagues on both sides

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Maximizing Spousal Benefits

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

Dear Rusty:

My husband turns 68 next year, and I will be turning 66. He plans on continuing to work and retiring at age 70 to maximize his monthly Social Security benefits. I am retiring next year due to a spinal injury. Since my monthly maximum is based on his, we are trying to figure out when mine should be activated to earn the highest benefit amount. Do I need to wait until he reaches age 70 to maximize mine, or can I activate it next year at the lesser amount and would Social Security adjust it to the higher rate when he activates his? **Signed: Timing is Everything**

Dear Timing: Your eventual spousal benefit from your husband's Social Security record will be based upon his full retirement age benefit amount, not on the increased benefit he will get by waiting until he is age 70 to claim. Thus, you don't gain anything by waiting past your full retirement age and until he claims his at 70 to start your own benefits. If you will be 66 next year, I assume your year of birth is 1953, which means your full retirement age (FRA) is 66. That means at age 66 you will get 100% of the benefit you have earned from a lifetime of working. By starting your benefits at age 66, your husband can then file a "restricted application for spousal benefits only" and collect 50% of the amount you are collecting, while allowing his own Social Security retirement benefit to continue to grow (it's already growing, but without him getting a spousal benefit from your record).

He can do this because he was born before the January 2, 1954 cutoff date after which that option was eliminated. By filing the restricted application after you start your benefits, your husband can collect a spousal benefit from you while he is still earning delayed retirement credits (DRCs) for himself, which will mean his benefit at age 70 will be 32% more than it would have been at his FRA of 66. Then, when your husband claims his own benefit at age 70, you should apply for your spousal benefit, which will be 50% of his FRA benefit amount (you get that if it is more than you are getting from your own work record). And in the intervening months between when you apply at age 66 and when he claims his own benefits at age 70, your husband will have collected about 2 years worth of spousal benefits from your work record.

One final word of caution: should you decide to claim your own Social Security benefit before you reach your full retirement age next year, your eventual spousal benefit will be somewhat reduced. Waiting until you reach your FRA to apply for your own benefit will ensure you get the maximum spousal benefit you are entitled to when your husband switches to his own Social Security benefit at age 70. And at that time you will need to apply for your spousal benefit; it will not start automatically.

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

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Sol Systems Sells 10.8 MW of Maryland Solar Energy Projects to Greenbacker

By JAMIE NOLAN
Nolan Strategic Communications

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Dec 13, 2018)—Sol Systems today announced that it has sold the rights to a 10.8 megawatt (MW) portfolio of two solar projects—Blue Star and Phoenix—to Greenbacker Renewable Energy Company LLC. The projects, which are located in Chestertown and Capitol Heights, Maryland, are expected to reach commercial operation by June 2019. Sol Systems will oversee the construction and delivery of both projects and Greenbacker will be the owner and operator.

"Sol Systems is delighted to reach this milestone for these projects, and to work with such dedicated professionals from the Greenbacker team," said Andrew Gilligan, Vice President of Development at Sol Systems.

Blue Star, a 7.8 MW ground mount installation located in Chestertown, Maryland, is contracted with a facility power purchase agreement for 25 years with Washington College, a private liberal arts college. The site will include buffer vegetation and robust habitat preservation.

Phoenix, a 3 MW project located in Capitol Heights, Maryland, is contracted for 12 years with WGL Energy Services Inc., a public utility holding company

serving the greater Washington, D.C. area, who will serve as the offtaker. The first-of-its-kind renewable energy development project in Prince George's County, the facility will be located on a site that has remained vacant for 30 years and has been deemed unsuitable for residential development. The solar project will produce enough energy to power 333 homes, and it is expected to contribute approximately \$1.4 million in total tax revenue to the county over its length of service.

"These projects are an excellent addition to Greenbacker's solar portfolio, providing long-term, investment-grade cash flows and furthering our targeted expansion into net-metered and utility-scale wind and solar assets," said Charles Wheeler, CEO of Greenbacker. "Sol Systems has proven its ability to deliver high quality projects and we are excited to deepen our relationship with one of the leading renewable energy firms in the United States."

Since 2008, Sol Systems has delivered more than 800 MW of solar projects for Fortune 100 companies, municipalities, universities, churches, and small businesses, including 134 MW of PPA-contracted projects. The company sells early-stage development assets and shovel-ready projects, selecting a monetization strategy that makes the most

sense for the customer, the project, and the investor.

With the addition of the Phoenix Solar Portfolio, Greenbacker will own approximately 290 MW of generating capacity (including assets that are to be constructed) comprising 62 MW of wind facilities and 228 MW of utility-scale and distributed solar facilities.

Sol Systems is one of the preeminent solar finance and development firms in the United States. Over the last 10 years, Sol Systems has delivered more than 800 MW of solar projects for Fortune 100 companies, municipalities, universities, churches, and small businesses. Sol now manages over \$650 million in solar energy assets for utilities, banks, and Fortune 500 companies. Inc. 5000 recognized Sol Systems in its annual list of the nation's fastest-growing private companies for five years. Learn more at www.solsystems.com.

Greenbacker Renewable Energy Company LLC is a publicly registered, non-traded limited liability company that expects to acquire a diversified portfolio of income-producing renewable energy power plants, energy efficiency projects and other sustainable investments. For more information, please visit www.greenbackercapital.com.

Maryland Based Envision Realty Affiliates With Century 21 Real Estate Franchise System

By DANA HERSHMAN
for CENTURY 21

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Dec. 17, 2018) PRNewswire—Envision Realty, a full-service brokerage firm serving Maryland, Virginia and Washington D.C., today announced that the company has chosen to affiliate with Century 21 Real Estate LLC, and will now conduct business as CENTURY 21 Envision Realty. Specializing in residential luxury homes, the company, with the global, iconic CENTURY 21® brand behind it, has its eye on expanding deeper into commercial real estate in the coming months.

"We look forward to joining the CENTURY 21 franchise as it will be instrumental in helping us as we look to expand into other specialties," said Reggie Butler, broker owner. "Being really active in our community has assisted us tremendously in gaining brand recognition. Now, being affiliated with Century 21 Real Estate, a global brand that is one of the most rec-

ognized real estate companies in the world, we are excited to grow even more as a team and further develop our client base."

Under Butler's leadership, CENTURY 21 Envision Realty has developed an extremely successful philanthropic business model that sets the team apart from its competitors. Through various grassroots initiatives, Butler and his agents have raised money for a variety of worthy causes, including breast cancer research and feeding the hungry, which the team conducts monthly. The business's mantra is that if he and his agents are not active in their community, they won't be able to properly serve the community.

"This is an exciting affiliation for the CENTURY 21 brand. It's obvious that Reggie Butler has created a special team of agents based on their dedication to philanthropy and improving their community," said Nick Bailey, president and chief executive officer, Century 21 Real Estate. "I'm excited to see how CENTURY 21

Envision Realty grows in the coming year under Reggie's leadership."

Butler opened the office in 2013 and has over a decade of real estate experience. The team prides itself on their commitment toward excellence—striving to explore news ideas and equip themselves with the latest technologies so their valued clients can benefit from each real estate transaction.

CENTURY 21 Envision Realty is a full-service real estate company, serving the buyers and sellers in the Maryland, Virginia and Washington D.C. regions. The office is located at 14746 Main St., Suite D, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772. CENTURY 21 Envision Realty is an independently owned and operated franchise affiliate of Century 21 Real Estate, franchisor of the iconic CENTURY 21 brand, comprised of approximately 9,400 independently owned and operated franchised broker offices in 80 countries and territories worldwide with more than 127,000 independent sales professionals.

ZIPS Dry Cleaners Opens First Location in Bowie

Rapidly expanding franchise offers same-day, one-price dry cleaning services

By GABRIELA GUTIERREZ
Franchise Elevator PR

GREENBELT, Md. (Dec 11, 2018)—ZIPS Dry Cleaners, an aggressively expanding dry cleaning franchise known for its same-day, one-price business model—currently \$2.29 per garment—has opened its first store in Bowie, Maryland on Friday November 30, 2018.

Located at 15752 Annapolis Road, the store will mark the brand's 28th location in Maryland.

"I am extremely excited to be opening a ZIPS location in my hometown," Owner Tiffany Hawkins said. "ZIPS offers a unique brand proposition that eliminates all of the usual dry cleaning bill confusion. You walk in, and know exactly what you are going to pay."

ZIPS Dry Cleaners' successful business model is based on a concept revolutionary to the industry and clearly in high demand to today's price-savvy consumer—dry cleaning that

is ready for pick-up the same day it's dropped off for a flat-rate price of \$2.29. It doesn't matter if the item is a necktie, a coat or a pair of pants, the price is \$2.29, 60 percent less than the national average.

"Our goal is to consistently deliver absolute customer satisfaction at a very affordable price point," ZIPS CEO Drew Ritger said. "The fact is that everyone needs dry cleaning in some capacity. The real question customers should ask themselves is, 'Would I rather pay \$50-\$60 for 10 garments to be dry cleaned, or \$22.90 for the same 10 pieces and have it done in one day?'"

Additionally, in today's increasingly "green-conscious" society, ZIPS is leading the way in the search for new environmentally-friendly practices, such as its use of biodegradable plastic bags and hanger recycling programs. ZIPS recycles thousands of hangers each year, uses 100% biodegradable plastic bags, and

focuses on continuing to reduce water usage and waste production.

Today, ZIPS has more than 50 locations open and operating throughout the Mid-Atlantic and as far as Texas and California. The company also has a total active franchise pipeline that stands at more than 250 stores, all of which are slated to open over the next several years.

Founded in 1996 and franchising since 2006, ZIPS Dry Cleaners is an aggressively expanding dry cleaning franchise known for its same-day, one-price business model. It doesn't matter if the item is a necktie, a coat or a pair of pants, the flat rate is \$2.29, 60 percent less than the industry average. Today, there are more than 50 ZIPS stores open and operating in six states, with more than 250 additional locations in various stages of development. For more information, visit www.321zips.com.

Instacart Expands Partnership With Giant Food

Now offering same-day delivery from all Giant Food stores locations in D.C.

By ANDREA TOCH
Colter Communications

WHAT:

Instacart, the North American leader in online groceries, is expanding its relationship with Giant Food in Washington D.C., adding same-day delivery services to 54 additional Giant Food stores across Washington D.C. beginning today. With today's expansion, Instacart delivery is now available from nearly all Giant Food stores in the U.S.

"We're incredibly proud to partner with Giant Food stores to extend Instacart's same-day delivery to more Giant Food families throughout the United States," said Andrew Nodes, Vice President of Retail, Instacart. "With this latest expansion, Instacart delivery is now available to customers from nearly all Giant Food locations, making it easier for people to get the groceries they want from this beloved retailer in as fast as an hour."

"We are excited to strengthen our partnership with Instacart and expand convenient delivery options to all Giant Food stores," said Gordon Reid, President of

Giant Food. "A person's time is valuable and by teaming up with Instacart, we are better able to serve our customers."

HOW:

Giant Food customers can go online to <https://www.instacart.com> or open the Instacart mobile app on their iPhone or Android device, select their city/store, add items to their virtual cart, then choose a delivery window (within one hour or up to five days in advance) and check out. An Instacart shopper will then pick, pack and deliver the order to the customer in the designated time frame.

WHERE:

Giant Food customers at stores in the following areas can now get high-quality groceries delivered from the store to their door via Instacart in as little as an hour:

College Park, MD:

Beltsville, South Laurel, Holly Tree Estates, Calverton, Ammendale, Lanham, Glenarden, Glenn Dale, Greenbelt, Mitchellville, Goddard, Westgate, Seabrook,

Laurel, Burtonsville, West Laurel, Carriage Hill, Bladensburg, Edmonston, Woodlawn, Mount Rainier, Brentwood, Bowie, Woodmore, Glenn Dale, Lake Arbor, Colmar Manor, Cottage City, North Brentwood, Riverdale Park, College Park, East Riverdale, Beltsville, Berwyn Heights, Hyattsville, Cheverly, Edmonston, University Park, Chillum, Adelphi, Langley Park, Hillandale, New Carrollton, Landover Hills, West Lanham Hills, Ardwick, Woodlawn, Greater Landover

Giant Food is headquartered in Landover, Md. and operates 164 supermarkets in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia. Giant Food employs approximately 20,000 associates. Included within the 164 stores are 154 full-service pharmacies. Visit www.giantfood.com

Instacart is the North American leader in online groceries and one of the fastest growing companies in e-commerce. Instacart's same-day delivery and pickup service bring everyday essentials and fresh groceries to consumers in the U.S. and Canada in as fast as an hour. Visit www.instacart.com.

OUT on the TOWN

Kwanzaa Celebration 2018

Celebrate this African American holiday with African dance, storytelling with puppets, drumming performances, workshops, lectures, craft activities and a fashion show celebrating the principle Ujamaa (oo-jah-MAH) or Collective Economics. This event is in partnership with Kaiser Permanente.

Theater Presentations

11 a.m.
For Kids: Kwanzaa Live! With Culture Queen
12 p.m.
Drum Call Processional—Sankofa Dance Theater
Kwanzaa Stamp Unveiling—US Postal Services
1 p.m.
Ujamaa Round-Table Discussion:
Cooperative Economics in our Community
2 p.m.
Contemporary African Fashion Show
3 p.m.
Sankofa Dance Theater Concert with Kwanzaa Ceremony

Workshop Presentations

12 p.m.–4 p.m.
Kwanzaa Drop In Art Activity: African Masks—Sallah Jenkins
12:30 p.m.
Kid's Financial Activity: Teaching kids about money first! with James Merritt

Kwanzaa Celebration 2018

Saturday, December 29, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Cost: \$5. *Register through eventbrite.com*

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location:

Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland
African American History and Culture
830 E. Pratt St.
Baltimore, MD 21202

Contact: 443-263-1800
<https://lewismuseum.org/>

1:30 p.m.
Kwanzaa Recipes Food Demo Presentation—Black Girls Cook
2:30 p.m.
Wakanda Comic Book Workshop—East Coast Black Age of Comics Convention



Kwanzaa Dancers

PHOTO COURTESY LEWIS MUSEUM.ORG

Calendar Spotlight

Riversdale by Candlelight

Saturday, December 29, 2018, 6–9 p.m.
A 9 a.m. Breakfast with Sint Niklaas is also available!

Residents from Riversdale's past welcome guests to the candlelit museums for tours, refreshments, music, and children's activities. Come out, meet new and former neighbors and learn some History while you're at it! This is an event you won't want to miss!
Cost: \$5/adult; ONE child (12 & younger) is FREE with each \$5 paid admission.
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Riversdale House Museum, 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544, riversdale@pgparks.com

— PLAN AHEAD —

Honoring Emily Saunders Plummer

Sunday, February 10, 2019, 1:30–3 p.m.

Join us for this Black History Month program that brings the story of Emily Saunders Plummer to life, and celebrates her entry into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame with an illustrated lecture by Dr. Leigh Ryan. History will unfold right before your eyes—don't miss out!
Cost: Adult: \$5; Senior: \$4; Student: \$2 includes a tour of the historic house!
Ages: 8 and older
Location: Riversdale House Museum, 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544, riversdale@pgparks.com

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Riversdale House Museum

PHOTO CREDIT: PG PARKS & RECREATION

Riversdale was one of the most distinctive homes in the region during the early Federal period. Today, the central portion of the house serves as a museum interpreting the lifestyle of an affluent family. The rental areas include a large carpeted ballroom in late 19th century decor as well as a smaller meeting/banquet room and catering kitchen. Riversdale House Museum and the Museum Shop are open to the public Fridays and Sundays from 12 noon–3:30 pm year round. Admission Adults: \$5/person; Seniors and Groups of 10 or more: \$4/person; Ages 5–18 and Students with ID: \$2/person; Ages 4 & under: Free. Riversdale is available for weddings, receptions, and meetings. For fees and availability, please call 301-864-0420 for more information.

Riversdale House Museum: 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737 • 301-864-0420, TTY: 301-699-2544 • <http://www.pgparks.com/3023/Riversdale-House-Museum>

ERIC D. SNIDER'S IN THE DARK

.... Movie Review

Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald

Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald
Grade: C-
Rated PG-13, fantasy violence and intense themes, including the deaths of children
2 hrs., 14 min

After seven books and eight movies, we really came to love those Harry Potter characters, didn't we? We watched them grow and learn and evolve—not just the kids, but the adults too.

The prequel franchise assumes, without evidence, that our affection extends to characters we don't know who happen to live in the same fictional universe as Harry Potter. The dreadful miscalculation made by writer J.K. Rowling and director David Yates, first in "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" and now in "Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald," is that it's the Wizarding World itself we adore, regardless of who the players are.

This is wrong. It's so wrong that I'm surprised it needs to be said. We have spent A LOT OF TIME in this world. We are no longer dazzled by the mere existence of magic. What's more, the dazzle we felt before was partly because we were seeing it through the eyes of characters—wide-eyed children—who were experiencing it for the first time. There was wonderment and discovery, for them and for us. Now there's just a growing roster of 1920s wizards and witches who have been doing this their whole lives, and an audience who's been watching it for most of theirs. The magic has lost its magic, you know?

The deal this time is that it's 1927 and the coldly malevolent Grindelwald (the coldly malevolent Johnny Depp) has escaped from magic prison and is rallying his pureblood followers with the aim of holocausting all non- and semi-magic people. (He's very Hitler-y, this Grindelwald, and

it's implied at one point that if he'd been permitted to carry out his plan, it would have prevented the actual Hitler. Food for thought!) Grindelwald wants to find Credence Barebone (Ezra Miller), one of the orphans from the last movie, because he believes Credence is some kind of Chosen One. Credence, who is working for/possibly enslaved by a magic freak show in Paris, feels the same way and is looking for his birth mother to find out who he really is. Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne), the quivering autistic man who collects fantastic beasts, is also looking for Credence, acting on orders from Albus Dumbledore (Jude Law). And so is Ministry of Magic auror Tina Goldstein (Katherine Waterston).

Oh, but let me tell you about all the romances! Tina's sister, Queenie (Alison Sudol), has split up with schlubby muggle Jacob (Dan Fogler) because mixed marriages are frowned upon, so they're pining for each other. Newt pines for Leta Lestrange (Zoe Kravitz), who's engaged to his brother, Theseus (Callum Turner), who works for the Ministry of Magic. So little backstory is provided there that I assumed Leta was in the last movie and I'd simply forgotten her (she was not).

Jacob was a bright spot in the previous film because he was a newcomer discovering magic for

the first time. Now that it's old hat to him, he's as uninteresting as the rest of them. As for Newt, I'm starting to believe these movies are nothing more than an elaborate—and, I might add, highly successful—effort to make me hate Eddie Redmayne. The

story lumbers along without urgency, Yates and Rowling believing they've earned the audience's loyalty just by using the Harry Potter font in the titles, and they keep dropping new details to set up the THREE MORE MOVIES planned for this cycle. When

they're not doing that, they're shoveling out fan service, like a sequence at Hogwarts that absolutely did not need to be set at Hogwarts—but hey, look, Hogwarts! Seeing it reminds us of other movies, movies we liked! What fun.



ROTTENTOMATOES.COM

At the end of the first film, the powerful Dark wizard Gellert Grindelwald (Depp) was captured by MACUSA (Magical Congress of the United States of America), with the help of Newt Scamander (Redmayne). But, making good on his threat, Grindelwald escaped custody and has set about gathering followers, most unsuspecting of his true agenda: to raise pure-blood wizards up to rule over all non-magical beings. In an effort to thwart Grindelwald's plans, Albus Dumbledore (Law) enlists his former student Newt Scamander, who agrees to help, unaware of the dangers that lie ahead. Lines are drawn as love and loyalty are tested, even among the truest friends and family, in an increasingly divided wizarding world.

Calendar of Events

December 27, 2018–January 2, 2019

Gymnastics Workshops

Date and Time: Friday, December 28, 2018, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. **Registration begins 30 minutes before workshops.**

Description: Looking for a fun activity for your children? Need them to burn some energy? Bring them to the Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex for our gymnastics workshops. The workshops are open play time for your children to explore gymnastics in a safe and fun environment. *Please be aware, these workshops are not structured or taught classes; they're open play!*

Cost: \$7/per participant

Ages: Walking to 12 years

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

Contact: 301-583-2400; TTY 301-699-2544

Ugly Sweater Walk—Sandy Point State Park

Date and Time: Saturday, December 29, 2018, 9–10:30 a.m.

Description: Stretch your legs and get fresh air on this ~3 mile walk. Wear comfortable walking shoes, dress for the weather, and bring water. Feel free to wear your favorite holiday apparel.

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Sandy Point State Park, 1100 East College Parkway, Annapolis MD 21409

Contact: Claudia Padilla, 410-974-2149

Ranger Talk: The B.&O. Railroad, Greenbelt's Neighbor

Date and Time: Saturday, December 29, 2018, 11 a.m.

Description: A talk focusing on the history of the Baltimore and Ohio (the Chessie, Conrail, and CSX) Railroad that has run north and south on tracks just a mile west of the park (and the forest of Greenbelt before 1950) since 1835. See model trains representing different eras of the B.&O. and other artifacts. Meet at the Ranger Station.

Cost: FREE

Ages: Ages 8 and above

Location: Greenbelt Park, 6565 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

Contact: 301-344-3944

2nd Annual DMVKwanzaa Celebration and Black Women's Entrepreneurship Expo

Date and Time: Saturday, December 29, 2018, 12–4 p.m.

Description: The National Black United Front (NBUF) 2nd Annual #DMVKwanzaa Celebration & Black Women's Entrepreneurship Expo is the premier cultural celebration in the DMV. This will be an afternoon of family, community, art, music, dance, food and over all Black excellence. We will be showcasing the premier Black Women owned businesses in the DMV area, providing business development resources and issuing a \$500 Micro Grant to an up and coming Black Women Entrepreneur. Proceeds benefit the NBUF STEM & Cultural Arts Program, Feed the Hood Project & Women's Affairs Committee. *Limited on the Street Parking, *Public Transportation Highly Encouraged

Cost: \$10–\$25. **Register through eventbrite.com**

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: African American Civil War Museum, 1925 Vermont Avenue Northwest, Washington, DC 20001

Contact: 202-753-9671

Annapolis New Year's Eve Celebration

Date and Time: Monday, December 31, 2018, 3 p.m.–12:00 a.m.

Description: Family activities fill the day and music and dancing fills the night at this annual celebration welcoming the New Year. Kids' activities will take place with face painting, an obstacle course, moon bounces, live music and more. The festivities wrap up with on-site fireworks for the kids, then, it's off to area restaurants for dinner with the kids. The second round of festivities includes live music and dancing at Susan Campbell Park at City Dock beginning at 8:00 p.m. and ending with midnight fireworks.

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Downtown Annapolis, Annapolis, MD 21401

Contact: 410-280-0445

Big Night DC, National Harbor

Date and Time: Monday, December 31, 2018, 9 p.m.–3 a.m.

Description: The DC area's largest New Year's Eve extravaganza! Themed party areas encompassing the ballroom complex of the resort. Mardi Gras, Vegas Casino Lounge, ShamrockFest Stage, Retro: Best of 70's, 80's & 90's dance tunes, Electronica Club, Hip Hop Club Room, Karaoke Zone, VIP Lounges, open bar and more.

Cost: General: \$100.00, Advanced: \$100.00. **Buy tickets at www.bignightdc.com**

Ages: Adults

Location: Gaylord National Resort and Conference Center, National Harbor, 201 Waterfront St, National Harbor, MD 20745

Contact: 305-814-3458

STEM for Families

Date and Time: Wednesday, January 2, 2019, 4 p.m.

Description: Join us as we explore science, technology, engineering and math. Drop in for hands-on experiments and activities.

Cost: FREE

Ages: Ages 5–12

Location: Beltsville Branch Library, 4319 Sellman Rd., Beltsville, MD 20705

Contact: 301-937-0294

Three Kings Day Celebration

Date and Time: Saturday, January 5, 2019, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Description: Celebrate the Hispanic tradition of the Three Kings Day celebration. Enjoy music, refreshments, and more. Children ages 10 and younger will receive a gift from the Three Kings. **Pre-registration is highly encouraged. Call 301-408-4321 to register. Your child must be registered by Friday, December 28, 2018, to receive a free gift.**

Cost: FREE: Only 2 adults w/child(ren) per family allowed)

Ages: 10 and younger

Location: College Park Community Center, 5051 Pierce Avenue, College Park, MD 20740

Contact: 301-441-2647; TTY 301-699-2544

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF APOLLO 8

To the Moon and Back: Apollo 8 And The Future of Lunar Exploration

By STEPHANIE ZELLER

NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md.

Muscle cars. Film cameras. Concert tees stuffed into bell-bottomed jeans. Rotary phones and 8-track tapes, TVs measured in cubic footage, crowded wallpaper. Slide rules and chalkboards and all-paper filing systems and vacuum tubes. It's 1968, and we're sending men to the Moon.

Apollo 8 was supposed to be a test flight, meant to simulate atmospheric re-entry from the Moon but never meant to go there. Hurling toward Earth at 2,407.5 miles per hour is hairy business and NASA, having never done so before, needed practice. But then the USSR successfully launched two of its own Moon-shots (unmanned Zond 5 and 6) on the heels of President Kennedy's call for men on the Moon by the end of the '60s. It felt to most like a matter of time before America lost its space race for good.

NASA's plan for Apollo 8 had to change.

Following a spark of ambitious vision, NASA reorganized, galvanizing a wild rush of fervor and late nights. In mid-August of 1968, astronauts Frank Borman, Jim Lovell and William Anders received a call telling them to cancel their holiday plans—they were going to the Moon.

By December, the three men were suddenly farther away than any human had ever been from our home planet, traveling faster and seeing more than could be seen in the entire history of life on Earth. From prehistoric cephalopods to T-Rex to our ape-like ancestors to Alexander the Great, no single pair of eyeballs had ever been so far from Earth's gravitational influence until Dec. 21, 1968.

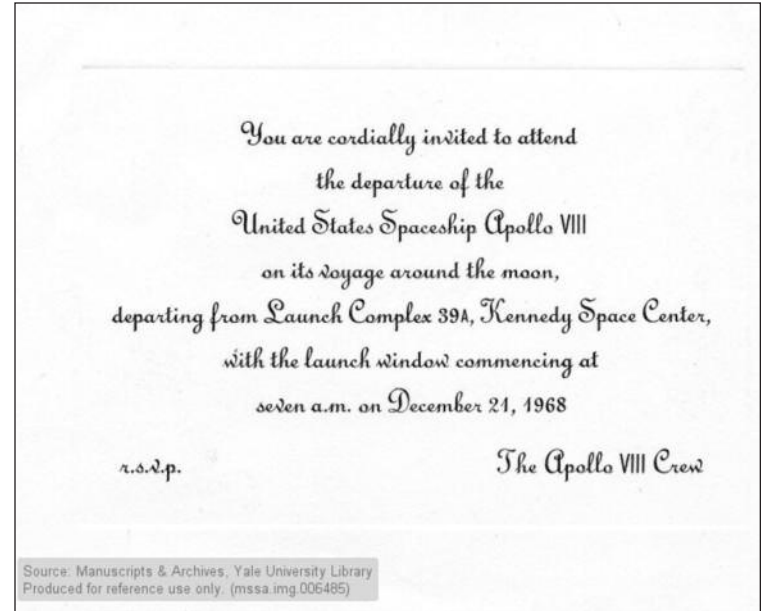
We were shooting for the Moon and we got there, sure enough, but the real triumph of Apollo 8 was beyond nationalism, beyond the tumultuousness of an age that catapulted these three men into the dark unknown. Apollo 8 was the fruition of ancient Chinese stargazers, renaissance dreamers and mid-century physicists. It was, above all, our first good look at ourselves, with the best possible perspective.

Today, leading up to the anniversary of one of humankind's most audacious missions, we begin to celebrate 50 years of learning, inspiration, altitude and ingenuity not only about our nearest neighbor but also about Earth and where modern lunar exploration will take us next.



CREDITS: NASA

Frank Borman and Jim Lovell were in California when they received news that their new mission would be going to the Moon. On orders to return to Houston immediately, Borman flew a plane back to Texas while Lovell sat in the passenger seat, sketching ideas for a mission patch. His illustration, which serves the double purpose of a large red '8' for Apollo's 8th mission and a figure 8, which outlines the path the Apollo vehicle took on its journey, was polished off by a NASA artist and later adapted as the official patch for the landmark mission.



CREDITS: MANUSCRIPTS AND ARCHIVES, YALE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Prior to the Apollo 8 launch, a select group of politicians, celebrities, and families and friends of the astronauts received this official letter from NASA inviting them to attend the historic event. The letter reads, "You are cordially invited to attend the departure of the United States Spaceship Apollo VIII on its voyage around the Moon, departing from Launch Complex 39A, Kennedy Space Center, with the launch window commencing at seven a.m. on December 21st, 1968. R.S.V.P., The Apollo VIII Crew"



CREDITS: NASA

Astronauts James (Jim) Lovell, Frank Borman, and William (Bill) Anders pose for a portrait in their space suits on November 22, 1968, just less than a month before they would orbit the Moon.

Earth TALK™

Can We Deflect Asteroids?

Dear EarthTalk:

It seems to me the single biggest potential "environmental" problem we could face—even bigger than global warming or a nuclear war—is a comet or asteroid striking the Earth. Do we currently track these space rocks and if so, how? And do we have any hope of deflecting them if they are headed right for us?

—James McClintock, Austin, TX

Environmental advocates don't normally consider interstellar rocks to be their discipline, per se, but it is true that such an event could cause considerable environmental damage and even threaten the very existence of life on Earth. Indeed, when a 10-kilometer-wide asteroid struck the Earth some 66 million years ago, it wiped out three-quarters of the planet's plant and animal species (including the dinosaurs) and caused damage to the environment that lasted centuries.

Humans weren't around to witness the effects of that cataclysm, of course, but we do know that a large impact today could trigger massive firestorms, mudflows, earthquakes and tsunamis as well as acid rain, ozone depletion and rapid greenhouse warming—not to mention an "impact winter" whereby pulverized rock dust and other debris would blanket the skies and block the transmission of sunlight, effectively stopping photosynthesis around the globe. A big enough strike could effectively wipe out life on Earth.

NASA's Planetary Defense Coordination Office (PDCO) is charged with providing timely and accurate communications on these threatening space rocks—including issuing warnings about potential impacts—and leading the coordination of federal response planning. Currently PDCO uses a

combination of existing satellite and telescope technologies to track comets and asteroids but is currently developing a new space-based infrared telescope dubbed "NEOCam" (short for Near-Earth Object Camera) specifically for the purpose of surveying the solar system for large space rocks (larger than 140 meters across). But the project is far from a front-burner concern for NASA right now, and proponents are hoping Congress will earmark funds specifically to complete its development in the short term.

Meanwhile, the California-based B612 Foundation is focusing on detection of smaller asteroids. "The real gap is the 100 times as many asteroids smaller than 140 meters but still large enough to destroy things on the ground," reports Ed Lu, the co-founder of B612. His team is currently working on a network of five to 10 telescope-equipped satellites to track these smaller space rocks and provide early warning services.

But just because we're able to detect and track asteroids doesn't mean we can deflect them. According to expert witness testimony at a 2013 Congressional hearing on the topic, NASA would need five years' lead time—and a commitment of hundreds of millions of dollars—to be able to intercept an asteroid.

Despite this warning, we've made no progress in the intervening years. A June 2018 report from the Cabinet-level National Science and Technology Council warns that

America remains unprepared for an asteroid impact event and urges the federal government to fund efforts to get ready for what astronomers say is inevitable at some point in the future. That said, unlike other environmental problems besetting us, there isn't anything individuals can do to protect the planet from asteroid or comet strikes—except to urge their representatives in Congress to support legislation that funds programs and technologies designed to detect and deflect those incoming civilization busters.



IMAGE CREDIT: NASA

Astronomers can find and track many of the asteroids and comets that could threaten Earth, but deflecting one is a different story.

CONTACTS: "Environmental Damage from Asteroid and Comet Impacts, <http://users.tpg.com.au/users/tps-seti/climate.htm>; PDCO, <https://www.nasa.gov/planetarydefense>; B612 Foundation, <https://b612foundation.org/>

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Hockey from A1

team plays at Piney Orchard Arena, the Capital's former practice center in Odenton—are filled with fans decked out in red, white and blue Caps gear.

"We're hopefully filling the void for some people ... it's not the NHL but it's really good hockey," Mylymok said.

Friday night was no different, as about 300 fans crowded into the arena on Ugly Sweater Night to cheer on the Black Bears against Wilkes Barre/Scranton Knights. Though the team looked sharp in their Maryland flag-bedazzled alternate uniforms, they fell 6-3, dropping to 7-13-3-2 and fourth place in the East Division.

"The fans have been great. We're getting great turnouts," Warmuth said. "I think if we start winning even more I think more people are gonna come. This being our first year we're all pretty happy with the type of environment that we're playing in."

About halfway through their inaugural season, the Black Bears have hit a rough patch, losing four straight and eight of their last 10, but Mylymok's mantra remains the same: play with desperation and intensity night-to-night.

"Win at all costs is great, but I like to win with the right people," Mylymok said. "I like to develop kids and move them on. I like to develop them as people. I don't want to sell my soul to win a championship."

Since junior hockey is a preparatory league, rosters can see significant turnover year-to-year, which requires Mylymok to coach like it's a Division I program, he said, holding workouts and film sessions to simulate what players will experience in college, and even throwing pop quizzes to test players' knowledge.

"It forces you every day to make sure that you're doing everything to make yourself (better)," Warmuth said. "Junior hockey is all about development so that when you get to the next level there are no surprises."

Each Black Bears player is hosted by a local family—known as billets—which provide living accommodations, transportation and anything else players may need. In exchange, the families, who live in towns like Severn, Crownsville and Davidsonville, receive financial compensation from the team.

Mylymok called billets "the most important thing" outside of a strong ownership group to running a successful junior hockey team.

"These are young teenagers that need a comfortable place to be," Mylymok said. "When you have a poor billet and you have distractions, it affects their play directly. Honestly, you can tell if the kid's having a tough time at home or there's an issue with their play."

Warmuth is hosted by a family in Crofton. Forward and Chicago native Matteo Menotti, 19, stays in Annapolis, and winger Connor Pooley, 20, another Ohioan, stays in Ellicott City.

The trio described their billets as comfortable, living in nice houses and regularly taking part in downtime activities like yachting, attended sporting events and flying lessons.

While they're here, Warmuth, Pooley and Menotti said they are focused on dominating, winning and, above all, having fun playing junior hockey.

"We get to chase our dreams," Pooley said. "Where a lot of my buddies are headed off to school and they're gonna be getting a job shortly. ... For us, we get to live the dream for a little bit longer."

Mylymok has compiled a diverse roster that includes players from 12 different states and others coming from as far away as South Korea, Great Britain and Germany. And while there isn't a Maryland-based player on the roster, the goal is to bring local players into the fold, Mylymok said, with one caveat: "They have to be able to play."

"I'll take Maryland kids but they got to be the right ones," Mylymok said. "I want the guys that represent Maryland in the right way to be here."

In late November, the team took a step toward cultivating local talent by signing an 18-year-old goalie, Andrew Takacs, a native of Dunkirk, to a tender for the 2019-20 season.

Takacs previously played for a Black Bears affiliate, Team Maryland, and has already suited up for the junior hockey team this season, filling in as a backup for an injured goalie on a weekend road trip.

"With Andrew ... we knew what we were getting in terms of character, off-ice work ethic, his maturity. He's just a kid that represents the local area really well," Mylymok said. "It was a no-brainer for us."

Takacs said he was "beyond stoked" when he heard the Black Bears had tendered him.

"This is the perfect move for me in terms of next year (getting) the development to grow so that I can make it to the Division I level," Takacs said.

Takacs attends Gilmour Academy in Ohio, where he will graduate in May. With the Black Bears in the area, Takacs will now have an opportunity to come back and represent his home state.

"Just to know that you are part of the movement towards making hockey a greater thing in Maryland is really special," Takacs said. "Kids will even start believing 'I don't have to go somewhere else in the country so that I can play high-level hockey.' ... This is going to put Maryland hockey on the map."

**MARYLAND
ARTS
DAY**

**Thursday,
February 14, 2019
Annapolis, Maryland
8:15 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**Early Bird
Registration Fee \$25
After January 31,
Registration \$40**

The date for Maryland Arts Day 2019 is set for Thursday, February 14. Register NOW for the most important arts advocacy event of the year. Join the chorus of voices that will be making the case for public funding for the arts to Maryland lawmakers.

This exhilarating event brings together more than 500 arts advocates, artists, educators, administrators, board members, volunteers, and more from across the state. In addition to remarks from lawmakers passionate about the arts and the presentation of the annual Sue Hess Arts Advocate of the Year Award, attendees will hear from dazzling keynote speaker Stephanie Ybarra (Artistic Director, Baltimore Center Stage), and have the opportunity to champion the arts directly with their lawmakers.

Be on the lookout for future updates on the Maryland Arts Day site, as well as our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages.

Sue Hess Arts Advocate of the Year Nominations Are Open!
Do you know someone who has been a fantastic advocate for the arts in our state?

Each year, MCA calls on its supporters to nominate arts advocates for our Sue Hess Maryland Arts Advocate of the Year Award. For more information and to nominate someone, visit <https://mdarts.org/md-arts-community/sue-hess-maryland-arts-advocate-of-the-year-award/>

The deadline for nominations is 12:00 p.m. (noon), Friday January 11, 2019.