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Council Chair Harrington Resigns

Governor Prepares to Make Appointment to the 47th District Senate Seat

By Communications Officer
County Council's Office

Prince George's County Council Member David Harrington (D) – District 5, in preparation for his swearing-in to the Maryland State Senate, today resigned as Chair of the County Council. Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley affirmed the recommendation of the Prince George's County Democratic Central Committee to appoint Council Member Harrington to the seat representing the 47th Legislative District. The vacancy was created by the passing of State Senator

Gwendolyn T. Britt.

County Council Members unanimously elected colleague Samuel H. Dean (D) – District 6, to serve out the remainder of the Chairmanship for Legislative Year 2008. Council Member Marilynn M. Bland (D) – District 9, will continue to serve as Vice-Chair of the Council.

First elected in 2002, Council Member Harrington is serving his second term as the representative for District 5. He was elected

See HARRINGTON, Page A3



David Harrington picked to represent the 47th Legislative District in the State Senate.

Lawmaker Would Test Minor License Applicants

MVA Would Be Required to Perform the Tests

By LAURA SCHWARTZMAN
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS - A Democratic lawmaker wants to drug test all driver's license applicants under 21 and vows to "fight like a tiger" to push the legislation, which he hopes will save lives.

But opponents say the policy is unconstitutional, ineffective and prohibitively expensive.

The legislation, introduced by Delegate Marvin E. Holmes, Jr. of Prince George's County, would require the Motor Vehicle Administration to test the breath and blood of driver's license applicants under 21 for alcohol and controlled substances. A positive test would result in the suspension of driving privileges for six months, although the applicant would be entitled to a hearing.

About 65,000 individuals under 21 applied for driver's licenses in Maryland in 2007, according to the bill's fiscal policy note, which estimates an annual cost increase of at least \$945,500 in the first year and more than \$1.2 million annually by 2010.

Holmes said he was spurred by reports of drunk driving and youth drug abuse in his district.

According to the National Highway Traffic

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PHOTO COURTESY COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S PRESS OFFICE

Prince George's County Executive Jack Johnson and Circuit Court Judge Maureen Lamasney congratulate Chief Administrative Officer Jacqueline Brown, Ph.D. for receiving the Stephen Platt Award.

County Executive Keynotes Drug Court Graduation, Dr. Brown Receives Award

By Communications Director
County Executive's Office

UPPER MARLBORO, MD – Prince George's County Executive Jack Johnson spoke to graduates and current participants in the county's drug court during their commencement ceremony last week and urged them to make a difference in the lives of others.

"As you leave this life behind, you are start-

ing a new one and you have great opportunities," Johnson said. "New beginnings are before you and they hold unique opportunities to tell people what you've been through. You must resolve that you will make a difference in your lives and the lives of others."

During the ceremony, Chief Administrative Officer Jacqueline Brown, Ph.D. received the Stephen Platt Award. Created in 2007, the award recognizes an individual's commitment

and dedication to the Drug Court.

"We thank you from the bottom of our hearts," Judge Maureen Lamasney said after Brown received the award. "I want to thank you for your dedication and commitment to the Drug Court."

Created in 2007 to hear select cases dealing

See AWARD A7

Advocates Urge Permanent 211 Call Program

ANNAPOLIS - A three-digit phone number can revolutionize access to social services, according to advocates for low-income Marylanders who are fighting to make 2-1-1 a state-funded fixture.

Social work specialists who receive

the calls help people navigate through government bureaucracies and apply for public and private assistance programs, although some suggest improved call responses at social agencies would make 2-1-1 unnecessary.

The number is designated by the fed-

eral government specifically for health and human services. More than 40 states and some parts of Canada have the service, which reaches about 65 percent of the U.S. population, according to the

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Peters Introduces Homeowner Friendly Legislation

By LAURA SCHWARTZMAN
Capital News Service



Sen. Peters
23rd District

Annapolis, MD (February 5, 2008) - Senator Douglas J.J. Peters (D-23) introduced a series of bills today to provide relief to homeowners struggling with rising property tax assessments.

The Senator introduced three bills, SB 465, SB 466, and SB 467, to bring clarity and fairness to the property tax assessment and appeal process.

"People are being taxed out of their homes without a fair chance to have their voice heard," said Peters. "I speak to homeowners everyday who are hit with rapidly rising assessments at the same time they are feeling the pain from our current economic downturn. I want to make sure the system works for the homeowner."

Senator Peters has drafted three bills to reform

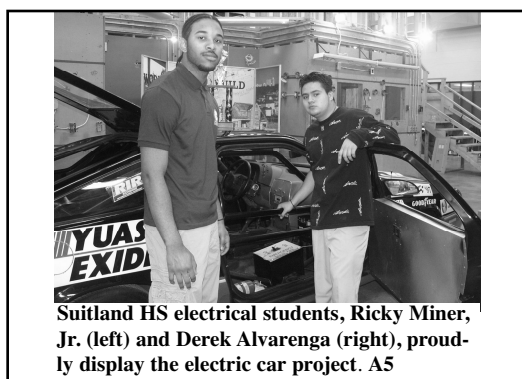
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Suitland HS electrical students, Ricky Miner, Jr. (left) and Derek Alvarenga (right), proudly display the electric car project. A5

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Leaders See Area Overtaking Silicon Valley

O'Malley, Hoyer, Kaine, Fenty Introduce Chesapeake Crescent Initiative

By WILL SKOWRONSKI
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - Maryland, Virginia and the District could be humming with high-tech commerce if plans for a new "Chesapeake Crescent" partnership materialize as the region's leaders sketched out Tuesday.

Gov. Martin O'Malley, Rep. Steny Hoyer, Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine, District Mayor Adrian Fenty and other repre-

sentatives from the region introduced the Chesapeake Crescent Initiative at a news conference.

The plan calls for a public-private partnership to capitalize on the region's federal presence, research universities and educated workforce.

"We are all connected in one way or another," O'Malley said. "The long and short of it is we are much stronger as a region than we can be as one metropolitan region or one

state."

California's Silicon Valley and Route 128 outside Boston, George Vradenburg said, are the standard.

"We intend to catch up and pass them," said Vradenburg, a former AOL Time Warner executive.

Vradenburg and Herb Miller, the CEO of Western Development Corp., were

See INITIATIVE, Page A5

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Celebrate Black History Month the Douglass House

A few years ago my daughter Therese came from Texas for a visit. One of the main things she wanted to see while she in town was the Frederick Douglass house in Anacostia. I had toured the home before, but it was not on my usual sightseeing itinerary. It should have been.

Frederick Douglass' house, at 1411 W St. SE, is perched high up on Cedar Hill, not more than 15 minutes' drive from my home. It is a charming, 21-room residence on 15 acres, purchased by Douglass in 1877. He died there on Feb. 20, 1895.

Had he lived a few more years, my father, Dr. Richard Mudd, might have known him. Dad was born in 1901 and grew up on what is now Good Hope Road, only about five blocks from Cedar Hill.

Frederick Douglass was a former slave, an advisor to President Lincoln, an abolitionist, orator and author, well-reflected in the furnishings, many of which are original. Upstairs are bedrooms, two on the east side for the men and three on the west for the women. The house offers wonderful glimpses into the trends of the late 1800s.

The house is open daily from 9 to 4 from mid-October to mid-April and from 9 to 5 the rest of the year. Tours are at 9, 12:15, 1:45, 3 and 3:30. Reservations may be made online at www.recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777 or 202-426-5961. There may be a small fee.

I don't think we made reservations—we just wandered in. Therese, her children and I spent perhaps two hours, taking the tour, viewing a film, wandering the grounds, and appreciating the beautiful view of the Washington skyline. If you haven't been, now's the time.

New Recycling Day

Effective March 1, my recycling collection day in Skyline will be Monday, instead of Wednesday. I don't know how many are affected by this change. In Morningside, recycling pickup is on Tuesday.

As usual we are asked to have the recycling tub at the curb by 6:30 a.m. For information, call the Waste Management Division, 301-952-7630.

Clinton Conversations

by Norma Fazenbaker 301 579 6116

Happy Birthday in February to Berneatha Scipio and Litte Butler, February 1, Paul Brawner and Suzanne Hitte, February 4, Inger Hudson, February 5, Kay Brown, February 6,

Carolyn Newlin, February 7, Madeline Schumm, February 8, Conrad Waby, February 9, Jean Welhauss, February 12,

Rosa Smith, February 13, Ann Prout and Michael Reagan, February 15, Mabel Bridgett and Gloria Garrett, February 17,

Gloria Henny and Roberta Morrell, February 18, Stacie Ferrell, February 19, Angela Davis, February 20,

Thomas Wyche, February 24, Roy Moore, Ollie Moore and Rose Mary Bullock, February 26, Caitlin Denny, Mary Anne Bair and Earl Johnson, February 27, Jim Hall and Olivia McPherson,

Neighbors

Mr. and Mrs. Harrison, of Maple Road, spotted a toddler walking unattended on Woodland Road, clad only in a diaper and red Bob the Builder t-shirt. They put him in their warm car, waited awhile, and then took him to the town Police Department. Mr. Harrison assisted the police in locating the toddler's home. The Harrisons have been declared Morningside's Good Samaritans.

Skyline Citizens Association holds its general meeting at Skyline School, Wed., Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. For information, call President Stan Holmes, 301-735-4697.

Shahara and Ricardo Rose, of Suitland, have a new baby daughter, Makiyah Monique, born Dec. 13 at Southern Maryland Hospital.

Stephanie and Bing White, of Waldorf, have a new son, Matthew Ryan White, born July 3, weighing 8 pounds 15 ounces.

The proud grandparents are Barbara and Larry Phipps, of Woodland Road in Morningside.

Regina Ryan was surprised with a 75th birthday party on Feb. 2 in St. Philip's Parish Hall, well attended by family and friends. Happy belated birthday, Regina!

Condolences to Richard Robinson, custodian at St. Philip's, on the death of his sister Maryann McCrea.

Condolences to JoAnne Mulcahy on the tragic death of her uncle, Gennaro James Fato, of Olney, who was shot and killed, in an apparent robbery attempt or burglary, as he and his wife walked into their house the night of Jan. 23. I don't know if any arrests have been made.

Morningside news

March 3 is the deadline for submission of petitions to run for either the Morningside Board of Supervisors or the Morningside Town Council.

Three supervisors will be chosen for one-year terms to begin in March. Vacancies will be filled by the mayor. As for the Council, an election will be held the first Monday in May to fill the two seats currently held by Kerry Thomas and Sharon Fowler.

The next Town Meeting will be at the town hall Feb. 19 at 8

p.m. All Morningsiders are urged to attend. Among the issues will be the Neighborhood Watch Program. Sergeant Murphy will be working with the planners.

May they rest in peace

Mary Agnes Chiesa, of Suitland, a member of St. Philip's Parish, died Jan. 22. Survivors include her children, Marie Wright and Michael Chiesa; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Services and burial were at Cedar Hill.

Lt. Col. Johnnie Vernon Haselby Sr., 88, of Camp Springs, who retired from the Air Force with 26 years' service, died Jan. 26. During World War II he flew with the 37th Fighter Squadron in North Africa and received the Distinguished Flying Cross. He later instructed pilots for the P-47 Thunderbolt.

After retiring in 1967 he owned and operated a Radio Shack in Bowie and was a volunteer tax aide for AARP. Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Marjorie; children, Barbara Lynard and John Jr.; six siblings, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. A daughter, Cheryl Blunt died in 2005.

Rev. James S. Lipiano, 95, chaplain at Southern Maryland Hospital, died Jan. 21. He was the husband of the late Rose Lipiano; father of Lydia and James Lipiano; brother of Virginia Ercolani, Manuel and Stanley Dijosie. Services were at Calvary Gospel Church in Waldorf.

George Francis Mulcahy, 81, died at his home in Inwood, W.V., on Jan. 11. He was a retired Navy Chief, and had served at Andrews and other bases. After retiring, he was a data analyst at the Census Bureau. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Lorraine; four children, including Michael G. Mulcahy of Camp Springs; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Theo Carter, Rita Beall and J.B. Thomas, Feb. 7; Jesse Ritter, Feb. 8; Conrad Waby and Mary Stakem Crane, Feb. 9; Ginny Call, Dawn Witherow and David Chambers, Feb. 11; Anne Woods, Feb. 12; Angie Miller and Pat Miller, Feb. 13.

see it as something that offers opportunities. Wait it out. People who worry think negative emotions will overwhelm them or last a really long time. But, just remember, any emotion is temporary.

This information came from the monthly Safeway magazine.

WSSC is proposing a rate increase and fees in its Fiscal Year 2009 Budget. It averages to about \$73.41 in total increase per quarter, and the average quarterly bill would be approximately \$225. To see the full Proposed FY 2009 Budget, go to their website. Both the Prince George's and Montgomery Counties will meet in May for joint approval.

At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle arrive last.



Michelle Collins-Sibley, professor at Mount Union College. Students from Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio spent a week at Poplar Hill last spring doing volunteer at the museum.

Suitland Beat

by Janice Euell 301 736 3481

The newly established Martin Luther King Foundation of Prince George's County sponsored its first Awards and Dinner banquet at the La Fontaine in New Carrollton, Maryland. The leaders of the Foundation wanted to honor outstanding leaders in the community to continue Dr. King's quest for have family, educators, civic leaders, government and businesses work together for the common good.

The evening featured terrific food and entertainment with 14 honorees in the categories of family, education, civic, government and business. Many youth were recognized for their outstanding achievements. Among those honored was Reaching Objectives through Joint Actions (ROJA), Inc. in Suitland, recognized for their efforts in training youth to strive for success through education. at its two After School Learning Centers.

ROJA, according to the Foundation, was nominated by more than one person, which ROJA considered quite an

honor. ROJA expresses its gratitude to Rose Harper, who currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia, for being one of them. Meneta A. Wyatt, the director of personnel and administration operates one of ROJA's After School Learning Centers in District Heights. She was also in attendance at the event. Tyrone Childress is the program manager for the After School Learning Center located in Suitland. Both Wyatt and Childress deserve the highest accolades for their contributions to the education, growth and development of our youth that earned the organization this special recognition. Tamara Trowell and Kojo Trowell (Janice Euell's daughter and son-in-law) were there to show their support for the recipients along with Janice Euell's adorable grandchildren Laila and Jakari.

Among the other honorees were Rev. and Mrs. Delman L. Coates, pastor of the Mount Ennon Baptist Church in Clinton, Janni P. McNeil-Hayes (Dream Family Awards),

founder fo the Coalition of Adoption, Mayor James L. Walls, an Baptist minister and president of the Maryland Black Mayors, Michael Summers, community liaison for the Office of the State's Attorney and Delegate Tawanna P. Gaines (D-Prince George's), (Civic Awards recipients). Alongside ROJA (Janice Euell) were Steven Morris, program director of a before and after care center and Zalee Harris, founder of Education Doctors received Education advocates awards.

Alphonso Tillman, president of Professional 50 States protection, received the award for promoting economic empowerment and honor students Addison Pruitt and eighth grader at Just Middle School, and Trenton Gilstrap, were honored for their leadership. Harriets girls were recognized for their work empowering girls and Thomas Felder, a lawyer, was recognized for his community leadership.

Brandywine-Aquasco Talk

by Ruth Turner 301 888 1139

ANNUAL MEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

The men of Asbury United Methodist Church will celebrate their Annual Men's Day on Sunday, February 17, 2008 ("Being and Making Disciples of Jesus Christ"). The church is located at 4004 Accokeek Road, Brandywine, MD, Pastor, Rev. Dr. Priscilla I. Boswell.

Pastor Herbert A. Brisbon, III from New Covenant Worship Center UMC in Baltimore will be the guest speaker for the 11:00 AM – Worship Service Sunday, February 17, 2008 ("Good Soldiers Making Disciples for the Lord"). There will be a 3:00 PM Song and Praise Service. This service will feature various Men Singing Groups). If additional information is needed, please contact Kevin Neale, President, United Methodist Men (301) 782-4645, Teresa Edelen, Administrative Assistant (301) 372-8891.

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Bowie State University Athletic Department and National Alumni Association 2nd Annual Scholarship Gold Tournament will be on Friday, June 6, 2008 at the Upper Marlborough Golf Course in Upper Marlboro, Md. Please call alumnus Tony Jews at 301-249-1784 if anyone is interest-

ed in participating and need more information. To participate in the tournament please submit a payment of \$75.00 per person on or before May 1, 2008, after May 1st the cost will be \$85.00 per person. All checks are to be made payable to BSUNAA and sent to Evelyn Wright, PO Box 7078, Columbia, MD 21045. Please plan to come out and join us.

BRANDYWINE NORTH KEYS ASSOCIATION

The next meeting will be held February 20, 2008 at 7:00 PM in the Library at Brandywine Elementary School. Updates on the Brandywine-North Keys Community Park Project,

Andrews Air Force Base DRMO clean-up efforts, and Mirant's Chalk Point Quality Control Project will be provided and discussed at the meeting.

CAMP ARENA STAGE

Camp Arena Stage is a multi-arts summer day camp for young people ages 8 to 15. The camp located on the gated campus of Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School, 1524 Thirty-Fifth Street NW, Washington, D.C.

Two sessions are offered. The hours are M-F, 9AM to 4 PM. Register online at www.arenastage.org.

To request a brochure e-mail camp@arenastage.org or call 202-554-9066, ext. 808.

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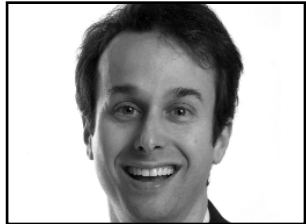
COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Winterize Your Home To Cut Energy Bills

We've all felt first-hand the painful impact that record oil prices have had on home heating and driving expenses this winter. You've also likely seen price hikes on just about everything else as fuel-related shipping and manufacturing cost increases get passed along to consumers.



Close off unused rooms and shut their heating vents.

Clean or replace furnace filters monthly during the winter and dust refrigerator coils every few months to ensure more efficient operation. Also, clean the dryer lint trap after each use.

Install tempered glass doors and a heat-air exchange system to your fireplace to re-circulate warmed air; and always close the damper when not in use.

Replace old windows with new high-performance, dual-pane windows.

Open blinds or curtains on sunny days to help warm the house; close them at night to retain heat.

Compact fluorescent lamps use 75 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs, last 10 times longer and save \$30 or more over the lifetime of each bulb.

Use dimmer switches, timers or motion sensors on incandescent lights.

Run full loads in your washer and dryer and use cold or warm water whenever possible. Most detergents are formulated accordingly.

Run full dishwasher loads and use the unheated drying cycle if it has one.

Don't preheat the oven and limit opening the door - the temperature drops about 25 degrees each time you do.

Turn off lights, computers, televisions and other electronic equipment when not in use.

Practical Money Skills for Life (www.practicalmoneyskills.com/budgeting), a free personal financial management site created by Visa, offers a host of other money-saving budgeting tips.

Remember, besides being good for the environment, the less energy you use the lower your utility bills will be.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. To sign up for a free monthly personal finance e-Newsletter, go to

First Annual TRIAD Conference Promotes Senior Safety

Prince George's County, Maryland...The Prince George's County Police Department's Youth and Family Services Division, Police Chief Melvin C. High, in partnership with Vernon Herron, Director of Homeland Security, and Prince George's County Sheriff Michael Jackson, hosted the First Annual TRIAD conference yesterday at the Capital Sports Complex in District Heights.

TRIAD - a term describing a partnership between senior organizations, PGPD and the Office of the Sheriff is a program designed to educate and inform senior citizens about senior specific issues. Conference participants received advice and instruction about such matters as: reporting and identifying elderly abuse,



PHOTO COURTESY PRESS INFORMATION OFFICE

Chief High greets seniors at TRIAD Conference.

effective use of 911, economic or financial crimes against seniors, personal safety tips, and cell phone programs.

Chief Melvin C. High and Department of Homeland Security Director Vernon Herron welcomed the conferees with opening remarks before the conference.

Harrington from A1

Council Chair in December 2007. Today he thanked his colleagues for working with him to set forth an aggressive agenda.

"I am saddened to leave the daily interaction I have enjoyed with the members of this august body; however, I am leaving it in the capable hands of my gifted colleague Samuel Dean. During my short tenure as Chair, we set the stage for 2008 and it is evident that there is much to accomplish on behalf of the residents of Prince George's County. Economic development, public safety and public health are all things that the Council will fight for this year and I will do my part in Annapolis to help all citizens of the County and the State."

As a State Senator, Mr.

Harrington says he will have an even greater opportunity to serve his community.

"I am committed to a 'Community First' agenda," stated David Harrington. "Senator Britt was a dear friend, a great lady, and true fighter for Prince George's County in the Maryland State Senate. I will honor her memory by serving the citizens of the 47th Legislative District and communities across Prince George's County with the same passionate advocacy."

Recognized for his strong leadership ability, Council Member Dean was elected by his Council colleagues to serve as Chair for the 2005 Legislative Year. He served as Vice-Chair for the 2004 Legislative Year. Current leadership appointments include: Chair, Council Committee on

Planning, Zoning, and the Environment (PZE), Member, Council Committee on Economic Development and Housing (ED&H), and Member, Council Committee on Education, Human Services and Human Resources (E, HS&HR). He says it will be a seamless transition. "I am honored that my colleagues on the Council have asked me to once again fill the role of Chair. There are many challenges facing the Council this year and I look forward to working with my colleagues on the issues before us. Guided by the principle of shared leadership, we will continue the path we set forth in 2002. We all wish David well as he goes on to fight for our interests in Annapolis."

Vice-Chair Bland looks forward to working with Chair

Dean during the 2008 Legislative Year.

"Although I, as Vice Chairperson, am capable of leading the Council through this possibly challenging legislative year, I am willing to support the seasoned leadership of Council Member Dean, just as I pledged my support to Council Member Harrington. I am so honored to be a part of this esteemed Council. It provides me with a platform to advocate for many causes dear to my heart, such as reducing gun violence; domestic violence; and providing opportunities for our youth. In addition, this Council embodies the concept of teamwork. I have every confidence that we will move forward, continuing our positive work for the residents of District 9 and Prince George's County."

Twenty Four Graduate from Citizen's Police Academy

Prince George's County, Maryland... Chief Melvin C. High and Major Everett Sesker, Commander of the Community Policing Institute celebrated the graduation of the Citizen's Police Academy (CPA), Session 24, in a ceremony last night recognizing twenty four citizens who successfully completed 12 weeks of training in the Citizen's Police Academy (CPA).

Students completed 36 hours of instruction that covered a variety of topics such as criminal and traffic law, arrest procedures and judgment enhancement training. The CPA was started in 1991 and during that time approximately five hundred citizens have graduated.

In his remarks to the graduates, Chief Melvin C. High said, "The commitment you've made for us, for our county and for our communities make you

an example that each of us can make a difference, that we can decide what is acceptable in our communities and that ultimately we define our communities."

"I was impressed by the number of citizens who were interested in what the police department and officers are exposed to. The graduates were very inquisitive and actively interested in the topics that were presented," said Sergeant Jacqueline Broadus, the CPA's Coordinator.

Mr. Barry J. Schlossberg, who was chosen by his classmates as the class speaker said, "As a class, we have a better understanding and appreciation of our police department and the men and women who serve our community. We leave here having more knowledge about our police department and look forward to continuing a positive partnership with our partners in law enforcement."



PHOTO COURTESY PRESS INFORMATION OFFICE

Class Speaker Barry Schlossberg addresses graduating class

Chief High concluded the ceremony saying, "Go back to your communities and get involved in the civic and homeowners associations and Neighborhood Watch groups and share what you have learned."

For information about the Prince George's County Citizen's Police Academy, contact Sergeant Jacqueline Broadus at 301-794-1000.

For additional information contact the Press Information Office at 301-772-4710.

GLADYS NOON SPELLMAN SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

UPPER MARLBORO, MD - The Prince George's County Women's History Month Committee has established a scholarship in the memory of Congresswoman Gladys Noon Spellman. Ms. Spellman was a celebrated public servant of Prince George's County for more than two decades. Applications are now being accepted with the following criteria for interested candidates:

- Candidate must be a Prince George's County resident.
- Candidate should be in the 12th grade (already accepted into college).
- Candidate should be planning to major in government, criminal justice, political science, public administration, Fire Science or a health related field.
- Candidate should have outside interests and activities, including community service.
- Candidate must be in good academic standing and demonstrate financial need.
- Candidate must be able to attend the Annual Women's History luncheon at 11:30 on Thursday, March 20, 2008 at Martin's Crosswinds.
- Applications must be received by Monday, February 25, 2008. During the luncheon, County Executive Jack B. Johnson will present the Gladys Noon Spellman Award and scholarships. The Women's History Month Luncheon is made possible by the support of local businesses.
- To obtain an application contact Ms. Ola Hill at (301) 952-3755 or download the application, available as an Adobe PDF or MSWord file.

College Scholarships for Prince George's County Students

Students who reside in the 22nd Legislative District and are planning to attend an in-state Maryland University or trade school are encouraged to apply for a Senatorial Scholarship from the office of state Senator Paul G. Pinsky.

The scholarships are awarded annually to deserving undergraduate and graduate students. A volunteer committee of community members makes selections after reviewing academic achievement, financial need, and commitment to higher education. Most scholarships are awarded for four years or until the recipient completes his or her degree, whichever comes first.

The 22nd Legislative District includes Berwyn Heights, Edmonston, Greenbelt, Hyattsville, Lanham, New Carrollton, Woodlawn, Riverdale Park, Riverdale Heights, Beacon Heights, and University Park.

Applications are available online at: <http://www.senatorpinsky.org/> or from Senator Pinsky's office at (301) 858-3155. All applicants must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as part of their application.

Completed applications must be submitted to Senator Pinsky's

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COMMENTARY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Be Car Care Aware: Better Late than Never When it Comes to Winterizing Your Car

Editor:

It's time to fess up. You didn't winterize your car and it really could have used some attention, especially with below freezing temperatures striking many parts of the country. Now what?

The good news is that you're not alone and it's not too late. Nearly 70 percent of motorists don't winterize their vehicles in preparation for winter.

There's still time though to have the battery, antifreeze, wipers and wiper fluid checked to help avoid "no starts" and breakdowns and ensure safety and visibility during harsh winter driving conditions.

The Car Care Council recommends changing to low-viscosity oil in winter, as it will flow more easily between moving parts when cold. Drivers in sub-zero driving temperatures should drop their oil weight from 10-W30 to 5-W30 as thickened oil can make it hard to start the car.

It's also good to allow your car a little more time to warm up when temperatures are below freezing to let the oil in the engine and transmission circulate and get warm.

Tire pressure should also be checked as tires will lose pressure when temperatures drop. Lastly, don't forget your winter emergency kit

that should include an ice scraper, flashlight, blankets, extra clothes, candle/matches, bottled water, snacks, gloves, flares, a first aid kit and needed medication.

Below freezing temperatures can stress out a vehicle, as well as its driver. Motorists who invest an hour or so to have their vehicles checked will have peace-of-mind and one less thing to worry about as the harsh winter conditions continue throughout much of the country.

Sincerely,

Rich White
Executive Director
Car Care Council

Open to the Public



Astronaut Claude Nicollier, mission specialist from the European Space Agency (ESA), works at a storage enclosure, using one of the Hubble power tools, during the second of three STS-103 extravehicular activities (EVA).

NASA GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER
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Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



A Child Next Door May Need Your Help

When four sisters were discovered dead in a Southeast Washington, D.C., rowhouse on January 9, the community and city were shocked. According to newspaper reports, the girls' bodies had been decomposing for many weeks before their discovery. Compounding the tragedy is the fact that for the better part of a year, numerous agencies in the District of Columbia were aware of disturbing signs that the children were in danger. But no one was successful in reaching out to the children or their mother to prevent this appalling calamity. The girls' mother, Banita Jacks, 33, has been charged in their murders.

This case is a loud alarm bell for all of us and serves as a reminder that in cities and smaller communities across the nation, there are children, sometimes just next door, who need our help. Neighbors suspecting something was wrong could have been more aggressive in inquiring about their well-being. Several local agencies failed to persist to get help and follow up on what was happening to the children.

Sadly this case is not unique. Many thousands of children have died or been grievously abused or neglected in communities in every region of our country. Every 36 seconds a child is confirmed as abused or neglected. Many of these children remain invisible to those who could help them.

How do we stop the neglect and abuse? We start with the understanding that protecting our children is everyone's responsibility, and not solely that of public social service agencies. Caring vigilance—child watching—should be the watch word for all of us.

As individuals, we can begin by reaching out to relatives and neighbors struggling to care for children—even when familial tension makes that uncomfortable. Get help for a child you believe is being abused or neglected. Become a foster parent or adoptive parent. Offer to give a break to grandparents who have taken in their grandchildren by caring for the children several days a month. Volunteer to stand up for an

abused or neglected child as a court-appointed special advocate. Be a mentor to a child who is still at home or in foster care. Contribute your time or money to a program that helps prevent family crises or protects and treats children when abuse has occurred.

We must get our own faith and community-based organizations to do more. Educate your congregation about protecting children and take action to help. Find ways to support parents who need help.

Offer space in your facility for special events. Make sure that children in foster care are involved in your youth activities.

Arrange for scholarships to colleges or universities with which you are affiliated. Support national, state and local policy initiatives that will keep children safe and in permanent families. If just a fraction of the faith congregations in our nation found an adoptive or foster care family for a child, we wouldn't have children alone in the world without loving families.

Employers can also make valuable contributions. They can make sure their leave policies recognize the needs of fos-

ter and adoptive parents. They can provide internships and longer term employment for youths in foster care. Businesses also can adopt local agencies or groups that serve children who have been abused or neglected.

Just as important, we must push for significant improvements in our child welfare agencies, our courts, and our schools to better protect children in communities throughout our nation. And we must invest in the health care and mental health and early childhood development programs that will help give our children a healthy start in life.

As a memorial to the Jacks girls and for the sake of millions of other neglected and abused children, all of us must recognize that keeping children safe is everybody's business.

Marion Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund and its Action Council whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

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