

# The Prince George's Post



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## UMD Prof's Data-Mapping Expertise Tapped

*A Native of Kobe, Japan Joined an International Team*

By MADHU RAJARAMAN  
Maryland Newsline/CNS

COLLEGE PARK - When Hiroyuki Iseki, a native of Kobe, Japan, read the news of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami in Sendai, he initially didn't see it touching him personally.

"My family and friends were safe," said Iseki, an assistant professor of urban studies and planning at the University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. "I talked to them immediately, and they were fine," he said. "That was my initial reaction."

But hours later, Iseki's personal stake in the catastrophe grew: He received a call from an old friend and colleague offering an opportunity to use his expertise in geographic information systems to help those in his home country.

Yoh Kawano, campus GIS coordinator at the University of California, Los Angeles, told Iseki he was working with two organizations, GISCorps and Crisis Commons, to create datasets to support the crisis response.

Kawano asked Iseki if he would be willing to get on board.

"He (Iseki) is one of my best friends; he's also from Japan," said Kawano of the man he befriended when the two were graduate students in urban planning at UCLA. "He had all of the skills to help me."

Iseki seized the opportunity. "I was very fortunate to do something for my country," he said.

Heather Blanchard, co-founder of Crisis Commons, said several layers of data are needed in a crisis. This includes existing information, such as population details, and logistical information, such as power availability and cell phone coverage.

Tools such as a recovery map help bring all these layers together, she said.

Kawano and Iseki joined five other GIS specialists to create "common operational

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PHOTO BY MARYLAND NEWSLINE'S MADHU RAJARAMAN  
**Hiroyuki Iseki, a native of Kobe, Japan, and an assistant professor of urban studies and planning at the University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, joined an international team that mapped data for the Japan relief effort.**

## First Family Attends Easter Service



OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY PETE SOUZA  
**President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama, and daughters Malia and Sasha attend Easter church service at Shiloh Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., Sunday, April 24, 2011.**

## Van Hollen Sues to Disclose Contributor

*Under the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act Donors Should be Identified*

By LAURA E. LEE  
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON - Rep. Chris Van Hollen, D-Kensington, sued the Federal Election Commission over election contribution disclosure regulations that he believes fail to comply with federal law.

The rules govern contributions made by individuals to corporations and labor unions that are then used for "electioneering communica-

tions" like television and radio ads. The suit, which comes as candidates are gearing up for the 2012 races, alleges that the donations should be disclosed under the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002.

Van Hollen, former chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, pushed for the identification of donors in a bill he sponsored last year, the "Democracy is Strengthened by Casting Light on Spending in

Elections" or DISCLOSE Act.

The bill passed the House but did not have sufficient support to end a Senate filibuster. President Obama expressed disappointment at the failure of the bill.

"Today's decision by a partisan minority to block this legislation is a victory for special interests and U.S. corporations -- including foreign-

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## Medical Education is Elementary to Watson

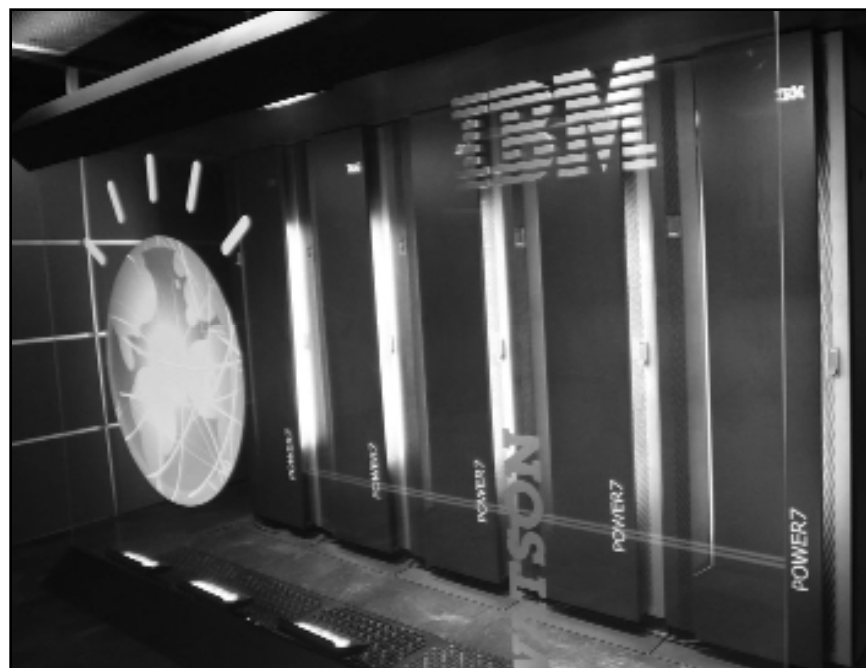


PHOTO COURTESY OF IBM  
**Nuance, the University of Maryland School of Medicine and the Columbia University Medical Center are teaming up to find ways to apply Watson's technology to medicine.**

By COLLIN BERGLUND  
Maryland Newsline/CNS

COLLEGE PARK, Md. - The University of Maryland School of Medicine is helping to educate a new student: a computer that gained fame on the TV quiz show, "Jeopardy."

In mid-February, Watson, an IBM computer capable of answering verbal questions posed in natural language, appeared on "Jeopardy" and defeated champions Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter.

Now, the University of Maryland medical school has joined IBM, software developer Nuance and Columbia University Medical Center to apply Watson's technology to medicine.

The University of Maryland

secured a grant from IBM for initial development about one year ago, said Dr. Eliot Siegel, professor and vice chairman of the University of Maryland School of Medicine's Department of Diagnostic Radiology. The university is suggesting medical literature for Watson to "learn" and is teaching it about unusual cases dealing with rare diseases or unexpected symptoms.

The hope, say those involved with the project, is that doctors could eventually use it in hospitals to assist with diagnoses or to answer verbal questions -- elevating it beyond the more typical reference tool that computers have served as

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## County Vocational Students Near Completion of House in Clinton

By ALEXANDRA WILDING  
Maryland Newsline/CNS

CLINTON - At the end of a road in a sleepy subdivision dotted with manicured lawns and pricey cars, a symphony of power tools cuts through the quiet at a house under construction.

But this is no ordinary house.

The house is a student-built project, a collaboration between the Prince George's County Public Schools and the local business community. It's one of 35 houses and townhouses built and sold in Prince George's County subdivisions since 1981, in a program designed to provide high school students real-world applications of their academic work.

The project aims to teach students a valuable trade while fostering values of teamwork and persistence.

"Hands-on learning is very important," said Anthony Fletcher, a carpentry teacher at Croom Vocational High School, who has helped students build 31 houses in his 35 years at the school. "We have the experience to show them."

With some exceptions, including the roof, this year's 2,600-square-foot, four-bedroom house has been built by students with teacher supervision.

"They teach the basics, what's the safest way

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**EARTH TALK - "Soil depletion and nutrition loss."**

*Dear EarthTalk:*  
*What's the nutritional difference between the carrot I ate in 1970 and one I eat today? I've heard that that there's very little nutrition left. Is that true?*  
*Esther G., Newark, NJ*

It would be overkill to say that the carrot you eat today has very little nutrition in it—especially compared to some of the other less healthy foods you likely also eat—but it is true that fruits and vegetables grown decades ago were much richer in vitamins and minerals than the varieties most of us get today.  
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# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Remembering a Morningside tragedy, 60 years ago

At 4:07 p.m., April 8, 1951, an abandoned twin-engine B-25 passed low over a group of ICE Club men building a fence. Startled, they looked up to see the plane hurtle across Suitland Road and along 500 feet of Lombardy Road, strike a power line and plow into a house at 302 Poplar Road with a deafening roar.

M/Sgt. Samuel R. Snyder, his wife Dorothea and daughters, 6-year-old Kay and 8-week-old Rene, had visitors—Dorothea's sister and brother-in-law, Violet and Irvin Guyer, in town from Cranford, N.J. to see the cherry blossoms and their new niece. They took a ride around the Tidal Basin. The cherry blossoms were at their peak.

As they returned home, neighbors Rose and Floyd Bookhultz saw them and waved. Twenty minutes later the bomber crashed through the front door and an explosion turned the house into an inferno.

Volunteer firemen, including Asst. Fire Chief Jerry Glaubitz, pulled three survivors from the blaze. Seven fire departments and four rescue squads responded, but the town had no hydrants and only 500 gallons in the water tank. The water ran out too soon.

The two little girls, Kay and Rene, and their Uncle Irvin died in the fire. Violet Guyer was taken to Casualty Hospital in serious condition; the Snyders were taken to Bolling AFB Hospital in fair condition.

### Aftermath of the tragedy

The next day 500 people jammed into the ICE Club (Idle Club Elite, now the VFW) to protest the pilot's decision to abandon the airplane and the shortage of water. A committee was formed, including Morningside Mayor William J. Spahr, Fire Chief Laddie Beardmore, Duncan Fleming and Curtis Deily. The Washington Star offered to forward donations to the Town, and Andrews starting raising money for the victims. The ICE planned a benefit dance.

What had gone wrong? The bomber, with three crewmen,

had taken off from Andrews at 11 a.m. As they attempted to land, they found that the landing gear wasn't working. They aimed the plane at the Chesapeake Bay and parachuted to safety. On April 13, 1951, a County grand jury indicted the pilot, Capt. Paul V. Chapman, for manslaughter. I've never learned what happened to him.

### In 1954, water service was installed in Morningside.

The Snyders' house was rebuilt, but they eventually moved away. They never had another child.

### Tournament provides scholarships

The 13th Annual Dante Ross Scholarship Golf Tournament is looking for golfers. The tournament will be held on Wednesday, June 15, at the Marlton Golf Course, beginning with a 12-noon shotgun start, four-man scramble format.

The \$70 per golfer fee includes practice range before golf and a spaghetti dinner afterwards at St. Philip's Hall. Those interested can call Phil Eppard, 301-423-1787, or email eppardp@aol.com to register.

The tournament supports three scholarships each year for students who wish to continue their education at St. Philip's School or a Catholic high school.

This year St. Philip's School, in Camp Springs, is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Phil would like to invite, particularly, those who have attended St. Philip's, to come play golf and support this fund-raiser.

The tournament honors Dante Alighieri Ross, who lived near me in Skyline. As far as I know, he wasn't a golfer. But he was the first president of St. Philip's Home & School Association, and a permanent deacon who served at St. Philip's. He died in 1989.

Following the tournament, the golfers gather at St. Philip's for the awards, and to eat a delicious spaghetti dinner prepared by Shirley Eppard.

### Rabies vaccination clinics

The County Health Department is encouraging residents to bring their pet dog, cat or ferret to one of three low-cost

rabies vaccination clinics this Spring. The cost for each vaccination will be \$10.00 (bring exact change).

The clinics will be held in Fort Washington at Isaac J. Gourdine Middle School, 8700 Allentown Road, on April 30; Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, on May 7; and Bowie High School, 15200 Annapolis Road on June 11. Hours at all clinics are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine. For information call the Health Department at 301-883-7832 or 240-417-8443.

### Yard Sale at the American Legion

The American Legion is hosting a Yard Sale at the Post on Saturday, May 14, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring your own table. Space is \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. In case of rain, they'll move indoors. Call Vivian, 301-736-7176.

As always, thank you, May Whittington, for this information. She has been a member of the Auxiliary for 72 years, having joined in 1939. And she's still getting out the word.

### May she rest in peace

Patricia J. Carlisle Ahearn, 85, past chairwoman of the Oxon Hill Manor Foundation and a member of St. Columba Church, died Dec. 15, 2010, at her home in Oxon Hill. She was a native Washingtonian and 1943 graduate of Coolidge High School. She had worked for the office of Lend-Lease Administration.

She was married for 59 years to the late John L. Ahearn Jr., who died in 2010. Survivors include four children and six grandchildren.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Lael McCune, Dorothy Lipka and Todd Mullins, April 30; May Whittington, May 1; Kathryn Deaver, Ann Lacey, Ernestine Taylor Wood, Dante Ross Jr. and Janet Booth Kaye, May 2; my daughter Sheila (McHale) Mudd and Lori Williams, May 3; India Goodall and Ruby Haines, May 4; Donald Young, Jim Henderson and Marlyn Meoli, May 5.

Happy anniversary to Ruth and Noel Nanney, their 68th on May 1.

## Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards' Legislative Update

### Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards' Statement Celebrating Earth Day 2011

Washington, D.C. -  
Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (D-MD) released the following statement in celebration of Earth Day

"Earth Day is one of the largest global initiatives to bring attention and encourage action to address the environmental threats we face in this nation and around the world. This year, Earth Day will focus on the theme "A Billion Acts of Green®", asking individuals, corporations, and governments to each engage in their own way to help preserve the environment. It is the latest reminder that we need action at all levels if we are to succeed in protecting our environment for generations to come.

"Unfortunately in the 112th

Congress, the Republican majority in the House of Representatives is not doing its part. At a time when serious action needs to be taken, we instead continue to see Republicans act on the side of corporate special interests - working to strip clean air and water protections, reduce investments in renewable energy, and prolong our dependence on fossil fuels with \$50 billion in tax breaks to oil companies that are reaping billions in profits. We need a serious commitment to protect the environment and build a 21st Century green economy that will spur innovation, increase prosperity, and create jobs in Maryland and across the country.

"As we celebrate Earth Day and the "A Billion Acts of Green®" campaign, let us focus on what each of us can



do to help achieve our goal of a healthy, sustainable environment. I am encouraged by the engagement of committed individuals on Earth Day each year, working to transform the energy and environmental conservation policies in this country and around the world. By working together, we can ensure that the protection of our environment is a top national and international priority."



Lucillea Alison Houdyshell, 17 of Bowie, MD has been selected as a finalist in the National American Miss teen pageant which will be held in August 2011. She is currently seeking sponsorship. Please call 301-828-8703. Any donations are tax deductible and greatly appreciated. Help make her dream come true!

### A Sure Sign of Spring

## WSSC Azalea Garden Blooms A Perfect Treat for Mother's Day

LAUREL (April, 2011): A sure sign of spring, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission's (WSSC) Brighton Dam Azalea Garden is open and soon 20,000 gorgeous azaleas will be in full bloom.

The Brighton Dam Azaleas are renowned for their beauty. Visitors can enjoy five acres of flowers expected to be in full bloom in time for the traditional Mother's Day visit, Sunday, May 8th.

Admission to the Azalea Garden is FREE and open to the public daily from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Elderly or disabled visitors can drive through the garden Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

After touring the garden, visitors can relax along the Triadelphia Reservoir picnic grounds. There's even a play area for children! For more information, please call Brighton Dam at 301-774-9124.

**WHAT:** WSSC's Brighton Dam Azalea Garden

**WHERE:** 2 Brighton Dam Road, Brookeville, MD

**WHEN:** 6:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. daily, including Mother's Day, Sunday, May 8th



PHOTO COURTESY WSSC

**The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission's Brighton Dam Azalea Garden is open and soon 20,000 gorgeous azaleas will be in full bloom.**

*WSSC is the 8th largest water and wastewater utility in the nation, with a network of more than 5,500 miles of fresh water pipe and nearly 5,400 miles of sewer pipeline. Serving customers in Prince George's and Montgomery counties since 1918, our drinking water has always met or exceeded federal standards.*

### Arbor Day Foundation Offers Tree-Care Booklet for \$3 Donation

The Arbor Day Foundation has a handy tree-care booklet that is designed to help people plant and care for trees. Anyone can

receive the Conservation Trees booklet just by giving a \$3 donation to the nonprofit tree-planting organization.

Conservation Trees is an easy-to-use booklet and features illustrations, colorful photos and easy-to-understand descriptions.

"It is important that people know the proper way to plant and care for their trees, and Conservation Trees is an ideal resource for tree planters throughout the country," said John Rosenow, chief executive and founder of the Arbor Day Foundation.

"Trees are valuable, and it is important that we take good care of existing ones and plant more. Trees clean the air, help keep our water sources pure and help us conserve energy. Trees provide so many benefits to a community, and that's why it is so vital to take good care of them."

The booklet provides details about the right way to plant and prune trees. Also included are tips on how to use shade trees and windbreaks to save on energy costs, attract songbirds, create a living snow fence, and to learn how to plant the right tree in the right place.

## Clinton Conversations

by Norma Fazenbaker 301 579 6116

Baden Elementary School has Teacher of the Year. RaeShauna Mboma, special education teacher at Baden Elementary School, has been named the 2011-2012 Prince George's County teacher of the Year. Mrs. Mboma was selected from among 20 outstanding teacher candidates for this prestigious honor. She is a veteran teacher of 10 years and has been serving the Baden community for the past three years. She is an amazing teacher with much energy and expertise. Her student's test scores were significantly higher last year and overall her grade level was the highest among all. When the Principal is absent, Mrs. Mboma can be trusted to take over as wellness coordinator to a healthier Baden, active member of the School Planning Management Team, School Interdisciplinary Team and Individualized Education Plan Team. At home, she is the proud mother of two young girls and the devoted wife of Mr. Bombay Mboma. Mrs.

Mboma loves to dance, as well as spending time with her family and traveling. Principal Goddard says she is honored to be working with her and knew she was a diamond from the beginning.

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) is the 18th largest school district in the nation, with 198 schools, over 127,000 students, and nearly 18,000 employees. With an annual budget of \$1.6 billion, the district serves a diverse population of students living in urban, suburban, and rural communities. PGCPS is nationally recognized for its innovative programs and initiatives, including expansion of Advanced Placement courses, partnership programs with business and higher education, and the very first teacher incentive program.

The Office of Personnel Management recently said it will increase interim pensions for many new retirees to nearly the full amount they are owed. OPM's associate director of

retirement services said that, by mid June, the agency will use the initial pension estimates set by the employing agencies to determine most retirees' interim annuities. From May 1 to 7, there was supposed to be displays on the National Mall through which federal agencies would educate the public about their activities. With \$150,000 in federal funds footing the bill, it was a cheap event, but was nevertheless, cut out of the recent budget bill. All of this info came from my email that I receive from NARFE.

Community Support Systems (CSS) will be having their first major flea market on May 7 at the Lions area at 11503 Cherry Tree Crossing Road in Cheltenham. Vendor space is \$20 per space and you can sign in that morning between 6 and 7:30 A.M. All spaces are covered unless you prefer the open space. Future markets are June 4, September 10, and October 15. For more information, call 301-290-1332.

# COMMUNITY

## Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

### For Mother's Day, help mom get organized

Mother's Day is May 8. In addition to traditional gifts like candy and flowers, consider spending a few hours helping your mom organize her financial, legal and medical records so she — and you — know where she stands. Being prepared will make it much easier to take appropriate actions should an issue ever arise.



Here are a few key areas to sort out:

**Retirement income sources.** Gather these documents so your mom will know better how much income will be available throughout retirement:

If she's still working, your mom should already receive an annual statement from Social Security showing estimated benefits at varying retirement ages. (You'll also need your dad's statement to determine any potential spousal or survivor benefits for which she might be eligible.)

Annual statements from pension plans for which she's eligible, showing updated benefit estimates. This might also include potential spousal death benefits if your father has a pension.

IRA, 401(k) or other retirement savings plan statements.

Bank statements for checking, savings, money market and CD accounts.

Company stock and bond certificates and statements for other investment accounts.

**Outstanding debts.** Also gather monthly statements and outstanding balances owed for major expenses including home mortgage or other property loans, home equity loan or line of credit, car loan or lease, credit cards, medical bills and personal loans.

**Other important documents.** Your mom should have documents instructing how she'd like her affairs handled, both while she's living and after death. Look for:

Medical, homeowner/renter, auto, life, disability and long-term care insurance policies.

A will (and possibly a trust) outlining how she wants her estate managed after death.

Durable power of attorney and health care proxy specifying who will make her financial and medical decisions if she becomes incapacitated. Also, a living will tells doctors which medical treatments and life-support procedures she does or doesn't want performed.

Birth certificate, marriage license, Social Security card, funeral and burial plans, safe deposit box information and other important paperwork.

Contact information for professional service providers, including doctors, dentist, pharmacy, lawyer, financial advisor, bank or credit union, insurance companies, pharmacy, etc. Also give these providers your own contact information in case of emergencies.

Review all important documents regularly and make updates whenever her situation changes. For example, make sure that designated beneficiaries for your mom's will, life insurance and retirement plans accurately reflect her current wishes.

If you need help guiding discussions on your mom's current and future needs, Social Security's special website for women provides information on retirement, disability and other issues ([www.ssa.gov/women](http://www.ssa.gov/women)). They also have a Retirement Estimator that automatically enters her earnings information from its records to estimate her projected Social Security benefits under different scenarios, such as age at retirement, future earnings projections, etc. ([www.ssa.gov/estimator](http://www.ssa.gov/estimator)).

Another good resource is the Women's Savings Initiative, a program jointly developed by Heinz Family Philanthropies, the Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement and Visa Inc. This free program features a book called "What Women Need to Know at Retirement," which you can order on CD or download as a PDF or audio file at [www.practicalmoneyskills.com/resources](http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/resources).

Discussing finances may not be as much fun as candy and flowers, but your mom will appreciate your concern for her financial future.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. To participate in a free, online Financial Literacy and Education Summit on April 4, 2011, go to [www.practicalmoneyskills.com/summit2011](http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/summit2011).



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## IAFF Local 1619 Firefighters and Paramedics Donate Smoke Alarms

By MARK BRADY  
PGC/EMS Press Information

Every firefighter knows that a working smoke alarm provides residents with an early alert of a fire inside their home, this is especially important when everyone is asleep, a time when the most home fire fatalities occur. A working smoke alarm improves the chances of you and your family surviving a home fire by 50%. With an early warning of a fire and the fact that everyone inside the home is safe outside also increases the probability that firefighters will be able to stay safe and go home at the end of the shift without injury.

The Prince George's County Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics Association donated over 100 smoke alarms to the Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department. These smoke alarms will be added to the inventory that firefighters provide free-of-charge to our citizens and residents. One duty a firefighter performs includes going door-to-door throughout their local communities checking to ensure that everyone has a working smoke alarm. If an alarm is found to be

non-working; a fresh battery is provided and this will often correct the issue. There are times when an alarm is found to be old and in poor condition and there are times when a home is found with no smoke alarm at all. In these cases, firefighters will install a new working smoke alarm for you and then demonstrate how to test the alarm monthly and change the battery at least once-a-year. Local 1619 President Andrew Pantelis stated, "A working smoke alarm should be considered the most important item in every home. We are proud to be able to provide new smoke alarms that will protect our citizens, residents and our firefighters." Acting Fire Chief Marc S. Bashoor accepted the donation at the Fire/EMS Department Headquarters in Largo and stated, "I accept these smoke alarms on behalf of the men and women of our Fire/EMS Department and for our citizens and residents. We must keep safety first and ensures everyone goes home." By law; Prince George's County requires at least one smoke alarm in every home. The Fire/EMS Department recommends you have a working smoke alarm on every level of your home and



PHOTO BY FIRE/EMS

The Prince George's County Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics Association donated over 100 smoke alarms to the Fire/EMS Department to be distributed to the citizens and residents of Prince George's County. (L to R) IAFF Local 1619 Vice-President Christian Wargo, Acting Fire Chief Marc Bashoor and Local 1619 President Andrew Pantelis.

one inside your bedroom if you sleep with your door closed. Check your alarms once-a-month by pushing the test button on the cover. If the alarm does not sound, replace the battery and try again. If the alarm continues to be non-working; replace it with a new one. Batteries should be changed at least once a year. Regular maintenance

should be performed to keep dust and other particles clear of your smoke alarm. Citizens and residents of Prince George's County can contact our Safety First Smoke Alarm Line at 301-864-SAFE (7233) and request a smoke alarm. A firefighter will arrange a convenient time to come to your home and install a new working smoke alarm; free of charge.

### Watson from A1

in the past.

The team has applied for a competitive grant for about \$12 million from the National Institutes of Health that would help advance the research; it expects to hear about it in coming days.

The idea for the project came to Siegel about two years ago, he said. While visiting IBM in Hawthorne, N.Y., he saw the "Jeopardy" team working on the technology for Watson. He immediately thought of the implications such technology could have on medicine.

"Doctors can only make decisions based on their experience," Siegel said. "Watson would have the equivalent of many doctors' experience."

Watson's artificial intelligence attempts to replicate human thought and reasoning.

Siegel said even the best doctors are lucky to keep up with 1 percent of journal articles in a given year; even specialists

have too much literature in their fields to keep up with all of it. Watson would be able to stay updated on journal articles, enabling doctors to have the latest research at their fingertips in real time.

Research on the project began about a year ago. The University of Maryland's role is to find the best way to bring Watson into the hospital to complement the work of current health professionals. Nuance is involved in the voice-recognition aspect of the project.

Although the precise role of a Dr. Watson commercial product has not yet been determined, there are endless possibilities, Siegel said.

It could have instant recall of tens of millions of electronic medical records. It could evaluate drug interactions and discrepancies with medications and diagnoses or take patients' medical histories. It could be present in emergency departments, using voice recognition to answer doctors' urgent ques-

### House from A1

to do things," said Eric Barrios, a 17-year-old junior at Croom Vocational High School, who helped make cabinets and install blinds.

A foundation that represents a partnership between the school system and the local business community hires and pays for about 15 licensed contractors to finish off jobs that students are not certified to complete, such as the plumbing, dry wall and flooring, said Eric Lyles, supervisor for the technical academy programs in Prince George's County Schools.

Students in the construction program spend half of the day in academic classes, and the other half of the day in construction-related classes. One day a week, students work at the house in Clinton, said Margy Edsall, construction and development coordinator for Prince George's County Public Schools.

This school year, 122 students from four schools are involved in the project, includ-

ing Croom, Crossland High School, Suitland High School and Tall Oaks Technical Academy, Edsall said.

Montgomery County has a similar program, Edsall said.

Juniors or seniors are selected into the Prince George's program through an application process that requires a minimum GPA of 2.0 and the successful completion of the high school assessments in English, algebra and biology, Edsall said.

Building a house from start to finish gives students an edge over other vocational trade students, because it gives them real-world experience, Lyles said.

After finishing the house project, some students go on to get jobs at places like PEPCO, while others take classes at area community colleges, he said. All students are urged to get apprenticeships with local unions, he said.

Many tout the benefits of the program.

"The hands-on and classroom education that the pro-

grams

"It would be like a spell check," Siegel said. "And then it could synthesize and present electronic medical records in a clear and precise way."

Dr. Nick van Terheyden, a Nuance spokesman, said Watson's technology could determine the treatments that have been met with the most success. "It gives you a good handle on which cancers are best treated by specific treatments, for example," he said.

Researchers have attempted to use artificial intelligence in medicine in the past, Siegel said. Limited knowledge, large amounts of time spent on training and setup, and oversimplifications have prevented past attempts from getting off the ground, he said.

An Internist program, for example, covered about three-quarters of diagnoses in internal medicine, but evolved into a reference system more than a diagnostic system about 10 years ago, he said.

program provides has been a great tool for introducing Prince George's County School students to the opportunities for advancement, variety of possible careers, earning potential, and benefits that exist with a career in construction," said Debra A. Schoonmaker, president and chief executive officer of the Associated Builders and Contractors of Metro Washington.

Prince George's County School Board member Henry P. Armwood Jr. also supports the student-built house project. He said career and technology education should be expanded so that every student in the county has access to programs if they would like to learn a trade.

"We have to make investments in our students' futures," Armwood said. "All students should be exposed to a trade and skill; they may learn something that will stick with them."

Barrios said what he learned has given him a gift of self-reliance when it comes to construction projects.

Ideally, Watson would solve these problems by having access to more medical knowledge, accessing it almost instantaneously and having a deep enough understanding to recognize when symptoms are based in multiple diseases.

Researchers are "teaching" Watson with textbooks and journals normally used in medical school. The University of Maryland is working to provide access to medical records with identities removed.

When new technologies are unveiled to the public, industry workers often become concerned that they will be replaced. But medical employees don't need to worry about losing their jobs to robots, Siegel said.

"The problem with medicine is not a problem of oversupply, but a problem of under-supply," Siegel said. "Watson would allow us to address the shortage of physicians and could actually provide new jobs and opportunities."

"It's a good thing to learn. ... I will use these skills later to improve my house," he said.

The school system offers a variety of career and technology education programs, including in the construction trades, Edsall said. Students can opt to study one of five different construction trades, including carpentry, electrical, heating and air conditioning, masonry and plumbing, she said.

The school system has a partnership with the Associated Builders and Contractors of Metro Washington that helps students take on apprenticeships or join local unions to learn more.

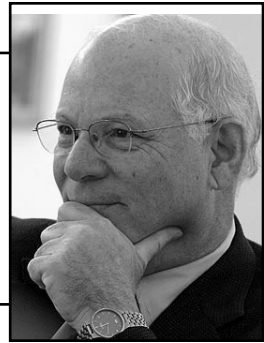
"It's not as easy as it looks," Barrios said.

The Clinton house - which will be completed May 5 - is on the market for \$339,900. Proceeds from the sale of the house are used as seed money for the next year's construction project, Edsall said.

The house, at 8207 Student Drive in Clinton, will be dedicated at 11:30 a.m. May 6.

# COMMENTARY

## Benjamin L. Cardin United States Senator for Maryland



### Cardin Honored by Urban League

BALTIMORE — U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) will receive the Whitney Young Award from the Greater Baltimore Urban League at their annual Whitney M. Young Gala on Friday, April 29. The award honors Senator Cardin's record of accomplishment advocating for civil rights and his work advancing the Urban League's mission of equal opportunity.

"Whitney Young was a forceful and dynamic civil rights leader who dedicated his life to championing equality, and I'm honored to receive this award named in his honor," said Senator Cardin. "As a Senator, I strive to create and enact laws that make our nation's promise of equality under the law a reality for all Americans. I am proud to partner with the Urban League as we move towards the goal of achieving social and economic equality for African Americans and all minorities."

Throughout his career, Senator Cardin has been a leader on civil rights. He is a lifetime member of the NAACP, and in the 110th and 111th Congress he received a grade of "A" for his

voting record from the civil rights organization. In the Senate, he also introduced legislation that would criminalize voter intimidation and impose criminal penalties on deceptive election practices. These practices are often aimed at minority communities and are designed to suppress the vote.

As a member of the Senate's Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, Senator Cardin has made expanding opportunities for minority business owners a priority. His legislation to increase access to contracts for small businesses and extend higher loans limits on the Small Business Administration's Loan Program were enacted into law.

The Whitney Young Award is named for the former president of the National Urban League, who is credited with bringing the organization to the forefront of the civil rights movement. Since 1924, the Greater Baltimore Urban League has focused on ensuring equal opportunity in employment, education, health care, housing and other areas.

## To Be Equal Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



### "Birther" a Weapon of Mass Distraction

*"You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time."*

Abraham Lincoln

A recent CBS/New York Times poll found that 25 percent of Americans and 45 percent of registered Republican voters believe that President Obama was not born in the United States. Another 22 percent of Republican voters say they don't know. For the record, President Obama was born on August 4, 1961 at Kapi'olani Maternity and Gynecological Hospital in Honolulu, Hawaii. His birth certificate documents it. Hawaii officials confirm it. And no one seriously doubts it except for a vocal minority of "birthers" who will do or say anything to get America's first Black President out of the White House.

Recently, the birthers have turned up the volume with the addition of the bombastic rantings of -- Donald Trump, the New York business magnate, reality TV star and potential Republican candidate for president. In recent appearances on "The View," "Good Morning America," "NBC Today," and other shows Trump, who is playing the media like a fiddle, has repeatedly made false and incendiary insinuations that Barack Obama may not be a U.S. citizen and therefore not qualified to be President of the United States. Anyone with a modicum of intelligence can see that Trump's birther claims as well as his flirtation as a presidential candidate is nothing more than an insincere sideshow, intended to promote his personal brand and raise his TV ratings. But as the new polling shows, in the looney tunes world of modern American politics, a sizeable number of the electorate is responding. That is

unfortunate. It is one thing for Trump to "fire" contestants weekly on his "Apprentice" TV show, it is quite another to cynically fire up the right wing base with lies that feed their already biased assertion that President Obama is somehow "not one of us."

We urge the mainstream media to pull the plug on this hoax. Trump's birther-based candidacy is nothing more than a weapon of mass distraction that disqualifies him as a serious presidential contender. He is taking valuable air time from others who have important things to say about the most important issues of the 2012 presidential campaign, most notably the unemployment crisis in America.

Even pundits like Karl Rove, Bill O'Reilly and Ann Coulter have discredited Trump's birther claims. Rove recently called Trump a "joke candidate" who is pandering to the "nutty right." And last week, Arizona Governor Jan Brewer, who last year signed a law requiring police to check the citizenship status of anyone suspected of being in the country illegally, actually vetoed a bill which would have required presidential candidates to show proof of citizenship before being admitted to the state ballot. □

Another flamboyant American showman, P.T. Barnum is credited with saying, "There's a sucker born every minute." We trust that citizens of all political persuasions and the mainstream media will not fall for Donald Trump's weapon of mass distraction. With sky high unemployment, an epidemic of housing foreclosures, crumbling schools, struggling urban centers, a worsening debt crisis and seemingly never-ending wars, there are serious issues that need our attention. President Obama's citizenship is not one of them.

### Voice of Rural America

By Elisha Smith, Center for Rural Affairs

Nearly 60 million people live in America's small towns and countryside. So it's imperative that the farmers, ranchers, small business owners, and community leaders speak up for the issues that affect them and others who call rural America home. But being sparsely scattered across the nation, it's difficult to have a unified voice. And it's not always easy or popular to stand up for yourself and what you believe in. That's where the Center for Rural Affairs comes in. The Center is the preeminent voice for rural America's family farms, ranches, mainstreet businesses and small towns. The Center works to establish strong rural communities, social and economic justice, environmental stewardship, and genuine opportunity for all while engaging people in deci-

sions that affect the quality of their lives and the future of their communities. Staff and supporters of the Center for Rural Affairs meet with senators, representatives and administrative officials in Washington, organize meetings and attend gatherings...reaching thousands of people directly. The Center is not just the voice of rural America - it's the place to find out the latest news and issues facing rural areas. The Center's free monthly newsletter, website, and blog contain hard-hitting, one-of-a-kind coverage of issues impacting rural America. I invite you to sign-up to receive the Center for Rural Affairs free newsletter ([www.cfra.org/news\\_media/newsletter](http://www.cfra.org/news_media/newsletter)). And be sure to connect with the "Center for Rural Affairs" on Facebook.



The Train

### The Train at Watkins Park

**ANTIQUA CHESAPEAKE CAROUSEL & MINIATURE TRAIN? Watkins Regional Park? 301 Watkins Park Drive? Upper Marlboro, MD ?—? The park features an authentic, hand-carved, hand-painted, 80-year-old carousel. Featured on the Carousel are 45 animals with a rare combination of kangaroo, jackass, goat and seahorse. Do not miss the train as it passes through the lovely, wooded surroundings. The carousel and train are open Memorial Day-Labor Day, Tues-Sun, 10-7 p.m. (\$)**

### Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



### Children's Health on the Chopping Block

Like many parents, California mother Anne-Marie Skinner knows "accidents happen." Her active, athletic teenagers Constance and Lucas are both involved in a number of extracurricular activities, and both have unfortunately suffered sports-related injuries that required serious medical care. One of the worst accidents happened when a basketball hit Constance in the face, requiring an emergency room visit, an MRI, and follow-up care from multiple doctors, including a pediatric eye care specialist. Thankfully, both Constance and Lucas have been able to get the care they need because they are enrolled in Healthy Families, California's version of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)—low-cost health insurance for children, teenagers, and pregnant women. Healthy Families makes Constance and Lucas's care affordable for their family. Anne-Marie has already cut her family's budget back to bare bones in this economy, including spending less on buying food. "If it wasn't for Healthy Families I would be buried in a blanket of medical debt," she says.

Alicia Alferes faces a different challenge—keeping up with her child's chronic health condition. Her oldest son, 14-year-old Alexei, has severe asthma. Like Anne-Marie, Alicia is a California resident who relies on Healthy Families coverage for her three children. With his Healthy Families coverage, Alexei is able to access preventive care including a machine to administer medication to help him breathe and multiple prescription drugs to prevent and treat his asthma. Several times a year, Alexei still ends up in the emergency room. Last year Alexei suffered an asthma attack and fell to the ground while running in gym class, and was rushed to the hospital in an ambulance.

Healthy Families has made it possible for Alicia to manage Alexei's prescription drugs, doctor visits, and emergency room visits and helped Anne-Marie through Constance's eye injury. But in recent years, changes in the state budget for Healthy Families and California's Medicaid program, Medi-Cal—including significant premium and co-payment increases—have been making it harder for families to get critical

health care services for their children. Another round of cost-sharing increases in the state's 2011-2012 budget will cause real and lasting hardship for families like the Skinners and the Alfereses including the difficult decisions they will face if the co-payment for an emergency room visit increases to \$50 per visit.

These two families are among the millions around the country whose health coverage is "on the chopping block" twice over, once because of state budget cuts and a second time because of federal budget cuts. They all risk losing the affordable, comprehensive health coverage their children need to grow up healthy and strong. The U.S. House of Representatives approved an unfair and shortsighted budget that will assault vulnerable children and low income families. It would make deep cuts in Medicaid, shift more costs to states, and eliminate core protections for the 30 million children served by the program. In 2013 it would de-fund the successful and cost effective Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) these and many thousands of California families need. All this at a time when 50 million Americans, including more than eight million children, are uninsured. The House budget would repeal health reform that would reach an additional 32 million people and 95 percent of all children

over the next few years. Children of color, who make up more than half of the children served by Medicaid, would fare worst and be placed at risk of preventable suffering, chronically poor health, and even death. And for what purpose? To pay for more tax cuts to the wealthiest individuals and corporations in America.

President Obama said this last week about the House budget for 2012: "There's nothing serious about a plan that claims to reduce the deficit by spending a trillion dollars on tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires. And I don't think there's anything courageous about asking for sacrifice from those who can least afford it and don't have any clout on Capitol Hill. That's not a vision of the America I know." If this is not the America you want, stand up and speak up and say no!

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

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

### The Prince George's Post

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# BUSINESS

## Business Exchange

by William Reed



### Don't Rock the Boat!

*The legacy of slavery is immeasurable, but the best strategies for moving forward would be vigorously enforcing our anti-discrimination laws in education and job training.*

— Barack Obama - 2008

What do Black people want from Obama? Or, what do you think Obama is charged to do for Black people? Do you think that American Blacks will ever get their "40 acres and a mule"? Is this generation of the descendants of slaves stupid enough to trade financial justice due them through reparations for the symbolism of having a Black man in the White House?

To win the Presidency in 2008 Barack Obama disavowed the concept of reparations for Blacks. Black Reparations proposes that compensation be provided to the descendants of enslaved people in the United States in consideration of the coerced and uncompensated labor their ancestors performed over several centuries. This compensation has been proposed in a variety of forms, from individual monetary payments to land-based compensation schemes related to independence. Among the Obama camp, and truthfully, among Black Americans, the idea remains highly controversial and no broad consensus exists as to how it could be implemented.

So, now it's back to politics as usual - not rocking America's boat of institutional racism. Though he made it a point to stay away from the 'hood' the past couple of years, now that it's election season Obama's out glad handing Blacks. When he recently went "uptown" to Al Sharpton's National Action Network convention in Harlem, Obama and sidekick David Axelrod emphasized that "raising the Black voter turnout was a paramount task for 2012." Referring to the large numbers of young unregistered Blacks and Hispanics, Axelrod said that: "These types of voters are critical to keeping Barack Obama in the White House a second term."

Though they've done little among the Black masses, there appears to be "no change" in Obama's 2012 approach to Black Outreach. Before they unflinchingly vote for Obama's second term Blacks have to stop letting him treat them like his "chick on the side." The chick on the side is glad for any time she can get. She

knows she is not the primary love, but is willing to settle. But, with double digit unemployment ravaging Black communities the time for settling with Obama and his non-accountability is over.

Blacks got nothing with Obama. They ask for nothing and get exactly that in return. Latinos ask him for something and they got something. Gays and lesbians got him to change 'don't ask, don't tell.' Jews demanded he deal with Israel and he does, so why is it that when it comes to Blacks we are persona non grata regarding political representation?"

Some naively say nonsense such as "Barack is the answer to MLK's prayers." Economically, African Americans have benefited from advances made during the Civil Rights era, particularly among the educated, but not without the lingering effects of historical marginalization when considered as a whole. Inequalities still persist for African Americans. Although the racial disparity in poverty rates has narrowed, African Americans are over-represented among the nation's poor, this was directly related to the disproportionate percentage of African American families headed by single women; such families are collectively poorer.

The median income of African American is 76 cents for every dollar of their European American counterparts. African Americans are still underrepresented in government and employment. In 1999, the median income of African American families was \$33,255 compared to \$53,356 of European Americans. In times of economic hardship for the nation, African Americans are always "last hired and first fired", yet we foolishly let political candidates pass on the reparations debt. Shouldn't a discussion of the economic debt due Blacks be a part of the 2012 political campaign? Despite successes like Oprah, Michael Jordan, Bill Cosby and Obama, Blacks as a group have not reached anything approaching economic equality or equitable opportunities when comparable to whites. When it comes to real empowerment, Black Americans have to stop letting candidates play to this country's structural racism and still get their vote.

*(William Reed is available for speaking/seminar projects via BaileyGroup.org)*

## O'Malley Announce Installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Station at Marshall Airport

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the Governor

BALTIMORE, MD (April, 2011) — Governor Martin O'Malley announced the installation of eight Electric Vehicle Charging Stations as part of Maryland Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program, which will bring sixty-five charging stations to the Baltimore-Washington Metropolitan Area by June 2011. Thanks to Maryland's smart investments in electric vehicle infrastructure the Baltimore region now ranks as a national leader in electric vehicle (EV) readiness, positioning Maryland at the forefront of this emerging industry.

The announcement comes only two weeks after the conclusion of the 2011 session of the Maryland General Assembly, during which Governor O'Malley succeeded in passing three important measures for promoting electric

vehicles in Maryland. These bills will provide consumers a \$400 tax credit towards installation of electric vehicle charging stations in their homes, require the Public Service Commission to establish pilot study on how best to encourage off-peak charging of electric vehicles, and to establish a statewide electric vehicle planning council. Scheduled to be signed into law in May, these bills build on the Electric Vehicle Tax Credit bill and Electric Vehicle HOV bill, both of which were passed during the 2010 Legislative Session.

"While other states are sitting idly by, Maryland continues to harness the innovation that will move us into the new economy," said Governor O'Malley. "Thanks to our federal partners, we are making vital investments in electric vehicle infrastructure, positioning Maryland as a national leader in this emerging industry and are moving closer to our

goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 25 percent by 2020."

Last June, the Maryland Energy Administration announced a \$500,000 investment in electric vehicle infrastructure, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, in order to promote a cleaner, more efficient transportation system in Maryland. That investment fueled the construction of sixty-five charging stations throughout the Baltimore-Washington Metropolitan Area, providing the necessary infrastructure to allow electric vehicle owners to travel throughout the region with confidence. Of those sixty-five charging stations, fifty-five are being developed by the Baltimore Electric Vehicle Initiative in partnership with two Maryland-based companies: SemaConnect and Autoflex. The remaining ten stations will be developed by the City of

Baltimore and located in various parking garages throughout the city.

"Hybrids cut down on fuel costs and pollution," said Senator Mikulski. "The world is facing a climate crisis, and people are nervous about rising energy costs. The American public needs relief - real solutions to what we are going to do to become energy independent. Maryland's innovation economy will keep America rolling, and it is fueled by technology and brain power, not foreign oil. A stronger America begins at home."

"America must end its dependence on foreign oil in order to retain our competitive advantage and ensure a promising future for our citizens," said Congressman John Sarbanes. "Governor O'Malley's leadership is moving us in that direction and set-

See ELECTRIC, Page A8

### Map from A1

datasets." An interactive map would follow, providing a simple visualization of a portion of this data, which includes locations of evacuation shelters, flooded areas, public telephones and cell phone charging stations.

Iseki said the team collaborated mainly via Skype, e-mail and Google Groups to share information, since members were spread out across multiple locations -- including Maryland, California, Arizona, Switzerland and Australia.

Then came the challenge of translating the data, a lot of which was in Japanese.

"The translation issue was huge," Kawano said.

Though Kawano spoke the

language, Iseki's fluency in written Japanese turned out to be an asset over the course of the project.

Now 43, Iseki studied at the University of California, Berkeley, as an exchange student at the age of 23, but moved back to Japan. He settled permanently in the U.S. when he came to UCLA for graduate school at the age of 29.

"They needed people who were bilingual," Iseki said. "I was the only one who grew up in Japan, of the seven volunteers."

The process was stressful. Iseki said he worked for about 35 hours over eight days to help compile data, and was awake as late as 4 a.m. some nights.

"And that was in addition to my job here (at Maryland)," he

said.

Iseki teaches urban planning courses and conducts research in the department's National Center for Smart Growth.

The map is crowdsourced, meaning anyone with a link to an online form can submit new information via a smart phone or computer. This information is then entered into a Google Document and added to the map.

"The data is actually collected by people in the field," Iseki said.

Blanchard said it is difficult to gauge the ultimate effectiveness of the recovery map.

But she sees this project as an experiment and expects that Crisis Commons will apply what was learned to provide the United Nations with recom-

### Van Hollen from A1

controlled ones -- who are now allowed to spend unlimited money to fill our airwaves, mailboxes and phone lines right up until Election Day," he said in a statement last September.

Fred Wertheimer, an attorney involved in the case and president of the non-profit organization Democracy 21, which seeks to reduce private money in politics, said the lawsuit aims to prevent organizations from hiding donor names.

Wertheimer called the regulation that allows corporations and labor unions to avoid disclosure "absurd."

The FEC rules require that contributions that are specifically designated for the "purpose of furthering electioneering communications" be made public.

But "no one gives contributions that are going to be that restrictive," Wertheimer said.

If the funds are not earmarked as "electioneering communications," the corporation does not have to reveal the donors' names, he said. "So no one earmarks and no one is disclosing."

"The absence of transparency will enable special interest groups to bankroll campaign initiatives while operating under a veil of anonymity," Van Hollen said in a written statement.

"If we have the same situation in 2012 as we did in 2010, tens of millions and likely hundreds of millions of dollars are being spent on political communications, the root of which cannot be traced," said Dave Levinthal, spokesman for the Center for Responsive Politics. Making the donors' identities public would help voters make more informed decisions at the ballot box, he said.

The complaint cited several examples of non-disclosure during the 2010 campaign cycle including \$1.1 million in electioneering communications by Crossroads Grassroots Policy Strategies, a conservative 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization that does not identify its donors.

The 501(c)(4) designation refers to the section of the tax code that provides the group with tax exemptions.

Jonathan Collegio, Crossroads GPS communi-

cations director, said the lawsuit was "less of a legal matter and more of a political maneuver."

Van Hollen, Collegio said, is attempting to exempt labor unions from the scrutiny he wants for corporations.

The outcome of the case might have more immediate impact on right-leaning organizations because there are more of them on the conservative end of the political spectrum, Levinthal said. Ultimately it will affect everyone.

"The bottom line is that while there are more 501(c)4s that lean conservative today, that doesn't necessarily mean that would be the case in the future."

More than 137,000 organizations are 501(c)(4) groups, Collegio said. "A politically motivated lawsuit is unlikely to overturn how these organizations operate," he said.

When the regulations were adopted in 2007, the Supreme Court had not yet ruled in the Citizens United v. FEC case, which eventually struck down limitations on corporate spending for political broadcasts.

Wertheimer said some of the regulations were adopted at a

time when people were not focused on the contribution disclosure provisions. Now that the Citizens United decision allows corporations and organizations to fund electioneering communications, the disclosure issue becomes more pressing.

Van Hollen also filed a petition with the FEC to revise its regulations to require organizations that make "independent expenditures" in elections to disclose the identities of their donors.

The petition is in lieu of a court challenge because "the six-year statute of limitations bars a direct challenge of the 'independent expenditure' regulations in court," according to Van Hollen's statement.

In the petition, Van Hollen says the changes are necessary because the current rules allow a corporation or labor organization that makes independent expenditures to refrain from disclosing its donors, even if they gave money "specifically for the purpose of furthering the corporation's or labor organization's independent expenditures."

Representatives of the FEC declined to comment on the pending litigation.

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# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review

### "Hollywood's Shameful Secrets"

Movies the studios refused to screen for critics -- which almost always means they're ashamed of them and want to avoid negative opening-day reviews.

"MADEA'S BIG HAPPY FAMILY" (1 hr., 45 min.; rated PG-13 for drug content, language and some mature thematic material). Tyler Perry does that thing again where he plays a giant old woman whose relatives are always getting into comical and/or melodramatic scrapes. Perry learned after his very first film not to bother screening them for critics before they open. Review to come.

"AFRICAN CATS" (1 hr., 29 min.; rated G for "grrrrr"). From Disney comes this self-explanatory documentary narrated by Samuel L. Jackson.

There were press screenings in some of the largest markets, but not tiny places like Portland (or Salt Lake City or Austin, for that matter). Alas.

"WATER FOR ELEPHANTS" (2 hrs., 2 min.; rated PG-13 for moments of intense violence and sexual content). OK, this film -- a drama starring Robert Pattinson and Reese Witherspoon as star-crossed lovers who work on a circus train during the Depression -- was screened for critics. I wasn't allowed to attend the local screening, though, because someone else from Film.com was assigned to review it, and this particular publicist has a bizarre rule about not letting more than one person from the same outlet see a movie. (I couldn't see it on behalf of



PHOTO COURTESY ROTTENTOMATOES

An epic true story set against the backdrop of one of the wildest places on Earth, "African Cats" captures the real-life love, humor and determination of the majestic kings of the savanna.

EricDSnider.com or Movie B.S. with Bayer and Snider acknowledge the existence of those things.) So no elephants because the publicist does not for me, sadly.

## Engaging Panel Discussions Scheduled for 2011 Harlem Renaissance Festival

Local Entrepreneurs and Hollywood Veterans Share Their Expertise and Insights

By PRESS OFFICER  
Harlem Renaissance Festival

Landover, MD --- Two stimulating panel discussions designed to motivate participants and provide information will take place at the 12th Annual Prince George's Harlem Renaissance Festival on Saturday, May 7, 2011 at the Columbia Park/Kentland Community Center, 2411 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover, MD.

The first discussion, entitled, "Mind Your Business to Grow Your Community," is scheduled at 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. It explores the role of African American entrepreneurs' business growth and their impact on the viability of their community. Moderated by Joshua Smith, Host of BizTalk with Josh (1580 AM), the panel includes: Wayne K. Curry, former Prince George's

County Executive and currently President of NAI Michaels Companies; Dion Haynes, Managing Editor of Capitol Business for The Washington Post; Isaiah Solomon, Founder/CEO of Equity Financial Solutions; Dr. Darius Irani, Associate Vice President of Towson University; Roger Thomas, Esq., General Counsel for the Prince George's County Public School System; and Kalimah Matthews, Manger of Business Development for Signal Financial Credit Union.

This esteemed panel of business leaders will discuss how business owners get the community to support their business; what do business owners do to support their community; how does strong business growth help sustain the community; and other areas of discussion. Audience participation is

encouraged.

The second panel discussion, entitled, "Hollywood Unplugged!" is scheduled at 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. It features four seasoned Hollywood veterans, who will share their experiences

and insights on how to break into the entertainment industry. If festival-goers have aspirations of "making it" in Hollywood, this discussion will lead them down the right path. This panel includes: actor Clifton

## Calendar of Events

May 5 - May 11, 2011

### Prince George's Community College Events

• Spring 2011 Juried Student Art League Exhibition, April 26-May 10, Marlboro Gallery. Digital imagery, computer graphics, and animation along with traditional drawing, painting, photography, sculpture and ceramics, will be on display. Two prominent Washington area artists will judge submissions for awards in 15 categories.

### Tom Kenyon & Ronnie Spiewak: Juxtapose

Date and Time: Tuesday, April 12-Monday, May 23, weekdays 8:30 am-5 pm and during events  
Event Description: Kenyon's cartoonish woodcuts of fast cars pair with Spiewak's elegantly colorful floral and landscape collages.  
Ages: All ages Fee: FREE  
Location: *Publick Playhouse*  
5445 Landover Road, Cheverly 20784  
Information: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-277-0312

### Senior Days at the Sportsplex

Date & Time: Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays, 8 am-12 noon  
Description: Seniors (Prince George's County residents only) are allowed FREE use of both the fitness center and pool during these times.  
Cost: FREE  
Ages: 60 & up  
Location: *Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex*  
8001 Sheriff Road, Landover 20785  
Contact: 301-583-2400; TTY 301-583-2483

### Big Ideas: An Exhibition featuring the work of Sondra Arkin, Susan Finsen and Ellyn Weiss

Date and Time: Tuesday, April 26-Saturday, June 11  
Mondays-Fridays, 10 am-8 pm; Saturdays, 10 am-6 pm  
Event Description: Big Ideas brings forth the strength and intelligence of three women, all well-established artists, with a very contemporary and interactive exploration of abstract art. Sondra Arkin and Susan Finsen both exhibit recent paintings made specifically for this exhibition. Ellyn Weiss is creating a large-scale mixed media drawing in the gallery throughout the duration of the exhibition, giving visitors a chance to ask questions and watch her creative process at work. Big Ideas also features a large interactive installation -- a collaboration of all three artists that gallery visitors are invited to interact with and even contribute to.  
Ages: All ages Fee: FREE  
Location: *Brentwood Arts Exchange*  
3901 Rhode Island Ave., Brentwood 20722  
Information: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-446-6802

### Tiny Toys Thursday: Bob Brown Puppets—Animal Crackers

Date and Time: Thursday, May 5, 10:15 am & 12 noon  
Event Description: Washington's favorite puppets return with a new show to make tots crack up with laughter. Recommended for grades Pre-K-2.  
Ages: 2 & up Fee: \$3/person  
Location: *Publick Playhouse*  
5445 Landover Road, Cheverly 20784  
Information: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-277-0312

### Folk & Blues Series: Annapolis Bluegrass Coalition

Date and Time: Friday, May 6, 8 pm  
Event Description: This band thrills audiences with a unique blend of traditional and contemporary bluegrass.  
Fee: \$20/person; Call for information about purchasing a series subscription.  
Location: *Montpelier Arts Center*  
9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708  
Information: 301-377-7800, 410-792-0664; TTY 301-490-2329

### 35th Annual Marlborough Day

Date & Time: Saturday, May 7, 10 am-5 pm  
Description: Watch a parade wind its way down Main Street; and then enjoy a classic car show, amusements, live music and face painting. Shop for crafts and enjoy rides.  
Cost: FREE parking available; nominal fees for rides and food  
Ages: All ages  
Location: *Main Street & Governor Oden Bowie Road*  
Upper Marlboro 20772  
Contact: 301-952-9575, 301-627-2828; TTY 301-203-6030

### Seat Pleasant Day

Date & Time: Saturday, May 7, 11 am-7 pm  
Description: Bring your family and friends to a day featuring a parade, entertainment, a moon bounce, and games.  
Cost: FREE (Nominal fee for food concessions and rides.)  
Ages: All ages  
Location: *Goodwin Park, Seat Pleasant*  
Contact: 301-336-2600; TTY 301-218-6768

### 12th Annual Harlem Renaissance Festival

Date & Time: Saturday, May 7, 10 am-7 pm  
Description: Music, food, exhibits, dance, poetry readings, vendors and more!  
Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy a spectacular day!  
Ages: All ages  
Location: *Kentland Community Center*  
2411 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover 20785  
Contact: www.pghrf.org/festival

### MARYLAND LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2011

Date	Midday		Evening		Daily		
	Pick 3	Pick 4	Pick 3	Pick 4	Bonus	Match 5	Bonus
04/10/11	743	3471	601	6465	11	19 22 32 34	36
04/11/11	767	5874	557	8342	08	15 20 24 29	06
04/12/11	225	9104	485	1552	01	12 24 27 32	26
04/13/11	132	1752	015	2915	09	20 23 26 32	25
04/14/11	487	1598	099	2834	05	11 24 30 32	19
04/15/11	798	0743	687	7215	05	27 30 31 39	08
04/16/11	443	0852	587	5424	09	16 20 28 38	29

Date	Mega Millions	Bonus	Megaplier
04/12/11	10 23 39 41 45	15	2
04/15/11	22 23 33 39 48	29	3

Date	Powerball	Bonus	POWERPLAY
04/13/11	04 23 39 49 50	39	3
04/16/11	21 33 44 45 55	07	5

Date	MULTI-MATCH
04/11/11	02 24 28 34 36 41
04/14/11	11 25 29 34 41 43

For the most current Lottery information, go to [mdlottery.com](http://mdlottery.com)

# University of Maryland

## Ask the Plant and Pest Professor

**Question#1:** I need help identifying a snake that I saw in my backyard. It was about a foot long, very light grey with dark brown almost black rectangular blotches on its back. Do I need to be concerned about it and is this possibly a snake that could be dangerous?

**Answer#1:** From your description it sounds like a juvenile black rat snake. This is a very common harmless snake found in Maryland. The adult is black and is the largest snake found in this area. They help to keep nuisance rodent pests such as rats, moles and voles in check. Fortunately, there are only two species of dangerous snakes in our area: the Northern copperhead and the timber rattlesnake. We encourage you to leave the snake alone as they are an indication of a healthy landscape and help to keep a natural balance in our environments. Go to the HGIC website where you will find publication HG 64 Snakes and a series of videos about snakes found in Maryland.

**Question #2:** Last year my garden was attacked by slugs. They were a problem in both my vegetable garden and my perennial bed. With all the rain we have been having I assume they will be bad again this year. What can I do to protect my gardens from these destructive pests?

**Answer#2:** Slugs can be a troublesome pest in the garden as they chew large ragged holes in the leaves of many plants. Primarily night feeders, they hide during the day in cool, dark and moist spaces in the garden. Wet conditions do increase their population. There are many non-chemical tactics to help decrease their numbers. Minimize hiding places by reducing mulch and keeping garden areas clear of weeds, rock piles, boards, plant debris and leaves. Many people are familiar with using small cans filled with beer to trap and drown slugs. Overturned flowerpots and citrus rinds can also be used as traps. They do need to be monitored on a frequent basis. Trapped slugs should be placed in a container of soapy water and then disposed of. An inch wide band of diatomaceous earth dusted around susceptible plants also provides protection. This will need to be reapplied after a heavy rain. There are also many commercially available slug control products on the market. Look for baits that contain iron phosphate. They are usually labeled for both ornamental and vegetable gardens and the iron phosphate naturally degrades into the soil.

**Question #3:** What should I be doing to my lawn right now? Is this the time of year I should be fertilizing?

**Answer#3:** If you have not applied your crabgrass pre-emergent you should do so immediately with a product that contains the active ingredient dithiopyr. Look for a product that does not contain fertilizer as this is not the time of the year to be fertilizing cool season lawns like fescue. Lawn fertilizer applied in the fall helps to promote root growth making the lawn more drought and disease tolerant. Spring fertilization encourages top growth that is prone to diseases once hot, humid weather sets in. Now would be a good time to have your soil tested. You can still apply lime. At this time proper mowing is important. Keep your lawn cut at about 3 inches. Mowing once a week is important now, but as growth slows down in the heat of the summer mowing once every ten to fourteen days should suffice. Never remove more than 1/3rd of the grass blade when you cut. Lawn renovation projects should be postponed until late summer through early fall.

*"Ask the Plant and Pest Professor" is compiled from phone and email questions asked the Home and Garden Information Center (HGIC), part of University of Maryland Extension, an educational outreach of the University of Maryland. To ask a home gardening or pest control question or for other help, go to [www.hgic.umd.edu](http://www.hgic.umd.edu). Or phone HGIC at 1-800-342-2507, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.*

### Public Service Announcements

#### Bowie News

**City Beautification Awards**  
The City, in cooperation with Soroptimist International of Bowie-Crofton, is accepting nominations for the 16th Annual Beautification Awards. Anyone can nominate a home or townhouse, business, school, or specialty garden that reflects the beauty of Bowie. All nominations must be for locations within the corporate limits of Bowie. For more information or to obtain a nomination form, visit the City's website or contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or [mcorley@cityofbowie.org](mailto:mcorley@cityofbowie.org).

**Bowie Volunteer Fire Department Needs Volunteers**  
The Bowie Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc. (BVFD), is looking for new members to join its elite firefighting and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) teams. Recent budget cutbacks by the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department have made the work of local volunteers even more critical to our community's public safety. A wide variety of emergency and non-emergency support activities are available for qualified volunteers. Minimum requirements for firefighters/EMTs include being at least 16 years old, completion of a background investigation and physical evaluation and completion of basic training courses. For a full list of requirements and an online application, visit their website at <http://www.bowiefire.org>.

#### Farm-Fresh Local Produce this Summer

Sign Up Now for Farm-Fresh Local Produce this Summer through Community Supported Agriculture Farms Summer Subscriptions Now Available.  
The Maryland Department of Agriculture is encouraging citizens to consider joining a community supported agriculture (CSA) farm to support local farmers while receiving delicious, nutritious, fresh produce all summer long. CSA members pay an upfront subscription fee to farmers in return for a share of the season's harvest, which is usually provided weekly. For convenience, many CSAs deliver to central locations for pick up closer to subscriber's home or work on a certain day of the week. Still others have special rates if the subscriber helps with the harvest. "CSAs are another way for residents to buy fresh, nutritious food directly from a local farmer and to better understand how our food is grown," said Agriculture Secretary Buddy Hance. The department's Maryland's Best program currently has 76 farms listed with CSA shares available. To find a CSA farm near you, go to [www.MarylandsBest.net](http://www.MarylandsBest.net)

# EARTH TALK - "Soil depletion and nutrition loss."

Dear EarthTalk:

*What's the nutritional difference between the carrot I ate in 1970 and one I eat today? I've heard that there's very little nutrition left. Is that true?*  
-- Esther G., Newark, NJ

It would be overkill to say that the carrot you eat today has very little nutrition in it—especially compared to some of the other less healthy foods you likely also eat—but it is true that fruits and vegetables grown decades ago were much richer in vitamins and minerals than the varieties most of us get today. The main culprit in this disturbing nutritional trend is soil depletion: Modern intensive agricultural methods have stripped increasing amounts of nutrients from the soil in which the food we eat grows. Sadly, each successive generation of fast-growing, pest-resistant carrot is truly less good for you than the one before.

A landmark study on the topic by Donald Davis and his team of researchers from the University of Texas (UT) at Austin's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry was published in December 2004 in the Journal of the American College of Nutrition. They studied U.S. Department of Agriculture nutritional data from both 1950 and 1999 for 43 different vegetables and fruits, finding "reliable declines" in the amount of protein, calcium, phosphorus, iron, riboflavin (vitamin B2) and vitamin C over the past half century. Davis and his colleagues chalk up this declining nutritional content to the preponderance of agricultural practices designed to improve traits (size, growth rate, pest resistance) other than nutrition.

### Dine from A1

makers to dinners.

The reform has brought greater transparency, lawmakers and lobbyists say.

But it's also had unintended consequences, giving a group of influential lobbyists and their wealthy clients what observers say is an apparent upper hand over smaller lobbying shops and nonprofit groups whose clients lack deep pockets to fund receptions.

A Capital News Service analysis of nearly 400 state ethics filings reveals that clients for a group of about 35 contract lobbyists from a cluster of firms accounted for roughly 47 percent of all the money spent on wining and dining lawmakers during the 2011 session. The group represents a fraction - roughly five percent - of the estimated 655 registered lobbyists in Maryland, but still spent \$385,000 out of \$811,644 in reported spending on legislative dinners and receptions from opening day to Sine Die.

The meals are just one avenue that lobbyists have to get their messages across to legislators, but it's an important one, according to some observers. They argue the additional time lobbyists receive with lawmakers through dinner parties and receptions gives already influential firms and interest groups an extra edge over their competition who have been effectively shut off from a coveted avenue of access.

"It potentially creates an unequal playing field," John Stierhoff, one of the top earning lobbyists in Annapolis, said of the current law. "I probably heard more in recent years about this issue from my friends in the nonprofit world." Stierhoff is a partner in Venable LLP, a firm whose clients shelled out roughly \$25,000 to dine with lawmakers on seven occasions during the session.

At one event, members from

"Efforts to breed new varieties of crops that provide greater yield, pest resistance and climate adaptability have allowed crops to grow bigger and more rapidly," reported Davis, "but their ability to manufacture or uptake nutrients has not kept pace with their rapid growth." There have likely been declines in other nutrients, too, he said, such as magnesium, zinc and vitamins B-6 and E, but they were not studied in 1950 and more research is needed to find out how much less we are getting of these key vitamins and minerals.

The Organic Consumers Association cites several other studies with similar findings: A Kushi Institute analysis of nutrient data from 1975 to 1997 found that average calcium levels in 12 fresh vegetables dropped 27 percent; iron levels 37 percent; vitamin A levels 21 percent, and vitamin C levels 30 percent. A similar study of British nutrient data from 1930 to 1980, published in the British Food Journal, found that in 20 vegetables the average calcium content had declined 19 percent; iron 22 percent; and potassium 14 percent. Yet another study concluded that one would have to eat eight oranges today to derive the same amount of Vitamin A as our grandparents would have gotten from one.

What can be done? The key to healthier produce is healthier soil. Alternating fields between growing seasons to give land time to restore would be one important step. Also, foregoing pesticides and fertilizers in favor of organic growing methods is good for the soil, the produce and its consumers. Those who want to get the most nutritious fruits and vegetables should buy regularly from local organic



PHOTO BY MARTIN POOLE, DIGITAL VISION/THINKSTOCK

**Although fruits and vegetables are still our best source of nutrients, those grown decades ago were much richer in vitamins and minerals than the varieties most of us get today. The main culprit in this disturbing nutritional trend is soil depletion.**

farmers.

UT's Davis warns that just because fruits and vegetables aren't as healthy as they used to be doesn't mean we should avoid them. "Vegetables are extraordinarily rich in nutrients and beneficial phytochemicals," he reported. "They are still there, and vegetables and fruits are our best sources for these."

**CONTACTS:** Journal of the American College of Nutrition, [www.jacn.org](http://www.jacn.org); Kushi Institute, [www.kushiinstitute.org](http://www.kushiinstitute.org); Organic

Consumers Association, [www.organicconsumers.org](http://www.organicconsumers.org).

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During a legislative session, dozens of advocacy and citizen groups flock to Annapolis to hold receptions or other events to convey their messages to elected officials. This session, lawmakers were bombarded with nearly 200 invitations to dinner parties.

"It's an occasion for the members to have a free meal and socialize with one another and to get together with constituents who are part of the organization," said Alan Rosenthal, a professor of public policy and political science at Rutgers. "But I don't think lobbyists gain a lot by having 20 or 25 legislators for dinner."

Some nonprofits - such as The Arc of Maryland, and the Chesapeake Bay Savers, for example - held a handful of dinner receptions during the session. But the lion's share of wining and dining was done by some of the biggest lobbying firms in Annapolis.

The five highest-grossing lobbying shops in Annapolis in 2010, which combined to earn more than \$11 million, spent about \$213,000 during this year's session to dine with lawmakers. That's about 26 percent of the grand total for the entire session.

Alexander & Cleaver, P.A. and its clients topped the list during the 2011 session, shelling out \$73,076 on 29 "special events" lawmakers were invited to. The firm's restaurant of choice: Lewnes' Steakhouse.

Rifkin, Livingston, Levitan & Silver, LLC came in a close second with its long list of clients dropping \$72,184 on dinner parties and receptions for lawmakers, state records show.

The three other top earning firms - Manis, Canning & Associates, Venable LLP and Harris, Jones & Malone - invited lawmakers to dinners and parties that totaled roughly \$68,000, ethics filings show.

The five lobbying shops represent influential clients from the alcohol industry to oil and gas companies, from hospitals and health care firms to gam-

bling interests.

"If a corporation or a group has the ability to take you out and provide you with a fancy dinner and a really nice evening, does that make you feel a little more comfortable with them, I don't know?" said Sen. Allan Kittleman, R-Howard. "But there's an awful lot to be said in Annapolis about relationships. And this certainly is relationship building."

Kittleman is a member of the Senate Finance Committee, which was invited to dinner parties 33 times in 2010 - the most of any legislative panel. He normally shuns the events but said he paid his own way when he attended one this year.

"I don't feel that's an appropriate way to have those communications. It sends a perception to our constituents that folks who are able to take us to these really fancy dinners get preferential treatment," he said. "Plus, those groups that don't have the resources to put on a \$10,000 dinner can come and sit on the other side of my table and spend 15 minutes on the issue, and they're treated the same."

Kittleman filed legislation this session to require lobbyists to report the names of lawmakers who attend committee and delegation dinners.

"At least people would know who attends," he said, "then maybe people would think twice about attending."

Kittleman's bill died in committee, but it's one of several attempts over the years to further regulate the process of lobbyists picking up the tab for meals.

Sen. Brian Frosh, a Montgomery Democrat who helped craft current guidelines for lobbyist ethics in the 1990s, said the reforms are far from perfect, but the system is improved from what it was.

"There are some firms that can spend more than others," he said. "It's not entirely fair but everybody understands that's the status quo."

# COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

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## AUCTIONS

**ABSOLUTE AUCTION** - Valuable personal property from the Historical Greenbrier Resort. Vehicles, restaurant and kitchen equipment, glassware & dishware, building materials, furniture and apparel! A general list is available at [woltz.com](http://woltz.com). Select items will be available for online bidding. 10% Buyer's Premium, 13% Buyer's Premium for online bidders. Sale held May 21, 9am at the West Virginia Building of the State Fair Event Center, Lewisburg, WV. Preview: May 20 from 12-8pm. Contact Woltz & Associates, Inc. Real Estate Brokers & Auctioneers. 800-551-3588. Roanoke, Virginia. Jim

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tions, MEA is helping BWI invest in cost-saving energy upgrades at its Hourly and Daily garages that will collectively save the airport 3,288 MWh annually, or enough energy to fuel approximately 8.9 million miles of electric vehicle driving. The energy savings comes as a result of two programs from MEA: \$500,000 from the Project Sunburst program, which will facilitate the installation of a 503 kW solar array, and a \$1 million loan from the State Agency Loan Program, which is being used in a project to replace the Hourly and Daily garages' existing high pressure sodium lighting fixtures with new high efficiency T8 fluorescent fixtures featuring energy saving electronic ballasts.