

# The Prince George's Post



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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY MARISSA HORN

Marked and unmarked graves of Confederate soldiers at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Frederick, Maryland. Nearby flies a Confederate flag next to the cemetery's Monument to the Unknown Confederate Soldiers.

## Marylanders Weigh Removal of Memorials 150 Years After Civil War

By MARISSA HORN  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—The Civil War divided many communities and families in Maryland, according to state historians, and mementos venerating forces for both the South and the North began to appear throughout the state in the early 1900s.

"[Soldiers] returned to Maryland without a great amount of animosity toward one another, and neither side cared if the other put up a monument to honor the dead," said Daniel Carroll Toomey, a historian who has served on the state's Military Monuments Commission for more than 20 years. "You can't deny the fact that the South did go to war, but then

they got over it—we got over it 150 years ago."

Now, however, communities around the Old Line State are drawing upon old lines and asking officials to reconsider monuments tied to slavery or the Confederacy exactly four months after the racially motivated killings of nine people at a historic black church in Charleston, South Carolina.

In Baltimore, a special commission plans to meet Thursday night to reevaluate and lead community discussions about the city's nine Confederate monuments, continuing the national conversation about the display of racially controversial memorials, flags and other insignia.

See MEMORIALS Page A5

## Hampton Receives Recognition in Employee Spotlight Program

By CHRISTINA WILLIAMS  
Staff Writer

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Forestville resident Natascha Hampton received recognition from the National Beer Wholesalers Association Employee Spotlight Program for her hard work within her organization. Hampton is 36 years old and has been working for the local beer distributor Bob Hall, LLC for nine years.

Hampton was born in D.C. but currently lives in Forestville, MD. She has four children, three girls and one boy, as well as several grandchildren. One of her goals in life is to provide for her children so they do not have to look to someone else for money. Working at Bob Hall, LLC has allowed her to do just that.

Located in Upper Marlboro, MD, Bob Hall, LLC was founded by Robert Lee (Bob) Hall, Jr in 1933 after the repeal of Prohibition and distributes to Calvert, Charles, and Prince George's counties. The company is one of "America's 3,300 independent beer distribution facilities [that] employ 130,000 men and women in communities across the country."

Hampton first started out in the company as a check-in clerk, checking the drivers in as they came through. "I would teach myself Excel and other software in order to be more



PHOTO BY CHRISTINA WILLIAMS  
Natascha Hampton

proficient at the job," said Hampton.

Hampton also had to adjust to not having a car. She used to wake up at 5:00 a.m. to catch the last bus, which would stop in front of the courthouse. Then she would walk from the courthouse to her building which his about a half an hour away. "One time it was morning and it was snowing outside and I was walking to work and when I got there I realized that the company was closed due to the snow," she said.

Another obstacle she faced at the time was the death of her mother. "The company would be there for me if I needed a shoulder to cry on and would not judge me for being emotional," said Hampton.

Through her experiences over the years she was able to develop a strong mindset and

See SPOTLIGHT Page A3

## Prince George's County Council Introduces Paid Sick Leave Bill

By PRESS OFFICER  
CASA

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Dozens of advocacy organizations and impacted county residents gathered to celebrate the introduction of legislation to allow workers in the county to earn up to seven paid sick days per year.

"We must ensure that our county's policies catch up with the realities faced by today's working families," said Jennifer Jones, president of HOCS

Strategic Business Solutions. "As a small business owner and longtime advocate for women throughout Prince George's County, it's inexcusable to think that in 2015 any working woman—or family—would have to choose between her sick child and her job."

The Earned Sick and Safe Leave bill would bring paid sick days to more than 130,000 workers in Prince

See SICK LEAVE Page A3

## REMINDER 'Clean Up Green' Up Fall 2015

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Government

LARGO, MD—Prince George's County invites community organizations, schools and businesses to join us for the annual countywide Fall 2015 'Clean Up Green Up' on Saturday, October 17, 2015.

"Clean Up Green Up' is an opportunity for residents to beautify their neighborhoods by coming together for a day

of cleaning, weeding, mulching and litter removal," said Darrell Mobley, Director of the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T). This event provides residents, schools and businesses with an opportunity to partner with Prince George's County Government, the Neighborhood Design

See CLEAN UP Page A7

## Maryland Kicks Off 'Beautiful' New Anti-Drunk Driving Campaign

One-Third of Maryland Traffic Deaths Involve Impaired Drivers; Motorists Urged to Have a Sober Ride Home

By PRESS OFFICER  
WRAP

GLEN BURNIE, MD, Sept. 10—The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration's Highway Safety Office (MHSO), in partnership with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Washington Regional Alcohol Program, recently kicked off a new Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign for 2015 called "Beautiful Faces." The campaign to combat impaired driving uses statewide Driving Under the Influence (DUI) patrols and public awareness messages such as, "do yourself a favor and have a 'beautiful,' sober ride home" as tools to help prevent, deter and reduce the incidences of impaired driving.

In Maryland, impaired drivers kill more than 170 people each year and more than 23,000 people were arrested for drunk or drugged driving last year.



SCREEN CAPTURE COURTESY WRAP

Make a plan before you go out to get home safely and stick to that plan. At the end of a night out, there's nothing more beautiful than a sober, safe ride home. See the full video at <https://youtu.be/d4cSIPU1ogA>

"Our goal is to help people understand that they can go out and make the responsible decision to have a safe ride home at the end of the night," said Administrator Christine Nizer,

Maryland Department of Transportation's Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA). "Make a plan before you go out and stick to that plan at the end of the night. Cabs, rideshare services,

public transportation, or designated drivers are all options to get home safe."

See CAMPAIGN Page A3

### INSIDE

#### USDA Awards \$8 Million to Support Healthier Foods in Schools and Child Care Centers

The grants announced today add to the large number of resources that USDA provides to help schools serve healthier food options that meet updated nutrition standards, including technical assistance, educational materials, and additional reimbursements. Community, Page A3

#### The Power of "Prophetic" Grief

Why are our children and teens 18 times more likely to die from a gun than their peers in 25 other high-income countries? When will we come to our senses? It should not be a symbol of national pride that we are the world leader in the killing of children by senseless gun violence. Commentary, Page A4

#### Comptroller Franchot Releases FY15 Year-End Closeout Numbers

Withholding receipts finished the year up 3.9 percent from the prior year, in line with expectations and an improvement from last year's 3.0 percent, but modest when compared to pre-recession growth rates and a reminder of continued economic pressures facing wage earners. Business, Page A5

#### Movie Review: "Cooties"

The tone is arch and satiric, often funny. Clint tries out several preposterous opening lines for his novel, which is about a demonic boat; there's a kid in his class named Patriot because he was born on 9/11; there are laughs at the expense of public school bureaucracy and political correctness. Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

How are environmentalists putting drones to use to help further their causes?

—Joe Martin,  
Baltimore, MD

Features, Page A7



# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Fatal crash in Clinton leaves three children without parents

Shalaya Moore-Tobe and Delonte Antwuan Tobe had been looking forward to hosting a Labor Day weekend barbecue at their Clinton home, but before the crowd arrived they made a trip for last-minute groceries. They never returned.

They turned right onto Kirby Road from Tinkers Creek Drive about 2 p.m., and were struck by a car that had crossed the centerline of Kirby Road to pass two other cars. Shalaya and Delonte both died. They left behind three children.

Shalaya, 31, is also survived by her parents, William H. Miller Jr. and Virginia A. Moore, two sisters and a brother. Delonte, 34, is also survived by his parents, Johy Tobe and Denise Butler, two sisters and a brother.

A candlelight vigil was held for the couple at James Ryder Randall Elementary School in Clinton. The family has set up an online donation page to help raise money for the children who are being cared for by family members.

The couple met at the bank where Shalaya worked and Delonte regularly banked. They are together now at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton, following a service at Ebenezer AME Church in Fort Washington.

### 17th Annual

#### Women's Conference

Suitland Road Baptist Church invites all women to participate in their Annual Women's Conference on Saturday, Oct. 10, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Doors open at 8:30.) The theme of the Conference is "God's Best for Our Lives." Speakers are Minister Beatrice Y. Smith, Sister Sabrina Roberts and Sister Sheila Hayes.

Admission is \$25 and includes lunch. For information, call 301-219-2296. Suitland Road Baptist is at 5412 Suitland Road.

#### Coming up

A yard sale at VFW Post 9619, Morningside, will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tables are \$15 for the first and \$10 each additional. Contact Karen at 301-967-8377 for reservations and more information.

Davies Concert Series is presenting the Sunrise String Quartet on Sunday, Oct. 4, at 6:30 p.m. at Davies Memorial Unitarian Universalist Church, 7400 Temple Hill Road. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for 18 and younger. For information, call 301-627-0284.

The 17th Annual Dante Ross Memorial Golf Tournament is coming up on Oct. 2 at Marlboro Golf Course. Registration is \$80, which includes golf, cart, range balls and luncheon. For more information, call Beth or Harolyn Phillips, 301-449-3151.

#### Neighbors

Jody Bowman Nyers emailed, "Let me say the Foulouis/Central reunion went amazingly well yesterday. There were roughly 75 in attendance and Gary & Cindi Lewis said they found out about it from your column, that is awesome!!" She adds there were many Morningside/Skyline folks there and they all reminisced about growing up in the best place in Prince George's, "aka Morningside." I'm delighted with the excellent attendance. I hope others who attended will tell me more, maybe name more names.

Thank you to all who helped make Skyline's Night Out a success, including MC Mickey Dillard, Floyd Shields and Chuckie Henry on the grill, Suzanne Kenney for the prizes, the crew who worked the food tables, our President Stan Holmes for getting it all together, and Skyline School for the use of its facilities.

Dr. Alvin Thornton, Howard University professor and former President of the Skyline Citizens Association, was at Night Out and told us that he has announced his bid for the 4th Congressional District seat, to succeed Rep. Donna Edwards in the House of Representatives.

St. Philip's Sodality has new officers: Ligia Rojas, prefect; Carolyn Hayes, vice-prefect; Anne Harrell, secretary; and Theresa Roberson, treasurer.

#### Changing landscape

Have you noticed a large building under construction on Brandywine Road? It is MedStar Health's newest addition to its care delivery

network and is slated to open in about nine months. It will be a one-stop ambulatory center with a wide range of specialty medical and surgical services on site.

A HEARING sign has gone up on Suitland Road in front of the woods next to the VFW. I think it has to do with new homes planned. The hearing will be Oct. 8 at 10:30 a.m., at the County Administration Building in Upper Marlboro. If you'd like more information or if you'd like to speak at the Hearing, call 301-699-CALL and give them this number: 4-14008. (My personal concern is five or six more driveways opening onto Suitland Road at that busy intersection.)

#### May they rest in peace

Raymond Lawrence Swann, 66, who worked at Safeway for 47 years, died Aug. 20. The Clinton Safeway has a memorial set up for him and mentions that he was a Dallas Cowboys fan. Survivors include two children, Chiquita Swann and Karen Woods, his mother Mary Sanders and stepfather Daniel Sanders Sr., five siblings and five grandchildren. Services were at Antioch Baptist Church in Clinton.

Marjorie E. "Billie" Hill, 93, formerly of Prince George's County and a graduate of the old Maryland Park High School, died in Punto Gorda, Fla., on Sept. 9. She was born in Silver Hill, daughter of Elizabeth (Moran) and George A. Boteler. She married James K. Hill in 1943. She worked at the Navy Yard and in New York City. Later she worked in Upper Marlboro in public relations and as an information specialist. Survivors include six children, 14 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

#### Milestones

Happy birthday to Alice Lucke and Judy Hansel Waby, Sept. 27; Tim Ward, Sept. 28; my brother Tom Mudd and Morningside Town Clerk Janice Diggs, Sept. 29; Peggy Nanney and Jessica (Williams) Proctor, Sept. 30.

Happy anniversary to Ken and Janet Kaye on their 61st anniversary, Sept. 25; André and Cynthia Jordan, their 52nd on Sept. 28; and Marvin and Lee Burkhart, their 70th! on Sept. 29.

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

### CELEBRATE BADEN DAY

Baden Day is a wonderful annual community event September 26, 2015 from 12:00 Noon-5:00 PM. There will be new mechanical rides and games. Featuring music by "Hardway Connection". You will be able to enjoy great food and vendors. There's something for every member of the family. The Community Center is located at 13601 Baden-Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613.

### 35th ANNUAL KINDERFEST

Come out and enjoy an afternoon created especially for preschool and elementary-aged children at Watkins Regional Park. There will be great entertainment, fun activities and games. All ages are welcome. Free admission (nominal fee for food and some activities). Telephone number is 301-218-6700; TTY 301-218-6768.

### CLINTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2015 ANNUAL FALL REVIVAL

Everyone is invited to attend our 2015 Annual Fall Revival beginning Friday, September 25th, 7:30 PM. Preacher will be

Rev. Darius Butler from John Wesley United Methodist Church, Abingdon, Maryland. Pizza Dinner served at 6:30 PM before the service. Saturday, September 26th, 5:30 PM Preacher will be Rev. Samuel Honnappa First India United Methodist Church, Silver Spring, Maryland. Sandwiches and refreshments will be served after the service. International Sunday, September 27th, 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM. The 8:00 AM Preacher will be Rev. Albert W. Montgomery, Agape Missionary Baptist Church, Suitland, Maryland. Continental Breakfast served after 8:00 AM service. The speaker at the 10:30 AM service will be Sis. Audrey Arthur, CLM, Grace United Methodist Church, Takoma Park, Maryland. There will be a potluck luncheon after 10:30 AM service. Rev. Dorothea Belt Stroman, Host Pastor, Clinton Church. The church is located at 10700 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735. Phone number is 301-868-1281.

### MEDICAL OFFICE COMPLEX

The large building under construction on Brandywine Road

in Brandywine, Maryland is MedStar Health's newest addition to its distributed care delivery network. The medical office complex will have a wide range of specialty medical and surgical services on site.

### NEW HOPE FELLOWSHIP CANCER CARE MINISTRY

New Hope Fellowship Cancer Care Ministry will go out into the community to help those that are affected by this disease. We will assist in the meeting of physical needs of those referred to this ministry. Our goal is to go on hospital visits as well as home visits to offer words of encouragement with Christian love, scripture reading and prayer. Please contact Shonita at 301-888-1316 for more information.

### MED STAR BREAST HEALTH PROGRAM

Students at Stephen Decatur Middle School in Clinton, Maryland raised a total of \$550. The students donated the money to support the MedStar Breast Health Program at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center. The monies will be used to help start a breast cancer support group.

## Neighborhood Events

### Edwards Hosts Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Roundtable

Washington, D.C.—Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-04) today hosted a Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Roundtable discussion with representatives from federal and local government, the National Football League, higher education, nonprofits, the faith community, and civic and health organizations. Attendees took part in a comprehensive discussion on domestic violence and sexual assault, sharing their experiences, knowledge, resources, and best practices to better coordinate efforts at the local, state, and federal levels.

"With over thirty years of experience working on issues of domestic violence, it was important to bring together stakeholders from across the spectrum to see how our efforts can be strengthened and broadened to fight this epidemic," Rep. Edwards said. "Domestic violence and sexual assault are multi-faceted issues that are impacting communities in Maryland and across the country regardless of age, religion, ethnicity, immigration status, race, income level, or education. Despite years of progress, a great deal of work remains to be done because of the complexity of these issues.

"Over the course of the conversation, I heard several themes emerge: the importance of teaching healthy relationships beginning at an early age, increasing awareness by helping the public recognize what abuse looks like, tailoring types of services and how to access them to the specific needs of victims, and ensuring that funding is available to provide the resources necessary to meet the need in communities. I am grateful to everyone who participated in making today's event so comprehensive and informative. I look forward to continuing to work with these allies in the hope that one day we will end the threat of domestic violence and sexual assault once and for all."

Congresswoman Edwards has over three decades of experience working on issues of domestic violence and sexual assault. She began crisis intervention in college and went on to be the co-founder and executive director of the National Network to End Domestic Violence, and later played an instrumental role in helping pass the Violence Against Women Act in 1994.

Congresswoman Edwards was joined today by representatives from the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Bowie State University, Prince George's Community College, Morgan State University, Coppin State University, Joint Base Andrews, National Football League, Women's Law Center of Maryland, CASA de Maryland, Esperanza Center, Family Crisis Center of Prince George's County, Inc., YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, National Domestic Violence Hotline, Anne Arundel and Prince George's Counties Police Departments, Dimensions Healthcare, Anne Arundel Medical Center, Prince George's Hospital Center, Ebenezer A.M.E. Church,



Congresswoman  
Donna F. Edwards

First Baptist Church of Glenarden, Jericho City of Praise, Prince George's County Commission for Women, Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office, The National Education Association, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, American Association of University Women, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Wider Opportunities for Women, and National Coalition of 100 Black Women.

### WSSC Treatment Plants Continue Trend of Perfect Compliance with NACWA Platinum Awards

#### Five WSSC Plants Honored with Peak Performance Awards

Laurel—Three WSSC wastewater treatment plants were presented the prestigious Platinum Peak Performance Award by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA). Two more plants received the Gold Peak Performance Award.

To receive the platinum award, wastewater treatment facilities must achieve 100 percent compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits over a period of at least five consecutive years.

"These awards showcase the commitment our employees have, especially the plant managers and staff at our wastewater treatment plants, of returning clean water back to our environment in the safest and most responsible manner," said Gary Gumm, WSSC's Interim Chief Operations Officer. "WSSC prides itself as an environmental steward and strives to protect and maintain our natural resources for the health of future generations."

The Damascus, Seneca and Parkway wastewater treatment plants are all repeat winners of the platinum award. Damascus has had a perfect compliance track record for 15 consecutive years while Seneca and Parkway have been perfect for nine straight years. Both the Seneca and Damascus plants are managed by Sam Amad; Kevin Selock manages the Parkway plant.

Piscataway and Hyattstown wastewater treatment plants earned Gold Peak Performance Awards. Gold awards are presented to plants that achieve 100 percent compliance with the facility's permits for an entire year. The Piscataway plant is managed by Dale Belschner and Hyattstown by Sam Amad.

NACWA represents the interests of more than 300 public agencies and organizations that have made the pursuit of scientifically based, technically sound and cost effective laws and regulations their objective. NACWA members serve the majority of the sewered popu-

lation in the United States and collectively treat and reclaim more than 18 billion gallons of wastewater daily.

### Edwards Statement on Plans to Close Laurel Regional Hospital

Washington, D.C.—Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) issued the following statement regarding the announcement by Dimensions Healthcare System to close Laurel Regional Hospital and replace it with an ambulatory care center.

"Dimensions Healthcare System's announcement to close Laurel Regional Hospital, a cornerstone in Laurel since 1978, is concerning for the patients, community, and workers who rely on the full-service facility for medical care and employment. We learned recently that the maternity ward will be closed first, denying critical maternity care to mothers and their children. It is clear that closing this hospital will impact directly the health and well-being of residents throughout the region. That is why I join the concerned citizens of Laurel in calling for transparency and due process regarding this decision. I ask county and state officials to reevaluate what this means for the community by hearing directly from those who will be affected. I am confident that by working together, there is a better way forward."

### Edwards' Provision in the ACA To Save Marylanders Over \$66 Million

Washington, D.C.—Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) issued the following statement regarding the health care premium rates announced by the Maryland Insurance Administration.

"In 2010, I championed a provision, Section 104, of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to address price gouging. This provision helps protect American consumers by giving state insurance commissioners the power to review private insurers' proposed premium increases and determine if those increases are excessive or unjustified. The Maryland Insurance Administration used that authority to review, and in most cases reduce, proposed premium increases, helping Maryland consumers save \$66.4 million in premium costs. While some increases are significant, it is also important to note that the largest increase this year is for the state's largest insurer, the new rates will impact a small number of individuals, and competition between insurers in Maryland is working to ensure that affordable coverage is available in the marketplace. Consumers should shop around and compare costs and plans to find the most cost-effective plan that meets their family's needs.

"Last week, I led a letter with 17 of my Congressional colleagues to Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell to ensure that HHS and state insurance commissioners are using the authority from Section 104 to its fullest extent. I will continue fighting to protect Maryland's families as consumers and insurers work through some of the growing pains of the ACA."



# COMMUNITY

## Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

### How the Tooth Fairy Can Teach Your Kids About Money

When those first baby teeth start wobbling, you and the Tooth Fairy can combine forces to teach your kids about money.

Visa's latest annual Tooth Fairy survey indicates that the average price of a lost tooth is \$3.19 in 2015. This is the fourth consecutive year that young Americans are finding more than \$3 under their pillows from the fabled fairy. That puts a full set of 20 departing baby teeth around \$63. The survey also found that the most common monetary gift given by the Tooth Fairy is \$1, and that dads report the Tooth Fairy is more generous, giving nearly 27 percent more than what moms report.



First, how much should parents give? Visa offers a free Tooth Fairy app ([www.practicalmoneyskills.com/apps](http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/apps)) for iOS and Android devices and an online calculator ([www.practicalmoneyskills.com/toothfairy](http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/toothfairy)) to help parents determine an appropriate amount for children to receive per lost tooth. While not an endorsement of how much money children should receive, the app and calculator uses Visa's latest survey data and demographic factors such as gender, age, home state, family size, marital status, income and education levels to formulate how much money the Tooth Fairy is leaving in comparable households.

You might consider giving kids a piggy bank—or a series of piggy banks for specific purposes such as spending, saving or investing—to have ready once that first tooth comes out. Talk with your child about the importance of putting some money away when it comes in for various purposes including charity, so he or she learns about the importance of helping those with less.

Here's how the Tooth Fairy can help you guide your kids through their important, first-time money activities:

**Learning to handle coins and currency.** Kids need a bit of time to get to know coins and bills—what they feel like, what they're worth and how they're used. Start by letting them handle a few coins and then start identifying their value—how five pennies makes a nickel and two nickels make a dime, and so on. Before a child can save, spend, invest or share, they have to understand the value of money that the Tooth Fairy has left under their pillow.

**Making their first purchases.** Tooth Fairy money may be a child's first source of income. Teaching your kids about the value of money is an important lesson. It's a chance to balance fun and priorities, wants and needs. Once a certain amount of money is set aside for savings, then head to the store with your kid to look for a small toy or treat. It's important to discuss the item first and to encourage comparison-shopping for the best price. But once the item is selected, put the child in charge of the transaction.

**Dealing with other sources of monetary gifts.** The Tooth Fairy often provides that first connection between kids and cash, but other money resources usually arrive soon afterward. Starting school means allowances and children may already be getting birthday and holiday gifts of cash from friends and relatives. With every new source of funds, keep the discussion going on the importance of spending wisely while saving, investing and giving to those in need.

**Budgeting.** As kids get older and start using money more extensively, introduce them to the concept of budgeting—the practice of tracking, counting and allocating spending. Parents might want to give themselves a refresher course (<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/budgeting>) if they're not consistent about budgeting their own money.

**Moving from piggy banks to real banks.** Kids can keep a piggy bank around as long it's effective, but kids need to see how adults handle money. Regular trips to the bank allow children to ask questions about how banks work and why they're important. Eventually, they'll be ready for their first savings account. See what account savings options your bank provides for young children.

Bottom line: Lost teeth are an educational gold mine for your kid. You and the Tooth Fairy can work together to make each little windfall an important lesson about money.

### USDA Awards \$8 Million to Support Healthier Foods in Schools and Child Care Centers

By PRESS OFFICER  
USDA

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will be awarding over \$8 million in grants to help school nutrition professionals better prepare healthy meals for their students. Approximately \$2.6 million dollars in grants will support implementation of new national professional standards for all school nutrition employees who manage and operate the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, and \$5.6 million will go to help states expand and enhance food service training programs and provide nutrition education in school, child care, and summer meal settings.

"For the past three years, kids have eaten healthier breakfasts, lunches and snacks at school thanks to the bipartisan Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, which made the first meaningful improvements to the nutrition of foods and beverages served in cafeterias and sold in vending machines in 30 years. Nearly all schools are successfully meeting the standards, and these grants part of our ongoing commitment to give states and

schools the additional resources they need," said Vilsack. "Parents, teachers, principals, and school nutrition professionals want the best for their children. Together we can make sure we're giving our kids the healthy start in life they deserve."

The grants announced today add to the large number of resources that USDA provides to help schools serve healthier food options that meet updated nutrition standards, including technical assistance, educational materials, and additional reimbursements. More than 95 percent of schools report that they are successfully meeting those nutrition standards, which were based on recommendations from pediatricians and other child health experts at the Institute of Medicine.

In February, USDA announced national professional standards for school nutrition employees that went into effect on July 1, 2015. These standards, which vary according to position and job requirements, ensure that school nutrition professionals have the training and skills they need to plan, prepare, purchase, and promote healthy meals. In addition to several built-in flexibilities intended to facilitate the first year of implementation and address the challenges faced by

smaller school districts, USDA is providing a total of \$2.6 million to 19 state agencies to develop and enhance existing trainings within their state that will allow school nutrition professionals to meet these standards. The Professional Standards Training Grants promote training in nutrition; operations; administration; and communications and marketing.

In addition, 19 states received a 2015 Team Nutrition Training Grant of up to \$350,000—\$5.6 million in total—to support trainings that focus on encouraging healthy eating. Those efforts could include:

- using Smarter Lunchrooms strategies that use principles from behavioral economics to encourage healthy choices,
- meeting meal pattern requirements for school meals,
- delivering interactive nutrition education activities, and
- providing schools and child care providers with technical assistance to create and maintain a healthier environment.

Grants activities must be sustainable and achieve measurable outcomes. For example, the Oregon Department of Education will use the grant funds to hold 10 Smarter Lunchroom workshops on strategies for ar-

anging the lunchroom that promote healthy choices. As a result, at least 120 school food authorities and child nutrition program sponsors will receive training and follow-up assistance. A summary of previous years' grant activities by state can be found at the Team Nutrition Training Grants website.

The Team Nutrition Training Grants are awarded as part of USDA's Team Nutrition initiative, which provides resources, training, and nutrition education lessons for schools and child care providers. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Team Nutrition initiative. In that time, Team Nutrition has provided nearly \$90 million in grant funds to state agencies that implement USDA Child Nutrition Programs.

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service administers America's nutrition assistance programs including the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the Summer Food Service Program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Together these programs make up the federal nutrition safety net.

#### Spotlight from A1

overcome her obstacles. Hampton's role model in life is her cousin. "To see my cousin overcome her obstacles and be at the bottom and then rise to the top makes me know that I can overcome it as well," said Hampton.

Hampton now has a car and is a customer services representative at Bob Hall, LLC. With the support of her wonderful company she will continue to be able to accomplish her goals and

dreams. "My goals in life are to be happy and live a comfortable life so that I can support my family," said Hampton. "My children excite me... they make me want to push harder because life is hard," said Hampton.

Hampton is an outgoing, silly, and happy person. "My coworkers call me a people person but I don't see it," said Hampton. Outside of the company, Hampton does community service with her social club by participating in activities such as feeding the homeless and cleaning up parks

and streets. She definitely is a dedicated person in, and outside, of her company.

NBWA's Employee Spotlight program recognizes "standout employees who are the face of the American beer industry in their communities," as well as their achievements. "[Natascha Hampton] exudes friendliness to customers and co-workers and enthusiastically jumps in to help everyone... In our organization, we frequently challenge our team to be 'difference makers.' Natascha personifies that

spirit. No need to ask her twice, she always finds away to get things done," says Eric Best, General Manager/Partner of Bob Hall, and LLC.

"In five years, I will probably still be at the company. They support me and are great to work with," said Hampton.

Each day is different for Hampton but one thing is for sure—each morning she will drink her coffee and start her day with a strong mindset and a positive outlook.

#### Sick Leave from A1

George's County who are forced to choose between caring for their own health or the health of a loved one and ensuring their family's economic security. It would:

- Allow Prince George's County workers to earn one hour of paid sick time for every 30 hours worked, up to seven full days (56 hours) of paid sick leave per year

"Afford employees "safe time" to take paid leave to obtain medical attention, victims services, counseling, relocation or legal services as a result of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking

• Permit employers with existing paid leave standards to maintain those policies as long as they comply with the minimum regulations of the Act

"Elected officials have a responsibility to those who work

hard every day to keep our local economy strong," said Tiffany Flowers, Organizing Director of UFCW Local 400, which represents thousands of the County's grocery and packing house workers. "Paid sick days are vital to ensuring the health and security of the families we represent."

Backed by Working Matters, a coalition of 140 organizations working to advance the Maryland Campaign for Paid Sick

Days, the measure is supported by a broad group of local organizations including 1199 SEIU, Advocates for Children and Youth, CASA, Job Opportunities Task Force, LiUNA! Mid-Atlantic, Maryland Working Families, the Metro Washington Council AFL-CIO, MomsRising, MSEA/PGCEA, Progressive Maryland, Public Justice Center, SEIU Local 500, UFCW Local 1994 MCGEO, and UFCW Local 400.

#### Campaign from A1

The campaign urges personal responsibility at the end of a night through messages that are broadcast on cable television, radio, and social media. Additional messages are in Maryland's liquor stores, bars and restaurants and a social media campaign with the hashtag #BeautifulRide, encourages the notification of designated sober drivers. Des-

ignated sober drivers will also be thanked for providing a safe ride home in Annapolis, Baltimore, Frederick, and Hagerstown, and other locations.

In Maryland, men in their 20s were involved in nearly 35 percent of all crashes resulting in injury or death. The most recent statistics are from 2009 to 2013. In August 2015, a public opinion survey in Maryland and Virginia of 800 licensed male drivers (21-35) found drunk drivers are con-

sidered a leading "serious danger." Over half of the men surveyed had either driven after having a few drinks or been driven by someone who had a few drinks.

"Getting home safely starts before you even step foot out the door," said Tom Gianni, the MHSO's Chief. "A cab costs \$20 or so on average and a DUI can cost tens of thousands of dollars—that's an easy choice. Even worse, impaired drivers take

people's lives every day—children, parents, friends. That's not something anyone wants to live with, especially when it is so easily avoided. Do yourself a favor and have that 'beautiful' sober ride home."

The Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign is supported by a grant from the MHSO to the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program. To view the full "Beautiful Faces" video, please visit <https://youtu.be/d4cSIPU1ogA>.

### Maryland Issues More Than \$18.8 Million through the Local Government Infrastructure Finance Program

Bond Sale to Provide Critically Needed Resources to Eight Maryland Localities

By PRESS OFFICER  
MDHCD

New Carrollton, MD—Under the leadership of the Hogan administration, Maryland's Community Development Administration sold more than \$18.8 million in bonds through the Local Government Infrastructure Finance (LGIF) program, taking advantage of favorable interest rates and the buying power of the program's strong credit rat-

ing to raise resources for critically needed public projects that enhance the quality of life in Maryland communities.

Eight local governments participated in the Aug. 27 issuance, Governor Larry Hogan announced. The towns of Cumberland, Forest Heights and Middletown are seeking to raise more than \$11.1 million for equipment and to make improvements to streets and water and sewer facilities. Somerset County and the

towns of Berlin, Federalsburg, New Carrollton, and Takoma Park are seeking to refinance debt.

"My administration is committed to changing our communities, our state, for the better, and the Local Government Infrastructure Finance program is a valuable tool for our hometowns to make the kind of investments today that ensure a better tomorrow," Governor Hogan said. "Through this program, we are helping municipalities move

more projects off the wish list and onto the can-do list."

The LGIF program generates significant savings in the costs of borrowing by pooling local demand and securing affordable capital with advantageous terms. Through it, DHCD issues bonds on behalf of counties, municipalities, or their agencies to finance projects that serve the community at large. The department has at its disposal the expertise and resources to manage

the details of public bond issuance, and to help local governments navigate successfully through the complexities of tax-exempt bond financing.

Since 1988, the program has raised over \$380 million in capital to fund hundreds of projects throughout the state.

DHCD Secretary Kenneth C. Holt, who has considerable financial market experience, has spent a lot of time this summer promoting the LGIF program to

county and municipal leaders and even development officials.

"Timing is important in the investment world and there is no better time for municipalities to borrow money than now," Secretary Holt said. "Interest rates are at or near historic lows; our aging infrastructure is badly in need of repair and the cost of repairing it will only increase."

For more information about the LGIF program, visit DHCD's website at [www.mdhousing.org](http://www.mdhousing.org).



# COMMENTARY

## Cong. Steny H. Hoyer House Democratic Minority Whip



### Hoyer Celebrates Women's Equality Day at Annual Luncheon

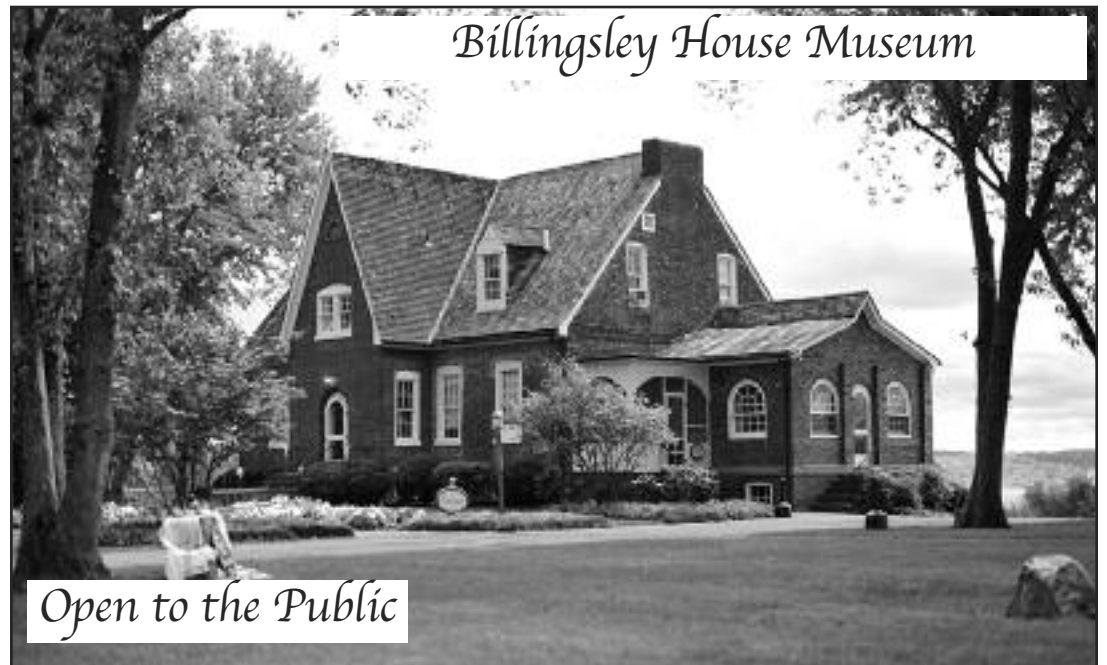
CLINTON, MD—August 24, 2015, Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) hosted his 13th Annual Women's Equality Day Luncheon to celebrate the achievements and progress women have made in the United States as they mark the 95th anniversary of Women's Equality Day.

"Hosting the Annual Women's Equality Day Luncheon is one of my favorite occasions of the year, and I am honored to join in celebrating the 95th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment," said Congressman Steny Hoyer. "In America's march toward greater equality, democracy, and civil rights, the recognition of the equal right of women to vote was a watershed moment. As we celebrate this anniversary and reflect on the history of women's march for equality in America, we acknowledge that much more work lies ahead. Whether it is protecting a woman's right to make her own health care decisions, her right to earn equal pay for equal work, or her opportunity to serve equally in defense of our nation, women's votes are a powerful weapon against exclusion, injustice, and discrimination. I look forward to continuing my work in Congress in support of

equality for women in the Fifth District and across America."

"The vast majority of Americans do not believe in discrimination based on gender, but the laws of our land do not reflect this belief fully. In fact, most Americans would be surprised to learn that there are not equal rights for women guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, because the Equal Rights Amendment came so close to passing before it reached an arbitrary time limit. We need to address this wrong immediately, and I have offered legislation to do exactly that, re-opening the window of opportunity for the ERA," said U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.). "We've made some significant advancements in gender equality in this country, but there is still progress that needs to be made. The most glaring issue is the need for a strong federal guarantee of equal rights for women, which would be far superior the present patchwork of state protections. But our work cannot end there, and I will continue fighting to ensure it does not."

This year's keynote speaker was District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser. U.S. Senator Ben Cardin also spoke at the luncheon.



Billingsley House Museum

Open to the Public

PHOTO COURTESY BILLINGSLEY HOUSE MUSEUM

#### BILLINGSLEY HOUSE MUSEUM

Billingsley House Museum is a brick Tidewater Colonial plantation house that sits on 430 acres overlooking the confluence of the Patuxent River and the Western Branch. The house and land were named for Major John Billingsley, the original 1662 land grant owner. Even though Major Billingsley never lived on the property and there have been 27 title adjustments over its long history, the name "Billingsley" remains. The present house was built around 1740 by the prominent Weems family on or very near the site of an older 1695 house built by Colonel James Hollyday, first Chief Justice of the Prince George's County Court. Billingsley has been substantially altered and modernized both in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, however, it is still one of the oldest structures remaining in the County and a unique example of a plantation house. As such, it is of great historical and architectural importance. Billingsley features rooms furnished in period decor ideal for both large and intimate gatherings as well as business meetings. To schedule a tour or inquire about rental for your function, call 301-627-0730.

## Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



### The Power of "Prophetic" Grief

*"Prophetic grief is more than crying and sighing and weeping and mourning ... Prophetic grief is planting gardens of healing in the midst of raindrops of blood. Prophetic grief is declaring to the world that love is stronger than hate, that God's grace is greater than our grief, that God's power is greater than our pain."*

—Reverend Otis Moss, Jr.

Recently Reverend Otis Moss, Jr., pastor emeritus at Olivet Institutional Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio and former co-pastor at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, and Reverend Otis Moss, III, Senior Pastor of the Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, preached together at the Children's Defense Fund's Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry. The terroristic murders of nine Black worshippers during Bible study at Charleston's Mother Emanuel AME Church had broken everyone's hearts, and father and son spoke on how all of us could use this moment to move forward together through "prophetic" grief.

Rev. Otis Moss, Jr. explained this is different from being overcome by "pathetic" grief in the face of such a tragedy. "Pathetic grief is that kind of grief that causes you to be blinded by bitterness, hate, despair—the kind of grief that puts you in the class of the one who caused the grief. Pathetic grief sends you into a scale of darkness where Langston Hughes says 'there ain't been no light.' It leaves you diminished, degraded, and in co-operation with the one who diminishes and the one who degrades." He said we are called to something else. Prophetic grief can spur action and change, and Rev. Moss, Jr. urged that instead of focusing on the murderer we need to focus on the larger culture that fosters hatred and violence. "It's easier to deal with the 'who' and singularize, if you will, the vastness of the crime and make one person responsible and thereby excuse ourselves. We like to deal with the 'who,' but we are not ready to deal with the 'what' ... I think we have to lift up the fact that we live in a culture that has made guns our god. We have to

deal with the 'what.' Why is it easier to get guns and drugs than it is to find a good counselor, a scholarship, a job? ... Why is it that we live in a nation that's more committed to gun rights and states' rights than we are to civil rights and human rights? There are those who will, at the drop of a hat and less, pass another bill to arm people in classrooms and in churches, but they are slow and resistant to [support] child care, affordable health care."

Rev. Moss, Jr. continued, "Let me hurry on to say I believe the 21-year-old alleged killer was born not out of a creative process controlled by God, but born into a destructive process and culture created by human beings. What kind of lessons are we going to give to our children? What are we feeding them? What is the diet we are giving them? What is it that makes guns objects of worship where people will kill you about a gun? What is it that creates this kind of climate for children?"

Rev. Moss III added that this kind of prophetic grief that turns pain into power has always been a hallmark of the Black faith experience. "The very nature of our faith is carved from the splintered wood of an unfinished

democracy ... This is a faith where miracles are not anomalies, redemption is not a fairy tale, and deliverance is more than a descriptive adjective, but an active verb permeating the soul of every believer. This is a faith where [Harriet] Tubman learned her freedom, [Sojourner Truth] discovered abolition, [W.E.B.] Du Bois discovered intellect, Zora [Neale Hurston] found her literary power, Langston [Hughes] crafted poems, and Ida B. Wells discovered her journalistic integrity."

When another murderer shot and killed two journalists in August in Virginia and blamed his actions partly on his deep rage at the Charleston murders, it was a misguided claim of diminished, degraded, pathetic grief. But when reporter Alison Parker's father chose to use his great personal tragedy as an opportunity to speak out in favor of "whatever it takes" to end the crisis of gun violence in America and pass common sense gun safety laws, it was a powerful lesson in prophetic grief and turning pain into power and overwhelming sadness and anger into action. Days after his daughter was murdered

See WATCH, Page A5

## Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



### A Back-to-School Message for Parents

*"The best way to predict your future is to create it."*

—President Abraham Lincoln

Another school year is upon us and it is time to return to the business of learning.

All across our nation, families are observing an annual academic tradition where summer's carefree fun is replaced with the academic rigor and expectations associated with the coming fall. In a scene that will be played out countless times, families will send off their children, armed with notebooks, pencils and open minds, into schools—big and small, public or private—with the hope that one day all of their hard work will pay off and develop into a successful future.

This back-to-school tradition is far more significant than the acknowledgement of a shift in priorities in a child's life. The tradition is firmly rooted in our American belief that education—particularly higher education—can be a key predictor of greater opportunity and future professional success. A child that receives an education rooted in excellence will likely attend college, enter the workforce and become far more engaged in his or her community, and our society at large.

Even now, while parents are in control of where you go to school; and teachers are in control of what you learn; and our government makes decisions about how you will learn, you—the student—are in full control of your future. And you can begin to focus on the future you want to create today. When you assume responsibility for your education, you begin to unlock your full potential and stack the building blocks that have become the minimum requirements of the climb up our nation's social and economic opportunity ladders.

The National Urban League believes our nation is a stronger nation when every American child is prepared for college, work, and life. America will not be able to successfully compete in today's (and tomorrow's) global, information-age economy, if we do not properly and equi-

tably invest in all of our students now. For this reason, we have developed an 8-point education policy that reflects our belief that a strong correlation exists between educational opportunity and economic empowerment. The National Urban League calls for:

- Fair and equitable school funding for all;
- Robust early childhood education for each child;
- Strengthening high schools and re-engaging students to prevent dropouts;
- Robust STEM-focused curriculum and programs;
- Qualified, effective and diverse teachers;
- Strategic workforce development: targeting those most in need;
- New job training models coupled with job placement; and
- Improving and integrating current data systems.

With the love and support of family and friends, and dedication from our nation's educators to our children's success, students have some of the key elements needed in their quest to aspire to be their best. When it comes to education, America needs to put its money where its mouth is. As a nation, we express concern over inequality gaps in education, but are we implementing the necessary policies that will close those perpetual gaps? Our nation must become engaged in the struggle to educate its children equitably, with policy rooted in excellence.

When a young man or woman lacks access to opportunity through education, we all lose, and those are losses our nation can hardly afford in today's global economy. The return on our nation's investment of action and effective policy would be a competitive American workforce, a stronger economy and thriving communities. To paraphrase a former Harvard University president, if you think access to a solid education for all American students is expensive, imagine the cost of ignorance on our nation.

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# BUSINESS

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### How To Be There When A Friend Needs Help

Relatives are important to most of us, despite the fact that they're people we're sort of stuck with as a side-effect of being born into a particular family. But friendships can be just as important, or even more important, because our friends are people we've chosen to have a relationship with.

Friends are people we value, care about and with whom we want to feel close. All of that is why it can be very upsetting when we discover or observe something troubling about a friend. It can be a struggle trying to decide whether to confront our friend directly or to avoid the issue in case we're wrong and might damage the friendship.

But the bottom line is you do want to help if this is someone you truly care about. It's therefore important to find ways to discuss the potential problem while minimizing the chances of ruining the friendship.

A starting point to make this happen is to meet privately and make clear this is a conversation just between the two of you.

Begin by describing objectively the behavior that concerns you. Don't be judgmental or try to interpret what you've seen. Stick to facts and observations, rather than your personal opinions. Say "You seem easily upset recently," rather than a judgmental statement such as, "It bugs me how crabby you've been lately!"

Keep your description positive, rather than negative and accusatory. Objectively state the facts in a manner that other friends would agree to if asked their opinions.

The next part is to give your friend a chance to agree with or explain what you've observed. Make it an opportunity to discuss the issue.

Saying "You seem unhappy recently. Is anything wrong?" opens the door for discussion without positioning you as an authority who will make everything right. You may find that what you've reported is something your friend is unaware of, or that he or she has an explanation that eliminates your concerns.

If this "one-two" approach does have your friend verifying your concerns, you may find that simply talking things out may help fix the issue. Or there may be a bigger problem that requires professional help.

The key, however, is not to be confrontational. Give your friend encouragement and support, and be ready to assist in finding the needed help. With a positive approach you'll help your friend and continue a strong friendship.

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

### Watch from A4

dered Mr. Parker wrote in the *Washington Post*: "In recent years we have witnessed similar tragedies unfold on TV: the shooting of a congresswoman in Arizona, the massacre of schoolchildren in Connecticut and of churchgoers in South Carolina. We have to ask ourselves: What do we need to do to stop this insanity? In my case, the answer is: 'Whatever it takes.' I plan to devote all of my strength and resources to seeing that some good comes from this evil."

As he prepared for a September 10th "Whatever It Takes" Day of Action and rally on Capitol Hill, he added: "After my daughter Alison was tragically killed two weeks ago, I said on national television that we have to do whatever it takes to fix this country's gun violence problem. I know that weakening the stranglehold of the gun lobby won't happen overnight. I know, too, that passing background check laws won't prevent all acts of gun violence from taking place. But we must keep the pressure on our lawmakers until they do the right thing. And if they won't, find their replacement."

Let's all heed and follow his example and the Rev. Mosses' call. In a nation that has nearly as many guns as people; when the United States accounts for

less than 5 percent of the global population but owns an estimated 35 to 50 percent of all civilian-owned guns in the world; and when American companies manufacture enough bullets each year to fire 31 rounds into every one of our citizens, let's stay focused on this urgent challenge to embrace prophetic grief and use it to do whatever it takes to transform our national culture of violence into one of nonviolence and respect for human life. A child or teen dies or is injured by a gun every 30 minutes in the U.S. Why are our children and teens 18 times more likely to die from a gun than their peers in 25 other high-income countries? When will we come to our senses? It should not be a symbol of national pride that we are the world leader in the killing of children by senseless gun violence.

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

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

## Comptroller Franchot Releases FY15 Year-End Closeout Numbers

By PRESS OFFICER  
Comptroller of Maryland

Annapolis, Md. (September 3, 2015)—Reiterating his call for caution in the midst of a slow economic recovery, Comptroller Peter Franchot today released the final closeout numbers for Fiscal Year 2015. General Fund revenues totaled \$15.9 billion in the fiscal year, \$214.1 million above the official state forecast and representing a growth rate of 5.1 percent. While the results validate a sense of cautious optimism, there are underlying issues which overstate growth relative to underlying economic activity.

The revenue data reflected moderate improvement in wages and salaries, and consumer spending, but they remain subdued relative to pre-recession levels. Withholding receipts finished the year up 3.9 percent from the prior year, in line with

expectations and an improvement from last year's 3.0 percent, but modest when compared to pre-recession growth rates and a reminder of continued economic pressures facing wage earners. Sales and use tax receipts increased by 5 percent from the previous year, but after factoring the impact of Amazon's physical presence in Maryland, were still weaker than pre-recession norms.

Individual income tax revenues finished the year up 7.4 percent, however, the growth rate is skewed higher as a result of an artificially depressed tax year 2013. The threat of a fiscal cliff in 2012 drove down income tax revenues as individuals shifted income from tax year 2013 to tax year 2012 to minimize federal tax liability.

Given the state's uncertain near-term economic outlook, the Comptroller urged the governor and General Assembly to proceed with caution and fiscal restraint.

"These revenue figures highlight an economy that has improved but is still fragile and has not returned to pre-recession growth rates," Comptroller Franchot said. "We must proceed with the utmost caution and continue on a prudent fiscal course in the months ahead. I firmly believe any fund balance must be saved and not spent to assure Maryland taxpayers that their government understands the uncertain fiscal and economic climate. To turn the corner on the state's economic recovery, we must provide a sense of predictability to businesses with a multi-year moratorium on all new or increased taxes, fees and major regulatory changes. This will give businesses the confidence to hire, invest and grow and give consumers the confidence to spend. If we can maintain a cautious mindset, Maryland's economic bones are strong enough and resilient enough to withstand these challenges."

Comptroller Franchot noted several factors that have contributed to a slow economic recovery for the past fiscal year which began July 1, 2014 and ended June 30, 2015. Among them were:

- The ongoing consequences of sequestration on a state economy that remains heavily reliant upon federal jobs, spending and business opportunities;
- Continued high unemployment relative to pre-recession levels (5.2% in July versus 4.3% pre-recession);
- Average wage growth close to or below historic inflation rates.

"Given the challenges to the state's economy, it is imperative that we spend taxpayer dollars in the most effective and efficient ways possible, and reassure Maryland taxpayers that we are getting the best possible results in return," Comptroller Franchot said.

### Memorials from A1

The first of four meetings, commissioned by Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, could determine how the city will memorialize the state's Confederate past.

In spite of some of the communities' or council members' objections to the monuments, Toomey said, he believes the monument evaluation committee in Baltimore City is unnecessary.

"The monuments are not just the history of Baltimore City, they are just not the history of Maryland, they're American history," Toomey said. "And no one, no mayor has the right to say what part of American history will be remembered and what will be forgotten."

According to Howard Libit, a spokesman for the mayor, the commission is seeking to review all Confederate-era monuments and historical items "to ensure that the city stays on the side of respecting history."

"There is a balance between respecting history and continuing to display items that may be offensive," Libit said.

Though Rawlings-Blake's announcement did not name any of the statues that the commission will review, there are at least nine monuments with ties to the Confederate era in the city, according to a 2014 Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs monuments catalog.

At least one of the statues honoring Confederate soldiers in the city's Bolton Hill neighborhood was spray-painted with the phrase "Black Lives Matter" five days after the June 17 Charleston shooting.

Costs of cleaning the statues following vandalism, or completely removing the statues altogether, have not been discussed, according to Aaron Bryant, chairman of the seven-member commission and the current Mellon curator of photography at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture.

But Montgomery County has already spent \$20,000 boxing up and cleaning a Confederate statue that was similarly vandalized.

And the Montgomery County Council also plans to meet Thursday night to decide where to relocate the 102-year-old bronze statue of a Confederate soldier standing next to Rockville's Red Brick Courthouse. The memorial also had the words "Black Lives Matter" spray-painted on its base, in July.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY MARISSA HORN  
**A bust of former U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger B. Taney remains in front of City Hall in Frederick, Maryland. On Oct. 1, Alderwoman Donna Kuzemchak will propose the bust's removal for the third time due to Taney's storied past in deciding the Dred Scott v. Sandford case.**



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY MARISSA HORN  
**Officials boxed up the Confederate statue with plywood outside of Rockville's Red Brick Courthouse after its base was spray-painted with "Black Lives Matter" in late July. The council plans to approve a new location Thursday and move it to one of five locations throughout the county at a later date.**

"We need to find out if we will get approval to relocate the statue and then the county will get estimates to pay for moving it", said Greg Ossont, deputy director of the Department of General Services.

In an effort to determine a new, more appropriate location, Montgomery County residents voted earlier this month on a list of five new locations for the statue. The list included: Beall-Dawson Historical Park in Rockville, Darnestown Square Heritage Park in Darnestown, Callithea Farm Special Park in Potomac, Jesup Blair Local Park in Silver Spring and Edgemoor Farm in Gaithersburg. Poll results are expected to be discussed on Thursday.

"We share County Executive Isiah Leggett's view that the statue does not belong in the center of government outside the courthouse," said County Council President George Leventhal in a news release. "(We) believe it should be relocated to a site where we are able to tell the full story of Montgomery County's participation in the Civil War from all perspectives."

North of Rockville, at the Monocacy National Battlefield, there is another Confederate monument, which the United Daughters of the Confederacy funded and built in 1914.

"We haven't had any issues with our monuments and no indication of defacement or other tampering," said Rick Slade, superintendent at Monocacy National Battlefield. "It's a simple roadside rock pedestal with a plaque. It's not very elaborate or distinctive, so it doesn't attract a lot of attention."

At the seat of the county, however, Frederick city's Board of Aldermen are deliberating whether to remove the bust of former U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger B. Taney from in front of City Hall.

Taney's opinion in the Dred Scott v. Sandford case protected slaveholders' rights and excluded African Americans from citizenship.

"Although Justice Taney was a complex individual, he is most widely known for writing the majority opinion on the case of Dred Scott v. Sandford -- a legal opinion that set the rights of all blacks back decades," Alderwoman Donna Kuzemchak, a Democrat, wrote in an email.



# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK  
Movie Review  
"Cooties"

*Cooties*  
Grade: C+  
Rated R, a lot of harsh  
profanity and strong  
bloody violence  
1 hr., 36 min

The clever premise behind "Cooties" is so simple that it's hard to believe no one had already used it before "Saw" writer Leigh Whannell and "Glee" co-creator Ian Brennan got to it. A bacterial outbreak at an elementary school turns the kids into ravenous, flesh-eating zombies who attack each other while the uninfected teachers and faculty barricade themselves inside the building. The "little monsters" figure of speech made literal? The sight of children ripping limbs from torsos? Yes, please!

But "Cooties," while suitably gross and buoyed by game performances, doesn't exploit its concept nearly as well as it should. Co-directed by first-timers Jonathan Milott and Cary Murnion, it turns out to be a fairly standard horror-comedy with an uneven execution and a script that needed revision. When you see little girls on a playground using someone's intestines as a jump rope, you think: That kind of macabre brilliance should be the rule in a movie like this, not the exception.

It sure starts out well, though, with a graphic, up-close depiction of an infected chicken nugget being made, beginning with the death of the chicken and ending with a grade-schooler biting into the oozing product. This sequence may put you off chicken nuggets forever, assuming the nuggets themselves have not already done so.

The setting is an elementary school, where a would-be horror novelist named Clint (Elijah



When a cafeteria food virus turns elementary school children into killer zombies, a group of misfit teachers must band together to escape the playground carnage. The film stars Elijah Wood (*The Hobbit, Lord of the Rings*), Rainn Wilson (*"The Office"*), and Alison Pill (*"The Newsroom"*) as teachers who fight to survive the mayhem while hilariously bickering in an uncomfortable love triangle on the worst Monday of their lives. ©Lionsgate Premiere

Wood), having returned to his hometown after failing to make it big as a writer, is spending his first day as a substitute teacher. He is pleased to see an old friend, the chirpy Lucy (Alison Pill), as a fellow instructor, and dismayed to learn she's dating Wade (Rainn Wilson), the dumb, brutish gym coach. When the zombie outbreak happens—it's first manifested when a boy yanks an infected girl's pigtail and it breaks off from her scalp—Clint, Lucy, Wade, and the other adults must go through the usual steps to protect themselves, fight the monsters, and get to safety.

The tone is arch and satiric, often funny. Clint tries out several preposterous opening lines for his novel, which is about a demonic boat; there's a kid in his class named Patriot because

he was born on 9/11; there are laughs at the expense of public school bureaucracy and political correctness. Elijah Wood does well as the lone semi-normal person in the room, reacting to the others' quirkiness.

But except for the spacey health teacher (co-writer Whannell), whose scientific knowledge comes in handy later, most of the characters are extraneous and ill-defined: one teacher (Jack McBrayer) is very obviously gay but in denial about it, har har; another (Nasim Pedrad) is a shrill woman who introduces herself to Clint by preemptively mentioning she has a rape whistle, har har; out in the parking lot sits a fat guy (Jorge Garcia) in a van, taking psychedelic mushrooms and contributing nothing to the plot.

Milott and Murnion revel in the campy gore, daring us to laugh as we're being grossed out. That's a key component of a zombie comedy, and the directors get it. But another crucial element is exciting, creative, or memorable action sequences, and "Cooties" has none. We always dreamed that when we finally saw a horror comedy about cannibalistic child-monsters, it would be more fulfilling than this weak but enthusiastic entry.

*\*How's that for a partnership made in heaven?*

*\*\*These are the "28 Days Later" kind of zombies, by the way, not the "Night of the Living Dead" kind. We're not going to argue about whether or not they are technically "zombies" because we are grown ups.*

will propose her resolution at a public meeting Oct. 1.

"I have no desire to remove all Confederate statues and memorials," she wrote. "Pretending something never happened is not the answer. However, honoring a man who is best known for words that dehumanized an entire race is something I cannot abide."

Despite the city's efforts to remove the statue, there remain other tributes honoring Taney around the city including Taney Avenue, his grave and his house, which is a historical landmark.

This is where the mess of

drawing a distinction begins, Toomey said, like which Confederate-oriented statues should and should not be removed. Though he agrees with the decision to not fly the Confederate flag over government buildings, Toomey said, the monuments should remain in place.

"If anyone was a slaveowner ... you would have to take down the Washington Monument, the Jefferson Memorial and blow a path through Mount Rushmore or change the name of the capitol," Toomey said. "Where does it stop?"

Other counties, including Talbot County, are reconsider-

ing statues and memorials in public places. Corey Pack, Talbot County's council president, said officials will discuss the Confederate-honoring, privately funded 'Talbot Boys' statue in front of Easton's courthouse next week at a meeting.

One option includes adding a second statue to the lawn, to honor the Union soldiers from the county, Pack said.

"We are going to talk about what the next step looks like and what the next step should be," Pack said. "We are moving and we are trying not to be stagnant during this time."

## The Edge of Sports by DAVE ZIRIN

### Why Boston Was Compelled to Pull Its 2024 Olympic Bid



*"What we do matters." "We are many, they are few." "The squeaky wheel gets the grease."*

These phrases are what people trying to effect change often say quietly to avoid slouching into despair. Today, they are what crews of Bostonians are singing to one another over rowdy, joyous toasts, confident that their actions just beat back the most powerful plutocrats in town. Make no mistake about it: The 2024 Summer Olympics were on a runaway freight train toward Boston until serious groups of committed citizens got in the way. Local sports legends like Larry Bird and David Ortiz were part of the 30-person ceremonial board of directors preaching that the Olympics would be all financial boom and patriotic pageantry. The powerful—and less telegenic—brokers behind them had the money, the media, and the mayor. But they did not have the people, and that made all the difference.

Do not listen to the city's embarrassing mayor, Marty Walsh, who is trying to pose as if the bid was pulled because he stood up and refused to sign a document this week "that puts one dollar of taxpayer money on the line for one penny of overruns on the Olympics." His hurried spin is so amateurish, it seems to have been diagrammed with scented Magic Markers. Walsh has been an Olympic booster from day one, and taxpayers' picking up the tab on Olympic spending has been a standard part of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) hosting agreements since before Jesse Owens was in diapers. In a slapdash press conference, Walsh tried to get in front of the collapse of his city's bid by saying that, as much as he loves the Olympics, they are not "worth handing over the financial future of our City and our citizens were rightly hesitant to be supportive as a result."

They became "rightly hesitant" just hours after Walsh derided Olympic adversaries by saying, "The opposition for the most part is about 10 people on Twitter." This actually sparked the hashtag trend #10PeopleOnTwitter, as masses of people mocked the idea that those concerned about the debt, displacement, and militarization of public space brought by the Olympic games were only a minuscule minority. As local activist Kade Crockford tweeted, "Honestly the city of Boston deserves an apology from this mayor for how he tried to force the Olympics on us."

United States Olympic Committee CEO Scott Blackmun told a far more accurate truth when he said that the Boston 2024 committee lacked the "public support necessary to win the bid and deliver a great games."

This absence of "public support necessary" did not happen by accident. It was built because ordinary folks took time out from their lives and fought with a desperate love for their city. By the time they had finished hosting educational panels, attending neighborhood meetings, passing petitions, and filing freedom-of-information requests; by the time they were done enduring the snarky mockery of "columnists as well as a mayor more interested in the city's construction and security interests, polls had opposition to the Olympics stubbornly over 50 percent and not budging.

There were two coalitions working against the Olympic bid: No Boston 2024 and No Boston Olympics. They were different people with different tactics, but they shared both goals and a willingness to operate in concert with one another.

I contacted Robin Jacks, who was a member of the No Boston 2024 activist group, and asked why she believed they won. She said, "They knew public support wasn't going anywhere. They had no way to get support up; they had zero grassroots organizing or social media presence, but we were pretty solid in that department. Every time they disseminated a lie, we were able to knock it down."

Another No Boston 2024 activist, Jonathan Cohn, said to me that the bid was undermined by the committee's "complete lack of understanding of the media landscape in the 21st century."

"They seemed to believe that if they could win over the editorial board, they would be able to shape the public discourse," he said. "That may have been the case in 1995 but not in 2015. Social media offered activists a way of not only connecting with each other but also easily and quickly debunking Boston 2024's lies spoken at City Council hearings, press conferences, dog-and-pony show community meetings, etc. You didn't have to read the story about what happened the next day; you could engage with it as it happens."

I also reached out to Chris Dempsey of the No Boston Olympics coalition. He said, "We were outspent more than 1,000 to 1, but fortunately the people of Massachusetts know how to weigh pros and cons, not just listen to the people with the bigger megaphone. The IOC's auction

#### Memorials from A5

In 2008, Frederick officials compromised with Taney opponents and added a plaque to the bust stating that the Dred Scott decision "revealed the content of established racism in our law and in our thinking."

Frederick Mayor Randy McClement stated the fabrication, design and installation of the plaque cost the city \$20,000 and estimated that moving the bust could cost around \$10,000, according to McClement's press secretary.

In her third attempt to remove the bust, Kuzemchak wrote, she

## You Can Be an Everyday Hero in the Fight Against Suicide.

Partner with us as an event sponsor for the  
2015 Prince George's County **FIRST Out of the Darkness Walk**  
October 17, 2015  
at Rosaryville State Park Upper Marlboro, Maryland  
7805 W. Marlton Avenue in Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

Why support the FIRST Prince George's County Out of the Darkness Walk?

Every year suicide claims more lives than war, murder, and natural disasters combined. It is estimated that 85% of people in the United States alone will know someone who has died by suicide, and that one out of every five of those losses will be a close friend or relative.

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention leads the fight against suicide.

Funds raised from The Out of the Darkness Walks allows to fully achieve its mission.

We have several 2015 sponsorship opportunities and benefits. You can also consider giving a monetary donation, creating a team, or being a virtual walker. We also have several volunteer opportunities to set-up: registration, breakdown, and cheerleader team to encourage the walker.

For more information, please contact:

Alnicia Gibson at 240-424-7123 or email us at: [blessed2begifted@gmail.com](mailto:blessed2begifted@gmail.com)



# Calendar of Events

September 24 — September 30, 2015

## Xtreme Teens: Movie Night

Date and Time: Friday, September 25, 2015, 7-10 pm  
Description: Join us for movie night! The popcorn will be popping and teens will have an excellent selection of films to choose from. If you'd like to select the film, come early.  
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID  
Ages: 10-17  
Location: Beltsville Community Center  
3900 Sellman RD, Beltsville, 20705  
Contact: 301-937-6613; TTY 301-699-2544

## César Orozco Concert

Date and Time: Friday, September 25, 2015, 8 pm  
Description: Cubadisco award-winning pianist César Orozco sets the stage on fire with exuberant Latin rhythms. His music fuses jazz with Cuban and Venezuelan musical styles in unexpected ways that fans in North and South America find irresistible. Returns on Sunday, September 27th at 2 pm for his Jazz Talk.  
Cost: \$25/person; 10% discount for Montpelier members & seniors  
Ages: All ages welcome  
Location: Montpelier Arts Center  
9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708  
Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

## The Lightning Thief

Date & Time: Friday, September 25, 2015, 10:15 & 12 noon  
Description: Characters from Percy Jackson's Greek mythology textbook come to life as Percy tries to find Zeus' stolen lightning bolt, they settle a conflict on Mount Olympus and solve the riddle of the Oracle. Curriculum connections: Communication and Language Arts, Literature-Based, Music, Relationships and Family, Social Studies.  
Cost: \$8/person  
Ages: Grades 2-6  
Location: Publick Playhouse Cultural Arts Center  
5445 Landover Road, Landover 20784  
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

## Fighting for Freedom:

**African American Participation in the War of 1812**  
Date and Time: Saturday, September 26, 2015, 1-2 pm  
Description: Learn about the participation and stories of African Americans, who fought with the American and British troops during the War of 1812. We'll also discuss the opportunities provided to runaway slaves who joined the British to be granted freedom in Canada.  
Cost: Free  
Ages: All ages welcome  
Location: Bladensburg Waterfront Park  
4601 Annapolis Rd, Bladensburg, MD 20710  
Contact: 301-779-0371; TTY 301-699-2544

## Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day Live!

Date and Time: Saturday, September 26, 12 noon-3 pm  
Description: Riversdale is joining museums across the country and opening its doors for FREE tours during this annual event hosted by Smithsonian Media. Find out more and print your required ticket at smithsonianmag.com/museumday  
Ages: All ages welcome  
Location: Riversdale House Museum  
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park 20737  
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

## College Park Day

Date and Time: Saturday, September 26, 2015, 11 am-3 pm  
Description: Come to College Park Day at 5100 Paint Branch Parkway! Enjoy a lunch of savory delights from around the globe. Visit Artists Alley, featuring handmade creations of local artisans and craftsmen. Pop into the museum's booth to pick up a scavenger hunt that will lead you to the museum for a prize!  
Cost: FREE  
Ages: All Ages  
Location: 5100 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, MD 20740  
Contact: 301-864-6029, TTY 301-699-2544

## Xtreme Teens: Dance Revolution

Date and Time: Saturday, September 26, 2015, 7-10 pm  
Description: Bring a friend and hit the dance floor for a night of dancing! Featured activities include playing the Michael Jackson Just Dance game on the Wii or on Xbox.  
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID  
Ages: 10-17  
Location: Beltsville Community Center  
3900 Sellman Rd, Beltsville, 20705  
Contact: 301-937-6613; TTY 301-699-2544

## Tribute to the Music of Motown by the BRENCORE ALLSTARS

Date & Time: Saturday, September 26, 2015, 8-10 pm  
Description: Don't miss this great night of live entertainment featuring the biggest Motown hits in a series of medleys and powerhouse songs that will have you singing and dancing to your favorites all night long.  
Cost: \$30/person (general admission)  
\$25/person (students, seniors or groups of 20 or more)  
Ages: All ages welcome  
Location: Publick Playhouse Cultural Arts Center  
5445 Landover Road, Landover 20784  
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

## Seasonal Selections: Apples, Peaches, Pumpkin Pies

Date and Time: Sunday, September 27, 2015, 12 noon-3:30 pm  
Description: Stop by to watch the Kitchen Guild demonstrate 19th century foodways using seasonal produce from the gardens and orchard. Today's recipes will feature American fruits used in a variety of sweet & savory dishes.  
Cost: FREE; regular fee for house tours  
Ages: All ages welcome  
Location: Riversdale House Museum  
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park 20737  
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

# EARTH TALK ... How Can Drones Help Environmentasts?

Dear EarthTalk:

How are environmentalists putting drones to use to help further their causes?

— Joe Martin,  
Baltimore, MD

Conservationists are utilizing drone or "unmanned aerial systems" (UAS) technology to gather highly detailed imagery and other environmental data that is traditionally challenging to obtain. Wildlife biologist John Takekawa and his team at the U.S. Geological Survey's Western Ecological Research Center (WERC), for example, are using drones to obtain aerial images of San Francisco Bay marshlands.

"It's very hard to get some of the data sets in some of these areas that are remote or hard to reach in the marshes," Takekawa explains. "If you have something that can fly over and get sensors that can report back to your computer, that's what we're looking for in exploring these types of technologies."

Dr. Amy Woodget, a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Worcester in the UK, uses her small Draganflyer X6 UAS to collect high-resolution imagery of river channels. The images map the physical conditions within the rivers, including the channel topography, water depth and surface flow patterns, data all crucial for gauging river health and habitat



CREDIT: EARTHTALK

**Environmentalists are increasingly putting drone technology to work to further their conservation and related causes.**

conditions essential to the survival of local wildlife.

"The results obtained using UAS technologies provide unprecedented levels of detail concerning these physical river habitat parameters, with high levels of accuracy and precision," Woodget says.

Drones are also helping preserve the Peruvian Amazon forest, where illegal gold mining and logging has cleared mahogany, Spanish cedar and other old-growth trees. Carlos Castaneda, coordinator of the Amazon Basin Conservation Association's Los Amigos Conservation Concession, monitors the 550-square-mile Los Amigos reserve in southeastern Peru, home to a large diversity of plant and animal species, including palm swamps, bamboo

thickets, giant otters, harpy eagles, spider monkeys and jaguars. Small drones weighing less than five pounds enable detection of any deforestation within the area.

Considering that more and more drones are being launched for conservation research, Linda Rothschild, an evolutionary biologist at NASA's Ames Research Center, was concerned when she found out that UAVs sometimes get lost in coral reefs or other sensitive habitats. "As I started to hear about this, I thought, 'Well, wouldn't it be useful if the UAV was biodegradable, so if it crashed somewhere that was sensitive, it wouldn't matter if it dissolved,'" Rothschild says.

So Rothschild created a biodegradable drone with a team

of students in the 2014 International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) competition. The team's prototype took its first short flight in November 2014 at the iGEM competition in Boston. The drone, which resembles a cardboard cup holder, is made primarily of mycelium grown by New York-based Eco-vative Design. The team grew cellulose leather-like sheets to coat the mycelium body and then covered the sheets with proteins sourced from the saliva of paper wasps—a water resistant material that the insects use to cover their nests. The biodegradable drone body is certainly a step forward, though the drone still uses a standard battery, motor and propellers.

Rothschild's dream is to make a UAV where every part is made with something biodegradable, but for now, she says, "realistically, this is going to be much more of a hybrid vehicle."

**CONTACTS:** WERC, [www.werc.usgs.gov](http://www.werc.usgs.gov); Los Amigos Conservation Concession, [www.amazonconservation.org/ourwork/conservation.html](http://www.amazonconservation.org/ourwork/conservation.html); iGEM, [www.igem.org](http://www.igem.org).

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([www.emagazine.com](http://www.emagazine.com)).

**Send questions to:** [earthtalk@emagazine.com](mailto:earthtalk@emagazine.com).

## Clean Up from A1

Center, Keep Prince George's County Beautiful, Prince George's County Public Schools and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission to keep Prince George's County clean and green."

The registration deadline for participation in the 'Clean Up

Green Up,' was Friday, September 18, 2015. For registered participants, The Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) will provide plastic gloves, trash bags, safety vests, and a maximum of ten bags of mulch and litter grabbers for the 'Clean Up Green Up.' Supplies and mulch will be available for pick up at the Maintenance Facility lo-

cated at 8400 D'Arcy Road in Forestville on Wednesday, October 14 between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. and on Thursday, October 15 and Friday, October 16 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. If residents did not have the opportunity to register for this event they should call (301) 499-8523, for supplies are limited.

Students who participate in the 'Clean Up Green Up' will

receive community service credits. Verification forms for community service are available at the schools.

If you have any questions or need more information, please call DPW&T's Office of Highway Maintenance at 301-499-8523 or e-mail Samantha Vannaseng at [SVannaseng@co.pg.md.us](mailto:SVannaseng@co.pg.md.us).

## Boston from A6

process leads to bad outcomes for cities. They are trying to impose a 19th-century business model on 21st-century cities like Boston. People here realized they'd be better off passing on the boosters' deal."

This is an absolute victory for the people of Boston. It is

particularly critical for those who would have been most likely to suffer under the weight of a massive police and military presence in the city. But it is also a very positive development for everyone who loves Olympic sports. The IOC is going to change its methods of extortion only when city after city across the globe say

"hell no" to its outlandish demands, always conjoined with the economic prerogatives of local business titans and the politicians they grease. Bostonians should be proud. Their city has now joined Kraków and Oslo among those who have sent the IOC packing. Now it's the turn of Los Angeles, Toronto, Budapest, Ham-

burg, Paris, and Rome, all in the running for 2024, to add their names to this list. Thank you, Boston, for saving your city and rebuffing those who would ruthlessly exploit what we love about sports and remake our cities into unrecognizable dystopian theme parks.

# National Black Nurses Association and Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments Call for Strong Public Health Protections

By PRESS OFFICER  
IRMEDIA LLC

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Clean Power Plan will be finalized this summer, setting the first ever federal limits on dangerous carbon pollution from existing power plants. This week at the National Black Nurses Association annual conference, nurses from across the

country discussed the urgent need to protect our communities from dangerous carbon pollution.

In anticipation of these landmark public health and clean air safeguards, the National Black Nurses Association and the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments have released the following statement of support:

"Climate change is a clear and present danger to public health

that we cannot afford to ignore. As health professionals, we see firsthand the impact climate change has on public health. Unchecked climate change increases asthma attacks and respiratory disease, resulting in thousands of premature and preventable deaths every year. This is especially the case within communities of color and low-income families, where the impacts

are most disproportionately felt. It is imperative that we help those least equipped to mitigate the devastating effects of climate change and work to make our environment cleaner and safer for generations to come. The Clean Power Plan will cut dangerous carbon pollution being dumped into our air and is an essential step toward protecting the health of our patients and our communities."

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BUILDS GREEN**

The U.S. Department of Energy defines a net-zero energy home as one that uses 60-70% less energy than a conventional home, with the balance of its energy needs supplied by renewable technologies.

The Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County (RDA) has completed the renovation of the County's first Net-Zero Energy house in Suitland. This one-of-a-kind, 100 year-old home is designed to provide superior energy savings, water efficiency and a healthy living environment.

The home, located at 3413 Glenn Drive in Suitland meets Energy Star and LEED Platinum Standards and has been selected as a 2015 Green Build Offsite Educational Tour Site by the Green Build International Conference and Expo. For more information, visit [www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/RedevelopmentAuthority/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/RedevelopmentAuthority/Pages/default.aspx)

Robert I. Baker, III  
County Executive

Prince George's County Secretary and Executive Director of the Department of the Executive, Redevelopment Authority and Division Central Services is pleased to announce the completion of this project and its contribution to our county's future.