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Blind mother Melissa Riccobono attaches bells to her 3-year-old daughter's shoes when they go to crowded public places.

Under New Legislation, Proof of Child-Care Abilities Shifts for Blind Parents

By LEO TRAUB
Capital News Service

BALTIMORE, MD—At just past 11 a.m. on a Thursday, Melissa Riccobono sits at her computer while her 3-year-old daughter, Elizabeth, plays on the floor next to her with a pillow and some toys.

Using a Focus 14 Blue keyboard with Braille display and

text-to-speech readout, Riccobono scrolls through her contacts, searching for a friend's email address. Suddenly, seemingly unprompted, she turns to her daughter and says, "Elizabeth, I think your bus is here."

Sure enough, idling in the street outside their Baltimore home is a big yellow bus, waiting to take Elizabeth

to a city nursery school for blind children.

Reluctantly, Elizabeth finishes her game and stands up. Riccobono helps her daughter into her coat and school backpack, and the pair move to the front door, collecting their long white canes from the umbrella stand in the corner.

The rumbling sound of the bus was subtle, nearly imper-

ceptible. Did Riccobono, a woman blind since birth, use some sort of superhero-like heightened sense to hear it pull up outside?

Sensitive though Riccobono's hearing might be, she is a parent, and at just past 11 a.m. on Thursdays, she

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Upper Marlboro Resident Receives Academic Award at King's College Commencement

By Press Officer
Kings College

WILKES-BARRE, PA—Miranda Spangler, a resident of Upper Marlboro, Md., received The John T. Stapleton Memorial Award for Accounting at the 67th annual Commencement exercises of King's College, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Spangler graduated with summa cum laude honors and received a bachelor's of science business administration degree in accounting.



PHOTO COURTESY KINGS COLLEGE
Miranda Spangler

County Executive Baker Announces Next Phase of the Prince George's County Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI)

By Press Officer
PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Yesterday, at the newly renovated Palmer Park Community Center, Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, announced the next phase of the Prince George's County Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI)—County Executive Baker's signature community based initiative. Launched in April 2012, TNI has received national recognition, grants and awards for its innovative approach to local governance and community engagement.

"When we launched TNI, we had a vision to uplift communities and the people who live in them," said County Executive Baker. "TNI has always been about the people who make our neighborhoods great. And from the very beginning, we knew that if we could help people trust the government, learn how to navigate services, resolve issues and advocate for what they need and want - a transformed neighborhood would be inevitable."

County Executive Baker announced the following

See TNI Page A3

Board of Education Approves \$1.93 Billion Budget for FY17

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George's County Board of Education has approved an FY2017 operating budget of \$1,931,360,100. It represents an \$89.8 million increase—approximately 4.9 percent—over the FY2016 revised budget.

Revenue for the FY2017 budget includes \$1.09 billion from the state, an increase of \$48.9 million, and \$698.3 million from the county, an increase of \$29.0 million. Also included is \$96.5 million from the federal government, \$13.4 million from Board sources, and \$31.5 million from prior year fund balance.

"As the Board finalized this budget we had to make difficult, but important, choices that will continue to move our school system forward and improve student outcomes," said Dr. Segun C. Eubanks, Board of Education Chair. "We are committed to using the resources entrusted to us wisely and effectively, and will continue to demonstrate how additional investment in educa-

tion will benefit every citizen in our county."

"We are making great strides in the implementation of our strategic plan, though funding remains below the levels required for optimal increases in student achievement," said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer. "This budget continues those efforts, by focusing funding on priorities of the Board of Education and the administration: literacy and numeracy efforts across all schools; focusing on our lowest performing; early childhood learning by expanding full-day prekindergarten; our first Parent University aimed at increasing parent involvement in the education of their children; and providing funding for salary enhancements for all staff."

As budgets continue to be very tight, many new or expanded programs will be impacted. This includes: teachers to reduce class size; college and career academies; classroom materials in student based budgeting; athletic trainers to cover all sports; second shift mainte-

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EDC Launches Partnership With Major Real Estate Management Company to Attract and Retain Metro Area Businesses

Coleman Tells BECO Clients "You are One Connection Away from Being a Millionaire!"

By LORI VALENTINE
PGCEDC

LANHAM, MD—Over 50 top executives from small and mid-sized companies that lease space from BECO Management, came out to BECO Park in Lanham this morning to get expert advice about the types of resources that are available to expand their businesses in Prince George's County. Economic Development Corporation (EDC) President and CEO Jim Coleman, along with Team EDC and partners Roland Jones, Director, Prince George's County Office of Central Services and Stewart Smith, Business Development Manager, FSC First shared information about the millions of dollars in procurement opportunities and resources available to help Prince George's County businesses thrive and create jobs for County residents. They also encouraged companies to take advantage of the EDC's networking and matchmaking



PHOTO COURTESY LORI VALENTINE
EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman with BECO Management Clients at Speakers Forum.

opportunities that can result in high growth for their business and generational wealth for their families.

"You are one connection away from being a millionaire!" said Coleman. "I want each one of you to be successful and wealthy in this County. And I

also want you to be responsible for putting other County residents to work in high wage jobs. Small businesses like you are hiring the most. This County is built on you and your investment in your business. There's no reason that every one of you shouldn't be a millionaire."

BECO Management, a commercial property management company with offices in Lanham, Rockville, Northern Virginia, Owings Mills, North Carolina and Illinois, invited the

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INSIDE

Keep Your Home Safe While on Vacation and Be Aware the Highest Percentage of Burglaries Occur During the Summer Months

Most residential burglaries transpire in the summer months and about 60 percent of those break-ins occur in broad daylight, that is to say in the daytime when the occupants are at work or away.

Community, Page A3

Inaction Cannot Be an Option

Inaction is not an option. In the wake of the worst mass shooting in American history we can and must do everything in our power to end this scourge of terror, hate and bullets that fly across our land killing and maiming and breaking hearts and traumatizing communities with ever increasing frequency.

Commentary, Page A4

EDC Partnership With State Commerce Department Draws New Business to County

As business development opportunities continue to arise, the County can expect to see more projects from industry sectors such as healthcare, information technology, bio-technology, R&D and manufacturing and high-end retail and transit.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising

Again directed by Nicholas Stoller, with returning screenwriters Andrew Jay Cohen and Brendan O'Brien sharing credit with Stoller, Seth Rogen, and Evan Goldberg, the film finds Mac (Seth Rogen) and Kelly (Rose Byrne) preparing for a second child and selling their home.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Have any wildlife species gone extinct already as a result of global warming, and which are most at risk moving forward?

—Melissa Zwicker,
Bern, NC

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Debby Wood, Reading Recovery teacher for Prince George's 1st-graders, dies at 65

Deborah Wood, 65, a teacher in the Prince George's County Schools for 42 years, died May 26 at her home in Camp Springs.

Debby was born in Lawrence, Mass., daughter of Floyd and Marian Traynham. She graduated from Oakton High School, in Vienna, Va., and the University of Georgia and began her long, dedicated teaching career in Prince George's County.

About 150 teachers turned out for Debby's memorial service at St. Philip's Church on June 23. In her eulogy, Mary Hendley recounted how she and Debby started their careers at North Forestville Elementary. Debbie taught 6th. But the next year, to her delight, she moved to the 2nd grade.

Her greatest interest was teaching children to read. In 2002 she began to work with Reading Recovery, a highly effective short-term intervention of one-to-one tutoring for low-achieving first graders. In recent years she became a Teacher Leader, helping teachers to use Reading Recovery. Over her 42 years with Prince George's Schools, she taught at several schools, including Tayac and Pointer Ridge. Her last school was Doswell E. Brooks in Capitol Heights. At the same time, she worked with the Instructional Support Services Center, also in Capitol Heights.

The Governor named her a Beloved Marylander and one year she was named Teacher of the Year. A scholarship fund has been established in Debby's name at the Reading Recovery Council of North America (R.R.C.N.A.).

Debby Wood was a member of the D.A.R.

Tiffany Garner and Kathryn Hardman also paid beautiful tribute to Debby at the memorial Mass celebrated by Fathers Edward Hegnauer and Bernard Ihrie. Father Michael Quill, who married Debby and Terry some years ago on New Year's Eve, gave a beautiful homily.

Survivors include her husband Terrence, sisters Vicci Williams (Larry) and Lee Shattuck (John), and the teachers and 1st graders of Prince George's County Schools.

People

Mocile Trotter, president of the Crowne Meadows Homeowners Association, phoned to fill me in on a new motel that has been okayed, "with restrictions," on Suitland Road at Regency Parkway, near Crowne Meadows. There was a meeting of concerned residents at a nearby church on June 30. More about this in a future column.

Valerie McDonald, of Skyline, has just graduated from American University with a master's in Arts Management. Her undergraduate degree was from North Carolina State.

Harry Fleming, a longtime Skyline Drive resident, celebrated his 97th birthday on May 13 at an assisted-living home. Harry, who lived across the street from me, had been for many years a cab diver in Washington. As he told me, he knew every inch of the city.

The annual Morningside Reunion at Douglas Patterson Park on May 14 drew the usual crowd of nostalgic Morningsiders. Among them, Jean Nichols and lots of the Nichols family who had a great time. I told her to let me know earlier next year. I might wander up there and see if I know anyone.

Coming up

The National Museum of African American History and Culture is formally opening on Sept. 24 when President Obama cuts the ribbon.

MGM Resorts International is due to open Dec. 8. In the meantime, MGM will be hiring employees for more than 100 job classifications beginning this month. The Employment Center is housed in the former Thomas Addison Elementary at 7100 Oxon Hill Road. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

"If you visit Camp Springs Field ...

...wear your walking shoes." That's what Jo Bernard McDonnell advises in the May 31, 1943 *Washington Daily News*. He reports that shovels and scoops and bulldozers are tearing down hills and filling in hollows.

The 131-foot control tower is made entirely of wood, bolted together. There is a moderate-sized hangar and a couple of small buildings scattered about. "Some dirt roads apparently meander thru the woods and here and there you can pick out an old farm house." The field covers nearly seven and a half square miles, off Marlboro Road and takes its name from the town of Camp Springs.

"Forces and facilities generally are so scattered," McDonnell writes, "that an enemy probably couldn't put the field entirely out of commission. The plan was born of bitter experience—Pearl Harbor."

To be continued.

May they rest in peace

Edwin Gwynn "Doc" Mudd, a manager for Hunt Funeral Home in Waldorf for 47 years, died June 23, two days after he turned 91. He was born and grew up in Waldorf, son of Raymond and Eugenia (Brent) Mudd. He had a twin, the late Brent Mudd, and four other siblings: Raymond, Reginald, Paul and Amelia. He served in the Army in the '50s, was a charter member of the Waldorf Fire Department and a lifetime member of the Knights of Columbus. Survivors include his wife Theresa; daughters Beverley Wareham and Robin Magnelli, five grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. Doc is my 2nd cousin, once removed, and the uncle of my son-in-law John Mudd.

David H. Hurlley, 72, a 1962 graduate of Oxon Hill High School, died June 9 in Leonardtown. He was retired from the National Science Foundation. Survivors include his wife of 48 years, Phyllis, two children, two grandchildren and two brothers,

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Neighborhoods

Edwards Statement on Energy-Related Sense of Congress Resolutions

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) released the following statement after voting against H.Con.Res. 89, a resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be detrimental to the United States economy, and H.Con.Res. 112, a resolution expressing the sense of Congress opposing the President's proposed \$10 tax on every barrel of oil. H.Con.Res. 89 passed the House by a vote of 237-163 and H.Con.Res. 112 passed the House by a vote of 253-144.

"Carbon taxes are a way to address climate change and hold businesses accountable for putting pollution into our air," said Congresswoman Edwards. They help to offset the negative environmental effects of carbon emissions from fossil fuels into our air. Rather than being detrimental, carbon taxes can create space for businesses to invest in clean technologies and they can fund improvements to public transit infrastructure and public education. We must use every tool available to rein in emissions and protect our environment, and there is a growing consensus that carbon taxes are the most efficient way to do that."

"H.Con.Res. 112 also attempts to vilify a proposal put forward by the President as a potential way to address the dire state of our national transportation infrastructure. Unlike the carbon tax, the \$10 tax per barrel of oil would solely finance new investments in our country's infrastructure."

"In order to save our natural resources, we must use strategic techniques to solve the depletion of our natural resources. Only then can we begin to transition to clean energy sources that will improve the environment and public health of our nation."

WSSC Earns ASCE Project of the Year Award

National Capital Section Selects Bi-County Water Tunnel Project

LAUREL, MD—WSSC's Bi-County Water Tunnel Project has been selected as Project of the Year by American Society of Civil Engineers' (ASCE) National Capital Section. The ten-year project culminated when the pipeline went into service in March 2015 and was constructed to meet the future water requirements for both Montgomery and Prince George's counties resulting from economic development and growth.

"The Bi-County Water Tunnel Project is an example of fantastic engineering and the critical role it plays in everyday life. It is also a testament to the importance of infrastructure investment as well as our Capital Improvements Program," said Carla A. Reid, WSSC GM/CEO.

John Mitchell, P.E. and Project Manager for the Bi-County Water Tunnel project, accepted the award this afternoon on behalf of WSSC. Mitchell led the project from the planning stage in 2004 through detailed design and finally con-



Congresswoman
Donna F. Edwards

struction completion in 2015. Mitchell has nearly 30 years of Project Management experience with WSSC.

The Bi-County Water Tunnel houses a 5.3 mile water pipeline with a capacity to deliver 100 million gallons of water per day to Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland.

It is 84 inches in diameter and 200 feet underground. The Project experienced several engineering and logistical challenges throughout the planning, design and construction phases. Conceptualized in the 1960s, the new pipeline will meet the future water requirements and economic development needs for many years to come.

For details of this current project, visit the website at www.wsscwater.com/tunnel

Established in 1918, today WSSC is among the largest water and wastewater utilities in the nation. We proudly serve the 1.8 million residents of Prince George's and Montgomery counties, providing life's most precious resource. WSSC drinking water has always met or exceeded federal standards.

MGM National Harbor Welcomes Pappas Crabcakes and Shake Shack Acclaimed Culinary Brands Bring Fun, Flavorful Dining to the Resort

NATIONAL HARBOR, MD—MGM National Harbor has announced that renowned Maryland-based Pappas Crabcakes and Danny Meyer's Shake Shack will join MGM National Harbor, the resort's casual food market experience. The two beloved brands will bring first-in-class hospitality and signature, mouth-watering cuisine to the Market's collection of new culinary concepts.

"Pappas and Shake Shack are fan favorites—from the DMV region to locations around the world," said MGM National Harbor General Manager Bill Boasberg. "It is clear that guests who visit their restaurants have a loyalty to the product and an appreciation for each company's commitment to great customer service—two qualities we hold in high regard. Both concepts are sure to deliver the delicious food and engaging guest experience for which they are known."

Pappas Crabcakes

Featured on Food Network and listed as one of "Oprah's Favorite Things" in *O magazine*, Pappas Crabcakes needs no introduction. Founder Mark Pappas created the famed concept in 1972 when he purchased a

restaurant with the vision of offering quality food at fair prices, along with a promise to provide outstanding customer service to all. His vision remained strong and over the years Pappas has delighted patrons, earning the company a strong reputation for consistently serving fresh seafood dishes. More than 40 years later, the family-owned operation has expanded to offer catering, delivery and restaurant experiences, allowing fans from across the country to enjoy the renowned, award-winning crab cakes at their convenience.

So what's in the yummy crab cakes? The scrumptious seafood delicacy is made from an old family recipe that has been passed down through the Pappas' generations. Combined with the finest colossal lump crab meat available and a secret blend of ingredients, these divine crab cakes can be enjoyed at any time of day or night. It's no wonder this fine seafood establishment has received "Best Crab Cake" recognition from *Baltimore City Paper*, *Maryland Life Magazine* and *Baltimore Magazine*.

Pappas said, "It is a dream come true to open Pappas at this prestigious resort. We are overwhelmed by the opportunity to share our famous crab cakes with visitors from all over the world, in addition to catering to our fans in Maryland and the surrounding regions that have been with us for decades. This is a very special moment in our company's history and we'd like to thank MGM National Harbor for this wonderful partnership."

Pappas menu at MGM National Harbor will offer signature crab cake specialties in addition to homemade soups, sandwiches and sides.

Shake Shack

Founded by legendary restaurateur Danny Meyer, Shake Shack is a critically acclaimed, modern day "roadside" burger stand known for its 100% all-natural Angus beef burgers and flat-top Vienna beef dogs (no added hormones and no antibiotics ever), 100% all-natural cage-free chicken (no antibiotics ever), spun-fresh frozen custard, crinkle cut fries, craft beer and wine (available at select locations) and more. A fun and lively community gathering place with widespread appeal, Shake Shack has earned a cult-like following around the world.

Shake Shack CEO Randy Garutti said, "MGM National Harbor is an ideal destination for Shake Shack. The elevated culinary program the resort is bringing to the region is a new movement we're excited to take part in. Guests will experience Shake Shack's signature favorites along with menu items that are exclusive to this location."

MGM National Harbor guests will enjoy all the Shake Shack classics including the ShackBurger, SmokeShack, "Shroom Burger, Chick'n Shack, Shack-cago Dog, crinkle cut fries, shakes, frozen custard and more.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

LINE DANCE

St. Philip's Church will offer line dancing on Fridays, July 8, July 22, August 5, and August 19, 2016 from 7:00 PM-9:00 PM. Cost is \$3.00. Their address is 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613-8426. Telephone number is 301-888-1536.

NOTTINGHAM MYERS CHURCH

You can no longer access Nottingham Myers Church from Baden Naylor Road due to a tree falling on the bridge at Brooks Church Road. You must access Brooks Church Road from Croom Road (382). Call the church office if you need more information at 301-888-2171.

NURSES

RECRUITMENT FAIR

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) will host a Nurses Recruitment Fair on Thursday, July 14 from 1-6 PM at Green Valley Administration Offices, located at 2215 Chadwick Street, Temple Hills, Maryland 20748. Interested candidates must pre-register for this event. Visit Prince George's County Public Schools website for more information.

CASINO TIME

'CASINO TIME' to Delaware Park Raceway and Casino Wilmington DE Saturday, August 13, 2016. Bus will leave St. Philip's Episcopal Church at 8:30 AM and Clinton Park-N-Ride, Clinton, Maryland at 9:00 AM and return at approximately 6:30 PM. Fun package includes a \$30.00 rebate, 50/50 raffle, music, movies and light refreshments on the bus. All tickets must be purchased by August 1, 2016. Donation is \$40.00. Absolutely no refunds. Benefit: Peter A. Gross Sr., Scholarship/Memorial Fund. For tickets contact Shirley A. Cleaves (302) 690-4260, Ruby E. Hinnant (301) 627-1235, Michele K. Chase (301) 888-2510, or Vivian G. Rich 804-301-9530.

TERP DISCOVERY

The summer of 2016 is a great opportunity for seventh and eighth grade students to participate in the exciting two-week summer program, Terp Discovery from July 17-July 29, 2016. Students will be able to attend courses taught by UMD faculty, acquire new skills and knowledge, engage with new ideas. Students will be able to enjoy an early exploration of campus life at University of Maryland.

For more information, visit www.discovery.umd.edu

CONGRATULATIONS

Rev. Tony Love was elected to serve as Vice Chair of the national Black United Methodists for Church Renewal caucus. Rev. Love currently serves as coordinator of the Baltimore-Washington Conference caucus of BMCR and works in ministry as the conference Director of Vibrant Communities.

SUMMER YOUTH MUSIC CAMP

University of Maryland will offer a Summer Youth Music Camp. Band Camp is Sunday, July 24-Friday July 29. Choir, Orchestra and Piano Camp is Sunday, July 31-Friday, August 5. For more information, visit <http://www.music.umd.edu/community/summeractivities/summeryouthmusiccamp>.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Individuals at least 13 years old and groups can help with a one-day project with the Department of Parks and Recreation. Visit www.pgpr.com/volunteer.htm to see a list of volunteer opportunities and to sign up to volunteer.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

Homebuyer Education: The First Step to Buying a Home

How well do you really understand the homebuying process? Taking a qualified homebuying class will do more than teach you how to get a mortgage or pull together a down payment. It will help you determine the amount of home you can afford without endangering other lifetime financial goals.

If you think this training is just for first-timers, think again.

Real estate markets change, and so do homebuying environments. It is worth considering taking a class each time you're making a home purchase, especially if it has been a significant number of years between purchases. The homebuying class can keep you up to date on what you'll need to know this time around.

Where can you find these courses? Many private lenders offer their own training, but governments—local, state and federal—are the main source for instructional classes for homebuyers. In fact, on both the public and private side, these classes are often tied to special loans or funding assistance for the qualified.

Most homebuyer trainings are free—if you're asked to pay, get an explanation for what those costs cover.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides a list of approved state (<http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/buying/localbuying>) and local agencies (<http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/hcc/hcs.cfm>) that offer a range of homebuyer education options—some even help first-time buyers obtain grants and other financial assistance with their down payments. HUD has backed up this effort with additional funding (http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2016/HUDNo_16-022) this year.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and Department of Agriculture (USDA) also offer assistance and educational programs for qualified buyers. Meanwhile, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (<https://www.fanniemae.com/content/faq/homebuyer-education-policies-faqs.pdf>), the two government-sponsored agencies that keep mortgage funding flowing through our lending system, also support their own homebuyer education options. In fact, a 2013 Freddie Mac study (http://www.freddiemac.com/news/blog/robert_tsien/20130415_getting_better.html) indicated that pre-purchased financial counseling may cut the likelihood of a first-time homebuyer becoming seriously delinquent by nearly 30 percent.

Here are some of the major topics a thorough homebuying class should cover:

1. Homebuying readiness. Explore the general questions around a homebuying decision, such as why you want to settle in a particular area, how long you plan to stay, what kind of property you're considering and where you are in your career and lifestyle. You may also be asked to answer specific financial questions to support your thinking, which should not be shared with others. The best courses will help you determine answers to the big questions, such as whether you should buy a home or stick with renting.

2. Budgeting and credit. These courses will help you evaluate how you handle money. Do you have a budget? If not, do you know how to create one? Do you understand your credit rating and what goes into determining your score? If you have debt, how are your efforts going to pay it off? Essentially, what you don't know about spending and borrowing can limit your ability to buy a home.

3. Preapproval for mortgage financing. Navigate the nitty-gritty of the loan process—what a mortgage is, the various types of mortgages, how they work and what it takes to be preapproved for a mortgage. Pre-approval involves filling out a full mortgage application, typically with a fee to cover an extensive credit check as if you were actually buying a home. Pre-approval, unlike prequalification, allows a potential borrower to receive a loan commitment for a specific amount, which can grease the wheels in a potential purchase.

4. Knowing what you can afford. Analyze the above and consider the reality of what kind of property you can really afford to buy. Look at price limits and locations and ways to get more for your money, including specific local, state and federal borrowing programs (http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/topics/buying_a_home) you may qualify for. Buying your dream home can seem nice, but it can turn into a nightmare if you can't afford the home while living within your means.

5. Your home search. Determine how, when and where to shop for specific properties within the neighborhoods you are interested in and how to get the best overall deal for what you're buying.

6. What you'll need to close a home sale in your chosen community. Buying a home can also include an introduction to the specific regulatory and cost environment where you're planning to live. For example, your course should take you through such things as community-specific housing laws and zoning restrictions that could affect what you'll be investing in the property, property tax issues (particularly if an assessment is pending), your home titling (<http://www.bankrate.com/fin>



Keep Your Home Safe While on Vacation and Be Aware the Highest Percentage of Burglaries Occur During the Summer Months

By PRESS OFFICER
AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Whether you're jet-setting across the seas or taking a "stay-cation" nearby, AAA Mid-Atlantic has tips to make your vacation fun-filled and stress-free. Before heading off to that dream vacation, keep in mind summertime is also the peak season for home break-ins, warns AAA Mid-Atlantic. Experts say "in the rush to get ready for vacation, home security is often forgotten."

Most residential burglaries transpire in the summer months and about 60 percent of those break-ins occur in broad daylight, that is to say in the daytime when the occupants are at work or away. In fact, the summer months of July and August have the highest rates of residential burglaries, according to the Insurance Information Institute. Since burglars see vacations as an opportunity to target empty homes, it's important to take necessary precautions to enjoy your time away, advises AAA Insurance.

"Vacations require preparation and planning," said Kendall Bramble, and insurance agent with AAA Mid-Atlantic's retail office in downtown Washington, D.C. "Just as you ensure all your items are packed for a relaxing time away, it's also im-

portant to take steps to safeguard your home and keep your possessions safe."

It's the heartbreak of housebreaks. "In the United States, there is a burglary every 15 seconds, and in Virginia, 21,068 burglaries were reported across the commonwealth in 2014, according to the 2015 Crime in Virginia report from the Department of State Police. Curiously, 1,957 burglaries occurred in August only to be outpaced by 2,004 burglaries in December.

In Maryland, where the crime is classified as "breaking or entering," homes were the targets of 79 percent of the time during 2014. In fact, 22,296 residential (home) break-ins occur in the state that year, costing residents and homeowners \$47,201,313 in losses. Even so, 9,593 house-breaking capers occurred during the daytime from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M., while 4,980 cases occurred in the hours from 6 P.M. to 6 A.M., according to the 2014 Crime in Maryland report.

Washington D.C. experienced "more than 3,600 burglaries, last year," according to the Metropolitan Police Department (MPDC). Burglaries decreased six percent in the District of Columbia in 2014 compared to 2013. The District witnessed 3,375 burglaries in 2013 compared to 3,187 burglaries in the

city in 2014, according to the Metropolitan Police Department's 2014 annual report. Statistically, around 66 percent of all burglaries are residential (home) break-ins.

Tips to protect your home while you're away:

• **Lock up.** Dead-bolt window and door locks are the first line of defense to secure your home, since they can slow burglars down and may deter them entirely. Check with your insurance agent for a discount on these devices.

• **Use an alarm.** Invest in an effective burglar alarm that alerts the police, fire department and other emergency services. Check with your insurance agent for a discount on alarm systems.

• **Disconnect computers.** Make sure any personal information on your computer is difficult to access. Disconnect your electronic devices from the Internet to prevent hackers.

• **Keep your valuables locked and well-hidden.** Expensive jewelry, electronic devices and other valuables should be hidden from plain view and placed in safe lock boxes.

• **Make your home look inhabited.** Use timers to turn lights on and off. Temporarily stop newspaper deliveries and arrange to have your mail picked

up or held by the post office. An unkempt lawn is also an indicator to burglars that you are away; hire a lawn service to maintain your yard if you will be gone for an extended period of time.

• **Tell someone you trust.** Ask a dependable neighbor, friend or family to keep an eye on your home while you're away. Alerting the local police will also add a level of security.

• **Use discretion.** Avoid discussing your vacation plans in public places such as at the grocery store or at your local café. Although vacations are exciting, try not to post about it on social media; someone may see your posts and target your home while you're away.

• **Create a home inventory.** In the event that you do need to file a claim, preparing a home inventory of your possessions beforehand will help make the process easier.

• **Check your insurance policy.** In case you experience theft or damage to your property, ensure that you have the coverage you need.

To find out more about homeowners, condo, or renters insurance, call your AAA agent or (888) 222-0086 to see what discounts you may be eligible for and what type of coverage you might need.

TNI from A1

Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation to talk with their clients as a part of its Speakers Series; one of the amenities provided to its tenants throughout its entire portfolio of properties. Through regular client meetings regarding workplace experience, BECO learned that companies were interested in how to enhance their businesses. To that end, the BECO Lanham office reached out to the EDC to coordinate an overview of the opportunities, services and programs available to local businesses in Prince George's County.

"We are extremely excited to have the Economic Development Corporation here today to speak to our tenants. It speaks volumes about how we work with our tenants on-site and try to attract new companies to our buildings," said Levi Cohen, Regional Director

of Leasing, BECO Management. "Everything that we do at BECO is about delivering the best experience to our tenants and helping them to grow. Partnering with the EDC speaks volumes to what we are trying to do to help our tenants, our community and Prince George's County to meet their greatest potential."

The EDC Team spoke to the group, primarily made up of entrepreneurs and small to mid-sized businesses that are looking to expand their footprint in Prince George's County, about its Small Business Services such as business plan development and review assistance, entrepreneur mentorship, certification assistance, loan packing review, as well as its trainings, workshops and networking events. They also talked about the access to capital tools the EDC has at its disposal from the County's \$50 million Economic

Development Incentive Fund to assist companies with working capital, equipment and land acquisition, and the Hire Prince George's Program which encourages the job creators to cut their training costs in half when hiring local workers to the procurement workshops it hosts with the 14 federal agencies that spend billions each year with local businesses and call Prince George's County home.

"I want to thank BECO for bringing us this information. We desperately need it, being a small business and an entrepreneur," said Tracy Everett Duncan, Owner of MentorMe Drug Testing Services in Lanham. "I also want to thank Mr. Coleman and the Economic Development Corporation because they brought so much information to us. As a small business with a suite at BECO Park, there are times when we don't know where to start to increase our

net worth. Today was an excellent beginning to new opportunities for me."

"Jim Coleman is electrifying, inspiring, and really brought it home to us. It made me so excited that we chose to locate our company in Prince George's County," said Stacy Cobb, Chief Procurement Officer, Crowned Grace International, a management consulting company in National Harbor. "The opportunities available through the EDC and in the County are amazing. I am getting ideas on how I am going to replicate this with my children. The opportunities are here. There is no reason that we can't have our own businesses and grow them in PGC."

For more information on how to gain access to capital, get assistance with writing a business plan or other business support services, contact Kisha Logan at 301-583-4650 or email us at kvlogan@co.pg.md.us.

TNI from A1

changes and enhancements to the TNI program:

TNI area updates:

3 Original TNI areas will be transitioned to community management by January 1, 2017

- East Riverdale/Bladensburg
- Glassmanor/Oxon Hill
- Langley Park

3 New TNI areas will be added:

- Forestville
- Silver Hill
- Woodlawn/Lanham

3 Original TNI areas will remain, although they show signs of improvement:

- Hillcrest Heights/Marlow Heights
- Kentland/Palmer Park
- Suitland/Coral Hills

Appointment of TNI Manager:

- A TNI Manager has been selected to provide day to day

coordination and management of the TNI program.

- Allows a single person to direct resources where they are most needed.
- Allows for programs to be consistently duplicated in multiple areas.

TNI Leadership Changes:

- TNI will have executive oversight by the Chief of Staff who also has oversight for 3-1-1 and the Office of Community Relations.
- TNI Team leadership will transition from Deputy Chief Administrative Officers (DCAOs) and Assistant Deputy Chief Administrative Officers (A-DCAOs) to Program Managers for each area.
- Program Managers will report to the TNI Manager.
- Former TNI Executive Team Leaders, the DCAOs and A-DCAOs, will become the TNI Advisory Board.

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COMMENTARY

Cong. Chris Van Hollen House Democratic Minority Whip



Van Hollen: Business as Usual is Over— Americans Demand Action on Gun Safety

“We Are Going to Keep the Fires Burning on This Issue, Because the American Public Demands It”

WASHINGTON, DC—On June 7, Maryland Congressman Chris Van Hollen delivered remarks on the House floor while participating in a sit-in demanding that Congress vote on common sense gun safety legislation. Video of his remarks is available online, and excerpts are below:

“It’s great to be here today with my colleagues. I want to thank all of our colleagues who have been here on the floor of the House all night long. Some reinforcements are arriving this morning, and we’re going to continue this conversation with the American people, asking the Republican leadership, the Speaker of the House, to hold two simple votes on common sense measures that we’ve all talked about. One, ‘No Fly, No Buy;’ one, universal criminal background checks.”

“But instead of holding a vote on those two issues, Republicans decided in the middle of the night to run home to their districts, cancelling two days of work in the United States Congress. So rather than spending 30 minutes voting on these two common sense measures, they decided to pack their bags and start their vacation early. And as our colleague Mr. Israel has pointed out, when they go to those airports, they’re going to be assured that the people who are on the terrorist watch list, the no-fly list, will not be allowed to board with them. But, by leaving here, they’re allowing those same people who might pose a risk to them when they get on that airplane to go home, those same people can run down the road and buy a semi-automatic assault weapon or another gun and wreak terror.”

“So these members who left in the middle of the night, they can run, but they’re not going to be able to hide from this issue. Because we’re going to be here in the weeks and months ahead making sure that at every opportunity, we call upon them to take these simple measures.”

“So why haven’t we had a vote? They don’t want to vote, obviously. They don’t to tell their constituents where they stand on this issue. And that’s because although 90 percent of the American people support these common sense measures, the gun lobby is opposed to these measures, and the NRA is opposed to these measures. And these Republican colleagues would rather risk the possibility of another massacre than risk the wrath of the gun lobby and the NRA. And we, and the American public, are going to call them on it. And we’re going to keep calling them on it until we

have a vote. And they should come down here in the light of day and explain to the American people why they don’t support the common sense measures that 90 percent of the American public say are needed.”

“Let me tell a little story about the Maryland legislature. When I was in the Maryland legislature, I met a mom by the name of Carole Price. Carole Price lost her young son John when he went next door to play at the neighbor’s house. There was a gun around, and he was accidentally shot. Her young son.

“Carole Price—like so many of the moms and dads and brothers and sisters who have been converging on the Capitol today, and we’re hearing from around the country who lost their loved ones to gun violence—Carole Price had the courage to say she wanted to work hard and turn that pain into something positive, in the sense of making sure that others didn’t experience that tragedy.

“And in the Maryland legislature, we became the first state in the country to require that guns sold in Maryland have built-in trigger locks, safety locks to try and at least reduce accidental gun deaths. And we passed that bill. But guess what? Guess who was opposed to that simple common sense measure? Built-in safety locks to prevent accidental shooting deaths of kids? The gun lobby lobbied against it. The NRA lobbied against it. We got it done, it has saved lives in Maryland. And the common sense measures we’re talking about today can save lives as well.

“So I ask my Republican colleagues to at least have the courage to come back here and to hold the vote.”

“My colleagues, I want to thank you for what you’re doing here, but I know most of all we want to thank the American people for keeping the faith and believing in our system of democracy. Ultimately, their voices will prevail.”

“So we are going to keep the fires burning on this issue, because the American public demands it. We’re hearing from our constituents, we’re hearing from moms and dads and brothers and sisters, our own family members—when are you guys going to do something about this? It’s time to do something about this. And it’s at least time to allow democracy to work its will.

See GUN SAFETY Page A5



Surratt House

Open to the Public

PHOTO COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Surratt House

Surratt House, located at 9118 Brandywine Road Clinton, MD, is open to the public mid-January thru mid-December. Walk-in tours are available with costumed guide on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11 am–3 pm and on Saturdays and Sundays from 12 noon–4 pm. Weekday group tours for 10 or more are available by appointment by calling 301-868-1121. Surratt House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Admission is \$3 per adult, \$2 for Seniors, \$1 for children ages 5–18, and free to children 4 and under.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Inaction Cannot Be an Option

“This massacre is therefore a further reminder of how easy it is for someone to get their hands on a weapon that lets them shoot people in a school, or in a house of worship, or a movie theater, or in a nightclub. And we have to decide if that’s the kind of country we want to be. And to actively do nothing is a decision as well.”

—President Barack Obama, June 12, 2016

“We have to face the fact that meaningful gun control has to be a part of homeland security ... We need to do something to minimize the opportunity for terrorists to get a gun in this country.”

—U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson, June 14, 2016

“I am proud to announce that after 14+ hours on the floor, we will have a vote on closing the terror gap & universal background checks.”

—Tweet by Connecticut Senator Christopher Murphy, June 16, 2016

Inaction is not an option. In the wake of the worst mass shooting in American history we can and must do everything in our power to end this scourge of terror, hate and bullets that fly across our land killing and maiming and breaking hearts and traumatizing communities with ever increasing frequency. How can inaction continue to be an option in the face of senselessness and intolerance fueled by guns? We must act to save our country’s soul and the lives of our people—all of our people.

The June 12 attack at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando was both our nation’s worst act of terrorism since 9/11 and a hate crime. In that it was all too common: lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are too likely targets of hate crimes in America. A large number of victims were gay people of color who were celebrating Latin Night in what many said they trusted and believed was a desperately needed “safe space.” But as we have seen over and over again, America is running out of safe spaces. Not Pulse. Not Bible study at Mother Emanuel A.M.E. Church. Not an office holiday

party in San Bernardino. Not a movie theater in Aurora. Not a dorm or university hall at Virginia Tech. And not a first grade classroom in Newtown, Connecticut, in a country where hate, bigotry, terrorism, and mental illness collide with unfettered access to these weapons of war that leave us with no hiding spaces unless we do something now.

Connecticut Senator Christopher Murphy couldn’t face the families of the children of Sandy Hook unless he did something. The Senate filibuster he led in the aftermath of the Orlando slaughter lasted for more than 14 hours before there was bipartisan agreement to allow a vote on two common sense amendments that would make all of us and our nation safer. Creating a “No Buy List” so that the more than 800,000 people on our terror watch lists cannot legally buy guns in America should be an easy decision for all of us. Closing the loopholes in existing background checks to reach sales at gun shows and through the internet to keep more criminals, would-be terrorists, and others from buying guns should be another easy decision. The evidence is clear that expanded background checks work. A recent study found that a Connecticut

law that expanded background checks on all handgun purchases helped achieve a 40 percent reduction in gun homicides during the first 10 years following the law’s enactment. These are measures the majority of Americans strongly support—and it’s long past time that Congress followed the will of the people instead of the will of the National Rifle Association and gun manufacturers whose profits are soaked in the blood of our people.

The majority of Americans also support reinstating the ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines that have been used time and time again: to kill the innocent children at Sandy Hook Elementary School, the innocent people in the Aurora movie theater, the innocents in San Bernardino, and now Orlando. Why should it be perfectly legal to buy an AR-15 in a Five Guys parking lot in Vermont the day after the massacre at Pulse with no background check and no paperwork at all? Weapons designed for war are now as easy to buy as a loaf of bread. Since 1963 more than 176,000 children have died from gun violence in America—over

See WATCH, Page A12

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



New Momentum on Common Sense Gun Reform

“The question before us is, what is this Congress waiting for? Over the last 12 years, gun-related crimes claimed more American lives than AIDS, war, and illegal drug overdoses combined. Since Newtown, tens of thousands of lives have been lost to this deadly crisis. The number of bills that have been debated and passed by this Congress to prevent such deaths is zero.”

—House Democrats Letter to House Speaker Paul Ryan, June 2016

It has been more than three years since a gunman walked into Sandy Hook Elementary School and killed 20 first-graders and six adults. Since that time, according to the Gun Violence Archive, there have been over 900 mass shootings in our country, killing over 1,000 people and wounding thousands more. By the way, those sobering statistics include the 49 people killed and 53 wounded at the Pulse nightclub, along with 27 other less-publicized mass shootings that have happened since the carnage in Orlando—which currently holds the distressing distinction of being the deadliest mass shooting on our nation’s soil.

Like many Americans, I am left to wonder: when will enough be enough? How much more innocent blood needs to be shed; how many more lives must be horrifically—and needlessly—wiped away; and just how many more justifications are

left in this seemingly bottomless well of excuses to pardon federal inaction on common sense gun reform as the disease of mass gun violence continues to fester?

In the wake of the latest, deadliest mass shooting, Republicans in Congress called for a moment of silence, while Democrats clamored for long-overdue change. The momentum for change began with Senate Democrats, led by Sen. Chris Murphy and joined by two Senate Republicans, who launched a filibuster calling for congressional action on gun reform. Senate Democrats wanted votes on two resurrected proposals: an amendment to prevent people on the government’s terrorism watch list from buying guns and another on expanding background checks. Senate Democrats were victorious in their fight. Votes will be allowed on the proposals, but these proposals have been debated and voted on before—and both failed. Days after a gunman opened fire in a crowded nightclub, House Speaker Paul Ryan called for a now all-too-familiar moment of silence. While a handful of Democrats walked out, boycotting the moment of silence, another group, led by Rep. John Lewis, a veteran of our country’s civil rights movement, walked onto the floor of the House

See GUN REFORM Page A12

The Prince George’s Post

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Time To Stop Making “No Time for Exercise” Excuses

Once upon a time, not all that long ago, scheduling time for exercise wasn't a necessity for most people. Earlier generations faced a much more physical life. Walking was usually the prime means of transportation, and most jobs and home life required a great deal more physical labor.

Life today is much less physically demanding for most of us, but can be much more mentally and emotionally challenging. And for many of us, facing all the demands of modern life, it can seem difficult to squeeze in time for exercise.

And yet we all know that staying physically active is good for both our bodies and our minds. So how do we make it happen?

One starting point in getting more active is to recognize that staying physically active isn't an all or nothing proposition. While a daily hour at the gym might provide the maximum benefit, research has shown that any amount of exercise produces health benefits. One study found that women who exercised just 2.5 hours a week reduced heart disease risk by 30 percent. And studies find exercise doesn't have to be just in one long time period. Shorter blocks of 10 or 20 minutes of being active still add up to better health.

Being physically active doesn't have to mean a gym or running marathons. Any activity that raises your heart rate and has you breathing harder is providing health benefits. Raking the lawn, doing housework, walking the dog or playing with the kids—they all can count as positive exercise.

Physically, being more active can reduce your risk for heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, diabetes and some types of cancer. It helps with weight control and seems to fight many of the negative effects of the aging process.

On the mental health side, exercise has been shown to fight depression, reduce anxiety, lower stress, and even reduce the symptoms of ADHD. Regular exercise has been linked to improved memory and thinking, especially for those of us getting up there in years.

When it comes to exercise, the only bad choice is not to do it. Take a careful look at your day and odds are good you'll find that there's a spare 15 or 20 minutes when you can take that walk, or go play with the kids. And that will be, instead of making excuses, exercise and good for you.

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

Practical Money Skills from A3

finance/mortgages/understanding-the-closing-process-1.aspx) process, inspection requirements and the other costs linked to legal processes and paperwork.

7. The aftermath. A solid homebuying class should give you a wide picture of the costs you'll face after the sale and how to manage them so you don't put the rest of your finances in jeopardy. Being too “house poor” not only puts you at a risk of losing the property, it can threaten other important financial goals.

If you have your eye on particular lenders in your community, call them to see whether homebuying education can be a helpful factor in getting approved for a loan. Ask them to explain how they evaluate such training and what courses they recommend. Always ask whether any homebuyer class has a fee and why. Also, get a second opinion—if you work with a qualified financial professional, ask what he or she thinks about the course and its benefits.

As you consider such a course, don't think narrowly about what you can get out of it. It's not just about getting the mortgage. It's a chance to ask about how a home purchase may affect other aspects of your financial life—all personal finance goals should be considered equally.

Bottom line: Since the mortgage industry collapse in 2008, it's been a new day in residential homebuying. Whether you're buying your first home or beyond, taking a homebuyer education class can help you understand the mortgage process, improve your credit and shop smarter for a home you can actually afford.

Morningside from A2

Patrick and James Hurley.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Jimmy Gromen and Anthony Curcio-Bobbitt, July 8; Karlyn Davis, John Anthony III and my grandson Zachary Seidman, July 9; my daughter

Elaine Seidman, July 10; Kevin Kline, Nicole Wade, Dee (Curcio) Brown and Dave Williams Jr., July 11; Kenard Simms, July 13; Laverne Peggy Simms, Krista Lanehart and Laura (Thompson) Hoffmann, July 14.

Happy 41st anniversary to Dave and Carolyn Williams on July 11.

Budget from A1

nance team; and professional development for teachers.

The school district used many options to balance the budget, including maintaining a \$35 million salary lapse by

managing existing position vacancies, redirecting \$12.4 million in base resources to priority budget items such as literacy and numeracy efforts, and using additional fund balance as a revenue source for one time items.

Economic Development Corporation Partnership With State Commerce Department Draws New Business to County

Mutual Attraction and Retention Strategies Prove Key in Delivering Over 4,500 Jobs to Prince George's County

By LORI VALENTINE
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—On May 31, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) President and CEO Jim Coleman, along with senior staff from the Maryland Department of Commerce met to receive a mutual briefing highlighting current and upcoming development projects in Prince George's County. Through its relationship with the State, the EDC has been successful in attracting more than 42 companies to Prince George's County over the last three years and has been a significant partner in luring out-of-state companies to Maryland with a combination of incentive programs, attractive site selection opportunities, excellent transportation system and a highly qualified, highly educated workforce. Today's meeting reinforced the State's commitment to work collaboratively with Prince George's County and the County's commitment to making Maryland the best place in the world to do business.

“The County is on fire; we are going to need to call the fire department,” said Coleman. “We are delighted to have the Maryland Department of Commerce as a partner in ‘Activating Prosperity’ for Prince George's County businesses and residents. With more than 3,000 jobs in the pipeline, not including the jobs coming with the opening of the MGM project at National Harbor, and 1,500 retained because of the develop-



PHOTO COURTESY LORI VALENTINE
Left to right: Martin Ezemma, EDC Director of International Business; Pradeep Ganguly, Executive Vice President, PGCEDC; Jim Coleman, President & CEO, PGCEDC; Steve Pennington, Managing Director, Business & Industry Sector Development, Maryland Department of Commerce.

ment and expansion going on in the County, our priority continues to be ensuring that our employers and residents have every tool they need to be prosperous right here in Prince George's County. With the State of Maryland working with us to provide excellent customer service to our new and existing businesses, we have no intentions on cooling off anytime soon.”

Attendees shared information about potential development projects in the pipeline from companies looking to expand or relocate to Prince George's County. As business development opportunities con-

tinue to arise, the County can expect to see more projects from industry sectors such as healthcare, information technology, bio-technology, R&D and manufacturing and high-end retail and transit. Many of the projects discussed could bring high wage jobs to the County.

“You all are rebuilding the entire County!” said Steve Pennington, Managing Director, Business and Industry Sector Development for the Maryland Department of Commerce. “We are delighted by all of the activity going on in Prince George's County and want to ensure the Commerce Department is col-

laborating with EDC when they talk with companies interested in moving to the County. This is a great partnership.”

The EDC will continue with its proactive strategies tailored toward business acquisition, proactive outreach marketing, promotion of entrepreneurship and innovations, job creation and facility expansion with business building and networking events throughout the year.

To register for all of these upcoming events, contact Nicole Edwards at 301-583-4650 or naedwards@co.pg.md.us today.

Blind from A1

knows to expect her daughter's school bus.

These sorts of assumptions about blindness are common, said Sharon Maneki, president of the Maryland chapter of advocacy and support organization National Federation of the Blind.

Sighted people, even courtroom judges, often resort to “what ifs” in evaluating blind people's parenting abilities, she said.

Under a bill passed by the Maryland legislature on the last day of session, in cases assessing parents' ability to care for their children, judges and claimants will need to follow new procedures before introducing a person's disability in court. Originally written for blindness, the bill was later amended to include all disabilities, physical or mental, and covers only private cases that don't involve public agencies, such as custody or visitation, as well as adoption or guardianship cases.

“The bill provides a lot more protections for disabled parents that we've never had before,” said Riccobono.

Riccobono and her husband, Mark, president of the National Federation of the Blind, as well as Maneki and other advocates, have spent years working to create legal parity for blind people. This legislation is an important step in protecting the blind from being pre-judged for their disability, she said.

“As a blind person, you're always thinking, what if this (situation) is blamed on my blindness?” said Chris

Danielsen, director of public relations for the National Federation of the Blind.

A change in the burden of proof

One of the bill's key provisions is placing the burden of proof on the person making a legal claim against a disabled parent, Maneki said. In past cases, blind people were required to prove that they were capable of caring for a child, she said.

“This has been a long-standing problem that we've had,” Maneki said.

In 2007, Michael Bullis was sorting through a difficult divorce and custody proceedings over his then-5-year-old daughter, Julianna. A Baltimore County court had ruled Bullis, a blind man, was not fit to be left with Julianna without supervision. So for almost two years, Bullis said, he only saw his daughter in public places with either his ex-wife or one of her parents there.

“Needless to say, it was pretty humiliating,” he said.

What bothered him the most, Bullis said, was that the court had determined his visitation rights based on a prejudiced assumption: that he was not a capable parent because he was blind.

“They say things such as, ‘The blind person can't do anything and they've never been able to do it,’ even though they've been doing it for years,” Maneki said.

He fought the decision in court, and the judge called for social services to conduct a home study to determine



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY LEO TRAUB
Melissa Riccobono and her 3-year-old daughter, Elizabeth, both blind, collect their white canes before heading outside to meet the school bus on Thursday, April 21, 2016.

whether Bullis could provide appropriate care for his daughter.

After performing the study, the social services caseworker said he would have approved the home for a sighted parent, Bullis said, but he was hesitant to clear it for a blind person. So Bullis spent the next hour addressing all of the case-

worker's concerns and questions, demonstrating everyday tasks around his own house.

With Bullis' explanation, the caseworker filed a positive report that did not express any concerns about disability, and

See BLIND Page A6

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising

Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising
Grade: B+
Rated R, abundant harsh profanity, graphic sexual dialogue, strong sexual situations, gross humor
1 hr., 32 min

It's been two years since we were delightfully surprised by *Neighbors* a raunchy comedy about new parents vs. the fraternity next door that was lean, well-written, and funny, not loose and sloppy like raunchy comedies often are. The sequel, *Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising*, is another improbable achievement: it's as funny as the first one, and the characters continue to grow, and it's not sleazy or sexist even though it's about sorority girls.

Again directed by Nicholas Stoller, with returning screenwriters Andrew Jay Cohen and Brendan O'Brien sharing credit with Stoller, Seth Rogen, and Evan Goldberg, the film finds Mac (Seth Rogen) and Kelly (Rose Byrne) preparing for a second child and selling their home. The house next door has been empty since the frat got kicked out—but wouldn't you know it, just as Mac and Kelly go into escrow, a sorority moves in and starts partying, threatening to scuttle their sale.

This sequel was probably conceived around that pitch—"This time, a sorority lives next door!"—but they reverse-engineered it into a reasonably plausible scenario. You see, three freshman girls at the local college—stoner Shelby (Chloe Grace Moretz), pretty Beth (Kiersey Clemons), and wild Nora (Beanie Feldstein)—were crestfallen to learn that only fraternity houses are allowed to host parties, not sororities. (This is actually true.) And frat parties are ... you know ... rapey. And often ho-themed.

So the girls have started their own sorority, one that's not part of the official Greek system and can set its own rules and throw



Young parents Mac (Seth Rogen) and Kelly Radnor (Rose Byrne) find their troubles are far from over in this sequel co-starring Zac Efron. ROTTENTOMATOES

all the parties it wants to. (One is feminist icon themed, with girls dressed as Joan of Arc, Hillary Clinton, and Oprah Winfrey, all drinking beer and smoking pot.) Mac and Kelly gird their loins for another war with rowdy neighbors, this time getting assistance from Teddy (Zac Efron), the now-graduated ring-leader of the frat from the first movie. Now out in the world, Teddy has become a sensitive, wandering soul. His bros have careers and lovers, but Teddy remains unfulfilled—"unvalued," to use his word. He's on the girls' side briefly, until he realizes he's just another "old person" to them and switches sides.

The back-and-forth shenanigans between the sorority and the neighbors are good for some raucous, boundary-pushing laughs, culminating in a scheme to steal the girls' huge supply of marijuana. (Pot figures heavily into the plot, but it's not a stoner comedy.) The girls, meanwhile, try to drive a wedge between Mac and Kelly by causing a miscommunication, and this se-

quence is the film's only real misfire. The specific method the screenwriters came up with doesn't land, humorwise, and is stretched past believability.

It's a fun variation to see Mac and Teddy, the schlub and the frat boy, working together instead of against each other. But it's Mac and Kelly who remain the heart of these movies, a passionately in-love married couple who work as equal partners and are equally clueless about things like what escrow is and how "sorority" is spelled. Their panic over whether they'll sell their house, whether they're good parents, whether they can even handle a second child, is funny and relatable.

The compassion that the film has for Mac and Kelly is extended to everyone, including their opponents. The sorority girls aren't villains deliberately screwing up their neighbors' lives, nor are they brainless party animals. They're smart college students who are frustrated by the restrictions placed upon them and by the dangers they face as

women in a Greek system fueled by booze and roofies. Nor are Teddy and his frat bros (Dave Franco and Jerrod Carmichael have a few scenes) the targets of ridicule. They, too, are treated as three-dimensional characters who have evolved past their Neanderthal ways while remaining themselves, and their relationships with each other are adorably hilarious. The only stereotypical "frat boys" in the movie are a couple of unnamed doofuses who serve as representations of the bad behavior that often goes on at their parties.

It's that rare movie that's unabashedly vulgar—boy howdy, is it—yet humane and affectionate rather than abrasive. These characters say and do filthy things, but they're not nasty people, any of them. The humor is never mean. That's not to mention the casually empowering message to girls, which comes without tearing down boys or sacrificing laughs. It's a deeply funny, hard-R-rated comedy that doesn't leave you feeling like you need a shower afterward.

Blind from A5

in 2008, the judge granted Bullis unsupervised visitation rights of his daughter.

"I wasn't going to let him go until he heard everything I had to say," Bullis said. "His report could have killed me."

The caseworker submitted the proper report, Bullis said, because the judge's letter only asked social services to evaluate his abilities, not his blindness.

"For some reason, with disability, you could bring up imaginary subjects and the court listened to it."

Fighting for legal parity

While his own case was ongoing, Bullis joined the National Federation of the Blind in pursuing state legislation to ensure other blind parents would not have to face the same uphill legal battle he faced, he said.

In 2009, the Maryland General Assembly passed a bill limiting the way courts consider a parent's disability in custody, visitation and Child in Need of Assistance cases. Under the law, disability is only relevant if a court finds it affects the parent's ability to care for a child. Sighted people sometimes

forget how much experience the blind have with their disability, Riccobono said, and that they are not newly blind before becoming parents.

"Not every blind parent is perfect because not every parent is perfect," Riccobono said. "I always say, blind people don't keep emergency rooms open all by ourselves. There are plenty of sighted parents who have accidents, and that's why they're called accidents."

This year's original bill also set new rules for social services' treatment of disabled parents in Child in Need of Assistance cases. These are brought when the agency tries to prove that a person is not fit to be a parent, whether because of abuse or neglect or simply because they aren't capable of caring for a child. But after pushback from the Maryland Department of Human Resources, the social services cases were excluded to ensure a bill was passed this session, Maneki said.

The Maryland Department of Human Resources, which oversees social services in the state, felt that the new rules would place an extra step in removing children from situations of neglect and abuse,

Maneki said.

Supportive parenting services

If a court finds a parent's disability does affect the best interest of the child, the bill also introduces supportive parenting services as an alternative to limiting custody or visitation rights. A person will have the opportunity to show that with these services, their disability would not impede their parenting abilities.

Supportive services could include parenting classes, skill-building and connecting with other people who have the same disability, Riccobono said.

"Why reinvent the wheel if there are other parents out there who are doing it, and doing it well?" Riccobono said.

As president of support organization Maryland Parents of Blind Children, Riccobono is accustomed to educating others about blindness and parenting. Two of her three children are legally blind, and she has used some of these parenting techniques with her own family.

Some blind parents use noise-making tricks as ways to keep track of their children in busy areas. When Riccobono takes her young children to the playground or the mall, she sometimes attaches bells on zip

ties to their shoes so she can follow the ringing sound. Other parents have their children carry Tic Tacs in their pockets or wear shoes specially designed to squeak, she said.

The National Federation of the Blind may also be able to provide support, Daniels said. Products like the KNFB Reader, an app that converts printed text to audio, and services like the NFB-Newsline, a free phone line that reads newspaper articles to subscribers, are available through the federation's website.

And if the National Federation of the Blind cannot provide the support, they can help others find the services they need, Daniels said. In some cases, the organization has taken on legal representation of blind people, he said.

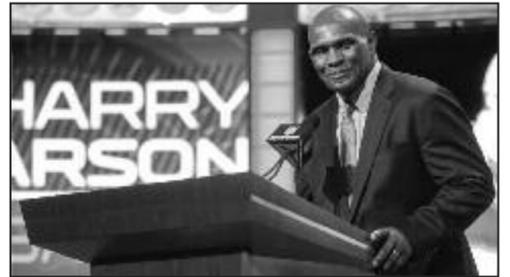
However, supportive services do not have to be limited to resources provided specifically for people with disabilities, Riccobono said. Any skill-building class that helps a blind person could potentially work in court, she said.

"Not all issues have to do with blindness," Daniels said. "But where blindness has to do with it, the National Federation of the Blind can help."

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

This NFL Hall of Fame Member Won't Let His Grandson Play Football



Growing up, there were few athletes more unassailable, in my eyes, than Harry Carson. The New York Giants middle linebacker was captain of one of the great defenses in league history and was lauded as the brains of a legendary linebacking corps that included Carl Banks, Gary Reasons, and the otherworldly Lawrence Taylor. L.T. might have been the unholy terror that the Giants would unleash on opposing quarterbacks, but Carson was his minder: the person who released the Kraken. He was trusted to put into practice the defensive schemes sent in by head coach Bill Parcells and his young defensive coordinator Bill Belichick: schemes that led to a dominant Super Bowl triumph in 1987.

After nine Pro Bowls and election into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, it would be easy for Harry Carson to just live out his days on the gravy circuit and tell NFL war stories to adoring corporate crowds. Instead, he's on a mission to take the NFL to task, and spare others his private pain.

Carson was in Albany, New York, last week, supporting a bill put forward by Assemblyman Michael Benedetto from the Bronx calling for the statewide ban on tackle football for children 13 and younger. As reported by Nathaniel Vinton in the *New York Daily News*, Carson said to lawmakers, "I think that parents should think long and hard about what they're signing their kids up for. There is definitely a correlation between head trauma and problems down the line, whether it's in older adults with dementia or young people with post-concussion syndrome. It affects their quality of life."

Carson also made clear that, in his family, he practices what he preaches, saying, "I've sort of made the decision, as the dictator of my family, that my grandson was not going to play football. He understands where I'm coming from. He's not going to be playing football. I get him involved with other sports."

The push to end youth tackle football has gained momentum in recent years, with advancements in medical research, the recognition of chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) as a brain disease strongly linked to the sport, class action lawsuits by former players, and the film *Concussion*. Yet Carson is not new to raising these concerns. He has dealt with post-concussive syndromes since he stepped away from the game—thinking initially that he had a brain tumor—and has consistently raised that this game is unsafe at any speed. All that's new is the attention. As he said in Albany, "I've been in this thing for 25 years. This is not just new for me. I've lived it. ... I am my own petri dish. I am my own specimen."

Carson also attacked the idea that changing how tackling is taught, a key NFL propaganda point, makes a damn bit of difference, saying, "When you're on the field, and bodies are moving, and you're sort of zeroing in to make a hit, and that guy's so fast that that shoulder's not going to get there, you hit your head. You see stars and everything sort of fades to black and the damage is done."

Harry Carson's coming forward right now is particularly brave because very powerful people in the NFL—interestingly, all people who never actually played—are on a public-relations offensive against anyone who dares raise the idea that playing tackle football is uniquely unsafe. Jon Gruden, former coach and current voice of *Monday Night Football* said to *Bleacher Report* last week, "I've seen people get skin cancer going to the beach. Awareness is great. After a while, it becomes piling on. Everything is so slanted, it drives me crazy. It's embarrassing. It's sickening." This echoes Commissioner Roger Goodell, who, when asked about the dangers of football earlier this year, said with a smirk, "There's risk in sitting on the couch."

Then we had Arizona Cardinals Coach Bruce Arians, who belted in March, "People that say, 'I won't let my son play [football]' are fools. We have this fear of concussion that is real, but not all of those statistics, I think, can prove anything." One wonders if he would call Harry Carson "a fool" to his face. Guessing there is about as much chance of that as Washington football team owner Dan Snyder going to Pine Ridge and calling people "R**skins."

Lastly, there is Jerry Jones. The morally bankrupt Dallas Cowboys owner who, when asked about the relationship between chronic traumatic encephalopathy and football, said, "No, that's absurd."

Harry Carson has more credibility than the four of these sideline-warriors combined. The very traits for which he was lauded by NFL commentators as a player—leadership, courage, intelligence—have not dissipated with retirement. He is on no one's payroll and far more importantly, lives with the pain that has made Gruden, Goodell, Arians, and especially Jerry Jones obscenely rich. People can decide for themselves whom they want to believe. To trust someone like Roger Goodell over Harry Carson would be, to use Jones's language, "absurd."

Calendar of Events

July 7 — July 13, 2016

G.E.A.R.: So You Think You Can Sew?

Date and Time: Friday, July 8, 2016, 7–10 pm
 Description: Ladies join us for a night of sewing fun! Bring a friend and learn how to sew or display your sewing skills.
 Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
 Ages: 10–17
 Location: Berwyn Heights Community Center
 6200 Pontiac Street, Berwyn Heights, MD
 Contact: 301-345-2808; TTY 301-699-2544

G.E.A.R.: Wii Fitness Night

Date and Time: Friday, July 8, 2016, 7–10 pm
 Description: Bring a friend and join us as we work up a sweat participating in a Wii fitness challenge. Workouts include cardio, Pilates, yoga and other fitness routines.
 Cost: free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
 Ages: 1–17
 Location: Good Luck Community Center
 8601 Good Luck Road, Lanham, MD
 Contact: 301-552-1093; TTY 301-699-2544

Washington Nationals Baseball Clinic: Cosca Regional Park

Date and Time: Saturday, July 9, 2016, 9–11 am
 Description: Boys & girls ages 7–15 are invited to attend this free clinic. Clinics will be conducted by local high school and youth league coaches. M-NCPPC will be sponsoring this clinic.
 Cost: Free. Register [HERE](#).
 Ages: 7–15
 Location: Cosca Regional Park
 11000 Thrift Road, Clinton, MD
 Contact: 301-446-6800; TTY 301-699-2544

Hey! Let's Go Fishing

Date and Time: Saturday, July 9, 2016, 9–11 am
 Description: Learn how to fish at an eight-acre catch and release bass pond. Equipment is provided. An adult must accompany children.
 Cost: Residents: \$5; Non-Residents: \$7
 Ages: 6–10
 Location: School House Pond
 14100 Governor Oden Bowie Drive,
 Upper Marlboro, MD
 Contact: 301-627-6074; TTY: 301-699-2544

Park Police Volunteer Association Jazz Festival Support

Date and Time: Saturday, July 9, 2016, 11 am–8 pm
 Description: Join the Park Police Volunteer Association members and associates as we support the Park Police with foot & bike patrol, traffic control, and access control at the Lake Arbor Jazz Festival.
 Cost: Free
 Ages: 18 & up
 Location: Lake Arbor Community Center
 10100 Lake Arbor Way, Mitchellville, MD
 Contact: 301-731-2607; TTY 301-699-2544

Teen Theater Spectacular

Date and Time: Saturday, July 9, 7 pm
 Description: Enjoy a family-friendly evening of musical theater entertainment featuring What the Girls Found in the Rushes by the Teen Performance Ensemble and Mary Q. Contrary and the Green Revolution by the Prince George's Children's Theater. The County's finest teen actors will sing and dance their way into your heart.
 Cost: \$5/person
 Ages: All ages
 Location: Arts/ Harmony Hall Regional Center
 10701 Livingston Rd., Fort Washington, MD
 Contact: 301-332-8905, TTY 301-699-2544

Prince George's Shakespeare in the Parks: Twelfth Night

Date and Time: Saturday, July 9, 2016, 7:30 pm
 Description: "If music be the food of love, play on," says Duke Orsino in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. Shipwrecks, mistaken identity, and a character by the name of Sir Toby Belch round out the adventure, one of Shakespeare's most beloved comedies.
 Relax under the stars and enjoy Shakespeare's poetry and song with your family. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy a FREE performance in your favorite park!
 Cost: FREE
 Ages: All ages
 Location: Hillcrest Heights Community Center
 2300 Oxon Run Drive, Temple Hills, MD
 Rain location: Hillcrest Heights Community Center Gym
 2300 Oxon Run Drive, Temple Hills, MD
 Contact: 301-446-3232; TTY 301-699-2544

Seasonal Selections: Maryland Seafood

Date and Time: Sunday, July 10, 2016, 12 noon–3:30 pm
 Description: The Kitchen Guild demonstrates 18th and 19th-century recipes featuring fish, crab, and other seafood of the mid-Atlantic.
 Cost: Free
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Riversdale House Museum
 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD
 Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544
riversdale@pgparks.com

G.E.A.R.: Dance & Skate Night

Date and Time: Monday, July 11, 2016, 7–9 pm
 Description: Tonight ladies will dance and skate to the sounds of DJ Rich while enjoying some light refreshments.
 Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
 Ages: 10–17 (girls only)
 Location: Bladensburg Community Center
 4500 57th Avenue, Bladensburg, MD
 Contact: 301-277-2124; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Extinction: Global Warming Hits Home for Wildlife

Dear EarthTalk:

Have any wildlife species gone extinct already as a result of global warming, and which are most at risk moving forward?

—Melissa Zwicker,
Bern, NC

Global warming is definitely already taking its toll on wildlife around the world. Rising temperatures are changing weather and vegetation patterns from pole to pole, forcing animals of just about every stripe to migrate to new areas in order to survive. But not every species is able to just get up and go, with animals dependent on narrow temperature ranges or specific habitats at most risk.

"The rapid nature of climate change is likely to exceed the ability of many species to migrate or adjust," reports the non-profit Nature Conservancy. "Experts predict that one-fourth of Earth's species will be headed for extinction by 2050 if the warming trend continues at its current rate."

A recent study from researchers at the University of Connecticut found that one in six species could go extinct if global warming continues unabated. If the world can keep its emissions to limits agreed upon last year at the Paris climate

summit, one in 20 species could go extinct.

And the purge has already begun. The death of the last Golden Toad in Central America in 1999 marked the first documented extinction as a result of climate change. And more recently researchers in Australia reported the disappearance of the first mammalian species, the Bramble Cay melomy, as a direct result of global warming. This rat-like mammal, endemic to one small island off of Australia's Great Barrier Reef, was last seen in 2009. In the interim, 97 percent of the melomy's habitat has been lost to rising sea level. An extensive survey of the small island it inhabited in 2014 turned up no more of them, leading researchers to declare the species extinct.

Biologists believe that unchecked warming will likely cause the polar bear to lose its battle with existence within a century, while coral reefs across the tropics might not even last that long. Fish and other marine wildlife dependent on coral reefs, such as the orange-spotted filefish, will likely go the way of the dodo as well. Researchers are also worried about everything from North Atlantic cod to Antarctica's Adélie penguins to Africa's Quiver tree to Hawaii's Haleakal silversword, among thousands of other animal and



CREDIT: FLICKRFAVORITES, FLICKRCC

Global warming could claim polar bears as a casualty within a century and has already forced the Golden Toad, Bramble Cay Melomy and other wildlife species into extinction.

plant species at risk. Wildlife native to Australia and New Zealand remain particularly vulnerable, given they have less room to roam as temperatures continue to rise.

"The risk if we continue on our current trajectory is very high. If you look out your window and count six species and think that one of those will potentially disappear, that's quite profound," says Mark Urban, a co-author on the University of Connecticut study. "Those losses would affect our economy, our cultures, our food security, our health. It really compels us to act."

"This isn't just doom and gloom. We still have time. Ex-

tinctions can take a long time. There are processes that could be important in mediating these effects, for example evolution, but we really need to very quickly start to understand these risks in a much more sophisticated way," concludes Urban.

CONTACTS: Nature Conservancy, <http://www.nature.org/>

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Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Gun Reform from A4

and declared that, yes, enough is indeed enough.

"We were elected to lead, Mr. Speaker. We must be headlights, and not taillights. We cannot continue to stick our heads in the sand and ignore the reality of mass gun violence in our nation. Deadly mass shootings are becoming more and more frequent. Mr. Speaker, this is a fact. It is not an opinion. We must remove the blinders. The time for silence and patience is long gone," he said before he, and fellow Democrats, borrowed a 20th century tactic to address our 21st century dilemma of mass shootings and occupied

and House floor with a sit-in, demanding that the House take a vote on gun violence prevention legislation.

To be sure, for many of us, there is healing and national reflection to be found in vigils, memorials and moments of silence, but there are lives to be saved when we act. The families and friends of these innocent victims should be attending birthday parties, graduations and weddings—not unplanned funerals. Symbolism and sympathy can no longer be the extent of what our elected officials have to offer a nation gripped in needless gun violence.

This new momentum on safety has moved beyond the

halls of Congress. The Supreme Court recently upheld a federal law that keeps people convicted of domestic violence from owning guns. The families of the victims of the Sandy Hook gun massacre are suing Remington Arms and other gun manufacturers for selling the gun used by the killer to take the lives of their loved ones. Perhaps we, as a nation, have reached a critical tipping point? Perhaps the massacre in Orlando will push us to look at common sense ways to reduce gun violence? How can anyone argue that not putting guns in the hands of known abusers or people who are on terrorism watch lists puts the rights of legitimate gun owners at risk?

There is more we can and must do to reduce gun violence in our country, like banning AR-15-type weapons from civilian ownership or requiring all gun buyers to undergo a background check—no matter where or how they purchase a gun—and we can all join in that effort. One sit-in does not a victory make. The struggle for common sense gun reform is far from over. We can all do more than agree we need change—we can make it. Call your representatives, sign petitions, be impatient about sweeping laws that allow guns to get into the wrong hands into the legislative dustbin. Let's remember, respect and honor the victims of mass shootings by saving future lives.

ATTENTION GOLFERS! Christmas in April needs you!! Help Us Celebrate 28 Years in the County! Andrews Air Force Base September 26, 2016 all day—The Courses at AAFB

Prince George's County Christmas in April is sponsoring its 27th Annual Christmas in April • Prince George's County Susan Denison Mona Golf Tournament on September 26, 2016, at The Courses at Andrews Air Force Base. All profits from the tournament go toward funding the 2017 program, which renovates the homes of elderly and disabled residents of Prince George's County at no cost to the homeowner.

Golfers and sponsors are needed!

Please call 301-868-0937 to register for the tournament. Fees include a buffet, cart, tee and green fees, prizes, refreshments on the course, and more.

Your participation will enable Christmas in April to repair the hearts and homes of 90 needy families in 2017. Please call soon as space is limited.

MOSQUITO AND ZIKA PREVENTION

The Zika virus is spread primarily through the bite of certain species of infected Aedes mosquitoes. The best way to avoid the Zika virus is to prevent mosquito bites. And the best way to avoid bites is to eliminate areas where these mosquitoes lay their eggs. These areas are called "breeding sites." Follow these tips to help prevent mosquitoes around your home and neighborhood.

- ▶ Eliminate standing water in and around your home to reduce mosquito populations;
- ▶ Use an insect repellent with an active ingredient such as oil of lemon eucalyptus to prevent mosquito bites;
- ▶ Use screens on the exterior of your home to keep mosquitoes outside; and
- ▶ Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants.

Source: cdc.gov/vitalsigns/zika/index.html
mda.maryland.gov/plants-peets/Pages/Zika.aspx

Robert L. Baker, III
County Executive

Prince George's County Second Nature is an initiative of the Department of the Environment, Redevelopment, Airports, and Office of Capital Services to promote cost savings and sustainability in our everyday behaviors. ENVIRONMENT