

# The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1932

Vol. 85, No. 10 March 9 – March 15, 2017

Prince George's County, Maryland

Newspaper of Record

Phone: 301-627-0900

25 cents



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY CARA NEWCOMER

Delegate Al Carr, D-Montgomery, in his office in Annapolis. Carr is sponsoring two bills in the 2017 session related to cameras on the outside of school buses. The number of motorists who drive around stopped buses has been increasing in Montgomery County.

## Bills Would Hike School Bus-Camera Fine, and Include Rental Cars

By CARA NEWCOMER  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Drivers who illegally pass school buses multiple times could face higher fines, and rental-car companies could be held responsible for offenders driving their vehicles under a pair of bills introduced by Delegate Al Carr, D-Montgomery.

One bill would double the fees for repeat offenders, Carr said. The current law states that the registered owner of a car that illegally passes a school bus, except rental cars and short-term leased cars, will get an automatic fine of \$125, regardless of how many times the car has been recorded violating the law. Currently, if they take

the ticket to court, they could receive up to a \$250 fine.

Last spring, an annual statewide survey conducted by the Maryland Department of Education showed “a total of 4,326 violations of school bus stop arms were recorded on a single day,” according to a Sept. 6 press release. This report shows an increase from 2015,

when bus drivers in the state recorded over 2,795 violations.

“This bill raises a question,” Carr told the University of Maryland’s Capital News Service. “I’m curious why people are driving around school buses and why is it happening so often.”

See **SCHOOL BUS** Page A3

## County Council Adopts Resolution Supporting the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Council

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George’s County Council, during session on Tuesday, February 28, unanimously adopted Council Resolution 7-2017, legislation expressing strong Council support for protecting access to quality, affordable health care provided to millions of Americans and thousands of Prince George’s County

residents by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). Council Chair Derrick L. Davis (D)—District 6, says any repeal of the Affordable Care Act could undermine the overall health and wellbeing of County residents, and that the Council stands in firm opposition to any such action without an acceptable alternative.

See **RESOLUTION** Page A5

## Prince George’s County Board of Education Approves 2017–2018 School Calendar

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George’s County Board of Education has approved the 2017–2018 school calendar with August 22 as the first day of school for students and June 6 as the last day of school.

The calendar was submitted to the State Board of Education for review and approval. A decision is expected this week. If the calendar is rejected due to non-compliance with Gov. Larry Hogan’s executive order to start the school year after Labor Day,

then the school year will begin September 6 and end June 13.

Last August, Gov. Hogan issued an executive order mandating local education agencies to develop a school calendar that starts after Labor Day and ends no later than June 15. To date, the primary rationale given for the executive order is the boost of tax revenue for Ocean City and the popularity of the proposal with the general public.

“Under the Governor’s mandate, local Boards of Education can no longer implement a school

See **CALENDAR** Page A3

## PGFD Introduces Acting Fire Chief Benjamin Barksdale

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Fire/EMS

LARGO, MD—Prince George’s County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, has selected Benjamin M. Barksdale to serve as Acting Fire Chief of the County Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department effective today, March 1, 2017. Upon County Council confirmation later this year, Chief Barksdale, who has over 35 years of fire service experience, will become the Department’s twelfth Fire Chief.

Prior to joining the Fire/EMS Department as a Deputy Fire Chief on June 20, 2011, Acting Fire Chief Barksdale was Assistant Fire Chief with the Arlington County Fire Department in Virginia. Since being with the Prince George’s County, he served as Administrative Services and Emergency Services Commander until being appointed Chief Deputy, the second highest position within the Department.



PHOTO COURTESY PG COUNTY FIRE/EMS  
Chief Benjamin Barksdale

Acting Fire Chief Barksdale, who holds a Master of Science degree in Management, is recognized as a Chief Fire Officer by the Commission on Professional Credentialing, certified as a Public Manager, and a certified Fire Instructor with the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. He is a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Human Relations Committee, and a member of

See **PGFD** Page A5

## EDC President and CEO Inspires Catholic Business Community at Networking Meeting

“County’s Explosive Growth Gives Us a Competitive Advantage,” Says Coleman

By LORI C. VALENTINE  
PGCEDC

MITCHELLVILLE, MD—On February 27, EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman spoke at the Catholic Business Network of Prince George’s County’s monthly networking breakfast at the Country Club at Woodmore. Twenty five business professionals and Catholic educators were in attendance to gain insight into the programs, projects and activities that are driving the County’s economic development success. Attendees were extremely interested in the incentives and workforce development programs that could assist the mission of Catholic education and how those opportunities can serve the church and community.

“The explosive growth that Prince George’s County is currently experiencing has everything to do with the leadership of County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III and his vision to instill confidence and integrity in County government,” said



PHOTO COURTESY LORI C. VALENTINE  
EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman speaking at Catholic Business Network of Prince George’s County Breakfast.

Coleman. “As a result, Prince George’s County is trending better than the U.S. and the State of Maryland with a lower unemployment rate, higher household median income and more than \$10 billion in the pipeline for new development. The business community is ‘bull-ish’ on the County and

this competitive advantage only helps the Google’s and Microsoft’s of the world consider coming to Prince George’s County. Our future is very bright!”

Coleman also talked about plans to add 60,000 units of multi-family housing around five targeted metro stations over

the next few years in hopes of attracting more businesses and more millennials in search of opportunities in cybersecurity and serious about growth.

Among the guests in attendance were Catholic Business

See **NETWORKING** Page A7

### INSIDE

#### MD, VA, DC and 48 States Suspend Driving Privileges for Failure to Pay Child Support

Governor Larry Hogan also signed a landmark criminal justice reform bill into law (HB 1312/SB 1005, the Justice Reinvestment Act) that contains language eliminating jail time for driving on a suspended license.

Community, Page A3

#### Claims of “Fake News” are an Insult to a Time Honored Institution That Has Risked Lives To Advance Liberty

For many in the north, the brutality of the Jim Crow-era south was an abstract and distant concept. Reporters like Mamie Colin made it horrifyingly real. And no one dared demean it by calling it “fake news.”

Commentary, Page A4

#### Maryland Retains Triple AAA Bond Rating, to Sell Up to \$1.19947 Billion of General Obligation Bonds

S&P Global Ratings further stated: “The stable outlook reflects Maryland’s continued focus on structural budget alignment and maintenance of minimum state reserve levels, despite continued slow economic growth.

Business, Page A5

#### Movie Review: Split

Following *Psycho*’s lead, *Split* begins by focusing on the victims and their escape efforts before revealing itself to be more about Barry’s story than theirs. But even when it’s “theirs,” it’s really only Casey’s, the misfit girl whose flashbacks to deer hunting with her father and uncle show how she came to be the resourceful survivor she is now.

Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

I’m concerned about the impact the new administration will have on the environment, especially the calls to bypass renewables and ramp up fossil fuel production. What can I do as an average citizen to combat harmful environmental policies?

—C. Bedrosian, via e-mail  
Features, Page A7

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Calling students, 9 thru high school, for an inspiring summit

A Youth Summit for students, age 9 through high school, will be held on Saturday, March 11, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 4915 St. Barnabas Road in Temple Hills.

The event is free and includes: Interactive Discussions, Workshops on Strengthening Life Skills, a Walk-through for Creating Your Blueprint after High School, Keynote Session on Do's and Don'ts of Social Media, and much more.

To register or for more information go to <https://smyouthsummit.eventbrite.com>. You can also call 301-894-3556 or 301-249-6222. Sponsored by St. Michael's Truth Lutheran Church/OSLC. Thank you to Kathy Gabrielsen for letting me know about this program.

### People and a panda

Ed Kittrell was back in Skyline March 4 to be interviewed by Lesli Foster of WUSA9 regarding his fight to keep a playground for area kids at the Skyline School site. The former school is being converted to a County Schools' office building. Our community may lose a very popular basketball field, the only place for young people to hang out in Skyline.

I apologize to Sara Yates. Her daughter Pat told me that Sara turned 80 on Feb. 16 but I forgot to list it. So, though it's late, Happy Birthday, Sara, and many more.

As were many of you, I was sad to say bye-bye to 3-year-old Bao Bao as she boarded FedEx Panda Express at Dulles International on Feb. 21 to fly to Chengdu, China. Although the National Zoo has had pandas for years, Bao Bao was only the second surviving one to be born there.

### Graduation

I'm always proud to see young people graduate and begin their future. Please let me know about your son or daughter, grandson or granddaughter, or yourself when there's a graduation. Call me or email [mudmm@aol.com](mailto:mudmm@aol.com). I'll also run information about your high school reunion.

John Kelly will publish a reunion notice in his *Washington Post* column if you email him at [john.kelly@washpost.com](mailto:john.kelly@washpost.com) or Twitter: @johnkelly with "Reunion" in the subject field. Include the name of your school, the class year, the date of the reunion and contact information.

By the way, the Prince George's Schools had an all-time high in graduation rates for the year 2015-16.

### Lent

"The Light is On For You" on Wednesday nights in Lent, throughout the Washington Archdiocese, which includes Washington and Montgomery, Prince George's, Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's counties. The Light is On means that the church door is open every Wednesday during Lent from 6:30 to 8 p.m. for Confession or just for prayer. You don't have to be Catholic to drop in. Say a prayer for me.

Lent began with Ash Wednesday where, at St. Philip's, a lot of adults and the all the school children went up to the altar steps to have ashes put on their foreheads and hear the words, "Remember, you are dust and unto dust you shall return."

Lent ends with Holy Week and Easter Sunday which is April 16 this year.

### Changing landscape

The National Bridge Inventory found 55,710 bridges "dangerously decrepit," according to the *Washington Post*. In Prince George's County 23 are "structurally deficient" and 78 are "functionally obsolete."

A house on Marianne Drive recently sold for \$126,500 and a house on Pickett Drive for \$215,000. Back in May 1940 the first homes in Morningside sold for \$2,680, advertised as "more room than the average \$45 apartment." Terms were: \$180 down and \$20.90 per month. (from the *Directory of Morningside*, 1952)

### May they rest in peace

Vincent Alphonsus Sheehy, III, 88, founder of Sheehy Ford in Marlow Heights, died Feb. 26. He grew up in Hyattsville, graduated from Gon-

zaga High School and Catholic University, and served in the Marines until 1953. He worked with his father at Handley Ford and founded Sheehy Ford in 1966. He's survived by his wife of 62 years, Helen, five children, 15 grandchildren, and four sisters.

Grace G. Dameron, 85, mother-in-law of Lenora Dameron of Morningside and a National Archives retiree, died March 1. She resided in Glen Burnie with her son David. Grace grew up in Brooklyn but moved to the area with her husband and lived at the Pennbrooke Apartments in Forestville. Her son Steve Dameron, longtime resident of Morningside, died in 2013. Survivors include sons Dan, Wayne and David, and seven grandchildren.

Peggy Gray Spano, 86, a 1946 graduate of the old Maryland Park High School, died Feb. 17 in Newport News. She had several jobs in the Federal Service, including the National Weather Bureau in Suitland. Her husband Angelo predeceased her. Survivors include four children, seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Her memorial service was held at Cedar Hill Cemetery.

Her obituary in the *Washington Post* tells an amazing story, originally published in local papers back in 1929:

Peggy was abandoned, found in a car at Chesapeake Beach. The man who rescued her took her to Prince Fredrick County Hospital where the nurses named her Miss Chesapeake Beach. An appeal went out, describing her as a chubby brunette 3-week-old girl. No one claimed her. But she was adopted and "lovingly raised" by new parents, Townson and Edna Gray of Capitol Heights, who named her Peggy Mae Gray.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Angelo Meoli, John F. Latimer, Karl Kaufman Jr., Alberta M. Smith and my son-in-law John Mudd, March 10; Karen Cordero, Blake James Shipman and Father Scott Hahn, March 11; Harold Wilson,

See **MORNINGSIDE** Page A3

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

### HOT SOUP AND SANDWICH DAY

New Hope Fellowship Parish Christ United Methodist Church invites you to come out to fellowship with us on Saturday, March 11, 2017 from 1:00 PM-3:30 PM for our hot soup and sandwich day. This is free for the community. Please bring your appetite and one canned food item to support the Baden CSSI Food Bank. We will deliver to sick and shut-in and seniors. Contact number is 301-653-7345. Sponsored by Outreach Ministry. Phyllis Slater, Chairperson. Rev. Constance C. Smith, Pastor. Address is 22919 Christ Church Road, Aquasco, Maryland 20608. For more information, contact Phyllis Slater at (301) 653-7345 or Deborah Proctor at (301) 275-2544.

### DISTRICT 9 MONTHLY COFFEE/TEA

You are invited to the District 9 monthly coffee/tea with School Board Member Sonya Williams Saturday, March 18, 2017 from 8:00 AM-9:30 AM (ET) at Starbucks in Brandywine Safeway. The address is

15916 S Crain Hwy., Brandywine, Maryland 20613.

Join School Board Member Williams to share ideas, ask questions and hear important news affecting the District 9 school over a cup of your favorite hot beverage. Telephone number is 301-952-6115.

### SOUTHERN AREA ASSESSMENT FESTIVAL

Join us for the Southern Area Festival Thursday, March 23, 2017 from 2:00 PM-9:00 PM (ET) at Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School. The address is 12650 Brooke Lane, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

Audience will include students, parents and guardians, community members. For more information, please call Lionel Harrell at 301-333-0963 or e-mail him at [lionel.harrell@pgcps.org](mailto:lionel.harrell@pgcps.org).

### UMES BOARD OF VISITORS PROCLAMATION

University of Maryland Eastern Shore Board of Visitors Proclamation recognized the UMES National Alumni Association Hall of Excellence award

to R. Owen Johnson. The UMES National Alumni Association inducted R. Owen Johnson into the UMES Hall of Excellence because of his outstanding service, concern and support that he has demonstrated. R. Owen Johnson is an alumnus of the University who has served the University with honor, integrity and a fighting Hawk Spirit. The Proclamation was signed and sealed on February 17, 2017 by John Allen, Jr., Chair UMES Board of Visitors. R. Owen Johnson, Jr. resides in Maryland with his wife Audrey Turner Johnson.

### FAMILY, PARENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Board of Education family, parent and community engagement meeting will be Tuesday, March 14, 2017 from 6:30 PM-8:00 PM (ET) in the Sasser Administration Building Board Room. This meeting is open to the public. Audience includes students, parents and guardians, community members. The address is 14201 School Lane, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

## Neighborhoods

### BGE Reminds Customers to Keep Foil Balloons Away From Power Lines

BALTIMORE, MD—While that special someone may catch your eye this Valentine's Day, don't lose sight of foil balloons, also known as Mylar balloons, that can lead to outages when they come into contact with power lines. Untethered balloons cause thousands of unnecessary electric service interruptions each year for BGE customers. These balloons have been known to float for days and can end up having a negative impact on the environment. When foil-coated balloons contact a power line or other electric equipment, their metallic properties can cause a surge of electricity that can impede equipment. These types of outages are preventable.

BGE encourages customers to help reduce foil balloon-related power outages and ensure safety by keeping the following tips in mind:

- Keep balloons tethered at all times and attached to weights.
- Properly dispose of Mylar balloons by puncturing the balloon to release helium that otherwise could cause the balloon to float away.
- NEVER touch a power line. Do not attempt to retrieve any object entangled in an overhead power line. For assistance, call BGE at 1-800-685-0123.

• Always assume power lines are live and keep yourself, your belongings and anything you are carrying at least 10 feet away from power lines.

BGE customers can learn about more safety tips by visiting the website at <https://www.bge.com/Safety-Community/Safety/Pages/ElectricSafety.aspx>.

### BGE Employees Receive National Technology Award Several Exelon Utility Employees Recognized by Electric Power Research Institute

BALTIMORE, MD—Baltimore Gas and Electric Company's (BGE) Heather Anderson and Amanda Janaskie recently were honored by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) with the Technology Transfer Award for an energy efficiency and smart thermostat program. The Technology Transfer Award is given annually to utility employees who have explored and implemented innovative technologies on behalf of their company and the industry.

Anderson and Janaskie received the award for evaluating smart thermostats for integration with BGE's demand response programs that help reduce energy usage on peak demand days. As a result, BGE now has the ability to interact with customers more intelligently and provide real-time information during high usage days. This technology also demonstrates BGE's commitment to sustainability and innovation.

"Heating and cooling your home accounts for a

large portion of monthly energy costs and smart thermostats offer customers more control over their energy usage," said Rob Biagiotti, BGE's vice president of customer operations and chief customer officer. "This award demonstrates our continued commitment to explore and invest in innovative technologies that benefit our customers."

The award was presented during EPRI's Power Delivery and Utilization awards dinner in Huntington Beach, Calif., on Feb. 14.

"The 2016 Technology Transfer Award winners have taken EPRI R&D to new levels in order to shape a sustainable energy system," said Arshad Mansoor, senior vice president of R&D at EPRI. "Working in a collaborative environment, their advancements benefit their utility and the entire industry because we all have a stake in power system transformation."

Anderson and Janaskie were recognized along with employees from BGE's Exelon sister utilities ComEd, in Chicago, PECO in Philadelphia and Pepco in Washington, D.C.

### About BGE

BGE, founded in 1816 as the nation's first gas utility, is Maryland's largest natural gas and electric utility. Headquartered in Baltimore, BGE delivers power to more than 1.25 million electric customers and more than 650,000 natural gas customers in central Maryland. The company's approximately 3,200 employees are committed to the safe and reliable delivery of natural gas and electricity, as well as enhanced energy management, conservation, environmental stewardship and community assistance. The company also has an estimated annual economic impact of \$5 billion of output in its service area, supporting more than 9,500 local jobs and producing \$923 million in labor income. BGE is a subsidiary of Exelon Corporation (NYSE: EXC), the nation's leading competitive energy provider. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter, YouTube and Flickr.

### Hospital to Celebrate National Colorectal Cancer Month with Free Screenings, Community Walk and Education Fair

LANHAM, MD—Colorectal cancer is both preventable and curable. However, it is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in Maryland. During National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in March, Doctors Community Hospital will celebrate by raising awareness about this type of cancer through a community walk and education fair on March 25, 2017, on its main campus in Lanham, Maryland.

The American Cancer Society estimates that nearly 2,390 people were diagnosed with colorectal cancer

in Maryland with about 850 deaths in 2016. "These startling numbers are part of the reason why awareness and education is so important," explained Kwanza Graham-Sykes, program administrator at Doctors Community Hospital's Cancer Prevention, Education, Screening and Treatment (CPEST) Program. "Equipped with the right information and access to the right tools, people can improve their health. At the same time, they can educate others within their sphere of influence - creating a cycle of improved health and wellness."

Colorectal cancer is a disease that often occurs in the colon or rectum. It is both preventable and curable if detected early. Beginning at age 50, both men and women should receive colonoscopy screenings. Also, people should recognize some of the symptoms of colorectal cancer:

- Blood in or on the stool (bowel movement)
- Lump in the abdomen
- Cramps or pain in the abdomen
- Constipation
- Flat or ribbon-shaped stool
- In addition to colonoscopies, people can help prevent this disease by:
  - Being physically active
  - Maintaining a healthy weight
  - Transitioning to a healthy eating lifestyle
  - Drinking alcohol in moderation
  - Not smoking

To improve access to life-saving screenings, Doctors Community Hospital provides free colonoscopies—not just in March, but throughout the year. Community members may qualify for free colonoscopies if they are:

- Prince George's County residents
- Ages 50 or older
- Younger than age 50 with a family history of colorectal cancer
- Uninsured or underinsured

"We invite the community to join us on March 25 from 8:00 am to 11:00 a.m. for our first annual 3K colon cancer awareness walk. Get your exercise and learn more about colorectal cancer from our knowledgeable team," Mrs. Graham-Sykes continued.

For more information about Doctors Community Hospital's free colorectal cancer screening program, community walk and educational opportunities, call 301-324-4968 or 301-552-7705. Also, visit the website at [DCHweb.org/freescreenings](http://DCHweb.org/freescreenings).

Doctors Community Hospital is a premier medical and surgical hospital located in Lanham, Maryland. With a mission of being dedicated to passionately caring for the health of patients and the community, the hospital has provided high-quality as well as comprehensive health care to residents of Prince George's County and the region since 1975.

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Call Today **301 627 0900**

# COMMUNITY

## Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

### Do You Know How to Save On Online Brokerage Fees?

If you've made it to a point in life where you're ready to start investing, or at least start thinking about investing, you may consider opening a brokerage account. But you're not alone if the thought of choosing a brokerage firm is foreign to you.

While brokers have helped individual investors buy and sell investments for decades, the relationship and services have changed over time. For instance, rather than calling their brokers, today many investors use a sleek online platform or mobile app to place orders.

Fees associated with maintaining a brokerage account and investing have also changed. Whether you've been investing for years, or are just diving in, it's wise to occasionally compare brokerage firms' offerings and costs, including those listed below, and find the option that's right for you.

**Trading-platform fees might not be necessary.** A trading platform is downloadable software or an online app that you can use to make trades, view real-time quotes and news, perform analysis and set up your trading strategies. While platform fees can cost hundreds of dollars a month, many high-quality options are completely free. Others are free as long as you meet minimum account balance requirements.

**Trading fees are common, but prices vary.** Brokerage trading fees can vary widely depending on the financial product and broker. Many online brokers charge a flat fee, typically somewhere between \$5 to \$10 per online trade for stocks or exchange-traded funds (ETFs). Some brokers alternatively charge a fee per share, which could be a better option for day traders.

Making a trade over the phone or with the help of a broker rather than on your own online could incur an additional fee (sometimes between \$20 to \$50).

Mutual fund transaction fees may be higher than the cost of trading stocks, although some brokers have a list of no-transaction-fee funds. More advanced trading tactics, such as options, also may have additional fees.

Higher trading fees don't necessarily indicate better service, but the fees could help the brokerage firm invest in its trading platform, customer service and research tools. Therefore, you'll want to compare each firm as a whole, not just the trading fees.

**Avoid annual fees.** Some brokers charge an annual fee, often around \$50 to \$75. You might be able to avoid the fee by maintaining a minimum balance in your account, or there are a number of brokerages that don't charge this fee regardless of your account balance.

**Don't overthink account closure or transfer fees.** It's common for a brokerage to charge \$50 to \$75 to close your account or transfer your holdings to a different brokerage. However, many brokerages will reimburse you when you open a new account with them.

**Optional services are just that—optional.** There are a few services, such as paper statements or premium research tools, that often cost money but are easy to opt in or out of based on your preferences.

**How much could you save by choosing a low-fee brokerage?** Unless you're an advanced investor, there are likely a variety of brokerages that can fulfill your needs. Review the fees you're paying at your current brokerage, or at a brokerage you're considering, and the competition's offering.

Paying \$5 versus \$10 per trade might not be significant for every investor. However, that's the difference between receiving \$95 or \$90 worth of stock when you invest \$100. Everything being equal, spending the extra \$5 means you take an immediate 5-percent loss, plus you miss out on potential gains.

**Bottom line:** Choosing a brokerage with low fees helps ensure that your money goes towards your investments rather than overhead expenses. Low-fee brokerages aren't necessarily worse either. Some still offer high-end services, advanced trading platforms and mobile apps that can satisfy the needs of most beginner or intermediate investors.

### Calendar from A1

calendar that reflects the unique needs of their school districts," said Dr. Segun C. Eubanks, Board of Education Chair. "I strongly believe a pre-Labor Day school calendar is best for Prince George's County."

"As Chief Executive Officer of the second-largest school district in the state, I am concerned about summer learning

loss and our ability to schedule professional development and planning opportunities for teachers," said Prince George's County Public Schools CEO Dr. Maxwell. "More importantly, I am concerned about the basic needs that many families struggle to meet, such as regular nutritious meals and child care. We contend that this calendar prioritizes children and families."

### Morningside from A2

Rebecca Turner and Marcy Richardson, March 12; Pamela Woodall, Kathy Elborne, Cordelia Bland and Gregory Ritter, March 13; my daughter

Therese Gallegos and Belinda Benavidaz, March 14; Jacob Thompson, Jose Gryskewicz and Jonathan Capps, March 15; Constance Bennett and my great-grandson Riley McHale, March 16.

## MD, VA, DC and 48 States Suspend Driving Privileges for Failure to Pay Child Support

By PRESS OFFICER  
AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Lawmakers, policymakers, rule makers and government officials in a growing number of jurisdictions, including Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia, are passing or nixing legislation that ends the practice of suspending, revoking or restricting driver's licenses for a garden variety of offenses that have nothing to do with driving. The results are mixed. More than 900,000, or one in six, Virginia drivers have suspended licenses because they failed to pay their debts to the court. However, legislation aimed at ending the practice perished in the waning days of the 2017 Virginia General Assembly Session. In the District, the Bowser administration recently announced it will seek to repeal the District's law that "automatically suspends the driver's licenses of people convicted of a drug crime." Virginia legislators also weighed the thorny issue of driver's license forfeiture for marijuana offenses this session. In Maryland, driving on a suspended license will no longer end in jail time, because of a new law enacted a year ago. Under another 2016 Maryland law, parents who lost driving privileges for failing to pay child support, can have their licenses restored, if they enroll in a pilot jobs program for non-custodial parents.

Virginia suspends driver's licenses for 12 miscellaneous non-moving violations. Juveniles in the state can also lose their licenses for failing to attend school/truancy, possessing mar-

ijuana or alcohol, toting weapons, and making a school bomb threat, even though they weren't in a vehicle or driving at the time of the offense. In addition to placing flags on vehicles of individuals or businesses that owe back taxes to the state, or state unemployment insurance contributions, Maryland also revokes driver's licenses for eight different non-driving infractions, such as passing a worthless check and failing to pay for gasoline. Motorists with revoked licenses in the District as a result of delinquent child support payments must also clear all unpaid parking and photo-enforced tickets, and tickets for insurance lapses before the city reinstates the license.

"Some legislatures and agencies across the USA have proven rather adept at enacting laws that trigger the suspension or revocation of driving privileges for a veritable raft of non-highway safety violations and other legal troubles," said John B. Townsend II, AAA Mid-Atlantic's Manager of Public and Government Affairs. "Their oft-cited rationale is driving is a privilege. But this is a fallacious argument, because in many cases, the 'punishment doesn't fit' the so-called 'crime.' It is often draconian and violates the rule and spirit of proportionality and tips the scales of justice in favor of the government. A suspension for a non-driving offense can impose the very real risks of job loss and financial hardships on victims of circumstances, and innocent family members, especially on persons of limited means and resources who cannot afford a lawyer."

Drivers are bedeviled by automatic license suspensions stemming from certain misdeeds, mistakes, misbehaviors, misdemeanors, mishaps, and infractions unrelated to driving, according to a review by AAA Mid-Atlantic. To regain their driver's licenses, many suspended drivers often face expensive fines, court costs and reinstatement fees that can mount to thousands of dollars. Failure to pay can land the driver in jail and create what the *New York Times* calls a "cycle of debt." But failure to pay child support, or child support payment delinquencies, emerge as the most pervasive reasons for licensure suspensions unrelated to traffic safety in the District, Maryland, Virginia and in the 48 other states. Congress first mandated it in 1975. Advocates argue "alternatives to driver's license sanctioning" for non-traffic offenses are long overdue because the policy is "antiquated" and often "ineffective" as to public safety, and the practice creates a legal quagmire for low-income drivers who are "disproportionately impacted by license suspensions." Decriers of the emerging sea-change in policy contend suspended drivers are getting what they deserve. "Critics of driver's license suspension policies contend that having one's driving privilege suspended is counterproductive," notes the Congressional Research Service (CRS). "They assert that it can lessen a person's ability to keep a job or find work and thus lessen the person's ability to fulfill his or her child support obligation."

Suspension cases clog court systems and do not improve traffic safety. The inverse occurs. Unlicensed drivers are involved in one of every five fatal crashes, studies by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety reveal. Change, albeit incremental at times, is in the ether. As proof, in a move that was unthinkable a generation ago, the District of Columbia is poised to join Maryland and 33 other states that have also passed laws in recent years to end the practice of automatically suspending driver's licenses for persons convicted of drug offenses. District officials call the current polity a "misguided practice." As of now Virginia still requires "mandatory driver's license suspensions of at least six months for drug possession (unrelated to driving)," says the Clemency Report. State legislators are weighing a bill scrapping the policy for marijuana possession.

Maryland enacted two new laws in 2016 that make it easier for suspended motorists to keep or regain their driver's license. The first law, House Bill 1502, requires the Maryland Child Support Enforcement Administration to implement a model employment assistance program for noncustodial parents who have fallen behind on their child support payments. Once a program participant, who also lost his or her driving privileges due to child support arrearages, demonstrably complies with the pilot program, the state will reinstate the person's driver's li-

See DRIVERS Page A5

### School Bus from A1

Carr said there has been a lot of outreach to raise the fee to teach all offenders a lesson, but he said he believes increasing the fee for repeat offenders is a good first step. He said raising fees solely for repeat offenders targets the issue at hand in a smarter way, separating those who go around buses by accident from those who do it willingly.

The highest recorded number of violations reported during the annual one-day survey was from 2011, when 7,011 violations were reported, according to the education department. The following year, "the Maryland General Assembly authorized the use of school bus monitoring cameras on Maryland roadways to help combat the illegal passing of school buses," according to Capt. Tom Didone, director of the Montgomery County Police Department Traffic Division.

Didone said four Maryland counties are using school bus safety cameras, including Montgomery, Frederick, Washington and Prince George's. The devices, which Carr compared to red light and speed cameras, are attached to the sides of school buses and record videos of the cars passing by.

According to Didone, within the first 72 days of Montgomery County's school bus safety camera program start on Oct. 13, the police department issued more than 4,100 citations with the help of 100 buses equipped with cameras.

"That is a rate of slightly over 52 violations per day in Montgomery County," Didone said in his Feb. 9 testimony to the House Environment and Transportation Committee. "It is important to note that we are only currently conducting enforce-

ment on approximately 10 percent of the county's (buses)."

"We're appalled that we're getting this many citations so early and we need to do something to discourage it," Didone said.

Sheri Schully, PTA president of Waters Landing Elementary School in Germantown, Maryland, said she's witnessed cars pass school buses illegally, but the numbers reported were still a lot higher than she would've expected.

"It makes me extremely angry," she said. "Especially with elementary school kids. They're not necessarily aware of what's going on and the drivers need to be."

Didone said he supports the penalty increase for repeat offenders. "Although \$125 is significant, we do not believe that it is proportionate to the severity of the offense, nor is it (enough money) to effectively deter (them) from occurring," he said.

The Montgomery County Board of Education, which supports both of Carr's bills, said in written testimony that \$125 is not enough to discourage drivers from illegally passing a school bus, pointing to the number of citations.

Didone said even though they had not had any repeat offenders in the 72 days of the program's operation as of Feb. 9, the police department's goal is to discourage the bad behavior and prevent a close call, which they have not yet had.

Carr's second bill would hold rental companies responsible for drivers who illegally pass a school bus in rented vehicles.

In its testimony supporting the legislation to make rental cars pay the fee, the Montgomery County Board of Education said "student safety is of the (utmost) importance regardless of the owner of the vehicle."

Richard Hetherington, the automated traffic enforcement manager with the Montgomery County Police, expects about 10 percent of vehicles caught by the school bus cameras to be rejected because they are rented vehicles.

"So, in essence, (we're) allowing approximately six drivers a day and approximately 412 drivers this school year to avoid being penalized for passing a stopped school bus and potentially endangering school children and their parents or caregivers," Hetherington said.

Enterprise Holdings, an international rental car company, submitted written testimony opposing this legislation. The company said the bill would place consequences on the rental company rather than those who actually violated the law.

"This places rental companies in the position of having to first pay a citation and then recapture the fine money it paid by attempting to charge the customer a fee weeks—if not months—after the vehicle has been returned," the company said.

The company reports that should the bill pass, it expects 30 percent of the fines they pay to not be reimbursed by those who violated the law.

According to Carr, seven out of the 12 other states with similar school bus programs do not exempt rental vehicles from paying the fees that come with the violations. The other four states, were either silent or deferred the payment to the registered owner of the car, which could be a rental company.

Carr said today's technology allows rental agencies to pass fees along to the drivers of the vehicles. "This is already happening in Maryland for toll violations," Carr said.

Carr said many rental-car company contracts state if there is a violation given to the vehicle while a person is in possession of the car, the company can pass the fee on to the driver with an additional administrative fee.

Enterprise counters the claim that because it pays fees for toll programs it should do the same for school bus cameras. The intended purpose of each program is different, the rental-company wrote: "One is intended to generate revenue and the other is intended to promote safety."

Didone said the money collected from the school bus-camera violations goes into the county's general fund, which is designated for public safety in Montgomery County, and would help cover the cameras' cost.

The cameras will be installed on Montgomery County buses over the course of three years, according to Didone. "A total of 500 buses will be outfitted by the end of 2017 and the remaining buses will be outfitted by June of 2019," he said.

"Under our current contract, our vendor, FXS, has agreed to install cameras on all 1,200 (buses) at no upfront costs to the county," Didone said.

The total investment for the cameras is expected to cost between \$12 million and \$13 million, according to Didone. The vendor will then receive the revenue from the citations until they recoup their costs, he said. "The Police Department approves all of the citations and ensures that only valid citations are issued so there is no incentive for the vendor," Didone said.

"As a PTA president of an elementary school I haven't heard any concerns from parents about the cameras," Schully said. "The safety of the students is at the forefront of my mind."

# COMMENTARY

## Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



### Cardin, Van Hollen and Fellow Senators Call On Mitch McConnell to Drop Republican Efforts to Gut Family Planning Centers

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen (Both D-Md.) and fellow senators today sent a letter to Republican leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) calling on him to “protect the health and wellbeing of millions of women” by committing not to bring to the Senate floor legislation passed by House Republicans seeking to overturn rules protecting Title X health centers.

“For women in every U.S. state and especially in rural and struggling communities, Title X health centers are a vital resource for preventive and primary care,” wrote the Senators. “It is critical that you take a stand and protect women’s health against efforts to undermine reproductive health care and roll back women’s health advances.”

In 2015 alone, Title X provided basic primary and preventive health care services such as pap tests, breast exams, and HIV testing to more than four million low-income women and men at over 4,000 health centers. In December 2016, the Obama Administration clarified and reinforced existing protections in the Title X program to ensure no qualified provider is excluded from eligibility for federal funding, and guarantee that women and LGBT people have access to the care entitled to them under federal law.

This month, House Republicans jammed through resolutions under the Congressional Review Act which would overturn this important regulation, limiting access to care for women and permitting discrimination against family planning providers. In the letter, Senate Democrats warn Leader McConnell that these efforts would “deny

women access to this care and permit discrimination against providers,” resulting in family planning providers losing access to federal family planning resources.

Along with Senators Cardin and Van Hollen, the letter also was signed by Senators: Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Tammy Baldwin (D-IL), Michael F. Bennet (D-CO), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Cory A. Booker (D-NJ), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Thomas R. Caper (D-DE), Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA), Christopher A. Coons (D-DE), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), Joe Donnelly (D-IN), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Richard J. Durbin (D-IL), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Al Franken (D-MN), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Kamala D. Harris (D-CA), Margaret Wood Hassan (D-NH), Martin Heinrich (D-NV), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Tim Kaine (D-VA), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Edward J. Markey (D-MA), Claire McCaskill (D-MO), Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Jeffery A. Merkley (D-OR), Christopher Murphy (D-CT), Patty Murray (D-WA), Bill Nelson (D-FL), Gary C. Peters (D-MI), Jack Reed (D-RI), Bernard Sanders (I-VT), Brian Schatz (D-HI), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Jon Tester (D-MT), Tom Udall (D-NM), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Mark Warner (D-VA), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Ron Wyden (D-OR), Angus S. King, Jr. (I-ME), and Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND).

See **FAMILY PLANNING** Page A6



The Prince George's Sports & Learning Center

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: PG PARKS & RECREATION

#### THE PRINCE GEORGE'S SPORTS & LEARNING CENTER

This exciting complex integrates a learning theme with a state-of-the-art athletic training and competition venue for area athletes, and caters to the recreational needs of area residents. The centerpiece of the complex is an extensive indoor sports and learning facility. A central atrium, offering a food concession area, common core facilities, and a “Main Street” environment serves as the primary circulation space and links the venues. Facilities in the complex include a field house, fitness center, gymnastics center, aquatic center, and learning center. Complex is located at 8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, on 80 acres of land adjacent to FedEx Field. General hours are Monday–Friday, 6 a.m.–10 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m.–8 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.–6 p.m. For more information and calendar of events, visit [www.pgsportsandlearn.com](http://www.pgsportsandlearn.com)

## Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



### Honoring Dr. Dorothy Irene Height: Great Civil Rights, Women's Rights and Children's Rights Leader

“We African American Women seldom do just what we want to do, but always what we have to do. I am grateful to have been in a time and place where I could be a part of what was needed.”

This quote inscribed on Dr. Dorothy Height's Congressional Gold Medal was just one of the many dozens of awards she received over her extraordinary life of 98 years, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom. A posthumous honor on February 1st from the U.S. Postal Service celebrated the beginning of Black History Month by dedicating the 40th stamp in its Black Heritage series with a beautiful new design featuring Dr. Height in her ever present beautiful hat. She was a brilliant indefatigable lantern and role model for millions of women of all colors but especially Black women, and a long haul social change agent blessed with uncommon commitment and talent.

Her fingerprints are quietly embedded in many transforming events of the last seven decades as Blacks and other people of color pushed open and walked through previously closed doors of opportunity. The new stamp is a fitting tribute to tireless activism whose example is so needed right now everywhere as a half-century of progress for those left behind is threatened with dismantlement.

Dorothy Height, born in Richmond, Virginia in 1912, transcended the limits the Jim Crow society of her childhood placed on a young Black girl. From an early age her speaking skills stood out, and she attended New York University in part with a \$1,000 scholarship from a national oratorical contest (after being turned away by Barnard, which had already reached its quota of two Negro students for that year). She cited November 7, 1937 as the day that changed her life when she was the 25-year-old assistant director of the Harlem YWCA and was chosen to escort First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to a National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) meeting where she met NCNW's founder

and president, the legendary Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, who was immediately impressed with her. She became Dorothy's close friend and mentor, and in 1957, two years after Mrs. Bethune's death, Dr. Height became NCNW's president—a position she held until 1998 when she became Chair and President Emerita, a title she held until her death in 2010 at 98 years young.

During the Civil Rights Movement, while so many women were playing vital roles that weren't featured in the spotlight, Dorothy Height was always up front with a seat at the table. She was often the only woman in the room with Dr. King and the rest of the “Big Six” group of male leaders as they planned many key strategies of the Civil Rights Movement. She sat on the stage—she should have been a speaker—at the historic 1963 March on Washington. She led the NCNW membership as active participants in the movement and reminded us that women were its backbone—unseen but strong and indispensable. A cornerstone of NCNW's civil rights strate-

gies was Wednesdays in Mississippi, which brought together prominent White and Black northern women to travel to Mississippi to develop relationships with Black and White southern women, educate themselves and each other, and create bridges of understanding between the North and South across racial and class lines. It's a model of women's partnership that resonates right now.

NCNW developed a range of model national programs focused on Black women's and families' needs. She always stayed focused on the ways African Americans' needs connect to a larger national and global mission. She participated in conferences and leadership training sessions and on official delegations around the world, and from the White House to the United Nations, her expertise on civil rights, women's rights, and human rights was always in demand. Through it all, Dr. Height's intellect and wisdom remained sharp as did her signature

See **WATCH**, Page A8

## Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



### Claims of “Fake News” are an Insult to a Time Honored Institution That Has Risked Lives to Advance Liberty

“The brutality with which officials would have quelled the black individual became impotent when it could not be pursued with stealth and remain unobserved. It was caught—as a fugitive from a penitentiary is often caught—in gigantic circling spotlights. It was imprisoned in a luminous glare revealing the naked truth to the whole world.”

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In 1955, *Jet Magazine* and the *Chicago Defender* published photographs of Emmett Till's mutilated corpse, igniting international interest in the American Civil Rights Movement. Defender reporter Mattie Colin, who covered the return of the teenager's body to Chicago, captured his mother's anguish in her poignant articles:

“Oh, God, Oh God, my only boy,” Mrs. Mamie (Till) Bradley wailed as five men lifted a soiled paper-wrapped bundle from a brown, wooden mid-Victorian box at the Illinois Central Station in Chicago Friday and put it into a waiting hearse. The bundle was the bruised and bullet-ridden body of little 14-year-old Emmett L. Till of Chicago, who had been lynched down in Money, Mississippi.

For many in the north, the brutality of the Jim Crow-era south was an abstract and distant concept. Reporters like Mamie Colin made it horrifyingly real. And no one dared demean it by calling it “fake news.”

Friction between the White House and the journalists tasked with holding officials to account is part of a healthy democracy. But recent concerted efforts to delegitimize the news media are destructive and demoralizing. Among the low points of the recent presidential campaign were the vicious attacks on individual reporters which were a regular part of some rallies. White House press conferences, which should be a source of lively give-and-take, have devolved into ad hominem attacks.

“The civil rights movement would have been like a bird without wings if it hadn't been for the news media,” Rep. John Lewis has said.

Newspapers and the newly-popular medium of television brought into American homes disturbing scenes of activists in Birmingham and Selma being attacked by with dogs and fire hoses, beaten and tear-gassed by state troopers and sheriff's deputies. A photograph of Selma activist Amelia Boynton, beaten unconscious, ran on the front page of newspapers and news magazines around the world.

Among the martyrs of the Civil Rights Movement is Paul Guihard, a reporter for a French news service, who was shot to death in 1962 during protests over the admission of James Meredith to the University of Mississippi. Newspaper offices were the targets of shootings and bombing attempts.

The men and women of the Fourth Estate continue to risk their lives in the performance of their duties. In the last quarter century, at least seven journalists have been killed in the line of duty in the United States, four of them murdered. One of the first important American journalists to face death threats for her reporting was Ida Wells, a trailblazing African American woman who documented the savage practice of lynching in the 1890s.

The work of America's journalists has resulted in some of our nation's most important reforms. Upton Sinclair's expose of unsanitary practices in meatpacking led to the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act and Federal Meat Inspection Act. Seymour Hersh exposed the My Lai massacre and the Army's subsequent coverup. Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein's Watergate reporting led to the indictments of 40 Nixon Administration officials and the eventual resignation of President

See **FAKE NEWS** Page A8

## The Prince George's Post

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Prince George's County, Md. Member National Newspaper Publishers Association, and the Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia Press Association. The Prince George's Post (ISSN 10532226) is published every Thursday by the New Prince George's Post Inc., 15207 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151. Subscription rate: 25 cents per single copy; \$15 per year; \$7.50 senior citizens and students; out of county add \$1; out of state add \$2. Periodical postage paid at Southern Md. 20790. Postmaster, send address changes to Prince George's Post, P.O. Box 1001, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151.

# BUSINESS

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### Allowing Our Children to Be Children

It seems obvious that, "Children are not little adults." But we often forget that simple truism in interacting with our children, resulting in unnecessary frustration for both us and them.

The world appears very differently to children than it does to adults. Children do, in fact, exist in their "own little worlds." They usually can't react to life the way adults do simply because they haven't yet had the life experiences we've had. The following examples of adult expectations illustrate how far apart we and our children often are in how we view the world:

**"Don't be so messy!"** A messy house might embarrass Mom, but not her kids. An adult with muddy slacks might constantly apologize for his appearance; your son with muddy jeans only wants to tell you how it happened stealing second base.

**"Realize how busy I am and what pressure I'm under!"** Young people aren't yet experiencing stress and time pressure. What they hear you saying is that they're only allowed to have feelings or need help when it's convenient for you, when the outside world isn't more important.

**"Be aware of how dangerous the world is!"** While we want our kids to be safe, instilling unreal fears or passing on our own anxieties doesn't make that happen. We may be unintentionally making the world feel unsafe and scary.

**"There's so much to do and so little time!"** Young people don't fill their days with 101 things to do. They usually don't have the urgent commitments adults face. They gauge time by whether it's light or dark, or when they have slept and woken up. Children like wearing watches because the watch is "cool," not because they care what time it is.

There's a real benefit in remembering that children are really just children, not smaller adults, and in letting them enjoy that childhood. We shouldn't expect them to live up to our dreams, understand our problems, or want to spend "quality time" with adults rather than hanging out with friends.

As adults, we sometimes have to impose rules and actions that our children simply don't understand or relate to (like cleaning up that room before it's a health issue). But realizing why they don't understand, even though they may be doing what is asked, can avoid needless fights and frustration for both parent and child.

*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*

### PGFD from A1

the Black Chief Officers Committee. He also served as Chair of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Senior Operations Chiefs Committee and is a member of the Nation's Capital Incident Management Team.

Acting Fire Chief Barksdale played a key role in the Department's apparatus replacement program and updating the entire inventory of self-contained breathing apparatus. He has spent two tours training firefighters in Kenya, with fellow firefighters from around the United States.

Acting Fire Chief Barksdale, along with his wife of 23 years, Sandra, and 19-year-old

daughter, Olivia, reside in Prince George's County.

On his first official day in office Acting Fire Chief Barksdale sent a Department wide memo stating:

"I am proud and privileged to serve as the Acting Fire Chief for the Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department."

My core mission as your Fire Chief will be to continue with progressive efforts in improving our Fire/EMS Department toward meeting all fire and EMS demands of the community. This will be achieved through capital improvement projects, increased staffing, training, long term apparatus replacement plans and improving safety within our agency.

## Maryland Retains Triple AAA Bond Rating, to Sell Up to \$1.19947 Billion of General Obligation Bonds

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the State Treasurer

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Maryland State Treasurer Nancy K. Kopp announced today that all three major national bond rating agencies have re-affirmed the State's strong AAA bond rating, all with stable outlooks, in preparation for the upcoming competitive sale of State General Obligation Bonds on Wednesday, March 8, 2017.

Maryland is one of 11 states to hold the coveted AAA rating, the highest possible rating, from all three major bond rating agencies. S&P Global Ratings (formerly Standard and Poor's) has rated the bonds AAA since 1961. Moody's Investors has assigned the bonds a rating of Aaa since 1973, and Fitch Ratings has rated the bonds AAA since 1993.

Treasurer Kopp said, "We are pleased and proud that Maryland again has been recognized as a strong AAA State. The retention of an AAA rating from all three major bond rating firms is an affirmation of our State's continuing overall fiscal strength and longstanding commitment to prudent and proactive financial management. The rating agencies recognize the contribution of our diverse economy, well-educated workforce, and above-

average wealth and income levels to the overall quality of an investment in Maryland."

"The taxpayers of Maryland will continue to save millions of dollars as they benefit from lower interest rates prompted by these AAA ratings. This achievement allows us to continue to invest in our communities, notably our schools, libraries, institutions of higher education, healthcare facilities and cultural projects important to the residents of our State," Treasurer Kopp added.

Fitch, in assigning its AAA rating and stable outlook, said: "Maryland's 'AAA' rating reflects its broad, diverse and wealthy economy, extensive budget controls and sound financial operations, and strong management of debt."

Fitch Ratings further noted: "Fiscal management is very strong, with consensus-oriented long-term planning and multiple sources of flexibility including a consistently solid budgetary reserve and a demonstrated ability to adjust spending to address changing circumstances."

Moody's, in explaining its Aaa rating and stable outlook said "The highest quality rating reflects Maryland's strong financial management policies, strong liquidity levels, stable economy and high personal income levels."

While Moody's acknowledged ... the state's economic exposure to constrained federal spending, and above average debt and pension burdens stemming from the state's practice of issuing debt and absorbing certain pension costs on behalf of local governments," they also noted "[c]onsistent with its history of proactive financial management, the state has proactively addressed its structural budget gap and pension funding challenges even under historically slow economic growth conditions."

In assigning its AAA long-term rating and stable outlook, S&P Global Ratings said: "The 'AAA' GO rating reflects what we view as Maryland's: Broad and diverse economy, which continues to recover slowly after weakness in recent years due to federal budget uncertainty and sequestration; Strong wealth and income levels relative to that of the nation; Long history of proactive financial and budget management, including implementation of frequent and timely budget adjustments to align revenues and expenditures and long-term financial planning that should continue to be helpful in addressing future budget challenges; and Well-developed debt management practices with a moderate debt burden for most measures and rapid amortization,

although long-term pension and other postemployment benefits (OPEB) liabilities are relatively high, in our opinion."

S&P Global Ratings further stated: "The stable outlook reflects Maryland's continued focus on structural budget alignment and maintenance of minimum state reserve levels, despite continued slow economic growth. The state's continued practice of making proactive midyear adjustments to align the budget in case of slower-than-anticipated revenue growth will remain an important credit factor over the two-year outlook horizon, given Maryland's above-average economic dependence on federal government employment and spending."

All three rating agencies praised Maryland's history of strong, sound financial management. Moody's recognized "Maryland's financial practices and flexibility are very strong. For example, the state has a binding consensus revenue forecast, multiyear financial planning, and its Board of Public Works, consisting of the Governor, the Comptroller and the Treasurer, is able to respond swiftly to mid-year budget chal-

See AAA BOND Page A6

### Drivers from A3

cense. The pilot program runs from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2019.

Governor Larry Hogan also signed a landmark criminal justice reform bill into law (HB 1312/SB 1005, the Justice Reinvestment Act) that contains language eliminating jail time for driving on a suspended license. In Baltimore City, 16.5 percent of inmates in the city jail were locked up for minor traffic offenses.

A bipartisan effort in Virginia to end the practice of suspending driver's license suspensions for nonpayment of fines and court costs died during the 2017 Vir-

ginia General Assembly Session. Nearly 650,000 Virginia residents lost their licenses for falling behind on fines or fees imposed by Virginia's courts.

"Another 200,000 have lost their licenses for offenses that have nothing to do with driving," according to the Governor's Office. The figures are likely higher. "One million Virginians have their licenses suspended because of unpaid court costs or fines," the Legal Aid Justice Center reported in 2016. Last November, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) deemed the state's driver's license suspension policy was unconstitutional. DOJ sided with plaintiffs "whose driver's licenses were suspended

because they could not afford to pay fines, fees and costs assessed by Virginia courts." The policy has an adverse economic impact on poor and disadvantaged drivers, the DOJ said.

"States are continuing to make changes during each legislative session, with a number of states easing up on driver's license restrictions in particular in order to allow the obligor to continue working so they can meet their support obligation in the future," notes the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). "States suspend driver's licenses for a variety of offenses that are not directly related to driving safety," according to a report to Congress

by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). Curiously, "The suspension of driving privileges has been used for decades to address poor driving behavior," explains the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA). "However, what was originally intended as a sanction to address poor driving behavior is now used as a mechanism to gain compliance with non-highway safety, or social non-conformance, reasons." It adds: "Eliminating suspensions for non-highway safety violations will significantly reduce the burden on DMVs, law enforcement, the courts and society."

### Resolution from A1

"The Affordable Care Act was established to reduce the number of uninsured Americans, protect working families against insurance discrimination and improve overall health," said Chair Davis. "There are large numbers of County residents that benefit from the Affordable Care Act and any repeal, without an adequate replacement, would place

lives at risk—a risk we are not willing to take."

Chair Davis also noted the significant impact a repeal could have on the new Regional Medical Center.

"We are currently facing the possibility of a reduction in state funding for the new Prince George's County Regional Medical Center and a repeal of the Affordable Care Act could further jeopardize the financial suc-

cess of this project," said Davis. "We are urging the Maryland Congressional Delegation, Maryland General Assembly and all Prince Georgians to oppose and resist any weakening of the protections provided by the ACA."

The Affordable Care Act, more commonly known as "Obamacare," protects working families against health insurance discrimination and denial for pre-existing conditions, provides

subsidies to working families to offset the cost of health insurance, incentivizes states to expand Medicaid coverage for the working poor, and requires coverage of basic family health care needs in health insurance plans.

More than 400,000 Maryland residents have obtained health insurance coverage since 2011 under the ACA, reducing the cost of uncompensated care by \$311 million between 2013 and 2015.

### Correction

Last week's lead business story showed the wrong photo and caption. The correct photo and caption is shown below.

We apologize to the EDC and to Lori C. Valentine for this error.



PHOTO COURTESY LORI C. VALENTINE

EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman (2nd from left), with PGCPs CEO Dr. Kevin Maxwell, Parkdale Principal Dr. Tasha Graves-Henderson, EDC YCC Program Director Yolanda Tully, along with students and faculty from Parkdale High School.

## LET'S TAKE, A LONG WALK

Audrey & Frank Peterman are pioneers in the environmental movement. This husband and wife team has toured nearly 170 sights within the National Park System and visited scores of forests and wildlife refuges. During their travels, they have been transformed by the stunning natural beauty and culture protected in American parks and forests. They are tenacious advocates of these natural treasures as a way for all to better appreciate our collective environmental history.

If you're encouraged by this couple's efforts to embrace the great outdoors, visit these attractive sights, which are not too far from your own backyard.

- ▶ Patuxent Research Refuge provides various visitor activities including hunting, fishing and wildlife observation trails.
- ▶ Jug Bay Natural Area offers 1.4 miles of scenic woodland trails for bicyclists and horseback riders, and camping and picnic facilities.
- ▶ Dinosaur Park preserves a rare deposit of fossils from the early Cretaceous period, about 115 million years ago that help scientists reconstruct the County's ancient history.

Learn more at [www.pgiparks.com](http://www.pgiparks.com).

Prince George's County Second Nature is an initiative of the Department of the Environment, Recreation & Authority, and Office of Capital Services to promote cost savings and sustainability in our everyday choices.

# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK  
Movie Review

## Split

Split  
Grade: B+  
Rated PG-13, a little profanity,  
disturbing thematic content,  
and brief violent images.  
1 hr., 57 min

*Split*, a return to form for once-beloved writer-director M. Night Shyamalan, is a psychological thriller disguised as a kidnapped-girls horror movie. After stifling himself to make the found-footage exercise *The Visit*, Shyamalan's distinct style—stiff, formal, sometimes ludicrous and operatic, pockmarked with comedy—is back in full bloom with *Split*. That makes it hard to dismiss, even if you can't quite get on board with everything it does.

It's led by James McAvoy, living an actor's dream as Kevin, a well-organized, obsessive-compulsive Philadelphia man with at least 23 different personalities, each with his or her own voice, accent, and mannerisms. The main one, called Barry, is a nervous, talkative Long Islander who's been making progress with his (their?) psychiatrist, Dr. Fletcher (Betty Buckley), in treating his dissociative identity disorder (aka multiple personality disorder). But an unhinged personality, Dennis, has been taking control of Kevin lately, and it is he who abducted three teenage girls—Casey (Anya Taylor-Joy), Claire (Haley Lu Richardson), and Hannah (Kim Director)—and locked them in a basement in preparation for something very sinister and very specific.



ROTTENTOMATOES

**While the mental divisions of those with dissociative identity disorder have long fascinated and eluded science, it is believed that some can also manifest unique physical attributes for each personality, a cognitive and physiological prism within a single being. Though Kevin has evidenced 23 personalities to his trusted psychiatrist, Dr. Fletcher, there remains one still submerged who is set to materialize and dominate all the others. Compelled to abduct three teenage girls led by the willful, observant Casey, Kevin reaches a war for survival among all of those contained within him—as well as everyone around him—as the walls between his compartments shatter apart.**

Following *Psycho*'s lead, *Split* begins by focusing on the victims and their escape efforts before revealing itself to be more about Barry's story than theirs. But even when it's "theirs," it's really only Casey's, the misfit girl whose flashbacks to deer hunting with her father and uncle show how she came to be the resourceful survivor she is now. A traumatic past is something she has in common with her abductor, whose personalities were each created out of necessity as a

copying mechanism for some particular trauma in the man's childhood. McAvoy is gleefully serious about all of this, committing himself fully to each persona—including a 9-year-old boy and a prim woman named Miss Patricia—and slipping between them with scenery-chewing bravura.

Of course, you can't look at this as a story about dissociative identity disorder per se. Shyamalan certainly doesn't. He merely uses that real-world mental illness as the jumping-

off point for fiction—science fiction, technically. His ideas about how the human psyche works are fascinating, with mind-over-matter questions like how one personality can be diabetic while the others aren't. Can truly believing something cause it to become physical reality? *Split* doesn't pack the punch of Shyamalan's best movies (those being *The Sixth Sense*, *Unbreakable*, and *Signs*), but it shows that his outré ideas and methods still have currency.

### AAA Bond from A5

enges. The state also has no tax and spending limitations or supermajority requirements limiting its flexibility." S&P Global Ratings assigned a rating of "strong" to Maryland's management practices, noting that such a designation "indicates that practices are strong, well embedded and likely sustainable" and that "... Maryland has made continuing efforts to institute sound financial management practices." In assessing Maryland's operating performance, Fitch concluded: "Financial re-

silience is very strong, with a well-funded budgetary reserve and a willingness to trim spending commitments and increase revenues in response to changing circumstances. Multi-year forecasting and planning are disciplined ... Consensus-oriented practices ensure steady management of budgetary conditions and liabilities."

Each of the rating agencies commented on the State's long-term pension liabilities as well as efforts undertaken to improve funding levels. While noting that "[t]he financial condition of Maryland's retirement system

represents the state's most significant credit challenge," Moody's recognized the State's many efforts to manage its pension burden as "[d]emonstrating its proactive management approach." Fitch Ratings noted, "[p]ensions are a comparative credit weakness in Maryland, although the state has taken repeated action since 2011 to reform benefits and made contributions to strengthen funding" and "to improve pension sustainability and accelerate funded ratio improvement over time." S&P Global Ratings indicated "[w]e believe the state's

pension-funded ratio is relatively low," but noted they expect to "monitor the state's future adherence to its revised pension funding policy to budget for actuarially based pension contributions and demonstrate strong funding discipline and commitment to funding the long-term liability."

The bond sale will include three competitive bids which are expected to be sold to institutions. The sale will include \$575 million of tax-exempt bonds, \$100 million of taxable bonds, and up to \$524.47 million of tax-exempt refunding bonds.

### Family Planning from A4

Full letter follows:

March 1, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Leader, U.S. Senate

S-221 Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-0001

Dear Leader McConnell:

We write today with great concern regarding Republican efforts to undermine care at our nation's family planning clinics. For women in every U.S. state and especially in rural and struggling communities, Title X health centers are a vital resource for preventive and primary care. The recent vote in the House to overturn rules protecting Title X health centers would deny women access to this care and permit discrimination against providers. We urge you to protect the health and wellbeing of millions of women by committing not to bring this harmful legislation to the Senate floor.

The Title X family planning provider network is the only federal grant program dedicated solely to providing individuals with comprehensive family planning and related preventive health services. In 2015,

Title X provided basic primary and preventive health care services such as pap tests, breast exams, and HIV testing to more than four million low-income women and men at over 4,000 health centers. In large part due to this work, the U.S. unintended pregnancy rate is at a 30-year low, and rates of teenage pregnancy are the lowest in our nation's history. The success of the program is dependent on funding that is awarded and available to the most qualified health care providers. Without this assurance, family planning providers lose access to federal family planning resources and in turn have fewer resources to see patients, resulting in less access to care.

The Title X regulation passed during the Obama Administration clarifies and reinforces existing protections in the Title X program to ensure no qualified provider is excluded from eligibility for federal funding, and guarantees that women and LGBT people have access to the care entitled to them under federal law. H.J. Res. 43 and S.J. Res. 13 are resolutions of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act, which would overturn this important regulation, limiting access to care for women and permitting discrimination against family planning providers.

Multiple health care providers made clear that discrimination against any health care provider is wrong, and have come out opposed to legislative efforts to overturn the Title X regulation. These include the American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Nurse-Midwives, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Association of Women's Health, Obstetrics and Neonatal Nurses, and the American Association of Family Physicians. In their statement, these providers note the danger of permitting such discrimination between different health care providers, noting, "the move would further reduce, and in many cases eliminate, low-income and adolescent patient's access to essential health care by discriminating against providers for reasons unrelated to medical evidence or best practices". A list of organizations opposing this measure is attached for your awareness.

Family planning services, like those provided at Planned Parenthood and other family planning centers, should be available to all women, no matter where they live or how much money they make. It is critical that you take a stand and protect women's health against efforts to undermine reproductive health care and roll back women's health advances.

## Heart Healthy Tips and Tricks for the Entire Family

### Protect Your Heart With These Easy Meal Add-Ins

(BPT)—What's the biggest threat to our health? It isn't cancer or even accidents, but heart disease. According to the American Heart Association, one in four deaths in the U.S. is caused by heart disease, which includes heart attack and stroke. This statistic is scary, but the good news is, there is something powerful we can do to prevent us from becoming a victim to this disease.

Even if you are one of the 47 percent of Americans living with a major risk factor, there are preventive measures you can take for a healthier heart, says registered dietitian nutritionist, Dawn Jackson Blatner. All you have to do is embrace some simple lifestyle changes starting with your diet.

"Food is quite literally one of the best medicines out there when it comes to improving our health," says Blatner. "Studies show us repeatedly that a balanced diet including heart-healthy unsaturated fats, along with multiple servings of fruit and vegetables can give you additional protection against heart attack and stroke."

Here are five of Blatner's go-to foods you can easily incorporate into your diet for a daily dose of heart-healthy compounds.

**1. Fish:** Salmon and other fatty fish such as sardines are chock full of omega-3 fatty acids, which lower the risk of irregular heartbeat and help decrease plaque buildup in the arteries. If fish isn't already in your meal rotation, it's time to start. Preparation and cooking time for fish entrees is much shorter than that of chicken, beef and pork, making it a perfect weeknight meal.

**2. Greens:** Leafy greens contain nitrates, healthy compounds that not only reduce the risk of heart attack, but can boost survival rates after a heart attack. Plus, spinach, kale and other dark green vegetables have carotenoids, which work to keep blood vessels healthy. So aim to have at least one cup of leafy greens each day, such as scrambled in your morning eggs, a green juice as a snack or a leafy salad with lunch or dinner.

**3. Nuts:** They contain protein, fiber and healthy fat, which work together to keep us feeling full and satisfied. Though high in fat, studies show people who consume nuts on a daily basis are leaner than those who don't, and staying lean is, of course, heart-healthy. So go ahead and keep almonds, walnuts or pistachios on hand for snacking, and choose those that are minimally processed, avoiding candied or highly salted nuts.

**4. Dark chocolate:** Good news: Eating dark chocolate every day can reduce heart attack and stroke for high-risk patients. The magic compound here is flavonoids, which are beneficial for blood pressure and clotting while also reducing inflammation. If you're on-board with making chocolate your after dinner indulgence, opt for brands with 60-70 percent cocoa and that don't contain milk fat in the ingredient list.

**5. Eggs:** Contrary to earlier belief, eating one egg a day has no negative effect on coronary health and can actually reduce the risk of stroke by 12 percent, according to a recent review of 30 years' worth of scientific study cited on [nutrainredients.com](http://nutrainredients.com). But all eggs are not created equal. Eggland's Best eggs, for example, offer the benefit of 25 percent less saturated fat, five times more Vitamin D, more than twice the omega-3s and three times more Vitamin B12 than ordinary eggs. Eggland's Best's superior nutritional profile is due to its proprietary, all-vegetarian diet. So get cracking and experiment with recipes featuring poached, baked and even hard-boiled Eggland's Best eggs to serve up heart-healthy meals.

#### Very Vegetable Frittata

##### Ingredients

4 Eggland's Best Eggs (large)	1 cup chopped broccoli
1/3 cup Eggland's Best Liquid Egg Whites	1 cup chopped cauliflower
1 cup non-fat milk	1 cup chopped zucchini
1 tablespoon chopped chives	1 cup halved cherry or pear tomatoes
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard	1/3 cup crumbled feta cheese
1/3 cup finely chopped onion	salt and pepper, to taste
1 cup chopped mushrooms	arugula, for serving (optional)

##### Directions

In a medium bowl, whisk together the eggs, egg whites, milk and Dijon mustard; set aside.

In a 10 to 12-inch ovenproof nonstick skillet, spray with cooking spray and heat to medium-high. Saute onion until softened—about 2 minutes. Add the mushroom, broccoli, cauliflower and zucchini to the skillet. Saute until slightly softened—another 3 to 4 minutes.

Whisk the egg mixture again, then pour over the vegetables. Sprinkle tomatoes and feta cheese on top.

Place a lid on the skillet, reduce heat to medium and cook until the bottom and sides of the frittata are firm—8 to 10 minutes.

Preheat the oven broiler. Place the skillet under the broiler and broil until the frittata is cooked through (no longer jiggle) and slightly browned on top - about 5 minutes (watch closely).

Cut into 4 wedges and serve immediately, over a handful of arugula, if desired.

— Recipe courtesy of Eggland's Best.

# Calendar of Events

March 9 — March 15, 2017

## Smooth Sounds for Seniors: Ethel Ennis

Date and Time: Thursday, March 9, 2017, 12 noon  
 Description: Beloved vocalist Ethel Ennis returns for the fourth annual Smooth Sounds for Seniors series! Named Baltimore's "First Lady of Jazz," Ethel has performed with a long list of legends and is legendary herself.  
 Cost: \$12/person  
 Ages: Ages 60 & better  
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center  
 9652 Muirkirk Rd., Laurel, MD  
 Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

## Wellness: National Nutrition Month: Spice it Up!

Date and Time: Thursday, March 9, 2017, 7-8 pm  
 Description: Spice it Up! Experiment with spices to season foods. March is National Nutrition Month! Put Your Best Fork Forward with free healthy cooking demonstrations. Learn how to prepare delicious, healthy meals and snacks in these step-by-step cooking demonstrations. Enjoy a sample of the delicious creations. All ages welcome. No registration required.  
 Cost: FREE  
 Ages: All Ages  
 Location: Herbert Wells Ice Rink  
 5211 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, MD  
 Contact: 301-277-3717; TTY: 301-699-2544

## J'Neil Jordan: Hair Stories Artist Talk and Reception

Date and Time: Thursday, March 9, 2017, 7-9 pm  
 Description: Meet the artist and learn more about the process of creating *Hair Stories*—the exhibit currently on display at Publick Playhouse through March 19.  
 Based in Hyattsville, J'Neil Jordan paints with oil on top of metallic acrylics using a subtractive fashion of painting, where she wipes away, etches into and presses against the top layers of oil paint to layers underneath. Her work often depicts festive environments, capturing people in "feel good" moments—caught in the vibe of music, posing, flirting or caught mid-smile.  
 Cost: FREE!!  
 Ages: All ages  
 Location: Publick Playhouse  
 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD  
 Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

## Xtreme Teens: "My Dream Life" Collage

Date and Time: Friday, March 10, 2017, 7-10 pm  
 Description: Let us help you map your future through! Use arts and crafts to create a collage of your dream life and what you aspire to be in the future. Dream BIG!  
 Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID  
 Ages: 10-17  
 Location: Good Luck Community Center  
 8601 Good Luck Road, Lanham, MD  
 Contact: 301-552-1093; TTY 301-699-2544

## Xtreme Teens: Basketball Competition

Date and Time: Friday, March 10, 2017, 7-10 pm  
 Description: Come out and compete in an all-out basketball competition. Compete in various games like 3-on-3, Knockout, and other games.  
 Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID  
 Ages: 10-17  
 Location: Prince George's Plaza Community Center  
 6600 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD  
 Contact: 301-864-1611; TTY 301-699-2544

## Concert: Davey Yarborough and Esther Williams

Date and Time: Friday, March 10, 2017, 8 pm  
 Description: Audience favorites husband-and-wife duo Davey Yarborough and Esther Williams bring their soulful blend of jazz and original songwriting to the Montpelier stage.  
 Davey is a music studies teacher at Duke Ellington School for the Arts, and Esther is a long time musical stage actress. They have performed up and down the East Coast, including the Kennedy Center, the Savoy in New York, and the East Coast Jazz Festival.  
 Cost: \$25/person; 10% discount for Montpelier members & seniors  
 Ages: All ages welcome  
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center  
 9652 Muirkirk Rd., Laurel, MD  
 Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

## Nature Craft

Date and Time: Saturday, March 11, 2017, 10-11 am  
 Description: Enjoy a story, meet a live animal, and make a craft.  
 Cost: Resident: \$3; Non-Resident: \$4  
 Ages: Ages 2-10  
 Location: Watkins Nature Center  
 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD  
 Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY: 301-699-2544

## Intro to Aquaponics

Date and Time: Saturday, March 11, 2017, 2-3 pm  
 Description: Aquaponics is the combination of raising fish and growing plants in water. Learn how to use relationships found in nature to produce fresh veggies in your home! Explore the basics of aquaponics and how to set up your own system.  
 Cost: Residents: \$4; Non-Residents: \$6  
 Ages: Ages 13 & up  
 Location: Old Maryland Farm  
 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD  
 Contact: 301-218-6770; TTY: 301-218-2544

## Tasting the Past: Satisfy Your Sweet Tooth

Date and Time: Saturday, March 11, 2017, 1:30 pm  
 Description: Indulge your sweet tooth as foodways historian Joyce White shares the history of sugar from its use as a medicine to a tasty treat. Advance payment required by March 3.  
 Cost: Resident \$12; Non-Resident \$16  
 Ages: Ages 18 & up  
 Location: Riversdale House Museum  
 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD  
 Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544  
 riversdale@pgparks.com

# EARTH TALK ... What Can We Do to Fight Trump's Anti-Environment Agenda?

Dear EarthTalk:

*I'm concerned about the impact the new administration will have on the environment, especially the calls to bypass renewables and ramp up fossil fuel production. What can I do as an average citizen to combat harmful environmental policies?*

— C. Bedrosian, via e-mail

Lots. The sad fact is that while more than two-thirds of Americans want the federal government to do more to protect against global warming and other environmental ills, the Trump administration is pushing forward with plans to gut the Environmental Protection Agency and wriggle out of our Paris climate accord emissions reduction commitments. But the reign of Trump could end up being the greatest thing that ever happened to the environmental movement, by activating millions of otherwise unengaged citizens to make their voices heard in demanding a faster transition away from fossil fuels and a stepped up effort to protect Americans' air and water quality.

One easy way to get involved is through 5Calls. This free online service provides phone numbers for members of your local Congresspersons and scripts you can use to call them and let them know how you feel on specific timely issues. According to 5Calls, call-

ing members of Congress—even if you just leave a message—is more effective than e-mailing or letter-writing because calls are easier for staffers to tally and the resulting counts inform representatives how strongly their constituents feel about a given issue.

Currently one of the scripts available on 5Calls asks representatives to take action on climate change by opposing HR 637, a bill aimed at preventing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) "from exceeding its statutory authority in ways that were not contemplated by the Congress." If passed, this so-called "Stopping EPA Overreach Act of 2017" would take away the agency's license to regulate a wide range of harmful pollutants including carbon dioxide, and would otherwise undermine decades worth of progress on the environment, conservation, and climate mitigation.

If you want to do more and start influencing others, consider aligning with grassroots Citizens' Climate Lobby. The group has chapters across North America and works to educate everyday people about how to contact elected officials to get the message across that we need them to stand up for environmental protections and reducing carbon emissions. The group is pushing for a non-partisan nationwide "carbon fee and dividend" system that would get emissions in line with our Paris



CREDIT: RJ SCHMIDT, FLICKRCC.

**Everyday Americans shouldn't feel helpless when it comes to influencing policy on environmental issues. Calling on your Representatives in Congress to let them know how you feel is the first step toward becoming part of the solution.**

climate accord commitments while growing the economy and saving lives.

Another way to get involved is to participate in the upcoming People's Climate Mobilization in Washington, D.C. on April 29, 2017. Organizers from the non-profit 350.org hope to bring together hundreds of thousands of Americans to show solidarity in efforts to push forward with plans to green the economy and prevent cataclysmic climate change.

"The People's Climate Mobilization is part of a larger strategy to push back on Trump's agenda of climate denial and fossil fuel expansion, and then double-down at the local level fighting fossil fuels and lifting up real climate solutions," reports 350.org.

"We see April 29th as the culmination of our work to fight Trump during the first 100 days of his administration and the launch pad for a larger, nationwide movement to fight fossil fuels at the local level."

CONTACTS: 5Calls, www.5calls.org; Citizens' Climate Lobby, citizensclimatelobby.org; 350.org, www.350.org

**EarthTalk®** is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of **E - The Environmental Magazine** (www.emagazine.com).  
**Send questions to:** earthtalk@emagazine.com.

## Networking from A1

Network Board of Directors member Renee Green, John McGuirk and John Kincaid who were overjoyed to hear about how well the County is doing and how it is positioning itself to do even greater things.

"We are so glad to have had Jim Coleman talk to us this

morning. Everyone was totally 'wowed' by his presentation," said Green. "If you are not doing business in Prince George's County, you need to rethink that, because this is a County that is on the move!"

Dr. Marco Clark, President and CEO of Bishop McNamara High School, whose school once considered leaving

Prince George's County, was also impressed by the Economic Development Corporation presentation.

"Mr. Coleman has such great energy and enthusiasm and belief in Prince George's County, and it's not just talk," said Clark. "This is a great time and a great place to be and we are proud to be in Prince

George's County and want to attract more to be with us."

For information on how the EDC can assist businesses with access to capital, site selection and other business support services, contact John Mason, Director of Economic Development by email at (jamason@co.pg.md.us) or call 301-583-4650.

## GREENBELT GREAT RAIN BARREL EVENT

DID YOU KNOW?

For a limited time, the City of Greenbelt, the Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) and the Plumbers and Gasfitters UA Local 5 are offering discounted 50-gallon rain barrels for purchase.

To learn more, contact Erin Josephitis at [ejosephitis@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:ejosephitis@greenbeltmd.gov) or order at [www.rainbarrelprogram.org/greenbelt](http://www.rainbarrelprogram.org/greenbelt).



BARRELS COST: \$75

(after rebate- you only pay for the gutter attachment!)

INSTALLATION DEMO & RAIN BARREL PICKUP

SATURDAY

APRIL 1

2017

9am-12pm

Plumbers & Gasfitters Training Facility  
5000 Forbes Blvd. Lanham, MD 20706

LAST OPPORTUNITY TO ORDER

ORDER YOUR RAIN BARREL ONLINE AT:  
[www.rainbarrelprogram.org/greenbelt](http://www.rainbarrelprogram.org/greenbelt)

See a rain barrel installed and apply for your Rain Check Rebate!



Sponsored by DoE, City of Greenbelt and Plumbers & Gasfitters UA Local 5







