

# The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1932

Vol. 85, No. 32 August 10 – August 16, 2017

Prince George's County, Maryland

Newspaper of Record

Phone: 301-627-0900

25 cents



FedEx Field in Landover, Maryland

PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

## Washington Redskins Alumnus Santana Moss Talks Life, Sports, and Success

By PRESS OFFICER  
MNCPPC

RIVERDALE, MD—Dozens of Department of Parks and Recreation campers gave their all at FedEx Field Thursday morning. The campers scrambled, dodged, and yes—caught and threw footballs—after words of advice and encouragement from

Washington Redskins alumnus Santana Moss and the Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County Director Ronnie Gathers.

The football clinic was possible thanks to a partnership between the Department of Parks and Recreation, Comcast, and the Washington Redskins. "It's through partnerships that you're able to speak to people who've

done some pretty significant things in our society," said Director Gathers. "We're able to provide these opportunities throughout Prince George's County—whether it's sports, whether it's arts, whether it's swimming, you name it—and we can provide those opportunities."

The football clinic, created to remind the kids to stay fit and active, allowed the Track and

Field campers to learn directly from the sports legend—who said his success on the football field was due in part to the work he put in on his high school track team.

"For all of you track athletes—keep it up. It's a sport that I think a lot about and I

See MOSS Page A5

## New Guidelines Announced For Free and Reduced-Price School Meals

USDA Announces Adjustments in Income Eligibility

By PRESS OFFICER  
MDSDE

BALTIMORE, MD—The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has announced revised Income Eligibility Guidelines (IEGs) for free and reduced-price school meals. The guidelines are set by the federal government and adopted by the MSDE. Guidelines are used to determine eligibility for free or reduced-price meals in the child nutrition programs for the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) annual adjustments to the IEGs are required by Section 9 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. The guidelines are intended to directly benefit those children most in need and are revised annually to account for changes in the Consumer Price Index. The IEGs were established by multiplying the 2017 federal income poverty guidelines by 130 percent to determine the household

See SCHOOL Page A5

## Maryland Horse Industry Board Seeks Nominations For Industry Representatives

By PRESS OFFICER  
MDA

ANNAPOLIS, MD—The Maryland Horse Industry Board—a program in the Maryland Department of Agriculture—is seeking nominations to fill three positions on its 12-member board. The board serves as a commodities board that helps grow and promote the Maryland horse industry, and is also a regulatory body that provides oversight and advocacy to help protect horses and consumers at the state's commercial

riding, lesson, boarding, rental and rescue stables.

Board members are appointed to four-year terms by the Governor, and represent various segments of the industry. Any person who would like to be considered for an appointment must apply online through the general appointments application which can be found at: <https://govapps.md.gov/appointments/apply/>. Applicants must also include a resumé.

See NOMINATIONS Page A3

## U.S. Congressman Anthony Brown, 'Champion' For Foster Children

By PRESS OFFICER  
CASA

LARGO, MD—Before being elected a U.S. congressman, Maryland's lieutenant governor and a state legislator, Anthony Brown volunteered to assist foster children, an experience that helped shape his life in public service.

Brown served as a court-appointed special advocate (CASA) for foster children while attending Harvard Law School in the early 1990s. He did it at the suggestion of the school that said it would provide him valuable courtroom experience and give needed legal aid to abused and neglected youth.

"I was able to make a difference," said Brown, who made sure that children were properly housed and educated and receiving necessary medical and therapeutic care. "The challenge when you first meet these children is winning their trust and confidence."

Brown won their trust and confidence. And later, while in elected office, backed CASA



Congressman Anthony Brown

programs across Maryland. He also served on the board of the Maryland CASA Association, and in 2005, received the group's Light for Children Award.

"I've been supportive of CASA ever since I served as one," Brown said.

The first-term U.S. lawmaker from Maryland's 4th Congressional District, which includes much of Prince George's and

See BROWN Page A3

## Job Fair Connects More Than 70 County Residents With Employment Opportunities

Good Times On the Horizon for Bilingual Latino Job Seekers

By LORI C. VALENTINE  
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—On July 21, 2017, more than 100 bilingual job seekers came out to the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to participate in its first Bilingual Latino Job Fair and none were disappointed. Residents looking for access to well-paying job opportunities met with more than 30 employer partners, all of whom had immediate needs for positions to be filled. Of the 100 job seekers in attendance, more than 70% left with multiple job offers. EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman and Workforce Development Director Walter Simmons were joined by County Council Member Deni Taveras (Dist. 2), and Daisy Rickert, County Executive Rushern L. Baker's Latino Affairs Liaison who came out to encourage and support the Job Fair attendees.

"Today is a wonderful day in Prince George's County and we

are thrilled to see so many employers ready to meet our job seekers," said Coleman.

"County Executive Baker wants us to make sure we are connecting all of our residents with great high-wage jobs. That's what today's event is all about. We're reaching out to every single community to make sure that everyone is included and has a great, prosperous life here in Prince George's County!"

The Job Fair was a culmination of the EDC's Workforce Services Division's three day outreach to bridge language and cultural barriers to employment in the bilingual Latino community. The outreach consisted of two days of Career Readiness Sessions, where participants were able to receive assistance with resume writing, interviewing skills, career development, dressing for success and free occupational skills training. Residents participating in those sessions obtained a clear understanding of the steps they need to move forward on their career paths. Lazaro Rodriguez



PHOTO COURTESY LORI C. VALENTINE

Jim Coleman, EDC President and CEO; Bilingual Latino Job Fair Attendee; and Daisy Rickert, Latino Affairs Liaison, Office of the County Executive

attended the Career Readiness Sessions and the Job Fair and was successful in securing three job offers today.

"I got a blessing today with three job offers. I'm really excited," said Rodriguez. "I'm so glad that I came out to the One Stop Career Center this week. They taught me how to update my resume, how to explain myself at an interview and how to talk about my education. This has been a wonderful opportu-

nity for a great start!"

Participating companies from a variety of industry sectors held on-site, one-on-one interviews with candidates; many of whom were hired on the spot. Industries represented at today's Job Fair included: New York Life, Chaney Enterprises, WMATA, the Hilton Garden Inn Greenbelt and Goodwill of Greater Washington. All

See JOB FAIR Page A3

### INSIDE

#### Hogan Administration Announces New Reforms to Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program

By extending the initial VEIP inspection for new vehicles by one year, new vehicles will have to complete the initial inspection within 36 months. Currently, new vehicle owners must complete the initial test within two years.

Community, Page A3

#### 50 Years of Black Mayors

A one-time high school dropout, Stokes would go on to get a degree in law. In a life filled with firsts, Stokes' political career began in 1962, when he was elected to serve in the Ohio House of Representatives, becoming the first Black Democrat elected to the Legislature.

Commentary, Page A4

#### The More Jobs For Maryland Act of 2017 Adds Three Additional "Tier 1" Counties for Manufacturing Incentives

The incentives include income tax credits, property tax credits, a sales tax refund and exemption from SDAT corporate filing fees. Statewide, manufacturers are eligible for income tax benefits.

Business, Page A5

#### Movie Review: Baby Driver

As we go jauntily from one plot point to the next, the tension growing as Baby tries to extricate himself from Doc's employ, Wright meticulously choreographs the action, the editing, and the music for maximum complementary effect—to the point that, in most cases, the song Wright chose feels like the only song that could have worked in that scene.

Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

How are environmentalists using Instagram to further their causes?

—Jason McNeil,  
Akron, OH

Features, Page A7

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Rooker sworn in as President of Maryland VFW Auxiliary

Karen Rooker, former Mayor of Morningside, has a new title: President of the Department of Maryland Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. She was sworn in on June 8 in Ocean City at the annual VFW Convention and just returned from the National Convention in New Orleans. On Saturday, Post 9619 will host Homecoming for her.

Karen has been a member of the Auxiliary since 1979, serving twice as president with Post 9619 and secretary “forever” (she says). She served as president with the District Auxiliary. And with the Department of Maryland Auxiliary she has progressed from guard, to conductress, chaplain, junior vice president, and last year, to senior vice president.

Her parents paved her way; Judie and Francis McCrone are Life Members of the VFW and have both held office. In fact, her mom was also president of Post 9619 Auxiliary.

I asked Karen what her special project would be during her presidency. She said she will help raise funds for the Diabetes Institute at Walter Reed National Medical Center.

### Cookout at the Library

Students are invited to head to the Oxon Hill Library on Saturday Aug. 19, noon to 3 p.m., for a Back to School Cookout. Meet mentors and other members of the community while enjoying great music, amazing food, and racking up free school supplies.

### People

Last week I sent wishes to Cornel Gotshall on his Aug. 1 birthday and got an email reporting that he now lives in Florida with his wife Kelley. Only thing, his birthday is not Aug. 1, but Aug. 3. (Sorry about that.) Cornel used to live at 407 Allies Road in Morningside and is the nephew of Susan Stine Mason.

Ramona Britt surprised me with a recent call. She is active with the Laurel-Beltsville Seniors and will be going out of town to see *Seven Brides and Seven Brothers* and to the Harrington Casino in Delaware.

Morningside held possibly its most successful Night Out on August 1, with somewhere between 150 and 200 attending. They enjoyed the food, games, Moonbounce and more. By the way, that was Vice Mayor Bradley Wade at the grill.

Skyline moved its Night Out to the Morningside Firehouse due to construction at the old Skyline Elementary. There was food, drawings (I didn't win), a delicious cake (baked by Shirley Holmes), plenty of fellowship and President Stan Holmes greeting everyone.

Cardinal Donald Wuerl ordained 11 men to the permanent diaconate for the Archdiocese of Washington on June 24 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Two of them are from South County: Deacon Paul Koester, a member of St. John's in Clinton and Deacon Tim Wolfkill, of St. Ignatius Parish in Fort Washington.

I had a delightful week in Michigan, with sisters Rosie and Stella and brother Tom. My driver was daughter Elaine Seidman who dropped me off in Saginaw while she continued on to Hope College in Holland, MI, to teach dance and take lessons at the annual Cecchetti Summer School. Daughter Kathleen Shearer drove from Cincinnati to join me in Saginaw.

### Changing landscape

The \$55.7 million project at the MD 5 (Branch Avenue) interchange with MD 373 (Accokeek Road) and MD 381 (Brandywine Road) in Brandywine began last summer and is now one-third complete with construction of the Spine Road overpass now underway.

### Morningside Memories, 1957

In the spring of 1957, the Morningside Elementary PTA voted for the 1957-1958 officers: Mr. H. W. Shugarts, president; Curtis Deily, vice-president; Walter Powell, treasurer; Ruth Spaid, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Gomer Williams, recording secretary. Mayor Jay Lowery installed the new officers. This report was by Jeanne West in the Morning-Side-Lines.

### May they rest in peace

Lynette I. Corrinne, 93, formerly of Capitol Heights and Clinton, died June 6 in Washburn, WI. She was born in Ladysmith, WI, and moved to Washington to work for the Navy Department. She married William C. Corrinne in 1946. She taught at Capitol Heights Elementary and Avalon Elementary, retiring in 1983. In 1990 Lynette returned to Washburn. She is survived by son William, daughter Liana, two granddaughters and two great-grandsons.

Nick T. Parrett, CMSgt., 86, of Clinton, Air Force retiree who owned a 30-year business in moving and storage, died May 20. He was born in New Castle, PA. He earned many medals for his service during the Korean and Vietnam wars. Nick is survived by his wife of 63 years, Patricia; children Butch, Mike, Tom, Theresa and Jim; 15 grandkids and 14 great-grandsons. Burial is at Arlington.

Mary S. Edwards, 88, formerly of Camp Springs, died May 27 in Evesham Township, NJ. She was born in North Dakota and earned a degree from North Dakota University where she met her husband. They lived in Fargo, N.D.; Zelienople, PA; and Edwards AFB, CA, before Camp Springs.

Mary was a member of the Andrews Officer's Wives Club, Surratt Society, the Antique Club of Southern Maryland, Harmony Hallers Seniors, Camp Springs Presbyterian Church, and Eastern Star/Unity Chapter where she served as Chaplain and Worthy Grand Matron. Her husband of 40 years, Dr. Lawrence Edwards, predeceased her. Survivors include her children Sandy Jost and James Edwards, four grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Savannah Foster, Aug. 11; Mary Berkley and Brittany Short, Aug. 13; Margaret Hunt, Nancy Stacey and Gracie Mothershead, Aug. 16; and Hildagard Koenig, Aug. 17.

Happy 38th anniversary to Morningside Council Member Sharon and Mike Fowler on Aug. 11.

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

### DIVA HONOREES

United Methodist Women of the New Hope Fellowship (Christ/Nottingham Myers United Methodist Churches) celebrated Diva's Out on Saturday, July 29, 2017 at Renditions Golf Club in Davidsonville, Maryland. Rev. Constance Smith, Pastor and Mrs. Henrietta Brown, President.

Diva Honorees are Mrs. Theresa Banks, Mrs. Alice Brooks, Mrs. Berline Brooks, Mrs. Catherine Brooks, Mrs. Mildred Butler, Mrs. Loveray Duckett, Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton, Mrs. Helen Johnson, Mrs. Evelyn Love, Mrs. Alice Myers, Mrs. Barbara Pinkney, Mrs. Ellen Scott, Mrs. Hattie Shivers, Mrs. Juanita Turley, Mrs. Helen Johnson, Mrs. Ruth Turner and Mrs. Rosie Wilkerson were honored at the Diva's Luncheon. Congratulations to all the Diva Honorees for your contributions that you have made to your families, church and communities.

### SUMMER TIME GOSPEL EXPLOSION

RT Productions presents Summer Time Gospel Explosion, Saturday August 26, 2017 featuring The Pilgrim Wonders,

The Gospel Keynotes, The Soul Messengerz, Maurice Yancey & 1 Accord, The Fantastic Violinaires, Burkett Lyburn & All Together Gospel Singers, and Faithful Connections. Doors open at 3:00 PM, concert starts at 4:00 PM. Tickets: Advance \$20, door \$25, VIP \$35.

Contact information: RT Productions 240-640-6911. Buses and vans are discounted. Vendors are welcome. Tickets available at all usual locations. Concert location is Scripture Cathedral, 7610 Central Avenue, Landover, Maryland 20765.

### BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR

Saturday, August 26, 2017 from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM a Back to School Fair will be held at Prince George's Stadium, home of the Bowie Baysox, 4101 Crain Highway, Bowie, Maryland. Registration is required to attend. Visit [www.peps.org/bts-fair](http://www.peps.org/bts-fair), #PGCPSBack2SchoolFair, #PGCPS10KBackpacks.

Children will receive a free backpack. Child must be present to receive a backpack. You will have the opportunity to visit vendor booths, get free immunizations, purchase school uniforms, learn about student services,

Legends Hall of Fame Auto Showcase, and Vintage Baseball Game. Corporate sponsorship opportunities available! Email [sponsorship@pgcps.org](mailto:sponsorship@pgcps.org).

### CHRIST 44TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, July 23, 2017 Christ United Methodist Church in Aquasco, Maryland celebrated their 44th Church Anniversary. The guest speaker was Pastor Rev. Jacques Banks, Sr., son of Theresa and the late Severson Banks, raised in Bryantown, Maryland. He attended Culinary School, and Wesley Theological Seminary. His primary religious background is rooted in Christ United Methodist Church in Aquasco, Maryland.

Pastor Rev. Jacques Banks, Sr. is a Certified Executive Chef with 30 years of food and beverage experience in the hotel and restaurant industry. He also has several years of operating a family owned catering business. He has enjoyed 10 years of ministry as the proud Pastor of Indian Head United Methodist Church. He shares life with his loving wife Cindy, a daughter, three sons, ten grandchildren, and two great-grandsons.

## Neighborhoods

### Library of Congress Offers a New “Feel” to Public Tours

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On August 1, 2017, the Library of Congress launched a new way for visitors with visual impairments to experience the Thomas Jefferson Building. “Touch History” is an accessible tour that brings building details to life for visitors through their sense of touch.

The verbal description tour—“Touch History”—will run the first and third Tuesday mornings of each month, with the exception of September, at 8:45 a.m., beginning August 1 on the ground floor of the Library's Thomas Jefferson Building. The tours will be led by trained docents who will use vivid language to describe the building to participants.

Pre-registration through the following ticketing site : <https://www.eventbrite.com/event/touch-history-a-verbal-description-of-the-thomas-jefferson-building-tickets-36492848091>, is recommended but not required. Participants are advised to check in at the information desk located on the ground floor of the Thomas Jefferson Building.

The Library's Jefferson Building currently hosts between 5,000 and 9,000 visitors a day. In order to make the Library more accessible, “Touch History” was created to allow every guest the opportunity to learn more about the history of the Jefferson Building through a touch-oriented tour.

Combined with the docent's descriptions and stories of the institution as a whole, the hands-on approach is designed to leave visitors with an enriched picture of the aesthetics of the Thomas Jefferson Building. Participants will be able to feel various shapes, wall carvings and sculptural elements. The Architect of the Capitol has also provided materials, such as pieces of marble and granite, that provide an intimate encounter with the variety of textures and the weights of materials used in the building's construction.

The currently scheduled “Touch History” tours are:

- August 15th
- September 19th
- October 3rd and 17th
- November 7th and 21st
- December 5th and 19th

“Touch History” is being presented under the direction of Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden who is taking action to make the Library more accessible to the general public. Some of her most recent efforts include the opening of the Ceremonial Office and extending the hours of the Young Readers Center to Saturday.

For more information regarding tours at the Library, visitors can contact the Visitor Services Office at [loc.gov/visit/](http://loc.gov/visit/).

The Library of Congress is the world's largest library, offering access to the creative record of the United States—and extensive materials from around the world—both on-site and online. It is the main research arm of the U.S. Congress and the home of the U.S. Copyright Office. Explore collections, reference services and other programs and plan a visit at [loc.gov](http://loc.gov); access the official site for U.S. federal legislative information at [congress.gov](http://congress.gov); and register creative works of authorship at [copyright.gov](http://copyright.gov).

### AAA Mid-Atlantic Renews Support for New Potomac River Crossing North of the American Legion Bridge

WASHINGTON, D. C.—During the National Capital Regional Transportation Planning Board (TPB) meeting, held on July 19, 2017, AAA Mid-Atlantic expressed support for the Long-Range Plan Task Force recommendations, particularly, a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a new Northern Bridge Crossing Corridor over the Potomac River north of the American Legion Bridge. The additional river crossing would be a multi-modal corridor linking Montgomery County, Maryland and Loudoun County, Virginia. In essence, AAA Mid-Atlantic is renewing its years-long support for the proposed project.

Tom Calcagni, AAA Mid-Atlantic Regional Director, delivered the following remarks to TPB board members today.

“Like it or not ... the Greater Washington Area is growing and changing beyond what any of us could have imagined thirty years ago. Those of us who remember those days have seen the city and the region evolve from merely the seat of federal power to a dynamic national engine of technology and commerce. The Transportation Planning Board can take some credit for this achievement.

AAA Mid-Atlantic endorses the analysis of initiatives put forward by the Long-Range Plan Task Force ... and thanks the members for their vision. While each of the items listed in the proposal is important in its own right ... we believe one initiative stands above the rest. That is the addition of a new Northern Bridge Crossing Corridor.

When residents of Montgomery County were asked in a survey in 2015 if they would support a new northern bridge ... nearly seven out of ten respondents answered, “Yes.” Not only would a new bridge provide relief to commuters in the region ... many of whom currently suffer from some of the worst congestion in the country ... it would ensure the continued economic vitality and growth we have experienced in both Virginia and Maryland.

In these troubled times ... it would be naïve of us not to consider the security implications of a new river crossing. Anyone unexpectedly caught in Snowmageddon in 2010 knows how quickly our freeways and arterial roads can turn to parking lots. And ... God forbid ... what happens in the event of a national security crisis of some kind?

In the event of a security threat ... a new bridge would quickly be transformed from a matter of convenience to a matter of life and death. The measure before you today simply provides for further study of the initiatives proposed. How in this day and age can anyone truly object to greater knowledge about any subject?

You might even conclude that opponents of this measure fear information the way some fear trolls under a bridge.

These studies, initiatives or recommendations should go forward and the examination of a new northern bridge corridor should carefully examine the political, economic, social,

environmental AND security implications of such a project. Frankly ... there may never be a more apt example of the old adage “It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness.”

The Transportation Planning Board (TPB) is the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Washington region.

### Heart to Hand Announces Expanded Testing Services and Saturday Hours

*Local Organization Holds a Kick-off Event on August 5th To Celebrate Expansion of Sexual Health and Wellness in Prince George's County*

LARGO, MD—Heart to Hand, Inc. announced today that beginning August 5, 2017, they will be expanding their services to include testing for sexually-transmitted infections (STIs) such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis. Rapid HIV testing will remain available. Medical and supportive services are also available for people living with HIV. To make testing services more available, the Prince George's County organization will also expand their hours to include some Saturdays and an evening clinic on Wednesdays. The organization will hold a kick-off event in their office on August 4th from 2pm to 4pm to celebrate the expanded services and hours that will begin on August 5th. Consumers may call for an appointment or find more information through the new, more user-friendly website.

Heart to Hand's expansion of services for STIs comes at a critical time. Prince George's County has been greatly impacted by new cases of HIV and STIs. Of the total cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea in Maryland reported in 2015, 1 out of 5 were from Prince George's County (22% and 19% respectively). Although these conditions are treatable, left untreated they can lead to scarring and infertility. A person with a STI is also five times more likely to contract HIV.

“We're really excited about offering a broader range of STI testing services and hours,” says Dedra Spears-Johnson, co-founder and Executive Director of Heart to Hand, Inc. “Helping our residents achieve optimum sexual health and wellness is our mission, and the expanded services and hours help us do that.” Heart to Hand is a Prince George's County, “home grown” public health organization with roots in HIV and sexual health and wellness care. All services are LGBTQI affirming and available at low or no cost—most insurances are accepted. *About Heart to Hand, Inc.*

Heart to Hand offers outreach and education services; HIV and STI testing; treatment and counseling; connection to HIV care services and benefits coordination including PrEP; medical case management; and physician care onsite. It is located at 9701 Apollo Drive, Suite 400, in Largo, MD. It is open Monday thru Friday from 9am to 5pm, and 9 am to 7 pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. The Saturday clinic operates two Saturdays per month from 10am to 2pm. Contact Heart to Hand at 301-772-0103 or at [hearttohandinc.org](http://hearttohandinc.org).

# COMMUNITY

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### Your Children and a World Of Bad News

Tragic happenings have always occurred and in today's world of 24-hour news channels and constant Internet updates, most of us are bombarded regularly by disturbing news and upsetting events from around the world. Unfortunately, that increased awareness applies to our children as well.

As children overhear parental conversation, pick up snippets from TV, radio and Internet reports, and talk with friends, it can all add up to give even young children enough of an understanding that they feel threatened, insecure and upset.

Every child will display emotional responses to negative news that differ in their nature and severity, but the most common emotions in response to tragic events are fear and anxiety. They may only understand part of what has happened, but kids know it was a bad thing and may worry that it could also happen to them.

When children become frightened by some tragic event, whether it's close by or far away, they need a caring adult to help them understand and deal with the emotions they're experiencing. There are several ways a parent can help.

Start by really listening to your child, encouraging him or her to express what he or she is feeling. Don't dismiss those feelings and reactions, but instead let your child know you understand.

Respond to questions, but in an age-appropriate manner. A young child doesn't need all the details, but an older child can feel more threatened if it appears you are hiding things.

You also should be willing to discuss difficult issues. You don't have to have all the answers, but be ready to talk about what you do know or understand. Stick to factual information and avoid projecting your own fears onto your child. It's okay to stress how serious a situation might be, but don't increase your child's fears of what is happening.

Try to offer reassurances to your child, especially if he or she has been exhibiting a strong emotional reaction such as crying, having nightmares, or repeatedly asking the same anxious questions. You want your child to understand that he or she is safe and that you are there to protect and provide.

Hugs, kisses and saying "I love you" may not make all the anxiousness disappear, but will help reinforce the message that you care, that you will keep your child safe, and that you understand what he or she is going through.

*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*

### Job Fair from A1

of the employers were impressed with the quality and preparedness of the candidates. Many were delighted to be a part of such a unique job fair.

"Today's Job Fair fits perfectly into what we are all about at WMATA," said Roberto Moreno, Senior Diversity Officer for Metro. "We are focused on diversity recruitment, military and veteran recruitment and disability recruitment to support the community. Our Metro Jobs program is designed specifically for the Latino population, so this Bilingual Latino Job Fair creates great synergies between WMATA and the Economic Development Corporation. We have met some excellent candidates today and I know that we can find a place for them at Metro."

The EDC's Workforce Services Division will continue to reach out to all of the residents of Prince George's County to ensure that they have access to well-paying careers. The One

Stop Career Center Manager Vernice Gonzales was extremely pleased with the turnout and is eagerly looking forward to reaching more bilingual Latinos at the next event.

"Today has been wonderful. We have been able to provide employment to the bilingual Latino community," said Gonzales. "A lot of the time, the Latino community is not aware of the services that the County provides its residents for employment assistance. This particular event is not just important to match individuals with employment, it is also important for us to reach out to them to let them know about the employment services and job readiness services that the EDC provides through the One Stop Career Center."

For more information on how to identify job opportunities, register for job training and certification or career development workshops, contact Walter Simmons, Director of Workforce Development Services at 301-618-8400 or wsimmons@co.pg.md.us.

### Nominations from A1

Current openings represent:

- Licensed Stable representative—Open to an owner of a licensed stable
- Humane Societies—Open to an officer of a county humane society
- Trails and Recreational Riding—Open to a representative of the trails and recreational riding community

Applications are due by August 31. For further information, contact Ross Peddicord, Executive Director, Maryland Horse Industry Board, at 410-841-5798 or ross.peddicord@maryland.gov.

Proudly Serving Prince George's County  
Since 1932

## Hogan Administration Announces New Reforms To Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program

*New Reforms Will Implement Recommendation From Governor Hogan's Regulatory Reform Commission, Plan to Save Customers \$2.25 Million Per Year*

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD—On July 27, 2017, Governor Larry Hogan announced regulatory reforms that will save Maryland taxpayers time and money, as well as protect the health of our environment, through common sense changes to the Motor Vehicle Administration's (MVA) Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP). The changes include extending initial VEIP inspections for new vehicles by one year. This announcement implements a recommendation from the governor's Regulatory Reform Commission's 2016 report, released in December.

The 2016 report tasked the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to amend VEIP regulations to expand the use of emerging technologies and provide opportunities to enact driver-friendly improvements.

"Our administration remains committed to enacting common

sense solutions that provide increased value for Maryland taxpayers and improve customer service, while protecting the health of our environment," said Governor Hogan. "This change will put more than \$2 million back into the pockets of Maryland taxpayers and maintain critical environmental protections."

Numerous advancements in vehicle technology over the years have allowed for streamlined VEIP regulations. For example, computerized on-board diagnostic testing is now occurring on the overwhelming majority of vehicles in Maryland.

By extending the initial VEIP inspection for new vehicles by one year, new vehicles will have to complete the initial inspection within 36 months. Currently, new vehicle owners must complete the initial test within two years. All pre-1996 model year light duty vehicles (cars and light trucks) would also be exempt from VEIP inspections. An on-board diagnostic test will continue to be conducted on 1996 and newer light-duty vehicles, as

well as 2008 and newer medium and heavy-duty vehicles.

"These targeted improvements for vehicle emissions testing increase customer convenience, while maintaining our progress on air quality and the Chesapeake Bay," said Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Ben Grumbles.

Approximately 1.6 million vehicles are inspected annually as part of VEIP. If the revised regulations are implemented, an anticipated 209,000 vehicles would be delayed for the initial inspection in 2018, a figure expected to stay constant in future years. Additionally, approximately 24,000 pre-1996 light duty vehicles would be exempt in the first year.

The VEIP program is required by the federal Clean Air Act to reduce ground-level ozone air pollution. Nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds react with sunlight to produce ground-level ozone. Modeling shows reductions of those substances attributable to the VEIP program to be about 10 tons per day.

These proposed regulatory reforms are the latest move by the Hogan administration to make the VEIP process more customer-friendly. Between August 2015 and October 2016, the state installed 10 new, convenient VEIP self-service kiosks that are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Jointly administered by MVA and MDE, the kiosks allow Maryland vehicle owners to test vehicle emissions at their own convenience and at a reduced price of \$10 compared to \$14 at the test stations. For a complete list of self-service kiosk locations, click here.

The regulations will be submitted to Maryland General Assembly's Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR). When implemented, the enhancements will take effect January 1, 2018. In addition to taxpayer savings, the regulatory change will also save the state approximately \$90,000 annually in reduced mailing and credit card fees.

### Brown from A1

Anne Arundel counties, made the comments in an interview with CASA/Prince George's County, which is part of a network of more than 950 non-profits nationwide that recruits, trains and supervises CASA volunteers for foster youth.

"For people who volunteer to be a court-appointed special advocate, my hat is off to them," Brown said. "It's important work. It makes a tremendous amount of difference for the kids."

Brown was elected to Congress in November 2016 after serving for eight years as Mary-

land lieutenant governor and eight years as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates.

He first learned about helping others while growing up in New York City where his father, a doctor, cared for the poor. "Success in life is measured in service to others," Brown was told.

As a CASA volunteer for two years while at Harvard Law School, Brown was moved by what he saw in foster care.

Binsner said, "If you are interested in becoming a CASA volunteer or learning more about it, please contact me at (301) 209-04919 or go to www.pgcasa.org."

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 7th ANNUAL

# BACK TO SCHOOL Fair

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2017 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**PRINCE GEORGE'S STADIUM HOME OF THE BOWIE BAYSOX!**  
4101 CRAIN HWY, BOWIE, MD

Registration is required to attend! Visit [www.pgcps.org/btsfair](http://www.pgcps.org/btsfair)

- CHILDREN GET A FREE BACKPACK (child must be present to receive a backpack)
- VISIT VENDOR BOOTHS
- GET FREE IMMUNIZATIONS
- PURCHASE SCHOOL UNIFORMS
- LEARN ABOUT STUDENT SERVICES
- STAY FOR THE FREE NEGRO LEAGUE LEGENDS HALL OF FAME AUTO SHOWCASE AND VINTAGE BASEBALL GAME




Corporate sponsorship opportunities available! • Email [sponsorships@pgcps.org](mailto:sponsorships@pgcps.org)

Prince George's County Public Schools  
[www.pgcps.org/btsfair](http://www.pgcps.org/btsfair) • #PGCPSBack2SchoolFair • #PGCPS10KBackpacks

# COMMENTARY

## Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



### Cardin Statement on Senate Confirmation of Christopher Wray to Be the Next FBI Director

*"The President's firing of former FBI Director James Comey and his continuing public criticism and intimidation of Attorney General Sessions and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein shows that the President has little respect for the rule of law or separation of powers ... Mr. Wray will have a steep challenge ahead of him as he swears to support and defend the Constitution."*

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.) released the following statement after he joined his colleagues in voting to confirm Christopher Wray to be the next director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The overwhelmingly bipartisan Senate vote was 92-5. The position became vacant after President Trump fired then-FBI Director James Comey over his unwillingness to drop the investigations into how Russia attacked the U.S. during the 2016 election and whether or not any member of the Trump campaign coordinated or colluded with Russian agents.

"I met with Christopher Wray last week to discuss his nomination to be the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). I was impressed with Mr. Wray's background and qualifications. We discussed the importance of the independence of the FBI in following the facts and the law in its investigations, including the importance of the Special Counsel's ongoing investigation and the Justice Department's firewall policy on White House-DOJ interactions."

"Special Counsel Robert Mueller must have the independence, authority, and resources to get to the bottom of Russian interference in our Pres-

idential election, including any collusion with members of the Trump campaign or officials. The President's firing of former FBI Director James Comey and his continuing public criticism and intimidation of Attorney General Sessions and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein shows that the President has little respect for the rule of law or separation of powers and raises serious questions about obstruction of justice. Mr. Wray will have a steep challenge ahead of him as he swears to support and defend the Constitution and uphold the FBI's motto of 'Fidelity, Bravery, Integrity.'

"I also discussed with Mr. Wray the importance of prioritizing the consolidation of the FBI headquarters and making this a priority for both the FBI and DOJ. It is outrageous that the Trump Administration cancelled the current request for proposals for a fully consolidated FBI headquarters, which puts America's national security at risk. The Hoover Building is crumbling around the FBI and cannot be properly renovated, so we must move quickly to establish a new headquarters that meets the 21st century challenges of our nation's premier law enforcement and counterterrorism agency."

## Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



### 50 Years of Black Mayors

*"To be an African American mayor leading a city in the 21st century is not about 'power' but about 'possibilities.' With more than 470 African American mayors leading cities across the United States, the lens of our leadership is shaped from our own personal experiences. Together, we collectively bring a perspective that allows for a spectrum of possibilities."*

—Mayor Sylvester Turner, Houston, TX, *The Role and Obligations of African American Mayors in the 21st Century*, State of Black America, May 2017

Today, the sight of a Black mayor is unlikely to turn any heads or draw any particular attention. But in 1967—during the continuing turmoil of the civil rights movement and two years after the passage of major civil rights legislation—a first generation of African Americans would be elected to helm major American cities and this first wave would go on to irrevocably reshape our American political landscape.

Carl Stokes was the first Black mayor of a major U.S. city. Elected on November 7, 1967, Stokes served as a 51st mayor of Cleveland, Ohio from 1967 to 1971. A one-time high school dropout, Stokes would go on to get a degree in law. In a life filled with firsts, Stokes' political career began in 1962, when he was elected to serve in the Ohio House of Representatives, becoming the first Black Democrat elected to the Legislature. He ran for mayor of Cleveland in 1965 and lost. In 1967, he ran again, defeating Seth Taft, the grandson of president William Howard Taft. On the night of his election victory, Stokes, the great-grandson of a slave, shared with his supporters that, "truly never before have I ever known to the extent I know tonight the full meaning of the words, 'God Bless America.'"

But that historic day in 1967 produced the first two Black mayors of cities with populations of over 100,000 people. On the same day, Richard Hatcher was elected the first Black mayor of Gary, Indiana. Hatcher turned down an offer from President Jimmy Carter to serve

in the White House, instead he chose to stand at the helm of the city he called home. The youngest of 13 children and the son of a Pullman Company and factory worker, Hatcher's start in politics began with the familiar activism of his time, participating in sit-ins at establishments that would not serve Black customers. He became a city council member in 1963 and then became city council president. In 1967, Hatcher unseated the incumbent, winning the general election with 95 percent of the Black vote. During his swearing in ceremony, Hatcher promised that, "together, we shall beat a way; together we shall turn darkness into light, despair into hope and promise into progress. For God's sake, for Gary's sake, let's get ourselves together."

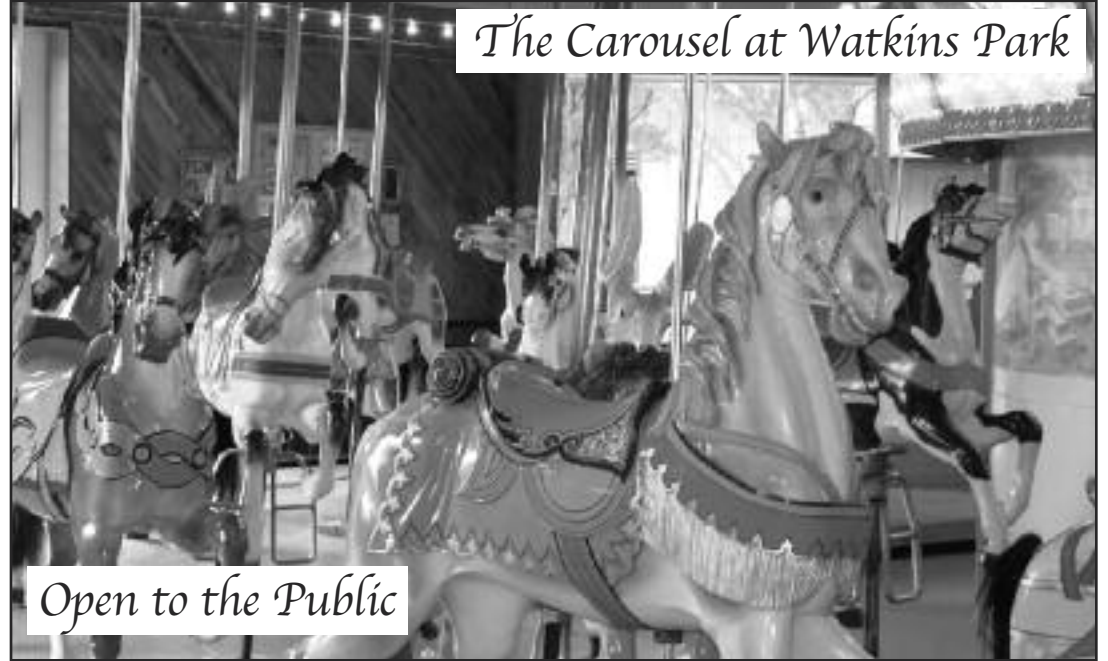
These pioneers, and the many who would follow in their footsteps—including my own father, Ernest N. "Dutch" Morial, who was elected the first Black mayor of New Orleans in 1977—came to power during turbulent times in our country. To be an African American mayor, especially during the polarizing struggle of Black Americans and other marginalized groups to be fully incorporated into American society, was an incredible feat. These early pioneers aspired to political office at a time that was not so far removed from lynchings, segregated schools, and anti-miscegenation laws. Every step, every vote and every position attained was marred and marked by transparently racial barriers, and every victory was made all the more sweet by overcoming them.

Committed to overcoming inequality, the first wave of African American mayors tackled an array of urban problems from poverty to discrimination and local civil rights issues to high unemployment rates—all while responding to the needs of their wider constituency. Between 1967 and 1995, it is estimated that almost 400 African Americans—including women—have been elected to lead their cities, large or small.

The first generation of African American mayors were steeped in the concerns and ac-

See **BLACK MAYORS** Page A5

### The Carousel at Watkins Park



Open to the Public

PHOTO BY LEGUSTA FLOYD, JR.

**ANTIQUA CHESAPEAKE CAROUSEL AND MINIATURE TRAIN**  
Watkins Regional Park features an authentic, hand-carved, hand-painted, 80-year-old carousel which has a rare combination of 45 animals including a kangaroo, jackass, goat, and seahorse. Do not miss the train as it passes through the lovely, wooded surroundings nearby. The park is located at 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD. The carousel and train are open Memorial Day–Labor Day, Tues.–Sun., 10 a.m.–7 p.m. For more information call 301-218-6761.

## Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



### Happy Birthday to Medicaid from the Millions Who Love and Need You

*"It was a generation ago that Harry Truman said, and I quote him: 'Millions of our citizens do not now have a full measure of opportunity to achieve and to enjoy good health. Millions do not now have protection or security against the economic effects of sickness. And the time has now arrived for action to help them attain that opportunity and to help them get that protection.' ... The need for this action is plain; and it is so clear indeed that we marvel not simply at the passage of this bill, but what we marvel at is that it took so many years to pass it."*

President Lyndon B. Johnson said this fifty-two years ago on July 30, 1965 as he signed the bipartisan legislation that established the federal Medicaid program and thanked former President Harry S. Truman and the many members of Congress from both parties who had laid the groundwork and worked tirelessly over many years to make the Medicaid program and its protections reality. For more than a half century Medicaid has been a shining example of the good and essential support government can provide those most in need across all ages. Over the years we have been striving to live up to the promise of ensuring all children and young people a chance to reach healthy adulthood—laboriously and successfully expanding coverage to more children thousands by thousands, millions by millions, state by state.

Today nearly everyone in America has a family member, neighbor, coworker or classmate who has benefited from Medicaid's critical protections. Medicaid offers health coverage to 80 million people. With the help of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the Affordable Care Act, 95 percent of all children today have health coverage. So all of us have millions of reasons to celebrate Medicaid's birthday. And on this day particularly, we can celebrate, at least for now, a rejection of the cruel, relentless and frantic effort to end Medicaid as we know it that threatens tens of millions of children

and families terrified by an uncertain future and the loss of life giving care.

Why are so many people across our country standing up to protect Medicaid? Because Medicaid is a lean, efficient and essential safety net program that allows millions to be healthy and productive members of society. Medicaid is the largest health insurer for our nation's children, providing affordable, comprehensive health coverage to almost 37 million low-income children. Forty-three percent of all Medicaid enrollees are children; Medicaid serves 40 percent of children with special health care needs. It also covers more than 40 percent of all births in the United States and serves millions of low-income pregnant women, adults with disabilities, and the elderly. Medicaid helps two of three seniors in nursing homes.

**Medicaid is a foundational part of our nation's health insurance system for children and vulnerable adults.**

• Today all states provide Medicaid coverage to children under 19 with family incomes under 138 percent of the federal

poverty level (\$33,534 for a family of four in 2016). Some states cover children up to 21 or with higher incomes.

• Medicaid is a valuable source of preventive services helping children get the well-child visits and screenings they need to support healthy development and prevent expensive health complications later.

• Medicaid is a lifeline for children with disabilities and their families. For some families struggling to provide the time and financial resources needed to care for disabled children, Medicaid is often the only viable source of financing for their extensive and expensive health care. Medicaid also supplements private coverage to allow children access to specialized medical equipment and devices such as hearing aids and wheelchairs. It also allows children and adults with serious disabilities to be treated at home and in their own communities rather than being sent off to more costly institutional settings.

• Medicaid is especially important for children of color who

See **WATCH**, Page A6

## The Prince George's Post

The Prince George's Post  
P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151  
Phone: 301-627-0900 • Legal Fax: 301-627-6260  
Email: pgpost@gmail.com  
Contents © 2017, The Prince George's Post

<b>Publisher/Senior Editor</b> Legusta Floyd	<b>Editor</b> Michal W. Frangia
<b>General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager</b> Brenda Boice	<b>Typesetter/Page Layout</b> Jennifer Sheckels
<b>Legal Advertising Assistant</b> Robin Boerckel	<b>Web Manager</b> Kylar Quesenberry

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

## It's About Your Money

### Cut Through the Chaos With Expert Tips for Understanding College Financial Aid Letters

BRANDPOINT—Whether you're a high school senior or an adult looking to change careers, a college degree can be the key to a bright future. As acceptance letters arrive in the mail, another important document is not far behind: financial aid letters.

"College is a major investment, and many people require financial assistance to pay for it," says Harlan Cohen, *New York Times* best-selling author and creator of the *Naked Financial Minute*. "It's vital to understand financial aid so you can make informed choices and avoid surprises in the future."

The average cost of tuition and fees for the 2016–2017 school year was \$33,480 at private colleges, \$9,650 for state residents at public colleges, and \$24,930 for out-of-state residents attending public universities, according to the College Board.

In order to find out what aid you qualify for, you should start by filing your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). After your information is processed, and you've applied to the colleges of your choice, you'll receive financial aid award letters in the mail with the results from each school where you were accepted.

Not all financial aid letters are the same, so deciphering and comparing them can be confusing. To help get you started, the experts at College Ave Student Loans share tips and tricks for how to easily understand your financial aid letter.

Look carefully at symbols and terms: College award letters may use different wording and abbreviations. For instance, rather than spelling out the word "loan" you could see "L" or "LN". You might also see "net price" and "net cost." Look carefully at how each school calculates these amounts. Some schools will subtract loan amounts from these figures. Just remember that loans need to be paid back, usually with interest; loans can help you spread the cost of college over time, but they don't eliminate the expense.

Know the difference between gift aid and loans: Gift aid is money that is awarded to qualifying students that isn't expected to be paid back. Gift aid includes things like scholarships, grants, and housing or tuition waivers. Not all applicants will qualify for gift aid, but most will be eligible for federal loans. As a general rule, you should expect that you'll need to pay loans back, usually with interest.

Be aware of the impact of outside scholarships: If a student is awarded a private scholarship, the financial aid letter may list its effect on the amount of money offered by the school or in federal aid because the student's financial need has already been partially covered. This could impact gift aid, loan amounts, or both.

Keep an eye out for work-study offers: If you indicated an interest during the FAFSA application, your financial aid letter may list approval for a work-study job that provides money toward your studies and fits with your class schedule. The money you earn is typically applied directly to your school expenses.

Understand your expected family contribution (EFC): Depending on your personal circumstances, there may be a line item for expected family contribution. This is the amount of money your family is expected to contribute toward your college education based on their tax and savings information. This will impact your overall award package.

Think about additional costs: Your financial aid letter may not include all of the costs associated with going to school. Think beyond tuition and make sure you have an idea of what you'll be spending on housing, food, transportation, books, supplies, additional fees, and other living expenses.

If you find the amount of financial aid provided isn't enough (including the amount offered in federal loans), families may want to research and explore private student loans as an option to cover the additional expenses. Look for competitive interest rates and flexible repayment options that match your budget. College Ave Student Loans also offers a calculator that showcases how much families can save with various loan options at [www.collegeavestudentloans.com](http://www.collegeavestudentloans.com).

Finally, if you're still unclear about the terms and conditions of any college award letter, it's important to reach out to the school to ask for clarification or discuss your options. You don't want to leave any money on the table.

### Black Mayors from A4

tivism of the civil rights movement, garnering much of their support from Black voters. Today, according to a 2001 study by the Joint Center for Politics and Economic Studies, over 50 percent of Black mayors in big cities were elected in cities without a Black majority. As Houston mayor, Sylvester Turner, described in his State of Black America essay, leading in this current time requires that Black mayors are "nimble and strategic in their approach to leading our cities."

Mayor Richard Hatcher is a storied figure in Gary, Indiana and a storied figure in American politics. He was one of the first Black mayors to lead a major city and demonstrate that nimbleness and gift for strategy that not only got him elected, but kept him in office for five terms. For his part in shattering that glass ceiling for Black politicians and inspiring others to aspire for higher political office, the National Urban League will honor Mayor Hatcher during our annual conference this year, recognizing his historic achievement and lasting legacy.

## The More Jobs For Maryland Act of 2017 Adds Three Additional "Tier 1" Counties For Manufacturing Incentives

By PRESS OFFICER RMI

GLENCOE, MD—The Hogan Administration has focused on restoring Maryland's economy and putting more people to work. During the 2017 Maryland Legislative Session, the cornerstone of Governor Larry Hogan's Job's Initiative passed with unanimous support, a bill that takes an important step in incentivizing and encouraging manufacturers to create jobs in the areas of the state that need them most. Under the *More Jobs for Marylanders Act of 2017*, incentives are offered for 10 years for the creation of family-supporting wages and workforce development programs. The incentives include income tax credits, property tax credits, a sales tax refund and exemption from SDAT corporate filing fees. Statewide, manufacturers are eligible for income tax benefits.

Manufacturers located in jurisdictions with highest unemployment rates are provided increased benefit in Tier 1. These counties are defined in statute as Qualified Distressed Counties—Allegany, Dorchester, Somerset, Worcester Counties and Baltimore City, as outlined by Bureau of Labor Statistics and Bureau of Economic Analysis data. Commerce designated three additional Tier 1 counties: Baltimore, Prince George's and Washington.

More Jobs for Marylanders benefits manufacturing activities in all jurisdictions by allow-



MAP COURTESY RMI

Map showing the Tier 1 Counties in Maryland—Allegany, Dorchester, Somerset, Worcester Counties and Baltimore City and the newly added Baltimore, Prince George's and Washington.

ing faster depreciation of new capital investments, thereby freeing up capital more rapidly for companies to hire new employees and reinvest in their business operations.

### MORE JOBS FOR MARYLANDERS ACT

What the Law Does

*Provides attractive tax incentives tied to job creation for a 10-year period*

- New businesses in Tier 1 jurisdictions receive a refundable State income tax credit (5.75% of the wage per new position); State Property Tax Credit (\$0.112 per \$100 assessed or 0.112%); refund of Sales and Use Tax; and waiver of SDAT fees for the creation of 5 or more new jobs.

- Existing businesses in Tier 1 and Tier 2 jurisdictions receive a refundable State income tax credit of 5.75% of wage per new position, for the creation of 5 new jobs and 10 new jobs, respectively.

*Encourages additional investment in new equipment through accelerated and bonus depreciation*

- Recouples Maryland to Federal International Revenue Code Section 179 and 168(k).
- Frees up capital more rapidly for companies to apply to upgrading facilities, hiring employees and spurring growth.
- Most effective with small manufacturers that need capital to reinvest in their businesses.
- Levels playing field with neighboring states: Virginia and Delaware.

- Applicable for equipment put into service for tax years beginning after December 31, 2018.

### Strengthens Maryland's Workforce

- \$1 million for Partnership for Workforce Quality (PWQ), providing matching grants to manufacturers that provide incumbent worker training programs.

- \$1 million for Workforce Development Scholarships to eligible students enrolled in job training programs at community colleges.

- \$1,000 income tax credit, per apprentice, for manufacturers that employ eligible apprentices.

- Additional measures to encourage high schools to provide increased vocational training programs.

### Moss from A1

think it gave me everything that I've got," said Santana Moss, former Redskins wide receiver.

"Track is one of those sports that as a team, we rack up points—but we've got to go out there individually and do what we do. It's all on me. If you're a 100 yard sprinter or a 200 yard sprinter or that quarter horse, it's on you to get those points," said Moss.

Moss said running track taught him how to focus on his individual performance as a way to help his team win—a mentality that carried over into his football career. "I knew individually I had to give my all for my team to have a chance to win."

Moss also coached the aspiring athletes in other ways to prepare themselves for success—on and off the field. "Even when there was some of my darkest moments as a player and as an individual in life dealing with the things we deal with—never quit. Don't even



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Campers practice various football drills under the guidance of Santana Moss.

let quit be in your vocabulary. We're going to erase that out of your vocabulary today. So never think about quitting," he said.

After the question and answer session with Moss, and a tour of the professional locker room, the campers took to FedEx Field—rotating through different football drills.

The clinic was just one way in which the Department of Parks and Recreation provides excellent public service to the Prince George's community. The event highlighted several of the Department's missives—including its commitment to creating and maintaining cooperative partnerships within the community, and its fo-

cus on enriching the quality of life for present and future generations.

And that's just how Director Ronnie Gathers wants it. Speaking to the campers, he said, "I want you to take note of everything you learned here today, but most of all, I'd like to say to you—when you leave here, think about dreaming big!"

### School from A1

income levels for free meal eligibility and by 185 percent for the reduced-price meal eligibility income levels. The income levels are rounded upward to the next whole dollar.

Household size and income is the most common way to determine eligibility. For example, a child from a family of four is eligible for free school meals if the household's current annual income is below \$31,980. If the family's annual income is between \$31,980 and \$45,510, the child is eligible for reduced-price meals.

Meal Benefit Applications will be sent home from school at the beginning of the school year. Parents and guardians should fill out the application

completely and send it back to the school. Schools cannot approve incomplete applications. United States citizenship is not required to be eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

Schools will inform households whether children qualify for free or reduced-price meals. Parents and guardians may speak with school officials concerning disagreement with the school's decision or appeal the decision and request a fair hearing with school district administrators.

Children enrolled in a Head Start program, children certified as homeless, migrant, runaway, foster, or children living in households that receive Food Supplement Program (FSP) or Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) benefits are eligible for free meals and do not need to

fill out an application. Some FSP and TCA households will receive a letter from the school indicating that children in the household are eligible for free meals. Food Supplement Program and TCA households that do not receive a letter by the beginning of the school year should fill out an application. Other children that may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals include children in households participating in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Parents and guardians of these children should complete an application.

Parents and guardians may reapply at any time during the school year and are encouraged to do so if the household size increases, parents and guardians

become unemployed, income decreases, or the household qualifies for FSP or TCA.

School Meals include the following programs: School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program, After-School Care Snack component, and Special Milk Program. The School Meals programs are administered in Maryland by the MSDE and by the USDA, and must meet nutrition requirements set by the USDA. Please visit the MSDE web site at [www.eatsmartmaryland.org](http://www.eatsmartmaryland.org) for additional information regarding the Child Nutrition Programs.

Individuals who want more information concerning schools or facilities that participate in one of the Child Nutrition Programs should contact a Program Specialist at 410-767-0219.

# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review

### Baby Driver

Baby Driver

Grade: B+

Rated R, a lot of profanity,  
some fairly strong violence  
1 hr., 53 min

Admittedly, *Baby Driver* employs a gimmick. Written and directed by the impossibly clever Edgar Wright (*Hot Fuzz*, *Scott Pilgrim vs. the World*), the film's main character is a getaway driver who times his crew's bank robberies to be in sync with his iPod, which has an eclectic playlist of pop/rock songs that are heard not just in his earbuds but by us, the audience.

*Baby Driver* is thus a musical of sorts, not in the sense of characters bursting into song to express their feelings, but in the sense that the action and dialogue are inextricably linked to a carefully curated selection of tunes. In the bravura opening-credits sequence, our guy struts down the sidewalk to Bob & Earl's "Harlem Shuffle" as snippets of the lyrics appear "coincidentally" in store windows, graffiti, and posted signs. Elsewhere, you'll find that gunshots and other sounds are sometimes synched with whatever song is scoring that scene.

I call the use of music a "gimmick" because the film would be significantly less entertaining without it. The story is elementary: Baby (Ansel Elgort), an expert car thief and driver so nicknamed because of his youth and reluctance to speak, works for Doc (Kevin Spacey), a menacingly folksy Atlanta drug kingpin with a revolving cast of miscreants doing robberies for him. Baby meets a diner waitress, Debora (Lily James), who's lovely and sweet and makes him yearn to escape his life of crime, but first he has to do One Last Job, which, wouldn't you know it, goes awry. Wright gives the dialogue his usual pep, having fun with gangster clichés ("Here's Eddie No-Nose, formerly Eddie the Nose") and giving the char-



ROTTENTOMATOES

**A talented, young getaway driver (Ansel Elgort) relies on the beat of his personal soundtrack to be the best in the game. But after being coerced into working for a crime boss (Kevin Spacey), he must face the music when a doomed heist threatens his life, love and freedom.**

acters amusing quirks, but the framework is basic.

Still, if the use of music is a gimmick, it's a remarkably well-executed one, successfully transforming the familiar material into something buoyant and new. Baby has good reasons, both physical and psychological, for always being plugged into his iPod. He's aware and unconcerned that it makes his underworld colleagues think he's being aloof. An orphan, Baby was raised by an old deaf man, Joseph (CJ Jones), with whom he communicates silently. He fell into the criminal lifestyle accidentally and doesn't have the stomach for it. He's strictly the driver, not a gunman, and he's shocked at how casually the gunmen he works with—including a cackling Bonnie-and-Clyde couple, Buddy (Jon Hamm) and Darling (Eiza Gonzalez), and a flat-out psycho named Bats (Jamie Foxx)—perpetrate violence. (It is suggested that these and the other robbers under Doc's thumb owe him service because of their cocaine habits, which Doc discreetly calls "nasal problems.")

The contents of Baby's iPod (iPods, actually; he has several)

are often the subject of conversation. Buddy, trying to be his buddy, talks about his own choice for a "killer track" to listen to when you need to be pumped up (Queen's "Brighton Rock"). Debora wants to hear the T. Rex song that Baby says shares her name (same spelling, even), and they listen together, their toes tapping along with yours. Baby treasures the tape he has of his mother singing to him, in effect reaching from beyond the grave through the power of music. Baby's tastes run wide and deep; you'll hear Martha & The Vandellas, The Beach Boys, Dave Brubeck, Sam & Dave, Beck, Blur, Barry White, Danger Mouse, Brenda Holloway, Golden Earring, The Jon Spencer Blues Explosion, The Detroit Emeralds, and a dozen more (including Simon & Garfunkel's "Baby Driver," of course\*).

As we go jauntily from one plot point to the next, the tension growing as Baby tries to extricate himself from Doc's employ, Wright meticulously choreographs the action, the editing, and the music for maximum complementary effect—to the point that, in most cases, the song Wright chose feels like

the only song that could have worked in that scene. (You could almost believe "Harlem Shuffle" was crafted to match the opening-credits sequence, not the other way around.) A few of the songs are thematically appropriate ("Nowhere to Run," "Let's Go Away for Awhile," "B-A-B-Y"), but nothing too on-the-nose. It's more about how the songs feel than what messages they contain.

And that's the movie as a whole, too—focused on creating moods more than conveying ideas, and doing a bang-up job of it. Though the Tarantino-lite story turns violent (how could it not?), Wright avoids wallowing in carnage. He wants us to have fun: to laugh, gasp, and cringe; to grip our armrests during the chase sequences; and to hope for our hero and his girl to get away together. And when it's over, he wants to send us out of the theater dancing. Mission accomplished!

*\*I didn't know Simon & Garfunkel had a song called "Baby Driver" until I saw this movie. I said "of course" because I wanted it to seem like I knew about it all along. I'm a fraud.*

### Watch from A4

are twice as likely as White children to be poor.

- The Affordable Care Act's expansion of Medicaid to 11 million low-income adults, including parents, enabled them to receive services and treatment. Evidence shows children are more likely to have health coverage when their parents are also covered.

- Without Medicaid's strong protections, coverage guarantee, and comprehensive, age-appropriate health and mental health coverage, many children would go uninsured or underinsured, increasing short and long term costs for states and local communities and jeopardizing children's academic performance and futures.

### Medicaid guarantees coverage to millions of Medicaid-eligible children, seniors, and people with disabilities.

- Medicaid's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit guarantees children a full range of comprehensive primary and preventive care and access to all medically necessary health and mental health services.

- Medicaid guarantees health coverage to all eligible appli-

cants without waiting lists or enrollment caps.

- Medicaid expands as needs grow and more who are eligible require assistance.

### Medicaid is a smart investment.

- By investing in child well-being now, our nation and economy will recoup benefits later. Research comparing children eligible for Medicaid during childhood to their non-eligible peers found Medicaid eligible children were more likely to attend college, make greater contributions as adult taxpayers, and live longer than those without coverage.

- Medicaid is far more efficient and cost effective than private insurance for children, with administrative costs about half those of private insurance coverage. Over the past decade, Medicaid costs per enrollee have grown more slowly than premiums for employer-sponsored coverage or overall national health expenditures.

- Medicaid funding also offers critical support to hospitals and helps prevent increases in uncompensated care and declines in their operating margins which can force some of them to close, seriously impacting their local economies.

### Changes to Medicaid's structure, including caps and cuts, would hurt other essential child-serving systems vulnerable children need including:

- **Education.** Since child health impacts educational attainment, any structural changes to Medicaid would compromise returns on other major investments in children's education from Early Head Start to college. Medicaid not only helps ensure our nation's most disadvantaged children are healthy and learning in school, but reimburses schools for services delivered to Medicaid-enrolled children. Schools currently receive about \$4 billion in Medicaid reimbursement each year. These dollars help support the work of health professionals and other specialized instructional support personnel, including school nurses, psychologists and speech-language pathologists. They also underwrite specialized equipment and assistive technology for disabled students and support vision and hearing screening for low income children.

- **Child Welfare.** Medicaid for children and parents helps address needs that can otherwise result in children coming to the

attention of the child welfare system. It helps treat children in foster care most of whom have experienced trauma in their lives; provides continuing support for children who move from foster care to guardianship with relatives; assures children with special needs who are adopted from foster care permanent families; and continues specialized treatment for some children who transition from foster care without permanent families and face special challenges.

We have been asking a question for months: Will our President and Congressional leaders ultimately choose to preserve Medicaid as we know it and reject structural changes and cuts that undermine its critical protections, hard-earned coverage and resulting health gains for children and other vulnerable populations made over more than 50 years? Or will we see a generation of harsh callous Congressional and Presidential leadership that rejects Medicaid's promise and ends critical protections for tens of millions of Americans?

Thank God there is some good news from the U.S. Senate

See WATCH Page A8

## A Little This, A Little That

### Enjoy an Attractive And Convenient Composting Station

By Melinda Myers

Make recycling green debris into compost convenient and attractive. Create a space you and your neighbors will appreciate. And locate composting in a convenient area that is easy to access and manage, so you are more likely to do it.

You'll quickly recoup your initial investment of time and money. Spend less time hauling the materials to the recycling center and money spent on soil amendments.

Most importantly, you'll boost the health and beauty of your landscape while helping the environment.

Start by looking for spaces in the landscape or garden where compostable materials can easily be moved into the bin, pile turned, and the finished compost harvested and transported into the garden where it is needed. You found a place to stow the trash cans without ruining the beauty of your landscape or offending your neighbors, so do the same with your compost area.

Purchase or build a compost bin that matches your landscape style. Some bins are built to be an attractive addition to the landscape while others are designed to fade into the garden and go unnoticed. Try using materials similar to your fence, shed or other structures. Situate the bin, so it appears to be an extension of these or an additional garden feature.

Speed up the composting process by creating a pile at least three feet tall and wide. Use only insect- and disease-free materials. Do not include meat, fat, bones, or dairy products that can attract rodents or weeds and invasive plants that can survive most composting and end up back in your garden.



Mix nitrogen rich green materials such as vegetable scraps, and herbicide-free grass clippings and carbon rich browns such as cornstalks, evergreen needles and tree leaves. Top this 8 to 10" layer with compost and sprinkle three cups of a low nitrogen slow release fertilizer, like Milorganite (milorganite.com), over this layer. The organic nitrogen helps feed the microorganisms that break down the raw materials into compost. Continue layering with plant debris, compost and fertilizer until the pile is at least three feet high.

Use plants to screen the compost process. Place a simple wire bin in the middle of the garden. It's convenient; since this is the place you generate garden debris and use much of the finished product. The surrounding plantings will hide the bin.

Or place your bin behind a garden border of tall grasses, shrubs or other permanent plantings. Make sure your neighbors' view is equally as nice. Leave sufficient room for adding materials to compost, turning the pile if needed and harvesting the compost.

Team up with your neighbors to create more gardening and composting space. Design a shared garden and compost area across the lot line. Use steppers for easy access and beautify both yards with attractive plantings. You'll each enjoy the extra garden space and valuable compost you create.

Up the ornamental appeal a bit more by installing a decorative fence as a backdrop for one of your garden beds. Design the screen to run parallel to a fence or hedge along the lot line. Leave enough space between the two structures for composting, storing mulch, shredded leaves, garden stakes and more. Include a gate or entryway along the side for easy access.

Once you start exploring options, your creativity will help you build a composting space suited to your needs. Then get ready to enjoy the increased beauty and productivity that the compost will provide in your gardens and containers.

*Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening and the Midwest Gardener's Handbook. She hosts The Great Courses How to Grow Anything: Food Gardening For Everyone DVD set and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV and radio segments. Myers is also a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Bonnie Plants for her expertise to write this article. Myers' website is www.melindamyers.com.*

# Calendar of Events

August 10 — August 16, 2017

## Beltsville Family Movie Night

Date and time: Thursday, August 10, 2017, 6:30 pm–9:00 pm  
Description: Come and join us as we relax and enjoy a feature movie. Check with the facility for the movie of the day. Refreshments included with cost.

Cost: Resident: \$10; Non-resident: \$13  
Ages: All ages are welcome. (Children 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult)

Location: Beltsville Community Center  
3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville, MD  
Contact: 301-937-6613; TTY 301-699-2255

## Senior Days

Date and time: Friday, August 11, 2017, 8:00 am–12:00 pm  
Description: Let's move and get fit! Seniors (Prince George's County residents only) are allowed use of both the fitness center and pool!

Cost: FREE  
Ages: 60 and older  
Location: Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex  
8000 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD  
Contact: 301-583-2400; TTY: 301-583-2483

## Fabulous Fridays

Date and time: Friday, August 11, 2017, 5:00 pm–8:00 pm  
Description: Come out for an evening of outdoor fun! Enjoy unlimited rides on the Watkins Regional Park's train and carousel, as well as unlimited rounds of golf for one price per person. Note: Advance tickets are not available. Subject to change due to inclement weather.

Cost: Residents \$5; Non-residents \$7  
Ages: All ages are welcome  
Location: Watkins Regional Park  
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD  
Contact: 301-218-6757; TTY: 301-699-2544

## Dinner in White Mansion Style

Date and time: Friday, August 11, 2017, 8:00 pm  
Description: An intimate evening in white, complete with champagne, wine and a gourmet dinner makes for a perfect summer night! Spend an intimate evening at the historic Newton White Mansion enjoying the musical stylings of Tyra Levone and dine on a gourmet meal under the stars.

Cost: Resident \$40; Non-resident \$52  
Ages: 21 and older  
Location: Newton White Mansion  
2708 Enterprise Road, Mitchellville, MD  
Contact: 301-249-2004; TTY 301-699-2544

## Wellness: Yoga in the Parks

Date and time: Saturday, August 12, 2017, 9:00 am–10:00 am  
Description: Join us for FREE yoga classes in the beautiful outdoors! Learn basic moves to strengthen your body, increase flexibility and free your mind. Classes run through Labor Day. No registration is required. Namaste!

Cost: FREE  
Ages: 13 and older  
Location: Marlton Community Park  
8061 Croom Road, Upper Marlboro, MD  
Contact: 301-446-6800; TTY 301-699-2544

## Connecting Art Through Nature

Date and time: Saturday, August 12, 2017, 10:00 am–10:45 am  
Description: Exploring nature through art. Being outdoors can lift our spirits and heighten our creativity. Express your perception of nature through drawing. Join a Ranger for an artistic activity in the green shade of summer. Meet at the Sweetgum Picnic Area.

Cost: FREE  
Ages: All ages are welcome  
Location: Greenbelt Park (Sweetgum Picnic Area)  
6565 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, MD  
Contact: 301-344-3944

## Back-to-School Game Night

Date and time: Saturday, August 12, 2017, 8:00 pm–10:00 pm  
Description: Summer break is coming to a close and we are preparing our minds for the upcoming school year. Send your summer out with a bang at our BIG Game night!! Mark your calendars because you don't want to miss this!

Cost: FREE! with proper ID  
Ages: 13–17  
Location: Palmer Park Community Center  
7720 Barlowe Road, Landover, MD  
Contact: 301-736-7355; TTY: 301-699-2544

## Campfire Talk—Greenbelt City, a Green Oasis

Date and time: Tuesday, August 15, 2017, 8:15 pm–9:15 pm  
Description: Learn about the history of Greenbelt City with a description of the birth of the planned city, a "green town" built as a relief project during the Great Depression. A description of the city's growth during war and peace, and the Art Deco architecture of private homes and public buildings, with the civic adornments of sculptures which still grace this modern community.

Cost: FREE  
Ages: All ages are welcome  
Location: Greenbelt Park (B loop Campfire Circle)  
6565 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, Maryland  
Contact: 301-344-3944

## ISPY: A Revolutionary Program

Date and time: Wednesday, August 16, 2017 11:00 am–2:00 pm  
Description: Kids learn real 18th-century spying techniques during a hands-on interactive spy mission for General George Washington. Find out how the Continental Army successfully outwitted the British to win American Independence!

Cost: FREE  
Ages: Children from 6 to 12 who can read and write  
Location: Darnall's Chance House Museum  
14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive,  
Upper Marlboro, MD  
Contact: 301-952-8010; TTY 301-699-2544

# EARTH TALK ... The Environmental Conscience Of Instagram

Dear EarthTalk:

*How are environmentalists using Instagram to further their causes?*

—Jason McNeil,  
Akron, OH

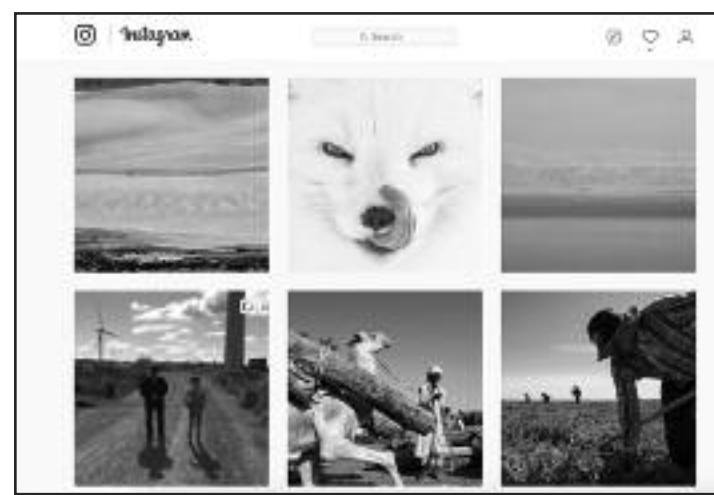
Instagram, the photo-based social network which Facebook bought in 2012 for a cool \$1 billion, continues to rack up new users, doubling its base to 700 million monthly active users over the last two years. Environmental groups, activists and photographers have realized that they can get their messages out more effectively by embracing this new-fangled communications medium that uses imagery to connect with the world's increasingly attention-deficit oriented population of Internet users.

At the heart of the Instagram experience is hashtags, which are essentially keywords that Instagram users append to their posts so others can find them through simple text-based search. When someone searches for a particular keyword on the Instagram smartphone app or website, a list of imagery bearing the corresponding hashtag will pop up as results. Users can then choose to "follow" (i.e., subscribe to) any of the Instagram accounts that show up and will then see every new post by that "publisher" accordingly.

Several well-known green groups have active Instagram accounts, so eco-conscious users

have many choices for getting their pictorial information. The Sierra Club (@SierraClub), the Center for Biological Diversity (@centerforbiodiv), Inherit the Earth (@inherittheearthorg), The Nature Conservancy (@nature\_org), Conservation International (@conservationorg) and Clean Energy Advocates (@net-zero.global) are among the better curated non-profit accounts to follow. And the International League of Conservation Photographers (@ilcp\_photographers) features some of the best conservation-oriented imagery on Instagram from its network of hundreds of the world's leading nature photographers.

Meanwhile, there are plenty of Instagram-only "feature" accounts devoted to environmental issues that are worth following. These curated Instagram account select posts from other users to feature on their accounts. Photographers and other users simply append corresponding hashtags to their posts and then these curated accounts can choose to pick them up and feature them for their own followers to see. Some excellent examples include #everydayclimatechange which features compelling imagery highlighting the challenges we face due to global warming. #climatechange is another hashtag sure to satisfy the urge to stay connected with climate activism. Wildlife lovers should be sure to check out @bbcearth from the BBC and its landmark Planet Earth series as well as



CREDIT: EARTH TALK

#Everydayclimatechange is one of many Instagram accounts that feature others' photos related to the perils of climate change.

@WildlifePlanet, which curates some of the best wildlife photography on the web. @Waterlust seeks to inspire scientific curiosity and sustainable products to support marine science research and education.

Likewise, several conservation-oriented photographers have embraced Instagram as a primary means for showcasing their work and inspiring environmental concerns and activism. Camille Seaman (@camilleseaman), Paul Nicklen (@paulnicklen), Brian Skerry (@brianskerry), Mattias Klum (@mattiasklumofficial), James Whitlow Delano (@jameswhitlowdelano), Arrati Kumarrao (@aratikummarao), and Sean Gallagher (@sean\_gallagher\_photo) each post jaw-dropping and inspiring photos regularly and are well-

worth following if you need inspiration to do the right thing by the planet.

Every day new Instagram accounts with an ecological focus pop up. The best way to stay current is to locate existing feature accounts and then "follow" new photographers as they appear into these feeds. And unlike other forms of media, it doesn't take much effort to learn about our world from Instagram.

CONTACTS: Instagram, www.instagram.com.

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.

# State Fire Marshall Reminds All Marylanders of Fire And Life Safety Issues During Power Outages

By PRESS OFFICER  
Maryland State Fire Marshall

PIKESVILLE, MD—Severe storms may cause disruption in electrical service to our homes. State Fire Marshal Brian S. Geraci is cautioning citizens when using alternative light and electrical sources during power outages. "These easy to follow tips will help all Marylanders avoid injury or death during power outages," said the State Fire Marshal.

- Use flashlights during power outages instead of burning candles. Keep plenty of fresh batteries on hand at all times. If you prefer the look of candles, consider flameless battery operated candles that offer the flickering light without the potential fire hazard.

- If using candles, make sure they are placed on a stable piece of furniture in sturdy holders that will not tip over. Candles should fit in the holders securely and the holders should be made of material that will not burn.

- Keep candles away from anything combustible, such as;

clothing, books, papers, curtains, decorations or anything else that can burn.

- Do not place candles where they can be knocked over by children or pets.

- Always extinguish all candles when leaving the room or before going to sleep.

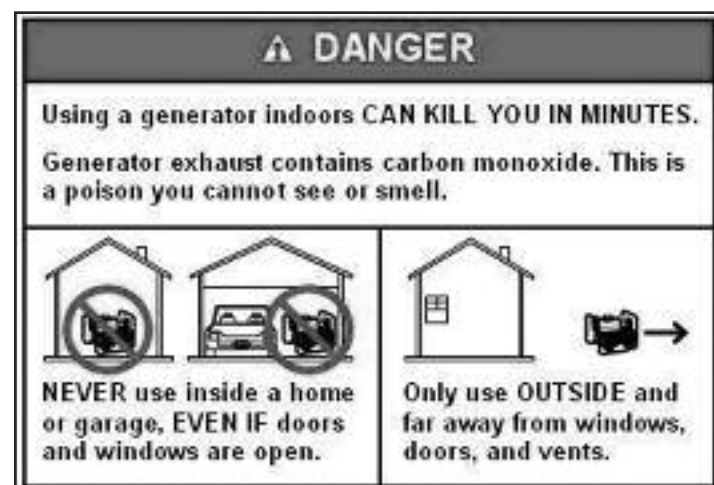
- Never use candles, matches, lighters, or any open flame, if medical oxygen therapy is used in the home.

- Charged solar landscape lighting can be brought indoors for temporary lighting as a safe and effective alternative to candles.

- Ensure burners on electric stoves are in the off position during a power outage and remove any items from the stovetop to prevent unattended heating when the power is turned back on.

- Fuel burning appliances can produce the deadly, tasteless and odorless gas known as carbon monoxide. Install and maintain CO alarms inside your home to provide an early warning of carbon monoxide exposure.

- If you are depending on portable generators for electric-



GRAPHIC COURTESY THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHALL

ity during power outages, use extreme caution when refueling. Fuel splashed on a hot muffler could ignite, causing severe burns and serious injuries.

- Never attempt to refuel a generator while it is running. Always allow the unit to cool before attempting to refuel.

- Operate generators outside of the home and outside of garages. Carbon monoxide gas produced by operating generators is poisonous and can quickly cause severe injury or death.

- Ensure placement of the generator does not allow carbon monoxide to enter the home through windows, doors or other openings.

- The State Fire Marshal offers one final tip that is just as important. "Make sure your home is equipped with working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. These early notification devices are some of the most effective fire and life safety tools for preventing injury or death from fire and carbon monoxide poisoning."

## SURVIVING THE CICADAS

Their red eyes and big wings are hard to miss. A small fraction of the 17-year cicada is emerging four years early. These slow, clumsy bugs pose no danger, but can be noisy and annoying. Here are a few tips to survive this mini-cicada invasion.

- **Do Lawn Work at Dawn or Dusk:** Cicadas sometimes confuse the vibrations of power tools with the vibrations of the males. As a result, male and female cicadas may swarm to you if you're using power tools, lawn trimmers, leaf blowers or mowers. Use power tools at dawn or dusk when cicadas are least active.
- **Wear a Hat Under Trees:** Cicadas drink the xylem fluid of trees as nourishment. That means they urinate from their perch on trees too. The squirts of "cicada rain" or "honney dew" as it is called, won't hurt you. But, go outdoors with a hat or jacket ready if cicadas are overhead.
- **Watch Hungry Pets:** Monitor your dogs and cats—the cicada exoskeleton can cause digestive problems. If pets eat a whole bunch, they can choke.

Photo: © iStockphoto.com/Chris Jones. Illustration: © iStockphoto.com/Chris Jones. Services provided by the Maryland Department of the Environment.