

# The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1932

Vol. 85, No. 37 September 14 — September 20, 2017 Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents

## PGCPS Kicks Off 2017–18 School Year Highlighting Investments In Education and Innovation

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) ushered in the 2017–2018 school year with innovative education investments as more than 132,000 students filled classrooms across the county.

"As we start a new school year, we are excited to expand academic offerings and complete our largest facilities project in recent years," said Chief Executive Officer Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell. "Thanks to our busi-

ness and community partners, our students have access to innovative academic programs that prepare them for real-world opportunities. These investments support our mission to prepare every student for the world beyond our doors."

Dr. Maxwell started the day at the new Fairmont Heights High School, located at 6501 Columbia Park Road in Landover. The original Fairmont Heights, the first in the county to serve African American stu-

See **INNOVATION** Page A7

## PG County Government Ranks 5th Among the Top Ten Digital Counties in the United States

Center for Digital Government Survey Recognizes Most Innovative Digital Counties of 2017

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County was recently named one of the top ten Digital Counties in the United States, ranking 5th in the 15th annual Digital Counties Survey. The survey, conducted by the Center for Digital Government (CDGCDG Logo) and the National Association of Counties (NACo), identifies the best technology practices among U.S. counties, including initiatives that streamline delivery of

government services, encourage collaboration and shared services, enhance cybersecurity and even reduce carbon emissions.

"I'm proud of this technological recognition. Technology is integral and will continue to be a game changer that will positively impact education, economic development, and provision of government services," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "I want to thank the Office of In-

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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY CHARLES MITCHELL

Participants watch a slideshow at an opioid overdose awareness event in Glen Burnie, Maryland, on Thursday, August 31, 2017.

## For a Night, Anne Arundel Rises Above Heroin Epidemic

By ALEX MANN  
Capital News Service

GLEN BURNIE, MD (September 1, 2017)—Heroin and opioid overdose statistics in Maryland tell the story of a merciless epidemic.

State and local governments, police departments and health officials have collaborated to expand and evolve in an effort to meet the growing challenge.

Yet there were 123 more opioid-related deaths in Maryland in the first three months of 2017 than the same January–March

period a year prior, according to the Maryland Department of Health's preliminary first-quarter overdose death report.

While the epidemic has been relentless, it's also evolved.

Heroin and prescription opioids have not been responsible for the surge in fatal and non-fatal overdoses. Fentanyl—a potent synthetic opioid up to 1,000 times stronger than morphine—has ravaged the state, Maryland health statistics show.

There were 372 fentanyl-related deaths between Jan. 1 and March 31, a 136 percent in-

crease over the 157 deaths in the first three months of 2016, health department data show.

Meanwhile, hundreds gathered at Arundel Christian Church in Glen Burnie Thursday to tell another story. That of promise, hope and resilience in spite of the imminent long-term battle.

August 31 was International Overdose Awareness Day. Anne Arundel County expanded upon last year's edition in an effort to destigmatize substance abuse for current and former addicts, and families who have lost loved ones to crippling addic-

tions. Or as the event's director, Carol Boyer said, "the people left behind, those left grieving."

Recovering addicts attended in droves, with many donning T-shirts from sober homes.

Being at the vigil with others who have had similar experiences was very comforting, said Chris Vaughn, 32, who said he's been clean since Aug. 12 and just moved to a sober living home in Pasadena, Maryland. "It's a good reminder of what we're battling."

See **EPIDEMIC** Page A5

## Joint Base Andrews Air Show Returns for 2017

Joint Base Andrews Air Show: America's Air & Space Expo Takes Place This Weekend After a One Year Hiatus

By DELANO SCOTT  
Senior Airman, 11th Wing Public Affairs, JBA

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, MD (September 7, 2017)—After a one year hiatus, the Joint Base Andrews Air Show: America's Air & Space Expo, is returning September 15–17 as a way to build upon the longstanding relationship between JBA members and the local community.

This year's air show features a variety of aerial demonstrations, including performances by the Air Force Thunderbirds, Army Golden Knights and the Air Force F-22 Demonstration Team. Featured static displays will include an F-16 Fighting Falcon, C-17 Globemaster III, and a NASA Super Guppy—a new addition to the JBA Air Show.

The air show kicks off Friday, Sept. 15, with a full program open to Department of Defense cardholders and special invitees only. There will be special parking on base for DOD cardholders and their guests.

On Saturday and Sunday, September 16–17, JBA will open it's gates to the public. No general admission tickets are required to see the show. Attendance is free and open to the public.

No public parking will be available on the base. Shuttles to the Andrews Air Show will run from FedEx Field. In-bound buses to the event will begin shuttling guests at 8 a.m. and stop running at 1 p.m. The Morgan Boulevard Station on the Silver or Blue Line is the closest station to the stadium.

For FedEx parking, those requiring Americans with Disabilities Act parking access are encouraged to use the Morgan Boulevard entrance to the arena.

Pedestrian Entry to the Air Show: Valid ID cardholders walking onto JBA can escort 10 personnel through

the pedestrian entry; visitors must remain with escorts. Personnel without DOD ID cards will be directed to FedEx Field.

Prohibited Items at the Air Show: Guests will not be able to bring food or beverages. Both will be available for purchase as well as hydration stations where free water will be available.

Drones and radio scanners will not be permitted on the installation. Any illegal items or substances, and items perceived to pose a threat will not be allowed.

For the most current information on the air show, visit [andrewsairshow.org](http://andrewsairshow.org) or follow them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/jointbaseandrews](http://www.facebook.com/jointbaseandrews).



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. RYAN SONNIER, COURTESY OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE

**A UH-1N Iroquois flies an American Flag during the 2015 Joint Base Andrews Air Show, Sept. 19. The helicopter is currently assigned to the 1st Helicopter Squadron at JBA and will be one of the many featured aircraft at the 2017 JBA Air Show.**

## Early August 2017 Hypoxia Report

Water Quality Monitoring Program Reports Better Than Average Conditions in the Chesapeake Bay

By PRESS OFFICER  
MDNR

ANNAPOLIS, MD (August 21, 2017)—Dissolved oxygen conditions in Maryland's portion of the Chesapeake Bay mainstem were much better than average for early August, reports the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

The hypoxic water volume (areas with less than 2 mg/l oxygen) was 0.91 cubic miles, which is much smaller than the early August 1985–2016 average of 1.31 cubic miles. No anoxic zones (areas with less than 0.2 mg/l oxygen) were detected.

Crabs, fish, oysters and other creatures require oxygen to survive with levels above 5 mg/l considered optimal to support aquatic health.

The better-than-average conditions follow similar results from early July. While hypoxic volume estimation was not available for late July, conditions could be more favorable due, in part, to lower than average temperatures in the week leading up to sampling. Higher temperatures generally cause more stratification of the water column, which inhibits oxygen from mixing into deeper waters. Wa-

ters with higher temperatures also hold less oxygen.

In the beginning of June, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Geological Survey, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science and University of Michigan scientists predicted a slightly larger than average hypoxic volume for the bay due to higher spring flows (January–May) and nitrogen loading from the Susquehanna River.

Scientists and natural resource managers study the volume and duration of bay hypoxia to determine possible impacts to bay life. Each year (June–September), the department computes these volumes from data collected by Maryland and Virginia monitoring teams. Data collection is funded by these states and the Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Program. Monitoring and reporting will continue with late August and September reports.

More information on Maryland's Chesapeake Bay water quality monitoring program and results can be found at <http://eyesonthebay.dnr.maryland.gov/eyesonthebay/index.cfm>.

### INSIDE

#### Bell Times and Bus Routes, It's All About Back to School Safety

Afternoons present additional risks because children are often distracted by thoughts of playtime and other activities on their journey home. Some may be acclimating to a route home from a new school. Over the last decade, nearly one in four child pedestrian fatalities occurred between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Community, Page A3

#### The Nation Must Come Together To Help Hurricane Harvey Victims Rebuild

A dozen years ago, as Hurricane Rita bore down on the city, more than 2.5 million residents tried to evacuate at the same time. More than 130 people died in the ensuing chaos, more than have been lost to any storm in Texas since 1900.

Commentary, Page A4

#### MGM Resorts International and MGM Growth Properties LLC Announce Transaction On MGM National Harbor Casino Resort

MGM National Harbor will be added to the existing Master Lease between MGM Resorts and MGP, and the rent payment to MGP will increase by \$95 million.

Business, Page A5

#### Movie Review: Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets

His romance with Laureline, which the movie already treats like an afterthought, is unconvincing; DeHaan and Delevingne barely seem to like each other. That's going to be a problem in the unlikely event that *Valerian* earns enough money to justify a sequel.

Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Was Hurricane Harvey caused by global warming?

—Tom Dell,  
Bern, NC

Features, Page A7

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Big new federal headquarters coming to Camp Springs

A new federal building will be going up at One Town Center on One Capital Gateway Drive in Camp Springs, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The agency will be located just off Auth Road and across the street from the Branch Avenue Metro Station.

The General Services Administration will shift about 3,700 employees from five leased locations across the metro area into the new headquarters, and in so doing, save the federal government \$21.4 million in annual lease savings.

Mary Gilbert, commissioner of CSA's National Capital Region, announced, "The consolidation of USCIS' headquarters operation at One Town Center from multiple leased locations will reduce expenses, save public funds, and provide the hardworking USCIS staff with a world class workspace."

Occupancy is expected to occur in 2020.

### One of Skyline's original residents dies at 95

Kenneth Lee "Ken" Hightower, 95, a Navy veteran of WWII and a longtime civilian employee at Andrews, died May 11. He was born in Tarboro, NC, son of Gurney and Bessie Hightower. He graduated from the old Maryland Park High School where he met his future wife, Margaret Teachum. They were wed on Oct. 19, 1946, at Metropolitan Methodist Church in Washington.

They lived in District Heights until, in 1955, they had a house built on Pine Lane, around the corner from me in Skyline. Ken and Margaret enjoyed visiting antique shops, playing cards and eating out on Saturday night. They stayed on in Skyline until, in failing health, they both moved to Morningside House, Waldorf, in 2008.

Ken was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Margaret, brothers Ralph and

William and sister, Lois Sonntag. His niece Cynthia Lee Sigafosse and other nieces and nephews survive him.

A fellow resident of Morningside House, paid tribute to Ken: "I am going to miss our talks in the lobby, our laughs together and you always asking me to go check your mailbox. ... Thank you for being a great resident and an awesome companion at MSH."

### Baby Cally

Cally Marie Richards was born Mother's Day, May 14, to Avery Simmons and Bobbie Richards, at Calvert Memorial Hospital. Baby Cally is granddaughter of Dean Woods, of Morningside, and Christina Simmons Tayman, and great-granddaughter of the late Anne and John Woods of Morningside and Dr. Pasquale and G.A. DeFelice.

### Prince George's celebrates discovery

County Exec. Rushern Baker released this statement in honor of the recent historic solar eclipse: "Our County plays a unique role in the history, present, and future earth, space, and sun exploration and science. As home to NASA Goddard, the Hubble Space Telescope, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), Prince George's County has been and will continue to be 'ground zero' for our nation's and planet's unwavering dedication to discovery ..."

### Coming up

Morningsiders are urged to attend the monthly Morningside Town Meeting at the Town Hall on Tuesday, Sept. 19, 7 p.m.

Skyline residents are encouraged to turn out at the Morningside Fire Department for the quarterly meeting of the Skyline Citizens Association, Sept. 20, at 7 p.m.

### Changing landscape

County Exec Baker greeted students, teachers and parents as he toured the new Fairmont Heights High School on Co-

lumbia Park Road in Hyattsville, on Sept. 6.

A new, improved Cole Field House was unveiled Aug. 2 at the University of Maryland. The facility offers an indoor football field, locker rooms and training rooms, plus a state-of-the-art medical facility.

The Washington Monument will have a new elevator system when it reopens in 2019, as announced by the National Park Service.

### May he rest in peace

Past Grand Knight Ray Williams of the Knights of Columbus in Forestville died July 7. He was 99. He had a career in the Federal government and lived in District Heights until about 20 years ago. He joined the Knights at 18 and was an active member for 81 years. He was also a member of the VFW and a parishioner at Mt. Calvary Church. His wife Emma died a few years ago.

Marvin Ross Rogers, Jr., died unexpectedly while working in his boatyard on Aug. 6, 2015, in San Leon, Texas. He was 69. The reason this is of interest to us—even though it's two years late—is because Ross used to live on Pickett Drive in Morningside, went to the local schools and graduated in 1964 from Suitland High where he was a track star. He pursued a college degree, worked for Arco Steel, Hughes Tool Co., Jefferson Standard Insurance and owned a sweeping service. Survivors include his wife Becky, four children and several grandkids.

Thank you to Sue Mason who sent this to me and to Mike Rummel for sending it to Sue who added this note: "Ross was in some of my classes, very nice guy, always smiling."

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Elnora McCall, Sept. 15; Dolores McDonald, Steven Warren and Yolanda Dooley, Sept. 16; Kimberly Brewer, Everett Mason, Jr. and Joan Stakem, Sept. 17.

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

### WANT TO GO SOLAR?

Want to go Solar? Join a Solar Co-op. Join us for an information session Wednesday, September 20th 7:30 PM at Baden Fire Hall. The address is 16608 Brandywine Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Homeowners can join solar co-op to save money and make going solar easier while building a network of solar supporters. Local non-profit MD SUN has helped homeowners organize over a dozen solar co-ops in Maryland in the last two years.

Join a Solar Co-op and save up to 20% off the cost of going solar. Get expert help throughout the process. System sizes vary. You can size to fit your budget. If you have questions call 240-334-7720 or email: solarteam@mdsun.org. To learn more and register for the information session, please visit: md-sun.org/indianhead.

### VETERANS DAY CASINO SLOTS

It's our Annual Veterans Day Casino Slots bus trip to Harrah's Slots Casino, Chester, PA on Saturday, November 11, 2017. Bus will leave St. Philip's Church, Brandywine, Maryland at 9:00

AM. and Clinton Park-N-Ride, Clinton, Maryland at 9:30 AM. The bus returns at approximately 7:30 PM.

Fun package includes a \$30.00 slot play rebate with other amenities, Oldies but Goodies, 50/50 Raffle and Cake Sales. Donation is \$45.00. Absolutely no refunds. Purchase your ticket early so you won't be left out. Tickets must be purchased by October 28, 2017. Benefit: Shirley A. Cleaves.

Point of contacts for tickets are Shirley Cleaves (302) 690-4260, Vivian Rich (804) 301-9530, Doretha Savoy (301) 233-3136. Name with Email address required for manifest list.

### BODY RECALL

Body Recall at Clinton United Methodist Church will resume on Tuesday, September 19 at 9:00 AM. We will meet every Tuesday and Thursday with the exception of major Holidays. In case of inclement weather, the Prince George's County Public Schools schedule will be followed. Betty King will be the instructor. The address is 10700 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735. Office number is 301-868-1281.

### PGCPS BUS DRIVER FAIR

Prince George's County Public Schools is hosting a Bus Driver Fair Wednesday September 20, 2017 from 1:00 PM-5:00 PM at Green Valley Administrations Offices. The address is 2215 Chadwick Street, Temple Hills, Maryland. Pre-registration is preferred. Applications are accepted online at www.pgcps.org. Click "Careers" and enter job code 1RC87172. Contact: Human Resources Customer Service Center at 301-780-2191 or nicole.eubanks@pgcps.org.

### BRANDYWINE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The next meeting will be held on September 20, 2017, in the Media Center at Brandywine Elementary School. The meeting begins at 7:00 PM.

### SEPTEMBER REVIVALS

Due to the weather all September Revivals dates (9/8, 9/15, 9/22) are scheduled to be held at Christ United Methodist Church instead of Adams Farm House. The church address is 22919 Christ Church Road, Aquasco, Maryland. Contact persons are Tracy 240-882-7703 or Phyllis Slater 301-653-7345.

## Neighborhoods

### MEMA Reminds Marylanders That September is National and Maryland Preparedness Month

REISTERSTOWN, MD—In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, Governor Larry Hogan and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) are reminding Marylanders that September is both National and Maryland Preparedness Month. Throughout the month, state officials are urging all residents to review preparedness information for severe weather and other emergencies. In an effort to promote preparedness, Maryland's government agencies, businesses, community groups, schools, and families will participate in events around the state.

"Preparing for an emergency before it happens can make a huge difference both in our homes and our communities," said Governor Hogan. "This month is a reminder that the time to prepare is now and that all Marylanders must work together and help each other during weather-related emergencies and other hazardous situations."

Common hazards in Maryland include flooding, high wind, severe thunderstorms, and winter storms. Several online sources provide good emergency preparedness information for these and additional threats including:

- MEMA: <http://mema.maryland.gov/Pages/emergencies.aspx>
- Federal Emergency Management Agency: [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)
- National Weather Service: [www.weather.gov/safety](http://www.weather.gov/safety)

During Preparedness Month, MEMA will be announcing events and information throughout September on our Twitter feed @MDMEMA, Facebook page and Instagram.

"The devastating effects of Hurricane Harvey should remind us that we all need to be prepared for emergencies," said Russ Strickland, Executive Director of MEMA. "Right now we are in the height of the hurricane season in the mid-Atlantic, but we also need to be ready for a variety of other threats. Now is the time to make sure you are prepared."

### The Best Adoption Event And CFA Cat Show in MD Celebrates Its 34th Year

Show Will Be Held at the Maryland State Fairgrounds on September 23rd and 24th

TIMONIUM, MD—The 34th Annual Freestate Feline Fanciers CFA Allbreed Cat Show, sanctioned by The Cat Fanciers' Association will take place at the Maryland State Fairgrounds September 23rd and 24th from 9:30 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The show also features the exclusive CFA Feline Agility Competition. Come watch the felines whip through the obstacles in the agility ring, during the 2 days of competition. There will be experienced cats available for you to run a cat in agility to see it done first hand (a cat's eye view).

This show features the highly popular Household Pets category—these wonderful domestic felines will be judged in ten separate rings with a chance for prizes in each ring. The highest scoring house pets will be recognized in a special ceremony and showered with prizes!

This event also showcases the finest felines from the most popular to the more exotic breeds. It features the finest ex-

amples of the Cat Fanciers' Association (CFA) recognized breeds from the popular Persian and Maine Coon to more exotic breeds such as the hairless Sphynx and the mysterious Birman.

This show traditionally attracts thousands of local cat lovers. In addition to the judging, which takes place throughout the show, spectators can see the cats up close while they are waiting to compete and ask the exhibitors any questions they may have.

Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors/children and \$25 for a family. Tickets are available at the door. Parking is free. Like them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FreestateFelineFanciers/>. The event is being held in the air conditioned spacious exhibit hall. To enter a cat for this show, exhibitors can visit [www.catshows.us](http://www.catshows.us)

In addition to the judging of cats, this two-day event will have vendors selling cat toys, teasers, cat trees, furniture, fine jewelry, clothing, and collectibles. Purebred cats and kittens will be available for sale, and several local cat rescues will have feline pet adoptions.

CFA is the largest purebred feline registry in the world. In addition to the 300 purebred cats at the show there will be approximately 150 exhibitors representing 40+ breeds. To learn more about CFA visit [www.cfa.org](http://www.cfa.org).

Corporate sponsors for the show are The Cat Fancier's Assoc. ([www.cfa.org](http://www.cfa.org))

Maryland State Fairgrounds is located at 2200 York Road, Timonium, Maryland 21093. Directions are available at <http://www.marylandstatefair.com/>.

Visit [www.catshows.us](http://www.catshows.us) or call (410) 679-1873 for additional information.

### County Poets' Poetry Exhibit at Bowie Branch Library

BOWIE, MD—Prominent Prince Georgian poets—Sylvia Dianne "Ladi Di" Beverly, Diane Wilbon Parks, Edgar Gabriel Silex, Forestine Bynum, J. Joy "Sistah Joy" Matthews Alford and Prince George's County Youth Poet Laureate, Samantha Jackson—will have their poems featured as a part of the Poetry Poster Project on display at the Bowie Branch of the Prince George's County Memorial Library System. The branch is located at 15210 Annapolis Road, Bowie, MD 20715. This free, public exhibit, accessible during branch hours, is supported by the Prince George's County Arts and Humanities Council and runs from September 9–December 30, 2017.

The exhibit's organizer, Hiram Larew, describes the Project as "a wonderful spotlight on the amazing diversity of poetry power in Prince George's County."

### About PG County Memorial Library System

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), consisting of 19 branches, offers strategies for lifelong learning. Skills development library resources include: Rosetta Stone Library Solution, Lynda.com, Brainfuse's HelpNow and JobNow, ArtistWorks for Libraries and Learning Express Library. Early literacy resources are: Ready 2 Read Centers, Ready 2 Read Backpacks, ABCmouse, AWE Early Literacy Stations, Bean-

stack, Playaway Launchpads and PebbleGo. All these services are free with your PGCMLS library card. Also, enjoy Minecraft, 3D printing, DREAM (Digital Resources for Electronic Applications in Media) lab, chess clubs and MAC (Manga and Anime Clubs) free at your library. Engage with us on social media: Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, Pinterest, Instagram and YouTube. Check out our mobile apps! Learn more about what your Library has to offer at [www.pgcmls.info](http://www.pgcmls.info).

### About PG County Arts and Humanities Council

The Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council (PGAHC) seeks to create a world-class cultural environment where diverse high quality arts and humanities programs are available for all Prince George's County residents and visitors. PGAHC is an independent non-profit organization designated by the Prince George's County government to coordinate financial support and advocacy for the arts and humanities through grants, artistic programs and creative partnerships among business, education, government and residents.

### About Poetry Poster Project

The Poetry Poster Project is designed to showcase the diversity of fine poetry talent in Prince Georges County. By displaying and featuring work of living County poets, the Project seeks to strengthen the public's appreciation for the rich array of poetry voices in our County. (Exhibit organizer contact: [hlarew@gmail.com](mailto:hlarew@gmail.com))

### Educational Systems Federal Credit Union Provides Business and Finance Internships

GREENBELT, MD—Educational Systems Federal Credit Union recently provided summer internships to three business and finance students. The seven-week program gave students the opportunity to work in the Credit Union's Operations and Marketing Departments.

Each year, the Credit Union partners with local school systems to help business and finance students fulfill their business and finance curriculum requirements. This includes completing an internship between their junior and senior year of high school. This year, the Credit Union hired the following students: Monique Brown, Operations Intern; Aleena Natividad, Marketing Intern; Sofia Vallone, Marketing Intern.

"Our mission is to grow by helping the members of the education community achieve their financial goals and dreams," said Chris Conway, President/CEO of Educational Systems FCU. "We are proud to provide business and finance internships. The students bring value to our organization with the work they do. In turn, we give them real-world experience as they pursue their career aspirations."

Educational Systems FCU ([esfcu.org](http://esfcu.org)) has proudly served the education community for over 60 years. With over \$900 million in assets and 12 branches, the Credit Union serves 87,000 members in seven school systems and three community colleges throughout Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's and Talbot counties.

# COMMUNITY

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### School Counselors—A Valuable Resource For You

School counselors are certainly incredibly busy people. But our advice is that it's your job this school year to make sure they are even busier. We don't mean creating busy work, but rather taking advantage of all your school counselors have to offer.

School counselors can offer a wide range of assistance to both students and parents, yet, unfortunately, most parents know little just how much their child's school counselor can offer. So this year, early in your child's school year, make an effort to get to know his or her counselor and make the most of this very valuable educational resource.

All school counselors have a great deal of training and are certified or licensed by the state. In most states school counselors are required to hold at least a Masters degree.

These are professionals who are trained to understand young people and help them reach their educational goals. Through standardized testing and monitoring of classroom performance, counselors can advise teachers, students and parents about classes offering the appropriate challenges and the best educational outcomes.

That guidance portion of a school counselor's work progresses with older students to advising them on which classes can best fulfill their educational and career goals, as well as explaining options for colleges, technical training or other directions after high school.

And, as trained professional counselors, school counselors can also assist students facing potential problem areas. From drug issues to bullying situations to improving study skills, school counselors are there to help students, and families, better handle the challenges that students today face. They don't have magic wands but can offer proven techniques and approaches that can assist in coping with problem areas.

Don't wait for a crisis to talk with your child's school counselor. An introductory meeting early in the year provides a chance to meet the counselor, to discuss your child, and to learn what assistance might be available.

Even more important is to contact that counselor quickly when problems first appear. Slipping grades or abrupt changes in a child's attitude, behavior or friends, can all be signs that help is needed. That's when a professional counselor can make a real difference.

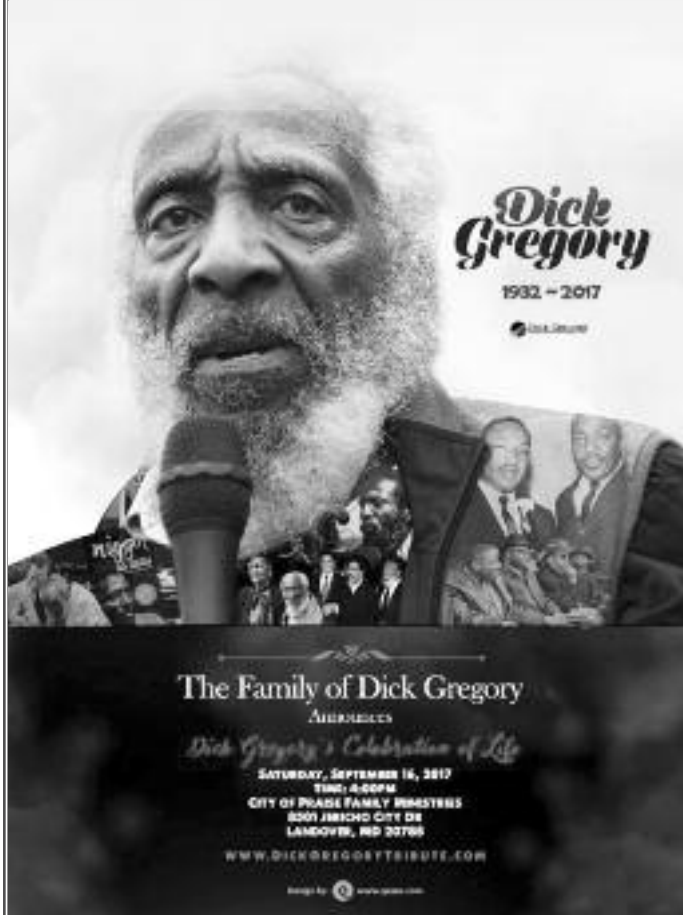
School counselors are professionals who have a great deal to offer our children. When we don't take advantage of their training, skills and experience, we're only shortchanging ourselves, our children and our children's educational experience.

*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*

## Celebration of Life

### Remembering Comedian Dick Gregory

The family of famed comedian, writer, and social activist Dick Gregory officially announced that a "Celebration of Life" service will be held on Saturday, September 16, 2017 in Landover, MD. Open to the public (tickets will be required. Service details and ticket distribution information coming soon). Visit [www.dickgregorytribute.com](http://www.dickgregorytribute.com) for more details.



## Bell Times and Bus Routes, It's All About Back to School Safety

*Area Drivers Urged to Stay Alert, Stop for Youngest Pedestrians, Slow Down Near Schools*

By PRESS OFFICER  
Mid-Atlantic AAA

WASHINGTON, D.C.—School rocks and it's time for the "Schoolhouse Rock!" And high school students, especially seniors and juniors, will rock the schoolhouse when they drive to school in a new car or the family's hand-me-down car. This week more than 1.3 million pupils are heading to public and private schools across the width and breadth of the Washington metro area, some for the first time this academic year, and the early birds returned to classes that started a few weeks or days before Labor Day. Enrollment is up across the Washington metro area in public, charter and private schools.

In Maryland, more than 880,000 students have returned to school since the Labor Day holiday weekend. That tally includes 161,312 K-12 students heading to the school for the first time this academic year in Montgomery County. Wednesday was the first day of school for all 132,000 students in Prince George's County. In droves they will be riding thousands of school buses across the Greater Washington area. The wee ones, the youngest pedestrians and adolescent cyclists, will walk or bike to school. But getting to school by car is now the most common mode of transportation for school children, the most precious cargo, across the Washington metro area. That poses particular safety risks no matter the mode of transportation to the school house.

Afternoons present additional risks because children are often distracted by thoughts of playtime and other activities on their journey home. Some may be acclimating to a route home from a new school. Over the last decade, nearly one in four child pedestrian fatalities occurred between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. "Most of the children who lose their lives in bus-related incidents are four to seven years old," the National Safety Council says. AAA Safety Patrols will be on their duty post, as they have been from 1920 to the present day, a span of 97 years with safety as their "number one priority."

"It is critical that everyone who shares the road to brace themselves for the stress and strain of back to school traffic, whether they are a student or not," said John B. Townsend II AAA Mid-Atlantic's Manager

of Public and Government Affairs. "It is axiomatic, the sudden surge in school-related traffic congestion after Labor Day in the Washington metro area poses a risk to students, parents, pedestrians, drivers, teachers and school staff members in and around school zones across the region. As schools open across the Washington metro area, drivers must remember that their commute time may increase and that leaving home a little earlier can help them get where they need to be on time with less stress."

"Up to 20 or 30 percent of morning traffic can be generated by parents driving their children to school," explains the Safe Routes to School National Partnership. Increases in student population in school systems in the Baltimore-Washington corridor are driving the record-breaking enrollment in public schools in Maryland. The Baltimore-Washington corridor is also the locus of 80 percent of all vehicle miles traveled in Maryland, and the high volume of traffic in the area can trigger traffic nightmares and jeopardize the safety of all souls near schools.

Hailed as "the fastest improving urban school district in the country," the nation's capital will likely witness the eighth consecutive year with an ever-increasing student body of nearly 110,000 pupils all told, numbering 50,000 students attending public schools, 39,000 students enrolled in charter schools and 20,000 students in private schools. Mind-numbing, time-robbing, child-threatening traffic congestion will also increase in the nation's capital as parents drive their school-aged children in the District.

Expect more vehicular congestion around schools in Northern Virginia, where enrollment is surging as it is in the 1,858 local schools across the Commonwealth of Virginia. Enrollment is also increasing in the 1,858 local schools across the Commonwealth of Virginia. With all schools open across the state, enrollment will top 1.3 million students statewide, according to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). Northern Virginia is home to the largest school districts in the state and one of the largest school systems in the nation, Fairfax County, which has an enrollment of 187,479 pupils. This compares to an enrollment

of 89,346 students in Prince William County, 78,382 students in Loudoun County, and 26,176 students in Arlington County. Across the Potomac River, 15,301 students are heading to school in Alexandria, as well as 8,202 students in Culpeper County. There are 7,713 students in Manassas, 3,355 pupils in Manassas Park and 2,670 students in Falls Church.

On top of these figures, an estimated 164,195 students attend private schools in the Greater Washington area. There are 860 private schools in Maryland, serving 143,814 students, including 85,685 in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C., while Virginia has 935 private schools serving 136,385 students, including 58,852 in Northern Virginia. Washington, D.C. sports 100 private schools, serving 19,658 students.

Nationally, that's millions of children across the United States returning to school, with 13 percent of them walking or biking to school. However, recent spikes in impaired and distracted driving present new challenges for all road users including children and their parents heading to and from school.

"Research shows that the morning rush hour when parents are taking children to school or children themselves are walking can be particularly dangerous," said Tom Calcagni, Regional Director of Public & Government Affairs at AAA Mid-Atlantic. "The after school hours are very dangerous too, which is why we all need to remain as alert and conscientious as possible when we're behind the wheel."

With a million-plus area students heading to school, the Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Safety & Education and AAA Mid-Atlantic provide the following tips.

#### Tips for Motorists:

• **Keep Track of Time**—Be aware of the time of day you're on the road and how that coincides with the school day. More school-age pedestrians are killed from 7 to 8 a.m. and from 3 to 4 p.m. than any other hours of the day.

• **Slow Down**—Whether in a school zone or residential neighborhood, motorists should keep their speed low and be prepared to stop quickly for increased vehicle or pedestrian traffic.

• **Scan Between Parked Cars**—Children can quickly dart out between parked cars, so stay alert.

• **Look for Clues of Children Nearby**—Keep an eye out for clues that children are likely nearby such as AAA School Safety patrol members, crossing guards, bicycles and playgrounds.

• **Obey Traffic Signs**—Unfortunately, many motorists violate stop signs in school zones and residential neighborhoods—many failing to come to a complete stop, rolling through stop signs or not slowing down at all.

• **Always Stop for School Buses**—Flashing yellow lights on a school bus indicate it is preparing to stop to load or unload children, and motorists should slow down and prepare to stop. Red flashing lights and extended stop arms indicate the bus has stopped and children are getting on and off. Motorists are required to stop their vehicles and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop sign is withdrawn and the bus begins moving before they start driving again.

#### Tips for Parents and Students:

• Teach children the importance of using crosswalks and to look left-right-left before crossing.

• Always walk on the sidewalk. If there is not a sidewalk, walk facing traffic.

• Try to drop children off where they won't have to cross the street to reach their destinations. Avoid the dangers of jaywalking and encourage kids to always cross in clear view of traffic, never from between parked cars.

• Just as you wouldn't text and drive—**don't text and walk**. Stay alert to your surroundings.

#### If Your Child Rides a Bike to School:

• Make sure your child has the skills to ride a bike safely, such as riding in a straight line and signaling to vehicles when turning.

• Choose the safest route to bike to school—one with less traffic and slower speeds. Use bike paths if they are available.

• Make sure your cyclists understand traffic safety rules, such as riding in the same direction as traffic and stopping at all stop signs and signals.

• Explain the importance of wearing a bike helmet to your child. They're critical to minimizing injury in case of a crash. According to the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety, wearing a helmet can reduce the odds of head injury by half.

• Ride focused and alert. **Never use earbuds or electronics while riding.**

## Maryland Donors Warned of Charity Scams In the Wake of Natural Disasters

By PRESS OFFICER  
Maryland Government

ANNAPOLIS, MD—As the public demand for donations increases for Hurricane Harvey survivors, many Marylanders may feel compelled to donate. For those that do choose to make a donation to support those in the impacted areas, the Secretary of State John C. Wobensmith and Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh advise consumers to be vigilant to donate wisely.

"During these times of unfortunate events, individuals will attempt to prey on your generosity and introduce all types of scams, frauds or deceptive acts to line their

own pockets," warns Secretary Wobensmith. "Be sure you know who you are giving to and it is best to give directly to well-established charitable organizations."

The Office of the Secretary of State registers and regulates charitable organizations that solicit charitable contributions in Maryland. Together with the Attorney General's Office, the Secretary of State's Office works to ensure that charitable contributions go to qualified charitable organizations and are used for their intended purpose.

"Sometimes at the end of a storm, you get a rainbow; other times you get a scammer," said Attorney General Frosh. "It is wise to research the charity first before do-

nating, and consumers should avoid any charity or fundraiser that is reluctant to give information on how donations are used."

For more tips on how to give wisely, please visit the Maryland Attorney General's Office, Consumer Protection Division publication Consumer's Edge Charitable Giving Tips.

To find out whether a particular charity is authorized to solicit in Maryland, the Secretary of State's Office maintains a public registry of charitable organizations authorized to solicit in Maryland. For more information and to search the registry, please visit the Secretary of State's charity home page: <http://sos.maryland.gov/Charity/Pages/SearchCharity.aspx>.

If you feel like you may have been a victim of a deceptive or illegal charitable solicitation, you should contact the Charities and Legal Services Division of the Secretary of State's Office at 410-974-5521 or 1-800-825-4510.

# COMMENTARY

**Cong. Chris Van Hollen**  
*United States Senator for Maryland*



## Van Hollen, Booker, Schatz Urge Trump to Reverse Decision Revoking Safeguards for Infrastructure Projects in Floodplains

*Trump Administration Rescinded Flood Risk Management Standard Last Month, Two Weeks Before Hurricane Harvey Hit Texas*

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senators Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Cory Booker (D-NJ), and Brian Schatz (D-HI) urged President Trump to reverse his decision made last month to revoke a safeguard that ensures federal buildings, roads, bridges, and other pieces of infrastructure are built to withstand extreme weather events, such as Hurricane Harvey. The Senators also indicated plans to introduce legislation in the coming days to codify the critical safeguard into law.

The Federal Flood Risk Management Standard was updated by President Obama in 2015 based on lessons learned from Hurricane Sandy. A higher standard was adopted to ensure federally funded rebuilding projects were built stronger and more resilient to extreme weather events, including 500-year storms. However, less than a month ago, President Trump rolled back the standard.

“As millions of Americans suffer the devastating impacts of extreme flooding from Hurricane Harvey, we write to express our serious concerns regarding your dangerous and misguided decision last month to revoke the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard,” the Senators wrote in a letter to President Trump.

“As Congress works to provide relief to communities ... we urge you to reverse your decision and reinstate the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard. Please take action at the executive level to ensure that the billions of taxpayer dollars [that will be spent to rebuild communities devastated by Hurricane Harvey] are not wasted on building infrastructure that is vulnerable to destruction and that threatens American lives.”

The Federal Flood Risk Management Standard provided agencies with several options for meeting the guidelines, including building projects that could withstand a 500-year storm.

Full text of the letter follows:

Dear President Trump:

As millions of Americans suffer the devastating impacts of extreme flooding from Hurricane Harvey, we write to express our serious concerns regarding your dangerous and misguided decision last month to revoke the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard. In 2015, President Obama issued an updated flood standard to ensure that federally-funded projects in a floodplain, such as roads, bridges, hospitals, and other infrastructure, are built to withstand extreme weather and flooding driven by climate change. As Congress works to provide relief to communities as they begin rebuilding after the most significant rainfall event in United States history, we urge you to reverse your decision and reinstate the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard.

This common-sense, flexible approach provided agencies with many different options for complying with the new standard, including taking into account available climate science or building to withstand a 500-year storm—the same kind of destructive event that the residents of eastern Texas just endured. The decision to revoke this standard is fiscally irresponsible and poten-

See **FLOODS** Page A8

**Marc Morial, President and CEO**  
*National Urban League*



## The Nation Must Come Together to Help Hurricane Harvey Victims Rebuild

*“During difficult times like this, we’re reminded that we’re bound together and we have to look out for each other. And a lot of the things that seem important, the petty differences melt away, and we focus on what binds us together and that we as Americans are going to stand with each other in their hour of need.”*

—President Barack Obama

As Texas and Louisiana begin to recover from the devastation of Hurricane Harvey, our thoughts and prayers—as well as whatever donations we can spare—are with the people who were impacted. We pray for the families of those who lost their lives, and for the safety of the first responders and ordinary citizens who have risked their own lives to save others.

We in the Urban League Movement are supporting our colleagues in the region, Judson Robinson, President and CEO of the Houston Area Urban League and Erika McConduit, President and CEO of the Urban League of Louisiana, as they develop plans for the Herculean task of helping their communities recover and rebuild.

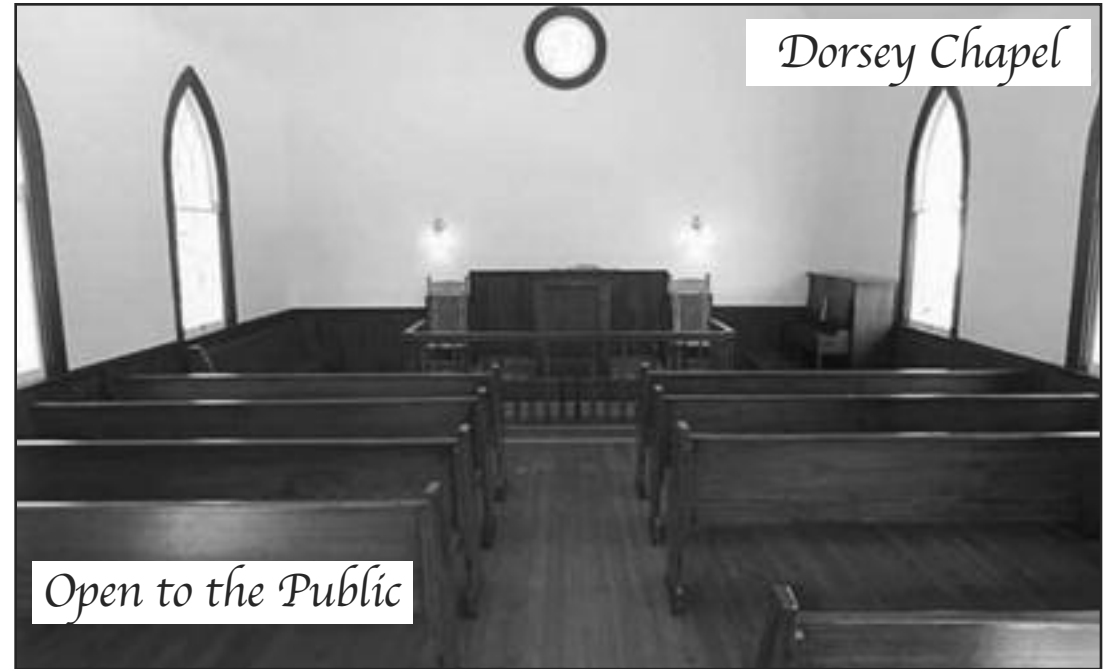
The nation has responded with concern and generosity, but also with a bit of counter-productive armchair quarterbacking. It’s natural to imagine, when confronting the horror of a tragedy, that things could have been different, of only one decision or another had gone a different way. Houston, which took the brunt of the damage, was ordered by Mayor Sylvester Turner not to evacuate. To many watching from afar—especially after scenes of rescue by boat became commonplace, this decision seemed ill-

advised. Sadly, American memories can be short, but Houstonians remember. A dozen years ago, as Hurricane Rita bore down on the city, more than 2.5 million residents tried to evacuate at the same time. More than 130 people died in the ensuing chaos, more than have been lost to any storm in Texas since 1900.

Cities face many challenges day-to-day, but when a natural disaster is bearing down, all efforts should be focused on saving lives. That’s why much of the nation reacted in horror to the news that The Border Patrol would not suspend checkpoints during the storm—detering immigrants from seeking shelter from the storm and putting lives at risk. Texas has passed one of the most stringent anti-immigrant laws in the nation, essentially outlawing Sanctuary City policies like Houston’s. Four days after the storm hit, a federal judge blocked enforcement while legal challenges proceed, but as it was in force during the worst of the crisis, Mayor Turner issued a personal reassurance that he would personally defend any immigrant detained as a result of seeking shelter from the storm.

The late children’s television host Fred Rogers said when he was a child and frightened by the news of disasters, “‘Always look for the helpers,’ she’d tell me. ‘There’s always someone who is trying to help.’ I did, and I came to see that the world is full of doctors and nurses, police and firemen, volunteers, neighbors and friends who are ready to jump in to help when things go wrong.”

I would challenge us to go one step further, and be the helpers.



*Dorsey Chapel*

*Open to the Public*

PHOTO CREDIT: PG PARKS & RECREATION

**DORSEY CHAPEL**

10704 Brookland Road, Glenn Dale, MD • 301-464-5291 • TTY 301-699-2577

This small frame meeting-house-style church is distinguished by its steeply pitched gable roof and late Victorian ornamental treatment of its principal gable front. The upper gable has alternating courses of sawtooth and rectangular shingles, a quatrefoil bulls-eye ornament, and a turned wooden finial at the ridge. Each of the chapel’s side walls is lighted by three gothic-arch windows that have delicate tracery in the upper sashes. Initially scheduled for demolition in 1980, the Friends of Dorsey Chapel organized efforts to preserve and restore the church. Dorsey Chapel was ultimately designated a Prince George’s County “historic site” by the Historic Preservation Commission. Restoration of the Chapel was undertaken by The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1994, and the facility was re-dedicated and opened to the public on September 11, 1996. The Chapel is available for rental for small weddings, recitals, and meetings.

## Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



## Praying and Standing for Children

As a new school year begins I want to share prayers for our children, all of them, and for caring adults to be God’s hands and feet standing for children everywhere in these very difficult times in our nation and around our shared world.

We especially pray for every child living in cities, towns, rural areas, neighborhoods and homes devastated by winds and floods without a safe space to escape to or a place to call home and whose lives have been upended by forces they cannot control.

We pray and stand for children blessed by parents who care and for children without a parent or anyone who cares at all.

We pray and stand for children filled with joy and for children whose days and nights are joyless or terrifying.

We pray and stand for children with hope and for children whose spirits have been dimmed and dashed.

We pray and stand for children high on play and study and laughter and for children high on pot, heroin, cocaine, and prescription opioids or who see their parents struggling with addiction.

We pray and stand for children for whom we pray every day and for children who have no one to pray them along life’s way.

We pray and stand for children poised by circumstance to soar and conquer life’s challenges and for children bogged down by the pain of survival and unbearable losses.

We pray and stand for children who love to read and for children who can’t read at all, for children who learn with excitement and for children told by adults that they cannot achieve.

We pray and stand for children who expect and are helped to succeed and for children whom no one believes in or helps to succeed.

We pray that we will be a help and not a hindrance to children we call our own and to all the children You created who are part of our family too.

**OH I AM WHO I AM**

Hear the cries of Your children Who are ravaged by violence, poverty, racism, neglect or natural disasters

Scared, profiled, arrested, and imprisoned by those in authority

Ignored by those with power as they languish in crumbling schools and neighborhoods and teeming shelters

Labeled often by some entrusted with their education as dumb, disruptive, retarded, and failures

Marginalized by those who vote and are elected because they cannot vote or make campaign contributions

Resented by some of those forced to care for them in our too often inhumane child welfare and juvenile justice systems

Hear our cries for our children all powerful God

Fight their battles, turn the hearts and transform the actions of those who will not let our children escape the darkness of violence and drugs and poverty

Open the Red Sea to their opportunity and hopefulness about their futures

Send them Your manna in the wilderness and

Lead us and our children into the promised land.

God our creator and protector:

Help us to preach by our

actions and to teach by our lives like Jesus and Gandhi, and Heschel and Dr. King and Fannie Lou Hamer.

Help us to live Your faith and not be paralyzed by our fears or submit to the pull of our greedy and violent culture.

Help us not to blame You for children who suffer, cry out in anguish, and tremble in fear.

Help us to use the hands and feet and voices and votes You have given us to save Your little ones entrusted to our care.

Now more than ever, our children need a moral start beginning in the White House, Congress and State Houses. On the third weekend of October congregations of all faiths will celebrate the National Observance of Children’s Sabbaths® sponsored by the Children’s Defense Fund. This annual observance is a way for all faith communities to celebrate children as sacred gifts of the Divine and provides opportunities for houses of worship to renew and live out their moral responsibil-

See **WATCH**, Page A8

## The Prince George’s Post

The Prince George’s Post  
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Contents © 2017, 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

## Your Money Matters

### A Guide for Health Care and Insurance Usage: Four Factors That Inform Americans' Health Care Decisions

(NAPSI)—Access to quality health care and reliable insurance coverage is in a constant state of change. Regardless of your health care services and treatments, there are basic terms and concepts that are universal in the health care industry. Below is a guide to help you navigate these terms and effectively use your insurance.

Here are four factors to think about when making health care decisions:

- Choosing a doctor/hospital
- Filling prescriptions
- Using insurance and paying for care
- Reviewing/changing plan benefits during open enrollment.

These factors may seem simple, but to make informed decisions and find quality, affordable care, it's important to have a basic understanding of your health insurance plan.

The fourth annual Transamerica Center for Health Studies (TCHS) consumer health care survey found that affordability is the most important aspect of the U.S. health care system to Americans. On average, two in five (41 percent) consumers say being able to afford their medical care is at the top of their health care priority list and 56 percent of Americans feel health care costs are a very or somewhat significant source of stress—just behind housing costs, money and the economy.

#### 1. Understanding Your Health Plan and Choosing a Doctor/Hospital

Most people seek guidance on finding a new doctor, clinic or hospital when a health concern arises or when moving to a new neighborhood. Step one is to figure out what type of health plan you have and what it covers. Here are some types of health plans:<sup>1</sup>

- Fee for Service
- Preferred Provider Organization (PPO)
- Health Maintenance Organization (HMO)
- High-Deductible Health Plan (HDHP).

Fee for Service is the simplest—you can pick any doctor or hospital at any time, but after the deductible is reached, you will have a set cost (usually a percentage of the charges) for your visit and services.<sup>2,3</sup> For example, if your doctor charges \$100 for a visit and treatment, your insurer may pay 80 percent (\$80) and you'll pay 20 percent (\$20).

A Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) plan offers you a list of doctors or hospitals that are preferred and may help reduce your costs. It's best to pick a doctor on the preferred list or "in-network" for your primary care physician. You can visit any doctor or hospital outside of the preferred list, but you'll likely pay much more for their services.

This is defined as "in-network" and "out-of-network." If the doctor, hospital or health care facility you visit is part of your insurance company's network, your bill will be lower, but if you go out of network for a checkup or specialized service, it will be more expensive.

A Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) plan is more restrictive and provides a list of doctors, clinics or hospitals that are required for your health care services. Similar to a PPO, you must choose a doctor who will be your primary care physician and who can refer you to specialists (also within network) as needed. Generally, these plans will not pay for out-of-network service unless it is an emergency and only in specific situations.

A High-Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) is growing in popularity among employer-based health coverage. These plans work like fee-for-service plans, but cover a smaller percentage of costs up front. After insurance processing, you'll be responsible for the balance of medical charges up until the annual deductible is met (can be thousands of dollars). Once your deductible is reached, your insurer pays out most (or all) of your medical costs for the rest of the year.

Most plans list the doctors and hospitals that they cover online—but you can also call and find out which doctors or hospitals in your area are part of your plan. Usually, doctors are connected to one or more hospitals. If there is a particular doctor or hospital you prefer, you can call the clinic or hospital to check which insurance plans they accept.

#### 2. Filling Your Prescription

Medications health plans help cover the cost of prescription medications and are listed in a formulary. As with doctors and hospitals, you can check if your medications are covered by the formulary before choosing a plan.

If you need medication that's not on your plan's formulary, you should contact your insurance company to find out if you can still receive the drug or a generic version and at what cost. Some insurance companies may provide a one-time refill of your medication after you first enroll.<sup>4</sup> Ask your insurance company if it offers a one-time refill until you can discuss taking alternative medications with your doctor. If you are unable to obtain a one-time refill, you have the right to explore your health insurance company's drug exceptions process, which allows you to receive a prescribed drug that's not covered by your health plan. In most cases, to gain approval through the exceptions process, your doctor must confirm (orally or in writing) that the drug is appropriate for your medical condition and it meets other criteria set by your insurance company.

#### 3. Putting Your Insurance to Work and Paying for Care

First, you need to calculate your monthly premium and out-of-pocket expenses. Your premium is the amount you pay for insurance every month and your out-of-pocket is the amount you have to pay when you go to see the doctor. Typically the higher the premium, the lower out-of-pocket costs you have to pay and vice versa.

If you have regular, ongoing medical care or prescription medications, you may want to consider a higher premium/low out-of-pocket cost plan to limit your costs for those regular treatments that can add up—the cheapest premium will not necessarily

## MGM Resorts International and MGM Growth Properties LLC Announce Transaction On MGM National Harbor Casino Resort

By PRESS OFFICER  
MGM National Harbor

LAS VEGAS, NV—MGM Resorts International ("MGM Resorts") (NYSE: MGM) and MGM Growth Properties LLC ("MGP") (NYSE: MGP) announced that they have entered into a definitive agreement whereby a subsidiary of MGP will purchase the long-term leasehold interest and real property improvements associated with the MGM National Harbor casino resort. MGM Resorts will lease the property from MGP and continue to operate the property following the consummation of the transaction, with no expected change to its employees, vendors, customers, and the community.

MGP will pay total consideration of approximately \$1.1875 billion, consisting of a combination of \$462.5 million in cash (which may include cash on hand or cash from financings, including borrowings under MGP's revolving credit facility), the assumption of approximately \$425 million of secured indebtedness of MGM National Harbor, LLC (which is expected to be immediately repaid by MGP on the closing date) and the issuance by MGM Growth Properties Operating Partnership LP, a subsidiary of MGP, of operating partnership units representing \$300 million of value based upon the closing price of MGP's Class A shares on September 5,

2017. MGM National Harbor will be added to the existing Master Lease between MGM Resorts and MGP, and the rent payment to MGP will increase by \$95 million. Consistent with the Master Lease terms, 90 percent of this rent will be fixed and contractually grow at 2 percent per year until 2022. The sale is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2017, subject to regulatory approvals and other customary closing conditions.

"We are excited to welcome MGM National Harbor to our portfolio and expand our geographic presence on the East Coast," said James Stewart, CEO of MGP. "As a result of this transaction, we expect to achieve mid-single digit percentage accretion to AFFO per share, while maintaining our balance sheet flexibility. Since MGP's IPO last year, we have worked diligently to increase value for our shareholders and we remain focused on continuing to drive prudent growth through future transactions."

"We are pleased to announce another accretive transaction with MGM Growth Properties, which we believe serves the best interests of the shareholders of both companies and again demonstrates our team's ability to deliver on our long-term plan," said Jim Murren, Chairman and CEO of MGM Resorts. "MGM National Harbor has exhibited strong financial performance and has already secured its place as the leading resort in its

market. We will continue to support MGP as it drives future growth through the expansion of its quality asset portfolio."

As of September 5, 2017, MGM Resorts held a 76 percent economic interest in the operating partnership of MGP.

About MGM  
Resorts International

MGM Resorts International (NYSE: MGM) is an S&P 500® global entertainment company with national and international locations featuring best-in-class hotels and casinos, state-of-the-art meetings and conference spaces, incredible live and theatrical entertainment experiences, and an extensive array of restaurant, nightlife and retail offerings. MGM Resorts creates immersive, iconic experiences through its suite of Las Vegas-inspired brands. The MGM Resorts portfolio encompasses 27 unique hotel offerings including some of the most recognizable resort brands in the industry. The company is expanding throughout the U.S. and around the world, developing MGM Springfield in Massachusetts and MGM CO-TAI in Macau, and debuting the first international Bellagio branded hotel in Shanghai. The 77,000 global employees of MGM Resorts are proud of their company for being recognized as one of FORTUNE® Magazine's World's Most Admired Companies®. For more information visit us at [www.mgmresorts.com](http://www.mgmresorts.com).

About MGM  
Growth Properties

MGM Growth Properties LLC (NYSE:MGP) is one of the leading publicly traded real estate investment trusts engaged in the acquisition, ownership and leasing of large-scale destination entertainment and leisure resorts, whose diverse amenities include casino gaming, hotel, convention, dining, entertainment and retail offerings. MGP currently owns a portfolio of properties acquired from MGM Resorts, consisting of ten premier destination resorts in Las Vegas and elsewhere across the United States and one dining and entertainment complex which opened in April 2016. As of December 31, 2016, these properties collectively comprise 27,233 hotel rooms, over 2.6 million convention square footage, over 100 retail outlets, over 200 food and beverage outlets and over 20 entertainment venues. As a growth-oriented public real estate entity, MGP expects its relationship with MGM Resorts and other entertainment providers to attractively position MGP for the acquisition of additional properties across the entertainment, hospitality and leisure industries that MGM Resorts or other entertainment providers may develop in the future. For more information about MGP, visit the Company's website at <http://www.mgmgrowthproperties.com>.

### Epidemic from A1

Rob Snead, a 23-year-old Pasadena, resident, wore a black "Evolve Life Centers" shirt. He said he's been clean 70 days after using drugs for 10 years. Events like Thursday's, he said, serve to destigmatize addiction.

"You see us and think we're the scourge of society," Snead said. "(An event) like this, it helps people, especially addicts, realize that it's OK to get help."

The stigma is a barrier between addicts and treatment, Snead added. "I can't tell you how many friends I've lost, that their pride got in the way of getting clean."

Nurse and Glen Burnie resident Nadine Clybourn echoed Snead's remarks.

"It's about time people take notice that addiction is a disease," she said. Addicts "shouldn't be ridiculed. They're people and have feelings."

Anne Arundel County this year has the third-most opioid-related fatalities in Maryland—behind Baltimore City and county.

As of Wednesday, the county recorded 729 suspected opioid overdoses, a 25 percent increase from the 576 over the same time frame in 2016, according to Anne Arundel County Police Department data.

Ninety-four of the 729 over-

doses were fatal—16 percent more deaths than during the same period in 2016—police data show.

Anne Arundel has been at the forefront statewide of strategies to fight heroin and opioids—from countywide task forces to mobile crisis response teams; and safe stations to increased treatment options.

Every Anne Arundel County and Annapolis City police and fire station has been designated as a safe station for addicts seeking help.

If an addict walks into a station and says they want help, a crisis response team is deployed and the person is connected with an appropriate treatment option immediately.

The drug sanctuaries have yielded promising results: More than 150 people have utilized safe stations since the program's inception April 20.

An Anne Arundel Crisis Response System data analysis shows that out of 87 clients served through the end of July, 41 finished their first phase of treatment, while nine remained in treatment—a 57 percent success rate, according to a county fire department press release.

It will take time for numbers to reflect positive change, "it's a slow process," said Lt. Mike Ashburn, commander of Anne Arundel



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY CHARLES MITCHELL

Participants at an opioid overdose awareness event in Glen Burnie, Maryland, on Thursday, August 31, 2017.

County Police's narcotics division.

Ashburn added that law enforcement showing "more compassion" is a key to moving forward.

It's all part of a "holistic approach to combatting the epidemic," Anne Arundel County Sheriff Ron Bateman said at the vigil Thursday.

Bateman attended not only because of his law enforcement role, but because the opioid epidemic is personal.

"Three members of my family are hooked on heroin or opioids," he told the University of Maryland's Capital News Service. Opioid addiction "destroys not only users, but the families and loved ones."

Bateman added: "I've seen what it's done to my young family member ... and it sucks."

Anne Arundel County State's Attorney Wes Adams lost a family member to an opioid overdose earlier this year. He attended to help "cheer these people on," as the vigil was "a great day to talk about the hope of recovery."

Adams also routinely sees addicts in drug court. He recalled an interaction that occurred outside the event Thursday evening, when a drug court graduate introduced him to a crowd of men.

"The guys out there said, 'You're on my (criminal) paperwork,'" Adams said. "I said, 'It's great to see you out here,'" as opposed to the courtroom.

### Digital from A1

formation Technology and all of the county stakeholders for being the catalysts for this important achievement."

"Digital counties are leveraging technology to improve the ways they conduct business and engage with citizens in increasingly innovative and exciting ways," said Todd Sander, executive director, CDG. "The Center for Digital Government congratulates this year's winners for their work to reduce costs, encourage citizen engagement, increase efficiencies and proactively address citizen expectations."

"As technology continues to grow in all facets of our lives, county governments are adapting and innovating," said NACo Executive Director Matthew Chase. "The Dig-

ital Counties Survey spotlights how counties deploy technology to enhance services and benefit residents while being responsible stewards of taxpayer resources."

Prince George's County placed 5th among the following additional winners in the 500,000–999,999 population category. The list of winners includes:

1st Westchester County, NY; 2nd Sonoma County, CA; 3rd County of Ventura, CA; 4th Baltimore County, MD; 5th Prince George's County, MD; 6th County of San Mateo, CA; 7th Gwinnett County, GA; 8th Chester County, PA; 9th Dekalb County, GA; 10th San Joaquin County, CA.

For the full list of winners, visit the website at [http://www.govtech.com/dc/digital-counties/Digital-Counties-Survey-2017-Winners-](http://www.govtech.com/dc/digital-counties/Digital-Counties-Survey-2017-Winners-Announced.html?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

Announced.html?utm\_medium=email&utm\_source=govdelivery.

The Center for Digital Government is a national research and advisory institute focused on technology policy and best practices in state and local government. CDG is a division of e.Republic, the nation's only media and research company focused exclusively on state and local government and education.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) unites America's 3,069 county governments. Founded in 1935, NACo brings county officials together to advocate with a collective voice on national policy, exchange ideas and build new leadership skills, pursue transformational county solutions, enrich the public's understanding of county government and exercise exemplary leadership in public service.

# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review

### Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets

Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets  
Grade: B-  
Rated PG-13, sci-fi action, a little innuendo  
2 hrs., 17 min

It was while making *The Fifth Element* that vibrant French madman Luc Besson realized his real calling was to adapt the futuristic *Valerian and Laureline* comic book he'd read as a child, but it took another 20 years for technology to catch up to his vision for the story's many exotic monsters and alien planets. Two decades was not enough time, however, for Besson to become a good enough writer to produce a screenplay worthy of the dazzling fantasy worlds he now had the tools to create.

*Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets* is big, unabashedly geeky fun, more fantasy than sci-fi (more *Star Wars* than *Star Trek*), full of colorful aliens and flamboyant minor characters. Several hundred years in the future, cocky rogue Maj. Valerian (Dane DeHaan) and his rule-following partner-girlfriend, Sgt. Laureline (Cara Delevingne), are sent on a peace-keeping mission to Alpha, a man-and alien-made planet-sized city that's home to 30 million beings (including 9 million humans) representing a huge diversity of life from around the galaxy. A radioactive threat of some kind has emerged at the core of the city, and it may be related to the strange vision Valerian had in which a woman from a dying planet sent him an energy pearl. (Spoiler: it is related to that.)

Besson's world-building is visually astonishing as he vividly (and expensively) creates planets, species, and gadgets out of nothing and makes it look natural. Many of the story's details, presumably lifted from the comics, are a nerdy delight: Va-



ROTTENTOMATOES

*Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets* is the visually spectacular new adventure film from Luc Besson, the legendary director of *The Professional*, *The Fifth Element* and *Lucy*, based on the ground-breaking comic book series which inspired a generation of artists, writers and filmmakers. In the 28th century, Valerian (Dane DeHaan) and Laureline (Cara Delevingne) are a team of special operatives charged with maintaining order throughout the human territories. Under assignment from the Minister of Defense, the two embark on a mission to the astonishing city of Alpha—an ever-expanding metropolis where species from all over the universe have converged over centuries to share knowledge, intelligence and cultures with each other. There is a mystery at the center of Alpha, a dark force which threatens the peaceful existence of the City of a Thousand Planets, and Valerian and Laureline must race to identify the marauding menace and safeguard not just Alpha, but the future of the universe.

lerian popping in and out of an alternate dimension to entrap a black-market dealer; a suit that responds to all of Alpha's different climates and enables Valerian to break through walls; a chubby reptile called a Converter that poops out duplicates of whatever it eats, including energy pearls; a shapeshifting space-prostitute (played by Rihanna, with space-pimp Ethan Hawke) who can take the form of any creature but prefers to take the form of Rihanna. There's an entertaining—and, from a narrative standpoint, completely unnecessary—tangent where Valerian has to rescue Laureline from oafish, human-hating aliens. There's a trio of small elephant-trunked platypus-like creatures who sell information and finish each other's

sentences. Besson is clearly having a great time.

Two things keep the film from being excellent instead of merely OK. One is that Besson has no ear for dialogue (in English, anyway; maybe he's great in French), which is a detriment in a 137-minute movie with a lot of talking. When Laureline points a gun at an informant and says, "If you don't tell me where to find Valerian, this bullet is going to find you," well, that's as clever as the screenplay gets. The film has moments that are exciting, amusing, or clever, but it's rarely because of anything someone said.

The other problem is Dane DeHaan, a baby-faced (yet somehow baggy-eyed) log who is completely wrong to play a

swaggering, self-assured bad boy with a history of romantic conquests. DeHaan's Valerian, with his young Keanu voice and unearned arrogance, comes across like a soft, douchy frat boy, not a charming hero. His romance with Laureline, which the movie already treats like an afterthought, is unconvincing; DeHaan and Delevingne barely seem to like each other. That's going to be a problem in the unlikely event that *Valerian* earns enough money to justify a sequel.

And that's disappointing. There's much to admire and enjoy here, and the stage is set for deeper mythology and greater adventures. But hey, they reboot *Spider-Man* every couple of years, so why not *Valerian*?

## Locals Visit for Less Through National Aquarium's Community Programs

By PRESS OFFICER  
Baltimore National Aquarium

BALTIMORE, MD—As part of the organization's commitment to providing access to Maryland residents, the National Aquarium is pleased to offer an ever-expanding lineup of community programs, upcoming this fall and many available throughout the year. These opportunities are focused on providing locals, whether frequent guests or first-time visitors, free or reduced admission to their world-class Aquarium.

"Since 1981, generations of local families have walked through our doors and shared in the wonders of the underwater world," said Jenny Hamilton, community programs manager for the National Aquarium. "These programs ensure our neighbors can continue to connect with us, inspiring thousands each year to love—and protect—aquatic environments around the world as well as those right here in our city and state."

One of the most popular opportunities to visit, the Aquarium's Maryland Mornings, returns September 5, 2017, and runs through the end of February 2018. Maryland residents receive \$10 off adult admission and \$5 off child admission before noon, Sunday through Friday.

The Read to Reef Book Club, in partnership with the Enoch Pratt Free Library, offers free admission to the Aquarium for participating Baltimore-area children fifth grade and younger with a Pratt Library card. Starting October 1, children can visit their local Pratt Library branch, read aquatic-themed books,

and receive Aquarium admission for the reader and up to three guests. The program has already welcomed close to 15,000 young readers and their families since launching in 2016.

The National Aquarium also offers several special access days this fall and throughout the remainder of the year.

- New this year is Free Fall Friday Night. As part of the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts' citywide celebration of culture, Free Fall Baltimore, the National Aquarium will offer free admission after 5 p.m. on Friday, October 27.

- Pay What You Want Day, made possible with the generous support of T. Rowe Price, will return on Sunday, November 5. Guests can donate an amount of their choice for admission to the Aquarium, knowing their contribution supports conservation efforts.

- Additionally, Dollar Days, an annual holiday tradition in collaboration with the Downtown Partnership of Baltimore, will return on Saturday, December 9 and Sunday, December 10, with one dollar admission on both days.

- As always, guests can take advantage of half-price admission year-round every Friday after 5 p.m. through Half-Price Friday Nights, presented with the generous support of M&T Bank.

Guests planning to take advantage of



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BALTIMORE NATIONAL AQUARIUM

these special access days should be aware that, due to anticipated popularity, crowds may be heavier than usual and the Aquarium may sell out. Tips to plan a visit can be found on [aqua.org](http://aqua.org).

In 2016 alone, the Aquarium welcomed over 100,000 guests for free or reduced admission through these community programs, sharing educational and enjoyable experiences with local and state residents.

For more information on these and other National Aquarium programs, visit [aqua.org/youraquarium](http://aqua.org/youraquarium).

#### About the National Aquarium

The National Aquarium is a nonprofit organization focused on changing the way humanity cares for our ocean planet. Through unparalleled exhibits, science-based education programs and hands-on field initiatives, we are creating a new community of hopeful conservationists, driven by our mission to inspire conservation of the world's aquatic treasures. For more information on the National Aquarium, visit [www.aqua.org](http://www.aqua.org).

## A Little This, A Little That

### Tips for Moving Away From Home for the First Time

(StatePoint)—Moving into your own place is a milestone that makes you feel like a grown-up. And with the new school year approaching, you may be thinking about signing a lease for your first apartment or sharing a house with roommates. So now what? As you head to campus, here are important tips to consider before and after you sign on the dotted line:

#### Pick Your Place

Every property offers different features, so do your homework before locking into a lease. Compare amenities for each rental to decide which fits your needs best. Is location the most important factor? Does a big bathroom top your list? Will you have a set parking spot or on-site laundry?

Next, shop around. Websites like Trulia can keep you on-budget by offering quick and easy cost comparisons. Consider living with a roommate to split rent and other expenses.

Make sure you understand the contract before you sign. Who pays for utilities? Who is responsible for repairs? What happens if you break the lease? Read the contract thoroughly, and ask the right questions.

#### Peace of Mind

Once you're moved in, find a secure place for valuables like jewelry and electronics such as laptops and tablets. Your landlord may require you to have renters insurance in case of theft or damage to your property, but if not, it's a good idea to review your options.

Often times your personal items are covered under your parents' existing homeowners policy, but not always. At Erie Insurance, for example, single, full-time students under 24 are automatically covered. But, part-time students or students 24 and older may need to get their own renters insurance.

A renters policy can cover your personal property inside and out of the home. So, your laptop or bicycle would be covered if it was stolen while you were at a coffee shop or anywhere else.

In addition to damage or theft, renters insurance can cover additional living costs caused by a covered property loss beyond your normal living expenses—even if it's not your fault. For instance, your neighbor could accidentally start a fire or overflow a bathtub, ruining your apartment and its contents. Renters insurance can offer a place to stay during these unforeseen circumstances. And in case you're concerned about the cost of renters insurance, it may be less than you think. For example, if you have a car, you may be able to bundle your auto and renters insurance together for a multi-policy discount, which in some cases may add only a few dollars a month to your total cost.

#### Protect Your Ride

Sharing your ride with a friend for a grocery run? Remember insurance usually follows the car—not the driver. That means you should be covered if your friend gets into an accident with your vehicle. But be sure to review your policy before giving anyone the keys.

Consider a parking plan, since space on campus is usually limited, especially if your rental agreement doesn't include a designated spot. Find a well-lit area, ideally with some form of security.

Don't forget to lock your car, and always store packages or valuables in the trunk or take them with you.

Another option? Leave your car at home. Many college campuses are walkable, so you might not even need a car.

Heading to college and getting your own place can be an exciting new adventure. Plan ahead so you can rest easy once class is in session.



PHOTO COURTESY STATEPOINT, © DJORDJE RADOSEVIC - FOTOLIA.COM

## Calendar of Events

September 14–September 20, 2017

### Hispanic Heritage Film Series:

#### *Maria in Nobody's Land/Maria en tierra de nadie*

Date and time: September 14, 2017, 6:30 pm–8:00 pm  
Description: This film is an unprecedented and intimate look at the illegal and extremely dangerous journey of three Salvadoran women to the U.S. Dona Ines, a 60-year-old woman, has been looking for her daughter for five years and is following the same route her daughter took. Marta and Sandra, tired of their husband's violence and longing to overcome poverty, decide to leave their families behind to travel to America—with only \$30 in their pockets.

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Brentwood Arts Center

3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD

Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-699-2544

### 2017 Joint Base Andrews Air Show

Date and time: September 16–17, 2017, 9:00 am–5:00 pm

Description: Joint Base Andrews will hold a free air show, featuring the Air Force's premier aerial demonstration team, the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds. Among other commemorations, this year's Joint Base Andrews Air Show will celebrate the Air Force's 70th Birthday. Visit [andrewsairshow.org](http://andrewsairshow.org) for more details and event schedule.

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Joint Base Andrews

Andrews Air Force Base, MD

Contact: 240-612-4428; [andrewsairshow.org](http://andrewsairshow.org)

### Health: Learning About Yourself

Date and time: Saturday, September 16, 2017, 11:30 am–1:30 pm  
Description: The aim of this program is to create safe and shared community spaces. These sessions will use artistic expression, healthy eating demonstrations, recreation and physical activities as vehicles to help raise awareness of the importance of balance nutrition and incorporating healthy habits. This program is sponsored by La Clinica Del Pueblo.

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Langley Park Community Center

1500 Merrimac Drive, Hyattsville, MD

Contact: 301-445-4508; TTY 301-699-2544

### Publick Playhouse: 40th Anniversary Open House

Date and time: Saturday, September 16, 2017, 1:00 pm–5:00 pm  
Description: Celebrate Publick Playhouse's 40 years bringing our community together with a day of celebration, guest performances and a special look back at the Playhouse's history.

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Publick Playhouse

5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD

Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY:301-699-2544

### Hispanic Festival

Date and time: Sunday, September 17, 2017, 12:00 pm–6:00 pm  
Description: Bring the family and celebrate the rich heritage of our Hispanic communities! From carnival games, crafts, entertainment, delicious ethnic food and more, there's something for everyone. Patrons can enjoy free admission and transportation to the festival.

Check out the Hispanic Festival website at [if you're interested in being a vendor, exhibitor, sponsor or looking for volunteer opportunities?](http://www.pgparcs.com/757/Hispanic-Festival) The website is <http://www.pgparcs.com/757/Hispanic-Festival>

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Lane Manor Park

7601 West Park Drive (off University Boulevard),

Adelphi, MD

Contact: 301-408-4335; TTY 301-699-254

### Money Matters from A5

save you money. Your plan should provide a summary of benefits and how much you pay for different types of care.

#### 4. Reviewing/Changing Plan Benefits During Open Enrollment

Lastly, regardless of your health plan (via employer, an exchange, a broker, the government or another channel), you should take time to review your benefits and make changes or switch your health plan during open enrollment, which typically takes place in the fall. Americans comparison shop for homes, cars and other important purchases, so shopping for insurance plans shouldn't be different. The more you understand your health plan and insurance coverage, the more empowered you'll be to make smart decisions for yourself and your family.

For more information on the Transamerica Center for Health Studies, visit [www.transamericacenterforhealthstudies.org](http://www.transamericacenterforhealthstudies.org).

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1 MedlinePlus. (3 September 2016). *Understanding Health Insurance Plans*. Retrieved from: <https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000879.htm>

2 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (October 2010). *Fee-for-Service Plans. Program Perspectives*, 2(5). Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/opub/btn/archive/program-perspectives-on-fee-for-service-plans.pdf>

3 OPM.gov. (n.d.). *Plan Types*. Retrieved from: <https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/healthcare/plan-information/plan-types/>

4 HealthCareForYouNow. (n.d.). *Getting Prescription Medications*. Retrieved from: <https://www.healthcareforyounow.com/resource/prescription-medications.html>

## EARTH TALK ... Was Hurricane Harvey Caused By Global Warming ?

Dear EarthTalk:

*Was Hurricane Harvey caused by global warming?*

—Tom Dell,  
Bern, NC

The short answer is no. No single hurricane or weather event can be directly linked to the general phenomena known as climate change. "Climate change does not cause things, because climate change is not a causal agent," writes David Roberts on Vox.com. "'Climate change' is a descriptive term — it describes the fact that the climate is changing."

That said, global warming likely did contribute to the severity of Harvey, and has created an overall climate more hospitable to the formation of extreme weather events of every stripe. "For hurricanes, we would ask the question as to what are the possible hurricane developments in the world we live in and compare that to the possible hurricane developments in a world without climate change," Dr Friederike Otto from the University of Oxford tells BBC News.

One definite "fingerprint" of global warming on Harvey is the intensity and amount of rainfall. Climatologists cite the Clausius-Clapeyron equation (a hotter atmosphere holds more moisture: for every extra degree Celsius in

warming, the atmosphere can hold 7% more water) as one link between global warming and stronger storms. Houstonians have witnessed a 167 percent increase in the frequency of the most intense downpours since the 1950s.

Adam Sobel of Columbia's Initiative on Extreme Weather and Climate estimates that as much as 10% of Harvey's rainfall could be blamed on global warming, while Kevin Trenberth of the U.S. National Center for Atmospheric Research pegs the number at closer to 30%. "It may have been a strong storm, and it may have caused a lot of problems anyway—but [human-caused climate change] amplifies the damage considerably," Trenberth reports in *The Atlantic*.

We're also heating up our seas. "The waters of the Gulf of Mexico are about 1.5 degrees Celsius warmer above what they were from 1980–2010," reports Sir Brian Hoskins from the Grantham Institute for Climate Change. "That is very significant because it means the potential for a stronger storm is there."

Meanwhile, even the fact that Harvey hung around so long and dumped rain on and around southeast Texas for nearly four days suggests a climate connection: A recent report from climate scientist Michael Mann suggests that near-stationary summer



CREDIT: TEXAS.713, FLICKRCC

While global warming didn't cause Hurricane Harvey, it certainly made it worse.

weather patterns are more common in a warmer world.

But others think we are focusing too much on the climate underpinnings of Harvey. Ilan Kelman of University College London's Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction tells the BBC that the real human contribution to the catastrophe in Houston is more about the type of development we allow than about the emissions we are pumping skyward.

"The hurricane is just a storm, it is not the disaster," says Kelman. "The disaster is the fact that Houston population has increased by 40% since 1990 [and] that many people were too poor to afford insurance or evacuate." He adds: "Climate change did not make people build along a

vulnerable coastline so the disaster itself is our choice and is not linked to climate change."

CONTACTS: U.S. National Center for Atmospheric Research, [ncar.ucar.edu/](http://ncar.ucar.edu/); Initiative on Extreme Weather and Climate, [extremeweather.columbia.edu/](http://extremeweather.columbia.edu/); "Influence of Anthropogenic Climate Change on Planetary Wave Resonance and Extreme Weather Events," [www.nature.com/articles/srep45242](http://www.nature.com/articles/srep45242).

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

### Innovation from A1

dents, opened in 1950.

The newly constructed \$93.7 million school features 93,000 square feet of state-of-the-art facilities including an academy of environmental studies with rooftop garden; academies of informational technology and performing arts; a health suite and wellness center; 3,000 square feet of space for students in special education and English language learner programs; new soccer and baseball fields; and a stadium with artificial turf and full sports athletic field lighting.

Dr. Maxwell later joined Prince George's Community College (PGCC) president Dr. Charlene Dukes and University of Maryland University College (UMUC) president Javier Miyares at Charles H. Flowers High School in Springdale to officially launch the 3D Scholars program, making it possible for students to earn a bachelor's degree for \$10,000 or less.

The 3D Scholars program leverages dual enrollment and

positions graduates to transition to PGCC to complete their associate degree, after which they are awarded a scholarship to UMUC to complete their bachelor's degree. Courses of study include business administration, criminal justice, computer networks and cybersecurity.

Dr. Maxwell ended the day with PGCCPS business partners Marriott and Medstar Southern Maryland Hospital Center at Frederick Douglass High School in Upper Marlboro to announce two new Pathways in Technology Early College High Schools (P-TECH). Douglass is the first school in Maryland where two cohorts of students are enrolled in a pair of P-TECH schools, making it possible for 60 students to earn their high school diplomas, associate degrees and professional certifications in Health Information Management and Hospitality Services Management.

The six-year P-TECH education model blends high school, college and workplace experiences, creating clear pathways

from high school to college to careers for young people from all academic backgrounds. The P-TECH cohorts at Douglass are the first for PGCCPS.

#### 2017–2018 Highlights: Innovation and Collaboration

##### Academic Excellence

- 31 specialty programs serving PreK–12 students
- 12 world languages
- 8 language immersion programs
- 65 arts integration programs
- 71 Maryland Green Schools
- 8 Maryland "Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education Schools"
- 600+ students dual enrolled in Prince George's Community College (PGCC)
- New teacher preparation middle college program in partnership with University of Maryland and PGCC

##### Capital Improvements

- \$93.7 million newly constructed Fairmont Heights High School

- Glenarden Woods Elementary renovated

#### Career and Technology Education

- 10 Cisco Information Technology Academies
- Two new Pathways in Technology Early College High Schools (P-TECH) at Frederick Douglass High School, allowing students earn both a high school diploma and associate degrees in health sciences and hospitality with partners PGCC, IBM, MedStar and Marriott.
- New 3D Scholars programs in partnership with PGCC and the University of Maryland University College. Through the 3D Scholars program, students can earn a bachelor's degree for under \$10,000.
- Expansion of the Academy of Health Sciences at Friendly High School with a new academy to earn an associate degree in teaching.

### KEEP LITTLE LUNGS HAPPY

Air pollution affects children more than most groups, and can cause long-term lung damage because children breathe more air per body unit than adults. To keep your little ones safe, consider these air quality tips:

- Walk or Bike: Walking and biking are great commuting options that offer an opportunity to get some exercise and reduce the use of fossil fuels.
- Car Pool or Ride the Bus: Sharing a ride is an eco-friendly way to commute and save money on gas.
- Avoid Unnecessary Idling: Idling engines produce toxic pollution that is known to cause serious health concerns and exposure to car exhaust can also aggravate asthma symptoms.

For more tips, check out the Clean Air Partners App before your next outdoor adventure.

To download the free app, visit: [www.cleanairpartners.net](http://www.cleanairpartners.net)

Prince George's County Second Nature is an initiative of the Department of the Environment, Recreation, Safety, and Office of Green Spaces to promote good habits and sustainability in our everyday lives.

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# COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

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**United Methodist Church**

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**Two Worship Services:  
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**Sunday School: 9:30**

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Saturday Worship:  
6:30 p.m.

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12 noon (The Power Hour) and 6:45 pm

**"A Time of Prayer, Praise, Worship, & The Word"**  
**Dr. Henry P. Davis III, Pastor**  
**www.fbhp.org**

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Welcomes You Where Jesus Christ Is Lord and King  
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5018 Lakeland Road  
College Park, MD 20740  
**301-474-3995**  
**www.fbc-cp.org**

*Sunday School 9:30a.m.*  
*Sunday Worship 11a.m.*  
*Holy Communion 1st Sunday*  
*Wednesday Bible Study 7-8p.m.*  
*Wednesday Prayer Service 8p.m.*

**UNITED METHODIST**

**Union**

**United Methodist Church**

14418 Old Marlboro Pike,  
Upper Marlboro, MD

**Church (301) 627-5088**

**Sunday School:** (Children/Adults) - 8:30 a.m.  
**Sunday Worship:** 10:00 a.m.

**Rev. Kendrick D. Weaver, Pastor**

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20785 • 301-490-2625  
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Matthew 28:19-20  
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Access Code 929037  
Soulful Thursdays  
Bible Study 7:00pm

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Sunday School  
(Adults & Children) - 9:30 A.M.  
Worship Service - 11:00 A.M.  
Wed. Prayer Service & Bible Study - 7:00 P.M.  
Office (301) 839-1166  
Fax (301) 839-1721  
E-mail: [FHBC@verizon.net](mailto:FHBC@verizon.net)  
Pastor: Rev. Waymond B. Duke

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**WORD OF GOD COMMUNITY CHURCH**

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(301) 864-3437

**Intercessory Prayer:**Sundays - 8:30 a.m.  
**Church School:** - 9:15 a.m.  
**Morning Worship Celebration:** - 10:30 a.m.  
**Wed. Night Bible Study:** - 7:45 p.m.  
**Elder Willie W. Duvall, Pastor**

**Watch from A4**

ity to care, protect and advocate for all children.

This 26th celebration is a part of continuing seed planting for a transforming children's movement that aims to unite families, youths, communities and religious congregations of all faiths across the nation in shared concern for children and a shared commitment to improving their lives. This year's theme is "Moving Forward with Hope: Love and Justice for Every Child." Please learn more about how your congregation can

download the free, easy-to-use resources and join us.

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

**Floods from A4**

tially life-threatening. It will result in the federal government spending billions of dollars to construct projects that are vulnerable to destruction from future storms.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, the Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force adopted a higher flood standard in order to ensure that federally-funded rebuilding projects were built stronger and more resilient to extreme weather events. The lessons learned after Hurricane Sandy informed the Obama Administration's decision to implement this rule, which would save taxpayer dollars, protect our infrastructure, and improve the safety and welfare of communities across the United States.

effort for those communities devastated by Hurricane Harvey, we urge you to look to the work completed in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. Please take action at the executive level to ensure that the billions of taxpayer dollars are not wasted on building infrastructure that is vulnerable to destruction and that threatens American lives. While we are encouraged by statements made by White House homeland security adviser Tom Bossert indicating the need to implement strong flood standards, we believe these standards are of great national importance and will therefore be introducing legislation to codify the 2015 order.

We look forward to your prompt attention to this important issue.

## CLASSIFIEDS

**ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES**

D.C. BIG FLEA & ANTIQUES MARKET SEPT 16-17. SHOP FOR BARGAINS! OVER 600 BOOTHS! DULLES EXPO CTR, 4360 Chantilly Shopping Cts, Chantilly, VA 20151, SAT 9-6/SUN 11-5; ADM \$10 PARK FREE—[www.thebigflea-market.com](http://www.thebigflea-market.com) 757-430-4735

**AUTOMOBILE DONATIONS**

DONATE AUTOS, TRUCKS, RV'S. LUTHERAN MISSION SOCIETY. Your donation helps local families with food, clothing, shelter, counseling. Tax deductible. MVA License #W1044. 410-636-0123 or [www.LutheranMissionSociety.org](http://www.LutheranMissionSociety.org)

**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

Let the Multi-Media Specialists of MDDC Advertising Network assist you in growing your business and increasing your customer base. Call today at 410-212-0616 and start seeing results NOW. [www.mdcpres.com](http://www.mdcpres.com).

**BUSINESS SERVICES**

Bulk advertising at its best: Advertise in over 70 newspapers and reach millions of readers with ONE call. Broaden your reach and get results for pennies per reader. Call Wanda at 410-212-0616 or email [wsmith@mddcpres.com](mailto:wsmith@mddcpres.com).

Increase your presence by advertising on FACEBOOK, TWITTER, AND GOOGLE ADWORDS. Call our Multi-Media Specialists to experience the success of social media advertising today! CALL 410-212-0616.

Place your ad on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Google AdWords through MDDC's Social Media Ad Network. Call today to find out how to maximize your presence on Social Media—410-212-0616 or email [Wanda\\_Smith@mddcpres.com](mailto:Wanda_Smith@mddcpres.com).

Increase frequency with your advertising—call one of MDDC's Multi-Media Specialists to grow your business. Call Wanda at 410-212-0616 or email [wsmith@mddcpres.com](mailto:wsmith@mddcpres.com).

**BUSINESS SERVICES**

Place a business card ad in the Regional Small Display 2x2/2x4 Advertising Network—let MDDC help you grow your business! Call TODAY at 410-212-0616 to increase your customer base and get results.

**COLLECTIBLES**

SCASHS PAID INSTANTLY for Pre-1975 Comic Books, Vintage: Star Wars; Transformers/GI Joe Action Figures; Video Games-Systems; Magic the Gathering/Pokemon Cards—CALL WILL: 800-242-6130, [buying@getcashforcomics.com](mailto:buying@getcashforcomics.com)

**EDUCATIONAL TRAINING**

AIRLINE MECHANIC TRAINING—Get FAA certification to fix planes. Financial Aid if qualified. Approved for military benefits. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance—866-823-6729.

Looking for a great afterschool/weekend program targeted towards computer training? Call Stanford Tech 240-882-1673; Enroll NOW and receive a backpack with school supplies. [www.stanfordtech.net](http://www.stanfordtech.net)

**HELP WANTED**

EARN \$500 A DAY: Lincoln Heritage Life Insurance Wants Insurance Agents \* Leads, No Cold Calls \* Commissions Paid Daily \* Agency Training \* Life Insurance Required. Call 1-888-713-6020.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Join other advertisers of the MDDC Small Display Advertising Network. Grow your revenue with a business card-sized ad in this network. Let the Multi-Media Specialists help you increase your customer base. CALL TODAY—410-212-0616. See your results NOW!

**REAL ESTATE: OUT OF STATE**

Delaware New Move-In Ready Homes! Low Taxes! Close to Beaches, Gated, Olympic pool. New Homes from low \$100's. No HOA Fees. Brochures Available 1-866-629-0770 or [www.coolbranch.com](http://www.coolbranch.com).

**SERVICES MISCELLANEOUS**

Increase your customer base and get great results by placing your ads in the MDDC Classified Advertising Network! Call today—410-212-0616 Ask for Multi-Media Specialist Wanda & watch your results grow.

SAVE loads of money with your advertising BUDGETS—CONNECT with the Multi-Media Specialists of the MDDC Advertising Networks. GET Bulk Advertising Opportunities NOW. CALL TODAY—With One Call; With One Ad Placement & One Bill, You'll Reach the Entire Mid-Atlantic Region! Call 410-212-0616.

Need a new CELL PHONE or want to change your service provider, and/or get your service for free—go to "BlueCoggins.acndirect.com" or call 301-367-5732 to find out how.

**SERVICES MISCELLANEOUS**

Place a business card ad in the Regional Small Display 2x2/2x4 Advertising Network—reach 3.6 million readers with just one call, one bill and one ad placement in 71 newspapers in Maryland, Delaware and D.C. TODAY! For just \$1,450.00, Get the reach, Get the results and for Just Pennies on the Dollar Now. Call 1-855-721-6332 x 6 or email [Wanda\\_Smith@mddcpres.com](mailto:Wanda_Smith@mddcpres.com).

**VACATION RENTALS**

OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND. Best selection of affordable rentals. Full/partial weeks. Call for FREE brochure—Open daily. Holiday Resort Services. 1-800-638-2102. Online reservations: [www.holidayoc.com](http://www.holidayoc.com). 5% base rent discount—use code NYPS17. Ends October 1, 2017.

**Accokeek First Church of God**

**1st Annual Community Health Fair**

September 16, 2017 • 10 am to 4:00 pm  
Accokeek First Church of God  
15821 Livingston Road, Accokeek, MD  
Kevin W. Johnson, Senior Pastor • 301-283-2116

**FREE and OPEN to the PUBLIC**

Children with special needs are welcome

Our church will host a community wide and family-friendly event in partnership with local Prince George's and Charles County medical service providers, hospitals, dieticians & cooks, politicians, businesses and the people of the community. Throughout the day, we will host, along with our partners, FREE medical services and consultations to include CPR training by one of church members, oral health education & referrals, mental health evaluations, screenings (blood pressure, cholesterol, hearing, vision, bone density, glucose, diabetes, hepatitis B and C, HIV), fitness challenges (yoga, Zumba) and FREE exhibitor giveaways.

This community-wide event is FREE and open to all. Games, activities and fun for the children, teens and adults alike – volleyball, moon bounce, gospel music, puppet show, Southern Maryland Blue Crabs baseball mascot, emergency vehicles on display, football, baseball and badminton.

Please help us to spread the word throughout Prince George's and Charles County. Invite your family and friends.

**The Prince George's Post**

*Your Newspaper of Legal Record*

**Call (301) 627-0900**  
**Fax (301) 627-6260**

**Subscribe Today!**

*Serving Prince George's County Since 1932*

**Lutheran Mission Society**

Alan Amrhine, Communications Director  
Lutheran Mission Society

**"MDDC has connected donors with the LMS Vehicle Donation Program for over six years! Great exposure, cost effective, and Wanda is so helpful."**

Call Wanda: 410-212-0616  
[wsmith@mddcpres.com](mailto:wsmith@mddcpres.com)  
*Local touch, infinite reach.*

Your advertising resource  
**MDDC press**  
[www.mddcpres.com](http://www.mddcpres.com)

**25th Annual Parade of Homes Oct. 5-8**

**New Homes from Corolla to Manteo, NC**  
Tickets \$10.  
Good all 4 Days

**Outer Banks Home Builders Association**

**Online Preview: [www.obhomebuilders.org](http://www.obhomebuilders.org)**

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**or 410-212-0616**

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