

The Prince George's Post



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New Federal Installation To Be Built in Prince George's County

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Council

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George's County Council welcomes an important new neighbor. The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) headquarters, an agency of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, is relocating from multiple lease locations in Washington, D.C., to its new, soon-to-be-built site near the Branch Avenue Metro in Camp Springs, one of our County's most important transit-oriented development communities.

The decision to choose Prince George's County as its next



PHOTO: PG COUNTY COUNCIL
Ready for the Groundbreaking Ceremony to begin.

home, with a commitment to a 15-year lease, will centralize this federal agency's headquarters for the first time in USCIS history. Construction is slated for completion in Fiscal Year 2020.

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Chair Davis Responds to State Audit Regarding Graduation Rates for County High Schools

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Council

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Educating our children to compete in a global economy remains a critical element to the success of Prince George's County. A world-class 21st century school system is a shared priority for all of us, and we remain committed to working together to create more high-performing schools.

The Prince George's County Council, as an education stake-

holder and the County's fiscal authority, urges a careful and thorough review of the findings and recommendations of the recently-released Maryland State Department of Education audit regarding graduation rates for Prince George's County Public Schools.

This Council is very concerned about the State audit's findings of unenforced truancy policies, late grade changes

See AUDIT Page A3



Artist rendering of the soon-to-be, Homewood Suites, by Hilton in Largo, Maryland.

PHOTO COURTESY ?????

Frontier Development Breaks Ground On Largo's First Homewood Suites

By PRESS OFFICER
Frontier Development

LARGO MD—Frontier Development & Hospitality Group is bringing an award-winning extended stay hotel brand to the DC region. Homewood Suites by Hilton broke ground on Monday, November 6, 2017, at 9103 Basil Court in Largo, MD, a dynamic market just minutes away from the nation's capital.

"We're delighted to partner with Hilton to bring the first Homewood Suites to Prince George's County," says Evens Charles, President/CEO of Frontier Development. "This

Homewood Suites is designed to be the extended stay hotel of choice for business and leisure travelers who want upscale accommodations—and all the comforts of home—at a value-driven price."

With 116 suites and 2,700 square feet of flexible meeting space, Homewood Suites by Hilton Largo/Washington DC is slated for completion in late 2018. The new hotel will be owned by Frontier and managed by OTO Development, a Spartanburg SC-based Johnson Management company.

Frontier already has a presence in Largo—the Double-Tree by Hilton Largo/Washing-

ton DC, adjacent to the site of the new Homewood Suites—and Charles says his company is investing further based on the market's significant business-oriented growth.

"Since the day we indicated that we wanted to build 'Downtown Largo' and make it a hub for healthcare, the business community has responded by bringing new housing, restaurants, retail and hotels like this exciting new Homewood Suites to the area," says County Executive Rushern L. Baker III, noting that Prince George's County provided \$1.5 million in Economic Development Incentive

(EDI) Funds toward the \$20-million extended stay project, which is expected to create 41 new hospitality jobs.

"I want to thank Frontier Development & Hospitality Group for bringing Homewood Suites to Prince George's County—a great addition to Largo's current stock of hotels," Baker adds. "These are amazing times and it's exciting to watch Largo transform into the downtown area we envision."

Charles says he expects DoubleTree and Homewood to

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First Time in History, NABJ Re-Elects President to Second Term

Sarah Glover, NBC's Social Media Pro, to Lead the Mighty NABJ Through 2019

By PRESS OFFICER
NABJ

WASHINGTON, D.C.—In a historic move, members of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) elected NBC Owned Television Station's Sarah Glover to a second term as president in August during its annual convention in New Orleans, Louisiana. Elections Chair John Yearwood presented the certified elections results at the NABJ board meeting last weekend.

Glover is the first "NABJ Baby" (Student Projects '95) to be elected president and now the first president to serve two terms.

"I'm humbled and honored to serve our beloved NABJ for two more years. I'm grateful for the support so many have shown the NABJ and the board under my tutelage," said Glover. "I'm excited to continue my leadership. It's a chance to help bolster NABJ to new heights and continue our transformation into a more sustainable association.

I'm hyped. I've got my sleeves rolled up and I'm fast at work. Thank you for believing in me."

The certified election results for the 2017 NABJ Election (candidate and vote totals) are as follows:

Sarah Glover, candidate for President: 417

Gayle Hurd, candidate for Vice President-Broadcast: 168

Dorothy Tucker, candidate for Vice President-Broadcast: 280

Cheryl Smith, candidate for Secretary: 411

Johann Calhoun, candidate for Region I Director: 145

Ken Lemon, candidate for Region III Director: 131

Kyra Azore, candidate for Student Representative: 66

Lawrence Malloy, candidate for Student Representative: 31

Glover is dedicating her second term of service to all 44 NABJ founders and the late Michael J. Feeney, former New York chapter president. Feeney, her mentee, she believes would



PHOTO COURTESY NABJ

Several of the 2017-19 NABJ Board of Directors and Executive Director Sharon Toomer at NABJ headquarters.

have been a notable NABJ president had he not died suddenly in 2016.

NABJ Founder and Past President Dewayne Wickham applauded the election results.

"Sarah has shown strong, visionary leadership," he said. "I am very proud of the steps she has taken to ensure NABJ's future. Not only is she an exceptional journalist, excelling in the workplace; Sarah understands the industry and is raising the bar not only with NABJ."

Touting zero-based budgeting, Glover said her first two years as president were spent erasing a two-year, six-figure deficit and providing accountability, while also laying the groundwork for innovative and industry-challenging programming. Both NABJ conventions in 2016 and 2017 set attendance records for the association.

See NABJ Page A5

Beltsville Native Serves Aboard Guided Missile Cruiser in Japan

By MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS
TIM MILLER
NOCO

YOKOSUKA, JAPAN—A Beltsville, Maryland native and 2012 High Point High School graduate is serving in the U.S. Navy aboard the guided missile cruiser, *USS Chancellorsville*.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Zahrina Hutchins is a logistics specialist aboard the forward deployed Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser operating out of Yokosuka, Japan. *Chancellorsville* is one of three cruisers forward-deployed in Yokosuka.

A Navy logistics specialist is responsible for purchasing and procurement, shipping and receiving, and issuing of equipment, tools, consumable items or anything else obtained through the naval supply system.

"Growing up I learned from my brother to always follow through with what I start, even if I don't like it which helps in my Navy career," said Hutchins.

With more than 50 percent of the world's shipping tonnage and a third of the world's crude oil passing through the region, the



PHOTO BY SENIOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER GARY WARD

Petty Officer 3rd Class Zahrina Hutchins

United States has historic and enduring interests in this part of the world.

"Our alliance is rooted in shared interests and shared values," said Adm. Harry Harris, Commander, U.S. Pacific Command. "It's not hyperbole to say that the entire world has benefited from the U.S.-Japan alliance. While our alliance helped stabilize the region after the Second World War, it also enabled the Japanese people to bring about an era of unprecedented

See NOCO Page A5

INSIDE

Lead Poisoning in Maryland Drops to Lowest Recorded Level, Testing Increases in First Year of State Initiative

For example, 20 of 35 confirmed cases in Prince George's County were children of refugee families who had relocated to the United States and recently settled in that county, the report finds.

Community, Page A3

Pauli Murray's Song of Hope

Pauli was a sit-inner before the 1960s sit-in movement of my generation, a founding member of the National Organization of Women (NOW) and the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE), a member of the Equality Committee of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and a longtime close friend of Eleanor Roosevelt.

Commentary, Page A4

Ambassadors of Hope Share Opportunities and Options With Veteran Community

Prince George's County is home to the largest concentration of Veterans in Maryland. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, more than 11,000 Veterans were unemployed in 2016.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: Blade Runner 2049

If any film could get by solely on its breathtaking cinematography, it would be this one. The legendary Roger Deakins (who's been Oscar-nominated 13 times in 22 years without ever winning) photographs the forlorn and dismal future with spectacular depth and clarity, giving it more life, I suspect, than the real 2049 will have.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What are planners and designers doing to solve the so-called "last-mile" problem regarding transit?

—Ginny R., via e-mail

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Morningside VFD has a new Captain, and a new Ford F450 ambulance

Seth Astwood has been promoted to Captain of the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department and has been assigned to the Rescue Squad. Also three members of the department, Craig Olander, Daniel Demarcello and John Jeffers, have upgraded and obtained their Maryland Emergency Vehicle Operator Red Card.

Other good news includes their new 2017 Ford F450 ambulance, placed in service on Oct. 18 as Ambulance 827. They also have newly-paved ramps on the parking lot.

The MVFD is staffed by 100% volunteer members who provide more than 40,000 man-hours (and women-hours) a year staffing the station for free, saving county residents more than \$2.7 million in property taxes.

The department relies on good neighbors to help them with financial support so that they can continue to provide the highest level of emergency fire and EMS service. If you'd like to give them a hand, send a donation to the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department, 6200 Suitland Road, Morningside, MD 20746.

People

Morningside Mayor Benn Cann is a busy man. He has been with the DMV since 1998 and serves politically as Treasurer for the Maryland Mayors' Association and is Vice Chair for the Maryland Municipal League annual conference. He's active with the Prince George's County Municipality Association and Black Mayors Association. And he completed the Citizens' Police Academy for Prince George's County.

Ebony Bates, of Skyline, has moved her real estate office from Tysons, Va., to Capitol Hill. She sells in Washington, Maryland and Virginia and will be glad to answer your real estate questions, or sell your house. You can call her at 724-255-9393 or 202-608-1880.

Condolences to Yvonne Garvin, of Skyline, on the death of her mom, Virginia Gerald of Goldsborough, N.C., on Aug. 28 at the age of 100. She and her husband Robert were parents of 11 children.

Condolences to To Nora and John Jackson, of Skyline, on the

death of their 7-month-old great-granddaughter Corraye Proctor.

Skyline School update

Our much-lamented Skyline School is now a fully functional Transportation & Security office for the Prince George's Schools System. The Skyline Citizens Association is now working with County officials, asking that the six or so acres abutting the new facility (where the ball fields were) be turned over to Park & Planning as an extension of Michael Polley Park.

Now hiring

Aldi, the newly refurbished grocery at 6400 Allentown Road in Camp Springs, will host a Hiring Event on Nov. 29, 6 to 9 a.m. Among the requirements for store associates: 18 years or older, able to lift up to 45 pounds, high school diploma or GED. Also, outstanding customer service, motivation, and a commitment to teamwork with a "Can Do" attitude. Salary starts at \$13.25 an hour.

Aldi is one of the fastest-growing retailers in the United States. By the end of 2022, there will be nearly 2,500 Aldi stores from coast to coast.

Bells' Bazaar

Come to Bells United Methodist Church for their annual Christmas Bazaar, Saturday, Nov. 18, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hand-made arts, crafts, baked goods, nuts, attic treasures, thrift store, silent auction, food for sale, and Santa! Bells Church is at 6016 Allentown Rd. in Camp Springs.

Nature Center invites you to a campfire

Bring the family to a Family Campfire at Clearwater Nature Center in Cosca Park in Clinton, Sat., Nov. 25, 1:00-2:30 p.m. Enjoy an afternoon nature program while roasting marshmallows. Roasting sticks and marshmallows will be provided. You may bring your own hotdogs and drinks if you like. For ages 2 and up. Fee \$4. Info: 301-297-4575.

Vote for the best Gingerbread Houses

The 18th Annual Gingerbread House Show begins Nov. 24-26 and continues weekends Dec. 1-3 and Dec. 8-10, 12 noon to 5 p.m., at the historic Darnall's Chance House Museum, 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive in

Upper Marlboro. You'll have a chance to vote your favorite entries in several categories. Fee, \$1. Info: 301-952-8010.

Transit Union seeks Metro solutions

Joe Farmer, of Skyline, spoke at a recent Citizens Association meeting about "Metro and Solutions to Save Our System," a lobbying effort by The Amalgamated Transit Union. They seek such Metro changes as: \$2 flat fare, free bus-to-rail transfers, expanded service hours, reduction of wait times, improved safety and reliability, and holding DC, MD & VA accountable for funding.

Changing landscape

The Town of Morningside has a new website: morningsidemd.gov. Check it out.

The vacant building adjacent to the Surratt House Museum in Clinton has been donated to the Surratt Society, which is patiently awaiting demolition. The building dates to the 1950s and must first be inspected for such environmental impacts as asbestos.

Morningside Memories: 1957

Sixty years ago, Oct. 4, 1957, the Morningside Volunteer Police Department was re-established. The following men were appointed and duly sworn in as Morningside Policemen: Matthew P. Rosch, Charles Kiker, Albert Thornton, Leroy Wines and David Wills. Two more men had volunteered and "will probably be appointed in the near future." There was also an effort to see if any Morningside women would like to be policewomen, "solely for the purpose of patrolling school crossings."

Milestones

Happy birthday to Kendra MacLean and Katie Frostbutter, Nov. 18; Herbert Hanson and Andrew Boone, Nov. 20; Linda Cullinan and Brea Sandy-Hanson, Nov. 21;

Dolores Steinhilber, Stephanie White, Sharon McKlveen and Jill Flaherty Kimmel, Nov. 22; Leslie Greene, Nov. 23; Ben Gryskewicz and Mike Waby, Nov. 24.

Happy anniversary to Paul and Sharon Locke on Nov. 22.

Happy Thanksgiving to my readers!

Neighborhoods

BGE Provides Customers With Natural Gas Safety Tips this Heating Season

BALTIMORE, MD—With cold weather and the heating season quickly approaching, Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE) would like to remind customers to familiarize themselves with the natural gas safety tips provided in BGE's natural gas safety brochure which is being distributed to homes and businesses in and around BGE's natural gas service area. Customers should be mindful that households and businesses not served directly by natural gas are still in proximity to BGE's and other operators' gas equipment.

"BGE is committed to maintaining a safe and reliable natural gas system and it is vital that our customers know how to recognize, report, and respond to natural gas leaks and emergencies," said Christie McMullen, vice president of Gas Distribution for BGE. "Just as BGE prepares for the heating season, we urge our customers to have their

heating systems checked and inspected by a qualified technician to ensure safe and efficient operation."

BGE's natural gas safety brochure is being mailed to all customers. The brochure provides information in English and Spanish, detailing how to recognize and report natural gas leaks. A scratch-and-sniff odor indicator is included that reminds customers about "mercaptan," a safety additive that BGE and other utilities put in natural gas to give it a distinctive rotten egg odor that makes gas easier to detect. The brochure also reminds customers to call Miss Utility at 811 prior to digging anywhere—from large construction jobs to home landscaping and gardening projects.

If you detect a gas leak:

- Leave the building or area immediately and go to a safe place where you can call BGE, toll free, 24 hours a day at 1.800.685.0123.

- Extinguish all open flames. Do not use matches or lighters and do not attempt to light an appliance.

- Do not use any phones, electric switches, thermostats or appliance controls. All of these devices, including battery operated equipment, can cause sparks, and ignite natural gas.

- Do not start or turn off vehicles or motorized equipment. Immediately abandon any motorized equipment you may be operating.

- Do not attempt to find the source of the leak or to repair a leak.

When you call, BGE will respond promptly to survey the area, perform safety measures, and repair BGE's equipment. There is no charge to investigate a gas leak.

For more information on natural gas safety and to view an electronic version of BGE's natural gas safety brochure, visit bge.com/naturalgassafety.

Comcast Celebrated the Grand opening of Xfinity Store in Riverdale Park

By SAVANNAH ISNER
Comcast, Beltway Region

BALTIMORE, MD—Comcast celebrated the grand opening of its Xfinity Store in Riverdale Park, MD with a special ribbon-cutting ceremony. The new more than 4,000 square-foot store provides Comcast customers with an opportunity to explore, learn about and interact directly with the latest Xfinity products and services, including Xfinity

Mobile, and experience them firsthand. GapBuster, Inc. was in attendance to accept a monetary donation.

The new, interactive Xfinity Store is conveniently located and features a comfortable seating area and informational, interactive displays where customers can learn more about Comcast's products and services, including the X1 Entertainment Operating System, Xfinity Mobile, Xfinity Home automation

and security offerings and Comcast's suite of mobile apps. Additionally, customers will receive personalized service from trained and knowledgeable Sales Consultants, and more time-saving offerings, including a new queuing system that allows customers to explore and be entertained while waiting for service.

The Xfinity Store is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY SAVANNAH ISNER, COMCAST
Exterior of new Xfinity Store located at 4555 Van Buren Street, Riverdale Park, MD.



PHOTO COURTESY SAVANNAH ISNER, COMCAST
Information about Xfinity Mobile and a display of the latest devices.



PHOTO COURTESY SAVANNAH ISNER, COMCAST
Ribbon cutting ceremony outside of new Xfinity Store in Riverdale Park, MD. (From Left to Right): Danielle Lee, Xfinity Store Team Member; Lisa Stewart, Assistant Xfinity Store Manager; Wanda Brooks, Representative on Behalf of Council Member Dannielle Glaros, Prince George's County Council District 3; Yoana Viera, Xfinity Store Team Member; David C. Harrington, Prince George's Chamber of Commerce President & CEO; Latricia Henderson, Xfinity Store Manager; Deborah Yeboah, GapBusters Inc. Student Board Member; Alan K. Thompson, Riverdale Park Mayor; Adeyinka Ogunlegan, Comcast Government & Regulatory Affairs Manager; Delegate Anne Healey; Lauren Thomas, Xfinity Store Team Member; Patricia Williams, GapBusters Inc. Board Member; Joshua Thomas, Team Board Member; Chelsea Nichols, Xfinity Store Team Member



PHOTO COURTESY SAVANNAH ISNER, COMCAST
Xfinity Store Manager, Latricia Henderson, and Comcast Government & Regulatory Affairs Manager, Adeyinka Ogunlegan, present donation to Board Member Patricia Williams and Student Board Member Deborah Yeboah from GapBusters Inc.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

FAMILY CAMPFIRE

Come and enjoy an afternoon nature program while roasting marshmallows Saturday November 25, 2017 from 1:00-2:30 PM. Roasting sticks and marshmallows will be provided. You may bring your own hot dogs and drinks if you like. Ages 2 and up. Fee is \$4 R (\$6 NR) #1683785.

The address is Clearwater Nature Center Cosca Regional Park, 11000 Thrift Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735. Telephone number is 301-297-4575, TTY: 301-699-2544.

ADVENT PRAYER BREAKFAST

Union United Methodist Women will host their Advent Prayer Breakfast Sunday, December 3, 2017 8:00 AM at Union United Methodist Church in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Please RSVP by November 19, 2017 to Marville Wilson, UMW President 301-627-7389.

150th MYERS CHURCH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

It's time to celebrate. Everyone loves a parade. Nottingham Myers Anniversary celebrating 150 years of God's Blessings Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 10:00 AM. Parade route will begin at Candy Hill Road and Croom Road. Proceed down Croom Road to Baden Naylor Road. Ending at Nottingham Myers Church 15601 Brooks Church Road. Light refreshments will be served.

DANCE LIKE DAVID

Everyone is invited to attend an afternoon of Worship through Dance Saturday, November 18th at 3:00 PM in our Family Life Center.

MYERS CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Evan D. Young will be our Guest Speaker at our 11:00 AM Anniversary Service. Lunch following morning

service in the Family Life Center 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

SURRATT HOUSE MUSEUM

An old fashioned holiday, bringing Christmas past to present November 29-December 10, Wednesdays-Fridays, 11:00 AM-9:00 PM, Saturdays-Sundays, 12:00 Noon-4:00 PM. Come celebrate Christmas amid period decorations, seasonal histories, special exhibits and more. On the weekend of December 9 and 10, return to enjoy special activities for all ages, cookies and cider, and holiday discounts in the museum's gift shop. Regular tour admission. Special activities on the week-end are free. Information 301-868-1121; TTY 301-699-2544. The address is 9118 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735.

See BRANDYWINE Page A5

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Helpful Tips for Communicating Effectively With an Aging Parent

People today are living longer and, for a growing number of families this means dealing with the issue of aging parents no longer able to care for themselves as they once did.

These situations can lead to a variety of highly emotionally-laden decisions, often strong push-back from the elderly parent, and the kinds of issues that require difficult family discussions.

Simply talking over some of the problems a parent faces can be extremely complicated. Questions such as where elderly parents should live, what health services are needed, their financial situation, existence of a current will, giving up the car keys and many related topics are all hard. And while talking over such issues with an aging parent may be awkward, reaching needed decisions can be even more painful.

As frustrating as such discussions may be, they are necessary. Still, there are ways to approach such talks that can make them less prone to disagreement and more apt to lead to productive results:

- Pick a good time and place for important conversations to make your parent feel comfortable.
- Try including someone you and your parent mutually trust, but don't make your parent feel he or she is being ganged up on.
- Talk in statements that use "I" rather than "you." Discuss "your feelings" about an issue, rather than acting like whatever you believe is correct while your parent's views are simply wrong.
- Respect your parent's right to argue and disagree.
- Accept that making these decisions may take time. See initial discussions as door openers, chances to get things started.
- Don't dominate the discussion. Listen to your parent's views and ideas, especially when the subject involves major decisions.
- Try not to be judgmental. It takes time for an aging parent to accept a loss of independence. Dictating to him or her what "has to be" is only setting the stage for a stubborn fight.
- Realize that your job is to offer advice and support, not demand how things "must" change.

It's emotionally difficult for parent and child when an aging parent can no longer handle everything on his or her own. Holding effective discussions on changes to be made can be much more productive, and far less traumatic, than simply trying to dictate decisions. If extra help is needed, seek out a professional counselor who specializes in geriatric issues.

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

Audit from A1

without full documentation, and questionable accountability of credit recovery programs within many of our schools.

Two-thirds of the County's revenue is rightly invested in the public education of our highest priority, our young people. In its oversight role over this critical investment, this Council has long recognized the need for the continuous process of improvement of school system operations, engaging the first comprehensive assessment of County School operations in nearly 20 years.

The findings of the State audit, as well as recommendations from the joint Continuous Business Process Improvement Study, present a unique opportunity for our County and the

School district to improve, and offers a critical barometer for progress as we continue our work together to achieve the world-class school system our students and Prince George's County deserve.

Now more than ever, our focus remains on the great future of our County and our public school system. All the County's education stakeholders must be steadfastly devoted to collaboration; continually identify opportunities to strengthen public school system operations, management and accountability; and commit to a full but measured response to our challenges, to ensure our school system operates at optimal levels and our students are well prepared for higher education and the demands of the workforce in our growing economy.

Homewood from A1

thrive side by side based on demand generators including government agencies, major corporations, commercial projects and, of course the new Regional Medical Center just a mile away. "Our new Homewood Suites brings a contemporary, upscale extended stay lodging option to Largo, providing travelers tremendous value with a variety of amenities," he says.

All suites at Homewood feature separated living and sleeping areas along with fully-equipped kitchens. Guests are provided all the essentials for a comfortable, convenient stay including free WiFi, a fresh hot breakfast every day, a fun evening social Monday through Thursday, even a grocery shopping service. There's also a recreational basketball court and outdoor patio with grill station and fire pit.

Lead Poisoning in Maryland Drops to Lowest Recorded Level, Testing Increases in First Year of State Initiative

By PRESS OFFICER
MDH

BALTIMORE, MD—Childhood lead poisoning cases in Maryland decreased last year to the lowest levels since data has been collected in connection with the state's 1994 lead law, according to a 2016 Childhood Blood Lead Surveillance report released today by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). Additionally, blood lead testing rates increased across Maryland in the first year of the state's initiative to test all children at ages 1 and 2. MDE continues to work with the Department of Health (Health) and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), as well as local partners, to prevent childhood lead poisoning in Maryland.

For the first time, the report also tracks potential sources of lead exposure in reported cases of childhood lead poisoning and finds that many young children with elevated blood lead levels may have been exposed to lead from sources other than deteriorated lead-based paint.

The report follows Governor Larry Hogan's announcement earlier this year that the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approved an application by the Maryland Department of Health to launch a \$7.2 million initiative to reduce lead poisoning and improve asthma, two conditions related to environmental conditions in housing. The Department of Health, in collaboration with the MDE and the DHCD, will implement the initiative.

Blood lead testing rates and a new initiative

Blood lead testing rates increased across the state in 2016. Maryland's new initiative to test all children at ages 1 and 2, regardless of where they live, was announced by the Hogan administration in October 2015 in response to data showing that the state could improve its testing and identification of children with lead exposure.

Although the new Department of Health regulations for increased testing were in effect for only nine months in 2016, starting in March of that year, the 2016 Childhood Blood Lead Surveillance report shows that the number of children age 1 or 2 tested for blood lead in Maryland was 12.2 percent higher than the comparable average for the prior six years. Most counties experienced increases in testing rates, with the largest increases in Howard, Frederick and Carroll

counties, each of which saw rates in 2016 increase by more than half. Harford, Queen Anne's, and Calvert counties also saw increases from 25 to 50 percent.

The report attributes the increase in testing of young children to the universal blood lead testing initiative for 1- and 2-year-olds and to another Maryland Department of Health initiative to endorse Point of Care testing for lead, which allows healthcare providers to test children and provide results in the same office visit. This simplifies testing for parents and, in most cases, eliminates any further office visits or testing for lead.

Childhood lead poisoning cases and Maryland's lead law

Even with the increase in blood lead testing, the report shows that the percentage of tested young children in Maryland with blood levels at or above the level that triggers action under state law decreased compared to the prior year. This is the lowest level since the beginning of such data collection in 1993.

Last year, less than 0.3 percent of Maryland children tested had an elevated blood lead level that equaled or exceeded the state law-defined elevated level of 10 micrograms per deciliter. The comparable figure for Baltimore City also decreased to the lowest levels since the beginning of data collection, to 1 percent. The report's findings represent a decrease since 1993 of more than 98 percent in the number of young children reported to have lead poisoning. Much of the decline in blood lead levels is the result of implementation and enforcement of Maryland's 1994 Reduction of Lead Risk in Housing Act.

The report also shows a decline in the percentage of tested children with blood lead levels below the state-law-defined elevated level, but still of concern based on guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The number of Maryland children identified with blood lead levels of 5-9 micrograms per deciliter decreased from 1,789 in 2015 to 1,729 in 2016. MDE and the Baltimore City Health Department coordinate to investigate pre-1978 rental units in the city where children with test results of 5-9 micrograms per deciliter live.

MDE serves as the coordinating agency for statewide efforts to eliminate childhood lead poisoning. In addition to the new lead testing plan, under the Hogan administration, Maryland has moved to protect more chil-

dren from the health risks associated with lead paint poisoning by enforcing an expansion of the type of rental housing covered by the state's lead law.

Tracking potential sources

In 2016, MDE began comprehensively tracking potential sources of childhood lead exposure. While exposure to lead paint hazards continues to affect children across Maryland, exposure from other sources has been observed, the report states.

For example, 20 of 35 confirmed cases in Prince George's County were children of refugee families who had relocated to the United States and recently settled in that county, the report finds. Also, cosmetics, such as Kohl, and spices purchased outside the United States were identified as potential health hazards during investigations of a significant number of cases across Maryland.

DHCD's Lead Hazard Reduction Program

The Special Loans Program of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development continues to make a significant impact on the lead exposure from lead-based paint in pre-1978 housing stock statewide. The Lead Hazard Reduction Loan and Grant Program was established by the Maryland General Assembly in 1986 solely for the purpose to extend loans and grants to eligible individuals, child care centers, and sponsors to finance the lead hazard reduction of residential housing units. In Fiscal Year 2017, the program helped abate lead in 114 homes for \$1,776,139. In addition, the department's energy programs utilized abatement-related activities on 37 homes for \$75,000.

Healthy Homes for Healthy Kids Lead Initiative gets approval

The U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approved an application by the Maryland Department of Health to launch a \$4.17 million initiative to reduce lead poison conditions through the abatement of lead and other lead-related repairs in housing.

The initiative leverages federal funds available through the Maryland Children's Health Program under the authority of a Health Services Initiative State Plan Amendment. The Healthy Homes for Healthy Kids Program will receive \$4.17 million in funding, using a combination of \$3.67 million in CHIP federal matching funds and \$500,000 in

State fiscal year 2018 funds. Eligibility requirements for the initiative are as follows: a child who has a lead test result of 5 mg/dl; 18 years or younger, lives in or visits in the home or apartment for 10 hours or more a week; and are currently eligible or enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP.

DHCD will administer the initiative through a network of non-profits, local agencies, and contractors to help complete the projects. The local health boards and primary care physicians will assist in referring the impacted families to the program to get the much-needed repairs completed.

More information

Childhood lead poisoning is a completely preventable disease.

Exposure to lead is the most significant and widespread environmental hazard for children in Maryland. Children are at the greatest risk from birth to age 6 while their neurological systems are developing. Exposure to lead can cause long-term neurological damage that may be associated with learning and behavioral problems and with decreased intelligence.

Maryland's lead law requires owners of pre-1978 rental dwelling units to register their properties and reduce the potential for children's exposure to lead paint hazards by performing specific lead risk reduction treatments prior to each change in tenancy.

Under the Maryland lead law, the Department of the Environment: assures compliance with mandatory requirements for lead risk reduction in rental units built before 1978; maintains a statewide listing of registered and inspected units; and provides blood lead surveillance through a registry of test results of all children tested in Maryland. The lead program also: oversees case management follow-up by local health departments for children with elevated blood lead levels; certifies and enforces performance standards for inspectors and contractors conducting lead hazard reduction; and performs environmental investigations of lead poisoned children. The lead program provides oversight for community education to parents, tenants, rental property owners, home owners and health care providers to enhance their roles in lead poisoning prevention. Maryland works in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Baltimore City and other local governments and non-profit organizations such as the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative to prevent childhood lead poisoning.

Governor Larry Hogan Announces Next Phase of Traffic Relief Plan for Major Regional Corridors

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD—In October, Governor Larry Hogan announced that the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) is investing \$50.3 million to deploy cutting-edge Smart Traffic Signals that will improve traffic operation and ease congestion for approximately 700,000 drivers per day on 14 major corridors across the state. The system uses real-time traffic conditions and computer software that adjusts the timing of traffic signals, synchronizes the entire corridor, and

effectively deploys artificial intelligence to keep traffic moving.

"Last month, our administration introduced a bold Traffic Relief Plan beginning with three massive, unprecedented projects to widen the Capital Beltway, I-270, and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway," said Governor Hogan. "This next phase will employ the newest technology to further ease congestion in Maryland. By replacing 20-year-old existing controls with Smart Traffic Signals, we will have the ability to respond to changes in traffic flow, as well as traffic conditions immediately – benefiting nearly 700,000 Maryland citizens across the state."

Smart Signals operate with an adaptive signal control system, which uses enhanced detection to monitor traffic conditions and alter the timing of traffic signals. The smart signals will replace existing controls that are over 20 years old and are unresponsive to the constant changes in traffic flow, operating on programmed timing. Crashes, construction, and special events all contribute to congestion. With this innovative technology, those factors are quickly considered and the software adjusts the timing to the signals accordingly.

MDOT SHA operates more than 2,500 signals as part of 250 signal systems. Traffic engineers

will select intersections to upgrade to Smart Signals based on many factors, including traffic volume, intersection capacity, and traffic patterns. MDOT SHA conducted a Smart Signal pilot study on MD 24 between Singer Road and Boulton Street in Harford County. Preliminary results indicate a travel time reduction of 13 percent for the 40,000 daily drivers.

The Smart Signal Network is the second phase of Governor Hogan's Traffic Relief Plan. Last month, Governor Hogan announced the first phase to invest \$9 billion to add four new lanes

See **TRAFFIC** Page A7

COMMENTARY

Cong. Steny H. Hoyer House Democratic Minority Whip



Hoyer Joins “The Bruce DePuyt Podcast” to Discuss Open Enrollment, Republicans’ Tax Bill, and Puerto Rico

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) on “The Bruce DePuyt Podcast.” Congressman Hoyer joined Bruce to discuss a wide range of topics, including the current open enrollment period, the harmful effects of Republicans’ tax bill on Maryland families, and his recent trip to Puerto Rico. To listen to the podcast visit <https://soundcloud.com/user-467553809/episode-5-congressman-steny-hoyer-d-md>, or see below for excerpts from the interview:

On Republican Sabotage of the Affordable Care Act and Open Enrollment

“I think it’s very unfortunate that this Administration, and frankly Republicans in Congress, have done everything they can to undermine the confidence of insurance companies in the stability of the market, which has led to much higher premiums because they’ve had to price their product thinking the worst will happen.”

On the 2018 Open Enrollment Period

“I would urge everybody who has a policy on the Exchange, or wants to look at a policy on the Exchange, it has been shortened 45 days, it’s been cut in half. But from November 1 to December 15 is the open enrollment period. I would urge everybody who needs insurance, wants insurance, or has insurance to go on HealthCare.gov and see what their options are. Because circumstances have changed, and prices may have changed, and coverage may have changed.”

On the Republican Tax Bill

“I think they are having real trouble. And they’re handling this in a fashion like they handled the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, which they failed. And I think they are going to fail in this effort.”



PHOTO COURTESY THE OFFICE OF STENY HOYER
Steny Hoyer poses with Bruce DePuyt.

“There are no hearings—no citizens are going to be given the opportunity to come in and testify about this bill, no suggestions will be heard ... They are rushing to judgment. One rushes to judgment when he doesn’t want people to find out what he is doing ... I think this bill is going to create about \$1.5–\$2.5 trillion in additional debt from a party that says they want to be the fiscally responsible party. And most of that money is going to go to the wealthiest people in America ... This is a bill that is not going to help working people in America, but is going to be a bonanza for people at the upper end of the scale.”

On Recovery in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Federal Government’s Response

“We are not going to abandon those Americans who live in Puerto Rico or the Virgin Is-

See HOYER Page A5

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



On the 100th Anniversary of Fannie Lou Hamer’s Birth, Find Inspiration to Fight for Voting Rights

“You can pray until you faint, but unless you get up and do something, God is not going to put it in your lap.”

—Fannie Lou Hamer

At a time when the right to vote is being threatened, we look for inspiration in the lives of those who fought most valiantly to extend and protect that right. This fall we recognize the 100th anniversary of one of our greatest champions, Fannie Lou Hamer.

Born to a family of sharecroppers in rural Mississippi, she was forced at the age of 13 from her one-room schoolhouse into the cotton fields. She was forced off the plantation where she worked when the owner found out she had tied to register to vote. She was blocked from actually registering, however, by Mississippi’s notorious racially-discriminatory literacy test. At that time, Black voters not only had to prove they could read, but also had to compose an essay analyzing a portion of the U.S. Constitution—to the satisfaction of a white registrar. White applicants were exempt from such requirements under so-called “grandfather clauses.”

Her willingness to challenge the registrar and demand she be alone to fill out an application attracted the attention of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, which hired her as a field organizer.

The beating she suffered in prison in 1963 as a result of her activism left her with permanent injuries to her kidneys, eyes and legs.

While her work with SNCC raised her public profile, it was as a founder of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party that she gained na-

tional celebrity. The party selected 64 delegates to send to the 1964 Democratic National Convention, and Hamer was elected vice-chair of the delegation. Hamer’s powerfully moving testimony to the credentials committee was broadcast on national television, drawing attention to the humiliations and violence visited upon Black Americans in the South who tried to vote.

The work of Hamer and others led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. It placed restrictions states with a history of discrimination—Alabama, Alaska, Georgia, Louisiana, South Carolina, Virginia and Hamer’s home state of Mississippi—and certain jurisdictions in other states, requiring the approval of the federal government for any election law changes. In 2013, the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act, ruling that “preclearance” no longer was necessary. States wasted no time in proving the Supreme Court wrong. Within two months, North Carolina passed racially-discriminatory voting restrictions that later were struck down in federal court. Overall, 23 states have passed restrictive voting laws.

Meanwhile, the White House has established a sham Commission to perpetuate the myth of widespread voter fraud. The commission is a weapon of mass deception, a Trojan horse to usher in even greater voting restrictions on people of color, the poor, senior citizens and students.

Despite her worsening health, complicated by a lifetime spent in poverty and the beating she suffered in prison, she spent her life battling racism and poverty. It would be a disgrace to her memory if we did not make every effort to defeat the effort to restrict voting rights.

B&O Railroad Museum



Open to the Public

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS PHOTO BY: JAMES G. HOWES

B&O RAILROAD MUSEUM

The B&O Railroad Museum is located at the historic site of the B&O Railroad’s Mt. Clare Shops in Baltimore, MD. Mount Clare is considered to be the birthplace of American railroading. From this historic site sprang so many innovations that it was considered “Railroad University” by many. The B&O was America’s first chartered rail common carrier, dating from February 28, 1827. The museum collection includes a wide variety of steam locomotives. An impressive display of vintage railroad station clocks is located inside the museum. There are also extensive outdoor collections of engines, cars, cranes, and other railroad equipment. Vintage diesel-powered, 3-mile round trip train rides are also offered on Saturdays and Sundays. Hours of operation are Monday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Cost is \$16 for adults, \$14 for seniors, and \$10 for children (2–12).

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Pauli Murray’s Song of Hope

Hope is a song in
a weary throat.
Give me a song of hope
And a world where I
can sing it.
Give me a song of faith
And a people to believe in it.
Give me a song of kindness
And a country where I
can live it.
Give me a song of hope
and love
And a brown girl’s heart
to hear it.

This verse is from the poem *Dark Testament* by the Rev. Dr. Anna Pauline “Pauli” Murray, a writer, scholar, Episcopal priest and civil rights warrior who spent her extraordinary life challenging barriers and systems of discrimination in all forms. I recently had the joy of being the first overnight guest at the new Pauli Murray College at Yale University after the dedication of the new residential college named in her honor. She would be so pleased!

Pauli Murray was a superb groundbreaking civil rights lawyer and the first African American to receive a J.S.D. degree from Yale Law School. She was a college vice president and professor in universities in the United States and Africa. Pauli was a sit-inner before the 1960s sit-in movement of my generation, a founding member of the National Organization of Women (NOW) and the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE), a member of the Equality Committee of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and a longtime close friend of Eleanor Roosevelt. Her protest against segregated transportation in Washington, D.C. preceded Mrs. Rosa Parks’ famous actions in Montgomery by many years. In her sixties she answered a call to the priesthood and enrolled in seminary and in 1977 she became the first African American woman to be ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church and was later designated an Episcopal saint.

I met and got to know Pauli Murray at Yale Law School in 1960 where she was a mentor and dear friend during my three years there. By the time she arrived at Yale she had already published her acclaimed memoir

Proud Shoes and the landmark legal study *States’ Laws on Race and Color* which Thurgood Marshall called a Bible for civil rights lawyers. Her argument about the importance of focusing on the “separate” part of the “separate but equal” doctrine of the Plessy v. Ferguson Supreme Court decision was relied on heavily by the lawyers arguing *Brown v. Board of Education*, and it turned out to be that “separate” clause that helped put us over the top.

Orphaned at an early age, she earned her undergraduate degree with honors from Hunter College and graduate degrees in law from Howard University and the University of California at Berkeley—after being turned away from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill’s graduate school because of her race, and Harvard Law School because of her sex. Her unsuccessful struggle to be admitted to UNC, where her White great-grandfather had been a trustee, received national publicity and the support of the NAACP. At Yale, she and I and all women graduate students like my handful of fellow Black students including Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and now retired Judge Inez Smith Reid

experienced exclusion from the male only Law School dormitories. We either had to stay in town or in the one women’s graduate dorm—Helen Hadley Hall—although I was blessed to be able to live with Yale Chaplain William Sloane Coffin and his family for a year. One law professor taught his constitutional law course at Mory’s, a club which excluded women. Women were not admitted to Yale College at all. But we had each other and a handful of other Black women students in other Yale Graduate School departments who forged a network of mutual support. Pauli had her own apartment with open doors for counsel and meals. Regular Sunday night Pauli dinners are a fond memory. Now, through the naming of a Yale college after her, generations of students will learn about her extraordinary legacy, see her as a peerless breaker of barriers and hopefully follow her example.

Many alumni cheered when Yale decided to name a new college after Pauli Murray along with a second new college honoring Benjamin Franklin. Just as he changed from being a slave-

See WATCH, Page A7

The Prince George’s Post

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BUSINESS

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty — College Benefits for Dependent Child

by Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I am an older father, having recently been blessed with another child from my second marriage. I started collecting Social Security at my full retirement age and although my current wife is not yet eligible to receive benefits, I now have a young child whose future I need to worry about. So I'm wondering: is there any way Social Security will help pay for my child's future college education when that time comes?

Signed: Older Father

Dear Older Father: Well, Social Security won't pay the tuition for your child directly, but since you're already collecting benefits and have a young child from your second marriage, your dependent child is entitled to up to half the Social Security amount you are collecting. If you haven't already, you should apply for this benefit right away. Then what you may do for your child is take advantage of what some have called a "Viagra College Fund," that is, a Qualified Tuition Plan authorized by Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code. This is often referred to simply as a 529 Plan, and every U.S. state and the District of Columbia, as well as many educational institutions, offers at least one type of 529 plan. You may want to establish a 529 for your dependent child and then deposit their Social Security benefits into that plan. There are two types of 529 plans—prepaid tuition plan and college savings plan. The former allows you to purchase tuition credits at a participating university and the latter simply establishes a savings account to be used for future college expenses. As you might expect, there are plenty of rules governing these plans, and you can find out much of what you need to know at <https://www.sec.gov/investor/pubs/intro529.htm>. You are to be commended for thinking so far ahead for your young dependent's future. Your minor child's Social Security dependent benefit could be as much as 50% of your benefit, and will normally continue until they are 18 years of age (or 19 if still a student or disabled), so a substantial amount of college savings could be accumulated in the 529 by the time he or she attends college.

The information presented in this article is intended for general information purposes only. The opinions and interpretations expressed are the viewpoints of the AMAC Foundation's Social Security Advisory staff, trained and accredited under the National Social Security Advisors program of the National Social Security Association, LLC (NSSA). NSSA, the AMAC Foundation, and the Foundation's Social Security Advisors are not affiliated with or endorsed by the United States Government, the Social Security Administration, or any other state government. Furthermore, the AMAC Foundation and its staff do not provide legal or accounting services. The Foundation welcomes questions from readers regarding Social Security issues. To submit a request, contact the Foundation at info@amacfoundation.org.

NOCO from A1

economic growth. And for the last six decades, our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen have worked side by side with the Japan Self Defense Force to protect and advance peace and freedom."

Approximately 300 men and women serve aboard the ship. Their jobs are highly specialized and keep each part of the cruiser running smoothly, according to Navy officials. They do everything from maintaining gas turbine engines and operating the highly sophisticated Aegis weapons system to driving the ship and operating small boats.

Forward-deployed sailors are crucial to the success of the global Navy mission and earn high praise from their leaders.

"I really enjoy the culture and experiences in Japan. I'm the first person in my family to join the military and I believe I made a great choice," said

Hutchins. "I'm proud of the fact that I'm able to be self-sufficient. Additionally, finishing my degree in psychology during my time in the Navy is a great accomplishment."

Sailors serving abroad in Japan are highly motivated and quickly adapt to changing conditions, explained Navy officials.

"We get to do things that most people never have the opportunity to do," added Hutchins. "It's an honor to work with different people from all over the world."

A Navy cruiser is a multi-mission ship that can operate independently or as part of a larger group of ships at sea. The ship is equipped with a vertical launching system, tomahawk missiles, torpedoes, guns and Phalanx close-in weapons systems.

Sailors play a vital role in the overall military mission around the world.

"The U.S.-Japan alliance remains the cornerstone for peace and stability in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region," said Harris.

teaches leadership and character development in some fun and amazing ways. Boy Scouts is a program for young men in 6th grade through 12th. Meetings every Tuesday 7:00 PM at Scout Hut, 9051 Surratts Road, Cheltenham, Maryland.

For more information, please contact Committee Chair Deborah Parham at CC-Troop1237@gmail.com, Scoutmaster LeRoy Parham, Jr. at SMTroop1237@gmail.com, or Carlos Salazar at carlos.salazar@scouting.org, 410-608-4360.

Brandywine from A2

SENIOR CITIZENS' SUNDAY

Age has its privileges. Join us for Senior Citizens' Sunday if you are 60 or older Sunday, November 19, 2017 at Surratt House Museum. The address is 9118 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735. Free tours from Noon-4 PM. Last tour begins at 3:30 PM. Please call 301-868-1121 for more information.

JOIN BOY SCOUTS

Ready for adventure? Join Boy Scouts. Boy Scouts

Ambassadors of Hope Share Opportunities And Options With Veteran Community

EDC's 2nd Annual Veterans Jobs and Resource Fair Opens Doors of Opportunity to more than 200 Local Veterans

By LORI C. VALENTINE
PGCEDC

CAPITOL HEIGHTS, MD—For the second year in a row, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Workforce Services Division opened the windows of opportunity to local Veterans at its Veterans Jobs and Resource Fair at Dave and Buster's yesterday. More than 200 Veterans were introduced to 80 private sector employment and resource partners ready to provide them with game-changing career opportunities. Walter Simmons, Executive Director of the EDC's Workforce Services Division, and James Rzepkowski, Assistant Secretary of the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) kicked off the day with encouraging words to the Veterans and the employers.

"Today has been a great launch to a month of Veterans events at the Economic Development Corporation Workforce Services Division," said Simmons. "I am honored to stand with our partners from Virginia, the District of Columbia and other jurisdictions in Maryland to bring our employers the skilled talent that our veteran community provide to the workforce. Veterans are the life-blood of American democracy and being a partner in their success story is what the Economic Development Corporation is about."

The EDC's Workforce Services Division, in collaboration with Military Corps Career Connect, the Veterans Administration, Habitat for Humanity, America Works, the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation and many other resource providers committed to participating in the Veteran Job and Resource Fair to address the unemployment crisis in the Veteran community. DLLR Assistant Secretary James Rzepkowski commented on the part-



PHOTO COURTESY LORI C. VALENTINE

Local Employers talking to Veterans at 2nd Annual Veteran Jobs and Resource Fair.

nership that Prince George's County has with the State and its regional resource providers.

"Prince George's County is a very engaged and aggressive workforce services partner when it comes to supporting the veteran community that has served this country," said Rzepkowski. "The County is continually thinking about new and innovative ways to engage job seekers and businesses in their area. These business partners are ambassadors of hope that are providing a life line to our Veteran community. With all the growth taking place in Prince George's County, a qualified and skilled workforce is imperative to fill all the jobs the new businesses bring."

Prince George's County is home to the largest concentration of Veterans in Maryland. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, more than 11,000 Veterans were unemployed in 2016. The State of Maryland, along with the EDC have worked to cut the Veteran unemployment rate from 8% in 2014 to 4% in 2016 because of targeted outreach programs and event like the Veterans Job Fair and the committed business partners in Prince George's

County. Laurie Sales Artis, a Marine Veteran and President and CEO of Civility Management Solutions, is one of several business partners that regularly participate in EDC Workforce Job Fairs.

"I am always delighted to work with the Economic Development Corporation and I appreciate the work that they are doing in Prince George's County," said Artis. "As a fellow Marine Veteran, I know the work ethic that a Veteran brings to the workforce. Through today's job fair, and several like this one, I have been successful in recently hiring several Veterans in my company. I welcome the opportunity to bring more of my fellow Veterans into the work place."

Major franchises, like Olive Garden, were also in attendance conducting on-site interviews. By the time the job fair came to a close, Olive Garden had made several job offers and was considering many more candidates for their new restaurant in the Ritchie Station Mall which will open next month.

"We're here to change one life at a time for our community," said Tracy O'Connor, Director of Operations for Olive Garden. "We've

hired over 100 employees for our new restaurant and are looking for 70 more before it opens. Today, we took over an entire interview room and it was our pleasure to hire 15 new employees. It was a pleasure to be here."

Many of the Veterans shared their appreciation to the EDC for having a job fairs specifically for them. Several received multiple invitations to interview and conditional job offers from the local employers.

"This has been a great day for me," said Joseph Carter, retired Army Veteran. "When I came out of the service after the Vietnam War, nobody was there to offer this kind of support. The television commercials said 'Hire a Vet', but that was all. To have someone working to be sure that I have a job and that I'm doing okay is a wonderful thing. I'm glad that I came out today."

For more information about job placement assistance or how to host a selected recruitment for your company, contact Jeffrey Swilley, Assistant Director of Business Services for EDC Workforce Services Division at 301-618-8400 or jswilley@co.pg.md.us.

NABJ from A1

Glover founded the NABJ Black Male Media Project, which launched nationwide thanks to the dynamic activation and collaboration of 21 NABJ chapters, all of whom hosted concurrent programming on June 10, 2017. Other notable accomplishments in her first term include: development and implementation of the NABJ Strategic Plan 2017-2020; eradicated deficit spending; led the board in its quest to expand NABJ investments with a \$500,000 allocation; and co-founded the Poynter-NABJ Digital Leadership Academy. Her primary goals for her second term are to obtain a seven-figure, multi-year grant for NABJ, develop a new website and mobile app, expand the national office staff, further results-driven media advocacy and create a multifunctional jobs program.

A past two-term president of the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists (PABJ) and former Chairwoman of the NABJ Council of Presidents; the organizing body of all presidents of chapter affiliates within the association, Glover is a five-term

national board member. Always on the move, working for NABJ from her laptop and oftentimes on the train, she resides outside of Philadelphia and is based at 30 Rock in New York City, where she works on the NBCOTS national digital team, providing social strategy and coverage for NBC's 12 owned TV stations. She earned a dual bachelor's degree in Photojournalism and African American Studies from Syracuse University in 1996 and a master's in Communication Studies from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania in 2007.

Former NABJ board member Cheryl Smith, a newspaper publisher-editor based in Dallas, Texas, was elected secretary and Dorothy Tucker, a reporter for CBS Chicago, was re-elected Vice President-Broadcast at the annual convention.

Tucker earned a bachelor's in Radio, Television and Film from the Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications at Northwestern University in 1977. Born and raised in Chicago, Tucker has been on-air at the same station for more than three decades -- a

standout accomplishment in local television.

A native of Newark, New Jersey, Smith earned a bachelor's in Journalism from Florida A&M University in 1980 and a master's in Human Relations and Business from Amberton University in Dallas, Texas in 1986. Smith's journalism fellowships have focused on health disparities, obesity and technology.

An award-winning reporter with the distinction of having won the National Newspaper Publishers Association's coveted Messenger Award three times, Smith currently publishes Texas Metro News, I Messenger and Garland Journal.

Additionally, Johann Calhoun was re-elected Region I Director, Ken Lemon and Kyra E. Azore were elected Region III Director and student representative respectively. All will serve a two-year term on the board.

Calhoun is News and Special Projects Editor for The Philadelphia Tribune and an adjunct instructor at Temple University. He received a bachelor's degree in Mass Communications (Print) from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 2001

and a Graduate Certificate in Communications from the University of Pennsylvania in 2007.

Lemon is a reporter for WSOC-TV and an instructor for Carolina School of Broadcasting. A graduate of the University of North Carolina - Wilmington in 1992, he is a trained conflict resolution mediator and certified IRE watchdog reporter.

Azore, a junior broadcast journalism major with a Spanish minor, is currently studying at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

There was no candidate for the Vice President-Digital position. Region IV Director Marcus Vanderberg resigned for personal reasons, therefore, both positions were vacant. Glover has appointed Terry Collins, a senior reporter at CNET based in Oakland, to the Region IV Director position and the Vice President-Digital position is to be announced.

Returning NABJ board members include: Vice President-Print Marlon Walker, Treasurer Greg Morrison, Region II Director Vickie Thomas, Media-Related Representative Tanzi West Barbour and Academic Representative Michelle Johnson.

Hoyer from A4

lands. They have been devastated by one of the worst storms in history. I was down there last weekend with the Majority Leader—Mr. [Kevin] McCarthy—and we saw extraordi-

nary devastation. People who were unable to get water, food, medical—it is now a month after Maria and six weeks after Irma. Irma and Maria both hit the Virgin Islands head on. Now Irma skirted Puerto Rico, but Maria hit head on. And as

we want to make sure that the citizens are made whole in Houston, and in Florida, we need to do the same for our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands."

"I talked to Governor [Ricardo] Rosselló and he didn't

think it was a 10 either, and it wasn't a 10. That's not to say there aren't some people doing some very hard work with FEMA, in FEMA, and in our armed forces. There are, there are some people doing some very good work."

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

Blade Runner 2049

Blade Runner 2049

Grade: C+

Rated? R, scattered F-words, a little nudity, moderate violence
2 hrs., 43 min

Having missed it as a child and then being unsure which version I was supposed to watch, I never saw Ridley Scott's *Blade Runner* until the "final cut" was released in 2007. And I saw that one twice, because the first time didn't take. I failed to love it, and I thought it might be my fault. Many things are.

But no, it turns out *Blade Runner* is a respectable movie with much to admire that I simply don't care for. Though beautiful to look at, it's cold and sterile. I respect it, but I don't particularly enjoy it. (I feel the same way about a lot of people.)

So no hard feelings if you need your *Blade Runner 2049* opinions to come from a *Blade Runner* enthusiast and you have to stop reading now. For the rest of you, I can report that the melancholy sequel, produced by Scott and directed by Denis Villeneuve (Arrival, Sicario), is likewise visually gorgeous, likewise admirable in many ways, and likewise doesn't do much for me, only now it takes 45 minutes longer to not do it.

The action is set 30 years after the events of the first film, with replicants (bioengineered humans) still comprising a major portion of the workforce in the dim, ashy dystopia that America has become. A blind technocrat named Wallace (Jared Leto) bought what was left of the company that used to make replicants, found a way to make them more obedient, and gave them fixed lifespans. But there are still some of the old models running around, the ones that aren't as pliable and can theoretically live forever. It is the duty of the "blade runners" (cops) to find these and "retire" (kill) them.

Our chief blade runner, an LAPD officer played by Ryan



ROTTENTOMATOES

Thirty years after the events of the first film, a new blade runner, LAPD Officer K (Ryan Gosling), unearths a long-buried secret that has the potential to plunge what's left of society into chaos. K's discovery leads him on a quest to find Rick Deckard (Harrison Ford), a former LAPD blade runner who has been missing for 30 years.

Gosling, is nicknamed K because his real name is a serial number because he is a replicant. The movie tells us this up front, perhaps so we wouldn't get hung up on the possibility like people did with Deckard in the original. K knows what he is, knows his childhood memories are just part of his programming, and is (mostly) content to spend his evenings at home with his hologram wife, Joi (Ana de Armas), who's very loving, though she pauses when he gets a phone call.

Intrigue arises when K finds a 28-year-old box of replicant bones and the doctors determine that the replicant they belonged to died while giving birth. If replicants can reproduce, well, that's new. K's boss, Lt. Joshi (Robin Wright), orders him to track down the replicant child, if it is still alive, and kill it. "I've never retired something that was born before," K muses.

It's a procedural, then, much like the first film was. (Screen-

writer Hampton Fancher has returned, sharing screenplay credit with Logan's Michael Green.) K's investigation takes him to Wallace's headquarters, where he learns that a blade runner named Deckard (Harrison Ford, who appears in this movie) had a forbidden relationship with the same female replicant who evidently went on to give birth, and where he does not learn (but we do) that Wallace wants to increase production of replicants so he can use them as slaves on Earth's colony planets. K also meets a scientist (Carla Juri) who designs the fake memories that are implanted in replicants, who tells him that all memories have a hint of their creator in them.

If any film could get by solely on its breathtaking cinematography, it would be this one. The legendary Roger Deakins (who's been Oscar-nominated 13 times in 22 years without ever winning) photo-

graphs the forlorn and dismal future with spectacular depth and clarity, giving it more life, I suspect, than the real 2049 will have. The original film's "ruined future" aesthetic is expanded upon, enhanced by CGI, and it effectively complements the ponderous tone of the story. Villeneuve, one of our moodiest auteurs, was surely a good choice to direct, and he takes the job seriously. Though there are references to the other film, there's no winking fan service or conspicuously wedged-in callbacks.

But movies, like replicants, need fixed lifespans. If you let them go on forever, they're bound to cause trouble. As worthy as this film's plot is on paper, it becomes stagnant when poured into a film lasting 163 dreamy, ethereal minutes. Methodical and sad, it's a film with plenty of mood but little emotion, well made but frigid. Maybe you can love it, but I replican't.

A Little Winter Color

Brighten the Indoors with Colorful Amaryllis Blooms

By Melinda Myers

Brighten those gray winter days with a few colorful, easy-care amaryllis. The 6- to 10-inch trumpet shaped blossoms are sure to generate a smile and brighten your mood. And consider sharing the fun of growing these beauties with friends and families. Watching the bulbs transform into beautiful blossoms is an experience everyone will enjoy – and it's a gift that requires no dusting.

When buying amaryllis, purchase large bulbs for the biggest and longest lasting floral display. One jumbo bulb will send up multiple flower stems over several weeks. Smaller bulbs can be planted two or three to a pot to create a living bouquet.

Try some of the newer varieties like 'Lagoon' and 'Red Pearl'. Their ten-inch blossoms are sure to enliven any indoor decor. Grow the 'Nymph' series of double amaryllis if you prefer large flowers on shorter stems. 'Cherry Nymph' has a rose-like beauty with layers of fire engine red petals.

And for something different, grow amaryllis 'Evergreen' with long and narrow, pale chartreuse petals. Large bulbs will have two or more stems, each with four or more flowers. Or plant the uniquely shaped 'Exotic Star' with garnet red stripes and apple green highlights on ivory petals.

Grow your amaryllis in a pot with drainage holes and use a quality potting mix. Plant large bulbs in individual pots that are seven to eight inches deep and five to six inches across. Or group several bulbs together in a larger container.

Look for unique containers or decorative baskets to showcase these beauties. To see some creative ways to display and decorate your home with amaryllis, download a free Winter-Blooming Bulbs Inspiration Book (longfiled-gardens.com).

When planting amaryllis bulbs, the top half of the bulb should stay above the soil surface. You can dress up the container by covering the soil surface with moss or decorative stones. Water the potting mix thoroughly after planting, and place the container in a cool (60-65°F), bright location. Water sparingly until the sprouts appear, and then start watering weekly, allowing the soil to dry out in between.

Or go soilless. Place several inches of pebbles in the bottom of a glass vase or watertight container. Cover the pebbles with water. Set the bulb on top of the pebbles and add more stones around the bulb to hold it in place. Add water as needed, keeping the water level just below (almost touching) the bulb.

Now relax and wait the month or more needed for your amaryllis bulb to wake up and start growing. Flower buds usually emerge before the leaves, but sometimes the leaves come first. When the buds begin to open, move your amaryllis away from direct sunlight to extend the flower display.

You can also display these magnificent blooms in a vase. Wait until the buds are soft and showing a little color, then cut the stems to the desired length and place them in a clean vase with fresh water.

To keep your blooming plant looking its best, use scissors to remove individual flowers as they fade. Cut the entire stem back to the bulb once it has finished blooming. And watch for a second or third flower stem to appear. Some bulbs produce multiple stems at one time while others rest a week or two before sending up another flower stem.

That's all there is to it. Just plant, water and place in a brightly lit location for weeks of fresh, colorful flowers this winter.

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



PHOTO COURTESY LONGFILED GARDENS

Red Pearl Amaryllis

Family Institute Child Safety Workshop & Background Checks for School Volunteers

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) Family Institute, in collaboration with the Division of Human Resources, will host the "Keeping Our Children Safe" workshop for parents and guardians. The workshop includes Fingerprint Background Check and Child Protective Services (CPS) Clearance sessions for those interested in volunteering in their neighborhood schools more than once a year.

Fingerprint Background Check and CPS Clearance Sessions* 4-6 p.m.

The fee is \$56.57. There is no fee for families whose children receive free and reduced-price meals (FARMS). Please bring a copy of your FARMS certification letter.

"Keeping Our Children Safe" Family Institute Workshop

5-6 p.m. & 6:15-7:15 p.m.
Learn how to recognize the often subtle signs of abuse and neglect in children.

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED:
Visit www.pgcpsfamily.org

FREE CHILDCARE AVAILABLE
Prekindergarten through fifth-grade students

2017-2018 WORKSHOP DATES & LOCATIONS

October 26
Bond Mill Elementary
November 9
Gwynn Park High School
November 16
William Beanes Elementary
December 7
Langley Park-McCormick Elementary

January 25
G. James Gholson Middle School
February 8
Benjamin Tasker Middle School
March 1
Greenbelt Elementary
March 15
Dodge Park Elementary
April 12
Potomac High School
April 26
Columbia Park Elementary

*Please bring a valid, unexpired government-issued photo identification card, such as a driver's license; state, school or military ID; U.S. passport; permanent resident card or employment authorization card.

Contact the Department of Family and Community Engagement for more info: 301-618-7356.

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Calendar of Events

November 16 — November 22, 2017

Small Fry Club

Date and time: Friday, November 17, 2017, 10:00 am–11:00 am
Description: Bring your toddler to pre-K aged children for some fun in the form of stories, games, and crafts! Use this time to take a mental break. Don't worry, we'll keep them busy!
Cost: Resident: \$4, Non-resident: \$6
Ages: 2–4
Location: Watkins Nature Center
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544

Holiday Toy Drive

Date and time: Friday, November 17, 2017, 2:00 pm–9:00 pm
Description: Let's make this holiday season one to remember! We will accept new, unwrapped holiday gifts for children in need. Every little bit counts, so consider donating this holiday season! Runs November through December 18.
Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: North Brentwood Community Center
4012 Webster Street, North Brentwood, MD
Contact: 301-864-0756

Basketball Turkey Challenge

Date and time: Friday, November 17, 2017, 27:00 pm–9:00 pm
Description: We're calling all sharpshooting basketball hoopers for this basketball turkey challenge!! If you've got a jump shot, then you've got a "shot" at winning a prize! There will also be food and drinks available!
Cost: 12–17
Ages: FREE! with Youth Center ID
Location: Oakcrest Community Center
1300 Capitol Heights Blvd, Capitol Heights, MD
Contact: 301-736-5355, TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Culinary Delight- Pretzel Crusted Chicken

Date and time: Friday, November 17, 2017, 27:00 pm–10:00 pm
Description: Tired of fast food? Been thinking about trying your hand at home-cooked meals? Well, here's your chance! Come join us as we take a trip down culinary lane preparing a delightful dish in a way you probably haven't had before!
Cost: FREE! with Youth Center ID
Ages: 10–17
Location: Prince George's Plaza Community Center
6600 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, M
Contact: 301-864-1611; TTY 301-699-2544

Fall's Colors Hike

Date and time: Saturday, November 18, 2017, 10:00 am–11:00 am
Description: Take a hike with a park naturalist and learn to identify trees. Learn about leaves and why they change colors in Autumn. Stop by the exhibit hall and see live animals and birds of prey.
Cost: Resident: \$3; Non-resident: \$4
Ages: 4 and older
Location: Watkins Nature Center
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544

Build a Straw Roller Coaster!

Date and time: Saturday, November 18, 2017, 12:00 pm
Description: Build a roller coaster for a ping pong ball out of straws, hot glue, tape and a cardboard box. This STEM challenge for kids is awesome because the materials are so simple and inexpensive, you can try it at home! The track, you will see, is surprisingly sturdy and the kids have a blast creating new twisting paths for their balls.
Part of STEAM Fest—Engineering
Cost: FREE
Ages: 7–13
Location: Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex
8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD
Contact: 301-583-2400; TTY 301-699-2544

Thanksgiving Glitterfest

Date and time: Saturday, November 18, 2017, 2:00 pm–4:00 pm
Description: A one-day workshop for young artists and families to decorate sparkling centerpieces with glitter for their Thanksgiving table. Nothing says "Thanks!" like glitter—and all the "mess" can stay in our classroom. Families are encouraged to bring their own items to decorate, but can also choose from a limited selection of free centerpiece items at the workshop.
Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Brentwood Arts Exchange
3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, M
Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-699-2544

Kitchen Science: Edible, Delectable & Beautiful!

Date and time: Tuesday, November 21, 2017, 6:30 pm
Description: Ever wondered what gives food color or what makes a cake rise? A change in presentation can make all the difference. Join us to learn to look at food in a different way! Participants will make an ooey-goey, tasty masterpiece.
Part of STEAM Fest 2017—Science
Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Southern Regional Technology and Recreation Complex
7007 Bock Road, Fort Washington, MD
Contact: 301-749-4160; TTY 301-699-2544

Senior Paint Class

Date and time: Monday, November 20, 2017, 11:00 am–12:30 pm
Description: A relaxed on-site painting activity filled with creativity and fun! An imaginative art instructor will give you step-by-step guidance on how to paint your beautiful piece of art. By the end of the class, you will have a work of art to hang in your own home! Canvas, easel, paint, apron and paint brushes provided!
Cost: Resident: \$25; Non-resident: \$33
Ages: 60 and better
Location: Bowie Community Center
3209 Stonybrook Drive, Bowie, MD
Contact: 301-464-1737; 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Solving Transit's Last-Mile Problem

Dear EarthTalk:

What are planners and designers doing to solve the so-called "last-mile" problem regarding transit?

—Ginny R.,
via e-mail

Solving the "last mile" (or "first-mile") problem—that is, getting transit riders from their bus stop, train station or ferry terminal "the last mile" to the doorstep of their home or workplace—has plagued urban planners since the dawn of public transportation.

"Most people in the United States are 'comfortable' walking less than a quarter mile to or from public transit stops," says Alex Gibson of TransLoc, which works on solutions to transit problems using app-based technologies. "The problem arises when a potential rider is further than a 'comfortable distance' to the necessary fixed-route stop."

Widespread suburbanization across the U.S. is part and parcel of the problem, given that fewer and fewer of us now live within walking distance to public transportation options. The result is more private cars on the road (and the accompanying carbon and air pollution) and underutilized public transit systems.

So, what can be done to overcome this last-mile hurdle? Some municipalities and coun-

ties run feeder buses that circle the 'burbs and bring riders right from their homes or a nearby corner to a transit hub. Likewise, Uber, Lyft and other ridesharing services can help transit riders fill in this gap, especially in a pinch. But these are hardly the most cost- or energy-efficient fixes to the last-mile problem.

One time-tested solution is bicycles. Many regions have stepped up their commitment to installing more bike lanes accordingly. While a bike, either the traditional kind or one of the new battery-assisted models, works fine if you have somewhere safe to lock it up or can bring it inside, folding bikes may be a better option for "intermodal" commuters (who pair biking with a bus or train or ferry). Hip London office workers swear by their folding Bromptons. Another increasingly viable option is hopping on a pay-as-you-go share bike which you can pick up in one part of town and drop off in another. Beyond bikes, e-scooters—check the Stigo E-Scooter and Segway's new MiniPro—are gaining traction and market share across the country.

And let's not forget about the oldest last mile option of all: walking. Denver, Nashville and Los Angeles have made strides in fixing infrastructure to encourage transit riders to go the extra mile on foot. "Because most riders in high rid-



CREDIT: JEREMY TARLING, FLICKRCC

Folding bikes like this model from London-based Brompton can be folded up and brought on-board a bus or train, not to mention inside your office.

ership systems walk to catch buses and trains, transit stops must be supported by well-designed streets and sidewalks," reports the Transit Center, a foundation that supports transit reform advocacy. "Yet many cities in America have built streets without sidewalks, or allowed property owners to encroach on or neglect them."

Even more important than spiffing up sidewalks would be macro-level changes to how municipalities manage development. "Transit-oriented development and zoning changes are other highly effective strategies that put more people within walking distance to transit," reports Angie Schmitt of StreetsBlogUSA. "Removing barriers to walking and transit-oriented

development are likely to yield better ridership and financial return on investment than others designed to draw transit riders from suburban environments—the transportation equivalent of swimming upstream."

CONTACTS: TransLoc, transloc.com; Stigo, stigobike.com; Segway, segway.com; Brompton, brompton.com; StreetsBlogUSA, usa.streetsblog.org.

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(www.emagazine.com). Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Watch from A4

owner to an abolitionist, perhaps he points the way for us towards continuing transformation of colleges and universities and other places where proponents of slavery have been held up as heroes reflecting inappropriate unjust values in our 21st century and third millennium world. Yale's actions reflect the long overdue need for universities and other institutions to more fully and truthfully come to grips with our collective national past. This year Yale renamed Calhoun College, first named in 1933 after staunch 19th-century South Carolina White supremacist politician John C. Calhoun, in honor of pioneering mathematician and computer scientist Rear Admiral Grace Murray Hopper. These are important down payments in moving our education systems and nation towards a real value system of equal opportunity and justice for all.

We must reflect the human values we want our children and grandchildren to learn in a world that is now two-thirds non-White and a nation where children of

color will soon be the majority. Naming and other symbols are very important but they are not a substitute for creating a level playing field for every child born in our nation. We must make sure that those who continue to bear the burden of our national birth defects of Native American genocide, slavery, and the exclusion of non-propertied men of all colors and all women from the electoral process are able to experience a fair chance to succeed. The Yale committee that ultimately recommended renaming Calhoun College wrote: "A university ought not erase the historical record. But a great university will rightly decide what to commemorate and what to honor, subject always to the obligation not to efface the history that informs the world in which we live."

We are at a national moment in deep need of truth and reconciliation and a confrontation with resurging White supremacy when some of our nation's leaders appear to be deeply ignorant or confused about America's history and what and who to commemorate and honor. Just a few months ago we heard President Trump

equating the violent White supremacist mob in Charlottesville that killed Heather Heyer and the nonviolent protestors as equals rather than taking a stand against hatred and bigotry, saying both sides included "very fine people." It's past time to prepare all of our children at all levels to celebrate the diversity of our heroes and heroines. There will always be a need for discerning leadership able and willing to confront and understand the truth about our nation's history and learn from it to build a more just future for all. All of our education systems and anchor institutions need to understand and help our children learn about and celebrate the gifts of all of our people and join in building a more just future for all.

Pauli Murray fully understood and confronted the truth of our nation's shortcomings and spent her life trying to make us a better and fairer people. She knew that hope often comes from a weary throat but never stopped hoping and working and fighting courageously, strategically and persistently for a country and world where girls of all colors and sexual orientations

and everyone else could be treated equally without discrimination or exclusion. At a national moment when it might sometimes seem all too easy to grow weary we must never, ever lose hope and keep pushing to replace unjust symbols, policies and practices of the past with new symbols, policies and practices that ensure access, equality and justice for all. We must build a nation where no child is left behind and every child has a healthy, head, fair, safe and moral start in life and successful transition to adulthood able to take advantage of every opportunity our great nation offers.

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

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

Traffic from A3

to I-270, the Capital Beltway (I-495), and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway (MD 295). Through a public-private partnership, MDOT is seeking private developers to design, build, finance, operate, and maintain new lanes on I-495 between the American

Legion Bridge and the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and on I-270 between I-495 and I-70. The Maryland Transportation Authority will build, operate, and maintain the new lanes on MD 295.

In April of this year, Governor Hogan announced the advancement of the state's \$100 million I-270 Innovative Congestion Man-

agement Project, which will save drivers up to 30 minutes on their morning commute southbound from Frederick to I-495. The winning design-build team was selected following a competitive bidding process to deliver a modern adaptable highway by creating an automated smart traffic system that will move the most vehicles fastest

and farthest on I-270 between I-70 and I-495. The project, which is expected to be complete in 2019, breaks 14 bottlenecks and adds 23 new lane miles, more than 25 real-time traffic communication signs, and more than 30 intelligent signals that work together to deliver dynamic traffic management along the entire I-270 corridor.

AUTUMN RAKING TIPS

As the weather cools down, you might have some autumn raking to handle. If so, consider these tips before you start.

Warm Up. Start with gentle stretching exercises before you start raking to help save you pain tomorrow.

Use Proper Tools. Select tools that are the appropriate height and weight to prevent you from hunching over and injuring your lower back.

Switch it Up. Avoid using the same muscles, try switching sides every few minutes to avoid muscle fatigue.

Pace Yourself. Take regular breaks every 15-20 minutes to give you time to relax and enjoy the autumn weather.

Prince George's County Seasons Nature is an initiative of the Department of the Environment, Recreation and Planning and Office of Central Services to promote local savings and sustainability in our everyday behavior.