

# The Prince George's Post



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## PGFD Deputy Fire Chief Dennis Wood Announces Retirement and New Job

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Fire/EMS

LARGO, MD—Prince George's County Deputy Fire Chief Dennis C. Wood at 44 years of age and nearly 23 years of service announced his retirement effective March 31, 2018. During the most recent three years, he served the personnel that provide direct fire suppression and emergency medical services to the community as the Emergency Services Deputy Chief. He leaves the Department with a sense of pride and accomplishment about the growth and innovation that has resulted in improved effectiveness and efficiency.

When asked about his career, he said "Any person's goal in their employment should be to leave it better than they found it. The combined efforts within

the Department and the Baker Administration has truly accomplished that. I am proud of our accomplishments and to have had the privilege to guide those efforts. The Department is on an excellent path, I look forward to seeing even greater things in the future."

Deputy Chief Wood has accepted a position that allows him to serve the fire service as the Director of Operations for the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA). This opportunity allows him to follow a leadership role that can influence the effectiveness of the fire service and improve fire safety on a national level. The NFSA seeks the "widespread acceptance of the sprinkler concept" and Prince George's County is a national leader in support of residential sprinklers, his experiences in the County will undoubtedly contribute to future successes in his new role.

"Congratulations to Deputy Fire Chief Dennis Wood on his retirement after 23 years of dedicated service to Prince George's County," said County Fire Chief Benjamin Barksdale. "I was happy to hear he will be taking a position with the NFSA where he will continue to serve as a residential fire sprinkler advocate not only for personnel and residents here in Prince George's County but also around the Country."

At this time, there is no word on his replacement.



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIRE/EMS  
Prince George's County Fire Chief Dennis C. Wood



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY AARON ROSA  
Governor Larry Hogan addresses a crowd of students and educators at a nonpublic school advocacy rally in Annapolis on Tuesday, March 13, 2018. Funds go to subsidize tuition and meals for underprivileged students.

## Hogan's Nonpublic Schools Funding Gets 'BOOST' From Students

By SEAN WHOOLEY  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Hundreds of private school students, faculty, parents and supporters piled onto Lawyers Mall in Annapolis on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, for a rally to support Gov. Larry Hogan's funding for nonpublic schools.

Hogan, legislators and education administrators spoke at the event, put together by the

Maryland Council for American Private Education to support the *Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today* program, known by its acronym, "BOOST."

Cheered on by the many speakers, including Hogan, the crowd chanted "give a boost to BOOST" and "support all kids" throughout the rally.

The BOOST program "provides scholarships for some students who are eligible for the

free or reduced-price lunch program to attend eligible nonpublic schools."

Hogan told the crowd he himself attended private Catholic schools.

"It's really important that you're here," Hogan, a Republican, told the crowd. "We've got some legislators across the street in the State House that need to hear from you and I want to make sure you guys are ready to make some noise."

Among the schools with students and faculty present was St. Francis International School of Silver Spring and Hyattsville, Maryland.

The school's principal, Tobias Harkleroad, told Capital News Service his fifth graders came to Annapolis to make sure government officials knew they were thankful for support.

See BOOST Page A5

## Top Scientists Visit Prince George's County Schools as Part of the FREE USA Science & Engineering Festival

By MARC SCHULMAN  
USA Science Festival

WASHINGTON, D.C.—An astronomer, a physicist, and an expert on industrial manufacturing engineering all visited Prince George's County Schools as part of the FREE USA Science & Engineering Festival. The Festival will be held April 7–8, 2018 at the Walter E. Washington D.C. Convention Center. With 3000 hands-on exhibits attracting 350,000 kids and their families, the Festival is designed to get kids excited about STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) careers.

Three of the Prince George's County schools that hosted scientists and engineers include:

- Laurel Elementary School hosted Dr. Cole Miller, astronomer with the University of Maryland & Joint Space-Science Institute on February 23. Dr. Miller talked to the students about the depths of neutron stars and black holes.



PHOTO COURTESY ??????  
Dr. Velma Deleveaux, engineer and principal with Booz Allen, spoke to students at Greenbelt Middle School about engineering careers as part of the upcoming USA Science & Engineering Festival, a free STEM event at the DC Convention Center on April 7–8.

- Greenbelt Middle School hosted Dr. Velma Deleveaux, engineer and principal with Booz Allen on February 27. Dr. Deleveaux provided insights into how industrial and manu-

facturing engineering help solve technological and business problems.

See FESTIVAL Page A5

## PG County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III Presents Proposed FY 2019 Budget

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, in accordance with the Prince George's County Charter presented his FY 2019 Proposed Operating and Capital Budgets. The proposed FY 2019 budget for all operating funds is \$4.09 billion, an increase of \$215 million or 5.5% over the FY 2018 budget. The General Fund will increase by \$171.3 million or 5.3%. This fund supports most County gov-

ernment services and programs including education, public safety, general government operations, public works, the environment and other critical services. This was County Executive Baker's final budget presentation and follows a year in which Prince George's County has become one of the primary economic engines of the State of Maryland, the National Capital Region, and one of the most robust and growing economies in this nation.

Overall, the General Fund County Source Revenues increase \$123.1 million or 6.4%

and Outside Sources increase \$48.2 million or 3.7% as compared to FY 2018. County source revenues—taxes, fees, licenses and permits, service charges, use of money and property, etc.—represent resources used to fund most government programs and services, including the County's contributions to the Board of Education, Memorial Library System and Community College.

"From County Council to the County Executive races as well

See 2019 BUDGET Page A3

## PG County's ABA Pro Team Brings Division Championship Home to PG County MD

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG Valor Basketball

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD—On Saturday March 10, PG Valor battled against the Reading Wizards for the start of the playoffs. PG was scheduled to play against the Philly Cannons earlier that day but the Cannons decided not to participate in the playoffs for un-

specified reasons. With PG starting out strong and forceful, they took a demanding lead over the Wizards winning 138–121. The leading scorer for the game was none other than Darius Clark with an impressive 32 points and Keith Shivers was close behind with 23 points. It was an all-around performance by PG Valor as it showed they are the team to beat in the ABA.

On Sunday March 11th, PG Valor played against the Baltimore Hawks for the ABA Chesapeake Divisional Championship. It was back and forth the whole game, but PG eventually took home the gold with a 98–96 victory. It had to be one of the most nerve-racking barn burner

See PG VALOR Page A3

### INSIDE

#### Maryland Schools Need More Physical Education, Prince George's Lawmaker Says

While the county includes the 30 minutes a day for physical activity during recess, students may not even move at all, Slatkin said. He added that recess is often held indoors during the winter and in times of bad weather.

Community, Page A3

#### Their Lives and Futures Remain on Hold

Diagnoses of adjustment and anxiety disorders fell more than 50 percent in children whose mothers were protected from being deported compared to children from similar backgrounds whose mothers' birthdates put them outside the DACA eligibility cutoff.

Commentary, Page A4

#### Hogan Administration Announces New Maryland Business Express Website

The site and Chatbot are currently in beta mode, and as users type in questions and submit feedback through the customer experience survey, Maryland agencies will continue to improve the content.

Business, Page A5

#### Movie Review: I, Tonya

As a teenager, Tonya meets Jeff Gillooly, a whiny, mustached dope who's sweet at first but soon starts hitting her. Jeff's tubby, boastful friend, Shawn Eckardt (Paul Walter Hauser), the sort of doofus who claims to have special-ops training, leads Jeff into his dumb plan to take out Tonya's chief rival.

Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Now Trump is going to allow the importing of elephant "trophies" after all! Where do things stand overall now in the fight to protect endangered species, especially as wildlife now also face threats from climate change?

—Mark Harrison,  
Sumter, SC

Features, Page A7

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

With Mary McHale, will return next week

### Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

#### IT'S OUR CHICKEN & WAFFLES

Join us for (Chicken with a Belgium Waffle) Sunday, April 8, 2018, 11:00 AM until sold out. Highly recommend pre-orders. Cost is \$5.00. Children (10 & under) \$2.50. Sponsored by St. Philip's Church, Baden Parish. Point of contacts are Shirley A. Cleaves and Vivian Rich (301) 888-1536.

#### COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

You are invited to join us for a Community Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 31, 2018 from 1:00 PM-3:00 PM. (Easter Egg Hunt starts at 1:30 PM). Free admission. There will be games, food, fun, Easter Bunny and candy. Westphalia United Methodist Church. Rev. Dr. Timothy West, Senior Pastor.

The location is Little Washington Park (Across from Arrowhead Elementary School) 2505 Sansbury Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774. Phone (301-735-9373. Visit the Website: www.westphaliaum.

#### PSEG KEYS CENTER

PSEG Keys Center has hired three new interns into a second class of the Energy Career Program: Ayana Young (Wise High School), Donte Lawson (Crossland High School) and Diane White (Douglas High School).

Councilman Mel Franklin commented that "the fulfillment

of PSEG's \$3 million investment in the Southern Area Aquatics & Recreation Complex (SAARC is a game changer for the Brandywine community)."

"Without this unprecedented corporate commitment, the recreation amenities provided by the SAARC project would have been significantly reduced. When SAARC opens in 2019, it will be the most significant recreation project to open in Prince George's County in almost 20 years. Thank you PSEG for helping us make SAARC a reality."

The \$3 million donation will go towards the construction costs of building the SAARC. The new facility will include an indoor aquatic space, a fitness room, a gymnasium and flexible programmable space. For more information on SAARC, visit the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation website.

#### BABY BUNNIES EASTER EGG HUNT

Join us Saturday, March 16, 2018 from 10:00 AM-12 Noon (rain or shine) for our Baby Bunny Easter Egg Hunt. Children must be accompanied by an adult. There will be games, snacks, crafts and an egg hunt. Please bring a basket for the hunt and turn your eggs in for a prize. Five dollars per child in advance/ \$7 day of event. Don't delay, space is limited. Sorry no refunds. The Egg Hunt will be

held at Baden Community Center, 13601 Baden-Westwood Road, Brandywine Maryland 20613. Telephone: 301-888-1500; TTY 301-203-6030.

#### EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Join us for our Spring Eggstravaganza Monday, April 1, 2018 from 10:00 AM-12:00 Noon. The event will feature games, a magician, snacks, an egg hunt for special golden egg. Photographs available with Easter Bunny for additional fee. Free transportation to Potomac Landing Community Center for the first 12 registrants. \$5/person, 10 and under.

The Eggstravaganza will be held at Baden Community Center, 13601 Baden-Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20744. Telephone number 301-888-1500; TTY 301-203-6030.

#### KNOCK OUT HEART DISEASE

Did you know that heart disease is the #1 cause of death in women? Women Heart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease is the first and only patient-centered organization solely serving the nearly 48 million women living with or at risk of heart disease; the leading cause of death in women. Women Heart offers free tools and resources to help women take charge of their heart health. Visit www.WomenHeart.org for more information.

## CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Mayor and City Council of Seat Pleasant propose to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2018 the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 3.3% from \$275,086,406 to \$ 284,138,133
2. If the City of Seat Pleasant maintains the current tax rate of \$.58 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 3.3 % resulting in \$52,500.66 of new real property tax revenues.
3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax should be reduced to \$.5615, the constant yield rate.
4. The City is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The City proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$.58 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 3.3 % higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$52,500.66 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 6:30 pm on April 9, 2018 at City Hall, 6301 Addison Road Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743.

The hearing is open to the public and public testimony is encouraged. Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call Adeoye-Aganga Williams, City Treasurer at (301) 336-2600 for further information.

## Neighborhoods

### PG County Fire/EMS Graduates 54 Recruits

LARGO, MD—The Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department recently held graduation for two classes of recruits. Career Recruit Schools 54 and 55 had a combined total of 54 students that received their certificates of completion at a ceremony held at Wise High School in Upper Marlboro, MD on February 21, 2018.

#### Fire Suppression Cholastic Achievement Award

GPA of 89%  
The Fire Suppression Scholastic Achievement Award is presented to an individual in each Career Recruit School who achieved the highest academic average on the fire suppression written and practical examinations.



Firefighter Ryan Miller  
and from CRS 55



Firefighter Wesley Roberts

#### Emergency Medical Services Scholastic Achievement Award

The Emergency Medical Service Scholastic Achievement Award is presented to an individual in Career Recruit School who achieved the highest academic average on the Emergency Medical Service Scholastic written and practical examinations.  
GPA of 92.3%



Firefighter Tyler Burroughs  
and from CRS 55



Firefighter Charles Garipay

#### Instructor's Award

The Instructor's Award is presented to an individual in each Career Recruit School who has shown the highest level of personal improvement, development, and dedi-

cation during the class. In short, we identify the individual who has contributed significantly to the success of the class overall either by helping others or through self-improvement. The individual earning this award can be one with no previous experience in emergency services and progresses to an outstanding level of proficiency; or an experienced person who dedicates him or herself to assisting other class members be successful throughout Career Recruit School.



Firefighter Christopher Arhar  
and from CRS 55



Firefighter Kyle Hayden

#### Memorial Award

The Memorial Award is a very special recognition presented to an outstanding individual from each Career Recruit School who has displayed that rarest combination of professionalism, courage, and "esprit de corps." Such traits serve to honor their fallen comrades, and uphold the highest traditions of the Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services Department.



Firefighter Dominick Bolen  
and from CRS 55



Firefighter Anthony Horeseman

#### Fire Chief's Award

The Fire Chief's Award is the highest recognition for Career Recruit Schools. This award is bestowed on an individual in recognition of achievements that have made significant contributions to the graduating class. Selection criteria emphasize leadership, professional development, integrity, performance, and per-

sonal growth. This award is given to the individual who best exemplifies the conduct required of the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department.



Firefighter Sean Greene  
and from CRS 55



Firefighter Frederick Rollins

Speakers included County Executive Rushern Baker III, County Council Chair Dannielle Glares and Fire Chief Benjamin M. Barksdale. The Keynote Speaker was fire service icon Chief Billy Goldfeder.

Congratulations to all graduates and best wishes for a long and healthy career!

#### CRS #54 Graduates

Christopher M. Arhar  
Jarid D. Badger  
Joshua E. Blanks  
Dominick R. Bolen  
John M. Burgess  
Tyler R. Burroughs  
Thomas R. Cagle  
Norwood T. Dennis IV  
Cody W. Donaldson  
Zachery A. George  
Kevin C. Gerth  
Sean M. Greene  
Brian M. Haas  
Aaron L. King  
James L. Kittrell, Jr.  
James L. Lewis  
Ryan M. Miller  
Jordan T. Oglesby  
Colin M. Patterson  
Christina M. Rizzo  
Ricardo E. Rodriguez  
Anthony M. Salviejo, Jr.  
Jacob C. Schultz  
Christopher M. Shekells  
Kirk L. Spencer, Jr.  
Brandon M. Stine  
Craig D. Thompson  
Tyler H. Thorne  
Sean P. Van Weems  
Duval D. Wilson  
Michael J. Wright, Jr.  
James J. Yi

#### CRS #55 graduates

Derek D. Bateman  
Ralph E. Collins III  
Alec G. Conway  
Daniel R. Farmer-Grace  
Ellis D. Freeman II  
Charles B. Garipay  
Kishon K. Godfrey  
Kyle E. Hayden  
Travis A. Henrie  
Joshua D. Herring  
Donald W. Hodges, Jr.  
Anthony J. Horseman  
Richard T. Koch, Jr.  
Joachim G. Levy  
Stephanie N. Marshall  
Connor J. McDonough  
Sean R. Mowbray  
Wesley N. Roberts  
Jonathan W. Rogers  
Frederick A. Rollins  
Dushawn L. Spencer, Jr.  
Matthew H. Stapleton

# COMMUNITY

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### Helping a Child Handle Disappointment

Disappointment comes to everyone. As adults we, hopefully, have learned that when people or activities may sometimes let us down, we can keep such things in perspective and find ways to overcome our dashed hopes.

But for children, disappointment can come in numerous forms. Even a seemingly minor hurt can often seem like such a complete disaster that the child truly has a difficult time accepting and dealing with it. And, in many cases, such as when a beloved pet dies or a close friend moves away, the hurt can be very real and deep and won't disappear easily.

While responding to childhood disappointments can seem difficult, there are solid reasons to do it in a good way. We can make our child feel less sad, avoid more serious emotional issues, and, when we respond well, we help open communication that can strengthen the child - parent relationship.

How do you begin to respond to a child's disappointment? Listening is step one. Don't minimize or discount the story your child has to tell, even if it seems trivial to you. It's very real to your child, and a response such as, "That's no big deal," or, "You'll forget about it by tomorrow," only serves to convince your child that you don't really understand or even care.

You also don't want to hurry in with a pleasant experience or reward to make the hurt go away. This can establish flawed patterns that carry over into adulthood and can present very real future problems.

Instead, talk "with" your child, rather than "to" him or her. Don't begin an interrogation when something seems wrong but instead tell him or her in a gentle way that you've noticed they're unhappy and encourage them to tell you what has happened.

Don't be judgmental about what is being reported but instead offer sympathy and understanding. Let your child know you empathize because you've suffered your own disappointments. Don't try to top your child's story, but instead listen and sympathize. Just being able to share can do much to minimize the hurt.

In some cases, being a good listener may not be enough. If you notice a persistent change in behavior over time, and if your child is refusing to talk about what's wrong, it may be appropriate to seek help from a trained professional counselor. Your child's school counselor is always a good place to start.

*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*

### PG Valor from A1

games of the season and it was an epic finale to the season rivalry between these 2 teams. With this win PG Valor snatched the #1 spot from Baltimore and moved in to it! Yes! PG Valor is a second year team who is now #1 in the conference and the Chesapeake Division Champions!

"It still seems surreal. I am so proud of my coach Chuck Pickard, II, our players and our staff. This was a team effort both on and off the court. We know that this was all God and not our own efforts. With how we started our season on a losing streak many people cancelled us and our season out early. It looked like we were going to fail and be unsuccessful. It seemed like we would fold and quit. But even through the negativity and haterism because I am a female owner, we were able to fix issues on and off the court; decide to become a family; develop chemistry and strategy to win. I know that I have a

great Coach, team and staff. I thank God for everyone who has helped us in any capacity from renting venues like Mr. Gary Arnold; to those who have come out and support. The best is still yet to come. I still can't believe this is only our second season and this girl from the small town of Fairmount Heights MD owns a Championship team. Hopefully we will get a chance to work with Kevin Durant now?"—LaDonna M. Smith stated as she laughed out loud.

Up next PG Valor will be playing against the DMV Warriors in Woodlawn, MD—the winner of the Mid-Atlantic Division Championship on Saturday, March 17, 2018. The details are still being finalized by the hosting team.

For more information please call 240-918-7500 or email PG Valor Basketball Team pgvalorbasketball@gmail.com or visit our website at www.pgvalor.com. You can always follow our Twitter: @pgvalorbball, Instagram: pgvalorbball, and Facebook: pgvalor.

## Maryland Schools Need More Physical Education, Prince George's Lawmaker Says

By LAYNE LITSINGER  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—The majority of jurisdictions in the state set aside fewer than 90 minutes per week for physical education.

But for the past eight years, legislation introduced to require a higher physical activity and education standard in the state has still not seen progress.

The sponsor of the legislation, Delegate Jay Walker D-Prince George's, called it "a bill that we've seen too many times over the years."

The proposal requires all public elementary schools to set aside a maximum of 150 minutes per week for physical activity, including a minimum of 90 minutes per week for physical education.

For required minutes not spent in physical education, elementary schools would have to designate a physical activity leadership team to plan and coordinate extra opportunities for activity, the bill states.

The biggest issue remains what the school districts would cut from their academic curriculums to provide more time for physical activity.

Walker said he "talked to people that work with Boards of Education in the state (who) said if it's mandated they would find a way to make it work."

During the bill's hearing on Feb. 8, Delegate Carolyn Howard D-Prince George's, asked how to incorporate more physical education.

"The question has always been, what do you remove or

delete in teaching in schools so that we can get the 90 minutes?" asked Howard.

Newport Mill Middle School physical education teachers Matt Slatkin and Shannon Spencer have supported this legislation "from the ground up" because, they told Capital News Service, lack of elementary school physical education affects students when they attend middle school.

Slatkin told the Capital News Service that Montgomery County Public Schools, where Newport Mill is located, "skirt" around the term physical activity by counting physical education with recess.

While the county includes the 30 minutes a day for physical activity during recess, students may not even move at all, Slatkin said. He added that recess is often held indoors during the winter and in times of bad weather.

Slatkin said physical education is taught by a professional teacher, whereas recess does not require a curriculum or standards, and does not teach anything.

"You can't try to compare recess to physical education," said Slatkin.

According to the Maryland State Department of Education, as of January 2018, Montgomery County has the lowest minimum amount of required physical education per week at 30 minutes, followed by Prince George's with 40 minutes per week.

According to a state analysis, 18 of the state's 24 jurisdictions do not meet the 90-minute standard under the bill; at least four of those would need to hire additional staff—

at a total cost of \$13.7 million—to meet that requirement if the legislation passes.

This includes \$1.1 million for Allegany, \$1.2 million for Cecil, \$10.9 million for Montgomery, and \$542,000 for Queen Anne's; these amounts are expected to increase marginally over the following few years, according to the state analysis. Allegany would need 14 teachers, Cecil would need 17, Montgomery would need 133 and Queen Anne's would need eight to meet the bill requirements, according to the fiscal analysis.

The other 14 jurisdictions that don't require at least 90 minutes may also need an increase in funds to meet the standard, but they have not been assessed in the fiscal analysis.

The remaining 10 jurisdictions would not need additional funding because they already meet the proposed standards.

The bill would take effect on Oct. 1, but a local school system may apply for an extension until July 1, 2021, to ensure compliance.

The federal No Child Left Behind Act in 2002 altered allotted time for certain school activities, according to the state fiscal analysis.

Following the No Child Left Behind Act, a national study on curriculum by the Center on Education Policy found that schools prioritized time on tested subjects, including math and language arts, and spent less time on other subjects and activities, including lunch, physical education and recess.

Walker said during committee testimony on Feb. 8 that the bill's cost has decreased over the years and that "it is possible to implement this program."

Patricia Swanson, legislative aide for Montgomery County Public Schools Board of Education, told Capital News Service the board opposed this legislation because it is a large unfunded mandate and does not believe this issue should be decided at a state level.

Swanson also said "MCPS has taken action to clarify physical education time with schools beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, and is taking steps to gather information directly from each school on current schedules and class time."

In the 2018 to 2019 school year grades K-5 will be required a minimum of 45 minutes of physical education per week, she said.

Children between 5 and 12 years old should get at least an hour per day of physical activity, according to The National Association for Sport and Physical Education. The activity should be intermittent and a mix of moderate and vigorous exercise, the association said.

While the bill is not expected to progress in the legislative session, Slatkin told the Capital News Service that he believes that as the public's knowledge grows, so will support for the bill.

"Nobody knew about this bill the past eight years and now it's finally getting out," said Slatkin. "It's something that the parents want, the students want, and the teachers want."

### 2019 Budget from A1

as the race for Governor, there will be a lot of chatter about all the things that are wrong in Prince George's County, concluded County Executive Baker at his budget presentation. "But there is at least one thing that is undisputable—the person who will stand before you to deliver the FY 2020 Budget speech will be taking over a government that is in a good financial position, with growing revenues and sound investments. The next County Executive's speech will not be about multi-million dollar deficits, like my first one. You see, leaving this County in a better financial position was our goal from the very start. Over the last seven years, despite the challenges and issues we have faced as a County, the thing that always kept me going and inspired me were the kind words and "thank you's" that I received from residents and business people. Their stories of changes we made or services that we provided them are examples that people are feeling change. I know that for every "thank you" or "I like the direction the County is going" I hear, I know it is because there are more than 6,000 employees of the Prince George's County government who are working hard and delivering service every day. I want to thank them for their commitment to the people who live and work here."

The FY 2019 proposed budget reflects the fiscal stewardship of the Baker Administration that began with a framework that has guided the County's financial decision-making for the last seven years. This framework, "The Baker Principles," directed the departments and agencies of the Prince George's County government and catapulted this County to new heights. Tough decisions were made such as budget cuts and hiring freezes, but we also made sound investments that we

knew would pay off in the future. And in the end, the Baker Administration is passing a healthy County financial situation to the next administration.

"Now we didn't have 'Virbranium' remarked County Executive Baker in a reference to the current blockbuster film *Black Panther*. "But we did have some unique resources we could build upon. With over 500 square miles of land, underdeveloped Metro stops, neighborhoods close to Washington, D.C., and an educated and affluent population, we had some strong assets to work with. For the first six years of this administration, we asked every agency to rethink how they could provide service without sacrificing quality. Simultaneously, we increased our investments in education and public safety because we knew that reducing crime and making improvements in public education were essential elements as we pursued our vision. And despite the challenges that we faced, such as high foreclosure rates, unemployment, over dependency on residential taxes, high incidents of crime, low property values and limited commercial development, I can stand here today proud of the work we have done to increase our revenue streams by investing in projects that have spurred the expansion of our economy."

The County's positive progress is not limited to the traditional financial indicators; we continue to have safe neighborhoods with violent crime reduced by 50% since 2010. \$9 billion of development projects completed, under construction, or in the pipeline. The creation of 20,600 new jobs in the County since 2013, with a 3.4% increase in the number of jobs within the County in 2017. The County's unemployment rate decreased from over 7% to 4% since 2011. Housing values have increased 64% since 2011.

The FY 2019 proposed budget maintains our priority focus on

growing the economy, improving academic performance in K-12 education and lifelong educational opportunities, providing safe and environmentally sustainable communities, assisting our residents in achieving healthy outcomes and social well-being, and providing high performing government operations.

The FY 2019 proposed budget includes the following specific proposals and allocations:

#### EDUCATION:

- College and job readiness are becoming increasingly important standards by which to measure school success and student achievement. As such, the FY 2019 proposed budget includes \$2.05 billion in funding to the Board of Education, an increase of \$72.3 million or 3.7% over the FY 2018 budget. Funding for the Board constitutes 59.8% of all General Fund spending in the FY 2019 budget. The County's contribution totals \$763.6 million and represents an increase of \$24.4 million over FY 2018 and exceeds the Maintenance of Effort requirement by \$13.6 million. The proposed budget focuses on the strategic focus areas of academic excellence, a high performing workforce, safe and supportive environments, family and community engagement and organizational effectiveness. Furthermore, the increased funding to the Board of Education supports expansion of the Pathways in Technology high school program, Peer Assistance and Review for Teachers, security staffing and equipment upgrades and compensation adjustments for the system's employees.
- The County will also make significant investments in a number of school construction projects in FY 2019, including \$110.0 million in County capital funds to support such projects as completion of the renovation of the Stephen Decatur Middle School

and the replacement of William Wirt Middle School and systemic replacement projects throughout the County.

- In addition, the FY 2019 proposed operating budget includes \$116.8 million, for the Community College, an increase of \$1.8 million or 1.6%. The proposed budget funds employee compensation adjustments for employees and supports the core operational needs of the College. The FY 2019 budget includes \$1.7 million for continued support of the Promise Scholarship program and for audio-visual technology infrastructure upgrades. In addition, the CIP budget includes funding for the renovation and expansion of the Queen Anne Academic Center and the renovation of Lanham Hall.

- The proposed FY 2019 operating budget for the Memorial Library System is \$30.9 million, an increase of \$866,800 or 2.9%. The proposed budget provides salary adjustments for staff and maintains the current operating hours of all branches. With added resources, the Library will complete technology and infrastructure upgrades throughout the system and promote lifelong learning by continuing the "Books from Birth" program. The program increases access to books and encourages early reading by delivering one book per month to children under the age of five and has already reached over 5,000 children in FY 2018. Additionally, the FY 2019 CIP funds will support continued construction at the Hyattsville and New Carrollton Branch Libraries, planning for the new Bladensburg Branch Library and various improvement projects.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- The County's continued successes will be measured in large part by our ability to grow the



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# COMMENTARY

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



### Van Hollen, Senate Democrats Announce Infrastructure Investment Proposal

#### New Funding Would Support Critical Maryland Projects

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On March 7, 2018, U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen announced his support of the Senate Democrats' new \$1 trillion infrastructure investment proposal. The plan would create more than 15 million jobs, and it would be paid for by ending massive tax giveaways to the very wealthy and big corporations. It stands in stark contrast to the infrastructure outline from the Trump Administration, which claims to invest \$200 billion in our crumbling roads and bridges, but actually cuts overall infrastructure spending after taking into account the rest of President Trump's budget.

"In Maryland and across the country, infrastructure is central to our economic success—from road and bridges, to schools and high-speed broadband, to water systems and airports. But it's not enough to claim to care about this issue—working families want to see a clear plan to make the necessary investments to compete in the global economy. This plan creates good-paying jobs and revitalizes main streets in every state," said Senator Van Hollen. "For Maryland, it means funding for projects like dredging the Port of Baltimore and widening I-81. It means better schools for our kids and faster internet for our small businesses. And it means that instead of a tax windfall for billionaires and special interests, we're investing in middle-class jobs. I hope that President Trump and Congressional Republicans will work with us on this critical issue."

To read the full proposal, click here. The plan would invest in the following programs, and

could be used to address a wide range of priorities in Maryland:

- \$140 Billion to Repair America's Roads & Bridges—which could help fund projects like the Hanover Street Bridge in Baltimore City and the Governor Harry M. Nice Memorial Bridge in Charles County.
- \$10 Billion to Expand the TIGER Program—which funds critical local projects to reduce congestion, improve safety, and enhance economic development. Maryland received a TIGER grant just this week to support the development of the TradePoint Atlantic Sparrows Point project in Baltimore County.
- \$115 Billion to Modernize America's Water & Sewer Systems—which could be used to repair aging water infrastructure in Baltimore City and around the state, including in rural communities.
- \$115 Billion to Repair & Improve Public Transportation—which will support the Purple Line and a new Critical Asset Repair program that could help bring WMATA to a state of good repair.
- \$50 Billion to Modernize and Improve the Safety of America's Rail Infrastructure—which will improve Amtrak and its infrastructure and could also help MARC where it shares Amtrak tracks.
- \$40 Billion for a new Vital Infrastructure Program—which will fund transformative projects and will allow Maryland to think big in addressing

See **INFRASTRUCTURE** Page A5

## Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



### Lights, Camera, Inclusion Riders: Reflecting Reality on and off Screen

"I think that the greatest thing our art does and our industry does is to erase the lines in the sand. We should continue doing that when the world tells us to make them deeper."

—Guillermo Del Toro,  
Best Director Oscar Winner, *Shape of Water*,  
2018 Academy Awards

If the 90th Academy Awards are any indication, Hollywood appears determined to flip the proverbial script and rewrite longstanding, cinematic wrongs. From historic firsts to concrete calls to action, the Oscars reflected how far the institution has come—and how much further it has to go.

The night was filled with a predictable mix of glitz, glamour and movie industry self-congratulation, but in the age of #OscarsSoWhite, a viral hashtag inspired by the 2016 Oscars shut out of people of color from all acting and directing categories; and #MeToo, a rallying cry that has become closely associated with the work of the Time's Up movement, diamonds, gowns and tuxedos mingled carefully with the critical issues of diversity, inclusion and representation. It took two words from Best Actress winner Frances McDormand's acceptance speech to bridge the gap between the storied institution and the intersectional, multicultural reality in which it makes movies, "I have two words to leave you with tonight, ladies and gentlemen: inclusion rider."

Coined in 2014 by Stacy Smith, director of USC Annenberg's Media, Diversity & Social Change Initiative, an inclusion rider is a clause A-list actors can have added to their contracts that require producers to hire a diverse cast and crew in order to retain the actor. The rider allows major players in Hollywood to do more than wish away the dearth of diversity or pay lip service to inclusive representation in the movie making industry. It is a concrete call to action with real world ramifications. In a 2014 guest column for the Hollywood reporter, Ms. Smith noted that in 2013, if every A-list actor put equity in the contract, "the proportion of bal-

anced films (about half-female) would have jumped from 16 percent to 41 percent."

These issues, and attempts to tackle them with contractual solutions, are not limited to Hollywood or the Oscars. From the NFL to the boardrooms of major tech companies, diversity and inclusion are in the spotlight. The National Urban League has taken part in ensuring that communities of color are neither neglected, ignored nor poorly served in the aftermath of corporate acquisitions and mergers.

In 2016, we joined a host of civic and civil rights organizations that signed onto a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Charter Communications before its acquisition of Time Warner. The MOU outlined concrete steps Charter would take to build on existing diversity efforts, including gender and racial diversification of its board of directors and taking steps to diversify its workforce. In response to concerns our organization, among others, relayed to Comcast after it announced its intention to acquire a majority stake in NBC Universal, an MOU was reached that affirmed the combined company's commitment to be an industry leader in diversity. Through the MOU, a \$20 million investment fund was established for minority media and tech entrepreneurs, among other initiatives.

Since the well-earned outcry over the white washing of the acting and directing categories in 2016, change, however glacial, has come. The Academy has expanded its voting pool to be more inclusive across race, gender and age. This year, we watched as Jordan Peele, the director of *Get Out*, won for Best Original Screenplay—the first African American to win this honor. Rachel Morrison, who worked on *Mudbound*, became the first woman nominated for Best Cinematography. Dee Rees, who directed *Mudbound*, became the first Black woman nominated for Best Original Screen-

See **ACADEMY AWARDS** Page A8

## NASA Goddard Space Flight Center



Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: NASA

### NASA GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

The hub of all NASA tracking activities, Goddard is also responsible for the development of unmanned sounding rockets, and research in space and earth sciences including NASA's Mission to Planet Earth. Through interactive educational exhibits, visitors explore Goddard Space Flight Center with a focus on 1958 to present. Collections include space flight artifacts and photographs. Model rocket launchings, gift shop and special group tours available. Open 10-4 p.m. Admission is free. The Visitor Center is located at r Soil Conservation Road Greenbelt, MD. For information call 301-286-8981

## Child Watch by Marion Wright Edelman



### Their Lives and Futures Remain on Hold

Daniela Gonzalez is a mother of two who lives in Jackson, Mississippi. She graduated from middle and high school in Jackson and is now enrolled in paralegal training classes and pursuing her college degree. Daniela is deeply engaged with the Mississippi Immigrant Rights Alliance (MIRA) fighting for workplace safety and other rights for undocumented immigrants, and her dream is to be an immigration lawyer to continue helping others. But first she needs others to fight for her.

Daniela came to Jackson with her family at age 11 from Mexico City. She was thrilled when the chance came for her to apply for the *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals* (DACA) program, allowing her to work, study, and raise her children without constant fear of detention and being forced to leave her five-year-old and one-year-old, who are U.S. citizens, to return to Mexico City where the only relative she remembers is an elderly grandmother. But Daniela is now one of the DACA Dreamers whose lives have been put on hold since September 2017 as they waited to see what would happen before President Trump's March 5th deadline for ending DACA's protections. The U.S. Supreme Court's late February action meant that March deadline has been set aside for now. However, while immigrant youth can continue to renew their DACA status, there won't be any real relief for DACA recipients and other Dreamers without the certainty of a permanent legislative solution.

By rescinding the DACA program, the President and Attorney General made clear their willingness to cut short the futures of nearly 800,000 young people in America like Daniela and deny DACA benefits to additional Dreamers in line. These young people came to America as children with their parents and are following their dreams. They have grown into energized and productive students, employees, and taxpayers. Many stepped out and said they wanted to serve as teachers, first responders, and members of the military but their service is being cruelly disrespected and devalued. Their

dreams have become nightmares as Congress has failed to pass protections for dreamers who put their faith in our government but have been left in peril. I hope we can move forward, not backwards in protecting our present and future generations who make us stronger. The success of young people like Daniela and her children is important to strengthen us as a nation.

Many schools and child care centers already have reported heightened levels of fear among young children afraid their parents will be taken away at any time. Researchers are now finding ways to quantify how children are affected when they live with a constant fear of parental separation. The Stanford Immigration Policy Lab (IPL) recently published a study on the intergenerational impact of DACA. After looking at a sample of immigrant mothers they found that after DACA was introduced in 2012, mothers who were eligible for the program saw immediate improvement in their children's mental health. Diagnoses of adjustment and anxiety disorders fell more than 50 percent in children whose mothers were protected from being deported compared to children from similar back-

grounds whose mothers' birthdates put them outside the DACA eligibility cutoff. The research team concluded, "Given the estimated 4 million U.S. citizen children with at least one undocumented parent, lawmakers should consider how protecting parents from deportation will protect the mental health and development of America's children." Professor of pediatrics Fernando Mendoza added: "Compared to other social determinants of children's health, this is the only one I know that can be changed by a simple legislative or executive act. All the other social determinants we have been trying to improve in child health have been very difficult to change."

Two recent reports by the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)—Our Children's Fear: Immigration Policy's Effects on Young Children and Immigration Policy's Harmful Impacts on Early Care and Education—document many of these effects in children from immigrant families. CLASP found "[y]oung children—who are citizens—are getting less access to nutrition, health care,

See **WATCH**, Page A8

## The Prince George's Post

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# BUSINESS

## Social Security Matters

### Ask Rusty — Doing a Breakeven Analysis

by Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** I'm in a bit of quandary trying to decide whether I should take my Social Security now at 62, or wait until some later time, like maybe when I'm 66. I know that I'll get less money by taking it now, but I also know that my check will be bigger if I wait longer. I'm in pretty good health and don't really need the money right now, but I'm just unclear about whether it's best to wait, or just take the money and run.

**Signed: Wondering**

**Dear Wondering:** You're asking, of course, one of the most common questions we receive — should I collect now, or wait until later? Social Security is designed so that, at least theoretically, you get the same amount of money either way. If you claim early your checks are smaller but you get more of them; if you claim later, your checks are bigger but you don't get as many. Again, that is theoretically. In reality, whether or not it is to your financial advantage to wait to apply for benefits depends nearly entirely on your health and expected longevity. Of course, no one knows how long they will live, but if you examine your health, your living habits and your family history, you can make an educated guess at whether you'll meet the current average longevity, which for men and women today is their early to mid-eighties.

To help with your decision, you may benefit from doing a breakeven analysis, which shows what your total received Social Security income would be in a couple of different scenarios. You can easily look to see how long you would have to live to collect the same amount of money if you claimed at, say, age 66 compared to what you would collect if you didn't wait and instead started benefits at age 62. It goes like this: Get a Statement of Benefits from Social Security (you can do this online), which shows your estimated benefit at age 62, at your full retirement age (e.g., 66) and also at age 70. Using those numbers, first add up the total amount you would collect between ages 62 and your full retirement age by multiplying your monthly age 62 benefit times the number of months until your full retirement age (48 months in this example). Now subtract your age 62 monthly benefit amount from your full retirement age monthly benefit; use the product of that subtraction and divide it into the number from the previous calculation (the total you would collect between 62 and 66). The result will be the number of months from your full retirement age you would have to collect in order to get the same total amount of money as if you claimed at age 62. In the simple example I just used, you would need to collect about 12 years beyond your full retirement age, or to age 78, before you have collected the same amount of money as if you claimed at age 62. You can do the same exercise using age 66 vs. age 70 and you'll find that you breakeven at about age 81. If you live beyond your breakeven age, you'll collect more in total benefits by waiting.

These numbers may vary slightly depending upon what your true full retirement age is and what your actual estimated benefits are, but this will give you a pretty close idea of when you would break even financially. Yes, it's a roll of the dice because no one knows how long they will actually live, and your current financial needs and health must always be part of the equation, but doing a breakeven analysis can be an important exercise to help you decide.

*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.*

### Festival from A1

• Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School in Upper Marlboro hosted Dr. Raman Sundrum, particle physics, University of Maryland will visit on March 21 to talk about parallel universes, warped space-time dimensions and other space related mysteries.

These three scientists are part of the USA Science & Engineering Festival's Nifty Fifty Program that sends more than 200 top scientists and engineers into schools around the country in advance of the Festival to ignite students' passion for science and engineering.

The Festival's Expo, sponsored by Lockheed Martin, is a free event that allows kids and adults to participate in over 3,000 hands-on activities and see live performances by science celebrities and experts. PLEASE NOTE: While

the event is FREE, you need to register at [www.usascience-festival.org](http://www.usascience-festival.org)

Founded by serial entrepreneur Larry Bock and Lockheed Martin executives to address the severe shortage in science and tech talent, the USA Science & Engineering Festival is the Super Bowl of STEM, and was developed to increase public awareness of the importance of science and to encourage youth to pursue careers in science and engineering by celebrating science the way we celebrate Hollywood celebrities, professional athletes and pop stars.

To support this effort, the Nifty Fifty are science stars carefully chosen for their differing fields, talents, divergent backgrounds and ages and include inventors, policy makers, actors, educators, researchers, explorers, video game developers, alien hunters, astronauts, doctors, and more.

## Hogan Administration Announces New Maryland Business Express Website

*Multi-Agency Collaboration Makes it Easier to Plan, Start, Manage, and Grow a Business in Maryland*

By PRESS OFFICER  
Maryland Department of Assessments & Taxation

BALTIMORE, MD—Inspired by Governor Larry Hogan's Regulatory Reform Commission recommendations, the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) today unveiled Maryland Business Express, a new website that will make it easier for Maryland's small business owners and entrepreneurs to plan, start, manage, and grow their business. Accessible at [businessexpress.maryland.gov](http://businessexpress.maryland.gov), the new site combines information previously spread across many state agencies into one, easy-to-navigate site, while also providing a clear outline of the steps involved in starting a business.

Maryland Business Express also features a digital assistant designed to communicate with and deliver guidance to Marylanders 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This "Chatbot" is the

first of its kind to be used by any state government specifically for business purposes.

"Since taking office, our administration has been committed to ensuring Maryland is Open for Business, and since that time, we have become one of the top states in the country for entrepreneurial business growth," said Governor Larry Hogan. "Now, Maryland Business Express will make it easier than ever to start a business, and will provide quick access to the many tools and resources that Maryland agencies have to offer to support our small business job creators."

The site's layout is based on the questions most commonly asked by existing business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs, and contains four main sections: Plan, Start, Manage, and Grow. The Plan and Start sections list orderly steps that guide entrepreneurs through the process of developing a business plan, registering a

business, and applying for tax accounts and licenses. The Manage and Grow sections help business owners remain in good standing, make legal changes to their business, and find additional programs that best fit their needs.

"Our Department's goal is to allow Marylanders to interact with the state any time it's convenient for them, and the new Maryland Business Express will move us closer to that goal than ever before," said SDAT Director Michael Higgs. "This new website will be a tremendous benefit to Maryland's business community, and the feedback we receive will allow us to continually update content to better suit their needs."

The new site was officially unveiled March 12, at the Hogan administration's public cabinet meeting in Calvert County.

Over the past few years, SDAT has focused on making government services more ac-

cessible to the hundreds of thousands of Maryland businesses that interact with the Department annually. Recent efforts to provide more services online have resulted in dramatic improvements in processing times, including a reduction from 10 to four weeks to start a business. Today, more than 50 percent of all documents are filed online, 40 percent of which occur outside of normal business hours and 20 percent of which are done through a mobile device. SDAT's online services process more than 250,000 transactions annually.

The new Maryland Business Express is another step toward allowing customers to interact with the state any time it's convenient for them. The site and Chatbot are currently in beta mode, and as users type in questions and submit feedback through the customer experience survey, Maryland agencies will continue to improve the content.

### Infrastructure from A4

major congestion issues, like with Port Covington's Access I-95: Driving Baltimore City's Growth project.

• \$30 Billion to Revitalize Main Street & Promote Innovative Transportation—which would help create safe bicycle and pedestrian routes to help Marylanders get around. It would also provide a boost of funding for the Economic Development Administration, which creates opportunities across Maryland—from our Western Counties to the Eastern Shore to small business support in Baltimore City.

• \$62 Billion for Neighborhood Revitalization, Lead Remediation, & Affordable Housing—which will fund programs like the HOME Investment Partnerships Program and the Housing Trust Fund, and help create new affordable housing. Investments in the Community Development Block Grant will give flexible opportunities to meet local needs. And Lead Remediation Assistance will help repair aging housing and protect families in Baltimore, Prince George's County, and other areas that have older housing stock.

• \$50 Billion to Rebuild America's Schools—which could assist public schools in Baltimore City that were forced to close this winter due to lack of heat, schools in Baltimore County that suffered from a lack of air conditioning in the summer, and communities with growing student populations that need new schools.

• \$30 Billion to Modernize America's Ports & Waterways—which would support the vital dredging of the Port of Baltimore and the Port of Salisbury, as well as other backlogged Army Corps of Engineers projects.

• \$40 Billion to Improve America's Airports & Airspace—which could support the much-needed control tower replacements at BWI and Martin State Airports.

### BOOST from A1

They also went to the rally to learn about the political process and make their voices heard.

"We want to make sure that kids like them in nonpublic schools across the state are just as important to our elected officials as the wonderful children in our public schools," Harkleroad said.

Marianne Schwenz is the mother of an eighth grader at St. Joseph's Regional Catholic School in Beltsville, Maryland.

Schwenz said the potential funding provided by BOOST would particularly help grow special needs programs, especially in Catholic schools, where she feels there isn't enough staffing to address the needs of some students.

However, she's happy with how legislators have responded to the nonpublic school needs over time.

Hogan's budget, approved by state lawmakers, has increased in each of the past three years funds directed toward the BOOST program. An appropriation of \$5 million in fiscal year 2017 was followed by a \$5.5 appropriation the following year. Hogan's proposal for fiscal year 2019 climbs up to \$8.85 million. That budget remains under review by the legislature.

"I think (the funding) does definitely need to continue to grow, although I do think our voice is being heard a little more each year," Schwenz said.

Other supporters included Delegates Shelly Hettleman, D-Baltimore County, and Dana Stein, D-Baltimore County. Representatives from the Archdiocese of Washington and Baltimore Catholic schools also spoke, along with Maryland State Board of Education member, pastor Michael Phillips.

"Today, this is where all of you who attend wonderful non-public schools are going to go make sure that we protect our funding and our scholarships," Hogan said.

Mason-Dixon Polling & Strategy conducted a survey of 625 Maryland voters between Feb. 20 and Feb. 22 that found nearly two-thirds supported an increase in funding for the BOOST program. The poll also concluded 58 percent of voters surveyed would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supports increasing the BOOST program.

"The facts are that since taking office, Governor Hogan has committed record K-12 education funding in his four bud-

• \$25 Billion to Build More Resilient Communities—which could help reduce vulnerability to rising sea levels and floods as severe storms and nuisance flooding threaten Annapolis and Maryland's coastlines.

• \$80 Billion to Bring Innovation to America's Energy Grid & Promote Clean Energy—which would support Maryland's state actions to increase its clean energy, conservation, and renewable portfolio, as well as make sure our electric supply is secure through grid improvements and cybersecurity protections.

• \$40 Billion to Provide Universal High-Speed Internet—which could help provide connectivity to our rural areas like Garrett, Talbot, and Allegany Counties.

• \$15 Billion for Construction on America's Public Lands—which would help reduce backlogged projects at National Parks and Monuments like Catoctin Mountain National Park, the C&O Canal National Historical Park, and Fort McHenry. Funding would also be available for historic preservation projects at older Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), like Bowie State, which is one of the ten oldest HBCUs in the country. All of Maryland's HBCUs were founded in 1900 or earlier.

• \$10 Billion to Address the Construction Backlog at VA Healthcare Facilities—which would help rehab older VA hospitals and clinics, update National Guard and Reserve Centers, and build new Extended Care Facilities to help the aging population in Maryland and across the country.

• \$20 Billion in Innovative Financing Tools—which would expand funding for projects like the Purple Line and create a new Infrastructure Financing Authority to act as an Infrastructure Bank for innovative projects.

• \$140 Billion to Ensure the Solvency of the Highway Trust Fund for the next 10 years—which will make sure that Maryland can keep up its 'state of good repair' work all over the state.

ets, totaling \$25 billion," Eric Shirk, spokesman for the state's Department of Budget & Management wrote in an email. This includes \$6.5 billion in the proposed 2019 fiscal year budget.

But Maryland State Education Association President Betty Weller disagreed with Hogan's use of funds in a January 17 statement.

"Another year, another Gov. Hogan budget that follows the policy priorities of Betsy DeVos rather than Marylanders," Weller said, citing the U.S. education secretary, an advocate of charter schools and private school vouchers.

Weller said Hogan should not be funding a voucher program that "overwhelmingly benefits" students in private schools.

**Christmas in April  
Prince George's County  
to Repair Approximately 80 Homes  
Saturday, April 28, 2018**

**URGENT NEED FOR ALL  
SKILLED TRADES PEOPLE!**

Christmas in April • Prince George's County will be repairing the homes of approximately 80 disadvantaged homeowners with the help of approximately 3,000 volunteers on Saturday, April 28, 2018.

In order to assist our neighbors we are in **URGENT NEED OF ALL SKILLED TRADES PEOPLE (such as carpenters, painters, plumbers, roofers, jack-of-all-trades and contractors)**. If you can help us, please contact Mary Kucharski, Executive Director of Christmas in April • Prince George's County at 301-868-0937 or email us at [cinapp@aol.com](mailto:cinapp@aol.com)

**Thank You For Your Assistance!**

# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review

### I, Tonya

I, Tonya  
Grade: B+  
Rated R, pervasive harsh  
profanity, brief strong sexuality,  
a little violence  
1 hr., 59 min

This is the story of *I, Tonya* not I, Eric, but let me begin with a relevant personal detail. When the Tonya Harding/Nancy Kerrigan brouhaha was dominating news coverage in early 1994, I was an LDS missionary, quarantined from current events. (I missed most of O.J., too.) I eventually pieced the story together (primarily through David Letterman reruns), but I had so little personal connection to the people involved that I couldn't keep them straight. Was it Harding who kneecapped Kerrigan, or vice versa?

Going in with few preconceived feelings about Tonya Harding, my mind wasn't blown when, in the end, I felt nothing but sympathy for her. This cheeky, hilarious biopic, written by Steve Rogers (*Hope Floats*) and directed by Craig Gillespie (*Lars and the Real Girl*), seeks to redeem an unfairly maligned woman, an almost superhuman athlete whose low class status kept her from being embraced by the figure-skating community, and who showed strength despite being abused by her mother and husband. Viewers who have long seen her as a trashy villain will probably have a harder time accepting this perspective than I did, but that's their problem, not mine.

Gillespie begins many years after the fact, with Tonya (Margot Robbie), her mother LaVona (Allison Janney), her ex-husband Jeff (Sebastian Stan), and a *Hard Copy* producer (Bobby Cannavale) giving to-the-camera interviews about The Incident. We return frequently to these interviews for perspective and commentary, often with LaVona or Jeff disputing the veracity of the



ROTTENTOMATOES

Based on the unbelievable, but true events, *I, Tonya* is a darkly comedic tale of American figure skater, Tonya Harding, and one of the most sensational scandals in sports history. Though Harding was the first American woman to complete a triple axel in competition, her legacy was forever defined by her association with an infamous, ill-conceived, and even more poorly executed attack on fellow Olympic competitor Nancy Kerrigan. Featuring an iconic turn by Margot Robbie as the fiery Harding, a mustachioed Sebastian Stan as her impetuous ex-husband Jeff Gillooly, a tour-de-force performance from Allison Janney as her acid-tongued mother, LaVona Golden, and an original screenplay by Steven Rogers, Craig Gillespie's *I, Tonya* is an absurd, irreverent, and piercing portrayal of Harding's life and career in all of its unchecked—and checkered—glory.

scene we just watched and insisting they never hit her. Other times it's the *Hard Copy* guy laughing about what a crazy time this was, how it was "a story populated solely by boobs."

That's an understatement. Onscreen titles assure us that the story comes from real interviews these people gave back in the '90s, clips of which are seen over the closing credits to prove that, yep, they were as nutty as Gillespie and Rogers make them seem. LaVona, an oft-divorced chain smoker who shows no outward signs of loving her daughter (or anyone), sees Tonya's potential at a young age and forces her to become a fierce competitor. By their own admission, the Hardings are poor rednecks with unrefined tastes, so Tonya is an awkward fit in the prim world of figure skating. Gillespie revels in her big '80s hair, homemade costumes, profanity-heavy language, and hard-rock skating

soundtrack without exactly making fun of her, though he doesn't exactly NOT make fun of her, either. That delicate balance is maintained for most of the movie.

As a teenager, Tonya meets Jeff Gillooly, a whiny, mustached dope who's sweet at first but soon starts hitting her. Jeff's tubby, boastful friend, Shawn Eckardt (Paul Walter Hauser), the sort of doofus who claims to have special-ops training, leads Jeff into his dumb plan to take out Tonya's chief rival. Unless you were also in a news coma in 1994, you know the rest.

What's new is Margot Robbie's career-best, warts-and-all performance, convincingly playing Tonya at ages 15–40 and earning our compassion without pleading for it. Robbie can be scathing one minute, then insufferable (Tonya's a real pill), then heartbreaking, but she's never inauthentic. Allison Janney is

masterful as LaVona, who's trickier to play because she has no positive qualities yet comes across as genuinely human (if monstrous). And while I'd never noticed Paul Walter Hauser in anything before, his scene-stealing work as Shawn Eckardt suggests a deep reservoir of comic talent.

Gillespie does his due diligence in the skating scenes, using CGI and other magic to put us on the ice with Tonya, sharing the thrill of victory, the agony of broken laces. Though it's irresistibly funny and filled with insane (but true) details, this is ultimately a sad story about a woman who was mistreated from day one, overcame obstacles to achieve brief glory, and then lost the one thing that brought her happiness. Those who have hated her for almost 24 years may have to reexamine their feelings, but at least the guilt trip is an entertaining one.

## Online Purchase Scams are the Riskiest Type of Fraud, According to 2017 Data from BBB Scam Tracker

By PRESS OFFICER  
Better Business Bureau

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Online purchase scams are now the riskiest form of consumer fraud, according to a new report from the Better Business Bureau. In 2017, consumers reported more than 47,000 scams to BBB Scam Tracker (BBB.org/Scam-Tracker). BBB analyzed this information using its unique BBB Scam Risk Index to determine the riskiest scams based on exposure, susceptibility, and monetary loss. The findings, released for National Consumer Protection Week (U.S.) and Fraud Prevention Month (Canada), show some significant changes from 2016:

- Tax collection scams decreased 60% in volume of reports, likely due to the arrest in India in 2016 of a the ring-leader of a network of call centers primarily responsible for the IRS scam
- Online purchase scams jumped from the 4th riskiest scam to the top spot, likely due to an increase in exposure
- Home improvement scams dropped from 1st to 6th riskiest, despite a number of natural disasters that traditionally bring out "stormchasers"

Young people continue to be at higher risk for scams, and susceptibility decreases with age, although dollars lost increases when victims are older.

There was good news in the 2017 BBB Scam Tracker Annual Risk Report: New Trends in Scam Risk from the BBB Institute for Marketplace Trust (BBB Institute).

"Although we saw an increase in total scam reports, the good news is that susceptibility was down," said Melissa Trumppower, director of programs and operations with the BBB Institute and co-author of 2017 BBB Scam Tracker Annual Risk Report: New Trends in Scam Risk. "The percentage of those reporting who actually lost money to a scam fell from 18.8 percent in 2016 to 15.8 percent in 2017. We also saw a 17% decrease in the median monetary loss, down to \$228."

One interesting phenomenon from 2017 was the prevalence of a new scam, dubbed "Can you hear me?" for the opening line that was extremely common early in the year. "BBB Scam Tracker received more than 10,000 reports on the 'Can you hear me?' scam, but virtually none of those reporting could point to an actual monetary loss

due to the calls," notes co-author Dr. Rubens Pessanha, senior director of market research, insights, and strategy with the Council of Better Business Bureaus. "We concluded there was no credible evidence to categorize the calls as scams, and controlled for them in the data analysis to determine the riskiest scams of 2017."

The most common online purchase scams in 2017 were related to pets, clothing, cosmetics, electronics, and automobiles. The offer of free trials was a common tactic for these online purchases: 67% of scams involving cosmetics and 60% involving nutrition products mentioned a free trial opportunity.

Another significant increase was in the category of investment scams, which tend to target older age groups and come with a higher average monetary loss. This scam type jumped from the 6th riskiest in 2016 to the 2nd riskiest in 2017.

Home improvement scams dropped from the riskiest scam in 2016 to 6th riskiest in 2017. Surprisingly, the drop occurred in a year marked by several weather-related disasters, including hurricanes Irma and Harvey. BBB believes this may have been due to a significant increase

in information from the media and consumer protection groups around home improvement scams following disasters.

### The top ten riskiest scams in 2017 were:

1. Online purchase scam (up from #4 in 2016)
2. Investment scam (up from #6 in 2016)
3. Employment scam (no change)
4. Advance fee loan scam (up from #5 in 2016)
5. Fake check scam (down from #2 in 2016)
6. Home improvement scam (down from #1 in 2016)
7. Tech support scam (up from #8 in 2016)
8. Travel/vacation scam (new to top 10, #12 in 2016)
9. Family/friend emergency scam (no change)
10. Government grant scam (new to top 10, #11 in 2016)

Travel and vacation scams joined the list, with top destinations mentioned in the scams: Orlando/Florida, Disney, Mexico/Cancun, and the Bahamas. Also new to the top ten is the government grant scam. Two scams left the top ten list: romance scams and sweepstakes/lottery/prize scams.

## A Little This, A Little that

### Keep Your Lawn Green and Healthy All Season Long

By MELINDA MYERS

A healthy lawn is your best defense against lawn diseases and other problems. But when the weather favors the disease more than your lawn, problems can occur.

Reduce the risk of disease by keeping your lawn healthy. Mow high to encourage deeply rooted grass that is more drought tolerant and resistant to disease problems. Water early in the day so the grass leaves, blades, dry quickly and less water is lost to evaporation.

Apply the right type and amount of fertilizer at the proper time to limit the risk of disease. Regular fertilization, three to four times per year, encourages better results since most soils do not contain the essential nutrients for optimum growth.

Avoid high nitrogen quick release fertilizers that promote lush succulent growth that is more susceptible to disease. Instead use a low nitrogen slow release fertilizer like Milorganite (milorganite.com) that promotes steady growth that's more drought tolerant and resistant to disease.

Take a closer look at the lawn if you suspect a disease problem. As the snow recedes, watch for circular gray to straw colored areas of matted grass caused by snow mold. Use a leaf rake to lift the matted grass, remove leaf litter and reduce the risk of this disease. Keep mowing throughout the fall and avoid heavy fertilization late in the year.

Monitor lawns for Brown Patch when temperatures and humidity rise and grass remains wet for long periods of time. Infected lawns will have somewhat circular patches of thin light brown grass. Look for white cottony strands of fungal mycelium early in the morning on dew covered lawns. Check grass blades for small irregular tan spots with dark brown borders on the individual grass blades. Avoid heavy fertilization with fast release fertilizer in early spring and summer.

Look for dollar size to 6" diameter spots of bleached or light tan grass if you suspect Dollar Spot. Infected leaves have white lesions with reddish tan margins that often resemble an hourglass. Over and under fertilization, drought, water on the grass blades for extended time, and mowing too low all increase the risk of this disease.

Closely examine lawns with a reddish hue to confirm the presence of rust disease. Rust infected lawns are covered with an orange or yellowish powder, the fungal spores, that can leave an orange residue on your shoes. Newly seeded and lawns weakened by inadequate fertilization and drought are most susceptible.

Stay alert for leaf spot diseases that can attack lawns. Avoid excess fertilization and watering late afternoon and evenings.

Once you discover a disease, visit Milorganite.com for more detailed information and photos to help with diagnosis. Correct your lawn care practices to speed recovery and avoid problems in the future. Proper care and reseeding dead areas with disease-resistant grass varieties is usually enough to manage the disease. Be sure you need a fungicide before applying. These chemicals are costly, the results can be disappointing and when used improperly they can be harmful to pollinators and the environment.

Further speed recovery with a change in mowing habits. Continue to mow high but cut the healthy portions of your lawn first. Then cut the grass in the diseased areas. Once done, use a disinfectant to clean the mower blades then rinse with clear water. This along with collecting and disposing of clippings from the diseased areas of the lawn reduces the risk of spreading the disease next time you mow.

Provide proper care and monitor your lawn throughout the growing season. Discovering problems early means better results with less effort on your part.

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](http://www.melindamyers.com).

SEASONAL LAWN DISEASE GUIDE											
COOL SEASON GRASS											
	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	
SNOW MOLD											
BROWN PATCH											
DOLLAR SPOT											
LEAF SPOTS											
RUST											

PHOTO COURTESY MELINDA MYERS

### Cool Lawn Disease Chart

One of the most common tactics of scammers is impersonation, where the scammer pretends to be a legitimate business that is well known and trusted by the consumer. The top legitimate organizations that were used by scammers in 2017 were:

U.S. Internal Revenue Service; U.S. Government (Grant/Treasury/Reserve/Medicare); Better Business Bureau; Publishers Clearing House; and Microsoft.

See SCAMMERS Page A8

# Calendar of Events

March 22 — March 28, 2018

## Chesapeake Woodturners Exhibit

Date and time: Friday, March 23, 2018, 11:00 AM–4:00 PM  
 Description: From the marvelous natural wood patterns to the mastery of different finishes, the Chesapeake Woodturners' creative aptitudes will have you asking, "how do they do that?"  
 Cost: FREE  
 Ages: All ages are welcome  
 Location: Montpelier Mansion/Historic Site  
 9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD  
 Contact: 301-377-7817; TTY 301-699-2544

## Xtreme Teens: Easter Craft

Date and time: Friday, March 23, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM  
 Description: Put your creativity to the test while participating in our annual Easter craft workshop. Take your masterpiece home, or give it as a fantastic gift for a friend or family member.  
 Cost: FREE with M-NCPPC Youth ID  
 Ages: 10–17  
 Location: Prince George's Plaza Community Center  
 6600 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD  
 Contact: 301-864-1611; TTY 301-699-2544

## Xtreme Teens: Minefield

Date and time: Friday, March 23, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM  
 Description: Try to navigate your way through a real-life minefield designed by our staff ... well, it's not really "live." Anyway, you get the picture! Teens will use teamwork to steer through a pattern of mazes to get the flag—be careful and watch your step!  
 Cost: FREE with M-NCPPC Youth ID  
 Ages: 10–17  
 Location: Good Luck Community Center  
 8601 Good Luck Road, Lanham, MD  
 Contact: 301-552-1093; TTY 301-699-2544

## Xtreme Teens: Movie Night

Date and time: Friday, March 23, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM  
 Description: Grab a friend and hurry to enjoy a movie especially selected for you by our staff - and don't forget the popcorn! Great entertainment, awesome camaraderie, and food! What more could you ask for?  
 Cost: FREE with M-NCPPC Youth ID  
 Ages: 10–17  
 Location: Kentland Community Center  
 2413 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover, MD  
 Contact: 301-386-2278; TTY 301-699-2544

## Family Fun Walk/Run

Date and time: Saturday, March 24, 2018, 9:00 AM–10:00 AM  
 Description: We're calling all Prince George's County walkers and runners to join us for a fun walk/run at the Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex. Bring the whole family, lace up your shoes and meet us on the outdoor track! Call us at 301-446-6842 for more information.  
 \*Scheduled to take place outdoors; weather permitting. In the event of inclement weather, classes will be held in the gymnasium.  
 Cost: FREE  
 Ages: All ages are welcome  
 Location: Prince George's County Sports & Learning Complex  
 8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD  
 Contact: 301-583-2400; TTY 301-699-2544

## High Intensity Interval Training

Date and time: Saturday, March 24, 2018, 9:00 AM–10:00 AM  
 Description: Want to increase your calorie-burning in a short amount of time? Join us for High-Intensity Interval Training (HIIT)—a fun, effective, 45-minute, high-intensity class that combines several different workout methods including HIIT, cardio, bodyweight strength training, plyometrics, super-setting, and multi-planar movements! Improve your fitness, build muscle, and increase your metabolism! Sign up and get active today!  
 Cost: Resident: \$35; Non-resident: \$46  
 Ages: 16 and older  
 Location: Bowie Community Center  
 3209 Stonybrook Road, Bowie, MD  
 Contact: 301-464-1737; TTY 301-699-2544

## Xtreme Teens: Archery

Date and time: Saturday, March 24, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM  
 Description: Ready. Aim. Hit the target! Learn the foundations of shooting a bow and arrow. You'll be firing with the precision of William Tell in no time ... apples not included!  
 Cost: FREE! with M-NCPPC Youth ID  
 Ages: 10–17  
 Location: Kentland Community Center  
 2413 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover, MD  
 Contact: 301-386-2278; TTY 301-699-2544

## Xtreme Teens: Teen Choice

Date and time: Saturday, March 24, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM  
 Description: Have you ever had so many choices that you didn't know which one to take? Well, prepare yourself for a night of fun with us!! Choose from among your favorite video games, basketball, and skate night under the stars.  
 Cost: FREE! with M-NCPPC Youth ID  
 Ages: 10–17  
 Location: Kentland Community Center  
 2413 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover, MD  
 Contact: 301-386-2278; TTY 301-699-2544

## Chicago Style Steppin'

Date and time: Wednesday, March 28, 2018, 7:00 PM–9:00 PM  
 Description: This drop-in activity is a fun way to have you steppin' into an active healthy lifestyle! Chicago Steppin' is a specific form of swing dance. Learn to dance with a partner with stylish and soulful steppin'! Synchronize your movements to the rhythm and beat of the music. This class is taught using the eight-count method. Have fun, meet new people and make sure you make it to the next drop-in session!  
 Cost: Resident: \$8; Non-resident: \$11  
 Ages: 16 and older  
 Location: Glenarden Community Center  
 8615 McLain Avenue, Glenarden, MD  
 Contact: 301-772-3151; TTY 301-699-2544

# EARTH TALK ... Endangered Species On The Ropes

Dear EarthTalk:

*Now Trump is going to allow the importing of elephant "trophies" after all! Where do things stand overall now in the fight to protect endangered species, especially as wildlife now also face threats from climate change?*

—Mark Harrison, Sumter, SC

In what some see as another capitulation to the National Rifle Association (NRA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) undid an earlier ban on importing elephant parts from Africa, now allowing hunters to get permits on "a case-by-case basis."

News like this makes the whole wildlife situation seem grim—and it is. But many scientists and activists are working hard to try to secure protections for threatened species and wildlife habitat in the face of many assaults by the pro-development Trump administration and Republican-controlled Congress.

Back in mid-2016, candidate Trump's talk of reneging on the Paris climate accord didn't bode well for wildlife facing increasing threats due to global warming. After all, many of the 340 species added to the nation's endangered species list during President Obama's watch got there due to climate-related threats.

Last Fall the White House denied petitions to add some 25

threatened wildlife species—including the Pacific walrus, Florida Keys mole skink, and eastern boreal toad—to the nation's endangered species list. Officials from USFWS cited "uncertainty" over the future effects of climate change as a rationale.

"You couldn't ask for a clearer sign that the Trump administration puts corporate profits ahead of protecting endangered species," says Noah Greenwald of the non-profit Center for Biological Diversity (CBD). "Denying protection for these 25 species despite the imminent threat of climate change and ongoing habitat destruction is typical of the Trump administration's head-in-the-sand approach."

The appointment of Ryan Zinke to head the Department of Interior was further proof that President Trump values resource extraction on public lands over conservation of wildlife.

And the story only gets worse. This past January, USFWS initiated proceedings to take the Canadian lynx off the threatened list altogether and downgrade a number of other species from endangered to threatened.

CBD has led the charge in filing several concurrent lawsuits against these moves by the Trump administration. Most recently, the group filed suit in federal court to overturn the White House decision to deny threatened protection for the Pacific walrus. "We're confident the court will see this ... as a



CREDIT: SKIP RUSSELL, FLICKRCC.

**Environmentalists are incensed at a recent Trump administration decision to allow the importation of elephant parts collected during trophy hunting trips to Africa, but this is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the federal government's efforts to dismantle our endangered species protection mechanisms.**

politically driven decision that completely ignores the agency's legal obligations to protect imperiled wildlife," says CBD attorney Emily Jeffers.

Meanwhile, the legislative branch isn't helping wildlife or its advocates much either. Congress' 2018 budget bill is chock full of "riders" aimed to cut endangered species protections for wolves in Wyoming and the Midwest, the greater sage grouse of the Southwest and other iconic American wildlife species, not to mention cuts to funding to bolster states' endangered species protection programs.

Wildlife lovers everywhere can keep their fingers crossed that up-

coming mid-term elections will at least be a step in the right direction—as long as Democrats can gain seats in the House and Senate—when it comes to saving the wildlife that helped make America great in the first place.

CONTACT: CBD, biologicaldiversity.org; USFWS, www.fws.gov.

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

**Send questions to:** earthtalk@emagazine.com.

## 2019 Budget from A3

local economy. We have made notable progress since launching the Economic Development Incentive (EDI) fund five years ago with an investment of \$50 million in order to provide loans and grants to promote business attraction and expansion. To date, this program has created or retained more than 12,000 jobs in the County and leveraged over \$1 billion in private investments.

- The proposed FY 2019 budget includes separating the Workforce Development component of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) into a separate agency. This will help the EDC focus on marketing and promoting the County as a superior business location, providing business services and nurturing start-ups and international firms in the Business Accelerator/Incubator. At the same time the Workforce Development Corporation will be able concentrate on critical employment issues. The Economic Development Corporation and FSC First will continue to use the EDI fund, along with other available financial incentives, to retain and attract businesses to Prince George's County. These efforts will be supported by additional funding for the Conference and Visitors Bureau to enhance our branding and marketing efforts.

- The FY 2019 budget includes continued funding for the Down Payment and Closing Costs Assistance Program which is expected to provide assistance to 95 eligible first time homebuyers to purchase owner occupied or vacant residential properties in the County in FY 2018. That number is projected to grow to 210 in FY 2019.

- In addition, the Non-Departmental budget includes an additional \$6.3 million PAYGO transfer to the Redevelopment Authority's capital budget to support various community revitalization programs, including the Glenarden redevelopment project. The Commercial Revitalization program will provide matching grants to revitalize older shopping centers and the Community Impact Grant program will provide matching funds to non-profit organizations seeking support for community led projects. Additionally, \$20 million of funding will continue construction of the Purple Line as a part of the County's multi-year commitment to the critical transportation and economic development project.

- Progress will continue in terms of growing the economy by improving efficiencies in the permitting and inspection processes. To support these efforts, the Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement budget includes funding for continued implementation and hardware for the new permitting and licensing system and for facilities for the new civil inspection citation hearing process, which will reduce adjudication time and allow for faster enforcement and abatement of violations.

## PUBLIC SAFETY:

- To protect the momentum and continue to build upon the many successes we have witnessed in making our communities safer, the County continues to make a significant investment to expand the ranks of the direct service providers. The respective proposed FY 2019 budgets for Public Safety agencies and Courts provide the resources necessary to meet the response time needs of an ever-growing base of residents and businesses. Specifically, additional funds will allow for the following new personnel - 125 police recruits, 60 firefighters, 15 deputy sheriffs and two new positions to support the domestic violence intervention unit, 60 correctional officers and reallocated correctional treatment coordinators to support the Work Release Center and funding for all dispatcher and call taker positions.

- The FY 2019 proposed budget for the Circuit Court and the Orphans' Court totals \$18.3 million, an increase of \$187,400 or 1.0% above the FY 2018 budget. Included in the proposed budget for the Circuit Court is funding for all vacant positions, a new facility maintenance manager and two additional Paralegal Assistants to support the delivery of services. The Orphans' Courts budget includes funding for needed salary adjustments.

- The proposed FY 2019 budget for the Office of the State's Attorney totals \$18.2 million, an increase of \$224,800 or 1.2% over the FY 2018 budget. Funding will support salary requirements for Assistant State's Attorneys and provides a training director to support the Office of the State's Attorney.

- The CIP budget includes funding for the completion of the new Police Department Administrative Headquarters and construction for the new Forensics Lab; completion of the Hyattsville and planning for the Oxon Hill Fire/EMS stations, and improvements to detention hous-

ing units and work on the Central Control/Administrative Expansion project. Additionally, funding is allocated to complete additional work at the combined Public Safety Training facility and limited renovation of various Court facility areas.

## ENVIRONMENT:

- In FY 2019, the County will continue its investment in various environmental programs to improve quality of life and support federal and State mandates. The proposed FY 2019 funding for the Local Watershed Protection and Restoration Enterprise Fund is \$44.2 million which includes a one-time commitment of resources for infrastructure improvements. This fund continues to support planned activity for impervious area restoration through retrofit stormwater controls.

- The County's investment in the Stormwater Management Fund increases in FY 2019 by \$1.4 million for a total of \$72.5 million to support various water quality programs. The FY 2019 CIP budget includes continued funding for the Clean Water partnership.

- The proposed Solid Waste Management fund budget totals \$102.6 million, an increase of \$4.1 million or 4.2% over the FY 2018 budget. This fund will continue to support the promotion of recycling which will improve the trash to recycling diversion rate. The FY 2019 CIP program continues to encompass operational and facility improvements and repairs, closure and post-closure requirements for Brown Station Road and Sandy Hill landfills and continued construction of the Organic Composting Facility.

## HEALTHCARE AND HUMAN SERVICES:

- This year's fiscal plan continues to prioritize assistance for supportive services to our neighbors most in need of access to care and preventive services. General Fund support to these agencies totals \$36.9 million, an increase of \$1.5 million or 4.4% above the FY 2018 budget. The increase provides the necessary resources to improve core service delivery, build upon the improvements in our health standards and allow for new programming.

- Funding for the Department of Family Services supports new initiatives and expanded services and programs in the area of disability and aging services. In FY 2019, resources will provide support for the implementation of a Safe Return program for adults

with dementia. Additionally, the budget provides funding for services to help County residents make informed choices about community based options and services to best meet their long-term support needs.

- The Health Department continues to direct their efforts towards chronic disease prevention, treatment and providing expanded access to healthcare for County residents. In FY 2019, funding is provided for continued support for the Health Alliance Program to assist healthcare stakeholders throughout the County. The program will provide a care management solution that will help community health workers and other health care professionals provide wrap around and clinical care coordination. Also, continued general fund support is provided to maintain behavioral health services as it transitions to a fee for service program due to the elimination of the Ambulatory Funding Grant.

- Addressing the needs of the homeless population is a priority for the Department of Social Services. Resources are provided for funding additional short term crisis and recovery beds for homeless persons experiencing a behavioral health crisis. Additionally, the department will continue to support family well-being and economic stability programs as well as the TNI @ School program.

- Notwithstanding the new programming throughout these agencies, the County will continue focused intervention efforts for vulnerable populations to include reducing the occurrences of violence among children and adults, domestic partners, sexual assault and/or human trafficking. Collaborative partnerships with County entities such as the Courts, State's Attorney, public safety agencies, community partners and advocates will continue to drive how resources are deployed.

- The CIP budget includes funding for the new Regional Medical Center in Largo which broke ground in the Fall 2017, and the completion of the Regional Health and Human Services Administration Building. This will improve residents' access to health and human services.

- Adhering to the Prince George's County Charter, the FY 2019 Proposed Budget had to be submitted by March 15, 2018 to the Prince George's County Council. The Council must adopt the FY 2019 Proposed Budget on or before June 1, 2018.