

The Prince George's Post



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65TH ANNIVERSARY OF *BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION*

Desegregation in Prince George's County Revisited: An Interview With Historian Avis Matthews

By DONNA SCOTT-MARTIN
PGCMLS

Introduction

Avis Danette Matthews' research reveals how blacks in Prince George's County affirmed their racial and cultural identity and also advocated for fair desegregation planning in the face of undermining county policies. Growing up in closely knit African-American communities in Prince George's County, Maryland, Matthews was intrigued by her family's enduring stories about their beloved communities and schools. Consequently, Matthews questioned whether Thurgood Marshall's "unyielding integrationist worldview," as described by biographer Juan Williams, had been the only or even the most relevant view of school desegregation among African Americans.

Community Conversation: Remembering Desegregation

Date and Time: Saturday, May 18, noon-4 p.m.
Description: Did you or your children attend public schools in Prince George's County in the fifties, sixties, or seventies? We bet you have stories! Come to this event to reconnect with former classmates and share memories of how the *Brown* decision and the desegregation of Prince George's County Schools affected you, your family, your school, and your community. You will also be able to audio record your stories in the library's DREAM Lab for inclusion in our oral history collection.

Cost: Free
Ages: Adults
Location: Fairmount Heights Branch Library,
5904 Kolb St., Fairmount Heights,
MD 20743
Contact: 301-883-2650

Q & A

How did your experience of desegregation color your research of the post *Brown v. Board of Education* era?

I grew up within a nurturing and empowering network of family, neighbors and teachers. I often heard my family speak poignantly of their all-black schools. My experience with desegregation began in the 7th grade. The memories I have of my high school years, September 1972 to June 1975, are what initially drove my research. I remembered DuVal High School as being a racial utopia, where we all just got along. The high school was pretty well racially balanced, as mandated by the desegregation order. My master's thesis started out as an effort to validate this memory.

However, I changed my thesis due to a lack of sufficient documentation and evidence, beyond yearbooks, and as a result of further inquiry. I began reading closely about how Prince George's County schools had been desegregated. Also, the murder of Emmett Till a year after the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision suggested to me that there might have been more than just a celebratory aspect to the school desegregation narrative. I came to question the one-dimensional narrative of a black population that had unequivocally endorsed the *Brown* decision and had universally viewed desegregation as a common good. How, in reality, did the Prince George's County African American community respond to the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision? That is where my curiosity began.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY PGCMLS

Historian Avis Matthews

Were there mixed attitudes about desegregation among blacks in Prince George's? What were these attitudes?

The attitudes were mixed, but not conflicting. The dominant concern was the well-being of black children and the quality of their education. Everyone was not committed to the idea that black children would get a better education if they went to white schools. The important thing about the *Brown* decision, in the view of many blacks, was that their children's schools would be better resourced and would be physically improved. Yet, funding inequity from community to community was one of the outcomes of *Brown* and remains a pressing issue today.

After *Brown*, Blacks also were concerned that black children were being bused into white neighborhoods, but no white children were being bused into black neighborhoods. A small percentage of black families did take advantage of the county's freedom-of-choice transfer policy and sent their children to white schools, but most black

See **DESEGREGATION** Page A3

'A Salute to Our Veterans' During Veterans Appreciation Ceremony and Muster May 16

This marks the Circuit Court for Prince George's County 10th Annual Celebration

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (May 8, 2019)—In celebration of their dutiful service to Prince George's County, our country and beyond, the Circuit Court for Prince George's County is pleased to honor the selfless acts of local veterans during its 10th Annual Veterans Appreciation Ceremony and Muster on Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.

The ceremony will be held at the Prince George's County Courthouse, 14735 Main Street, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 at 9:30 a.m. in the Jury Assembly Room (M2400).

"This annual celebration is a true reminder of the Prince George's County community's commitment to recognizing and honoring the selfless acts of our service men and women who put their lives on the line to protect our liberties. I thank you," says the Honorable Sheila R. Tillerson Adams, Chief and Administrative Judge of Prince George's County and the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Maryland. "Additionally, I would like to thank the Honorable Dorothy M. Engel for leading an amazing committee who have worked diligently to orchestrate a memorable event."

Judge Engel, an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County and a proud former Captain in the U.S. Army Reserve Judge Advocate General's Corps, expresses her gratitude to the brave soldiers, sailors and airmen of the United States military.

"It fills me with great joy to be able to celebrate the noble service of our veterans—both near and far—who sacrificed so much to protect this great country. I thank you all and salute our veterans."

The ceremony is free and open to the public.

—Press Officer, Prince George's County Md.

Prince George's County Government presents:

Bike to Work Day

Friday, May 17, 2019 • 7-9 a.m.

Register at Biketoworkmetrodc.org and enter for a chance to win one of the many new bicycles as part of a free raffle! Learn Bicycle Laws and other safety tips with giveaways. Largo Pit Stop: Wayne K. Curry Administration Building 1301 McCormick Drive, Largo, MD 20774

Council Member At-Large Mel Franklin presents:

Family & Friends Day

Sunday, May 19, 2019 • 3-6 p.m.

Watkins Park (outdoors), 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

RSVP here: <https://tinyurl.com/buylocal-investlocal-May19>. See *Brandywine-Aquasco* column on page A2 for more info!

Stop Treating Older Adults as Third-Class Citizens When It Comes to Affordable Housing, Local Seniors Urge Congress at Senior Housing Now Rally

Only 1 in 3 eligible seniors receive housing assistance; Older adults on limited incomes in the greater D.C. region have few places to live

By SHELLEY DUCKER
Fellowship Square

WASHINGTON DC (May 8, 2019)—More than 100 empowered elder residents from Fellowship Square affordable housing properties in Maryland and Virginia gathered at the U.S. Capitol last Wednesday to urge Congress to protect and expand affordable housing for older adults. These seniors joined their voices with hundreds of other Americans of advanced age from across the country as part of the Senior Housing Now rally.

The need for affordable housing for older adults has exploded nationally and locally. Older adults represent 66% of the recent increase in "worst case housing needs" households, according to a recent U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) report.

Only 1 in 3 low-income seniors (34%) receive the housing assistance they are eligible for because the programs are small compared to real need. Concerningly, with housing and rental costs soaring and health care costs rising, older adults are at greater risk of homelessness than at any time in recent history, according to Justice in Aging.

To address this trend, the Senior Housing Now rally urged Congress to:

- Protect and expand HUD's Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly program that provides capital advances and operating assistance to finance the development of housing for elderly residents.

- Protect and expand HUD's Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA) program providing rental housing to low-income households in privately owned and managed rental units. The program currently enables housing for 1.2 million households; two-thirds of which are older adults or people with disabilities.

"Seniors of limited means used to be able to stay in their homes or downsize into rental apartments. Today in our area, however, older renters get squeezed out as rents have exploded. Housing costs are at an all-time high in our region, resulting in fewer and

See **SENIOR HOUSING** Page A5

Residents of Fellowship Square's Maryland and Virginia housing communities for low-income seniors urged lawmakers to expand affordable housing programs for older adults by participating in the Senior Housing Now rally on Capitol Hill on May 8. Veronica Gaither, 75, of Largo, Md. stood ready to rally alongside other residents from her Largo Landing community. "It took two years on a waitlist for me to get into an affordable housing apartment for seniors. I'm one of the lucky ones. There are millions of others of older adults like me who face the very scary reality of ending up on the streets without the assistance of affordable housing. Congress can do something about this, and that is why I am going to the Senior Housing Now rally."

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF FELLOWSHIP SQUARE



INSIDE

Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland Opens Homebuyer Applications

One home is available for immediate purchase. Two homes are expected to be available for purchase by the end of 2019, however homebuyers will be selected in the coming months.

Community, Page A3

To Be Equal: State of Black America® 2019 Unveiled Amid An Increased Push for Voting Rights, Protection from Foreign Interference

Nothing is more important in the fight for economic and racial justice than protecting the right to vote.

Commentary, Page A4

County Maintains Triple-A Bond Rating From All Three Rating Agencies

"We are very pleased that Moody's and Fitch maintained our triple-A rating," County Executive Angela Also-brooks said. "These ratings are a sign of our sound fiscal policies and our ability to manage our obligations in a fiscally responsible way."

Business and Finance, Page A5

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation Celebrates Older Americans Month

The 2019 theme, Connect, Create, Contribute, encourages older adults and their communities to: Connect with friends, family, and services... Create by engaging in activities... Contribute time, talent, and life experience...

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What are some examples of ways food and drink producers are fighting the ever-growing torrent of plastic waste they have helped create?

—Stacy Y., Raleigh, NC

Features, Page A7

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Morningside re-elects Mayor Cann and two Councilmembers

Morningsiders turned out at the polls on May 6 and voted for the three incumbents on the ballot: Mayor Bennard J. Cann (3-year term), Councilmember and current Vice-Mayor Bradley Wade (2-year term) and Councilmember Todd Mullins (2-year term).

So, everyone won their respective seats. They will be sworn in at the Town Hall on Monday, May 20 at 7 p.m. And they take their seats for the next Town meeting on May 21. They all have big plans to make Morningside even better.

There were also write-ins: Sheila Scott received 2 votes for Mayor and 2 votes for Councilmember. Other Council write-ins were: Elizabeth Long, 1 vote; Lori Williams, 1 vote; and Someli Fuller, 1 vote.

The next major event for the Town will be the annual Independence Day Parade, followed by family fun time and those amazing fireworks.

By the way, if you'd like to sign up your antique car for the Parade, or your marching band, your Scout troop, or your float, contact the Town at 301-736-2300.

Neighbors and other good people

At Morningside's delightful 70th anniversary celebration, I was pleased to chat with former Morningside Vice Mayor James Ealey. He had moved from Pine Grove Drive after his wife Selaine died in 2015. He told me he is married again and introduced me to the lucky woman, Yvonne Ealey. They wed Jan. 6, 2017 and live in Clinton.

Skyline's Chaplain Apostle Deborah Dunham has suffered some health problems. Remember her in your prayers.

Suitland Road Baptist Church hosts Community Outreach every first Saturday, 10 a.m. to noon, with free food, free clothing, and more. Information: 301-219-2296.

Skyline has a website!

Skyline's website editor, Ana Gutierrez, has established a very handsome Skyline website, designed to keep the community informed on news, issues and announcements. Check it out at Psgskylineassoc.com. There are also

photos. You might spot one of Jim Reilly and me watching the Morningside Independence Day Parade.

Changing landscape

The Surratts-Clinton Library is closing July 1. The building will be completely gutted, renovated and enhanced and, as one of the librarians assured me, will reopen "before too long." (I'm 90—do you think I'll get to visit it?) The shelves are nearly empty and look very sad. Now I'll have to start going to the Oxon Hill Branch—a fine library but three times further away.

This week I drove under half a bridge. Which will probably be gone by the time you read this. It's the last of the original Beltway bridges over Suitland Road and I've been driving under it for almost 60 years. The two new spans have been carrying the traffic for a year or two.

A Dash In gas station and Splash In car wash are opening soon on Old Branch Avenue in Clinton. There may also be a convenience store.

There are nearly twice as many juvenile crabs in Chesapeake Bay waters as there were a year ago, according to an annual population survey. Scientists in Maryland and Virginia found that the bay's crabs are at their most plentiful in seven years. Time for a crab feast!

Hell Comes to Southern Maryland

Get a lesson on that hell as Civil War scholar and author, Dr. Brad Gottfried, speaks about the history of Point Lookout Prison Camp in St. Mary's County. The presentation starts at 4 p.m. on June 8, at the Surratt House in Clinton. It's free. For information, call 301-868-1121.

By the way, consider joining the Surratt House. It's only \$10 a year and comes with a monthly newsletter (*The Surratt Courier*), tours, and more.

In case you didn't know it...

May is Older Americans Month, recognizing the contributions of older adults across the nation. It's a chance for everyone to be nicer to these old folks (like me).

Morningside Memories: 1957

Sixty years ago this May, by virtue

of the fact that there was only one candidate for the office, Mr. William H. Stewart, became the Mayor Elect. After being sworn in, he took over from former mayor Jay Lowery. Council Members serving with the newly-elected mayor were Dallas Bragunier, William A. Schaub, Leonard F. Gardner and John David Smith.

Earl Swann, DC Transit retiree

W. Earl Swann, 100, of Oxon Hill, died April 6. He served with the Air Force in WWII and then worked for DC Transit (which became Metro) as a mechanic, repairing and maintaining buses.

He was the husband of 74 years of Margaret McConkey Swann, father of John and Marlene. He's also survived by five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews and dedicated caregivers. Mass of Christian Burial and the burial itself were at historic St. Ignatius Church in Ft. Washington.

George Donald Cook, Post Office retiree

George Donald Cook, 99, formerly of District Heights and recently of Montgomery County, died April 17. He was born in Baltimore, served during WWII with the Army Air Corps and was a U.S. Postal Service retiree. He was a long-time volunteer of The Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter.

His wife Carolyn Janet predeceased him. Survivors include children, Sandra Garner and Brian K. Cook, grand- and great-grandchildren. Services and burial later at Arlington.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Morningside Mayor Benn Cann and Patti (Parco) Grey, May 18; Kaylin Barbour, Otis Jones and Ellen Ashby, May 19; Crystal Foster, Juanita Hood, David Sanford and Linda Holsombake, May 22; Ricci Lee Jr., Betty Call, L. Dorothy Jones, Nancy Sawyer, Dory Babecki and Chester Lanehart IV, May 23.

Happy anniversary to Dennis and Leigh D'Avanzo who'll celebrate their 30th on May 20, and to Ronnie and Karen Ellis on their 53rd (!), also on May 20.

Around the County

Prince George's Student Places First in the State For Writing Contest

Students honored at Maryland Humanities ceremony celebrating state finalists for Letters About Literature

BALTIMORE, Md. (May 8, 2019)—**Anthony Charles**, a student at Walker Mill Middle School, received the first place prize in the state for Level One entries (Grades 4–6) in the 2019 Letters About Literature contest, a program of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, coordinated locally by Maryland Humanities. Students participate in Letters About Literature by writing to the author of a book, poem, short story, essay, or speech. One hundred one finalists from across Maryland were honored at the ceremony on May 4 in Baltimore City.

Letters About Literature is a national program where students write to the author (living or dead) of a book, poem, or speech and express how the work changed their view of the world or themselves. Letters are judged on state and national levels. Readers in grades 4–12 are eligible to enter the contest. Nearly 1,500 Maryland students entered the contest this year. The first place winners for each contest level advance to the national level of the competition.

Letters About Literature Winners 2019, Level One (Grades 4–6)

Maryland State Winner: Anthony Charles, Walker Mill Middle School, Capitol Heights; *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli; Teacher: Nathan Garner Date: 1/10/19

Dear: Mr. Spinelli

Your book *Manic Magee* has helped me to deal with racial stereotyping. As a young 10 year old child of color I was affected by the killing of young black people by police. Many of the victims were unarmed and the killings seemed senseless and brutal. Whenever I turn on the news it is as though something bad is always happening to people of color. This made me feel fearful and upset of the world around me. Everyone had a viewpoint some of which were dub conspiracies and it was very confusing. When I read *Maniac Magee* I encountered Jeffery who chose not to react based on color and stereotypes but with compassionate humanity for people. He did not ignore what was going on around him but at the same time he did not allow racial stereotypes to dictate how he was going to treat people. Magee helped me realize that each racial group will have their own perceptions of other racial groups and that one proper way to transcend racial stereotypes is to focus on people's needs whenever you interact with them. And if the people I'm interacting with still choose to be suspicious because they wouldn't let go of the stereotype, then like Magee I may have to do the only wise thing and run.

Maniac Magee also help me see that while people look through the lens of stereotypes, at the heart people are searching for acceptance. Wherever Magee went, his presence asked the question "can we just get along" and his actions said "I'm giving it a try". He made no excuse for who he was and was bold. His self-confidence and boldness encouraged me to accept that I am unapologetically a person of color and to stop being fearful of what I think other racial groups are thinking about people of color.

Finally Mr. Spinelli, *Maniac Magee* let some fresh air in my confusion. Not everyone that *Manic* met put their fears in front of human compassion. They went against the stereotypes and treated him like their own and gave him an address he can rely on as home. It was fresh air to know that there are people everywhere who do not fearfully respond based on stereotypes. And though the police in these instances was not one such person, I will breathe this fresh air even if I have to run.

Yours truly,
Anthony Charles

Maryland Humanities is a statewide nonprofit organization that creates and supports educational experiences in the humanities that inspire all Marylanders to embrace lifelong learning, exchange ideas openly, and enrich their communities. For more information, visit www.mdhumanities.org.

—Sarah Weissman, Maryland Humanities

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

BECOME A FOSTER PARENT

Win Family Services, a faith based foster care agency, is always looking for individuals wanting to make a difference. They need parents with a BIG hearts to provide home for youth who have big needs. Make a difference in a young person's life and become a Foster Parent. As you know, it takes a village to raise a child and there are thousands of youth in Maryland that need a loving home. These youth need compassion adults like you to nurture and love our young people. Visit www.winfamilyservices.org or contact us today at 401-578-8004 to learn more about becoming a Foster Parent.

SENIORS 60 AND BETTER

Enjoy a wide range of recreation service for seniors 60 and older. Some of the activities are recreation classes, senior clubs, tours and trips, health and fitness programs, nutrition program, special events, free fitness Room ID card, free community Center ID card for county residents and many more services. Call 301-699-2255, TTY 301-699-2544 or visit pparks.com for more information.

THE LION KING

Starlite Performing Arts presents The Lion King for boys and girls featuring drama, modern, jazz, hip hop, field trips, arts and crafts, video games. Registration fee is \$150 (non-refundable) includes one T-Shirt and one DVD of the show per child. Free pizza Wednesdays. Tuition is \$125.00 per week. Ages 5 and up Monday–Friday 7:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. Begins Monday June 17, 2019 and ends Friday August 23, 2019.

For more information contact our center at Performance Saturday August 24, 2019 at Dr. Henry A Wise High School Upper Marlboro Maryland. The address is 9000 Edgeworth Drive, Capitol Heights, Maryland 20743, 301-333-0051 and 9552 Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro Maryland 20772, 240-318-2260. You can visit www.starliteboogi.com or email: starlitedanceacademy@comcast.net.

FUNCTIONAL FITNESS FOR SENIORS

Join us in a free fitness class Tuesday and Wednesday,

May 16, 9:30–10:30 a.m. Function for Seniors. Functional Fitness is exercise that mimics your everyday activities while engaging multiple muscle groups. The class focuses on these key multi-directional moves to get you strong and steady for daily life. The class is free for ages 55 and up at Temple Hills Community Center, 5300 Temple Hill Road, Temple Hills, Maryland 20748. Telephone number is 301-894-6616.

WOMEN'S DAY 2019

New Hope Fellowship Cooperative Parish will celebrate Women's Day May 19, 2019, 11:00 a.m. at Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church, 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Pastor Rev. Connie Smith. Our Guest Minister will be Minister Faye Johnson Journey of Faith UM Church, Waldorf, Maryland. Colors are all shades of purple. Point of contacts are Ms. Catherine Watkins bams4cat@gmail.com and Ms. Summer Broadwater 79@gmail.com.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS DAY

Council Member at large Mel Franklin presents #BuyLocal#Local Family and Friends Day Festival Sunday, May 19, 2019 from 3:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m. at Watkins Park. Featuring special guest DJ Flexx WPGCC 95.5's, "The DJ Flexx Show" and High School Battle of the bands. Join us for a day of free food, fun, and support for our local business. The park is located at 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774.

RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/buylocal-investlocal-May19> for local businesses, non-profits or agencies that would like a free display table at the event, or you can register on line at <https://tinyurl.com/table-registration-May19>. Display tables are for informational purposes only. No vending or item selling is permitted at the event.

"Bringing the World to Prince George's County". Email: MFranklin1@co.pg.md.us or visit the website at https://pgcouncil.us/CMAL_Franklin Telephone number is 301-952-2638. "Bringing the World to Prince George's County".

7th Annual Do More 24—May 22–23, Noon–Noon: Power Your Community!
For more information about Do More 24, contact 202.488.2009 or questions@domore24.org
www.domore24.org • www.unitedwaynca.org

PGCPS Remains Top in the State For Green School Certification

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (May 9, 2019)—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) continues to lead the state with the most number of schools earning new Maryland Green Schools certifications.

This year, 11 schools earned certification and 22 schools were recertified, raising the total number of PGCPS Green Schools to 121—58 percent of all county public schools and approximately 20 percent of the 614 active Maryland Green Schools.

"Our Green Schools serve as models for environmental awareness, management and education in our communities," said Dr. Monica Goldson, Interim Chief Executive Officer. "They encourage students to be lifelong environmental stewards."

Central and Frederick Douglass high schools and Hyattsville Middle School joined eight elementary schools in earning first-time certification: Carrollton, CMIT North, Concord, Highland Park, John H. Bayne, Longfields, Samuel P. Massie Academy and Thomas Stone.

Berwyn Heights Elementary, Dora Kennedy French Immersion and John Hanson Montessori achieved "model school" status this year for having three consecutive recertifications.

Schools earning recertification included four high schools (DuVal, Eleanor Roosevelt, Parkdale, Tall Oaks), six middle schools (Buck Lodge, Kenmoor, Nicholas Orem, Samuel Ogle) and nine elementary schools (Beacon Heights, César Chávez, Cora L. Rice, Francis Scott Key, High Bridge, Langley Park-McCormick, Magnolia, Riverdale, Vansville).

All newly-certified and recertified schools and centers will be honored during the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education's (MAEOE) Annual Maryland Green School Youth Summit on May 30 at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis. Schools will receive a Maryland Green School or Center flag, statewide and local recognition, and special gifts.

The Maryland Green Schools program, sponsored by MAEOE, is one of the most rigorous and comprehensive Green School certification programs in the nation. It encourages educational opportunities, increases environmental awareness, and promotes environmental stewardship practices for students at all grade levels. Through a non-competitive application process, schools must demonstrate their green activities and culture in eight criteria areas.

The William S. Schmidt Outdoor Education Center provides an overnight outdoor education program to all fifth-graders annually. The Schmidt Center has played a key role in growing the number of certifications by assisting schools with achieving and maintaining Green School status through modeling, educational programs, application guidance and support.

For more information about the Green School Program, visit the MAEOE website.

—Office of Communications, Prince George's County Public Schools

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Relaxing—A Skill We All Need to Learn

We live in a world that produces lots of stress. While stress can sometimes help motivate us to focus and act, a lot of stressful things are nonproductive and harmful. Stress might help motivate you to meet that new project's deadline at work, but the anger a traffic jam causes you really has no benefit.

None of us can avoid all of life's stress-causing events and people, but learning how to relax can keep that stress from causing you harm. Uncontrolled stress can make you react poorly or angrily, and prolonged stress can negatively affect your health in a number of ways.

Your starting point is simply to learn to recognize when something is stressful and is affecting you. Experts advise that one quick way to reduce that stress is deep breathing. It's simply breathing in for 5 seconds, holding your breath for 5 seconds, then slowly breathing out for 5 seconds, and holding for another 5 before doing another breathing round. When you do breathing like this your brain is focusing on your breaths, not the source of your stress, and that gives your mind and body a chance to relax just a bit.

Another way to relax is as basic as exercise. If, when faced with a stressful situation, you can get up, go outside for a quick walk, and use the time to focus on the world around you rather than what is stressing you, you are going to find yourself more relaxed. And a relaxed you will think more clearly.

Learning to relax simply means looking for ways to refocus your attention and thinking. The simple act of counting to 10 when you feel yourself getting angry (a sign of stress you want to avoid) really does work. If the anger is pretty strong, keep on counting to 100. Getting upset by that traffic jam that's going to make you late? Turn on the car radio and sing along with whatever's playing. Again, it's relaxing by simply refocusing your attention.

You can and should also prepare your body to handle stress, since there always will be some. Good nutrition, regular exercise, staying hydrated and being well rested are all good protections against the negative effects that stress can produce.

Learn to recognize when stress is beginning to affect you, then look for ways to add some relaxation. The result will be a happier and healthier you.

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.

Desegregation from A1

parents did not see this policy as an earnest commitment to desegregation nor to improving their children's educational opportunities.

Why didn't more blacks apply for Freedom of Choice transfers?

Only 93 of the 6,347 African American students enrolled in all-black schools in the county in 1955, when Freedom of Choice went into effect, applied for transfers. Black families were apprehensive about their children not being welcomed and being unsafe in white schools. In Prince George's County as in other jurisdictions, black parents desired to keep their children in black schools where they would be taught and nurtured.

Were the ideals and methods of the Civil Rights Movement ever evident in Prince George's County's school desegregation battle?

Definitely. There was an active NAACP in the county at the time of *Brown*. Hester V. King, the NAACP president, the Rev. Perry Smith of North Brentwood, and Jesse Warr of North Inglewood, the community where Fairmont Heights High is located, regularly testified before the school board. Then, in the 1960s and '70s, the Prince George's County Action Project, which comprised housing organizations, interfaith groups, civic organizations, and the Congress of Racial Equality, all advocated for desegregation in line with the civil rights larger movement.

Over the 20 years of your study period, what did black parents and their allies want?

My research reveals that, for most black citizens of the county, the fight was not for desegregation in and of itself, but for a fair, two-way desegregation process that would require movement of black and white children; ensure black children, black teachers, and schools were provided the same quality of resources and services; and acknowledge and preserve the cultural history of black communities and black life in Prince George's. Members of Prince George's black communities remained directly active over the 20-year period I discuss in my research.

Did desegregation policies have an adverse effect on the growth of predominantly African American communities in Prince George's County?

Yes, it adversely affected some communities in direct and compound ways. Children who had grown up together as neighbors, friends and playmates were assigned to different schools, disrupting neighborhood stability and the continuity of relationships among children. Communities such as Lakeland, a historically African American neighborhood within the city of College Park, experienced this profoundly. The closing of the community's historic school and the building of a new school—which would serve Lakeland's black children and white children in adjacent neighborhoods—compounded the devastating effects of an urban renewal program that left part of the Lakeland community physically dismantled, displaced 70 percent of the families and irreparably injured the spirit of the community.

See **DESEGREGATION** Page A8

Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland Opens Homebuyer Applications

Habitat is seeking qualified applicants for 3 homes in Prince George's County

By DONNA CLAYBURN

Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland

SILVER SPRING, Md. (May 6, 2019)—Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland (HFHMM) is seeking qualified home purchase applicants for 3 homes located in Prince George's County, Maryland.

The first home is located on Gateway Blvd in District Heights, Maryland and is available for immediate purchase. This newly renovated, three bedroom, 1 bath home is centrally located to the Addison Street Metro Station.

HFHMM recently broke ground on two new construction properties located on Jost Street in the city of Fairmount Heights, Maryland and Opus Avenue located in the city of Capitol Heights, Maryland. These three bedroom, two bathroom homes will have approximately 1200+ sq. ft. of living space applying Universal Design Concepts (Contemporary Design that accommodates families at all stages of life). They are expected to be available for purchase by the end of 2019, however homebuyers will be selected in the coming months.

Applications and more information on Habitat's program can be found on the website: www.habitatmm.org/home+purchase.

HFHMM works with residents that have a demonstrated need

for affordable housing, are income qualified, can afford to pay back a mortgage, and who are willing to partner with the organization. Habitat provides an affordable mortgage, ensuring that buyers do not pay more than 30% of their income on housing.

Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland is pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtaining housing because of race, sex, marital status, physical or mental disability, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, presence of children, source of income, sexual orientation, gender identity, age and family responsibilities.

Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland, Inc. (HFHMM) is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International that serves Montgomery and Prince George's Counties in Maryland. Since 1982, HFHMM has partnered with the community and low-income families living in sub-standard conditions to provide decent and affordable housing solutions. HFHMM supports the notion that good, stable housing matters for neighborhoods. Better quality of living leads to stronger citizens and families. Habitat for Humanity is about changing lives, one home at a time. Visit our website at www.HabitatMM.org.

Educational Systems Federal Credit Union Teams Up With the Baysox and Local Schools

By VICTORIA SAMUELS

Educational Systems FCU

GREENBELT, Md. (May 6, 2019)—Educational Systems Federal Credit Union celebrates the importance of reading through its annual sponsorship of the Bowie Baysox "Read & Hit a Home Run" program, which reaches over 200 schools and impacts over 35,000 elementary and middle school students.

Through the "Read & Hit a Home Run" program, students who read four books outside the required reading curriculum receive two free tickets to a Baysox Reading Night Game where they are recognized for their achievement. This year also marked the inaugural Baysox jersey design contest. The winning design created by Annabella Mejia, a fourth grader at Belvedere Elementary School in Anne Arundel County, is now featured on a limited edition jersey that's being worn by the players. After the game on May 18, the jerseys will be auctioned with the proceeds benefitting Belvedere Elementary School.

"For us, it's an honor to Support Education," said Chris Conway, President/CEO of

Educational Systems Federal Credit Union. "Reading is the foundation for all learning. We believe in encouraging students to read and rewarding those who go above and beyond."

Educational Systems FCU also proudly sponsors the "Pinch onto Books" reading program with the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs baseball team. In addition, the Credit Union supports "Read Across America" by reading to students and donating Dr. Seuss books, bookmarks and school supplies to local schools.

Educational Systems FCU (esfcu.org) has proudly served the education community for over 60 years. With over \$1 billion in assets and 12 branches,

the Credit Union serves 85,000 members in seven school systems and three community colleges throughout Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's and Talbot counties in Maryland.



PHOTO COURTESY EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS FCU

Pictured from left to right: Kelsey Carter from the Bowie Baysox, Vic Samuels from Educational Systems FCU, Annabella Mejia from Belvedere Elementary School and the Baysox mascot Louie.

Hair Cuttery Partners With National Network To End Domestic Violence to Share a Haircut

Hair salon's Share-A-Haircut program is in its 20th year

By SHANNON STERN

Hair Cuttery

VIENNA, Va., (May 1, 2019)—On Monday, May 20, and Tuesday, May 21, Hair Cuttery and the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) are teaming up to raise awareness for domestic violence through Hair Cuttery's Share-A-Haircut program. For every haircut purchased at one of the Hair Cuttery's over 800 salons, one free haircut certificate will be donated to a survivor of domestic violence through a network of state coalitions and local programs nationwide.

"Hair Cuttery is proud to work within our local neighborhoods to make a difference," said Dennis Ratner, Co-Founder and CEO of Hair Cuttery. "Our goal through the Share-A-Haircut program is to shine a light on those in need and to help strengthen and give a voice to those in our communities."

Through the partnership, Hair Cuttery and NNEDV will work closely to distribute thousands of free haircut certificates to individuals affected by domestic violence, including women, children, and men.

"The vast majority of those impacted by domestic violence experience some level of financial abuse. The gift of a free, fresh haircut can make the world of difference. A haircut is a gift that supports economic empowerment and gives survivors a moment to practice self-care," shared Kim Gandy,

NNEDV President and CEO. "Hair Cuttery's continued commitment to championing domestic violence is the kind of commitment that creates change."

The Share-A-Haircut program is in its 20th year, with over 51,000 certificates already having been donated in February to the homeless. Hair Cuttery has an established history of charitable giving that has supported a range of local and national causes

including Breast Cancer Research Foundation, American Red Cross, American Cancer Society, and Girls on the Run.

The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that serves as a leading national voice for domestic violence victims and their allies. NNEDV's membership is comprised of all 56 state and territorial coalitions against domestic violence, including over 2,000 local programs. NNEDV has been advancing the movement against domestic violence for over 25 years. To learn more about NNEDV, please visit NNEDV.org.

CITY OF DISTRICT HEIGHTS NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Mayor and Commissioners of the City of District Heights proposes to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2019, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 6% from \$397,333,893 to \$421,052,324.
2. If the City of District Heights maintains the current tax rate of \$0.8175 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 6% resulting in \$193,898 of new real property tax revenues.
3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$0.7714, the constant yield tax 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 \$0.79 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 2.4% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$78,315 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 7:00 p.m. on June 6, 2019 at the E. Michael Roll Municipal Building, 2000 Marbury Drive, District Heights, Maryland 20747.

The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged.

Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call (301) 336-1402 for further information.

COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

State of Black America® 2019 Unveiled Amid An Increased Push for Voting Rights, Protection from Foreign Interference

"This is not Russia. This is the United States of America. And I will fight until the death to make sure every citizen—whether they're Green Party, whether they're Freedom Party, whether they're Democrat, whether they're Republican, whoever—has that right to vote. Because it is the essence of our democracy. For so many people, their rights are pulled away from them, then they've got to put in laws to get them back. What does that mean? They cannot progress rapidly. They cannot progress with the rest of society. All they're trying to do is control their own destiny."

—U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings, Chair, House Oversight Committee

The National Urban League's 2019 State of Black America® report, "Getting 2 Equal, United Not Divided," an unprecedented examination of the state of the Black Vote, was unveiled this week amidst a new push in Congress to protect voting rights and secure democracy.

Just a day after we unveiled the report at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., House Oversight Committee Chairman Elijah Cummings announced he wants to "make sure we spend significant effort and time, perhaps even looking at even more states and seeing what they're doing and shining a light on what they may be doing illegally or improperly to stop or

hinder people from voting and having those votes counted."

Specifically, the Committee is planning to examine voter suppression in North Carolina, Georgia, Texas, and Kansas.

In partnership with the Brennan Center for Justice and the German Marshall Fund of the United States, the State of Black America revealed how the "Terrible Trio" of voter suppression—state legislatures, the Supreme Court, and hostile foreign actors—worked together to disrupt American democracy.

Beginning in 2010—following the first year of the first African-American President's term—state legislatures began passing restrictive laws intended to hinder Black voters. The Supreme Court opened the floodgates for voter suppression in 2013 when it gutted the Voting Rights Act with its decision in *Shelby v. Holder*.

It was into this suppression-happy environment that hostile foreign actors—specifically the troll farm of Russia's Internet Research Agency—unleashed a firestorm of manipulative, misleading and deceptive social media aimed at dissuading African Americans from voting.

Our report has landed at a crucial moment when some members of Congress are ramping up pressure to address foreign meddling and racially-motivated voter suppression.

The same day we unveiled the report, a bipar-

tisan group of Senators introduced a proposal to bar foreign citizens who have interfered in the U.S. elections from entering the United States.

Last week, Sen. Bob Menendez of New Jersey unveiled a bill that would fund states' implementation of paper ballots that could be audited and to enact new cybersecurity standards to protect against hacking—a recommendation that is included in State of Black America®.

Other recommendations include H.R. 1, the For the People Act which includes a wide range of voting reforms like enhanced cybersecurity protection of election systems, removing barriers to voter registration and prohibiting the distribution of false information about elections to hinder or discourage voting.

We endorse H.R. 4, the Voting Rights Advancement Act, which restores the full enforcement protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

We also make some bold suggestions like the elimination of the Electoral College.

Nothing is more important in the fight for economic and racial justice than protecting the right to vote. Make sure your congressional representatives know that combating voter suppression and foreign manipulation of our elections is a top priority. You can tell Congress to pass the Voting Rights Advancement Act by texting "VRA4" to the number 52886.

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita, Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

"You Can't Win Like That"

"I can't do a lot of the extra stuff that I would like to do for my kids or with my kids because I just can't afford to. No vacations. There's not too much going to the movies or little outings. Even getting school uniforms together is expensive. Sometimes they have to wear stuff from last year. I have a lot of guilt because I can't provide for them the way that I want to."

The Children's Defense Fund recently released our latest report on Ending Child Poverty Now once again showing just how much poverty is hurting our children and nation and sullying our pretensions to be an equal opportunity society. As part of their coverage of this new report *The Guardian* spoke with several parents struggling to raise children in poverty today including New Orleans mother Sarah Davis. As their story explains, Davis lost her home in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina struck. After attempts to make fresh starts

with her three children in Texas, Indiana, the west coast, and Kentucky, she returned home to New Orleans three years ago, but even with a job as a phone operator she wasn't able to escape poverty. Her family lived in a homeless shelter until a non-profit agency helped pay the first few months' rent on a home.

Now half of her salary of less than \$1,700 a month goes towards housing. The rest isn't enough to cover everything else: "A lot of times I have to buy foods that are less expensive to buy but I know are totally disgustingly bad for you. There are a lot of ramen noodles . . . Sometimes I pay just enough on my water or electricity bill to keep it from getting cut off. I always owe no matter what, because I have to have money for other things." Davis's youngest daughter has been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and needs extra attention, so Davis knows that even if she could work 80 hours a week, that wouldn't be a good solution either.

"If I worked two full-time jobs, then I'm not at home and that falls apart. If I work one full-time job, there's more structure at home but then I make less money. It's like, you can't win like that."

You can't win like that and we all lose in a nation that allows millions of children to face the minute by minute, hour by hour, day by day harms of poverty. In 2017 over 12.8 million of our children lived below the official poverty line—\$25,094 for a family of four—based only on cash income. Nearly half lived in extreme poverty below half the poverty line. Like Davis's children, more than two-thirds of poor children in related families live with an adult who works and more than a third live with an adult who works full-time year round. Poverty stacks the odds against children and stalks them down every avenue of their lives. As our latest national plea to end child poverty now carefully documents, poverty places children at risk of hunger, homelessness, sickness, violence, educational failure and family stress and too often deprives them of positive early childhood experiences and opportunities that prepare more affluent children for school, college and work. Poverty wears down children's emotional reserves, saps their spirits and confidence and threatens their potential and aspirations. From infancy through adulthood poverty gnaws away at child resiliency and hope and harms them for life.

Beyond its individual human costs, child poverty has huge economic costs for all of us. One study shows the lost productivity and extra health and crime costs stemming from child poverty add up to about \$700 billion a year, or 3.5 percent of

GDP. Another study found eliminating child poverty between the prenatal and age 5 years would increase lifetime earnings between \$53,000 and \$100,000 a child—a total lifetime benefit of \$20 to \$36 billion for all babies born in a given year. And we cannot measure the countless innovations and discoveries that never occur because so much child potential is lost.

Child poverty also fuels a destructive intergenerational cycle of poverty with compounding effects that can have lasting consequences into adulthood. Children who grow up poor have a harder time escaping poverty as adults. Research shows people who experienced poverty at any point during childhood are more than three times as likely to be poor at age 30 as those who were never poor as children. The longer a child is poor, the greater her risk of becoming a poor adult. A 2017 Urban Institute report found only 20 percent of children who spent half their childhoods in poverty were consistently working or in school during their twenties.

No families should have to fight so desperately to beat the odds in this battle that is so hard to win in a nation with the largest economy in the world. We must act now to save our children's lives and our nation's soul. Inaction is not an option; poverty is far too costly for our children and nation to continue. Ending Child Poverty Now shows we already have the solutions and that by investing just a small percentage of our federal budget into existing programs and policies, we can make significant progress and rescue many child lives from stunted futures. We just need the moral decency, political will and economic common sense to do it.

Seniors Are Under Pressure To Repay Student Loans, Says AMAC

The GAO says those with federal student loans in default may have Social Security benefits withheld

WASHINGTON, DC (May 10, 2019)—Millions of seniors are struggling to pay off student loans. But, these seniors are not scholars; they are senior citizens, older Americans, many of whom have had their retirement plans disrupted as a result.

And, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC], Social Security benefits can be garnished if they default on federal student loans.

In fact, says AMAC's president, Dan Weber, a growing number of seniors are having their Social Security benefits withheld because they are defaulting on their federal student loans. He cites the U.S. Government Accountability Office [GAO], which has reported that "older borrowers (age 50 and older) who default on federal student loans and must repay that debt with a portion of their Social Security benefits often have held their loans for decades and had about 15 percent of their benefit payment withheld."

Total outstanding student loan debt has reached "stratospheric proportions. It currently stands at more than \$1.5 trillion—that's trillion with a T. And, \$86 billion dollars of that debt is owed by Americans over the age of 60," according to Weber.

The GAO has made suggestions that could aid seniors whose Social Security benefits may be garnished. For example, if benefits are less than \$9,000 a year [\$750 a month] they cannot be garnished. But, it's been quite a while since that \$9,000 threshold was established and so

the GAO suggests that it be increased and indexed for inflation.

Meanwhile, if your benefits are being garnished be aware that the Department of Education may be able to help you create a more-affordable repayment option. Get in touch with the DOE and ask for a suspension or a reduction. You'll have to provide documentation for relief.

More than 50% of seniors whose benefits are being withheld are receiving disability payments and may be able to receive a disability waiver. It can be a difficult process, but it also can be worth the effort. It's been reported that as many as 33% of disability waiver applications are approved.

Finally, says Weber, there are agencies and organizations that can provide specific help in getting out from under Social Security offset withholding due to a student loan default. He suggests getting in touch with the National Consumer Law Center [https://www.studentloan-borrowerassistance.org/] or The National Center on Law and Elder Rights [https://ncler.acl.gov/].

The 2 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] [https://www.amac.us] is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. We act and speak on their behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at https://amac.us/join-amac.

Prince George's and Montgomery County Councils Adopt FY 2020 Bi-County Budgets

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (May 9, 2019)—Prince George's and Montgomery County lawmakers, convening their annual Bi-County Budget meeting on Thursday, May 9, 2019, unanimously adopted the FY 2020 budgets for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC); the bi-county portion of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC); and the Washington Suburban Transit Commission (WSTC). The joint session was held at WSSC headquarters in Laurel, MD.

During the joint session, both councils agreed to a WSSC Operating Budget of \$817.4 million and a Capital Budget of \$569.7 million for the utility. The new budget includes a 5-percent rate increase for water and sewer customers. The Fiscal Year 2020 bi-county budgets are effective July 1, 2020.

Prince George's County Council Chair Todd M. Turner (D)—District 4, said the bi-county work between the two councils has resulted in a solid spending package for the residents of both counties.

"The council is pleased with the process and the collaboration established by both bodies to reach a full agreement on the bi-

county budgets. Our work was both productive and cooperative, and has resulted in a spending plan that reflects the needs of residents in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties."

Adoption of the Prince George's County Budget for Fis-

cal Year 2020 is scheduled for Wednesday, May 29, 2019. Budget schedules are subject to change. For updates, visit, <https://pgccouncil.us/budget>.

—Angela J. Rouson, Prince George's County Council Media

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Is Social Security Based on Last 3 Years of Work?

By RUSSELL GLOOR,
AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor
Association of Mature American Citizens

Dear Rusty:

I have heard many times that what is earned the last 3 years you work before drawing Social Security benefits determines what your benefit dollar amount will be. Is this true? If not, what determines your benefit dollar amount and how is it calculated? *Signed: Working Still*

Dear Working: Funny how true the adage—if you say something often enough, people will believe it is true. But I'm afraid that what you've heard so many times about how your Social Security benefit is determined is incorrect. While it's true that the last 3 years you work may affect your Social Security benefit amount when you claim, those years alone are not what determine your benefit dollar amount. Rather, your benefit is determined using a formula, which includes the highest earning 35 years of your lifetime working career. Each year in your lifetime earnings record will be adjusted for inflation, the highest earning 35 years will be selected and your "average indexed monthly earnings" (AIME) will be computed from those years. And to clarify another often-misunderstood point, you only get credit for earnings on which you paid FICA taxes, so earnings up to the annual payroll tax cap are the only earnings counted.

For most people, the latter years of their working career are the highest earning, so it's quite likely that your last few years of earnings will be included in the 35, which are used to determine your benefit. Once your AIME is computed from your lifetime earnings record, it is subjected to a standard formula to arrive at your Primary Insurance Amount (PIA), which is the benefit you are entitled to at your full retirement age. If you claim benefits before your full retirement age (FRA) that benefit will be reduced, by up to 30% depending upon how many months before your FRA that you claim. And if you wish to increase your benefit you can wait beyond your FRA to claim and earn delayed retirement credits of 8% per year, up to age 70. Claiming at age 70 could get you a benefit as much as 32% more than it would be at your full retirement age (depending upon the number of months after your FRA that you claim benefits).

Unfortunately, there are many myths floating around about how your Social Security benefit is determined, and what you've previously heard is but one variation of those myths. But reality is as described above—the highest earning 35 years of your lifetime earnings record are used to determine your average monthly career earnings (adjusted for inflation), and that 35-year lifetime average becomes the basis for your Social Security benefit. Anything else you hear to the contrary is simply incorrect.

The 2 million member Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) (<https://www.amac.us>) is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. We act and speak on their behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at <https://amac.us/join-amac>.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

Maryland Small Business Development Center Workshops

Tech Solutions

June 3, 2019 • 12:30–4:00 p.m. • Fee: \$30.00
Registration Deadline: 6/3/2019 8 a.m.
Point of Contact: Ruth Chavez (301) 403-8300
Location: 1401 University Blvd E, Langley Park, MD 20783
Training Topics: Technology

Ready Set Go! the Nuts & Bolts of Starting a Business

July 11, 2019 • 2–4:30 p.m. • Fee: No Fee
Registration Deadline: 7/11/2019 8 a.m.
Point of Contact: Sandra Conaway (410) 706-5463
Location: South Bowie Library, 15301 Hall Rd, Bowie, MD 20721
Training Topics: Business Start-up/Preplanning

County Maintains Triple-A Bond Rating From All Three Rating Agencies

Moody's, Fitch and Standard and Poor's all rate the county AAA and stable

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of County Executive Alsobrooks

LARGO, Md. (May 8, 2019)—Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks announced today that all three of the financial ratings agencies, Moody's, Fitch and Standard and Poor's, have maintained the county's triple-A bond rating and stable economic outlook. The announcement comes after Alsobrooks and the county's financial team traveled to Wall Street last month to meet with each agency. Less than 50 counties nationwide currently have a triple-A rating.

"We are very pleased that Moody's and Fitch maintained our triple-A rating," Alsobrooks said. "These ratings are a sign of our sound fiscal policies and our ability to manage our obligations in a fiscally responsible way."

In their report, Moody's said the rating is the result of, "the county's sizeable and diverse tax base, above-average resident wealth levels and sound reserve position supported by comprehensive fiscal policies" of the Alsobrooks Administration.

Moody's also said the county's financial position is likely to remain stable due to the ongoing commercial and residential development in the county and region.

Standard and Poor's cited the county's, "strong financial policies and practices," also highlighting several factors that will ensure continued growth. "Due to the county's strong transportation network, and ample amounts of still-developable land, Prince George's County remains poised for continued economic growth."

The announcement comes on the heels of the April ribbon cutting for the new Kaiser facility in New Carrollton and the announcement that WMATA will build its Maryland headquarters at the same location.

The county also boasts 25 of the state's 149 opportunity zones, second only to Baltimore City. These locations qualify for tax incentives and other benefits to those who develop projects at the sites. The county currently has two projects underway that will receive opportunity zone funding, the Bozzuto mixed-used

development in College Park and Urban Atlantic, near the Kaiser building in New Carrollton. Additionally, the county recently hosted two opportunity zone conferences with more than 400 people in attendance.

Alsobrooks and the county's economic development team will also be headed to the International Council of Shopping Centers convention later this month, where they will meet with businesses and developers who have expressed an interest in locating in the county.

"These successes and many others confirm that Prince George's County is the economic engine in the state and region," Alsobrooks said. "We are Prince George's Proud!"

Council Chair Todd M. Turner Says Council Celebrates County's Top Credit Rating

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (May 8, 2019)—The Prince George's County Council joins County Executive Angela D. Alsobrooks in celebration of the exciting news that all three of the Wall Street financial rating agencies—Moody's, Fitch and Standard and Poor's—have maintained the County's Triple-A Bond Rating.

This top credit rating for Prince George's County is a testament to our balanced fiscal management. It also affirms the fiscal planning set forth for the County, the successful collaboration between County Executive Alsobrooks and this Council, and our responsible stewardship over County resources, focusing on greater efficiency, oversight, and accountability in government.

We are proud that Wall Street rates the County's financial and economic outlook at such a superior level of fiscal responsibility. The Council remains committed to the collaborative and progressive work we have achieved together, and a thriving, sustainable financial future.

—Karen D. Campbell,
Prince George's County Council Media

Maryland Opportunity Zone Information Exchange Wins National StateScoop50 Award

Project is recognized as State IT Innovation of the Year

By OWEN MCEVOY
Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (May 7, 2019)—The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's Maryland Opportunity Zone Information Exchange was recently recognized as the State IT Innovation of the Year at the StateScoop 50 awards, beating out more than 40 other nominees from across the country.

The annual StateScoop 50 Awards honor the best and the brightest who make state government more efficient and effective. The awards, which were presented on May 5 at a reception in National Harbor, Md., honor state government information technology and cybersecurity executives, indus-

try influencers, up-and-comers and innovative projects.

The first comprehensive resource of its kind in the nation, the Maryland Opportunity Zone Information Exchange is an interactive, geographic information system website featuring projects and businesses in the 149 Opportunity Zones throughout Maryland and serves as the State of Maryland's core tool to facilitate Opportunity Zone investment. The exchange is open to the public and provides the latest information on Opportunity Zone activity for investors, fund managers, property developers, new or expanding businesses and local stakeholders, including, most importantly, a comprehensive list of the state and local incentives available in specific Opportunity Zones.

Since its launch, the Maryland Opportunity

Zone Information Exchange has received overwhelmingly positive feedback from users, and the Exchange has been presented at several national conferences. Additionally, the Maryland Opportunity Zone Leadership Task Force, chaired by Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford, has held regional summits across the state to present the Exchange to local stakeholders. Currently, the Information Exchange lists 96 projects totaling \$12 billion of capital investments, comprising 29,000 housing units and 45 million square feet of commercial development throughout Maryland's 149 Opportunity Zones.

For more information about Opportunity Zones and to visit the Maryland Opportunity Zone Information Exchange, visit <http://dhcd.maryland.gov/Opportunity-Zones>.

Maryland Judiciary Reminds Lawyers They Must Register With the Attorney Information System by June 1

By NADINE MAESER, TERRI CHARLES
Division of Government Relations and Public Affairs

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (May 9, 2019)—As part of the requirements to maintain their license to practice law in the state, all Maryland lawyers, including judges and law clerks, must register with the Attorney Information System (AIS) by June 1.

AIS is a comprehensive database that brings together information about Maryland attorneys. The database is maintained by the court-related agencies that support the Court of Appeals in its role of regulating the legal profession in Maryland.

Attorneys use AIS to fulfill several reporting and assessment requirements. Maryland Rule 19-802(b) requires all Maryland attorneys to activate their registration in AIS no later than June 1, 2019, which will ensure they receive all future communications regarding their license to practice.

Beginning this July, Maryland attorneys will receive an email

notifying them to pay the annual Client Protection Fund assessment and complete online reporting on their pro bono activities and on their Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA). Data about pro bono service is used by the Maryland Judiciary to plan and promote pro bono activity. Interest generated from IOLTA accounts is used to fund civil legal aid programs in the state. Attorneys will be required to complete their reports and pay the assessment no later than September 10 of each year. While attorneys can choose to pay the assessment online or through the U.S. mail, pro bono and IOLTA reports must be completed online.

Changes to the Maryland Rules took effect January 1, 2019, that consolidated several processes into a single compliance cycle for Maryland attorneys. This single, annual process should make it easier for lawyers to fulfill their annual requirements and remain in good standing.

For additional information about attorney compliance requirements and AIS, visit <https://mdcourts.gov/lawyers/ais>.

Senior Housing from A1

fewer options for seniors on limited incomes. Current funding levels for affordable housing are not keeping pace with demand. The lack of expanded federal funding translates into older adults being treated as third-class citizens, as only one-third of eligible low-income seniors currently receiving housing assistance," said Christy Zeitz, CEO of Fellowship Square, a co-host of the rally. Fellowship Square's 670 apartments across four communities in Northern Virginia and Maryland provide housing and support services for 800 low-income older residents.

The Senior Housing NOW rally was organized by aging education/advocacy or-

ganization Leading Age and co-hosted locally by Fellowship Square with other housing and service providers for older adults.

Fellowship Square is a nonprofit organization that advocates for and provides safe, secure, and affordable homes and an array of supportive services for a diverse population of low-income seniors and persons with disabilities. Our communities foster independence, dignity, and healthy and vibrant lifestyles. Fellowship Square operates four properties providing housing for seniors over age 62 with limited incomes, as well as persons with disabilities. Visit fellowship-square.org, call 703.860.2536 or email info@fellowship-square.org.

Aging, Poverty & Housing Insecurity: Maryland Numbers

Prince George's County:

- It is estimated that by the year 2030 the 65+ population in Prince George's County will increase by 121 percent, rising from 81,510 in 2010 to 179,970 in 2030. (MD Dept. of Planning Population Projections, 2012).
- Prince George's County seniors live mostly in communities southwest of the county (such as Clinton and Fort Washington) and north western communities (Calverton, Beltsville, and Laurel).
- A majority of seniors in the county (78 percent) are not in the labor force.

Maryland: (from Maryland Department of Aging)

- The number of older Marylanders is increasing. Of the nearly 5.8 million people in Maryland in 2015, 18.35% were age 60 or over. This percentage is expected to increase to 25.4% (1.8 million individuals)

of Maryland's projected population of 6.7 million by 2030.

- The geographic distribution of Maryland's senior population will shift as the overall population distribution changes over the next 30 years. In 2015, 63.8% of Maryland's older adults (60+) are estimated to reside in Baltimore City and in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Montgomery and Prince George's counties.
- The greatest number of the State's low income minority older adults live in Baltimore City. In 2013, 38.12% of the State's 60+ low-income minority individuals lived in Baltimore City. The two counties with the next highest percentage of this population are Prince George's (17.82%) and Montgomery (15.47%).

—Fellowship Square, Older Adults & Housing Needs in Maryland—Fact Sheet

OUT on the TOWN

CONNECT, CREATE, CONTRIBUTE:

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation Celebrates Older Americans Month

By KIRA CALM LEWIS, IYANA MOORE
Prince George's County Dept of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (May 9, 2019)—Every May, communities across the nation observe 'Older Americans Month' by focusing on programs designed to meet their particular needs, interests, and concerns. The 2019 theme, Connect, Create, Contribute, encourages older adults and their communities to:

- Connect with friends, family, and services that support participation.
- Create by engaging in activities that promote learning, health, and personal enrichment.
- Contribute time, talent, and life experience to benefit others.

By engaging and supporting all community members, the Department of Parks and Recreation recognizes that older adults play a key role in the vitality of our neighborhoods, networks, and lives. In celebration of 'Older Americans Month,' join us for the upcoming events that promote health and wellness for our 60 and better crowd!

Senior Health & Fitness Day

Date and Time: Wednesday, May 22, 2019, 8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Location: Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex, 8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD 20785

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



PHOTO CREDIT: PG PARKS & RECREATION

The Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex integrates a learning theme with a state-of-the-art athletic training and competition venue for area athletes, and caters to the recreational needs of area residents. The centerpiece of the complex is an extensive indoor sports and learning facility. A central atrium, offering a food concession area, common core facilities, and a "Main Street" environment serves as the primary circulation space and links the venues. Facilities in the complex include a field house, fitness center, gymnastics center, aquatic center, and learning center. At Betty's Place & Café, stop by and grab a quick snack or enjoy a delicious meal in the warm, inviting, music-filled café. General hours are Monday–Friday, 6 a.m.–10 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m.–8 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.–6 p.m. For more information and calendar of events, visit www.pgsportsandlearn.com.

Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex, 8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD 20785 • 301-583-2400 • www.pgsportsandlearn.com

Cost: FREE

This event features a variety of fitness activities, including aerobics, swimming, strength training, line dancing, Tai Chi, and Zumba Gold. Wellness activities available include:

- Bingo
- Craft Activity
- Massage Chairs
- Healthy Cooking Demos
- Fitness Walking
- Health Screenings
- Health and Wellness vendors providing senior resource information
- Prescription Drug Take Back program
- Donate old eyeglasses program

Stay active! Be healthy! Don't miss out on your chance to learn and live a healthy lifestyle!

Brain Health Fair

Date and Time: Saturday, May 25, 2019, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Location: Bowie Community Center, 3209 Stonybrook Drive, Bowie, MD 20715

Cost: FREE

Audience: Families with Aging Adults

Learn from Mental Health experts and discover ways to keep your mind sharp and body healthy. Enjoy fitness demonstrations, brain health workshops, and receive tools combat to mental aging.

Being a senior in Prince George's County is better than ever! The Department of Parks and Recreation, Senior Services are an innovative body designed to help meet the needs, wants and aspirations of seniors 60 & better as they age in place here in the County. With so many activities to choose from, you'll be sure to find an activity to your liking. For more information on senior activities, services, and signature events, visit <http://www.mncppc.org/903/Seniors>.

City of Bowie Bowie Senior Center Information and Referral Fair May 29–31, 2019

Each spring the Bowie Senior Center hosts a free fair to bring special entertainment and information to the community. The theme of this year's Information and Referral Fair is "Wiser Together—Intergenerational Partnerships." For more information, contact the Senior Center at 301-809-2300. Open to the public.

Schedule:

May 29, 10 a.m., "What We Had", AARP movie and discussion

May 30, 10 a.m., 2 p.m., Senior Services panel discussion and 5–7 p.m., Evening Information Vendor Fair

May 31, 10 a.m., 2 p.m., Information Vendor Fair.

Bowie Senior Center
14900 Health Center Drive
Bowie, Maryland 20716

up her boring life. They're pursued by one Willard Stenk (Timothy Olyphant), an assassin hired by Sir Lionel's snottiest gentleman rival, Lord Piggot-Dunceby (Stephen Fry), to make sure they don't achieve their goal.

All the ingredients are there for a rousing adventure, and writer-director Chris Butler ("ParaNorman") and his crew created an astounding array of models and sets to depict it. I love Lord Piggot-Dunceby's haughty appearance, and the way an old Nepalese woman's head shakes in the manner of the very elderly. You can see the countless hours of meticulous work that went into every corner of every frame. Maybe that's the problem—where the similarly painstaking Pixar films tend to

be so breezy you forget how much work went into them, the Laikas feel effortful.

The Sasquatch character should have been the ace in the hole. Gentle, nervous, fussy, and literal-minded, he has great comedy potential. But the movie, while amusing, is only sporadically funny. The characters look terrific and the voice work is solid, but they don't have souls. The chemistry among them never produces anything memorable. Simple to a fault, the story and script could have used some punching-up to give it more personality, more zip—more anything. My cold, dead heart is often touched by films, especially ones aimed at kids. Why can't I love the Laikas? I am a monster. Please escort me home to the Himalayas.



ROTTENTOMATOES.COM

Meet Mr. Link (Galifianakis): 8 feet tall, 630 lbs, and covered in fur, but don't let his appearance fool you... he is funny, sweet, and adorably literal, making him the world's most lovable legend at the heart of Missing Link, the globe-trotting family adventure from LAIKA.



Spotlight on Farmers' Markets

PHOTOGRAPH BY LADYHEART, MORGUEFILE.COM

Glenn Dale Farmer's Market

Date and Time: Saturday, May 18, 2019, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Description: Come taste some of the freshest foods in Maryland on the Marietta House's historic grounds. Purchase fresh baked goods, artisanal soaps and candles, various plants and herbs, and more! Shop with your local organic food and produce vendors from the Glenn Dale area at the Farmer's Market!
Location: Marietta House Museum, 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD 20769
Contact: 301-464-5291; TTY 301-699-2544

Bowie Farmers' Market Opens This Weekend

Date and Time: Sunday, May 19, 2019, 8 a.m.–12 p.m.; through October 27, 2019
Description: Market vendors will offer fresh locally grown produce, fruit, cut flowers, plants, breads, pastries, jams, jellies and more.
Location: Bowie Center for the Performing Arts at Bowie High School, 15200 Annapolis Road, Bowie, MD
Contact: Matt Corley, 301-809-3078, mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

A SAMPLING OF MARKETS IN THE COUNTY:

Cheverly Community Market—Opens June 8

Date and Time: Saturday: (BiWeekly) 8 a.m.–noon, June–Oct.
Location: Cheverly Community Center, 6401 Forest Road, Cheverly MD 20785
Contact: cheverlycommunitymarket@gmail.com; <http://cheverlycommunitymarket.org>
FMNP, SNAP (farmer), Matching Program

College Park Farmers Market

Date and Time: Saturday: 7 a.m.–noon, early-May–mid-Nov.
Location: 5211 Campus Drive (Formerly Paint Branch Parkway), College Park MD 20740; Ellen Linson Swimming Pool/Herbert Wells Ice Rink parking lot
Contact: Phil Miller: 301-399-5485

Downtown College Park Farmers Market—Open

Date and Time: Sunday: 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Location: 4500 Knox Road, College Park MD 20740
Contact: 240-487-3543; <http://shopcollegepark.org/shops/downtown-college-park-farmers-market/>

Farmers Market at Maryland—Open

Date and Time: Wednesday: 11 a.m.–3 p.m., April–mid-Nov.
Location: University of Maryland, Tawes Plaza Garden, 3900 Campus Drive, College Park MD 20742
Contact: Larry Tumlin: 240-305-6485; terpmarketmanager@umd.edu; <http://farmersmarket.umd.edu/>

Greenbelt Farmers Market—Open

Date and Time: Sunday: 10 a.m.–2 p.m., mid-May–mid-Nov. (except Labor Day Weekend); Special Holiday Market Dec.
Location: 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt MD 20770 (in the parking lot behind the Greenbelt Municipal Building)
Contact: 240-476-8769; info@greenbeltfarmersmarket.org; <http://www.greenbeltfarmersmarket.org>

Hollywood Farmers Market—Open

Date and Time: Saturday: 9 a.m.–1 p.m., mid-April–mid-Nov.
Location: 9801 Rhode Island Ave., Hollywood Shopping Center, next to REI, College Park, MD 20740
Contact: hollywoodmarketcp@gmail.com
<http://www.hollywoodmarket.org/>

Hyattsville Farmers Market—Opening May 17

Date and Time: 3rd Friday of the Month: 4:30–8:30 p.m., May–Sept
Location: 4310 Gallatin Street, (City Municipal Building parking lot), Hyattsville, MD 20781
Contact: Ellarose Preston: 301-985-5006; epreston@hyattsville.org; <http://hyattsville.org/591/Farmers-Market>

MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center

Date and Time: Wednesday: 12 p.m.–4 p.m., June–Sept.
Location: 7503 Surratts Rd, Clinton, MD 20735
Contact: 301-877-4399

Riverdale Park Farmers Market—Year-round

Date and Time: Thursday: 3 p.m.–7 p.m., year round
Location: 4650 Queensbury Road, Riverdale Park MD 20737 (next to the Riverdale MARC train station)
Contact: 301-586-5973

Our Local Bounty St. Thomas Church Farmers Market

Date and Time: Saturday: 8 a.m.–noon, early-June–late-Sept.
Location: 14300 St Thomas Church Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
Contact: 301-627-8469; <http://stthomasroom.org/ourlocalbounty/>

USDA Beltsville Farmers Market

Date and Time: Thursday: 10 a.m.–2 p.m., June–mid-October
Location: 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Parking Lot B, Beltsville MD 20705
Contact: 301-504-1776

—marylandsbest.maryland.gov

ERIC D. SNIDER'S IN THE DARK

... Movie Review ...

Missing Link

Missing Link

Grade: B-
Rated PG, mild whatever
1 hr., 34 min.

"Missing Link" is Laika's fifth gorgeously detailed work of stop-motion animation and the fourth to leave me kind of cold. Only the studio's debut, "Coraline," had the intended impact; "ParaNorman," "The Boxtrolls," and "Kubo and the Two Strings" were all wonderful to look at but offered no emotional connection. I feel bad not being moved by these painstaking efforts, but it's been pretty consistent.

This one's about a turn-of-the-last-century English explorer, Sir Lionel Frost (voice of Hugh Jackman), who is the laughingstock at the gentlemen's club because of his interest in the Loch Ness Monster and other supposedly imaginary beasts. On a tip, Sir Lionel travels to the Pacific Northwest and finds a Sasquatch (Zach Galifianakis) who surprises him by speaking English and asking for help. Mr. Link (as Sir Lionel starts calling him) is lonely here, the last of his kind. But he's heard of a place in the Himalayas called Shangri-La

where there are creatures similar to him who must be his cousins or something. In exchange for proof of Mr. Link's existence, Sir Lionel pledges to assist him in his travels.

A deceased colleague of Sir Lionel's had a map to Shangri-La, and while his feisty widow, Adelina (Zoe Saldana), won't let Sir Lionel take it, she's willing to join him and Mr. Link on the journey as a means of breaking

Calendar of Events

May 16–May 22, 2019

16th Annual Crime Victims Fund Run/Walk

Date and Time: Saturday, May 18, 2019. Registration check in and packet pick up at 7:00 am, Warm up at 7:30a.m., Runners begin at 8 a.m., Walkers begin at 8:30 a.m.

Description: Prince George's County State's Attorney Aisha N. Braveboy will host. The Crime Victims Fund Run is an important cause designed to establish and maintain an emergency funding source to compensate victims of crimes of violence. You can participate in the Fund Run as an individual runner/walker or an organized team by registering at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/fundrun2019>.

Cost: \$20–30

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Watkins Regional Park, 301 Watkins Park Dr., Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Contact: Thelmetria Michaelides at 240-508-2018 or via email, tamichaelides@co.pg.md.us.

Town of Upper Marlboro Community Day

Date and Time: Saturday, May 18, 2019, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Description: The Festival will start out with a parade down Main Street from 10–11 a.m. and remain downtown with tons of fun, delicious food trucks, unique sales vendors, kids' rides & activities, and free live family-friendly entertainment! The Town of Upper Marlboro is working tirelessly to improve the efforts of community engagement and togetherness. Join us in a day of celebration!

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Main Street, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Contact: <http://www.uppermarlboromd.gov>, 301-627-6905

Cheverly Day

Date and Time: Saturday, May 18, 2019, Noon–9 p.m.

Description: Cheverly Day is our annual celebration of all the great things in our community. Each year, we pick something that makes Cheverly special: the people, the community groups, the natural beauty, the arts... Cheverly Day 2019 will feature live music, food, games, town organizations, 3-on-3 basketball and more!

Cost: Free, donations welcomed.

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: 6401 Forest Rd, Cheverly, MD 20785

Contact: <https://ch-ever-ly-day.org/>

Xtreme Teens: Indoor Soccer Clinic

Date and Time: Saturday, May 18, 2019, 7–10 p.m.

Description: Do you have dreams of becoming a professional soccer player? Is there a stint in Major League Soccer League in your future? Well, come join us to get started on your journey during our Indoor Soccer Clinic. You'll learn the fundamentals of Indoor Soccer and get great exercise at the same time!

Cost: FREE! with M-NCPPC youth ID

Ages: 10–17

Location: North Brentwood Community Center, 4012 Webster Street, North Brentwood, MD 20722

Contact: 301-864-0756; TTY 301-699-2544

Campfire Program featuring NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Date and Time: Saturday, May 18, 2019, 8:30 p.m.

Description: Campground guests and the public are welcome to join us under the stars for a traditional NPS campfire program. Meet at Campfire Circle in B-Loop in our campground.

Cost: Free

Ages: 8 and above

Location: Greenbelt Park, 6565 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

Contact: 301-344-3944, <http://www.nps.gov/gree>

Bowie Heritage Day

Date and Time: Sunday, May 19, 2019, 12–4 p.m.

Description: The day will feature musical performances by Durham Station, pony rides, face painting and tiny tike races at the Stable; blacksmithing, sachet making and games at the Mansion. Also learn how to research your family history at the Genealogy Library.

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages are welcome

Locations: **Belair Mansion**, 12207 Tulip Grove Dr., Bowie, MD 20715; **Belair Stable Museum**, 2835 Belair Dr., Bowie, MD 20715; **Bowie Railroad Museum**, 8614 Chestnut Ave., Bowie, MD 20715; and **Genealogy Library**, 12219 Tulip Grove Drive, Bowie, MD 20715

Contact: 301-809-3089, museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

"Reel & Meal at the New Deal": Café film and discussion

Date and Time: Monday, May 20, 2019, 7 p.m. Optional vegan meal served from 6:30 p.m.

Description: A LaborFest program featuring *Blood on the Mountain*. This 2016 documentary tells the story of coal-company grip on the mining communities of West Virginia, where a hard-working people with historically few choices have never benefited fairly from coal country's natural resources. It shows how outside corporations with support of politicians have taken advantage of an undiversified economy.

Cost: Free

Ages: Adults

Location: New Deal Café, 113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Contact: Prince George's Peace & Justice Coalition/ Reel & Meal series, 202-549-5574

GEICO Gecko Series: The Jungle Book

Date and Time: Tuesday, May 21, 2019, 10:15–11:15 a.m. and 12–1 p.m.

Description: Join young Mowgli as he learns the laws of the jungle in this time-honored adventure. With the help of friends such as the black panther Bagheera and Baloo, the lovable bear, Mowgli learns about friendship and survival. Cheer as Mowgli faces his fear and foils his nemesis, the tiger Shere Khan. Virginia Rep on Tour's musical production of Rudyard Kipling's classic will delight both the young and the young at heart.

Cost: \$8/person; \$6/person in groups of 20 or more

Purchase through PARKS DIRECT!

Ages: Recommended for grades K–5

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

Banneker-Douglass Museum Announces Event Line Up To Celebrate 50th Anniversary of Maryland Commission For African American History and Culture

Welcomes More Than 9,000 Visitors During Year of Frederick Douglass

By SOO KOO

Governor's Office of Community Initiatives

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (May 7, 2019)—In celebration of the "We Rise!" 50th anniversary of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) and the 35th anniversary of the Banneker-Douglass Museum, the Banneker-Douglass Museum today announced the event and exhibition line up.

"We are proud to support the Banneker-Douglass Museum as we continue to honor the great legacy of dedicated Marylanders and true African American icons," said Governor Hogan. "I want to sincerely thank everyone who has been involved in making this 50th anniversary year for the commission, and the Year of Frederick Douglass, an incredible success."

During the year of Frederick Douglass, over 9,000 citizens visited the museum. Volunteers provided tours to more than 1,200 visitors, including more than 40 docent-guided tours with nearly 250 hours served. In addition, a new social media platform, Instagram, engaged more visitors with followers increasing by 34%.

"The Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture and Banneker-Douglass Museum are indebted to past and current African American pioneers dedicated to black communities," said Chanel Compton, Director of the Banneker-Douglass Museum. "We will honor their

legacy throughout the 50th anniversary year through inspiring panel discussions, workshops, events, talks, and exhibitions."

Upcoming exhibitions and events include:

- Laurence Hurst Anniversary Show and Songs of the Caged Bird (until June 8, 2019)
- Deep Roots, Rising Waters: A Celebration of African Americans in Maryland (permanent)
- Verda's Place: An Homage to a Valiant Woman (until December 28, 2019)
- We Rise Youth Conference (June 28, 2019)
- MCAAHC Legacy Symposium (June 29, 2019). Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates Adrienne Jones will join the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture Legacy Symposium as a panel speaker hosted by the Banneker-Douglass Museum on Saturday, June 29, 2019.
- Doing the Work: Celebrating 50 Years of MCAAHC (August 6–December 29, 2019)

Over the first quarter of 2019, MCAAHC and the museum collaborated with Coppin State University and Lillie Mae Carol Jackson Civil Rights Museum to explore the contributions of black scholars and Senator Verda Freeman Welcome—the first African American woman state Senator in U.S. history. The museum also celebrated Matthew Henson Day as one of the first people to reach the North Pole. Wrapping up National

Poetry Month and Jazz Appreciation month, the museum reflected on Maryland's connections to the jazz and poetry scenes by introducing 5 artists and recognizing the jazz history in Maryland. One featured Marylander is Ms. Lucille Clifton, the only African American among previous nine Poet Laureates appointed throughout the history of the Maryland Poet Laureate. She served in the position from 1979–1985 as Maryland's third Poet Laureate.

In February, Governor Larry Hogan concluded the "Year of Frederick Douglass" with over 200 attendees. The "Year of Frederick Douglass," which ran from February 14, 2018–February 14, 2019, was announced last February when Governor Hogan issued a proclamation establishing the commemorative year in observation of the bicentennial of the birth of the renowned abolitionist and Maryland native.

Located in downtown Annapolis since 1984, the Banneker Douglass Museum has continued to engage visitors of all ages and backgrounds to share the rich cultural traditions and history of Maryland's African American community through programs and exhibitions highlighting the importance of education, community, and historic preservation. The Hogan administration remains committed to the historic preservation of this museum, as well as the events and services it offers to the community. Visit bdmuseum.maryland.gov and the Facebook and Instagram pages to learn more.

Earth TALK™ Beyond Plastic: Are Algae Bottles, Edible Pods And Banana Leaf Wraps the Answer?

Looking Beyond PLA & Cardboard to a New Generation of Plastic Alternatives

Dear EarthTalk:

What are some examples of ways food and drink producers are fighting the ever-growing torrent of plastic waste they have helped create?

—Stacy Y., Raleigh, NC

As more people become aware of the extent of plastic waste clogging up our environment, cutting back on plastic use is fast becoming a key environmental priority around the world. According to a 2017 study by researchers from the University of Georgia, UC Santa Barbara and Sea Education Association, humans have produced 8.3 billion metric tons of plastic since mass-production started in the 1950s. While we've recycled about nine percent of all that plastic and incinerated another 12 percent, as much as 75 percent has been discarded into landfills or, even worse, set adrift into the environment. If we don't slow down our current

run rate of producing new ("virgin") plastic, we can expect to add another four billion metric tons of it to our global environment by 2050.

With no cheap and scalable way to collect and get rid of all this plastic, the best we can hope for is to not make the problem worse. Luckily sustainable alternatives to plastic are coming on strong. PLA plastic, which is derived from plants and functions like conventional plastic, is promising but needs to scale up to become economically viable as it requires dedicated recycling/processing systems to truly "close its loop." Likewise, paper or cardboard cartons could be a viable alternative to plastic food and drink storage containers if they are produced at great enough scale to justify dedicated facilities to process them for recycling, given that they are also infused with non-recyclable layers for strength and to prevent seepage.

PLA and cardboard are just the beginning of what is possible. Food producers and chemists are experimenting with making containers out of biodegradable plant products like corn starch, cassava and even algae. And just this spring, tens of thousands of runners participating in the London Marathon were given water out of edible pods made from seaweed and plant extracts instead of plastic bottles. Skipping Rocks Lab, the London-based startup behind the newfangled containers, reports that they're not only cheaper to produce than plastic but are also biodegradable, breaking down

completely within a month, while not imparting any flavor or taste to the water or whatever else is inside.

While there's something to be said for technology, an older school "alternative" to plastic is all-natural plant material. American supermarkets could learn a lot from some Southeast Asian grocers, for instance, that wrap up produce for sale in biodegradable banana leaves instead of plastic bags. These all-natural wrappers can be thrown into the compost pile or yard waste bin and become rich soil without ever having to be processed using fossil-fuel based energy (like traditional recyclables).

You can do your part by telling your friends, neighbors, store managers, policymakers, elected officials and anyone else within hearing distance that you and millions of others like you don't want any more single use plastics in your town, county, state or country. And if you haven't already done so, get yourself a reusable water bottle and reusable shopping bag(s) so you can start being part of the day-to-day solution.

CONTACTS: "Production, use, and fate of all plastics ever made," <https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/3/7/1700782>; Sea Education Association, www.sea.edu; Skipping Rocks Lab, www.skippingrockslab.com.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit **EarthTalk**. To read more, check out <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.



IMAGE CREDIT: SKIPPING ROCKS LAB:

A London-based start-up wants to replace plastic water and soda bottles with these edible (and biodegradable) "Ooho" pods made from seaweed.

COOL THE CLIMATE

TUESDAY TIP

- Create your own compost bin or pile for food scraps and other organic items.
- Add equal layers of "brown" materials (like dry leaves, straw, newspaper, cardboard) and "greens" (like table and produce scraps, fresh grass clippings or leaves).
- Do not put meat or pet droppings in your compost pile.
- Turn your pile regularly to speed up the decomposition process.

Did you know that when you compost, carbon captured by plants from the atmosphere is stored in the soil? Learn how you can reduce climate change by composting in honor of International Compost Awareness Week!

second NATURE Prince George's County Second Nature is an initiative of the Department of the Environment, Redevelopment, Authority, and Office of Central Services to promote cost savings and sustainability in our everyday behavior.

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Wednesday Bible Study 7-8p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service 8p.m.

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Elder Willie W. Duvall, Pastor

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Desegregation from A3

Identify the leaders in these communities that promoted integration efforts.

My research reveals that, along with mothers and fathers, the black and white people who were out front pushing for compliance with *Brown* represented civic associations, PTAs, religious congregations, clergy, civil rights organizations, health and human services, labor, public and private employers. Hester King, an NAACP leader who resided in Laurel; the Rev. Perry Smith of North Brentwood, who became NAACP leader; and Jesse Warr Sr. of the North Englewood community, who would eventually be the first elected black school board member, were a few of the conspicuous leaders. Educators also were outspoken in securing fair desegregation planning. Myrtle Fentress, a social studies teacher at Fairmont Heights High, was consistently outspoken in advocating for the dignity of her school and students. Joseph Parker was among the educators who helped form a break-away organization for black teachers, when the established union seemed not to be representing issues pertinent to them. Also, within each community / neighborhood, there were parents who worked together in their children's interest.

Linda Brown continued the desegregation fight for her children and won. How did those in the black communities of Prince George's do the same for theirs?

Most black citizens of the county, according to my research, were fighting not for desegregation in and of itself, but for the following:

- A fair, two-way desegregation process that would require movement of black and white children
 - That black children, black teachers and schools were provided the same quality of resources and services
 - Acknowledgement and preservation of the cultural history of black communities and black life in Prince George's
- Members of Prince George's black communities remained directly active over the 20-year period discussed in my research.

What do you propose is the most relevant world view regarding school desegregation among African Americans?

Juan Williams' description of Marshall as a man with an "integrationist worldview" wasn't a reference to Marshall's view on school desegregation only, but to his broad personal perspective on people and the world. As public education policies in America have yet to conscientiously equalize resources and services for all publicly educated children, I'd say the most relevant view of desegregation among African Americans is the one W.E.B. DuBois expressed in the 1930s, that "a finer, better balance of spirit; an infinitely more capable and rounded personality" would result from "putting children in schools where they are wanted, and where they are happy and inspired, [rather] than thrusting them into hells where they are ridiculed and hated." Questions remain as to whether public schools are creating this "happy and inspired" environment for black and brown children.

Contrast your research findings with that of Thurgood Marshall's "unyielding integrationist worldview," as described by his biographer Juan Williams.

My research reveals that black families and communities valued and had no less pride in their children, their communities, their institutions and their culture than did communities of European or Asian immigrants. Black communities also were steeped in customs and traditions. The strife to gain access to equal educational resources and become civically, legally integrated into American society did not dissolve their racial consciousness. It heightened it for some, intensified it for others and radicalized it for still others.

Describe some of Prince George's County's undermining policies with respect to school desegregation.

- Policies that allowed white parents to avoid integrated schools through school board-approved transfers.
- Maintaining the long distances black children were bused, passing white schools that were closer to black communities.
- Assuming inferiority of black communities to white ones, including their schools and residences.
- Refusing to bus white students from the overcrowded Bladensburg High School to the under-enrolled Fairmont Heights High School.
- In 1969, required by the federal government to enroll white students at the all-black Fairmont Heights High School, school district leaders hoped to ease white parents' anxiety by initiating an overhaul of the Fairmont Heights High curriculum and replacing the school's principal without conferring with the Fairmont Heights High faculty, students and parents.

To what extent did these undermining policies negatively impact the quality of education Prince George's County students are experiencing today?

To a preponderant extent. Dr. Alvin Thornton, our current school board chair, has spent the past 30 years working in the county and throughout the state to counter deliberate and destructive policies, practices and outcomes related to school funding, school construction, student attendance, student discipline and student academic performance—all residue of poor desegregation planning.

With respect to the current immigrant student populations, how can we avoid making similar policy mistakes?

Alvin Thornton [addressed] this in his presentation [on May 11.] However, we avoid it as a society by being principled and unbiased, and by deliberately ensuring that all students—regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, zip code, family income or other distinctive qualifiers—attend public schools that are provided with equal facilities and resources from the state, and with the equal opportunities to learn and achieve.

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