

# The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1932

Vol. 79, No. 36 September 8 — September 14, 2011 Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents

## Lt. Governor Brown Presides Over Commission on Oversight of Public-Private Partnerships

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the Lt. Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (August, 2011) – Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown presided over a meeting of the Joint Legislative and Executive Commission on Oversight of Public-Private Partnerships. The fifteen member Commission was established in 2010 under House Bill 1370 to evaluate the State's framework and oversight of public-private partnerships. Governor Martin O'Malley has appointed Lt. Governor Brown to serve as Chair of the Commission.

Under Lt. Governor Brown's leadership, the Commission is working to fulfill its responsibilities and increase the potential for private investment in public infrastructure projects. This includes assessing the oversight, best practices, and approval processes for public-private partnerships in other states; evaluating the definition of public-private partnership; making recommendations concerning the appropriate manner of conducting legislative monitoring and oversight of public-private partnerships; and making recommendations concerning broad policy parameters within which public-private partnerships should be negotiated. It will release a report to the Governor and General Assembly by the end of the

year.

"Private investment in public infrastructure can help Maryland create jobs while building and maintaining our critical infrastructure. Creating a transparent, predictable and fair framework will help the State determine where and when it is appropriate to consider a public-private partnership while maintaining oversight of State assets," said Lt. Governor Brown. "America has a \$2 trillion infrastructure deficit and Maryland's Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation Funding interim report found that the State needs to raise \$800 million to address its infrastructure needs in the area of transportation. Effective public-private partnerships can help leverage the strengths of the private and public sector and spur projects that otherwise would have to wait for additional funds to become available."

"Partnering with the private sector in ways that expand the capacity of government to provide needed services and infrastructure holds great potential for our State," said Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. "I look forward to the Commission's evaluation and recommendations on how best to evaluate and maximize these opportunities in the future"

See **OVERSIGHT**, Page A5

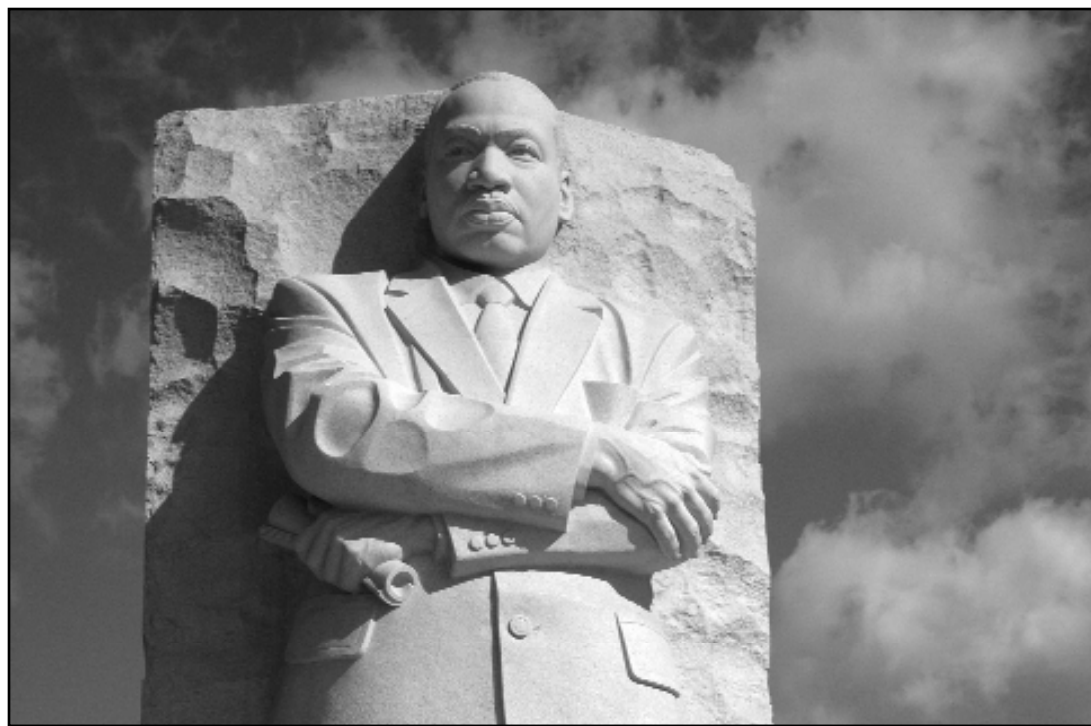


PHOTO COURTESY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

August 28, 2011, the 48th anniversary of the groundbreaking March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom witnessed the dedication of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. It is fitting that on this date, reminiscent of the defining moment in Dr. King's leadership in the Civil Rights movement; in the form of solid granite, his legacy is further cemented in the tapestry of the American experience. His leadership in the drive for realization of the freedoms and liberties laid down in the foundation of the United States of America for all of its citizens, without regard to race, color, or creed is what introduced this young southern clergyman to the nation. The delivery of his message of love and tolerance through the means of his powerful gift of speech and eloquent writings inspire to this day, those who yearn for a gentler, kinder world. His inspiration broke the boundaries of intolerance and even national borders, as he became a symbol, recognized worldwide of the quest for civil rights of the citizens of the world.

## Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Becomes 395th National Park

By PRESS OFFICER  
The National Park Service

WASHINGTON, DC –The National Park Service formally welcomed the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial as America's 395th national park on August 28 – the 48th anniversary of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, delivered in 1963 on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. The National Park Service also emphasized its commitment to working closely with the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Foundation to

reschedule the ceremonial dedication planned for Sunday that was unfortunately postponed due to Hurricane Irene.

"Welcoming this memorial to the National Mall honors a heroic man and a critical chapter in our nation's march toward a more perfect union," said Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. "Martin Luther King, Jr., mobilized the power of

See **KING**, Page A3

## Grasmick Picked for Defenders Award

MD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Baltimore, Maryland (August, 2011) – Dr. Nancy Grasmick will be honored by the Maryland Historical Society (MdHS) as the first recipient of the Society's Maryland Defender Award on Thursday, September 15 at a cocktail/buffet reception at 6:00 pm at MdHS, 201 West Monument St. in Baltimore. This fund raising reception will support programming at the Society.

The Defenders Day celebration will include live and silent auction offerings including museum quality paintings and jewelry. Tickets are \$100. Free valet parking. RSVP by September 8 to 410-685-3750 X 377 or events@mdhs.org.

The reception's guests will also view the original Star Spangled Banner manuscript as well as the new War of 1812 Gallery. The recently opened "Divided Voices: Maryland in the Civil War" exhibition, ranked the number one Civil War exhibition in the state, will be open.

Bobby Neall, Chair of MdHS Board of Directors said, "Hundreds of thousands of Maryland's children are better prepared for the challenges of tomorrow as the result of Nancy Grasmick's leadership in their defense".

See **GRASMICK**, Page A5

## Cardin Discusses Recently Enacted Budget Deal With Seniors at Town Hall Meeting

Senator Visits Charlestown Retirement Community

By PRESS OFFICER  
Sen. Benjamin Cardin's Office

CATONSVILLE, MD -- U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) held a town hall meeting for residents of Charlestown Retirement Community to inform them about the recently enacted budget agreement and what it means for them and the programs they depend upon such as Medicare and Social Security. Senator Cardin, who is a member of the Senate Budget and Finance committees, also provided seniors with details about the budget agreement and what to expect in the future as the Joint Congressional Committee continues its work to deal with our deficit.

Senator Cardin discussed efforts to preserve and strengthen Social Security and Medicare. "We had a budget surplus

in 2000 and Social Security and Medicare did not create the current budget crisis. We can only solve our budget problems with a balanced approach that looks at all options. I am hopeful that the Joint Committee will put politics aside for the good of our nation."

Senator Cardin outlined the budget compromise passed by Congress. It provides for nearly \$1 trillion in deficit reduction during the next 10 years. But, importantly, it protects domestic priorities by allowing more than \$40 billion in discretionary domestic spending next year than was contained in the budget that passed the House.

The agreement also calls for at least an additional \$1.2 trillion in deficit reduction to be proposed by a Joint Congressional Committee and enacted by the end of the year. Automatic, across-



PHOTO BY

U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD)

the-board cuts are triggered if these additional reductions are not made. The budget deal balances these future cuts equally between defense and domestic programs, and – importantly – it protects Social Security and Medicare beneficiaries.

Senator Cardin told the residents that for the good of all Americans "we now must turn our attention to job creation. Good paying jobs are the only way we are going to pull our nation out of this economic slowdown and that means investing in our future, particularly in education and training programs that will prepare Americans for jobs of the future."

## Hoyer Celebrates Brandywine Intersection Project Completion

BRANDYWINE, MD – Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) joined the State Highway Administration for a ceremony marking the completion of Phase I of the Brandywine Interchange Project, which seeks to help ease traffic congestion during peak travel times on MD 5 by providing additional lane capacity and improving pedestrian safety. Construction began in the Spring of 2010 and was completed on August 20, 2011. Hoyer has secured more than \$18 million for the multi-phased project.

"For years, thousands of Prince George's County and Southern Maryland residents

have factored several minutes of gridlock along MD 5 between Brandywine Road and MD 373 into their daily commutes, negatively impacting their quality of life and the regional economy," stated Congressman Hoyer. "Widening this stretch to three lanes in both directions should go a long way toward alleviating this problem. I am proud to have lead the efforts at the Federal level to secure the investment necessary to complete this project."

Governor Martin O'Malley was scheduled to attend

See **BRANDYWINE**, Page A5

### INSIDE

#### Cleaning Up After Irene

Prince George's County Assists Residents With Cleanup and Disposal of Storm Debris. County Offers Free Storm Debris Drop-off Locations Following Hurricane Irene. DPW&T is performing clean up operations along County roadways. DPW&T does not remove or dispose of debris from private property. **Community**, Page A3

#### All God's Children

In an often expressed dream for a better America, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called upon Americans to honor "all God's children" and their rights to equality and justice. His powerful voice and leadership would be welcomed in the turbulent world around us. Dr. King's dream of equality for all remains unrealized **Opinion**, Page A4

#### County Receives "AAA" Rating

Fitch Ratings assigned a 'AAA' bond rating to Prince George's County and re-affirmed that the County's financial outlook is stable. The County is awaiting similar confirmations from the other major rating agencies - Standard and Poor's and Moody's. Earlier this year, the County received 'AAA' status. **Business**, Page A5

#### Movie Review

Given the circumstances, it's all the more impressive that "Higher Ground" exists. Based on Carolyn Briggs' memoir "This Dark World," it's a refreshingly honest and uncynical examination of Christian faith, viewed through the eyes of a believer who's as sincere about her faith as she is about her doubts. **Out on the Town**, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear Earth Talk: I love to cook and when I have the time I make soups, stews and pasta meals in large batches and freeze them. I use leftover plastic containers, but I know this is not good. What kinds of containers are safe for freezer food storage? -- Kathy Roberto, via e-mail **Features**, Page A7

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Surviving wild-weather week

What a week! An earthquake and a hurricane—within five days of each other! Busiest weather week I've had in the 53 years I've lived here.

On Tuesday, August 23, about 1:51 p.m., I was just walking through my living room when the house started to shake so violently I thought it would collapse. I ran outside (not always the wise thing to do) to find all my neighbors in front of their homes yelling, "WHAT HAPPENED?"

The 5.8 quake is the worst we've had in about 120 years. As someone told me, "We don't get earthquakes. That's California!" Like most of my neighbors, we suffered no ill effects. However, the Washington Monument and Washington Cathedral have been damaged and are closed for the foreseeable future and at least one Prince George's apartment building has been condemned.

Just about the time the area was finished discussing the quake, Irene loomed, and evacuations and preparations were the grist of TV and newspaper coverage.

Irene hit here in mid-afternoon on Saturday, August 28, and about 8:30 p.m. I lost power. My grandson Michael Gallegos came from Baltimore to see me through the storm. We played Scrabble and Banagrams by candlelight, and Michael spent hours hauling water from the sump holes in the basement where the pumps had quit working.

Sunday dawned, and I had no coffee. We made it through the dark traffic lights and street debris to the Steak in the Sack in Marlow Heights. There was a long line, but we got a table and had a great breakfast, with constantly-replenished coffee. Giant was open but—like stores everywhere—no D batteries were available. In my area, McDonald's and 7-Eleven were dark.

I was late getting to a candle-lit Mass at St. Philip's Church. I don't know how many other churches were open, but I know there was a lot of praying going on.

Power was restored about 6 a.m. Monday in time for me hastily to write this column. It's a beautiful day outside. Inside, I have dozens of candleholders to de-wax.

Hazel Loughmiller dies at 87

Hazel Lucille Loughmiller, formerly of Morningside and a longtime Auxiliary member of volunteer fire organizations, died Aug. 16. She was born Hazel Kiger, in Corydon, Indiana, on March 13, 1924. Her family later moved to New Albany, Ind., and in 1942 she graduated from New Albany High School.

She and her husband Clair moved to Morningside in 1947 and were founding residents of the Town. They lived for a number of years at 503 Maple Road. Clair was an engineer with Naval Research and an official with the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department and other Maryland departments.

Hazel was a life member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Morningside and Forestville VFDs, the Prince George's and Maryland State Fireman's Association. She enjoyed bowling at local alleys with the Auxiliary.

The family later moved to Indian Princess Drive in Oxon Hill. In recent years she was at Morningside House in Waldorf where she received the Most Participation award.

Clair Loughmiller died in 1980. Hazel is survived by her son Clair "Marty" Loughmiller Jr., daughters Patricia A. Hunter and Susan L. Vanaman, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Services were at Kalas in Oxon Hill where her grandson Jonathan Walls recounted the wonderful stories she loved to tell to her grandchildren—"especially The Jelly

Bean Story." She is buried at Cheltenham, together again with Clair.

### School reopens in Morningside

Morningside Elementary School first opened in 1955 and was dedicated November 29, 1955, with Schools' Superintendent William S. Schmidt and Assistant Superintendents George H. Robinson and Thomas S. Gwynn. Erma Sobolewski was the first principal.

It closed several years ago, in need of restoration. Now it has reopened as a County school, Imagine Foundations 2, with 260 pupils in kindergarten through 2nd grade. It will eventually expand to grade 8. Admission was through lottery, but too late for Morningsiders. Hope McGuire is principal.

Welcome back, Morningside School!

### Neighbors

County Executive Rushern Baker visited several County schools to officially welcome the new school year. His visits included Suitland High where, after greeting the students and staff, he sat in on his daughter's calculus class there.

Cardinal Donald Wuerl installed Father Jaime Hernandez as pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Clinton on Aug. 20. Father Hernandez is a native of El Salvador and recently served as pastor of St. Bernardine's in Suitland.

Rosecroft Raceway is back in the running. Currently they're featuring simulcast racing and betting, but plan onsite racing beginning in October.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Suzanne Kenney, Sept. 2; Andrelic Howard, Fr. Arnold DePorter and Selaine Ealey, Sept. 3; Mary Mitchell and Loretta Carter, Sept. 4; Frank Howard, Justine Poe, Paul M. Locke and Irene Shanholtz, Sept. 6; and my granddaughter-in-law Nina McHale, Sept. 6.

## Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards' Legislative Update

### Congresswoman Edwards' Statement on President Obama's Call for Congress to Pass Clean Extensions of Critical Transportation Bills

Washington, D.C. — Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) released the following statement today after President Obama called on Congress to pass clean extensions of the Surface Transportation and Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization bills.

"I support President Obama's call for Congress to work quickly and pass clean extensions of these critical transportation bills. The President knows that 35,000 jobs are created for every \$1 billion we make in infrastructure investments. That is why it is imperative that the Congress pass a full, clean, 6-

year authorization of the Surface Transportation bill that front-loads significant investments in the first year. This will ensure that Americans can immediately get back to work building roads, repairing bridges, and restoring our water infrastructure. I look forward to working with the President to create jobs, grow the economy and put us on the right path for the 21st Century. The Congress must follow suit."

### Van Hollen Statement on OMB's Mid-Session Review

Washington, DC — Maryland Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Ranking Member on the House Budget Committee, issued the following statement on the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Mid-Session Review, released



today: "OMB's Mid-Session Review is yet another reminder that the Joint Committee must focus on job creation as we work on a blueprint to reduce the long term deficit. I look forward to working with my colleagues to develop a plan focused on boosting economic growth now and cutting the deficit in a balanced way that addresses expenditures and revenue."

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Ruth Turner 301 888 2153

### CHANGE THE WORLD

In your community begin to plan now and join 15,000 United Methodists from across the Baltimore-Washington Conference October 8-10. We will join together in a weekend of mission opportunities. Learn more at [www.bwcumc.org/events/changetheworld](http://www.bwcumc.org/events/changetheworld).

### SEPTEMBER BIRTH-DAYS

Congratulations to Alice Brooks, Catherine Brown, Tyrone Campbell, Alexis Champion, Jeremy Chew, Robert G. Contee, James Richard Hawkins, Marvin Jackson, Jr., Todd Johnson, Jack Jones, Henson Lewis, Sr., Rakene Savoy, Leisha Thomas, Catherine Watkins, James Wilkerson, Janice Glascoe Swann, Jerliene Hill, and Isabelle Hodge as you celebrate your birthdays.

### CSS HUGH FLEA MARKET

Join us on October 15, 2011 from 8:00 AM -2:00 PM for CSS Huge Flea Market. The Flea Market location Lion's Park 11503 Cherry Tree Crossing Road in Cheltenham, Maryland. There will be refreshments on sale.

Vendors: \$20.00 per space and reservations are advised. This event is sponsored by the Brandywine Lion's Club to benefit Community Support Systems. Contacts are 301-627-2556 or 301-290-1332 or [FleaMarketCSS@gmail.com](mailto:FleaMarketCSS@gmail.com).

### 2011 CAREGIVERS CONFERENCE

Prince George's County Department of Services (Aging Services Division) will be hosting a Caregivers Conference on Thursday September 22, 2011 from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM. The Conference will be at the Camelot located at 13905 Central Avenue in Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774. You must pre-register and the conference is free. Call 301-265-8450.

### HOMECOMING

You are cordially invited to worship with us in our services on Sunday, September 18, 2011. We will be celebrating our 135th Homecoming Celebration at St. Philip's Episcopal Church Baden Parish. Our address is 13801 Baden Westwood Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Our Morning Worship and

Holy Communion Service will be at 9:30 AM. Rev. Vaughan Booker will be the celebrant and speaker. Rev. Alhassan Macaulay will be our speaker for the 3:00 PM service along with the Male Chorus of Asbury United Methodist church of Brandywine, Maryland. Lunch will be served 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

### ALL YOU CAN EAT CRAB FEAST

There will be a Crab Feast at Clinton American Legion on Saturday, September 24th from 1:00 PM- 5:00 PM. The Clinton American Legion is located at 9122 Piscataway Road, Clinton, Maryland. Cost is \$30.00 and \$35 at the door. Call for tickets at 301-868-2550.

### PREVENT FORECLOSURES

Know your options to prevent foreclosure. Visit [www.knowyouroptions.com](http://www.knowyouroptions.com). Free workshops every 1ST and 3RD Tuesday at 6:00 PM at Unity EDC located at 5801 Allentown Road, Suite 309 Suitland, MD, 20735. Telephone number is 301-505-0331. Due to space limitations, appointments are suggested but not mandatory.

## Laurel Remembers 9/11 at the Laurel Museum Beginning September 2, 2011

Laurel, MD. During the month of September the Laurel Museum will mount a small exhibit focused on 9/11 and offer visitors an opportunity to reflect on the day, the community's connections to it, and the aftermath ten years after the event by adding to the Museum's 9/11 commemorative book.

Like most Americans, ten years ago Laurel residents were shocked, saddened and angered by the events of September 11, 2001. Laurel experienced several distinctive and disturbing connections with this tragic day in American history focused around American Flight 77, which crashed into the Pentagon. Laurel Resident Max Beilke, 69, a retired army master sergeant working as a civilian was killed along with 71 Pentagon employees and the plane's passengers. Laurel resident Wayne Dzwonchyc, a civilian historian for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was in his Pentagon office in ring A only 100 yards from where American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the building. He was unharmed.

For many Laurel residents, the third connection is the most disturbing and unnerving. Beginning August 16, the five

hijackers of Flight 77: Hani Hanjour Khalid al-Mihdhar, Majed Moqed, Nawaf al-Hazmi, and Salem al-Hazmi gathered and stayed in room 343 at the Valencia Motel on Rt. 1 in Laurel. Two other hijackers stayed at the Pin-Del for brief periods in August. Receipts and other records show them frequenting local stores like Kinkos, the Safeway and Giant, the Target and the Laurel Library. There is also some evidence that on September 7 they met with Mohamed Atta, the lead hijacker.

Noted LHS past president Karen Lubieniecki, who helped develop the exhibit, "People may well have seen the hijackers, or shopped next to them. Knowing the impact attacks had on people, and the lives lost, and then realizing that some of the perpetrators lived in the same community as two local people their actions affected is chilling."

In the days after 9/11/2001, residents came to the Laurel Museum to sign a book of remembrance. Visitors left many poignant remarks, and later added comments related to the Museum's 2002 exhibition, Our Local Heroes which focused, coincidentally, on first responders through the story of

100 Years of Laurel Volunteer Firefighters and 50 Years of the Laurel Rescue Squad.

On the 10th Anniversary of September 11, the Laurel Museum is inviting visitors to come and read these comments and add their own reflections about 9/11, about America and our community 10 years after, in the same volume. The commemorative book will be available through the month of September.

*The Laurel Museum is located at 817 Main Street, Laurel, Maryland. Hours are Wednesday and Friday 10:00am.-2:00 pm and Sundays 1:00pm-4:00pm. The Laurel Museum's current Main Exhibition is "And They're Off! 100 Years of Laurel Park." Admission is free. For more information visit [www.laurel-historical-society.org](http://www.laurel-historical-society.org).*

### SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Call 301-627-0900

or Mail Your Name

and Address to:

The Prince George's Post,

P.O. Box 1001, Upper

Marlboro, MD 20772

## Fort Washington Student Graduates From NASA Space Camp

Huntsville, Ala - MCKENNA DUNBAR, age 10 of FORT WASHINGTON, MD, recently graduated from Space Camp® at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, NASA's official Visitor Information Center for Marshall Space Flight Center.

MCKENNA received a real surprise when graduation day rolled around. NASA Administrator and former astronaut Charles Bolden was the guest speaker at MCKENNA's graduation.

The weeklong educational program, located at Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama promotes science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), while training students and adults with hands-on activities and missions based on

teamwork, leadership and decision-making.

MCKENNA, was part of the Space Camp Program, which is specifically designed for trainees who have a particular interest in science and aerospace. She spent the week training with a team that flew a simulated Space Shuttle mission to the International Space Station (ISS).

Once aboard the ISS, the crew participated in experiments and successfully completed an extravehicular activity (EVA), or space walk. MCKENNA and crew returned to Earth in time to hear the NASA Administrator speak at their graduation.

Space Camp crew trainers who lead each 16-member team must

have at least a year of college and 67% of the 2011 staff are college graduates.

Space Camp operates year-round in Huntsville, Alabama, and uses astronaut training techniques to engage trainees in real-world applications of STEM subjects. Students sleep in quarters designed to resemble the ISS and train in simulators like those used by NASA.

More than 560,000 trainees have graduated from Space Camp since its opening in Huntsville in 1982, including STS-131 astronaut Dottie Metcalf-Lindenburger.

Last year, children and teachers from all 50 states and 58 international locations attended Space Camp.

# COMMUNITY

## Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

### Improving your credit score

Many people suffered blows to their credit scores during the unstable economy of the last few years, whether because they missed payments, exceeded credit limits or, more seriously, experienced a home foreclosure or even bankruptcy. Is this a big deal? Absolutely.

If your credit score drops significantly, you'll likely be charged higher loan and credit card interest rates and offered lower credit limits — or perhaps be disqualified altogether. And, lower scores can also lead to higher insurance rates and harm your ability to rent an apartment or get a cell phone.

Fortunately, taking these few steps will begin improving your credit score almost immediately:

First, review your credit reports from the three major credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian and Transunion) to see which negative actions your creditors have reported and look for errors or fraudulent activity. You can order one free report per year from each at [www.annualreport.com](http://www.annualreport.com). You can also order a FICO credit score (the score most commonly used by lenders) for \$19.95 from [www.myfico.com](http://www.myfico.com) to know exactly where you stand.

"It definitely pays to have a good FICO Score," says Greg Pelling, vice president of Scoring and Analytics at FICO. "Based on today's rates, you could save \$30,000 in interest on a \$100,000 home loan over 30 years, if your score is above 740 rather than below 620. Lenders base their decision on many factors but your FICO score plays a major role."

Never exceed individual credit limits. In fact, the lower your credit utilization ratio (the percentage of available credit you're using), the better. Try to keep your overall utilization ratio — and ratios on individual cards and lines of credit — below 30 percent.

Even if you pay off your balance each month, showing a high utilization ratio at any time during the month could conceivably hurt your score. A few suggestions:

Spread purchases among multiple cards to keep individual balances lower.

Make extra payments midway through billing cycles so your outstanding balances appear lower.

Ask lenders to reinstate higher limits if your payment history has been solid.

Transferring balances to a new credit card to get a lower rate dings your credit score by a few points — although it won't take long to recover. But, say you move a \$2,000 balance from a card with a \$10,000 limit to one with a \$4,000 limit; you've immediately gone from a 20 percent utilization ratio to 50 percent on the new card.

A few other credit score-improvement tips:

Make sure that credit card limits reported to credit bureaus are accurate.

Don't automatically close older, unused accounts; 15 percent of your score is based on credit history. In fact, occasionally make small charges on existing accounts to make sure lenders don't close them out.

Each time you open a new account there's a slight impact on your score, so avoid doing so in the months before a major purchase like a home or car.

Pay off medical bills and parking, traffic or library fines. Once old, unpaid bills go into collection, they can damage your credit.

There are many good resources for learning what you can do to repair and protect your credit scores, including the Credit Education Center at

[www.myfico.com/CreditEducation](http://www.myfico.com/CreditEducation), t

the Credits and Loans page at

[www.ftc.gov/bcp/menus/consumer/credit.shtm](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/menus/consumer/credit.shtm),

and What's My Score ([www.whatsmyscore.org](http://www.whatsmyscore.org)), a financial literacy program run by Visa Inc.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. To Follow Jason Alderman on Twitter:



## Prince George's County Assists Residents With Cleanup and Disposal of Storm Debris

County Offers Free Storm Debris Drop-off Locations Following Hurricane Irene

By PRESS OFFICER  
County Executive's Office

LARGO, MD — Hurricane Irene struck Prince George's County late Saturday afternoon into Sunday morning, causing extensive damage. Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) crews worked throughout the weekend to clear fallen trees and limbs along County roadways. Crews have removed all trees blocking County roadways, except for roadways where fallen trees are tangled with utility lines. The affected utility companies have been notified of these areas.

DPW&T is currently performing clean up operations along County roadways. DPW&T does not remove or dispose of debris from private property.

Prince George's County

Executive Rushern L. Baker, III has directed the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) to open the following sites from Tuesday, August 30 through Sunday, September 4, 2011 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for County residents to dispose of their storm-related brush and tree limb debris, free of charge:

Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill — Residents may enter the facility at 11611 White House Road in Upper Marlboro. Residential vehicles allowed to dispose of their storm-related yard waste include pick-up trucks, passenger vans, SUVs, sedans and other passenger vehicles.

Prince George's County Yard Waste Composting Facility — The Yard Waste Composting Facility, located at 6601 S.E. Crain Highway in Upper Marlboro, will be open for residential vehicles and

municipalities to dispose of their storm-related brush and tree limbs, free of charge. The extended hours for disposal will also apply to commercial vehicles at their regular fee.

Sandy Hill Landfill — The Sandy Hill Landfill, located at 9500 Old Laurel Bowie Road in Bowie, will be open for residents in northern Prince George's County to dispose of their storm-related yard waste free of charge.

Missouri Avenue Acceptance Site — The Missouri Avenue Acceptance Site, located at 12701 Missouri Avenue in Brandywine, will be open for the residents in southern Prince George's County to dispose of their storm-related yard waste free of charge.

The maximum size for storm-related yard waste debris that will be accepted at the facilities is 5 feet long and 10

inches in diameter. Verification of County residency will be required upon entering the facilities.

Yard Waste Collection — Residents may also dispose of their storm-related yard waste by placing it at the curb on their regularly scheduled collection days. Limbs must not exceed 4 feet in length and 3 inches in diameter, and must be securely tied in bundles. Other yard waste must be placed in securely tied, heavy-duty plastic bags, paper yard bags or heavy-duty trash cans with handles and a secure lid.

To report trees down on County roadways, call DPW&T at (301) 499-8520. For more information on disposal of storm-related brush and tree limb debris, call the DER's Waste Management Division at (301) 883-5045.

## Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Becomes 395th National Park

King from A1

faith and morality to break the chains of oppression that held our nation back. I commend the MLK Foundation and Harry Johnson for their tireless work in making this memorial a reality, so that we may always be reminded of the work that is yet to be done to achieve Dr. King's dream and a more perfect union."

"Forty-eight years ago, Dr. King took to the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and challenged our nation to fulfill his dream of equality for all Americans," said the National Park Service Director Jonathan

B. Jarvis. "On the anniversary of that speech, we are proud to add the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial to National Park System as a lasting tribute to this American hero. We look forward to working with the MLK Foundation to reschedule the formal dedication and hope that many of the tens of thousands of people who had planned to attend will be able to participate."

In 1996, Congress authorized Dr. King's fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, to establish a memorial to the civil rights leader in Washington, DC. The group formed the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial

Project Foundation and held a competition for the design. A site along the Tidal Basin of the National Mall was chosen for the memorial.

After 15 years of effort, a granite likeness of Dr. King emerges from the memorial's Stone of Hope and stands resolutely between iconic monuments to Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln.

"From World War II to Vietnam Veterans, from Lincoln to Jefferson and now to King, the memorials and monuments along the National Mall are where millions of visitors every year learn about our history," said Bob Vogel, superin-

tendent of the National Mall and Memorial Parks. "The National Park Service is honored to serve as the keeper of America's story, and with this new memorial, to have this incredible venue from which to share the courage of one man and the struggle for civil rights that he led."

The memorial to Dr. King is part of the National Mall and Memorial Parks and is open to the public. National Park Service rangers provide programs for visitors and answer questions. For more information and photographs, please see <http://www.nps.gov/mlkm>.

### Bowie Volunteer Fire Department Needs Volunteers

The Bowie Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc. (BVFD), is looking for new members to join its elite firefighting and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) teams. Recent budget cutbacks by the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department have made the work of local volunteers even more critical to our community's public safety. A wide variety of emergency and non-emergency support activities are available for qualified volunteers. Minimum requirements for firefighters/EMTs include being at least 16 years old, completion of a background investigation and physical evaluation and completion of basic training courses. For a full list of requirements and an online application, visit their website at <http://www.bowiefire.org>.

### Farm-Fresh Local Produce this Summer

Sign Up Now for Farm-Fresh Local Produce this Summer through Community Supported Agriculture Farms Summer Subscriptions Now Available. The Maryland Department of Agriculture is encouraging citizens to consider joining a community supported agriculture (CSA) farm to support local farmers while receiving delicious, nutritious, fresh produce all summer long. CSA members pay an upfront subscription fee to farmers in return for a share of the season's harvest, which is usually provided weekly. The department's Maryland's Best program currently has 76 farms listed with CSA shares available. To find a CSA farm near you, go to [www.MarylandsBest.net](http://www.MarylandsBest.net). "This is the time of year to join a CSA and enjoy the fruits of local farms all summer."

## Bowie State Students Move In

Photos tell the story of excitement and anticipation as an expected 5,600 students began returning to Bowie State University on Aug. 26 for the fall semester.

The photos and descriptions represent the kind of scenes that were replicated across the campus. Classes begin Aug. 31.

All Photos by Rebecca Bailey



Ariana Snyder of Clinton, Md., and her grandfather Abraham Snyder find the perfect perch for the TV in her new home away from home in the Towers Residence Hall at Bowie State University. Ariana is among some 5,600 students expected to begin fall semester classes at Bowie State University Aug. 31.



Howard Cornish of Lanham, Md., was thinking "just one more flight of stairs" as he helped his daughter, Haley, move into Harriett Tubman Hall at Bowie State University on Aug. 26.



Brittany Meade of Indian Head, Md., one of more than 600 freshmen at Bowie State University, had it all in hand as she moved into the residence hall on Aug. 26.

# COMMENTARY

**By Dr. Gail C. Christopher, DN**  
*Vice President of Program Strategies for the W. K. Kellogg Foundation*

## All God's Children

WASHINGTON-In an often expressed dream for a better America, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called upon Americans to honor "all God's children" and their rights to equality and justice. His powerful voice and leadership would be welcomed in the turbulent world around us.

Forty-three-years after the March on Washington, Dr. King's dream of equality for all remains unrealized – the impact of racism persists and children of color still live with the consequences of the racial divide embedded in American society. Our leaders face mounting fiscal challenges, yet we urge the nation not to abandon children in need. As the struggling economy brings fear and despair to families and communities, America must marshal its resources to assure that our children have opportunities to thrive.

There is an intersection between Dr. King's dream and efforts by government, non-profit advocates and communities working to improve the quality of life for vulnerable children.

Recent census data soundly demonstrates the challenges we face, as a nation, in assuring that future generations can succeed. The poverty rate for children in the U.S. is at 20.7 percent, with 35.7 percent of African-American children living in poverty, 33.1 percent of Hispanic children, 17.7 percent of white children and 14 percent of Asian-American children.

Even more disturbing is that those numbers are rapidly increasing. The census also found that 1.4 million children fell into poverty for the first time in 2009.

Efforts to revive the economy will grow even more difficult in the future if the nation doesn't address child poverty. The Center for American Progress says that in 2007, even before the recession, the economy took a \$500 billion hit from child poverty because of increased costs for health care and criminal justice, and decreases in productivity. In fact, economists estimate that child poverty resulted in a 4 percent decrease in the U.S. gross domestic product.

But the statistics don't tell the entire story. There is an emotional toll on Americans when we recognize that our nation is failing our children. We cannot relegate millions of children to a

future without opportunities, a destiny of poverty and social exclusion. That is not the American Dream, and it is an anathema to Dr. King's dream for our nation.

We must embark on new ways to overcome current child and family poverty statistics and the trajectories they portend. Clearly a shift in federal budget priorities is needed. England has proven that child poverty can be dramatically reduced, if it becomes a national priority. Since 1994, England has cut its child poverty rate by more than 50 percent by establishing public policies such as these: providing tax incentives to single parents for finding jobs, improving public benefits for parents, increasing the minimum wage, allowing parents of young children to request flexible work hours and implementing a comprehensive preschool program. The Center for American Progress says that if \$90 billion a year for 10 years is used to fund policies addressing child poverty, the United States can reduce child poverty by 41 percent.

Furthermore, the nation must also address the legacy of the mythology of racism that fueled the nation's early economic engines, jumpstarting the United States' meteoric rise to its position as a world power. Racism played a critical role in the development of this country. Its hallmark was systematic dehumanization codified into law for centuries. Related inhumane, destructive and exclusionary practices left indelible impressions in the minds and hearts of people. These impressions or beliefs became feelings and memories (both conscious and unconscious) that have been passed down through generations. Related behaviors are encoded in the patterns of families, communities, ordinances and organizations.

The legacy of our racialized past remains embedded in today's societal structures, continuing to negatively impact children of color. Persistent residential racial segregation and seemingly intractable disparities in life expectancies, disease burdens, poverty levels, incarceration rates and unemployment levels are symptoms of vestiges of centuries of structural bias in

See CHRISTOPHER, Page A5

## Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



## Kids Count: Tallying the High Costs of the Economy for Children

Kids Count: Tallying the High Costs of the Economy for Children

"I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits." This passage from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s acceptance speech for the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize is part of the Inscription Wall of the new memorial honoring Dr. King on the National Mall. But as we honor Dr. King's legacy in our nation's capital, the audacious belief that every family should be able to afford simple necessities like enough to eat is at risk in Washington, D.C. and across the country. The poor are getting poorer.

The Children's Defense Fund-Ohio, through the support of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, just released the Ohio's KIDS COUNT: 2010 Data Book, an annual report that provides snapshots of the well-being of Ohio's children. With unemployment in Ohio reaching 10.6% last year, we found thousands of Ohio children and their families pushed to the front lines of economic suffering. The overall poverty rate for Ohio's children was 21.6% in 2009, jumping 16.8% in a single year and increasing 45.9% since 2001. The number of Ohio counties with at least 25% of children living in poverty more than doubled from 15 in 2008 to 31 in 2009.

Rural child poverty was the most common in Ohio followed by urban child poverty. But in these tough times, children in suburbs and communities that haven't experienced significant rates of child poverty in the past are struggling too, and help and solutions are urgently needed from Ohio's state and congressional leaders. As one mother in Cincinnati put it simply, "The welfare system today is based on work—but when there's no work, there's a problem." Renuka Mayadev, CDF-Ohio's Executive Director, points out that "Ohio's future depends on investing in the economic security of its youngest citizens. Knowing the statistics is only the first step toward solving the problem. It's up to all of us to put the next foot forward."

Ohio is far from alone. The Annie E. Casey Foundation's 22nd annual national KIDS COUNT Data Book shows a significant decline in economic well-being for low income children and families across the country over the last ten years. The official child poverty rate, which they note is actually "a conservative measure of economic hardship," increased 18 percent between 2000 and 2009. And they say, "Although the recession is technically over, it is clear that a large portion of America's families continue to confront daunting challenges . . . Unemployment remains high, median household income is down, and many families have depleted their savings and other assets. As they struggle to recover, families face the reality that intergenerational economic mobility in the United States has not changed much over the past 40 years. If anything, it has

declined."

This is not what Dr. King urged. Throughout his life he spoke out against injustice in all of its forms and believed economic injustice was one of our nation's and world's greatest sins. He also believed we could and must work urgently to right that wrong. "Somehow the preacher must have a kind of fire shut up in his bones, and whenever injustice is around he must tell it . . . Somehow the preacher must say with Jesus, 'The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me, and he has anointed me to deal with the problems of the poor.' . . . It's all right to talk about long white robes over yonder, in all of its symbolism, but ultimately people want some suits and dresses and shoes to wear down here. It's all right to talk about streets flowing with milk and honey, but God has commanded us to be concerned about the slums down here and his children who can't eat three square meals a day. It's all right to talk about the new Jerusalem, but one day God's preacher must talk about the new New York, the new Atlanta, the new Philadelphia, the new Los Angeles, the new Memphis, Tennessee. This is what we have to do."

Dr. King delivered those words in Memphis on April 3, 1968—the night before he was assassinated. In the months leading up to his death, he was mounting a Poor People's Campaign urging America to hear and see and "deal with the problems of the poor." Dr. King's vision of a new America has not yet come to pass, indeed is vanishing for the 43.6 million poor Americans including 15.5 million poor children, but he believed that as a people we would get there. But that depends on our leaders and the demands citizens place on them. Addressing increasing child poverty and parental joblessness is the very first step the Administration and Congress must take as they return to Washington and get back to business. And it must be the top priority of governors in every state—too many of whom are

eager to give tax cuts to the needy and impose budget cuts on the neediest including our children. It's time to say no. Preachers across the land need to speak up for poor children and against America's vanishing dream for the next generation. It's the only way we will begin to realize that vision and help America finally live up to its promise.

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

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

ANNAPOLIS, MD (September 1, 2011) – Students in hundreds of public schools across the state will get a taste of fresh, Maryland-grown and produced food in their lunches during the fourth annual Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week, Sept. 12-16. A statewide kick-off celebration with special educational activities and local lunch with students, farmers, and federal, state and local officials will take place at Benjamin Banneker Elementary School in St. Mary's County from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 9.

The Homegrown School Lunch Week, an element of the Jane Lawton Farm to School Program, was created during the 2008 Session of the Maryland General Assembly when SB 158 Farm-to-School Program - Activities and Promotional Events, sponsored by Senator Jamie Raskin and Del. Sheila Hixson of Montgomery County, was signed into law by Governor Martin O'Malley.

The program is designed to help educate students about where their food comes from, how it is produced, and the benefits of a healthy diet as well as to expand markets for Maryland farmers.

*To Be Equal*  
**Marc Morial, President and CEO**  
*National Urban League*



## National Urban League Brings Empowerment Summit to Atlanta

"It is troubling that unemployment is so high...and that we are so caught up in details of deficits and debt ceilings that we question whether government has any moral duty to serve the poor, help feed the hungry and assist the sick." U.S. Representative and civil rights legend, John Lewis of Atlanta, Georgia.

As frustration with the inability of Washington to solve the nation's job crisis mounts, the National Urban League is taking this fight directly to the American people. So far this year, we have held major job fairs and town hall forums in Indiana, New England and Washington, DC. At each stop, thousands of unemployed African American and urban citizens have shown up, resumes in hand, desperate for work. On September 17th and 18th we will be in Atlanta, offering both job and home rescue assistance at a free Empowerment Summit as part of that city's 20th annual "For Sisters Only Expo."

For months, Washington has been distracted by a manufactured debt ceiling crisis that nearly resulted in an unprecedented government loan default. But in recent weeks, President Obama, members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) and other activists have joined the National Urban League in refocusing the nation's attention on reducing high unemployment that has reached a depression-era rate of 15.9 percent in Black America. According to CBC Chairman, Emanuel Cleaver, in the last two years the Caucus has introduced more than 40 job creation bills in the House of Representatives. Most of that legislation has been stalled by Tea Party-backed obstructionists who continue to put the interests of Wall Street over the well-being of Main Street.

While Washington must do more to create jobs, the National Urban League and other progressive activists believe citizens have to empower themselves with the information, training, and employment connections needed to bring jobs

and hope back to their communities. Last year, the National Urban League provided that kind of empowerment assistance to a record 2.6 million Americans.

Our jobs tours this year are part of that movement. The September 17-18 Empowerment Summit at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta will feature a career fair with local employers ready to hire as well as free one-on-one career coaching sessions. Attendees will gain access to local job training programs. And workshops will be held on how to utilize social networks and how to put the "wow" in your resume. We are asking all jobs seekers to bring an updated resume.

We will also hold a home rescue fair to help the thousands of Atlanta-area residents who are struggling to avoid becoming victims of the foreclosure crisis that has also hit urban Americans especially hard. Attendees should bring:

- Two most recent paystubs showing earnings for last 30 days
- Copy of any benefits statements reflecting amount, frequency, and duration of benefits Household Expense Budget
- If self-employed, most recent quarterly or year to date Profit and Loss Statement
- Last two months of bank statements
- Copy of signed 2009 and 2010 income tax returns
- Copy of a utility bill showing name and property address
- Homeowner's Association bill if applicable
- Most recent mortgage and property insurance statements
- Copy of closing documents and most recent correspondence from your mortgage company
- Many people come to Atlanta's "For Sisters Only Expo" for the fun and great entertainment. This year come for empowerment too.

## The Prince George's Post

The Prince George's Post  
 P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike  
 Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151  
 Phone 301-627-0900 Legal Fax • 301-627-6260  
 Editorial Fax • 301-627-8147  
 Contents © 2011, The Prince George's Post

<b>Publisher</b> Legusta Floyd	<b>Subscriptions</b> Anna Curry
<b>General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager</b> Brenda Boice	<b>Editor</b> Legusta Floyd
<b>Legal Advertising Assistant</b> Robin Boerckel	<b>Web Manager</b> Kyler Quesenberry

Prince George's County, Md. Member National Newspaper Publishers Association, and the Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia Press Association.

The Prince George's Post (ISSN 10532226) is published every Thursday by the New Prince George's Post Inc., 15207 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151.

Subscription rate: 25 cents per single copy; \$15 per year; \$7.50 senior citizens and students; out of county add \$1; out of state add \$2. Periodical postage paid at Southern Md. 20790.  
 Postmaster, send address changes to Prince George's Post, P.O. Box 1001, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151.

# BUSINESS

## Business Exchange

by William Reed



### The "White Like Me" Tour

Before he went to Martha's Vineyard for 10 days at a 1,200-acre, \$50,000 a week hobby ranch, President Obama's three-day tour of the American heartland illustrated his reelection plans and strategy.

In the "White Like Me Tour", Obama sought to get the attention of population segments disillusioned with him and infuse Middle-American voters with optimism, while convincing them that his approach offers the most rational path to economic stability.

The tour allowed Obama a picture-perfect platform to strategically define the Republicans as so unwilling to compromise they would risk financial chaos. But, the "White Like Me" tour allowed Obama to "press the flesh" among America's heartland and brought controversy and discussions about Obama's presidential job performance and the policies he supports. The bus tour had the trappings of a candidate wooing voters.

The trip, with all the presidential accessories in tow, took Obama through rural hamlets in Minnesota, Iowa and western Illinois and allowed him to shore up his posture in the polls and his political position with White voters.

Obama went to Henry County, Ill., which has a Black population of 2.2 percent; to Winnebago County, Iowa which is 0.6 percent African American. In Decorah, Iowa, Obama declared he'd propose a major jobs package to Congress in September.

Obama's not delivering for any segments of the American population except the rich. But, a soaring jobless rate among African Americans and a newfound comfort by Black lawmakers to criticize Obama's economic policies should prompt White House officials to focus more directly on Black America. Urban Blacks are experiencing 25 percent unemployment and the White House needs more collaboration and cooperation from leaders in Black America.

At a jobs forum in Detroit, Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) blasted the president's bus tour and has asserted that Obama skipped hard-hit African Americans and their communities. Waters said "We want to give him every opportunity but ... the unemployment is unconscionable."

The poverty rate in Black Caucus districts is 50 percent higher than the national average.

African American joblessness is 16.2 percent, and nearly 41 percent for Black teens.

In spite of those numbers, a Washington Post/ABC News poll shows Obama still enjoying rock solid support among African Americans — an 86 percent approval rating for the way he's handled the economy. Among Whites and independent voters, Obama gets a 26 percent rating.

Waters is right saying: "it's time for us to step up and note that our communities are not being dealt with and to make sure that this administration understands that we cannot continue to go on this way and ... we cannot be quiet. We have decided that not only are we going to remind the administration about the devastation and the pain that we're experiencing, but we want to be a part of helping to develop the solution. Whatever the plan to be unveiled in September, we intend to be a part of it."

When will the administration pay attention to Black needs? What will it take for African Americans to be a part of Obama's plans for the nation? Obama need not go further than National Urban League President Marc Morial's 12-Point Plan for Job Creation. The League's Plan is based on Urban Jobs Act legislation sponsored by New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand and Brooklyn Rep. Edolphus Towns. The Urban Jobs Act provides federal grant funding to non-profit organizations to offer job training, education and support services for urban youth and young adults. Funding Urban Jobs Act programs makes sense. It can help eliminate Black unemployment.

The Obama administration needs to fund targeted programs that connect at-risk youth to jobs and gives 18 to 24 year olds skills training, mentoring, and GED preparation.

When President Obama speaks to the nation in September about the labor situation, he's expected to present new and relevant initiatives to grow the economy and create jobs. It would be gratifying to see Obama present the Urban Jobs Act to the public among his recommendations to put Americans back to work.

See the full plan at [www.nul.org/content/12-step-blueprint-jobs-plan](http://www.nul.org/content/12-step-blueprint-jobs-plan).

(William Reed is available for speaking/seminar projects via [BaileyGroup.org](http://BaileyGroup.org))

## Fitch Ratings Assigns 'AAA' Bond Rating to Prince George's County

### County's Financial Outlook is Confirmed as Stable

By PRESS OFFICER  
County Executive's Office

UPPER MARLBORO, MD — On Thursday, August 25th, Fitch Ratings assigned a 'AAA' bond rating to Prince George's County and re-affirmed that the County's financial outlook is stable. The County is awaiting similar confirmations from the other major rating agencies — Standard and Poor's and Moody's — prior to the upcoming bond sale in mid-September. Earlier this year, the County received 'AAA' status from these two rating houses. 'AAA' bond ratings are the highest possible bond ratings a jurisdiction can receive.

"I am proud that Prince

### Brandywine from A1

today's ribbon-cutting ceremony, but due to the issues that arose as a result of the expected impact of Hurricane Irene, he was unable to make it and provided the following statement in support of the project:

"This project is important to supporting jobs and preserving the quality of life for residents in Southern Maryland," said

### Oversight from A1

"As government resources become more scarce, we need to find new and innovative ways to build and maintain the State's infrastructure," said House Speaker Michael E. Busch. "Infrastructure projects through strategic investments is one of the best ways that government can best partner with the private sector to create new jobs. The establishment of a new P3 framework to leverage government dollars is yet another tool

### Christopher from A4

our society, made possible by the mythology of racism.

Dehumanization and denigration or privilege and separation defined the lives of millions of families and their children in America, for most of our existence as a country. Resilience, courage and success against engrained odds are often the untold story for

### Grasmick from A1

Grasmick will receive the first Maryland Defender Award for her leadership in defending and improving the education of Maryland's schoolchildren over the last 20 years. She is the nation's longest-serving state education chief. Her accomplishments include the states high Advanced Placement performance, its preparation for kindergartners and its successful Race to the Top application. Maryland schools have been No. 1 in Education Week's national ranking for three straight years, and Maryland recently earned the College Board's top ranking for the state

George's County has retained its 'AAA' bond rating from Fitch Ratings especially, amid the recent downgrade of the national bond status by Standard & Poor's. I think this speaks volumes about our sound fiscal management practices and sends a clear signal to the investment and development community both domestic and abroad that this County is a great place to do business," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "Our economic climate is stable because we have made prudent fiscal management a priority, decided on wise investments such as the proposed \$50 million Economic Development Incentive Fund,

Governor O'Malley. "Thanks to Congressman Hoyer and all of our federal partners, we can provide much-needed relief for commuters and improve safety for residents and travelers in Prince George's and Charles Counties."

The improvements to MD 5 (Branch Avenue) at MD 373 and Brandywine Road include widening to three lanes in each direction, upgrading traffic sig-

for our State."

As prescribed by law, other members of the Commission include Senator James E. DeGrange (D), District 32; Richard F. Colburn (R), District 37; Delegate Tawanna P. Gaines (D), District 22; Delegate Stephen W. Lafferty (D), District 42; Nancy K. Kopp, State Treasurer; Alvin C. Collins, Secretary of General Services; Beverley K. Swaim-Staley, Secretary of Transportation; William E. Kirwan, Ph.D., Chancellor,

many families of color.

It's time for America to change.

A true monument to Dr. King would be the birth of a vigorous movement within communities across this nation to heal the divides that we have all inherited through the absurd belief systems of racial hierarchy and privilege based on physical characteristics.

This healing work requires

with the highest percentage of successful AP test takers.

A gifted consensus-builder, Grasmick relied on a statewide network of allies whose support allowed her to stand her ground against opponents.

Only after lawmakers passed new legislation to strengthen Maryland's competitive position — and the governor signed it — did she allow Maryland's federal Race to the Top application to be submitted. As a result, Maryland was one of only a handful of states in the nation to win millions of additional dollars in federal education funding.

Maryland Historical Society President Burt Kummerow

and targeted transit-oriented development around our Metro sites. I am confident that we will generate new business and create more job opportunities, as a result of our bond status. This is a major accomplishment for the residents and citizens of Prince George's County."

The bonds are expected to sell competitively on September 14, 2011. The series 2011A will fund capital construction costs for County facilities, including public buildings, roads and transportation, public schools, mass transit, stormwater management, and solid waste management facilities. The series 2011B will refund certain maturities of out-

standing GO debt.

In addition, Fitch affirms the following ratings:

--\$984.8 million of outstanding limited GO (LTGO) bonds affirmed at 'AAA'.  
--\$95.6 million of outstanding unlimited GO (ULTGO) bonds, series 2004 affirmed at 'AAA';  
--\$2.9 million of outstanding Maryland Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT) Prince George's County ULTGO bonds, series 1992 affirmed at 'AAA';  
--\$34.3 million of outstanding Maryland Transportation Authority (MdTA) lease revenue bonds, series 2004 affirmed at 'AA'.

Columbia to Prince George's County and Southern Maryland, the state's fastest growing region.

The improvements represent the first of two phases that will eventually include a new interchange and a ridesharing lot to alleviate the increase in traffic spurred by population growth in Prince George's County and Southern Maryland.

private partnerships. Lt. Governor Brown leads the O'Malley-Brown Administration's economic development portfolio. He is Chair of the recently launched FastTrack initiative — part of Maryland Made Easy ([www.easy.maryland.gov](http://www.easy.maryland.gov)) — to streamline the state permitting process for businesses and developers and he serves as Chair of the Governor's Subcabinet on Base Realignment and Closure.

University System of Maryland; Carolane Williams, Ph.D., President, Baltimore City Community College; David Wilson, Ed.D., President, Morgan State University; Joseph R. Urgo, Ph.D., President, St. Mary's College of Maryland; Robert C. Brennan, Executive Director, MEDCO; Michael J. Frenz, Executive Director, Maryland Stadium Authority; and Robert Brams of Patton Boggs, a private sector representative with experience in the development of public-

honesty and courageous self-examination but it builds trust and alliances that yield creative solutions to seemingly insoluble problems. Let us honor Dr. King by realizing his dream for a healed America. Let's do it for our children.

(Dr. Christopher is Vice President of Program Strategies for the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, which has launched a \$75 million, five year "America Healing" initiative to address structural racism in America. America's Wire is an independent, non-profit news service run by the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education. For more information, visit [www.americaswire.org](http://www.americaswire.org) or contact Michael K. Frisby at [mike@frisbyassociates.com](mailto:mike@frisbyassociates.com).)

and is the world's largest museum and library dedicated to the history of Maryland.

Occupying an entire city block in the Mount Vernon district of Baltimore, the society's mission is to "collect, preserve, and interpret the objects and materials that reflect Maryland's diverse cultural heritage."

The Society is home to the original manuscript of the Star-Spangled Banner and publishes a quarterly titled "Maryland Historical Magazine." More information about the Maryland Historical Society can be found online at <http://www.mdhs.org>.

Does Your Business **NEED TO JAZZ THINGS UP?**

Place a business card-size ad in 96 Maryland, Delaware and DC newspapers for one low price!

• Over 4 Million Readers • Only \$1,490 per week!

**SAVE UP TO 85%**

CALL MDDC PRESS SERVICE  
410-721-4000 X19 • [www.mddcpress.com](http://www.mddcpress.com)

Frequency discounts and ad size options also available.

**MDDC 2x2 DISPLAY AD NETWORK**

**DONATE YOUR CAR**

to the Outreach Center "Car for Kids" Program

• Free Pick-up and Tow  
• Any Model or Condition  
• IRS Tax Deductible

Help Kids in Need

**1-800-601-7171**

**BoatAngel**

[www.boatangel.com](http://www.boatangel.com)

Donate Car • Boat • RV • Motorcycle

1-800-227-2643

[www.charityboatsales.org](http://www.charityboatsales.org)

**FREE 2-Night Vacation!**

**Outer Banks, NC Vacation Homes!**

**Brindley Beach**

VACATIONS & SALES

Over 500 Vacation Homes, from Duck to Corolla, Oceanfront to Soundfront, Private Pools, Hot Tubs, Pets and More...

Book Online at [www.brindleybeach.com](http://www.brindleybeach.com)

**1-877-642-3224**

"SERVICE FIRST... FUN ALWAYS!"

# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review

### “Higher Ground”

*Higher Ground*  
Grade: A-  
“Higher Ground”  
Rated R, some sexuality,  
some harsh profanity, some  
nude art  
1 hr., 50 min.

fantastic. A movie that addresses religion head-on without alienating one side or the other is almost miraculous.

“Higher Ground” is the very assured directorial debut of actress Vera Farmiga, who stars as Corinne, the fictionalized version of the memoirist. As a young adult in about 1970, Corinne is baptized into a sect of Christian hippies. Led by the generically charismatic Pastor Bud (Bill Irwin), the congregation looks like a production of “Godspell” but is doctrinally much more conservative. Women are instructed to be obedient to their husbands in all things and aren’t allowed to preach in church. Corinne and her husband, a sweet but unserious rock musician named Ethan (Joshua Leonard), are born again after a sobering near-death experience, but flashbacks to Corinne’s childhood and teen years show that she has always been a believer, wise beyond her years. (The grade-school Corinne is played by McKenzie Turner, the teenage one by Taissa Farmiga, Vera’s sister.)

Corinne’s childhood is relevant. Her mother, Kathleen (Donna Murphy), is flirtatious and frivolous, constantly at odds with her father, CW (John Hawkes). Corinne’s sister, Wendy (played at different ages by Taylor Schwencke, Kaitlyn Rae King, and Nina Arianda), goes to Sunday School with her but is as cavalier about religion as their mother is. You got saved today, honey? That’s nice.

As an adult and a new member of Bud’s congregation,



PHOTO COURTESY ROTTENTOMATOES

Vera Farmiga’s directorial debut, *Higher Ground*, depicts the landscape of a tight-knit spiritual community thrown off-kilter when one of their own begins to question her faith. Inspired by screenwriter Carolyn S. Briggs’ memoir, *This Dark World*, the film tells the story of a thoughtful woman’s struggles with belief, love, and trust-in human relationships as well as in God.

Corinne is content at first but gradually feels out of place. When she shares her testimony of the Lord in a church setting, one of the women afterward cautions her that she “came close to preaching!” Gotta be careful not to overstep your bounds, sister! Corinne finds a kindred spirit in Annika (Dagmara Dominczyk), a fellow congregant who loves art and literature, and who expresses her own artistic sensibilities by drawing pictures of her husband’s penis. Comforted to know that she’s not the only devout Christian who doesn’t fit the regular mold, Corinne is simultaneously discomfited to realize she may not fit in here. Her own husband, along with the rest of the congregation, is intellectually uncurious and not interested in anything other

than Jesus.

Thanks to an efficient, well-crafted screenplay (written by Briggs and Tim Metcalfe), the film manages to cover nearly two decades of Corinne’s life without dragging, and still come in under two hours. Moreover, Farmiga’s restrained directorial style (which matches her acting style) lets the film make its points subtly, often metaphorically. Late in the film, we see that Corinne’s parents have split up, but we learn that fact organically, without it being spelled out. Most of the movie is like that: We spend time with the characters, we see them living their lives and practicing their faith, and we get to know them. Believers and non-believers alike will find much to appreciate in this insightful, engrossing drama.

## The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

### Jerry Richardson, Cam Newton and the Color of Change

Jerry Richardson, as a Google search quickly proves, is invariably described as “old school.” The 75-year-old Carolina Panthers owner played pro football back when tickets were a dollar, there were no player unions and black quarterbacks didn’t exist. He made his fortune in the food service industry, with a strong emphasis on personal appearance and low wages for all under his employ. During the NFL lockout, he oozed with contempt toward every player, union official and fan. Even the sainted Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning earned an ugly sneer.

Now he’s the owner who told number-one draft pick quarterback Cam Newton that grooming and servility are prerequisites for success. On *The Charlie Rose Show*, Richardson proudly recounted asking Newton if he had any tattoos or piercings. When Newton replied, “No sir, I don’t have any,” Richardson told Rose he informed his new franchise quarterback: “Good. We want to keep it that way. We want to keep no tattoos, no piercings and I think you’ve got a very nice haircut.” No word if he then checked Newton’s gums.

It’s worth noting that Richardson didn’t hesitate signing Jeremy Shockey in the off-season, a tight end with more tattoos than a Hell’s Angel. But there’s a difference. Shockey is a white good ol’ boy from Oklahoma. Newton is black and branded by the media as having “character issues.”

Certainly, many were surprised when the “old school” Richardson used the NFL draft’s number-one overall pick on the Auburn University Heisman trophy winner. While Newton’s talent, size and speed are unquestioned, his recent past has been a national soap opera. It includes multiple school transfers, accusations of theft and the finding that his father attempted to sell his services to the highest bidder. It was a unique journey that said less about Newton than the gutter economy of the NCAA, where everyone gets paid but those the people pay to see perform. Now Richardson is telling the world that no one should worry about Newton’s “character issues” because he’s under the owner’s care from this point forward. He even told Newton not to worry about the past because Richardson would guide his future.

It’s one thing to have the Panthers owner express these feelings to Newton privately. One gets the feeling that a rich variety of racist nonsense is said to players behind closed doors. We can remember last year, before the 2010 NFL draft, when it was leaked that Miami General Manager Jeff Ireland asked star Oklahoma State wide receiver Dez Bryant if his mother was a prostitute. Or recall Anthony Prior, former NFL player, who wrote the book *Slave Side of Sunday*. Prior said to me, “I’ve heard coaches call players ‘boy,’ ‘porch monkeys,’ ‘sambos.’ I’ve been in film sessions where coaches would try to get a rise out of players by calling them ‘boy’ or ‘Jemima,’ and players are so conditioned to not jeopardize their place, they just take it.”

What differentiates Richardson’s brand of racial paternalism is his public, boastful pride. It’s like when Rick Perry made Jose Cuervo jokes in a speech at a Latino Political event. In other words, it’s a way of proclaiming your power over others because your station, your bank account and your skin color allow you to treat others like they live on their knees.

There are some in the press defending Richardson on the grounds that “the Carolina Panthers are a company, Richardson runs the company and many companies have dress codes and rules concerning personal appearance.” Yet there are two problems with that argument. The first is that the Panthers have no such team rules (see Shockey, Jeremy.). The second is that once you have on your pads and are under the helmet, no one can tell if you have more tattoos and piercings than Lisbeth Salander. This is not about Newton’s personal appearance. It’s about the public effort to exert control over a 22-year-old man by an owner who possesses what can only be called a plantation mentality. If Richardson really wants this kind of absolute power over young, gifted black athletes, he should just sell the Panthers and apply for a job at the NCAA. As for Cam Newton, he might want to read about some Panthers who weren’t under the control of people like Jerry Richardson.

[Dave Zirin is the author of “Bad Sports: How Owners are Ruining the Games we Love” (Scribner) and just made the new documentary “Not Just a Game.” Receive his column every week by emailing [dave@edgeofsports.com](mailto:dave@edgeofsports.com). Contact him at [edgeofsports@gmail.com](mailto:edgeofsports@gmail.com).]

## University of Maryland Ask the Plant and Pest Professor

**Question #1:** I am beginning to notice that the leaves of my mature dogwood tree are showing fall color. There are flowers planted underneath it which I water on a regular basis so I assume the tree has had enough water. Should I be concerned about my tree?

trees to be showing fall color. Early fall color is a symptom of a tree under stress. Stressors including drought, poor fertility, insects, and diseases such as powdery mildew can cause this to happen. We did have a very hot, dry summer. Even though you were watering the flowers most likely the tree did not

receive enough water. Frequent, shallow watering encourages surface roots and is not the proper way to water a tree. Mature trees should be watered less frequently but for a longer period of time. Place a soaker hose or turn your hose on at a very slow trickle, moving it around the root zone of the tree periodically, at the dripline (the edge of the tree’s leaves and outward) and let it run until the soil is moist 4-6 inches deep. Check with a soil probe to see how deeply the water is penetrating. During drought periods do this once every two weeks or so, but do let the soil dry out between waterings.

**Question #2:** The foliage of my black eyed Susan look terrible. This started earlier in the summer when I noticed they were covered with small dark spots that eventually took over the entire leaf. Right now they are very unsightly. What should I do and how do I prevent this from happening again?

**Answer #2:** Even though black eyed Susan is a Maryland native, they are very susceptible to a disease called Septoria. Once the plants are infected for the season there is little one can do. This disease does not kill the plant but is very disfiguring. Prevention is the key to trying to manage it. Cut back the plants at the end of the growing season and remove as much of the old plant debris as possible to reduce overwintering fungal spores. Next year, avoid overhead watering, prune or divide the plants to increase air circulation and keep

mulch to a bare minimum around the base of the plants. A copper fungicide can be applied on the newly emerging leaves to help prevent the return of the disease.

**Question #3:** It looks like I will have enough compost this fall to add a couple of inches of it to my vegetable garden after I clean it up at the end of the season. I have mostly oak trees on my property and have added a large number of the leaves to my pile. Should I be concerned that the pH will be too acidic? Is it necessary to have the compost tested to check the pH before I apply it?

**Answer #3:** While it is true that oak leaves are acidic, once they have broken down and are fully compost the finished product has a neutral pH. Therefore, it is not necessary for you to test the pH. However, it is recommended that you test the soil in your vegetable garden every three years or so. For soil testing information click the link on our homepage under ‘hot topics’.

“Ask the Plant and Pest Professor” is compiled from phone and email questions asked the Home and Garden Information Center (HGIC), part of University of Maryland Extension, an educational outreach of the University of Maryland. To ask a home gardening or pest control question or for other help, go to [www.hgic.umd.edu](http://www.hgic.umd.edu). Or phone HGIC at 1-800-342-2507, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

**MARYLAND LOTTERY**  
mdlottery.com

**MARYLAND LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS  
WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 2011**

Date	Midday		Evening		Daily		
	Pick 3	Pick 4	Pick 3	Pick 4	Bonus	Match 5	Bonus
08/07/11	172	6935	489	3650	03 04 12 29 39	20	
08/08/11	258	7427	578	5575	11 13 18 19 24	23	
08/09/11	497	5101	478	6071	03 04 08 20 39	28	
08/10/11	337	1290	981	3918	02 05 06 10 24	31	
08/11/11	501	9664	705	0995	08 19 21 25 26	01	
08/12/11	025	7076	002	1454	01 04 24 26 34	28	
08/13/11	558	1076	376	6763	01 08 13 14 29	03	

Date	Mega Millions	MEGA BALL	Megaplier
08/09/11	11 19 39 45 54	15	4
08/12/11	09 43 51 54 55	13	4

Date	Powerball	POWER BALL	POWER PLAY
08/10/11	11 18 36 41 46	38	4
08/13/11	09 12 35 50 58	04	2

Date	MULTI-MATCH
08/08/11	03 04 10 11 22 42
08/11/11	02 10 19 27 30 32

For the most current Lottery information, go to [mdlottery.com](http://mdlottery.com)

# Calendar of Events

September 8 - September 14, 2011

## 2011 Prince George's County Fair

Dates & Times: Thursday, September 8, 4-10 pm;  
Friday, September 9, 5-11 pm;  
Saturday, September 10, 11 am-11 pm; and  
Sunday, September 11, 11 am-6 pm

Description: Don't miss out on the county's biggest and most anticipated event of the year that draws people from all over! There will be entertainment, rides, attractions and much more! For more details about the Prince George's County Fair, visit [www.countyfair.org](http://www.countyfair.org).

Admission tickets: \$6/person ages 12 & up; \$5/person ages 6-11; FREE/ages 5 & under

Ages: All ages

Location: *The Show Place Arenal/Prince George's Equestrian Center*

14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro 20772

Contact: 301-952-7999; TTY 301-952-7998;

## Montpelier Fall Jazz Series: Davey Yarborough & Esther Williams

Date and Time: September 9, 8 pm

Event Description: The elegant vocals of Esther Williams and the cool sax of Davey Yarborough open the series.

Ages: All ages

Fee: \$20/ticket. Call for information about purchasing a series subscription. Discounts are available for seniors & members.

Location: *Montpelier Arts Center*

9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD 20708

Information: 301-377-7800, 410-792-0664; TTY 301-490-2329

## Movie Night at the Museum: The Princess and Frog

Date and Time: Saturday, September 10, 9 pm

Description: Come to Darnall's Chance and enjoy a movie outdoors under the stars. Don't forget to bring a picnic basket, lawn chairs or blankets. Refreshments will be available for purchase at our concessions stand. Free on-site parking available.

No reservations necessary.

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages

Location: *Darnall's Chance House Museum*

14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

## Park Rangers: Fishing Program

Date & Time: Saturday, September 10, 9-11 am

Description: Join the Park Rangers as they teach you about fishing! Learn casting, handling fish, fishing ethics, safety, and fish biology. Program is recommended for beginners.

Cost: Resident \$5; Non-Resident \$6

Ages: 6-10 years

Location: *Lake Artemesia Natural Area*

Berwyn Rd & 55th Avenue, Berwyn Heights 20740

Contact: 301-627-7755; TTY 301-699-2544

SMARTlink # 581564

## Central Branch Avenue Corridorwide Workshop on Redevelopment Concepts and Recommendations Central Branch Avenue Corridor Revitalization Sector Plan

Date: Saturday, September 10, 2011

Time:

9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

Location: *Surrattsville High School*

6101 Garden Drive, Clinton, MD 20735

Event Description: You have a choice; let us hear your voice!

Come and see the options for your community

Contact: For more information, contact Teri Bond, Project Facilitator, at 301.952.4944, e-mail: [nicole.fuller@ppd.mnccp-cg.org](mailto:nicole.fuller@ppd.mnccp-cg.org).

## Montpelier Fall Jazz Series: Chris Vadala Quartet

Date and Time: September 16, 8 pm

Event Description: One of the nation's premiere woodwind artists, saxophonist Vadala toured for many years with Chuck Mangione and now heads the Jazz Studies program at the University of Maryland.

Ages: All ages

Fee: \$20/ticket. Call for information about purchasing a series subscription. Discounts are available for seniors & members.

Location: *Montpelier Arts Center*

9652 Muirkirk Road, L

## Concert: "The Winstons"

Date & Time: Saturday, September 17, 8 pm

Event Description: A Washington, D.C. based soul act led by Richard Spencer, "The Winstons" had a sound that was somewhat similar to the Impressions. Their R&B and pop hit "Color Him Father," earned them a Grammy for "Best R&B Song." It was both a great tribute number and outstanding lead vocal from Richard Spencer, along with Ray Maritano, Quincy Mattison, Phil Tolotta, Sonny Peckrol, and G.C. Coleman.

Ages: All ages

General admission tickets: \$25/person, \$20/seniors ages 60 & up

Location: *Harmony Hall Regional Center*

10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington 20744

Information: 301-203-6070, TTY 301-3803

## Publick Playhouse Open House

Date and Time: Saturday, September 17, 1-4 pm

Event Description: You're invited! Help us welcome the new season! Enjoy live entertainment, theatre tours, and fun for the whole family.

Ages: All ages Fee: FREE admission

Location: *The Publick Playhouse*

5445 Landover Road, Cheverly 20784

Information: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-277-0312

# EARTH TALK ... "Freezing foods without plastic"

Dear EarthTalk:

*I love to cook and when I have the time I make soups, stews and pasta meals in large batches and freeze them. I use leftover plastic containers, but I know this is not good. What kinds of containers are safe for freezer food storage?*

-- Kathy Roberto, via e-mail

Reusing leftover plastic food containers to store items in the freezer may be noble environmentally, but it might not be wise from the perspective of keeping food safely frozen and tasting its best when later heated up and served. Many such containers are designed for one-time use and then recycling, so it's not worth risking using them over and over. Likewise, wax paper, bread wrappers and cardboard cartons should not be used to store frozen foods; these types of containers don't provide enough of a barrier to moisture and odors and also may not keep food fresh when frozen.

Luckily though, many other materials are suitable for use as freezer-safe storage containers, at least according to the National Center for Home Food Preparation. To qualify as "freezer-safe," the Georgia-based non-profit maintains, food storage containers must resist moisture-vapor, oil, grease and water as well as brittleness and cracking at low temperatures, while being durable, leak-proof and easy-to-seal. They must also protect foods from absorption of off-flavors or odors. "Good freezing materials include rigid containers made of aluminum, glass, plastic, tin or heavily waxed cardboard; bags and sheets of moisture-vapor resistant wraps; and laminated papers made specially for freez-

ing," reports the group.

As to the leaking of unsafe constituent chemicals (BPA, phthalates, etc.) from certain plastics into foods, freezing is generally less of a threat than heating, but it is better to avoid plastics known to be problematic anyway just to be safe. Polycarbonate plastic, marked with #7, contains BPA while polyvinyl chloride, marked with #3, contains potentially harmful phthalates. If a plastic item does not bear a recycling number on its bottom, steer clear as it may well be a mix, which classifies it as a #7 polycarbonate.

Of course, the majority of plastic containers designed for freezer use are safe and, since they can be washed and reused, are a better choice than disposable freezer bags and wraps. For those still leery of using plastic at all, glass containers designed to withstand large temperature extremes, such as Ball Freezing Jars (Mason jars) or anything made by Pyrex—regular glass containers could break when frozen or if thawed too quickly—can be a sensible alternative. Also, beware of loading up glass containers to the brim before freezing; some foods expand when frozen so leaving a little extra room between the top of the food and the bottom of the (airtight) lid is always a good idea.

However you store your frozen delicacies, keep in mind that freezing food may inactivate microbes like bacteria and mold but may not destroy them. According to dietician and author Elaine Magee on the MedicineNet website, just thawing out frozen foods doesn't necessarily mean they are automatically safe to eat. Foods that require cooking still require cooking for health's



CREDIT: JOHNATHUNDER, WIKIPEDIA

**Freezing foods in plastic containers isn't as worrisome as heating them, but if you're leery of plastic, glass containers designed to withstand large temperature extremes, such as Ball Jars (aka Mason jars), like the one pictured here, or anything made by Pyrex, can be a sensible alternative. Just be sure not to load them to the brim as some foods expand when frozen.**

sake after thawing. Also, Magee recommends quickly labeling and dating any foods you are freezing to facilitate purging of potentially spoiled or tasteless food down the line.

CONTACTS: National Center for Home Food Preparation, [www.uga.edu/nchfp/](http://www.uga.edu/nchfp/); Pyrex, [www.pyrex.com](http://www.pyrex.com); Ball, [www.freshpreserving.com](http://www.freshpreserving.com); MedicineNet, [\[cinenet.com\]\(http://cinenet.com\).](http://www.medi-</a></p>
</div>
<div data-bbox=)

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

# If a Tree Falls on My Property or My Neighbor's Yard

*Be Prepared With A List of Questions Before Calling Your Insurance Agent: Such As, "Am I Covered?" "Does My Claim Exceed My Deductible?"*

WASHINGTON, D. C. (August, 2011) – Thousands of trees in the Greater Washington area were felled by Hurricane Irene, plunging hundreds of thousands into darkness and raising a thousand insurance-related questions, such as: "Is the damage from hurricane winds covered?" "Who is responsible for the damage if a tree falls on my neighbor's yard?" And, "Will our homeowners insurance policy pay for it?"

The simple answer is, your homeowners policy will cover the damage. And it will do so up to the policy limits, minus your deductible. But when it comes to questions about insurance it seems nothing is quite simple, warns AAA Mid-Atlantic Insurance.

"The recent events are a reminder for homeowners to regularly review their insurance policies to become familiar with their coverage," said Mary Ann DalPezzo, Manager, Direct & On-Line Product Sales & Development, AAA Mid-Atlantic Insurance Sales. "Next, review your insurance policy before calling the company so you know what repairs will be covered."

Fallen trees killed four persons in Virginia. Area homeowners are dealing with downed trees, roof damage, power outages and water damage after Hurricane Irene spawned high winds and torrential rains to the region. It is estimated that Hurricane Irene could cost homeowners, businesses and state and local governments billions of dollars in repairs. And the damage estimates are still pouring in for homes, businesses, buildings, and cars.

While protection varies among companies, standard homeowners insurance does cover damage caused by fallen trees and limbs to an insured structure and its contents and the associated debris removal expenses, noted DalPezzo. However, policies may not cover the debris removal costs for fallen trees and limbs that did not damage an insured structure, she explained.

Insurance companies also typically recommend homeowners file a claim for damage caused by a tree or branch even if it did not grow on their property, DalPezzo pointed out. Companies may try to collect from a neighbor's insurance provider through a process called subrogation if the tree was in poor health and not properly maintained. If insurers are successful, homeowners may be reimbursed for their deductible.

Most Frequently Asked Questions About Wind or Tree Related Damage

Q. Who is responsible when your neighbor's tree falls on your house, car or property? Should my neighbor's insurance company pay?

A. Unless negligence can be proven, the neighbor's policy covers his/her house and your policy covers your house. Generally, if the tree is damaged due to a storm, the owner would not be considered negligent.

Q. My tree fell on my neighbor's house. Does my policy pay the damage caused by the tree? Who pays to remove the tree?

A. The neighbor's policy covers his/her house and your policy covers your house. Your neighbor's policy would also pay to have the tree removed from his house.

Q. My tree fell in my yard. Will the insurance company pay for it?

A. Most policies cover clean up and removal of fallen trees that cause damage to your home or property. Some policies cover

clean up and removal of fallen trees that block your driveway.

Q. My neighbor's tree overhangs my house. If it damages my house by falling down or limbs fall down, would my AAA homeowner's insurance cover the damages?

A. Even though it's the neighbor's tree, it's going to be covered by your policy. Your policy will fix your house, then remove the portion of the tree that is on your yard. Notify your neighbor of the potential hazard and request that they address the situation. Making, and documenting this request would assist your insurance company in the subrogation\* process if in fact damage should occur.

\*Subrogation is the process an insurance company uses to recover claim amounts paid to a policyholder from a negligent third party.

"Property insurance covers damage from windstorms, such as hurricanes and tornadoes, to the 'residence premises,' whether it is a single-family home, a duplex where the policyholder lives in one of the units, or any other building where the policyholder resides as shown on the insurance declarations page," according to the Insurance Information Institute and AAA Mid-Atlantic Insurance Sales.

"Dwelling coverage also applies to an attached structure, such as a garage or deck. A standard homeowners policy also covers 'other structures' that are unattached, such as a separate garage building or shed and swimming pools." The policy includes coverage for damage to contents as well.

"Damage from flooding, including flooding generated by hurricane-generated storm surge, typically is not covered under a standard homeowners policy." Flood insurance is available from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

For homeowners who expe-

rienced damage to cars, homes or property, AAA Insurance recommends these tips to help the claims process go smoothly:

Take appropriate immediate and temporary measures to prevent further damage. If you do make minor repairs before an insurance adjuster arrives, save receipts to submit for reimbursement.

Phone your insurance agent or company immediately. Be prepared with a list of questions ahead of time: Am I covered? Does my claim exceed my deductible? How long will it take to process my claim? Will I need to obtain estimates for repairs to structural damage?

If your home is damaged to the extent you cannot live there, find out if you have coverage for additional living expenses for accommodations while repairs are completed. If you do stay at a hotel, keep your receipts for reimbursement.

Schedule a time for an adjuster to inspect the damage to your property.

Prepare a list of lost or damaged articles. Avoid throwing out damaged items until the adjuster has visited. Consider photographing or videotaping the damage.

Get claim forms. Insurance companies will send required claim forms by a specified time period. Be sure to completely fill out the form and return promptly to avoid delays.

AAA Mid-Atlantic advocates on behalf of its nearly four million members in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. It provides a wide range of personal insurance, travel, financial and automotive services through its 56 retail branches, regional operations centers, and the Internet.

For more information, please visit our web site at [www.AAA.com](http://www.AAA.com).

# COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

## UNITED METHODIST

### WESTPHALIA

#### United Methodist Church

"A CHURCH ON THE REACH FOR GOD"

8511 Westphalia Rd.  
Upper Marlboro, MD

**Two Worship Services:**  
**8 and 10:30 a.m.**  
**Sunday School: 9:30**

**(301) 735-9373**

**Fax: (301) 735-1844**

**Rev. Dr. Timothy West,**  
**Pastor**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**Web Site:**  
**www.westphaliaum.org**

## BAPTIST

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HIGHLAND PARK

**'A Bible Based, Christ Centered & Spirit Led Congregation'**

6801 Sheriff Road Landover, MD  
20785 **(301) 773-6655**

Sunday Biblical Institute:

9:45 a.m.

Sunday Worship:

7:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

**"WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS**

**WITH JESUS':**

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

**"A Time of Prayer, Praise, Worship, & The Word"**

**Dr. Henry P. Davis III, Pastor**

**www.fbhp.org**

## BAPTIST

### First Baptist Church of College Park

Welcomes You Where Jesus Christ Is Lord and King  
Stephen L. Wright, Sr., Pastor

5018 Lakeland Road  
College Park, MD 20740

**301-474-3995**

**www.fbc-cp.org**

*Sunday School 9:30 a.m.*

*Sunday Worship 11 a.m.*

*Holy Communion 1st Sunday*

*Wednesday Bible Study 7-8 p.m.*

*Wednesday Prayer Service 8 p.m.*

## UNITED METHODIST

### Union

#### United Methodist Church

14418 Old Marlboro Pike,  
Upper Marlboro, MD

**Church (301) 627-5088**

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

**Sunday Worship:** 10:00 a.m.

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

## COMMUNITY CHURCH

### WORD OF GOD COMMUNITY CHURCH

*"The Church Where Everybody is Somebody and Jesus is Lord"*

4109 Edmonston Road Bladensburg, MD  
**(301) 864-3437**

**Intercessory Prayer:** Sundays - 8:30 a.m.

**Church School:** - 9:15 a.m.

**Morning Worship Celebration:** 10:30 a.m.

**Wed. Night Bible Study:** - 7:45 p.m.

**Elder Willie W. Duvall, Pastor**

## THE PRINCE

GEORGE'S

POST

CALL

301-627-0900

FAX

301-627-6260

Editorials &

Calendar

EMAIL:

PGPOST@GMAIL.COM

Have a Safe

Weekend

Remember,

Don't

Drink

Alcohol and

Drive!

**Church Directory**  
**Advertisements are paid ads.**  
**Please call the**  
**Prince George's Post today**  
**and have your Church**  
**information published in our**  
**Directory.**  
**Call Today! 301-627-0900**

# CLASSIFIEDS

## AUTOMOBILE DONATIONS

DONATE VEHICLE: Receive \$1000 GROCERY COUPONS. Your Choice. NOAH'S ARC, NO KILL Animal Shelters. Advanced Veterinary Treatments. Free Towing, IRS TAX DEDUCTION. Non-runners 1-866-912-GIVE

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE RECEIVE FREE VACATION VOUCHER. UNITED BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION Free Mammograms, Breast Cancer Info www.ubcf.info FREE Towing, Tax Deductible, Non-Runners Accepted, 1-888-468-5964

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

With One phone call, one bill, one ad placement - Reach 4.1 million readers in 83 daily and weekly newspapers for just \$1450.00 per ad. Get regional and local exposure at one time in Maryland, Delaware and DC. Call today! Get results with regional and local exposure. Call 1-855721-6332X6 For just \$17.47 per newspaper get the advertising results you are looking for! Visit our website www.mddcpress.com. Place your ad today

Your Wish is Your Command! Revolutionary discovery goes beyond the "Law of Attraction," Create wealth, love, happiness! Limited time offer, \$300 value, yours FREE! Call 1-8002-429-6172 NOW.

## CAMPGROUNDS

Lake Somerset Camp Ground, Maryland Eastern Shore. Leave your RV on site all year. \$1500 includes water, electric & sewage. 3 trailers on site for sale. Call 410-957-1866 or email lakesomerset@earthlink.net. Visit our website www.lakesomerset.com.

## FURNITURE

## FURNITURE

Cherry Bedroom Set. Solid Wood, never used, brand new in factory boxes. English Dovetail. Original cost \$4500. Sell for \$895. Can deliver. Call Tom 240-482-8721

LEATHER LIVING ROOM SET. In original plastic, never used. Orig price \$3000, Sacrifice \$975. Can deliver. Call Bill 301-841-7565

## HELP WANTED

Driver Start a New Career! 100% Paid CDL Training! No Experience Required. Recent Grads or Exp Drivers: Sign On Bonus! CRST EXPEDITED 800-326-2778 www.JoinCRST.com

## HELP WANTED DRIVERS

Receive quality Class A CDL training from an accredited and PTDI certified trucking school. 21+, job placement, financial aid and housing available. Contact Jamie 515-574-1964

## LEGAL SERVICES

BANKRUPTCY  
STOP FORECLOSURES  
STOP GARNISHMENTS  
STOP POSSESSIONS  
STOP JUDGMENTS  
FREE CONSULTATION - The Cardinal Law Firm  
Get a Fresh Start - Re-establish Credit  
(301) 316-4455/(202) 547-0442  
Se Habla Espanol  
info@thecardinallawfirm.com  
www.thecardinallawfirm.com

## MISCELLANEOUS

AIRLINE MECHANIC - Train for high paying Aviation Maintenance Career. FAA approved program. Financial aid if qualified - Job placement assistance. CALL Aviation Institute of Maintenance (866) 823-6729.

## MISCELLANEOUS

MASSAGE THERAPY - Learn fast, earn fast. Financial aid if qualified. A new career is at your fingertips. Call Centura College 877-206-3353

## SERVICES - MISC

2.8 Million Eyes will read your ad - 5 days per week - Monday thru Friday in the DAILY CLASSIFIED CONNECTION for just \$199 per day. Join the exclusive members of this network today! Place your ad in 14 MAJOR DAILY NEWSPAPERS in Maryland, Delaware and DC. 1-855-721-6332X6 or visit our website: www.mddcpress.com

## VACATION RENTALS

OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND. Best selection of affordable rentals. Full/ partial weeks. Call for FREE brochure. Open daily. Holiday Real Estate. 1-800-638-2102. Online reservations: www.holidayoc.com

## SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

**Call 301-627-0900**  
**or Mail Your Name and Address to:**  
**The Prince George's Post,**  
**P.O. Box 1001, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772**

## Don't Keep it a Secret! It Pays to Advertise!

**The Prince George's Post**  
**Call Brenda Boice TODAY**  
**301 627 0900**

## "GIVE HOPE, GIVE BLOOD"

*Red Cross Blood Donors Can Honor the Fight Against Breast Cancer*

The American Red Cross, Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Region is honoring those who have struggled with this disease with "Walls of Hope" at all blood drives and donor centers throughout the month of October. Participants may write a small card in honor of a cancer patient to post on the Wall Of Hope. Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to schedule a life-saving donation appointment. Platelet donors can call 1-800-272-2123 to schedule an appointment.

Blood is often used to treat those undergoing treatment for all types of cancer, including breast cancer. Cancer treatments such as chemotherapy can kill red blood cells and platelets, and these patients rely on blood transfusions throughout their treatment to remain strong and recover. According to the American Cancer Society, over 1.5 million people are expected to be diagnosed with cancer in 2010 in the United States. Many of those patients will require transfusions of blood

and platelets.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to give life to local patients in need with a blood donation and show your support of the fight against Breast Cancer" said Gary J. Ouellette, Chief Executive Officer for the GC&P Region. "Many of us know someone who has been touched by this disease, or by another form of cancer, and this give our donors the opportunity to share their experience with others while giving hope to patients who may currently be fighting the battle."

The "Wall of Hope" will be available at all American Red Cross Donor Centers and participating blood drives throughout October. In addition, all participants will receive a commemorative "I Gave Hope" lapel pin (while supplies last). Blood donations are needed to treat patients throughout the Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Region undergoing treatment for cancer, premature babies, trauma victims, transplant surgeries, those with chronic blood disorders, and many others. Over 1000 units of blood are needed daily to meet the needs of local patients.

**Speeding is Aggressive Driving. It Stops Here.**

**SMOOTH OPERATOR**  
Wire Tough on Aggressive Drivers!  
www.smoothoperatorprogram.com

**THE INAUGURAL 2011 BALTIMORE GRAND PRIX**

**The Baltimore Grand Prix Supports Area Police Stopping Speeders.**