

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1932

Vol. 79, No. 40 October 6 — October 12, 2011

Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record

Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents

Baker, III Names Bradford L. Seamon as Acting Chief Administrative Officer Nomination as Permanent CAO Will Take Place During the Next County Council Legislative Session

By PRESS OFFICER
County Executive's Office

UPPER MARLBORO, MD Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III announced at his Cabinet meeting that Bradford L. Seamon will be his Acting Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) effective Tuesday, October 4, 2011. Seamon will replace P. Michael Errico who has served as Acting CAO since County Executive Baker's inauguration last December. Seamon will be formally nominated to the Prince George's County Council as permanent CAO during the next Council legislative session.

"Brad Seamon has been an invaluable member of my administration since Day 1," stated Baker. "As Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) for Health and Human Services and more recently as DCAO for Budget, Finance and

Administration, he has lead several of my top priorities such as health care access, the Prince George's Hospital Memorandum of Understanding, the Economic Development Incentive Fund, CountyStat and school construction. I have complete confidence in Brad Seamon's talent and wealth of experience to serve the citizens of Prince George's County as Acting Chief Administrative Officer with honesty, integrity, and intelligence. I look forward to working with the County Council throughout his eventual confirmation process as permanent CAO."

According to Article IV, Section 412 of the Prince George's County Charter, "The County Executive shall appoint a Chief Administrative Officer. He shall be appointed on the

See CAO, Page A5

GPS Could be Used to Deter Chesapeake Bay Poachers

By GREG MASTERS
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS - A pilot program to install tracking devices on some commercial fishing boats in the Chesapeake Bay may go into effect next year.

The program - which will be discussed at two open houses next week along with proposed fishing regulations from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Service - would be voluntary for commercial fishermen.

But vessel monitoring systems may ultimately be required to discourage illegal fishing in Maryland, said Tom O'Connell, director of DNR's fisheries service.

"The objective is to get greater compliance in the ability to enforce our fisheries management rules," O'Connell said about the pilot program, which may apply to the striped bass fishery, oyster fishery, or both.

This winter, Maryland Natural Resources Police discovered more than 13 tons of poached striped bass, also called rockfish, in illegally anchored

nets in the Chesapeake Bay.

The poaching finds led fisheries agencies to close rockfish season early. Natural Resources Police served search warrants related to the poaching but have made no arrests.

Vessel monitoring systems discourage illegal fishing by allowing agencies to track commercial fishing boats that go into closed areas or operate during restricted times. They are being used increasingly across the United States and Canada but would be new to Maryland, O'Connell said.

"The idea is, before even considering this being a requirement in any of our fisheries, we should do a small-scale pilot program that's voluntary so that we have the opportunity to experiment with different types of vessel monitoring systems," O'Connell said.

The program would also give watermen the chance to experiment with having a GPS tracking device installed on their boats.

See GPS, Page A5



At Friday's press conference at the Baltimore County Health Department, Larry Simmons, special assistant to the county executive, stands with "Sure Shot," the flu shot mascot, holding signs to encourage parents to take flu season seriously and get their families vaccinated.

Health Officials Urge Vaccinations, but are Optimistic about Flu Season

By ASHLEY M. LATTA
Capital News Service

BALTIMORE - All signs point toward a manageable flu season this year, but despite the positive outlook, Maryland health officials are strongly encouraging everyone 6-months and older to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

As October draws closer, so

does the start of flu season, which has health officials ramping up efforts to encourage Marylanders to get vaccinated, and quickly.

Friday, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene kicked off its annual prevention campaign with a free flu clinic at the Baltimore County Health Department. By 10:30 a.m.,

250 vaccines had been administered despite the pouring rain.

The state health department has monitored global flu activity all year, anticipating what this year's flu season could bring to Marylanders, and health officials like what they are seeing.

See FLU, Page A3

King Memorial Dedication Set for October 16

President Obama, Secretary of the Interior are expected to participate

By the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc.

Washington, D.C. (September, 2011) - The Washington, DC Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation's leadership announced the ceremonial dedication of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial will be held on Sunday, October 16. The Dedication program will begin at 9 a.m. in West Potomac Park. President Barack Obama, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, members of the King Family, and civil rights leaders are expected to participate. The Dedication, originally planned for August 28, the 48th anniversary of the March on Washington and Dr. King's historic "I Have a Dream" speech, was postponed due to Hurricane Irene.

"We are very pleased that the Memorial is now open to

See KING, Page A3

Maryland Leaders, Mail Workers Rally for Bill to Save Post Office

By ANDREW DAMSTEDT
Capital News Service

BALTIMORE - Congressmen and union workers rallied here Tuesday in support of a bill that could help revive the financially ailing U.S. Postal Service by allowing the agency access to \$21 billion paid into its retirement fund.

"If we don't resolve this issue, my understanding is we are going to lose 126,000 jobs in the United States," said Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger, D-Cockeysville. "That's unacceptable. I'm saying let's stand up and get the message out that we aren't using taxpayers' money."

The U.S. Postal Service has proposed cutting costs by \$3 billion, laying off more than 110,000 workers nationwide and potentially closing 42 post offices and four processing facilities in Maryland, to shore up its depleted finances.

Reps. Elijah Cummings, D-Baltimore, and John Sarbanes, D-Towson, joined Ruppersberger at the Baltimore Teachers Union with union leaders and postal workers at a rally to stump for HR-1351, a bill to allow the U.S. Postal Service to reduce required pension payments to meet current financial needs.

In 2006, Congress gave the Postal Service 10 years to fund 75 years in advance of future health benefits,



Members of the American Postal Workers Union rally to save six-day mail delivery. The U.S. Postal Service has proposed cutting Saturday mail delivery.

amounting to \$5.5 billion per year. That money, supporters said, caused the post office's financial woes, not the decrease in mail volume.

"Congress, you helped make this problem. We're saying very clearly we need you to correct it," said Marvin "Doc" Cheatham, president of the National Action Network, Baltimore Chapter. "How can you expect a government

agency ... to put aside billions of dollars for people not even born yet."

The bill introduced in Congress this year has 216 cosponsors and has been referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, where Cummings is the ranking member.

"We know that there is going to have

See RALLY, Page A3

INSIDE

PGCC In the Spotlight

Prince George's Community College is the only college in Maryland to be selected as a White House Champion of Change. The college and President Charlene M. Dukes are being recognized by the White House for their commitment to improving completion rates, especially among disadvantaged students.

Community, Page A3

Infant Mortality Awareness Month

Senator Ben Cardin praised the Senate for unanimously adopting a bipartisan resolution recognizing September 2011 as National Infant Mortality Awareness Month. The resolution highlights the need to increase awareness about infant mortality and access to prenatal care in the United States.

Opinion, Page A4

Minority Business Development

Upper Marlboro, MD Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III and MBDD Executive Director Roland Jones and the Minority Business Development Division (MBDD) this week welcomed 150 small and minority businesses at the Economic Development Incentive Fund Business Forum.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review

"Moneyball" lies at the intersection of math and baseball, where-- wait, come back! It isn't boring, I promise! As it happens, the intersection of math and baseball is also the intersection of business and sports, two subjects that have often enthralled moviegoers with their tales of cutthroat competition and underdog victories.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Freight companies like FedEx, UPS and all those 18 wheelers on the highways probably generate a lot of pollution and global warming. Is anything being done to address this?

Michael Brown

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Fire demos, fun for the kids at Morningside VFD Open House

The Morningside Volunteer Fire Department is hosting an Open House on Saturday, Oct. 15, noon to 5 p.m. There'll be demos, safety information, fun activities for both kids and adults, refreshments, and more. Chief Michael White says, "All are invited."

By the way, you can help the Department win \$10,000 just by taking a fire-safety quiz. For information go to www.befiresmart.com and click on "Take the Quiz." Be sure to type in "Morningside Volunteer Fire Department in Suitland, MD" to assign the correct credit.

Go to the Department's website for excellent photos of recent fires, auto accidents which required extrication, and reports on the earthquake and Irene affected them. The address is www.morningside-vfd27.com/home.php.

Neighbors

William "Bill" Raddatz, son-in-law of a former Morningside Councilman, the late William Gilmartin, has been awarded the Maryland Sheriff's Associate Deputy of the Year award for his community service. He and his wife Amy live in California, Md., and Bill serves with the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Department.

Andy and Marlen Coles, of Waldorf, have a new baby daughter, Clare Therese, born Sept. 24, weighing 5 pounds, 10 ounces. She is the little sister of Rebecca, Anthony and Jonathan.

Command Chief Master Sergeant Anthony Brinkley from Joint Base Andrews and our COPS Patrol Officer

Gonzalez were guest speakers at a very interesting Sept. 21 meeting of the Skyline Citizens Association.

Crocheters and Knitters are invited to meet in the Parish Hall at St. Philip's on Oct. 15, at 10 a.m. They are currently making scarves and lap blankets for the needy in the area. Also, if anyone has yarn to donate, it would be welcome. For information call Alma Walton, 301-423-2977.

A belated happy birthday to longtime Morningsider Gloria Grapevine who turned 86 on July 3.

Gingerbread House Contest

The 12th Annual Gingerbread House Contest and Show is coming up at Darnall's Chance House Museum, in Upper Marlboro. There is an Adult Division, age 17 & up, and Child Division, age 8-16. Ribbons and cash prizes (\$25 to \$100) will be awarded, and Viewer's Choice Winners—one adult and one child—will each receive \$350. For information about rules, call 301-952-8010. And start baking!

Changing landscape

Andrews Manor Shopping Center, on Allentown Road, is now home to a new Mexican Restaurant.

The Allentown Splash, Tennis and Fitness Park, which opened in 1975, closes Jan. 1 for renovation. It's expected to reopen in time for summer 2013. Meantime the 1500 or so weekly visitors to the park will have to find another swimming pool.

The Wachovia Bank in the Rivertowne Commons shopping center in Oxon Hill is now a Wells Fargo Bank.

DD's Discounts is holding its Grand Opening at 5560

Silver Hill Road in District Heights.

"Ain't no sense in complaining."

That's what Pete Swann used to say. His optimism will be missed. Pedro David Swann—known to almost everyone as Pete—was born June 12, 1942, to Helen Swann and the late Peter Pennal Swann in Silver Hill. He grew up in Upper Marlboro, graduated from Frederick Douglas High School and joined the Air Force. In 1969 he married Jean and became a second father to her children, Carisa and Garry.

He drove tractor-trailers for many years, and was a skilled carpenter, electrician, plumber and mechanic. He was a dedicated member and worker at the Suitland Road Baptist Church where his funeral was held. Rev. Dr. Kelvin McCune gave the eulogy.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Sylvia "Jean" Swann, his mother Mary Helen Swann, children Carisa Anderson and Garry Kilgore, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Peggy Nanney and Jessica (Williams) Proctor, Sept. 30; Jasmine Wade, Nola Thomas and my grandson Sam Mudd, Oct. 2; John Ihrig, Oct. 3; Marlene Titus, Oct. 4; Sue Gilmore and Muriel Ireson, Oct. 5; and George Nixon, Oct. 6.

Happy 53rd anniversary to Larry and Jean Beardmore on Oct 4, and happy Silver Anniversary to Bill and Terry Ratliff on Oct. 4.

Happy 125th birthday to Hyattsville, which was incorporated in 1886.

Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards' Legislative Update

Reps. Edwards, Hoyer and Van Hollen Oppose Bill that Puts 139,500 Lives at Risk

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. House of Representatives passed the "TRAIN" Act, legislation that would indefinitely delay the clean-up of toxic power plant pollution. The legislation could result in 139,500 lives lost due to smog, soot, and toxic air pollution.*

"Everyone should be able to breathe clean air, but this bill puts tens of thousands of lives at risk by blocking the clean-up of deadly air pollution," said Sarah Bucci, Federal Field Organizer, for Environment Maryland. "Marylanders certainly deserve better, and we applaud Congressmen Hoyer and Van Hollen and Congresswoman Edwards for standing up for public health and opposing this dangerous legislation."

The TRAIN Act (H.R. 2401) consists of two provisions that threaten Marylanders' right to breathe clean air. First, it would indefinitely delay two critical Clean Air Act standards that limit soot, smog, mercury and other toxic pollutants from power plants. The indefinite delay of these standards would mean that every year, Americans would suffer more asthma attacks, more hospitalizations, and more premature deaths from air pollution.

Additionally, the bill requires that a panel of cabinet members review all standards issued by the Environmental Protection Agency — a function that is already performed by two existing agencies. This

needless red tape will cost taxpayers money and could result in further delay of the clean-up of deadly air pollution.

"For the safety of our children, it is unacceptable that the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill as hazardous as this one," said Bucci. "We applaud Representatives Edwards, Hoyer and Van Hollen for fighting for the health of Marylanders instead of siding with the polluters. We urge Senators Cardin and Mikulski to oppose this dangerous bill."

*More information about the health impacts of this and other legislative attacks on the Clean Air Act can be found at <http://www.dirtysecrets.org/legislation-table/>.

Congresswoman Edwards And Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Conyers Reintroduce Constitutional Amendment to Address Flawed Citizens United Ruling

Washington, D.C. — Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (D-MD) and Judiciary Committee Ranking Member John Conyers (D-MI) reintroduced an amendment to the U.S. Constitution, H. J. Res 78, that would reverse the Supreme Court's unprecedented application of the First Amendment to corporations allowing them to spend unlimited money to influence elections. The amendment will give specific authority to Congress and the states to regulate corporate expenditures on political activity.

"Justice John Paul Stevens warned that the Supreme Court's ruling in Citizen's



United threatened 'to undermine the integrity of elected institutions around the nation' and how right he was," said Congresswoman Edwards. "Since that flawed ruling was issued, campaign spending by outside groups including corporations surged more than four-fold to reach nearly \$300 million in the 2010 election cycle. I am proud to join with Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Conyers to reintroduce this constitutional amendment, which is the only way to once and for all put the American people, and not corporations, in charge of our treasured democracy."

"Last year, the Supreme Court overturned decades of law and declared open season on our democracy," Conyers said. "It is individual voters who should determine the future of this nation, not corporate money. I commend Rep. Edwards for her work in developing this narrowly crafted constitutional amendment that will undo the effects of this radical decision and I look forward to working with her to restore balance to our electoral process."

University of Maryland Ask the Plant and Pest Professor

Question #1: We apply mulch to our flower beds every year. Apparently the last load of mulch was infected with some type of strange organism. All of sudden, after the rains, these strange orange, carrot-like growths appeared. They are disgusting and seem to attract flies. Help! What can we do to get rid of these things in our yard?

Answer #1: What you are noticing are stinkhorn mushrooms. This is one of many common mushrooms that grow in mulched areas and also in lawns. They get their name from the foul odor produced by the "cap" of the fruiting body. The odor of 'rotting meat' attracts flies. They land on the mushroom where spores stick to their mouth parts and legs. As they fly from place to place they spread the fungal spores. Rainy weather increases the likelihood of these mushrooms. They are not harmful unless eaten. Knock them over or rake them up and dispose of them in the trash.

Question #2: Every once in a while I still see hummingbirds coming to the hummingbird feeder in my garden. Should I take it down to encourage them to fly south or should I still keep it filled with sugar water?

Answer #2: It is still a little early to take down your hummingbird feeders. Keeping

them filled will not interfere with migration. Birds are genetically programmed to leave when the time is right. They all do not migrate at the same time and therefore it is important for the stragglers to have a source of food. Remove your feeders by mid to late October. You should clean feeders before putting them away by scrubbing them with a bottle brush using warm, soapy water or a vinegar and water solution.

Question #3: My wife has been hearing noises in the attic during the day. We see chipmunks and squirrels out in the yard because my neighbor feeds the birds. Can it be either of these animals and how do we begin to correct this situation?

Answer #3: Squirrels are known to enter attics and the daytime activity indicates that this is probably what is invading yours. Before you take any measures to block-off entrance points you need to make sure there are no squirrels indoors. Trapping squirrels can be dangerous and difficult. Call the Nuisance Animal Hotline which is manned by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, for assistance. The number is 877-463-6497. Squirrels usually gain entrance to attics and other structures from the roof, especially if tree limbs overlap the roof line. Trimming tree limbs back at least 8 to 10 feet from the roof once

you are sure they are gone. Securely cover attic vents with ½-inch hardware cloth and install a pre-made metal chimney cap in your chimney. Also suggest to your neighbor to switch the type of seed in their feeder, squirrels are very fond of sunflower seeds but tend not to like safflower seeds. This may help to reduce the number of squirrels attracted to the area.

"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.
Or phone HGIC at 1-800-342-2507,
Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

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

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Ruth Turner 301 888 2153

HISTORICAL BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TOUR

The Prince George's County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., in partnership with the Prince George's County Delta Alumnae Foundation, invite 10th, 11th and 12th grade students to participate in a chaperoned tour of 14 historically Black Colleges and Universities during the week of November 5-11, 2011. This special 25th Anniversary Tour affords an amazing opportunity for college-bound students to explore the academic, cultural and social advantages offered at some of our Nation's prestigious HBCU institutions such as North Carolina Central, Spelman, Morehouse, Clark Atlanta, NC A&T, Elizabeth City, to name a few. Also, for the first time ever, we will be visiting Fisk University, Tennessee State University and Meharry Medical College. Cost is \$500 which includes bus transportation on a luxury motor coach, hotel accommodations, 12 meals, and campus activities. To download application, visit the website

www.pgcacdst.org or email HBCU@pgcadst.org or call 301-736-3250.

COMPUTER MANIA DAY

Computer Mania Day will be on Saturday, October 22, 2011 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM (ET) at University of Maryland, College Park. This is a free half-day event dedicated to developing an interest and awareness of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) for middle school girls (boys are welcome too). To register go to website <http://www.computer-mania.info>

FLOWER AND APPLE SALE

ST. Michael's Catholic Church located in Baden, Maryland will have a Flower and Apple Sale on October 8 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM and October 9 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. A Rummage Sale on October 8, 2011.

GREAT JACK O'LANTERN CAMPFIRE

Saturday, October 22, 2011 at 7:00 PM you can enjoy a Jack O' Lantern Campfire at Darnell's Chance House Museum. The address is 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive

Upper Marlboro, MD 20772.

There will be a display of dozens of hand carved, illuminated Jack O' Lanterns. Roast marshmallows and bask in the warmth of a fall campfire and enjoy hot cider and popcorn. Kids can win a prize on a hunt for glowing Jack O' Lanterns. Rain date is Sunday, October 23 at 6:00 PM. No reservations are required. The fee is \$3.00 per person (cash only).

MARLTON COMMUNITY MEETING

The Community Association of Marlton (CAM) will be hosting a Marlton area community meeting with representatives of County agencies, including the Fire Department, Police Department, Parks & Recreation Department, and DER to focus on issues specific to the Marlton community. This forum will be held on Tuesday, October 11 at 7:00 PM at Marlton Elementary School, 8506 Old Colony Drive South, Upper Marlboro, Maryland, 20772. Contact CAM at communityassociationofmarlton@comcast.net for more details.

Fall Foliage is Coming Soon!

It's Time for Beautiful Fall Colors along the Natchez Trace
One of the best features along the Natchez Trace Parkway are the beautiful fall colors that come into place in October and November. The oak, maple, hickory and other hardwood trees begin to change colors and visitors are able to see gorgeous fall foliage.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Start your student loan search now

If you've got a high school senior, your household is probably knee-deep in senior-year activities — and expenses. Not to elevate your stress level, but this is probably a good time for you and your kid to start investigating how you're going to finance college next fall. Seriously.

Loan application deadlines are right around the corner and you've got many decisions to make and documents to fill out.

Your first step is start filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. The FAFSA is required by virtually all colleges, universities and career schools for federal student aid, as well as for most aid from states and colleges. Although you can't yet finalize 2011 income-related information, once you start the process you can log-in anytime to update your file.

Get a FAFSA from your school's guidance counselor or financial aid office, at www.fafsa.ed.gov, or by calling 1-800-4-FED-AID. The FAFSA filing deadline for federal loans for the 2011-2012 school year isn't until June 30, 2012, but many state and individual school deadlines fall months earlier.

Many types of aid are available to help cover costs at four-year colleges and universities, community colleges, and trade, career or technical schools, including:

Hundreds of thousands of free scholarships are awarded each year. Visit www.finaid.org/scholarships for details.

Federal Pell Grants are needs-based grants given to low-income students to pursue post-secondary education. The maximum annual Pell Grant amount is \$5,500. They need not be repaid.

Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants for up to \$4,000 a year are awarded to undergraduates with exceptional financial need.

The Federal Work-Study Program provides part-time jobs for undergraduate and graduate students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help pay education expenses.

Direct Stafford Loans are low-interest federal loans that have no origination fee and come in two varieties: "Subsidized," which are needs-based and the government pays the yearly interest while students are enrolled; "Unsubsidized," which are not needs-based and students are responsible for interest that accrues while enrolled.

Low-interest Federal Perkins Loans are for students who demonstrate exceptional financial need. They are subsidized and have no origination or default fees.

Private education loans are offered by banks and other lenders to bridge the gap between government loans and actual education costs. They aren't government-guaranteed or subsidized and typically carry higher interest rates, although you can borrow greater amounts. Details and rates vary widely.

Some colleges sponsor their own loans, often with lower interest rates than federal loans. Check each college's aid materials to see if they are available.

Federal Direct PLUS loans (Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students) allow parents to borrow for their children's college expenses. Interest rates are fixed (although higher than Stafford loans) and there is an origination fee.

Private parent loans are offered by banks and other lenders, usually at higher interest rates than PLUS loans. They may also have an origination fee.

Some colleges also offer their own loans to parents, usually at rates below PLUS loans. Check each college's aid materials to see if they're available.

Check out www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov and www.finaid.org for complete explanations of the different types of grants/loans, calculators and many other tools.

Bottom line: Better start boning up on college financing now to avoid panic next winter.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. To Follow Jason Alderman on Twitter: www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney



PGCC Recognized as White House Champion of Change

College Receives Honor for Commitment to Improving Completion Rate

BY PRESS OFFICERS
PGCC

Largo, Md. —Prince George's Community College (PGCC) is the only college in Maryland to be selected as a White House Champion of Change. The college and President Charlene M. Dukes are being recognized by the White House for their commitment to improving completion rates, especially among disadvantaged students, and for their sector-based partnerships. Dukes was invited to the White House, Wednesday, September 21 to participate in a roundtable discussion on the positive impact of many community colleges across the nation.

"It is an honor to represent the work of dedicated faculty and staff at Prince George's Community College and be recognized as a White House

Champion of Change. I salute the other 15 community colleges around the country, all of whom work to transform the lives of tomorrow's leaders who choose to begin at one of the nation's more than 1200 community colleges. Our goal at Prince George's Community College is to ensure that every student succeeds," said Charlene M. Dukes, president. "Each program of study and each partnership, including the Academy of Health Sciences at Prince George's Community College, is designed to give our students the learning experiences they need to reach their goals and the goals of the nation," she added.

Honorees were selected for their impact in the community and innovative approaches to solving long standing challenges in helping individuals achieve

King from A1

the public and to date has welcomed thousands of visitors from around the globe. We are overjoyed to announce October 16th as Dedication Day. Many have worked so long to help build this dream — a Memorial to Dr. King and his legacy," said Harry E. Johnson, Sr., president and CEO of the Washington, DC Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc. "Due to the postponement, we are planning an event much smaller in scale but just as big in spirit."

Flu from A1

"We have connections through the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), the federal government, to monitor what kinds of flu viruses they are seeing," said Frances Phillips, the deputy secretary of Public Health Services at the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

There are two significant factors that have officials optimistic about the flu season this year. First, there have been no problems with flu vaccine production. In fact, the state health department expects there to be nearly 170 million doses of vaccines available across the country.

"There will be no shortage," said Phillips, who said that shortages have been a problem in the past.

Health officials are also enthusiastic about the quality of the vaccines being manufactured this year. Research indi-

cates that the vaccines will protect against probable strains of the flu.

"Three strains that will be in this year's vaccine are a strong match to what is continuing to be reported in the southern hemisphere," Phillips said.

Officials say they have not seen a change in the virulence, or severity, of the flu so far, which is good news because flu activity in the southern hemisphere usually serves as a good indicator for what the flu season will bring to the United States. But Phillips said that since the flu is always changing, researchers in the state's public health labs will closely monitor flu specimens collected in Maryland in order to detect any resistance or changes that may occur.

Nearly 1,000 people in Maryland die each year as a result of the flu. So despite positive indicators, the state health department remains vigilant in its prevention efforts.

Rally from A1

to be downsizing," Cummings said. "Everybody in this room knows that and it's not the post office's fault, it's not the workers' fault. It's just that first-class mail has gone down substantially. The Internet is taking over."

Cummings said committee Chairman Darrell Issa, R-Calif., was stalling the legislation.

Issa sponsored his own bill addressing the Postal Service financial problems, titled the Postal Reform Act, which has only one other cosponsor, Rep. Dennis Ross, R-Fla.

Ali Ahmad, oversight committee spokesman, said in a phone interview that Issa's bill "is the only bill introduced this Congress that makes the cost-cutting structural reforms necessary to return the Postal Service to profitability."

Issa's bill sets up a commission to submit a plan to

Congress to close or consolidate postal retail facilities, mail processing plants and offices; change to a five-day mail delivery schedule and eliminate postal rate preferences for political committees and reduce rate preferences for nonprofit organizations. That bill has moved through committee and is expected to come to a floor vote.

"The Postal Service needs to be free to make better business decisions to modernize its business models," Ahmad said. "The Postal Service can be profitable, but only through reforms."

Ahmad called it a myth that eliminating the requirement to fund pensions years in advance would solve the post office's financial troubles. If those mandates were eliminated, he said, the Postal Service would have an unfunded liability of nearly \$100 billion by 2017.



Prince George's Community College Pre. Charlene M. Dukes

their educational and career goals. PGCC joins 15 other institutions around the country as Champions of Change, including Lake Area Technical College, Lawson State Community College, Miami Dade College, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Mott Community College, Northeast Iowa Community College, Northern Virginia Community

College, Santa Barbara City College, Southwest Texas Junior College, Tennessee Technology Center-Murfreesboro, United Tribes Technical College, University of Colorado-Colorado Springs, Valencia Community College, Walla Walla Community College, West Kentucky Community and Technical College.

Tommy Hilfiger Corporate Foundation. Dedication Vice Chairs include Aetna, Boeing, BP, Coca-Cola, Delta Air Lines, GE, MacFarlane Partners, McDonalds, Salamander Hotels, Travelers, Wal-Mart Stores, and Zoilëmax Foundation.

About the Washington, DC Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc.

A Memorial honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be dedicated on October 16, 2011. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial is on the National

Mall, situated adjacent to the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, and in a direct line between the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials. Congress passed a Joint Resolution in 1996 authorizing Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. to establish a Memorial in Washington, D.C. honoring Dr. King. McKissack & McKissack Construction Company/Tompkins Builders, Inc./Gilford Corporation Joint Venture served as the Design-Build Team. For more information or to make a donation, visit www.buildthedream.org.

Friday, Phillips joined Baltimore County Deputy Health Officer Della Leister, and County Executive Kevin Kamenetz, in a press conference at the flu clinic to educate Marylanders about the importance of getting vaccinated. Kamenetz was vaccinated at the event.

"The seasonal flu is still a major health concern for us every year," Kamenetz said. "It is first-come, first-served, so don't put off your visit too long," he said, referring to the free clinics in Baltimore County.

Pete and Betty Addicks of Parkville, who get vaccinated every year, were among those to receive flu shots at the clinic Friday.

"We get flu shots because of our grandkids," Betty Addicks said.

"This place is convenient," Pete Addicks said. "Come on out because they're doing it right."

A Baltimore woman shop-

ping nearby saw signs for the clinic and decided to stop and get her annual flu shot and vaccinate her two sons.

"I have to get it done because I work at Hopkins as a doctor," said Dr. Sarah Hogue. "We all have to."

Last week, the Maryland Hospital Association adopted a policy to endorse mandatory flu vaccinations for health care personnel in hospitals across the state. Johns Hopkins is one of 18 hospitals that has already implemented this policy.

"It is an extremely strong patient-safety measure, and we commend the hospitals for doing that," Phillips said, in an interview.

At a 50 percent vaccination rate, Maryland surpassed the national average for flu shots last year. But Phillips said she is not content with that number.

"We're not going to get to 100 percent," Phillips said. "But we are pushing to get that percentage up much higher."

Ruppersberger said it was a "no brainer" to approve the legislation to allow the Postal Service to dip into its overpaid pension funds to solve the post office's financial troubles.

The Postal Service is studying 3,600 low-activity offices for possible closure, including 42 in Maryland.

Nationally, the service has closed 186 facilities, laid off more than 110,000 workers and reduced costs by \$12 billion since 2006, according to the service's information. Also during that time, first-class mail volume has declined by 25 percent, or 43 billion pieces, and automated mail-processing equipment has been installed, increasing efficiency, according to an email from Freda Sauter, Postal Service spokeswoman.

The four processing facilities under threat of closure in Maryland are in Cumberland, Easton, Gaithersburg and

Waldorf. Sauter told Capital News Service that the Frederick Processing and Distribution Facility will close by the end of the year, with employees there being assigned either to Baltimore or the Frederick area.

She said those changes would not affect mail delivery. Gatherers at Tuesday's rally made the postal slogan their own, chanting, "Rain or shine, sleet or snow, postal workers are on the go."

They said they understand that the number of workers still would be decreased, but they wanted to save as many jobs as they could.

"The right thing these days as everybody knows is creating jobs and saving jobs," Sarbannes said at the rally. "There are those who are determined to accomplish some kind of massive restructuring of the U.S. Postal Service. It doesn't make any kind of sense."



Live Smart. Live Green.
"Green" Single-family BEACH homes
from **ONLY \$199,900***

Windstone by **LG HOMES**

Visit us today and see why our Super Energy Efficient homes are the smartest choice for Your New Beach Home!

Open Thursday through Monday • 11am to 5pm or by appointment
Visit us in Milton, Delaware or call 302.645.7948

www.WindstoneDE.com



*Information subject to change. See a community representative for further details.

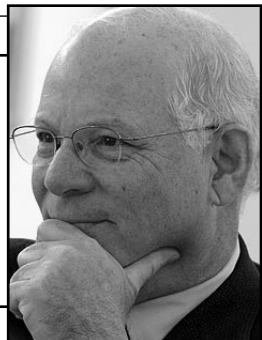
COMMENTARY

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S POST

A Community Newspaper for Prince George's County

Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



Senate Recognizes Infant Mortality Month

Washington, DC — U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) joined Senators Richard Burr (R-NC) and Robert Menendez (D-NJ) in praising the Senate for unanimously adopting a bipartisan resolution recognizing September 2011 as National Infant Mortality Awareness Month. The resolution highlights the need to increase awareness about infant mortality and access to prenatal care in the United States.

“Despite being one of the wealthiest nations on earth, America has the 29th highest infant mortality rate among industrialized nations, and Maryland has the 12th highest infant mortality rate in the country. National Infant Mortality Awareness Month presents the opportunity to educate Americans about infant mortality and its contributing factors, including low birth weight, and to recommit ourselves to expanding access to prenatal care.

“Infant mortality is a particularly acute problem in minority communities and those with high rates of unemployment and poverty. America cannot afford to ignore this problem, which costs us more than \$26 billion in excess health care expenditures each year. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act made strides in combating infant mortality by ensuring coverage of maternity benefits and expanding prenatal care services at federally qualified health centers. I’ve visited several of these centers in Maryland, which are making saving lives by providing at-risk-mothers-to-be with appropriate care and skills to raise healthy babies.”

“I am very glad we have taken this important step to raise awareness about programs that help save lives and ensure our children are healthy,” Senator Burr said. “National Infant Mortality

Awareness Month brings attention to risk factors that lead to low birth weight, premature births, and other health complications in babies and mothers. North Carolina has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the U.S., and I am pleased that the Senate was able to bring awareness to these risk factors and the importance of reducing our infant mortality rate.”

“Infant mortality is easily preventable with access to a good health care during a mother’s gestation period and through the early years of a child’s life,” said Senator Menendez. “Unfortunately it continues to affect our country at alarming rates, particularly minority communities with high rates of unemployment and poverty, impacting our families and our nation’s health budget. As one of the wealthiest nations, this is simply unacceptable. The National Infant Mortality Month gives us an opportunity to raise public awareness about the levels at which this problem continues to affect our communities, and educate women about how easily preventable it is.”

Senator Cardin has prioritized efforts to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities, and he authored the Affordable Care Act section establishing Offices of Minority Health in six agencies of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the new National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities in Bethesda. Earlier this year, Senator Cardin joined U.S. Surgeon General Regina Benjamin and officials from HHS to unveil the Department’s Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities, an unprecedented coordinated strategy for eliminating health care disparities in our nation.

To Be Equal

Marc Morial, President and CEO
National Urban League



A Long Shadow of Doubt: The Execution of Troy Davis

“When ... the Supreme Court gave its seal of approval to capital punishment, this endorsement was premised on the promise that capital punishment would be administered with fairness and justice. Instead, the promise has become a cruel and empty mockery. If not remedied, the scandalous state of our present system of capital punishment will cast a pall of shame over our society for years to come. We cannot let it continue.” Former United States Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall

Last Wednesday, September 21, 2011 was a sad day for American justice. On that date at 11:08 PM Eastern Time the State of Georgia administered a lethal injection into the body of 42-year-old Troy Davis and put him to death. With his dying breath, Troy Davis maintained his innocence in the 1989 shooting death of off-duty Savannah police officer Mark Allen MacPhail. For 20 years, the shadow of doubt that hung over Davis’ conviction grew so large that it galvanized anti-death penalty advocates around the world, including hundreds of citizens wearing “I am Troy Davis” T-shirts who kept a solemn vigil outside the Jackson, Georgia prison until the final hour.

Over the last 20 years, the National Urban League and dozens of other prominent organizations and leaders argued that Davis’s conviction was in serious doubt. Seven of the nine witnesses who originally identified Troy Davis as the murderer, later recanted their testimony. And no murder weapon or other physical evidence was ever found linking Davis to the crime. That is why we joined the NAACP, the Congressional Black Caucus, Amnesty International, former president Jimmy Carter, Nobel Laureate Desmond Tutu, Al Sharpton, former FBI Director William Sessions, Pope Benedict, former Georgia Congressman, Bob Barr and others in calling for Davis’ exoneration or at least further

investigation.

The racial subtext of this case cannot be ignored. Davis, a black man, was convicted of killing MacPhail, a white police officer. While African Americans make up only 13 percent of the population, more than 42 percent of death row inmates are black. Over 75 percent of the murder victims in cases resulting in an execution were white, even though nationally, only 50 percent of murder victims were white.

Since 1973, a total of 138 men and women have been exonerated or had their death sentences commuted based on post-conviction findings that proved their innocence — five of them in the state of Georgia. And, according to the Innocence Project, “Seventeen people have been proven innocent and exonerated by DNA testing in the United States after serving time on death row. They were convicted in 11 states and served a combined 209 years in prison — including 187 years on death row — for crimes they didn’t commit.” These disparities and problems cast a long shadow of doubt over our criminal justice system.

People of conscience can disagree on the death penalty, but it is unconscionable by every standard to execute someone who very well might be innocent. Our hearts go out not only to Mr. Davis’ family, but also to the family of Mark MacPhail who will never know for sure that his killer was brought to justice.

Legendary Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall was unequivocally against the death penalty and would have been a dissenter in last week’s 11th-hour Supreme Court decision allowing the execution of Troy Davis. Justice Marshall felt, as we do, that as long as questions of equity, fairness and fallibility persist, we must stop executions and give death row inmates every chance to prove their innocence.



Open to the Public

The Inn & Conference Center, University of Maryland University College

A leader among College Park, MD, hotels, the Marriott Inn & Conference Center, University of Maryland University College offers a state-of-the-art conference center, spacious guest rooms & VIP suites and 39,000 sq ft of meeting space for DC-area social or business events. This College Park, Maryland, hotel’s accomplishments include being named the country’s first environmentally friendly hotel and conference center, receiving its LEED certification and using recyclable materials and energy-saving systems in every facility to ensure a positive role in the environment.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Is Our Nation on the Titanic?

A theologian friend took her car to a Jiffy Lube for servicing. Not having anything to read, she picked up a manual on the coffee table about boating. A chapter on the rules for what happens when boats encounter one another on the open sea described two kinds of craft: burdened and privileged. The craft with power that can accelerate and push its way through the waves, change direction, and stop on demand is the burdened one. The craft dependent on the forces of nature, wind, tide, and human effort to keep going is the privileged craft. Since powerful boats can forge their way forward under their own power, they are burdened with responsibility to give the right of way to the powerless or privileged vessels dependent on the vagaries of the tide, wind, and weather. “Who wrote this thing?” my friend asked. “Mother Teresa? What’s going on in our land when the New Jersey State Department of Transportation knows that the powerful must give way if the powerless are to make safe harbor and the government of the United States and the church of Jesus Christ and other people of God are having trouble with the concept?”

How do we answer her, political, faith, and community leaders and citizens of our nation? What is our “theory of action” or values compass as we seek solutions to rampant joblessness and poverty among millions of Americans including 16.4 million poor children according to national U.S. census data released last week? What beyond politics and unbridled greed and power will calibrate our nation’s decision making? Is cutting helpless babies the same as cutting some of the many budget busting tax loopholes for millionaires and billionaires? Is cutting our children’s teachers, nutrition supplements, Head Start and child care the same as cutting powerful corporate subsidies or tax breaks for corporate jets? A child cut from health care or unable to get services when abused or neglected may never heal. Is it right or fair for Congress to wield a budget guillotine—called sequestration—if a Super Committee of 12 cannot reach a responsible agreement on both revenue and budget cuts? This will leave a range of discretionary programs for children, the poor and mid-

dle class, and seniors on the chopping block. Does the irresponsible no new tax pledge signed by an astounding 279 current members of Congress (238 Representatives and 41 Senators), including the six Republican members of the Congressional “Super Committee,” make the latter an irrelevant and unjust nonstarter? Are the hungry child and the huge corporate farmer who gets massive government “subsidies” (welfare) equally responsible for the deficit? I am reminded of French writer Anatole France’s passage in *The Red Lily*: “The law, in its majestic equality, forbids the rich as well as the poor to sleep under bridges, to beg in the streets, and to steal bread.” Is that our leaders’ and nation’s code of morality and justice? If so, the very dream and idea of an America where all have a fair chance and level playing field is dead.

According to new national U.S. census data, over 46 million people in America are poor—more than the entire combined populations of Iraq and Niger. A 2010 front page New York Times story reported that one in 50—or six million—people in America had no income and depended on food stamps to stave off the wolves of hunger. It provoked almost no response. Children—the most vulnerable and least culpable among us for the deficit—

are the poorest age group. And the younger they are the poorer they are. Inadequate national and state investment in early childhood and education, and government’s failure to protect children now from continuing economic downturn, are making them poorer. More than one million children fell into poverty between 2009 and 2010; almost a half million fell into extreme poverty.

It is disgraceful that the number of poor children in our rich nation is greater than the entire combined populations of Haiti and Liberia—two of the poorest countries on earth and that the number of children in extreme poverty is equivalent to the whole population of Israel. The number of poor children under age five, the years of greatest brain development, is more than the population of Sierra Leone. I have yet to hear political leaders in either party nationally or in the states say we will not cut young children who have no belts to tighten. I believe no child cuts and no cuts for the poor should trump no tax increases for the rich in a just society.

The budget debate today and the role of our national government is about who we are or want to be as Americans. Who is government—our collective

See WATCH, Page A8

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

Publisher Legusta Floyd	Subscriptions Anna Curry
General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager Brenda Boice	Editor Legusta Floyd
Legal Advertising Assistant Robin Boerckel	Web Manager Kylar 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

County Executive Addresses Small and Minority Businesses on Economic Development Incentive Fund

By PRESS OFFICER
County Executive's Office

UPPER MARLBORO, MD – Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III and the Minority Business Development Division (MBDD) this week welcomed 150 small and minority businesses at the Economic Development Incentive (EDI) Fund Business Forum.

MBDD Executive Director Roland Jones moderated a Question and Answer session with the County Executive and members his economic development team - David Iannucci and Aubrey Thagard, Assistant Deputy Chief Administrative Officers for Economic Development and Public Infrastructure, and Pradeep Ganguly, Senior Vice President, Prince George's County

Economic Development Corporation. They explained the Fund's goals, how it will impact small businesses in Prince George's County and how it will be administered.

The event was hosted by MBDD at the Marlboro Ridge Equestrian Clubhouse by Toll Brothers in Upper Marlboro.

As part of his FY 2012 Proposed Operating and Capital Budget, Mr. Baker proposed a one-time investment of \$50 million to be set aside as a multi-year commitment for the Economic Development Incentive Fund in an effort to expand the County's commercial tax base, create additional jobs, and increase the County's income tax base.

"I proposed the EDI Fund to support and grow small businesses in Prince George's County," Baker said. "With this tool, we will be able to grow our

economy, provide jobs for our residents and increase our tax base to pay for valuable services such as education and public safety."

The creation of this fund is an unprecedented initiative in Prince George's County. Providing a \$50 million fund for this purpose will dramatically elevate the county's economic development profile and signal to the development community that Prince George's has turned a significant corner. The EDI Fund's potential return on investment will not be measured solely by financial returns to the fund itself – rather, it will be mea-



FILE PHOTO
Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III welcomed small and minority businesses

measured primarily by tangible measures like job creation, increased tax revenue, and the achievement of key development goals.

The EDI Fund will be capitalized with \$7 million for FY 2012. Appropriations for the Fund will be made annually.

GPS from A1

"I think that watermen in general have some concerns with the government being able to track their vessels' movements," O'Connell said.

Larry Simms, president of the Maryland Watermen's Association, said he is not bothered by the idea of being tracked.

"Nobody wants to have the government on your back all the time, but if we don't do something, two or three bad apples

are going to ruin the whole fishery for us," Simms said.

Most law-abiding watermen will be fine with vessel monitoring systems as long as it does not cost them anything, Simms said.

"The ones that are breaking the law are going to raise the devil about it," he said.

But the cost of vessel monitoring systems - which could be \$1,500 to \$3,000, according to O'Connell - concerns Simms. "If we have to pay for it, we just can't do it," he said.

For the pilot program, DNR

is looking at buying the devices for participants using grant money, O'Connell said. But if tracking devices ever become a requirement, the industry will likely have to pay for them.

O'Connell said the increased cost of the vessel monitoring systems could be offset in other ways, such as relaxing regulatory constraints on the industry. For example, participants in the pilot program may receive an individual quota, or allotted amount of fish, giving them the flexibility to fish when the mar-

ket is best for them, he said.

Open houses will be held from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. on October 4 and October 6 to discuss a set of proposed regulations on commercial striped bass, and the pilot program will be introduced for initial feedback.

The first open house will be held at BG Louis G. Smith Armory, 7111 Ocean Gateway in Easton; and the second will be held at Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company, 161 Ritchie Highway in Severna Park.

CAO from A1

basis of his qualifications as a professional administrator and shall serve at the discretion of the County Executive. The Chief Administrative Officer shall perform such administrative duties and exercise such general supervision over the agencies of the executive branch as the County Executive may direct."

Seamon will replace P. Michael Errico, an administrative executive expert with over four decades of County, regional, and private managerial experience at the highest levels. Errico returned to Prince George's County government at the request of County Executive Baker to review County administrative procedures, policies, and personnel as well as implement improvements to County processes.

"I cannot express the amount of gratitude I have for the service of Mike Errico during the first ten months of my administration," said Baker. "Mike Errico was at the point in his long and distinguished professional career that he did not need to come work for Prince George's County government again. But he did so because of his love for his native Prince George's County and his commitment to improve this government to better serve its residents. His work during these first ten months in office will endure throughout my entire tenure as County Executive and beyond."

Seamon will be appointed Acting Chief Administrative

Officer in accordance to Article V, Section 505 of the County Charter. Upon the County Council returning from its next legislative recess, Seamon will be nominated for permanent appointment and will be subject to Prince George's County Council confirmation according to Article III, Section 322 of the County Charter whereas "The Council shall hold public hearings on all such appointments not less than thirty days after their submission to the Council by the County Executive. If the Council fails to act to confirm or reject such appointments within forty-five days of their submission to the Council by the County Executive, the appointment shall stand approved. Furthermore Article III, Section 322 states, "...a vote of two-thirds of the members of the full Council shall be required to reject such appointment."

Biography of Bradford L. Seamon:

Bradford L. Seamon was appointed to Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Health, Human Services and Education in December 2010 by County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. He provided leadership and management oversight to the Health Department, Department of Social Services, and the Department of Family Services; as well as the executive management liaison to the Board of Education, Hospital Authority, Memorial Library System and Prince George's Community College. In September, 2011, Seamon was named Deputy Chief

Administrative Officer for Budget, Finance, and Administration.

Since joining the Baker Administration, Mr. Seamon has served as the County's lead point person for the development of the Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Maryland Medical System as well as leading reforms to create more health care access for County residents. Additionally, he was the Senior Manager involved with the planning and implementation of the administration's CountyStat program and worked on County Executive Baker's Economic Development Incentive Fund legislation. Mr. Seamon was a critical member of the administration's team that demonstrated the fiscal soundness of the County in order to retain Prince George's County's 'AAA' bond rating with all three rating agencies. He also chairs the County Government's School Construction Committee.

Prior to joining the Prince George's County government, Mr. Seamon served as CEO of B L Seamon Corporation (BLS), a firm that he co-founded in 1989. BLS provides professional services for the Federal, corporate and non-profit sectors. The company has performed projects on six continents and was recognized as a top 100 minority business enterprise in the mid-Atlantic region and one of the top five small business contractors to the US Department of Health and Human Services.

The firm also was runner up

for the National Capital Small Business Ethics Award. As CEO of BLS, he managed finance and accounting, contracts, information technology, human resources and business development. He also managed numerous projects and provided direct services to the firm's customers. Engagements included actuarial evaluations of federally funded state self-insurance funds; a performance audit of a local government enterprise fund; development of performance plans and performance measures for two federal agencies; compliance audits of state block grants; and consulting with federally funded non-profits in the development of strategic budgets and strategic plans.

Prior to 1989, Mr. Seamon was a Staff Auditor for Deloitte, Haskins and Sells in Washington, DC, where he performed financial audits in both a supervisory and staff role. Mr. Seamon served as assistant controller and controller at SMS Data Products and Synergics, Inc., respectively. Mr. Seamon also chaired a task force that studied and provided recommendations on increasing revenues and reducing costs in the Department of Parks and Recreation Enterprise Fund.

Mr. Seamon received a bachelor's degree in accounting from Howard University in 1984, a master's degree in management from the University of Maryland in 2002 and is a certified public accountant. He was recognized as one of the 40 most prominent graduates from Howard University's business school.

Business Exchange

by William Reed



Is Treatment of the Palestinians Fair?

During a formal address before the United Nations, President Mahmoud Abbas requested that they acknowledge Palestine as a member of the world body. Abbas said, "It's time to end the suffering and plight of millions of Palestinians." President Abbas received a standing ovation from the General Assembly, while back in the Palestinian Territories; activists burned pictures of President Barack Obama.

In his addresses before the General Assembly, Obama, pledged to veto the Palestinians' statehood request. The question of voting for Obama again goes to a matter of character: Is the way Obama dealt with the Palestinians fair, or correct? American presidents have never been "even-handed" with the Palestinians and Obama is no different. It was U.S. favoritism toward Israel that caused Palestinians to approach the United Nations in the first place. Had Obama played the "honest broker" that many expected after his Cairo speech, the Palestinians would have stuck with bilateral negotiations. Once Obama abandoned any pretense of neutrality, the Palestinians had little choice but to find another way to resolve its conflict.

The "first Black President" is the latest in a series of American presidents "short-shafting" the Palestinians. These days, Obama is simply the one sitting in the presidential seat as the world more closely monitors ways the Palestinians are treated. The Palestinian-Israeli problem has evaded solution since Obama's Nobel Peace Prize-winning predecessor, Dr. Ralph Bunche helped establish the Israeli state in 1948. It was Bunche's and the United Nation's intention that Palestine be made into a place of refuge for Jews after World War II, as well as a place for Arabs. However, when Palestine was made into a country known as "Israel" for the Jews, conflicts began, and from the wars that occurred, Israel obtained more land and the Palestinian-Arabs lost most of theirs. Issues involving: mutual recognition, borders, security, water rights, control of Jerusalem, settlements, Palestine freedom of movement and legalities concerning refugees has spawned a humanitarian crisis in the occupied Palestinian territories, reflected by the world's leading poverty rates, unemploy-

ment and malnutrition.

Blacks should expect more of Obama on this issue. Almost every statement Brother Barack made at the United Nations concerning the Israelis-Palestinians was false and slanted. They were lies that both Obama and the audience knew were falsehoods. At the United Nations, Obama sold out his character and America's fundamental national and moral interests in a blatant ploy for a second presidential term. In the tradition of past presidents, Obama says that "the Palestinians should have a state of their own", but they shouldn't be pushy, not embarrass the U.S., or come to the United Nations. In the Obama plan, the Palestinians must sit with the Israelis, like reasonable people, and work it out with them – like reasonable sheep must sit down with the reasonable wolf and decide what to have for dinner, and foreigners should not interfere.

Over the decades, America has made Israel the largest total recipient of direct U.S. economic and military assistance. Israel receives about \$3 billion in direct foreign assistance each year – one fifth of America's entire foreign aid budget. American money toward Israel is a direct subsidy worth about \$500 per year.

"Peace deals" recent American presidential administrations want the Palestinians to embrace are Bantustans on less than 22 percent of historic Palestine. But, due to President Abbas' deft move, Palestinians' long-ignored problems are now the center of international attention. President Obama's miserable performance at the UN put the nail in the coffin of America's status as a neutral facilitator. Different from African-American voters willing to forgive him; few of the world's people of color are expected to forgive the way he threw the helpless Palestinians under the bus at the UN. The matter will be addressed by the UN Security Council and General Assembly. The United States holds veto power on the Security Council and pledges to vote down the statehood bid, but in the General Assembly the Palestinians enjoy the support of more than 120 of the 193 members which assures passage of the resolution.

(William Reed is available for speaking/seminar projects via BaileyGroup.org)

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

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

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

www.fettervillesales.com
Serving our customers for 30 years

FETTERVILLE
SINCE SALES 1980
"The Pole Building Specialists"

Post Frame Buildings are:

- More efficient
- Cost less
- Stronger
- More durable
- Have greater flexibility in design

Agricultural • Commercial • Residential

800-331-1875
Lic. #PA024688

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
1-877-642-3224
"SERVICE FIRST... FUN ALWAYS!"

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

"Moneyball"

"MONEYBALL"

B
Rated PG-13 for two F-words.
2 hrs., 13 min.

"Moneyball" lies at the intersection of math and baseball, where-- wait, come back! It isn't boring, I promise!

As it happens, the intersection of math and baseball is also the intersection of business and sports, two subjects that have often enthralled moviegoers with their tales of cutthroat competition and underdog victories. "Moneyball," based on Michael Lewis' book about the 2002 Oakland A's, appears to be centered on statistics, but its real theme is good old-fashioned American resourcefulness.

Brad Pitt stars as Billy Beane, the general manager of the A's at a frustrating time. The 2001 season ended with the Oakland competing with the New York Yankees -- or in other words, with \$114 million competing with \$439 million, the respective budgets of the teams. A rich franchise can afford to buy the best players in the league, to the detriment of the organizations with less available cash. "The game isn't fair," Billy says -- and he doesn't mean baseball.

The A's are losing three key players going into the 2002 season. Billy's front-office staff is trying to replace them the conventional way, looking to acquire players with the same

skills, but they're shopping for steak on a hamburger budget. The solution comes when Billy meets Peter Brand (Jonah Hill), a Yale graduate with a degree in economics who's a proponent of a new theory in baseball analysis. He says many of the criteria used to pick "good" players are outdated or illogical, and that as a result a lot of guys with winning potential are undervalued. Even a low-budget team like the A's can afford such players, who can theoretically be turned into a winning squad.

For example, there's Scott Hatteberg (Chris Pratt), a catcher whose career is assumed to be over because his elbow is shot. As a batter, though, he has a great record of getting on base, and getting on base is how runs get scored. Billy, with Peter as his new adviser, proposes making Scott the first baseman. Has he played that position before? No. But the A's need a new player there, and Scott needs to be in the lineup so he can bat and get on base.

Most of the film, which was directed by Bennett Miller ("Capote"), takes place during the 2002 season, with Billy doggedly trying to prove to his skeptical staff and the ever-harping sports commentators that his unconventional system will work. He faces the worst opposition from Art Howe (Philip Seymour Hoffman), the team manager, who makes the day-to-day lineup decisions and refuses to give Billy's insane ideas a chance.



PHOTO COURTESY ROTTENTOMATOES

Based on a true story, Moneyball is a movie for anybody who has ever dreamed of taking on the system. Brad Pitt stars as Billy Beane, the general manager of the Oakland A's and the guy who assembles the team, who has an epiphany: all of baseball's conventional wisdom is wrong. Forced to reinvent his team on a tight budget, Beane will have to outsmart the richer clubs. The onetime jock teams with Ivy League grad Peter Brand (Jonah Hill) in an unlikely partnership, recruiting bargain players that the scouts call flawed, but all of whom have an ability to get on base, score runs, and win games.

You can see how this could be a uniquely compelling sports drama, despite the importance of number-crunching in the story. The screenplay was written by Steven Zaillian ("Gangs of New York"), with an overhaul by Aaron Sorkin, who worked the same kind of how-could-this-be-entertaining? magic with last year's "The Social Network." I don't know which writer is responsible for what, but Pitt, Hill, and the supporting players have plenty of zesty banter that more than adequately balances out the film's drier aspects.

It's hard to tell whether the movie was produced with baseball fans in mind. It's not a traditional sports movie. Though it does have some rousing sequences of on-field action and suspense, it's primarily a behind-the-scenes drama -- and a good one, maybe a better one than you'd expect. I'm not a big fan of baseball (or math, for that matter), but I enjoyed "Moneyball" as an engaging story of outside-the-box thinking. Even when innovators don't get the acclaim they deserve, it's rewarding to see them put their ingenuity into action.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Troy Davis, John Carlos, and the Moment that Still Matters

On September 21st, the day that Troy Davis was executed in Georgia, 200 very angry Howard University students pumped their fists in front of the Barack Obama's White House and chanted "No Justice, No Vote." At that moment, I understood why an image from 1968 still resonates today. It was 43 years ago this week when Tommie Smith and John Carlos raised their black-gloved fists on the Olympic Medal Stand and, along with supportive silver-medalist Peter Norman, created a moment seared for all-time in the American consciousness.

This week also marks the release of John Carlos's autobiography, *The John Carlos Story*, which I co-wrote. When John asked me to write the book, I felt compelled to do it because I've long wondered "why?" Not why did Smith and Carlos sacrifice fame, fortune and glory in one medal-stand moment, but why that moment has stood the test of time.

Of course, much of the book details why John Carlos took his stand. It was 1968. Dr. King had been assassinated. The Black Freedom Struggle had become a fixture of American life. In the world of Olympic sports, apartheid South Africa and Rhodesia were regulars at the games. There were scant black coaches. Avery Brundage, an avowed white supremacist, ran the International Olympic Committee.

John Carlos in particular, in the 1960s, went from being a Harlem high school track star - walking down the street talking both smack and politics with neighborhood regulars like Malcolm X and Adam Clayton Powell - to being a scholarship athlete at segregated East Texas State. The gap between his sense of himself as a man and going to the South and being treated like a boy drove him politically toward his medal stand moment.

The answer to "why do so many of us still care" was tougher to decipher. In 2010, I appeared on a panel on the history of sports and resistance with Carlos, after which a long line of young people born years -- even decades -- after 1968 patiently waited for his signature on everything from posters and T-shirts to hastily procured pieces of notebook paper. Why? And why have I seen street-corner merchants from Harlem to Johannesburg sell T-shirts emblazoned with that image?

The most obvious is that people love a good redemption song. Smith and Carlos have been proven correct by history. They were reviled for taking a stand and using the Olympic podium to do it. A young sportswriter named Brent Musberger called them "Black-skinned storm troopers." But their "radical" demands have since proved to be prescient. Today, the idea of standing up to apartheid South Africa, racism, and Avery Brundage seems a matter of common decency rather than radical rabble-rousing. After years of death threats, poverty, and being treated as pariahs in the world of athletics, Smith and Carlos attend ceremonial unveilings of statues erected in their honor. America, like no other country on earth, loves remarking on its own progress.

But it was the Howard students, chanting "No Justice, No Vote" to an African American President on the night of a Georgia execution, who truly unveiled for me why the image of black-gloved fists thrust in the air has retained its power. Smith and Carlos sacrificed privilege and glory, fame and fortune, for a larger cause. As Carlos says, "A lot of the [black] athletes thought that winning [Olympic] medals would protect them from racism. But even if you won a medal, it ain't going to save your momma. It ain't going to save your sister or children. It might give you 15 minutes of fame, but what about the rest of your life?"

Carlos' attitude resonates because for all the blather about us living in a "post-racial society", there are reservoirs of anger about the realities of racism in the United States. The latest poverty statistics show that black poverty rate of 27.4% is nearly double the overall U.S. rate. Black children living in poverty has reached 39.1 percent. Then there's the criminal justice system, where 33% of African American men are either in jail or on parole. The image of Carlos and Smith evokes a degree of principle, fearlessness, and freedom that I believe many people think are sorely lacking today. They stood at the Olympics unencumbered by doubt, as brazenly Free Men. We are still grappling with the fact that they had to do it and the fact that it still needs to be done.

[Dave Zirin is the author of "The John Carlos Story" (Haymarket) and just made the new documentary "Not Just a Game." Receive his column every week by emailing dave@edgeofsports.com. Contact him at edgeofsports@gmail.com.]

Maryland Lottery Partners with State Police to Expand AMBER Alert Visibility

(Baltimore) — Maryland's AMBER Alert program has expanded significantly its reach as a result of the joint effort between the Maryland Lottery and the Maryland State Police. The alliance between the two state agencies was announced today at Lottery Headquarters in Baltimore.

Using the Maryland Lottery's new Lottery InMotion™ tech-

nology, AMBER Alerts now are displayed within 15 minutes of notification on the Maryland Lottery's 17-inch flat panel color monitors.

The monitors are currently located at more than 3,700 Lottery retailers, including gas stations, convenience stores, bars & restaurants and other venues across the state. This joint effort significantly expands AMBER

Alerts' visibility and helps to communicate instantly vital information about a missing child to a statewide audience. When fully implemented, AMBER Alerts will be displayed on more than 4,200 Lottery InMotion™ screens throughout Maryland.

Lottery Director Stephen Martino along with Lieutenant John Wilhelm, commander of the Maryland State Police Computer Crimes Section, and Bob Hoever, associate director of special projects with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), participated in the conference, which also was streamed live on livestream.com/mdlottery.

"We're proud to be a part of this effort," Martino said. "It's gratifying to lend our support and resources to the AMBER Alert program and assist to bring a child home safely."

"Partnerships are vital to the

success of any endeavor, especially one involving law enforcement, the public and the search for a missing child," said Colonel Marcus L. Brown, superintendent of the Maryland State Police. "This innovative technology will establish a more efficient communication between our citizens and the police, intensifying the efforts we can make together to safely locate Maryland's missing children even sooner."

Since its inception in 1973, the Maryland Lottery has awarded more than \$18.73 billion in prizes to players and \$12.2 billion in revenue to the State of Maryland. One of Maryland's largest revenue sources, the Lottery supports important state programs and services including education, public safety and health, human resources and the environment.

For more information, go to mdlottery.com.



ALL Maryland Lottery retailers now displaying MD State Police-issued Amber Alerts

The joint effort of the Maryland Lottery and the Maryland State Police to significantly expand Maryland's Amber Alert visibility. Using the Maryland Lottery's new Lottery in Motion (LIMs) technology, the Amber Alert will be displayed within minutes of a notification on 17" flat panel monitors located at more than 4,200 Lottery retailers across the state.



PHOTO BY MARYLAND LOTTERY

Maryland Lottery - Ravens Cash Fantasy,"

District 9 Seniors & Veterans Summit - Oct. 7

feat. Lt. Governor Anthony Brown
The Office of Council District 9 is hosting its 1st Annual Seniors & Veterans Services Summit on Friday, October 7, 12-2PM at Colony South Hotel & Conference Center, 7401 Surratts Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735.

The keynote speaker will be Lt. Governor Anthony Brown and several state and local agencies will be in attendance providing important information to seniors and veterans. This event is free and lunch will be provided. Registration is required. Please register by calling the District 9 Office at 301-952-3820 or by e-mailing the office at rjhenry@co.pg.md.us.

Calendar of Events

October 6 - October 12, 2011

Branch Avenue in Bloom Farmers Market

Date & Time: Fridays through November 18, 2-6 pm
Description: Support local farmers! Call to find out about its selection of fruits, vegetables, organic food, local specialties and crafts. FMNP Checks (WIC & Senior) & FVC accepted. Read more about local farmers markets.
Location: Iverson Mall Parking Lot, Branch Avenue 20748
Contact: 301-403-8300 (Dion Gray)

Montpelier Fall Jazz Series: John Ozment, Organ Trio

Date and Time: October 7, 8 pm
Event Description: John Ozment is known at Montpelier for his virtuosity on the piano. Come hear his organ trio play jazz with a decidedly funky beat.
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

Cafe Groove Coffee House for Teens

Date & Time: Friday, October 7, 7:30 pm
Description: Cafe Groove Coffee House for Teens is a monthly teen program offered at different locations throughout the county. Teens ages 12-18 enjoy a mix of dance and poetry, an open mic, and visual arts contests with cash prizes.
Ages: 12-18
Fee: \$3/person
Location: *South Bowie Community Center*
1717 Pittsfield Lane, Bowie 20716
Information: 301-249-1622; TTY 301-218-6768

Fall Doubles Tennis Tournament

Date & Time: Saturday, October 8 & Sunday, October 9, 8 am- 6pm
(Rain dates: October 15 & 16, 8 am-6 pm)
Description: Register for a single elimination tennis tournament. Compete in one of 3 categories: women's doubles, men's doubles and mixed doubles, for the following levels:
Women's: 2.5-3.0; 3.5-4.0; and 4.5 & above
Men's: 2.5-3.0; 3.5-4.0; and 4.5 & above
Mixed: 2.5-3.0; 3.5-4.0; and 4.5 & above
The deadline for entries is September 24, 4 pm. Light Refreshments will be provided.
Cost: \$20/person
Ages: 18 & up
Location: *Tucker Road Community Center*
1771 Tucker Road, Fort Washington 20744
Contact: 301-248-4404; TTY 301-203-6030; Fax 301-248-1739

The Low End String Quartet: Violin, Electric Guitar, Cello and Bass

Event date: Sunday, October 09, 2011, at 3:00 PM
Date and Time: October 9, 3 pm
Event Description: Not your father's string quartet! This exciting young group puts itself "at the intersection of the post-classical, avant-jazz and post-rock worlds". Reservations required.
Ages: All ages
Fee: FREE, but a \$5 donation is suggested.
Location: *Montpelier Arts Center*
9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD 20708
Information: 301-377-7800, 410-792-0664; TTY 301-490-2329

Investment ABCs

Date & Time: Monday, October 10, 7-9 pm
Description: In the past few years, world events in financial markets have caused investors to become very cautious. Both beginning and more experienced investors are affected by the same factors. Knowledge is a key component to any strategy. This workshop will focus on addressing the pros and cons of different types of investments.
Cost: Resident \$5/person; Non-Resident \$6/person
Ages: 18 & up
Location: *Harmony Hall Regional Center*
10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington 20744
Contact: 301-203-6040; TTY 301-203-6030

Afternoon Tea: John Jensen, Trombonist

Date and Time: Wednesday, October 12, 2 pm
Event Description: John Jensen, a former lead trombonist with the Navy Commodores, and his three-piece Dixie Trio will delight afternoon tea audiences with a tribute to Tommy Dorsey.
Ages: All ages
Fee: \$15/person
Location: *Arts/Harmony Hall Regional Center*
10701 Livingston Road, Ft. Washington 20744
Information: 301-203-6070; TTY 301-203-3803

Tiny Tots Thursday: Grimm 'n Grits

Date and Time: Thursday, October 13, 9:30 am & 11 am
Event Description: Storyteller Jon Spelman is joined by musician Tina Chancey to present some favorite classic tales with a country-fried twist. The Brothers Grimm's Little Red Riding Hood, Hansel & Gretel, Cinderella and Rumpelstiltskin come at you with homespun humor that will have the young audience laughing as they learn some history and geography with each colorful story.
Ages: Recommended for grades pre-K-2
Fee: \$3/person
Location: *Publick Playhouse*
5445 Landover Road, Cheverly 20784
Information: 301-277-1710; TTY: 301-277-1312

EARTH TALK ... "The climate impacts of freight transport."

Dear EarthTalk:

Freight companies like FedEx, UPS and all those 18 wheelers on the highways probably generate a lot of pollution and global warming. Is anything being done to address this?

Michael Brown,
Washington, DC

Freight companies operating in the U.S. and beyond do generate significant amounts of pollution. While transportation technologies and fuels have gotten more efficient in recent years, freight demands have grown considerably over the past two decades. Today, in the U.S. alone, for example, freight is responsible for about a quarter of all transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions.

Most freight trucks, locomotives and ships run on diesel engines, which are major sources of emissions of nitrogen oxides, particulate matter and carbon dioxide (CO₂). Repeated exposure to nitrogen oxide-based smog and particulate matter has been linked to a wide range of human health problems, and we all know what CO₂ emissions are doing to the planet's atmosphere and ecosystems in terms of global warming.

According to a 2005 analysis by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), heavy duty trucks are the biggest villains, accounting for 77.8 percent of total U.S.

freight greenhouse gas emissions. Boat, train and airplane freight contribute 10.8, 8.7 and 2.8 percent respectively.

Besides filling up loads completely and keeping equipment well tuned, shippers can reduce emissions via smarter operations and procedures. Software developed by UPS's Roadnet helps logistics managers re-engineer their fleet routing, preventing tons of emissions and saving millions of dollars and in the process.

Newer Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) emissions standards aim to reduce nitrogen oxide and particulate matter pollution from freight operators upwards of 60 percent by 2020. They are a step in the right direction, but the failure of Congress to pass substantive federal legislation limiting CO₂ emissions means that a growing freight sector will continue to pump out more and more greenhouse gases.

A recently released report by the tri-lateral North American Free Trade Agreement's (NAFTA's) Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) lays out a vision for how to make freight—the second largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in North America after electricity generation—more efficient and less polluting across Mexico, the U.S. and Canada.

The report identifies some scary trends. For example, emissions from freight-related vehicles grew 74 percent between 1990 and 2008—some



CREDIT: THINKSTOCK

Freight shipments are responsible for about a quarter of all transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions. Heavy duty trucks are the biggest villains, accounting for 77.8 percent of freight transportation's total. Running mostly on diesel fuel, they are also major emitters of nitrogen oxides and particulate matter, which are linked to a wide range of human health problems

40 percent more than emissions growth from passenger vehicles over the same time span. Also, while emissions by light duty vehicles are expected to drop 12 percent by 2030, freight truck emissions are expected to grow by 20 percent. To start turning the freight sector around, CEC recommends that the three countries party to NAFTA start shifting to lower carbon fuels, putting a price on carbon emissions and replacing crumbling infrastructure. These fixes won't be cheap, but CEC claims they will save money in the long run and clean up of North American freight altogether.

CONTACTS: FHWA's "Assessing the Effects of Freight Movement on Air

Quality at the National and Regional Level,"

[www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/publications/effects_of_freight_movement/Roadnet Technologies, www.roadnet.com;](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/publications/effects_of_freight_movement/Roadnet_Technologies/www.roadnet.com)
Commission for Environmental Cooperation, www.cec.org.

EarthTalk® is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of E - The Environmental Magazine

(www.emagazine.com). Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.
Subscribe: www.emagazine.com/subscribe. Free Trial Issue: www.emagazine.com/trial.

A Triad of New Traffic Safety Laws Take Effect in Maryland October 1

By PRESS OFFICER
AARP

After Nearly 15 Years of Advocacy By Traffic Safety Groups And Victims' Families, Vehicle Manslaughter Bill Becomes Law And Closes Critical Loophole

WASHINGTON, D. C. (Thursday, September 29, 2011) – Although nearly half (47%) of all "texting adults" confess to either sending or reading a text message while driving, it will be against the law in Maryland to read a text message or an e-mail while driving in the state, starting at midnight on the first day of October.

On the first day of the month, two other new traffic safety laws including, one that closes a glaring and long-standing loophole in Maryland's criminal law that previously allow drivers who kill cyclists to receive little or no punishment, will become effective. Under the new law, it will be a misdemeanor for causing the death of another while operating a vehicle in a criminally negligent manner, notes AAA Mid-Atlantic.

The third in the triad of new traffic safety laws expands Maryland's mandatory interlock device laws. It will increase the number of persons required to use the automotive alcohol detection system, which measures the amount of alcohol in an individual's system, before attempting to drive a vehicle.

"The new traffic laws will ideally alter motorists' current driving habits and save lives on Maryland roads," observes Marlon G. (Lon) Anderson, AAA Mid-Atlantic's Managing Director of Public and Government Affairs. The traffic safety laws were passed during the Maryland General Assembly earlier this year.

Manslaughter by Vehicle or Vessel – Criminal Negligence

After more than a decade, the Maryland General Assembly passed a bill that would create a criminal negligence standard for those motorists who drive in such an egregious manner that their actions lead to the death of another.

"We were pleased to see that this bill, which will stiffen penalties for drivers who kill someone through their excessively negligent actions, was finally passed this year by the Maryland Legislature," noted Anderson.

"This much-needed legislation addresses a critical loophole that traffic safety advocates, including AAA and the families of victims have been trying to fix for nearly 15 years."

"Before this law was passed, many drivers who killed with a motor vehicle often only faced fines and many were not even required to appear in court," Anderson added. House Bill 363 will make it "a misdemeanor for a person to cause the death of another as a result of the person's driving, operating or controlling a vehicle or vessel in a criminally negligent manner and establishes the circumstances under which a person is considered to act in a criminally negligent manner."

Use of Text Messaging Device While Driving – Prohibited Acts

After a failed attempt last year to close a loophole with the texting while driving ban which passed in 2009, traffic safety advocates, with the support of the Maryland General Assembly were successful this year in closing the loophole by passing HB 196/SB 424 which added a ban on 'reading a text message while driving.'

As a reminder, the initial legislation, prohibited writing and sending an electronic message. The law is effective whether the vehicle is in motion or not on the travel portion of the roadway,

thus applicable to drivers stopped at a red light or stuck in traffic, for example.

The law does not apply to the use of a global positioning system or a text messaging device to contact a 9-1-1 system. This is a primary offense, which is punishable by a fine of \$70 and one point; however, if the action contributes to an accident the fine is \$110 and carries three points on one's driver's license, according to the Maryland State Police. "A major safety concern of Maryland motorists is distracted driving so this amended law will help to eliminate one more distraction on our roadways," commented Anderson.

More than 4 in 10 (41%) Maryland drivers listed distracted drivers as their top worry according to AAA Mid-Atlantic's 2011 public opinion poll on key transportation issues. Lawmakers say: "This bill clarifies the prohibition against a person using a text messaging device to write, send, or read a text message while operating a motor vehicle and includes a prohibition against writing, sending, or reading an electronic message."

Drunk Driving Reduction Act

HB 1276 expands driver participation in the Ignition Interlock System Program by requiring mandatory ignition interlocks for repeat offenders,



PHOTO BY INTERACTIVE_DEVICES02, FLICKR

A driver talks on a cell phone while driving. Starting October 1, police can give motorists tickets for talking or text messaging on hand-held devices.

