

# BUSINESS

## County Executive Baker Appoints Budget Officials

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the County Executive

Upper Marlboro, MD - Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker recently appointed Thomas M. Himler and Terri Bacote-Charles to lead the County's budget and finance operations. Himler will serve as Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) for Budget, Finance, and Administration and Bacote-Charles as Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget replacing Himler.

Himler, who will oversee the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Finance, and Office of Central Services served as Director of the Office of Management and Budget from December 2010 to 2011. In his new role, Himler will also serve as a liaison to the Board of Elections, Board of License Commissioners, Cable Television Commission, and Minority Business Opportunities Commission. He replaces Bradford Seamon, who was promoted to Acting Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) in October.

Terri Bacote-Charles will replace Himler as Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget and will have responsibility for budget formulation, fiscal control, program/project control and evaluation, and management and policy analysis. Under Section 802 of the County Charter, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget is responsible to the County Executive for assisting in the preparation of the annual Current Expense and Capital

Budgets of the County and advising upon any request for County funds and revenue needs. In addition, the office studies budget execution and the efficiency of agencies' organization, methods and procedures, and prepares related reports.

"Our County is fortunate to have Tom and Terri managing the finances of the County. They each bring a wealth of experience to their respective jobs that will help us navigate through these times of limited financial resources. They are another example of the high quality people we have working in this administration," said County Executive Rushern L. Baker.

In accordance with Section 322 of the County Charter, Ms. Bacote-Charles is subject to confirmation by the Prince George's County Council.

### Biographies of Himler and Bacote-Charles:

#### Thomas M. Himler

Thomas M. Himler was appointed as Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Budget, Finance, and Administration in December 2011. Between December 2010 and December 2011, Mr. Himler served as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, where he oversaw the development and implementation of a \$3 billion operating budget and a \$2 billion capital improvement program. He has over 20 years of State and local government finance experience.

Prior to his return to Prince George's County government, Mr. Himler was the Managing

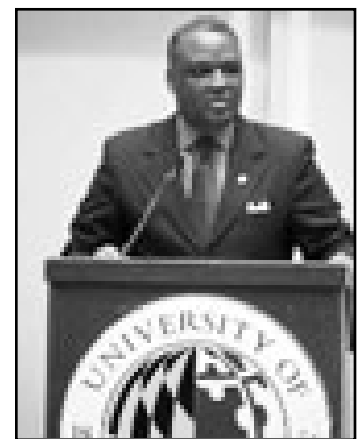
Member of the Municipal Group, LLC, a public advisory firm between August 2006 and December 2010. He also served as a member of the Prince George's Hospital Authority (2008-2010). Mr. Himler has also served as Director, Office of Management and Budget, for Prince George's County between June 2003 and August 2006. He joined the County in 1999 as a legislative analyst in the Office of the County Executive before becoming the Associate Budget Director in July 2001. Prior to that, he worked as a legislative analyst for the Mayor's Office of State Relations in Baltimore City and as a policy analyst for the Department of Legislative Services in the Maryland General Assembly.

Mr. Himler holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from West Virginia University and a Master's of Professional Accountancy degree from West Virginia University. He lives in Bowie with his wife and three daughters.

#### Terri Bacote-Charles

Terri Bacote-Charles was named Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget in December 2011. She served as the Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget between January 2011 and December 2011, and previously from August 2003 to August 2006. During her tenure, she was responsible for assisting in the development and implementation of \$3 billion operating budget and a \$2 billion capital improvement program.

Mrs. Bacote-Charles also



FILE PHOTO  
Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker

has served as Director, Budget and Management Services, for the Prince George's County Public Schools between August 2006 and April 2008. Prior to that, she worked for the Maryland General Assembly as a Capital Budget Manager (2001-2003) and Senior Policy Analyst (1998-2001) for the Department of Legislative Services. Her career has also included experiences with Baltimore County, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), United Mine Workers Health and Retirement Fund, and Blue Cross and Blue Shield - Federal Employees Program.

Mrs. Bacote-Charles holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and a Masters of Arts Degree in Public Policy from Duke University. She has also attended Policy Institutes at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, University of Texas. She has resided in the County for over 40 years.

## Business Exchange

by William Reed



### A Call for Black Americans to Respond

You could be "the one." Chances are you're the match who could benefit your kin and kind with a life-saving donation. Every day, thousands of patients with leukemia and other life-threatening diseases hope for a marrow donor who could make a transplant possible for them. Black Americans can help one another by becoming activists and participants in bone marrow donations.

Hundreds of thousands of African Americans long for a bone marrow transplant. Over the past 40 years, bone marrow and hematopoietic stem cell transplantation have been used with increased frequency to treat numerous malignant and non-malignant diseases. The transplantation success rate is tempered by the fact that the chance of finding a match remains close to 93 percent for Caucasians, but as low as 66 percent for African Americans. The tissue types used for matching patients with donors are inherited, so patients are most likely to find a match within their own racial or ethnic heritage. African Americans need to participate in greater numbers in "Be The Match" programs. It's not a decision the government has to make, in this instance African Americans have the power to help themselves. Involvement in the "Be The Match" Registry operated by the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) enables African Americans to help patients with life-threatening diseases receive much needed transplants. The more African Americans who participate in "Be The Match" programs and events, the more African-American bone marrow will be available among transplantation programs.

Increasing the national registry rolls requires a movement of volunteers from across the country to: plan and coordinate local bone marrow donation events; spread the word; share stories of patients in search of a match and fundraising. One such connection exists between the National Marrow Donor Program and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF). Throughout the month of July, they are raising awareness about the critical need for African Americans to join the "Be The Match" Registry. Growing numbers of African Americans are in need of a transplant. Every year, more than 10,000 patients in the United States are diagnosed with life-threatening diseases

for which the best option for a cure could be a bone marrow transplant from an unrelated donor or donated umbilical cord blood unit. The National Marrow Donor Program is a leader in the field of unrelated marrow and umbilical cord blood transplantation. The NMDP mission is to ensure all patients who need a transplant receive access to treatment. The organization coordinates the collection of hematopoietic ("blood-forming") cells that are used to perform transplants. Patients who need a hematopoietic cell transplant but who lack a suitably matched donor in their family can search the "Be The Match" Registry for a matched unrelated donor or umbilical cord blood unit. The NMDP is headquartered in Minneapolis and manages the "Be The Match" Registry. In its organizational structure, the NMDP operates the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program to provide a single point of access to marrow donors and umbilical cord blood units for a global network of hospitals, blood centers, laboratories and recruitment centers. Since 1987, NMDP has facilitated more than 40,000 transplants.

More African Americans are needed to enlarge the pool of people who facilitate bone marrow transplants. Too few African Americans know how to help with bone marrow donations. According to medical experts, the majority of donation cases involve no surgery, because in most instances doctors request a non-surgical peripheral blood stem cell (PBSC) donation. In cases where the marrow donation is a surgical procedure, most donors go home the same day. Generally, people who donate marrow receive general anesthesia and feel no pain during procedures. Most marrow donors are back to their normal activities in two to seven days. The "Be The Match" program is worth checking into, in most cases the program will reimburse travel and other costs associated with donations. For information on the "Be The Match" Registry® contact: the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP), 3001 Broadway Street N.E., Suite 100, Minneapolis, Minn. 55413-1753 - www.marrow.org

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

### CHIP from A1

"We will learn the lessons of this success for future efforts to help people enroll in health insurance in Maryland," said

Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, Secretary of DHMH. "We have a great foundation for further progress with the Health Benefit Exchange."

"Ensuring that all eligible children are enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP has been

our number one priority, and this bonus not only highlights those efforts, but also will help us continue those efforts in the new year," said Charles J. Milligan, Deputy Secretary for Health Care Financing.

Since January 2007, the

number of children enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP has increased from 407,300 children to 545,200. Nearly 41,000 children were enrolled in FY 2011 alone, the year related to the CHIPRA bonus.

### Manure from A1

and partner with agriculture to achieve sustainable and lucrative results—by aggressively advocating for better phosphorus application rules, by rolling back unnecessary manure applications during winters and throughout the year, and by requiring safe buffer zones near our precious waterways. If we take these steps, Maryland will not only be a more beautiful and healthy state, it will lead the way in advancing lucrative, sustainable agribusiness, that will rival all states in our region," said Senator Manno.

Each year, Maryland produces enough chicken litter to create a pile across the field at M&T Bank Stadium that's twice as high as the stadium itself.\* Unlike sewage sludge from human waste, this manure is not treated before it is spread on Maryland lands, and it too often leaches into nearby waterways. According to the EPA, agriculture is the largest single source of pollution in the Chesapeake Bay, and Maryland's BayStat

website says it accounts for 41 percent of the phosphorus that enters the bay from Maryland.

The report was issued as the O'Malley Administration considers changes to the State's nutrient management regulations that govern how and when manure and sewage sludge are spread onto the land. These regulations are intended to protect water quality.

Intensive chicken production, particularly on Maryland's Eastern Shore, generates large volumes of manure. Growers and farmers often spread this manure on fields as fertilizer, but when applied in excess, the nutrients that make manure useful for fertilizing crops contribute to pollution in local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay.

Among the findings in the report are:

Large-scale chicken growing on Maryland's Eastern Shore generates high volumes of manure that contain more phosphorus than can be used by local crops. Soil test data show that more than 60 percent of soil

samples from four Maryland counties had more phosphorus than crops need.

Maryland's current rules allow farmers to spread manure on fields where phosphorus is likely to run off and pollute the bay, and they appear not to be solving the problem. In at least one major chicken-producing region, water quality has not improved since Maryland adopted its current rules. In the Choptank River, phosphorus levels have risen by an average of 1.9 percent per year from 2000 to 2008.

"Maryland produces far more phosphorus-laden manure than crops in the region can use. We need to keep phosphorus out of the bay, and we need a long-term solution for ending phosphorus build-up in our soils. We urge Gov. O'Malley to show the kind of leadership in reducing phosphorus pollution that he's shown with clean energy production, energy efficiency and land preservation. We encourage him to show that kind of leadership by using any new regulations to make the needed improvements

in our manure management rules," said Cronin.

\* The Maryland chicken count (296 million) is from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Census of Agriculture in 2007. The manure estimate (about 550,000 tons per year) assumes 455 chickens per animal unit and 21 pounds of manure per animal unit per day, according to Caitlin Kovzelove, Tom Simpson, and Ron Korcak of Water Stewardship, Inc., Quantification and Implications of Surplus Phosphorus and Manure and Major Animal Production Regions of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia, February 2010. The assumed density of the litter is 63 lbs/ft.3, according to Jing Tao and Karen Mancl, Estimating Manure Production, Storage Size, and Land Application Area, Ohio State University Extension, 2008. And the dimensions of M&T Bank Stadium come from the stadium's website: [http://www.baltimoreavens.com/Gameday/MT\\_Bank\\_Stadium/Stadium\\_Information.aspx](http://www.baltimoreavens.com/Gameday/MT_Bank_Stadium/Stadium_Information.aspx).

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# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review

### "The Adventures of Tintin"

"THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN"  
B-  
Rated PG for action violence, including gunfire.  
1 hr., 47 min.

For me, Tintin falls under the category of Things I Know Very Little About That Are Popular In Europe, next to Mr. Bean, bidets, socialized medicine, and soccer. So I have no preexisting attachment to the character when I report that "The Adventures of Tintin" is a buoyant tale of junior heroics that offers a good bit of fun and may well produce a new generation of fans.

The Belgian lad could probably use some new fans. The old ones must be dying off rapidly, since the character's been around since 1929, and it's been 40 years since the last of a handful of European Tintin cartoons was made. The new one, directed by Steven Spielberg and co-produced by Peter Jackson, uses motion-capture technology to create an animated world that's almost life-like, comfortably bridging the gap between the original comic book drawings and live-action. The people are still a little dead-eyed, but motion-capture has gotten better since "The Polar Express," seven years ago -- heck, since "A Christmas Carol," two years ago -- and the Spielberg/Jackson partnership yields the kind of visually impressive results that you'd expect.

In the film, Tintin (voiced by Jamie Bell) is an intrepid teenage journalist in the 1930s who stumbles into an interna-

tional mystery involving sunken treasure, hidden clues, biplanes, dynamite, and Morse code -- all the hallmarks of an adventure tale for boys. Accompanied by his faithful dog Snowy, Tintin ends up shanghaied on a steamer ship whose commander, Captain Haddock (Andy Serkis), is so drunk his breath is intoxicating. Haddock and Tintin joins forces to stop the evil Sakharine (Daniel Craig) from gathering the puzzle pieces he needs to locate the treasure, which belonged to Haddock's grandfather.

That's the basic plot, culled from three of the original Tintin comic book stories and adapted by veteran U.K. TV writer Steven Moffat ("Dr. Who"), Edgar Wright ("Hot Fuzz"), and Joe Cornish ("Attack the Block"). The details are standard Saturday matinee fodder; you can see why "Raiders of the Lost Ark" was compared to Tintin when it came out. Spielberg had actually never heard of Tintin when he made "Raiders," but he became a fan soon afterward, recognizing the similarities between the Belgian boy and Indiana Jones. He's been trying off and on to make a Tintin movie ever since. Certain scenes vividly recall Indy's adventures, especially a virtuoso chase sequence through a Moroccan seaside village that's presented in one long, dizzying take. This marvelous segment would have been impossible in a strictly live-action movie. It's an example of Spielberg stretching his creative muscles in a new medi-



PHOTO COURTESY ROTTENTOMATOES

Paramount Pictures and Columbia Pictures Present a 3D Motion Capture Film *The Adventures of Tintin* directed by Steven Spielberg from a screenplay by Steven Moffat and Edgar Wright & Joe Cornish. Starring Jamie Bell as Tintin, the intrepid young reporter whose relentless pursuit of a good story thrusts him into a world of high adventure, and Daniel Craig as the nefarious Red Rackham.

um, like an artist trying out a new kind of brush.

But though it moves along at a steady pace, "The Adventures of Tintin" is also airy and hollow, almost by-the-numbers. Comical side characters like a pair of bumbling detectives voiced by Simon Pegg and Nick Frost seem to have been included out of obligation, not because they had anything to

contribute. The dialogue is amusing but rarely laugh-out-loud funny, and apart from the sequence mentioned in the last paragraph none of the action is especially memorable. Don't get me wrong, the movie is fine as a see-it-once-and-forget-it lark. I just get the impression it was supposed to be more than that, and it isn't.

## The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

### 2011: When Sports Met the World

Pro athletes are told from the moment they first put on sneakers to check their politics at the locker-room door. But 2011 wasn't an ordinary year, on or off the playing field, from the Arab Spring to Occupy USA, to the lockouts in the N.B.A. and the N.F.L., which had the effect of forcing athletes out of their SportsCenter comfort zone and into talking about the real world. Below are a series of quotes from the past year that showed a glimpse of a different kind of athlete, reflecting on and even shaping the world around them.

1. Ala'a and Mohammed Hubail, Bahraini soccer legends, peacefully protested Bahrain's Army's shooting of civilians, and for their troubles were sacked from the team, the cuffed and frog-marched off the practice field with two other players. Ala'a, to ESPN about being tortured in custody: "We were living in a nightmare of fear and horror." And to the A.P.: "I served my country with love and will continue as much as I can. But you won't forget the experience which I went through for all my life. What happened to me was a cost of fame. Participating in the athletes' rally was not a crime."

Mohammed, to the A.P.: "Sure, I want to play. But first we need a solution to all of this... I need to know what is going to happen to me. For our community, the nation, how long are we going to be like this?"

2. Troy Polamalu, Steelers safety, on the lockout: "I think what the players are fighting for is something bigger. A lot of people think it's millionaires versus billionaires and that's the huge argument. The fact is it's people fighting against big business. The big business argument is 'I got the money and I got the power therefore I can tell you what to do.' That's life everywhere. I think this is a time when the football players are standing up and saying, 'No, no, no, the people have the power.'"

3. Charles Woodson, Green Bay Packers cornerback, defensive captain, and union rep, at protests in Madison, Wisconsin, in February: "Last week I was proud when many of my current and former teammates announced their support for the working families fighting for their rights in Wisconsin. Today I am honored to join with them. Thousands of dedicated Wisconsin public workers provide vital services for Wisconsin citizens. They are the teachers, nurses and child care workers who take care of us and our families. These hard working people are under an unprecedented attack to take away their basic rights to have a voice and collectively bargain at work."

4. Nader el Sayed, the former goal keeper of Egypt's national football team, running for Parliament with the moderate Wasat Islamist party, on the fall of Mubarak: "It was something I had waited for so long... We had a popular revolution, now it's time for the political revolution. I wanted to join a political party, not a religious movement... We need to participate without using intellectual, religious or economic terrorism."

5. Etan Thomas, an eleven-year N.B.A. veteran and member of the N.B.A. Players Executive Committee, after visiting Zuccotti Park: "Who is in the same position of power as the 1 percent? Who wants a bailout for their own mismanagement decisions? Who is more closely aligned with the corporate interests from which the Wall Street occupiers are looking to reclaim the country?"

6. John Carlos, the Olympic sprinter who raised his fist alongside Tommie Smith at the 1968 Olympics, addressing the General Assembly at Zuccotti Park: "I am here for you. Why? Because I am you. We're here 43 years later because there's a fight still to be won. This day is not for us but for our children to come."

7. Bilqis Abdul-Qaadir, Memphis point guard, after becoming the first Muslim woman in history to play Division I basketball with her arms, legs, and hair covered: "In high school, someone called me Osama bin Laden's daughter... It was at Holyoke Catholic. We beat them every time we played them... When some people come at me with, 'Oh, is that a tablecloth on your head?'—it's like, really, don't. If you're going to have that kind of question, don't ask me. But some people are truly honest in asking a question, like, 'Oh, I don't want to be rude, but why do you wear that?' That's the kind of question I'd rather answer."

[Zirin is the sports editor at the Nation. You can reach him at [dave@edgeofsports.com](mailto:dave@edgeofsports.com)]

## Final Eight HBCU Bands Chosen for 10th Annual Honda Battle of the Bands

(BLACK PRWIRE) (October, 2011) TORRANCE, Calif.-- The nations marching band fans have spoken, and have chosen the top eight marching bands at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) for the 2012 Honda Battle of the Bands.

Now marking 10 years of celebrating the heritage, showmanship and scholarship of HBCU bands, the Honda Battle of the Bands will bring The Homecoming to the Georgia Dome in Atlanta for the Invitational Showcase, Saturday, January 28, 2012.

Following are the HBCU marching bands that will earn a \$20,000 grant for their music education programs and an all-expenses-paid trip to the 2012 Honda Battle of the Bands Invitational Showcase:

**Albany State University**  
*Marching Rams Show Band*  
(Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference)

**Bethune Cookman University**  
*Marching Wildcats* (Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference)

**Jackson State University**  
*Sonic Boom of the South* (Southwestern Athletic Conference)

**Prairie View A&M University**  
*Marching Storm* (Southwestern Athletic Conference)

**South Carolina State University**  
*Marching 101* (Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference)

**Tennessee State University**  
*Aristocrat of Bands*  
(Independent)

**Virginia State University**  
*Marching Trojan Explosion*



PHOTO BY BUSINESS WIRE.

The "Marching Wildcats" of Bethune-Cookman University go airborne briefly as part of their high-stepping performance at the 2011 Honda Battle of the Bands Invitational Showcase in Atlanta this past January. BCU and seven other top Historically Black College and University (HBCU) marching bands have officially earned selection to the 2012 Showcase, taking place January 28th at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

(Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association)  
**Winston-Salem State University**  
*Red Sea of Sound*  
(Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association)

For the eight winning bands, the journey to the Invitational Showcase involved months of practice and training, all in preparation for their Georgia Dome performances, where each band will have 12 dazzling minutes to showcase the musical excellence, distinctive style and superior showmanship that earned them a place in the 2012 Invitational

Showcase. The Showcase bands are chosen via online voting, with votes by fans, students and alumni accounting for one-third of the selection criteria, and band directors and school presidents accounting for the balance of the selection process.

This year's event theme, The Homecoming, reflects on the 10th anniversary of the Honda Battle of the Bands and calls for all HBCU marching band alumni, current HBCU students and the many fans of the event to meet in Atlanta for this special anniversary showcase event. The homecoming theme also highlights the

importance of marching band culture to black college homecoming celebrations

We are excited to be celebrating 10 years of the Honda Battle of the Bands as we continue to support the music education programs of our nation's HBCUs, said Marc Burt, senior manager, Office of Inclusion and Diversity for American Honda. We hope that Black college marching band fans and alumni will attend this year's Invitational Showcase as we anticipate a great community turnout and even greater performances by the top eight HBCU marching bands.

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# Calendar of Events

January 5 - January 11, 2012

## First Tuesdays at Abraham Hall

Occurs The First Tuesday of every month(s) effective 5/3/2012 until 5/1/2012 at 12:53 PM.  
 Date & Time: Monthly, First Tuesdays, 12 noon-2 pm  
 Description: Attend monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at Abraham Hall. Participants interested in Black History programs and exhibits in Prince George's County engage in lively discussions about African American topics while enjoying a brown bag lunch. Space is limited. RSVP required by the 25th of the preceding month.  
 Cost: FREE  
 Ages: All ages  
 Location: *Abraham Hall*  
 7612 Muirkirk Road, Beltsville 20705  
 Contact: 240-264-3415; TTY 301-699-2544

## PUBLICLK PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES 2012-2012 DANCE SEASON

CHEVERLY, MD—The Publick Playhouse 2012-2012 season: On Friday, January 6, at 8 pm, the Playhouse hosts the international tour of the Russian National Ballet Theatre in a classical full-length presentation of "Cinderella" that is full of humor and features a large Russian company trained in the Bolshoi and Kirov traditions.

Saturday, February 4 at 8 pm, Nimbaya! Women Master Drummers and Dancers of Guinea make the Playhouse the only Washington area stop on their first American tour in several years. Formerly called "Amazones", these exciting, energetic artists are celebrated throughout Africa for breaking social barriers to women's independence by performing the dances and playing the instruments that for centuries were restricted to men.

In April, Dallas Black Dance Theatre returns for their annual Playhouse residency with a new program of feisty, fearless and fiery modern dance performances on Friday and Saturday, April 27 and 28 at 8 pm and Sunday, April 29 at 4 pm.

Tickets to each of the four dance companies in this series are \$20, or \$15/seniors, students, DancePass, and groups of 15 or more. There's also an advance ticket savings of half price for one dance company when buying all four prior to November 18.

Area dancers are also part of the season. On Sunday, February 26, at 4 pm, the annual liturgical dance festival PRAISE! features gospel singer Cora Harvey Armstrong of Richmond and exceptional dance troupes from area churches. Saturday, March 17 at 8 pm, the 10th annual World Dance Showcase highlights the broad cultural richness and talent found in our nation's capitol. Tickets for each of these programs are \$12; \$10/seniors and students.

Young dancers are on stage at Bust a Move with Café Groove on Friday, March 2 from 7-10pm, when teens battle for cash prizes and the title of "Prince George's Best Dance Crew", with teen-only admission for \$3. And Sunday, March 4, at 4 pm, the Love 2 Dance Teen Showcase presents hot talent from area schools and studios. Tickets: \$12; \$10/seniors and students  
 Dance Classes with visiting artists include Nimbaya! workshops on Saturday, February 4, with a Drum Workshop at 10 am and an African Dance Workshop at 12 noon for drummers and dancers age 13 and up; fee: \$15/class. On April 25 and 26 from 7:30-9 pm Dallas Black Dance Theatre offers their annual Master Classes in Modern Dance for advanced dancers on Wednesday, and Liturgical Dance Workshop for intermediate and advanced dancers on Thursday; fee \$15/class or observer. Also, Big Girls Dance Workshops are being held during National Fitness Month, with an African dance workshop on Tuesday, May 8 from 6:30-8 pm, and a Belly Dance Workshop on Thursday, May 10 from 6:30-8 pm; free/one workshop per person, with advance registration required.

*The Playhouse is a facility of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Department of Recreation, Arts and Cultural Heritage Division.*

For more information, call 301-277-1710 or visit [arts.pgprks.com](http://arts.pgprks.com)

## Basketball League Registration: Boys or Girls - Select Teams

Date & Time: Ongoing through February 9, 2012  
 Description: Boys & Girls ages are invited to register teams for a competitive basketball league. Competition is open to all teams including AAU, Boys & Girls Club, CYO, M-NCPPC Community Center, County and Non-County teams. The schedule will consist of 8 regular season games and playoff games.  
 Ages: Ages groups: Girls: 18 & under; 15 & under; 12 & under; 9 & under; 5-7; Boys: 18 & under; 15 & under; 12 & under; 9 & under; 5-7  
 Fee: \$600/team. Please no individual registrations.  
 Information: Byron Thompson at 301-446-6818 or Paul Hall at 301-446-6811.

## Inter-Center Basketball League Registration

Date & Time: Ongoing registration through January 20, 2012  
 Description: This popular county-wide league gives kids a chance to enjoy learning and participating in the game of basketball. Everybody plays!  
 This league is open to Prince George's County residents only and all participants must register in person at a community center.  
 Ages: 5-7; 8-9; 10-12 and 13-17  
 Fee: \$50/person with valid M-NCPPC Youth ID  
 Information: Byron thompson at 301-446-6818 or Paul Hall at 301-446-6811

## Moscow Festival Ballet: Cinderella

Date and Time: Friday, January 6, 8 pm  
 Event Description: Founded in 1989 by Sergei Radchenko, a legendary principal dancer of the Bolshoi Ballet, the Moscow Festival Ballet of Russia presents the highest classical elements of the famed Bolshoi and Kirov Ballet companies. Don't miss this exceptional opportunity to see one of the world's foremost ballet companies, as their North American tour comes to the Playhouse to present a magnificent, and magical performance of everyone's favorite tale.  
 Ages: All ages  
 Fee: \$20/person, \$15/seniors, students & DancePass  
 Location: *Publick Playhouse*  
 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly 20784  
 Information: 301-277-1710; TTY: 301-277-1312

## EARTH TALK ... New standards for light bulb efficiency"

Dear EarthTalk:

*What do I need to know about the new U.S. energy efficiency standards for light bulbs that take effect in January 2012? Will certain bulbs be unavailable? And am I supposed to switch out my older inefficient bulbs with newer efficient ones?*

-- Melissa McCarthy, Aptos, CA

Indeed, January 2012 marks the beginning of a planned phase-out of inefficient light bulbs in the United States that was signed into law five years ago by President George W. Bush. It was designed to reduce energy usage nationally from lighting by some 30 percent overall within three years. The benefits of the phase-out will be a savings of between \$100 and \$200 annually on electric bills in each American household—a total energy savings equivalent to the output of 30 large power plants—and reductions in global warming-inducing carbon pollution equivalent to taking 17 million cars off the road.

The first bulbs to disappear from store shelves are conventional 100 watt incandescents, but consumers can get compact fluorescent (CFL) or light emitting diode (LED) bulbs with similar light output instead. There are also some new more efficient incandescent bulbs that made the cut and will be available as replacements for conventional incandescents. In 2013, conventional 75 watt incandescents will be phased out, while conventional 60 and 40 watt bulbs will be phased out in 2014. Given the great alternatives available these days, most consumers will hardly notice any difference except lower electric bills.

As for what consumers



CREDIT: ISTOCK/THINKSTOCK

**January 2012 marks the beginning of the end for incandescent light bulbs, which will be gone completely (except for some new more energy-efficient varieties) from store shelves by 2014. They will be replaced by compact fluorescent (CFL) and light emitting diode (LED) bulbs with similar light output.**

should do to prepare themselves, the best advice is to get educated about the difference between power use and light output as we enter the brave new world of more efficient lighting. "Given the range of efficiencies the new bulbs provide, buying a bulb solely on the amount of power it uses no longer makes sense and we'll have to shift to buying lumens," reports Noah Horowitz of the Natural Resource Defense Council. "For example, a typical 60 watt light bulb produces around 800 lumens. The CFL that produces 800 lumens only uses 15 watts." He adds that bulb packages will likely contain claims like "as bright as a 60 watt bulb" or "15W = 60W" to help consumers make the transition.

Horowitz adds that consumers looking to replace their old incandescents with new more efficient varieties should look for CFLs or LEDs marked as "warm white," since the quality of light they give off

will be most similar to that given off by old-school incandescents. "Those marketed as 'cool white' or 'day light' have much different light color, which only a small minority of consumers prefer," says Horowitz.

Also, Horowitz warns that most CFLs are not dimmable and "may fail prematurely if installed in a dimming circuit." So if your space features light sockets with dimming capability the best bet would be LED bulbs or newer more efficient incandescents. Specially marked dimmable CFL bulbs are also an option but at present are less commonly available.

As for whether to switch out your older incandescents with newer more efficient bulbs, the answer is maybe. According to Earth911, the leading source of information of how and where to recycle anything, consumers should consider the waste they will create by throwing out working albeit aging light bulbs. "If they aren't spent,

don't trash them," reports Earth911, adding that they can be used until they burn out—at which point more efficient bulbs can go in. Those who want to start saving energy now might consider donating older bulbs to local charities. Meanwhile, spent bulbs can be recycled. Earth911's website can help find locations near you where old bulbs can be dropped off.

CONTACTS: Natural Resources Defense Council, [www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org); Earth911, [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com).

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# Maryland Health Care Commission Approves Increased Oversight of Coronary Intervention

By PRESS OFFICER  
**Health Care Commission**

BALTIMORE (December 28, 2011) – The Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC or Commission) submitted to the Governor and General Assembly a report containing recommendations for appropriate oversight of Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI), or angioplasty, and cardiac surgery at Maryland hospitals. The recommendations call for greater standardization in oversight and performance monitoring at all 23 Maryland hospitals that perform PCI and/or cardiac surgery. The new system of oversight would:

- Establish PCI as a category of regulated health care service in state law and formulate a streamlined Certificate of Need process for hospitals that seek to perform PCI without on-site cardiac surgical back-up. The application review process will replace a waiver system that has been used to authorize hospitals that do not offer cardiac surgery to perform PCI in limited situations such as participation in research studies.

- Authorize the creation of new standards for the ongoing review of the performance of PCI and cardiac surgery that will uniformly apply to all hospitals at which these services are provided. Larger hospitals that perform both cardiac surgery and PCI are not currently subject to

ongoing oversight. Any hospital could lose authority to offer PCI or cardiac services, if it did not meet performance thresholds.

Add MHCC to the list of State agencies that can share data to investigate the quality or utilization of care in regulated health care facilities. Enhanced data sharing will facilitate better coordination among MHCC and other state agencies with authority over hospitals and physicians that offer cardiac and PCI services.

The report is the result of legislation passed in 2011 that directed MHCC to provide recommendations on how oversight of PCI could be strengthened. The report now goes to the Governor and the General Assembly for consideration in the upcoming legislative session. These changes, along with the Commission's current requirement that each Maryland hospital report data on all of its PCI services to national registries, would make oversight of PCI some of the most stringent in the country.

Should these changes be incorporated into Maryland law, MHCC would be assigned responsibility for specifying oversight standards. To assure that hospitals with PCI programs operate at the highest level of competence and quality, MHCC will define standards for hospital and physician performance and specify ongoing quality assurance programs that will include

internal and external peer review.

Marilyn Moon, Ph.D., Chair of the MHCC, stated, "These recommendations will substantially strengthen oversight and accountability for these important and lifesaving services."

About PCI

PCI is the most frequently used invasive method of treating the narrowing, or stenosis, of coronary arteries and is performed in cardiac catheterization facilities at acute care hospitals. Primary PCI, also known as emergency angioplasty, is a life-saving intervention performed during a heart attack (acute ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction, or STEMI). Non-primary PCI, or elective angioplasty, is a scheduled intervention to relieve the narrowing of the artery with the goal of preventing a heart attack from occurring in the future. Since 1996, emergency angioplasty has been performed in thirteen community hospitals that do not offer cardiac surgery services, first during a research study approved by the Commission and, since 2006, as a service regulated by the Commission. A hospital without on-site cardiac surgery that provides emergency angioplasty is required by the Commission to meet certain quality standards, including: minimum qualifications of staff and the physicians who perform PCI procedures; minimum number of PCI procedures that must be performed annually by the hospital and its

physicians; and 24/7 staff coverage to provide emergency angioplasty within a specific time frame. Eight of these thirteen hospitals have also participated in a national research study that is investigating the safety of non-primary PCI performed in hospitals without cardiac surgery programs.

About the Maryland Health Care Commission

The Maryland Health Care Commission is a 15-member independent regulatory agency whose mission is to plan for health system needs, promote informed decision-making, increase accountability, and improve access in a rapidly changing health care environment by providing timely and accurate information on availability, cost, and quality of services to policy makers, purchasers, providers and the public. The 15 Commissioners are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Maryland Senate. The Commission's vision for Maryland is to ensure that informed consumers hold the health care system accountable and have access to affordable and appropriate health care services through programs that serve as models for the nation.

For Additional Information, contact: Paul Parker, Acting Director of the Center of Hospital Services, MHCC, at 410-764-3261

## HIV from A1

August of 2011 in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Jon Cohen, a writer for Science, said in an article about the breakthrough, "HPTN 052 has made imaginations race about the what-ifs like never before, spotlighting the scientifically probable

rather than the possible."

Since their release, the study results have been reverberating throughout the policy community. U.S. and international organizations such as the World Health Organization, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, and the Joint United Nations Programme on

HIV/AIDS, have incorporated or soon will incorporate "treatment as prevention"—the strategy proved by HPTN 052—into their policy guidelines for battling the AIDS epidemic.

"While I am obviously thrilled to have this research recognized as the Science breakthrough of the year," Dr.

Cohen said, "witnessing the translation of this scientific discovery on a global scale truly is the best reward."

The HPTN 052 study was funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health. The complete list of top 10 scientific breakthroughs of the year are published online at [news.sciencemag.org](http://news.sciencemag.org).