

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1932

Vol. 80, No. 28 July 12 — July 18, 2012 Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents

Immigrant Struggles, Has No Health Insurance

By DAN JORDAN
Special to Capital News Service

SILVER SPRING - Blanca Oliva, 61 years old, laughed remembering the first time she saw snow. It was 1988 and she had recently arrived in Silver Spring, after fleeing her native El Salvador during the country's civil war. She had found a job cleaning a store at nights.

"I went to clean the store in a snowstorm," she said. "Imagine ... the first snow I've ever seen! I had to walk in the snow. I only had sneakers, and I lost one in the snow."

Oliva arrived in the U.S. with her daughter after a harrowing trip overland through Central America and Mexico, including 23 days lost in the desert along the Mexico-Texas border. She could not swim, so she crossed the Rio Grande in a makeshift raft made of a large tire.

She worked various temporary cleaning jobs before finding a permanent one in 1990 cleaning in a large apartment complex. She had no benefits or health insurance and she only got one week of vacation per year. Still, she was happy to have the job. She had a work permit at the time and obtained permanent residency in 2001.

Last June 23, Oliva was laid off and has been out of work since. She started receiving unemployment benefits in July but does not know when they will run out. She gets \$680 every two weeks -- about \$450 less per month than what she had been making -- but she can-

See INSURANCE, Page A3

Ribbon Cutting for 1812 Waking Tour U.S. Naval Academy



Governor O'Malley attends 1812 ribbon cutting and walking tour.

PHOTO BY TOM NAPPI

Governor Celebrates Groundbreaking of State's Largest Solar Power Project

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Lt. Governor

HAGERSTOWN, MD (July, 2012) – Joined by local elected officials and representatives from First Solar and FirstEnergy, Governor Martin O'Malley today broke ground on a new, 160 acre solar farm project located on the grounds of the Maryland Correctional Institution (MCI) in Hagerstown. Once built, the Maryland Solar project will produce 20 megawatts of power - enough clean energy to power approximately 2,700 Maryland homes, displacing approximately 23,000 metric tons of CO2 annually - the equivalent of taking 4,400

cars off the road each year. The project will create 125 construction jobs and at least three full time jobs will be created for the lifetime of the panels on the site. The Maryland Department of General Services conducted a competitive leasing process for the land and the solar project was awarded the lease for a term of 20 years. The project represents FirstEnergy's fulfillment of its renewable energy commitment pursuant to the negotiated settlement between FirstEnergy and the State as a condition of its merger with Allegheny Power. FirstEnergy Solutions has agreed to purchase the 20MW output for 20 years. Over the term of the lease,

First Solar will pay nearly \$460,000 in rent to lease the land from the State. "Job creation is a choice - and when we choose to generate cleaner, greener energy here in Maryland we create Maryland jobs," said Governor O'Malley. "Innovative partnerships with companies like First Solar and FirstEnergy allow us to continue our progress in advancing solar energy and creating jobs in Maryland. Over the last few years, we've helped put 2,000 men and women to work in solar sector jobs and we estimate that over the next six years, we'll put another 10,000 Marylanders to work in the industry as we work towards our goal of increasing in-

state renewable generation by 20 percent."

Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) - enacted in May 2004 - was amended in 2007 to include a solar requirement of two percent by 2022 and resulted in the development of more than 1,250 MW of solar capacity. In 2008, the O'Malley-Brown Administration signed legislation that more than doubled the overall RPS to 20 percent and accelerated the compliance schedule. This year, legislation passed that accelerated the two percent solar target from 2022 to 2020.

See SOLAR, Page A5

Unlicensed Child Care: Cheaper, At What Cost?

By CATHERINE IRWIN
Special to Capital News Service

GREENBELT - When Roselyn Tidwell found out she was having a baby, she and her husband were overjoyed. But when her mother-in-law fell ill a week before Tidwell was set to go back to work, they realized she was in no condition to watch an infant and began the process many parents dread: finding a stranger to watch their newborn.

With the rising costs in child care, they couldn't afford a licensed center for her children, and their combined income of \$64,000 is too high to qualify for government assistance. So they turned to an option that's cheaper, and illegal -- unlicensed child care.

Tidwell works as a tech support employee for a company called Vocus and her husband, Moriba Tidwell, works at the Council for Professional Recognition. But licensed child care costs about \$200 a week, and they found unlicensed care for about \$150.

Since Tidwell had an older daughter, now 6, from a previous relationship, she took the lead on finding a child care provider. A friend recommended an unlicensed day care center in a private home, so Tidwell visited the house several times and spoke with other parents. Satisfied, the Tidwells signed up, and she went back to work.

After just a week, she had serious problems with the center. The day care operator, Tidwell said, gave 3-month-old

See CARE, Page A3

Living With Debt Through the Recession

By KARL B. HILLE
Special to Capital News Service

GREENBELT - Jason Flanagan juggled family, school, multiple jobs and night work in an armored truck to earn a degree in English.

He went to work for the Gazette newspapers in 2006 for \$27,000 a year, before landing at the Baltimore Examiner a year later with a \$6,000 raise. Even then, supporting his wife and two young daughters in a two-bedroom apartment in Greenbelt was not easy.

Pinched by the cost of school, rising expenses of a growing family, and never seeming to earn enough, he depended on credit cards for gas and school supplies. Creditors started threatening legal action, he said.

"A lot of times it was just basically trying to deal with who was being the most threatening, who was going to take me to court or take part of my salary," Flanagan said. "It's kind of hard to deal with creditors when you have no money."



PHOTO BY KARL B. HILLE

Jason Flanagan prepares a week's worth of lunches on a Sunday morning before heading to a side job at Gardens Ice House to help pay the bills.

His marriage disintegrated. "Money was a huge factor in my divorce. I wasn't making enough of it. I

couldn't really support them well," Flanagan, 31, said.

Then in the midst of the country's worst recession, the Examiner closed and he found himself out of work.

"It was almost as if someone had touched the reset button for you, and you're not ready, and you have to do it all over again: find another job, and find a place to live, and deal with creditors," Flanagan said.

Unable to pay his creditors, he landed in court a second time in 2009.

He found work soon after the Examiner closed in March, teaching English at Oxon Hill High School in Prince George's County. However, the school year didn't start until August, meaning the first paycheck was still more than five months away.

"It was certainly a scary time," Flanagan said.

The economy is improving, but many

See DEBT, Page A7

Fugitive Mexican Cartel Member Deported After Capture in Los Angeles

By SARAH HOGUE
Capital News Service

SAN DIEGO — A fugitive female member of La Familia Michoacana cartel, for whom Mexico offered a \$5 million peso reward, is in custody in her native country following her capture in Los Angeles last week and subsequent deportation.

Anel Violeta Noriega Rios, 27, was arrested without incident June 27 at her El Monte residence by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) officers and other members of the U.S. Marshals Pacific

Southwest Regional Fugitive Task Force. Noriega Rios was taken into custody on administrative immigration violations. Two days later she was transported to the border crossing in San Ysidro, Calif., and turned over to Mexican authorities under tight security.

Noriega Rios is charged in a 64-page criminal warrant issued in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas in January 2010 with ongoing involvement in organized crime and drug trafficking. Mexican authorities allege Noriega is one of La Familia's main U.S.-based

See CARTEL, Page A5

INSIDE

In Home HIV Test Kits

OraQuick In-Home HIV Test, the first over-the-counter, self-administered HIV test kit to detect the presence of antibodies to human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) and type 2 (HIV-2). HIV is the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

Community, Page A3

If The Dream Act Wins

Last month, President Obama announced that the United States will no longer deport law-abiding undocumented young people who were brought to this country before the age of 16, have lived here for five consecutive years and are pursuing higher education or military service.

Opinion, Page A4

DHCD Announce Homeownership Incentives

"As we prepare to celebrate Independence Day, a time to be thankful for our freedom, we must also demonstrate our gratitude to the brave men and women who make that freedom possible," said Lt. Governor Brown.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review

So I'm not even going to try to avoid comparing Marc Webb's new "The Amazing Spider-Man" to its predecessors. Such an effort would be futile and pointless. Everyone in the audience will be comparing them; why shouldn't critics?

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:
What's the deal with New York City buildings switching over from heating oil to natural gas?
-- Mitchell Branecke, Yonkers, NY

Anyone who has lived in New York City knows that particulate matter is omnipresent there.

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

Neighborhood Events

Hoyer Delivers Speech on Democrats' Make It In America Plan

Hoyer Delivers Speech on Democrats' Make It In America Plan

WASHINGTON, DC — Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) delivered a speech today on the role of manufacturing in building a strong and competitive economy, and announced a new list of bills as part of the Democrats' Make It In America plan. Below are his remarks as prepared for delivery:

"As he prepared to take office, President Kennedy spoke to a nation troubled by anxiety over America's leadership in the world and uncertainty over whether future Americans would inherit a strong and secure economy.

"He offered not soothing words but a rousing appeal and an exhortation to action. He spoke to his generation of Americans and urged them not to shrink from their responsibility to advance across a New Frontier of science and of commerce.

"Today, we confront similar anxiety but much greater global competition. It is, therefore, essential for us to seize the initiative in education, in innovation, in technology, in alternative energy, and in advanced manufacturing.

"Once again, our leaders must ensure that America's role in the world is secure, that our economy will remain the strongest on Earth, and that Americans will continue to find good jobs and have confidence that they can and will 'Make It In America.'

"The key to success, I believe, is a renewed dedication to the kind of individual effort and personal responsibility and commitment that made this country great.

"America's history has been one of inventing, innovating, and developing better products, processes, and services. It has been a history in which manufacturing goods has played a major role. And Americans overwhelmingly believe that making things in America must be an important part of our future.

"Manufacturing has been a bright star of our recovery. Over the last three years, we've seen strong gains by manufacturers. We have witnessed twenty-eight consecutive months of private sector job growth, and manufacturing has added half a million jobs since January 2010.

"Productivity increased 5.9 percent in the first quarter of 2012. Industrial production, as measured by the Federal Reserve's Industrial Production Index for Manufacturing, has surged 20% from its lowest point in June 2009. Factory orders were up 0.7 percent in May from the previous month, signaling new investment.

"Manufacturing is also driving a rise in U.S. exports. In the first four months of this year, total U.S. goods and services exports were up 6% — or \$41.4 billion — from the same period last year. In that same time, manufacturing exports were up 9.1%.

"After having watched for years as American manufacturing jobs were shipped overseas, we are now bearing witness to some of these jobs returning. Companies are recognizing the rising costs of production in other countries and are looking once again to the talent and experience of American workers.

"Last month, Google announced a new home media device that is being manufactured only a few miles from its headquarters in California. Asked why the company chose to make it here in America, Google representatives cited, among several reasons, the benefit of its engineers being able to travel easily between the design lab and the production line.

"Airbus has said it will begin construction on its first U.S. manufacturing plant next year in Alabama. That \$600 million facility will support a thousand new jobs. Over the past two years, other businesses have chosen American workers to manufacture their products, including Caterpillar, NCR, and Ford.

"However, despite these recent gains, Americans are still worried about our economy, unsure whether our recovery will continue. Uncertainty over consumer demand hangs like a dark cloud over manufacturing's bright horizon. Americans are also looking with great concern to the financial crisis that continues to plague Europe and hope it does not spread.

"But now is not a time to hunker down; it is most definitely a time to go on offense.

"As President Obama declared in his State of the Union Address this January, 'We have a huge opportunity, at this moment, to bring

manufacturing back. But we have to seize it. ...It's time to stop rewarding businesses that ship jobs overseas and start rewarding companies that create jobs right here in America.'

"He's right. This is our moment to pursue policies that capitalize on what we've achieved in manufacturing so far in order to make certain the positive trends in our recovery continue. We must make a strong and serious effort to create an environment that grows the manufacturing sector so companies can hire for jobs that will stay here.

"In the meantime, our overseas competitors are doubling down on investments in their own workforces, in innovation, and in providing the tools that nurture manufacturing growth. Not only are other countries surging ahead in the number of engineers and scientists they graduate, but they are pouring money into basic research and technology development.

"The National Science Board reported earlier this year that China and nine other countries have increased their research and development spending to match ours.

"In the wealthiest country in the world, we will lose only if we fail to invest in the priorities of success. We have seen the manufacturing sector help our recovery gain momentum, but we know that's not enough. Congress must pass a comprehensive jobs plan that invests in the advanced manufacturing and innovation that is critical to our future.

"Two years ago, Democrats introduced such a plan. It's called Make It In America. The premise is simple: if we can help manufacturers 'make it' in America, it will help more of our people 'Make It In America.'

"Make It In America combines business tax reforms that encourage manufacturers to bring jobs back with strategic investments in education, job training, innovation, green energy technology, and infrastructure.

"Under Make It In America, businesses would be enabled to base decisions not on the best tax outcome but more importantly economic outcomes. Quite simply, business judgments, not tax judgments.

"Our plan has also recognized that our current system of taxation is too complex, and there is a growing consensus that we should lower rates, broaden the base, close loopholes, and maintain revenue levels. Businesses will make things in America only if they can do so profitably.

"We must also address regulation. In his State of the Union Address in January, President Obama called for smarter regulations that will keep Americans safe and help businesses grow. He said — and I quote: 'Most new jobs are created in start-ups and small businesses. So let's pass an agenda that helps them succeed. Tear down regulations that prevent aspiring entrepreneurs from getting the financing to grow.' And, I would add, simplify needed regulations to ensure protection of consumers and competitors without impeding growth and investment.

"But addressing taxes and regulation alone won't do it. Again and again, we've heard from manufacturers looking to invest here that they simply cannot find enough workers with the skills and training they need in engineering and advanced machine operations. We need to ensure that Americans have the skills and knowledge to perform the jobs created by advanced manufacturing enterprises.

"Furthermore, our economy will benefit from the enactment of comprehensive immigration reform that helps us attract and retain talent here and invests in the strengths of our immigrant entrepreneurs seeking to 'Make It In America.' Rejecting the most skilled and able from our shores is neither consistent with our tradition of welcoming those who wish to help make America great nor rational in our efforts to compete in a global marketplace.

"Make It In America is the comprehensive jobs plan our country needs. It draws on the best ideas from both parties and has won praise from both business and labor.

"And we've already had some success, with ten MiIA bills signed into law, including the America COMPETES Act to strengthen science and math education, the America Invents Act that achieved long-overdue patent reform, and a reauthorization of the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs.

"The two parties also worked together to

Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards' Legislative Update The Groundwork Ahead

By Donna F. Edwards

Green infrastructure can reduce our energy consumption, create jobs, and promote environmental stewardship and long-term economic development.

President Obama called on Congress to help generate 80 percent of our energy use through clean energy sources by 2035, invest significantly in our nation's crumbling infrastructure, and expand innovation through research and development. These are the right priorities for Congress and the American people. These priorities offer a significant chance to create jobs and grow our economy in the short term while also laying the foundation for long-term economic development and global competitiveness in the coming decades. The American people simply can no longer afford an outdated energy policy with 85 percent of our energy consumption coming from fossil fuels, an infrastructure system graded as a "D" by American engineers, and a research and development tax credit that ranks 17th in the world and that does little to promote innovation and domestic manufacturing. We must do better.

One platform presents President Obama and Congress with an opportunity to address all three of these initiatives: green infrastructure— using the natural environment for clean water, flood control, and stormwater management. Green infrastructure can reduce our energy consumption, create jobs, and promote environmental stewardship and long-term economic development. The evidence confirms this conclusion. In my own congressional district, Maryland's 4th, Edmonston, Maryland, secured federal funds to incorporate green infrastructure techniques

into the city's main street. The funds brought good jobs, sustainable flood control, low-cost LED streetlights, and quality of life improvements to the residents of Edmonston. In California, the Sun Valley Watershed is an alternative to a \$42 million concrete drain intended to eliminate flooding in the Sun Valley. With funding from 20 state and federal agencies, the multipurpose project returned \$100 million in savings in recaptured water, cleaner air, and reduced waste hauling.

We know there are tangible benefits to investing in green infrastructure, but more must be done to learn about the best green infrastructure practices and to create incentives for future projects. That is why I am championing the Green Infrastructure for Clean Water Act, which I plan to introduce in May. This legislation would establish up to five regional centers for studying green infrastructure in the United States. The centers would be charged with conducting research on green infrastructure relevant to the geographic region where the center is located. Communities would receive training and technical assistance on how to implement the best green infrastructure management practices. To move forward, we must assess the broad, positive implications of green infrastructure and low-impact development. We know different regions will require nuanced policies. My legislation will be instrumental in developing those policies and ensuring that projects maximize the benefits for communities.

The bill would also create funding incentives to help communities develop green infrastructure technologies and would require the Environmental Protection Agency to examine how green infrastructure approaches can



be incorporated into clean water programs. Investments in infrastructure, innovation through research and development, and clean energy use— these are priorities that President Obama has set for the 112th Congress, and these are the priorities captured in my legislation.

The United States stands at an important moment in its history. Right now, China is implementing a \$100 billion infrastructure investment plan, the European Union is investing €4 billion in its space agency, and Brazil is overhauling its tax code to streamline investments, particularly in education. The United States cannot afford to fall behind these countries and become less competitive in the global marketplace.

Some of my colleagues are busy implementing a "cut-grow" strategy they believe will reduce economic burdens for future generations. They miss a key point. Our deficit is increased not only when we borrow money, but when we fail to make much-needed investments in our future. If we do not make critical investments now in infrastructure, innovation, and education, we burden future generations of Americans. Government must play a role in improving our economic competitiveness. Green infrastructure is a great place to invest, and I look forward to pursuing it vigorously in the 112th Congress.

Donna F. Edwards represents Maryland's 4th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S POST

A Community Newspaper for Prince George's County

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Ruth Turner 301 888 2153

NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

There are children and youth waiting for safe and nurturing homes of their own. If you are ready to share your love, hopes and dreams contact: Maryland Foster Care Recruiter at 301-365-4480 ext. 414.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The fall 2012 Schedule of Credit Classes at Prince George's Community College is now available online at www.pgcc.edu.org. Prince George's Community College has been named a national Center of Academic Excellence in information Assurance Two-year Education (2010-2015) by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security.

2012 SUMMER YOUTH MUSIC CAMP

Band will be offered July 22-27, 2012, Strings and Vocal July 29-August 3, 2012. If interested in these camps visit

www.music.umd.edu/symc@umd.edu or call 301-314-2490 for additional information. To ensure that you reserve a space in the Camp, please register early.

SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTERS

There are senior activity centers that offer a wide range of services and programs for age 60 or older. Educational classes, recreation classes, special events, and social activities are offered Monday-Friday. The Department of Family Services, Aging Service Division provides limited transportation and nutritious hot lunches at the centers. Call 301-265-8450 for more information and reservations.

TRI-COUNTY CRUISERS ROD & CUSTOM CAR CLUB

The 13th Annual Rod & Custom Car Show will be on September 15, 2012. Rain date is September 16, 2012. The Show will have Rods, Customs, Antiques and Muscle Cars. Open to 1987 and older,

Trailer Vehicles are welcome. No Motorcycles, 4x4's or Mini Trucks. Location is Rt. 301 & Cherry Tree Crossing Rd., Brandywine, MD across from the Veteran's Cemetery. Car Show Time is 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Dash plaques to the first 150 registered, over 50 Trophies to be awarded. General Admission is \$5.00. Registration day of show is \$20.00. Vendor and Sway meet space available \$35.00. There will be games, music, auction and lots of fun. All proceeds go to Charity. Food is by Texas Ribs of Clinton. Please call Paul at 301-751-5705, Tony at 301-399-6597 or Roger 301-466-7118 for information.

AMERICAN RED CROSS

Brandywine Lions Blood Drives are August 9, October 11 and December 6, 2012. Location is Baden Volunteer Fire Department 16608 Brandywine Road Brandywine Maryland Fire Hall. Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS to schedule your life-saving donation.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

Why You Need a Social Media Will

By most estimates, over half of adult Americans haven't written a will stating how their assets should be distributed after death. Fewer still have bothered to appoint someone to make financial and health care decisions on their behalf should they become incapacitated. And now we can add another necessary, but probably overlooked legal document: a social media will.



That's right — in this age of email, password-protected accounts and social media sites like Facebook and LinkedIn, the U.S. Government, of all sources, recently pointed out why it's important for people to leave instructions for how they want their online identities handled after death.

The government's blog, www.usa.gov, suggests appointing a trusted relative or friend to act as your "online executor," taking responsibility to close your email accounts, social media profiles and blogs after you die. This could easily be an addendum to your will — assuming you have one.

Suggest actions that will help you write your social media include:

Review the privacy policies and the terms and conditions of each website where you have a presence.

State how you would like your profiles to be handled. You may want to completely cancel your profile or keep it up for friends and family to visit and share their thoughts. Some sites allow your heirs to create a memorial profile where others can still see your profile but can't post anything new.

Give your social media executor a list of all websites where you have a profile, along with your usernames and passwords.

Stipulate in your will that the online executor should be given a copy of your death certificate. He or she may need this as proof in order for websites to take any actions on your behalf.

I'd take it one step further and suggest that you also leave instructions for accessing your password-protected devices and accounts including computers, cellphones, and online banking accounts. The last thing you want grieving survivors to have to do is try and guess your account user names and passwords.

In case you've been procrastinating about completing a will and other such documents, here's a good motivator: Although wills aren't mandatory, if you don't have one when you die, the state will decide how your estate is settled. Similarly, if you haven't filed financial and healthcare durable powers of attorney, someone else — not necessarily the person you wish — will make financial and healthcare decisions on your behalf should an accident or illness render you unable.

Here are a few things that could go wrong if you don't make your wishes known:

Court-supervised probate could hold up your estate and result in costly fees.

Because the state usually awards assets to surviving spouses, children and other relatives, your friends and favored charitable institutions could be left out.

With no will, the state decides guardianship for minor children whose parents have died.

Your preferences for things like life-support procedures and burial instructions may not be followed exactly.

Key documents that can prevent these kinds of scenarios include a will, revocable living trust, financial and health care powers of attorney and a living will.

In this Internet era, your legacy will likely live on long after you die. Do your family a favor and spare them from having to deal with these issues by addressing them now.

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

FDA approves first over-the-counter home use HIV test kit

BY LIZZY MCLELLAN
Capital News Service

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration today approved the OraQuick In-Home HIV Test, the first over-the-counter, self-administered HIV test kit to detect the presence of antibodies to human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) and type 2 (HIV-2). HIV is the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). The OraQuick In-Home HIV Test is designed to allow individuals to collect an oral fluid sample by swabbing the upper and lower gums inside of their mouths, then place that sample into a developer vial, and obtain test results within 20 to 40 minutes. A positive result with this test does not mean that an individual is definitely infected with HIV, but rather that additional testing should be done in a medical setting to confirm the test result. Similarly, a negative test result does not mean that an individual is definitely not infected with

HIV, particularly when exposure may have been within the previous three months. The test has the potential to identify large numbers of previously undiagnosed HIV infections, especially if used by those unlikely to use standard screening methods. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 1.2 million people in the United States are living with HIV infection. About one in five are not aware they are infected. There are about 50,000 new HIV infections every year. Many of these new infections are transmitted from people who are unaware of their HIV status. Knowing your status is an important factor in the effort to prevent the spread of HIV," said Karen Midthun, M.D., director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research. "The availability of a home-use HIV test kit provides another option for individuals to get tested so that they can seek medical care, if appropriate." Clinical studies for self-testing have shown that the

OraQuick In-Home HIV Test has an expected performance of 92 percent for test sensitivity, the percentage of results that will be positive when HIV is present. This means that one false negative result would be expected out of every 12 test results in HIV-infected individuals. Clinical studies also have shown that the OraQuick In-Home HIV Test has an expected performance of 99.98 percent for test specificity, the percentage of results that will be negative when HIV is not present. This means that one false positive would be expected out of every 5,000 test results in uninfected individuals. OraSure Technologies, the manufacturer of the OraQuick In-Home HIV Test will have a consumer support center that is available via phone and will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The center will be operational and available to educate users with information about HIV/AIDS, the proper method for administering the test and guidance on what to do once results have

been obtained once the manufacturer makes the product available for sale to the public. Information about the consumer support center and contact information is included in the test kit. OraSure Technologies, Inc. is headquartered in Bethlehem, Pa. A version of this test for use by trained technicians in clinical settings was approved in 2004.

For more information: Consumer Update Questions and Answers

The FDA, an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, protects the public health by assuring the safety, effectiveness, and security of human and veterinary drugs, vaccines and other biological products for human use, and medical devices. The agency also is responsible for the safety and security of our nation's food supply, cosmetics, dietary supplements, products that give off electronic radiation, and for regulating tobacco products.

Insurance from A1

siders herself lucky.

"Thank God I make almost the same as I did with my job," she said.

She worries because her husband works in construction and his company is beginning to lay off workers.

Oliva cannot afford health insurance and can rarely afford to see a doctor for her chronic illnesses: hypertension, asthma, diabetes, gastritis. She rolled up her sleeve to show a large rash on her arm. A doctor at the clinic had told her to see a dermatologist, but she cannot afford it. Though she has been employed

almost continuously since coming here more than 20 years ago, Oliva has only had health insurance for one short period, when an employer provided it.

An estimated 49 million Americans were uninsured as of 2010, and 76 percent came from working families, according to a Kaiser Commission report. Oliva is too poor to buy her own insurance, yet not poor enough to be covered by a government safety net.

She looks for work constantly, but she faces several barriers. She does not know how to use the Internet, so she walks the streets of Silver Spring and Langley Park, looking for job

openings. She is older and thinks this makes her less appealing to employers, as they always ask her age in interviews, she said. She speaks poor English and had only six formal years of schooling in El Salvador.

The odds are stacked against her: while the national unemployment rate in 2010 was 8.2 percent, the rate for Latinos was 10.8; for Latinos without a high school diploma such as Oliva, the unemployment rate was more than 13 percent.

Since she lost her job she has limited her spending. She and her husband never go out to eat and have not taken a vacation in

over three years, even to the beach. She used to send money to her son in El Salvador but can no longer afford it.

They are unable to save money and she is concerned about their mortgage. They are only able to make payments on the interest. Since 2006 she said the house has lost half its value.

Oliva is an optimist at heart. "Us poor, we are always in battle with suffering," she said. In spite of all this, and all the struggles she has had since fleeing El Salvador, she considers herself fortunate. "I believe there are many people with more problems than us," she said. "There are people without anything.

Care from A1

Malcolm expired medicine and another child's prescription for teething.

And the operator admitted she left Malcolm alone in playpen screaming for hours. She called it a "self-soothing" technique, Tidwell said.

"I understand it's a pain to have to hold him all the time, but if you do he's awesome," Tidwell said. "He doesn't need anything else, and that's what you're supposed to do."

So she removed him and placed him with a licensed child care provider run by a friend of the family for \$200 a week. But about two weeks later, Tidwell became alarmed when she arrived to pick her son up and was told Malcolm had shown no interest in food or play that day.

"So when I picked him up, I went straight to the emergency room," Tidwell said. Her daughter had a stomach flu, and doctors thought Malcolm might have it too.

In the next few days, his sister got better and returned to kindergarten, but Malcolm began vomiting, lost his appetite and seemed unable to focus.

Five visits to the emergency room and three to the pediatrician later, doctors finally ran extensive tests and told Tidwell that Malcolm had a skull frac-

ture that ran from around the middle of his forehead to the back of his head, fluid around his brain, two blood clots in the brain and hemorrhaging behind his eyes that could only have been caused by someone shaking him.

The hospital was obligated to notify officials, and Child Protective Services in Prince George's County launched an investigation. Malcolm was released to Tidwell's mother-in-law, where he stayed for three weeks, until Tidwell and her husband were cleared of suspicion of abuse -- but not of endangerment for placing their child in an unlicensed facility, Tidwell said. They now have a CPS record.

Child Protective Services confirmed that an investigation had taken place but would not provide additional details.

Doctors have outlined a six-week period where the injury may have occurred, since symptoms can sometimes not appear for one to two weeks after injury. The investigation was inconclusive, and Tidwell will never know with certainty who hurt her child.

"It just never occurred to me that there are people out there that are just mean to children," Tidwell said. "I'm not like that, so I just don't understand how anybody could ever hurt an

infant."

Child Protective Services had two recommendations for her: Put the children in a licensed center rather than an in-home service, or stay home with them.

"We started pricing centers, and they can be \$300 a week. There's no way we could afford something like that," said Tidwell. "We live in an apartment. We have a car note on one car. The other car is paid for. We have a 6-year-old in school. I have to pay \$500 a month in health care, so that's taken out of my check right off the top. There's just no way we could afford that."

So Malcolm is being watched by one of Tidwell's close friends, who stays home with her own three children. Despite having another unlicensed child care arrangement, Tidwell feels comfortable leaving her son with a family she says treats her son as one of their own.

They are spending almost \$15,000 a year on child care -- cheaper than a licensed center but still nearly a quarter of their income.

The United States Department of Health and Human Services guidelines say parents can expect to pay 10 percent of their annual income on child care, according to a Maryland Family Network study. The Tidwells are using

savings they set aside to buy a house to help pay for his care.

"I need new tires on my car. We do not have cable. We have the bare-bones cell phone plans, because we need Malcolm taken care of," Tidwell said. "I have to shop on sale for groceries because we just don't have the money. We have to spend it on good child care for Malcolm."

Doctors say they won't know whether Malcolm will have lasting brain damage from the injury for some time, although the hemorrhaging behind the eyes is almost completely gone and his blood clots are shrinking slowly. The fluid is still present in his brain and he is working with two teams -- one at Children's Hospital and one from the county -- that come to the house.

"The investigation brought nothing. They had to close the case, and my husband and I actually have child endangerment on our records," Tidwell said. "That means I can never go on a field trip with my daughter, because I have this CPS case on my record."

"It was completely unreal, and it was all because even though we don't make much money at all, we make way too much to be able to do any kind of government program, and yet we don't make enough for child care.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Your Delaware Beach Home Awaits!

Heron Bay • Lewes, DE
Single Family Homes - 1/2 acre
from **\$167,900***
302.644.9002

Windstone • Milton, DE
Single Family **Energy Star** Homes
from **\$199,900***
302.645.7948

**Rehoboth Crossing
Rehoboth Beach, DE**
Townhomes from **\$299,900***
302.260.9670

Fairway Village • Ocean View, DE
Townhomes
from **\$229,900***
302.227.1053

Coming Soon!



www.LCHomesDE.com

*Information subject to change without notice. See a community sales associate for full details.

HOLISTIC • SELF-HELP • COGNITIVE • INDIGENOUS • FAITH BASED

Losing a Loved One to Drugs or Alcohol?

We have the answer!

- Physical Fitness
- Vitamin Therapy
- Long Term Success
- One Year Aftercare
- Job Referral Network
- One-on-one Counseling

Insurance accepted - Financing available

Save a Life today, Call: www.b...

Donate A Boat or Car Today!

BoatAngel

"2-Night Free Vacation!"

1-800-CAR-ANGEL

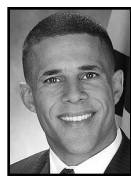
www.boatangel.com

sponsored by boat angel outreach centers STOP CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

COMMENTARY

Anthony G. Brown

By Lt. Governor of Maryland



If the Dream Act wins, all Marylanders win

Last month, President Obama announced that the United States will no longer deport law-abiding undocumented young people who were brought to this country before the age of 16, have lived here for five consecutive years and are pursuing higher education or military service. Instead, they will be eligible for temporary work permits, helping them to come out of the shadows of our society and participate more fully in our economy.

I applaud the president for his leadership. Although he knew he would face opposition from some on both sides of the aisle, allowing these hardworking young people an opportunity to make a difference in their communities was the right thing to do for our country, morally and economically.

The president's announcement was a welcome and long overdue step, but it is by no means a comprehensive solution. In fact, with these young people now legally eligible to work, we need action at the state level more than ever to ensure that they can maximize their contributions to our economy. That means providing them with fair access to a higher education by allowing them to pay the same in-state college tuition rates as their high school classmates.

In Maryland, Gov. Martin O'Malley and I have supported — and the General Assembly has passed — the Maryland Dream Act, which would help these young people give back to communities throughout our state by allowing them to attend state colleges and universities at the in-state tuition rate. Eligible students must have graduated from a Maryland high school, their families must have paid state taxes for three years, males must register for the draft and all must continue to pursue legal immigration status.

These are students who have lived in our communities and paid Maryland taxes. Yet the opponents who are bringing this issue to a referendum in November are taking a shortsighted view that ignores all that these hardworking young people can contribute to our state and nation.

Think of the young Marylander who graduates at the top of his or her class in high school, who volunteers at the local homeless shelter, who has never been in trouble and wants to become a doctor or a lawyer or an engineer. This could be the

person who cures cancer or helps bring about advances in civil rights or leads us to energy independence. But without the Maryland Dream Act, if students are undocumented immigrants, they can't pay the same in-state tuition as their peers. This will deny them the opportunity to reach their potential.

My grandmother came to this country and served as a domestic worker, even for a time without proper documentation. She did this so that my father could become the first member of our family to go to college. He repaid that debt of gratitude by becoming a doctor and dedicating himself to serving those most in need in some of the poorest neighborhoods where I grew up. He and my mother passed along that ethic to their children, teaching us that you must serve others before you serve yourself and instilling in us a belief that every contribution to the community matters, regardless of the source.

Maryland needs the Dream Act because success is not a zero-sum game. The reality is that in cities and towns throughout Maryland, each of us is strengthened when all of us succeed, and we all suffer when members of our communities are kept from reaching their potential. Our state is strong because we embrace diversity and innovation, and because we believe in investing in education for all of Maryland's children.

The president's implementation of a deferred-action immigration policy means that many undocumented young immigrants are going to remain an integral part of our communities. Denying these hardworking young Marylanders a fair shot at an affordable education will hurt our state's future.

If Maryland is going to be economically competitive going forward, we need to give all of our students the same opportunity to become educated, successful members of our workforce. By supporting the Dream Act, we can continue to work toward a brighter future for all Marylanders.

The writer, a Democrat, is lieutenant governor of Maryland, leads the O'Malley-Brown administration's portfolio on higher education and has worked with Gov. Martin O'Malley (D) to give more Marylanders access to affordable higher education opportunities.

Open to the Public



The National Archives And Records Administration

PHOTO COURTESY NARA

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) invites individuals, families, and tours and community groups to discover our nation's archival heritage in the Washington, DC area and at our nationwide facilities. Established in 1934, NARA serves as the official repository for all federal records judged to be of enduring value. Its holdings date from the 18th century to the present and include the famous Charters of Freedom—the original Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Ending the Cradle to Prison Pipeline and Mass Incarceration the New American Jim Crow

Black boy born in 2001 has a one in three chance of going to prison in his lifetime and a Latino boy a one in six chance of the same fate. The U.S. has the highest incarceration rate in the world: 7.1 million adult residents—one in 33—are under some form of correctional supervision including prison, jail, probation, or parole. Michelle Alexander writes in her best-selling book *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* that there are more adult African Americans under correctional control today than were enslaved in 1850, a decade before the Civil War began. In 2011, our state and federal prison population exceeded that of all European nations combined. Something's very wrong with this picture.

The numbers are frightening—and there's more. That's why the Children's Defense Fund will focus on this unjust crisis in one of the main plenary sessions at our national conference in Cincinnati on July 24th. This epidemic of mass incarceration has created one of the most dangerous crises for the Black community since slavery and affects everyone in our nation. Black males have an imprisonment rate nearly seven times higher than White males, and Hispanic males have an imprisonment rate over twice that of White males.

Mass incarceration is tearing fathers and mothers from children, and economically and politically disempowering millions by taking away the right to vote and ability to get a job and public benefits in some states after prison terms are served. One in nine Black, one in 28 Hispanic and one in 57 White children have an incarcerated parent.

Mass incarceration has also become a powerful economic force and drain on taxpayers. Annual state spending on corrections tops \$51 billion and states spend on average two and a half times more per prisoner than per public school pupil. I think this is a very dumb investment policy. Federal spending on prisons totaled \$6.6 billion in fiscal year 2012. An added danger driving mass incarceration is the privatization of prisons for profit. The Corrections Corporation of America, the largest private

prison corporation, has proposed to 48 state governors that it will operate their prison systems for 20 years with a guaranteed 90% occupancy rate. A majority of all those incarcerated have committed nonviolent offenses. Some young prisoners I recently visited are in prison for use or possession of marijuana.

The toxic cocktail of poverty, racial disparities in child serving systems, poor education, zero tolerance school discipline policies, racial profiling, unbridled prosecutorial discretion, and racial disparities in arrests and sentencing are funneling millions of young and older poor people of color, especially males, into dead end, powerless and hopeless lives. So we are bringing an extraordinary group of experts together at our national conference to talk about how to halt the epidemic and get our nation back on course and our children into a pipeline to college and productive work.

The panel will be moderated by Charles Ogletree, Jesse Climenko Professor at Harvard Law School and Founder and Executive Director of Harvard's Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice. The panelists are legal scholar Michelle Alexander, the author of *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color*

Blindness; Elaine Jones, former Director-Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., and chair of CDF's strategic planning committee on mass incarceration and the privatization of prisons; the Honorable Patricia Martin, Presiding Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois Child Protection Division and President of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges; the Honorable Michael A. Nutter, Mayor of Philadelphia and incoming chair of the U.S. Conference of Mayors; Dr. John Rich, professor and chair of Health Management & Policy and Co-Director of the Center for Nonviolence and Social Justice at Drexel University School of Public Health; and Bryan Stevenson, Executive Director of Equal Justice Initiative, who successfully argued the recent cases before the U.S. Supreme Court ending mandatory sentences of life in prison without parole for juveniles. They'll share their thoughtful research and experience about how to better ensure public safety through prevention and early intervention and fairer law enforcement policies. They'll also examine

See WATCH, Page A8

To Be Equal

Marc Morial, President and CEO
National Urban League



Chief Justice Roberts Casts Big Vote!

"The highest court in the land has now spoken. We will continue to implement this law and we'll work together to improve on it where we can."

President Barack Obama

Last Thursday's Supreme Court ruling to uphold the Affordable Care Act represents life-altering access to health care for millions of Americans, particularly African Americans who have been twice as likely to lack health insurance. Health Insurance can mean the difference between life and death, and even more often it can mean the difference between financial stability and ruin. Health care costs are responsible for a majority of personal bankruptcies in the United States. The Supreme Court's decision affirmed that the National Urban League mission, shared by millions of Americans, to build a fairer health care system is not only appropriate and pro-family, but constitutionally valid.

While the Court made the right call, it was once again a narrow 5-4 decision, with the deciding vote surprisingly cast by Chief Justice John G. Roberts. It is no secret that in 2005 the National Urban League sided with then, Senator Obama in opposing Roberts' nomination as Chief Justice. Roberts came to the nomination process as a staunch conservative who had been an outspoken opponent of Affirmative Action, which he had often referred to as "quotas." He had also spoken out against the "effects test" in voting rights enforcement, saying that voting rights violations "should not be made too easy to prove." Up until last week, there was no indication that Roberts would be the only conservative Supreme Court Justice to side with the four liberals on the Court in supporting the most important legislative breakthrough on health care in a generation.

Roberts' principled decision elevated the stature of the Court by refusing to have it defined as a strictly partisan institution, with Justices reliably casting votes along a rigid liberal/conservative divide. Contrast this statesmanlike leadership with the comments of conservative Justice Antonin Scalia, who at various times leading up to the decision had trivialized this important national debate. Scalia had said it was "unrealistic" to expect the Justices to read the entire bill, joking that the Eighth Amendment protected them from "cruel and unusual punishment." And he had objected to the individual mandate with a quip that "You can't make people buy broccoli." These comments were unworthy of the seriousness of the debate and unbecoming of a Supreme Court Justice. But thanks to Justice Roberts, common sense and the rule of law prevailed.

The Court's ruling means that 31 million more Americans have access to health insurance and senior citizens will pay less for life-saving medications. It means that investments in preventive health screenings and community prevention efforts like those operated by Urban League affiliates across the country will continue to move forward. But the fight is not over.

Justice Roberts concluded his majority opinion by saying, "The Framers created a Federal Government of limited powers and assigned to this court the duty of enforcing those limits.

The court does so today. But the court does not express any opinion on the wisdom of the Affordable Care Act. Under the Constitution, that judgment is reserved to the people."

The Roberts Court has affirmed the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act. It is now up to the political process and the Court of public opinion to resolve its final fate.

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 © 2012, The Prince George's Post

| | |
|---|--|
| Publisher Legusta Floyd | Subscriptions Liz Brandenstein |
| 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

Business Exchange

by William Reed



Leaving traditional political plantations

— No permanent friends, no permanent enemies, just permanent interests.

What do you call yourself — Democrat, Republican, community or gay activist, Libertarian or Green Party member? And, how has your affiliation benefited you in terms of political favors?

The modern political party system in the United States is dominated by the Democratic and Republican parties. It's important that Black Americans recognize that neither of these parties have helped us to gain political equity. Supposedly, the purpose of political parties is to bring people together who hold similar points of view about government. These groups influence government. Over the years, Blacks and their political participation has been far more symbolic than substantive.

Blacks' political highlights date back to February 1989 when Ronald Harmon Brown was elected chairman of the Democratic National Committee. As president, Barack Obama is the titular head of the Democratic Party. And, Michael Stephen Steele served from January 2009 until January 2011 as the first African-American chairman of the Republican National Committee, but in the final analysis, neither of these political office holders did anything distinctive other than being "the first Black" in their position.

It is time Black Americans of all political stripes recognize that we're never treated equally and that politicians spend their time and resources on attracting white swing voters. The truth is that both major parties seek to attract White swing voters by distancing themselves from Blacks. When you see Black "consultants" on news shows, these party "operatives" never discuss political issues germane to Blacks and are willing pawns who continue to perpetuate the institutional racism that restricts political opportunities of African-American voters.

So, when will we distance ourselves from America's traditional political plantations? Does the answer for Blacks' political empowerment lie with the Republicans or the Democrats? When will significant numbers of us move off the political plantation system that is prevalent in America in order to make the political policies and platforms necessary for ele-

vating ourselves and the passage of our own issues? The venerable Malcolm X offers substantive political advice: "We need a Black political party so we can have our own voting bloc and can go to either party and cut deals that you will only receive our votes if we receive what we demand ... when we have a voting bloc we are no longer asking or begging for things."

The lack of a Black political movement also feeds into the mindset that we live in a post-racial society. But a post-racial order is an illusion. Racial inequality remains a brutal fact of life in America. The interracial political unity that is supposed to herald a truly post-racial society does not exist. The reality is that Blacks and whites remain bitterly divided in their political beliefs.

As "the first Black president" makes unflinching commitments to gay and Jewish groups, are you satisfied with his administration and its lack of commitment to Black issues and legislation? We need to make it our business to reconstruct Black politics and build political structures and alliances based on our concerns. We need to move away from "mainstream policies" that only mean us harm and fragmentation of our interests.

More of us need to understand that the quests for racial and economic justice are intertwined with uncompromising spirit and building a better society. It's in our own hands — "Black politics," and the ability to influence policy, demand accountability, participate in American political discourse, and offer alternatives to the status quo is in each of our control.

There is a major disconnect between Blacks' politics and economic empowerment. The Black society that supported activism in the past is weaker today than at any time during the 20th century. Will Blacks stop accepting what "mainstream society" doles out to us, and instead take necessary steps to put our issues at the top of the nation's agenda? Why can't our economic woes and potential solutions be right up there with aid to Israel and same-sex marriage policies?

William Reed is head of the Business Exchange Network and available for speaking/seminar projects through the Bailey Group.org.

Lt. Gov. Brown, DHCD Announce Homeownership Incentives for Veterans and Military Families

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development

"Maryland Homefront" Program Benefits Active and Non-Active Military and Families

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (July 12) — Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown joined Congresswoman Donna Edwards, Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Secretary Raymond Skinner and other officials at a home for sale in Prince George's County to announce a new Maryland Mortgage Program (MMP) initiative to benefit veterans and military families. Maryland Homefront: the Veterans and Military Family Mortgage Program gives qualified current and former military members a discounted mortgage interest.

"As we prepare to celebrate Independence Day, a time to be thankful for our freedom, we must also demonstrate our gratitude to the brave men and women who make that freedom possible," said Lt. Governor Brown, a Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves and the nation's highest-ranking elected official to have served a tour of duty in Iraq. "Our Veterans have made an incredible sacrifice in leaving their families to serve on our behalf. Through Maryland Homefront, we can help repay that debt by ensuring that they and their families have access to secure, affordable housing opportunities."

"It is fitting that we take time before Independence Day to announce a new initiative to benefit our veterans and their families," said Congresswoman Edwards. "It is our responsibility to match their efforts with equal dedication to ensure they receive the essential health care, training, education, and housing services upon their return. Maryland Homefront is an important step in that direction, guaranteeing that veterans have access to the affordable housing that they and their fam-

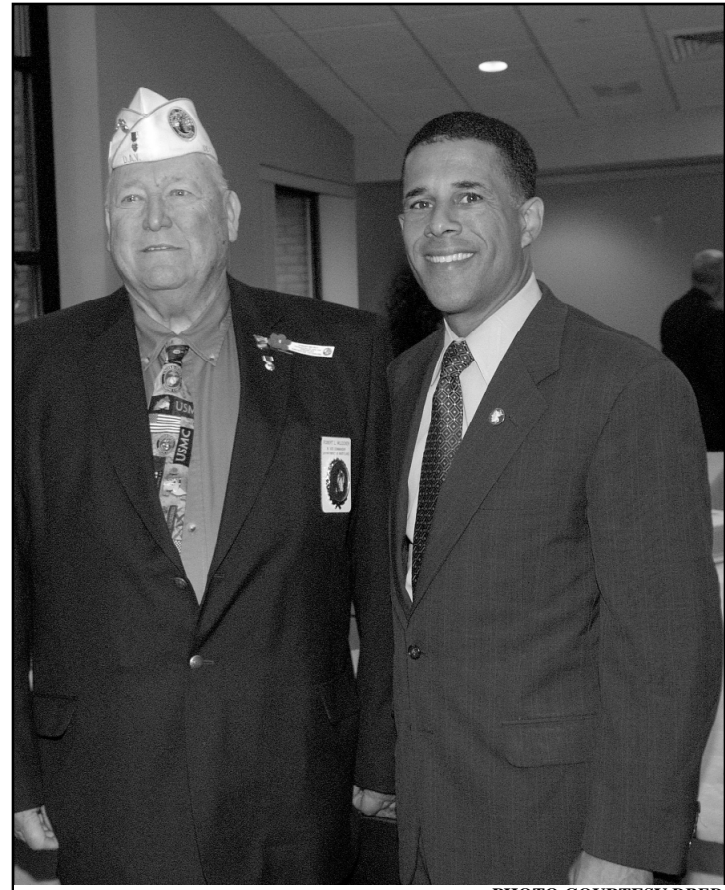
ilies deserve."

The MMP offers a variety of low-interest, fixed-rate mortgage loan options with down payment and closing cost assistance, primarily for first-time homebuyers. Maryland Homefront is a \$50 million initiative that offers half a percent rate discount off the regular MMP rate for loans reserved up to June 30, 2013 or until the program funds have been expended. A service member purchasing a home today worth \$250,000 would save approximately \$840 a year on mortgage payments. Purchasers in targeted areas and qualified veterans do not have to be first time homebuyers.

In addition, all qualified borrowers under this initiative are eligible to receive \$10,000 for down payment and closing cost assistance through the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's Down Payment and Settlement Expense Loan Program. Borrowers who qualify for a Maryland Mortgage Program loan can receive additional funds if their employers participate in the House Keys 4 Employees Program or their home purchase is covered by the Community Partners Incentive Program.

"The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development has always been committed to helping qualified buyers make that important investment in homeownership," said DHCD Secretary Raymond A. Skinner. "Our veteran and military families are a good example of the kind of consumer that would most benefit from the homeownership opportunities we provide through the Maryland Mortgage Program."

Under the leadership of Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown, Maryland has become a national leader in protecting homeowners. Since launching the HOPE Hotline in 2007, they have helped an estimated 18,000 Maryland homeowners avoid foreclosure and stay in their homes. Altogether, more than 75,000 families at



Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown with veteran

risk of foreclosure have received assistance through the HOPE Network. This year, the Administration worked with the General Assembly to pass legislation to allow homeowners at risk of foreclosure to meet with their mortgage servicer before a foreclosure is filed, giving them a much greater chance of saving their homes.

Maryland's flagship mortgage purchase program has been managed by the department's Community Development Administration for more than 30 years. Program loans are administered by a network of approximately 35 private lending institutions across the state. For more information on the Maryland Mortgage Program, especially details on income and purchase price limits and a map of targeted areas, please visit www.mmprogram.org or contact the Community Development Administration by phone at 410-514-7530 or by e-mail at SingleFamilyHousing@mdhousing.org.

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community

Development (DHCD) works with partners to promote affordable housing opportunities and revitalize great places for Maryland citizens to live, work and prosper. To learn more about DHCD and its programs, visit www.mdhousing.org. News updates also are available by following DHCD on Twitter (www.twitter.com/MDHousing) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/marylandhousing).

Lt. Governor Brown leads the O'Malley-Brown Administration's efforts to provide veterans with better services and resources. Since taking office in 2007, Lt. Governor Brown has championed successful efforts to pass the Veterans Behavioral Health Act, protect veterans' business loans programs and fully fund the Iraq and Afghanistan Scholarship Program. Last year, the Lt. Governor launched the Mil2FedsJobs web portal, located on the Maryland Workforce Exchange (MWEjobs.maryland.gov), the first of its kind in any state to directly match transitioning service members with careers in the Federal Government.

Solar from A1

Maryland has seen great market growth in solar power since 2007, resulting in the State being named as a "top 10" solar state by the Solar Energy Industries Association. Maryland now supports over 2,000 well-paying solar installation industry jobs—a dramatic increase in only a few years. First Solar, the world's premier provider of fully integrated solar solutions, has a 100 percent stake in the Maryland Solar project. "First Solar is pleased to continue its work in Maryland to help the

state provide clean, affordable, renewable energy to its citizens," said Maja Wessels, First Solar Executive Vice President for Global Public Affairs. "We are excited to break ground on Maryland Solar, which is expected to create 125 construction jobs and bring significant economic benefits to Washington County."

FirstEnergy Corp. subsidiary FirstEnergy Solutions will purchase the facility's 20-megawatt output for 20 years under a long-term purchase power agreement. The agreement provides the Maryland Solar project the source of

guaranteed revenue necessary to obtain financing for its construction. "We are proud to play a key role in the development of renewable energy in Maryland and to help the state meet its renewable energy goals," said FirstEnergy President and Chief Executive Officer Anthony J. Alexander. "The Maryland Solar project delivers on our solar commitment to the state, and further strengthens our position as one of the region's leading renewable energy suppliers."

The Maryland Solar project also involves a unique public-private partnership with

Hagerstown Community College (HCC) and the State Department of Public Safety and Correctional Systems (DPSCS). First Solar has agreed to incorporate elements of the construction and ongoing operation of the solar farm into HCC's growing alternative energy program, allowing students to learn firsthand about what it takes to construct and manage a commercial solar farm. Additionally, First Solar has agreed to allow pre-release inmates at MCI to be participate in the solar farms routine grounds keeping maintenance.

Cartel from A1

operatives, helping oversee the organization's methamphetamine distribution activities in California and Washington state.

Rooted in the Mexican state of Michoacan, La Familia is known for being extremely violent. According to U.S. authorities, the cartel is engaged in narcotics trafficking, kidnapping, extortion and other criminal activities. In addition to distributing cocaine and marijuana, the organization is also believed to be heavily involved in producing metham-

phetamine for export to the United States.

"Last week's removal should be a reminder to fugitives in Mexico and around the world that we won't allow our borders to be barriers to bringing dangerous criminals to justice," said David Marin, acting field office director of Los Angeles ERO. "ICE will continue to work closely with its law enforcement counterparts in Mexico to assure the safety of law abiding citizens in both nations."

Mexican officials say Noriega Rios' capture is the direct result of the excellent

cooperation between U.S. and Mexican authorities and the two countries' exchange of strategic information. Mexican officials note the case also demonstrates the ongoing commitment between ICE and the Office of the General Attorney of Mexico (PGR) to address matters of mutual concern.

Noriega Rios was deported to Mexico after ERO reinstated her prior order of removal from 2004. Department of Homeland Security databases indicate Noriega Rios was arrested and repatriated to Mexico five times by U.S. Customs and Border

Protection-Border Patrol agents between 2004 and 2005. She had no criminal convictions in the United States.

Since Oct. 1, 2009, ERO has removed about 455 foreign fugitives from the United States who were being sought in their native countries for serious crimes, including kidnapping, rape and murder. ERO works with ICE's Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Office of International Affairs, foreign consular offices in the United States, and Interpol to identify foreign fugitives illegally present in the country.

You are Cordially invited to attend a Wealth Seminar:

"New Strategies For Creating Wealth in a Down Economy"

Act Quickly to Reserve your VIP Seat

(301) 395-8532 or

email:williamsplanb@yahoo.com

Come Learn How to Capitalize on the Emerging Wealth Trends of Today

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

“The Amazing Spider-Man”

“THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN”

C+

Rated PG-13 for the usual superhero action violence. 2 hrs., 16 min.

Every movie needs to stand on its own two feet, and you could argue that there’s no reason to compare a remake to the original if the original is old, obscure, or otherwise unlikely to have been seen by your audience. But “Spider-Man” came out ten years ago, and the second of its two sequels is only five years behind us. The Sam Raimi-directed trilogy made a total of \$2.5 billion worldwide.

So I’m not even going to try to avoid comparing Marc Webb’s new “The Amazing Spider-Man” to its predecessors. Such an effort would be futile and pointless. Everyone in the audience will be comparing them; why shouldn’t critics?

Though not exactly a “remake” of the 2002 “Spider-Man,” this is a retelling of Spidey’s origin story: we’re back at square one, with bites from radioactive spiders, homemade costumes, and the death of Uncle Ben. This time Peter is a mechanically inclined high school loser – played with effective wimpy vulnerability by Andrew Garfield – whose parents (Campbell Scott and Embeth Davidtz) hurriedly left him with his Uncle Ben (Martin Sheen) and Aunt May (Sally Field) some years ago, never to return. Dad was a scientist working in the field of inter-species genetics with the eminent Dr. Curt Connors (Rhys Ifans), an erudite but disheveled one-armed genius who dreams of harnessing various organisms’ powers to create a “world without weakness.”

Peter comes into contact with his father’s old collaborator through Gwen Stacy (Emma Stone), a fellow student at Midtown Science High School who interns for Connors. A tour of the high-tech science division of the corporation Connors works for provides a certain

arachnid the opportunity to bite a certain young man, who subsequently develops certain powers, et cetera. Where the Raimi version, with the dorkier Tobey Maguire in the lead, emphasized Peter’s awestruck jubilation at discovering his new strength and abilities, the Webb version (no pun intended) focuses on Peter’s alarm, and on his initial inability to control what has happened to him. That sense of panic over what one might have unleashed through one’s scientific meddling arises again when Dr. Connors experiments on himself and experiences unforeseen physical changes, rendering him the movie’s official villain.

As the newly minted Spider-Man, Peter’s interest in crime-fighting extends only as far as finding the fleeing robber who killed Uncle Ben. These efforts are considered dangerous vigilantism by New York’s no-nonsense police captain (Denis Leary), but hey, at least he’s getting criminals off the street. It is later, after a harrowing experience helping civilians, that Spidey realizes he has a duty to use his powers for more than selfish reasons. His scene with a little boy on a bridge is an almost perfect encapsulation of why we like superheroes: it’s personal, it’s quietly heroic, and it inspires awe in a child. Peter and Gwen are the core of the movie. If you don’t care for them, I don’t know if you’d care for any of it. As luck would have it, Garfield and Stone have a sweet chemistry together, her sparky personality balancing his softer one. (Peter becomes a smart-aleck when he puts the Spider-Man mask on, but the attitude never seems to suit him, possibly because his bon mots aren’t funny.) Their relationship is a heightened mix of authenticity and big-screen romanticism – no surprise to those of us who were fans of the director’s previous film, “500 Days of Summer,” in which he achieved a similar effect with two similar actors.

Webb doesn’t show nearly as much facility for the action



ROTTENTOMATOES

The Amazing Spider-Man is the story of Peter Parker (Garfield), an outcast high schooler who was abandoned by his parents as a boy, leaving him to be raised by his Uncle Ben (Sheen) and Aunt May (Field). Like most teenagers, Peter is trying to figure out who he is and how he got to be the person he is today. As Peter discovers a mysterious briefcase that belonged to his father, he begins a quest to understand his parents' disappearance - leading him directly to Oscorp and the lab of Dr. Curt Connors (Ifans), his father's former partner. As Spider-Man is set on a collision course with Connors' alter-ego, The Lizard, Peter will make life-altering choices to use his powers and shape his destiny to become a hero. -- (C) Sony

sequences, most of which can be described as somewhere between “fine” and “good enough.” Maybe we’ve been overloaded with too many of these scenes – not just in the Spider-Man movies but in all the comic book adventures of the last decade – but none of the action here is memorable. It feels like an average issue of a comic book.

Which is kind of what it is. As the fourth Spider-Man movie in ten years, its effort to justify its existence is more arduous than most films’, and to approach it as an “event” movie is to set yourself up for disappointment. The screenplay – credited to James Vanderbilt (“Zodiac”), Alvin Sargent (“Spider-Man 2”), and Harry Potter adapter Steve Kloves – while generally nimble, falls into embarrassing corniness at times, including a cringe-worthy sequence involving construction cranes that’s accompanied by on-the-nose TV news commentary: “Spider-Man appears to be injured. It’s not clear if he’s going to make it!”

Still, that’s better than the

scene where Peter first enters Connors’ facility with a group of students and, looking for his name tag, is told by the receptionist, “You’ll find yourself to the left.” In case that didn’t drive the point home, she repeats the metaphor: “Are you having trouble finding yourself?” Ugh.

But the story’s all right, the performances are decent, the special effects are top-notch. In some respects, the only thing that keeps this from being an outstanding Spider-Man origin film is that it isn’t the first one. In a parallel universe, where “The Amazing Spider-Man” came out in 2002 and the Tobey Maguire “Spider-Man” is the 2012 reboot, the unfavorable comparisons run in the opposite direction. (Or so I assume. I am not in contact with a parallel universe.) I think a viewer who hasn’t seen any of the other Spidey movies, who is disposed to enjoying this sort of thing at all, would find this one perfectly serviceable. The problem is that few such people exist. “The Amazing Spider-Man” is fine; there just isn’t any reason for it.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Drew Brees, Union Power and the Big Payback

Quarterback/demigod Drew Brees is the reigning NFL Offensive Player of the Year. He also, for some curious reason, can’t get a solid contract offer from his team, the New Orleans Saints. The sports radio talking heads are yipping about whether the 33-year-old Brees is asking for too much. But this story is not about the pay. It’s the payback.

In fall 2010, it was Brees who led a procession onto the field in full view of the Sunday Night Football cameras with one finger in the air, a symbol that both teams—the Saints and Vikings—were actually one team united against ownership. The voice of the NFL establishment, Al Michaels, a proud political conservative, condemned it from the NBC booth, saying—with an eye roll, “There’s nothing like a labor statement to start the season.” As for the NFL owners, like the elephant who symbolizes their political affection, they don’t forget. But Brees proceeded without concern for any kind of payback. After all, he brought a Super Bowl victory to New Orleans. He was untouchable. As the team’s union representative and member of the NFLPA executive board, Brees remained outspoken and was one of the lead plaintiffs in the lockout lawsuits against the NFL. His former teammate Scott Fujita said to me, “In recent years Drew has taken some strong positions against league management. He doesn’t have to do this, but he chooses to because he knows it’s the right thing to do, and because he’s a natural leader who all players look to and respect. That’s quite rare for someone of his stature. He has great conviction.”

But conviction comes with a price, even for—as one union official described him to me—“the Captain America of quarterbacks.” The NFLPA has now formally requested the league to investigate whether the Saints are openly trying to punish Brees for his trade unionism. The union is citing CBA provision, Article 49, Section 1 which reads, “No Discrimination: There shall be no discrimination in any form against any player by the NFL, the Management Council, any Club or by the NFLPA because of race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or activity or lack of activity on behalf of the NFLPA.”

Brees’s other apostasy has been to defend current and former teammates Will Smith, Anthony Hargrove, Jonathan Vilma and Fujita on charges that they were part of a pay-to-injure program, otherwise known as “bountygate.” Brees is leveraging his fame to argue that he and his team are being targeted for the crime of being loud and proud union leaders during last year’s NFL lockout.

Last week, Brees tweeted, “If NFL fans were told there were ‘weapons of mass destruction’ enough times, they’d believe it. But what happens when you don’t find any????”

There was a media backlash against Brees for invoking the war in Iraq (or the lies that brought us into the war in Iraq, to be more exact). Brees apologized for this tweet, but this mini-backlash didn’t slow him down and actually seemed to embolden him.

On The Late Show With David Letterman, Brees said, “I mean, just the whole process itself and the investigation I feel like has been extremely unfair. Unfortunately, it seems like it’s been more of a media campaign than it is actually finding the truth to the matter. Put forth the facts, the truth, and if indeed there was a pay-to-injure scheme, then people will get punished, and if there’s not, then let’s exonerate these men because, at this point, it seems like it’s a smear campaign. We’re dragging them through the mud. We’re ruining their reputations and careers with no true evidence.”

There are those who will scoff about Brees, the millionaire quarterback, being any kind of trade union martyr. They are already saying that the NFLPA has no place in this “negotiation.” The scoffers will have television programs, radio shows and nationally read columns. They are the creators of conventional wisdom. They are also wrong.

There is no higher cultural platform in the country than the National Football League. NBC’s Sunday Night Football is the highest-rated program of the fall season. The Super Bowl is the most watched program in the history of this country. Drew Brees has been one of the faces of this league since the Saints won the Super Bowl in 2010. If he can be spanked like an unruly child for the crime of standing with his union, what does that portend for the public sector worker in Ohio, the Chicago teacher who just voted to go on strike or the Starbucks barista trying to start a union? I’m not saying that Drew Brees is some kind of Joe Hill with a tight spiral, but this is about ensuring that anyone who wants a union or is in a union can speak out in defense of their livelihood.

The AFL-CIO, of which the NFLPA is a member, should put out a statement in support of Brees. They should hold his case up as an example of what NFLPA Executive Director DeMaurice Smith means when he says, “The minute that any sports player believes for whatever reason that they are outside the management-labor paradigm, you lose ground.” This country’s trade union movement has been in free fall for decades, from a high of 35 percent in the mid 1950s, to a seventy-year low in 2010 of fewer than 12 percent. If the message from the NFL is that being an active unionist is grounds for intimidation and punishment, then the AFL-CIO needs to make it plain: an injury to one is an injury to all.

Even quarterbacks.

Fresenius Medical Care Hosts Open House At New Clinton Dialysis Facility Public Invited to Tour Clinic

CLINTON, Md. - July 5, 2012 - Fresenius Medical Care North America, the nation's leading network of dialysis facilities, invites the community to attend an Open House celebration on Thursday, July 12 at its new dialysis clinic in Clinton. The facility will enable Fresenius Medical Care's local team of expert medical professionals to better serve the Clinton area's growing dialysis community.

WHAT: Open House at Fresenius Medical Care Surratts

- Light refreshments.
- Light refreshments.
- Nurses and staff available to discuss patient services and the latest dialysis treatment options, including:
- Home dialysis program that can offer patients greater independence, convenience and health benefits.
- Treatment Options Program (TOPs) information available to inform at-risk patients and their families about chronic kidney disease and how to choose treatments for kidney failure that best suit their health and lifestyle needs.

Come tour our new facility and see:

- Demonstrations of the latest dialysis technology and single-use dialyzers.
- Treatment stations designed for patient comfort and convenience that feature individual media systems.
- Reclining, heated treatment chairs with massage features.

WHO: Open to the public WHEN: Thursday, July 12 4-7 p.m. COST: Free

WHERE: Fresenius Medical Care Surratts, 8949 Woodyard Road, Clinton, Md. 20735

CONTACT: For more information, please contact Veronica Otoo at the facility at 1-301-856-7536.

It Pays to Advertise!

Calendar of Events

July 12 - July 18, 2012

FREE Admission During General Swim Sessions

Date & Time: Fridays & Saturdays, June 15-September 1; 4 pm-closing

Description: Enjoy FREE admission during general swim sessions on Fridays & Saturdays (June 15-September 1) at M-NCPPC pools throughout the county! Just drop by a pool with your FREE, M-NCPPC Youth ID. Parental supervision required for youth ages 11 and under.

Ellen Linson Pool

301-277-3717; TTY 301-446-6802

Fairland Sports & Aquatics Complex

301-362-6060; TTY 301-362-6090

Glenn Dale Splash Park

301-352-8980; TTY 301-446-6802

Hamilton Splash Park

301-779-8224, 301-853-9115; TTY 301-446-6802

J. Franklyn Bourne Memorial Pool

301-350-4422, 301-583-2572; TTY 301-446-6802

Lane Manor Splash Park

301-422-7284, 301-853-9115; TTY 301-446-6802

North Barnaby Splash Park

301-894-1150, 301-446-6800; TTY 301-446-6802

Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex

301-583-2400; TTY 301-583-2483

Rollingcrest-Chillum Splash Pool

301-853-9115; TTY 301-446-6802

Theresa Banks Memorial Aquatics Center

301-772-5515/16; TTY 301-446-6802

Cost: FREE Ages: 6-17

Contact: 301-446-6800; TTY 301-446-6802

2012 Summer Concert Series: Arts on the Waterfront

Date & Time: Sundays, June 3-August 12, 6-7:30 pm

Description: Join us when the Waterfront springs to life with music and entertainment—jazz, R&B, reggae, dance, blues, rock and a puppet show. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

Cost: FREE Ages: All ages

Location: Bladensburg Waterfront Park

4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg 20710

Contact: 301-779-0371; TTY 301-699-2544

Concerts in the Park: "Higher Hands"

Date and Time: Thursday, July 12, 7-8:30 pm

Description: Bring a blanket and delight in vintage funk, jazz and soul.

Cost: FREE Ages: All ages

Location: On the Green at Watkins Regional Park

301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20774

Contact: 301-218-6700; TTY 301-218-6768

Festival of Lights in July: "Put a Little Twinkle in Your Life"

Date & Time: Wednesday, June 27-Tuesday, July 31

Description: Celebrate the Festival of Lights this July! Be a part of this great winter community celebration at Watkins Regional Park by donating \$1 at Central Area locations. For each donation you make, a paper "Holiday Light" will be hung up in the facility in which you made your donation. All the "Holiday Lights" will be hung at the Festival of Lights in December.

Stop by any of the facilities listed below to participate:

- Bowie Community Center
- Cedar Heights Community Center
- Central Area Office Front Desk
- Glenarden Community Center
- Glenn Dale Community Center
- Huntington Community Center
- John Eager Howard Community Center
- Lake Arbor Community Center
- Largo/Kettering/Perrywood Community Center
- Oakcrest Community Center
- Old Maryland Farm
- Palmer Park Community Center
- Peppermill Community Center
- South Bowie Community Center
- Watkins Nature Center
- Watkins Summer Operations Ticket Booth
- Watkins Tennis Bubble

Ages: All ages

Contact: 301-218-6700; TTY 301-218-6768

34th Annual Montpelier Summer Concert Series: "Appaloosa"

Date & Time: Friday, July 13, 7:30-9:30 pm

Description: The South Laurel Recreation Council and M-NCPPC invite you to bring a friend, picnic, blanket and/or chair to enjoy a variety of FREE performances on the west lawn of the Mansion grounds. In the event of heavy rain, music performances will be cancelled. Please call after 5 pm for updates. Tonight enjoy classic rock and pop rock.

Cost: FREE Ages: All ages

Location: Montpelier Mansion/Historic Site

9652 Muirkirk Road & Route 197, Laurel 20708

Contact: 301-776-2805; 301-953-7882; TTY 301-699-2544

2012 Lake Arbor Jazz Festival

Date & Time: Saturday, July 14, 12 noon-9 pm

(show begins at 2 pm)

Description: Make plans now to attend the 2012 Lake Arbor Jazz Festival! Now in its third year, we're making it bigger and better than ever! It's going to be another wonderful day of great music, friends, family and fun! Join us for a day and evening of contemporary and traditional jazz on the grounds of the Lake Arbor Community Center. In partnership with M-NCPPC and the Prince Georges Cultural Arts Foundation, this event will feature some of Washington, DC's finest jazz and R&B groups. Enjoy delicious food from a variety of food vendors, and arts and crafts merchandise from an array of vendors offering jewelry, clothing, books and more! Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, family and friends for a wonderful day and evening of jazz! Have questions? Want more details? Click on <http://lakearborjazz.com/>.

Cost: FREE Ages: All ages

Location: Lake Arbor Community Center

10100 Lake Arbor Way, Mitchellville 20721

Contact: 301-333-6561; TTY 301-218-6768

EARTH TALK ... Swapping out New York City's dirty residential heating oil for natural gas.

Dear EarthTalk:

What's the deal with New York City buildings switching over from heating oil to natural gas? Is this a trend in other U.S. cities as well?

-- Mitchell Branecke,
Yonkers, NY

Anyone who has lived in New York City knows that particulate matter is omnipresent there. Commonly referred to as soot, such particulate pollution is comprised of fine black particles derived of carbon from coal, oil, wood or other fuels that have not combusted completely.

Due to this preponderance of soot in the air, asthma rates in some parts of the Big Apple (like Harlem and parts of the Bronx) are sky high. Environmentalists have been pointing the finger for years at the dirty residential heating oil used by so many New York City buildings, many of which were built before natural gas was widely available. According to the non-profit Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), just one percent of the buildings across the five boroughs of New York City burn noxious heating oils, but those structures send more particulate matter airborne than all of the city's cars and trucks combined.

That's why mayor Michael Bloomberg announced this past June that an innovative public-private partnership (known as NYC Clean Heat) between the city's government and leading banks, energy providers and environmental groups would be putting up \$100 million in financing and other new resources to help buildings there make the switch to cleaner fuels. NYC Clean Heat kicked off last year when the city ordered the phase-out of the dirtiest home heating fuels: No. 4 and No. 6 oils that are



CREDIT: ISTOCKPHOTO

Just one percent of New York City buildings burn noxious heating oil, but those structures create more soot than all of the city's cars and trucks combined. A new program there will switch out those fuels with cleaner burning oil, biodiesel or natural gas.

still used in some 10,000 New York City buildings and which create a significant air pollution hazard. Switching out those fuels with cleaner burning oil (such as No. 2), biodiesel or natural gas will go a long way toward meeting Bloomberg's aggressive new "PlaNYC" goal of reducing soot pollution some 50 percent by 2013. The mayor's office reports that the new restrictions will save 120 lives and prevent 300 asthma-related hospital visits a year, while generating some \$300 million in construction activity in the short term.

Property owners interested in a clean heat conversion can access the funding, which is coming from a combination of city coffers and financial institutions including Chase, Deutsche Bank, Hudson Valley Bank, Citi and the Community Preservation Corporation. On the environmental side, EDF is offering technical assistance

and outreach to buildings that are undergoing fuel conversions by making available a team of trained energy professional to help evaluate conversion options, coordinate with utilities and beef up energy efficiency measures. As for the utilities, Con Edison and National Grid, the two primary providers for the New York City metro area, have agreed to upgrade their natural gas infrastructure to make it easier and cheaper for buildings to make the switch. And Hess Corporation, the city's largest residential heating oil provider, has begun to offer customers new incentives to switch to natural gas, ultra-low sulfur No. 2 heating oil and biodiesel.

Large numbers of buildings in several other older U.S. cities, mostly in the Northeast, still rely on dirty heating oil, mostly because they were built before natural gas was widely available. Whether some of

these locales will follow New York City's lead in marshalling resources to facilitate a wholesale switchover remains to be seen and may hinge upon the success of New York City's program. But no doubt individual property owners who can make the switch are doing it of their own accord due to the low price of natural gas versus oil.

CONTACTS: NYC Clean Heat, www.nycleanheat.org; EDF, www.edf.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.

Debt from A1

working families, like Flanagan's, are still recovering from the effects of the downturn.

He works extra jobs -- with hockey leagues at two ice rinks, besides extra duties at school like coaching -- to make ends meet.

Teachers' salaries have been frozen for three years, including

one year with a freeze and furloughs, resulting in a net loss of earnings, said school board member Donna Hathaway Beck, District 9.

Flanagan said he, like many teachers, already pays for school supplies out of his own pocket: \$600 a year for paper, pencils, note pads, copying fees and technology the school system does not cover. His student newspaper is published online-

only to save money.

Flanagan said he "maybe" earns \$50,000 a year before deductions, but with two young children to support, "it's still not enough for me to live comfortably, like if I wanted to save money. I can't do that. I have no savings."

He would like to move to a two-bedroom apartment to make his daughters' visits more comfortable, but for now he sleeps

on an air mattress in the living room when they are with him.

He doesn't have cable, but the 5-foot-10, 200-pound Flanagan allows himself one luxury: League fees to play ice hockey run \$120 in the summer and \$200 for the longer winter season -- with employee discounts.

"Hockey is one thing that I do to keep me from being super-depressed or going insane."

Hoyer from A2

pass the Jumpstart Our Business Start-Ups Act, a bipartisan legislative package that included a number of proposals from our Make It In America agenda.

"But just last week, the Institute of Supply Management reported that June was the first month that the manufacturing sector contracted since July 2009. And today, U.S. manufacturers are expected to announce that growth in first quarter earnings this year were the slowest since 2009. We cannot let this become a trend. Members of Congress must set aside their political differences and take action.

"In his book, Make It In America, Dow Chemical CEO Andrew Liveris writes: 'If we're going to make a national commitment to building things again, it's going to require a new approach to governing. We will not succeed without a comprehensive, national economic strategy -- one that extends across policy areas, across Cabinet departments and congressional committees. ...Government, at its best, creates a climate in which companies can fulfill their potential. That's what American business needs. Action, not inaction. Dedicated attention, not indif-

ference.'

"This same sentiment was expressed in our meetings with the National Association of Manufacturing, which has been a strong advocate for bringing government and the private sector into agreement when it comes to boosting competitiveness.

"Two months ago, we saw a glimpse of how things ought to be when 147 House Republicans joined with a unanimous Democratic caucus to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank. This was a major component of our Make It In America plan, and it will help us fulfill President Obama's objective of doubling American exports by 2015. However, the fact that a piece of legislation that used to move with nearly unanimous support took so much effort ought to concern us all.

"I hope those who came together in a spirit of bipartisanship that day will continue doing so to pass more Make It In America bills.

"That's why I'm suggesting today a series of additional steps Congress can take right away. Democrats are putting forward several new proposals as part of our Make It In America plan and are calling on the House leadership to work with us this summer to act on them.

"First is the Bring Jobs

Home Act. Sponsored by Rep. Bill Pascrell, it would eliminate the tax deduction for moving expenses for companies shipping jobs overseas. It would further provide a new credit for companies moving jobs back home.

"Congress should pass a Miscellaneous Tariff Bill to eliminate duties on certain products not produced in the United States, particularly raw materials and intermediate inputs that are used by our manufacturers. This will reduce their production costs and help make these manufacturers more competitive.

"The third and fourth new items being added to our Make It In America plan will help us close the skills gap and connect more out-of-work Americans with secure and well paying manufacturing jobs. One of them is a reauthorization and modernization of the Workforce Investment Act, sponsored by Rep. John Tierney. The other is Rep. Kathy Hochul's bill that grants a \$1,000 per-student tax credit to employers that partner with colleges and trade schools in order to provide skills training.

"In March, President Obama proposed a National Network for Manufacturing Innovation that will bring manufacturers, academia, and government together to create an innovation infrastructure that

will accelerate the development manufacturing technologies. In the coming weeks, we will be introducing legislation to implement this proposal.

"As much as we ought to be investing in an innovation network, we must also invest in improving the physical network of roads, bridges, rails, and ports that enable our manufacturers to obtain raw materials and get their products to market. Rep. Albio Sires' FREIGHT Act will lead to the development of a National Freight Strategic Transportation Plan to assess the needs of our aging freight networks and create a National Freight Infrastructure Investment Grant program. Major shipping canals are being widened, and, as ships are built larger, we need ports and freight rail facilities that can accommodate them.

"And we must make sure that other countries are playing fair and abiding by trade rules. The ENFORCE Act, a bipartisan bill sponsored by Reps. Linda Sanchez and Billy Long, will establish new procedures for investigating claims against foreign manufacturers for evading anti-dumping and countervailing duty orders. It will help us better enforce trade rules and prevent illegal

COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

UNITED METHODIST

WESTPHALIA

United Methodist Church

"A CHURCH ON THE REACH FOR GOD"
9363 D'Arcy Road
Upper Marlboro, MD

Two Worship Services:
8 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School: **9:30**

(301)735-9373

Fax: (301) 735-1844

Rev. Dr. Timothy West,
Pastor

ALL ARE WELCOME

Web Site:
www.westphaliaum.org

BAPTIST

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HIGHLAND PARK

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

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

Sunday Biblical Institute:

9:45 a.m.

Sunday Worship:

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

'WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

WITH JESUS':

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

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

Dr. Henry P. Davis III, Pastor

www.fbhp.org

BAPTIST

First Baptist Church of College Park

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

5018 Lakeland Road
College Park, MD 20740

301-474-3995

www.fbc-cp.org

Sunday School 9:30a.m.

Sunday Worship 11a.m.

Holy Communion 1st Sunday

Wednesday Bible Study 7-8p.m.

Wednesday Prayer Service 8p.m.

UNITED METHODIST

Union

United Methodist Church

14418 Old Marlboro Pike,
Upper Marlboro, MD

Church (301) 627-5088

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

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Kendrick D. Weaver, Pastor

COMMUNITY CHURCH

WORD OF GOD COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

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

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

Church School: - 9:15 a.m.

Morning Worship Celebration - 10:30 a.m.

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

Elder Willie W. Duvall, Pastor

THE PRINCE

GEORGE'S

POST

CALL

301-627-0900

FAX

301-627-6260

Editorials &

Calendar

EMAIL:

PGPOST@GMAIL.COM

Have a Safe

Weekend

Remember,

Don't

Drink

Alcohol and

Drive!

BAPTIST

Forest Heights Baptist Church

We exist to strengthen your relationship with God.

6371 Oxon Hill Road

Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745

Sunday School (Adults & Children) - 9:30 A.M.

Worship Service - 11:00 A.M.

Wed. Prayer Service & Bible Study - 7:00 P.M.

Office (301) 839-1166

Fax (301) 839-1721

E-mail: Office FHBC@verizon.net

Pastor: Rev. Waymond B. Duke

BAPTIST

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

CLASSIFIEDS

AUCTIONS

Wanted To Purchase Antiques & Fine Art, 1 item Or Entire Estate Or Collection, Gold, Silver, Coins, Jewelry, Toys, Oriental, Glass, China, Lamps, Books, Textiles, Paintings, Prints almost anything old Evergreen Auctions 973-818-1100. Email evergreenauctions@hotmail.com

DONATIONS

DONATE AUTOS, TRUCKS, RV'S. LUTHERAN MISSION SOCIETY. Your donation helps local families with food, clothing, shelter. Tax deductible. MVA licensed. LutheranMissionSociety.org 410-636-0123 or toll-free 1-877-737-8567.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

A SODA/SNACK VENDING ROUTE- Machines & Locations \$9K Investment Finance Available with Excellent credit 1-800-367-6709 ext 9

ADVERTISE YOUR NEXT AUCTION in 105 Maryland, Delaware and DC newspapers for one low cost of \$495. Your 25 word classified ad reaches over 4.2 million regional and local readers. For more information call Wanda at 1-855-721-6332 x 6 with the Maryland-Delaware-DC Press Association

2.8 Million Eyes will read your ad - 5 days per week - Monday thru Friday in the DAILY CLASSIFIED CONNECTION for just \$199 per day. Join the exclusive members of this network today! Place your ad in 14 MAJOR DAILY NEWSPAPERS in Maryland, Delaware and DC. Call 1-855-721-6332x6 or visit our website: www.mddepress.com Buy 4 Weeks/Get 2 Weeks Free of Charge

EDUCATION

EDUCATION

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TRAINEES NEEDED! No Experience needed. Local career Training & Job placement assistance. Computer/Internet & HS Diploma/GED needed for training. 1-888-926-6073

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS TRAINEES NEEDED! Become an Office Support Specialist now at CTI! No Experience Needed! Online training gets you Job Ready ASAP! 1-888-589-9684

Medical Billing Trainee Needed! Train to become a Medical Office Assistant. No Experience Needed! Career Technical Inst. gets you trained & job ready! HS Diploma or GED & Computer needed to qualify. 1-877-649-2671

Computer Tech Trainees Needed! Become a Certified IT Professional now! No Experience Needed! Career Technical Institute gets you trained and ready to work! 1-877-646-2671

HELP WANTED

NEW TO TRUCKING? Your new career starts now! *\$0 Tuition Cost *No Credit Check *Great Pay & Benefits. Short employment commitment required Call: 866-698-5232 www.joinCRST.com

Drivers - HIRING EXPERIENCE/INEXPERIENCED TANKER DRIVERS! Great Benefits and Pay! New Fleet Volvo Tractors! 1 Year OTR Exp Req. - Tanker Training Available. Call Today: 877-882-6537 www.OakleyTransport.com

MISCELLANEOUS

MISCELLANEOUS

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

MISCELLANEOUS TRAINING

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER - Train to become an Air Traffic Controller in a secure government career at FAA approved AT-CTI school. Attend class to earn your associate degree by training at Aviation Institute of Maintenance in Chesapeake, VA. Median salary tops \$100,000 (US BLS) with experience and full certification. Call toll free (877) 560-1001 for information. Hampton University/Aviation Institute of Maintenance.

PET SUPPLIES

All New Happy Jack® Xylecide® shampoo: anti-fungal shampoo treats "Hot Spots" from allergies on dogs & horses without steroids. At Southern States. www.happyjackinc.com

VACATION RENTALS

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

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

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

Watch from A4

mass incarceration as a continuing method of racial control and discrimination and recommend measures to replace the Cradle to School to Prison Pipeline™ one to college and productive work.

The panel will lead into an interactive town hall discussion with added speakers, including formerly incarcerated participants, to focus on how we can close off the major feeder systems fueling the Cradle to Prison

Hoyer from A7

imports.

"In addition to these measures, the House Energy and Commerce Committee came together in a bipartisan vote last month to send to the House Floor a Make It In America bill sponsored by Rep. Dan Lipinski - the American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act. It calls for the development of a national manufacturing strategy by bringing the public and private sectors together to create a comprehensive plan of action. Any business executive will tell you that you ought to have a carefully crafted strategy before undertaking a large project, so I hope the full House will pass Rep. Lipinski's bill quickly.

"Taken together, along with the other Make It In America legislation we've already introduced, these measures will help us invest in out-educating, out-innovating, and out-building our competitors.

"All indicators agree that manufacturing is ready to take off and carry other sectors of our economy with it. It just needs a good push. Make It In

Pipeline and mass incarceration and create new hope and opportunity for children in their place. It will be a critical chance to hear from leading experts, identify how we've reached this point, and determine how together we must build a focused, effective movement to say no more.

Join us in Cincinnati to learn more and add your voice. It's time to reroute our children, youths, and parents from prison to college and productive work. And it's way past time to stop

America is just the push our manufacturing sector needs, and it is a strategy all Americans can agree on.

"Of course, as I have said many times before, Congress must work concurrently on achieving a big solution to deficits this year if we are going to afford the investments contained in our Make It In America plan. Our continued competitiveness is dependent on Congress and our country acting with courage and determination to address our fiscal challenges, namely the fiscal cliff looming at the end of this year.

"That's why I have continued to call on Congress to 'go big' with a balanced solution before the year is over. We will have to address deficits due to the approaching onset of sequestration, and a number of items are scheduled to expire, such as the '01 and '03 tax cuts, which include capital gains and dividends; as well as the estate tax and the Alternative Minimum Tax. We will have to put everything on the table and make strategic choices about our fiscal future. If we do not address this challenge, the confidence essential

the uniquely American blight of mass incarceration permanently.

Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

For more information go to www.childrensdefense.org

to economic growth will not be present.

"We in America have always been a solutions-driven people. Pragmatism, entrepreneurship, and common sense carried us across this vast continent. They drove us forward to achieve in science and medicine. They carried us to the moon and safely back to Earth.

"We must embrace them once more. We must strive for solutions to the challenges of our time. If we can achieve them, their effects will not be felt only in our time.

"It is now up to us to surmount the challenges we face, and to do so we must, as a nation, recommit ourselves to the pursuit of a solutions-driven politics. One that will enable us to achieve what Americans deserve - solutions that will help more of our businesses and our people 'Make It In America.'

"Only by working together - not as Democrats or Republicans, but as Americans - can we rise to meet our challenges. I know we can do it, because we have in the past. And we must do so again."