While Adults Debate School Safety, Students Say #Enough

Howard County teenagers Jasmine Skadsvold and Marie Pejcic march with Audrey Beach, a high schooler from Pennsylvania. Photo: Deborah Toppenberg-Pejcic

By Susan Kim, STAFF WRITER

As local boards of education work with police forces and legislators to propose and fund measures to improve school safety, students are ensuring their voices are not lost. While some observers may consider school walkouts an excuse to miss class, students are ensuring their voices are heard. The resolution states that "the Howard County Board of Education recognizes that the events in Parkland, Fla., have served as a nationwide call-to-action to address school safety, as well as the power of student voice."

Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman announced two major projects in his fiscal 2018 capital improvement budget. One was to establish the Howard County Innovation Center in the county-owned Gateway Building, a move that kick-started a new era for Columbia Gateway Business Park. The news was met with enthusiasm, given the county's focus on the redevelopment of Downtown Columbia and relative lack thereof in Gateway, which is known for hosting some impressive tenants, as well as its lack of amenities.

The perhaps lesser-discussed part of that news was the plan to create the Howard County Community Resources Campus in nearby Patuxent Woods Business Park, off Snowden River Parkway, to consolidate the county's human services offerings with entities from the nonprofit sector. It calls for moving four community-service based agencies out of the Gateway Building to the new campus, which will be easily accessible through public transportation, and convenient to Routes 95, 32 and 29 from adjacent Broken Land Parkway.

Last year, necessary resources were committed to create the NonProfit Collaborative of Howard County at the new campus to lend greater support to services.
Blossoms of Hope’s
CHERRYBRATION DAYS
Inspire hope, happiness & health

Springtime is cherry blossom time in Howard County, Maryland and Blossoms of Hope’s Spring CHERRYBRATION DAYS bring seasonal activities for every age, every budget, and almost every interest. These activities honor the beauty of the trees and help raise cancer awareness by benefitting the Claudia Mayer/Tina Broccolino Cancer Resource Center and other local charities, with more than 2,300 cherry trees blossoming in parks, along roadways, and at county-wide attractions.

Want to visit the trees this spring?
Visit our website and see the map tour where they have been planted.

Blossoms of Hope offers you an easy and fun way to beautify Howard County while making a contribution to the local Claudia Mayer/Tina Broccolino Cancer Resource Center and other causes. And what better way to say “thank you,” “I love you,” or “we will never forget you” than planting a living tree in honor of a loved one?

We also offer Legacy trees – Only 3 available and they are saplings from the original Japanese cherry trees in DC. Plus, we have Maggie Brown Grove trees (20 available) and trees to plant or give as a gift. All can be purchased on our website.

For more information on events and purchasing of trees, call 443-538-0858 or visit www.blossomsofhope.org

NY

CHERRYBRATION DAYS
Spring Events 2018

* Enchanted Forest Cherrybration Days at Clark’s Elioak Farm. April 6 & 7
* 9th Annual Theme Exhibition at Columbia Art Center, Volunteer Center Serving Howard County, and Howard County Poetry and Literature Society. Proceeds Benefit Claudia Mayer/Tina Broccolino Cancer Resource Center. Show runs: April 13–May 6, Reception & Awards: Friday, April 13, 6:00–8:00pm
* 11th Annual Pretty in Pink – A champagne ladies luncheon and fashion show at Turf Valley Resort. Friday, April 13, 10:00am–3:00pm
* 10th Annual Pink Greens Golf Classic at Turf Valley Resort. Friday, April 27, 9:00am–3:00pm
* The Hills of Milltown 5K May 13, 8:00am
* 7th Annual Power of the Purse at Sub-Zero and Wolf Showroom by Fretz. Gently used and vintage purses will be available for cash and carry. New and designer handbags, some of which will be filled with goodies, will be included in the Silent Auction. There will be light fare, networking, and much more! Monday, June 11, 4:30–7:30pm.
CAMI Holds Second Annual Cybersecurity Awards Event

By George Berkheimer, Senior Writer

More than 300 cybersecurity professionals from business and academia attended the Cybersecurity Association of Maryland Inc.’s (CAMI) second annual awards ceremony in March, held at the American Visionary Art Museum, in Baltimore.

According to CAMI Executive Director Stacey Smith, the organization has grown since its founding in 2016 to include nearly 400 Maryland cybersecurity companies as members.

That growth has extended to CAMI’s mission, which now includes workforce initiatives and the recent launch of a nationally unique skills-based cybersecurity jobs portal.

CAMI also has intensified its legislative agenda, working with State Sen. Guy Guzzone (D-Dist. 13) on his sponsorship of Senate Bill 228, which would provide a tax credit for qualified investors in Maryland cybersecurity companies.

“It would also establish the nation’s first ‘buy local’ tax credit for businesses with 50 employees or fewer who buy their cybersecurity solutions, both products and services, from Maryland cybersecurity providers,” Smith said. “We will find out within the next two weeks if that bill goes into effect.”

According to CAMI Board Chair Gina Abate, who serves as president of Edwards Performance Solutions, in Elkridge, CAMI will expand its business outreach within the next two weeks if that bill goes into effect.

“We’ve developed a high impact video and helpful cybersecurity tips presented in as few as 20 minutes by one of our professional speakers,” Abate said. “The multimedia presentation serves as a tool to educate and engage business leaders at industry trade organization events, chamber of commerce meetings, Rotary club luncheons and other business gatherings.”

During the awards event, CAMI Board Member Jay Turakhia of PNC Bank recognized the young women from Montgomery County who participated in this year’s National Girls Go CyberStart competition. “I’m so proud of all the girls who participated,” Turakhia said. “The competition was very popular, well-attended annual Women in Cybersecurity reception [where] those just starting out in their careers have the chance to meet the technical and business professionals who are shaping the future of cybersecurity.”

The Best of the Counties

Several Maryland counties created their own judging processes to evaluate CAMI award nominees from their jurisdictions, selecting one nominee to receive a separate county-level award.

Vice President, Communications, Rosa Cruz of the Anne Arundel County Economic Development Corp. (AAEDC) presented the 2018 Best of Anne Arundel County award to Bridges Consulting, of Hanover.

The Best of Baltimore County award, presented by Director Will Anderson of the Baltimore County Department of Economic & Workforce Development, went to Synctoped Engineering, an incubator company located at bwtech@UMBC.

Howard County Chamber of Commerce CEO Leonard McClarity presented the Best of Howard County award to Enveil, of Fulton.

Signature Awards

The CyberWire, of Fulton, was recognized as CAMI’s Diversity Trailblazer award winner, recognizing a company or organization that has pledged its support to attract more women and minorities to cybersecurity careers.

“With more than 1 million open cybersecurity positions, only 11% of the workforce is female,” said presenter Spencer Wilcox, of Exelon Corp. “They wanted to be a model for others and help develop very popular, well-attended annual Women in Cybersecurity reception [where] those just starting out in their careers have the chance to meet the technical and business professionals who are shaping the future of cybersecurity.”

The AAEDC received the Industry Source award, which recognizes a non-cybersecurity entity that has significantly contributed to Maryland’s cybersecurity industry.

“Our Defense Tech Toolbox helps numerous cybersecurity government contractors capture new business in the federal government market,” said Winquest Security CEO Jon Leitch, who presented the award. AAEDC has committed $200,000 under its Next Stage Tech Fund with an additional $800,000 in the pipeline, providing a complimentary Consultants on Call program that has served two-dozen companies, and operates a workforce training grants program covering a maximum of $1,000 per employee.

Ellen Hemmerly, executive director of bwtech@UMBC, was selected as Cybersecurity Champion of the year, presented by South River Technologies CEO Michael Ryan.

“About 10 years ago this former banker, entrepreneur and economic development leader saw a need for early stage cybersecurity company incubation,” Ryan said. Her work has led to a cyber incubator which currently houses 48 cybersecurity companies, 34 of which are minority-, women- or veteran-owned.

CAMI’s 2018 Cybersecurity Company of the Year award winner, from left, were CAMI Chair Gina Abate, Edwards Performance Solutions; Mike Volk of PSA Insurance and Financial Solutions; and CAMI Board Member Jay Turakhia, PNC Bank.

According to CAMI Executive Director Stacey Smith, “The CyberWire, of Fulton, was recognized as CAMI’s Diversity Trailblazer award winner, recognizing a company or organization that has pledged its support to attract more women and minorities to cybersecurity careers.”

“Our Defense Tech Toolbox helps numerous cybersecurity government contractors capture new business in the federal government market,” said Winquest Security CEO Jon Leitch, who presented the award. AAEDC has committed $200,000 under its Next Stage Tech Fund with an additional $800,000 in the pipeline, providing a complimentary Consultants on Call program that has served two-dozen companies, and operates a workforce training grants program covering a maximum of $1,000 per employee.

Ellen Hemmerly, executive director of bwtech@UMBC, was selected as Cybersecurity Champion of the year, presented by South River Technologies CEO Michael Ryan.

“About 10 years ago this former banker, entrepreneur and economic development leader saw a need for early stage cybersecurity company incubation,” Ryan said. Her work has led to a cyber incubator which currently houses 48 cybersecurity companies, 34 of which are minority-, women- or veteran-owned.

CAMI’s 2018 Cybersecurity Company of the Year award winner, from left, were CAMI Chair Gina Abate, Edwards Performance Solutions; Mike Volk of PSA Insurance and Financial Solutions; and CAMI Board Member Jay Turakhia, PNC Bank.

Throughout the awards event, CAMI Board Chair Gina Abate, who serves as president of Edwards Performance Solutions, in Elkridge, CAMI will expand its business outreach within the next two weeks if that bill goes into effect.

“We’ve developed a high impact video and helpful cybersecurity tips presented in as few as 20 minutes by one of our professional speakers,” Abate said. “The multimedia presentation serves as a tool to educate and engage business leaders at industry trade organization events, chamber of commerce meetings, Rotary club luncheons and other business gatherings.”

During the awards event, CAMI Board Member Jay Turakhia of PNC Bank recognized the young women from Montgomery County who participated in this year’s National Girls Go CyberStart competition. “I’m so proud of all the girls who participated,” Turakhia said. “The competition was very popular, well-attended annual Women in Cybersecurity reception [where] those just starting out in their careers have the chance to meet the technical and business professionals who are shaping the future of cybersecurity.”

The AAEDC received the Industry Source award, which recognizes a non-cybersecurity entity that has significantly contributed to Maryland’s cybersecurity industry.

“Our Defense Tech Toolbox helps numerous cybersecurity government contractors capture new business in the federal government market,” said Winquest Security CEO Jon Leitch, who presented the award. AAEDC has committed $200,000 under its Next Stage Tech Fund with an additional $800,000 in the pipeline, providing a complimentary Consultants on Call program that has served two-dozen companies, and operates a workforce training grants program covering a maximum of $1,000 per employee.

Ellen Hemmerly, executive director of bwtech@UMBC, was selected as Cybersecurity Champion of the year, presented by South River Technologies CEO Michael Ryan.

“About 10 years ago this former banker, entrepreneur and economic development leader saw a need for early stage cybersecurity company incubation,” Ryan said. Her work has led to a cyber incubator which currently houses 48 cybersecurity companies, 34 of which are minority-, women- or veteran-owned.

CAMI’s 2018 Cybersecurity Company of the Year award winner, from left, were CAMI Chair Gina Abate, Edwards Performance Solutions; Mike Volk of PSA Insurance and Financial Solutions; and CAMI Board Member Jay Turakhia, PNC Bank.

According to CAMI Executive Director Stacey Smith, “The CyberWire, of Fulton, was recognized as CAMI’s Diversity Trailblazer award winner, recognizing a company or organization that has pledged its support to attract more women and minorities to cybersecurity careers.”

“Our Defense Tech Toolbox helps numerous cybersecurity government contractors capture new business in the federal government market,” said Winquest Security CEO Jon Leitch, who presented the award. AAEDC has committed $200,000 under its Next Stage Tech Fund with an additional $800,000 in the pipeline, providing a complimentary Consultants on Call program that has served two-dozen companies, and operates a workforce training grants program covering a maximum of $1,000 per employee.

Ellen Hemmerly, executive director of bwtech@UMBC, was selected as Cybersecurity Champion of the year, presented by South River Technologies CEO Michael Ryan.

“About 10 years ago this former banker, entrepreneur and economic development leader saw a need for early stage cybersecurity company incubation,” Ryan said. Her work has led to a cyber incubator which currently houses 48 cybersecurity companies, 34 of which are minority-, women- or veteran-owned.

CAMI’s 2018 Cybersecurity Company of the Year award winner, from left, were CAMI Chair Gina Abate, Edwards Performance Solutions; Mike Volk of PSA Insurance and Financial Solutions; and CAMI Board Member Jay Turakhia, PNC Bank.

According to CAMI Executive Director Stacey Smith, “The CyberWire, of Fulton, was recognized as CAMI’s Diversity Trailblazer award winner, recognizing a company or organization that has pledged its support to attract more women and minorities to cybersecurity careers.”

“Our Defense Tech Toolbox helps numerous cybersecurity government contractors capture new business in the federal government market,” said Winquest Security CEO Jon Leitch, who presented the award. AAEDC has committed $200,000 under its Next Stage Tech Fund with an additional $800,000 in the pipeline, providing a complimentary Consultants on Call program that has served two-dozen companies, and operates a workforce training grants program covering a maximum of $1,000 per employee.

Ellen Hemmerly, executive director of bwtech@UMBC, was selected as Cybersecurity Champion of the year, presented by South River Technologies CEO Michael Ryan.

“About 10 years ago this former banker, entrepreneur and economic development leader saw a need for early stage cybersecurity company incubation,” Ryan said. Her work has led to a cyber incubator which currently houses 48 cybersecurity companies, 34 of which are minority-, women- or veteran-owned.

CAMI’s 2018 Cybersecurity Company of the Year award winner, from left, were CAMI Chair Gina Abate, Edwards Performance Solutions; Mike Volk of PSA Insurance and Financial Solutions; and CAMI Board Member Jay Turakhia, PNC Bank.
Private Business, Civilian Spotters Enhance Weather Forecasting

By George Berkheimer, Senior Writer

The United States Department of Labor’s (DOL) Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that employment of atmospheric scientists, including meteorologists, will grow 12% from 2016 to 2026, faster than the average for all other occupations.

In Maryland alone, that growth is expected to reach 21% from 2014 through 2024, with the DOL noting that the best job prospects for atmospheric scientists lie in private industry.

Moreover, Maryland ranks fairly high on the list of states with the best opportunities in this field: fourth among states with the highest employment level in this occupation, fifth among states with the highest concentration of meteorological jobs and first in hourly wages.

While that paints a sunny picture, there are some unpredictable pressures that are exerting an influence, particularly at the federal level, where forecasting plays a critical role in the nation’s ability to predict and plan for weather-related natural disasters.

For starters, President Donald Trump’s budget for the National Weather Service (NWS) includes cuts estimated to be $72 million, more than 17% of its entire budget. If the cuts are enacted, the NWS will lose 9% of its workforce.

There’s good news, however: Although NWS uses Doppler radar, satellite and surface weather stations, that is not the only information the agency’s management personnel and public safety professionals use to forecast hazardous weather.

NWS employees and volunteers who serve as eyes and ears on the ground help the NWS through various capabilities.

Bob Flemion has served as a SKYWARN spotter in the state of Maryland. Flemion has served as a SKYWARN spotter in the state of Maryland.

“Spotters become a credible source of information,” Flemion said, helping local officials — and sometimes even state and federal officials — determine the correct response and the scope of resources that need to be deployed.

“A lot of people will call city officials to report flooding conditions, but those conditions may not be related to a weather event,” he observed. “It might be a failure in the storm drain system.”

Spotters help by learning about different types of weather events, how to collect information, and how to call into the NWS data center and report useful information.

“The observations of wind damage on Main Street led to the confirmation of an F2 tornado in 2001,” Flemion said.

Unique Situation

The combination of new technology and people who serve as eyes and ears on the ground help the NWS be more efficient and effective, Hirn said.

“It’s something that can accomplish a lot of things. Spotters can be the eyes of the NWS,” Hirn said. “I’m looking forward to working with our state-level of security to come on board.”

Jeff Jones, president of Storm Center Communications, a company led by CEO Dave Jones, has developed a collaborative software product called GeoCollaborate that could benefit the National Weather Service.

Jones knows what the NWS is up against. “They’ve been operating at razor-thin levels for years, and haven’t been able to hire all the meteorologists they really need,” he said. “Something else that concerns me is that upwards of 45% of that workforce is going to retire in the very near future.”

Hirn, however, said he’s not quite as concerned by that figure as others.

“It’s not unusual to have a situation like that in federal government,” Hirn said. “In fact, the whole federal workforce is retiring. But there are always new employees coming along to replace them.”

Enhance Weather Forecasting

Another tool available to stretch the capabilities of the NWS is one that’s been around since the 1960s: the SKYWARN program consists of trained weather spotters who provide reports of severe and hazardous weather to help meteorologists make life-saving warning decisions.

Spotters are concerned citizens, amateur radio operators, truck drivers, mariners, airplane pilots, emergency management personnel and public safety officials who volunteer their time and energy to report on hazardous weather impacting their community.

Although NWS uses Doppler radar, satellite and surface weather stations, that technology cannot detect every instance of hazardous weather.

“We use spotters to fill in the gaps to confirm weather phenomena and report damage or dangerous conditions,” Hirn said.

Laurel City Administrator Marty Fle- mons has served as a SKYWARN spotter for years, and is certified in both flood and snow reporting.

“Spotters become a credible source of information,” Flemion said, helping local officials — and sometimes even state and federal officials — determine the correct response and the scope of resources that need to be deployed.

“A lot of people will call city officials to report flooding conditions, but those conditions may not be related to a weather event,” he observed. “It might be a failure in the storm drain system.”

Spotters help by learning about different types of weather events, how to collect information, and how to call into the NWS data center and report useful information.

“My observations of wind damage on Main Street led to the confirmation of an F2 tornado in 2001,” Flemion said.

unique Situation

The combination of new technology and people who serve as eyes and ears on the ground help the NWS be more efficient and effective, Hirn said.

“That’s true everywhere the NWS is active, but it’s of particular value to the state of Maryland.

“Maryland is one of the few states that does not have its own forecasting service facilities,” Hirn said. “This service is actually covered by the NWS forecast office in Sterling, Va.”

Last month, Laurel Mayor Craig Moe and the city’s Emergency/Floodplain Man- ager Stephen Allen issued a release asking city residents to consider enrolling in the SKYWARN program.

According to the release, the NWS is offering free basic weather spotter classes in Maryland, in Leonardtown (St. Mary’s County) and in College Park, on April 11 and April 21, respectively, and a flood class is offered on May 24 at the University of Maryland’s Fire & Rescue Institute, also in College Park. The courses last about two hours, and more information is available at www.nws.gov/wx/skywarn.

CAMI Awards, from page 3

Defenders, Innovators

CAMI’s Cybersecurity Defender of the Year award, given to a cybersecurity services company that has succeeded in protecting businesses and government entities from cyberattacks and/or damages, went to CSIOS Corp. of Rockville.

Enveil received the Cybersecurity Innovator of the Year award, presented to a company demonstrating exceptional innovation with a technology designed to protect business and government entities from cyber threats, attacks or damages.

“Enveil is revolutionizing data security by mitigating data-in-use vulnerability that has eluded others for decades,” said PSA Insurance & Financial Solutions Vice President Mike Volk. “This allows enterprises to securely operate on both encrypted and unencrypted data in the cloud, on premises or anywhere in the community. It has the potential to open large and previously impossible business use cases across multiple verticals.”

Enveil Team Member Jacob Wilder said his company was very excited to see its groundbreaking technology recognized. “We’ve got a truly unique capability that allows enterprises to operate securely with data the way they never could before,” he said. “We’re looking forward to bringing our nation state-level of security to companies everywhere.”

Emma Garrison-Alexander, vice dean of Cybersecurity Information Assurance for the University of Maryland University College, received the People’s Choice award presented by Ron and Cyndi Gula, the founder of the Cyber Defense Institute, also in College Park. The courses are offered at the University of Maryland University College.

Emma Garrison-Alexander, vice dean of Cybersecurity Information Assurance for the University of Maryland University College, received the People’s Choice award presented by Ron and Cyndi Gula, the founder of the Cyber Defense Institute, also in College Park. The courses are offered at the University of Maryland University College.

Emma Garrison-Alexander, vice dean of Cybersecurity Information Assurance for the University of Maryland University College, received the People’s Choice award presented by Ron and Cyndi Gula, the founder of the Cyber Defense Institute, also in College Park. The courses are offered at the University of Maryland University College.

Emma Garrison-Alexander, vice dean of Cybersecurity Information Assurance for the University of Maryland University College, received the People’s Choice award presented by Ron and Cyndi Gula, the founder of the Cyber Defense Institute, also in College Park. The courses are offered at the University of Maryland University College.

Emma Garrison-Alexander, vice dean of Cybersecurity Information Assurance for the University of Maryland University College, received the People’s Choice award presented by Ron and Cyndi Gula, the founder of the Cyber Defense Institute, also in College Park. The courses are offered at the University of Maryland University College.

Emma Garrison-Alexander, vice dean of Cybersecurity Information Assurance for the University of Maryland University College, received the People’s Choice award presented by Ron and Cyndi Gula, the founder of the Cyber Defense Institute, also in College Park. The courses are offered at the University of Maryland University College.

Emma Garrison-Alexander, vice dean of Cybersecurity Information Assurance for the University of Maryland University College, received the People’s Choice award presented by Ron and Cyndi Gula, the founder of the Cyber Defense Institute, also in College Park. The courses are offered at the University of Maryland University College.

Emma Garrison-Alexander, vice dean of Cybersecurity Information Assurance for the University of Maryland University College, received the People’s Choice award presented by Ron and Cyndi Gula, the founder of the Cyber Defense Institute, also in College Park. The courses are offered at the University of Maryland University College.

Emma Garrison-Alexander, vice dean of Cybersecurity Information Assurance for the University of Maryland University College, received the People’s Choice award presented by Ron and Cyndi Gula, the founder of the Cyber Defense Institute, also in College Park. The courses are offered at the University of Maryland University College.

Emma Garrison-Alexander, vice dean of Cybersecurity Information Assurance for the University of Maryland University College, received the People’s Choice award presented by Ron and Cyndi Gula, the founder of the Cyber Defense Institute, also in College Park. The courses are offered at the University of Maryland University College.

Emma Garrison-Alexander, vice dean of Cybersecurity Information Assurance for the University of Maryland University College, received the People’s Choice award presented by Ron and Cyndi Gula, the founder of the Cyber Defense Institute, also in College Park. The courses are offered at the University of Maryland University College.

Emma Garrison-Alexander, vice dean of Cybersecurity Information Assurance for the University of Maryland University College, received the People’s Choice award presented by Ron and Cyndi Gula, the founder of the Cyber Defense Institute, also in College Park. The courses are offered at the University of Maryland University College.

Emma Garrison-Alexander, vice dean of Cybersecurity Information Assurance for the University of Maryland University College, received the People’s Choice award presented by Ron and Cyndi Gula, the founder of the Cyber Defense Institute, also in College Park. The courses are offered at the University of Maryland University College.

Emma Garrison-Alexander, vice dean of Cybersecurity Information Assurance for the University of Maryland University College, received the People’s Choice award presented by Ron and Cyndi Gula, the founder of the Cyber Defense Institute, also in College Park. The courses are offered at the University of Maryland University College.

Emma Garrison-Alexander, vice dean of Cybersecurity Information Assurance for the University of Maryland University College, received the People’s Choice award presented by Ron and Cyndi Gula, the founder of the Cyber Defense Institute, also in College Park. The courses are offered at the University of Maryland University College.

Emma Garrison-Alexander, vice dean of Cybersecurity Information Assurance for the University of Maryland University College, received the People’s Choice award presented by Ron and Cyndi Gula, the founder of the Cyber Defense Institute, also in College Park. The courses are offered at the University of Maryland University College.

Emma Garrison-Alexander, vice dean of Cybersecurity Information Assurance for the University of Maryland University College, received the People’s Choice award presented by Ron and Cyndi Gula, the founder of the Cyber Defense Institute, also in College Park. The courses are offered at the University of Maryland University College.

Emma Garrison-Alexander, vice dean of Cybersecurity Information Assurance for the University of Maryland University College, received the People’s Choice award presented by Ron and Cyndi Gula, the founder of the Cyber Defense Institute, also in College Park. The courses are offered at the University of Maryland University College.

Emma Garrison-Alexander, vice dean of Cybersecurity Information Assurance for the University of Maryland University College, received the People’s Choice award presented by Ron and Cyndi Gula, the founder of the Cyber Defense Institute, also in College Park. The courses are offered at the University of Maryland University College.

Emma Garrison-Alexander, vice dean of Cybersecurity Information Assurance for the University of Maryland University College, received the People’s Choice award presented by Ron and Cyndi Gula, the founder of the Cyber Defense Institute, also in College Park. The courses are offered at the University of Maryland University College.
By Mark R. Smith, Editor-in-Chief

Thirty-four-year-old Annapolis native and resident Charlie Dammeyer is a prime example of what can be accomplished by a young person who finds an industry he loves, takes any work he can get and keeps pushing.

It was television broadcast production that Dammeyer found fascinating, and he kept working at his chosen craft until he was named coordinating director with NBC Sports. From his perch inside a mobile production truck, he observes a large bank of video screens and selects the images that best tell that event’s story for the viewers.

He’s had an interesting start to 2018. As lead director of the NHL on NBC, on New Year’s Day in New York, he worked the NHL Winter Classic; then the NHL All-Star Game, from Tampa; then last month, Dammeyer worked the NHL Stadium Series game at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, which was won by the home-standing Washington Capitals. Those assignments were in addition to working his eighth Olympics, this time the Winter Games from PyeongChang, South Korea. The Emmy Award-winner also directed last season’s Stanley Cup Finals, NASCAR broadcasts and previously worked in various roles on Sunday Night Football, as well as five Super Bowls.

The former Annapolis High School quarterback and University of Maryland College Park grad started his career at age 15 as a runner during Fox Sports NFL broadcasts. After progressing to computer statistician, in 2004 he left Fox for NBC Sports, where he became a production assistant and worked on the 2004 Summer Olympics, in Athens. He’s been with NBC since.

How did you get into broadcasting?

The father of a friend of my sister worked as a statistician for Fox Sports. That connection resulted in my introduction to other Fox Sports employees, including an associate director named Chuck McDonald (now lead producer for the Fox Sports college football package). He hired me in 1999, at age 15, to be a gofer at FedEx Field during Washington Redskins games.

Who were your main mentors?

Chuck was one, and that first job led to work as a specialty statistician in the graphics mobile unit on various NFL games in Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York. Once I entered college, Chuck hired me to work with the production crew at Fox, where I was a computer statistician, tracking plays and building graphics for the shows. At that point, I also worked with Producer Bob Stenner and Director Sandy Grossman, both legends in the industry.

In spring 2004, I was introduced to Sam Flood, now the executive producer and president, production, for NBC Sports, which led to my working with the network on graphics at the 2004 Summer Olympics.

My first full-time job at NBC came in 2005. Shortly thereafter, NBC secured the rights to Sunday Night Football, where I worked for Executive Producer Fred Gaudelli, who is demanding, and is a tremendous producer and teacher, as well; Director Drew Esocoff, who I learned a lot from; and Director Pierre Moossa, the former lead associate director, who taught me a great deal about live sports TV.

How do you set up for a typical sports event?

That depends. My primary role is serving as coordinating director, and I work primarily for the NHL on NBC. In hockey, as the playoffs progress, the production levels rise. Early in the tournament, you often don’t know where you’ll be until just before a game, and for such special events, setup takes much longer. We were able to go to Navy-Marine Corps Stadium to do a survey for the Caps’ game last August.

But for NASCAR coverage, for instance, you only have a week to prepare for the weekly races. We can address specific needs weeks in advance in those cases, because the dates are set; however, for the hockey playoffs, the dates and teams typically aren’t set in stone, so that makes planning more challenging.

Then we have a group that strictly works on the Olympics, and they’re already working on Tokyo 2020, and beyond. During the recent winter games, I directed alpine skiing. To prepare, I was over there a year early, for two days, in February 2017. But know that there are whole groups from NBC who will be in Tokyo multiple times before the Olympics; as they will for the next winter games, in Beijing in 2022.

What are the particulars about directing a hockey telecast?

I try to not step on the game and let our announcers, along with our production
Howard County Lands AAA Credit Rating

Howard County has again received an AAA credit rating — the highest possible score — from all three bond ratings agencies, Fitch Ratings, Moody’s Investor Services and S&P. This is the third consecutive year that we have received this recognition.

Elements of our success include the growing diversity of the county’s economy, a highly educated workforce, a strategic location and an improving infrastructure. These factors were all considered in the ratings decision.

The strength of Howard County’s economy is evident in the area’s growth over the past few years. The county’s unemployment rate has dropped significantly, and the number of jobs has increased. In addition, the county has a strong base of businesses, including a variety of industries.

The county’s fiscal management also plays a role in its credit rating. Howard County has a strong financial history, with a well-managed budget and a strong reserve fund.

The AAA rating is a testament to the county’s financial stability and its ability to manage its debt effectively.

The Howard County Economic Development Authority (HCEDA) has been instrumental in attracting new businesses and retaining existing ones. The HCEDA has also provided assistance to businesses in the county, including infrastructure improvements and grants.

In conclusion, the AAA credit rating is a significant milestone for Howard County. It is a testament to the efforts of our residents, businesses and local government. The county will continue to work towards maintaining this high credit rating and ensuring a strong and prosperous future for all residents.
Five Cyber Firms Garner Loans From the AAEDC’s Tech Toolbox

The Anne Arundel Economic Development Corp. (AAEDC) announced that five local technology companies have been approved for loans through its Next Stage Fund, the signature component of its Arundel Defense Tech Toolbox. The announcement translates into allocations totaling more than half of AAEDC’s initial investment of $1 million when it launched the program in July 2017.

“We created [the Next Stage Fund] to assist companies at the mezzanine stage of growth; a business that has launched and invested in themselves in the early stage and has had initial success, but needs support to scale up,” said Julie Mussog, CEO of the AAEDC.

The Next Stage Tech Fund offers 0% loans from $50,000 to $250,000. Loans can be structured with flexible payment terms between one to five years to accommodate a company’s cash flow. Companies benefiting from this finance program include the following.

- **Penicity, Pasadena**: A veteran-owned small business, this cybersecurity company specializes in social engineering, cyber threat analysis, penetration testing and cyber technology integration penetration testing.
- **Applied Information Technology, Annapolis**: An information technology and security firm, [it](https://www.appinfo.com/) has clients in the government and commercial space. CEO Gwen Greene is currently in the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program.
- **Netrias, Annapolis**: Supports projects within the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. The company’s work focuses on applying Artificial Intelligence and machine learning techniques to cybersecurity and life sciences problems.
- **Xena Systems, Annapolis**: Xena Systems provides a secure gateway for remote access to business applications. CEO Bill Moore is an IT networking and security professional and has developed civilian and DoD business for FireEye.
- **XentIT, Crofton**: A certified minority-owned business, XentIT specializes in managed/co-managed security operations center services; cybersecurity and compliance advisory services; and IT resale and integration services.

To access the toolbox, businesses must be located in Anne Arundel County or have a signed lease demonstrating their intent to move into the county. For more information, contact AAEDC Business Development Associate Sarah Furdum at 410-222-7410 or by email at spedmund@aaedc.org.

After more than six months of intensive public input during the general development planning process, Anne Arundel County Executive Steve Schuh announced further steps the county will take to ensure responsible, measured growth.

“Over the past six months, we have engaged nearly every community as we look to map future growth in our county,” said Schuh. “As this process continues over the next two years, we must ensure we preserve the character of our communities by instituting measures to combat the forces of development.”

The responsible growth initiatives to be proposed by Schuh include the following.

- **Instituting a zoning freeze**: To ensure the county does not undertake any zoning designation changes so close to the general development planning process, Schuh will propose legislation preventing the Office of Planning and Zoning from processing requests for rezoning for any property until a general development plan is submitted.
- **Restoring small area planning**: At Schuh’s direction, the planning and zoning officer will reduce the number of variances for projects in which the intent of the code is observed. Planning and Zoning also would be barred from granting waivers on the public meeting requirements.
- **Reforming the variance process**: He will submit legislation to create an administrative waiver process for the planning and zoning officer to allow for officials to thoroughly evaluate variance applications for projects with a substantial environmental or community impact.

The announcement comes after a year of land use reform in the county. Last September, the county reduced the general development timetable from 10 years to two years. For more information, visit [www.aacounty.org/Plan2040](http://www.aacounty.org/Plan2040).

The general development plan is scheduled to be completed by December 2019, with the comprehensive rezoning legislation submitted to the county council thereafter.
Biz Roundup, from page 6

...ility. RESI determined that during the same period (fiscal years 2014–17), the program led to the creation of 3,059 new jobs in Maryland, with total wages of more than $159 million.

The economic analysis is part of a recent study commissioned by the Maryland Department of Commerce, which administers the Small, Minority and Women-owned Businesses Investment Account (commonly referred to as the VLT Fund). To conduct the study, RESI surveyed the companies receiving funds through the program and interviewed business owners, economic developers and fund managers.

More than half of the business owners interviewed by RESI stated that the program provided funding when traditional sources would not. In some cases, the VLT funding was the determining factor in starting, continuing or expanding a business.

The VLT is funded through 1.3% of the proceeds from the six casinos in Maryland: Hollywood Casino Perryville, in Cecil County; Horseshoe Casino, in Baltimore City; Live! Casino, at Arundel Mills (Howard County); Horseshoe Casino, in Baltimore City; Live! Casino, at Arundel Mills (Howard County); and Ocean Downs, in Worcester County.

The Maryland Economic Administration, which administers the VLT Fund, has been successful in increasing the number of minority-owned businesses that receive VLT funding. In fiscal year 2014, 11% of the businesses that were granted VLT funding were minority-owned. In fiscal year 2017, that number increased to 27.1%.

The study also found that businesses with funding from the VLT Fund were more likely to create jobs than businesses that did not receive funding. The study found that businesses with VLT funding were more likely to expand, hire new employees and increase sales.

Are Your Computers Working for You? Or Are You Always Working On Your Computers? 
Get Help from a Professional! Call Cliff Feldwick 410-880-0171

“10 Disaster Planning Essentials For Any Small Business: What You Need To Know To Avoid Losing Everything In An Instant!”

Download this FREE report today! www.drbackup.net/10essentials Phone:(888) 716-5816

RESI interviewed a wide array of business owners and fund managers to conduct the study. RESI is a Maryland-based consulting firm that specializes in economic development and business analysis.

Network, Makes Deal With Petco

Columbia-based VitusVet, which recently moved into the Columbia Gateway Innovation Center, has announced a new partnership with IA VMA (the Indo-American Veterinary Medical Association) that makes the VitusVet technology platform and services available to a large and growing network of veterinary practices and their customers.

The partnership will launch with select practices in California and soon will extend to the entire association of 131 members. VitusVet will offer IA VMA members exclusive pricing, service, and product features via a flexible pricing plan. The platform includes the VitusVet mobile client app, branded for each practice; 24/7 pet medical record access and updates (mobile and web); VitusVet Connect text and picture messaging; and other features.

“The fundamental reason to make pet health care simple and affordable for our customers,” said Dr. Karwagis Mann, IA VMA president, who practices at Aborn Pet Hospital in Fremont, Calif., “is to improve the overall group of practice owners, and to help keep our own practices efficient and convenient, which we believe will benefit everyone, particularly pets.”

VitusVet has also secured a partnership with The Pet Vet, an in-store pet clinic that operates from inside participating Petco locations. Following a successful beta test in two Texas Petco stores, both companies have initiated a country-wide partnership. Additional clinic openings are expected through 2018.

Arundel’s Commission on Government Innovation Releases Final Report

The County Executive’s Commission on Government Innovation and Effective- ness, a bipartisan effort to examine how government can better serve the citizens of Anne Arundel County, has issued its final report. It addresses the feasibility of issues like outsourcing fleet maintenance, devoting county animal sheltering services, allowing managing rights on county parks and other initiatives.

In general, the commission found county departments to be efficiently run, cost-conscious and adept at accomplishing much in a resource-constrained environment. To determine real cost savings, the commission recommended allowing county departments to “bid” the work alongside private sector candidates to gain a fair cost comparison.

Anne Arundel County government is blessed to have great managers who look to save money where they can,” said commission Chair Bill Westerbeek. “Our commission has produced a set of solid recommendations for making our county a model for efficiency.

I thank the commission for its diligence and hard work in delivering this report,” said County Executive Steve Schuh. “We will evaluate each of the final recommendations to determine how to best ensure and maintain an efficient and effective county government for our citizens.”


Howard Bancorp Completes Acquisition of First Mariner Bank

Howard Bancorp has completed the acquisition of First Mariner Bank. With the transaction finalized, the combined Howard team will immediately begin to implement plans for the integration of the former First Mariner’s staff, branches and systems and will relocate the corporate headquarters from Ellicott City to First Mariner’s headquarters in Baltimore City’s Canton neighborhood.

The combined organization, which will conduct business under the Howard Bank name, will operate 21 locations in the Greater Baltimore Metropolitan Area.

New signage will be installed immediately at all First Mariner branch and mortgage locations.

As a result of the merger, the relocation and consolidation of both organic growth and prior acquisitions, Howard Bank is now the largest bank based in Baltimore. This expansion will add approximately 160 employees in the city.

The transaction enables Howard Bank to expand benefits, training and advance- ment opportunities and access to share ownership for all continuing employees. It also provides Howard Bank with the scale to increase its combined community philanthropies. The transaction grew assets by 12% to $1.15 billion, total loans by 14% to $937 million, total commercial loans by 21% to $580 million, total deposits by 12% to $7.8 billion and total common shareholders’ equity by $53% to $132 million.

HHC, HCAC Launch Merriweather District Artist-in-Residence Program

The Howard Hughes Corp. (HHC), in collaboration with the Howard County Arts Council (HCAC), has launched the Merriweather District Artist-in-Residence (MD AIR) program in Downtown Columbia.

The Howard Hughes Corp. for Entry for Correspond- ents is being disseminated nationwide.

Three artists will be selected from sub- mitted entries and will be provided a stipend of $10,000 each to work in delivering this report,” said County Executive Steve Schuh. “We will evaluate each of the final recommendations to determine how to best ensure and maintain an efficient and effective county government for our citizens. “To access the report, visit www.acounty.org/boards-and-commissions/commission-gov-ernment-innovation-and-effectiveness/index.html.

The MD AIR program for 2018 will be the first in what will be an annual program to provide an opportunity for artists to spend two months in the midst of the evolving urban center. Works by selected MD AIR artists will be considered for inclusion in the second annual OPUS, scheduled for October 2018.

Arts are encouraged to focus on the relationship between art and technology in responding to the Call for Entry. MD AIR applications will remain open until April 7. For more information, visit www.mdairarts.com.

Schuh, Arlotto Announce New School Safety Measures

Anne Arundel County Executive Steve Schuh, Board of Education President Julie Hummer, Superintendent George Arlotto and Police Chief Tim Altomare have an- nounced funding the county will propose to protect the school system’s more than 82,000 students from harm.

The $14.8 million proposal will fund the following:

• 20 additional school resource officers (SROs), enough to station one at every county high school and middle school
• More than 1,500 cameras for schools
• Lock upgrades for 4,000 doors in coun- ty schools
• Drone-barrel door security systems at all high schools
• Protective tactical equipment for every school

The plan would be funded over two years. The county expects that some of the costs of these initiatives will be defrayed by state funds. Schuh also announced that the school system will reinstitute its School Safety and Security Council. The council is comprised of school, county, law enforcement and community officials, as well as parents and students. The superintendent also announced schools will be asked to make space available for patrol officers to use on down time in between calls, so that those officers can provide additional presence in the county’s 120-plus school facilities.
SDAT Streamlines the Form 1 Annual Report, Personal Property Return

By Jessica Gorsky and Sarah Dye

For many Maryland businesses, big and small, April consistently brings with it the requirement to file Form 1 – Annual Report and Personal Property Return. Filing this return is necessary for business entities in the state to maintain good standing with the Maryland State Department of Assessment and Taxation (SDAT).

Without good standing, a business may lose its name, its limited liability protections under Maryland law, its ability to sue and even its ability to continue to do business in the state. It can also cause technical defaults in loan documents (many of which require the entity to remain in good standing throughout the life of the loan) and can render an entity unable to transfer property.

Despite the potentially harsh consequences associated with not filing, year after year not filing the return continues to be the main reason that most entities lose their good standing.

Purpose Examined

The purpose of filing the return is to account for any personal property that an entity may own and use in order to conduct business during a given tax year. The state then assesses a tax based upon the personal property that is reported.

A practical problem with requiring all entities to file the return is that the majority of Maryland entities do not have personal property to report; for that reason, many business owners allow the return to fall to the wayside and simply do not file.

As of December 2017, SDAT reported that an estimated 200,000 business entities throughout Maryland did not actually own any personal property. As more businesses continue to maximize depreciation deductions and take advantage of home and virtual offices, this number is expected to increase.

Filing the Form 1, however, is not optional, and not filing for any reason can cause big problems for any business.

Remedies Available

Losing good standing does not necessarily mean the demise of a business. Due to the commonality of the problem, the state does have remedial options available for a business looking to revive its good standing — especially in a hurry.

For any entity looking to reinstate its good standing, it is important for the business to contact SDAT to discern how many years behind the entity may be in filing the Form 1. The business should then immediately file returns for all missed years, pay the filing fees (and late fees), as well as any tax due. If the charter has been declared forfeited, however, the additional step of filing articles of revival will be needed.

To help business owners, the SDAT website provides Form 1 returns dating back five years from the current tax year to provide for easy accessibility. Furthermore, SDAT strongly encourages taxpayers to take advantage of their online filing platform, which is available through Maryland Business Express, in order to file past returns quickly and easily.

Anticipated Changes

In January 2018, the current Form 1 was separated into an Annual Report and a Personal Property Tax Return. For the majority of Maryland entities that do not have personal property to report, they will no longer be required to complete the personal property section.

While the new-age Annual Report continues to be mandatory, directions within the document provide guidance to business owners regarding whether or not it is necessary for them to also attach a Personal Property Tax Return.

The SDAT hopes that simplifying the filing process and reducing the amount of paperwork to be completed by most Maryland business owners will encourage more taxpayers to oblige by the filing requirement.

A new Personal Property Tax Return will need to be included with the Annual Report if the business owns, leases or uses personal property located in Maryland; or if the business maintains a trader’s license with a local unit of government in Maryland.

Although the form has been revised and streamlined, the methods for filing have not changed. The simplest and easiest method is via the SDAT online platform available through Maryland Business Express.

If a business should anticipate needing an extension, it is strongly encouraged that an extension request be filed through the SDAT website before April 16, 2018. Beginning in 2018, extension requests will only be accepted if submitted online. Once an extension is received and approved, the necessary Annual Report and possible Personal Property Tax Return must be filed no later than June 15, 2018.

Jessica Gorsky is an associate attorney and Sarah Dye is a partner at Carney, Kelehan, Bresler, Bennett & Scherr, in Columbia. Gorsky can be contacted at jmg@carneykelehan.com and Dye can be contacted at shd@carneykelehan.com.
"We conduct classes and services to help this community, but the operational logistics of operating a van to continually transport these people didn’t make sense,” he said. “So instead we relocated to Main Street where we could continue to serve them without the added expense and ef- fort.”

At present, Redemption operates out of Ragamuffins Coffee House as a for-profit entity, but is prohibited by the city from holding church services in the building.

Bad Timing

Original plans called for the church to support its mission by operating a nonprofit coffee shop Mondays through Saturdays and holding worship services for two hours on Sundays. The church intended to donate coffee shop proceeds to other nonprofit entities, such as Laurel Advocates for Referral Services, the Lau- rel Pregnancy Center and the Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center.

In February 2015, when Redemption Community began its effort to acquire the Main Street property, Laurel’s Com- mercial Village (C-V) Zone allowed non- profit businesses and houses of worship as permitted uses under the city’s Unified Land Development Code.

One month later, however, the City Council amended the code to exclude nonprofit businesses from the C-V zone, forcing Ragamuffins to transition to a different business model.

In fairness, that zoning action derived from so-called cleanup legislation that was included as part of the fiscal 2014 budget to address an allowance for security updates. It was determined that not all school buildings are fully secure.

J. Michael Gardner, who was appointed to the board in December 2014, was the leader in the effort to exercise this option. The board has made it a priority to make security improvements to all of its schools; and get to know the administrators and community partners to establish a safe learning environment for all children and school staff.

Keeping our students and staff safe is my number one priority, and it requires nothing less than the cooperation of our county and community partners,” said Martinez.

From immediate physical measures, such as installing buzzer systems at each high school, to looking at the natural shifts, such as cultural proficiency training, keeping our schools safe requires a multi-pronged approach. I am encouraged by the invest- ments announced today and appreciate the county’s commitment to help us im- plement the necessary security resources to our schools.

Howard County Police Chief Gary Gardner said police have already taken ad- ditional measures to increase security and have recently expanded the school safety team. Gardner and Kittelman have expanded the police department’s mandatory foot patrol program, which in the past has included only downtown areas like shopping centers and apartment complexes, to include schools.

These interactive visits will enable officers to be familiar with the layout of the schools in the community and will develop positive relationships with stu- dents; and get to know the administrators and front office staff at the schools in their Patrol beats.

Up and Running

In Anne Arundel County, Superintendent Julie Hummer, Superintendent George Arlotto and Police Chief Tim Al- tollo announced an officer proposal to protect the school system’s 82,000 students.

The proposal would fund 20 additional school resource officers, enough to sta- tion one at every county high school and middle school; 1,500 cameras for schools; lock upgrades for 4,000 doors in county buildings; double-door security systems at all high schools; and protective tactical equipment for every school.

The plan would be funded over two years, with some costs defrayed by state funds.

Arlotto also announced that the school system will reinstate its School Safety & Security Council, composed of school county, law enforcement and community ofﬁcials, as well as parents and students, to find to it up and running by the end of the school year, said Anne Arundel County Public Schools’ spokesperson Bob Mosier.

In April 2015, the council approved additional code changes addressing park- ing waivers, requiring a special exception for houses of worship located on less than one acre in the C-V zone.

According to the new regulations, the process requires a non-refundable $2,000 application fee and the hiring of an engi- neer to draft an existing conditions site plan and a proposed site plan).

Discrimination?

Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), a Washington, D.C., law firm that special- izes in religious freedom litigation, filed a federal lawsuit in February on behalf of Redemption Community Church.

“The government can’t discriminate against churches simply because they are religious,” said ADF Legal Counsel Morgan Lee. "A government taken to want every effort to work with the city to com- ply with its burdensome zoning changes. Redemption Community Church is now facing the same kind of hassles as other businesses or pay severe fines. Federal law is clear: The city’s discriminatory practices violate the law.”

Gardner and Kittelman also will be asked to make space available for patrol officers to use on down time in between calls, so that those officers can provide additional presence in the county’s 120- plus school facilities.

Rehabilitation

"Keep it up!,” he said. “We have already seen great progress in the last two years in funding, and told ourselves we’d be happy to do good things for the city, but I keep running into roadblocks, obstacles and delays. I don’t know what to do next other than just keep playing the game, being patient and trying to find a place for our small church family to gather.”
The Southern Rhone Valley

Among my all-time favorite wines are the luscious reds from France’s southern Rhone Valley. More specifically, I’m referring to the Grenache-based blends from the appellations of Côtes-du-Rhône, Gigondas, Lirac and Châteauneuf-du-Pape.

Wine drinkers are familiar with the wines of Bordeaux, Burgundy and Champagne, but how familiar are they with the wines from the Rhone Valley? It’s among the largest quality wine-producing regions in the world, and of all the red wines produced in France, nowhere will you find a wider variety of exciting offerings than the Rhone.

About the Valley

The Rhone River begins in the Swiss Alps, flows west into Lake Geneva, passes through the vineyards of Savoie and joins the Saône River in Lyon. From there, it flows south for about 250 miles into the Mediterranean; it’s the area between the city of Vienne to the north and Avignon, a commune, to the south that connect, the Rhone Valley. Some of the world’s finest wines are produced along this stretch of river.

The Rhone Valley is considered as one wine region, though it contains two distinct areas with different climates, and is home to different grape varieties.

The northern Rhone occupies a 45-mile stretch from Vienne to the city of Valence. The climate here is continental, with hot summers, cool autumns and cold winters. The cool fall weather means that the early-ripening Syrah grape is the single red variety used in the wines.

After a gap of about 37 miles and just south of the city of Montélimar, the Southern Rhone begins. The climate here is Mediterranean, with hotter and dryer summers, warmer autumns and milder winters. The weather here is perfect for the late-ripening Grenache grape. The wines of the southern Rhone are blends of the signature Grenache, with Syrah and Mourvèdre making up most of the rest. Smaller amounts of Cinsaut and Carignan are sometimes added.

A dominant climatic feature of the Rhone Valley is the strong, cold north wind, known as the Mistral. Because it’s so strong, the vines need to be staked to withstand its onslaught. However, the improved air circulation inhibits diseases and also reduces the size of the grapes, which concentrates their flavors.

Côtes-du-Rhône

Côtes-du-Rhône is a huge wine area that accounts for more than 80% of the production for the region. In fact, it is the second largest appellation next to Bordeaux. The wines are some of the best values in the southern Rhone and maybe the world, and are fruit driven, reliable and perfect for everyday drinking. By appellation law, more than 20 grape varieties are allowed to be used in the blend.

Côtes-du-Rhône wines are medium-bodied, loaded with red and black fruit, with fresh acidity and spice, so they are extremely food friendly and pair well with a wide variety of dishes. They are great with any type of meat, whether it is grilled, roasted, braised or stewed.

Gigondas

The village of Gigondas is in the Dentelles de Montmirail Mountains not far from the more famous area of Châteauneuf-du-Pape. The wines are blends of up to 80% Grenache, along with at least 15% Syrah and Mourvèdre. Other authorized grape varieties can be used up to a maximum of 10%.

Gigondas is often called a baby Châteauneuf-du-Pape, but I think the wines deserve to stand up on their own. Châteauneuf-du-Pape is more structured and concentrated while Gigondas tends to show more bright fruit and fresh acidity.

Gigondas wines are not cheap, as they cost more than Côtes-du-Rhône, but are considerably less than Châteauneuf-du-Pape. Dollar-for-dollar and given what you get in quality, the wines are a good value. Pair Gigondas with robust stews and casseroles.

Lirac

Lirac is just across the Rhone River to the west of Châteauneuf-du-Pape. The wines are made with varying blends of Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Cinsaut. They are loaded with flavors of rich, red berry, blackberry, herb, and baking spices, and often a hint of anise.

Lirac wines are great values, priced somewhere between a Gigondas and a Côtes-du-Rhône. Pair Lirac wines with strong flavored meats like lamb and duck breast. Try it slightly chilled, with grilled fish.

Châteauneuf-du-Pape

Châteauneuf-du-Pape is the most famous village and the star of the southern Rhone Valley. Here, Grenache is considered to be at its very best, due to excellent exposure of the vines to the sun. The climate is very hot, so the grapes get fully ripe, sweet and fruity at harvest. Along with Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre and Cinsaut are also included in the blend. However, the proportions can vary significantly from producer to producer and, in some cases, all 13 permitted grape varieties are included.

These wines can be very age-worthy with incredible depth and concentration. Over time, they develop complex aromas like dried fruit, baking spice, coffee and leather. Châteauneuf-du-Pape pairs with game dishes and foods with intense and complex flavors, as well as beef and lamb dishes.

See Sipping, page12
Chinese Carryout

So, the U.S. government has blocked the sale of Qualcomm, a U.S. chipmaker and innovator, to Singapore-based Broad- com, citing national security reasons. This is probably a good idea, if not for the reasons given.

Broadcom is in the middle of moving its headquarters back to San Jose anyway, as announced, with great fanfare, by the White House last November as part of the sales promotion of the new tax laws. This seems to have been forgotten lately in the rush to characterize Broadcom as an evil Chinese stealth of U.S. technology (which isn’t necessarily wrong, by the way).

It has its operating headquarters in San Jose anyway, but had legally incorporated in Singapore — which is not part of China — in its chase of tax breaks some years back. So coming back to the U.S. is just keeping with its style of chasing break wherever it finds them.

This is definitely in keeping with Broadcom’s management style. It is known in the industry as a “shop chop,” a corpora- tion that buys companies, then dismantles them in search of short-term profits. One writer in PC Magazine characterized it as a “technology Dollar Tree,” and worried what the potential merger would do to Qualcomm’s pursuit of 5G (yes, they’re working on that technology).

So if the merger was to be blocked using the national security argument, it had to be done soon, before the official move.

Another Philosophy

Qualcomm, on the other hand, is known as a long-term player, a company that takes risks on projects with possible future value to secure future success. It is led by a former MIT computer science professor and has pioneered many of the technologies used in everyday smartphone, including a method of sharing airwaves by multiple smartphones simulta- neously that is used by Verizon, Sprint and many international firms.

As a result, its chips are used in many current phones, including Apple, Samsung and Google models. It makes money by selling chips that it designs, but are actually manufactured by others, sort of like Apple with its phones. These chips include CPU and really, really fast modem chips, the next generation of which will allow virtual reality streaming to your phone. But the vast amount of its profits are garnered from licensing its pat- ents, of which it has thousands. Its pricing model on this is unique as well, since it charges phone manufacturers not on the price of the chips, but as a percentage of the entire phone.

This has led to a slight tiff with Apple — if you think a slight tiff involves law- suits, countersuits, witholding of royalties and occasional court requests to halt sales of Apple phones in the U.S.

Apple, which started using Intel chips in half of its iPhones two years ago, is pres- ently designing new phones using only Intel modern chips. This, despite tests that show they are slower, leading Apple to throttle the speed of phones using Qualcomm chips to the Intel phones wouldn’t be less desirable.

News of the Apple decision sent Qual- comm stock down, something that Apple didn’t doubt would result in a battle between Qualcomm in that slight tiff mentioned above. But by choosing Intel chips that are a generation behind Qualcomm, Apple is sacrificing speed, which everybody wants. It probably will settle sometime soon (or not), depending on the number of lawyers involved.

Beep, Beep

What can you see in the Arizona desert,

in addition to a road runner, a coyote and a bunch of packages from Acme Corp.? How about automated Volvo big rigs being run by Uber? Human drivers take the trucks across the Arizona border before the autonomous driving takes over (with a token human in the driver’s seat, at least for now) for the long haul portion. A conventio- nal driver takes over for the final portion of the trip. This has been taking place since November. The human driver, who drops the load in Arizona, then takes another load back to the border driver time and warehouse costs, too.

Uber is not alone. Waymo (formerly part of Google) has been working on self-driving trucks for a decade and just recently settled a lawsuit against Uber about theft of its technology. Tesla is also working on self-driving trucks. But is Acme?

You Can Stop Now

While searching for a phone app to chart my walking, I came across MapMy- Walk by Under Armour, which then asked me if I wanted to connect to my Smart Shoes. Smart shoes? Clare, Clare. Although I guess they would be better than Smartass Shoes, which would periodically text you with “You’ve been on your butt for 6 hours.” Get up.

“Call that a walk?”

Cliff Feldwick is owner of Riverside Com- puting, which does PC troubleshooting, network setup and data retrieval for small businesses, when not recalling Max- well Smart and his shoe. He can be reached at 410-880-0171 or at cliff@feldwick.com. Older articles are available at http://feldwick.com.

Howard Board of Ed Approves Fiscal ‘19 Operating, Capital Budgets

The Howard County Board of Educa- tion adopted its Operating Budget Request for the 2018–19 school year totaling $906.8 million. The amount requested rep- resents $87.7 million, or 10.7%, over the amount funded for the fiscal 2018 school year, as well an additional $50.5 million request for one-time funds during the next several years.

The recurring amount requested from local sources is $249.5 million, an increase of $10.7 million from fiscal 2018. The remaining budget includes funding from federal and other sources totaling $12.6 million.

The Capital Budget request includes funding for costs associated with locating and constructing a new 13th county high school, targeted to open in fall 2023; an increase to school capacity at Waverly Elementary School, scheduled for completion in August 2018; and the final phase of construction of New Elementa- ry School No. 42, scheduled to open in Elkridge in August 2018. Additional fund- ing is allocated for systems renovations, which include replacements and upgrade of rooftops and heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems at several schools.

The Capital Budget and Capital Im- provement Program requests provide for an accelerated start date for the Hammond High School addition project, and reflects $98.6 million in reductions for planned projects to accommodate projected county and state funding levels.

The Howard County Public School System will work with the county to develop a multi-year plan to eliminate this accrued debt of $50.5 million.

The total request for state funding is $249.5 million, an increase of $10.7 million from fiscal 2018. The remaining budget includes funding from federal and other sources totaling $12.6 million.

The Capital Budget request includes funding for costs associated with locating and constructing a new 13th county high school, targeted to open in fall 2023; an increase to school capacity at Waverly Elementary School, scheduled for completion in August 2018; and the final phase of construction of New Elementa- ry School No. 42, scheduled to open in Elkridge in August 2018. Additional fund- ing is allocated for systems renovations, which include replacements and upgrade of rooftops and heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems at several schools.

The Capital Budget and Capital Im- provement Program requests provide for an accelerated start date for the Hammond High School addition project, and reflects $98.6 million in reductions for planned projects to accommodate projected county and state funding levels.

Sipping

from page 11

A Few to Try

• 2015 Château de Beaucastel Châ- teneuf-du-Pape. Loaded with aromas and flavors of blackberry, black cherry and black raspberry, with hints of cola and leather. This richly textured wine is drinking well now, but will be better in a few years and for at least another 20 years. Priced in the high $80s.

• 2015 Domaine Le Cloître des Cœurs “La Tour Sarracène” Gigondas. Plush and smooth textured, this full-bodied wine shows lots of red and dark fruit flavors along with notes of spice and licorice. Priced in the mid-$20s.

• 2015 Château de Ségrières “Cuvée Réservée” Lirac. Rich and concentrated with aromas and flavors of blackberry and blueberry, with hints of licorice and herb. Priced in the high teens.


• Whether you go for a classic Châ- teneuf-du-Pape or a wallet-friendly Côtes-du-Rhône, know it’s easy to fall in love with the red wines of the southern Rhône. Cheers. Sam Audia is a former advertising and marketing professional with more than 20 years of experience in the wine and spirits industry. He is a Wine Specialist and buyer at Bay Ridge Wine & Spirits, in Annapolis, holds a Certification Diploma from the Sommelier Society of America and Inter- mediate and Advanced Certificates from the Wine and Spirits Education Trust. He can be reached at sippingswithsam@verizon.net.

Howard Board of Ed Approves Fiscal ‘19 Operating, Capital Budgets

The Howard County Board of Educa- tion adopted its Operating Budget Request for the 2018–19 school year totaling $906.8 million. The amount requested rep- resents $87.7 million, or 10.7%, over the amount funded for the fiscal 2018 school year, as well an additional $50.5 million request for one-time funds during the next several years.

The recurring amount requested from local sources is $249.5 million, an increase of $10.7 million from fiscal 2018. The remaining budget includes funding from federal and other sources totaling $12.6 million.

The Capital Budget request includes funding for costs associated with locating and constructing a new 13th county high school, targeted to open in fall 2023; an increase to school capacity at Waverly Elementary School, scheduled for completion in August 2018; and the final phase of construction of New Elementa- ry School No. 42, scheduled to open in Elkridge in August 2018. Additional fund- ing is allocated for systems renovations, which include replacements and upgrade of rooftops and heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems at several schools.

The Capital Budget and Capital Im- provement Program requests provide for an accelerated start date for the Hammond High School addition project, and reflects $98.6 million in reductions for planned projects to accommodate projected county and state funding levels.

The 8th Annual Hills of Milltown 5K Challenge

Sunday, May 13th, 2018

ARE YOU TOUGH ENOUGH?

Presented by: Blossoms of Hope, Ellicott City Partnership
Pendergrass Works Under Radar, Gets Job Done

Del. Shane Pendergrass, the Howard County Democrat who chairs the Health and Government Operations Committee, worked quietly and efficiently, shunning much publicity, on some of the biggest (and most boring) issues in government involving health care and health insurance.

A few weeks ago, Pendergrass, whom I’ve known since she entered local politics 33 years ago, told me on the floor of the House that she was happiest about resolving the most important issue of the session — how to help those in the individual health insurance market who were getting slammed by skyrocketing premiums, due to loss of federal subsidies.

It sounded like one of those dull, but significant, issues that get little attention from reporters, as they prefer drama and controversy. Turns out it was a good, even surprising, story that everybody in the media paid no attention to; that is, until it passed the House of Delegates in the flurry of hundreds of bills debated in marathon sessions by the March 19 crossover deadline. Bills passed in the House or Senate by that date are guaranteed at least a hearing in the other chamber.

It was a story of real bipartisan cooperation and compromise, with nobody trying to grab headlines. The tax-averse Hogan administration even agreed to a one-year $300 million tax hike on the insurance industry.

A Snoozer

Short titles for bills often don’t tell you much, but this one sounded like a real snoozer — Individual Market Stabilization, with a subtitle of Maryland Health Care Access Act of 2018. Pendergrass’s committee has been working on the issue for a year, after the loss of federal subsidies for some individual and family policies through the Health Benefit Exchanges. Middle income folks — household incomes above $70,000 not covered by the state could set up its own reinsurance plans to stabilize premiums for those who didn’t. For Republicans, that was one of the most piquant provisions of the federal ACA.

“We took out the mandate because the governor said take out the mandate. We compromised,” Pendergrass said.

There was also a tax on hospital earnings, a method the state had used in the past to raise health care revenues. Hogan’s health secretary, former Anne Arundel County Executive Robert Neall, asked for that to be removed. The legislators agreed.

The solution was the federal tax on insurance companies that had been imposed by the original ACA. But Congress gave the companies a reprieve next year, and the legislators decided that an equivalent state tax could generate about $300 million to keep premiums for the individual market from escalating.

“We do not have the option to do nothing,” Del. Joseline Pena-Melnyk, the subcommittee chair who worked on the bill, told her House colleagues. “Are we all going to pay for it? Yes,” she said, whether through increased premiums from the other health insurers or because of the uncompensated hospital care from the families who drop their insurance. That cost of that care is spread to everyone through increased hospital rates.

The only voice in opposition on the House floor was Del. Herb McMillan of Anne Arundel County.

The bill eventually passed 91-47, with most Republicans silently opposed, for some individual and family policies through the Health Benefit Exchanges. Middle income folks — household incomes above $70,000 not covered by the state could set up its own reinsurance plans to stabilize premiums for those who didn’t. For Republicans, that was one of the most piquant provisions of the federal ACA.

“We took out the mandate because the governor said take out the mandate. We compromised,” Pendergrass said.

There was also a tax on hospital earnings, a method the state had used in the past to raise health care revenues. Hogan’s health secretary, former Anne Arundel County Executive Robert Neall, asked for that to be removed. The legislators agreed.

The solution was the federal tax on insurance companies that had been imposed by the original ACA. But Congress gave the companies a reprieve next year, and the legislators decided that an equivalent state tax could generate about $300 million to keep premiums for the individual market from escalating.

“We do not have the option to do nothing,” Del. Joseline Pena-Melnyk, the subcommittee chair who worked on the bill, told her House colleagues. “Are we all going to pay for it? Yes,” she said, whether through increased premiums from the other health insurers or because of the uncompensated hospital care from the families who drop their insurance. That cost of that care is spread to everyone through increased hospital rates.

The only voice in opposition on the House floor was Del. Herb McMillan of Anne Arundel County.

The bill eventually passed 91-47, with most Republicans silently opposed, despite the governor’s support for the bill. Its fate now rests with the Senate.

“Thank you to the administration for all the help they gave us,” Pendergrass said.

Ed’s Final Budget

Senators heaped bipartisan praise on Budget Committee Chairman Ed Kasemeyer, the Howard County Democrat who is retiring from the Senate. He got three standing ovations from his colleagues as he presented the $44.5 billion budget.

“It’s one of the best budgets I’ve seen since I’ve been here,” said Sen. George Edwards, the three-term Republican from the mountains of Western Maryland, praising Kasemeyer for his “effort at bipartisan consensus.”

The fact that the budget is largely the result of a compromise between the two chambers, with neither side fully happy with the final product, has antagonized members of the legislature with his own task force and legislation to reduce regulations on the budding craft beer industry. Last year, the legislature had put together a compromise between the local brewers, distributors and retailers, a compromise none of the parties were happy with.

The legislature is set to pass a bill creating a task force to study how the comp- troller regulates and enforces its alcohol laws. Howard County Del. Warren Miller is co-sponsor of the bill that is in direct response to Franchot’s efforts to change the state’s beer regime.

Brand & Market Your Business with Top Local Marketing Professionals

Meet me by the lake! - Meeting space with a view - 4"x5" Photography

The Columbia Graduate Center
8990 McGaw Road • Columbia, MD
www.loyola.edu/columbia • 410-617-7601

Dear Dr. [Name]

I hope this email finds you well and that your day is filled with joy and success. As we approach [insert date], I wanted to take a moment to express my appreciation for your ongoing support and contributions to [insert organization or project].

Your [insert role or achievement] has been instrumental in [insert specific accomplishment or impact]. Your [insert characteristic] approach has not only been inspiring but has also inspired others around you to [insert specific action or outcome].

I am writing to offer you an [insert opportunity or offer] that I believe will further [insert how this opportunity will benefit you or the organization]. [Insert details of the opportunity or offer].

I am confident that this [insert how this opportunity will benefit you or the organization] will not only [insert how this opportunity will benefit you or the organization] but will also [insert additional benefits].

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this [insert opportunity or offer].

Best regards,

[Your Name]
Howard Spending Affordability Committee Calls for Conservative Approach

Howard County’s Spending Affordability Advisory Committee is recommending a conservative approach to budgets and spending in the near future, despite preliminary multi-year revenue projections showing 3.4–3.6% growth annually for fiscal 2020 through fiscal 2024.

“Changing demographics, anticipated reductions in federal and state expenditures, as well as possible decreases in the federal workforce will all affect the county’s long-term outlook,” the committee advised in its latest annual report, released in late February.

Several drivers are having a critical effect on the county’s ability to generate revenue, chief among them the aging of the county’s long-term outlook,” the committee advised in its latest annual report, released in late February.

Several drivers are having a critical effect on the county’s ability to generate revenue, chief among them the aging of the population. The county’s Department of Community Resources and Services projects that the population older than age 65 will double within the county by 2025.

Additionally, the county is dealing with a general slowing of growth, and is slowly running out of untapped land to develop.

“Revenues are slowing down, but we haven’t diminished our demand for services and the things we want,” said Steve Sachs, chair of the Spending Affordability Committee. “We’re going to need to prioritize some things, and be better, smarter, more efficient and effective with our spending.”

In fiscal 2018, the county experienced a $7 million projected revenue shortfall that resulted in a mid-year 2% budget reduction from county agencies, exclusive of education entities.

And despite a continued recovery in the real estate market, the county’s assessable property base, using the last state projections, will see a moderate growth rate of 2.4% in fiscal 2019 due to lower growth in residential property reassessment value and the state’s three-year phase-in policy.

In response, the Howard County Public School System’s (HCPS) requested funding growth alone exceeds the county’s entire projected General Fund revenue growth of $19.1 million in fiscal 2019.

“Moreover, the HCPS budget request does not deal with the projected $50 million cumulative deficit in its own health benefit fund for fiscal 2018.”

“We’d like to see the school board come up with a plan to tackle this debt,” Sachs said. “It’s egregious that it happened; there should be some sharing of responsibility.”

Howard Candidates

With the deadline for candidacy filings now behind us, the County Council race has drawn one of the largest fields of contenders in years.

In District 1, Raj Kathuria is running on the Republican ticket, while incumbent Jon Weinstein will face Elizabeth Walsh in the Democratic primary. Republican John Liao and Democrat Opel Jones are running in District 2.

No Republicans filed to run in District 3, with the Democratic field made up of Hinry Hadgu, Steven Hunt, Greg Jennings and Cristiana Rigby.

In District 4, Lisa Kim filed for the Republican side, and the Democratic contenders are Deb Jung, Ian Bradley Miller, Malvinder and Sabi Sidhu.

Finally, in District 5, Republicans Jim Walsh and David Yungmann are joined by Democrat Chini Williams.

In the County Executive race, Republican incumbent Allan Kittleman is offset on the Democrat side by outgoing Councilman Calvin Ball (Dist. 2) and Harry Dunbar.

Siddiqui’s campaign got off to a rough start, with the director of the Division of Candidacy and Campaign Finance for Maryland’s Board of Elections referring her campaign finance report to the Office of the State Prosecutor on Feb. 22 for potential investigation.

According to the letter that accompanied the referral, the Excellence for Howard County Slate committee transferred $100,000 to Siddiqui’s campaign earlier in February in violation of election law, which limits slate transfers to $24,000.

Naturally, local political bloggers followed the money, to find the source coming from the unsung campaign coffers of Siddiqui’s husband, Nayab Siddiqui.

In response, Janet Siddiqui filed a new campaign finance report on March 20 noting a return of $7,600 to the slate, and receipt of a subsequent non-candidate loan in the same amount from her husband.

Long Reach Hearing

In late March, Howard County Zoning Board Chair Jen Terrasa (D-Dist. 3) announced the board would hold a hearing on the Long Reach Village Center case on May 7, making an exception to its earlier decision not to hear cases after the self-imposed mid-April deadline.

The announcement came after County Executive Allan Kittleman (R) made public a letter he issued to the board criticizing board members for a decision that would have delayed progress on the Urban Renewal project by up to a year, and handed over responsibility for the case to a newly-seated and relatively inexperienced Zoning Board in December.

The sitting Zoning Board, made up of the members of the county council, is legally prohibited from hearing zoning cases after the primary election in election years.

“Despite the early notice of this [mid-April] deadline, unfortunately, this case did not come to us until the very last minute,” Terrasa said, in a response to Kittleman’s letter. The Zoning Board announced the deadline in October 2017.

She added that the decision to hear the case beyond the board’s deadline “is based on our understanding that there was no opposition to this case at the Planning Board hearing, and the Petitioner asserts that the hearing for this case will take only one night. If this case ends up requiring more than one night, there is no guarantee that we will be able to finish the case this term.”

It must be noted that scheduling a date to hear this case on short notice is not a simple task. Zoning Board members do not have a wide open calendar to work with, given the personal work schedules of the board members, in addition to their duties as county council members and their involvement with other government boards, regional commissions and state government organizations.
Anne Arundel County Political Analysis
By Len Lazarick

Novice Politician Seeks Collaboration, Listening in Annapolis

Maureen “Mo” Bryant quit her long-time work last year as an executive in the commercial construction industry, and began knocking on doors in northwest Anne Arundel County.

What was she selling door-to-door? Herself, as a prospective Republican state senator in District 32. For months, she called “rain tax” faddists like the rare Pam Beidle, the three-term delegate and former county council member, in the fall. But on the Feb. 27 filing deadline, she got a Republican opponent in John Grass, the loud and flamboyant county councilmember who had toyed for months with challenging County Executive Steve Schuh. Instead, term-limited on the council, Grass settled on the post she originally said he was interested in and might have a better chance of winning.

Bryant shifted gears, though not her strategy. She treats her candidacy as a job, and goes door-knocking every morning and afternoon, along with roadside sign-waving.

She says she’s up to 3,000 households now, and once Grass entered the race, she’s shifted to just approaching Repub- lican primary voters.

“They don’t know me,” Bryant, 59, concedes, making her first run for public office. “I’m very much in a David-and-Goliath situation.”

She’s relying on the skills she developed as an Air Forcedaughter moving around the country, eventually landing in Prince George’s County where her father was commander of Andrews Air Force Base (now Joint Base Andrews). Her father later became involved in Prince George’s County Republican politics, which is how she met the young Larry Hogan, Jr., who recently encouraged her to run for office.

“I truly believe Maryland is on the right track, but we’re not going to get there as long as Democrats keep blocking good legislation and passing bad ones.” Among them she includes proposals to make Maryland a sanctuary state, and the so-called “rain tax.” Grass is the rare Republican who enthusiastically supports the tax to help clean up stormwater runoff as part of an aggressive environmental reform.

“I’m fiscally conservative and socially responsible,” said Bryant. “There’s a way to bring people together; there’s a way to let everybody win. It’s called compromise, and it really isn’t rocket science. There’s no reason for the divisiveness, the name calling.”

That’s part of what she saw when she attended county council meetings, an office she first considered running for. “I didn’t see listening.”

She said she’s been balancing budgets and using her collaborative and listening skills her whole professional career. They were essential for success in the male-dominated construction trade. She’s also blended her career with her “philanthropic passion for certain at-risk communities.” She’s served on the boards of the D.C. Police Foundation, Mentors Inc. and the YWCA. But she felt her work with nonprofits was just not moving the needle enough, and led to running for office.

John Grass thinks I’m a non-enti- ty,” Bryant said, and she hopes it stays that way until she wins the Republican primary in June.

McMillan on Stage

Nobody expected Del. Herb Mc- Millan to shrink quietly off the political stage in his final days in the House of Delegates, where he’s always been one of the most talkative members of either party.

On March 19, he was the lone oppo- nent to speak against move to prop up the disintegrating individual health insurance market (as described in this month’s State Column).

“This bill will increase health insur- ance costs for everyone,” said McMillan, as the other 46 Republican colleagues who would later vote against the bill sat silently. The current rates, “they’re not affordable now, yet we want to stabilize them.”

The bill, supported by Gov. Hogan, attempts to fix the problem, but “It’s not fixable,” McMillan said. “I will not vote to stabilize failure.”

Later that week, as the lawmakers debated the $44.4 billion state budget, McMillan said that the Democrats and the governor, as well, failed to live up to their promises to hold Maryland taxpayers harmless from any increase in state and local taxes because of the recent changes in the federal tax code.

“If a person makes a commitment to do something, I expect them to keep it — be it the governor, the Senate president or the speaker — all of whom promised to fully make whole all Maryland taxpayers,” McMillan said, never afraid to take on members of his own party.

McMillan may not be missed by most of his colleagues, but he may be missed by the reporters who could count on him for juicy quotes whenever he stood up in the back of the chamber.

Kipke Flips

House Minority Leader Nic Kipke was in a difficult position on the bill to stabilize the individual health insurance market. He serves on the Health and Government Operations Committee, which takes pride in its somewhat unusual bipartisan coop- eration.

Kipke was one of four Republicans who voted for the bill in committee, try- ing to stabilize skyrocketing insurance rates for about 140,000 customers of the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange. The other four committee Republicans voted against the bill, including his seatmate, House Minority Whip Kathy Szeliga, of Baltimore County.

“There is an enormous affordability crisis on the horizon,” Kipke said. Like many legislators of both parties, he was getting calls from constituents about the rising health insurance costs. Since many of these constituents were small-business owners and self-employed professionals and craftpeople, many of them were Republican voters and the natural constitu- ents of the GOP.

The plan to stabilize rates depended on taking $300 million from health insurers who had been paying a premium tax to the federal government, but were getting a one-year reprise in 2019 when they wouldn’t have to pay the federal tax.

“It was very appealing to me,” said Kipke. “Let’s use it for some public pur- pose.”

By the time the bill got to the House floor two days after the committee vote, the members received some addition- al information from the League of Life and Health Insurers in Maryland: It turned out not all health insurers had been paying the federal tax on premiums, and this state tax would be a new expense for them.

“We got bad information,” Kipke said. “I do know not everybody paid this tax.”

So on the final floor vote, Kipke voted against the bill that he had supported in committee.

The measure is going to go into law, with the governor’s support, but it leaves open the big question no one in Washing- ton’s been able to figure out.

“What are we going to do to make health insurance more affordable?” Kipke asked.
Myths, Realities of 8(a) Certification: Gold Ticket or Not?

The federal government’s 8(a) Business Development Program (8a) is, simply put, often misunderstood. Among the common misconceptions of the program is that it’s only geared toward minority individuals; that one must be certified as 8a in order to win contracts; and once certified, you are guaranteed business.

In reality, anyone can be considered for 8a certification, one can win contracts without being 8a certified and that no one is ever guaranteed a federal contract, whether 8a certified or not. 8a-certified companies never see a dollar increase in revenues after getting 8a certified.

On the flip side, more than $40 billion in federal prime contracts were awarded to 8a certified businesses in fiscal 2017, which is motivation for many business people to pursue the certification.

Two Phases

To set the stage, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) created the 8(a) Business Development Program to help small, disadvantaged businesses compete in the federal marketplace. This program offers a broad range of assistance to those companies that are owned and controlled, at least 51%, by individuals who are considered socially and economically disadvantaged. These individuals may be of any sex or heritage.

The 8a program has a nine-year life span, which is divided into two phases; an initial four-year developmental stage and a final five-year transition stage.

The 8a program application process is extensive and requires financial, organizational, and personal information that can include detailed personal information to address eligibility requirements, such as proof of ownership and control of the business. In addition, an initial disadvantage statement, business acumen, experience in the government market, business revenues and number of employees.

Business owners may choose to apply for the certification on their own, use the local Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) for guidance, follow the SBA website step-by-step or engage with a consultant or attorney. Applying for the 8a certification has recently been improved and now includes an online submission process. The good news is that a complete, straightforward application may take the SBA as little as a month to approve. The bad news is that it can take much longer, especially if there are red flags in finances, ownership, experience or management.

Once approved, it is the responsibility of the 8a certified business owner to actively research opportunities and market its capabilities to various layers of federal customer decision-makers. The time and effort involved in getting 8a certified is substantial, and many of the 8a companies never realize a meaningful benefit in going through the certification.

Advantages

However, for those business owners who understand the program, are established in the market and aggressive in pursuing business, the benefits are unique. Direct-award (or sole-source) contracts may be awarded, with competition, up to $4 million for services and $7 million for manufacturing. There is a limit on sole-source contracts during the lifetime of the 8a participant of $10 million or five times the value of the primary NAICS code.

It’s a fallacy to think that one wins business simply because of certification. An 8a certified firm’s business is fierce, and the business development and marketing process required to identify opportunities, position and pursue before any competition in the free enterprise system has been impaired due to diminished capital and credit opportunities. Required documentation includes business and personal financial information for the applicant and spouse (if any), including (but not limited to) tax returns, financial statements, fair market value of all assets, retirement accounts, property owned, debt and tax issues.

In every case, when married, the socially disadvantaged individual must submit separate financial information to SBA for his or her spouse (including tax returns and certain SBA forms).

The Terms

Before the SBA can approve an application, the individuals claiming to be disadvantaged must submit documents to prove their assets, income and net worth fall below certain threshold amounts. These include assets not exceeding $4 million, personal income not exceeding $130,000 (averaged over three years) and adjusted net worth must be less than $250,000.

This is often when SBA, PTAC, attorneys or consultants can be of help in understanding the acceptable kinds of social or economic disadvantage proof and acceptable documentation.

Gloria Larkin is president and CEO of TargetGov and a national expert in business development in the government markets. Email glorialarkin@targetgov.com, visit www.targetgov.com or call toll-free at 866-579-1346 for more information.
A Message From Stacie Hunt
President & CEO, Leadership Howard County

How often have you heard the refrain, “Someone should do something”? Whether it is about our economy, our health care, immigration rights or civil rights, or our personal safety, we all agree that, these days, there is a lot of room for improvement. Someone should fix everything that is troubling our society and our communities.

As community leaders, it is up to us to respond. Waiting for someone else is not an option; concerned citizens know there is a call to action for effective community leadership on a local, state and national level. We know that positive change will only come when effective leadership empowers all of us to build strong communities that lift everyone up.

Leadership Howard County (LHC) is a part of a national movement called “community leadership.” Our mission is to “empower individuals to strengthen and transform our community.” By working and learning together, participants of all ages and skills — from high school through the senior ranks of existing leaders from corporate, government and nonprofit organizations — broaden their understanding of community issues. Individuals who come into our programs have one thing in common: They are looking for ways to improve Howard County and develop themselves.

Our programming also provides the opportunity for lifelong leadership development for our graduates. We strive to create an environment in which people participate in a variety of creative and meaningful ways. Each year we introduce our community’s newest business leaders as keynote speakers, giving them a forum to share their visions for the future. Our small member forums and community projects give our members access to influential leaders and decision-makers, and their creative solutions address Howard County’s challenges in a variety of ways. As you read through the profiles and stories about the impact of our projects in this issue, we believe it will be apparent that Leadership Howard County is the resource for connecting citizens who want to be involved in building a positive foundation for their families, businesses and communities.

Now is the time for you to consider an investment in your future — and discover how Leadership Howard County can help you play a critical role in strengthening and transforming our community. This program is an extraneous opportunity to learn about our county and to develop a broad network of colleagues and associates who are at the forefront of current issues and challenges in our community.

To find out more about LHC’s programs and to view an online application, go to www.leadershiphc.org. We believe that one of the distinct qualities of our graduates is their capacity to provide the necessary leadership for difficult challenges and the willingness to invest time and talents in bettering our community. Join us now.
At its core, Leadership Howard County is an organization that cares deeply about its community, believes in the power of developing leaders so their impact can be multiplied and continually challenges itself to find new and better ways to fulfill its mission. Its primary purpose is to create a better community, and our graduates, who represent all sectors of the community, are challenged and inspired to make Howard County a better place to live, do business, raise families and envision a brighter future for all.

Each year, Leadership class participants bring a new energy to our programs, and each year our graduates carry forward our mission by continuing their meaningful engagement in community service. Another important way our graduates serve is by helping Leadership Howard County continually improve the programs we offer. Committees plan each session day for the current class and continually find ways to make the presentations relevant and engaging. They connect the class members with key decision-makers and experts in their field, designing lessons and opportunities for everyone to engage in meaningful dialogues and future partnerships.

LHC graduates also can stay informed through participation in a variety of alumni events, planned by the General Membership steering committee. We are proud to offer many opportunities to explore topics that are important and challenging for our community to solve.

We are very grateful for the extraordinary support Leadership Howard County receives from the business, government and nonprofit communities. Our goal is to empower individuals to strengthen and serve the many organizations that contribute to our quality of life, and we are able to meet this goal through the generous support of our sponsors and members.

Our board of directors is dedicated to the future of Leadership Howard County, and together, we are committed to reaching out to the wider community, finding the unique places where our leadership will make a difference and ensuring our organization stays true to its mission, vision and values.

We hope to see you soon at one of our events, alumni meetings or as a participant in one of our programs. Thanks to all of you for your tremendous efforts and contributions to Leadership Howard County, and to the Howard County community.

A Message From Jon May
Leadership Howard County Board Chair

Jonathan May
Board Chair, Leadership Howard Co.
Partner, Rosenberg Martin Greenberg LLP
Leadership Premier 2002

Premier Experience
“It’s amazing to see all the moving parts happening in Howard County to make it successful and great place to live and work. The Leadership Premier program has shown me there is also a lot more that needs to be done, and all I want to do is be a part of the solution.”

Brad Tanner
Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services

“ItHC has been a powerful experience thus far, equipping me with a deeper knowledge of where I live, work and play. This understanding helps me orient and focus my efforts to better serve my community. Additionally, it has been satisfying to unearth that my cohort members and I — all of our paths — have been intersecting as we worked and served in Howard County. Now, with the closer relationships that we have forged through this program, we can coalesce around our common goals with more meaning, fortitude and fulfillment.”

Hina Naseem
Junior Achievement of Central Maryland

Congratulations to the Leadership Howard County Class of 2018 from your friends at M&T.

Karen Schonfeld – 1999
Brian Walter – 2001
Craig Engelhaupt – 2004
Robert Topper – 2007
Patricia Livingston – 2008
John Roberts – 2009
Sabrina Bleech – 2009
Miles Coffman – 2009
Lynn Smith – 2011
James Gorman – 2012
Matthew Lind – 2013
Trevor Garner – 2015
Greg Smith – 2016
Brendan Mahoney – 2018

M&T Bank
Understanding what's important®
Brett Plano, owner and founder of Bal- timore-based Plano-Coudon Construction, traces his work ethic back to his childhood.

“Neither of my parents owned busi- nesses,” he said. “My father worked for the federal government and my mother worked as a nurse.”

But his father had a financial mind and tasked Plano and his brothers with figuring out how they would pay for college at a very early age. “It wasn’t a matter of if I was going, it was a matter of how I was going to pay for it,” he said. “When my older brother was 14, he did lawns for several families in our neighborhood. When I was 10, he brought me in to help him.”

Plano quickly learned the value of hard work and a dollar, and the boys expanded their business.

“Together we grew it to provide lawn care for 18 clients spread over several neighborhoods. He went away to school ‘Together we grew it to provide lawn care for 18 clients spread over several neighborhoods. He went away to school when I was 14 and not old enough to drive,’” he said. “I had to figure out how to get to the neighborhoods that were not within walk- ing distance. I hired my neighbors (twin brothers who had driver’s licenses) to help me, and with them as partners was able to grow the business to 45 clients per week, including landscaping and other work.’

Building Equity

By the time he left for college, Plano had saved more than $14,000 and was able to pay for his entire first year with money left over.

“The lawn business was one of many jobs I had while in high school and col- lege,” he said. “My degree from Virginia Tech cost about $60,000, and my family and I were able to pay for all except about $20,000 which I borrowed and paid off within eight years of graduating.”

Plano grew up in Catonsville, and re- members visiting many ethnic festivals in Baltimore over his childhood years, along with the Inner Harbor and Rash Field, and even being able to smell the McCormick spice plant. “When I came back to the area after college, I was set on buying a home instead of renting,” he said. “Federal Hill seemed like a great place to be, and I was able to find a house that needed to be gutted on the outskirts of that neighborhood with a water view.”

Realizing his dream of having a rooftop deck, he bought the house and renovated it while he lived in it. “I ended up doing that twice more on that same block, using sweat equity to build financial equity,” he said.

Still Building the Résumé

As engineering students at Virginia Tech, Plano, who majored in civil engi- neering, and Ryan Coudon, who majored in mechanical engineering, already were dreaming about creating their own compa- ny together. In 1999, after spending some time working for a large general contracting firm, they put their entrepreneurial instincts into action.

The company’s initial setup was two desks, two computers and one pet dog in Plano’s basement. At the beginning, there were several projects that felt like ‘starter jobs,’” Plano recalled. “Our saying was: ‘Let’s eat humble pie now and it’ll be worth it in the long run … it’ll be a résumé build- er’. We laugh, because we are still eating humble pie today and still doing work that we think will build our résumés.”

Some of their earliest projects included a sidewalk for Morgan State University, as well as renovation work for a small adver- tising agency in downtown Baltimore. “We did all the work at night on that one, and my partner and I cleaned it ourselves between midnight and 3 a.m. at completion,” Plano said.

Now, in addition to being proud of those “humble pie” projects, the company has completed more complicated, land- mark projects, including an animal care and rescue center for the Baltimore Aquar- ium; a 15-story Towson Tower renovation at Towson University; an adaptive reuse on Under Armour’s campus; the Stadium Square office tower; a four-year-long, full mechanical and electrical infrastructure upgrade at the University of Maryland Bal- timore Medical School Teaching Facility Tower (while it was completely occupied); and a renovation of a four-story HUD housing apartment complex that also was 100% occupied.

“I am also extremely proud that we were selected to be the design-build contractor for the Guinness project in the United States,” Plano said. “This is their first time building in the U.S. in over 60 years, and they picked a Baltimore location and Pla- no-Coudon as their partner above all kinds of national and local competition. We are about halfway through that project.”

Best Class Ever

Plano, Leadership Howard County (LHC) class of 2010, got involved in LHC because he was looking for a way to invest in the community but didn’t have a feel for where to place his time and efforts. “I was told about Leadership Howard Coun- ty being a way to learn how government, businesses and the community can work together to solve problems,” he said. “That appealed to me, and the experience deliv- ered on that and more.”

Plano still sees his classmates a few times a year, in addition to meeting up at Leadership events. “I just attended the Big Event and sat with 10 classmates,” he said. “Our class stays very active.”

A classmate sends out a breakfast invitation once a month, and also gets the class involved in food drives and other initiatives. “I get together more often with a smaller subset of classmates that I have become very close with,” said Plano. “I volunteer as a selection committee mem- ber for upcoming classes. Many of our classmates are involved in Leadership in one way or another. After all, we truly are the best class ever — we’ve been named the Best Class Ever three times.”

CIP from page B-2

(HCPS) to get data on female participa- tion rates in its computer science courses. In its discussions with HCPS, the team found that the common stakeholders and purposes of both organizations created a relationship that, though presently exist- ing, would be deepened and enhanced by a formal partnership.

Just six months after the LHC CIP team updated its project, HowGirlsCode and HCPS became official partners in offering computer science classes at Title I schools. Together, they will be able to increase girls’ participation in computer science by raising awareness of learning opportunities among students, parents and teachers in the Howard County school system.

Lisa Schlossnagle (LP 2014) was the founder and executive of a four-year-old How- GirlsCode in Howard County. She can be reached at lisasmr@gmail.com.
Padgett Knows Networking – and Following Through, Too

By Mark R. Smith, Editor-in-Chief

In 2015, Suzi Padgett had reached that point in her career where it was time to make her next move. The manager of Long & Foster’s Columbia office had built the enterprise to approximately 220 professionals; she’d run it since 1998, and it was busy and stable. Her next move, she figured, was to become further involved in the community where she has enjoyed great success.

Leadership Howard County (LHC) provided just the opportunity to learn more about the area, apply her talents and give back.

“What we do at the real estate office is sell the community, so we benefit, as an industry, from everything it offers,” said Padgett, a 2016 LHC grad who came to Howard County in 1992 from her native Washington, D.C. “My husband and I raised our family here, and we saw the benefits.

A Broader View

Graduates of LHC garner various benefits, often with a common thread of wanting deeper understanding of where they live and how they can make it better. In Padgett’s case, that meant greater integration into the general business, government and nonprofit communities.

“It gave me the opportunity to meet more people who work outside of my industry,” she said. “Our class toured places like the National Security Agency, back-stage at Merriweather Post Pavilion and a recycling facility — where I learned the worst thing you can do is put your plastic bags in the recycle bin, because it causes issues with the equipment. You need to dispose of them at a grocery store.”

After graduation, Padgett became a member of LHC’s General Membership Steering Committee and LHC Premier’s Recruitment Committee, which creates its events plus programs like This Just In, which features a talk from a community leader. Padgett coordinated Mission BBQ Co-Founder Bill Kraus hosting a session.

Outside of LHC, she sits on boards of nonprofits “that speak to me,” she said. She serves as board chair of the Columbia Festival of the Arts, “because when I was a single mom, that was our entertainment.” Padgett also serves on the boards of Winter Growth, as her mother suffered from dementia; and Bright Minds, the Howard County Public School System’s (HCPSS) nonprofit, which recently garnered a $250,000 grant from Brendan Irie, former CEO of Ocuclus, for HCPSS’s Advanced Research Laboratory.

“Being with Bright Minds has been important, because my kids benefited from the county’s public schools, and the residential real estate industry benefits from the system,” Padgett said, adding that her daughter teaches at Harper’s Choice Middle School.

In case that isn’t enough, Padgett also joined the board of Blossoms of Hope, which plants cherry trees in support of people who suffer with cancer and other causes; and, from her office, Long & Foster Columbia Gives.

“It’s all a way to pay it forward,” she said.

Those who have worked with Padgett have plenty of stories about her energy and the depth of her Rolodex. John Moore, a consultant with Prosperity Home Mortgage, has worked with her since 2011.

“What I see are her leadership skills. With all of the agents, title partners and mortgage consultants in our office, that’s important,” Moore said. “She’s obviously been good at organization and delegating, as well as setting up staff events and promotions. She also has a way of picking the right person for a job and setting them up to succeed.”

In fact, that direction and drive resulted in the office recently winning its second Foster Cup in three years. “She is very good about sharing the credit. She’ll never say it was just her,” he said, “especially when she accepts the award at the ceremony.”

But Moore also made the point that she’s not all work.

“She’s a tenacious leader, but also very family- and community-oriented,” he said. “When you add everything together, it makes people respect her and want to work for her, because she’ll go to bat for you. On the other side of the coin, she knows that people can need a shoulder to cry on, too.”

In No Time

Padgett’s contributions within the nonprofit community are well understood, said David Phillips, executive director of the Columbia Festival of the Arts.

For over 50 years, CAC has served the Howard County community by helping people to help themselves.

For over 50 years, CAC has served the Howard County community by helping people to help themselves.

**Congratulations to the 2018 Leadership Howard County Graduates**

Special congratulations to CAC’s Don Corbin, Essentials Class of 2018!

410-313-6440 • www.cac.hc.org
Leadership Howard County (LHC) empowers and connects leaders to strengthen and transform the community. In monthly full-day sessions that include site visits, presentations and dialogues with key decision-makers, participants get a behind-the-scenes look at how the county works, what the challenges are and how to access vital resources to advance their leadership potential.

The program emphasizes experiential learning, allowing participants to get a broad overview of Howard County’s resources and challenging them to think about how their organizations can partner with others to address the non-profit environments.

Kickoff Session: An opportunity for classmates to meet each other and get a general overview of Howard County: its history and demographics, as well as some of the current issues facing the county.

Two-Day Retreat: Designed to help participants increase awareness about their leadership style and build bonds with classmates through team-building exercises.

Living and Learning in Howard County:
- Caring for our Community: An overview of human service delivery in the county: the opportunities and realities of living in Howard County as well as how local government and non-profit organizations work in partnership to serve community needs.
- Health Care in Howard County: A look at the variety of systems for the delivery of health care in the community.
- Lifelong Learning: An exploration of current issues facing the Howard County Public Schools, and an opportunity to see and experience other sources of continuing and alternative learning for all ages.

Conducting Business in Howard County: An in-depth look at what it takes to get a business to locate and thrive in Howard County. Site visits with local business leaders provide an opportunity to learn about the visions and challenges.

Governing in Howard County:
- State Level: In Annapolis, participants meet members of the Howard County State Delegation, the governor and other state officials. This is an exclusive opportunity to gain insight into how the legislative process works, speak with elected officials, and learn about timely and important issues being addressed by state legislators.
- County Government: Officials from the Howard County government provide insights into factors that shape the county budget process, legislative and judicial concerns and other county functions.

Livable Community: An exploration of the various housing options available for seniors, as well as low- and moderate-income and disabled individuals; and a deep dive into some of the critical issues raised over the past year, with an opportunity to consider if Howard County is truly a “Livable Community” for all.

Community Impact Projects: Throughout the program, class members work in teams on a Community Impact Project (CIP), which has been an integral part of the Leadership experience since 2011. These projects are requested by nonprofits and community organizations that are seeking help with a specific challenge and that agree to work with the project team to come up with workable solutions.

At the conclusion of the program in May and June, the Leadership teams present their recommendations to their host organizations. As an overall part of the Leadership program, this exercise provides an opportunity for class members to gain a better understanding of community needs and a deeper appreciation for community involvement.

Taking Your Place: As class members prepare to graduate in June, they are challenged to consider their future leadership roles in the community. Processing the knowledge they have gained and relationships formed over the previous year, participants are asked to consider their next steps in ongoing community engagement and citizenship. As alumni of Leadership Howard County, members continue to build strong relationships in the community and actively participate in many of the nonprofit boards, commissions and volunteer organizations that support a vibrant and dynamic quality of life.

Padgett from page B-5

“What she brings to the table are her business leadership skills, as well as her substantial experience on the various boards,” said Phillips. “Plus, Long & Foster has a long history of being supportive in that community. She’s the reason why.”

There’s more to that compliment than first meets the ear. “Nonprofit boards are generally comprised of well-meaning people who are also very busy,” he said, “but Suzi has the unique ability to inspire and motivate our board members to stay involved. That produces results for the festival and for the community.”

Stacie Hunt, president and CEO of LHC, agreed. “She is modeling the behavior that she would like to see in everyone else; and when she attends a meeting, she’s involved and discuss issues that can be approached as a group, and even leads. She does the heavy lifting.”

Hunt would know. She also referred to a telling moment about Padgett that occurred during an LHC General Membership Steering Committee meeting.

“The day we talked about a luncheon with Bill Kraus, it took her a total of one hour to have everything arranged for Mission BBQ to host it. So she’s not only well connected, but she gets involved with an idea and follows through.”

Hunt went so far as to say that “all of the nonprofit work Padgett does helps keep the local economy stimulated. It’s not even that she needs to lead the parade,” she said. “She just wants to ensure that things are getting done, without coming across as overbearing. She tries to lift people up.”

Still More

Back at the ranch, Padgett, who managed her first real estate office at 27, doesn’t sell anymore. Instead, she sticks to managing the associates in her office “who work with 1,200 families a year.”

And while doing so, she oversees yet another nonprofit, which, in this case, is based in-house: Long & Foster Columbia Gives.

“We hold events throughout the year and fund about $20,000 in annual giving,” Padgett said. “We are the largest funder for organizations such as One Month’s Rent and the Maryland Food Bank; we fund a music scholarship at Wilde Lake High School and work with pupil personnel workers who help families with emergencies.”

“It’s a very community-minded office,” she said, “and we’re proud to take our place here.”
Class Report

Learning Enhancements: The Exclusive Extra for LHC Members

By Jackie Breeden

In just six months, I have been lucky enough to learn more about the county than I had in the 30-plus years I have resided here. Thanks to Leadership Howard County’s (LHC) connections and time-consuming coordination, I have gone beyond my circle of everyday activities in the western part of the county and gained a behind-the-scenes view of at least a dozen of Howard County’s most iconic organizations through the program’s Learning Enhancement component.

From learning about the valuable services offered by Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Gilchrist, Success in Style and HopeWorks and how I could contribute my resources and time, to an inside look at the mind-boggling programs that are going on right here in Howard County at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, Maryland University of Integrated Health, the Mall in Columbia and Merriweather Post Pavilion, I have gained an amazing appreciation for what makes our county so great.

I have also become a better citizen by understanding our county’s history through my visit to the Farm Heritage Museum and by simply learning the proper methods to dispose of our trash and recycling items and the challenges that the county’s landfill and recycling center face. Of course, my police ride-along experience on an active Saturday night monopolized our Thanksgiving dinner conversation, and I am sure that my upcoming visits to the Department of Corrections in Jessup and the National Security Agency at Fort Meade will do the same at our next family gathering.

As you can see, through these “field trips,” as I jokingly call them, I have zigzagged across the county to various geographic areas using my nav system and found some terrific hidden gems, such as great family-owned coffee shops and businesses, along the way. In short, there is no comparison in reading about these wonderful organizations in the weekly Howard County Times and seeing firsthand the passion and the work ethic that makes them so successful and such a valuable asset to the place we call home — Howard County.

I am glad that Leadership Howard County offers access to these on-site opportunities as part of Leadership Premier; it is definitely a perk.

Jackie Breeden is a member of the Leadership Premier Class of 2018.

Premier Experience

“Before I joined Leadership Premier, Howard County was like a flat surface, spanning mostly home, work, kids’ schools and the few community organizations I volunteer for. Leadership opened the door for me to a multifaceted society.

“Each session day is a passage to a different layer of the community that I didn’t know or pay much attention to before. I am not only absorbing the knowledge and information provided, but also hearing a lot of personal stories, walking in the shoes of others and learning to appreciate different perspectives. This has been a great experience so far, and I am so excited about what is yet to come!”

Lanlan Xu

IMPAQ International and the Chinese Language School

Leadership Premier class members and alumni got a behind-the-scenes tour of Merriweather Post Pavilion from Ian Kennedy (right), executive director of the Downtown Columbia Arts and Culture Commission. Left to right: Jason Bulger, Jackie Breeden, Brendan Mahoney, Karen Titus, Mary Jordan, Scott Armiger, Doug Jimmerson, and Tim Kelley.
Are you ready to be the leader who can make a difference in the community? Leadership Howard County offers:

- Innovative programs with distinguished experts
- A challenge to transform the community
- A network of personal and professional colleagues

RECRUITING NOW FOR  THE CLASS OF 2019

Informational breakfast: April 19, 2018
Application deadline: May 21, 2018

Registration, information and application at www.leadershiphc.org or call 410.730.4474
Leadership Premier Class of 2018

Leadership Premier 2018 Steering Committee

Co-Chairs
Mary Lasky and Dee Athey

Chairs for Session Day/Program Components
Caring for Our Community: Karen Butler and Jenn Pollitt-Hill
Health Care: John Dunn and Glenn Schneider
Lifelong Learning: Lisa Schlossnagle and Beth Homan
Conducting Business: Chuck Bubeck and Linda Ostovitz
Governing: State: Lee Sachs and Jim Johns
            County: Rafiu Ighile and Donna Richardson
Livable Communities: Jackie Scott and Karen Walsh
Public Safety: Brad Tanner
Giving Back: Mimi O’Donnell
Learning Enhancements: Petra Montague
Community Impact Projects (CIP): Steven Porter and Melissa Rosenberg

Members at Large
Kathy Swanson, Phyllis Madacy, Karen Trendler, Bill McMahon, Mary Schiller

Committee Members
Dee Athey, Chuck Bubeck, Karen Butler, John Dunn, Beth Homan, Rafiu Ighile, Jim Johns, Mary Lasky, Phyllis Madacy, Bill McMahon, Petra Montague, Mimi O’Donnell, Linda Ostovitz, Jennifer Pollitt Hill, Steven Porter, Donna Richardson, Melissa Rosenberg, Lee Sachs, Mary Schiller, Lisa Schlossnagle, Glenn Schneider, Jackie Scott, Kathy Swanson, Brad Tanner, Karen Trendler, Karen Walsh

LHC Board Committees 2017–2018
Awards: Kyri Jacobs, chair
Finance: Bruce Hollander, chair
Recruitment: Lori Fuchs and Mark Thompson, co-chairs
Marketing: Susan Case and Kyri Jacobs, co-chairs
Sponsorship: Jeff Marquina, chair
Leadership U: Anne Brinker and Alex Adler, co-chairs
Big Event: Kris Broder and Trevor Garner, co-chairs

General Membership Steering Committee
Chair: Joe Garrison
Vice Chair: Chris Maynard
Treasurer: Mark Stinson
Program: Kari Staddon
Social Events: Jan Hines and Amanda Hof
For Mary Lasky, and LHC, the Emphasis Is on Continuity

By George Berkheimer, Senior Writer

Talk with any Leadership Howard County (LHC) graduate, and you’ll likely conclude that his or her class is still in session. Long after graduation, classmates continue to maintain bonds they formed during their training by holding frequent social events, networking, collaborating, and engaging in community service and philanthropy.

They tend to stay active, and one of LHC’s most active graduates is Mary Lasky (Class of 2010), program manager for Business Continuity Planning at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab (APL), in North Laurel.

Aside from her primary career, Lasky chairs the boards of the Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center and Howard County’s Community Emergency Resiliency Network (CERN), and also serves on the Steering Committee for LHC’s Leadership Premier program.

“The Class of 2010 was declared Best Class Ever for three years in a row,” Lasky said. The annual designation recognizes the level of community and volunteer involvement, dues commitment and other criteria under which classes informally compete with one another. “You don’t get that [designation] unless you’re really working together as a team.”

Important Introductions

From her own perspective, Lasky said her LHC class was helpful for getting to know the county, its leaders, and the people in the county as well.

Continuity Planning

Lasky has spent most of her career working in the information technology field for APL.

“Over the last few years I’ve become more concerned about business continuity planning at APL in particular, but also within the local business community,” she said.

Those concerns proved well founded in light of the challenges posed in the aftermath of both the county’s 2012 derecho event and in the recovery from the 2016 flood in Ellicott City. CERN, a public-private partnership that links government leaders, first responders, nonprofits and volunteer organizations, grew out of a partnership between the Horizon Foundation, county government and other agencies in the county after the events of 9/11.

The organization provides materials to help educate the community on emergency preparedness issues, including instructions on surviving a range of disasters as serious as a nuclear attack and as common as a flood or storm.

To ensure that CERN was doing its part to reach all county residents, “We put in a request for a community impact project the very first year I became involved with CERN,” Lasky said.

Addressing the challenge of disseminating emergency preparedness information to the county’s non-English-speaking residents, the project resulted in a universally understandable pictorial card that’s now available at libraries, churches and faith centers, and at county agencies and the nonprofit organizations that support non-English-speaking communities.

Lasky also has become active on the national stage, chairing the InfraGard Electromagnetic Pulse Special Interest Group, a public-private partnership between U.S. businesses and the Federal Bureau of Investigation that is responsible for planning and preparation for catastrophic events involving the electrical grid.

Leadership Premier Program

In years past, Lasky has been active on LHC’s Finance Committee, and five years ago she began her involvement with the Steering Committee for LHC’s Leadership Premier program.

“The Premier program is tailored for more seasoned leadership and those who are serving in leadership roles,” she explained, whereas LHC’s entry-level program provides the essentials for people exploring the potential to become leaders.

Part of the Steering Committee’s duties is to help plan each LHC session day and ensure that everything from training to logistics and resources has been coordinated and nothing has been left to chance.

“One of the other things I’ve done as co-chair for the Steering Committee is to analyze the surveys that class members submit after each session day,” Lasky said.

The information gleaned from questionnairenaires at the beginning and end of each class year has been “remarkable,” she said. “Leadership Howard County is truly making a difference in leaders and what they are learning about the county. This work is guaranteeing results.”
The Business Monthly
April 2018 • Page B-11

Salute to Leadership Howard County

Essentials Program for Emerging Leaders
By Lori Fuchs

The Leadership Essentials (LE) class of 2018 includes 26 young professionals from a wide variety of organizations. This six-month leadership development program, instituted by Leadership Howard County in 2007, is now managed by Loyola University Maryland as part of the Sellinger School of Business. Similar to Loyola’s graduate business programs, Leadership Essentials develops skills that allow participants to stretch their leadership potential and contribute significantly to their organizations, their families and their community.

The program has three core components: Skill Building Workshops, a Coach Relationship and a Community Impact Project Team experience. The skill-building workshops, focused on specific leadership characteristics such as teambuilding, project management, the leader as a coach, presentation skills, collaboration and negotiation, include exercises and reflection to facilitate the participants’ ability to sharpen critical skills necessary for effective leadership.

Throughout the six months of the Leadership Essentials program, participants work with their coach to help them unlock the answers within, enabling them to better make decisions and strengthen their relationships and leadership skills. Participants also contribute to a small team on a short-term Community Impact Project (CIP) that challenges them to put their lessons learned and leadership skills in action. This year’s Community Impact Project hosts are: Camp Opportunity, Candlelight Concert Series, HC Food Bank/Community Action Council, People Power/Arc of Howard County and Tools4Success.

LE values its strong community alliances, especially its collaboration with Leadership Howard County, and with the Leadership Essentials community of alumni, coaches, community leaders and facilitators.

We look forward to recruiting another fantastic class for Leadership Essentials 2019. Applications will be available in July, with a due deadline in early October. Information sessions will be held in August and September; visit www.loyola.edu/sellinger-business/academics/executive-education/leadership-essentials for more information.

Lori Fuchs is the Leadership Essentials program manager. She can be reached at lfuchs@loyola.edu. Contact her for more information about the LE program, to send a participant or to volunteer. 

Essentials Experience
“Through my participation in the Leadership Essentials Program, I have gained the skill set required to not only become an effective leader in my organization, but more importantly a leader in my community. I found the class sessions to be brilliantly tailored to target the specific skills that I needed to gain as an emerging leader, with those skills being reinforced through my individual coaching sessions. The third portion of the program, the Community Impact Project, was challenging and inspiring, and it is an experience that I will always carry with me. The program has truly filled the gap between the knowledge that I gained though my formal college education and the skills that will be demanded of me as I progress toward leadership roles in my career and in my community.”
— Pamela Geary, Class of 2017

Leadership Essentials Class of 2018

Travis Aion
Associate Professional Staff
JHU Applied Physics Lab

Jacob Aldredge
Senior Staff
JHU Applied Physics Lab

David Arnett
Associate Director
Servers & Storage
Loyola University MD

Elisabeth Berman
Realtor
Long and Foster

Emily Branchaw
Program Coordinator
UMBC Training Center

Adam Brinkman
Relationship Manager
M&T Bank

Kyle Casterline
Assistant Section Supervisor
JHU Applied Physics Lab

Donald Corbin, Jr.
Head Start Education Coordinator
Community Action Council

Kristofor Gibson
Senior Staff
JHU Applied Physics Lab

Andrew Hall
Internal Operations Supervisor, Security
Howard County General Hospital

Michael Long
Associate Professor and Co-Chair, Math
Howard Community College

Josh Manley
Program Associate
International Republican Institute

Joseph McQuillan
Detective Sergeant
Howard County Police Department

Jason Parritt
Accounting Director
ABM

Alyson Phillips
Project Manager
JHU Applied Physics Lab

Christopher Pitts
Impact Investment Associate
Enterprise Community Partners

Kelianne Ramos
Customer Success Manager
Enterprise Community Partners

Timothy Repko
Aerospace Engineer
JHU Applied Physics Lab

Brian Shealy
Marketing Director
HC Economic Development Authority

Brian Smoot
Investment Adviser
Lee Financial

Michael Tait
Office Leasing Representative
Howard Hughes Corporation

Lauren Taylor
Director of Communications
Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce

William Varoli
Director, Development Risk
Enterprise Community Partners

Kristen Walsh
Senior Business Project Manager
BGE

Kevin Wiechelt
Construction Project Manager
Columbia Association

Joshua Willford
Portfolio Manager
StrataWealth

Leadership Essentials class members build their skills through teambuilding exercises as well as community projects.
Granting the wish of a sick child, addressing diversity at school or sexual assault on college campuses, raising awareness of homelessness, supporting veterans — these are just some of the ways the 40 students in the Class of 2017 gave back to the community through this year’s program. The students completed seven community service projects, which they created after becoming familiar with the needs of the community.

Team Wish
The goal of Team Wish was to grant a wish for a child in Howard County through the Make-A-Wish foundation and to raise awareness of its mission to those children who are waiting for wishes in Howard County. The team organized a Wish Week that included a restaurant night, bake sale, social media online donation campaign and fundraising at a county high school football game.

Beyond the Stereotype
Beyond the Stereotype created student-led conversations surrounding the issue of cultural insensitivities and diversity. The team utilized social media to celebrate the multicultural nature of Howard County. The team organized a Wish Week to raise awareness of its mission to those children who are waiting for wishes in Howard County.

Speak Love HoCo
Speak Love HoCo teamed with HopeWorks to raise awareness for sexual assault on today’s college campuses. The team hosted the screening of “The Hunting Ground,” a documentary on sexual assault on college campuses. Speak Love HoCo also facilitated a discussion with both parents and students on the impact of the film.

Hospital Helpers
Hospital Helpers organized a Sunday morning breakfast at Howard County General Hospital for the Emergency Department to show their appreciation for their staff. The team also brought notes of thanks and encouragement to share with all staff members.

We LU Vets
We LU Vets implemented a pilot program at Howard High School to show appreciation for veterans in Howard County. This pilot may be followed by other high schools for future veterans programs. Throughout the week, the students also collected donations for homeless veterans’ everyday needs for the McVets facility to distribute to those in need.

“The Leadership U program really empowers students to learn by doing,” said Meg Ignacio, Leadership U director. “The students learn the value of teamwork and project organization that goes beyond just learning about a subject area. By developing projects that affect them and their peers in the community, they gain a sense of accomplishment and learn they have the ability to really make a positive difference.”

2017 Leadership U Service Projects Worked to Improve the Lives of County Residents

Leadership U: Helping Create the Next Generation of Leaders

When Leadership U (LU) was launched in 1996 by Leadership Howard County (LHC), the goal was to offer the next generation an opportunity to learn about their community and develop their leadership skills outside of the classroom. With 21 years of experience, Leadership U is continually recognized as an extraordinary leadership program for high school juniors in Howard County.

Each year, up to 50 students from public and private schools are guided through the program, which runs from late July through December, learning about leadership development, teamwork and giving back.

Summer Week: Each program year begins with an intensive summer week in early August. Similar to the adult program, students are taken on site visits and meet experts from county government, nonprofits and education, learning about how the county operates and services that are available and challenges that citizens are faced with. They also go through teambuilding activities and learn more about leadership from prominent professionals.

By the end of summer week, students take an active role in determining the issues they’d like to address, and they begin the process of creating a unique project that gives back to the community.

Fall Sessions: Throughout the fall, students work in groups to develop, implement and analyze service projects that have a direct impact on the community. Through this process, they learn valuable skills in communication, time management and general teamwork in an open environment where support is offered through volunteer mentors and other resources. As there are no grades, the learning experience is student-driven, and learning is achieved through more than just the success of the projects.

During each session, LU invites a speaker to enlighten the students about various aspects of leadership through short discussions called Leadership Lessons.

3D-HC — Dig Deep and Discover Howard County: This is an opportunity to give the students an up-close look at the important work done by nonprofits in the community such as the Howard County Food Bank, HopeWorks, Howard County Conservancy and others. Up to five nonprofits host teams of students who spend a day meeting staff and working on projects directly with clients. They also learn valuable lessons about serving on boards and committees and what it takes to make these operations run successfully.

Graduation: The program culminates in December with a creative and unique graduation ceremony. In addition to students and their families, regular attendees include school faculty and elected officials, LHC board members and many other community leaders. The students present their projects to the audience and share their experiences in a fun, entertaining setting.

Guiding the program is a team of staff and volunteers. The invaluable contributions from LU’s steering committee, mentors, summer week chaperones and community partners are critical to making this program unique and successful. Graduates of Leadership Premier and Leadership Essentials, as well as Leadership U grads, frequently offer their time and expertise in order to enhance the students’ experience.

The program is currently evaluated to ensure each class develops friendships, experiences and skills that will enrich their high school and college careers and beyond. If you work with an organization or nonprofit that wants to connect with a talented and passionate group of youth leaders, contact Leadership U director Meg Ignacio at mignacio@leadershiphc.org.
Leadership U Class of 2017

Gabrielle Aidam
Long Reach
Julian Basena
Long Reach
Malina Beideman
Mount de Sales Academy
Veronica Cagle
Centennial
Corey Cooke
Wilde Lake
Taylor Currie
Glenelg
Lilly DeCelles
Atholton
Matthew Demme
Centennial
Annabelle Guo
Marriotts Ridge
Kai Godsey
Mt. Hebron
Harun Gopal
Centennial
Juliana Gorman
Notre Dame Preparatory
Timothy Goulet
Howard
Maeve Hall
Notre Dame
Preparatory
Lola Hankins
Mt. Hebron
Grace Hendricks
Mt. Hebron
Jeremy Iablonover
River Hill
Cassie Jeng
River Hill
Kevin Johnson
Glenelg
Tyrone Jones
Hammond
Anish Kasimsetty
Glenelg Country
School
Preparatory
Sonia Patel
River Hill
Rahel Petros
Atholton
Faith Ngundi
Howard
Samuel Levitt
Oakland Mills
Hassan Malik
Glenelg
Grace Mardock
Howard
Christian Mark
Atholton
Marc Marshall
Wilde Lake
Christian Masoor
Marriotts Ridge
Eliza Munns
Mt. Hebron
Faith Ngundi
Howard
Sonia Patel
River Hill
Rahel Petros
Atholton
Eric Schneider
Wilde Lake
Reene Seetoo
The Excellsior Academy
Telly Smith
Mt. Hebron
Campbell Snoddy
Atholton
Trevor Romaine
Reservoir
Hamzah Rushdan
Glenelg Country School
Victoria Sangvic
Atholton
Grace Virden
Marriotts Ridge
Autumn Weinig
Wilde Lake
Natalie Willard
Centennial
Emmett A. Woods-Gresham
Wilde Lake
Hamzah Yousef
Mt. Hebron
Eric Zhu
Marriotts Ridge
Jessica Zinderman
Atholton

Leadership U students discover nonprofit resources in the community and develop their leadership skills through community service. Above: students at the Community Action Council’s Community Garden; right: serving at CAC’s Howard County Food Bank.

A day of service at the Therapeutic and Recreational Riding Center.

At their summer orientation week, LU students test their limits on the courses at Terrapin Adventures.
LHC Board of Directors 2017–2018

Thank You to Our Sponsors

Title Sponsor
M&T Bank
Howard County General Hospital

Partner Sponsor

Office Sponsors

Patrons

In-Kind Sponsors

Supporters
American Paving
BFPE International
BGE
Brightview
CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield
CNR Lighting
Davis, Agnor, Rapaport and Salz
Environmental Systems Associates
Harkins Builders
Howard Hughes Corporation
Northwestern Mutual
Revere Bank
Rosenberg Martin Greenberg
Safeguard Maintenance Corporation
Security Development Corporation
Sure Power
The Jeffrey Group at Morgan Stanley
The Wilburn Company

Donors
Allen & Shariff Corporation
bgr CPAs
Brightworks Wealth Management
Carney, Kelehan, Bresler, Bennett & Scherr
Harry H. Witzke’s Family Funeral Home
Howard Bank
Humphrey Management
KCI Technologies
Oxford Planning Group
Plano-Coudon
RMR Group
StratWealth
Susan and Steven Porter
The Columbia Bank
The Mall in Columbia
The Vertical Connection Carpet One
Turf Valley Resort
Wynne Hayes

Friends
Bay Bank
Building Consultants Inc.
Charm City Concierge
Chesapeake Corporate Advisors
CMIT Solutions
DPR Construction
EnviroSolutions Inc.
FAI Wealth Management
First Citizens Bank
GMC Contractors Inc.
JLL
Leasewright Commercial

Nonprofit
Heritage Housing Partners Corporation
Howard County Chamber of Commerce
Humanim
The Arc of Howard County

Foundations & Grant Support
The Chaney Foundation

Executive Committee
Jonathan May, Chair
Rosenberg Martin Greenberg
Alex Adler, Vice Chair
BB&T Bank
Anne Brinker, Secretary
Community Action Council of Howard County
Bruce Hollander, Treasurer
Revere Bank
Kyi Jacobs, Past Chair
Bonnie Heneson Communications
Paul Skalny, General Counsel
Davis, Agnor, Rapaport & Skalny
Joe Garrison, General Membership Chair
StratWealth

Board Members
Cathy Bledsoe
Maryland Office of the Attorney General
Susan Case
Howard County General Hospital
Chiru Chijioke
BGE
Lori Fuchs
Loyola University MD
Trevor Garner
M&T Bank
Ananta Hejeebu
Howard Tech Advisors
John Isaac
Northwestern Mutual Financial Network
Raj Kudchadkar
Central Maryland Chamber of Commerce
Jeff Marquina
Corporate Office Properties Trust
Meg Moon
North American Title Company
Dottie Paxton
The Columbia Bank
Amrita Rai
Red Beacon Consulting
Kelli Shimabukuro
Howard County Library System
Judy Smith
On Point Consulting
Kari Staddon
United Way of Central Maryland
Mark Thompson
Howard County Economic Development Authority
Karen Trendler
Sandy Spring Bank
Brenda von Rautenkranz
VR Growth and Learning Center
Frequently Asked Questions About Leadership Premier

What is the benefit of participating in Leadership Howard County (LHC)?

In our adult programming, we know that both the employee and the employer gain from the unique opportunities we offer. For employees, Leadership Howard County offers an unparalleled opportunity for personal and professional growth. Our program will enable you to:

- Develop community connections and networking opportunities
- Meet Howard County leaders, influencers and decision-makers
- Learn more about the community and how it works

Why should employers sponsor an employee?

Leadership Howard County is a wise investment in your most valuable asset: your employees. Our program offers a high level of professional development that also connects them to the community in which they live and do business. In particular, investing in Leadership Howard County offers:

- Development and retention of talent with valuable skills
- Succession planning through the identification and development of future leaders
- Creation of loyalty to your company and a connection with the community
- Investment in the future of Howard County leadership and prosperity

What is the program content?

The core program for Leadership Howard County is its 10-month leadership development program with an intense curriculum of civic information and leadership development. Through site visits, lectures and informal discussions, participants learn how major decisions are made and who makes them. The program also utilizes a team-building overnight retreat that allows participants to examine the concepts of leadership. The program covers topics such as:

- Business and economic development
- Local and state government
- Public safety
- Education/life-long learning
- Howard County history
- Health care and aging
- Human services
- Housing and transportation
- Quality of life: cultural and recreational opportunities

Participants also commit to a “Community Impact Project,” which is a project identified by a host organization — typically a nonprofit organization or government entity — addressing an organizational challenge or strategic issue. Participants work in teams on a consultant basis, performing research and proposing creative, sustainable solutions. This activity is designed to be a beneficial experience not only for the organization but for our participants as well, helping them gain a better understanding of community needs and a deeper appreciation for community involvement.

What is the long-term value of completing the program?

With a network of close to 1,300 graduates, our members continue to stay connected to the issues in the community and to each other for personal and professional support. LHC conducts many regular meetings and forums for graduates and other members of the community to meet and learn about issues or resources in the community. These include quarterly breakfasts and luncheons with guest speakers and our annual Big Event fundraiser, which features a keynote speaker with an inspiring message about meeting the challenges of community leadership.

Graduates commit to using their experience for the long-term benefit of our community. They have learned about community issues and developed their leadership skills and the knowledge of how to tap into vital resources. With this knowledge, many graduates serve on nonprofit and community boards and committees where their interests, talents and resources can best be used.

What is the time commitment?

This is a 10-month program, running from September 2018 to June 2019. A mandatory, two-day overnight retreat will be held at the end of September 2018. All other monthly day-long sessions will be held on the second or third Tuesday of the month. A complete schedule will be published by August 2018.

How much is tuition?

Tuition is $5,450 and includes the overnight retreat, program transportation, meals during the monthly sessions and a ticket for the annual graduation dinner in June.

How many participants are selected for each class year?

Each year, approximately 45 to 50 individuals are selected to participate in the program. The Selection Committee reviews applications and selects participants based upon the merits of the written application and a personal interview.

How much is tuition?

Tuition is $5,450 and includes the overnight retreat, program transportation, meals during the monthly sessions and a ticket for the annual graduation dinner in June.

Is tuition assistance available?

Tuition assistance is available to those in need. We typically are able to provide up to one-third of the tuition cost. A financial assistance request must be submitted with the application; it is available online or by calling the office at 410-730-4474. Payment plans are also available. While we ask that individuals have the financial support of the organization or business they represent, we also encourage nonprofits and individuals with a sincere interest to apply, as community partnerships may also be able to offer additional financial assistance.

**The Leadership Howard County Staff – Contact Us**

Stacie Hunt  
President and CEO  
stacie@leadershiphc.org  
410-730-4474, ext. 110

Laurie Remer  
Vice President of Programs  
laurie.remer@leadershiphc.org  
410-730-4474, ext. 111

Sue Emerson  
Director of Communications and Business Development  
semerson@leadershiphc.org  
410-730-4474, ext. 116

Meg Ignacio  
Director of Youth Programs  
mignacio@leadershiphc.org  
410-730-4474, ext. 115

Chris Margeson  
Operations Manager  
cmargeson@leadershiphc.org  
410-730-4474, ext. 112

Karen Bryant  
Administrative Manager  
kbryant@leadershiphc.org  
410-730-4474, ext. 117

Howard County Library System congratulates Events and Seminars Manager ALLI JESSING, proud member of the Leadership Premier Class of 2018.
Howard Community College

Proudly Salutes

Leadership Howard County!

HCC thanks all of its LHC participants for their leadership to the college and the community over the years!

LEADERSHIP PREMIER
Alison Buckley • Lynn Coleman • Kari Ebeling
Tom Glaser • Kate Hetherington
Elizabeth Homan • Zoe Irvin • Dave Jordan
Janet Lombard-Cullison • Missy Mattey
Betty Noble • Cindy Peterka • Sharon Schmickley

LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS
Yonas Berhane • Anna Hamilton
Chris Heston • Michael Long
David Tirpak • Minah Woo • Laura Yoo

Howard County General Hospital sponsored the September Kickoff breakfast with guest speaker Franklyn Baker, CEO of United Way of Central Maryland, who spoke to community leaders about the ALICE report, a report that focuses on families in the community who struggle for financial stability. Pictured, from left: HCGH Vice President of Operations Ryan Brown; Franklyn Baker; Director of Population Health Programs Tracy Novak; and Community Health Nurse Rachel Holton.

Above: The LHC staff was honored as the “Employee Team of the Year” in 2017 by the Association of Community Services. Pictured are Karen Bryant, Meg Ignaico, Laurie Remer and Stacie Hunt, LHC; Joan Driessen, ACS; and Sue Emerson and Chris Margeson, LHC.

Right: Three members of the Class of 2001 have been honored at the annual Howard County “Good Scout” breakfast by the Boy Scout Council: from left, Brian Walter, Kate Hetherington and Pete Mangione.
The Annual Awards Dinner in June is an opportunity to recognize outstanding leaders in the community. The 2017 honorees were: Earl and Mary Armiger, Leadership Legacy; Ilana Bittner, Unsung Hero; and Brian Walter, Distinguished Alumni.

In 2018, the Best Class Ever award was given to the Class of 2015. Accepting the award, from left, are: Kim Oldham, Maureen Harris, Sue Ann Shafley, Karen Cherry, Kristin Johnson, Nicole Koonce, Joanne Carbo, Susan Case, Ellen Flynn Giles, Wendy Baird, Jackie Howard and Beth Homan.

Howard County General Hospital sponsored the September Kickoff breakfast with guest speaker Franklyn Baker, CEO of United Way of Central Maryland, who spoke to community leaders about the ALICE report, a report that focuses on families in the community who struggle for financial stability. Pictured, from left: HCGH Vice President of Operations Ryan Brown; Franklyn Baker; Director of Population Health Programs Tracy Novak; and Community Health Nurse Rachel Holton.

Members contributed gifts and donations in November for Fisher House at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Howard County School Superintendent Dr. Michael Martirano addressed a small group forum, “This Just In,” to discuss his vision of the school system’s future. Stacie Hunt with Dr. Martirano, and sponsor Jason Chamberlain of the Jeffrey Group at Morgan Stanley.

Howard Community College Proudly Salutes Leadership Howard County!

HCC thanks all of its LHC participants for their leadership to the college and the community over the years!

LEADERSHIP PREMIER
Alison Buckley • Lynn Coleman • Kari Ebeling
Tom Glaser • Kate Hetherington
Elizabeth Homan • Zoe Irvin • Anne Johnson
Dave Jordan • Janet Lombard-Cullison
Missy Mattey • Betty Noble • Cindy Peterka
Sharon Schmickley

LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS
Yonas Berhane • Anna Hamilton
Chris Heston • Michael Long
David Tirpak • Minah Woo • Laura Yoo
Local Animal Rescues Serve the Furry, the Feathered and Sometimes the Scaly

By Joan Waclawski, Special Sections Editor

No matter which species they gravitate to, animal rescuers have one universal motivation: It’s a labor of love. Nobody is getting rich rescuing stray, feral, mistreated or abandoned animals. The long hours, never-ending expenses and ongoing need to provide consistent care soon would become overwhelming without fierce motives on the part of the rescuer to be “a ray of hope for helpless animals,” as the new tagline for Sunshine’s Friends Cat (soon to be Cat and Dog) Rescue will read.

Sunshine’s Friends, located off of Route 1, just over the border in Anne Arundel County, is run by Bev and Keith Burnham, two of the directors of Sunshine’s Friends, along with Darvin Rivera, a young man who’s been helping with the cats for approximately 10 years and who lives on-site at the rescue. A team of staff and volunteers provides needed assistance, both at the Jessup adoption center and at adoption events held regularly at a local PetSmart.

The Burnhams operate a cage-free, indoor-outdoor cat rescue and adoption center, including a 20-foot by 20-foot enclosed “catio,” complete with beams to walk along and structures to climb, and a kitty condo, which provides shelter from the elements and food and water dishes in each with a heating pad underneath. In the indoor area, roomy, multi-level crates house cats that are being rehabilitated or have special medical or feeding needs. Cats can range at will between the two areas.

Beyond that, roughly an acre of land enclosed with a Parr...Fence, a patented product specifically designed to keep the mighty climbers in the yard, houses those cats that are more feral or accustomed to living outdoors. With insulated, heated shelters, culverts to hide in, artfully-piled tree trunks to climb and other distractions, these cats can live out their days, safe and food-secure. Occasionally, some of them are adopted out as barn cats.

As are many rescues, Sunshine’s Friends is a foster-based program and is always looking for loving homes to accommodate its rescues until they are adopted.

Area Rescues

This region boasts animal rescues that, well, rescue anything from the smallest of mammals, such as mice, hamsters and rabbits, as do the Friends of Rabbits, in Columbia, and the SPCA of Anne Arundel County, in Annapolis; to animals that are a bit larger, such as horse (and the occasional mule) rescues Days End Farm Horse Rescue, in Woodbine, and Gentle Giants Draft Horse Rescue, in Mount Airy.

And then there’s Frisky’s Wildlife & Primate Sanctuary, in Woodstock, which is the forever home for 15 monkeys (it’s had up to 31 in the past) and a wide variety of assorted wildlife. Sanctuary founder, Colleen Layton, who’s fostered animals since 1970 — “I had a litter of bunnies brought to me, and the rest is history,” she said — began caring for primates in 1989, traveling to Cincinnati to rescue a Rhesus Macaque infant whose mother had rejected it. Gizzo is still at the sanctuary.

On occasion, law enforcement will seize an exotic animal that’s illegally being kept as a pet, such as a baby alligator, and will turn it over to Frisky’s for temporary care. Layton has a broad network of facilities that will take wildlife that the sanctuary is not equipped to care for long-term.

Frisky’s also accepts and rehabilitates injured wild animals, with the intent of releasing them back into the wild once they heal. This winter, it played host to a great horned owl, three barred owls, five hawks, a falcon, three vultures and a Canada goose, all of which soon will be released.

Now that the spring birthing season is here, it also is receiving baby foxes, squirrels and other animals whose mothers either were killed or abandoned their young. Fawns also are brought to them, but care.

Belinda Brotherson and her husband, Spencer, on the other hand, founders of the fledgling Second Nature Parrot Rescue (which is still achieving its 501[c][3] status, which would make contributions to the rescue tax-deductible), had been bird foster parents for another rescue, and thought they could expand on, and improve, the process.

“The rescue we were involved with didn’t take the smaller birds, and they need love and care, too,” said Belinda Brotherson. “We saw a greater need, so we opened up our own doors to a wider range of birds to receive help.”

The birds, which are sheltered in their home, each have an enclosure, but free flight within the house is allowed as much as, and to as many birds as, is practicable. (Some of the birds, like the tiny lovebird Dax, must be closely supervised during free flight time, as she will bully or try to pick fights with some of the other birds.)

Although only established as a rescue since June of last year, Second Nature already has adopted out 17 birds to new homes.

Forever Home

The goal of most of these animals is to find them a forever home — and the right one. The rescuers are forthright about the behavioral, health and care issues an animal has, and has experienced: its temperament; and the type of new home environment the animal would be most comfortable in.

Gentle Giants is candid about the condition of the horses it deems adoptable. In its website listing, it indicates that a horse named Storm, for instance, is suitable for “walk/trot for an intermediate rider,” and his “limitations/maintenance” include “bowel problems, lung condition, and mouth issues, which must be monitored.”

On the other hand, founders of Cherry Hill Farm, in Glen Burnie, Thelma and Jerry Rice, have found a niche for the hard-to-place: “We specialize in animals that are driving them crazy,” Thelma said.

The farm currently is home to, among other things, a mule and a donkey, along with several rescue horses.

When the company moved out in 2004, looking further afield. Bev Burnham began caring for primates in 1989, traveling to Cincinnati to rescue a Rhesus Macaque infant whose mother had rejected it. Gizzo is still at the sanctuary.

On occasion, law enforcement will seize an exotic animal that’s illegally being kept as a pet, such as a baby alligator, and will turn it over to Frisky’s for temporary care. Layton has a broad network of facilities that will take wildlife that the sanctuary is not equipped to care for long-term.

Frisky’s also accepts and rehabilitates injured wild animals, with the intent of releasing them back into the wild once they heal. This winter, it played host to a great horned owl, three barred owls, five hawks, a falcon, three vultures and a Canada goose, all of which soon will be released.

Now that the spring birthing season is here, it also is receiving baby foxes, squirrels and other animals whose mothers either were killed or abandoned their young. Fawns also are brought to them, but care.

Belinda Brotherson and her husband, Spencer, on the other hand, founders of the fledgling Second Nature Parrot Rescue (which is still achieving its 501[c][3] status, which would make contributions to the rescue tax-deductible), had been bird foster parents for another rescue, and thought they could expand on, and improve, the process.

“The rescue we were involved with didn’t take the smaller birds, and they need love and care, too,” said Belinda Brotherson. “We saw a greater need, so we opened up our own doors to a wider range of birds to receive help.”

The birds, which are sheltered in their home, each have an enclosure, but free flight within the house is allowed as much as, and to as many birds as, is practicable. (Some of the birds, like the tiny lovebird Dax, must be closely supervised during free flight time, as she will bully or try to pick fights with some of the other birds.)

Although only established as a rescue since June of last year, Second Nature already has adopted out 17 birds to new homes.

Forever Home

The goal of most of these animals is to find them a forever home — and the right one. The rescuers are forthright about the behavioral, health and care issues an animal has, and has experienced: its temperament; and the type of new home environment the animal would be most comfortable in.

Gentle Giants is candid about the condition of the horses it deems adoptable. In its website listing, it indicates that a horse named Storm, for instance, is suitable for "walk/trot for an intermediate rider," and his "limitations/maintenance" include "bowel problems, lung condition, and mouth issues, which must be monitored." A horse named Pony Boy "has a very distrusting personality, but he warms up to those who wish to gain his affections through persistency. He has a lot of potential but needs to find 'his person' who is willing to put time and patience into the relationship."

Almost universally, the rescues have an adoption agreement clause stipulating that, should the new owner wish to or need to surrender the animal for any reason, s/he must return the animal to the shelter it was adopted from.

Many of the small animal rescues partner with local pet stores, such as PetSmart and Petco, to hold rescue events, where they showcase their adoptable animals online to a wider audience. Several also partner with local pet stores, such as PetSmart and Petco, to hold rescue events, where they showcase their adoptable animals online to a wider audience.
Buy a Day of Crisis Services

ChangeMatters, the student-led community service and philanthropy initiative, has focused on suicide prevention for years, launching such programs as “Don’t Do Nothing,” aimed at encouraging students to get help when they see a peer in trouble. This year’s high school campaign, “Pi Day, Buy a Day,” raises awareness about suicide prevention as the fundraiser raises funds for Grassroots Crisis Intervention’s services.

School math departments are providing lessons plans that connect the concept of pi, 3.14, as a never-ending number to Grassroots crisis services that are always available 24/7.

Initiated by Mt. Hebron High School math teacher Sara Tagget, who lost her daughter to suicide, the campaign includes educating students about suicide prevention and calls upon them to raise $2,111 per school to “buy” a day of crisis services. For each calendar day selected, Grassroots will post the name of the donor school on the call center door and collect information about services it delivers and the clients it serves that day. That information will be shared afterwards with the school funding that day’s crisis services.

Other organizations have joined in the initiative, raising funds to support 24 hours of crisis support or more, “buying” a day of service for $2,111. Students and program coordinator Cathy Smith have been visiting local Rotary clubs to encourage their participation and are available to speak to other groups. To join in the Grassroots Buy a Day of Service Program, contact Cathy Smith, cathsmsmith@verizon.net, 410-302-4662.

NAMI Report Issues Recommendations to Improve Relationships Between Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health

In March, NAMI Maryland released “Course Correction Collaboration of Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health: Advancing New and Proven Models for State and Local Government,” a new report that provides recommendations and alternatives for incarceration as a means of dealing with people living with mental illness.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), 2 million people with mental illness are booked into jails each year, and many states, including Maryland, are struggling to find and implement alternatives to incarceration.

“The State of Maryland can reduce the number of individuals with mental illness in the criminal justice system and improve the lives of all Marylanders by building on proven, effective projects and programs and collaboration between systems. This new report aims to provide the guidance needed to address this issue,” said Kate Farinholt, NAMI Maryland executive director.

The report came out of a Maryland summit held in November 2017 that addressed these issues and identified solutions to increase collaboration between law enforcement, corrections, the courts, behavioral health and other systems serving the needs of individuals with mental illness. The summit grew out of previous work by NAMI Maryland and other organizations, the current administration’s commitment to addressing these issues, and recent news stories and a Maryland court’s contempt order related to the prompt placement of inmates in need of treatment in a psychiatric hospital.

Summit participants represented a diverse group of professions and sectors, and included representatives from state and local agencies, professional associations, philanthropic foundations, the Maryland Legislature, Judiciary and Governor’s office, as well as law enforcement and correctional agencies.

Summit recommendations include the following.

- Improving education and training for criminal justice
- Promoting statewide innovative criminal justice/behavioral health partnership programs and practices
- Identifying innovative ways to fund criminal justice services designed for people with mental illness issues
- Implementing treatment for mental health or other behavioral health problems at all points of entry to the criminal justice system
- Studying the nature and extent of recidivism for people with mental health and/or behavioral health conditions
- To learn more and to download a copy of the report, visit www.naminmd.org.

Le’Chic Academy Foundation’s BIZ Kidz Day Set for April 21

Le’Chic Academy Foundation’s BIZ Kidz Market Day will be held Saturday, April 21, from noon-5 p.m. at The Interfaith Center, 5865 Robert Oliver Place, in Columbia. “Kidpreneurs” ages 5-18 will exhibit and sell their creative products and services, make money and compete for awards and prizes. Family, friends and the community are invited to support these young entrepreneurs and experience a day of exhibits, entertainment, games and contests.

Le’Chic Academy Foundation is a Christian-focused, nonprofit organization developed to inspire young girls and boys. The event is being presented in sponsorship with The Maryland Center for Entrepreneurship and Maryland STEM Festival.

Fundraising Garage Sale at Frisky’s

Frisky’s Wildlife and Primate Sanctuary will host its annual Garage Sale fundraising event every weekend in April, beginning April 7. Each Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., the sanctuary, which is located at 10790 Old Frederick Road in Woodstock, will open to sell a wide variety of donated goods in a typical garage sale format. It also will sell cash donations during that time.

Frisky’s is still accepting donations of goods for the sale, although it asks that no used computer equipment be donated. Frisky’s is home to 15 monkeys and a wide variety of wildlife.

For questions or to make a donation, call 410-418-8899 or email friskyswildlife@yahoo.com.

Animal Rescue from page 17

potential adopters can get up close and personal with the animals.

The Message

When asked what message they would like to impart to the public, the rescues’ response was pretty unanimous.

Don’t adopt, or buy, an animal you are not sure you will be able to take care of. Find out what, exactly, caring for that animal will entail, and how long the animal can be expected to live. Make sure your living arrangements will be able to accommodate the pet and that there will be no unforeseen issues with anyone in your household, such as allergies to the animal. If possible, don’t shop; adopt.

And if you do bring an animal home, respect and love the animal. Provide the care it needs, for as long as it needs it.

The cat and dog rescues have a further message: Spay or neuter the animal. Don’t assume that, because the animal spends its time indoors, there’s no need to spay or neuter. Sexually intact animals will find a way to get together. Don’t bring additional animals into the world so many now are homeless.

They have a request, as well. If you care about animals, support your local rescue. Even small donations can go a long way toward helping to care for more animals. If you can, give of your time, as well, by volunteering at the rescue or at the adoption events.

Bev Burnham summed it up succinctly. “If we had more volunteers, we could save more lives.”

Darvin Rivera, of Sunshine’s Friends Cat Rescue, gets some snuggles from Mavarick.

Le’Chic Academy Foundation’s BIZ Kidz Day will be held Saturday, April 21, from noon-5 p.m. at The Interfaith Center, 5865 Robert Oliver Place, in Columbia. “Kidpreneurs” ages 5-18 will exhibit and sell their creative products and services, make money and compete for awards and prizes. Family, friends and the community are invited to support these young entrepreneurs and experience a day of exhibi...
EcoWorks Helps Inmates Plant Seeds for the Future

By Susan Kim, Staff Writer

Howard EcoWorks, a nonprofit with the goal of empowering an underserved workforce to respect and restore natural systems for future generations, is teaching inmates at the Howard County Department of Corrections about sustainable gardening and landscaping. With a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, EcoWorks is offering 19 inmates a series of classes, called “Landscapes for Life,” that will result in a vegetable garden for the prison.

“Previously the prison had a garden but had trouble finding the resources to keep it maintained, in part because of the choice of crops and in part because of guard turnover that resulted in a lack of oversight and maintenance,” said Lori Lilly, EcoWorks executive director. “So we designed a vegetable garden for them and will be providing instructions that the guards and inmates can use to successfully maintain and harvest from the garden over the next year.”

Minimum-security inmates completed five classroom sessions and two work days to prepare the garden and plant the first crops. “We’ll work with them later to do other successional plantings in later spring, summer and fall,” said Lilly.

The prison will use some of the vegetables internally, and some will go to the Howard County Food Bank. EcoWorks has also had conversations about collaborating with Roving Radish, a Howard County government program dedicated to promoting healthy farm-to-table eating habits in the community while creating sustainable markets for local and regional farms.

Healthy Rewards

Darlene Jolly, work release reentry supervisor at the Howard County Detention Center, said, “I am always looking for new opportunities that inmates can take advantage of during their time with us. Through EcoWorks, participants are able to learn new skills in sustainable gardening and soil preservation. It not only benefits them personally and professionally, it also benefits the community and environment.”

Inmates seem to find the program rewarding, said Lilly. “It gives them a skill set that they can use in the landscaping industry. Some want to beautify their homes,” she said.

One participant reported: “Once you get a sustainable garden going, it will require less maintenance for you.”

Irene Sadler, an instructor with EcoWorks, said she finds it rewarding to share her knowledge of sustainable gardening with people who are trying to restart their lives. “I have expertise in horticulture, ecology and landscape design, and enjoy passing any of this knowledge on, especially to motivated, curious people who may have had limited opportunities for education and career growth,” she said. “I find it gratifying to spread ideas that can help regenerate ecological systems and support joyful living.”

Another instructor, Brandt Dirmeyer, said his goal is to have the class be rewarding for those who want to apply sustainable gardening methods within their professional or personal lives in a way where they can also extend their sense of self out into their environments. “I hope that by teaching them sustainable gardening, they will gain perspective on their connections to the land that they live on and the food that they eat,” he said.

Education Into Action

EcoWorks, with the slogan “Solutions for healthy streams and communities,” has also developed a Watershed Action Team (WAT) that is working on the Tiber HUD- son sub-watershed of the Patapsco River to remove debris and potential blockage from the stream.

The WAT team is composed of five people who are spending a 10-month term studying, assessing, conducting community outreach and implementing projects.

In an Ellicott City “Soak It Up” campaign, with funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, EcoWorks is engaging the private residential community in being a part of the solution for flood mitigation. “Our long-term goal is to convert 700 acres of turf grass to native vegetation,” explained Lilly. “We are asking the community to convert their turf grass to native plantings, rain gardens and stream buffers because turf grass is almost as bad as hard surfaces such as driveways, sidewalks, etc., in terms of runoff.”

With the grant, EcoWorks can provide technical and financial assistance for implementing projects on private property. “We also have a Soak It Up Homeowner Workshop coming up on April 28,” said Lilly. “This workshop is being held in partnership with the Neighborhood Design Center, and all attendees will leave with an Action Plan for their property that we can help them implement.”

READY for Earth-Friendly Work

Howard EcoWorks constructed its first bio-retention facility in the Greenleaf neighborhood in Columbia. Designed by the Howard Soil Conservation District and funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust and Howard County, construction involved nine high school students who spent their spring break in 2017 with a crew from the Restoring the Environment and Developing Youth (READY) Program. They excavated 80 cubic yards of soil by hand.

The facility now treats a 1.17-acre drainage area that is 30% impervious. A second bio-retention facility was built by the summer READY program; that facility treats a 0.86-acre drainage area that is 25% impervious.

Through READY — which is now accepting applications for the summer program — EcoWorks employs Howard County residents ages 16–26 to build rain gardens and conservation landscapes that filter stormwater runoff and alleviate flooding from pavement and other imperious surfaces.
On the Flip Side

The other side of establishing the new Howard County Community Resource Campus is the large amount of suddenly available space in the 88,000-square-foot Gateway Building.

Jackie Scott, director of the Howard County Community Economic Development Authority (HCEDA), said the move-in dates for the county agencies will be from mid-2018.

“The Kennedy Kreiger Institute already had an office here, which was another attraction to this intersection at Snowden River and Broken Land Parks,” said Driessen. "We know of just less than 500 such nonprofit centers around North America,” she said, which NCN defines as establishing “at least two nonprofits on shared or adjacent spaces,” with the intent of collaboration to build and leverage organizational strengths.

“About a third of those places are like what’s coming together in Columbia, a top-flight campus set up to make it easier for people who are down on their luck to get services,” Edwards said.

“What’s interesting about the Columbia project, she said, “is that local government is showing up in a big way. We see some local governments get involved in these kinds of projects around the country, but not in proactive partnerships on this scale. That’s important, because [that helps] eliminate an overlap of services between the government and nonprofits.”

“Two Hours?”

Karen Butler, director of the Howard County Department of Social Services (DSS), which is located not in the Gateway Building, but at 7121 Gateway Drive, in Renaissance Business Park, has long had a problem with clients gaining access to her office, particularly women if they are accompanied by men instead of them having to make another appointment and maybe even catch a bus.

“As for providing the more convenient transportation, the bus route not only includes the MCE campus, but also the Gateway building,” said Driessen. "So collocating with some of our frequent clients, like HopeWorks and CRS, is a great thing."

Then comes the issue of transportation. “It can take a client up to two hours to get from the Mall in Columbia, which is a 15-minute drive to our current location,” Butler said.

“All in One

Scott, this consolidation is really exciting. The Resource Campus is the large amount of suddenly available space in the 88,000-square-foot Gateway Building.

The second act. “By pulling the agencies together, we can as a community close to 620,000 square feet of space in our Gateway building,” said Iliff. “We’re an early settler.”

The other side of establishing the new Howard County Community Resource Campus is the large amount of suddenly available space in the 88,000-square-foot Gateway Building.

Jackie Scott, director of the Howard County Community Economic Development Authority (HCEDA), said the move-in dates for the county agencies will be from mid-2018.

The other side of establishing the new Howard County Community Resource Campus is the large amount of suddenly available space in the 88,000-square-foot Gateway Building.

Jackie Scott, director of the Howard County Community Economic Development Authority (HCEDA), said the move-in dates for the county agencies will be from mid-2018.

“This move to do this started in the 1980s,” she said, “and with the second try occurring during the Ken Ulman administration. “That was less intensive than the first effort, which started in May 2013.”

“Time, we got great support from the county,” she said, “and all of the pieces fell into place,” including getting new sidewalks, bus shelters, bus routes, etc.

“ACS, with the 16 nonprofits within its wingspan, has been up, running and serving clients since last spring, and even has a navigator to help people use Howard County’s Care App so they can “work their way around the campus to ensure their needs are addressed,” she said. “These people are typically dealing with more than one issue while they get back on their feet.”

Good Anchors

Heather Iliff, president and CEO of Maryland Nonprofits, has seen the approach Howard County is taking work in other places in Maryland, such as Rockville and Easton; in the latter case, it helped make its downtown more vibrant.

“Going the campus approach is a ‘great way’ to better serve the community, because clients get one-stop shopping from multiple agencies, she said. “As agencies share space and collaborate, Iliff said.

“Much of what do is based around meetings, so having many as you [need to have] in one place makes sense,” she said, “and from the economic development angle, nonprofits serve as good anchor institutions to help boost neighborhoods and local economies.”

Howard County’s efforts also were praised by Katie Edwards, interim executive director of the Nonprofit Centers Network (NCN), in Denver. “We know of just less than 500 such nonprofit centers around North America,” she said, which NCN defines as establishing “at least two nonprofits on shared or adjacent spaces,” with the intent of collaboration to build and leverage organizational strengths.

“About a third of those places are like what’s coming together in Columbia, a top-flight campus set up to make it easier for people who are down on their luck to get services,” Edwards said.

“What’s interesting about the Columbia project, she said, “is that local government is showing up in a big way. We see some local governments get involved in these kinds of projects around the country, but not in proactive partnerships on this scale. That’s important, because [that helps] eliminate an overlap of services between the government and nonprofits.”

Gettin’ Happier

The overall effort “is nice to see,” Edwards said, “because of the increased awareness of resources, the increased vibrancy of the nonprofits and how more people will be served.”

“Happier staff makes for happier organizations.”

And if all that happiness happens, the Howard County Community Resources Campus will be a great success that could also draw favorable attention from other jurisdictions.

“We’re hoping it will be a model for the state going forward,” said Scott. “This is an opportunity for us to show what can be done to make services more accessible and, in doing so, improve thousands upon thousands of lives.”

Services Campus from page 1

the county’s Department of Community Resources & Services (DCRS), which operates under the Maryland Department of Social Services (DSS); the Department of Housing & Community Development (DHRD); the Office of Human Rights; and the Community Action Council, with the goal of assisting nonprofits with similar missions.

Our move-in dates for the county agencies are slated for mid-2018.

On the Flip Side

The other side of establishing the new Howard County Community Resource Campus is the large amount of suddenly available space in the 88,000-square-foot Gateway Building.

Jackie Scott, CEO for the Howard County Economic Development Authority (HCEDA), said the move-in process in its Maryland Center for Entrepreneurship (MCE) into that building will be an ongoing effort.

But even though one is just getting underway, it’s already time to start the second act. “By pulling the agencies together and opening up that space in our Gateway building,” said Wetzell, “we can continue to spur the Innovation Campus (MCE) into that building and on turning the MCE into a more robust entrepreneurship (MCE) into that building and on turning the MCE into a more robust attraction and retention. And we’re seeing what can be accomplished when these six Anne Arundel County businessmen, along with State Sen. James (Ed) DeGrange (not pictured), have been raising money to assist at-risk local youth, with the Anne Arundel County Youth Activities Program, which was instrumental in developing a respect for police work among local communities, was disband ed.

“TBOS was founded by the late Sen. Mike Wagner in 1992. The function of the organization is to provide support and financial assistance to community organizations and programs that focus on the betterment of youth and their families.

The nonprofit worked collaboratively with the Anne Arundel County Police Department until 2013, when the Anne Arundel County Youth Activities Program, which was instrumental in developing a respect for police work among local communities, was disbanded.

“TBOS was founded by the late Sen. Mike Wagner in 1992. The function of the organization is to provide support and financial assistance to community organizations and programs that focus on the betterment of youth and their families.

The nonprofit worked collaboratively with the Anne Arundel County Police Department until 2013, when the Anne Arundel County Youth Activities Program, which was instrumental in developing a respect for police work among local communities, was disbanded.

“TBOS was founded by the late Sen. Mike Wagner in 1992. The function of the organization is to provide support and financial assistance to community organizations and programs that focus on the betterment of youth and their families.

The nonprofit worked collaboratively with the Anne Arundel County Police Department until 2013, when the Anne Arundel County Youth Activities Program, which was instrumental in developing a respect for police work among local communities, was disbanded.

“TBOS was founded by the late Sen. Mike Wagner in 1992. The function of the organization is to provide support and financial assistance to community organizations and programs that focus on the betterment of youth and their families.

The nonprofit worked collaboratively with the Anne Arundel County Police Department until 2013, when the Anne Arundel County Youth Activities Program, which was instrumental in developing a respect for police work among local communities, was disbanded.

“TBOS was founded by the late Sen. Mike Wagner in 1992. The function of the organization is to provide support and financial assistance to community organizations and programs that focus on the betterment of youth and their families.

The nonprofit worked collaboratively with the Anne Arundel County Police Department until 2013, when the Anne Arundel County Youth Activities Program, which was instrumental in developing a respect for police work among local communities, was disbanded.

“TBOS was founded by the late Sen. Mike Wagner in 1992. The function of the organization is to provide support and financial assistance to community organizations and programs that focus on the betterment of youth and their families.

The nonprofit worked collaboratively with the Anne Arundel County Police Department until 2013, when the Anne Arundel County Youth Activities Program, which was instrumental in developing a respect for police work among local communities, was disbanded.

“TBOS was founded by the late Sen. Mike Wagner in 1992. The function of the organization is to provide support and financial assistance to community organizations and programs that focus on the betterment of youth and their families.

The nonprofit worked collaboratively with the Anne Arundel County Police Department until 2013, when the Anne Arundel County Youth Activities Program, which was instrumental in developing a respect for police work among local communities, was disbanded.

“TBOS was founded by the late Sen. Mike Wagner in 1992. The function of the organization is to provide support and financial assistance to community organizations and programs that focus on the betterment of youth and their families.

The nonprofit worked collaboratively with the Anne Arundel County Police Department until 2013, when the Anne Arundel County Youth Activities Program, which was instrumental in developing a respect for police work among local communities, was disbanded.

“TBOS was founded by the late Sen. Mike Wagner in 1992. The function of the organization is to provide support and financial assistance to community organizations and programs that focus on the betterment of youth and their families.

The nonprofit worked collaboratively with the Anne Arundel County Police Department until 2013, when the Anne Arundel County Youth Activities Program, which was instrumental in developing a respect for police work among local communities, was disbanded.

“TBOS was founded by the late Sen. Mike Wagner in 1992. The function of the organization is to provide support and financial assistance to community organizations and programs that focus on the betterment of youth and their families.

The nonprofit worked collaboratively with the Anne Arundel County Police Department until 2013, when the Anne Arundel County Youth Activities Program, which was instrumental in developing a respect for police work among local communities, was disbanded.
United Way’s ALICE Report Reveals Households Living Below Survival Threshold

By Sandy Monck

Imagine having to make tough financial choices every day, choices like: Do I buy medicine or groceries with the money I have left? Do I fix my car so I can get to work, or pay my rent to keep from losing my home? Do I leave my kids home alone so I can take a night job that offers health benefits?

Odds are, you know someone who is faced with choices like these. Perhaps you once had to make these decisions - or even find yourself facing them now.

United Way recently released a report that gives an identity and voice to people who work hard, yet struggle to make ends meet. These people are called ALICE.

ALICE is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. ALICE is the person who waits on tables, fixes cars, scans groceries and cares for elderly and young people. Cashiers, administrative assistants, laborers, security guards — they’re ALICE.

Survival Threshold

ALICE represents a growing number of individuals and families who are working, but who live paycheck to paycheck, most often with nothing left over for an unexpected event, such as an illness, a car repair or a job loss. Their earnings are not enough to support a Survival Budget that meets. These people are called ALICE.

ALICE is the person who waits on tables, fixes cars, scans groceries and cares for elderly and young people. Cashiers, administrative assistants, laborers, security guards — they’re ALICE.

For Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) individuals, an emergency expense can spiral into a financial crisis.

The NonProfit Collaborative Is all About Connections

By Cheri Auger

Over the course of more than 20 years, various groups and individuals thought it would benefit the local community to have a place where many nonprofit organizations could be housed under one roof. In the spring of 2017, this vision became reality with the opening of the NonProfit Collaborative of Howard County (NPC). By August, the center was fully leased, with tenants sharing meeting space, a break room and a common goal of bringing services together to enhance lives.

It didn’t take long for people to learn about nonprofits that they hadn’t been familiar with, and for the nonprofits to discover that there were unexpected opportunities for collaboration to benefit their clients. Executive directors and staff members of organizations who had been working out of their homes, Wegmans and similar spaces found that suddenly they had a peer network close at hand for brainstorming and support.

A Social Network

In addition to finding the connections between organizations, the NPC also wanted to foster fellowship on a more organizational level by giving staff members the chance to chat with people from other organizations to learn about what they do at work, their interests and hobbies outside the office, and of course, which sports teams they root for. One of the places where this happens is in the break room, which is centrally located in the building and accessible to all staff.

Thanks to the efforts of NPC’s tenant council - a group with representatives from each of NPC’s 16 nonprofits - a number of staff social events, held at the NPC and the campus, but the broader Howard County nonprofit community as well. To foster these relationships, nonprofit groups are offered opportunities to share the NPC space by renting meeting rooms, a fully furnished “hot desk” office and mailboxes.

The meeting spaces can accommodate groups of up to 100 people and have built-in technology to facilitate presentations. The hot desk office gives nascent nonprofits a place to meet with clients and potential funders and to collaborate with NPC tenants. Those organizations renting mailboxes benefit from having a street address and not just a P.O. box, which can be advantageous when applying for grants.

They also have opportunities to network with NPC’s organizations when they stop in to pick up mail.

As the end of NPC’s first year approaches, its member organizations look forward to continuing to grow as a nonprofit community and to find new ways to increase connections and impact within the campus and throughout Howard County.

Cheri Auger is with the Association of Community Services, and is manager of the NonProfit Collaborative. She can be reached at 443-518-7704 or cheri.auger@acshoco.org.

For Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) individuals, an emergency expense can spiral into a financial crisis.
ACS Announces Winners of the 2018 Robbins Humanitarian Awards

The Association of Community Services (ACS) will present the 44th Annual Audrey Robbins Humanitarian Awards, which honor volunteers and staff in Howard County for exceptional service to their community, on Friday, April 20, at The Great Room at Savage Mill. Guests will have the opportunity to network and meet the winners. The awards presentation and lunch will be held from noon-2 p.m.

Each year, a selection committee reviews nominations and selects winners in four categories. This year’s honorees are as follows.

• Jackie Eng, Volunteer of the Year. Jackie Eng is a leader and volunteer who is recognized for her work with nonprofits and county government and her collaboration with diverse individuals and organizations. Since early 2000, she has been a champion for affordable housing, ending homelessness and other human service needs in Howard County through her involvement with nonprofit organizations. They include Bridges to Housing Stability: the Association of Community Services (ACS); and county initiatives, committees and commissions.

• Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority/Iota Lambda Omega Chapter, Volunteer Team of the Year. The Iota Lambda Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority fulfills the international service organization’s mission locally through continuous programs of service in a variety of human service areas including legal services, food insecurity, clothing needs and homelessness. In November 2017, ILO launched Howard County’s Youth Homeless Resource Fair, a one-stop resource event for the homeless population.

• Webb Scornaiaich, Employee of the Year. As executive director of Howard County’s HC DrugFree since 2009, Joan Webb Scornaiaich has transformed the organization by building relationships, attracting new sources of funding, recruiting new partners and expanding services. She has been instrumental in cultivating residents and community leaders about the opioid epidemic and HC DrugFree’s educational campaign in English, Spanish, Korean and Arabic, and gets printed materials about opioids to those in need.

• Humanim’s Healthy Transitions Program, Employee Team of the Year. Humanim’s Healthy Transitions program was founded in 2015 to address the need for services for 16–25-year-olds with mental health concerns in Howard County. Using three evidence-based practices including supported education, supported employment and psycho-social family education, Transition Facilitators work to assist program participants in successfully accomplishing critical life goals and living full, independent lives.

To purchase tickets and for more information, visit acshoco.org or call 443-518-7702.

The housing initiative will adapt a model utilized in communities like Bridge Meadows, in Portland, Oregon, which serves families involved with the foster care system and older adults.

The initiative’s progress is being driven by a new, 12-member task force, including public and private sector leaders and experts in aging and disability services, housing and community development. It’s a complex undertaking. Dunham said the task force’s current focus is on establishing the project’s program and feasibility and identifying the site and development partner it will require to move forward.

It also will be unique. “This project will inevitably look, feel and function differently from other communities that have adapted this approach,” said Dunham. “This is a person-centered, organic approach, so it’ll have to be attuned to the needs and the strengths of the people who live there.”

Several funders, including HCAS and The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, have provided seed funding to support planning activities. Dunham said more support is being sought. “We’re actively seeking venture philanthropists who are committed to housing and service innovation and can help us realize the potential of this approach.”

Meanwhile, HCAS, now entering its 25th year, is looking ahead to its next quarter-century. The organization is not planning to enter the housing business, said Ballinger, but instead is excited to help catalyze the partners and resources necessary to develop the project and bring this vision to life. “We see this as an opportunity to help pioneer an approach that could eventually be replicated throughout the Baltimore area and the entire state. “The need is there, and we believe we’re on a real solution.”

For more information, visit www.howard-autism.org/housinginitiative.
In the 2015–2016 school year, the Howard County School System counted 522 overcrowded classrooms. As of this year, the county council passed amended amendments to the county’s Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) that makes it harder for developers to build new housing in the county.

APFO is a seemingly common-sense measure that is in place in a number of suburban counties. It is intended to ensure that the county’s public facilities maintain pace with ongoing development. It imposes tests regarding the capacity of the school systems and roads to absorb new residents. In areas that are overcrowded, new housing must wait a number of years, allowing time for the schools and roads to catch up.

The APFO amendments passed by the county council this year expand the definition of what is an overcrowded school and extend the waiting period before new housing can be built. A map of the county using the new APFO limits shows strikingly few areas where new housing can be created.

Lack of Housing

At the same time, Howard County continues to have a severe shortage of affordable housing. The numbers show this in myriad ways. In 2014 there was a shortage of about 6,650 affordable apartments, with 9,900 renters earning less than $50,000 annually and only 3,247 affordable units. At the same time, for every 100 extremely low income households (for example, a family of four earning less than $20,050 annually) there were only 26 affordable places to live. The Howard County Housing Commission’s waiting list for housing choice vouchers, which helps pay rent, has more than 5,000 names. Maryland’s AFoods program will only deepen the crises faced by many county families today. They will feel the direct impact of the changes in three ways. First, the basic economics of supply and demand will mean that, as the number of new homes in the county declines and demand remains constant, prices will rise. And this, Maryths have made clear, will make Heather Iliff’s Howard County continue to be a desirable place to live. The population has been growing, as it has in the entire region, and there is no sign that rising demand will abate any time soon.

Second, due to APFO, there will be substantially fewer market rate homes, which will result in very little affordable housing built under the county’s Moderate Income Housing Units ordinance. This ordinance mandates that developers create a certain percentage of affordable homes when they build market rate units, or pay a fee to the county that can be used to create affordable housing elsewhere.

Finally, there will be less affordable housing simply because the APFO rules apply to affordable developments as well as market rate, making it more difficult, expensive and time-consuming to build them.

A New Standard of ‘Poor’

This is not a time to ignore the needs of the county’s lower-paid workforce. The affordable housing that is being built today does not serve our poorest neighbors. Only public housing and the housing choice voucher program do that, and these programs have been systematically cut over the years to the point that the country is losing about 10,000 public housing units annually.

Rather, new affordable housing serves to earn real incomes — just not enough to afford the high cost of housing. A typical affordable unit would be home to a family of three earning somewhere between $41,000 and $49,200. This is a single-parent household with two children, in a health-care position, or custodial job, or working retail at our stores and shops.

For a family of four, it is a two-parent family with one in a certain role of staying home with the children and the other earning up to $54,660. This is almost the median household income for the United States as a whole. The families that will primarily benefit from affordable housing are not poor by any standard we have used before. They are just too poor to afford Howard County.

Exception to Crowding Designation

During the APFO deliberation there were some who framed the issues as a trade-off — the county can have either good, less-crowded homes or affordable housing. This is a false choice. We can, and indeed must, have both high performing schools and additional affordable housing for county residents.

As ultimately passed, the APFO legislation included an exception that would allow certain affordable housing developments to bypass the limits on school crowding. In order to move ahead, such housing will need to be approved by Maryland’s county executive and the county council in a public vote. At least 40% of the homes or apartments in the development must be set aside for individuals or families earning no more than 60% of the area median, or $49,200 for a family of three and $54,660 for a family of four.

The county executive and the county council should look for every opportunity to create affordable housing through the exception. The need continues to be overwhelming. The school system has adequate capacity for the student population when viewed as a whole. The relatively small number of new students that will benefit from the educational opportunities the county can be accommodated.

If Howard County, one of the wealthiest places in the world, cannot find homes for 522 students who already have class-room seats, then who can?

Peter Engel is the executive director of the Howard County Housing Commission, which owns and operates more than 2,000 mixed-income housing units throughout Howard County. He can be reached at pensel@househoward.org.

Nonprofit Organizations Form ACTivate Maryland Campaign

Maryland Nonprofits has announced a new campaign, ACTivate Maryland, to sustain important state investments in programs that create economic opportunities, promote equity and inclusion and improve Marylanders’ quality of life. Advocates say such state resources are particularly critical at a time when federal funding for programs related to health, transit, environmental protection and community development is in jeopardy.

ACTivate Maryland brings together a range of nonprofit organizations across the state that support sustained investments in education, health care, transit and other key areas that are crucial to promoting economic opportunity.

“While Maryland is one of the nation’s most affluent states, many individuals, families and communities are locked out of that prosperity,” said Heather Iliff, executive director of Maryland Nonprofits. “While Maryland invests in its communities, everybody wins. ACTivate Maryland will encourage Marylanders to stand up and support key state investments in critical programs.”

ACTivate Maryland’s partner organizations include the following.

- Advocates for Children and Youth
- Associated Black Charities
- Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers
- CASH Campaign of Maryland (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope)
- Catholic Charities
- Community Development Network of Maryland
- Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance
- League of Women Voters
- Job Opportunities Task Force
- Maryland Center on Economic Policy
- Maryland Citizens for the Arts
- Health Care for All Maryland
- Maryland Campaign for Fiscal Responsibility
- Maryland Family Network
- Montgomery Chamber of Commerce
- Montgomery County Partnership
- Nonprofit Prince George’s
- Catholic Charities
- Howard County
- Prince George’s County
- Montgomery County
- Anne Arundel County
- Baltimore City
- Baltimore County
- Carroll County
- Frederick County
- Garrett County
- Harford County
- Carroll County
- Kent County
- Queen Anne’s County
- St. Mary’s County
- Wicomico County
- District of Columbia
- Delaware
- Pennsylvania
- West Virginia
- Vermont
- Connecticut
- New York
- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania
- Maryland

As ultimately passed, the APFO legislation included an exception that would allow certain affordable housing developments to bypass the limits on school crowding. In order to move ahead, such housing will need to be approved by Maryland’s county executive and the county council in a public vote. At least 40% of the homes or apartments in the development must be set aside for individuals or families earning no more than 60% of the area median, or $49,200 for a family of three and $54,660 for a family of four.

The county executive and the county council should look for every opportunity to create affordable housing through the exception. The need continues to be overwhelming. The school system has adequate capacity for the student population when viewed as a whole. The relatively small number of new students that will benefit from the educational opportunities the county can be accommodated.

If Howard County, one of the wealthiest places in the world, cannot find homes for 522 students who already have class-room seats, then who can?

Peter Engel is the executive director of the Howard County Housing Commission, which owns and operates more than 2,000 mixed-income housing units throughout Howard County. He can be reached at pensel@househoward.org.

Nonprofit Organizations Form ACTivate Maryland Campaign

Maryland Nonprofits has announced a new campaign, ACTivate Maryland, to sustain important state investments in programs that create economic opportunities, promote equity and inclusion and improve Marylanders’ quality of life. Advocates say such state resources are particularly critical at a time when federal funding for programs related to health, transit, environmental protection and community development is in jeopardy.

ACTivate Maryland brings together a range of nonprofit organizations across the state that support sustained investments in education, health care, transit and other key areas that are crucial to promoting economic opportunity.

"While Maryland is one of the nation’s most affluent states, many individuals, families and communities are locked out of that prosperity," said Heather Iliff, executive director of Maryland Nonprofits. "While Maryland invests in its communities, everybody wins. ACTivate Maryland will encourage Marylanders to stand up and support key state investments in critical programs."
Minimize the Stress of Work Travel

Traveling for work can be a positive or a negative, depending on how you look at it. There are many advantages of business travel, like visiting new, exciting places or staying at a fancy hotel with a room just for yourself that make it worthwhile. Dealing with flights, hotels and transportation, on the other hand, can be a drag. The only way to completely look at business travel in a positive light is by eliminating the stress that comes with those negatives. To point you in the right direction, here are seven essential practices to ensure an easier, stress-free business trip.

Expedited Traveler Status

Apply to the Transportation Security Administration’s TSA Pre flying program for a quicker security briefing every time you fly. For $85 every five years, you can speed through security — and skip removing your shoes, laptops, liquids, belts and other amenities. If you’re traveling within the next few months, submit an online application and schedule an appointment at one of its 380-plus enrollment centers. With a quick background check and fingerprinting, you’ll be set.

Rewards Programs

Rewards programs are key for every frequent traveler, and this works for companies, government agencies and nonprofits in the BW corridor. Reward travelers with an appreciation package. AwardWallet.

There’s an App for That

AwardWallet. Track your points and miles from all your accounts with one simple app. You will also get notified when your balances change and before your points expire; that way you can use your points at the perfect time. Triplt. This app creates an itinerary in a calendar format by forwarding all of your confirmation emails from hotels, flights, car rentals and restaurants, so all your plans are in one place.

EvenNote. Everything you’ve written, annotated and collected on any format, all in one place. This is useful when putting together presentations from the road. PackPoint. It’s the packing list to end all packing lists. All you need to do is tell the app where you’re going and on which dates. A full checklist of what to pack based on length of stay, climate and weather will be generated in seconds. The best part? Checklists can be shared with friends and coworkers.

Just In Case

The last thing you need is a delayed flight or missing your meeting or hotel check-in. It’s always a good idea to pick an earlier flight that will get you to where you need to be a little while before you need to be there, since the extra time will decrease stress. And, you might get to sneak in some extra time to explore your destination.

Skip Baggage Check

Many airlines charge extra fees for checking baggage, ranging from $25–45 for just one bag. Should you accidently have a bag that’s oversized or overweight you’ll be hit with a harsh fee that can more than double the cost. Save your money and stick to bringing a carry-on personal item. Not only does this save you money, but it also saves you time and stress.

By skipping the baggage check, you won’t have to worry about waiting by the carousel after your flight for your luggage and possibly missing your ride, meeting or hotel check-in. You also won’t have to worry about the possibility of the airline sending your luggage on the wrong flight (or losing it).

Booking Your Hotel

Waiting to book your hotel until the day you arrive can give you access to the best rooms for the best rates. If the unknown stresses you out, there is no shame in skipping the last minute deal and spending the extra dollar to secure a hotel room.

Charge Up

Not much is more stressful than your phone battery dying, especially when you’re traveling. Make sure you keep your electronics fully charged before you get on the plane, as not all aircraft have charging capabilities. To eliminate another checklist item you have to remember the morning of the flight, charge your electronics overnight so they will be ready in the morning. For more information, visit bbb.org.

Correction

In the March Focus on Marketing and E-Commerce, we inadvertently made an error in the listing for Coster Communications. Below is the correct information and website for any future business:

Coster Communications Ltd. Lisa Briscoe Coster 1523 Everlea Rd. President Maitland, MD 21104 410-442-3734 lbcoster@costercommunications.com Provides strategic communications support and implements the tactics for various companies, government agencies and nonprofits in the BW corridor.

Thursday, April 26


Howard County Police Department (HCPD) Awards Ceremony. 6 p.m. Howard Academy Police Department, Horowitz Center, HCPD, 410-313-2236.

Saturday, April 7–Sunday, April 8


Tuesday, April 10


Wednesday, April 11


Thursday, April 12


Howard County Volunteer of the Year Awards Ceremony. 6 p.m. George Howard Building, Barrister Room, Alexandra Bresani, 410-313-2022.


Friday, April 13


Saturday, April 14


“Symphonic Pops.” 7:30 p.m. Sinclair Concert Hall, www.columbiaorchestra.org.

Sunday, April 15

“40th Clyde’s 10k.” 8 a.m. Columbia Town Center, www.striders.net/clydes.

“Historic Oakland Wedding & Events Showcase.” 1–4 p.m. $30/$50. www.HistoricOakland.com


Wednesday, April 18


“In Honor of Zaching Against Cancer Benefit.” 6 p.m. $30/$35. Our Lady of Mt. Hope.” www.zachingagainstcancer.org.

Saturday, April 21

“Howard County’s 11th Anniversary GreenFest.” 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Howard Community College. www.HCGreenFest.org.

“Ellicott City SpringFest.” Noon–8 p.m.

Sunday, April 22


Wednesday, April 25


Thursday, April 26


“2018 Business Leaders Luncheon With Gov. Larry Hogan and Comptroller Peter Franzot. 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m. $50/$60/$65/$75. La Fontaine Bleue, Central Maryland Chamber, www.centralmarylandchamber.org; Norregine Anne Arundel Chamber, www.maacc.com.

Friday, April 27


Saturday, April 28


Sunday, April 29

“Howard County Concert Orchestra: From Tragedy to Triumph.” 4 p.m. $12/$25. www.hococo.org.

Tuesday, May 1


Wednesday, May 2


Friday, May 4


Saturday, May 5


See Calendar, page 26
Columbia Association’s (CA) board of directors voted in late February to pass the budget for fiscal 2019, which runs from May 1, 2018 through April 30, 2019. The budget, which was approved on February 28, 2018, includes a number of initiatives and programs that are designed to improve the quality of life for CA residents and to ensure that the organization remains financially healthy.

The budget includes a number of new programs and initiatives, such as the launch of a new website, the implementation of a new accounting system, and the development of new marketing and communications strategies. It also includes increased funding for existing programs, such as the CA Connects program, which provides residents with access to local businesses and services.

In addition to these new initiatives, the budget includes a number of cost-saving measures, such as the implementation of a new energy efficiency program and the reduction of administrative expenses. Overall, the budget is designed to provide a stable financial foundation for CA to maintain its mission of providing a quality lifestyle for its residents.

The budget also includes funding for a number of capital projects, such as the construction of a new pool and the modernization of existing facilities. These projects are expected to improve the quality of life for CA residents and to ensure that the organization remains competitive in the marketplace.

The budget is intended to provide a stable financial foundation for CA to maintain its mission of providing a quality lifestyle for its residents and to ensure that the organization remains competitive in the marketplace. It includes funding for a number of capital projects, such as the construction of a new pool and the modernization of existing facilities, which are expected to improve the quality of life for CA residents.

The budget is intended to provide a stable financial foundation for CA to maintain its mission of providing a quality lifestyle for its residents and to ensure that the organization remains competitive in the marketplace. It includes funding for a number of capital projects, such as the construction of a new pool and the modernization of existing facilities, which are expected to improve the quality of life for CA residents and to ensure that the organization remains competitive in the marketplace.

The budget is intended to provide a stable financial foundation for CA to maintain its mission of providing a quality lifestyle for its residents and to ensure that the organization remains competitive in the marketplace. It includes funding for a number of capital projects, such as the construction of a new pool and the modernization of existing facilities, which are expected to improve the quality of life for CA residents and to ensure that the organization remains competitive in the marketplace. The budget is intended to provide a stable financial foundation for CA to maintain its mission of providing a quality lifestyle for its residents and to ensure that the organization remains competitive in the marketplace. It includes funding for a number of capital projects, such as the construction of a new pool and the modernization of existing facilities, which are expected to improve the quality of life for CA residents and to ensure that the organization remains competitive in the marketplace.

The budget is intended to provide a stable financial foundation for CA to maintain its mission of providing a quality lifestyle for its residents and to ensure that the organization remains competitive in the marketplace. It includes funding for a number of capital projects, such as the construction of a new pool and the modernization of existing facilities, which are expected to improve the quality of life for CA residents and to ensure that the organization remains competitive in the marketplace.

The budget is intended to provide a stable financial foundation for CA to maintain its mission of providing a quality lifestyle for its residents and to ensure that the organization remains competitive in the marketplace. It includes funding for a number of capital projects, such as the construction of a new pool and the modernization of existing facilities, which are expected to improve the quality of life for CA residents and to ensure that the organization remains competitive in the marketplace.
Hogan Administration Announces New Maryland Business Express Website

Governor Larry Hogan announced the creation of the new Maryland Business Express, a one-stop resource, designed to make it easier for Maryland’s small business owners and entrepreneurs to plan, start, manage, and grow their business.

Accessible at www.businessexpress.maryland.gov, the new site combines information previously spread across many state government web pages into a single online destination.

New website features include:

- A “What’s New” section to make it easy for existing business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs to find the latest news and updates.
- A “Business Briefs” section to provide qualified businesses with up to $100,000 of project costs. The program is designed to spur improvement in Anne Arundel County’s economic activity, investment and improvements of at least $100,000 of assessed value.

The site’s layout is based on the questions most commonly asked by existing business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs, and contains four main sections: Plan, Start, Manage and Grow. The Plan and Start sections list orderly steps that guide entrepreneurs through the location of developing a business plan, registering a business, and applying for tax accounts and licenses. The Manage and Grow sections help business owners remain in good standing, making legal changes to their businesses and find additional programs that best fit their needs.

Anne Arundel County Supporting Revitalization Efforts

Since 2015, the Anne Arundel County Economic Development Corp. (AAEDC) has approved approximately $455,780 in loans to 12 businesses through its Arundel Community Reinvestment (ACR) Fund. The ACR Fund offers loans up to $100,000 to be repaid over three to seven years at 0% interest. Loans are limited to 90% of total project costs.

In addition, during the last three years, nine businesses received a total of almost $125,000 in tax credits through Anne Arundel County Community Revitalization Tax Credit program. Qualified business owners may receive a property tax credit for up to five years equal to the incremental increase in its assessed property tax assessment for improvements of at least $100,000 of assessed value.

This program is designed to spur economic activity, investment and improvement in Anne Arundel County’s eight Commercial Revitalization districts, which include the area in inner West Street in Annapolis from Church Circle to Chippewa Round Road, and the county’s one state-designated Enterprise Zone in Brooklyn Park.

Howard County Shopping Center Sells for $7M

Marcus & Millichap, a North American commercial real estate investment services firm, announced the sale of Cherry Tree Shopping Center, a 46,302-square-foot retail property in Laurel, Maryland. The asset sold for $7 million to City Wide Properties of Baltimore.

“This sale demonstrates the constant demand for destination-oriented neighborhood shopping centers,” said Christopher Burnham, senior associate in Marcus & Millichap’s Baltimore office. “The visibility of the center, along with tenant mix, drew maximum interest from buyers in the market, which allowed us to push for value to our client.”

Cherry Tree Shopping Center is located at 11200 Scaggsville Road, Laurel. The property has visibility directly off Route 29. It is situated on 3.86 acres and includes two buildings: a freestanding building occupied by Verizon Wireless, as well as a two-story strip that was occupied by a mix of national, large franchisee and local tenants.

Third Street Marina, Office and Restaurant in Annapolis Under New Ownership

MacKenzie Commercial Real Estate Services has announced the sale of Annapolis’ Third Street Marina, in Eastport. At 310-312 Third Street, Annapolis, to an undisclosed buyer. The property consists of an expandable, 10-slip marina with a travel lift, a 3,512-square-foot, two-story waterfront office building and the 4,160-square-foot Annapolis steak, O’Leary’s Seafood.

This project provided an opportunity to invest in a rarely available asset along Annapolis’ waterfront, a premier real estate market. The property’s size, coupled with the tenant diversity and location on Spa Road ensures the property is desirable to boaters, boaters and office users.

Princeton Sports Closing its Columbia Location

After 36 years, Princeton Sports is closing its Columbia location. Alan Davis, company president, said that the 17,000-square-foot building has been sold and that the inventory, store fixtures and equipment are being liquidated and that Princeton Sports will consolidate its business to the Falls Road location in Baltimore. Princeton Sports, a third-generation, family-owned and -operated company, was founded by bike enthusiasts Samuel and Lucille Davis in Baltimore City, who rented and repaired bikes for local residents. They ran the business until 1963 when, upon Samuel’s death, his son, Sonny Davis, took over. He introduced skiing to the merchandise mix and expanded the company in 1981 to Columbia, where he has occupied its iconic building on Little Patuxent Parkway.

Live! Casino Selects Trilogy Spa Holdings as Management Partner

Live! Casino & Hotel has selected award-winning boutique spa management company Trilogy Spa Holdings to manage the luxurious! Live! Spa, part of the flagship Live! Hotel opening this spring. The Live! Spa will provide hotel guests, casino visitors and area guests an escape and relax recharge.

Calendar, from page 24


Thursday, May 10


Friday, May 11


“Amerikan Folk Violinist and Pianist Concert.” 7:30 p.m. St. Louis Church. www.stlconcertseries.org.

Friday, May 11–Sunday, May 13


Monday, May 14


Wednesday, May 16


Wednesday, May 16


Thursday, May 24


Tuesday, June 5


Friday, June 8


Saturday, June 9


Monday, June 11


Tuesday, June 12


Friday, June 15–Saturday, June 17


Wednesday, June 20


Thursday, June 21


Friday, June 22


The facility, featuring five treatment rooms, will offer a variety of massage therapies, body polishes and body wraps along with advanced skin care and anti-aging treatments. The business will also include a VIP lounge. The Holdings also operates spas at Red Rock Resort & Casino in Las Vegas, the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess in Arizona and the Spa of Colonial Williamsburg.

Daedalus Books Retail Store

Daedalus Books President Robin Moody has confirmed that the Columbia-based catalog business and retail outlet that specializes in remembered books and music closed at the end of February. Universal Screen Arts of Hudson, Ohio, an Internet retailer and mail order cataloger specializing in music CDs, DVDs and video games, has purchased Wireless and whatonearth, has acquired the Daedalus Books & Music catalog operation and will continue to operate it under that name.

“It’s been a good run and a pretty good store,” said Moody, who founded the business in 1980 with partners Helger, Harris and Tamara Stock, and established the warehouse outlet in 1998. “We’re all sad to see this day come.”

New Elkridge 50+ Center Opens

Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman and the Howard County Planning, Housing and Community Development Department held a ribbon-cutting for the county’s new Elkridge 50+ Center on Saturday, March 10. The event was held in conjunction with the county Department of Aging & Independence held a ribbon-cutting for the county’s new Elkridge 50+ Center on Saturday, March 10. The event was held in conjunction with the county Department of Aging & Independence.

The new Elkridge 50+ Center is five times its previous senior center, which served county residents since 1994. It offers a variety of programs and services including fitness options, educational opportunities in the arts and humanities, wellness classes and opportunities for social and recreational activities, including volunteer opportunities.

Merkle Enhances Its Innovation Cloud, Powered by Adobe Experience Cloud

California-based Merkle, a technology-enabled, data-driven performance marketing agency, announced the launch of the Merkle Innovation Cloud (MIC) 2.0, a solution that demonstrates the integration of marketing technologies with people-based data to drive personalized customer experience.

MIC 2.0 is powered by Adobe Experience Cloud. It also leverages capabilities that are powered by Adobe Sensei, Adobe’s artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning framework, including Smart Tags for automatic understanding of images and video, Smart Search for powerful, benefits-based anomaly detection in Adobe Analytics Cloud and automated, real-time personalization in Adobe Target.

Columbia’s Bandura Systems Closes $3.5M Seed Round

Bandura Systems, of Columbia and St. Louis, which helped to pioneer the threat intelligence gateway market (TIG) with the U.S. Department of Defense, has closed its seed funding round, primarily from venture capital firms. Most recently, Bandura was working on an AI-powered cyber security solution to detect, prevent and respond to cyber threats. The closing came from Blu Ventures, Gula Tech Adventures, the Maryland Technology Development Corp., Prosper Women Entrepreneurs, and In-Q-Tel. Bandura also received financial support from TIgR and the University of Maryland. The company also secured $1.45 million in seed investment from the Micromarketing Capital Fund.

TIGs are stand-alone threat prevention appliances that can process millions more threat indicators than traditional network security enforcement approaches. They help protect corporate networks by more

See Business Briefs, page 27
Kellehan Receives TDR Leadership in Law Award
Kevin Kellehan, a partner with Carney, Kellehan, Bresler, Bennett & Scott of Balti-
more, has received the 2018 Leadership in Law Award from The Daily Record (TDR). Kellehan
focuses on estate planning, real estate, probate and probate litigation.

Influential Marylander
Kate Hetherington, presi-
dent of Howard Community
College (HCC), has been se-
lected by The Daily Record (TDR)
for its 2018 Influential Marylander award. She is one of
57 Marylanders cited by TDR’s editors for leadership and significant contributions to their
fields.

LHS Names New Executive Director
The Laurel Historical So-
ciety (LHS) has selected Ann
and property crimes.

Barbara Unegbu, a pediatrician who has served as a chief
health officer. Unegbu comes to
Howard from the Howard County
Health Department, where she has prosecuted felony cases that
include homicides, sexual child abuse, kidnapping, armed robberies, narcotics and property crimes.

Laurel's Chief Health Officer
Barbara Unegbu, who most recently
served as chief health officer for the
Howard County Health Department,
has been named chief health officer
for the city of Laurel. Unegbu comes
to the post with credentials as a family
medicine doctor in Laurel, and is affiliated with multiple hospitals in the area, includ-
ing UM Laurel Regional Hospital and UM Prince George's Hospital Center.

BB&T’s Sollers Named Mrs. District of Columbia United States
John S. Sollers, a chairman of the
Board of Directors of BB&T Mort-
gage, was recently crowned Mrs. District of Columbia United States at the Crowne
Plaza, in Annapolis. The telecast aired
live over the FCC Telecast Station. She works for BB&T Bank, in Columbia.

Parr Financial Cited by Expertise.com
Parr Financial Solut-
ions, an independent, fee-only,
wealth management firm, was named a Top Financial Advisor in Baltimore for
the second year running by Expertise.com. The firm was among the 18 selected of 163
judged for the merit-based award. The process is conducted by Expertise via a proprietary research and
selection process. Only publicly available data is analyzed; key factors weighted include reputation, credibility, experience, professionalism and availability.

Roe to Show at Artists’ Gallery
Photojournalist Linda Roe will be
on exhibit during April at Artists’ Gallery, in Ellicott City. Roe's “An Eclectic View of the World,” will run through April 29, with an opening reception set for April 7, from 4-6 p.m.

“I believe art should produce a reaction, and the mission of my photos is to elicit an emotion from viewers, whether posi-
tive or negative. Anything else is simply a snapshot, not art,” she said. Roe’s gallery is located
at 8197 Main Street. For more information, call 410-325-5936 or visit www.artistsgal-
ery.com.

Loyola’s Sellingler School Endorses Responsible Research for Business and Management
Loyola University Maryland’s Sell-
ingler School of Business and Management partnered with Responsible Research for
Business and Management to endorse the organization’s mission of encouraging, encour-
aging and supporting credible and useful research in the business and management
disciplines.

As a Jesuit university, we’re respon-
sible for helping business organizations operate more effectively, efficiently and
ethically,” said Kathleen Getz, dean of Loyola’s Selloinger School of Business.

“With its purpose and the mission of my photos is to elicit an emotion from viewers, whether posi-
tive or negative. Anything else is simply a snapshot, not art,” she said. Roe’s gallery is located
at 8197 Main Street. For more information, call 410-325-5936 or visit www.artistsgal-
ery.com.

Loyola’s Selloinger School Endorses Responsible Research for Business and Management
Loyola University Maryland’s Selli-
ginger School of Business and Management partnered with Responsible Research for
Business and Management to endorse the organization’s mission of encouraging, encour-
aging and supporting credible and useful research in the business and management
disciplines.

As a Jesuit university, we’re respon-
sible for helping business organizations operate more effectively, efficiently and
ethically,” said Kathleen Getz, dean of Loyola’s Selloinger School of Business.

“With its purpose and the mission of my photos is to elicit an emotion from viewers, whether posi-
tive or negative. Anything else is simply a snapshot, not art,” she said. Roe’s gallery is located
at 8197 Main Street. For more information, call 410-325-5936 or visit www.artistsgal-
ery.com.

Loyola's Getz Named Among Top 100 Women
Kathleen Getz, dean of Loyola’s Sellinger School of Business and Management, was
named among The Daily Record’s Top 100 Women for Maryland in 2018. Getz has more than 27 years of experience in business education.

HCC’s Bard Honored
The American Associa-
tion of Community Colleges has
selected Professor Luda Bard, the
director of the Howard Community
College (HCC), as one of its 50 recipients of the inaugural Dale P. Parnell Distinguished
Faculty designation. Bard is one of three
Maryland community college professors to be honored this year.

Howard’s Oldham Among TDR Top 100
Howard County De-
puty State’s Attorney Kim Old-
ham has been selected as one of
Maryland’s Top 100 Women by The Daily Record. Oldham is a partner with the firm of
Bowie, Rice, Olshansky & Bischoff, P.A., and has prosecuted felony cases that
include homicides, sexual child abuse, kidnapping, armed robberies, narcotics and property crimes.

Laurel’s Chief Health Officer
Barbara Unegbu, who most recently
served as chief health officer for the
Howard County Health Department,
has been named chief health officer
for the city of Laurel. Unegbu comes
to the post with credentials as a family
medicine doctor in Laurel, and is affiliated with multiple hospitals in the area, includ-
ing UM Laurel Regional Hospital and UM Prince George’s Hospital Center.

BB&T’s Sollers Named Mrs. District of Columbia United States
John S. Sollers, a chairman of the
Board of Directors of BB&T Mort-
gage, was recently crowned Mrs. District of Columbia United States at the Crowne
Plaza, in Annapolis. The telecast aired
live over the FCC Telecast Station. She works for BB&T Bank, in Columbia.

Padgett Honored by TDR
Suzi Padgett has been honored as a Distinguished Real Estate Agent by The Daily Record’s
distinguished Long & Foster Real Estate’s Columbia office and was recognized for
her integrity, professionalism and com-
mitment to mentoring.

UM CMG Announces Wilson as COO
University of Maryland Community Medical Group (UM CMG) has named Mi-
chele Wilson chief operating officer (COO) of the Univer-
sity of Maryland Medical System-owned
network of more than 300 primary care physicians, specialists and advanced prac-
tice clinicians. Wilson has served as vice president of operations for the Southern Region, which includes the Eastern Shore, Anne Arundel, Charles counties, and Baltimore City.

McKnew Saluted by MHLA
Chef Charles McKnew, of the Double
Tree by Hilton Hotel Annapolis, recently
received the Stars of the Industry Manager of the Year award. It was presented by the
Maryland Hotel & Lodging Association (MHLA).

Boyd Appointed to Commission for Women
Meg Boyd, executive
director of the Howard County
Conservancy, has been ap-
pointed to the Howard County
Commission for Women. Es-
established in 1980, the commission conducts an annual women’s
commission awards and carries on activities to support its
purpose.

Francis Gibson Goes National
Beverly Francis Gibson has accepted a position as president/CEO with the national
office of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America. She has more than
20 years of nonprofit experience in fund
raising, grantwriting, strategic planning, business development and special events planning.

MDOT Solicits Ideas for 3-D Printing Transportation Solutions
Furthering the Hogan Administra-
tion’s stated intent to explore innovative options to build the state’s transportation
infrastructure, the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) has issued a
Request for Information (RFI), inviting in-
terested parties, including the private sector, universities and others to seek innovative and collaborative ways the state can best use 3-D printing or additive manufac-
turing.

The RFI was issued on March 6 and can be found on the e-Maryland Marketplace website at https://emaryland.buyspeed.
.com, under e-MM solicitation information No. MD013107309. Those interested in
responding have until 2 p.m. on April 10 to submit their responses electronically
through the secure MDOT FTP site https://
sltf.hltdot.state.md.us, using the user I.D.: OPCF_3D_RFI and password: March2018.

UMBC Men’s Basketball Coach Inks New Deal
UMBC Men’s Basketball Coach Ryan Odom, who piloted the Retrievers to a win in
the America East tournament before
guiding the team to its debut of the No. 1 team in the nation for the first time in the
history of the NCAA tournament, has agreed to a new contract. Terms of the new deal
were not made public.

Odom completed his second season coaching the Retrievers, posting a
25-11 record, after going 21-13 in his first season in Catonsville, when the team
struggled to start the season. The Retrievers went 10-2 in
the bid; the program only won a combined 41 games in the seasons before his arrival. Odom’s official deal called for him to make $230,000 annually for seven years.
Howard County Opens Second Phase of Blandair Park

Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman was joined by county, state and local representatives at a ribbon-cutting on Saturday, March 10, to mark the opening of the second phase of Blandair Park, located on Davidsonville Road, is home to a large stream restoration project.

This project, including the realignment of Oaklands Mill Road from north of Kilmarno Road to east of Shadow Fall Terrace. New ramps from eastbound Route 175 (Rouse Parkway) to the park are under construction, roadway intersections, entrance parking lots and concrete sidewalk are part of this construction phase.

Cost of construction of the park’s phase two was $7.4 million; the road relocation and ramp connections to Route 175 cost $6.4 million.

Arundel Enters Into Negotiations to Purchase Turtle Run Property

Anne Arundel County has announced an agreement to purchase a 140-acre property in Churchton popularly known as Turtle Run at Deep Cove. The property, which sits in Franklin Point State Park, has been the subject of litigation between the developer and the citizen group South Arundel Citizens for Responsible Development (SACRED).

After 10-plus years of efforts, the project had received conditional approval to locate 11 homes on a 40-acre parcel along Deep Cove Creek. That decision was appealed by local residents and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and is now before the Anne Arundel County Board of Appeals.

Should the county obtain the property, it is anticipated that the area will be developed in activities like hiking, preservation of environmentally-sensitive features such as tidal and non-tidal wetlands that feed into Deep Cove Creek and conservation of habitat for species that require substantial stands of riparian forest and opportunities for major tree planting efforts.

As part of its sustainability efforts, the county will outfitted with fee-in-lieu money paid into an account when developers remove trees from their projects.

Arundel Announces $38.5 Million Upgrade to Bell Branch Park

Anne Arundel County has announced a $3.8 million turf field upgrade project at Bell Branch Park, in the Crofton/Gambrills area. The project consists of amenity upgrades at the baseball and softball turf fields to address field shortages in West County. The artificial turf fields will replace the grass fields, extend the playing day and reduce down time due to waterlogged playing surfaces or lack of grass.

Site amenities include improved field lighting, bleachers, scoreboards, pathways and goals. Bell Branch Park, which is located on Davidsonville Road, is home to the most number of turf fields in the county, a concession stand, a dog park, a paved trail, a pavilion and picnic areas.

Large Stream Restoration Project Planned for Three Columbia Villages

A large stream restoration project is planned during the next few years in the villages of Harper’s Choice, Town Center and Wilde Lake. The project is being con-
ducted by Columbia Association (CA), the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) and SHA contractor Econotone Inc. CA’s goal is to reduce the amount of trash flowing into Wilde Lake and Lake Kittamaqundi. All work is restricted to open space owned by CA. In total, approximately 6,691 feet of stream channel will be restored by this project. The project area will include the section of stream that flows under Little Patuxent Parkway in Kittamaqundi. The project will skip over Wilde Lake and the section of stream behind Green Mountain Circle and Faulkner Ridge Circle (which is owned by CA’s property) and then will start again at Has-
persus Drive.

Restoration work will continue on the sections of stream all the way from eastbound Oak Road to Howard County Parks and Recreation property at Cedar Lane Road. Restoration work will also occur on the tributary to Fallriver Row Count and Mystic Court.

The timeline for this project is be-
 tween two and three years. Planting has begun, and a design for the project should be available by summer. Permitting will include county, state and federal resource agencies and will take six months to a year to accomplish.

SHA is funding all aspects of this $2.2 million project, at no cost to CA, in exchange for stream restoration credits that will apply towards the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit that SHA is obligated to meet. Maintenance of the restored stream sections will be the responsibility of information, email CA’s Open Space and Facility Services Depart-
ment at OpenSpaceResourceRequests@ ColumbiaAssociation.org.

Howard County’s 50+EXPO to Celebrate 50+ Year’s of Vitality

Vendor and sponsorship applications are now being accepted for Howard County’s 20th annual 50+ EXPO, Presented by the Department of Aging, Children and Services, this event for older adults will take place Friday, Oct. 19, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at Wilde Lake High School, 14600 Annapolis Road.

Coordinated by the Department’s Office on Aging and Independence, the 50+ EXPO offers a unique marketing agency for older adults, caregivers, professionals and baby boomers.

Vendor information and forms are available on the Office on Aging and Independence’s website at www.howardcoun-
tygov/50plusexpo. All proceeds will benefit the Vivian L. Reid Community Fund. For more information, visit www.howardcountymd.gov/50plusexpo or call 410-442-3734 (voice) or email leoster@howardcountymd.gov.

Howard Rec & Parks Launch to Tennis Ball Recycling Program

As part of its sustainability efforts, Howard County’s Department of Recre-
ation & Parks is launching a tennis ball recycling program at Centennial Park. The program will keep used tennis balls out of the landfill and instead recycle them into a crumb rubber product that can be used to create a variety of green spaces. Two bins have been placed at Centen-
ial Park’s West and North Tennis courts, providing a convenient place for players to recycle their used tennis balls. Each

bin holds 200 tennis balls and when full, county staff will collect the tennis balls and ship them using pre-paid postage to RecycleBalls.

To learn more about the Tennis Ball Project, visit http://tennisballcourts.com.

SM in Improvements in Line for Baltimore & Annapolis Trail

Anne Arundel County will invest more than $13 million to improve the Baltimore & Annapolis (B&A) Trail and Earlleigh Heights Ranger Station, in Severna Park. The project includes $900,000 to improve the ranger station, which is the main access point to the trail, with the work beginning this summer. In addition, the county will make a $2.1 million, multi-year investment to repair the bridge over the Patuxent River.

The B&A Trail stretches 13 miles, from Boulters Way in Dorsey Road in Glen Burnie. The ranger station offers parking, and the park includes gardens and park benches are found at the Hanover-Regester Green property, which is also in Severna Park.

Kittleman Seeks Applicants for Consumer Protection Advisory Board

Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman is seeking applicants interested in serving on the Consumer Protection Advisory Board. The meetings are held on the first Wednes-
day of each month at 7 p.m., at the Office of Consumer Protection, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Columbia. Applicants interested in send a resume and brief letter to David Lee by email to diklee@how-
arcoundymd.gov or by mail to Howard County Government, Office of the County Executive, Attn: David Lee, 3340 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043.

The deadline to apply is Friday, April 20.

2018 Children’s Discovery Fair: Full STEAM Ahead

A celebration for children ages 3–5 and families—“Full STEAM Ahead”—is set for Saturday, April 14, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Cradlerock Elementary School, located at 6700 Cradlerock Way, Colum-
bia. This free event will include hands-on activities relating to preschool science, technology, engineering, arts and math concepts, including interactive games, songs, crafts and games. A new element to this year’s event is an opportunity for children ages 2–12 years old to participate in the state-wide science fair.

This event is part of the Launch into Learning school readiness initiative and is sponsored by the Howard County Early Childhood Advisory Council. For more information, call 410-313-1940 or e-mail children@howarcoundymd.gov.

Explore Columbia’s Sister Cities Without Leaving Columbia

An event highlighting the cultures of China, France, Ghana, Haiti and Spain will be held at the Cafe in Columbia on April 22. “Exploring Columbia’s Sister Cities: 5 Countries in 4 Hours!” is an afternoon of music, dance and other performances, as well as an interactive game. It will be held from 1–5 p.m. at the Lord & Taylor lower level court at the mall, 1030 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia.

The event features members of four sister cities — Cergy-Pontoise, France; Tema, Ghana; Cap-Haitien, Haiti; and Tres Cantos, Spain — plus Liyang, Chi-

nese county, which has been par-

tnered with Columbia’s fifth sister city.

In between performances, visitors can speak with representatives from the various sister cities, explore the different cultures, learn about local events, discover travel opportunities for youth and adults. For more information, visit ColumbiaAssociation.org/multicultural or call 410-715-3162.

CA Climate Change Advisory Committee Seeking Members

Columbia Association is looking for new members for its newly formed Climate Change and Sustainability Advisory Committee. Candidates with an interest and ex-
perience in climate change, environmental sustainability and community engagement are encouraged to apply.

Interested individuals should send a cover letter and resume by April 30 to Energy@ColumbiaAssociation.org.

Members are expected to attend bi-monthly committee meetings, engage the community, contribute thoughtfully to discus-
sions and documents being developed by the committee and provide support at committee events.

City of Laurel Schedules River Cleanup Day on April 7

With the City of Laurel gearing up for its annual Patuxent River Cleanup on Saturday, April 7, Mayor Craig Moe announced this would be the City of Laurel’s 14th consecutive year of participating in the statewide event, which is coordinated by the Patuxent Riverkeep-
ers. The staging area will be Riverfront Park, on Avondale Street, Laurel, at 9 a.m.

Volunteers will be asked to assist in removing trash and debris from the river, which will help the river flow better during rain events. Trash bags and gloves, along with some hand tools, will be provided. For additional information, contact the Laurel Department of Parks and Recreation at 301-725-7800.

City of Laurel’s 2018 Open House Rescheduled

The new date for the City of Laurel’s Open House is set for April 8, and the public is invited to meet local officials and connect with area organizations. Mayor Craig Moe and the Laurel City Council invite the public to attend from 1–4 p.m. at the Laurel Municipal Center, located at 10301 Sandy Spring Road, Laurel, at 9 a.m.

For additional information, contact Laurel’s Department of Parks and Recreation at 301-725-7800.

TowerCares Foundation Funds Cybecafes to Help Homeless Vets

The TowerCares Foundation donated $20,000 to the Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training (MCVET) to provide funds for three computer rooms at MCVET’s facility for homeless veterans in Baltimore. The new “cybecafes” are equipped with computers, printers, Wi-Fi, computer desks and chairs.

The computers and Internet access will help veterans residing at MCVET apply for jobs, increase work skills, learn new technologies and communicate with family and friends.

Energy@ColumbiaAssociation.org/multicultural or call 410-715-3162.

From left, Rick Stafford, TowerCares; Jeffery Kendrick, MCVET; and Dan Balkin and Al Smith of TowerCares.
The Business Monthly
April 2018
Page 29

Nonprofit News
from page 28

HCPSS Seeks Citizen Members for Ethics Panel
The Howard County Board of Edu-
cation is seeking citizens to serve on the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) Ethics Panel. A Howard County resident at least 18 years of age is eligible to serve on the Ethics Panel. Candidates cannot be an employee of the school system, an HCPSS student, an incumbent member of the Board of Edu-
cation, or an owner or individual employed by an entity doing business with the board. Appointees serve a five-year term. Those interested in serving on the Ethics Panel are asked to send a letter of interest and their résumé to the Office of the Superintendent, to the attention of Kimberly Clare @hcps.org or by mail to the HCPSS, 10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042. The deadline for sub-
misions is Monday, April 30. A complete copy of the Ethics Regulation is available at www.hcps.org/about-us/ethics-panel.

HICO Offering 200 Free Trees to Howard County Residents Via Foundation
The Howard Hughes Corp. (HICO) is providing 200 trees to residents of Howard County through its Howard County Tree Canopy Project, an Arbor Day Foundation program that helps expand the tree canopies of cities and towns across the United States. Howard County residents may reserve their trees at www.arborday.org/howardhughes.

Residents of Howard County can re-
serve up to two trees and are expected to care for and plant the trees, as specified by the planting instructions provided by the online tool. The types of trees offered include Eastern Redbud, Northern Red Oak, Red Maple, River Birch and White Dogwood.

The Community Canopy Project for Howard County will continue until all 200 trees are reserved. Once the two trees per order are reserved, the trees will be delivered directly to customers at an ideal time for planting.

CFHoCo to Hold 36th Annual Spring Valley
The Community Foundation of Howard County (CFHoCo), which raises, manages and distributes funds to support Howard County nonprofits, will hold its 36th annual Spring Valley Fundraising Auction on March 10, at 6 p.m., at the 10910 Clarksville Pike Technology Building at Howard Community College, Columbia.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Community Foundation. Admission is $50 per person, and includes a full buffet and open bar. For more information, tickets and sponsorship opportunities, visit www.cfho-co.org or call Alyson Lessor at 410-730-7840.

Verba Shadow Theatre to Perform at Rouse Theatre
The east coast debut of Verba Shadow Theatre, from Ukraine, will take place at The Jim Rouse Theatre at Wilde Lake High School, Columbia, on Saturday, June 30, at 7 p.m. The performance is part of the Rouse Festival of the Arts. Pioneers of this art form, Verba is a new family that takes its audience on a journey into an imagin-
 ativ e world through mesmerizing puppetry, light, shadow and beauty while visualizing various subjects taken from life, literature and film.

The shadow version of “Ti-
 Tanic” has more than 5 million views on YouTube, and the troupe has performed in India, Argentina, Ireland, Mexico and Peru. Verba recently appeared on “Ukraine’s Got Talent” and “Minute of Fame” in Russia. See its most recent work, celebrating the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in Pyeong Chang, at http://bit.ly/2HFpbo and its version of “Titanic” at http://bitly/2DGR.

The full schedule of 25-plus events to be held from June 14–30 at the 2018 Co-
 lumbia Festival of the Arts can be found at Columbiafestival.org.

Free Spring Classical Concerts at St. And
ing’s Chapel Church
St. Louis Church, in Clarksville, hosts its last two concerts of the season this spring with classical compositions, ranging from American to Asian. The Barclay Brass ensemble, St. Louis Choir and guest artists perform chants of the European Renaissance masters — at 7 p.m., on Sunday, April 22, at 4 p.m.

Then, violinist Destiny Mergmen and pianist Heather Adelberger perform a violin sonata by Charles Ives, and Henri Vieuxtemps “American Bouquet,” a vir-
 tuous suite based on American folk tunes, on Friday, May 11, at 7–30 p.m.

For more information, call 410-531-6040 or visit www.stlconcertseries.org.

HAC’s Plain Air Events Set for July 6–9
The Howard County Arts Council (HAC) is currently seeking artists to take part in the 36th annual HAC’s Plain Air Paint Out, sponsored by Howard County Tourism, the Ellicott City Partnership and the Howard County Public School System.

This year’s paint-out will take place from July 6–8. During the weekend, juried artists will set up their easels throughout the district and paint “the town” as they vie for a minimum of $2,000 in total awards. Community artists interested in participating are encouraged to join the Open Paint-Out taking place concurrently. The weekend also will include a “quick draw” competition.

On July 9, HAC will host a special reception from 6–8 p.m. to celebrate the opening of an exhibit of the juried artists’ work at the Howard County Center for the Arts. The exhibit will feature the selected pieces from the competition of more than 115 entries, the award winners and others. The opening of the juried artists’ exhibit will run through the weekend and conclude on Monday, July 9.

Entry information is available in the Exhibit Opportunities section at hacoarts.org or by calling 410-531-2787.

CAC Announces Holland Humanitarian Award Recipient, Keynote Speaker
The Community Action Council of Howard County (CAC) will host a luncheon in recognition of the 2018 Humanitarian, Holland Humanitarian Award recipient and a keynote speaker for the 23rd Annual Holland Awards Dinner. Your generosity will help the CAC to continue our mission of improving the quality of life for individuals and families in need. The luncheon will be held at 12 p.m., on Tuesday, June 12, at the LaSalle Room at the Westin Annapolis. Dr. Rekha M. Srinivasan, MD, will be the keynote speaker.

The CAC is seeking the support of communities of faith, individuals and businesses to help fund the program. The CAC’s 2018 Holland Humanitarian Award Luncheon is one of the largest city-wide events of its kind.

Whips Annual Plant Sale Set for May 11–12
On Friday, May 11, and Saturday, May 12, Ellicott City’s only public garden-park run entirely by volunteers, the Whips Garden Cemetery, will hold its annual fundraiser Plant Sale at the First Lutheran Church, located at corner of Chatham and Frederick roads, in Dunlapgton.

The sale features many unusual and hard to find perennials, bulbs, hanging baskets, butterfly, shade-loving and deer-resistant plants. Many of the plants are donated from the gardens of master gardeners. Free compost will be available on Saturday from noon–2 p.m.

Human Rights Commission Announces Winners of 2018 Human Rights Award
The Howard County Human Rights Commission has announced that Dr. Yen Li and The Build Haiti Foundation are the recipients of the 2018 Human Rights Award. Dr. Li has spent decades as an advocate for Chinese cultural inclusion in county schools and in the local health care sys-

LHC Recognizes Outstanding
Community Leaders
Leadership Howard County (LHC) will honor community leaders for their service at its Annual Awards Dinner & Graduation on June 12, at Ten Oaks Ballroom.

Distinguished Alumni: James R. Mox-
ley, III, principal, Security Development Corp.

Unsung Hero Award: Pete Mangione, general manager, Turf Valley Resort

Leadership Legacy Award: Vivian Churchill

The event also celebrates the gradua-
tion of the Leadership Premier and Essen-
tial Academy classes of 2018.

The event is open to the public; alumni and guests are invited. Tickets for the dinner are available at www.ledhc.org.
Howard Women’s Hall Adds Three

Howard County Opens Phase Two at Blandair

MarylandReporter.com Thanks Donors

Picking the Ceiling Clean at E.C. Pops

John Daly, Cordish, Putt It Out at Live! Casino & Hotel

Hetherington Named Influential Marylander

Firefighters Collaborate on ‘Adopt-A-School’ Initiative

Celebrating the Arts

brothers Addresses the Partnership

The Big Event Rocks Turf Valley

HCCC’s HerStory Leadership Conference

CMC Holds Spirit of Community Awards

The Business Monthly

The Howard County Chamber of Commerce’s (HCCC) annual Women’s Leadership Conference on March 8 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Columbia. Shown, from left, are Conference Co-Chair Nicole Mitchell, partner, Aromon; First Lady Yumi Hogan; Conference Co-Chair, Anna Fleeman Elhini, founder, Creativix; and HCCC President & CEO Leonardo McClarty. Photo: Pam Long Photography

Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman was joined by county, state and local representatives at a ribbon-cutting on Saturday, March 10, to mark the opening of the second phase of Blandair Park in Columbia. Later, Kittleman threw out the first pitch for a 14U baseball game.

Howard County’s Big Event on March 13, at Turf Valley Resort.

Rockville, the featured speaker at all the relationships at the heart of what we think about education, business and (LHC) members about changing the way more than 400 Leadership Howard County Academy, Atlanta, spoke to an audience of the stage, Ron Clark, of the Ron Clark Price Foundation, was the speaker at the John Brothers, president of the T. Rowe Partnership

Brothers Addresses the Partnership

John Brothers, president of the T. Rowe Price Foundation, was the speaker at the March breakfast of the BWI Business Partnership. The event was held at The Hotel at Arundel Preserve.

Jumping on tables and marching across the stage, Ron Clark, of the Ron Clark Academy, Atlanta, spoke to an audience of more than 400 Leadership Howard County (LHC) members about changing the way we think about education, business and all the relationships at the heart of what we do. Clark was the featured speaker at LHC’s Big Event on March 13, at Turf Valley Resort.

MarylandReporter.com Thanks Donors

Gov. Larry Hogan serves wine to guests at the recent MarylandReporter.com happy hour, with Comptroller Peter Franchot assisting. The event was held in early March at Harry Browne’s, in Annapolis. Photo: Glynis Kazanjian

Picking the Ceiling Clean at E.C. Pops

E.C. Pops in Ellicott City has been accepting donations during the past year for Blossoms of Hope (BOH) and hanging the money from the ceiling. E.C. Pops owners and staff, and BOH board members and friends, gathered to take down the more than $5,000 in bills which will be donated to BOH. Shown are, from left, Sherri Collins Wirzke, Vera Simmons, Regina Ford, Taylor Wildman, Michelle Wildman, Vic Broccoli, Doug Yeakey, Lance Sovine and Virginia Atkins.

Howard Women’s Hall Adds Three

The Howard County Women’s Hall of Fame inducted three women on Thursday, March 22. Shown, from left, are Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman; inductees Patricia Emard Greenwald, Debra Ann Slack Katz and Joan Webb Scornaieri; County Council Chair Mary Kay Sigaty; and County Councilmember Jon Weinstein.

Hetherington Named Influential Marylander

Kate Hetherington, president of Howard Community College (HCC), received the Central Maryland Chamber (CMC) rec-ognized 28 public servants at its annual Spirit of Community Awards Dinner on March 18 at Live! Casino & Hotel. Shown are Stuart Title, A.J. Properties, left; and Sonja Gladwin, right, Anne Arundel Community College, as they present the Middle School Educator of the Year award to Vickie Valentine. Photos: Nina K Photography

Firefighters Collaborate on ‘Adopt-A-School’ Initiative

Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services (HCFR) staff and Veterans Elementary School students are working collaboratively on the new “Adopt-a-School” program to link each Howard County elementary school with its neighborhood fire station.

The Business Monthly

The 21st Annual Celebration of the Arts in Howard County was held on March 24 at Howard Community College’s Horowitz Visual and Performing Arts Center. Receiving the Rising Star $5,000 scholarship was pianist Junghoon Park.

Celebrating the Arts

Celebration of the Arts Honorary Chairs Buddy and Sue Emerson and their family Shannon and Troy.

CMC Holds Spirit of Community Awards

The Central Maryland Chamber (CMC) recognized 28 public servants at its annual Spirit of Community Awards Dinner on March 18 at Live! Casino & Hotel. Shown are Sonja Gladwin, right, A.J. Properties, left; and Stuart Title, in bills which will be donated to BOH. Shown are, from left, Sherri Collins Wirzke, Vera Simmons, Regina Ford, Taylor Wildman, Michelle Wildman, Vic Broccoli, Doug Yeakey, Lance Sovine and Virginia Atkins.
Columbia’s Chenier Honored by Wizards

Long-time Columbia resident Phil Chenier was honored in late March by the Washington Wizards with the retirement of his jersey, No. 45, during a ceremony at Capital One Arena. Chenier has been affiliated with the organization for much of the time since he was drafted by the then-Baltimore Bullets in 1971.

Krulik Presents Sneak Preview of Belair at Bowie Film

Area filmmaker Jeff Krulik, right, is pictured with friends Kathy Minor and Mike Bargeron at the screening of recent updates to “Tales of Belair and Bowie,” his upcoming documentary, at the Bowie Center for Performing Arts. It will premier later this year.

Caps Score at USNA With Stadium Series Game

The NHL’s recent Stadium Series match at Navy-Marine Corps Stadium, in Annapolis, featured a dramatic opening ceremony, a big, festive crowd of 6,400 people. The event attracted over 700 volunteers at the event.

Mmmmm, Good: Comfort for the Palate on Soup’r Sundae

The 10th annual Soup’r Sundae fundraiser for Grassroots raised almost $40,000 for local restaurants providing soup and 80 student volunteers providing service. Sixteen local restaurants provided soup and 80 student volunteers provided service.

MFIC Posts Big in Annapolis

Many film industry professionals were on hand to support the Maryland Film Industry Coalition (MFIC) during testimony for SB 1154, which would continue support for the state’s film incentive program. Among those in attendance were, from left, Jose Sarmiento; Laura Gede; Jayme Gede; Serious Grip’s Daniel Stack; IATSE 487’s David O’Ferrall; Debbie Dorsey; Baltimore Film Office; and Jordan Somers.

New Elkridge Branch + DIY Education Center Opens

Howard County Library System (HCLS) opened the doors to the new Elkridge Branch + DIY Education Center on March 10. Among those on hand for the ribbon-cutting were, from left, HCLS Board of Trustees Chair Louise Reimer; Sen. Guy Guzzzone; Howard County Department of Community Resources and Services Director Jackie Scott; Del. Bob Flanagan; Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman; Councilman Calvin Ball; HCLS Interim President and CEO Ann Gilligan; HCLS Board of Trustees Vice Chair Richard Alexander; and Howard County Council Chair Mary Kay Sigaty. Three thousand people were welcomed on opening day.

Hogan Hails UMBC Men’s Basketball Team

Gov. Larry Hogan was recently paid a visit by the UMBC Retrievers men’s basketball team, which was fresh off of its stunning victory over the University of Virginia. The win marked the first time a No. 16 seed defeated a No. 1 seed in 34-year history of the 64-team men’s NCAA Tournament.

HC DrugFree Keeping Teens Safe

Ocean City Police Cpl. Howard Caplan and Howard County Public School System Administrator James McVey, representing the Ocean City Beach Patrol, joined HC DrugFree’s Joan Webb Scornaechi at the annual Senior Week: Staying Safe in O.C. program hosted by Howard High School’s principal Nick Novak.

Patapsco Middle Principal Wins State Award

Patapsco Middle School Principal Cynthia Dillon was named the 2018 Maryland Middle School Principal of the Year by the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals. Interim Superintendent Michael Martirano surprised Dillon with the announcement at the school in early March.

MFIC Posts Big in Annapolis

Many film industry professionals were on hand to support the Maryland Film Industry Coalition (MFIC) during testimony for SB 1154, which would continue support for the state’s film incentive program. Among those in attendance were, from left, Jose Sarmiento; Laura Gede; Jayme Gede; Serious Grip’s Daniel Stack; IATSE 487’s David O’Ferrall; Debbie Dorsey; Baltimore Film Office; and Jordan Somers.

HC DrugFree Keeping Teens Safe

Ocean City Police Cpl. Howard Caplan and Howard County Public School System Administrator James McVey, representing the Ocean City Beach Patrol, joined HC DrugFree’s Joan Webb Scornaechi at the annual Senior Week: Staying Safe in O.C. program hosted by Howard High School’s principal Nick Novak.

Patapsco Middle Principal Wins State Award

Patapsco Middle School Principal Cynthia Dillon was named the 2018 Maryland Middle School Principal of the Year by the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals. Interim Superintendent Michael Martirano surprised Dillon with the announcement at the school in early March.

MFIC Posts Big in Annapolis

Many film industry professionals were on hand to support the Maryland Film Industry Coalition (MFIC) during testimony for SB 1154, which would continue support for the state’s film incentive program. Among those in attendance were, from left, Jose Sarmiento; Laura Gede; Jayme Gede; Serious Grip’s Daniel Stack; IATSE 487’s David O’Ferrall; Debbie Dorsey; Baltimore Film Office; and Jordan Somers.
We Handle Your IT Needs
while you run your business

Meet your IT department
CMIT Solutions is your local resource for IT Support, IT Solutions, IT Services, Proactive Computer Care, Backup & Business Continuity, and Cloud Computing. Our experts can also help you specify, purchase and install all the hardware that you need.

Our mission is to worry about information technology (IT), so you don’t have to. We provide managed IT services that keep your business running while you run your business.

Our Promise to You
We make sure your technology is working for you, not holding you back.
We are competent, reliable and affordable providing you with practical solutions and proven results. We ensure your information is secure and available when and where you need it and we can help you plan your business’s future technology.

— Tom Burtzlaff, president

Your Solution for ...
Cloud Computing
Virtualization
Disaster Recovery
Mac Support
Business Continuity
Email Archiving
Network Administration
Anti-Spam Software
Remote Backup
Outsourced IT Support
Proactive Monitoring
VOIP Solutions

Contact your IT department
443-542-5553
cmitsolutions.com/columbia

CMIT Solutions of Columbia | 800-399-CMIT | Individually Owned and Operated