New Developer Chosen for Howard Circuit Courthouse

Howard County is one step closer to getting a new Circuit Courthouse following the County Council’s July 27 approval of a multi-year contract for construction, maintenance and operation of a new facility to be built on the site of the current Thomas Dorsey Building, on Bendix Road.

District 2 Councilman Calvin Ball cast the sole vote in opposition to the District 2 Councilman Calvin Ball cast the sole vote in opposition to the ESJP was chosen as the best value for the project, submitted by Bethesda-based Edgemoor-Star America Judicial Partners (ESJP), includes a 237,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art building that enhances safety and security, and resolves other deficiencies in the existing courthouse, which was built 175 years ago.

ESJP was chosen as the winning bidder from an original list of nine applicants that was culled to three primary contenders earlier this year, culminating a procurement process that started in July 2017. “Ultimately the proposal from Edgemoor-Star was chosen as the best value for the county,” said Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman.

The developer is required to use minority and veteran-owned businesses for construction, operations, maintenance and supplies, with the project requiring a minimum 15% subcontracting goal. ESJP will finance the full cost of construction, operations, maintenance and supplies, with the project requiring a minimum 15% subcontracting goal. ESJP will finance the full cost of construction, operations, maintenance and supplies, with the project requiring a minimum 15% subcontracting goal.

The design of the new Howard County Circuit Courthouse addresses deficiencies that hamper safety and security at the existing, 175-year-old facility.

Inside This Issue

What’s Going Up
Numerous local construction projects are on the rise. Need a list to count the additional square footage? Page 2

Evolution in Crofton
The solid economy means that long-planned projects are moving forward in Crofton; that has the locals concerned about aesthetics, density and traffic patterns. Page 3

Gettin’ Around Howard
Local officials are working with the Downtown Columbia Partnership to finalize the transportation management plan. Page 8

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Community-Supported Ag Boosting Farm Revenue

By Susan Kim, STAFF WRITER

While local farmers have been challenged by a cold, wet spring that’s been followed by summer heat waves, they’ve been boosted by growing participation in Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA), a concept that many farmers say has become a financial base for their operations.

CSA is based on a system in which a farm is supported by people within the community who share the benefits, as well as the risks, of food production. It calls for consumers to subscribe to the harvest of their local farms; during the past several years, as CSAs have become more popular, they have expanding from offering just vegetables to also include meat, honey and other products.

At Clark’s Elissak Farm, in Ellington City, the spring harvest ran a few weeks behind the norm, said Nora Crist, who represents the seventh generation of the family to operate the farm. “CSAs are very valuable to a farm, es-

Nothing Done

In a recent press release, Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman and the Howard County Council stated that there were no options other than filing a suit in mid-July. Howard County government following suit in mid-July. The separation has resulted in the muting of the D.C. Metroplex BWI Community Roundtable, which the FAA dictated be created to foster that very line of communication. The group will still meet, albeit less frequently.

While the controversy caused by the noise has been discussed and debated, roundtable members are wondering what to do after Howard County has requested that the FAA promptly restore flight paths at Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI Marshall) to their pre-NextGen status and evaluate new routes, as required by federal statutes.

The jet noise is loud. And it’s been constant. For about three years.

And while the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has engaged the community about the issues caused by its estimated $36 billion NextGen flight control system — though with no results — the FAA recently disengaged from talks with the locals in late June after the state filed an administrative petition, with Howard County government following suit in mid-July.

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Howard County resident Phyllis Weller picks up beets from Gorman Farms.

The Solid Economy Means That Long-Planned Projects Are Moving Forward In Crofton; That Has The Locals Concerned About Aesthetics, Density And Traffic Patterns. Page 3

The Solid Economy Means That Long-Planned Projects Are Moving Forward In Crofton; That Has The Locals Concerned About Aesthetics, Density And Traffic Patterns. Page 3


The Region’s Construction: What’s New, What’s Staging

By George Berkheimer, Senior Writer

Activity is on the increase for construction crews and development teams throughout Howard and Anne Arundel counties.

Herein is a review of the latest development application activity in each county, along with highlights provided by economic development administrators as well as planning and zoning officials, show what’s in store in the residential and commercial markets.

Anne Arundel

A new Health Sciences & Biology Building is on the books for Anne Arundel Community College’s Arnold campus, with demolition of an existing building having already occurred. And though not yet approved, a recently submitted Phase 2 application targets relocation of an existing ring road, utilities and parking in preparation for Phase 3, which will deliver 175,210 square feet of new space in preparation for Phase 3, which will have already occurred. And though not yet approved, a recently submitted Phase 2 application proposing to develop a 22,000-square-foot addition to accommodate adding a second sheet of ice to the existing ice skating rink. The project is also moving ahead to the grading and building permit process.

In the nearby Waugh Chapel Town Center II Business Park, developer Greenberg Gibbons received approval to amend the proposed site, creating four additional lots for a total of five lots.

Howard Residential

In Howard County, development is approved for 509 residential dwelling units, 54,244 square feet of net new retail space and 113,402 square feet of net new office space on the 12 acres composing Columbia’s Lakefront Core Neighborhood.

According to Howard County Planning Manager Kent Sheebrooks, the Planning Board approved a Final Development Plan for the Howard Research & Development Corp. project on June 21.

Elicit City-based Security Development Corp. is poised to begin construction on The Wexley at 100, previously known as The Park at Locust Thicket, located at the intersection of Routes 100 and 103. "The development is approved for 394 apartment units,” Sheebrooks said, with the site development plan showing nine proposed buildings.

In his May 2018 community bulletin, Howard County District 2 Councilman Calvin Ball noted that no site development plan submittals have been received for the office and retail portion of this project, but are expected in the future.

Several age-restricted adult apartment units have also been proposed for Howard County. They include a 134-unit project proposed by developer Dorsey Overlook/Kirby Development; the project will require Conditional Use approval by the hearing examiner.

Forest Brook, another conditional use project, has been approved by the hearing examiner. The 24-unit project will incorporate the historic Wildwood House site in Kings Contrivance.

Howard Commercial

Public and commercial projects currently under construction in Howard County include continued Merriweather Post Pavilion renovation and upgrades; the 116,633-square-foot Hanover Hills Elementary School No. 42, at Oxford Square in Elkridge; and the 103,172-square-foot Maple Lawn Office Building no. 9, scheduled for completion this summer; along with the 29,560-square-foot Office Building no. 15, which is slated for completion in the first quarter of 2019.

Meanwhile, plans have also been approved for a 78,972-square-foot, 103-room Kirkby Development; the project will incorporate the historic Wildwood House site in Kings Contrivance.

Meanwhile, plans have also been approved for a 78,972-square-foot, 103-room Residence Inn Hotel, in Maple Lawn, with construction anticipated to begin this summer.

Phase 2 of Columbia’s Crescent Neighborhood, approved for 112,346 square feet of cultural and community use, will also provide 202 residences on 2.89 acres of land.

“The site development plan received Planning Board approval in March for 104,692 square feet of net new cultural center space, which includes a dinner theater, black box theater, studios, classrooms, gallery space, office and lobby/reception area, 192 new residential apartment units and a 733-space parking garage,” Sheebrooks said.

Sheppard Pratt Health System has also received approval for a 155,109-square-foot, 85-bed behavioral health facility at the intersection of routes 103 and 1, and is pursuing subdivision plans for a nearby Pavilion at Elkridge Medical Office Building.

Although approval has been granted for Building IX of the Emerson Corporate North campus, adding 184,176 square feet of commercial office space with associated parking, the project is currently on hold until spring 2019.

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What’s New in Crofton? Plenty, That’s What

By Mark R. Smith, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

These are interesting days in Crofton. Know that the Brightview Crofton Riverwalk, a senior community with a convalescence center and commercial space, is rising along the southern side of Route 3, across from Crofton’s iconic main gates.

On the (roughly) northwest to southeast side of Crofton’s triangle, Route 424 has been home to elementary and middle schools for decades; today, at Riedel Road, expansion of the Crofton Care & Rehabilitation Center is ongoing, as is the Spring Arbor senior living project further down Riedel, at Johns Hopkins Road.

Then, back on Route 424, is the construction, about a mile southeast, of the long-awaited Crofton High School. Another half-mile down the highway, at the intersection of Route 424 at Route 450, grading is underway for a High’s convenience store, with several gas pumps. That’s across Route 450 from the Staples Corner strip center, which already has a Paseeway that offers gas.

Then, back to Route 3, there’s the ongoing saga of The Enclave, a long-discussed residential project that would be wedged into the north side of Route 3, on the south side of Crofton’s aforementioned main gates, at the Crawford Boulevard intersection. Community activists have long fought the project, which has received waivers and modifications from the county planning and zoning, as well as considerable pushback from the community.

All of the development has aroused community concerns in what’s considered a growth area, yet has a scant amount of buildable land.

The Overview

Also key in this mix is the community of Two Rivers, which is about two miles west of Crofton, down an extension of Route 424 that is well along in adding 2,000 homes to West County. That means more cars and more students; it’s already estimated that Crofton High School will be at capacity when it opens in fall 2020, and local elementary schools are already at capacity, too.

It’s a headache-inducing scenario to the natives like Marsha Perry, a former state delegate and a long-time champion of her adopted hometown. She’s most concerned about what adding The Enclave to the community would do for Crofton’s aesthetic, quality of life and property values. Perry said plans for The Enclave were under the radar when the community found out that the office of former Anne Arundel Planning & Zoning head Larry Tom was giving waivers and modifications at will.

So the county was excusing local developer and Crofton resident Bill Berk & Zoning head Larry Tom “was giving modifications and waivers at will. Yet even the best of friends, with the best business plan, and the best intentions, need to follow best practices.

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“Pinky swear doesn’t cut it anymore. My attorney has a few documents for you to sign.”

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Delicate Issue

Former CCA President Bob Duckworth focused on the current realities within and around his home of 50 years.

“Crofton is a growth area, and we’re seeing the effects of that fact. Berkshire wanted a hotel [where The Enclave would go] at one point,” Duckworth said. “We saw the development that was planned when we moved in, but we never thought we’d have the Route 3 backups, chokepoints at the two Waugh Chapel centers, a dangerous intersection at Route 3, and the congestion at routes 424 and 450.”

As for The Enclave, he thinks the community wants the front gate to remain the friendly, open space it’s always been. “Instead, we have a project that is radically different and not as welcoming. It makes Crofton look like a different place.”

“The Enclave is not becoming to the front gate of Crofton; it’s going to look jammed in there. What it is now respects open space,” he said. “I can’t understand why anyone would want to live in that environment.”

Duckworth doesn’t know the solution to the issue, and he’s “not sure it can be solved.”

“Having to make a U-turn to get out of The Enclave, for instance, would create a bottleneck on Crofton Parkway. And it would make it almost impossible to ever expand Route 3, which has been discussed. “It’s important that the community buy into this,” said Duckworth. “Development is healthy for the tax base, but it needs to fit the needs of the community and respect the value of Crofton.”

Change Happens

What it comes down to for Reilly, a 31-year Crofton resident, is that people generally don’t like change.

“Twelve years ago [when they were councilmembers], Cathy Vitale and I sponsored a bill to require developers to hold pre-submission hearings, but planning and zoning has also offered waivers on projects, which is allowable by county code. “The problem” said Reilly, “is that the community doesn’t necessarily hear what was modified or waived, because it’s not readily available. You have to follow that online.”

This circumstance is nothing new, he said, “but we, the people, never expect the waivers. I’m an absolute supporter of property rights, but they come with limitations and expectations. And code has been refined during the past 40 years to put appropriate development in appropriate places.”

Reilly doesn’t feel there should be any extra considerations for developers and builders beyond the code, “because that’s what we’re supposed to live by,” he said.

“Over the years, I’ve heard many developers plead for predictability; that’s fair enough. But I expect the administration to give that to the citizens, too. It all goes back to the executive coordinating with the departments.”

And as for the traffic, he acknowledged that it’s time to invest in the infrastructure “all across the county. That has to take place during the next few years,” Reilly said. “And the money has been set aside, in various pockets.”

Concerning keeping the community informed, the latest on The Enclave, said Perry, is a recent letter to citizens from new Anne Arundel County Planning and Zoning Officer Phil Hager that said he has received requests for modifications to remove several trees from the top of Crawford Boulevard for The Enclave.

“And they were all denied, under the fourth conservation act — and due to citizen outcry,” said Perry. “So that saved several trees.”

While reducing (or even preventing) the project “may be a dream,” Perry said, “it’s still a dream worth fighting for.”

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From page 3

Crofton

section of Crawford and Route 3, which is already a parking lot,” she said, “and the Riverwalk will add about 3,000 more.”

At that intersection, ingress and egress needed also would be problematic. [Huecker] and I met with the fire marshal, and he said the project doesn’t meet national fire code. Just picture a hook and ladder getting in and out of there on that slope. With a failing intersection,” Perry said, “how can the State Highway Administration and the county allow more development there?”

‘Quantity, Not Quality’
The main issue in Crofton “is that zoning was a land use technique established a century ago and primarily regulates quantity, not quality” said long-time Crofton resident Bob DiAiso, former president of CCA and a member of the most recent Crofton Small Area Plan committee.

“The Enclave is proposing to force units on a site that is not suited to accommodate them,” said DiAiso. “That’s like trying to put two pounds in a one-pound bag.”

He also said he’s “very concerned” about all of the traffic not only on Route 3, but also Route 424 and Route 450. “Consider that anyone going to Annapolis from the immediate Route 3 area during the morning peak hour will take Route 424 and Route 450 to get there. Then combine new growth traffic with school buses for two existing schools, and the new high school,” said DiAiso, “and you have the ingredients for gridlock.”

For the new High Five convenience store, County Councilman Jerry Walker (District 7) said the parcel on Route 450 was zoned commercial when he entered office. He’s met with High 5’s [which received a special exemption to build the office. He’s met with High’s [which re] served a bill to require developers to hold pre-submission hearings, but planning and zoning has also offered waivers on projects, which is allowable by county code. “The problem” said Reilly, “is that the community doesn’t necessarily hear what was modified or waived, because it’s not readily available. You have to follow that online.”

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AUTHORITY COMMITTEE TO ELECT ALLAN KITTLEMAN, BRADLEY MYERS, TREASURER
Elliott City’s Main Street Open

Elliott City’s Main Street reopened to two-way vehicular and pedestrian traffic on Friday, July 20. It had been closed to through traffic since the flash flood of May 27. Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman also signed an executive order ending the State of Emergency 10 days earlier than was authorized by the county council.

While Main Street is open, parking is prohibited between Maryland Avenue and Old Columbia Pike; short-term parking only will be allowed in that area, and only for loading and unloading. Parking on Main Street west of Old Columbia Pike will be allowed.

Kittleman cautioned that the lower end of Main Street remains active with contractors and equipment. As construction continues, it may be necessary to impose temporary restrictions and changes throughout the flood-damaged area.

Changes to traffic patterns could include one-way traffic, detours, lane closures, flagging operations and complete closure of the roadway.

Motorists are encouraged to use caution and hold speeds below the posted 25 miles per hour speed limit. Elliott City business

ees with any ongoing or unmet needs should contact the Howard County Economic Development Authority at 410-313-6500.

Federal Disaster Declaration, Assistance Approved by FEMA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has issued a disaster declaration for the devastating storm and flooding caused by the storm are at more than $10.5 million in Howard County and $8.6 million in Baltimore County — which far exceed local public assistance thresholds.

Based on the disaster declaration for the May 27–28 event, federal public assistance funding is available to state and local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work; and to access federal public assistance funding for emergency work, and the repair or replacement of damaged buildings and infrastructure.

Funding is also available through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which provides grants to states and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration in order to reduce the loss of life and property in future disasters.

AAMC Selects TierPoint’s Baltimore-Area Data Center for IT Services

Anne Arundel Medical Center (AAMC), of Annapolis, has chosen TierPoint’s newest data center in BWI Technology Park for colocation and disaster recovery services. The new, carrier-neutral facility in St. John Properties’ BWI Technology Park features approximately 15,000 square feet of total space, including infrastructure support, office and shared workspace for clients, and 23,000 square feet of raised floor.

The developer constructed the building with custom-designed features so the facility meets stringent regulatory compliance standards, with fully redundant and generator-backed power, diverse high-speed network connectivity and multi-layer physical security.

The new structure will be 120 feet longer and 4 feet higher to enable BWI Transportation to add future rail lines, a rail service road and added height to allow for double stacked freight cars.

The wider structure will accommodate more shoulders, as well as a new left-turn lane northbound through the intersection to accommodate double stacked freight cars. The bridge project also includes new retaining walls along Route 1 and reconstruction of the Clark Boulevard intersection to accommodate the new left-turn traffic movement. The bridge will remain open to traffic during three stages of construction.

Motorists can expect temporary lane closures and traffic shifts in both directions of U.S. 1 throughout the project. Crews will work Sunday night through Friday morning between 7 p.m. and 5 a.m. the next day, as well as Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. MDOT SHA’s contractor is Lane Construction Co., of Glen Burnie.

Maryland Congressional Delegation Urges DHS to Evaluate Statewide Election Systems

The Maryland Congressional Delegation has urged Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen to respond favorably to Maryland’s request for technical assistance to review and protect the state’s electoral systems.

Gov. Larry Hogan, Senate President Mike Miller and House Speaker Michael Busch jointly made the initial request to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) after it was revealed that a Russian oligarch close to Vladimir Putin has an ownership interest in AltIP Capital Partners, which is a majority owner of ByteGrid Holdings, which owns ByteGrid.

ByteGrid hosts Maryland’s statewide voter registration, candidacy and election management system, the online voter registration system, the online ballot delivery system and the unofficial election night results website. The state of Maryland is seeking support in evaluating what if any systems may have been compromised.

The full letter can be found at www.cardin.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/sf%20request%202018%20and%20%20elections%20determinations%20letter.pdf.

Brain Training of Maryland Expands Services, Launches Brain Train America

Brain Training of Maryland, a provider of brain training programs for people of all ages, has expanded its service offerings nationwide and is now operating under the name Brain Train America.

This new brand helps clients quickly enhance brain function, achieving lasting effects by exercising the brain with mental and physical activities that focus on auditory processing, memory, attention and sequencing. The new name and logo is the outcome of the company’s broadening of the United States.

Brain Train America uses brain training to produce positive results for memory, attention and more. Clients include young athletes looking to sharpen their reaction times and processing speeds, and senior citizens hoping to keep their minds quick in a fast-moving world.

The company also works with clients to overcome challenges they face with

See BizRoundup, page 10

Change of Command at Fort Meade

Col. Erich Spragg has assumed command of Fort Meade. Spragg is the 86th Fort Meade commander and will replace Col. Thomas Rickard who has been the installation commander since August 2016. Rickard’s next duty assignment will be with U.S. CyberCommand.

Spragg comes to Fort Meade directly after earning his master’s degree in International Security Affairs from the National Defense University (NDU). At the graduate of Clemson University, he holds a Bachelor of Art’s degree in Political Science, as well as a master’s degree in Public Policy Administration.

Prior to attending NDU, Spragg served as chief of the Knowledge and Analysis Section (KAS), NATO Rapid Deployment Corps, in Turkey.

A military intelligence officer, Spragg’s operational deployments include Operation Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn. His awards and decorations include a Bronze Star with one oak leaf cluster, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Army Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Combat Action Badge and the Parishant Badge.
Q&A With RCA Interventionist Joani Gammill

By Mark R Smith, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Joani Gammill worked as a hospital R.N. before she went on to the next chapter of her career, which is the source of no small amount of irony in her story as a recovering addict: working seven years as a nurse in an in-patient alcohol/drug rehab center at The Hope House, in Crownsville, before moving into the intervention sector. At that point, she worked for noted fellow interventionist and author Ken Seeley and Intervention911, facilitating the process for two years before opening her company, Joani the Interventionist. She ran that enterprise for 12 years before joining Recovery Centers of America (RCA) earlier this summer.

Gammill is well-versed in the field, and has remained current in all her talking points. She said her second book, “PainKillers, Heroin, and the Road to Sanity,” is about opioids and their hold on society from ancient times to today.

In her new position at RCA, she’s still working as an interventionist while she takes courses at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC), where she is working on her Certified Associate Counselor/Alcohol and Drug certificate. Gammill is a member of the Association of Intervention Specialists and the National Association for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors. A graduate of Yavapai Community College, in Arizona, she also attended the University of Maryland Baltimore.

What’s your history with addiction? It stems from sexual abuse during my childhood; I started smoking pot at 15, then moved on to cocaine, but it was in fits and starts. I suffered from alcohol addiction in my 20s, but gave it up.

I didn’t have any further issues until my 30s, when I injured my back, which I didn’t have any further issues until my 30s, when I injured my back, which I injured my back, which I injured my back, which I was my saw that my back and another spine after. I turned my life to work with one person the public perception of addiction is not a cause for shame, but rather a brain disorder.

Are government efforts to stop the drug addiction really helping? The War on Drugs has been going on for a long time. On the street it is common to find fentanyl laced with animal tranquilizers in the heroin, and people are dying. That brings attention to that part of the issue, but lets me tell you that alcohol is still taking more lives than anything else. I’d say 80% of my calls are alcohol-related.

Have you seen many areas of improve- ment concerning how local and state governments are combating the opioid epidemic? They’re trying. [Maryland Gov. Larry] Hogan has allocated a considerable amount of money to many hospitals in the state, and some of that money has been invested in local efforts for peer recovery support staff. That works well, because those people are in the hospital, and the resources they need are immediately available.

What are your thoughts on Anne Arundel County’s efforts to address the addiction issue via its expansion on the grounds of the former Crownsville State Hospital? I think it’s great. Much of that property has been vacant for years, it would be a fine usage for the county and the state, and it is very much needed. I know that developers have been trying to get in there, so now’s the time.

Where do you think we’ll be in three years regarding the opioid epidemic? I think it’ll be better because law enforcement has moved closer to the source of the fentanyl that is being brought into the country. That’s a main reason people are dying, and by stopping its production and distribution, they can stop the flow. The availability of Narcan is another step forward. The War on Drugs has been going on for a long time.

What led you to your TV and media appearances? I don’t really know. I was doing a 12-step program, but was also working one day when I answered a hotline from a woman who was sick. Then I got a call from a producer for “Dr. Phil,” and he asked if we could get her on the show. We were able to, and I saw the entertainment angle train wreck of these programs, but they also paid for rehab that most people would never be able to afford. They left me interviewable, and when they pushed all my buttons on live television, Dr. Phil changed my life. However, I will say that his emotional approach doesn’t work in the outside world.

Do you aspire to have your own media outlet? No. I’m a single mom and have two high functioning autistic kids to take care of.

What are your thoughts about the trend of treating addiction and mental illness as one, which is occurring with Anne Arundel Health System’s (AAHS) recent addition of a mental health facility at its Pathways recovery center? I think it’s wonderful, because AAHS closed down a mental health center in its old downtown Annapolis hospital. That is three murders at The Capital in late June make me feel that it’s time to refocus on that part of the equation.

What percentage of people do you think can take opioids without concern about addiction or overdosing? I’d say about 90% can take them and be fine.

How might you estimate your success rate? Ninety-five percent, which I attribute to having my books to share. Nationally, that number is 85%.

Do you feel progress is being made regarding the stigma of addiction? I do. What’s offered now is something my parents never had access to.

What would be an ideal situation in regards to government and business partnering to confront addiction? Many private rehab centers don’t want money from the government, because then they are obligated to follow government regulations, which they don’t always want to do. In that case, they have to take methodone patients and those who are just out of jail, who may not mix well with the general population of their communities. I’m not saying they don’t deserve treat-

See Gammill, page 10

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Joani Gammill worked as a hospital R.N. before she went on to the next chapter of her career, which is the source of no small amount of irony in her story as a recovering addict: working seven years as a nurse in an in-patient alcohol/drug rehab center at The Hope House, in Crownsville, before moving into the intervention sector. At that point, she worked for noted fellow interventionist and author Ken Seeley and Intervention911, facilitating the process for two years before opening her company, Joani the Interventionist. She ran that enterprise for 12 years before joining Recovery Centers of America (RCA) earlier this summer.

Gammill is well-versed in the field, and has remained current in all her talking points. She said her second book, “PainKillers, Heroin, and the Road to Sanity,” is about opioids and their hold on society from ancient times to today.

In her new position at RCA, she’s still working as an interventionist while she takes courses at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC), where she is working on her Certified Associate Counselor/Alcohol and Drug certificate. Gammill is a member of the Association of Intervention Specialists and the National Association for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors. A graduate of Yavapai Community College, in Arizona, she also attended the University of Maryland Baltimore.

What’s your history with addiction? It stems from sexual abuse during my childhood; I started smoking pot at 15, then moved on to cocaine, but it was in fits and starts. I suffered from alcohol addiction in my 20s, but gave it up.

I didn’t have any further issues until my 30s, when I injured my back, which led to fusion surgeries and eventually to my dependence on OxyContin and other opiates. That spurred me to go from doctor to doctor for prescription medications — which you can’t do today.

I then experienced 10 years of hell, when I was in and out of rehab. The four months that I was last in treatment was what turned me around, as did my son’s autism. I realized that, having lost both parents to substance abuse, my son wouldn’t move forward without my being sober. And I didn’t want to die like my parents.

What led to your joining RCA? What I was charging with my company is less than what bigger companies charge, but my eventual goal is just to work for RCA, where there is no charge due to what is often a cumbersome intervention process. And I enjoyed being part of a core and a subculture when I was an R.N., so the camaraderie is part of that, too.

What is your opinion of what is being done locally to combat addiction? My opinion is less than what bigger companies charge, but my eventual goal is just to work for RCA, where there is no charge due to what is often a cumbersome intervention process. And I enjoyed being part of a core and a subculture when I was an R.N., so the camaraderie is part of that, too.

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Columbia Draft Transportation Demand Management Plan Unveiled

By George Berkheimer, Senior Writer

Howard County’s Office of Transportation (OOT) is working with the Downtown Columbia Partnership (DTCP) to finalize a Transportation Demand Management Plan (TDMP) called for in the 2010 Downtown Columbia Plan.

At a public meeting in July, representatives from both organizations presented and discussed the draft TDMP, the first plan of its kind in the Baltimore region.

Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies encourage people to take transit, rideshare, walk, bike and telework as a means to reduce the number of motor vehicles on roadways.

“TDM is a critical piece of the planning for Downtown Columbia,” said Clive Graham, OOT administrator. “The TDMP sets up an accounting process for travel trip generation, so we can learn the management techniques that will be most effective in Columbia’s unique urban environment.”

The TDM concept is not very widespread, Graham said, but it has caught on in places across the nation with high real estate demands and high traffic volumes, showing up in areas like Montgomery County, Northern Virginia and Silicon Valley.

“A lot of jurisdictions are just figuring it out, and there’s now a national movement to define it at a national level,” said Howard County TDMP Specialist Allison Calkins.

Targeted Reduction

Howard County’s TDMP is based on a traffic study that accompanied the Downtown Plan and includes a trip generation reduction of 15% for TDM.

Absurd that reduction, the amount of development envisioned under the Downtown Plan could cause congestion exceeding the standard established in the plan, meaning road improvements, some of which will be very costly, may be needed sooner than envisioned.

On the flip side, exceeding the 15% standard could very well reduce congestion, deferring or potentially eliminating the need for additional road improvements.

According to the draft plan, property owners with site development plans proposed under the Downtown Columbia Plan will submit property-specific TDM statements, as part of required traffic impact studies.

These statements will look beyond the current statements required in traffic studies, to include metrics such as transportation mode-split objectives for pedestrian and bicycle trips, vehicular trip reduction, action plans, identification of responsible implementation parties, and methods and timelines for monitoring and reporting. The OOT will review and approve property-specific statements.

Beginning three years after a use and occupancy permit is issued, these property owners will submit monitoring reports to the OOT every three years, reviewing the performance of the property. No further monitoring will be required for properties

Absent that reduction, the amount of development envisioned under the Downtown Plan could cause congestion exceeding the standard established in the plan, meaning road improvements, some of which will be very costly, may be need-
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Howard County

A Message From HCEDA CEO Larry Twele

There was a time when the dog days of summer would meander into a more sedated pace. It seems however, that those days are long gone.

From an economic development perspective, business continues to be brisk, regardless of the season. We continue to see the local business base expand, the unemployment rate fall and vacancy rates across the county staying low, even as new inventory comes to the market. In a recent report issued by Mackenzie Commercial Real Estate Services, Columbia was cited as the most active office market in the region.

The data speaks for itself: Howard County’s unemployment rate has settled to the lowest in the state at 3%, bringing Marylanding of this area will bring new redevelop development of the local economy — but, we see an attractive choice for those seeking the live-work-play lifestyle. This will draw up both large government agencies and their ability to attract talent from across the county.

This talent continues to develop startups around the breakthrough technology that is being developed each day. DataTrib, a leading cybersecurity accelerator, recognized the talent and growth in Howard County and established its national base of operations here. In just a few short years, it spun out several nationally-recognized cyber companies that have raised millions in capital to help solve issues of critical importance.

Back at Gateway

As we work to ensure that Howard County can maintain its strong position as a regional economic powerhouse, a new plan to position the Columbia Gateway Office Park for future growth is emerging. At the same time, Gateway will continue to attract new and innovative companies, such as Intralixtry, and the Axis Research & Training Center, which support life-saving technologies developed by the local company ACell Corp., which is also based in the park.

The health of Howard County’s economy has long been driven by its diverse small business community. We recognize that long-term economic growth and prosperity is rooted in the ability of that base to expand and prosper. One of the most exciting projects we are working on is the Gateway Innovation Center, which will help to further accelerate and support entrepreneurship and innovation in the county.

This center will house not just the HCEDA’s Maryland Center for Entrepreneurship and Howard Tech Council (HTC), but will also host strategic partners and educational institutions such as Howard Community College, research and development partners, accelerators and other partners serving the startup community. Through the resources available from these partners and the innovative programing provided by our HTC, this center will become a key tool for small businesses across the county. Collectively, we will set a new standard as an innovation hub for the entire region. We expect to begin renovations late this fall and will open by the second quarter of 2019.

Thumb’s Up

While we see many positive indicators and remain bullish on our local economy, we keep a watchful eye on external factors. Conditions that may have an adverse effect on the development of the local economy — but, we know that the sentiment of this business community continues to remain optimistic.

Through our strong partnerships with the county’s chamber and the community college, we look forward to supporting and celebrating the growth of our business community in the year to come.

For more information on the HCEDA’s programs and services, visit www.hceda.com.

Anne Arundel County

A Message From AAEDC CEO Julie Mussog

This year marks the Anne Arundel Economic Development Corp.’s (AAEDC) 25th anniversary. To mark the occasion, the airport was an attractive factor in both deals.

In the Capital

In Annapolis, a refurbished Hilton Garden Inn will be back on-line for travelers in the coming weeks. The West Street property, formerly known as the O’Callaghan Hotel, was purchased last fall by OTO Development, a private hotel group based in Spartanburg, S.C.

Some landmark hotels were also acquired in the past few months. Crescent Real Estate, of Fort Worth; and Hershia Hospitality Trust, of Philadelphia, closed deals for the Westin Hotel at Park Place and the Annapolis Waterfront Hotel, respectively. More recently, Adventurous Journeys Capital acquired the Loews Annapolis Hotel. The company plans to upgrade the property and incorporate it under its Graduate Hotel brand, which targets college towns across the nation.

Annapolis’s educational institutions and government presence, as well as its reputation as a popular leisure destination, all figure prominently in the hotels’ strong occupancy rates, making these deals high-value investments.

What’s New

Resales were not the only good news in the hospitality industry, as last month marked the opening of the new Live! Hotel & Conference Center, at Annel Mills. This $200 million investment by the Cordish Companies adds a luxury hotel with more than 300 rooms, world-class amenities and a large event venue to the entertainment options at Live! Casino. Less than a mile away, a Hospitality International will soon open a 119-room Cambria Hotel & Suites, at Milestone Parkway and Arundel Mills Boulevard. The property is the sixth hotel to serve travelers in the busy Annel Mills district.

We expect to see similar strong investment in Anne Arundel County continue through the rest 2018 across a variety of industry sectors.

For more information on the AAEDC’s programs and services, visit www.Arne dev.com.
Transportation from page 8

that meet TDM goals for two consecutive monitoring periods, unless the tenant mix or site development plan changes substanti- ally.

Marketing Alternatives

As a partner in the TDMP, the DTPC’s role will include promoting TDM and TDM programs to its members, working with owners of properties developed prior to the Downtown Columbia Plan to en- courage their participation, and providing funding support for TDM from Commu- nity Enhancement, Program and Public Amenities (CEPPA) No. 25 revenues. “Those revenues are currently light, because we haven’t completed much of the development called for in the Downtown Columbia Plan,” said DTPC Executive Director Phillip Dodge. “This year we have approximately $150,000 worth of community enhancement, program and public amenities development for transit. Those revenues will increase as development increases.”

Currently, he added, there are more properties that have been built and exist before the Downtown Columbia Plan than came into existence after it was approved. “It’s too soon to tell where we’ll be spending more of our effort in that re- spect.”

Dodge said he also planned to attend a national TDM conference in Anaheim, Calif., at the end of August to learn more about the concept.

TDM statements have already been developed for the apartments in the War- field neighborhood (Metropolitan and TEN M/M flats), for Crescent Area 1 (One and Two Merriweather), for the first phase of Crescent Area 3 and for the early plans for the Lakefront.

At TEN M/M flats, the statement proposes a program with six elements, including designation of a transportation management coordinator, establishment of a commuter center, methods to encourage the use of transit, car- and vanpool programs, parking management, options for pedestrian and bicycle programming.

The Metropolitan, meanwhile, offers informational brochures and a website for the purpose of learning about transportation and driving. It also posts MTA and RATA sched- ule information on a television monitor in the building’s mailroom, in addition to offering a large room with a map of local bike amenities.

Cumulative Effect

As pedestrian and bicycling infra- structure becomes more built-out in the downtown area, Howard County Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator Chris Eaton said he expects a culture change to follow. “It’s more people find it easier to get around without relying on a motor vehicle.”

That infrastructure, he argued, is something that will make it easier for property owners to meet their goals. “We’ve just passed the one-year mark for our downtown TDM plan,” he said. “We’ve had 4,390 trips during that time,” Eaton said. “That’s a decent start that shows we have some demand and interest.”

The county needs to do more work on marketing and outreach with demonstra- tion projects. In the future, he added, new pathways and new lane markings will make it easier for people in Downtown Columbia to connect with the Crescent Area, Hickory Ridge and other outlying areas.

“What we’re trying to get across to people is that we don’t have to get every- one out of cars all of the time,” Eaton said. “Just getting some people to use alternatives for some of their trips one or two days a week is enough to make a big difference when everything adds up.”

BizRoundup from page 6

learning impairments such as ADHD, dyslexia and auditory processing disorder, and provides services to assist clients with concussion recovery and to prevent the onset of dementia and Alzheimer’s.

HCEDA Signs MOU With Fraunhofer USA for Center for Experimental Software Engineering

Representatives from the Howard County Economic Development Authority (HCEDA) and Fraunhofer USA (FALS/A) on behalf of its Center for Experimental Software Engineering (CESE), have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Through the MOU, the parties agree to create a strong partnership between them, including the establishment of a Fraunhofer USA-CESE representative office at the Howard County Innovation Center. This new location will provide businesses the opportunity to tap into their existing world-wide network of resources.

“HCEDA is excited to see this expansion on their future partnership, the HCEDA led a business development mission in November 2017 to Europe and Germany, and the parties signed a parent organization, HCEDA officials, along with Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman, met in Munich at the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft headquarters with company executives.

The German organization is the leading organization for applied research in Europe, with more than 70 research institutes with a total of more than 25,000 employees in Germany and eight affiliated, legally independent research organizations abroad dedicated to the advancement of applied research, one of those is Fraunhofer USA, which has seven research centers in the U.S.

TSA Announces X-Ray Technology Roll-Out Plan

The Transportation Security Adminis- tration (TSA) has signed a contract to deploy computed tomography scanners (CT), a state-of-the-art, 3-D technology, at select U.S. airport checkpoints, including BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport. As the agency continues to raise the baseline for aviation security, the new technology intends to enhance critical explosives and other threat image detection capabilities at airport check points.

The system applies sophisticated algo- rithms for the detection of explosives and creates a 3-D image that can be viewed and rotated on three axes for thorough visual image analysis by a TSA officer.

Checkpoints often will not turn out to result in fewer bag checks. In the future, passengers may also be able to leave laptops and liquids in their carry-on bags. TSA plans to have up to 40 units in place at airports around the nation by the end of the year, along with 16 units at federal testing facilities. More than 145 will be in airports by the end of fiscal 2019.

The initial 15 units are being deployed to various airports in the coming months, including Washington-Dulles Interna- tional Airport.

Gammill from page 7

ment, too, in those cases placement is more sensitive.

You recently went back to college, at AACCC. What will that help you ac- complish?

Certification leads to more credibility in the field. To learn about options other than the traditional certificate. There are many different methods, but they have never been required in seminars, for instance. This way, the state will offer regulatory board in a way it never has.

When’s your next book coming out?

Much of it is written. It’s about mental health and sobriety, and how life is still not a bed of roses even if you are healthy and sober. In my case, its eventual release, or non-release, is more about my kids. I try to be transparent when I’m working, but I’m not sure want my kids to read it.

Do you find it ironic that having suffered from addiction has led you to a career where you’ve been able to help so many people?

I found it a natural transition. I’ve survived shooting liquid Lupemorphine (an opiate used in detox), and I took the combination of 300 Percocet in one day at one point — but I was high functioning, so no one knew it.

I have no idea how I lived through that. How can I live through what I have and not give back? I feel so lucky.

If you consider what that is...
the petition. “Many people who live around the airport have had their lives disrupted by the considerable noise from flights taking new routes, at lower altitudes because of the NextGen system. Even programs at our Robinson Nature Center have been negatively impacted by the noise, and that’s 10 miles from the airport,” Kittleman said. “We have exhausted all attempts to discuss this with the FAA and come to any sort of reasonable resolution.” In addition, Howard County asserts that NextGen’s implementation action was in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act and portions of the Department of Transportation Act and FAA policy.

In an interview, Kittleman also said he was unaware of the FAA holding any public meetings concerning NextGen before the technology was implemented, adding, “the FAA was supposed to give the public the chance to weigh in. Not getting involved with the citizens initially was just wrong,” noting the county has received more than 300 emails and countless phone calls concerning the issue. He went on to say that, despite the format of the BWI Roundtable meetings that have been held for the past 18 months, “We’ve still felt [the FAA was] unresponsive. One time a couple of years ago, they sent us a letter and [a section of the letter referred to] the Potomac River — so it was clear that they thought they were responding to people who live near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport [where this issue exists].”

“That proved that they had no desire to work with us,” Kittleman said. “I don’t think they’ve done anything. That’s what’s really frustrating, especially when the federal government is so big that it’s hard to reach people there.”

Standard Replies

Getting responses from those involved in creating the noise wasn’t easy. As for the FAA, requests for a phone interview for this article were denied, with spokespersons telling the reporter instead issuing this statement: “The FAA will carefully review the administrative petition from Howard County regarding flights at BWI Thurgood Marshall. If an addendum is received, the FAA will assess when it may be possible to resume its involvement with the D.C. Metropolis BWI Community Roundtable.”

“The FAA appreciates the efforts of the BWI Roundtable. The agency remains committed to community engagement and looks forward to future involvement with the roundtable once the present concerns are resolved.”

The requests were met with similar responses from BWI Marshall and South- west Airlines: “[BWI Marshall] remains committed to working with the roundtable and the FAA to help address community concerns. This includes air traffic officials, Herman Jea, and Dean.

Dave Richardson, senior director, federal affairs, for Southwest, which just announced a $60 million expansion at BWI Marshall — has regularly attended the roundtable meetings. Yet when asked for a quote, a spokesperson for the air line intervened with this statement: “As of now, Southwest does not have a position regarding the legal challenges being pursued by Howard County against the FAA, which are related to the airspace changes implemented in 2014 and 2015.”

The remainder of the statement was tested by the roundtable and the coming Southwest expansion, he said, “when the airport grows, the price will only rise. And know that Southwest supported changes we suggested. It said it wasn’t seeing the benefits of NextGen at BWI Marshall.”

Where’s Congress?

Linda Curry, chair of the communication committee for the roundtable, has lived in Severna Park for more than 20 relatively eventful years. Today, however, she and her family are on the flight path to BWI Marshall.

“People can’t even talk in the backyard anymore,” Curry said, adding that some local residents are not living in their homes and that others have attempted to get their property taxes reduced due to the issue of home values.

“What’s next step in the fight? She’s not sure, but she said the roundtable has talked to the Anne Arundel County Council about filing a petition against the FAA — only to find that the county charter doesn’t allow for it.

“Also,” Curry said, “know the NextGen program won’t complete until 2025.”

“The FAA needs these flights to remain just where they are to make money for the airlines, since it saves the airlines time and fuel, and increases the number of flights coming into BWI Marshall. We citizens are the collateral damage,” she added, saying that only one-third of the noise monitors at BWI Marshall work, and that a new system is set to be purchased.

What Curry and others want is for Congress, which gave the FAA permission to implement NextGen, to create an addendum to stop the noise.

“The FAA has never been told to address the citizens by Congress, but a reauthorization bill is up for vote in early August in the Senate,” she said. “The House did not allow any addendums to protect the public, so the Senate is the last shot.”

So roundtable and citizens are writing letters to Sen. John Thune, ex officio as the Subcommitte on Aviation Operations, Safety and Security, “Outside of filing suit, that’s our only hope,” said Curry.

Today, she just wishes Congress had been as responsive as local officials have been on the matter. “[Allan] Kittleman has been working on this issue since day one,” she said, adding, “The noise is worse in Howard County than it is here.

Still,” Curry said, “we’re all hoping to build a groundswell and put a stop to this.”

Building the future together.
Courthouse from page 1

structure and is responsible for design, construction and 30-year operating and maintenance of the building. At the end of the 30-year contract, the county will take ownership of the Courthouse.

Terms of the contract require the county to pay ESJP $75 million, financed by General Obligation bonds, when the new courthouse is occupancy ready in summer 2021. The county will also provide an annual service payment of approximately $10 million beginning in fiscal 2022, with annual adjustments for inflation.

Local Team

The county is pursuing a Public-Private Partnership (P3) financing scheme for the project, a decision recommended by the Spending Affordability Advisory Committee and endorsed by the county council. Expected benefits from this approach include the ability to share risks and secure life-cycle investments and quality maintenance until ownership is transferred.

Once built, the new Howard County Circuit Courthouse will be the second courthouse in the United States to be developed as a P3. The design includes a four-story atrium, a large entryway for safety screening of visitors and staff, circulation paths separating the public and staff from detainees, and separate hallways and elevators for prisoners. It will also provide office and courtroom space for an eventual sixth judge, and a larger and more comfortable jury assembly area and a 691-space parking garage. Two additional office buildings eventually will be built on the property.

Demolition of the Dorsey Building is scheduled to begin by July 2019, with new construction to commence that August. Led by developer and equity members Edgemoor and Star America, the ESJP Team also includes Clark Construction Group as design-builder; Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum (HOK) as lead architect; and Johnson Controls as facilities manager.

Holger Serrano, assistant to the Howard County director of Public Works, said Clark Construction will host small businesses at its Clark University for a year-long program, working with them to improve their relationships with other contractors and helping them grow their own businesses.

“They had a meeting in April with local businesses to let them know about the project,” Serrano said.

Now that ESJP has been selected, Clark will hold two additional meetings with local businesses to encourage their participation. “They are going to exceed our 15% [subcontracting] requirement, which we feel is important,” he said.

Is It Necessary?

Despite the courthouse’s glaring deficiencies, there was nonetheless a vocal opposition that questioned the need for a new building, particularly in light of the mounting loss the county is experiencing from the most recent Ellicott City flood.

At the council’s July legislative hearing, Savage resident Ellen Long termed the project “fiscally irresponsible” at the present time.

“The millions of dollars which we do not have should not be loaded into a new house,” she said. “Many years ago our stakeholders had to leave the courthouse because there simply wasn’t room for them. We build high schools every 20 years or so; we build courthouses every 10 years and questioned the county’s need to pay $500,000 in each of the non-winning bidders’ 30-year contract in that same period.

They also bid to remove the current courthouse for more than 20 years,” Gelman said. “Many years ago our stakeholders had to leave the courthouse because they simply wasn’t room for them. We build high schools every 20 years or so; we build courthouses every 100 to 200 years, and this is that time.”

Risk Management

Michael Fischer, principal of Site Resources Inc., which is an ESJP partner, said his civil engineering and architecture firm participated in studies that considered expanding or renovating the existing courthouse.

“It was very clear that expansion was cost-prohibitive,” he said. “These companies probably spend between $1.5 to $2.5 million in preparation of these plans, and it’s not just plans. It’s also [meetings and negotiations].”

According to Howard County Sheriff Bill McMahon, at least two security assessments in the past 10 years have pointed out major safety and security issues.

“We’re not far from a major incident happening that would embarrass us all but more importantly be a dangerous situation,” McMahon said.

The new design, with a state-of-the-art sally port accommodating multiple vehicles and a safer environment for the unloading of prisoners, helps remedy those problems, he said.

Currently split between two facilities, the Sheriff’s Department will be brought together under the same roof, increasing efficiency.

It’s [ Been] Time

Circuit Court Administrative Judge Lemore Gelman said the existing courthouse doesn’t have a self-contained area in which to open suspicious letters or packages. It also lacks adequate space to implement all of the equipment called for by the Maryland Electronic Courts project, which mandates electronic filing for attorneys representing clients in civil and criminal cases in District and Circuit courts, as well as for appellate filings.

“We’ve been talking about the new courthouse for more than 20 years,” Gelman said. “Many years ago our stakeholders had to leave the courthouse because there simply wasn’t room for them. We build high schools every 20 years or so; we build courthouses every 100 to 200 years, and this is that time.”

The current courthouse is actually part of the Master Plan for Ellicott City,” Serrano said.

District 1 Councilman Jon Weinstein acknowledged that the contract for the Master Plan would be extended due to the flood, as would the public process seeking input.

The Business Monthly

news@bizmonthly.com
Republicans Try to Define Jealous

The negative TV ads have already started in the race for governor, with the Democratic nominee in its sights.

Democratic nominee Ben Jealous is not well-known to the general electorate. Gov. Larry Hogan and his state Republican Governor’s Association have launched TV ads painting Jealous as a big spender who would raise taxes to pay for the programs he has promised, especially his proposed “Medicare for all,” a single-payer system of health insurance covering every Maryland resident.

The Republicans were helped by an unlikely source earlier in the month. Analysts for the Democrat-controlled legislatures estimated that Jealous’s proposal for a state-run health insurance plan could cost as much as $24 billion. Jealous and others disputed the claim, saying it didn’t account for savings. But the headline was right there on the front page of the Baltimore Sun. With no primary opponent to contend with, Hogan’s camp has had a long time to assemble the audio and video clips that Jealous is trying to explain his plans for health care, free college tuition and a big boost in education spending that he made during the hotly-contested Democratic primary in Baltimore and Montgomery counties, where the most progressive candidate squeaked through.

Maryland Republicans are hoping that regular Democratic voters will feel the same way as some of their elected elders, and allow them to re-elect a Republican governor in a very blue Democratic state.

Overdevelopment?

When an incumbent loses an election by six votes, as Howard County Councilmember Jon Weinstein did in the Democratic primary to Liz Walsh after a recount, almost any explanation is plausible.

There’s no question that Walsh’s central campaign issues were overdevelopment and the influence of developers, along with the overcrowding of schools in the Ellicott City area. Will overdevelopment be an issue in the race for county executive, pitting incumbent Allan Kittleman against County Councilmember Calvin Ball?

“I think development has always been an issue,” said Kittleman in an interview after a fundraising breakfast for business executives last month. “It is a bigger issue this year.”

“I just want the people to be informed” about how the process works. Almost all development decisions are in the hands of the council (acting as the zoning board) and not the executive.

“The development that you see now was approved before I was in office,” Kittleman said. “No one has seen the effect of our administration” and its efforts to promote “more responsible and controlled growth.”

Among those initiatives, Kittleman pointed to his appointment of new leaders for the planning and zoning office, which has initiated a rewriting of the county zoning regulations for the first time in 50 years. Kittleman also said he got the changes to the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance rolling, although the council made major revisions to the proposal. The law hadn’t been updated in a decade.

He also noted that he created the Planned Howard Academy to educate citizens on the planning and development process. “My goal was to get people involved earlier in the process,” Kittleman said. “We’re listening.”

According to Kittleman, an April campaign poll shows him 13 points ahead in the race.

Presumption of Power

That we are a long way from the general election, and almost five months until the new General Assembly convenes in January, did not deter the presiding officers of the House and Senate from announcing new leadership line-ups in mid-July.

House Speaker Michael Busch, of Anne Arundel County, 71, is presuming he will reelect to his District 30A seat for a ninth term against fairly weak Republican first-time candidates, then reelection from his fellow Democrats for an unprecedented 17th year as speaker.

Senate President Mike Miller, 75, is making the same presumption as he anticipates his 33rd year in a row as head of the upper chamber. Miller was already the longest-serving member of the legislature, besides being the longest serving presiding officer in the U.S. Both Mikels would celebrate birthdays before the session begins.

The big news for Howard County was that freshman Del. Vanessa Atterbeary, 43, would become chair of the House Judiciary Committee in a generational shift for that committee. Atterbeary, both well-liked and effective, is the only first-term legislator in the House to hold such a key role in a major standing committee.

Judiciary had been chaired for 25 years by Del. Joseph Vallario, of Prince George’s County, 81, who lost his primary. Vallario, a conservative criminal defense attorney, was often a roadblock to major changes in civil and criminal law.

New Generation

This makes up a bit for Howard County’s loss of legislative influence through the retirement of Sen. Ed Kasemeyer, 72, who chaired the powerful Budget and Taxation Committee to the great benefit of Howard and Baltimore counties he represented in District 12.

See State Political, page 15
Council Approves Moratorium on Upstream Ellicott City Development

At its July legislative session, the Howard County Council unanimously approved a one-year moratorium on the issuance of development permits and approvals in the Tiber River and Plumtree Branch watersheds lying upstream from Downtown Ellicott City.

“This isn’t an easy one for me to just do from a predictability and fairness standpoint, but public safety is a whole other issue altogether,” said Councilman Greg Fox (R-Dist. 5).

Councilwoman Jen Terrasa (D-Dist. 3) said the legislation was prompted by “real concern” about the amount of development surrounding Ellicott City and the impact it has on flooding and safety throughout the watershed area.

“My hope is that the next council will extend this as needed,” she said. Councilwoman Jon Weinstein (D-Dist. 1), who proposed the legislation, said people in the community have asked for an indefinite moratorium.

“I really hope that the next council and the county executive will look at a number of different ways to tighten our regulations, to address climate change as it’s occurring here locally and how it impacts how we build and develop, not only in these two watersheds, but in the [rest of the] county,” Weinstein said.

Mobile Home Tax

Also in July, the council tabled a bill sponsored by Terrasa that would compel the county’s mobile home site rental tax, extending the time it has to study and work on the bill.

“This is a 6.5% premium residents were paying to live in a mobile home park, over and above the property tax paid by the owner of the mobile home park and passed down to residents,” Terrasa said.

According to the testimony of Association of Community Services Board

President Grace Morris, approximately 1,100 families pay this tax. “What possible rationale is there to impose this tax on mobile home park residents, among the most economically vulnerable in our community, when it is not imposed on any other county renters?” she asked.

Anne Arundel County repealed a similar tax last year.

During the past 13 years, “I have paid more than $7,000 in this tax,” said Elkridge resident Amy Lamke. “Residents I have met communicated to me they struggle just to get by and afford the basics.”

Development

Howard County Economic Development Authority (HCEDA) Executive Director Vernon Thompson requested the council’s endorsement of Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority & Fund financing for a local economic development project.

HCEDA is seeking a $250,000 conditional loan through the state Department of Commerce program to support the relocation of Intralytix, a biopharmaceutical corporation that is relocating to Howard County.

The loan will cover the purchase and improvement costs of real property, and the installation of equipment, furnishings, fixtures and improvements for a new, 33,000-square-foot headquarters, research and development, and manufacturing facility on Robert Fulton Drive, in Columbia.

PSA Adjustment

The council has approved a request from Erickson Living Properties II seeking amendment of the General Plan to adjust the Planned Services Area for water and sewer services. The decision would allow Erickson to pursue development of a continuing care retirement community (CCRC) on 61 acres south of Sheppard Lane, in Clarksville.

According to Erickson Manager of Development Scott Templin, the project would provide 1,200 independent living units and a combination of 240 assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing units, in addition to a five-acre park with public amenities that include a large community playground, a dog park, pickleball courts and an amphitheater.

Templin cited a Sage Policy Group study that indicates strong demand, yet there are only two other CCRCs in the county: Vantage House, in Columbia; and The Lutheran Village at Millers Grant, Ellicott City.

Moreover, he said, the planned access way foresees a signalized intersection at Linden Linthicum Lane, providing safer egress for vehicles turning left from re-tailers on the western side of Route 108.

A request to amend the Howard County Code to change requirements for new developments was tabled.

Courthouse

After failing in his bid to table the council’s vote on a bill to approve a construction contract for a new county courthouse, Councilman Calvin Ball cast the sole vote against the legislation.

“I do think the need for a new courthouse is real,” Ball said. “With the elections about 100 days away and this council with no returning members, it is about to make the biggest financial decision of the county … when we could have a new group of members coming very soon who will have to govern under that obligation.”

Ball said he was not fully comfortable with the site selection process or the site, and said he still had reservations about the scope of the project.

Fox, however, cited two decades of discussion and a transparent procurement process as reasons to move on.

“If we come off the council without doing this, it’s going to sit another decade,” he said. “We’ll have to bring more people up to speed and start all over again. Terrasa echoed Ball’s disappointment in not having more time to consider the legislation, but agreed a new courthouse is needed. “It’s about justice, it’s about safety,” she said. “The courthouse can’t continue to wait, the location is something that we’ve already voted on and debated.”

Election Recount

Councilman Weinstein lost his re-election bid in a primary squeaker, with a recount confirming Democrat challenger Liz Walsh the winner by just six votes.

“The election and recount process worked as designed, to count and confirm every vote,” Weinstein said in a message emailed to supporters, adding that he called Walsh to congratulate her on her win.

With that race confirmed, Howard County will see an entirely new council seated in December.

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Election Recap

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Pittman Focuses on Development Issues in Race Against Schuh

Steuart Pittman concedes that Anne Arundel County Executive Steve Schuh is “going to be tough to beat,” but the Democratic nominee for Schuh’s job thinks his campaign will have the money and the grassroots organization to make it happen.

From the start of his campaign in December, Pittman, a horse farmer who owns land that’s been in his family since the 1700s, is emphasizing development issues and renewing citizen involvement with those issues to balance what he calls the excessive influence of developers on Schuh’s actions.

“I am not against development,” Pittman, 56, said in an interview. “I just want it to be fiscally and environmentally responsible.” He wants to limit campaign contributions from developers while they have projects under review, and he wants to audit the development projects that have already happened.

Pittman favors smart growth, putting any new development where infrastructure already exists, and he favors the building of affordable housing. “I know we have a crisis of affordability in housing,” he said.

But Pittman is opposed to more building on the county’s many peninsulas between the rivers and streams that flow into the Chesapeake Bay, such as the Mayo Peninsula. Those homes being built on peninsulas with water access are going to be “luxury homes and we have plenty of them.”

“I want to keep open space,” Pittman said, and he recently announced a plan to build thousands of acres of trees in recent years.

Pittman also wants to reinvigorate the “small area” planning process, and will be holding “Communities First Forums” in those areas during the campaign to build grassroots support.

No New Taxes
Pittman is also concerned about low salaries for teachers, police and firefighters, who he said are leaving the county for higher wages in neighboring jurisdictions.

“I have no intention of raising taxes,” said Pittman, recognizing how tax-happy county taxpayers are. “I don’t believe the county needs to raise taxes to give employees raises.” He would increase some of the development fees that Schuh cut, however.

This is Pittman’s first run for public office. After college, he spent nine years as a community organizer, then returned to the farm and established a thoroughbred training center. In 2010, he created the Retired Racehorse Project, a nonprofit that has retrained thousands of thoroughbreds for productive lives after their racing days are done.

“I just want that to be my legacy,” Pittman said. Last year, he began exploring a race for County Council District 7 in South County, a reliably Republican district. He was told he was more likely to win a race for county executive. Other Democrats agreed with that assessment as they searched for a challenger to Schuh.

So, Pittman is no longer directing his nonprofit, devoting his days to raising money and running against Schuh.

He’s raised $400,000 so far and hopes to raise a total of $1 million by the fall, about half of what Schuh has raised during his first term. “We think that’s enough to get the message out,” Pittman said.

There is precedent for what Pittman hopes to do. In 1998, Janet Owens, who grew up on a farm in South County, defeated incumbent Republican County Executive John J. Miller. Elfreth said, “I just don’t want him to be his.”

Through District 30
In the Republican “Drive for Five,” GOP leaders know that Legislative District 30, covering the Annapolis area and points south, will be a key to getting more senators in the State House.

The GOP’s goal is to win five more state Senate seats, bringing their number to the crucial 19 that would enable them to block overrides of Gov. Larry Hogan’s vetoes with the largest contingent of Republican lawmakers ever.

At an Annapolis fundraiser last month, Hogan gave his “100% enthusiastic endorsement” to former delegate Ron George, 64, a man who ran against Hogan in the Republican primary four years ago.

“I have no desire to get another four years as governor if I don’t get some help in the legislature,” Hogan said.

Clear Choices
District 30 is one of the few truly partisan swing districts in the state, long represented by the moderately conserva-
tive Democrat John Astle in the Senate and a mix of Republican and Democrats in the House of Delegates, including Democratic Speaker Michael Busch.

District 30 voters will have as clear a choice for state Senate as they do for governor between Hogan and progressive Democrat Ben Jealous in the fall. Jealous faces Sarah Elfreth, 29, a progressive Democratic activist and community lobbyist, who has already raised $125,000 and hopes to raise another $100,000 in the fall after finding off a primary challenge from the left by Chris Hoy.

Elfreth is running on a ticket with Busch and newcomer Alice Cain, seeking the delegate seat now held by retiring Republican Howard County Councilman Republican Seth Howard is seeking re-election to the single-member District 30B seat.

George had no opposition in the fall and had $172,000 in campaign cash on hand in June.

Sharp Contrasts
George and Elfreth are sharp contrasts in age, experience and ideology.

George is the long-time owner of a Main Street jewelry store and represent-
ated much of the area for two terms in the House, where he is known as an employer and involvement in the community; how-
ever, while noting his ability to work with Democrats in the legislature, George also stressed his conservative credentials, such as support for anti-union right-to-work laws, school choice and his opposition to any tax hikes.

He also criticized “my opponent,” saying she prepared for the job by getting a degree in political science and working as a lobbyist.

But Elfreth has other credentials as well. While at Towson University, she served as a student member of the Board of Regents of the University System of Mary-
land, where she got to know Chancellor Brit Kirwan, who now chairs the education commission reworking funding formulas for public schools, “That is the issue for the next session,” Elfreth said.

Her lobbying included work for the National Aquarium in Baltimore, helping it to acquire additional state and local funding.

She was also president of the District 30 Democratic Club and a vice president of her community association in downtown Annapolis.

In an interview, Elfreth said she has knocked on 8,000 doors and has heard a lot about school overcrowding and teacher salaries, and the loss of experienced Anne Arundel County teachers to Howard and Montgomery counties.

Voters also talk a lot about the Chesapeake. “It’s why people live here,” Elfreth said, and it unites the people of Annapolis with those who live in the more rural south.

In the legislature, she wants to fight for more forest conservation and stricter enforcement of critical area controls of the coastline, which she believes have become lax in the county administration.

She sees her youth as “an asset,” bring-
ing “fresh perspectives and new ideas” to the legislature.

George described the Democratic nominee for governor as “a socialist.”

Elfreth called Jealous an “exciting candidate” with the ability to excite dif-
ferent audiences, and said he represented the shared values of the Democratic Party.

But a key issue is “how to pay for everything we want to do in a reasonable way,” particularly the increased funding for schools the Kirwan Commission is expected to recommend.
After five years of continuing resolutions and a government shutdown earlier in 2018, the federal government has more funds this year to spend than in recent memory.

Annual budgets increased by more than 10% for the departments of Defense, Commerce, Transportation, Homeland Security, and Health and Human Services in the $1.3 trillion fiscal 2018 funding package. Contracting funds increased by $13.7 billion to nearly $661 billion and civilian agencies $63 billion.

The federal fiscal year ends on Sept. 30, with the spending during the final quarter often July through September, often referred to as the “July fist” or start of the next year’s fiscal cycle. The use-it-or-lose-it federal spending policy promotes this typical July–September rush. This year is projected to be less intense, with a $60 billion shortfall in the spending of the remaining funds, because of the slower than normal start, as well as a larger share of taxpayer dollars.

Informed contractors are eyeing contract opportunities that have been posted in FedBizOpps (www.fbo.gov) as sources sought notices (SSNs) or requests for information (RFIs) since January or earlier. More than 2,500 new SSNs and RFIs are listed every month, totaling more than 17,000 for the fiscal year. While these listings cover some contracts that currently have incumbent providers providing the services or products, most are new opportunities without an incumbent.

**Proactive Process**

These SSNs and RFIs are mandated market research where the buyers are researching what types of businesses are available to provide the services or products, and of those, where do they fit in the large vs. small business size standards. Typically, publicly posted, normally for two to four weeks, the notices are archived and not easily found — unless one knows how to search for them in www.fbo.gov.

Contractors large and small that have put into place a proactive marketing process, consistently reaching out to decision-makers all year long, will have the advantage of winning the targeted contracts, as opposed to those business people who simply chase the request for proposal (RFP) when it is posted.

Bloomberg Government recently stated in its “Five Trends That Will Shape Federal Contracting in 2018” report that typically 40% of all information technology (IT) contracts are awarded in the last quarter of the federal fiscal year. Also mentioned was “Cybersecurity, shared services, agile development, commercial-off-the-shelf software, cloud migration and data-center consolidation are likely to be emphasized.”

However, all industries benefit from the spending surge that is taking place in July and September, including engineering, construction, staffing, training, services and products.

A critical tool affecting a company’s probability of winning the type of contract vehicle preferred by the agency’s contracting and acquisition decision-makers is this. This may be through the ubiquitous GSBS schedule contracts widely used to purchase up to 10% of the services and products by the federal government.

**Most Purchases**

The other 90% of purchases may be made through a variety of types of contracts, from the multi-year indefinite-delivery-indefinite-quantity (IDIQ) contract to multiple-award contracts (MACs), job- or order contracts (IOCs) or other government-speak terms and related acronyms. In any case, it is imperative that a business-person identify the preferred contract vehicle of the targeted customer and take all necessary steps to obtain that contract. According to a recent study, 90% of the targeted Navy customers for a range of services, the preferred vehicle is the SeaPort-E contract. This contract started with 21 prime contractors, and those ranks have swollen to more than 4,000 large and small business primes in an extremely competitive environment; however, if a business does not have a contract with a current functional requirement, or to another company that is a prime, it will be virtually impossible to do business with the Navy this year.

As an example, if one is targeting the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) confirmed that the SeaPort-E Multiple Award Contract (MAC) may be used and will be replaced with SeaPort Next Generation (SeaPort-NxG). For service companies planning to grow Navy business in 2019 and later, it will be imperative to be a prime or a subcontractor on the upcoming SeaPort-NxG, currently being issued on www.fbo.gov.

A unique vehicle surging in use is the Other Transaction Authority (OTA), which the Department of Defense used to spend $412 million in fiscal 2017, up from under $250 million in 2016 and a scant $3.5 million in 2013. This is a risky vehicle, because it inherently bypasses most of the safeguards built into typical government vehicles or the Federal Acquisitions Regulation.

Instead of individual companies, the military often uses a variety of consortia OTA vehicles that gauge non-traditional companies to develop innovative technologies. However, traditional defense contractors are eyeing this vehicle as a golden ticket for fiscal year-end spending as well.

**Total Package**

As we rush headlong into the end of this very unique fiscal 2018 year, all companies wishing to see an uptick in their federal contracts would be well-served to analyze every targeted customer for remaining expenditure of the federal government. The 2018 fiscal year ends with a sweep to notice contract and notice preferences and the desired scope of work, as well as offering crystal-clear deliveries, a project timeline, competitive pricing and proof of matching past-performance, opens the door to winning fiscal year-end business.

Gloria Larkin is president and CEO of TargetGov, in Linthicum, and a national professional network sometimes called the “golden ticket for remaining expenditure of the federal government. Email gloria.larkin@ targetgov.com, visit www.targetgov.com or call toll-free 1-866-579-1348 for more information.
Not many people get to say that a Pumpkin Coach Next Stage Is a and other tour directors over the years. members who had worked with schools in September of the same year, Clark's Elioak Mill Farm, in Elkridge, closed down.

In February 2002, the popular Cider Tree. During a particularly busy day, Clark's Elioak Farm, at that time mostly farming operations and keeping some people employed year-round,” she said.

Another challenge is finding skilled labor. Most people around here haven't grown up farming so it is difficult. Labor makes or breaks us, and I like working with young people who have passion.”

Crist credits her mother for a lot of what she has learned. “I've learned a lot and have a lot more to learn, especially working with different personalities. I lean on my mom a lot. I am an employee to her and an employer to others. I have a new respect for her.”

Enterprising Tendencies

When she passed away in 2000, she moved back to the family farm and realized she needed something to do. In February 2002, the popular Cider Mill Farm, in Elkridge, closed down. “When the Mill closed down, there was a massive void there for children’s activities in this part of the county,” said Clark. “I thought our location would be perfect for that type of family fun, and I bought a lot at the Cider Mill’s auction.” By September of the same year, Clark’s Elioak Farm opened. Being resourceful even then, Clark also got the Mill’s “Rolodex,” when she brought in one of its former staff members who had worked with schools and other tour directors over the years.

Next Stage Is a Pumpkin Coach

Not many people get to say that a pumpkin coach was the next step in their success. But Clark does hold that claim of ingenuity to figure out how to get the coach around the Baltimore Beltway.

“I don’t like taking risks, but that is where resourcefulness comes in,” said Clark. “Growing up with parents from the Depression you learn how to do things yourself, but you also know what you can’t do and when you need help. “No decision is irreversible,” she said. “In my life, I decide what to do and then figure out how to do it. If it doesn’t work, then I change and go in a different direction.”

Once the coach was enscounced at Clark’s Elioak Farm, at that time mostly a children’s petting farm, Clark realized how fitting it was for it to be there. “So, I went to Kimco (property owners of the Enchanted Forest) and asked for more of the Enchanted Forest pieces.” Kimco agreed, with one stipulation: She had to take them all — all but the Ole King Cole, who is still located at what’s now the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center on Route 40. “Then

Above: Nora Crist at her produce stand on Rt. 108.

Left: Martha Clark on Trusty the Tractor. the adventure began,” Clark said, which included how to get it all to the farm. “But the people I met were tremendous, and I would do it again.”

With enterprising people, there is always a “next.” “I am open to things, and sometimes I create my ‘next’ things,” said Clark. The pumpkin season is the farm’s busiest time, but during the winter months, while the petting farm is closed, she has written books, including a history of the Enchanted Forest and two children’s books about the petting farm. After all the rain that Howard County has experienced this spring, she also jokingly said, “Perhaps I’ll put a bubble over the farm.”

Generations of Farming

“I take credit for being the first person in the area to sell sweet corn on the side of the road when I was 14 years old,” said Clark. The Clark farm has been around for more than two centuries, raising crops and a variety of animals, primarily cattle. When her father passed away in 2006, she inherited the cattle that he had been selling to outlets. “I thought it made sense to process and sell them right here, ourselves,” which is what she did. In 2009, her daughter Nora graduated from the University of Delaware with an agriculture degree and took over the produce and cattle component of the farm.

Although Crist knew she wanted to have a job that was outside, “farming wasn’t a vibrant concern when I was growing up. We had cows. I would come home from the back of a truck, but I didn’t realize there was a career here.”

Seeing her mother with the petting farm, the Enchanted Forest structures and the pumpkin patch, she realized there was a living to be made on the farm on which she was raised. However, she knew she wanted to do something on her own and recognized that the produce and cattle were a good choice for her. “It was right at the time of the local farm craze, and we had cows. I was ready to take over the produce side but didn’t know anything about it,” said Crist. “So I learned by the seat of my pants and a lot of trial and error. For example, I never thought I would like pigs; now I love them.”

Having tested several different products, Crist whittled it down to produce cattle and pigs. “I keep busy between three farming operations and keeping some people employed year-round,” she said.

Another challenge is finding skilled labor. Most people around here haven’t grown up farming so it is difficult. Labor makes or breaks us, and I like working with young people who have passion.”

Crist credits her mother for a lot of what she has learned. “I’ve learned a lot and have a lot more to learn, especially working with different personalities. I lean on my mom a lot. I am an employee to her and an employer to others. I have a new respect for her.”

Enterprising Women

The story of Clark’s Elioak Farm — a unique story in itself. However, to tell a story about two enterprising women who had worked with schools and was exposed to very amazing women,” said Clark, “I never say, ‘It can’t be done’; I figure out how it can.”

“The fun part is the resourcefulness of figuring how to make things happen,” said Clark. “I never say, ‘It can’t be done’; I figure out how it can.”

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Enterprising Women

Clarks’ Fairy Godmother Resembles Mother and Daughter

By Becky Mangus, PUBLISHER

“...she had 400 special visitors coming every year even if you do the same thing — and all but the Ole King Cole, who is still located at what’s now the Enchanted Forest Shopping Center on Route 40. “Then
Crematory Owner Is Candid About Business at ‘The End’

By Susan Kim, Staff Writer

Bev Heckrotte, owner of Going Home Cremation Services in Woodbine, once had a friend diagnosed with end-stage ovarian cancer. “I stayed with her the last four months she was alive,” Heckrotte said. “She wanted to make funeral arrangements, so we went to a traditional funeral home.”

They were greeted by an undertaker straight out of a stereotypical movie, she said, “a guy with no expression wearing a black suit who walked with you down a dark hallway into his still-kind-of-dark office.”

There was nothing soothing about the experience. Heckrotte recalled, much less humorous. “My friend did not have a stick of hair on her head, so we were trying to joke around with him by saying, ‘We want to make sure her hair looks all right.’”

He was having no part of their joke. “His whole attitude was like he was the undertaker straight out of a stereotypical movie,” she said, “a guy with no expression wearing a black suit who walked with you down a dark hallway into his still-kind-of-dark office,”

At that moment, she realized: “I could do this so much better.”

Rigorous Studies

Within weeks after her friend died, Heckrotte started mortuary school at the Community College of Baltimore County, at that time the only place in Maryland to offer such a program. She put herself through school by training racehorses during the day and attending classes in the late afternoon and evening.

“I was at the track at 5 or 5:30 a.m. and around 3 p.m. I’d go to school, and I’d be there until the last class ended at 10:30 at night. The program is a two-year program, and I did it in a year and a half.”

That was in 1997 and, Heckrotte said, “I’m still the fastest student ever to get through that program in its history.”

Her previous career path, in addition to working with racehorses, included working as an emergency medical technician for 15 years and as an Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Certified Mechanic for many years. She also has been an instructor for the Red Cross and the American Heart Association.

After finishing mortuary school, she completed 1,000 hours as an apprentice in a full-service funeral home, then obtained her mortician’s license. As she worked in the funeral home business, she kept seeing more and more requests for cremations. By 2001, determined to become Maryland’s first direct cremation provider not affiliated with a funeral home, she founded Going Home Cremation Services.

She then also started a second, separate crematory business for pets, All Pet Crematory, “We do a lot of pets,” said Heckrotte, “everything from goldfish to frogs.”

A look at the statistics related to human cremations shows, in part, why Heckrotte’s business is flourishing. In 1990 the cremation rate was a little over 10%. In 2000, it was up to 21%. In 2010 it was almost 36%, and some estimates project that, by 2020, the cremation rate will hover around 50%.

The Price of Ashes

Working with her business partner, Sheila Curry, Heckrote charges $995 for a cremation in central Maryland, and $1,995 for bodies they pick up from Washington, D.C., or northern Virginia. That price includes everything but the cost of the death certificate, including a basic black vinyl box for the cremains. Other, display-type urns can be ordered from various companies through Heckrotte.

The cost for cremating pets is based on size and weight, with pets up to five pounds costing $75, upward to $145.

The drive to the crematory, through wooded roads in western Howard County, is a peaceful one, and that mood often carries forth as grieving people walk into the offices to meet with Heckrotte, who offers a reassuring presence as she explains how she picks up bodies from homes, nursing homes, hospitals or medical examiners. Going Home Cremation does about 850 to 1,000 cremations a year, and Heckrotte is on call 24/7. “There’s no such thing as a holiday, no such thing as a day off,” she said.

The crematory machines, called “retorts,” are completely separate for pets and humans. It is illegal to cremate more than one person at a time. And, while it’s legal to cremate more than one pet at a time, Heckrotte does not. Instead, she honors a “one-in-one-out” policy for pets.

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Excellence (ASE) Certified Medical Technologist, and as an Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Certified Mechanic for many years. She also has been an instructor for the Red Cross and the American Heart Association.

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Tips for Designing an Effective Home Office

By April Force Pardoe

Having a home office is becoming more common now as more people work remotely for a company or run their own business. Function is always first when it comes to designing any room, but is especially important in a home office, where you need to maximize efficiency.

Function

When you begin designing your office, think about what you need to store, how you like to access it from your chair and how you prefer to work...

For example, if you have many hanging files, you’ll need file drawers. If you store desktop items in open shelves, consider bins to hold those items and select ones that complement the décor of the room. It’s best to select the bins after you know what they will hold, so you purchase the right size container.

Measure your office and create a simple space plan with various desk sizes so you know what will fit in your space. Consider where you will place your desk in relation to the door and windows. Windows can cause a glare on your monitor and you may not want your furniture has enough storage for files or writing, or for guests or clients?

Next, make a list of what you can store below the desk in pull-outs for easy access. This will give you more desktop space, which is especially important in a small space.

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Measure your office and create a simple space plan with various desk sizes so you know what will fit in your space. Consider where you will place your desk in relation to the door and windows. Windows can cause a glare on your monitor and you may not want your desk for seeing what you are working on. You will hold lighting is key in an office. Make sure your lighting is focused on the tasks you’ll be taking on. Adjacent desk light will allow you to focus the light as needed. For a softer look, consider a table lamp on a desk.

If you have upper cabinets on your desk, consider under-cabinet lighting (like you would use in a kitchen) to illuminate your desk. Place that in a corner so it’s out of the way but accessible.

You can also run cord down furniture legs and gather them with small clips to keep them neat and connect them to a zip strip outlet. Labeling the cords on the outlet will help you if you need to quickly unplug a device.

Designing an effective home office can be easily achieved with planning, thinking and preparation. Once your office is

See Designing, page 21

Sherry Collins-Witzke's Family Funeral Home

Sherry Collins-Witzke, CFSP, CCSP, has been managing our family owned funeral home as a third generation licensed funeral director and has been certified by the National Funeral Service Practitioners and Certified Crema-

tion Provider, completing extensive training in the funeral industry.

Sherry is active in the Maryland State-Funeral Directors Association (MSFDA), serving four terms on their board of Directors, currently Vice President, and is a member of the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) and the MSFDA Disaster Response Team. She has served on the steer-

ing committee for the Taste of Howard County to benefit the Gilchrist Center for hospice care for over 15 years. Sherry is a graduate of Leadership Howard County, class of 2007.

As a volunteer, Sherry is currently vice chair of the board of directors for Blossoms of Hope, raising funds and awareness for local charities, including the Claudia Mayer/Tina Broccolino Cancer Resource Center in Howard County. They also work to beautify the county by planting trees in memory of, or in honor of, your loved one.

Sherry works with many other nonprofits that include The Arc of Howard County, Business Women's Network, Leadership Howard County, The Lutheran Village at Mill-

er's Grant, and the Howard County Heart Ball for the American Heart Association on committees to benefit our community.

If there is an event or group that would like information about funeral planning, please let us know and we will gladly arrange for a funeral director, at no charge, to assist you and your program.

Gloria Larkin, TargetGov

Clients all over the country seek out Gloria Larkin, the nationally-recognized government contracting consultant and business development expert, and her company, TargetGov, when they want to see accelerated success in the federal marketplace.

TargetGov offers the exclusive Federal Acceleration Strategies and Tactics (FAST™) Process, the KickStart Program™, Capability Statements, certification services, capture, and expert federal contracting services. TargetGov celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2017. In the past 9 years, clients have won over $4 billion in federal contracts.

TargetGov also provides advanced training for contracting professionals through the on-demand webinars and virtual business tools. TargetGov is proud to be National 8(a)’s Education Associate and is currently offering bi-monthly webinars as a part of the National 8(a) Webinar series powered by TargetGov.

Gloria contributes to The Business Monthly through her monthly column and frequently speaks at industry conferences nationwide. Her two books, “The Basic Guide to Government Contracting” and the “Veterans Guide to Federal Contracting” are used frequently speaks at industry conferences nationwide. Her two books, “The Basic Guide to Government Contracting” and the “Veterans Guide to Federal Contracting” are used frequently speaks at industry conferences nationwide. Her two books, “The Basic Guide to Government Contracting” and the “Veterans Guide to Federal Contracting” are used...
Joan Schnorf, Fitness Together Ellicott City

After countless fly-by-night fitness programs failed to produce solid results – or results, period – former stay-at-home mom and savvy businesswoman Joan Schnorf sought exercise satisfaction at Fitness Together Ellicott City.

Not only did she get a balanced workout, but she bought the business.

Now, eight years later, the Kansas State University and Leadership Howard County graduate has transformed the studio into one of the franchise’s top producers.

It’s easy to see why. Training at Fitness Together Ellicott City is delivered one-on-one in private training suites with a personal trainer. Sessions are by appointment only, so there are no crowds, no distractions, and no waiting. The studio’s certified fitness trainers are committed to helping clients achieve their ideal body type by emphasizing a healthy diet, daily workout routines, and a positive attitude.

Joan, a member of the Howard County Chamber and Business Women’s Network, understands expanding her client base is directly related to her desire to improve people’s lives. By delivering a quality program, an open and expanded facility, and – most importantly – stellar customer service, Joan and the Fitness Together team produce winning results on a daily basis.

Call to arrange your free consultation today. – 410-750-2228, www.fitnessTogether.com/ellicottCity

Maria Hester, Tech Treats, LLC

Maria Hester developed a love for technology 10 years ago while on her quest to transform her patient empowerment book, “Your Family Medical Record: An Interactive Guide to Getting the Best Care,” into a mobile app to equip patients with tools to help them communicate more effectively with their physicians and optimize the care they receive. However, the cost of creating this app was nearly prohibitive, which led to her search for a more cost-effective alternative to mobile app creation which was also easy enough for even the non-geeky to master.

After finding the perfect alternative for herself, she realized that there were many others who shared her desire to create professional mobile apps for their products and businesses, and do so affordably.

Through years of research, she subsequently found other vital technologies that, just as mobile apps, could be obtained inexpensively and incorporated into businesses seamlessly. Today, Tech Treats, LLC offers artificial intelligence mobile apps and chatbots, branding videos, SMS texting services, website creation and digital marketing services as development and grants manager with Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic.

Bright Minds Foundation Hires Crammond

Bright Minds, the official foundation of the Howard County Public School System, has appointed Liz Crammond as executive director. Crammond most recently served as development and grants manager with Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic.

Dr. Durruthy demystifies the topic of mental illness to provide tools for understanding and communication. Individuals looking to purchase the program can do so by visiting https://mindsupport.com/store.

Psychiatrist Develops Audio Program About Mental Illness Among High Achievers

Stephanie Durruthy, board certified psychiatrist and distinguished fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, has developed an educational resource that addresses the misconception of being successful and high functioning provides a natural immunity from acquiring a mental illness.

In her latest educational program, “She Is Not Mentally Ill: Tools for Supporters Navigating Stigma,” Durruthy demystifies the topic of mental illness to provide tools for understanding and communication. Individuals looking to purchase the program can do so by visiting https://mindsupport.com/store.

Smithey Law Group Opens in Annapolis

Smithey Law Group, a practice focusing exclusively on employment law, has opened in West Annapolis. Led by Partner and Founder Joyce Smithey, the practice covers issues related to wages, discrimination, sexual harassment and abuse, contract and severance negotiations, equal pay, medical leave and more. Smithey also handles high-profile class and collective actions involving wage and hour violations.

Smithey spent more than a decade as Chair of the Labor and Employment Practice Group at the Annapolis office of Rifkin Weiner Livingston LLC and has garnered more than 18 years of diverse employment law experience. Two associates join Smithey, both of whom worked with her at Rifkin Weiner Livingston: Reuben Wolfson, who received his J.D. from the University of Miami School of Law and focuses on employment law; and Anton Marino, who received his J.D. from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and focuses on employment discrimination and whistleblower matters.

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Crematory from page 18

a practice that is valued by grieving pet owners.

Wait, Was That Funny?

For those open to humor, Heckrotte’s candid talk about cremation can be laced with jokes. But she is careful and sensitive about when to share a joke. When someone asks how business is, Heckrotte might respond: “Dead.” Then she smiles and goes on to say that, actually, the business of cremation is alive and well.

She and Curry have hats that say: “Going Home Cremations: Make an Ash of Yourself.” (They don’t wear them all the time.)

Another option to help lift the heavy

Mass of mortality is the presence of her Chesapeake Bay Retriever, Duke, who will be on hand for dog lovers who request him.

Duke has become a huge part of how Heckrotte helps people cope with grief. She said: “When he sees somebody starting to cry, he sits close to them, and sometimes rests his head in their lap.”

But most times, families leave smiling, whether it’s from Heckrotte’s genteel humor or from being greeted by Duke. “I have to say this about Bey,” said Curry. “When she started this business, she vowed she was never going to be like that funeral director. And she isn’t. She shows people how to relax and not be afraid of this process.”

Kathy O’Donovan, Commercial Insurance Managers Inc.

As a University of Maryland graduate with a degree in Journalism, Kathy O’Donovan was unsure of what professional path to pursue in life. Finding most entry level Journalism positions mundane, Kathy entered the world of insurance and has never looked back.

She helped her late husband grow a successful commercial insurance agency more than 35 years ago and “retired” from the agency when her twins were two years old. During this period Kathy spent her time raising her children, pursuing her love of horses and volunteering at a Howard County nonprofit aimed at preventing homelessness where she continues to be actively involved today.

Once her twins were 17, the call of the workplace and love of insurance was once again a viable and exciting option. Kathy has enthusiastically returned to the world of commercial insurance and is enjoying interacting with her clients and co-workers while still enjoying her teens and her love of fox chasing with the Howard County Iron Bridge Hunt Club, proving it’s never too late for a second act.

Beth Brigham, Commercial Insurance Managers Inc.

Beth has not always been in the insurance world. She spent time in the U.S. Coast Guard, served Elizabeth Dole, Secretary of Transportation, and was the first female Quarters manager.

As a civilian she landed in sales, business development and marketing in the information technology (IT) industry. Her networking ability is aggressive, persuasive and charming. Her clients appreciate her because they know that she has a passion for serving them, solving their insurance problems and standing strong to serve them. Beth is an excellent addition to client HR staff in solving employee problems.

Revive!, a Brewers Association of Maryland (BAM) event in its inaugural year, will be hosted at the picturesque Shrine of St. Anthony, in Ellicott City, on Saturday, Aug. 25. The evening celebration of craft beer and cuisine features 2017 Maryland Craft Beer Competition gold medal beers paired with bite-sized culinary creations from handpicked Maryland chefs and restaurants.

The event offers curated tastings to attendees in a more formal and intimate environment, where they can appreciate the nuanced of paired flavors and the different approaches to the pairing elements of beer and food. According to Patrick Fanning, owner and corporate chef of High Spot Gastropub, in Cambridge, REVIVE! “allows local chefs and local brewers to showcase themselves and local products to the public in a fun and inviting way.”

Brewery and restaurant pairings for REVIVE! include the following (among others).

• Barley & Hops Microbrewery & Grill, Frederick, paired with White Oak Tavern, Ellicott City
• DuClaw Brewing Co., Baltimore, paired with Hamilton Tavern, Baltimore
• Jailbreak Brewing, Laurel, paired with Roasthouse Pub, Frederick
• Manor Hill Brewing, Ellicott City, paired with Owen’s Ordinary, North Bethesda
• Union Craft Brewing, Baltimore, paired with Dylan’s Oyster Cellar, Baltimore

Purchase tickets and learn more about the pairings by visiting foodbeerrevive.com or via the Brewers Association of Maryland Facebook and Instagram pages.

Designing from page 19

functional, consider adding a few personal touches to make it feel like yours.

April Force Pardoe, AKBD, is an interior designer and owner of April Force Pardoe Interiors. She can be reached at 410-782-0762.

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She came to Commercial Insurance Managers Inc. in 2010 not expecting to like working in insurance. Today she is driven and loves her insurance work so much, her clients and employees benefit from the extra hours she contributes to their problem-solving. Beth has proven to be an exceptional friend to her clients.

410-799-2142, bbbrigham@businsure.com; www.businsure.com

Our Family has been serving your family for four generations.
Live! Hotel Opens, Adds More Options at Arundel Mills

By Eddie Applefeld

And now, it’s finished.

That skyscraper — it’s the tallest building in Anne Arundel County — that’s been steadily rising out of the horizon near the intersection of routes 100 and 295, in Hanover, is complete. It’s the Baltimore-based Cordish Companies’ new 21-story Live! Hotel, adjacent to Live! Casino, which celebrated its opening in early July.

The Cordish empire dates back to 1910 and more recently consisted of casinos among various other real estate holdings; but in recent years, Chairman David Cordish has also built various gaming properties with adjacent hotels and restaurants. The new Live! Hotel encompasses 310 rooms that are divided into 132 deluxe kings, 126 deluxe double queens, 33 signature suites, 10 presidential suites, five spa suites, two luxury suites and two penthouses.

Also part of the mix is the 1,500-seat Events Center, though construction is underway that will bring that total to 4,000 guests; the center currently accommodates banquet seating for 800, but when Phase 2 is complete, that number will reach 1,600.

When entering from Arundel Mills Circle, the first view of the hotel will be the front desk. Behind it is artwork that features a field of flowers that changes shapes and colors. The lobby also includes the private VIP registration area, which comes with its own elevators. Also, more than 1,000 new parking spaces have been added across the street from the hotel (abutting Costco).

Speaking of artwork, as visitors walk the lobby they’ll notice varied pieces that are collectively known as the Cordish Art Collection, which was curated by Cordish and his wife, Suzi, during the past three years. It includes more than 40 works by renowned artists, with the VIP area featuring an Andy Warhol.

Diners have two choices under roof. The main restaurant is David’s, which features what’s called “an eclectic menu of culinary creations inspired by the chairman’s global travels and favorite tastes.” Pancakes (that are unlike any you’ve seen), salmon, a crabcake and a huge hamburger are among the selections. David’s is open 24/7; further down the lobby is Luckies, where you’ll find gelato, coffees (including Starbucks) and pastries.

The soon-to-be-opened spa offers something for everyone, including a variety of massage therapies, body polishes, body wraps and anti-aging treatments.

See Live!, page 23
Reasons to Lose Your Smartphone

Suggesting that it might be a good idea to lose an expensive electronic device may not seem like the best advice you’ve ever been offered. Still, I suggest you follow these finer points and consider.

Twitter
Some people have resolutely refused to get on Twitter. I’m one of them.

When it started, I looked at it and said, “This is a haven for egomaniacs and narcissists.” The constant rants of the Twitterer-in-Chief have more than confirmed that viewpoint; but there are other reasons to stay away, with bogus accounts and spam being among them. In the ongoing purge of fake Twitter accounts, Justin Bieber and Katy Perry lost more than 3 million followers each, in one week. The fact that their accounts are the two most popular on Twitter tells you pretty much all you need to know.

Kim Kardashian and Oprah Winfrey also lost more than a million; and politicians are upset that their followers are being purged as well, as Twitter suspends accounts of people who fail to provide evidence, such as a phone number, that the account actually belongs to a human instead of a bot.

Twitter suspended more than 70 mil- lion accounts in May and June, and the pace is increasing. Artificial intelligence is being used to find accounts that all have the same followers and just retweet things from other bogus accounts, instead of writing anything themselves.

Facebook is doing likewise, of course, with more than 583 million accounts tagged as fake and closed down in the first three months of 2018. This is happening way past time for both social media platforms. Both have encouraged (or certainly not policed) spam bots and fake accounts, in their efforts to boost their numbers and show user activity, so they can up advertising rates.

Your Brain
Researchers at the University of Texas at Austin have determined that the presence of your smartphone in the same room will diminish your memory and reasoning capacities, even if it is in your pocket and not in your face. To quote the abstract of their paper:

“Although these devices have im- mense potential to improve welfare, to avoid the potential loss of cognitive capacity, it is crucial that we understand how they affect our health. This paper sets out to quantify the effects of exposure to smartphones on cognitive performance.”

The experiments involved more than 800 people and studied different types of cognitive capacity — working memory capacity (short-term memory retention), and “fluid intelligence,” the ability to reason and solve novel problems. The maximum effect is when your phone is out, whether on or off. Next is when it is in your pocket or purse, but only slightly less. You are smartest when the phone is in another room and totally inaccessible.

The paper noted that smartphone usage has gone from 4% of American adults in 2007 to 77% of American adults — and 92% of those under 32 — by January 2017. So, if you think people are getting dumber, there might be a reason for that. Especially if they’re checking Twitter.

Robo Calls
Back in May, the FCC levied a $120 million fine, its largest such penalty ever, on a Florida man responsible for more than 100 million spoofed robocalls in just three months during 2016. The charac- teristic that most upset the FCC was the spoofing, which is using fake information to fool recipients’ caller ID, usually by mimicking their local exchange; the practice is known as “neighbor spoofing.”

He was convicted of breaking the Truth in Caller ID Act (who knew there was such a thing?), with intent to harm or defraud. People who answered were led to believe that the calls came from well-known travel companies, such as Expedia or TripAdvisor, and were prompted to “Press 1 to learn more about exclusive vacation offers.”

Doing so sent you to foreign call centers, where operators tried to sell them vacation packages, often involving time shares, which were completely unrelated to the spoofed company. What a surprise.

BBB Advice
By Angie Barnett

How (and Why) to Optimize Your Business in BBB

As a business owner, you want to maximize the digital presence for your business in every way you can. Take search results, for instance. Having your website show up at the top of organic results in popular search engines is great. But showing up in multiple plac- es on search engine results? That’s even better.

A great way to get more real estate in an organic search is through your BBB Business Profile. But what if you don’t have one? No problem — it’s free, and it’s a great way to connect with potential clients.

If you are one of more than 40,000 businesses in Greater Maryland with a BBB Business Profile, there are a few things you can do to help more people find you when they search, such as optimizing it. Every profile is weighted and ranked on popularity. If you don’t optimize your profile, the better your chances are of ranking higher in organic search engine results in Google, Yahoo and Bing.

So, what can you do to optimize your BBB Business Profile? Try these sugges- tions.

Add as much content as you can, includ- ing the following:

• Company logo
• Business overview and product/service categories
• Contact information
• Services or products your company sells
• Hours of operation
• Service area (helps deliver content rel- evant to users based on their geo-location)
• Links to your social media accounts
• Pictures (plus, videos, if you’re BBB accredited)

Keep consistent
Also know that to maximize the search engine optimization for your business, the name of your company and your address should match on every listing you have, including your profile on bbb.org. For example, if you list your address as “Main St.” (note the abbreviation) on bbb.org, be sure not to use “Main Street” on your Facebook page.

Links
Links to your website and social media accounts provide content for users and more ways for web crawlers to discover those sites.

Be current
If you’re not BBB Accredited and you haven’t had an interaction with us recently, check to make sure you have a BBB rating. Make it a goal to update your information annually to ensure your BBB Business Profile doesn’t go dormant. That would sink your hopes for increased search results.

We can’t promise you that your busi- ness will be No. 1 or show up on the first page in search engine results. However, by having an optimized BBB Business Profile, you create more opportunities for your business to gain exposure — and maybe even new clients.

For more information, or assistance setting up or optimizing your BBB Busi- ness Profile on www.bbb.org, call 410-400-4BBB or try our online chat.

Angie Barnett is president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau of Greater Mary- land. She can be reached at 410-347-3990 and abarnett@greatermdbbb.org.
I wasn’t surprised when the Weis grocery store in the Oakland Mills Village Center closed earlier this year. And once again, the center is without a supermarket, or near, the Oakland Mills Village Center. The event will be part of the “Celebrate” Educational Series on Aug. 8, from 7:30-9:30 a.m., at the Marriott Conference Center, in Linthicum. Registration is open at www.howardchamber.com.

Tix for Signature Event
Details are forthcoming for this event at a time when there was little competition. The center is about a mile off of Broken Rink.

Most of the nine village centers in Co.

Asthough Columbia Association (CA) does own any of the village centers — Oakland Mills has 26 stores within its boundaries — CA does own multiple facilities in, or near, the Oakland Mills Village Center. They include The Other Barn, which is home to the Oakland Mills Community Association; The Barn, which houses CA’s Youth and Teen Center, as well as the Columbia Community Exchange time bank; outdoor tennis courts, and Columbia Ice Rink.

CA has a vested interest in the success of Columbia’s village centers. They are core components of our community. Yet, in my opinion, we have to move beyond making more cosmetic changes when it comes to the model that, in many cases, has served the community for more than 45 years.}

### Study Says
Exploring options for that next model is one reason why CA and Howard County Government funded a study in 2016-17 to look at some of the opportunities for the Oakland Mills Village Center. One key suggestion was the addition of housing. Although Columbia Association (CA) did not own any of the village centers — Oakland Mills has 26 stores within its boundaries — CA does own multiple facilities in, or near, the Oakland Mills Village Center. They include The Other Barn, which is home to the Oakland Mills Community Association; The Barn, which houses CA’s Youth and Teen Center, as well as the Columbia Community Exchange time bank; outdoor tennis courts, and Columbia Ice Rink.

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Exploring options for that next model is one reason why CA and Howard County Government funded a study in 2016-17 to look at some of the opportunities for the Oakland Mills Village Center. One key suggestion was the addition of housing. Although Columbia Association (CA) did not own any of the village centers — Oakland Mills has 26 stores within its boundaries — CA does own multiple facilities in, or near, the Oakland Mills Village Center. They include The Other Barn, which is home to the Oakland Mills Community Association; The Barn, which houses CA’s Youth and Teen Center, as well as the Columbia Community Exchange time bank; outdoor tennis courts, and Columbia Ice Rink.

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Growing Density
Jonathan Edelson, chairman of the Oakland Mills Village Center, also hopeful about the future of the center. "Oakland Mills Village Center has a few things going for it, beyond the proximity to Downtown Columbia," Edelson said. "Blundard Park is within walking distance, and Columbia Ice Rink has been here since the beginning. There are opportunities for the village center to benefit more from those amenities. I believe Oakland Mills can suc-
cede with tenants that have a strong market for their business. I think it’s also important that these businesses want to participate as part of our community. "I do agree with what the feasibility study recommended, i.e., about increasing the res-
idential density around the village center — I’ve been looking at how that is working in Wilde Lake Village Center and thinking about whether it might also apply in Oakland Mills," he said.

"Beyond that," said Edelson, "I would like to keep the possibility open for an expanded, state-of-the-art Columbia Ice Rink. It represents the only sheet of ice in Howard County, and there are residents and groups who are spending more money on ice time outside of the county when they could be spending it here — and supporting the village in the process."

E-mail milton.matthews@columbiaassociation.org with questions or comments.

CAR
from page 24
developers to the table. This is a step toward exploring what could perhaps be a vision-
ary approach to the Oakland Mills Village Center. I know there are a lot of obstacles, but we can’t give up, and we can’t do this alone.”

Through Monday, August 6
Howard County Summer Restaurant Weeks.

Through Saturday, August 11
73rd Annual Howard County Fair.
Howard County Fairgrounds. www.howardfair.org.

Tuesday, August 7
"Winter Growth National Night Out Campaign.” 6–9 p.m. Winter Growth, colen.konstanzer@wintergrowthinc.org.

Wednesday, August 8
"Power Connections Networking Breakfast.” 7:30–9:30 a.m. $30/$35/$45

Through Monday, August 13
" Syria Appreciation Dinner.” Noon–1 p.m. Maryland Center for Entrepreneur Education.
Howard Chamber Business After Work. 5–7 p.m. @515/S30. Walrus Oyster & Ale House. www.howardchamber.com.

Thursday, August 16
"Federal Brass at Glen Mar.” 7 p.m
Glen Mar United Methodist Church. www.
howardchamber.com.

Saturday, August 18
"5th Annual FREE Arts in the Park Festival.” 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Chesapeake Arts

Monday, September 10
"HTC Membership 101.” Noon–1 p.m. Maryland Center for Entrepreneurship. www.hceda.org.

Tuesday, September 11

Monday, September 17
"Young Professionals Network Annua-
lar $15 Annual Chesapeake Townhole Com-
munity. 4 p.m. $515/$550. Bowie
Baysox Stadium. www.centralmaryland-
chamber.org.

Tuesday, August 28

Wednesday, August 29
"Neighbor Ride Day at Shackle Shack.” 11 a.m.–9 p.m. Shackle Shack at the Mall in Columbia. www.neighborride.org.

Thursday, August 30
"GovConnects Educational Series: How to Create a Great Website.” noon–2 p.m. $25/$45. BBS Technology Solutions, www.
govconnects.com.

Saturday, September 1
"HTC Membership 101.” Noon–1 p.m. Maryland Center for Entrepreneurship. www.hceda.org.

Sunday, September 2
"Howard County Police Foundation 27th Annual Police Peace 5K.” 9 a.m.–

Monday, September 10
"Columbia Rotary William Jefferson Memorial Golf Tournament.” 11 a.m. Hob-

Thursday, September 13
"Howard County Chamber Member Luncheon & County Executive Debate.” 11 a.m–3 p.m. $50/$80. Turf Valley Re-

Friday, September 14
"Visit Howard County’s 37th Annual NeighborRide Adds Two to Board Neighbor Ride has welcomed Jackie Breeden, public relations, marketing and fundraising specialist, and Louis Hitt, III, chief operating officer, The Hitt Com-
pany, to its board of directors. The nonprofit also bid farewell to retiring board member Barbara Greenfeld.

Four Promotions at Crosby Marketing Communications has promoted Amy Hirt, president, direc-
tor of operations; Debbie White to digital program supervisor; Bobby Grenier to senior web developer; and Danielle Zdra to visual designer.

Hitt will oversee the agency’s day-to-
day operations, resource management and technology initiatives; Grenier was promoted to oversee large-scale digital programs; Grenier creates websites, mobile applica-
tions and content management systems; and Zdra creates visual solutions across various media channels.

Gomez, Kipke Join Providence Center Board Providence Center, of Glen Burnie, announced that Michael Gomez and Del. Nic Kipke have joined the organization’s board of directors. Michael Gomez is KPMG’s cybereva-
cuity lead partner for the energy sector; Kipke is the minority leader of the Maryland House of Delegates and is vice president of Reps & Associates.

HCCEF Announces Officers, Board Members The Howard Community College Educational Foundation (HCCEF) has named Bruce Rothschchild and Danielle Smith to its board of directors for fiscal 2019: board chair, Mary Cannon, Mary Cannon & Associates; vice chair, Allen Stott, Chesapeake Corporate Ad-
visors; secretary, Kate Hetherington, Howard Community College; treasurer, Sean Keller, Freedom Consulting Group; and assistant treasurer, Kenneth Solow, Pinnacle Advisory Group.

The HCCEF has also added Bruce Rothschchild and Danielle Smith to its board of directors.

Collins to Chair HCEDA Board Tim Collins, chief government relations officer at The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (APL), has been appointed chairman of the board of directors for the Howard County Economic Development Authority (HCEDA). He oversees govern-
mental relations activities across APL on behalf of the Department of Defense, the intelligence community, the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-
ministration and other federal agencies.

Sister Joins CA as CMO Columbia Association (CA) has hired Laura Sitter as chief marketing officer (CMO). Most recently, Sitter served as executive director of marketing for Walden University, the flagship online university of Laureate Education, of Baltimore.

Shirdon Named President With Ease Jason Shirdon has been named presi-
dent at Ease Technologies, of Columbia. Shirdon began his career at the company 19 years ago as a network tech, and his early insights ushered Ease into the then-pioneering managed services space.

Comcast Appoints Dominguez Comcast Cable has appointed Juan De La Palapa. www.howardchamber.org.

Through Monday, August 6

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Wednesday, August 8
"Power Connections Networking Breakfast.” 7:30–9:30 a.m. $30/$35/$45

Thursday, August 9
"YPN Celebrate Series.” 7–9:30 a.m.
15/S30. Loyola University of Mary-
land, Columbia Graduate Center. www.
howardchamber.com.

"Howard Chamber Business After Work. 5–7 p.m. 15/S30. Walrus Oyster &

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"Federal Brass at Glen Mar.” 7 p.m
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howardchamber.com.

Saturday, August 18
"5th Annual FREE Arts in the Park Festival.” 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Chesapeake Arts

Wednesday, August 22
"Neighbor Ride Volunteer Orienta-
tion.” 6–7:15 p.m. www.neighborride.org

Thursday, August 23
"Howard Chamber: Elected Official Meet & Greet.” 5:30–7:30 p.m. $30/$40

Friday, August 24
"Young Professionals Network Annual Ar-
round 1 Annual Chesapeake Townhole Com-
munity. 4 p.m. $515/$550. Bowie
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Friday, September 14
"Visit Howard County’s 37th Annual Community Foundation has announced three new additions to its board of directors. Chris Marasco has joined Revere Bank as a senior vice president at its Ellicott City regional office. Marasco previously served as senior vice president and relationship manager for Howard Bank.

Sydnor to Serve on NLC Committee Laurel City Councilman Keith Sydnor has been appointed to the National League of Cities (NLC) 2018 Public Safety and Crime Prevention (PSCP) federal advocacy committee. He will help shape NLC’s policy positions and work on behalf of America’s cities and towns before Congress.

Pohlman Serving Navy’s Largest Aviation Training Center Airman Madison Pohlman, a 2011 Seton Keough High School graduate and Ellicott City native, is serving on the Navy’s largest aviation training center. She serves as a naval aircrewman and operates out of Naval Air Technical Training Center at Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla.

Carr Serving Navy at Rim of the Pacific Ensign Christopher Carr, a 2012 South River High School graduate and Annapolis

native, is serving in the U.S. Navy as part of the world’s largest international maritime warfare exercise, Rim of the Pacific. He is a first lieutenant aboard USS Dewey, which operates out of San Diego.

Sisters of Bon Securale Celebrate Jubilee Anniversaries Three Sisters of Bon Securale USA celebrate jubilees this year in recognition of their years of ser-
vie with the Catholic con-
gragation. Sr. Rita Thomas celebrates 75 years with the organization; Sr. Mary Cabrini Bonnett celebrates 70 years; and Sr. Jean Aulenbach celebrates 60 years; all three sisters are retired and live in Marriottsville.

On Target: Singletary Bullseye’s Employer of the Month Calvin Singletary was the June Em-
ployee of the Month at Bullseye Parking, in Hanover. Singletary, a driver, was recognized as one of “The Faces of WI Marshall” in the June 2015 issue of The Business Monthly.
**BUSINESS BRIEFS**

**MCE Resident Company’s Assets Acquired by Zwift**

A virtual online cycling and running platform, Zwift, acquired the assets of wearables manufacturer and Maryland Center for Entrepreneurship (MCE) resident company Milestone Sports, and has hired Milestone’s staff as a part of the transition.

Zwift is a multi-player virtual cycling and running game that enables users to interact, train and compete in an online setting. Milestone is a device company that makes fitness technology and called the MilestonePod, which clips to a runner’s shoe and records mileage, gait, and performance. Zwift’s system will collect the data measured by the MilestonePod and allow users to train with each other in a virtual setting.

**Tenable Announces Pricing of IPO**

Tenable Holdings, of Columbia, announced the pricing of its initial public offering of 10.9 million shares of common stock at a price to the public of $23 per share. The shares began trading on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol TENB on Thursday, July 26.

Shares opened at $33, nudging the company’s market value above $3 billion, and closed at $30.25 per share. Tenable closed out the day trading at 31.5% after jumping 40% in its public market debut; the company raised $250 million in the public offering.

Brown opens Austin Nopeans Office

After a nearly 20-year pause, Alex. Brown has returned to the Annapolis market with an office with a location in the Annapolis Town Center at Parole. The office is led by Mid-Atlantic general manager, Mark Kaelo, Alex. Brown has been with Alex. Brown for the past 18 years, previously serving as chief operating officer, and has been with Alex. Brown for the past 18 years, previously serving as chief operating officer.

"The opportunity to bring the Alex. Brown name back — not just nationally, but in a city that was part of our history — is truly exciting,“ said Alex. Brown president and COO Haiyian Arigian. “Re-establishing our roots in Annapolis is a key part of our strategic growth plans in the Baltimore-Washington, D.C., corridor.”

**MGMA National Harbor Debuts $4M Second-Level Casino Offering**

MGMA National Harbor has officially debuted a $48 million second-level casino. The 38,000-square-foot addition includes expanded horse betting, approximately 285 slot machines, a new bar and a dining venue.

“It’s a great result when positive customer interaction drives a business to expand its offerings,” said Melone Johnson, president and CEO of MGMA National Harbor.

“This year, we have set new casino revenue and attendance records. Expansion of our casino floor, which will help us meet the desire of our customers for more luxury gaming entertainment space, while welcoming new players to the resort. Most importantly, we are providing 250 additional jobs and addition to tax revenues to Prince George’s County and the state of Maryland,” Schuh said.

**Howard County Executive Steve Schuh Announces Purchase of Arundel Harbor**

On Monday, Schuh announced that the county has acquired Arundel Harbor, the 12-acre property situated adjacent to the Savage MARC Station in Howard County.

The property, which abuts Franklin Point State Park, has been the subject of litigation between the developer and the Howard County Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration Police Force for nearly a decade.

“Changes to this area will re-energize the Brooklyn Park, Linthicum, and Arundel Village areas. Also, the presence of Arundel Harbor will not be residentially or commercially developed,” Schuh said.

“The property, which abuts 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 attempts, the project had leveled off conditional approvals and gained 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.”

The county plans to create passive recreation areas, like hiking trails, and replanted trees to preserve the site’s environmentally sensitive features such as tidal and non-tidal wetlands that feed into Deep Cove Creek.

The funds for purchase for the property, as well as any reforestation efforts, would come from a “fee in lieu” money paid into an account when developers remove trees.

The funds have sat dormant for four years.

**Jarrells Expands to Annapolis**

Jarrells, a family-owned restaurant known for its submarine sandwiches, Boardwalk Fries and milkshakes, opened a lease at 147 Market Street, just north of space for within the retail component of Arundel Junction Town Center, a mixed-use, Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) that is adjacent to the Fort Meade MARC Station in Howard County.

“Our Scaggsville garden is operating extremely efficiently, and we reached a point where we realized that expansion became a realistic possibility,” said owner Andrew Granovz. “We consider the area surrounding Arundel Junction Town Center a food desert, and believe we have a strong opportunity to seize the lunchtime traffic throughout a large radius, including the Fort Meade region.”

Howard County Honored With NIGP Accreditation Award

Howard County has been certified by the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP) Outstanding Agency Accreditation Award – OAA. The Office of Purchasing has maintained this noteworthy status since 2006 for its high level of professionalism and quality procurement standards, and is one of only 16 counties in the nation to hold this designation in the U.S. and Canada.

OAA accreditation is awarded by NIGP to elite group of procurement organizations that demonstrate excellence in communication to public procurement through the establishment of a body of competencies and capabilities that is publicly endorsed through procurement accreditation. The organization is self-assessed against 130 criteria across 11 categories of procurement procedures, methods and responsibility. The OAA is awarded for a three-year period, and Howard County has maintained this standing consistently for more than a decade.

**BGE Named Among ‘Most Trusted Utility Brands’ by Market Strategies International**

BGE was once again recognized as the nation’s top-ranked energy company in brand trust by business customers, and among the most trusted residential electric and gas utility brands among residential customers, as surveyed in its annual Utility Trusted Brand & Customer Engagement: Business and Residential, two Cogent Reports studies by Market Strategies International.

BGE’s performance in local outreach efforts, customer advocacy, environmental focus, effectiveness in communication and qualitative reliability led to the company’s business customer brand trust score of 795, the highest among all combined (gas and electric) utilities in the United States. BGE’s brand trust index residual score of 702 was among the top 10 energy companies in the East Region.

**Vet-Owned Companies Garner Financing From Commerce**

The Maryland Department of Commerce announced that five veteran-owned businesses have received a total of $250,000 in financing through the Military Personnel Assistance (MPA) program and the Veteran Business Council (VBC)’s No-Interest Loan Program (MVP/BSLP), which will help create nearly 40 new jobs throughout the state. Each business will use the $50,000 loan to support expansion and job creation, as well as infrastructure upgrades, equipment purchases and working capital.

The businesses receiving financial assistance include C&J Pharmacy Services, an Annapolis pharmaceutical startup specializing in virtual pharmacy services for veterans; and Cyber Technology and Operations Inc., a Howard County information technology (IT) company that supports federal contracts for the Department of Defense.

**HCC Named Great College to Work For 10 Years in a Row**

For 10 consecutive years, Howard Community College (HCC) has been named a Great College to Work For, according to the results from a comprehensive workplace survey released by The Chronicle of Higher Education.

HCC is the only Maryland community college, and one of 24 community colleges across the country, to have achieved this year’s recognition. With a decade of winning this award, HCC is one of only two community colleges that have been named a Great College to Work For 10 years in a row.

See Business Briefs, page 27
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

MUHI Announces Agreement With the American College of Healthcare Sciences
Maryland University of Integrative Health (MUHI), a national leader in the education and practice of natural medicine, has signed an articulation agreement with the American College of Healthcare Sciences (ACHS). The agreement provides an accelerated pathway to admission and advanced standing at MUHI for students who have successfully completed the B.S. in Integrative Health Sciences or B.S. in Nutrition degrees at ACHS. Such students are eligible for entry into MUHI’s master’s degree programs in acupuncture, Oriental medicine, health and wellness coaching, health promotion, therapeutic herbalism, and nutrition and integrative health, as well as post-baccalaureate certificate programs in various fields.

U.S. DOT Announces $3.5M Infrastructure Grant for BWI Marshall
U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) Secretary Elaine Chao announced the Federal Aviation Administration will award $69.8 million in airport infrastructure grants, the second allotment of $3.18 billion in Airport Improvement Program funding. The grants fund infrastructure projects that include runways, taxiways, aprons and terminal projects. The grants include a $3.5 million award to BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport for projects to expand its mid-field cargo apron to accommodate increased aircraft activity. “These Airport Improvement Program grants will ensure that a safer, more efficient [BWI Marshall] remains an economic engine and vital infrastructure component for its community,” said Chao.

Howard Firefighter Dies in West County Blaze
Firefighter Nathan Flynn, a 13-year veteran of the Howard County Department of Fire & Rescue Services, died early Monday, July 23, after he plummeted through the floor of a home during a seven-alarm fire on the 7000 block of Woodscapes Drive in Clarksville.

Flynn, a Harford County resident who was assigned to Station 10, Rivers Park, Old Columbia Road, Columbia, was admitted to Howard County General Hospital in critical condition, where he later died. WBAL-TV and the Baltimore Sun reported that, according to property records, the home is owned by Janet Siddiqui, who recently lost the Democratic primary race for Howard County Council in District 4. A pediatrician with The Johns Hopkins Health System, she works as the office medical director in the Odenton office.

Arundel Invests $9.4M for South Shore Bike Trail Expansion
Anne Arundel County has announced a $9.4 million plan to expand the South Shore Trail to Odenton. The proposed expansion will cover the distance of 14 miles, and will link the B&A Trail to the WB&A Trail and connect to the Annapolis Colonial Maritime Trail. The current South Shore Trail is from Annapolis Plaza to Anne Arundel Medical Center, in Annapolis.

This project provides funds to acquire property, design and construct a paved multi-use trail primarily utilizing the abandoned roadbed of the WB&A Railroad between Annapolis and Odenton. The trail will be a component of the East Coast Greenway and the American Discovery Trail.

TGM Acquires Multifamily Apartment Community in Odenton
TGM announced the acquisition of TGM Odenton (formerly The Lodge at Seven Oaks), a 596-unit, garden-style apartment that is located across Route 175 from Fort Meade, in Odenton.

The property, completed in 2007, is composed of 14 residential buildings built on a site of approximately 20 acres. The unit mix offers one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments with an average square footage of 1,018. The property has a comprehensive amenity package that includes a clubhouse, fitness center, billiards, business center, media room and other features. TGM plans to materially upgrade the common area amenities along with enhancements to the apartment interiors.

UM PGHC Cardiac Surgery Program Earns Highest Quality Rating
The Cardiac Surgery Program at University of Maryland Prince George’s Hospital Center (UM PGHC) earned the highest rating from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) for the quality of the hospital’s Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting (CABG) procedure for the last three out of four reporting periods. CABG is the most common type of open heart surgery, improving blood flow to the heart by bypassing clogged arteries.

UM PGHC’s Cardiac Surgery Program received a three-star rating from STS, which is the highest available rating and is achieved by only 12% to 15% of the See Business Briefs, page 28
Cardin, Van Hollen Announce Nearly $2M in Fed Funding to Fight Opioid Crisis

U.S. Sens. Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen (both D-Md.) have announced $1,975,085 in federal funding to fight Maryland’s opioid health crisis. The National Health Emergency (NHE) Delo used a grant to support agency rulemaking and policy development. The company’s role in this effort will be

Arundel Mills to Make Energy Upgrades as County’s First PACE Loan Recipient

Arundel Mills is the first commercial property to benefit from the county’s financing partnership, PACE. The company is using an Indefinite Quantity award (IDIQ) has a total

The Mall in Columbia Introduces New Mobile App

The Mall in Columbia is now offering a new mobile app to assist customers. The app includes a virtual reality tour, a directory of stores, and a list of events and promotions. It also allows users to save their favorite stores and receive notifications for new arrivals and sales.

Cardiovascular Disease

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute has announced the award of the Securities and Exchange Commission’s Office of Compliance Inspectors. The inspection will focus on the areas of risk management, financial reporting, and disclosure controls and procedures. The inspection is expected to take several months to complete.

The Mall in Columbia Launches Streamlined Customer Experience

The Mall in Columbia is launching a new customer experience program. The program includes a mobile app, a virtual reality tour, and a new website with interactive features. The goal is to provide a more engaging and convenient shopping experience for customers.

Visit Howard County to Present First Inaugural Negro League Legends Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

On July 21, the Negro League Legends Hall of Fame will be honoring the Inaugural Negro League Legends. The ceremony will take place in Washington, D.C., and will be followed by a special reception at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.
Nonprofit, from page 28

program grew from 143 students at nine schools to 252 students at 20 schools. To learn more, visit www.howardcountymd.gov/tennis.

NKF Hosting Free Screening at Hispanic Health Fest

The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) Serving Maryland and Delaware will host a free KEY (Kidneys: Evaluate Yours) screening at the Hispanic Health Festival on Saturday, Sept. 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Heritage Community Church, 8146 Quarterfield Road, Severn. As part of NKF’s mission of early detection and early intervention, KEY screenings identify early markers for kidney disease, as well as high blood pressure and diabetes. For more information, visit www.kidneynd.org or call 410-494-8545.

Howard Offers Grants for Arts Programs

In May 2018, the Howard County Council approved County Executive Allan Kittleman’s fiscal 2019 arts appropriation of $865,000 to the Howard County Arts Council (HCAC). Of that amount, 70% will be used to support the council’s grant programs, including four that provide operating funds to support the HCAC and its grant recipients to provide programming in arts organizations, including Artist-in-Education grants to county schools through Howard County Public School System (HCPSS). Applications are available online and are being accepted until Oct. 5.

Howard County Agencies Moved to Community Resources Campus

HCAC is accepting vendor applications for the Special Education and Early Intervention Family Resource and Transition Fair, which is set for Saturday, Oct. 27, from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. at the Cedar Lane School, 11630 Scaggsville Road, Fulton. Organizations and businesses are invited to participate that provide services or resources to support students receiving special education and early intervention services, or who are looking toward transition to work or higher education after high school. Services provided may relate to support for transitioning from high school; physical therapy; adapted physical education; leisure-time activities; speech, hearing, vision, developmental or social skills; or autism.

TFCU Raises More Than $40K for Hopkins Children’s Center

The 36th Annual Tower Classic Golf Tournament, recently hosted by the Tower Cares Foundation, raised more than $40,000 for The Johns Hopkins Children’s Center (JHCC) in Baltimore. The tournament was held June 8 at Renditions Golf Club in Davidsonville. Special guests included 8-year-old Olivia Cooper, the 2018 Children’s Miracle Network Champion for Maryland, and her family.

Diagnosed at age 4 with advanced kidney cancer, Olivia underwent a successful surgery at JHCC to remove a nearly two-pound tumor and her right kidney. Following the surgery, she received chemotherapy treatments at JHCC for seven months. Now in remission, Olivia returns to the Children’s Center every six months for check-ups.

Tournament proceeds from players, sponsors and donations from the business community totaled $19,378; an additional $10,000 was provided through CO-OP Financial Services’ Miracle Match program. TFCU donated $10,872, bringing the day’s total donation to $40,250.

Howard County Police Foundation Holds Police Pace 5K

The Howard County Police Foundation will hold its 27th annual Howard County Police Pace 5K race and 1-mile walk and run on Sunday, Sept. 9, at Centennial Park in Ellicott City. Police Pace begins at 8:30 a.m., and is followed by an awards ceremony. Proceeds from the event will support families of Howard County officers killed or injured in the line of duty, as well as provide scholarships and support the department with funding for special needs not met through the annual budget. Visit www.policepace.com to register.

Howard County Police Foundation

The Howard County Police Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Howard County Police Department, raises funds to support families of Howard County officers who were killed or injured in the line of duty, as well as provide scholarships and support the Howard County Police Department. The foundation is recognized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and is affiliated with the Howard County Police Department.

One Step Closer Autism Walk & 5K Run Set for Oct. 6

The Howard County Autism Society’s 12th Annual Walk/Race. For more information, call or email 410-290-3466 or info@howard-autism.org.

Howard County Public School System (HCPS) is accepting vendor applications for the Special Education and Early Intervention Family Resource and Transition Fair, which is set for Saturday, Oct. 27, from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. at the Cedar Lane School, 11630 Scaggsville Road, Fulton. Organizations and businesses are invited to participate that provide services or resources to support students receiving special education and early intervention services, or who are looking toward transition to work or higher education after high school. Services provided may relate to support for transitioning from high school; physical therapy; adapted physical education; leisure-time activities; speech, hearing, vision, developmental or social skills; or autism.

With Special Guest, Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman, an exciting program & speaker line-up, and Visit Howard County Industry awards.

Tickets and more information can be found at https://visithowardcountyannualmeeting.eventbrite.com or 410-313-1900. See Nonprofit, page 30
Nonprofit, from page 29
disability therapy, mental health; or other areas.
Participating vendors will be provided with exhibit space at no charge. Space is limited. Interested organizations should complete a registration application by Sept. 1. For more information, contact Emily Kinsler at emilykinsler@hcpss.org (with “Resource Fair” in the subject line) or 410-313-7046.

HCAC Accepting Applications for Re-Create: Ellicott City Artist Relief Program

The Howard County Arts Council (HCAC) is accepting applications for the Re-Create: Ellicott City Artist Relief Fund, established to assist artists and nonprofit arts and cultural organizations affected by the May 2018 flood in Historic Ellicott City. The 2018 flood, the second catastrophic flooding event in Historic Ellicott City in less than two years, resulted in considerable losses of artwork, equipment and studio space for many artists with studios and artwork in galleries in Ellicott City. In response, the HCAC re-established its Re-Create: Ellicott City Artist Relief Fund, which originally was created in support of artists affected by the July 2016 flash flood. The application and guidelines are available at bocarts.org. Hard copies are available for pick-up at the Howard County Center for the Arts in Ellicott City. Email info@bocarts.org or call 410-313-ARTS (2787) for more information.

Howard Health Department Teen Health Expo Presents Resources to Young Adults

The Howard County Health Department and its Teen Health Matters staff recently hosted a Teen Health Expo at The Mall in Columbia. This free event provided an opportunity for teens and parents to learn about the services provided by the Health Department specifically geared toward young adults. The information included mental health awareness, tobacco cessation, cancer prevention, healthy living habits and other wellness topics relevant to adolescents. The Health Department Healthmobile was also on-site to provide free, confidential STI (sexually transmitted infection) and HIV testing.

In Howard County, 11% of parents said that their child was diagnosed with either depression or anxiety (2016 Howard County Health Assessment). Anyone experiencing dangerous thoughts of depression or anxiety or anyone concerned about a friend/family member should dial 211 (MD Crisis Connect) for 24/7 support or call the Bureau of Behavioral Health at 410-313-6202 for resources and referral services. For more information, call 410-313-7500 or visit www.hchealth.org.

TFUC Gives Members the HomeAdvantage

TFUC has returned more than $2 million in Cash Rewards to members who have bought or sold a home through the credit union’s HomeAdvantage program. It is one of only a handful of credit unions that gives back to members who have bought or sold a home.

Grant Applications Being Accepted for Ellicott City Flood Relief

The Community Foundation of Howard County (CFHoCo), United Way of Central Maryland and Ellicott City Partnership raised $800,000 for those affected by the Ellicott City flood May 27. CFHoCo will distribute the funds to businesses, nonprofit organizations, property owners and individuals through a grant application process beginning on July 30 and ending on Aug. 14.

Grant applications are available online at http://bit.ly/HoCoGrantApplication. St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, 3695 Rogers Avenue, Ellicott City, is hosting an assistance center where applicants can receive on-one support by appointment or during the hours listed at https://cfhocho.org.

application-assistance. The organization will notify recipients of grant awards no later than Oct. 1. Financial support is available to applicants impacted by a flood that converged within the blue geographic boundaries marked at http://bit.ly/FloodArea who meet additional guidelines and eligibility requirements. For more information, visit www.cfhocho.org.

Main Street Block Party for Ellicott City

For the second time in two years, just as most businesses had reopened from the floods in 2016, Ellicott City was once again the victim of heavy rains that devastated the area in May 2018. To help its Main Street businesses get back up and running, Mayor Craig Moe and the City of Laurel’s Economic and Community Development (ECD) Department, along with the Ellicott City Partnership, will present the Main Street Block Party on Aug. 17, from 6-9 p.m. in Laurel’s Main Street district.

C Street will be the place to be to enjoy music, take part in an art workshop, purchase from vendors, find kids activities, choose from food trucks, participate in raffles and more.

Public Invited to Comment on CA’s Budget for Fiscal 2020

The Columbia Association (CA) Board of Directors is reviewing the budget for fiscal 2020 — and will host several opportunities for public comment between September 2018 and February 2019.

Fiscal 2020 is the second year of CA’s two-year budget cycle. This past February, CA’s board of directors passed the budget for fiscal 2019 (which runs from May 2018 through April 2019) and a conditional budget for fiscal 2020 (which runs May 2019 through April 2020).

The public, including residents, representatives of village communities, associations, advisory committee members and others, will have ample opportunities for input at CA board work sessions and meetings.

These work sessions and meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. at CA Headquarters, 6310 Hillside Court, located off Steeplechase Forest Road (near the county emissions inspection station). Meetings can be viewed live at ColumbiaAssociation.org/livestream and are archived online by the following Monday; work sessions are typically not recorded.

This event will be free and all money raised from vendors and raffles will benefit Ellicott City. If you have a unique arts or crafts business and would like to be a part of this event, email is still accepting vendor applications. Email Leigha Steele at steele@laurel.md.us for more information.

Columbia BikeAbout Returns on Sept. 29

Columbia Association’s (CA) annual BikeAbout event, will be held on Saturday, Sept. 28 with riders setting off from Oakland Mills Village Center. The free, fun and informative tour presents Columbia’s history and showcases the connectivity of its pathway system.

Preregistration is not required but is encouraged via ColumbiaAssociation.org/bikeabout. The event will begin at 9:30 a.m., with riders able to start up until 10 a.m. They are expected to complete the ride by 1 p.m.

There is also a “seeking volunteers, needing to assist with traffic control, registration, and to act as guides at places of interest along the route. For more information, email ColumbiaArchives@ColumbiaAssociation.org or call 410-715-6781.

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Speakers are encouraged to provide written versions of their remarks. There will be time limits for each speaker. Testimony may also be submitted via email to BoardMembers@ColumbiaAssociation.org or via USPS mail to CA Board of Directors, care of Columbia Association Accounting Division, 6310 Hillside Court, Columbia, MD 21040. A complete schedule can be found at ColumbiaAssociation.org/budget. Highlights include the following.

• Thursday, Sept. 27: CA Board meeting
• Thursday, Oct. 1: CA Board work session
• Thursday, Jan. 10: Work session, to include deliberations on proposed additions and deletions.
• Thursday, Jan. 24: Board meeting, to include deliberations on proposed additions and deletions.
• Thursday, Feb. 14: Work session, to include deliberations on proposed additions and deletions.
Cupid, Rebuilding Together Anne
Executive Steve Schuh; Barbara
Pictured are Anne Arundel County
building Together event on July 26.
(See CMC) was on hand for the Re
The Central Maryland Chamber
Combined Effort
Training.
Socialist Corp.; and Matt Blake,
Lynda Kroh, Printing Spe
Attendees included Kate
at the Staybridge Suites-BWI.
The Central Maryland Cham
Staybridge Suites-BWI
CMC Mixes In at
Steadybridge Suites-BWI
The Central Maryland Cham-
ber (CMC) held its July mixer
at the Staybridge Suites-BWI.
Attendees included Kate
Stryker, Next American Films;
Lynda Kroh, Printing Spe-
cialist Corp.; and Matt Blake,
Blake Consulting & Sales
Training.
Meetup at Medieval Times
The BWI Business Partnership, the BWI Hotel Sales Network, Visit An-
apolis and Anne Arundel County and Visit Howard County were among
the organizations involved in the recent networking event that was held at
Medieval Times.
Kiddie Academy Open in Hanover
Central Mary-
land Chamber member Kiddie
Academy of Hanover broke
ground on its new facility on
July 17.
Combined Effort
The Central Maryland Chamber
(CMC) was on hand for the Re-
building Together event on July 26.
Pictured are Anne Arundel County Executive Steve Schuh; Barbara
Cupp, Rebuilding Together Anne Arundel County; and Raj Kuchad-
kar, CMC.
Keeping Crofton First
The group Crofton First recently
met at the Crofton Library in late
July to discuss the latest devel-
opments in the community, no-
tably the design of The Enclave
(see page 3 of this issue of The
Business Monthly). Leading the
discussion is long-time Crofton
resident Pat Haecker.
Howard Tennis Recognized by United
States Tennis Association
The Howard County Department of Recre-
ation & Parks’ tennis programs were pre-
vented the USTA Mid-Atlantic Innovative
Sport Program Achievement Award on July 21. The award was given during the halftime of the Washington
Kastles tennis match at the Smith Center on
The George Washington University campus. Shown are Krista Bill-
ingsley, Howard County Recreation & Parks, who is
being presented with the award from USTA Mid-Atlantic
President Don Patrick.
Lord Stanley Visits the Annapolis
Mary Bello, left, of Anne Arundel Health
System; and Craig “Woozy” Leydig, assis-
tant equipment manager of the Stanley Cup
Victory Washington Capitals, spent a crazy
day with the trophy on July 3 in and around
Annapolis. One of the many stops was at the
Davis Pub, in Eastport.
TF CU Inducted Into
$2 Million Club
Tower Federal Credit Union was
recently inducted into CU Realty’s
inaugural Two Million Dollar Club.
Tower Senior Vice President and
Chief Lending Officer Barry Strick-
lin; Vice President of Real Estate
Lending Mursha Bradshaw, right; and
Lending Product Development
Manager Lori Vranish recently ac-
cepted the award from CU Realty at
TFUC headquarters, in Laurel.
TF CU Raises Funds at Golf Classic
Members of the TowerCares Foundation Board of Directors
present a check to Julie Riddle, left, of The Johns Hopkins
Children’s Center (JHCC), at the 36th Annual Tower Classic
Golf Tournament, held at Renditions Golf Club, in Davidson-
vile. The event raised more $40,000 for the Children’s Center.
Providence Center Holds 26th Golf
Classic Providence Center’s 26th Annual Moran
Golf Classic was held on June 4 at Queenstown Harbor,
on the Upper Eastern Shore, and netted $54,000
to help people gain job skills, build careers and
contribute in their communities. Pictured, from left, are Cathy Larmer-Beckett and Aimee Bullen,
Providence Center; Marc Dorman, Moran Insur-
ance; Peter Brittingham, Friendly’s Restaurants;
Torii Dark and Karen Adams-Gilchrist, Prov-
dence Center. In the center is Sean McDonough,
Under Armour intern.
Crooked Crab Holds Benefit for Capital-Gazette Victims
The Crooked Crab, a craft brewery;
and Naptown Pint, a bar, held a
well-attended fundraiser in early
July at the Odenton draft house to
support the families of and honor
the five journalists from Capital-Ga-
zette Newspapers who were slain in
late June. The group picture includes former employees of the paper.
County’s Local Children’s Board
Partners With HPCPS
Howard County Public School System (HPCPS) signed a partnership with the How-
ard County Local Children’s Board (LCB) on
July 13 that calls for the LCB and the HPCPS
to coordinate supports to improve outcomes
for students needing mental health services,
food assistance and shelter, among other areas. Shown are, back row, from left:
James LeMon and Michael Martirano, HPCPS; Kimberly Eisenreich, LCB;
Jacqueline Scott, Howard County Department of Community Resources &
Services; Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman; Kori Jones, LCB; and
Jahantab Siddiqui, John Krownapple and Theo Cramer, HPCPS. Front row,
from left: Jon Wray, HCPSS; Regina Coleman and Megan Chrobak, Oakland
Mills Middle School; and Naïl Hall and Melissa Daggett, HPCPS.
YPN in the Mix at Ten.M. and m.flats
The Howard County Chamber’s YPN Mixer was held on July 11 at Ten.M. and m.flats. Attending the event
were, from left, Ivy Gales, SECU; Anastasia Borneo, Taurus CPA Solutions; YPN board members Mark
Cruz, Tower Federal Credit Union; and Jacqueline
Ray, Taurus CPA Solutions; and Rhiannon Jones and
Sara Schultz, State Farm Insurance.
Live! Hotel: Officially Open for Business
The grand opening at Live! Hotel was attended by former pro athletes who posed with Cordish Co. Chairman David
Cordish for a presentation of a $5,000 check to the Boys & Girls Clubs. They included, from left, back row: Julius
“Dr. J.” Erving, Jerami Grant (currently of the Oklahoma
City Thunder), Harvey Grant, Ron Harper; front row: Brian
Mitchell, Cordish, Spud Webb, show girls, Santana Moss,
Chris Hoiles and Mike Bordick.

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— Tom Burtzlaff, president

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