D E P A R T M E N T O F ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

march 2014





The DER Mission

The Department of Environmental Resources works for a healthy, beautiful and sustainable County through programs that provide clean water, flood control, recycling and waste management, animal management and pet adoption in partnership with residents and other stakeholders.





Dear Friends,

Our work to keep Prince George's County clean, healthy and beautiful has little chance of enduring if our young people are not engaged in sustainability. That is why I am so excited that in the short time he has been with our County, Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) CEO

Dr. Kevin Maxwell has been proactive in reaching out to our agency to find ways to partner.

As described in the article on the PGCPS/DER Green Team collaboration, there is a new level of energy and promising results. One big one is PGCPS participation in the County's recycling program. Not only does this give a second life (or more) to thousands of tons of material that would otherwise go into our landfill, it teaches children in a simple, direct and powerful way that their actions matter - that they matter. Every child (and adult) can and must make a difference in our world and have the power to do so throughout their lives.

Environmental stewardship is both big and small. Big solutions like shutting down coal-fired power plants, preventing oil spills, or saving polar bears are critical. However, I believe the small things - such as recycling, green purchasing and reducing waste - are more important.

Today's children that learn to prevent litter in their community can be tomorrow's community development leaders. The children that make sure the lights are turned off can be tomorrow's inventors and socially minded consumers of zero-emissions cars. Today's children that learn the wonder of growing a tomato plant with their own organic compost can be tomorrow's nutritionists, chefs and family leaders enjoying a lifetime of healthy living. Good choices make good habits, good habits make good character, good character makes good people, good people make a good society.

Whether we are young, elderly or in-between, all these small and countless everyday behaviors shape the health and beauty of an entire County, nation, and world. As important as it is to think and act big, let's be sure to think and act small.

- Adam

Director





0

- Administrative Services hosts Brown Bag Lunch Session
- **Animal Management** expands Foster Program
- **Roblee Drive Project** protects streambank and preserves water quality
- **3** Suburban Maryland Spring Home and Garden Show

Cover photo: Roblee Drive Project



The DER Newsletter is a monthly publication of the Department of Environmental Resources. We welcome story suggestions, photos and special event articles.

For more information, please contact the Communications Office at (301) 883-5952.

Public Information Officer: Linda Lowe

Graphic Designer: Kenan Langston

Budget Analyst: Barbara Cissel

www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/environmentalresources

KEEP PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BEAUTIFUL HOSTS THE 6TH PRINCE **GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

GREEN TEAM MEETING



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

KEEP PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BEAUTIFUL HOSTS THE 6TH PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS GREEN TEAM MEETING

Keep Prince George's County The mission of KPGCB, the first Maryland Beautiful (KPGCB) hosted the Keep America Beautiful (KAB) affiliate, organization's 6th Green Team Meeting at the Prince George's County Ballroom in October.

Under the direction of its Chairman, John Neville, the event marked a KPGCB milestone, effectively bringing together officials representing Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), members of the environmental sector and KPGCB's biggest supporter, the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources (DER). As a result, the collective goal of establishing a sustainable plan for PGCPS to excel environmentally and to implement recycling throughout the school system is attainable.

is to provide continuous educational programs on litter reduction, the promotion of selective recycling and good solid waste management. KPGCB, in partnership with PGCPS, promotes this mission on a regular basis by providing highly informative and productive environmental meetings such as the Green Team events. Additionally, KPGCB offers initiatives to create community awareness and various methods of proper litter disposal, including the KAB Cigarette Litter Prevention Program, currently in partnership with the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission - Bladensburg Waterfront Park.



Adam Ortiz, DER Director, provided encouraging remarks to the more than 125 participants while detailing the Department's vision along with his commitment to KPGCB and the PGCPS waste reduction activities. Mr. Ortiz emphasized the Department's commitment to the citizens of Prince George's County to produce and maintain a record-setting, sustainable waste management program.

Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, CEO, PGCPS, graced the audience with his welcoming remarks, compliments and declaration of support.

Kudos and best wishes to Keep Prince George's County Beautiful for ongoing success!







Cool Spring Elementary School Cleanup

William Wirt Middle School Cleanup

Old Beaver Dam Earth Day Cleanup

Alice Ferguson/Potomac River Cleanup

VOLUNTEER Spring to Leanups

It's time for a little spring cleaning and DER is counting on you to help. We're seeking volunteers to pitch in and clean their communities. You don't need any experience or tools, we'll provide everything you need. You just need to have the desire to make your community a better place to live. Join us at one of the following Spring Cleanups coming in March and April. For more information on how you can volunteer, contact Udamah Ohiri at (301) 883-5829 or Barbara Cissel at (301) 883-5970.



COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY CLEANUPS

PROMOTE

EMPOWER



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Michelle W. Russell DER Associate Director

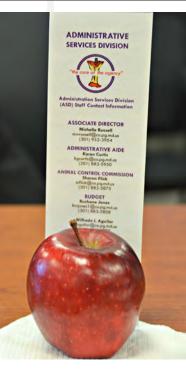
9400 Peppercorn Place Suite 520 Largo, Maryland 20774

The ASD Team Members include:

William Aguilar Jenise Anthony Theresa Bottner JoAnn Carter Barbara Cissel Karen Curtis Sharon Flick **Reginald Ford** Kalik Housen **Rushane Jones** Kenan Langston Vanessa Lee Linda Lowe Stephen Mbandi Tonia Morris **Michelle Russell** Hany Sheraka **Eunice Smith** Carolyn Waldron

Clarerence Woodrow

THE CORE OF THE AGENCY LEADS BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES



Taking a bite out of the daily workload, the Administrative Services Division led the latest Brown Bag Lunch Series on Feb. 20 to tell the story of why they are the core of the agency.

The Division, led by Associate Director Michelle Russell, is charged with providing administrative services and support to all Department divisions, while providing exceptional service to its internal customers such as DER staff and other County employees and its external customers such as the County's various community stakeholders. Comprised of seven sections, ASD includes the Budget & Procurement Office, Grants Administration, the Communications and Community Outreach and Engagement Office, the Policy and Legislative Affairs and Contracts Administration Office, Human Resources, Information Technology and Performance Management. The Division is also home to the Animal Control Commission, Towing, QAlerts, DER's fleet and also handles cemetery issues and concerns.

One by one, each section leader highlighted and provided an overall of the core services they provide. They explained their internal procedures and processes in submitting requests for assistance and also provided employees with an estimated timeline of when they could expect services to be provided. The session was followed by a question and answer period where employees offered their gratitude for all the hard work the team completes on a daily basis. With their excellent presentation, the dynamic team of employees and strong commitment to service, it's easy to see why ASD is indeed the core of the agency.



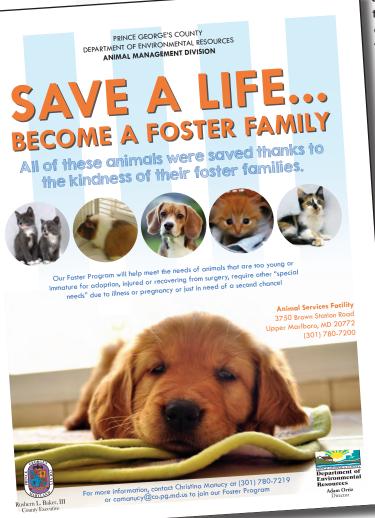
ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Rodney C. Taylor DER Associate Director

3750 Brown Station Road Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT DIVISION (AMD) EXPANDS

A fter working with a small group of volunteers and staff members on a newly created foster program, AMD is now expanding its program by actively soliciting volunteers to join us in saving lives. The foster program will help meet the needs of animals that are too young or immature for adoption, injured or recovering from surgery, require other special needs due to illness or pregnancy, or are just in need of a second chance. Foster parents take these animals into



their homes and care for them until they are adoptable, then work with AMD to find them their new, forever homes. With kitten season quickly approaching, we especially need foster parents who are interested in taking in orphaned, underage kittens until they reach eight weeks of age, at which point they may be placed up for adoption. Placing animals in foster care frees up valuable cage space for other animals that enter the Animal Services Facility looking for a home or those in our care due to cases of animal cruelty.

If you have room in your home and your heart to care for an animal in need and help them to reach the place where they are ready for their forever home, please contact Christina Manucy at (301) 780-7219 or e-mail her a camanucy@co.pg.md.us. DOGS AT AMD BENEFIT FROM 2014 KENNEL COMFORTER PROJECT



hanks to the hard work of some crafty and dedicated Animals". These ladies also coordinated the annual Kennel volunteers, the dogs at AMD were the happy recipients of Comforter Project, as well as the Cat Pillow Project last summer. 331 kennel comforters. The comforters were made with warm Volunteers that sewed for the Kennel Comforter Project include fleece fabric and cotton batting, sewn with love by many Judy Bell, Mary Caraker, Connie Carter, Venia Cleaveland, volunteers, some of whom also contribute to the Cat Pillow Project Penny Cromer, Jeanne Fenstermacher, Linda Harbaugh, Terry Heil, Pat and Morgan Khan, Beverly Landymore, Jane Lecher, during the summer. The comforters are placed on Kuranda dog Laura Martin, Janice Melvin, Becky Neilson, Jack Plumley, beds, which keep the dogs off the floor. They give the dogs a soft place to snuggle into and keep them comfortable during Jennifer Schumacher, Teri Stumpf, Gail and Jesse Terres, Karen their stay at the Animal Services Facility while they wait for Thomas, and Gaye Williams. On behalf of the dogs at the their owners to find them or to be adopted into a new home. Animal Services Facility, AMD extends its appreciation and The comforters were delivered to AMD on Feb. 6th by Connie thanks to the volunteers who participated in this wonderful Carter and Teri Stumpf, co-presidents of "Connie and Teri 4 project.

<image><section-header>

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT OFFERS PET LOSS GRIEF WORKSHOPS

When a beloved pet dies, many may not understand or appreciate the grief that the pet's owner may suffer. Hurtful statements such as "it was just a dog" or "you can get another cat" may be spoken, and well-meaning people may feel that the pet owner should be able to get over their grief in a short amount of time. The loss of someone you care about, whether they are two-legged or four-legged, is still a loss and people process grief differently and in their own time. In an effort to help pet owners deal with the loss of a pet, AMD is proud to partner with Capital Caring of Prince George's County to offer a FREE, 90 minute Pet Loss Grief Workshop. Topics of conversation include understanding your grief, exploring the meaning of your loss, and learning how to cope. Participants are encouraged to bring a photograph of their pet. The workshops are held the last Monday of every month at the Animal Services Facility from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., and are facilitated by a trained grief counselor. If you or someone you know would benefit from a workshop, please contact Capital Caring at (301) 883-0866, extension 4022, to register for the next available workshop.

ROBLEE DRIVE PROJECT PROTECTS STREAMBANK AND PRESERVES WATER QUALITY

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Jeffrey M. DeHan DER Acting Associate Director

> 9400 Peppercorn Place Suite 610 Largo, Maryland 20774

The environmental benefits of the Roblee Drive Streambank Stabilization Project include improved water quality, riparian area, and aquatic habitat. In addition to these benefits, the project met local, State, and Federal requirements to manage, implement and enforce a stormwater management program in accordance with the Clean Water Act and corresponding NPDES MS4 Permit and WIP II conditions.

Irene and Tropical Storm Lee that affected portions of Prince George's County in 2011, a resident contacted the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) for assistance with their property that suffered from severe erosion along two sides due to the high winds and severe downpours that sloped down to the Back Branch stream. DER, partnered with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to construct the Roblee Drive Streambank Stabilization Project (RDSSP) that was constructed in 2013.

n the aftermath of Hurricane

The RDSSP was constructed to stabilize critically eroded stream banks adjacent to a property located on Roblee Drive in Upper Marlboro. On the north side of the property, a 20-foot high section of the stream bank was completely eroded and encroaching within 10-feet of a dwelling located on the property. Along the west side of the property, a section of the stream bank was falling

off and infringing on the garage foundation. A small footbridge that crossed the Back Branch stream was threatened. Without the intervention of DER and MDNR. these structures would have surely succumbed further damage or total destruction.

To stop the erosion, restore the eroded stream bank owner's structures, the RDSSP involved the

construction of more than 240-linear feet of a segmental retaining wall (SRW) with geo-grid reinforcement and imbricated rip-rap. A SRW consists of concrete masonry units (blocks) which are laid without the use of mortar (dry stacked) that use a combination of mechanical interlock (pins) and mass (weight) to stay upright and in place.

On the inside of the SRW, multiple layers of geo-grid reinforcement and free-draining base material (gravel) are placed atop of the soil to level the ground and provide stability under the heavy load. The SRW is then finished with a layer of rip-rap (large stones) and the remaining disturbed area was planted with trees. Imbricated rip-rap (boulders) is stacked in the stream bed to stabilize and protect the stream bank from further erosion. This in-channel structure, called a cross vane, is made up of a set of angled lines of boulders that deflect flow away from the banks of the stream. The RDSSP plays an important role in maintaining and preserving local water auality by limiting the amount



and protect the property Along the west side of the property, a section of the stream bank was falling off and infringing on the garage foundation. A small footbridge that crossed the Back Branch stream was threatened.

of eroded soil leaving the land and reaching the stream. This sediment can carry with it 'sediment-bound' chemicals (nitrogen and phosphorus) which pollute the stream.

The riparian area (the space between land and a stream) acts as a natural buffer to protect the stream from pollutants and provide bank stabilization and wildlife habitat. A riparian area serves to slow water velocity, thus allowing sediment to settle out of the surface runoff water. The trees planted help clean the air as they trap and filter air pollutants during the process of evapotranspiration (the return of water vapor to the atmosphere by evaporation from land and water and by the transpiration of vegetation). A well-managed riparian area generally supports larger populations of wildlife because the buffer provides many habitat requirements such as food, water and cover.

The cross vane structure built in the stream bed directs stream flow and controls stream grade. It is designed to allow aquatic organisms and fish to pass through it, and serves to provide the aquatic organisms and fish with in-stream habitat area. The structure reduces stream bank erosion and redirects the flow of water to the center of the stream effectively lessening the erosive action of flowing water in the stream that carries away materials found on the stream bank or in the stream bed.



The gravel is then compacted to eliminate settling.





Roblee Drive Project, post-construction

Bringing Sustainability Home:

DER's Community Outreach Promoting Empowerment

Section (COPE) Adds a Green Touch to the Suburban Maryland Spring Home and Garden Show

Dawn Hawkins-Nixon

SUSTAINABLE INITIATIVES

DER Acting Associate Director

9400 Peppercorn Place Suite 610 Largo, Maryland 20774

WELCOME TO THE

LIFESTYLE

STAGE

Spring brings the promise of warmer weather, the return of song birds and blossoms and a sense of renewal. While inside, homeowners start picturing home improvement and landscaping projects. This February, homeowners who attended the Suburban Maryland Home Show watched cooking demonstrations and perused displays of granite counter tops, deck umbrellas, replacement windows and . . .stormwater? Yes, stormwater! COPE's display used the

> Enviroscape, an interactive three dimensional watershed model to demonstrate how our everyday actions and decisions impact stormwater runoff which has a big impact on the water quality of streams and rivers in Prince George's County.

> COPE Section Head Deborah Weller and Prince George's County Master Gardener Coordinator Esther Mitchell also gave a presentation titled Banking on Green: Saving Money. According to Weller, "Planting trees and installing rain barrels can reduce energy and water bills while improving the environment." Mitchell explained that stormwater management techniques like permeable paving and rain gardens are even more affordable thanks to the County's new Rain Check Rebate Program. Together, COPE's presentation and display communicated an empowering truth: small actions taken by individuals can make a big difference to the environment we share.

> By participating in the home show, COPE brought this message to homeowners who might not choose to participate in an environmental event. Reaching a broader audience helps embody the Sustainable Initiatives Division's vision to "carve a navigable, and ultimately well-traveled, path to an environmentally sustainable tomorrow thriving off today's innovative technologies and best practices, and where residents are empowered to make good choices."

> To take full advantage of this outreach opportunity, the COPE display also included materials from other DER programs such as recycling and animal management. In this way, we helped connect homeowners with the many services provided by DER.









http://www.epa.gov/sustainability/basicinfo.htm 2 http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/food/risks.htm

he U. S. Environmental Protection Agency defines sustainability as the creation and maintenance of "...the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, that permit fulfilling the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations. Sustainability is important to making sure that we have and will continue to have, the water, materials and resources to protect human health and our environment."

In this age of "green," when one hears the word "sustainability" you might immediately think of the environment. It is not widely understood that there is a direct connection between sustainability and the quality of our everyday lives. When one is sustainable, it benefits the environment, but it also benefits the individual personally. More specifically, it affects your health and your wealth.

We often see many tips on sustainable practices. We are often encouraged to reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides in our lawns and gardens. We are also encouraged to "buy organic:" It is common knowledge that pesticides harm our animals, water sources and air quality, but what we do not hear as much about is the harmful effects to human health as a direct result of pesticide exposure. Reducing the use of pesticides does not only help our water, air and animals, but studies show that human pesticide exposure has resulted in health problems such as: birth defects, nerve damage and cancer.²

Another sustainable practice tip involves employees in the workforce. Companies are now encouraging employees to take the stairs as opposed to the elevator. The thought is that this practice will cut down on energy bills. What is not very well emphasized are the awesome health benefits of taking the stairs...and there are many! Here is a list of reasons to start climbing:

Reasons why you should take the stairs:

- our workday.
- your way!

•

- climbers.
- are the quickest way to your destination.
- calories as walking. So step it up!!

People spend an estimated two-thirds of their lives at their place of employment. In order to stay healthy, we need to find ways to incorporate physical activity into

Daily living activities like climbing the stairs can make a significant contribution to the 30 minutes of exercise we all need everyday.

The 30 minutes of physical activity we need for our health can be accumulated a bit at a time, or one stairway at a time or spread at intervals throughout the day. Do it

Physical activities like stair climbing are a great way to cope with job-related stress.

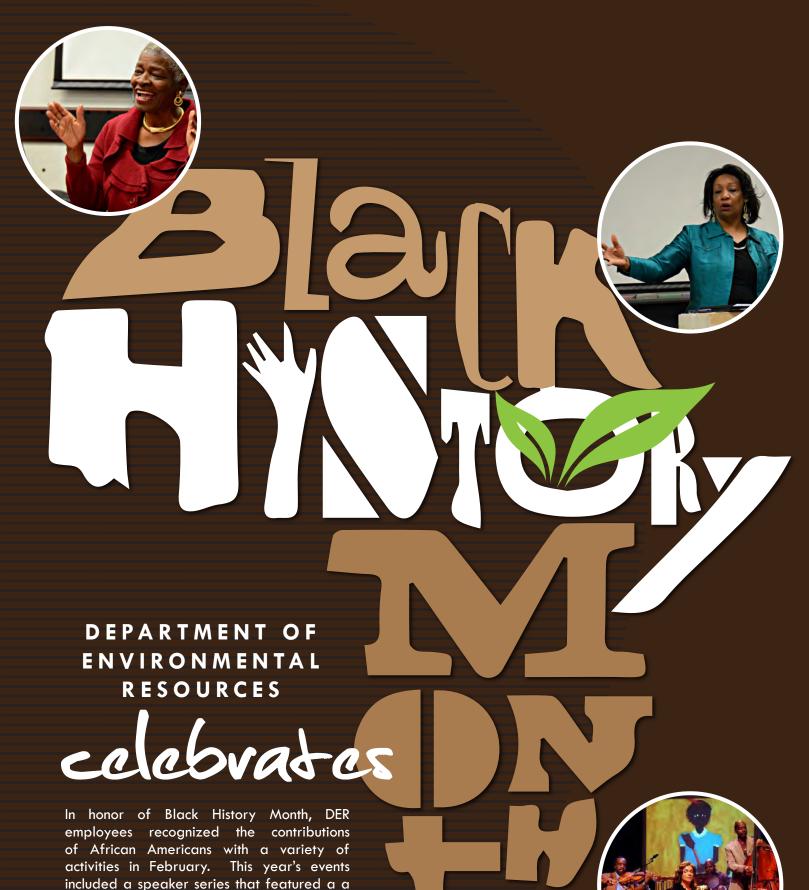
Climbing just two flights of stairs everyday could result in a loss of 2.7kg or 6lbs per year. Climbing six flights a day could help you trim nearly 18 lbs.

Adding stairs to your day can add years to your life. Studies show the risk of cardiovascular disease and death is lower among those who are regular stair

Those who climb stairs on a daily basis have greater leg strength and aerobic capacity, allowing them to participate more fully in a wide range of daily activities.

Taking the stairs is often faster than waiting for an elevator during peak usage times. Take the test and time your trip. Often for trips of seven floors or less, the stairs

Using the stairs requires no special skill, equipment or clothing and it burns twice as many



former County Councilwomen and civil rights

activist, a current Prince George's County

employee and a Harlem Renaissance theater

performance at the Publick Playhouse.



GILLIE HAYNES

Gillie Haynes is an accomplished communications expert with more than 25 years of experience, which includes print, broadcast journalism and public relations. She is currently a Public Affairs Specialist for the Office of Communications with the Prince George's County Council and also works as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Communications at American University teaching Public Speaking. Her professional work also includes Public Relations Manager for a national program within the Department of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C., and, in Business Development with EDS. She also developed, produced and served as host for a number of on-air programs in her position as Public Affairs Director, KBLX/KRE Radio in the Bay Area of California. Ms. Haynes is also a poet and has been featured nationally to diverse audiences across the Country. Her work has been published in SURVIVING, a magazine dedicated to Cancer survivors, published by Stanford University. She is a former columnist for SILVER VIXENS, an on-line publication for women. Ms. Haynes' presentation focused on her new book of poetry, that she is currently promoting entitled, Sounds Like a Poem to Me.



Recognized by Washingtonian Magazine as one of the area's most powerful women, Dorothy F. Bailey is a passionate woman of service, faith and a civil rights activist. Ms. Bailey's career has taken her from the public school classroom, to senior- and executive-level positions in government and the non-profit sector, to two-terms as an elected official. During her terms as a member of the Prince George's County Council, she led the Council for five years, serving as Chair for two years and as Vice Chair for three. In July of 2011, Ms. Bailey was appointed and confirmed as Vice Chair of the Prince George's County Planning Board and a member of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. A 1998 graduate of Leadership of Greater Washington, she is an active member (fifty-plus years) of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and has served as a national board member and section president of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. She has founded several community organizations and remains involved with local, national and international efforts today.

RAISIN' CANE:

A HARLEM RENAISSANCE ODYSSEY **STARRING JASMINE GUY AND THE AVERY SHARPE TRIO**

This production highlighted the renaissance of artistic expression in post-World War I Harlem by weaving poetry, fiction, art and music, and creating a multi-media window into a critical point in cultural history.



DOROTHY F. BAILEY

EMPLOYEE SPCTLIGHT

DER congratulates Catherine Escarpeta on becoming a Certified Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Professional in November 2012. Catherine passed a rigorous screening process that involves four components including Educational Achievement, Professional Experience, Contributions to the Profession and abiding by the GISCI Code of Ethics. She currently serves as an Engineer III within the Stormwater Management Division and performs a vital and professional role as the Department's GIS Specialist, providing critical data development and management and services to support the Department's operations. Catherine has been a GIS professional for 18 years and has worked for DER for twelve years.

DER congratulates Diana Pringle of the Stormwater Management Division for passing her U.S. Citizenship Test. Diana is originally from the Phillippines were she worked as a secondary public school teacher for 13 years and then went on to Moscow to teach at an International English School. It was in Moscow that she met her husband, James Pringle, Jr., who is also a Prince George's County employee. Diana has been employed with DER since December 2011. She gives God the glory for fulfilling her dream of becoming a U.S. citizen. Her next goal is to bring her mother, brother and the rest of her family to the U.S. so that they can be reunited.

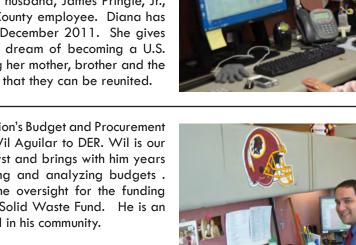
The Administrative Services Division's Budget and Procurement Office would like to welcome Wil Aguilar to DER. Wil is our new Budget Management Analyst and brings with him years of experience in both preparing and analyzing budgets. His primary functions will be the oversight for the funding for both the General Fund and Solid Waste Fund. He is an active member of his church and in his community.

Wil, his wife Tonya and their three young ladies Kaitlyn, Hannah and Paige reside in Calvert County. His favorite quotes to live by include:

It always seems impossible until it done. Siempre parece imposible hasta que se haga. -Nelson Mandela

I can do everything through him who gives me strength. Todo lo puedo en Cristor que me fortalice. -Philippians 4:13

DER NEWSLETTER





TIPS FOR CREATING a WINNING PRESENTATION

Many employees in the Department attend meetings and community events to make presentations concerning our programs, projects and initiatives. There are certain things you can do to make your presentation effective and one that commands the attention of your audience. Here are some tips that will help you make a lasting impression as a skilled presenter.

1. Know your Stuff

Your comfort level with presenting will be high if you know everything about your topic. After all, the audience is looking to you to be the expert. Don't overload the audience with knowledge about your topic. Three key points is just about right to keep them interested, allowing them to ask questions if they want more.

2. Make it Clear What You are There to Share

Outline briefly the key points you will talk about and cover the topic in depth. At the end of your presentation, summarize your presentation in a few short sentences.



3. A Picture Tells the Story

Keep the audience's attention with pictures and graphics rather than endless bulleted slides.

4. You Can't Have Too Many Rehearsals

Take time to rehearse your presentation, preferably in front of people. That way, you can get feedback from others regarding what works and what doesn't. An added bonus of rehearsing is that you will become more comfortable with your material.

5. Pace the Presentation

A good presenter will know how to pace a presentation so that it flows smoothly, while at the same time being prepared for questions at any time. Be sure to allow for audience participation at the end. If no one asks a question, have a few quick questions of your own ready to ask them. This is another way to engage the audience.

6. Learn to Navigate

If you are using PowerPoint as a visual aid to your presentation, get to know the many keyboard shortcuts that allow you to quickly navigate to different slides in your presentation if the audience asks for clarity. For example, you may wish to revisit slide 6, which contains a wonderful picture illustrating your point.

7. Always Have a Plan B

Unexpected things happen. Be prepared for any disaster. What if your projector blew a light bulb (and you forgot to bring a spare) or your briefcase was lost at the airport? Your Plan B should be that the show must go on, no matter what. You should know your topic so well that you can make your presentation "off the cuff" if need be, and the audience will leave feeling that they got what they came for.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIR MENTAL RESOURCES

