

*Prince George's County*

DEPARTMENT OF THE  
**ENVIRONMENT**

september 2014

Shredding Event Draws 2,700 Vehicles

# Green Scene

newsletter



Rushern L. Baker, III  
County Executive

## The DoE Mission

The Department of the Environment 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.

## DIRECTOR'S *Corner*



Dear Friends,

Are you looking for love?

One of our most basic needs is to have meaningful and affirming relationships. However, we all know that it can be hard to find Mr. or Ms. Right. Some look through institutions like church or the workplace. Others through online dating. And many of us look for love the old fashioned way, through friends and family. Are you looking for love in all the right places?

If not, you need to come down to the Prince George's County Animal Shelter. Blonde or brunette? Young or mature? Introverted or outgoing? We have 300 wonderfully diverse animals: dogs, cats, reptiles, fish and birds all looking...needing...a loving home.

And more, October is National Pet Adoption Month and we are waiving most of our fees to provide dogs for \$125 and cats for \$70 (spayed and neutered) - so we promise a cheap date.

If you have enough love in your life already, I am sure you know a friend, relative or neighbor who may benefit from having a pet. For a young person a pet is a positive way to teach compassion and responsibility, for an older person a pet can provide exercise and companionship.

We have many other incentives and programs that may fit an adopter's needs, so please connect with us. The County Animal Shelter is located at 3750 Brown Station Rd., Upper Marlboro. Adoptable animals can be seen at [www.princegeorgespets4us.com](http://www.princegeorgespets4us.com). The shelter's viewing and adoption hours are noon to 6 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays; 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays; and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays, and the shelter is closed Thursdays, Sundays and holidays. Call 301-780-7200 for more information.

Sincerely,

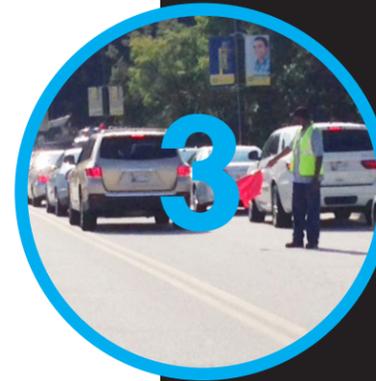
*Adam Ortiz*  
Director



### LOOKING FOR LOVE?

*Midnight is an approximately 7-month-old black colored female Labrador Retriever who was surrendered by her owner.*

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

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

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[www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/environmentalresources](http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/environmentalresources)

## SHREDDING EVENT DRAWS 2,700 VEHICLES

More than 2,700 participants did their part to keep their sensitive documents out of the hands of dumpster-diving thieves and out of the landfill by participating in the NBC4 Allstate Community Shred Event on Saturday, Sept. 6 at Prince George's Community College. Open to the Washington D.C. metro community, the free shred, held in partnership with Prince George's County Government, NBC4, Allstate, Shred-it and the college invites participants to bring up to five archive boxes or paper bags of documents for onsite shredding. But protecting identify theft isn't the event's only benefit; it's also good for the environment.

"This event not only highlights the importance of destroying personal documents properly, it provides a great environmental benefit with the recycling of the shredded materials, boxes and paper bags by keeping them out of our landfill," said Adam Ortiz, DoE Director.

This year's event resulted in more than 49 tons of recycled and shredded paper and cardboard that was kept out of the local landfill. Thanks to all who participated and did their part to stop crime and to protect the environment.



## ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Rodney C. Taylor  
DoE Associate Director

3750 Brown Station Road  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

## OCTOBER IS ADOPT-A-DOG MONTH

Join the Animal Management Division as they celebrate National Adopt-a-Dog Month in October! If you're interested in adopting a dog, this is a great time to search for the "paw-fect" canine companion.

Throughout the month, dog adoption fees have been reduced to \$125. These fees will cover the cost of the spay/neuter surgery, pain medication and e-collar. Microchip fees and dog adoption processing fees have been waived – resulting in a \$100 savings. There is no charge for dogs that are already spayed or neutered. For more information, contact the Animal Services Facility at (301) 780-7201.



## 4th ANNUAL AMD FALL FESTIVAL

AMD will host its 4th annual Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 25 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The festival will feature bake and yard sales, face painting, fun games and a Halloween costume contest. A photographer will also be available to take Halloween pictures of you and your pet!

During the festival, AMD will also offer reduced adoption fees for pets. Kitten and cat fees are \$70 and \$25 for each additional kitten/cat adopted. Dog adoption fees are \$125. Discounted fees cover the cost of the spay/neuter surgery, pain medication and an e-collar. Fees for vaccinations, microchips and County license have been waived for animals adopted during the Fall Festival.

For more information, contact the Animal Services Facility at (301) 780-7201.



## STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

**Jeffrey M. DeHan**  
*DoE Associate Director*

**1801 McCormick Drive**  
**Suite 500**  
**Largo, Maryland 20774**

## LAUREL LAKES DREDGING

City of Laurel residents will soon notice a great deal of activity at Laurel Lakes. To ensure that the popular body of water continues to function properly and remains beautiful and clean, the Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) is dredging the lake. This project includes the removal of sediment or "muck" that has settled at the bottom of the lake.

Designed and built in 1986, the daily purpose of the man-made lake is to filter stormwater (rain or melted snow) and prevent stormwater runoff—pollutants such as sediment, oil and grease—from entering local streams and rivers. Inspections are done by the County to make certain that the lake cleans stormwater effectively, sediment storage levels below three feet, properly releases water and prevents downstream flooding and erosion. Lake dredging is conducted once sediment storage levels reach three feet or higher.

The dredging project, which will also include the planting of new trees along the lake's walking trail, will be completed in spring 2015. For more information, contact DoE at (301) 883-5810.



## SUSTAINABLE INITIATIVES

**Dawn Hawkins-Nixon**  
*DoE Acting Associate Director*

**1801 McCormick Drive**  
**Suite 500**  
**Largo, Maryland 20774**

## CLEAN WATER STORMWATER POLLUTION PROGRAMS

The Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) recently launched a new program to help enhance County residents' knowledge of sustainable environmental practices that they can carry out and manage at their homes.

The Clean Water, Clear Choices Program includes hands-on, do-it-yourself classes and workshops that focus on stormwater pollution and rain barrel installations. During the Stormwater Pollution Audit class, participants learn how to improve the quality of stormwater runoff (rain or melted snow) that flows over the land picking up pollutants such as oil, grease, sediment and nutrients. The class will also explain how to address stormwater issues such as erosion or ponding. Taking action to address stormwater runoff can save homeowners money, beautify their yards and help keep water clean for drinking, fishing and boating.

The Rain Barrel Demonstration class includes a live, step-by-step assembly and installation of a rain barrel, which collects rooftop runoff using a gutter/downspout system. It provides a free supply of water containing no chlorine, lime or calcium, making it ideal for a wide variety of uses including watering the lawn, gardens and window washing.

Lawn and garden watering make up nearly 40 percent of total household water use during the summer. Using a rain barrel will save most homeowners about 1,300 gallons of water during the peak summer months. Saving water not only helps protect the environment, it saves you money and energy. Diverting water from storm drains also decreases the impact of stormwater in streams and rivers.

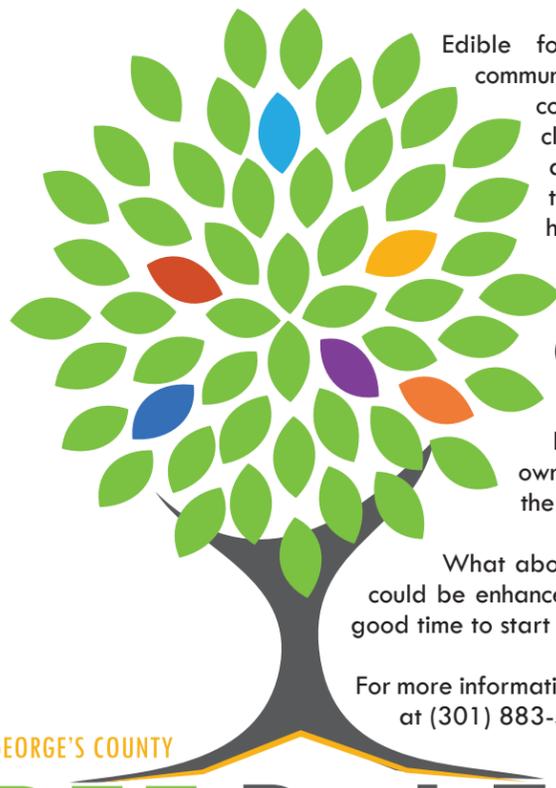
For more information on the program or if you have an idea for a joint project, contact Carole Barth, Planner at (301) 883-8264.



# COUNTY PROGRAM GETS TREE-VITALIZED!

The revitalized Prince George's County Tree ReLeaf Grant Program is off to a "tree-mendous" start. Relunched this summer, The City of College Park was one of the first municipalities to participate in the grant program and receive \$4,000 to assist with the planting of 46 native trees and shrubs in the right-of-ways along city streets.

This fall, more than 250 native trees and shrubs will be planted in three communities including 65 trees at Lake Arbor Eponymous Lake in Largo, and 110 shrubs and trees in the Windsor Green neighborhood in Greenbelt. An "edible forest" containing 75 trees bearing fruit, nuts, herbs and vegetables will be planted in Riverdale.



Edible forests are low-maintenance, sustainable woodland communities that produce plant-based food for human consumption. Through the use of companion planting—the close planting of different plants that enhance growth and protection from pests—the forests can be intermixed to grow in a succession of layers and form a woodland habitat.

The grant program, administered by the Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE), focuses on increasing the number of trees in the County by planting new trees. It's a great way to improve the environment and enhance the natural beauty and health of our communities. County municipalities, home owner associations and nonprofit groups are eligible for the program.

What about your neighborhood? Is there an outdoor space that could be enhanced with more shade or even an edible forest? This is a good time to start planning for spring planting and DoE can help!

For more information or to apply for a grant, contact Moji Banjoko, Planner at (301) 883-5802.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
**TREE ReLEAF**  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT *Grant Program*



# DON'T BE LEFT OUT... YOU TOO CAN RECYCLE!



With a population of approximately 863,500, Prince George's County is the third most populated jurisdiction in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Since 2000, the number of County residents has increased by seven percent. As the population has grown, so has the amount of trash generated and collected throughout the County.

Many residents participate in, and benefit from, the County's curbside recycling program. However, a majority of those participants live in single-family homes. Unfortunately, residents living in apartment and condominium communities, also known as multi-family dwellings (MFDs), are unable to take advantage of curbside recycling offered by the County because:

- Programs for individual households are not suited to MFDs;
- Private waste haulers, not local government, typically provide waste management services to MFDs;
- Many MFD buildings were not designed with recycling in mind; and
- MFDs typically have little space in individual units and in common areas for the collection and storage of recyclables

To overcome recycling challenges, and encourage residents to reuse and recycle, the Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) is working with MFDs community leaders and management companies to establish recycling programs for plastic, metal, glass and paper. DoE is offering support and assistance to MFDs that will assist with program design and education, help increase recycling rates in these communities and identify recycling opportunities. Recently, the State of Maryland and Prince George's County passed laws that require MFDs to have programs up and running by October 1, 2014.



Recycling offers MFD communities the ability to reduce costs associated with private garbage collection while positively contributing to the protection of our environment. When we reuse our materials we conserve our precious natural resources. Recycling also requires significantly less energy and creates less pollution than the processing of virgin materials. Multi-family dwelling recycling is another step in helping keep Prince George's County beautiful.

For more information about the Prince George's County Recycling Program and how DoE can help your MFD community establish their own recycling program, contact CountyClick 3-1-1 or (301) 883-4748.

## GO GREEN ON YOUR SMARTPHONE

Want great green tips right on your smartphone? Check out this list of apps that will help you live a greener and healthier lifestyle from the palm of your hand!



**AirStatus:** AirStatus is a notification network for individuals who want air quality updates for their local community.



**Avego Driver:** Avego Driver will offer your empty seats to other people along your route in real time and share the cost of the journey between you and each rider, saving everyone time and money.



**GasHog:** GasHog allows you to enter the odometer reading and the amount of fuel added every time you add fuel, and it automatically calculates the fuel economy of your last tank.



**Joulebug:** JouleBug is a social, mobile game that rewards players for reducing energy waste.



**Light Bulb Finder:** The Light Bulb Finder app makes it easy to switch from incandescent to energy-efficient light bulbs.



**Living Green for a Better Tomorrow:** Provides tips on how to help Mother Earth.



**Meter Readings:** This useful application makes it easy to monitor your household utility meters by displaying your usage, costs and savings in easy to visualize graphs.



**PaperKarma:** If you're constantly plagued by receiving junk mail, unsolicited offers, and bulky, unwanted offers, PaperKarma can help stop them from coming to your home. Simply pull out your phone and snap photos of the offending mail. PaperKarma will figure out what it is and how to stop it.



**WeRecycle:** WeRecycle is a platform to facilitate communication about waste between citizens and their community.



**What's Fresh:** What's Fresh will help you to eat the freshest foods by allowing you to know anytime, anywhere what fruits and vegetables are currently in season in your area.

## GREEN BULLETIN

### SAVE THE DATE

County to kickoff  
Alternative Compliance  
Program for religious  
entities and nonprofits.

October 22, 2014

Forestville New Redeemer  
Baptist Church  
7808 Marlboro Pike  
Forestville, MD 20747

For more information, [click here](#)



### Community Forklift: It's no ordinary home improvement center

Before taking on any home improvement project, consider making a visit to Community Forklift, a 34,000 square foot warehouse featuring new and used building materials. On a typical visit, you can expect to find vintage cast iron sinks and tubs, windows, doors, recycled lumber, appliances, radiators, lighting fixtures, ceramic tile, bricks and many more surplus and salvaged building material at 25 - 75 percent below retail.

Community Forklift is located at 4671 Tanglewood Drive in Edmonston and serves Washington DC metro area bargain hunters. To drop off a donation or to make a monetary contribution, visit [www.communityforklift.com](http://www.communityforklift.com) for more information.

## POP-IN @ NORDSTROM TMRW TGTHR

### DISCOVER PRODUCTS FOR A BETTER PLANET

Launched last fall, Pop-In @Nordstrom is an ever-changing, limited-time, apartment-size in-store shop that Nordstrom curator Olivia Kim created to recognize different ways of being 'socially responsible'. The latest Pop-In Collection running September 12 - October 12, will feature eco-friendly, upcycled, artisanal and community-focused goods titled **TMRW TGTHR**. Available in eight of the largest Nordstrom stores and online, the collection features a range of emerging and veteran brands, and products from seed bombs to natural soaps to vegan leather all in an effort to improve our planet. Click [here](#) for a look at the products.

## WELLNESS WORKS!

**R**ecently, The Department of the Environment (DoE) kicked off its Wellness Works! Program. Supporting the health and wellness of DoE employees, this initiative provides opportunities for employees to participate in physical and mental activities that reinforce the importance of leading a well-balance lifestyle.

Wellness Works! launch events, held throughout the Department, included opening remarks from DoE Director Adam Ortiz, Gold's Gym representatives provided nutrition and fitness tips, and breakfast smoothies, yogurt parfaits, fruit and granola bars were also served.

The program encourages employees to set long-term and short-term goals, such as starting exercising routinely or using honey instead of sugar. The Wellness Works! Program will also support healthy lifestyle activities promoted by the Prince George's County Office of Human Resources.

For more information about the Wellness Works! Program, contact DoE at (301) 883-5810.

