

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY *Since 1932*

Vol. 85, No. 26 June 29 — July 5, 2017

Prince George's County, Maryland

Newspaper of Record

Phone: 301-627-0900

25 cents



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY J.F. MEILS VIA AP

Culling oysters ready for market is a daily job in the aquaculture business. At Choptank Oyster Company in Cambridge, Maryland, the work is done outdoors year-round.

On Eastern Shore, Can Solar, Aquaculture Supplant Big Chicken?

By J.F. MEILS
Capital News Service

CAMBRIDGE, MD—Kevin McClarren has been growing oysters in nets on the Chesapeake Bay for 20 years.

“We were told it would never work,” said McClarren, who manages four acres of floating oyster grounds for the Choptank Oyster Co. near Cambridge in

Dorchester County. “Now we’re ground zero for the artisanal oyster movement in Maryland.”

Since 2011, MARBIDCO, the Maryland Agriculture and Resource-Based Industry Development Corp., has doled out 50 loans to budding shellfish aquaculture startups for a total of \$3 million.

According to McClarren, the problem is there’s not enough

demand in-state for all the newly cultured oysters being produced—or enough distributors to move them to markets beyond Maryland.

Which makes aquaculture—like solar, another relative newcomer to the Eastern Shore—not quite the economic salvation some hope it will be. Similar to Western Maryland and the state’s northern counties, the Eastern

Shore is in the process of forging a new economic identity.

Their quandary: finding new industries that create large numbers of decent jobs while protecting the Chesapeake Bay and maintaining the region’s pastoral feel for both tourists and locals. The old economic mainstays of

See **SOLAR** Page A5

CASA/Prince George's Again Named as One of The “Best Nonprofits”

Selected by Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington

By PRESS OFFICER
CASA PG County

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)/Prince George’s County, MD, today was again named as one of the region’s “best nonprofits” by the Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington.

The Catalogue, a guide to giving, previously picked CASA/Prince George’s County for the honor in 2013. The nonprofit provides court-appointed special advocates to protect the best interests of foster children.

“People want to know where to give and they need trusted information. Based on our in-depth review, we believe that CASA/Prince George’s County is one of the best community-based nonprofits in the region,” said Barbara Harman, founder and president of the Catalogue for Philanthropy.

Ann Marie Binsner, executive director of CASA/Prince George’s County, said, “We thank the Catalogue for its recognition and support, which will help us as we push to dramatically increase the number of foster children we are able to serve.”

CASA Prince George’s County, founded in 2001, has about 180 CASA volunteers. Each is assigned to a child, who is foster care due to abuse or neg-

lect. The organization’s goal is to assign a CASA volunteer to each foster child in the county, which now has about 500 such at-risk boys and girls.

The Catalogue, in its 15th year, evaluates small nonprofits, those with annual budgets of less than \$3 million. This year, it named 108 nonprofits as among the region’s “the best.” Since its inception, it has also raised \$38 million for area nonprofits.

The Catalogue’s network now includes more than 400 vetted nonprofits working in the arts, education, environment, human services, and international sectors throughout greater Washington.

In addition to evaluating nonprofits and raising funds, the Catalogue offers trainings, neighborhood-based opportunities for collaboration, and a speakers’ series for those who want to engage in the needs, challenges, and accomplishments of our shared community.

The Catalogue believes in the power of small nonprofits to spark big change. As the only locally focused guide to giving, its goal is to create visibility for the best community-based charities, fuel their growth with philanthropic dollars, and create a movement for social good in the greater Washington region. The Catalogue charges no fees and raises funds to support its work.

July 4th SoberRide® Campaign Launched to Deter DUI in Prince George's County

By PRESS OFFICER
WRAP

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Preparing to combat that time of year when, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), over a third (36%) of all U.S. traffic deaths involve drunk drivers, free Lyft rides will be offered to deter impaired driving throughout the Washington-met-

ropolitan area on Independence Day (July 4th).

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the 2017 Independence Day SoberRide® program will be in operation beginning at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, July 4th and continue until 2:00 am on Wednesday, July 5, 2017 as a way to keep local roads safe

See **SOBERRIDE** Page A3

Ag Land Preservation Highlighted in PG County

By PRESS OFFICER
PG Coil Conservation

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—On April 20, 2017, the Prince George’s Soil Conservation District celebrated Ag Land Preservation in Prince George’s County at the 43rd annual co-operator dinner. With nearly 225 in attendance, 19 landowners were presented with “Preserved Farmland” signs to be displayed on their property. The

Prince George’s Soil Conservation District began administering Ag Land Preservation for Prince George’s County in 2007. To date, a total of 58 properties, for 5,500 acres, have been permanently preserved. There are several options for land preservation in the county. Programs available include the Maryland Agricultural Land

See **SOIL** Page A3

EDC President and Chief “Excitement” Officer Jim Coleman Receives “Good Scout” Award From the Patuxent District Boy Scouts

“Eagle and Boy Scouts Can Do Anything When it Comes to Leadership!,” Coleman Says.

By R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—On June 13, Prince George’s County Economic Development Corporation President and Chief “Excitement” Officer Jim Coleman received the “Good Scout” Award at the Patuxent District Boy Scouts’ 2017 Annual Good Scout Award Luncheon. Mr. Coleman was exhilarated to be recognized but also encouraged support for the Patuxent District Boy Scouts, as the Scouts work to get the training that turns them into world leaders.

“Eagle and Boy Scouts do anything you can think of when it comes to leadership,” said Coleman. “They’re Secretaries of State and many have been congressmen and senators. The idea of going out and helping our communities is instilled in them and we see the positive results of their training every day. We count on our Boy Scouts to enhance our commu-

nity and to be the leaders of the future. I am honored and humbled to receive this award from the future leaders of America. It is the highest honor.”

The Patuxent District Boy Scouts Good Scout Award Luncheon is held annually and recognizes community leaders whose work has had a positive impact on youth. Mr. Coleman received this year’s award at the culmination of the luncheon, which highlighted the work of the Patuxent District Boy Scouts and recognized scouts who are leaders amongst their peers. Mr. Coleman was chosen because of his fervent dedication to improving the lives of all who live in Prince George’s County.

“Today, we had a tremendous event honoring Jim Coleman, the President and CEO of the Prince George’s County Economic Development Corporation,” said Chair Eddie L. Pounds. “We chose Mr. Coleman because he is an outstanding leader in the business com-



PHOTO COURTESY R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS

Left to right: Eagle Scout Bercari Franklin; Event MC, Len Lucchi, Esq.; “Good Scout” Awardee Jim Coleman; Boy Scout Davis Miller

munity. When we look at the significance of the EDC and the impact it has on emerging and future leaders, we are excited about the synergies that can come from a partnership with Jim Coleman and the EDC. I couldn’t think of a better person to have received this award.”

In addition to receiving a trophy, Eagle Scout Bercari

Franklin and Boy Scout Davis Miller outfitted Mr. Coleman with a Boy Scouts of America neckerchief and the Boy Scouts of America Ranger Hat, which he adorned proudly for the remainder of the luncheon and business day.

See **GOOD SCOUT** Page A3

INSIDE

Area Motorists Are Reaping the Benefits of Lower-Than-Last Year Prices at the Pump

This is the first time in 204 days that the national gasoline price has dipped below year-ago levels. Many factors play into the price at the pump, but the common denominator for last June and the current month is crude oil.

Community, Page A3

Saving Medicaid—An Urgent SOS

They plan to vote on a Senate bill just before they leave Washington for the July 4th recess. We can’t tell you everything that’s in it because Senate leadership is keeping its bill secret and doesn’t plan to reveal it until just before they vote. But we know it’s bad—ending Medicaid as we know it.

Commentary, Page A4

Economic Development Corporation Joins Local Dignitaries at Groundbreaking For Town Hall of Upper Marlboro

The ensuing years filled in the property which ultimately became the Town Hall that serves as the administrative offices for elected officials, the Town Police Department and local meeting room.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: *Alien: Covenant*

We’ve seen all of this before—and even if we hadn’t, Scott keeps telegraphing the action, so that almost none of the things that surprise the characters are surprises to us. This would be a disappointment as a standalone sci-fi horror film. As an entry in the *Alien* franchise, it’s almost an insult.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What’s the latest in greener booze? Are there any good organic beers, wines or liquors out there?

—Mike Richardson,
Norwalk, OH

Features, Page A7

Calendar of Events

June 29 — July 5, 2017

Barnyard Birds

Date and Time: Thursday, June 29, 2017, 2–3 pm
Description: Take a guided tour through the farm and learn about chickens, turkeys, peacocks, geese, and ducks. Meet them up close and personal, and do fun activities that help you learn about our feathered friends.
Cost: Resident: \$4; Non-resident: \$6
Ages: 5 and older
Location: Old Maryland Farm
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544

Animals of Greenbelt

Date and Time: Thursday, June 29, 2017, 4 pm
Description: Join a Park ranger in a presentation of wildlife and their characteristics that call this special place their home.
Cost: Free
Ages: 5–12
Location: Greenbelt Park—Meet at Sweetgum picnic area
6565 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, MD
Contact: 301-344-3944

Sky Zone Trip

Date and Time: Friday, June 30, 2017, 6:30 pm
Description: Come with us to Sky Zone where the sky is NOT the limit!
Cost: \$20
Ages: 10–17
Location: Glenn Dale Community Center
11901 Glenn Dale Boulevard, Glenn Dale, MD
Contact: 301-352-8983, TTY 301-699-2544

Bubble Ball

Date and Time: Friday, June 30, 2017, 8:30–10:30 pm
Description: Bubble Ball is a remix of bumper cars, sumo wrestling, and ridiculousness. You’ll laugh ... get knocked over ... and laugh some more. Each player is protected by a large, transparent bubble that covers the entire body except for the lower legs, with a opening above the head. this event has endless opportunities of fun and depends on the creativity of the player. We’ll see you there!
Cost: FREE!
Ages: 13–17
Location: Bowie Community Center
3209 Stonybrooke Drive, Bowie, MD 20715
Contact: 301-464-1731; TTY 301-699-2544

Exhibit: Barry Goldstein

Date and Time: Saturday, July 1–Sunday, July 30, 2017, 10 am–5 pm
Description: After a career running a premier accounting recruitment agency in Washington, D.C., Barry Goldstein sold his business to pursue art.
Studying and working in a wide range of media from drawing to painting to sculpting, he sees our physical and non-physical world in new ways.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD 20708
Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Black-Eyed Susan Indoor Summer Classic

Date and Time: Saturday, July 1 and Sunday, July 2, 2017, 8 am
Description: Indoor BEST Horse Show
Cost: Free for spectators
Location: The Show Place Arena
14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-952-7900; TTY 301-699-2544

University of Maryland July 4 Spectacular

Date and Time: July 4, 2017, Concessions open at 5 pm; Entertainment begins at 7 pm;
Fireworks start at dusk—approximately 9 p.m.
Description: The University of Maryland and the City of College Park host a Fourth of July celebration with fireworks and Rock and Roll tunes. Grass seating is limited, so bring your lawn chairs and blankets. Concessions will offer hamburgers, hot dogs, funnel cakes, ice cream, snow cones, soda and bottled water. Personal coolers are allowed. Alcohol and personal fireworks are prohibited on campus.
Cost: Free
Location: University of Maryland
College Park, MD
Lot 1 adjacent to Campus Drive off Adelphi Road
Parking tips: Use either the Campus Drive entrance from U.S. Route 1, or the Stadium Drive entrance from Route 193. Follow police directions to parking.
Arrive early. Heavy traffic is expected to begin around 7:30 p.m. Late cars will be directed to park in outlying lots, which will offer free parking, but shuttle services will not be available. Disabled visitors are encouraged to arrive early as disabled parking is limited in Lot AA.
The best routes to exit campus will be the main Campus Drive gate onto Route 1, or Stadium Drive to Route 193.

Blast-in-the-Past: A Hands-On History Playground

Date and Time: Thursday–Saturday, July 6–Aug. 5, 10 am–3 pm.
Description: Montpelier’s grounds will be transformed into a history playground! Have fun while you learn about life in 18th century Maryland. Be a farmer, a frontiersperson, a milliner, a town crier and much more. Come for an hour or stay for the day. Drop-in, no reservations required.
Cost: Montgomery and Prince George’s Co. Resident \$2.50/day; Non-Resident \$3/day. 2 free adults per group. Saturdays are All-County Day, when all paying visitors pay the resident fee of \$2.50.
Self-guided tours available for additional fee. \$1 off house tour for adults attending Blast-in-the-Past.
Ages: 2 and up
Location: Montpelier Mansion
9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD
Contact: 301 377-7817, TTY: (301) 446-3302,

EARTH TALK ... Greener Booze: Why Stop Caring When It’s Party Time?

Dear EarthTalk:

What’s the latest in greener booze? Are there any good organic beers, wines or liquors out there?

—Mike Richardson,
Norwalk, OH

Perhaps no other industry has responded to the greening of consumer preferences quite like beverage producers. From wine to beer to spirits, greener choices made from local and organic ingredients and packaged in lighter-weight containers abound. Indeed, getting a buzz on has never felt so good.

Brewers’ great contribution to the greening of the industry has been a renewed focus on localization. Back in the 1980s, there were less than 100 breweries across the U.S., most of them part of big multi-national corporations. But today Americans have upwards of 5,000 breweries at their beck and call, many which source ingredients from nearby farms and save money and greenhouse gas pollution by not shipping their products out of their local region.

Besides local sourcing and distribution, hundreds of brewers across the country are also going green by choosing organic barley and hops. Some labels to look for in sustainable beer include Peak Organic and Brooklyn Brewery, both based out of New York, and Colorado-based New Belgium.

For its part, the wine industry has made great strides in recent years by upping its production of organic wines, too. Frey Vineyards, Grgich Hills Estate, Porter Creek, Cain, Ernest Vineyards and Pacific Rim are just a few of the U.S. based winemakers embracing organically grown grapes.

Winemakers are also showing green leadership through product packaging, with many eschewing glass bottles in favor of cardboard boxes or plastic-reinforced Tetra Paks. Not only does the process of creating traditional wine bottles emit large amounts of greenhouse gases, the weight of the glass also adds markedly to transportation emissions—nearly half of the products’ weight is in the bottles themselves.

Wine blogger Tyler Colman of DrVino.com estimates that boxed wine generates about half the greenhouse gas emissions per 750 mL as wine in glass bottles. That said, Tetra Paks aren’t so easy to recycle and thus are more likely to be tossed into landfill-bound trash than their glass counterparts. But aficionados skeptical of wine in a box might want to taste test French Rabbit’s Pinot Noir, created from organic ingredients and looking svelte in its Tetra Pak.

When it comes to sustainability, hard liquor may be the last to the party but is rallying hard to catch up. Mexico’s Tequila Ocho, for instance, lets some of the agave plants on its Los Fres-



PHOTO COURTESY EARTH TALK

Mexico’s Tequila Ocho lets some of the blue agave plants at its Los Fresnos ranch reach full flower—a process that can take up to eight years and makes the plants no longer able to produce tequila—for the sake of local endangered bat populations that depend on them to thrive.

nos ranch reach full flower—a process that can take up to eight years and makes the plants no longer able to produce tequila—for the sake of local endangered bat populations that depend on healthy, flowering agave plants to thrive.

Meanwhile, California’s Square One not only uses organic grains in its vodka but sources a significant amount of the electricity needed in its production facilities from a local wind farm. Kentucky-based Maker’s Mark uses locally sourced grains in its famous bourbon and converts production waste into energy to power its distillery. And Puerto Rico’s DonQ rum composts its waste and uses run-off to irrigate its

fields while powering its still with excess steam from its treatment plant.

CONTACTS: Tetra Pak, www.tetrapak.com; French Rabbit, www.frenchrabbit.com; Frey Vineyards, www.freywine.com; Dr. Vino, www.drvinoc.com; Tequila Ocho, www.ochotequila.com; Square One, www.squareoneorganicspirits.com; DonQ Rum, www.donq.com.

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Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Prince George’s County LitterTrak Earns Best In Category National Achievement Award

Mobile Litter Apps Recognized for Helping to Keep Prince George’s County Litter-Free

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

LARGO, MD—Prince George’s County has been recognized with a 2017 Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for the launch of two mobile software applications (apps) designed to track and report tonnage of litter captured, removed and prevented in communities and local waterways. The national awards program honors innovative, effective County government programs that enhance services for residents. PGCLitterTrak (used by community groups and individual citizens) and LitterTrak (used by County officials) were selected as the overall best in the category of County Resiliency: Infrastructure, Energy and Sustainability.

NACo President Bryan Desloge said, “Counties overcome complex challenges, provide essential services and constantly do more with less. We applaud these Achievement Award-winning counties for out-

standing efforts to improve residents’ quality of life.”

“Litter is a nuisance in our community and has a direct effect on our quality of life in Prince George’s County,” says DoE Director Adam Ortiz. “These mobile apps assist in our fight for a litter-free County and receiving this national recognition confirms our commitment to crafting creative solutions that help keep our County clean.”

PGCLitterTrak and LitterTrak were developed to assist the County in its Litter Reduction Programs and various Partnerships that include:

- Clean Sweep—a coordinated inter-agency led effort to clean up communities in the Anacostia River Watershed and TNI areas that will contribute to the achievement of the mandated trash reduction rate of 170,628 pounds per year in the Anacostia River Watershed.
- Clean Up Green Up—an annual initiative designed to keep communities cleaner and greener with neighborhood plantings and beautification ac-

tivities held twice a year, throughout the County.

- Comprehensive Community Cleanup—program designed to revitalize, enhance and help maintain unincorporated areas of the County by providing a concentrated focus of County cleanup and maintenance services to a community over a 2-week period.
- Volunteer Neighborhood Community Cleanup—a community-sponsored volunteer program geared toward small, medium and large-sized communities that includes neighborhood and stream cleanups. Interested communities are provided with technical assistance and materials such as trash bags, gloves, and roll-off containers when available.
- Storm Drain Stenciling—community program that helps prevent water pollution by stenciling inlets to neighborhood storm drains.
- Source reduction projects to reduce incidents of littering such as installation of trash and recycling receptacles.

- Trash capture devices that increase capacity to remove litter in waterways which can be maintained by volunteer groups.
- Stream level trash monitoring and land-based trash surveying to provide actual measures of trash load reduction and gauges impacts of implemented measures.

- Stream cleanup services that increase the County’s capacity to remove litter from physically challenging waterways and bank areas.

NACo will recognize the award-winning Counties at its 2017 Annual Conference and Exposition July 21–24 in Franklin County, Ohio. Visit www.naco.org to view a complete list of winners.

PGCLitterTRAK app is available by registration through the PGCLitterTRAK user sign-up form. For more information on how to get involved in the fight for a Litter-Free Prince George’s County, contact Tiaa Rutherford, Litter Reduction Program Manager, at (301) 883-6226.

Solar from A6

Talbot County Commissioner. “In certain fields where the quality is marginal, why not use those fields for solar?”

However, the state’s Public Service Commission reviews and approves all solar projects that will generate two or more megawatts, and their authority supersedes that of the counties.

So is this the beginning of a solar gold rush on the Eastern Shore?

Some of the solar land leases being offered to area farmers make it seem that way. The leases usually run for about 25

years and their financial terms can vary widely, but offers in the \$1000/acre range are common, with either lump-sum payments up front or made annually or even quarterly.

With some farmers struggling to net \$100/acre growing corn or grain, saying no to solar will be hard.

For the time being anyway, most won’t have to choose.

“I think there’s this misconception (in Maryland) that utility-scale solar is going to continue at the rate we have seen, at 50 to 60 megawatts (developed) a year,” said Sara Rafalson, director of policy and new markets

for Sol Systems, an energy finance company. “It will continue, but it won’t be this big solar boom where all the state’s farmland will be taken up,” she added.

A good indicator of the demand for solar is the state’s SREC, or solar renewable energy certificate, market. A single SREC is earned by generating 1,000 kilowatts or 1 megawatt, of solar electricity annually.

SRECs are important because Maryland’s utility companies are required to have 2.5 percent of their electricity generated from solar. SRECs can be bought and sold to big utility companies that need to meet state regulations or

face fines. The electricity created is sold separately. SRECs generally serve as an inducement to build solar.

“A bunch of folks were developing projects (in 2015), which led to oversupply in the (SREC) market and a crash in 2016,” said Yeatts.

As of May 25, the bid on SREC Trade, an aggregator, for a Maryland SREC is \$8. In spring 2015, they were in the \$150 range.

“A lot of (solar development) folks are turning their eyes to Virginia because the economics are more favorable than Maryland,” Rafalson said.

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