

Prince George's County

DEPARTMENT OF THE
ENVIRONMENT



august 2015

Green *Scene*
n e w s l e t t e r



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.



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AND FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

environment.mypgc.us

Dear Neighbor,

On President John F. Kennedy's desk sat a plaque with a faith-based inscription that read "thy sea is so great, and my boat is so small." The interpretation of this quote, of course, depends on one's perspective. At the helm of post-War America during the morning hours of the nuclear age, for the young President it likely spoke to the vastness and uncertainty of the world before him – and his place in it.

I am often mindful of this quote. Like many of us, I wonder how much one person can really make a difference. In this interpretation, the saying does accurately reflect how we often feel in such situations, but it does not accurately reflect how it actually is in such situations.

We are not, in fact, alone in a little boat. We are in a fleet, or to shift the metaphor, we are a crew member on a carrier with many others. We each have our roles – some navigate, some plan, some fix, some cook, some paddle, some do laundry ;-). Nobody can do everything but everybody can do something. In this way, working together, we get ever closer toward that shore.

In this issue, we look at the many ways we and our partners are working together to make our County cleaner, greener, healthier and more beautiful. We have new initiatives to provide spay/neuter services for residents with limited income, reduce hazards to our water and our health by not using coal tar sealants, launch new anti-litter efforts, connect with local businesses to control runoff pollution, and put people to work, help business to recycle under new requirements and introduce electric vehicles to our fleet to reduce carbon initiatives.

Each of these efforts represent progress toward our destination, and none of them were done by any one of us rowing a little boat all by our lonesome (though starting some of these initiatives certainly felt that way). We are part of a crew that includes pet stores, the State and County legislatures, big businesses, small businesses, other governments, automotive manufacturers, residents, homeowners associations, nonprofits, churches, our wonderful summer youth,and so on.

We may not know the extent to which this saying offers an insight into Kennedy's personal sense of humility; however, history remembers Kennedy as the visionary, bold and thoughtful steward of a newly empowered nation who set the tone for progress on civil rights, space exploration, environmentalism, human rights, international engagement and public service. We should not diminish the feeling we all sometimes have of being overwhelmed and alone in the face of today's challenges, but we should remember that there are sources of strength all around to help us along. I am sure Kennedy knew that, even as he looked out across his own great and uncertain sea.

Best regards,

Adam Ortiz



contents

green scene newsletter | department of the environment | august 2015

feature

3 Prince George's County Sustainable Energy Program Update

divisions

5 Animal House

6 Help Us Control the Pet Population

7 Do Not Use! Prince George's County Ban on Coal Tar Products

8 The Clean Water Partnership Program

9 Operation Clean Sweep: Coming to a Neighborhood Near You

11 Recycling is Good Business: Make it Your Business

13 **GREEN PAGE:** #DoEGreenTeens

16 **HR MATTERS:** 10 Listening Blocks to Effective Communication

The Green Scene 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.

Public Information Officer:
Linda Lowe

Public Information Specialist:
Lauren Kinard

Graphic Designer:
Kenan Langston

Budget Analyst:
Barbara Cissel

Citizens Services Specialist:
Everette Bradford

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY'S SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PROGRAM UPDATE

The Office of Central Services, Sustainable Energy Program, Fleet Management Division in partnership with the Department of the Environment are excited to announce the opening of the electric vehicle charging stations at 9400 Peppercorn Place in Largo. The installation of the six fast charging points including the purchase of six plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV) was funded by the Maryland Energy Administration's Smart Energy Communities grant. The grant helps local governments reduce fuel expenses, carbon emissions and deploy innovative "green fleet" technologies.

The charging stations and PHEVs are a part of the County's effort to promote the efficient use and optimization of its fleet management assets. In the pilot phase, staff is actively monitoring the performance, utilization, driver experience and other parameters to effectively integrate additional alternative vehicles and fleet technologies into the County's energy and green fleet management programs.

To learn more about the electric vehicle charging stations and the County's additional sustainable energy projects, contact Erica Bannerman, Energy Manager at (301) 883-6450 or esbannerman@co.pg.us.md.



ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Rodney C. Taylor
DoE Associate Director

3750 Brown Station Road
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

The Department of the Environment's Animal Management Division (AMD) joined the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals (ASPCA) and the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus (CAPC) for their annual Paws for Love event on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and their staff enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon with 50 adoptable dogs and cats from local animal shelters and rescue groups.

Former Senator and Majority Leader Bob Dole, CAPC co-chairs Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick (R-PA 8th District) addressed attendees who gathered for a fourth consecutive year to honor the life-saving work of animal organizations throughout the Washington, D.C. area and the hundreds of dogs and cats waiting to be adopted into their 'forever home.'

Joanne Brown, AMD Volunteer Coordinator, escorted four dogs including Ariel an eight month old female Border Collie; Tippy, a three year old female Parson Russell Terrier; and male Pomeranians Maxwell and Princeton, who are six and four years old respectively, along with several AMD volunteers and summer youth interns to the event. In addition to AMD, 11 other animal leagues, shelters, societies and foundations participated in the Paws for Love celebration.

The CAPC, formed in February 2009, is a bipartisan organization committed to raising awareness of animal welfare issues in Congress. Through non-partisan forums

ANIMAL HOUSE!

Politics are put aside to celebrate the loving work of animal shelters and rescue groups



and briefings, CAPC highlights important issues affecting animals and upcoming animals and tracks the progress of relevant legislation.

For more information on Paws for Love, visit www.aspca.org/.

HELP US CONTROL the PET POPULATION

To help reduce the number of unwanted cats and dogs euthanized, AMD has created a special spay and neuter program titled Spay-A-Day Keeps the Litter Away. Through the support of a \$50,000 grant awarded to the County by the Maryland Department of Agriculture, 365 spay and neuter surgeries will be provided to pets of Prince George's County residents. Special focus will be placed on providing these free services in underserved and low income communities.

The goal of the Spay-A-Day Keeps the Litter Away campaign is to provide one spay or neuter surgery every day through 2015. AMD will focus on reducing Prince George's euthanasia and animal shelter intake rates by performing surgeries on 219 dogs and 146 cats in the County. In conjunction with the surgeries complimentary rabies vaccinations will be provided to all 365 animals. Surgeries, available on a first come first serve basis, will be conducted at the Animal Services Facility Spay Spot Clinic located at 3750 Brown Station Road in Upper Marlboro. To date, 105 have been performed on Prince George's County pets through the support of grant funding.

AMD will use the program to promote spay/neuter services in conjunction with educating dog and cat owners in areas designated through County Executive Baker's Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI) on the importance of having their pets undergo the surgery. Special radio and print advertisements will promote key campaign messages including fighting pet overpopulation, reducing high animal shelter intake and euthanasia rates and improving pet health.

Residents interested in applying for a free spay or neuter surgery may contact the Animal Management Division at (301) 780-7201. Applications will be reviewed by the Spay-A-Day campaign coordinator and will contact applicants regarding surgery approval.

Prince George's County offers free spay and neuter surgeries



Jeffrey M. DeHan
DoE Associate Director

1801 McCormick Drive
Suite 500
Largo, Maryland 20774

DO NOT USE!

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PLACES BAN ON COAL TAR PRODUCTS

On July 1, Prince George's County announced a ban on the sale and use of coal tar paving products commonly found in asphalt driveways and parking lots. The products contain high levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), which are carcinogenic to humans and fish. This ban will minimize stormwater runoff of PAH contaminants to local waterways. Contractors or property owners that use a coal tar product are subject to a fine of up to \$1,000 per day starting January 1, 2016.

Residents and contractors should use less-toxic asphalt-based or latex sealants and review ingredients and safety data sheets when purchasing products from home improvement stores. DoE is the lead agency in enforcing the ban and has launched an educational campaign geared to property owners, contractors, distributors and retail vendors announcing the implementation of the ban.

For a list of products coal tar free products, visit www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/EnvironmentalResources/Resources/Pages/Coal-Tar-Sealant-Ban.aspx

For more information, contact George Nicol at (301) 883-5976.



THE CLEAN WATER PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

WELCOME HOME

The Prince George's County team of Corvias Solutions is proud to announce the location of its new office at 1801 McCormick Drive in Largo. Corvias' offices are a short elevator ride away from the Prince George's County Department of the Environment's headquarters and is a testament to the Corvias' philosophy of becoming true partners in its endeavors to support numerous stormwater infrastructure enhancements throughout the County.



The Prince George's County team has been working tirelessly with the construction and design teams as well as community organizations and local businesses to ensure that the Clean Water Partnership program launches seamlessly. With new stormwater retrofit projects breaking ground in the coming months, Corvias Solutions will share updates on the progression of their projects in the DoE Green Scene newsletter.

FORESTVILLE NEW REDEEMER BAPTIST CHURCH

Forestville New Redeemer Baptist Church is leading the way by becoming the first faith-based organization in the County to benefit from the Alternative Compliance Program. This program supports non-profit and faith organizations with an opportunity to reduce their Clean Water Act Fee by integrating stormwater management practices onto their property. With the use of pervious pavers, rain barrels and gardens, bio-retention facilities and newly planted trees, Forestville New Redeemer will improve the treatment of stormwater while reducing polluted stormwater runoff around their church campus.

This project demonstrates a holistic approach to solving stormwater issues by connecting local business to major community stakeholders such as faith organizations. Through the Alternative Compliance Program and the Clean Water Partnership Program, Prince George's County is providing many opportunities for businesses and community organizations to contribute to enhancing the County's green infrastructure.

END TIME HARVEST MINISTRIES SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

The End Time Harvest Ministries Summer Youth Program is supporting 46 students from Port Towns who are working as Wellness Ambassadors in County municipalities and with businesses to further their health policy advocacy education. In conjunction with the Clean Water Partnership, these students will complete projects that focus on building and/or sustaining bio-retention cells, rain gardens, rain barrels and community/youth gardens to mitigate stormwater runoff. The students are also learning core business skills such as time management and résumé writing that will support their goals of establishing long-time careers in the stormwater industry.

Before the start of the six week program, students were tested on their knowledge of stormwater management and will be re-tested at the completion of the program to measure how their stormwater acumen has been enhanced. Students will become better stewards of the Earth and teach their families and neighbors how the environment impacts the nutrition and health of their communities. The Clean Water Partnership is proud to support this summer youth program and excited about introducing the next generation of Prince Georgians to the benefits of enhanced stormwater management and green infrastructure.

End Time Harvest Ministries, a Prince Georges County based non-profit, was built on empowering youth through various educational, social and economic life skills. Aligning with the goals of the Clean Water Partnership, the summer youth program offers a community approach to stormwater management that provides experiential learning opportunities for students, parents and other community stakeholders.



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
BAN ON COAL TAR PAVEMENT SEALANTS



Effective July 1, 2015, it is illegal to sell, use or permit the use of coal tar pavement products on property in Prince George's County.

SUSTAINABLE INITIATIVES

Dawn Hawkins-Nixon
DoE Acting Associate Director

1801 McCormick Drive
Suite 500
Largo, Maryland 20774

OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP: COMING TO A NEIGHBORHOOD NEAR YOU!

Got litter? Help is on the way! Starting September 1, 2015 and continuing through October 31, 2015, Prince George's County will launch a new initiative called Clean Sweep to reduce the amount of litter in the Anacostia River Watershed and Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative areas, and to manage the collection and disposal of trash in the County. The volunteer community cleanups will target four areas and is a coordinated inter-agency led effort requiring the services of the Department of the Environment (which will also serve as the lead agency for the project), Department of Corrections, Department of Public Works and Transportation, Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Police Department and the State Highway Administration.

To enhance the standard of living in target areas, the County will commit resources, to removing litter and to building capacity for litter prevention. The cleanups will focus on removing litter from common areas, streams, parks, roadsides and unkempt properties. County government services will include bulky trash pickup, roadside litter pickup, street sweeping, pickup of illegally dumped items, maintenance of receptacles at bus shelters and parks, as well as heightened surveillance and reprimands for littering.

The initiative will focus on the following targeted areas:

Target Area 1 includes the Langley Park TNI area and focuses on College Heights, Cool Springs, Hampshire Village, Holly Hill Manor, White Oak Manor and Willowbrook communities;

Target Area 2 includes the Bladensburg – East Riverdale TNI area and focuses on Beacon Heights, East Pines, Riverdale Heights, Riverdale Woods and Templeton Manor communities;

Target Area 3 includes the Kentland – Palmer Park TNI area and focuses on Carmody Hills, Kentland, Palmer Park, Rolling Ridge and Wilburn Estates communities; and

Target Area 4 includes the Hillcrest Heights, Marlow Heights, Oxon Hill – Glassmanor and Suitland – Coral Hills TNI areas and focuses on Birchwood City, Coral Hills, Hillcrest Terrace and Suitland Manor communities.

Clean Sweep will promote healthy, beautiful and litter free areas in the County and will remove significant amounts of trash from communities and reduce the amount of debris reaching the Anacostia River and other waterways. Volunteers that participate in community and stream cleanups will see first hand the inconveniences and degradation associated with litter and will be inspired to take measures to keep the community clean.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Dawn Hawkins-Nixon at (301) 883-5839 or Alfred Titus-Glover at (301) 883-7164.



WASTE MANAGEMENT

Roger E. Merritt, Jr.
DoE Associate Director

3500 Brown Station Road
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774

RECYCLING IS GOOD BUSINESS: MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS

Businesses and commercial property owners play an important role in keeping Prince George's County clean and green. From paper to electronics, all businesses and owners of multi-tenant facilities are required by County law to provide their customers, employees and tenants with the opportunity to recycle.

If you don't already have a recycling program established in your business or on your commercial property, The Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) can help you implement a successful recycling program that can assist in improving business operations, meet County law

requirements, decrease the amount of waste going to landfills and enhance your sustainability mission. You may contact CountyClick 3-1-1 to schedule an appointment to discuss recycling options and services.

If your company or commercial property already has a recycling program underway, you are required to submit a copy of your Recycling Tonnage Report to DoE's Recycling Section at 9200 Basil Court, Suite 300 in Largo. Your recycling hauler may also submit the report on your behalf with your business/property name and address listed on the report.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

With the adoption of County Bill CB-87-2012, effective July 1, 2014, business and commercial property owners in Prince George's County are required to provide their employees, tenants and customers with the opportunity to recycle.

For more information, visit the Prince George's County Business and Commercial Recycling web page at environment.mypgc.us

▲
FOR MORE INFORMATION

HOW TO START A RECYCLING PROGRAM

Want to start a recycling program? Here are some easy tips businesses and commercial property owners can follow to enhance environmental and sustainability efforts.

- 1 Appoint a program coordinator to plan and implement a recycling program.
- 2 Share a list of items that can and can't be recycled, and place recycling receptacles around the office and property to collect items.
- 3 Purchase items that can be recycled or reused.
- 4 Share the success of your program with customers, employees and tenants.



Source Reduction Tip: Implement an inventory management system to control waste.



They will be terribly missed, but DoE thanks its awesome group of summer interns - the #DoEGreenTeens – for all of their insights, feedback and hard work.

During their six weeks at the Prince George’s County Department of the Environment, the teens accomplished a great deal, including launching a social media campaign using their “DoEGreenTeens” hashtag to promote environmental awareness and encourage their peers to go green. On Facebook and Twitter they posted eco-friendly tips, fun facts and entertaining – but educational - videos focusing on the environment and geared to teens.

The interns created an informative poster that highlighted materials accepted in the County’s Recycling Program and helped keep our waterways clean by stenciling “Don’t Dump - Drains to the Chesapeake Bay” on several storm drains throughout the County.

They also participated in tours of key County service facilities including the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), the Brown Station Road Landfill, the Animal Services Facility and the Yard Waste Composting Facility in Upper Marlboro.

As you can see, these teens were keen on being green!

Special thanks is given to Reggie Ford, Prince George’s County Youth at work/Summer Youth Enrichment Program Coordinator for DoE, for his dedication and ongoing support in this role for 25 years.



DoE's Green Teens

Director’s Office

- Ms. Morgan N. Biggs
- Ms. Destinee R. Jones
- Ms. Theresa A. Free

Administrative Services Division

- Mr. Curtis Q. Ellison
- Ms. Ashley Njagi
- Mr. Michael Melton

Animal Management Division

- Ms. Kiara Byrd
- Ms. Ebonie M. Ford
- Ms. Kanaye Millard

Sustainable Initiatives Division

- Mr. Ryan J. Ford
- Mr. Ta’von Tatem

Stormwater Management Division

- Mr. Brandon Hines
- Ms. Kapria Millard
- Mr. Amir N. Pettigrew
- Mr. Jaquez M. Powell

Waste Management Division – Office of Recycling

- Mr. Demetrius Almaroof
- Mr. Marcus D. Black
- Mr. Dellin A. Downie

Waste Management Division

- Ms. Giovanni A. Price
- Ms. DaJanek R. Pollard

#DoEGreenTeensDoltBetter



GREEN BULLETIN

AMERICAN RED CROSS

PET FIRST AID & CPR COURSE

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 19



1 PM to 4 PM

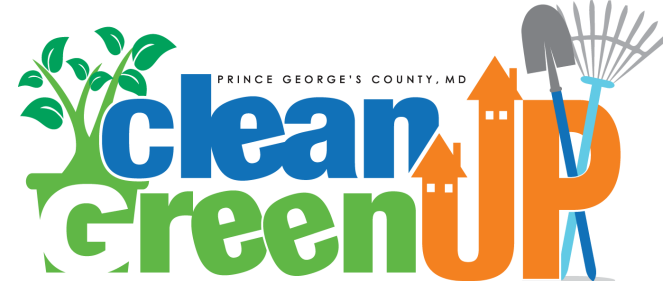
Prince George's County Animal Service Facility
3750 Brown Station Road
Upper Marlboro



American Red Cross

Participants will learn proper CPR techniques for pets, how to handle urgent care situations and receive free copies of the American Red Cross Cat and Dog First Aid books and DVDs.

Registration and \$70 course fee per person required. For more information or to register for the course, call (240) 847-2121 or visit classes.redcross.org



OCTOBER 17, 2015

visit:

www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/PublicWorks/Services/Pages/Clean-Up-Green-Up.aspx

to fill out an application

NBC4 Allstate
COMMUNITY SHRED

Looking for a safe way to get rid of your personal documents?



Prince George's County Government is teaming up with NBC4, Allstate, Shred-It and Prince George's Community College to host the NBC4 Allstate Community Shred Event

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2015
8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The free event is open to the public and will be held at Prince George's Community College located at 301 Largo Road, Parking Lot B in Largo.

For more information on the NBC4 Allstate Community Shred Event or other recycling initiatives, contact CountyClick 3-1-1



10 LISTENING BLOCKS to EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

Managers are (supposed to be) trained in conflict resolution and communication. A new resource available to review is a conflict resolution and communication model called Dialectical Behavior Therapy. DBT addresses communication and listening skills, mindfulness, rapport and Emotional Intelligence (compassion, empathy, and assertive communication).

In a book titled Dialectical Behavior Therapy Skills Workbook, the authors identify 10 ways that people sabotage their effective listening abilities.

Do these listening blocks sound familiar?

Mind reading. Assuming you know what the other person feels and thinks without asking.

- 1 Rehearsing. Planning what you want to say next and missing what's being said now.
- 2 Filtering. Listening only to things that are relevant to you and ignoring the rest (even if it's important to the other person).
- 3 Judging. Evaluating the other person and what they say rather than really trying to understand how they see the world.
- 4 Daydreaming. Getting caught in memories or fantasies while someone is talking to you.
- 5 Advising. Looking for suggestions and solutions instead of listening and understanding.
- 6 Sparring. Invalidating the other person by arguing and debating.
- 7 Being right. Resisting or ignoring any communication that suggests you are wrong or should change.
- 8 Derailing. Flat out changing the subject as soon as you hear anything that bothers or threatens you.
- 9 Placating. Agreeing too quickly ("I know ...you're right...I'm sorry") without really listening to the other person's feelings or concerns.
- 10 Guilty???

Not to worry. Being aware of your own habits and these 10 blocks can help refine your skills. The best gift you can give someone is the gift of your attention.

This story originally appeared on GetinFrontCommunications.com.