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Summer
2010
ISSUE

Prince George's County
District 5
Newsletter

Community in action



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Did You Know?

Council Vice-Chair Harrison's dad, the late James C. Fletcher, was born in Bowie and lived in Prince George's County his entire life. Prior to his political life, he served in the United States Air Force, and retired from the Federal Government. Considered among the leading and most influential African-American politicians in Prince George's County, he was elected to the Glenarden Town Council and later elected as Glenarden Mayor, serving six years before being elected to the District 5 seat on the Prince George's County Council in 1990. Council Member Fletcher passed away while serving the residents of District 5.



The District 5 constituent areas include:
Bladensburg, Cheverly, Edmonston, Fairmount Heights, Glenarden, Landover, Colmar Manor, Cottage City, Springdale, and portions of Mitchellville and Lanham.

Engaging, Educating, Empowering.

Dear District 5 Resident:

I remain ever so grateful that you have entrusted me to represent you as a Member of the Prince George's County Council. I have rewarded your trust by providing leadership, grounded in utmost integrity. I have advanced your objectives through insistence, persistence and consensus-building, always keeping your interests as my highest priority. Citizens and residents of Prince George's County, especially those in District 5, are our greatest resource and deserve the best quality of life possible. Together, we have achieved much toward that goal, and I look forward to working with you to accomplish even more for our community

On July 8, my office and our community lost a valued employee, trusted counselor, selfless public servant, and a treasured friend. District 5 Policy Director and City Council Member in Mount Rainier, Alta Morton passed away after a long battle with Sickle Cell disease. Ms. Morton worked diligently in my office to make real our vision for thriving economic development in District 5. Her passing is a great personal loss for me, and deeply saddens our community. I have chosen to honor Alta Morton's memory by

continuing to move forward with our vision and support of such initiatives as the Port Towns Community Health Partnership promoting healthier living and entrepreneurship. I also remain committed to highlighting programs in our public schools, including FIRST, which rewards our teachers and creates a learning environment that enhances student achievement.

Together we will improve the quality of our schools and access to quality healthcare; maintain clean and safe streets; create business and employment opportunities; tackle our housing crisis and develop our communities in a manner that respects our environment. We must remain vigilant, relying on our collective strength as we progress. I am privileged to represent the great people of District 5 and Prince George's County on the County Council, and will continue to be a strong advocate for your issues and concerns.

Sincerely,

Andrea C Harrison
Prince George's County Council, District 5

Council Member Harrison A Leader at Every Level

In celebration of National Education Association's "Read Across America Day" and the birthday of beloved children's book author Dr. Seuss—Council Vice-Chair Harrison read with Ardmore Elementary School students this spring. Ardmore students and staff enjoyed stories from books by local children's author, Charisse Carney-Nunes: I Dream for you a World: A Covenant for Our Children; I Am Barack Obama; and Happy to be Nappy. The books, which Vice-Chair Harrison donated to the Ardmore School Library, are uplifting, humorous, and promote a sense of pride in the students' own uniqueness.



Councilmember Harrison celebrating "Read Across America" with students and staff at Ardmore Elementary School

County Resources

- Abandoned Vehicles (301) 952-1873
- Animal Management (301) 499-8300
- Automated Inspection Request and Information System (AIRIS) (301) 883-5390
- Building Code Violations (301) 731-6191
- Building Review-Permits Office (301) 883-5855
- Bulky Trash Collection (301) 952-7600
- Business Licensing Section (301) 731-7990
- Citizens Concerned for a Cleaner County (301) 883-5843
- Commercial Property Maintenance Complaints (301) 883-6080
- Commission for Animal Control (301) 883-6009
- Comprehensive Community Cleanup (301) 883-7164
- Property Standards Group (301) 883-6022
- Construction-Related Complaints (301) 731-6191
- Electrical and Structural Review Status-Permits Office (301) 883-5855
- Fire Review Status-Permits Office (301) 883-5855
- Housing Complaints (301) 883-6100
- Household Hazardous Waste (301) 883-5045
- Licenses and Inspections Group (301) 731-6191
- Permits Extensions (301) 883-5776
- Permits Automated Information Line (301) 883-5776
- Permits and Review Group (301) 883-5924
- Plans Screening-Permits Office (301) 883-7141
- Property Maintenance Enforcement (301) 883-6080
- Recycling Bin Request (301) 952-7630
- Recycling, Refuse and Yard Waste Collection (301) 952-7630
- Residential Drainage Complaints (301) 883-5832
- Use and Occupancy Inspections (301) 883-6043
- Volunteer Neighborhood Cleanup (301) 883-5822
- Volunteer Storm Drain Stenciling (301) 883-5829
- Water and Sewer Review (301) 883-5904
- Water Pollution Hotline (301) 95 CLEAN
- Zoning Complaints/Enforcement (301) 883-6130

Port Towns Community Fight Childhood Obesity with 400,000 grant and Community Garden

The Port Towns Community Health Partnership is taking a proactive approach to fighting Childhood Obesity in Prince George's County. These efforts will have greater impact thanks to a \$400,000 grant from Kaiser Permanente, and the United Way of the National Capital Area. The grant will help fund a plan to implement healthy living educational campaigns, community gardens, and healthier school menus in the Port Towns area.



(From left) John Blanco, 13, of Colmar Manor; Sergio Taylor, 10, of Bladensburg; Erma Blanco, 8, of Colmar Manor and Romer Luzon, 12, of Colmar Manor help prepare the soil Saturday in one of the razed beds in the new community garden in Cottage City.

The partnership seeks to improve conditions in the community that place residents at-risk for obesity and related illnesses. According to the Port Towns Community Development Corporation research, 68.8% or two-thirds of adults in Prince George's County are obese or overweight—that's more than the national average. The number is significantly higher for children,

where nearly 40% (ages 2 to 11) are overweight. Improving community conditions that impact health and wellness, in addition to achieving policies that promote healthier lifestyle choices is how the partnership plans to address these issues with the additional funding support. Although the plan is still being developed, the Town of Cottage City, with the assistance of

partnership members, has begun to move toward creating a healthier community with the establishment of a community garden. The project will enable residents to plant crops on raised garden beds, all under the direction of a Master Gardener. The Town of Cottage City envisions the garden will lead to farmer's market produce sales, and encourage entrepreneurship among the young people. During an April press conference, Council Vice-Chair Andrea Harrison praised the community for actively participating in the County's fight against Childhood Obesity. "This program is being replicated across the country in a testament to what can be done when we invest in our own communities." Council Vice-Chair Harrison adds, "this initiative is a great example of public, private and government partnership".

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan Visits Bladensburg High School for FIRST Roundtable Discussion

"In the first year, the financial incentives were attractive but as time went on, the program became a way to help improve my teaching practice and focus on student achievement." This statement was one of the many comments shared by Bladensburg Elementary School teachers and administrators, Prince George's County school district officials and local union officials who joined Secretary Arne Duncan for a roundtable discussion on Bladensburg's implementation of the Financial Incentive Rewards for Supervisors and Teachers (FIRST) program. FIRST is funded by a five-year, \$17 million Teacher Incentive Fund grant awarded to Prince George's County in 2007. Prince George's County developed FIRST as a voluntary program with union support and input from teachers and administrators who served on planning committees. The program rewards participating teachers and administrators for school improvement and considers factors like student test gains, positive classroom performance evaluations, and professional activities such as mentoring other teachers or becoming certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Lewis Robinson, Executive Director of the Prince George's County Educators Association, and a partner in the development of the FIRST program, credited the program for creating better collaboration and improving student achievement.



(Left to right) Dr. William Hite, CEO of Prince George's County Public Schools, Rhonda Pitts, Principal, United States Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, discussing FIRST program with faculty and staff at Bladensburg Elementary School.

Following the roundtable discussion, Principal Rhonda Pitts, Lewis Robinson and FIRST participating teachers Bridgette Blue and Bernadine Reid, joined Duncan for a national media call to discuss Prince George's FIRST program and kick off the competition for this year's \$437 million Teacher Incentive Fund program.

Authored by jreeves, United States Department of Education. 2010, May, "Secretary Duncan Visits Bladensburg Elementary to Promote the Teacher Incentive Fund, retrieved 2010, July 1. <http://www.ed.gov/blog/2010/05/secretary-duncan-visits-bladensburg-elementary-to-promote-the-teacher-incentive-fund/>

Farewell to a great staff member and fellow public servant, Alta Morton

District 5 suffered the great loss of a dear staff member and public servant --Alta Morton. She made her transition on the morning of Thursday July 8, 2010 after battling complications from Sickle Cell Anemia.

Employed by the Legislative Branch since 2007, Ms. Morton served as Policy Director for Council Vice-Chair Harrison. In that role, she worked on issues related to land use, planning, and development, and served as the liaison to District 5 municipalities. Alta Morton was also an elected official, serving as a Member of the Mount Rainier City Council. She won reelection to the seat in May 2009. Ms. Morton was a strong advocate for economic development and the arts in the Gateway Community, serving on the Gateway Community Development Corporation Board. She also worked toward environmental and historic preservation as Chairperson of the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA).

Council Chair Harrison says Alta Morton will be deeply missed. "It was truly an honor to have Alta as a member of our team. Her passion for the work of the District 5 office



(Left to right) Alta Morton and Frances Smith, Ward 2 Councilmember from Colmar Manor at the Port Towns Youth Council Community Garden event.

and advocacy on behalf of our residents will leave a long and lasting footprint in my heart. Her presence will surely be missed." Ms. Morton resided in Mount Rainier with her daughter, Alexandra, who is attending American University, and their Boxer dogs. She also leaves to mourn her passing, her parents, a host of friends and relatives, and the entire Prince George's County Legislative Branch.

Safe Summer Receives NACo Achievement Award

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation is pleased to announce that the National Association of Counties (NACo) has awarded its 2010 Achievement Award and Best in Category Award to our Safe Summer late-night recreation program. Safe Summer: A Late Night Approach to Positive Youth Development received both a 2010 Achievement Award and 2010 Best in Category Award for a Parks and Recreation program. Safe Summer is the only award winner in Prince George's County, MD. Prince George's County will be presented a plaque at the 14th Annual Awards Ceremony during the NACo Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada.



The safety of our children, residents, and other motorists in the neighborhood is too often risked when others who operate their vehicle do not obey the rules of the road. The Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) coordinated by the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) for residential streets offers a solution, and represents the commitment of Prince George's County and DPW&T to promoting and encouraging the safety and livability of the County's residential communities. In an effort to reduce the impact of traffic on our neighborhoods, the NTMP outlines a process for identifying and addressing undesirable traffic conditions related to speeding and excessive cuts through traffic volumes. The document also offers measures that can be implemented; methods used to evaluate the need for traffic management on a given street; and the process whereby citizens and the County government can work together to improve neighborhood traffic conditions through NTMP. For more information about the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program or to obtain a copy of the NTMP document, contact the Department of Public Works and Transportation at (301) 883-5650.