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## Governor O'Malley Launches "Steady Progress for Maryland's Schools" Education Tour

### *Tour Begins at Leith Walk Elementary/Middle School and Carver Vocational Technical High School in Baltimore City; Governor to Tour Schools Across State*

- [Governor O'Malley Visits Baltimore County Public School](#)
- [Governor O'Malley Tours Howard County Schools](#)
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**BALTIMORE, MD (September 2, 2008)** – As students across Maryland begin another school year, Governor Martin O'Malley, joined by Maryland State Superintendent of Schools Nancy S. Grasmick, today kicked off his "Steady Progress for Maryland's Schools" tour to highlight Maryland's progress and investments in public education. In his first in a series of school visits across the State, Governor O'Malley visited Leith Walk Elementary/Middle School and Carver Vocational Technical High School in Baltimore city, where he was joined by Mayor Sheila Dixon.

"Over the last two years, we have made a truly historic investment – \$741 million – in school construction and renovation," said Governor O'Malley. "In 2006, Maryland was ranked 25th in the nation in *Education Week's* annual report for public education, but Maryland is now ranked third in the nation for best schools. As a State, we must continue to protect our investments in our schools to ensure that every Maryland child receives a world class education and a better future."

"The beginning of school brings with it a feeling of excitement and optimism, and Maryland's children have reason to be excited," said Dr. Nancy Grasmick. "For the fifth consecutive year, all 24 school systems have shown academic improvement across-the-board. We believe in our students, and we are so pleased the Governor is taking this tour to highlight their many achievements."

During his education tour, Governor O'Malley will meet with students, faculty, and administrators from across the State to discuss the benefits and opportunities created by State investments in education over these past eighteen months. The series of visits will include schools in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties throughout the month of September.

While at Leith Walk Elementary/Middle School, Governor O'Malley met with students and teachers from third grade who were learning about statistics. After their lesson, students presented Governor O'Malley with a stack of letters thanking him for Maryland's investments in public schools. Math proficiency scores for third graders at Leith Walk improved from a 49.4 percent in 2003 to 85.2 percent last year.

During his visit at Carver Vocational Technical High School, Governor O'Malley planted a tree with students from the student ambassador program. Governor O'Malley also visited a culinary arts class to view the new equipment and improvements to the school. In a computer technology class, Governor O'Malley talked with students about the importance of choosing technology as their career path in an ever-increasing competitive world.

In addition to ranking third in the nation for best schools, according to *Education Week*, Maryland ranked second nationwide in the percentage of graduating seniors who had passed an AP exam, and in the rate of improvement, according to the College Board's 2007 report. Maryland also leads the U.S. in improving eighth graders' math performance. Seventy-four percent of Maryland 8th graders met or exceeded the Basic level on the National Assessment of Educational Progress exam, according to figures released earlier this year. Maryland is also among the top seven states in preparing students for college. The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education gives Maryland an A- in college preparation, behind just three states. Earlier this year, the Milken Institute ranked Maryland second in the nation in technology preparedness and first in the nation for human capital investment.

To ensure that every Maryland child receives a world class education, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has made an historic \$5.3 billion investment in K-12 education, including \$741 million for school construction and renovation so Maryland's students are not housed in temporary trailers or crumbling classrooms. The O'Malley-Brown Administration also froze state college tuition for a third consecutive year so higher education is accessible to more Maryland families.

Baltimore City has received \$93.7 million in school construction funds, a 312% increase compared to the previous administration. In FY 2009, Leith Walk Elementary/Middle School received \$1.9 million and Carver Vocational Technical High School received \$10.5 million of those funds.

Leith Walk Elementary/Middle School, located in Northeast Baltimore, is renovating the 75,223 square foot facility to accommodate the growing student population with \$23 million in state aid. The completed facility will house 1,550 students from pre-kindergarten to 8th grade. The project replaces six modular, temporary learning shacks. The newly renovated elementary school, and the addition of the new middle school wing will feature naturally lit classrooms, remotely monitored energy efficient heating and cooling systems, integrated stormwater management, high speed data connections, smartboards, and state-of-the-art audio visual equipment in every classroom. This is the first significant renovation since the school was built in the 1950s.

Carver Vocational Technical School, a joint college preparatory high school and career technology center, was founded in 1925 and is a city-wide competitive co-ed academic institution. Carver trains thousands of students who serve Maryland in leadership, entrepreneurial, government and technical trade roles. The curriculum at Carver includes English, Science and Mathematics, in addition to two years of a foreign language and courses specifically tailored for their career technology program. Career technology programs available to students include Business Management and Finance, Design Technology/CAD, Cosmetology, Early Childhood Education/Child Care, CISCO Networking, Food and Beverage Management, Graphic Design and Printing, Construction, Carpentry, Electrical Construction, and Masonry. Over \$27 million in State school construction funds will help transform Carver into a fully modernized, state-of-the-art facility capable of holding 1,300 students, with classrooms clustered according to the career-technology education programs offered.

***In addition to the historic investments for schools across the State, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has:***

- Provided funding for the Geographic Cost of Education Index for the first time;
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- Increased aid for community colleges by 9% and invested a record \$150 million over the last two years in better facilities at community colleges around our State; and
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## Maryland National Guard Responds to Requests for Additional Support in the Wake of Hurricane Gustav

### *Three Maryland Air National Guard C-130J's Fly Maryland Army National Guard Aviation Specialists to Affected Region*



**BALTIMORE, September 2, 2008** – Governor Martin O'Malley today authorized the deployment of 50 additional Maryland Army National Guard aviation specialists and related equipment to assist the citizens of Louisiana as they begin the recovery phase associated with Hurricane Gustav.

The Citizen-Soldiers, all of whom are members of the Maryland Army National Guard's 29th Aviation Brigade based in Edgewood, Md. departed from Warfield Air National Guard Base at 10 a.m. today on three C-130J cargo transport aircraft operated by the Maryland Air National Guard's 135th Airlift Group. Upon arrival at Baton Rouge, La., the Maryland Guardsmen will provide command and control support for regional aviation operations.

"The State of Maryland, and in particular the Maryland National Guard, continues to stand ready on a moment's notice to support our fellow citizens in the Gulf Coast Region whenever and wherever needed," said Governor O'Malley. "A storm of this magnitude requires specialized response equipment that can be employed rapidly. We're fortunate to have such assets within the Maryland National Guard that can be deployed within hours, and as a result, play a real and meaningful role in helping to save lives and begin relief and recovery efforts."

This latest request is in addition to a request yesterday, also by Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, for two Maryland Army National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters and 9 crewmembers. The helicopters are equipped with hoist capability.

On Friday, a CH-47 cargo helicopter and its crew of eight assigned to the Maryland Army National Guard's B Company, 3-126th General Support Aviation Battalion, also based in Edgewood, departed for Louisiana. Since their arrival on Saturday in Louisiana, the Maryland Guard aviators have flown medical evacuation missions in advance of Gustav's landfall as well as other general support missions.



"The Maryland Army and Air Guardsmen who have volunteered to deploy to Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Gustav are true professionals in every sense of the word," said Brig. Gen. James A. Adkins, the adjutant general of the Maryland National Guard. "Many of the deploying Soldiers and Airmen are veterans of both Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan). As such, they've put their skills to practice many times before. However, being able to provide support to those in need here at home makes this mission even more special. We're pleased to be able to lend a hand when called upon."



In addition to the State of Maryland's response to Hurricane Gustav, state officials continue to monitor the progress of Hurricane Hanna, which could



impact the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic later this week.

“While we continue to provide support to the State of Louisiana, we also are squarely focused on Hanna and what impact it could have on Maryland as we get further into the week,” said Governor O’Malley.

Nearly 450 Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen assigned to the Maryland National Guard are currently serving on active duty in the Global War on Terror. Since Sept. 11, 2001, nearly 8,100 Soldiers and Airmen have been called to support various mobilizations including Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, Jump Start and in the relief effort for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

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## Governor O'Malley Visits Montgomery County Schools, Continues "Steady Progress for Maryland's Schools" Tour

**BALTIMORE, MD (September 3, 2008)** – Governor Martin O'Malley continued his "Steady Progress for Maryland's Schools" Tour today with a visit to two Montgomery County Public Schools. Traveling to Walter Johnson High School and College Gardens Elementary School this morning, Governor O'Malley was joined by Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett, Dr. Jerry Weast, Superintendent of Montgomery County Schools, and Mrs. Nancy Navarro, President of the Montgomery County Board of Education.

"Over the last two years, we have made a truly historic investment – \$741 million – in school construction and renovation, including here in Montgomery County," said Governor O'Malley. "In 2006, Maryland was ranked 25th in the nation in *Education Week's* annual report for public education, but Maryland is now ranked third in the nation for best schools. As a State, we must continue to protect our investments in our schools to ensure that every Maryland child receives a world class education and a better future."

"I want to thank the Governor for his support for providing substantial resources for school construction not only to Montgomery County but also for the state of Maryland -- under difficult economic conditions," said Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett. "I look forward to continuing to work with the Governor to meet Montgomery County's educational needs."

During his education tour, Governor O'Malley will meet with students, faculty, and administrators from across the State to discuss the benefits and opportunities created by State investments in education over these past eighteen months. The series of visits will include schools in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties throughout the month of September.

"High student achievement starts with a great teacher in every classroom, access to cutting-edge technology and a school building that provides a great atmosphere for learning," said Dr. Jerry D. Weast, superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools. "That's what we're always aiming for and with support from our County and State, that's what our students and families can count on."

"We appreciate the Governor's support, as we have an enormous need for school construction funding," said Ms. Nancy Navarro, president of the Montgomery County Board of Education. "We have many aging facilities and a lot of work to do, but with backing from the County and State, we'll be ready to ensure the success of our students well into the future."

Montgomery County has received over \$98 million in school construction dollars over the past two budget cycles, representing an increase of over 240% when compared to the first two budget cycles of the previous administration.

Walter Johnson High School is undergoing a complete modernization project with the help of over \$27.3 million in state construction funding. When the project is complete in the school's 250,000 square foot facility, it will house over 2,500 students. The phased construction project is slated for completion in August 2010. The school serves grades nine through twelve with a core capacity of 2,400 students. Walter Johnson High School is a National Blue Ribbon School.

"Walter Johnson High School has a great tradition of academic excellence and right now we're in the midst of an exciting physical transformation," said Dr. Chris Garran, principal. "It's an honor for us to host the Governor and the County Executive and to show them the progress that is being made on this exciting modernization, thanks to State and County funding."



College Gardens Elementary School has undergone the construction of a new 76,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility, which opened in January 2008 to students. In August 2007 College Gardens Elementary became authorized as the first International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programm (PYP) in the State of Maryland, an elementary version of the prestigious International Baccalaureate (IB) program. College Gardens also has a unique feature in the Chinese Immersion Program they currently offer students. Serving pre-K through grade five with a core capacity of 740 students, the new College Gardens facility is equipped with 35 Promethian "Smart" Boards, an interactive classroom technology that engages students in learning and provides instant resources for learning and teaching.

"Our students, our staff and our parents take such pride in everything about our school community," said Dr. Albert DuPont, principal at College Gardens Elementary School. "We are extremely proud to welcome Governor O'Malley and County Executive Leggett, and to thank them for this wonderful new facility."

In addition to ranking third in the nation for best schools, according to *Education Week*, Maryland ranked second nationwide in the percentage of graduating seniors who had passed an AP exam, and in the rate of improvement, according to the College Board's 2007 report. Maryland also leads the U.S. in improving eighth graders' math performance. Seventy-four percent of Maryland 8th graders met or exceeded the Basic level on the National Assessment of Educational Progress exam, according to figures released earlier this year. Maryland is also among the top seven states in preparing students for college. The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education gives Maryland an A- in college preparation, behind just three states. Earlier this year, the Milken Institute ranked Maryland second in the nation in technology preparedness and first in the nation for human capital investment.

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## Governor Martin O'Malley Urges Congressional Support for Renewable Energy

**ELLICOTT CITY, MD (September 3, 2008)** – Governor Martin O'Malley joined U.S. Senator Ben Cardin, Congressman John Sarbanes, Howard County Executive Ken Ulman and others in urging Congress to return to session and take immediate action on renewable energy for Maryland and all Americans. Senate Bill 3335 will extend investment tax credits for installing solar energy and building wind turbines and other energy-efficient systems beyond the current deadline of December 31, 2008.

“Maryland is quickly emerging as a national leader in renewable energy, and extending the Renewable Energy Investment Tax Credit is critically important to Maryland's efforts to keep our lights on and our bills down,” said Governor O'Malley. “As Marylanders begin receiving their rebates from BGE this month, the State of Maryland is resolved in providing real, long-term solutions to addressing our energy crisis. The State of Maryland and local jurisdictions need a partner in Congress to secure our energy future.”

“Passage of this tax credit bill is critical because it levels the playing field for alternative energy sources such as solar power,” said Senator Cardin. “Oil companies benefit from significant tax breaks; it's past time to give investors in renewable energy the same incentives that can lead us to energy independence.”

“Investing in clean, renewable energy should receive bipartisan, if not unanimous support in the Congress. It's unfortunate that a small group has blocked legislation to extend these policies,” said Congressman John Sarbanes. “Maryland families are depending on Congress to enact policies that move us away from our addiction to oil. If we take steps now to end this addiction, we can ensure that our children have alternatives to foreign governments and big oil companies for their energy needs.”

The Howard County solar installation at the site of the former landfill, where today's event took place, illustrates the importance of these tax incentives to developing more solar, wind, and other alternative energy resources. The landfill is partnering with SunEdison, a Maryland company, to install solar panels at the old landfill site which will provide electrical power to nearby Worthington Elementary School.

“Extension of federal tax credits is critical to making renewable energy projects like this a reality. Senator McCain's failure to support these incentives is absurd. The Senator has renewable energy in his commercials, but because he won't vote on the issue we lose the opportunity to actually see renewable energy in our communities,” said Howard County Executive Ulman.

Governor O'Malley stressed the progress the State of Maryland and local jurisdictions have made in providing for a more secure energy future, and the need for a federal partner in these efforts. Earlier this year, Governor O'Malley negotiated a global settlement with Constellation Energy, providing for residential ratepayers will receive a one-time “rate rebate” of approximately \$170, which began distribution to citizens this week. This refund amounts to \$187 million in rate relief for Maryland's families and represents a more than 10% reduction in this year's total bill for more than 50% of all BGE customers – over 580,000 ratepayers.

Today's event comes just weeks after a series of major environmental announcements by the Administration. In July, Governor O'Malley announced plans to transition 500 MTA buses to hybrid, and just weeks ago Governor O'Malley was awarded the highest grade ever for environmental initiatives from the Maryland League of Conservation Voters. The Governor also joined the Lt. Governor in August to announce the expansion of the state's E-85 fuel infrastructure, and a series of steps Maryland's government is taking to transition the State into a cleaner energy future.

Before the annual convention of the Maryland Association of Counties, Governor O'Malley, in his keynote address, outlined a comprehensive plan to secure Maryland's energy future. Among the Governor's planned initiatives, he announced continued partnership with metropolitan, county, and municipal governments using the bonding authority of Maryland Environmental Services to develop smaller scale "peaking plants" to bring new plants online as soon as possible. In order to become a national leader in renewable energy, Maryland will offer long-term contracts for clean, renewable power, to accelerate the arrival of more commercial scale projects like Delaware's off-shore wind farm. In addition, Governor O'Malley proposes an acceleration of the deployment of so-called smart meters and smart pricing for consumers to reduce consumption and the provision of assistance to low-income families who are struggling to afford energy prices, during difficult economic times.

Last year, under the O'Malley-Brown Administration, Maryland passed the Clean Cars Act and adopted new green building standards for public buildings while investing in green technology for our schools. During the recent legislative session, Governor O'Malley signed the EmPOWER Maryland Initiative, one of the most ambitious goals in the nation for lowering energy consumption 15% by 2015. In addition, the Administration helped pass legislation that requires 20% of Maryland's energy portfolio to come from renewable sources of energy by 2022.

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## Governor O'Malley Makes Pre-Disaster Emergency Declaration in Anticipation of Hurricane Hanna

**BALTIMORE, MD (September 4, 2008)** – Governor Martin O'Malley and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) have issued a **Limited Emergency Declaration** in anticipation of Hurricane Hanna's impact on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Jurisdictions impacted by this declaration are Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Caroline, Talbot, Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset and Worcester Counties. The Declaration was made at four o'clock this afternoon, with expected weather effects from Hurricane Hanna impacting Maryland as early as Saturday morning.

"While this declaration was made in an abundance of caution, it is nonetheless important for all Maryland citizens to prepare themselves and their families for the expected weather resulting from Hanna," said Governor O'Malley. "This limited emergency declaration offers additional resources to emergency planners and first responders in the event that the impact of the storm is worse than expected."

The pre-deployment of National Guard troops throughout the State, the ability to engage other states through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), as well as federal aid and reimbursement, are just a few resources activated by this declaration.

The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) has been at Level Two activation since Saturday, August 30, 2008, bringing additional support staff to the Maryland Joint Operations Center. Friday, September 5, 2008, the SEOC will elevate its response to a Level Three.

Earlier today, Governor O'Malley convened his Executive Cabinet for a full briefing on preparedness efforts and relief efforts related to Hurricane Gustav. In the hours following the briefing, the Governor signed this limited emergency declaration, offering the needed resources to prepare for an oncoming storm.

"By elevating our SEOC response, this allows for contingency planning with our State partners and a coordinated State response to support our local jurisdictions and the citizens of Maryland," states MEMA Director Richard Muth.

As Hurricane Hanna continues its track, the Maryland Emergency Management Agency will continue to monitor its progress and potential impacts on Maryland. In support of that monitoring, the SEOC will be staffed around the clock until such time those threats pass.

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## Governor O'Malley Visits Howard County Schools, Continues "Steady Progress for Maryland's Schools" Tour

**HOWARD COUNTY, MD (September 5, 2008)** – Governor Martin O'Malley continued his "Steady Progress for Maryland's Schools" Tour today with a visit to two Howard County Public Schools. Traveling to Centennial Lane and Clemens Crossing Elementary Schools this morning, Governor O'Malley was joined by Howard County Executive Ken Ulman, Sydney L. Cousin, Superintendent of Howard County Schools, students, teachers and administrators.

"Over the last two years, we have made a truly historic investment – \$741 million – in school construction and renovation, including here in Howard County," said Governor O'Malley. "In 2006, Maryland was ranked 25th in the nation in *Education Week's* annual report for public education, but Maryland is now ranked third in the nation for best schools. As a State, we must continue to protect our investments in our schools to ensure that every Maryland child receives a world class education and a better future."

"I often say that our top-ranked public school system is the engine that drives Howard County, and education is an enormous focus of my Administration," said County Executive Ulman. "I am fully aware that Governor Martin O'Malley shares that focus. The Governor's record school construction funding is proof of that."

During his education tour, Governor O'Malley will meet with students, faculty, and administrators from across the State to discuss the benefits and opportunities created by State investments in education over these past eighteen months. The series of visits also includes schools in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Frederick, Harford, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties throughout the month of September.

"We are pleased that Governor O'Malley is interested in how we are spending state construction dollars," said Superintendent Sydney L. Cousin. "As we shift our focus from building new schools to modernizing our older school facilities, we want to emphasize the importance of funding these projects. These improvements have a direct impact on learning and we welcome the opportunity to show him first hand."

Howard County has received over \$41 million in school construction dollars over the past two budget cycles, representing an increase of over 130% when compared to the first two budget cycles of the previous administration.

The school-wide construction project at Centennial Lane Elementary included renovation to the existing facility and an addition of a 14,000 square foot structure which includes five classrooms, three special education resource rooms, a second art room, an expanded music room, a physical education activity room, and a cafeteria expansion. Total State funding for this project totals nearly \$6 million. While visiting Centennial Lane Elementary School, Governor O'Malley heard from the fourth-grade chorus, toured classrooms and renovated spaces, and planted a tree as a symbol of the ongoing progress of the students, which is in need of constant nurturing to survive.

"The students, staff, and parents of the Centennial Lane Elementary School consider it a distinct honor to receive the Governor's visit," noted Dr. Florence Hu, Principal. "The Centennial Lane learning community is grateful for this much needed expansion. It is timely that with the added classrooms, we are able to accommodate more classes and increased enrollment. We are thankful for the many pairs of caring and supportive hands from the State and County governments that made this tremendous project possible."

Clemens Crossing Elementary School is currently undergoing a complete renovation of its 57,000 square foot space, including

new enclosed classrooms, and upgrades to mechanical, lighting and plumbing systems, scheduled for completion in 2009. A two-classroom kindergarten addition was also constructed with funding from 2007. Total State funding for this project, when complete, will be \$5.4 million.

“The whole Clemens Crossing Elementary School community is excited about the Governor's visit to our school,” said David Lerner, Principal. “The current changes and those that are planned will continue to make dramatic improvements to the learning environment in our building. The technological advances, enclosed classrooms and more welcoming entryway are a few of the most important upgrades. We are all very grateful for the funding that allowed these renovations to take place.”

In addition to ranking third in the nation for best schools, according to *Education Week*, Maryland ranked second nationwide in the percentage of graduating seniors who had passed an AP exam, and in the rate of improvement, according to the College Board's 2007 report. Maryland also leads the U.S. in improving eighth graders' math performance. Seventy-four percent of Maryland 8th graders met or exceeded the Basic level on the National Assessment of Educational Progress exam, according to figures released earlier this year. Maryland is also among the top seven states in preparing students for college. The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education gives Maryland an A- in college preparation, behind just three states. Earlier this year, the Milken Institute ranked Maryland second in the nation in technology preparedness and first in the nation for human capital investment.

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## Governor O'Malley Moves to Improve Tunnel and Bridge Inspections in Maryland

### *Panel of Independent Experts to Review MdTA Inspection Program and Identify Best Industry Practices Used Across the Country*

ANNAPOLIS, MD (September 5, 2008) - Committed to ensuring public safety and maintaining the state's critical transportation infrastructure, Governor Martin O'Malley today announced that he has directed Transportation Secretary John D. Porcari to establish a peer review group to examine the Maryland Transportation Authority's bridge and tunnel inspection program. The group also will identify and evaluate "best practices" used in bridge and tunnel inspection programs from around the nation.

"Our goal is nothing less than to be a national leader in the maintenance and inspection of our bridges and tunnels," said Governor O'Malley. "We are going to reach out to the best minds in the transportation industry to review our program and identify areas where we can improve. Our inspection and safety initiatives must continue to evolve to protect both the public and our facilities."

The peer review group, to be selected by Secretary Porcari, will consist of nationally recognized transportation professionals that are experts in bridge and tunnel structures. The Secretary will charge the group with conducting a comprehensive review of current Authority inspection procedures as well as reports, findings, decisions and follow up actions involving the Authority's bridges and tunnels. The panel also will identify and evaluate state of the art inspection techniques used around the nation that may be integrated into the Authority's inspection program. The peer review group will report directly to Secretary Porcari. Panel members will be finalized later this month with findings and final recommendations due early next year.

"The integrity of our transportation system is critically important to the daily operations of the State," said Speaker Michael E. Busch. "Each day, millions of citizens depend on the road system to get back and forth to work and school, as well as for emergency services. By bringing together national transportation experts, Governor O'Malley and Secretary Porcari are giving Marylanders even greater confidence that our bridges and tunnels are the safest possible."

The Maryland Transportation Authority currently conducts a rigorous inspection program where all of its bridge and tunnel facilities are inspected each year, exceeding the federal standard of every two years. The inspections are conducted by independent engineering firms and involve the hands on, visual inspection of an entire bridge or tunnel facility. During these inspections, the inspector is required to be within an arms length of every element being evaluated. The Authority rotates inspectors so that, year to year, a different set of eyes is inspecting any particular element.

"The Authority's current inspection program meets or significantly exceeds industry standards," said Secretary Porcari. "However, it is important to constantly re-examine your procedures and look for better ways to operate. Our goal is to have the best inspection program in the country. With the input of independent industry experts, I am confident that we will strengthen the Authority's program as we work toward that goal."

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## Governor O'Malley Expands Pre-Disaster Emergency Declaration Statewide

**BALTIMORE, MD (September 5, 2008)** – Governor Martin O'Malley and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) have now issued a statewide [Declaration of Emergency](#) for all jurisdictions in the State of Maryland in anticipation of Hanna. This expands the limited declaration issued yesterday to the Eastern Shore. The Declaration was made at 3:00 p.m. today, with the weather effects from Hanna expected to impact Maryland early Saturday morning.

“While we can never be certain as to the path or the devastation of any storm, it is nonetheless our responsibility out of an abundance of caution to prepare the people of Maryland and the appropriate resources,” said Governor O'Malley. “Marylanders should take the necessary steps to prepare themselves and their families, and be assured that their government is sparing no expense or effort to do the same.”

A Declaration of Emergency permits Maryland to engage the National Guard as a resource and pre-deploy troops throughout the State. Additionally, it allows Maryland to ask other states for help and resources through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), as well as seek federal aid and reimbursement.

The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) at MEMA, which has been staffed around the clock since Saturday, has elevated its response to a Level 3. This increase brings in agencies such as the Maryland State Police, U.S. Coast Guard, Maryland Department of Transportation, Maryland Department of the Environment, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and other organizations directly involved in planning for this event.

“Hanna’s projected storm track suggests regions in Southern and Central Maryland in addition to the Eastern Shore may also be impacted by heavy rains,” said Richard Muth, Director of MEMA.

“Even with the advanced technology that monitors these weather events, the storm’s path can change rapidly, and we need to adapt quickly. It is prudent to move to a statewide emergency declaration,” Muth said.

MEMA continues to coordinate with local emergency managers and state agencies to review hurricane plans and assess available resources in preparation for the storm.

### [Hurricane Advisories and Emergency Updates](#)

#### [County Flood Maps \(pdf\)](#)

Yesterday's Announcement:

[Governor O'Malley Makes Pre-Disaster Emergency Declaration in Anticipation of Hurricane Hanna](#)

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## Statement from Governor O'Malley On the Board of Revenue Estimates

**BALTIMORE, MD (September 9, 2008)** – Governor Martin O'Malley today issued the following statement following the Board of Revenue Estimates:

“Today, the Board of Revenue Estimates announced a budget shortfall for the current fiscal year and 2010. Given the national economic downturn, national foreclosure crisis, and the increased price of energy, gasoline and food, these revenue estimates are not unexpected; and we are preparing to bring hundreds of millions in cuts before the Board of Public Works in the coming weeks to address this challenge.”

“Given the national economy, other states are facing the same or significantly worse budget pictures. In fact, the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that at least 29 states are facing a total budget shortfall of \$48 billion in FY 2009.”

“In Maryland, because of the tough decisions we made to protect public education, public health and public safety, and expand opportunity for our middle class families, we are ahead of the game. Working with the General Assembly, we have already reduced spending by \$1.8 billion and taken actions to address the structural deficit that we inherited.”

“Without these actions and tough decisions, our State would be facing an estimated \$2.5 billion shortfall in FY 2010. Instead, Maryland is facing a shortfall that is significantly less than that is the result of a downturn in the national economy, not structural in nature.”

“We have worked hard to restore fiscal responsibility and accountability in Maryland over these last two years.”

“In 2008 and 2009, our state budget grew by less than 4 percent annually – less than the Spending Affordability Guidelines set by the General Assembly – compared to 22 percent in the last two years of our Republican predecessors.”

“We have already cut \$1.8 billion from state spending, eliminated over 700 state positions, and yes, we have asked the people of Maryland to play a role in this solution by increasing the sales tax by a penny and enacting a more progressive income tax structure. The people of Maryland will also have an opportunity to vote on a slots referendum in November that is expected to provide an additional \$650 million for public education in our State.”

“As we have worked together to address the structural deficit that we inherited, we will come together in the weeks ahead to address this latest budget challenge presented to us by our national economy; and we will do so in a way that recognizes the burden and challenges faced by our middle-class families as the cost of everything continues to rise even as wages remain stagnant.”

“The investments we have fought so hard to preserve in public education, public safety, and public health are intended for one purpose only – to strengthen and grow our middle class over the long-term and create a more sustainable future for our children.”

“This has been our goal from the beginning, and it will continue to guide the actions of this Administration as we

work to address this latest challenge.”

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## Governor O'Malley Visits Baltimore County Public School, Continues "Steady Progress for Maryland's Schools" Tour

**COCKEYSVILLE, MD (September 9, 2008)** – Governor Martin O'Malley continued his "Steady Progress for Maryland's Schools" Tour today with a visit to Baltimore County, where he traveled to Cockeysville Middle School this morning. Governor O'Malley emphasized the O'Malley-Brown Administration's commitment to the next generation of Marylanders despite difficult economic times.

"Historic investments in public education, including school construction and renovation projects throughout Maryland, represent an ongoing commitment to the future workforce of our State," said Governor O'Malley. "As a State, we must continue to protect our investments in our schools to ensure that every Maryland child receives a world class education and a better future, even in difficult economic times."

"I am very pleased that Governor O'Malley is visiting Cockeysville Middle School to see firsthand how his commitment to school renovation and construction funding is making a real difference in Baltimore County," said Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith. "Over the past two years, Governor O'Malley and state legislators delivered a record \$93 million for school renovation and construction in Baltimore County. Our students and teachers reap the benefits of those funds each and every day."

During his education tour, Governor O'Malley will meet with students, faculty, and administrators from across the State to discuss the benefits and opportunities created by State investments in education over these past eighteen months. The series of visits also includes schools in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties throughout the month of September.

"We are thrilled to share the pride we feel for our school with Governor O'Malley," said Deborah Magness, Principal of Cockeysville Middle. "I am so pleased that our community, staff, and students embraced this renovation as a way to improve our building and enhance our learning environment. Everyone has noticed the significant difference the renovation has made. Parents comment on how new lighting has made the school brighter, and students are excited about the opportunity to complete science experiments in newly renovated science classrooms with up-to-date technology."

Baltimore County has received over \$93 million in school construction funding over the past two budget cycles, representing an increase of over 300% when compared to the first two budget cycles of the previous administration.

Cockeysville Middle School is currently undergoing renovation to its 167,000 square foot building, which houses over 1,000 students, with the help of more than \$6.8 million in State construction funding this year. The project includes renovation of seven science classrooms and laboratories, and provides upgrades to the HVAC, plumbing, lighting and electrical systems. Updated sprinkler and fire systems and new handicapped-accessible features will also be included in the project, slated for completion this October.

In addition to ranking third in the nation for best schools, according to *Education Week*, Maryland ranked second nationwide in the percentage of graduating seniors who had passed an AP exam, and in the rate of improvement, according to the College Board's 2007 report. Maryland also leads the U.S. in improving eighth graders' math performance. Seventy-four percent of Maryland 8th graders met or exceeded the Basic level on the National Assessment of Educational Progress exam, according to figures released earlier this year. Maryland is also among the top seven states in preparing students for college. The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education gives Maryland an A- in college preparation, behind just three states. Earlier this

year, the Milken Institute ranked Maryland second in the nation in technology preparedness and first in the nation for human capital investment.

To ensure that every Maryland child receives a world class education, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has made an historic \$5.3 billion investment in K-12 education, including \$741 million for school construction and renovation so Maryland's students are not housed in temporary trailers or crumbling classrooms. The O'Malley-Brown Administration also froze state college tuition for a third consecutive year so higher education is accessible to more Maryland families.

*In addition to the historic investments for schools across the State, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has:*

- Provided funding for the Geographic Cost of Education Index for the first time;
- Established the first-ever Higher Education Trust Fund to stabilize tuition costs for families;
- Increased aid for community colleges by 9% and invested a record \$150 million over the last two years in better facilities at community colleges around our State; and
- Created the SEED School – Maryland's first statewide public boarding school.

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  - [9.24.08 - Billy Bush of 'Access Hollywood' and Radio's 'The Billy Bush Show' to Host Phelps Homecoming Celebration](#)
  - [Additional Information: <http://baltimore.org/phelps>](#)



## O'Malley, Smith, Dixon Announce Plans for Michael Phelps Homecoming Celebration

*Parade of Gold through Baltimore County; Star Spangled Salute to Michael Phelps to Take Place at Fort McHenry National Shrine and Birthplace of America's National Anthem*

**BALTIMORE, MD (September 9, 2008)** – Governor Martin O'Malley, Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith, and Baltimore Mayor Sheila Dixon announced plans today for a homecoming celebration for Maryland's Olympic team, including Michael Phelps, eight-time Olympic gold medalist at this year's Beijing games. Joined by Debbie Phelps at Towson High School this morning, plans were announced for a series of events across Baltimore City and County on October 4, 2008.

"Michael Phelps, and all Maryland Olympians, represented their State and their nation in historic fashion in Beijing, and we are proud to offer a homecoming celebration fitting of Maryland's own national heroes," said Governor O'Malley. "There is no better location than the birthplace of our national anthem to welcome Michael and all Maryland's Olympians home. Fort McHenry offers an historic backdrop to honor an athlete whose accomplishments this year brought Olympic history home to Baltimore."

"We are very proud of all of our American Olympic athletes, but here in Baltimore County we beam just a little brighter because of Towson's Michael Phelps and Katie Hoff, and Middle River's Jessica Long," stated Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith. "Michael and Katie won 11 Olympic medals-more than many of the countries that competed in Beijing. Jessica has just begun, already winning her first gold. But I am even more proud of the way they conduct themselves and how they represent their country, their state, their county, and their family and friends. They are truly special people, and I can't wait to honor them on October 4th."

"I can't imagine a better ambassador for Baltimore than Michael Phelps," said Mayor Dixon. "Michael's achievement required commitment, hard work, sacrifice, and a great mother to keep it all together. We look forward to welcoming our entire Maryland Olympic team home in true Baltimore style."

"Michael has traveled all over the world, but I can assure you that he is quite excited and anxious to come back to Baltimore," said Deborah Phelps. "When I spoke to him in Chicago after Oprah, he shared with me the number of days that he has been living out of a suitcases and was looking forward to his return to Maryland. Our family is so grateful to everyone in our state of Maryland and across our beautiful country who swam every stroke, ran every step, jumped over every hurdle and dunked every basketball with our US Olympic athletes. Each and every one of them enjoys immensely the passion they each have for



their sport. While fans look forward to thanking Michael, Katie and our other Maryland Olympians on October 4th, we can't wait to thank each and every one of them personally from the bottom of our hearts.”

Plans for October 4th announced today include a 3:00 p.m. Parade of Gold through Phelps' hometown of Towson beginning at the intersection of York Road and Burke Avenue, continuing down York Road and through the Rogers Forge neighborhood where Michael grew up and where his mother, Debbie, still resides.

Following the Baltimore County parade, Phelps and the Maryland Olympians will be honored with an event to remember at Fort McHenry in Baltimore City. At 7:00 p.m., members of the public are encouraged to be a part of the celebration, full of music, fireworks, and a Star Spangled Salute to Maryland's own Michael Phelps.

More information can be found at <http://baltimore.org/phelps>.

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## Governor O'Malley Announces Enrollment for Small Business Health Insurance

### *Partnership is latest phase of health care expansion initiative*

**BALTIMORE, MD (September 9, 2008)** – The latest phase of Governor Martin O'Malley's health care expansion plan begins today with the start of enrollment to the Health Insurance Partnership, a premium subsidy initiative for small businesses.

"Small businesses are the engine of Maryland's economy and in many cases, the cost of health insurance is out of reach for many of these employers," said Governor O'Malley. "Today I am proud to say that our state is able to help them provide coverage to their employees. Despite difficult economic times, we have demonstrated again and again the resolve of the people of Maryland to protect our shared priorities."

Eligibility in the Health Insurance Partnership is limited to a small business that has two to nine full-time employees, has not offered health insurance to its employees during the previous 12 months, and has an average wage below \$50,000. Businesses that meet these criteria may be eligible to receive a subsidy of up to 50 percent of their health insurance premium.

"We continue to move forward in our effort to ensure that all Marylanders receive the health care coverage they deserve," said Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) Secretary John M. Colmers. "In July, we began providing access to quality health care services to eligible parents of children. Now, Maryland's small businesses are able to join this expansion effort."

The Health Insurance Partnership is a coordinated effort between DHMH, the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC), participating insurance carriers and employers. Made possible by the 2007 passage of the Working Families and Small Business Health Coverage Act, enrollment in the small business portion of the Act begins today, with coverage effective on October 1. Employers will have their choice of health benefit plans offered by CareFirst BCBS, Coventry Health Care, United Healthcare and Aetna.

The Partnership is expected to enroll over 1,500 businesses in its first year. Enrollment will be capped to stay within the program's approved annual budget. The Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) is charged with the administration of the Partnership.

"We've worked with many groups to make the Partnership easy to understand, easy to enroll in, and easy to administer," said MHCC chair Marilyn Moon. "This partnership between small businesses and government offers an innovative way to reduce the number of uninsured in our state."

In July, Maryland began implementation of the Working Families and Small Business Health Coverage Act by opening enrollment to *Medical Assistance to Families*, an expansion of Medicaid that covers parents with incomes up to \$20,500 for a family of three, or 116 percent of the federal poverty level.

In addition to the healthcare expansion, earlier this year, Governor O'Malley signed legislation that provides prescription drug assistance for thousands of Maryland's seniors, by helping close the coverage gap in the federal government's Medicare Part D prescription drug program, known as the "donut hole." In addition, Governor O'Malley signed legislation that expanded dental benefits to Maryland's most vulnerable children.

More information on the *Health Insurance Partnership* and *Medical Assistance to Families* is available by clicking on the

“Working Families and Small Business Coverage” link located under “Hot Topics at [www.dhmh.state.md.us](http://www.dhmh.state.md.us).

For additional information about the assistance available to small businesses, log on to <http://mhcc.maryland.gov/partnership> or call 410-764-3460.

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## Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on the Seventh Anniversary of the September 11th Attacks

**BALTIMORE, MD (September 11, 2008)** – Governor Martin O'Malley issued the following statement on the seventh anniversary of the September 11th attacks:

*“Seven years ago, the terrorist attacks on this date changed our nation forever. We will never forget the heroism demonstrated by police officers, fire fighters, first responders, and ordinary Americans as we faced the tragic loss of nearly 3,000 fellow citizens.*

*As we grieve with the families of the 9/11 victims, we stand proudly with our brothers and sisters in harm's way, defending liberty in Iraq and Afghanistan, including over 400 citizen soldiers and airmen from Maryland. As I mark this solemn occasion with a ceremony at the Pentagon today, we vow never to forget that in the shadow of such enormous tragedy, our resolve was found not in what divides us politically, but in our unity as Americans.”*

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## Governor O'Malley Continues "Steady Progress for Maryland's Schools" Tour in Frederick County

### *Visits Linganore High School in Frederick*

**FREDERICK, MD (September 16, 2008)** – Governor Martin O'Malley continued his "Steady Progress for Maryland's Schools" Tour today with a visit to Frederick County schools, including Linganore High School at Oakdale High School.

"Over the last two years, we have made a truly historic investment – \$741 million – in school construction and renovation," said Governor O'Malley. "In 2006, Maryland was ranked 25th in the nation in *Education Week's* annual report for public education, but Maryland is now ranked third in the nation for best schools. As a State, we must continue to protect our investments in our schools to ensure that every Maryland child receives a world class education and a better future."

During his education tour, Governor O'Malley will meet with students, faculty, and administrators from across the State to discuss the benefits and opportunities created by State investments in education over these past eighteen months. The series of visits also includes schools in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Howard, Harford, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties throughout the month of September.

"We are very excited that Governor O'Malley is touring Frederick County's newest high school," said County Commissioner Jan Gardener. "Linganore High at Oakdale provides welcome relief to overcrowding and offers students the very best technology for instruction. We look forward to a continued partnership with Governor O'Malley to provide excellence in school facilities to meet the education needs of our students."

During his visit to Linganore at Oakdale, the Governor was welcomed by the students and faculty. While listening to the school band, Governor O'Malley toured the new gymnasium. He also visited teachers and students in engineering classes who were participants of Project Lead The Way, a national not-for-profit educational program that helps give middle and high school students the rigorous ground-level education they need to develop strong backgrounds in science and engineering. Governor O'Malley emphasized the importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education. While he acknowledged the rising test scores from the school in these areas, he stressed the growing need for experienced men and women in these fields.

In addition to ranking third in the nation for best schools, Maryland ranked second nationwide in the percentage of graduating seniors who had passed an AP exam, and in the rate of improvement, according to the College Board's 2007 report. Maryland also leads the U.S. in improving eighth graders' math performance. Seventy-four percent of Maryland 8th graders met or exceeded the Basic level on the National Assessment of Educational Progress exam, according to figures released earlier this year. Maryland is also among the top seven states in preparing students for college. The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education gives Maryland an A- in college preparation, behind just three states. Earlier this year, the Milken Institute ranked Maryland second in the nation in technology preparedness and first in the nation for human capital investment.

To ensure that every Maryland child receives a world class education, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has made an historic \$5.3 billion investment in K-12 education, including \$741 million for school construction and renovation so that our students are not housed in temporary trailers or crumbling classrooms. The O'Malley-Brown Administration also froze state college tuition for a third consecutive year so that higher education is accessible to more Maryland families.



Frederick County has received \$127.1 million dollars in the first two years of Governor O'Malley's administration, a 316% increase compared to the previous administration. Linganore High School received \$2.5 million and Oakdale High School received \$14.7 million of those funds in the first two years.

Both Oakdale and Linganore High Schools are brand new facilities located in Frederick. Oakdale High School, which opened its doors in August 2008, is conceptually based on the design of Tuscarora High School, also in Frederick. It is a 244,000 gross square foot building designed for 1,600 students. Currently, students and staff of Linganore High are being housed at Oakdale until their new school is completed, at which time they will return to the newly constructed facility. The Linganore High School project involves demolishing the existing building and replacing it with a new 240,000 square foot facility for 1,360 students. LHS is due to open in 2010.

***In addition to the historic investments for schools across the State, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has:***

- Provided funding for the Geographic Cost of Education Index for the first time;
- Established the first-ever Higher Education Trust Fund to stabilize tuition costs for families;
- Increased aid for community colleges by 9% and invested a record \$150 million over the last two years in better facilities at community colleges around our State; and
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[ [Governor O'Malley Launches "Steady Progress for Maryland's Schools" Education Tour](#) ]

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## Governor O'Malley Declares the Port Towns of Prince George's County Maryland's "Capital for a Day"

### *Bladensburg, Colmar Manor, Cottage City, and Edmonston part of Governor's day of events*

**BLADENSBURG, MD (September 17, 2008)** – Today, Governor Martin O'Malley, joined by Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown and members of the Executive Cabinet, spent the day in the Port Towns of Prince George's County, declaring that area Maryland's "Capital for a Day." The monthly program launched by Governor O'Malley last year brings the State Capital to every corner of Maryland through a series of events across a diverse selection of Maryland cities, towns and communities.

The Governor began the day with an official Cabinet meeting, where local leaders briefed the Governor and his Cabinet on the challenges and opportunities facing the Port Towns region. Among the local presenters, the Governor heard from Mayor Walter Lee James Jr. of Bladensburg, Mayor Diana Fennell of Colmar Manor, Mayor Adam Ortiz of Edmonston, Town Commission Chair Aileen McChesney of Cottage City, County Executive Jack Johnson, and Senator David Harrington (District 47).

Throughout the day, Governor O'Malley met with local elected, community, business, and tourism officials during this fifth in a series of "Capital for a Day" declarations across the State. The Governor's activities, as well as those of his Executive Cabinet, focused on the ongoing local, county, and state partnerships necessary to achieve real and steady progress for the people of the Port Towns of Prince George's County.

"I am proud to officially proclaim the Port Towns of Prince George's County Maryland's 'Capital for a Day,'" Governor O'Malley said, joined by State Senator David Harrington, county, and local officials at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park on Wednesday. "Since the cornerstone of our progress is an ability to work beyond the confines of the State House with local partners throughout our One Maryland, we're proud to bring the State Capital to the people of Maryland where they live and work. Strengthening our local partnerships where they already exist, and establishing those partnerships where they have lapsed, is absolutely critical to the progress of areas like this."

"As a proud Prince Georgian, it is a pleasure to help Governor O'Malley bring his vision of One Maryland to my home county," Lt. Governor Brown said. "The Port Towns and Prince George's County are remarkable assets to the State of Maryland and vital partners in our efforts to keep Maryland on the path of progress."

Capital Funding to Prince George's County has increased by over \$54 million, or 38% compared to the first two years of the previous administration. In addition, school construction funding to the County has more than tripled compared to four years ago, exceeding in just two years the entire school construction amount to Prince George's County of the previous administration's four years. This includes a 304,000 square foot renovation of Bladensburg High School, which the state contributed \$28 million towards.

"It is truly an honor for Prince George's County to have Governor O'Malley declare the Port Towns Maryland's 'Capital for a Day,' said Prince George's County Executive Jack Johnson. "The Port Towns make up a significant portion of the rich history of our county and we are pleased that the Governor chose them for this honor and took time out of his busy schedule to learn about what makes the Port Towns special and how we can work together to make them even better."

Governor O'Malley helped break ground for the new Colmar Manor Community Center, a state-of-the-art, multi-use facility that

will serve the needs of the Colmar Manor community and surrounding areas. In addition to housing the Colmar Manor Police Department and the Town's administrative offices, the new facility will provide recreational opportunities to include a regulation basketball court, fitness and game room, computer lab, senior outreach center, jogging track and a multi-purpose room with a large seating capacity. Construction on this \$4.9 million project will begin in October.

"We're very proud Governor O'Malley is spending time with us as we break ground for the new Colmar Manor Community Center," said Colmar Manor Mayor Diana Fennell. "As a former Mayor, Governor O'Malley understands the importance of being close to the people we serve, and we're pleased he's joining us in bringing our vision to reality with this new community center."

Governor O'Malley later shared lunch with the Port Towns Community Development Corporation, an organization of area residents and community leaders that engages in strategic partnerships and collaborative economic development for the Port Towns. Discussion at lunch centered on development projects in the area and opportunities for the Port Towns during the upcoming Bicentennial celebration.

"Cottage City is a town of only 1,200, similar to the size of the other Port Towns of Prince George's County," Cottage City Commission Chair Aileen McChesney. "'Capital for a Day' presents an extraordinary opportunity to elevate the momentum and potential of this region to the state level."

"We are thrilled to have Governor O'Malley back in Edmonston," noted Mayor Adam Ortiz. "As four distinct towns, the Port Towns of Prince George's County have a unique collaborative relationship, and we are excited to showcase this partnership for the Governor and his Cabinet. Smart growth and revitalization know no boundaries, and having strong partners at all levels of government is critical to the success of towns like Edmonston."

Following the Governor's "Capital for a Day" declaration in Bladensburg Waterfront Park, Governor O'Malley planted a tree with representatives from the Port Towns Youth Council, a youth leadership organization whose members are selected by their schools or community leaders to act as the voice of community youth in their homes, neighborhoods, schools, churches and civic organizations. The tree planting, a signature event at each "Capital for a Day" declaration, not only symbolizes the Governor's commitment to environmental initiatives but also signifies the nurturing qualities necessary to sustain any progress.

"We the People of Bladensburg and the Port Towns Community are excited and thankful for the opportunity to host 'Capital for A Day,' said Mayor Walter Lee James, Jr. "This initiative is a true testament to the people that our Governor and his administration truly care about the needs and concerns of those they serve. The tree planting ceremony happening on this day, not only has environmental significance, but also speaks to the fact that it is our responsibility to plant healthy seeds in the hearts and minds of our young people, which in turn will create a positive, safe, clean and sustainable community."

Governor O'Malley ended the day with a boat tour of the Anacostia River, joined by Washington, DC Mayor Adrian Fenty and led by the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS), an organization whose mission is to make the Anacostia and its tributaries swimmable and fishable, and to restore and protect the local environment for the health and enjoyment of local residents. The tour included information about AWS initiatives, ongoing restoration projects, and the future goals of these efforts. At a press conference following the boat tour, Governor O'Malley announced Mayor Fenty as Chair of the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership Leadership Council, which is tasked with the development and implementation of a restoration plan for the watershed.

"Capital for a Day," a program launched by Governor O'Malley more than a year ago, brings the State Capital to every corner of Maryland through a series of monthly events across a diverse selection of Maryland cities, towns and communities. The Port Towns of Prince George's County represent the fifth "Capital for a Day" of 2008. Three more such events are planned for the remainder of 2008 in areas including Cumberland, Gaithersburg, and Ellicott City.

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## Governor O'Malley Continues "Steady Progress for Maryland's Schools" Tour in Anne Arundel County

### *Tour includes Ribbon Cutting at Nantucket Elementary School and Visit to the renovated Severna Park Middle School*

**Anne Arundel County, MD (September 18, 2008)** – Governor Martin O'Malley today continued his "Steady Progress for Maryland's Schools" tour, aimed at highlighting Maryland's progress and investments in public education, and visited Nantucket Elementary in Crofton, and Severna Park Middle School, both in Anne Arundel County.

"In 2006, Maryland was ranked 25th in the nation in *Education Week's* annual report for public education, but Maryland is now ranked third in the nation for best schools," said Governor O'Malley. "The investments we have fought so hard to preserve in public education, public safety, and public health, even with a national economy in turmoil and a national foreclosure crisis, are intended for one purpose only – to strengthen and grow our middle class over the long-term and create a more sustainable future for our children."

While at Nantucket Elementary, the Governor was greeted by Principal Diana Strohecker. Along with several students and honored guests, he performed the ribbon-cutting ceremony, which marked the official grand opening of the school. Governor O'Malley also participated in the tree planting service, while Nantucket students sang, "A Song of Peace." He visited several classes, including a group of first graders participating in a rhythm lesson in the new, acoustically efficient music classroom. He stopped by a fifth grade computer lab, emphasizing the utilization of technology in classrooms. Governor O'Malley also met with a third grade class learning with a wireless integrated microphone and speaker system, designed to keep children focused and engaged during their lessons.

"Nantucket is a wonderful example of what Anne Arundel County and schools across the State can do to bring state-of-the-art technology and cutting edge resources to enhance the learning process for our students," said Principal Strohecker. "The investments made in our schools and in our State will help ensure a better future for our kids, and each new school and renovation serves as a building block to move forward."

During his visit at Severna Park Middle School, Governor O'Malley was welcomed by Superintendent of Schools Kevin Maxwell and Principal Sharon Morell. The Governor met with students and teachers, noting the construction taking place. While the Governor's tour highlighted the improvements being made to the school, he observed how students are not only learning amid the construction upheaval, but are also excelling – the school has consistently had one of the highest enrollments of high school-level mathematics courses and HSA test takers in the state.

"Schools are about children and instruction, and the building facility is merely a vehicle to provide a secure enhancement for instruction," said Principal Sharon Morell. "We know that learning can occur with a teacher and children outside under a tree, but that would lack security and enhancement such as technology. We are extremely grateful to the Governor and the state of Maryland's support to revitalize our old vehicle to a new high tech vehicle to provide a secure environment to maximize learning."

In addition to ranking third in the nation for best schools, according to *Education Week*, Maryland ranked second nationwide in the percentage of graduating seniors who had passed an AP exam, and in the rate of improvement, according to the College Board's 2007 report. Maryland also leads the U.S. in improving eighth graders' math performance. Seventy-four percent of

Maryland 8th graders met or exceeded the Basic level on the National Assessment of Educational Progress exam, according to figures released earlier this year. Maryland is also among the top seven states in preparing students for college. The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education gives Maryland an A- in college preparation, behind just three states. Earlier this year, the Milken Institute ranked Maryland second in the nation in technology preparedness and first in the nation for human capital investment.

To ensure that every Maryland child receives a world class education, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has made an historic \$5.3 billion investment in K-12 education, including \$741 million for school construction and renovation so Maryland's students are not housed in temporary trailers or crumbling classrooms. The O'Malley-Brown Administration also froze state college tuition for a third consecutive year so higher education is accessible to more Maryland families.

Anne Arundel County has received \$27.4 million in school construction funds, a combined two-year total of \$55.2 million. The total cost of Nantucket Elementary School was \$30.3 million, with \$5.8 million contribution by the state. The state has committed \$17.6 million of state funding to Severna Park Middle School.

With the addition of Nantucket Elementary School in Crofton, the number of public elementary schools in Anne Arundel County has increased to 78. Construction for the facility was completed in July 2008 – just in time for the grand opening this August. The building has modern conveniences and innovations such as a video-linked security system, a separate gym (with a climbing wall) and cafetorium, science lab, SMART Boards in every classroom, computer lab, integrated speakers and wireless microphone systems in every classroom, handheld quiz/ poll machines that provide instant assessment results, and separate before and after-care space for additional school services.

Severna Park Middle School Construction began in April 2008 and is expected to be completed by July 2010. The funding provided by the state will help transform Severna Park Middle School into a modernized facility containing conveniences and innovations such as a video-linked security system, an extensive science lab, SMART Boards in every classroom, updated computer lab, a new cafeteria and music suite, and a courtyard. The school will grow from 162,274 square feet to 193,482 square feet. The addition will improve the school's main entry, increase the administrative and cafeteria areas, add more classrooms and science classrooms/labs and improve circulation throughout the building.

***In addition to the historic investments for schools across the State, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has:***

- Provided funding for the Geographic Cost of Education Index for the first time;
- Established the first-ever Higher Education Trust Fund to stabilize tuition costs for families;
- Increased aid for community colleges by 9% and invested a record \$150 million over the last two years in better facilities at community colleges around our State; and
- Created the SEED School – Maryland's first statewide public boarding school.

[ [Governor O'Malley Launches "Steady Progress for Maryland's Schools" Education Tour](#) ]

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## Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on House Approval of No Child Left Inside Act

**BALTIMORE, MD (September 19, 2008)** – Governor Martin O'Malley today issued the following statement regarding the House approval of the No Child Left Inside Act:

*"I want to thank Congressman Sarbanes for his outstanding leadership on this issue that affects every Maryland child."*

*"To ensure a sustainable future for our planet, we need a citizenry that is not only educated and aware of our environmental challenges, but one that is poised to meet them head-on. Instilling a stewardship ethic in our young people is not possible without an early, strong sense of connection to our natural world."*

*"Through programs like the Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature, and with the continued support of our congressional delegation, Maryland intends to be a national leader in assuring all school-aged children have opportunities to learn from nature, and to grow to be responsible stewards."*

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## Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on the Passing of Baltimore City Councilman Kenneth N. Harris, Sr.

**BALTIMORE, MD (September 20, 2008)** – Governor Martin O'Malley today issued the following statement on the passing of former Baltimore city Councilman Kenneth N. Harris, Sr.:

*“The death of Ken Harris is incredibly sad for the City of Baltimore and our entire State. Ken was a loving husband and father, a steadfast advocate for the people of his district, a strong independent voice for the neighborhoods of Northeast Baltimore, and a great friend to so many. I will miss Ken greatly and my thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends on this very sad day.”*

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## Public Encouraged to Enjoy Full Day of Events, Plan Ahead for Maryland's Olympic Heroes Homecoming Celebration



**BALTIMORE, MD (September 22, 2008)** – Event organizers today announced additional event details and a series of parking alerts and instructions for the October 4th Homecoming Celebration for Maryland's Olympic Team.

The day's events will kick off at 3:00 pm with the *Parade of Gold* in Towson, Maryland, and conclude with the *Star-Spangled Banner Salute to Michael Phelps* at Fort McHenry.

The Parade kicks off at the intersection of York Road and Burke Avenue in Towson, continuing approximately 1.5 miles down York Road through the Rodgers Forge area where Michael grew up and where his mother, Debbie, still resides. The parade will end at the Drumcastle Government Building at 6401 York Road.

Entertainment at Ft. McHenry will also begin at 3:00 pm with live music and a festival atmosphere with activities for children, a food court, and fireworks at approximately 7:50 pm. Members of the public are encouraged to arrive early and stay late for the day's events.

The *Star-Spangled Banner Salute to Michael Phelps* will begin at **7:00 pm** and air live on WBAL-TV from Ft. McHenry. A special guest Master of Ceremony has also been confirmed for the Star-Spangled Salute.

It is very important that the public plan ahead for both events. **Advance parking** will be **reserved** on a first-come, first-served basis for the Star-Spangled Salute to Michael Phelps. Parking will be provided in the Maryland Stadium Authority Lots at M&T Bank Stadium and Camden Yards, with free shuttle bus from **Russell Street at M&T Bank Stadium to Fort McHenry**. Advance parking for the event can be obtained online at [Baltimore.org/phelps](http://Baltimore.org/phelps). There is a small processing fee for advance reserved parking.

The public should view this event as a "stadium event," as parking restrictions will be in place around both stadiums and Ft. McHenry.

### Parade of Gold

- Event begins at the intersection of York Road and Burke Avenue in Towson at 3:00 pm
- Parking for the *Parade of Gold* will be **FREE** in all public parking garages in the downtown Towson area.
- Parking meters in Towson will be free from 1 – 6 pm
- Towson University will open the garages on Towsontown Blvd. and at the Glen Garage (behind Bill Bateman's) for **FREE** parking.

### Star Spangled Salute to Michael Phelps

- Gates to Fort McHenry open at 3:00 pm.
- Entertainment and Festival begins at 3:00 pm. The official program begins at 7:00 pm

- Public should plan to come early and stay late for a full day of festivities.
- Advance parking can be obtained at [Baltimore.org/phelps](http://Baltimore.org/phelps). There is a small processing fee.
- Personal vehicles will not be permitted inside the Fort at any point during the day on Saturday.
- Limited spaces available in Hull Street lot in Locust Point neighborhood, approximately one mile from Ft. McHenry, for “park and walk.”
- No other parking within the Locust Point community will be permitted for non-residents.
- The Water Taxi service will not be in service for this event.

## Free Shuttle Bus Service

- Primary access to Fort McHenry will be by MTA Shuttle bus service operating from Russell Street at M&T Bank Stadium and Camden yards.
- Post-event shuttle bus service will run from 8:00 pm until 11:00 pm from Ft. McHenry back to Russell Street at M&T Bank Stadium.
- There is **no charge** for the shuttle bus service.

## Light Rail

- Visitors are encouraged to utilize Light Rail Train (via Hamburg Street Station) for the normal Saturday fees, where they can catch the MTA shuttle to Ft. McHenry.
- Light Rail Train service will remain in operation until 11:00 pm

## Security Checks

- The National Park Service will be conducting security/bag checks on all visitors entering the Fort, similar to normal Park security precautions.

## Handicapped Parking

- Handicapped Parking will be provided on Lots N and R at M&T Bank Stadium.
- MTA's Paratransit buses will transport these patrons to and from Fort McHenry.

[ A map of recommended parking and shuttle routes can be found at [Baltimore.org/phelps](http://Baltimore.org/phelps). ]

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## Governor O'Malley Continues "Steady Progress for Maryland's Schools" Tour in Prince George's County

**BELTSVILLE, MD (September 23, 2008)** – Governor Martin O'Malley today continued his "Steady Progress for Maryland's Schools" tour, aimed at highlighting Maryland's progress and investments in public education, by visiting Vansville Elementary School in Prince George's County.

"In 2006, Maryland was ranked 25th in the nation in *Education Week's* annual report for public education, but Maryland is now ranked third in the nation for best schools," said Governor O'Malley. "The investments we have fought so hard to preserve in public education, public safety, and public health, even with a national economy in turmoil and a national foreclosure crisis, are intended for one purpose only – to strengthen and grow our middle class over the long-term and create a more sustainable future for Maryland's children."

While at Vansville Elementary, Governor O'Malley visited with several classes, including Ms Mitchell's Kindergarten class where the Governor read a story to the students. Later, the Governor joined students in planting a tree on school grounds to symbolize the nurturing qualities needed for every student's progress, and in recognition of the environmentally sustainable features incorporated into the newly constructed facility.

"Vansville Elementary School, like all of our Prince George's County public schools, is a dynamic learning center," said Prince George's County Executive Jack Johnson. "As the County's first certified and new green school we are certainly proud of the environmental benefits and endless educational components it will offer its students."

Vansville Elementary School is the result of a merger of Laurel and Beltsville Elementary Schools, and was constructed to reduce overcrowding and busing for other schools in the Laurel- Beltsville area. The new 94,800 square foot facility is a two-story "eco-green" school designed for a student population of 792 as well as 68 teachers and staff, with multiple roof levels with an open central spine, and a gymnasium large enough for two basketball courts. The facility will also house the new Vansville Community Center that will be available for community use. Building systems will reduce energy costs by using ground sources for heating and cooling, maximizing natural light with large windows and reducing the quantity of indoor air contaminants by using low volatile organic compound products for adhesives, sealants, and paints. The building features waterless urinals, dual-flush toilets, and low-flow faucets that will assist in reducing the overall water use in the building by over 40 percent. It is the first school in Prince George's County to achieve the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification.

"Being the principal of the first LEED School in Prince George's County is truly a remarkable experience," said Principal Tom Smith. "I have had the unique perspective of seeing how the hard work of many people has come together to make this project a success. Through community support, state funding, county partnership, and staff efforts, students are now enjoying a unique site for learning, as well as learning by example the importance of environmental stewardship."

In addition to ranking third in the nation for best schools, according to *Education Week*, Maryland ranked second nationwide in the percentage of graduating seniors who had passed an AP exam, and in the rate of improvement, according to the College Board's 2007 report. Maryland also leads the U.S. in improving eighth graders' math performance. Seventy-four percent of Maryland 8th graders met or exceeded the Basic level on the National Assessment of Educational Progress exam, according to figures released earlier this year. Maryland is also among the top seven states in preparing students for college. The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education gives Maryland an A- in college preparation, behind just three states. Earlier this year, the Milken Institute ranked Maryland second in the nation in technology preparedness and first in the nation for human capital investment.

To ensure that every Maryland child receives a world class education, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has made an historic \$5.3 billion investment in K-12 education, including \$741 million for school construction and renovation so Maryland's students are not housed in temporary trailers or crumbling classrooms. The O'Malley-Brown Administration also froze state college tuition for a third consecutive year so higher education is accessible to more Maryland families.

Prince George's County has received \$93.3 million in school construction funds over the past two years, including \$11.3 million for the Vansville Elementary project.

"As the first 100 percent LEED certified school in Prince George's County, Vansville Elementary raises the bar for all future construction efforts for our public schools," said Dr. John E. Deasy, Superintendent of Prince George's County Public Schools. "This achievement would not have been possible without the strong support of the Beltsville community, and I thank all who participated in the process. Not only does Vansville provide a healthy, eco-friendly environment for teaching and learning, it demonstrates the commitment of our leadership in Maryland to both education and the environment."

[ [More about the "Steady Progress for Maryland's Schools" Tour](#) ]

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## Governor Martin O'Malley Statement on Federal Blue Crab Disaster Declaration

**Annapolis, Md. (September 23, 2008)** — Governor Martin O'Malley commended the support and leadership of Maryland's Congressional Delegation today and thanked Department of Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez for the federal fishery disaster declaration for the Chesapeake Bay blue crab.

*"We are grateful to Senators Mikulski and Cardin, and our congressional delegation for their leadership in working with the Department of Commerce to secure this critical designation for Maryland's watermen. Maryland's blue crab and the traditional fishing industry that it supports face difficult times and the federal funding accompanying the disaster designation will help to preserve the infrastructure of Maryland's hallmark blue crab fishery, and ensure an active fishery for the future.*

*This declaration not only helps restore the blue crab population, but it also ensures that the livelihood of our State's watermen continues to be sustained. While we work with the industry on the State level to rebuild stocks and restructure the fishery, this federal action will help sustain the livelihoods of Maryland's watermen, whose work is so vital to Maryland's economy."*

Earlier this year, the O'Malley/Brown Administration coordinated historic action with Virginia Governor Timothy M. Kaine to rebuild the Chesapeake Bay's beleaguered blue crab population by reducing the harvest of ecologically valuable female blue crabs by 34 percent in 2008. In May 2008, Governors O'Malley and Kaine requested a disaster assistance evaluation from NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for Chesapeake Bay watermen and women who have suffered economic hardships due to the extremely low and unstable blue crab abundance. Finding that due to adverse environmental conditions including habitat loss, water quality decline, an overabundance of native and non-native predators, and decimation of key blue crab prey, economic losses to the region's blue crab fishing industry have accumulated over the last decade, the U.S. Department of Commerce today declared a state of disaster for the fishery.

For more information about Maryland's efforts to rebuild the Chesapeake Bay's blue crab population visit

[http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/dnrnews/infocus/blue\\_crab.asp](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/dnrnews/infocus/blue_crab.asp).

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## Governor O'Malley, Baltimore Ravens Unveil New Ad Campaign to Encourage Medicaid Enrollment

**BALTIMORE, MD (September 23, 2008)** – Governor Martin O'Malley today joined the Baltimore Ravens, Baltimore city officials, health care advocates and other state and local leaders in announcing a new \$150,000 ad campaign to encourage eligible Baltimore residents to enroll in the new Medicaid expansion, "Medical Assistance for Families." The landmark legislation, which expands medical coverage to more than 100,000 uninsured Marylanders, went into effect July 1, 2008. To date, 11,283 individuals statewide have enrolled in the Medical Assistance for Families program since becoming law in July, and 2,945 are Baltimore city residents.

"Working together, the State of Maryland took a major step forward in expanding healthcare coverage to our working families, our small businesses, our seniors, and our children," said Governor O'Malley. "It is an honor to be here with the Ravens to launch the 'got healthcare' campaign and to let Marylanders know that they can get affordable, quality health care through Medical Assistance for Families. This campaign helps raise awareness so that even more uninsured families get the health coverage they deserve."

"I am pleased to join Governor Martin O'Malley and the Baltimore Ravens to spread the good news that Maryland is moving ahead to help working families get the health care they need," said John M. Colmers, Secretary DHMH. "Medical Assistance for Families is off to a great start already providing comprehensive health care to more than 11,000 individuals."

The ad campaign, sponsored by Baltimore Health Care Access and Maryland Health Care For All, includes a radio spot featuring Ed Reed, Safety for the Baltimore Ravens, and Governor O'Malley and billboards and bus boards across the city featuring prominent Ravens players. The ads, using the theme "got health care?" urge uninsured City residents to call 311 or go to [www.bhca.org](http://www.bhca.org) to get enrolled in the new expanded Medicaid made possible by the 2007 Governor's Working Families and Small Business Health Care Coverage Act. Uninsured Maryland residents outside of Baltimore City can learn more about health coverage options by visiting the state's Get Healthcare website at [www.dhmf.state.md.us/gethealthcare](http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/gethealthcare).

The radio ads will be played on five Baltimore area radio stations, including: WWIN-FM 95.9, WWIN-AM 1400, WOLB-AM 1010, WBAL-AM 1090, and WERQ-FM 92.3. The billboards will be displayed at 26 high visibility locations including: Erdman Avenue, Oliver Street, Greenmount Avenue, Baltimore Street, Lombard Street, Russell Street, O'Donnell Street, and many others. The ads will also be placed on MTA's buses including 53 'king sized' bus posters, 53 'headliner' bus posters, 250 interior cards, and 30 additional signs located at bus shelters.

"We are pleased to be working with Governor O'Malley to let people know about Medical Assistance for Families," said the Ravens' Ed Reed. "We will do all we can to make sure everyone who is eligible for this program in Baltimore gets enrolled soon."

Governor O'Malley also joined with Comptroller Peter Franchot in sending letters to Marylanders who are potentially eligible for the new expansion coverage. On September 22, 10,000 letters were mailed to families below 116% of the poverty line. Eventually, almost 400,000 letters will be sent to families at various economic levels. The letter is being sent double-sided in both Spanish and English.

Governor O'Malley and the Ravens were joined by Maryland Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene John Colmers, Baltimore City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Baltimore City Deputy Mayor Janie McCullough, Baltimore City Health Commissioner Josh Sharfstein, William J. McClennan, Executive Director, Paul's Place, and Maryland AARP Director Joe DeMattos. AARP will be sending out a mailing to 10,000 city residents informing them about Medical Assistance for Families and urging them to get enrolled if eligible.

"We cannot thank the Governor and the Ravens enough," said Kathleen Westcoat of Baltimore Health Care Access and Vincent DeMarco of Health Care For All, "for all they are doing to inform the public about Medical Assistance for Families. They are keeping our people healthy and saving lives."

This campaign was made possible by generous grants from Baltimore area foundations including the Abell Foundation, the Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation, Zanvyl & Isabelle *Krieger* Fund Aaron and Lillie Straus Foundation, the Stulman Fund, and the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation.

In addition to the healthcare expansion, earlier this year, Governor O'Malley signed legislation that provides prescription drug assistance for thousands of Maryland's seniors, by helping close the coverage gap in the federal government's Medicare Part D prescription drug program, known as the "donut hole." In addition, Governor O'Malley signed legislation that expanded dental benefits to Maryland's most vulnerable children.

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## Billy Bush of "Access Hollywood" and Radio's "The Billy Bush Show" to Host Phelps Homecoming Celebration

### *Naval Academy Concert Band to Perform Special Tribute to Olympic Team*



**BALTIMORE, MD (September 24, 2008)** – Event organizers announced today event details for the Star Spangled Salute to Michael Phelps, where Maryland will welcome home its Olympic Heroes at historic Ft. McHenry in Baltimore. Billy Bush, from NBC Universal Domestic TV Distribution's "Access Hollywood" and radio's "The Billy Bush Show," will host the evening's program, which will feature a special tribute to Michael Phelps and all Maryland's Olympic Athletes.

"I am thrilled to take part in honoring the world's greatest Olympian and a great American," says Bush. "For health reasons, I was initially a little concerned about keeping Michael out of water for too long, but have been assured he can handle it."

The Naval Academy Concert Band, now in its 155th year, will also be on hand to perform a special tribute to Maryland's Olympic Heroes.

Entertainment begins at Fort McHenry at 3:00 pm on October 4th with a festival atmosphere and activities for the entire family. A food court will also be open as crowds arrive to spend the day at historic Ft. McHenry. Fort McHenry facilities will also be available for public use, including demonstrations at the Water Battery, living history demonstrations, and historical exhibits.

Live music begins at 3:00 pm, and the official program will begin at 7:00 pm, culminating in a fireworks display at approximately 7:50 pm.

WBAL TV will broadcast the evening's program live from 7:00 pm until 8:00 pm. Members of the public are encouraged to seek further parking and travel information, including a link to reserve parking for the day's festivities, at [Baltimore.org/phelps](http://Baltimore.org/phelps).

The day-long celebration also features a Parade of Gold in Towson, beginning at 3:00 pm. Additional information for the parade can also be found at [Baltimore.org/phelps](http://Baltimore.org/phelps).

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## Governor O'Malley Announces New Citizen Oyster-Growing Program, Maryland Oyster Planting Record

### *State and Partners Plant Nearly One-Half Billion Oysters in 2008; Create Stewardship Project to Grow Out One Million Young Oysters over the Next Year*

**EASTON, MD (September 24, 2008)** — Governor Martin O'Malley today kicked off a new partnership aimed at increasing citizen involvement in oyster restoration, and announced that Maryland has planted more than 485 million oysters in the Chesapeake Bay this year, a one-year record. The Governor was joined by citizens, staff and partners as he placed the first stewardship cages at the home of Hope and Anthony Harrington along the Tred Avon River.

“The irreplaceable value and role of oysters in our Bay gives rise to the need for escalating restoration efforts. I’m very proud that Maryland’s work with the Oyster Recover Partnership and our other key partners has resulted in an historic planting effort this year,” said Governor O'Malley. “We recognize each of us must play a role to help re-establish the healthy oyster populations that are critical to the Bay’s ecology, our culture and our economy. To build on this year’s planting success, we are embarking on a pilot project to engage waterfront property owners as caretakers of young oysters during their first year of life.”

Because of oysters’ unique filtering abilities and the vital habitat for aquatic life they help create, Maryland and its partners continue to enhance and improve large-scale native oyster restoration efforts. Increased hatchery capacity at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Horn Point facility in Cambridge has enabled more than 1.4 billion oysters to be planted since 2000 on 1,100 acres of once-productive oyster reefs.

“Whether there are 1,000 oysters growing in an oyster cage or 100 million oysters being planted in the Choptank River, Oysters are critical to the Bay’s long-term recovery,” said Oyster Recovery Partnership Chairman Dr. Torrey C. Brown. “The strong leadership of Governor O'Malley and Department of Natural Resources Secretary John Griffin on this issue, along with the early and continuing support of Senator Barbara Mikulski, have enabled the partners to build both in-the-water and on-the-ground infrastructure and production capacity that we enjoy today.”

In its pilot stage, *Marylanders Grow Oysters... Citizens working to restore the Chesapeake Bay*, is inviting Talbot County waterfront property owners along the Tred Avon River, a tributary of the Choptank River, to grow oysters from their pier using cages built by inmates at the Eastern Correctional Institution, and spat provided by the partnership.

The project is designed to inspire more Marylanders do what they can in their own lives and workplaces to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay and the rivers that feed into it.

“My husband and I are more than pleased to be part of this new State initiative to restore a healthy oyster population and, ultimately, the health of the Bay,” said Hope Harrington, the first homeowner to enroll in the program. “Active citizen involvement in this project is the key element to its success. We have widened the buffers on our shoreline to act as filters, planted a native grass and wildflower meadow to create habitat, have applied to the State for an osprey nesting platform and feel very fortunate to now be part of this terrific oyster restoration project. We hope very much that our neighbors along the Tred Avon will join us.”

The partnership hopes to enlist 250 homeowners to place 4 oyster cages each off their piers by the end of October. After a 9 to 12 month growing period, the oysters will be planted on a protected sanctuary in the Tred Avon River.

“We appreciate the willingness of homeowners who’ve already signed up to allow their pier to serve as a temporary home and provide the protection needed to give these young oysters an better chance for early survival and maximize their ecological contribution to the Bay,” said DNR Secretary John R. Griffin. “We hope that more residents along the Tred Avon River waterfront will join this effort to rejuvenate aquatic life in the river and Chesapeake Bay.”

Established by Governor O’Malley, the *Marylanders Grow Oysters* project, is a cooperative effort of concerned citizens, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Talbot County, and the Oyster Recovery Partnership. The oyster cages were constructed by inmates under the supervision of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. The Chesapeake Bay Trust provided funding for the initiative.

“This project gave inmates meaningful work that they are truly be proud of, knowing that the community and Chesapeake Bay are benefiting from their work,” said DPSCS Secretary Gary Maynard.

Additional oyster restoration efforts underway in Maryland include creating structured habitat to enhance oyster reproduction; planting hatchery produced oysters on existing and historical oyster bars; prohibiting oyster harvest in some areas; and regulating the fishery to limit the number of oysters harvested annually. For more information about *Marylanders Grow Oysters* visit [www.dnr.maryland.gov/oysterproject](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/oysterproject).

In the first two years of his Administration, Governor O’Malley strengthened Maryland’s critical areas law to ensure more adequate protection of the most environmentally sensitive and significant lands within Maryland’s Chesapeake and Coastal Bays watersheds and established BayStat to make the State’s Bay restoration and protection more efficient and effective.

Additionally, the O’Malley/Brown Administration coordinated with Virginia Governor Kaine to rebuild the Chesapeake Bay’s beleaguered blue crab population by reducing the harvest of ecologically valuable female blue crabs by 34 percent in 2008. Just yesterday, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez declared a federal fishery disaster for the Chesapeake Bay blue crab, enabling relief to reach watermen who have been affected by the declining blue crab population.

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## Governor O'Malley and Lieutenant Governor Brown Joint Statement Following Tragic Helicopter Crash

**FORESTVILLE, MD (September 28, 2008)** – Governor Martin O'Malley and Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown released the following joint statement today following the crash of a State Police Medevac helicopter, resulting in the deaths of four individuals on board:

*"On behalf of all Marylanders, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues of State Police Pilot Steven Bunker, Trooper First Class Micky Lippy, EMT Tanya Mallard, and Ashley Younger, who perished in the devastating crash of the Medevac helicopter "Trooper 2" early this morning.*

*"Their sacrifice is a tragic and sobering reminder that even when most of us are asleep, our first responders are still protecting us, regardless of conditions, risking their lives to help others. It is our hope that on this Sunday, we can each find a few moments to offer a prayer in their memory, and for the quick recovery of Ms. Jordan Wells, who remains in critical condition at Prince George's Hospital Center."*

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## Live Entertainment Announced for Star Spangled Salute to Michael Phelps

*Local bands Chopteeth, Reverb, and The Players to join Navy Concert Band, Morgan University Choir, and Billy Bush in salute to Maryland's Olympic Heroes;*

*Visitors encouraged to reserve parking early*

**BALTIMORE, MD (September 30, 2008)** – Event organizers announced today the live entertainment line-up for Saturday's *Star Spangled Salute to Michael Phelps* at Fort McHenry. Entertainment on Saturday, October 4th, will include live performances from local bands Chopteeth, Reverb, and The Players Band. During the evening program hosted by *Access Hollywood's* Billy Bush, the Navy Concert Band and the Morgan University Choir will each perform special tribute performances for Maryland's Olympic athletes.

Visitors to the Fort McHenry event are encouraged to reserve parking early at a nearby lot by visiting [Baltimore.org/phelps](http://Baltimore.org/phelps).

Entertainment begins at Fort McHenry at 3:00 pm on October 4th with live music, a festival atmosphere, and activities for the entire family. A food court will also be open as crowds arrive to spend the day at historic Fort McHenry. Fort McHenry facilities will also be available for public use, including demonstrations at the Water Battery, living history demonstrations, and historical exhibits.

The Naval Academy Concert Band, now in its 155th year, will also be on hand to perform a special tribute to Maryland's Olympic Heroes. The Morgan University Choir will lead the crowd in the singing of the National Anthem, to honor the Olympic heroes, including Michael Phelps, who inspired all Americans.

Chopteeth is a 12-piece big band funk orchestra, championing a unique style known as Afrofunk. Hailing from Washington, DC, Chopteeth was voted Best World Music Group by their peers in the Washington Area Music Association. Reverb has traveled internationally performing their a capella styles for a variety of audiences, winning the Washington Area Music Association's Whammie award for best a capella group in 2006. The Players Band, an 8-piece ska band formed in Baltimore in 1999, has performed over 315 shows throughout the United States.

Live music begins at 3:00 pm, and the official program will begin at 7:00 pm, culminating in a fireworks display at approximately 7:50 pm.

WBAL TV will broadcast the evening's program live from 7:00 pm until 8:00 pm. Members of the public are encouraged to seek further parking and travel information, including a link to reserve parking for the day's festivities, at [Baltimore.org/phelps](http://Baltimore.org/phelps).

The day-long celebration also features a Parade of Gold in Towson, beginning at 3:00 pm. Additional information for the parade can also be found at [Baltimore.org/phelps](http://Baltimore.org/phelps).

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## Governor O'Malley Announces Construction of Solar Power System for State Agency

### *Constellation Energy to Foot Bill for Construction of Plant at Maryland Environmental Service*

**MILLERSVILLE, MD (September 30, 2008)** – Governor Martin O'Malley and Maryland Environmental Service (MES) announced today that it has signed an agreement with Constellation Energy's Projects & Services Group, a subsidiary of Constellation Energy, to construct a solar power system that will generate approximately 300 kW of power at the agency's headquarters in Millersville. When the installation is complete, anticipated for late 2008, it is expected to be the first of its kind among Maryland State agencies.

"Maryland is quickly emerging as a national leader in renewable energy, and with projects like this one at Maryland Environmental Service, we will move forward toward making our State a model for the rest of the country," said Governor O'Malley. "The unique partnership with Constellation's Projects and Services Group provides the added benefit of advancing renewable energy without the prohibitive burden of upfront, taxpayer-funded capital expenditures. Maryland will continue to invest in renewable energy resources, including the use of Maryland's share of the \$38 million generated in the nation's first mandatory cap-and-trade auction to reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

Governor O'Malley referred to Maryland's participation in the first market-based, mandatory cap-and-trade program in the U.S. to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The ten participating states have committed to cap and then reduce the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that power plants in their region are allowed to emit, limiting the region's total contribution to atmospheric greenhouse gas levels. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) auction this week generated more than 51.7 million requests for allowances, exceeding the available supply.

"Maryland Environmental Service has always been at the forefront of projects that protect and enhance the State's air, land and water resources," said James M. Harkins, Director of Maryland Environmental Service. "Clean, renewable solar energy is going to be an important part of our State's energy future, and we look forward to working with Constellation Energy to demonstrate that solar energy is a practical alternative source of power for Maryland."

Over the 15 year term of the agreement, the electricity generated by the solar power system is estimated to displace the release of more than 10 million pounds of carbon dioxide emissions, when compared to a coal fired electric generating unit. That is the equivalent of removing more than 800 vehicles from the road or powering 600 homes. The installation will serve as a solar educational facility, in addition to generating electricity equivalent to approximately 50 percent of MES headquarters annual electricity requirement.

"Constellation Energy is pleased to be working with Maryland Environmental Service and the State of Maryland to support solar energy innovations," said Greg Jarosinski, President of Constellation Energy's Projects & Services Group. "Pairing the renewable energy development expertise of Constellation Energy with Maryland's progressive State government partners will result in an environmental and energy milestone for a state that is already among the national leaders in support of renewable energy."

The system will be comprised of two different types of solar technologies, both thin film and crystalline photovoltaic solar cells. The lightweight and flexible thin film panels will be applied directly to the building rooftop. The crystalline silicon panels will

be deployed on the grounds of the Maryland Environmental Service near Interstate 97.

Under the terms of the agreement, Constellation Energy's Projects & Services Group will construct the approximately \$2 million facility, own the energy assets, and sell the electricity it generates on-site to Maryland Environmental Service under a 15-year power purchase agreement. This structure enables organizations to undertake on-site renewable energy generation without a prohibitive, upfront capital expenditure. The installation also qualifies for the State of Maryland Production Tax Credit of \$0.0085 per kilowatt hour. The Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SRECs), which account for the environmental benefits of the solar project, will be owned by Constellation Energy's Projects & Services Group, which will use them toward compliance with Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard.

Since 2007, Constellation Energy's Projects & Services Group has developed nearly 5 megawatts of on-site solar energy projects in five states. Constellation Energy's Projects & Services Group has also developed geothermal heating and cooling projects at sites in Maryland for the U.S. Army and U.S. National Park Service, and brokered the purchase of 70,000 megawatt hours annually of wind energy by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission in Laurel, MD.

Governor O'Malley announced a series of planned initiatives this summer, including a continued partnership with metropolitan, county, and municipal governments using the bonding authority of MES to develop smaller scale "peaking plants" to bring new plants online as soon as possible. In order to become a national leader in renewable energy, Governor O'Malley announced that Maryland will offer long-term contracts for clean, renewable power, to accelerate the arrival of more commercial scale projects like Delaware's off-shore wind farm. In addition, Governor O'Malley proposed an acceleration of the deployment of so-called smart meters and smart pricing for consumers to reduce consumption and the provision of assistance to low-income families who are struggling to afford energy prices, during difficult economic times.

Created in 1970, Maryland Environmental Service is an independent State agency that works with both government and private sector clients to protect the State's air, land and water resources. Among the 582 current MES environmental projects are water and wastewater operations, solid waste facilities, and dredged-material management projects on Hart Miller and Poplar Islands.

Constellation Energy's Projects and Services Group is the energy services arm of North America's largest retail and wholesale energy company, Constellation Energy. Serving business and institutional customers nationwide, Constellation Energy's Projects & Services Group specialize in financial and environmental solutions that can significantly reduce energy consumption and costs. Constellation Energy's Projects & Services Group delivers the technical expertise to develop large scale energy projects, such as solar, biomass and geothermal projects and on- or off-site power generation systems. The company also designs and implements full energy system retrofits that save energy, and reduce harmful emissions.

Last year, under the O'Malley-Brown Administration, Maryland passed the Clean Cars Act and adopted new green building standards for public buildings while investing in green technology for our schools. During the recent legislative session, Governor O'Malley signed the EmPOWER Maryland Initiative, one of the most ambitious goals in the nation for lowering energy consumption 15% by 2015. In addition, the Administration helped pass legislation that requires 20% of Maryland's energy portfolio to come from renewable sources of energy by 2022.

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