

Governor O'Malley Announces Appointments to Education Boards

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 3, 2010)—Governor Martin O'Malley today announced appointments to the Harford and Somerset County Boards of Education. The Governor appointed Mr. Robert Frisch and Mr. Rick Grambo to the Harford County Board of Education to fill the vacancies created by the resignation of two members. Frisch and Grambo were elected to the Board in November; however, their terms do not begin until July 1, 2011. Additionally, Margo Green-Gale was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Somerset County Board of Education following the passing of a member. Her term begins on January 1, 2011.

"I am proud to announce the appointments of three well-qualified individuals who have been chosen by the people in their Districts to help build on the progress we have made for our number-one ranked public schools," said Governor O'Malley. "I'd like to commend them for having the courage to step up and serve in the toughest of times. With their hard work and dedication, we will continue to give our children the tools they need to build a better future."

Harford County Board of Education

Rick Grambo is a 37-year Harford County resident with two young children, one of whom attends North Harford Elementary. Mr. Grambo, an electrical engineer and project manager with Pritchard Brown in Baltimore, has been a trade school instructor in Baltimore County. He represents District D which encompasses the North Harford area.

Robert Frisch is a 47-year Harford County resident with two sons who attended Joppatowne Elementary and Magnolia Middle School. He is a former Baltimore City police officer, who currently teaches in Baltimore County. Mr. Frisch represents District A which encompasses the Edgewood and Joppa areas.

Somerset County Board of Education

Margo Green-Gale is a Crisfield resident and a former teacher of 44 years. She is currently a Crisfield Housing Authority commissioner and a former member of the Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center Board of Directors. Ms. Green-Gale has also served on the 2008 Crisfield Strategic Revitalization Plan Committee. She is a 45-year member of the NAACP. Ms. Green-Gale represents District 5 which encompasses the City of Crisfield and surrounding areas, as well as the three communities on Smith Island.

Additional Press Releases



Governor, First Lady O'Malley Cut Fresh, Local Christmas Tree for First Family

First Family encourages all Marylanders to buy locally grown Christmas trees from local farms

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 4, 2010)—Governor Martin O'Malley, First Lady Katie O'Malley and their children today kicked off their family holiday festivities by visiting Pine Valley Farm, a 100-acre Carroll County family farm, and cutting their own fresh, local Christmas tree.

“Buying local trees for the holidays not only keeps Maryland smart, green and growing, but most importantly, keeps our families employed and preserves jobs in our State,” said Governor O'Malley. “Buying locally is good for the local economy, the health of our environment, and the spirits of those who enjoy the sight and smell of a fresh tree this time of year. I encourage all Marylanders to buy their Christmas tree from a locally-owned farm.”

The O'Malley family chose from a selection of Douglas Fir, and Fraser Fir trees. The Douglas Fir, introduced into the United States in 1827, was at one time the most important lumber producing tree in the United States, according to *The Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* (Michael Dirr). The Douglas Fir, one of the most noble forest trees, is also one of the best short-needed Christmas trees because needles do not easily fall off. According to the Maryland Christmas Tree Association, the Fraser Fir is a native southern fir and very similar to the Balsam Fir with dark green needles that are soft to touch. It is a popular tree with excellent needle retention along with a nice scent. Fraser Fir was named for Scot botanist John Fraser who explored the southern Appalachians in the late 1700s.

The O'Malley family is one of thousands who will venture out to find the perfect Maryland tree this year. Not only do real trees look and smell beautiful, they are also a renewable, recyclable resource that keep unwanted waste out of our landfills and are good for the environment. While they are growing, real Christmas trees absorb carbon dioxide and other gases and emit fresh oxygen, unlike artificial trees which are petroleum-based. When growing in open space, a three-inch diameter Douglas Fir tree can reduce atmospheric carbon by 23 pounds and intercept 102 gallons of storm water runoff per year.

Maryland farmers offer some of the freshest Christmas trees available, which come in several unique varieties. While the Fraser Fir is a popular choice, there are many additional varieties grown throughout the state, including: Douglas Fir, Concolor Fir, Scotch Pine, White Pine, and Blue Spruce.

“Maryland farmers work year-round to provide customers with high-quality, fresh, fragrant Christmas trees for the holiday season,” said Agriculture Secretary Buddy Hance. “Visiting a local farm to find the perfect Christmas tree is a great family activity and a fun way to spend an afternoon. Many Maryland farms have additional activities as well, such as sleigh rides and visits with Santa. This year as an added attraction, anyone buying a tree from a member of the Maryland Christmas Tree Association can win a trip City of Riga, Latvia, to draw attention to the 500th anniversary of the first decorated tree in Latvia and Maryland Christmas tree farms.”

Pine Valley Farms has more than 100 acres of manicured fields, owned and operated by the Wolfe Family for 33 years in Carroll County. A member of the Maryland Christmas Tree Association, Pine Valley Farms has more than 8,000 Fraser Firs and 8,000 Douglas Firs available for families to cut their own Christmas trees this year and 100,000 trees planted for future harvest. The farm also offers a wide selection of holiday roping, wreaths, crafts and refreshments. www.pinevalleyfarms.com

Maryland boasts more than 200 tree farms statewide with nearly 3,000 acres in active production. In Maryland, Carroll County has the greatest number of cut Christmas tree farms with 22. Baltimore, Frederick, Garrett and Montgomery round out the top five counties. According to the Census of Agriculture, Maryland Christmas tree growers harvested 77,800 trees in 2007 valued at \$2.4 million. There are about 15,000 Christmas tree growers in the U.S., and over 100,000 people employed full or part time in the industry.

To find more information on the seasonal bounty offered by Maryland's farms, as well as a listing of local Christmas tree farms,

visit www.marylandsbest.net. For environmental benefits, the top 10 Myths vs. Facts about Christmas Trees, how to care for your farm-grown fresh Christmas tree, or about Christmas tree varieties grown in Maryland, visit www.marylandchristmastrees.org/. To learn more about Christmas trees, visit www.mda.state.md.us/pdf/christmastreefacts.pdf.

Additional Press Releases



Governor Martin O'Malley Leads Winter Weather Preparedness Exercise

Touts continued commitment to preparedness including Maryland Statewide Public Safety Network

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 6, 2010)—Days after Governor Martin O'Malley and the Board of Public Works approved a contract with Motorola for development and deployment of a statewide interoperable emergency communications network, Governor O'Malley joined today with the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), first responders, and members of the Executive Cabinet for a winter weather preparedness exercise.

“Following last winter’s historic snowfall, we’re continuing to prepare for inclement weather during this winter season,” said Governor Martin O'Malley. “These exercises include improved state and local communications, effective utilization of resources, enhanced state agency coordination, and other winter weather emergency tactics.”

MEMA coordinates the State’s emergency storm response and oversees the activation of the Emergency Operations Center. During last season’s record winter storms, the State Highway Administration deployed all available resources including 2,400 pieces of equipment and 2,700 personnel throughout the State. The Maryland National Guard maintained over 500 soldiers and airmen on duty to assist local governments and law enforcement while Maryland State Troopers worked to remove trapped individuals from stranded vehicles.

To build on efforts to improve state and local communications, Governor O'Malley has made “interoperable communications” the number one “Core Goal” for Maryland’s homeland security preparedness.

The system, as proposed, will become the primary radio system for State agencies for public safety and public service use and will also provide interoperability among State and local first responders. The project will include funding from federal grants and will be cost effective by also using existing communications infrastructure already developed through the cooperation of the state county governments. The system will be capable of interoperating on a high level with a majority of existing county radio systems in Maryland, further enhancing the State’s goal of seamless statewide interoperability for first responders.

The State of Maryland and Motorola will design and implement the system in five phases with the first phase serving the Baltimore region. The Maryland Transportation Authority, Maryland State Police, and State Highway Administration will be among the first users.

Additional Press Releases



Governor Martin O'Malley Signs Executive Order to Further Cut the Size of State Government

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 7, 2010)—Governor Martin O'Malley today **signed an Executive Order establishing the State Employees' Voluntary Separation Program (VSP)** to further reduce the size of state government. Under the Program, eligible Executive Branch employees may apply to voluntarily separate from State employment in return for certain severance benefits.

The Program is the latest cost-cutting measure implemented by Governor O'Malley to generate budget savings and reduce the size of government. Under O'Malley, the State of Maryland has already reduced spending growth by more than \$5.6 billion and has eliminated 4,200 positions to date. In addition, state employees have sacrificed by taking furloughs and accepting a temporary salary reduction.

The O'Malley-Brown Administration briefed labor leaders on the Program in meetings last week.

"We continue to face significant budget challenges as we come through this national recession," said Governor O'Malley. "While we are creating jobs at more than twice the national average, we all need to do more to cut costs in a fiscally responsible way. I want to thank all of our state employees and labor leaders who have worked with us to develop this voluntary program that will help our state cut costs, avoid layoffs and reduce the size of our state government."

Under the Program, eligible State employees who apply and are selected for participation will receive a one-time monetary payment of \$15,000 plus \$200 for each year of service as an incentive to voluntarily separate from State service. In addition, for those already enrolled, the Program will also include continued medical, prescription and dental benefits for three months.

Eligible State employees may apply to participate in the VSP from today, December 7, 2010 through January 4, 2011. Applications are due by 5 PM on Tuesday, January 4, 2011. Employees selected for participation will voluntarily separate from State service, effective January 31, 2011. The Program will only be offered to employees in certain classifications in participating agencies. Employees accepted into the Program may not seek or accept employment or work in any capacity, including as an employee, contractor or employee of a contractor, with any executive branch agency, public institution of higher education, or any other State agency or unit for a period of 18 months following their separation.

For more information about who is eligible and how to apply for participation, state employees should visit **www.dbm.maryland.gov** or call toll free at 855-500-4661 or 410-767-6831.

To read Governor O'Malley's Executive Order, **[click here](#)**.

Additional Press Releases



Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on the Compromise between the White House and Congressional Leaders

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 8, 2010) –Governor Martin O'Malley issued this statement today on the compromise reached between the White House and Congressional leaders:

As Governor of Maryland, I support President Obama in the difficult compromise reached for the sake of millions of unemployed Americans.

The President understandably felt a responsibility to protect millions of families who were about to have their life-line cut-off by House Republicans in their blind zeal to secure ever deeper and longer lasting tax cuts for millionaires.

While this deal is not perfect, the President has clearly demonstrated his commitment to millions of families who continue to be hard-hit by the on-going effects of the Bush recession during this holiday season.

It is a sad day for the once proud Party of Lincoln when the Republican Leaders in Congress would put the short-term financial interests of millionaires ahead of the immediate needs of unemployed American families, and the long-term fiscal health of our nation.

Additional Press Releases





Governor Martin O'Malley Announces the Town of Bel Air Selected as the 19th Arts and Entertainment District

Newest district joins 18 communities across Maryland

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 9, 2010)—Governor Martin O'Malley today announced that the Town of Bel Air has been selected to join the State's Arts and Entertainment (A&E) Program. Administered by the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) through the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC), the program provides tax benefits designed to boost economic development and create a cultural district filled with artists and arts enterprises. Maryland was one of the first states to develop a statewide A&E program.

"With this designation, the Town of Bel Air becomes the 19th Arts and Entertainment District in Maryland, joining the other jurisdictions that have received this distinction over the past decade," said Governor O'Malley. "Maryland has received national attention for this creative initiative. Together, we can continue to develop and promote vibrant centers of commerce, culture and creativity throughout our State."

"We are excited at the opportunities this designation affords us. The designation of the Town of Bel Air as an Arts and Entertainment District allows our community to pursue its goal of developing as a well recognized destination for cultural arts and recreational activities," said Bel Air Mayor David Carey. "The program offers opportunities for tourism marketing efforts, new business ventures with property tax credits for investing in arts-related enterprises and tax incentives to qualified artists." The core of the district runs through the Town of Bel Air's main street and is anchored by four cultural venues: Bel Air High School, Rock Field Manor, Shamrock Park and Reckord Armory. The Economic Development Department will oversee the program activities and set forth the groundwork for future plans for growth and revitalization.

Under the guidelines of the State's A&E Program, the Secretary of the Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) can designate up to six districts each calendar year, but only one per county. As part of the designation's benefits, artists working in the districts can receive an income tax credit. Developers who create spaces for artists to live and work can apply for qualified property tax exemptions for up to 10 years.

"As the Arts and Entertainment District Program continues to grow, communities across Maryland are able to take advantage of the economic benefits and tax incentives of the program," said DBED Secretary Christian Johansson. "Bel Air is a vibrant community dedicated to the arts. The hard work and planning they put forth was evident in their application. They now join Elkton and Havre de Grace as cultural hubs in the northeast of Maryland."

In addition to Bel Air there are 18 other jurisdictions across Maryland that have received the designation: Baltimore City's Station North and Highlandtown, Annapolis, Berlin, Bethesda, Cambridge, Cumberland, Denton, Elkton, Frederick, Frostburg, Hagerstown, Havre de Grace, Salisbury, Silver Spring, Snow Hill, Gateway District (Prince Georges) and Wheaton.

Application information is available online on the Maryland State Arts Council website at www.msac.org. For more information, contact Jesse Rye at (410) 767-8851.

The Maryland State Arts Council is an agency of the Maryland Department of Business & Economic Development, Division of Tourism, Film and the Arts and is dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive. In 2008, non-profit arts organizations and arts programs that received operating support from the State Arts Council contributed more than \$442 million to the State's economy and provided more than 11,000 full-time-equivalent jobs to Maryland residents.

For information on the Maryland State Arts Council and its programs visit their website www.msac.org or email msac@msac.org, or call 410-767-6555 or TTY 410- 333-4519.



Governor Martin O'Malley Announces Disaster Declaration for November Tornado

U.S. Small Business Administration formally grants disaster declaration, allowing citizens and businesses to apply for damage reimbursement

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 10, 2010)– Governor Martin O'Malley announced today Maryland has received a Declaration of Disaster from the U.S. Small Business Administration as a result of the severe storms and tornado, which struck Baltimore City, and Anne Arundel and Baltimore Counties on November 17, 2010.

At the request of the Baltimore City Office of Emergency Management and Mayor Rawlings-Blake, Governor O'Malley submitted a request for a disaster declaration, which will provide low interest loans to homeowners, businesses and non-profit organizations for physical damages, or economic injury for disaster related losses related to this tornado but not covered by insurance.

“Key to recovering from any disaster is for people to get back on their feet as soon as possible,” said Governor O'Malley. “The emotional damage from any disaster is greatly enhanced when the financial damage is more than a family can bear. This process will expedite the rebuilding of the apartment complexes and assist local families and businesses during this difficult time in their lives.”

“This additional aid will help us to make certain that tornado victims in Northeast Baltimore can continue to get back to normal,” said Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. “We have to remember that these citizens have suffered great damage and loss just ahead of the holiday season.”

Beginning December 14, 2010, residents and businesses may seek assistance from the SBA Assistance Center. The Center will be located in the W.E.B DuBois High School, 2201 Pinewood Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21214. The hours of operation are Tuesday, December 14 through Monday, December 20 from 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Individuals and businesses unable to visit the Center may obtain information on loan applications by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for people with speech or hearing disabilities), Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET or by sending an e-mail to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Business loan applications can also be downloaded from the SBA website at www.sba.gov. Completed applications should be returned to the Center or mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155. Those affected by the disaster may apply for disaster loans from SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is **February 7, 2011**. The deadline to return economic injury applications is **September 9, 2011**.

On November 18, 2010, the National Weather Service conducted a survey of the area and confirmed an EF-1 tornado, which produces winds between 86-110 mph, touched down in Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City and Baltimore County. The communities of Dutch Village and Mt. Pleasant in Baltimore City suffered the most damage with 47 apartments and townhomes sustaining major damage. The residents of both communities were evacuated and have since been relocated to permanent housing.

Mayor Rawlings-Blake has also established the Northeast Baltimore Disaster Relief Fund, administered by Catholic Charities, to provide assistance to families affected by the tornado. Businesses and individuals interested in donating to the disaster relief fund can do so through Harbor Bank of Maryland: Northeast Baltimore Disaster Relief Fund c/o Harbor Bank of Maryland, Mall-04, 25 West Fayette Street, Baltimore, MD 21201-3702.



Governor Martin O'Malley Visits Maryland Food Bank Mobile Pantry

Governor thanks community partners for their support during the holiday season and throughout the year

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 16, 2010)—Governor Martin O'Malley joined Delegate John Olszewski Jr., Councilman John Olszewski, Sr., community leaders and others at the Essex United Methodist Church to participate in one of the Maryland Food Bank's "Mobile Pantries" today. The Governor helped unload food from the truck and distribute food to pantry clients, and highlighted the Partnership to End Childhood Hunger, an initiative launched by the O'Malley-Brown Administration two years ago. Governor O'Malley included the Maryland Food Bank in the General Fund budget, granting the organization an additional \$1 million last year to meet demand, enough to provide more than 2 million meals for disadvantaged Marylanders.

"When a citizen goes hungry – especially a child – anywhere in Maryland, it impacts all of us. There's no such thing as a spare American, or a spare Marylander. And during this holiday season, we should remind ourselves not only of the blessings many of us have, but of our responsibility to serve the greater community for those in need," said Governor O'Malley. "As Marylanders we've always led the way in times of great adversity, setting an example for other States to rally around. Even through these tough times, we are leading the way toward becoming the first State in the nation to end childhood hunger."

Maryland developed a partnership that includes community groups, activists and food programs to catch children at risk of hunger, and ensure they have nutritious food where they live, learn and play. Governor O'Malley is the first Governor in the nation to commit to ending childhood hunger by 2015 and has placed Childhood Hunger as one of his [15 strategic goals](#).

"Governor O'Malley and his Administration continue to be among our strongest partners in the fight against hunger in Maryland," said Deborah Flateman, Maryland Food Bank CEO. "While more Marylanders than ever are at risk for hunger, the one million dollars that the O'Malley Administration has provided to purchase food will provide more than two million meals to those in need. We are grateful for the support of the governor and will work to help him meet his goal of ending childhood hunger by 2015."

Governor O'Malley was also joined by executives from Walmart, who have donated a turkey to every box of food distributed at the pantry today, and have partnered with the Maryland Food Bank and other organizations for the donation of over \$445,000 for hunger relief in Maryland. This includes the donation of a refrigerated truck by the Walmart Foundation, and hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants for Food Bank programs.

"We are proud to be a partner in this important cause, which is making a difference in the lives of families throughout the state," said Walmart Regional Operations Manager Alex Barron. "This initiative is an example of the five-year, \$2 billion commitment that Walmart and the Walmart Foundation have made to ending hunger in America through its Fighting Hunger Together campaign. We are pleased to have awarded \$350,000 in local cash grants toward this cause and to have donated a refrigerated truck that assists the Maryland Food Bank in its critical work."

The Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in Maryland's aggressive summer meals outreach and marketing campaign last year resulted in a 17.4 percent increase in the number of children participating in summer nutrition programs from the previous summer. While there was a decline in the number of children participating nationally, Maryland had the second largest increase in the country. And last year, the Department of Human Resources reported a 23.56% increase in households with children under 18 participating in the Food Supplement Program, formerly known as food stamps. In the last two years, the Partnership's efforts to raise awareness about the availability of school breakfast resulted in a 9% increase in the number of students eating school breakfast every day.



Governor Martin O'Malley Hosts Forum Series in Preparation for Second Term

Five “Maryland Forward” forums will help shape second term

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 16, 2010) – Governor Martin O’Malley will host a forum series in preparation for a second term as Maryland’s Governor, including stakeholders and experts in five broad areas that have served as priority areas for the O’Malley-Brown Administration. The “Maryland Forward” forum series will serve to develop strategies for the O’Malley-Brown Administration’s second term, and generate concrete actions and recommendations that support the Administration’s strategic goals.

Most notably, the forum series will gather the input of various stakeholders, including recommendations for legislative in areas including [jobs and the economy](#); [skills and education](#); [sustainability](#); [children and health](#); and [public safety and security](#).

Governor O’Malley to host Maryland Forward forum on jobs and the economy

> [VIEW REPORT](#) <

Monday, December 20, 2010

Governor O’Malley’s opening remarks: 9:00 a.m.
Stakeholder breakout sessions: 10:00 a.m.
Presentation and Discussion with Governor O’Malley: 1:00 p.m.

National Institute of Standards and Technology
100 Bureau Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

- [Moving Maryland Forward: Making the New Economy Ours](#) - Powerpoint Presentation (pdf)

Video Excerpts from the Jobs Forum

- [Gov O'Malley Opens the 2010 Jobs Forum](#)
- [Gov. O'Malley's Slide Presentation](#)
- [Gov. O'Malley Introduces Break-Out Sessions](#)

Governor O’Malley to host Maryland Forward forum on skills and education

> [VIEW REPORT](#) <

Monday, January 3, 2010

Governor O’Malley’s opening remarks: 9:00 a.m.
Stakeholder breakout sessions: 10:00 a.m.
Presentation and Discussion with Governor O’Malley: 1:00 p.m.

- ***Moving Maryland Forward: Making the New Economy Ours*** - Powerpoint Presentation (pdf)

Bowie State University

Center for Learning and Technology Building (opening session)
Martin Luther King Jr. Communications Art Center (closing session)
14000 Jericho Park Road, Bowie, MD

Governor O'Malley to host Maryland Forward forum on sustainability

> **[VIEW REPORT](#)** <

Friday, January 7, 2010

Opening remarks: 9:00 a.m.
Stakeholder breakout sessions: 10:00 a.m.
Presentation and Discussion with Governor O'Malley: 1:00 p.m.

Chesapeake College

Rufus M. and Loraine Hall Todd Performing Arts Center
Routes 50 & 213
Wye Mills, MD

Governor O'Malley to host Maryland Forward forum on children and health

> **[VIEW REPORT](#)** <

Monday, January 10, 2010

Lt. Governor Brown's opening remarks: 10:30 a.m.
Stakeholder breakout sessions: 11:00 a.m.
Presentation and Discussion with Governor O'Malley: 1:00 p.m.

Coppin State University

Physical Education Complex
2500 West North Avenue

Baltimore, MD

Governor O'Malley to host Maryland Forward forum on public safety and security

> [**VIEW REPORT**](#) <

Thursday, January 13, 2010

Governor O'Malley's opening remarks: 9:00 a.m.

Stakeholder breakout sessions: 10:00 a.m.

Presentation and Discussion with Governor O'Malley: 1:00 p.m.

Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium

550 Taylor Ave.

Annapolis, MD

Event Entrance: Stadium Gate C off of Lot B

Subsequent Forums



Additional Press Releases



Forum Reports

Jobs and the New Economy

- **Western Maryland**

Skills and Education

Sustainability

- **Watershed Implementation Plan**

Children and Health

- **Early Childhood Development**

Public Safety and Security

- **Veterans Forum**



Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on the Gain of 2,100 Jobs in November

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 17, 2010)—Governor Martin O'Malley issued this statement today following the announcement that Maryland employers added 2,100 jobs in November, generating more than 36,000 jobs since the beginning of 2010.

"Last month's jobs report shows Maryland continues to add jobs at twice the rate of the rest of the nation. While there is still work to do, and no state – including Maryland – is out of the woods, we continue to see signs of job creation and economic growth that indicate we are coming through this national recession more quickly than other states."

Additional Press Releases





Governor O'Malley Announces Maryland Center for Construction Education and Innovation Executive Director

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 17, 2010)—Governor Martin O'Malley today announced Robert M. Aydukovic as the Executive Director of the Maryland Center for Construction Education and Innovation (MCCEI), a non-profit entity that works to strengthen the State's construction industry.

"I am proud to announce that Robert will lead the Maryland Center for Construction Education and Innovation," said Governor O'Malley. "In these difficult times, his talents will serve the people of our State well as we move forward into the new economy stronger. The work that he and his colleagues at the Center do is vital for creating and protecting jobs of the future for our hardworking families."

Mr. Aydukovic has 20 years of experience in economic development as well as Maryland's construction and real estate industries. He earned a Master of Science degree in real estate development from Johns Hopkins University, and a Bachelor of Science degree in construction management from Michigan State University. From 2009 to 2010, Mr. Aydukovic served as principal and owner of Downtown Development Advisors, LLC and an adjunct faculty member at the University of Baltimore.

"Without a much-needed intervention, Maryland's construction industry will be unable to support our economy," said Martin Knott, MCCEI Co-Chair. "This Center works to ensure that the State's education system recognizes the value of the construction industry and the need to meet the growing demand for jobs in Maryland."

The construction industry is the fifth largest private employer in Maryland and accounts for \$15 billion of the State's economy. The demand for construction-related jobs in Maryland continues to grow with expanding federal facilities, growing biotechnology centers, and the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) initiative.

To date, MCCEI has completed a survey and analysis of Maryland's construction education system which has identified public and private education providers, their specialties and geographic concentrations. In 2011, MCCEI will undertake a groundbreaking study that will survey Maryland's construction industry and identify demands and skills, industry training trends, and new technologies that all levels of construction workers will need to have to be competitive.

MCCEI was established in 2009 at Towson University as a public-private partnership comprised of state government, universities, community colleges and secondary schools. The Center promotes the economic vitality of construction in Maryland; serves as resource for industry, education, and government; and works to position construction as a career of choice for tomorrow's workforce. Key partners include the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC), Anne Arundel Community College (AACC), Harford Community College (HCC), the Governor's Workforce Investment Board (GWIB), the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), the Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation (DLLR), and the Department of Business Economic Development (DBED), Building Trades of DC and Baltimore., and ABC Baltimore and DC.

Additional Press Releases



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Governor Martin O'Malley Convenes Forum on Jobs and the New Economy

First of five "Maryland Forward" forums designed to shape O'Malley-Brown second term, transition Maryland into new economy

GAITHERSBURG, MD (December 20, 2010)—Governor Martin O'Malley convened the first of five forums today, designed to elicit feedback and ideas from stakeholders in preparation for a second term as Maryland's Governor. Today's forum focused on job creation and the new economy, keeping Maryland competitive, and expanding opportunity for our children. Today's forum gathered the input of various stakeholders, including recommendations for legislation and actions related to innovation and entrepreneurship; workforce skills and education; improving Maryland's business environment; expanding access to capital; and improving our infrastructure.

Approximately 500 industry stakeholders took part in plenary sessions and industry-specific workgroups at today's forum, which was hosted by the National Institute for Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg. Facilitators included Tom Watkins, CEO of Human Genome Sciences; Don Fry, CEO of Greater Baltimore Committee; Neil Muldrow of Muldrow & Associates; and Karen Myers, President of WISP Resort.

"We are all here today because we understand that we are in a fight for our children's future. It's a fight to turn into the new economy with more opportunity for all," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "In this fight, there will be some states that lose, and some states that win. For Maryland to win, we must move forward by creating jobs through innovation, by saving jobs, and by protecting public safety, public education, and our quality of life."

This year, Maryland has created 36,100 new jobs, a rate that is twice the rate of job growth as the rest of the nation and the best year in Maryland since 2000. Last month, Maryland created 2,100 jobs and Maryland's unemployment rate remains well below the national average. Nonetheless, Governor O'Malley acknowledged that many Maryland families and businesses continue to struggle throughout this national recession.

A final report will be produced from today's forum, to be available for the public early January. Recommendations include streamlining the state permitting process, creating an infrastructure to ease access to capital for Maryland small businesses, expanding career and technical education throughout Maryland schools, and providing incentives to encourage off-shore wind and other renewable sources of energy.

The "Maryland Forward" forum series serve to develop strategies for the O'Malley-Brown Administration's second term, and generate concrete actions and recommendations that support the Administration's strategic goals.

For a full schedule of the forum series, please [click here](#).

Additional Press Releases



Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on the State of Horse Racing in Maryland

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 21, 2010) –Governor Martin O'Malley issued this statement today on the future prospects of horse racing in Maryland:

"It's disappointing the parties involved could not reach an agreement. We are prepared to aggressively protect the State's interests, as we did two years ago when presented with the threat of losing Maryland's treasured Preakness Stakes.

"I would encourage the track owners, industry representatives, and horsemen and breeders to return to the table and reach an agreement that protects the jobs that depend on our rich history of racing in Maryland. We will continue to explore the legal options available to us."

Additional Press Releases



Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on the Agreement Reached for Horse Racing in Maryland

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 22, 2010) –Governor Martin O'Malley issued this statement today following an agreement for the 2011 racing calendar:

"I am pleased to announce that an agreement has been reached, and that industry representatives, track owners, horsemen and breeders were able to come together to reach a consensus that will allow for a full season of racing in 2011. Over the next several hours, the parties will put in writing a proposal for consideration by the Racing Commission.

"Today's agreement not only keeps Maryland's treasured Preakness Stakes where it belongs, but it helps protect the thousands of jobs that depend on our rich history of horse racing."

Maryland's horse industry employs more than 28,000 people full time, with an annual economic impact of more than \$1.5 billion.

Additional Press Releases





Governor Martin O'Malley, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake Urge Fire, Carbon Monoxide Safety

BALTIMORE, MD (December 22, 2010)—Governor Martin O'Malley and Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake joined the Maryland State Fire Marshal, the President of the Professional Fire Fighters of Maryland, members of the Maryland State Firemen's Association, and firefighters from throughout the state today to urge safety for all Marylanders this holiday season. The holiday season and the cold winter months often carry with them fire hazards in the home, including holiday decorations and unsafe home heating. Generators and other appliances can also cause carbon monoxide poisoning if unmonitored. Governor O'Malley and Mayor Rawlings-Blake touted state and city programs that can help Maryland families get the detectors they need, and assistance with energy bills during the cold weather.

"Protecting the public's safety is the most solemn obligation we have as public servants," said Governor O'Malley. "That includes protecting families from the fire hazards that typically come with the holidays, and ensuring that homes and businesses are equipped with the proper detection equipment to keep every Marylander safe. There is no such thing as a spare Marylander, and protecting our most vulnerable citizens is among our highest priorities."

Statewide, there have been 69 fire deaths in 2010, a slight decline from the comparable period last year. Governor O'Malley put particular emphasis on energy assistance programs the state provides, encouraging citizens to take advantage of these programs rather than attempting unsafe home heating techniques. Home energy assistance information can be found at problemsolver.maryland.gov.

"I want to thank Governor O'Malley and the State Fire Marshall's office for their efforts to keep Baltimore City residents safe this winter," said Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. "In Baltimore, fire safety is a priority. That is why we reduced rotating closures, and increased funding for smoke alarms with longer-lasting lithium batteries that are available to any resident who needs one."

Baltimore City residents can apply for free smoke detectors from the Baltimore City Fire Department [here](#). Firefighters from throughout Maryland joined the Governor and Mayor at today's event to urge safety for all Maryland families. The event took place at the Herman Williams, Jr. Fire Station in Baltimore City.

"Make sure to test all of the smoke alarms in your home! Smoke alarms are one of the most effective life saving safety tools in preventing injury or death from fire," stated State Fire Marshal William E. Barnard. "Every Marylander needs to take personal responsibility to ensure their smoke alarms operate properly in the event a fire occurs in their home."

Heating Safety

- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet away from heating equipment.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacture's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms monthly.

Preventing Christmas Tree Fires

- Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent.

- Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree.
- Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks.
- Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.
- Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove for disposal.
- When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

Holiday Lights

- Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up.
- Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.
- Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe.
- Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires - they should not be warm to the touch.
- Do not leave holiday lights on unattended.

Holiday Decorations

- All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents.
- Never put wrapping paper in a fireplace.
- If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

Candle Care

- Avoid using lit candles. If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning.
- Do not go near a Christmas tree with an open flame - candles, lighters or matches.

Smoke Alarms

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement. Many fatal fires begin late at night or in the early morning. For extra safety, install smoke alarms both inside and outside sleeping areas. Since smoke and many deadly gases rise, installing your smoke alarms at the proper level will provide you with the earliest warning possible. Always follow the manufacturer's installation instructions.
- If your smoke alarms are hard wired, that is wired into the electrical system, you will need to have a qualified electrician do the initial installation or install replacements. For battery powered smoke alarms, all you will need for installation is a screw driver. Some brands are self adhesive and will easily stick to the wall or ceiling where they are placed. For all smoke alarm installations, be sure you follow the manufacturer's instructions because there are differences between the various brands. Call your local fire department (on a non-emergency telephone number) if you have problems installing a smoke alarm.

Protect Yourself and Your Family from CO Poisoning

- Install at least one carbon monoxide alarm with an audible warning signal near the sleeping areas and outside individual bedrooms. Make sure the alarm has been evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Carbon monoxide alarms measure levels of CO over time and are designed to sound an alarm before an average, healthy adult would experience symptoms. It is very possible that you may not be experiencing symptoms when you hear the alarm. This does not mean that CO is not present.
- Have a qualified professional check all fuel burning appliances, furnaces, venting and chimney systems at least once a year.
- Never use your range or oven to help heat your home and never use a charcoal grill or hibachi in your home or garage.
- Never keep a car running in a garage. Even if the garage doors are open, normal circulation will not provide enough fresh air to reliably prevent a dangerous buildup of CO.
- When purchasing an existing home, have a qualified technician evaluate the integrity of the heating and cooking systems, as well as the sealed spaces between the garage and house. The presence of a carbon monoxide alarm in your home can save your life in the event of CO buildup.

Escape Planning

- Draw a home escape plan and discuss it with everyone in your home.
- Practice the plan at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- Have an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- Practice using different ways out.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- Close doors behind as you leave.

Additional Press Releases



Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on Chesapeake Bay Improvement Plan

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 29, 2010) –Governor Martin O'Malley issued this statement today following the Environmental Protection Agency's issuance of their final Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load:

“Today the Environmental Protection Agency confirmed that Maryland has a very strong plan to clean up the Chesapeake Bay.

“Never before has our state developed such a detailed, specific plan for Bay restoration with this level of commitment from all stakeholders, including our federal partners. I want to thank all Marylanders who attended public meetings across the State and provided hundreds of valuable comments that helped shape such a comprehensive plan.

“In September, the EPA reported that Maryland's draft Watershed Implementation Plan was the strongest of all the Bay watershed states, and today, the EPA reaffirmed that our state is a leader in this effort. Our final Plan noted key improvements in reducing pollution from all major sources.

“Bay restoration is within reach. This Plan provides the road map to get us there. A healthy Bay will benefit Maryland's tourism, recreation, agriculture, and fisheries industries; it will improve the value of our homes, farms, and businesses; and it will create green jobs -- all while protecting our drinking water and improving waterways across the State.

“While Maryland has long been a leader in Bay restoration, it is now critical that all jurisdictions in the Bay watershed contribute equally to this effort. We greatly appreciate EPA's efforts in helping to clean up the Chesapeake Bay and are counting on continuing federal financial and technical support.”

The Environmental Protection Agency is establishing a nutrient and sediment pollution budget for the Chesapeake Bay, consistent with Clean Water Act requirements known as the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Concurrent with the development of the Bay TMDL, EPA charged the Bay watershed states and the District of Columbia with developing watershed implementation plans that will provide "reasonable assurance" that the jurisdictions can and will achieve the nutrient and sediment reductions necessary to implement the TMDL within their respective boundaries. Maryland's draft Plan was coordinated through the Maryland Departments of the Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Planning, using Governor O'Malley's BayStat process.

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Governor Martin O'Malley Makes Three Judicial Appointments

The Honorable Shirley M. Watts appointed to the Court of Special Appeals; Keith Baynes appointed to the Circuit Court for Cecil County; and Brian Shockley appointed to the Circuit Court for Worcester County

ANNAPOLIS, MD (December 29, 2010)—Governor Martin O'Malley announced today the appointment of the Honorable Shirley M. Watts to the Court of Special Appeals, Keith Baynes to the Circuit Court for Cecil County, and Brian Shockley to the Circuit Court for Worcester County. Judge Watts will fill a vacancy in the Sixth Appellate Judicial Circuit, which represents Baltimore City. The vacancy was created by the retirement of the Honorable Arrie W. Davis. Mr. Baynes will fill a Circuit Court vacancy created by the death of the Honorable Richard E. Jackson, and Mr. Shockley will fill a Circuit Court vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable Theodore R. Eschenburg.

"I am pleased to appoint Judge Watts to the Court of Special Appeals," said Governor O'Malley. "She brings to the bench broad experience – as a prosecutor, public defender, federal administrative law judge, and Baltimore City Circuit Court judge. Judge Watts is widely respected for her intelligence, high ethical standards, and commitment to the rule of law. These qualities will serve her well on our state's intermediate appellate court. I also want to thank Judge Arrie Davis, whose seat Judge Watts is filling, for over 19 years of dedicated service to the people of Maryland – and Baltimore City, in particular – as a judge on the District Court, Circuit Court, and Court of Special Appeals."

Governor O'Malley also stated, "I am also pleased to appoint Keith Baynes to the Circuit Court for Cecil County and Brian Shockley to the Circuit Court for Worcester County. Both are well-respected lawyers and community leaders, known for their integrity, good judgment, and legal talent. Mr. Baynes will fill the vacancy that arose after the death of Judge Jackson, who was a highly respected member of the Cecil County legal community and who spent most of his career serving the citizens of Cecil County. Mr. Shockley will fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Eschenburg, and I thank Judge Eschenburg for his many years of exemplary service to the Circuit Court for Worcester County as Administrative Judge and Chief Judge."

Judge Watts has served as an Associate Judge for the Circuit Court for Baltimore City since 2002. She began her legal career practicing criminal law. For four years, Judge Watts served as an Assistant State's Attorney for Baltimore City. She then spent nine years in the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of Maryland, where she represented indigent criminal defendants and served as Supervisory Assistant Public Defender for four years. In 1997, Judge Watts left the Office of the Federal Public Defender to accept an appointment as a federal Administrative Law Judge. She served as Chief Administrative Law Judge for the Office of Hearings and Appeals in Maryland from 1999-2002, until she was appointed to the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.

Judge Watts earned her law degree from Rutgers University School of Law. For several years, she was an adjunct professor at the Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, where she taught trial practice. Judge Watts has been active for many years with Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

Mr. Baynes has been an Assistant State's Attorney for Cecil County since 1986. Mr. Baynes also maintains a civil law practice, representing individuals and businesses in Cecil County, as well as the Cecil County Board of Appeals and several municipalities in Cecil County. Prior to joining the State's Attorney's Office, Mr. Baynes was an Assistant Public Defender for Cecil County.

Mr. Baynes earned his law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law. He is a member and past president of the Cecil County Bar Association. Mr. Baynes also serves as a *pro bono* attorney for the Cecil County S.P.C.A.

Since 1995, Mr. Shockley has been a litigator at the Ocean City-based law firm of Williams, Moore, Shockley, and Harrison, LLP. He has experience in both civil and criminal law and for three years served as an Assistant State's Attorney for Worcester County. His current practice focuses on real estate matters, administrative and zoning law, and trusts and estates.

Mr. Shockley earned his law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Peninsula Regional Medical Center and the Board of Directors for the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore. He also represents the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company on a *pro bono* basis.

Judge Watts was appointed from among the nominees selected by the Appellate Courts Judicial Nominating Commission. Mr. Baynes and Mr. Shockley were appointed from among the nominees selected by the Trial Courts Judicial Nominating Commissions for Districts 2 and 1, respectively. More information on the nominating commissions established by Governor O'Malley [can be found here](#).

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