

Olde Mill Village Crier

Published monthly by the
Village of Olde Mill Community Association
P.O. Box 366, Millersville, MD 21108
Email articles to: crier@vomca.org
Articles are due by the 21st of preceding month.

VOMCA Meeting: Wednesday, May 4, 2011, 7:00 p.m. at
Olde Mill Pool (or Old Mill High School in case of rain)



Volume 41, Number 5 / MAY 2011

Easter Egg Hunt Held —A Day Later

Although Saturday, April 16, was a rain-out, Sunday proved to be a perfect day for children to find a prize in their very own egg. We would like to thank the parents and children who came to Barlowe Field to make our Easter Egg Hunt a success. We would also like to thank Nancy Stracke for her candy donation toward stuffing the colorful eggs.

Since Easter fell so late this year, sports programs had started and the Olde Mill Softball League had a game scheduled for our raindate, April 17. We would like to thank the commissioners for working with us by suspending their game at 12:50 p.m. and having 30 of the players actually hide the Easter eggs all over Barlowe Field.

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make this event a big success. Go to the VOMCA webpage at www.vomca.org and click on "On-Line Photo Album" to see pictures of the event and other pictures through the years.



Bringing in the eggs: A youngster turns in a bucket of discovered eggs at the VOMCA-sponsored annual hunt held April 17 at Barlowe Field.

President's Message

There will be both OMSC and VOMCA meetings at the Olde Mill Pool on May 4. The pool meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. and the VOMCA meeting at 7:00 p.m. If it is raining, we will meet at Old Mill High School, room A271.

There has been a concern about speeding vehicles on Kenora Drive. With the warmer weather approaching, please keep in mind that there are children in the community at play.

We will be checking with the homeowners along Kenora Drive to see if calming devices along Kenora will help slow the traffic on the street. VOMCA will apply for a grant to assist in having this done with the county's approval.

Please remember that spring and summer brings out more pedestrian traffic. Also please remember that large commercial trucks should not park on county roads in the community. This has been another topic that often comes up before VOMCA.

The Olde Mill Swim Club memberships have been sent out. If anyone needs a packet there are some located on the front gate of the swim club. Dues increased this year due to the higher pool management fee for 2011.

We are always looking for volunteers to assist at the pool with various tasks that must be completed before and while the pool is open. Also if anyone has suggestions, please email me at tastag@verizon.net.

If anyone has concerns please make it a point to try to come to the pool meetings. This is where your committees make things happen by voting. This is where you can have your voice heard and find out what is going on at the pool.

I would like to thank Sarah Hakulin for her hard work in planning and coordinat-

ing the egg hunt for VOMCA. Sarah, along with others in Olde Mill, was at Barlowe Field on April 17 to get things ready for the children in the community. I thank all the individuals who volunteered and helped make this happen for the children. I would also like to thank all the softball players who delayed their game and assisted us with hiding the eggs. The children all had a good time.

Tom Stag, President

Community Yard Sale Planned for May 14

The Olde Mill communitywide yard sale will be Saturday, May 14, 2011. Your community association will advertise the date in the *Pennysaver* and the *Maryland Gazette*. Each residence can sell its treasures for someone else to use, right from their own front yard. Let's have lots of streets participate this year. Post your signs so shoppers will know where you are.

Shred-a-Rama Comes May 21

On Saturday, May 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., a paper-shredder truck will be available for use. The County Police Community Relations sponsors this free opportunity for residents to bring up to four boxes of personal documents and watch them be shredded. It will be held, rain or shine, at County Police Headquarters, 8495 Generals Hwy. in Millersville. You must be in a vehicle—no walkups. All boxes must be taken away by resident.

Community Dumpsters Will Be Here in June

From 8 a.m. on Monday, June 6, to Wednesday, June 8, the county will place its large dumpsters at the Barlowe Field pool road area for residents to use in spring-cleaning their homes and property.

Items that cannot be disposed of in or near the dumpsters include “junk autos, trailers, gas and propane tanks, tree trunks, oil drums or tanks, liquids, hazardous waste, boats, tires, logs, paint, refrigerators, or air conditioners.”

Note that you can always take excess trash to the Millersville Landfill & Resource Recovery Facility at 389 Burns Crossing Road in Severn. But remember to call or check online for the Sunday schedule; the landfill is closed many Sundays because of budget cutbacks.

Millersville Hazardous Waste Collection Day On May 7

Hazardous household waste such as solvents, pesticides, chemicals, etc. can be taken to the upcoming collection day on May 7 from 8 a.m. till 2 p.m. at the Millersville Landfill & Resource Recovery Facility, 389 Burns Crossing Road, Severn.

Community Service Points

If you are a student in Olde Mill who is looking for Community Service points, your community association—VOMCA—may be able to help you achieve your goal. Based on what qualifies, we have some projects that might count toward earning your points. For example, we have one student who is volunteering to pick up trash from Barlowe Field and from a nearby stream. We have flower boxes that need attention on the pool road, as well as other things that might qualify. E-mail board@vomca.org with your ideas.

Helpful County Numbers

Northern District Roads 410-222-6120
(Street issues)

Public Works 410-222-7500 (Water issues)

Tree Removal 410-222-7349

Zoning Enforcement 410-222-7446

Community Constituent Services 410-222-1527 (Jody Leddy)

Treasurer's Report

Swim Club reports 142 active members have joined so far, with 61 inactive members. We are the most economical pool in the area and the best summer “staycation,” a getaway close to your home. Checking account balance: \$41,872.41; savings \$19,157.71.

We have 115 families who have joined VOMCA this year. We currently have

\$7,250.78 in checking and \$3,070.65 in savings.

Sarah Hakulin, Treasurer

Oakwood Road Right-of-Way Update

The real estate department of Anne Arundel County reports that the right-of-way for Oakwood Road Extended, which crosses the proposed Wade property subdivision, will be advertised for three weeks in the *Maryland Gazette* and *Evening Capital* on the public notices page. A firm date has not been set, but it should be soon, according to the department.

Mosquito Control Measures Planned

Once again this year, Olde Mill will participate in the mosquito control program run by the Maryland Dept. of Agriculture. Control and surveillance of mosquitoes begins on June 1 and runs until September, Sunday through Thursday anytime between 7:30 p.m. and 2:00 a.m. A specific night of the week will be assigned later to our community.

Mosquitoes carry many diseases such as Dengue fever, and it is important that homeowners remove standing water from flower pot saucers, buckets, etc., and other backyard breeding sites. The treatments are most effective when combined with community participation.

If you do not wish to participate, you can fill out a form to exempt your property from the pesticide applications. That application follows near the end of this newsletter. You can also contact www.mda.state.md.us/plants-pests/mosquito_control/

Maryland Dept. of Agriculture Mosquito Control Policy

The policy of the Maryland Department of Agriculture regarding an objection to adult mosquito control by truck-mounted ultra low volume (ULV) application of insecticide is as follows:

- An individual may have his/her owned or leased real property and a surrounding buffer up to 300 feet on all sides of the property excluded from ground based ULV adult mosquito control.

- Each individual requesting this exclusion must submit the request in writing to the Maryland Department of Agriculture and provide copies to the appropriate com-

munity association or city/town. The request must provide the address of the property to be excluded and must be signed by the owner(s) or leasee(s). This request will be acknowledged in writing by the Department.

- If the number of individual objectors, and the location of excluded properties, precludes an effective mosquito control adulticide service in a community, the service in that community will be suspended. Service may be reinstated upon the written request of the community and approval by the Department.

- A city/town or community association may request the Department to rescind or modify a spray exclusion zone if the local authority believes the exemption unfairly impacts other residents who desire adult mosquito control service. Requests to rescind or modify spray exclusion requests must be made in writing and delivered to the Secretary of Agriculture.

- The Department periodically will verify the continued occupancy/ownership by objectors of properties excluded from ULV ground spraying to determine if the objection continues.

- In the event of mosquito-borne disease or conditions that threaten public health, the suspension of mosquito adulticide service in an area due to objectors will be discontinued and the full range of mosquito control procedures available will be utilized.

Public Information Notice

Your request for exemption (see last page of this issue) from adult mosquito control services by the Maryland Department of Agriculture *will not* be processed unless *all* of the information requested has been supplied. You have a right to inspect, amend, or correct this information. Under State Government Article, 10-617, Annotated Code of Maryland, this information may be generally available for public inspection. This information is not routinely shared with state, federal or local government agencies.

Individuals should direct correspondence regarding this issue to:

Maryland Department of Agriculture
Mosquito Control Section
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

Still Time to Join VOMCA

Please remember to send in your \$15 dues for membership in your community association, VOMCA. You can go to the

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Village of Olde Mill Community Association Members
Are Eligible to Join

Tower Federal Credit Union

Lower loan rates • FREE checking

GET A **\$125 CASH BONUS**
WITH A QUALIFYING DIRECT DEPOSIT.

[Details. >](#)

Visit the Millersville Branch in Old Mill Plaza.
For other branch locations, go to towerfcu.org.



[Get details on Tower' \\$125 Cash Bonus](#)

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website at www.vomca.org to join using PayPal and to review past monthly electronic Criers.

We need your support and participation to keep Olde Mill a place we can all enjoy. We need members to step up and fill vacant positions on the Board. A few hours of your time can benefit us all. E-mail board@vomca.org

Come to a meeting and see what you can do to help your community or bring your concerns so that we can help you find a solution.

Be a Voice for a Child— Become a CASA

I have been Jessica's CASA since she was 12 years old.

Jessica had been in the custody of an elderly relative, living in filthy conditions with no structure or rules. The home she was living in was cluttered with clothing, food, dirty laundry and animal excrement. There was no room to walk without stepping on items on the floor.

The sink in the bathroom didn't work, so the family used it as a trash can and a place to pile dirty dishes. The home had a stench of stale cigarettes and old garbage throughout the house.

The relative had a history of mental health issues and contacted the Dept. of Social Services (DSS), stating she could no longer care for Jessica and if she was not removed, she would harm Jessica and herself.

Jessica entered foster care angry and resentful. She was disruptive and had verbal outbursts both in her foster homes and in school. After being asked to leave two foster homes, she was placed in a group home, where she AWOLed regularly and used marijuana.

About a year ago Jessica was placed with another foster family where she is settling down and doing beautifully. Jessica is now 16 years old, and throughout all of this time, I have been by her side.

I have advocated for her best interests, ensuring that she receives all the services she needs. And I have been a constant for Jessica, always encouraging her and cheering her on, letting her know that I will always try to be there for her and that she can depend on me.

She is an honors student and on the school's cheerleading squad and track team. She also participates on a travel cheerleading team and competes all over the area. She has passed all of her HSAs, is on track to

graduate and plans to attend college.

I can only imagine what Jessica's life would be like now if a CASA hadn't been there to guide, mentor and advocate for her. I know she would not have been able to join the cheerleading squad due to financial cost and transportation. As her CASA, I was able to convince DSS that cheerleading was both therapeutic and healthy for Jessica. It gave her an opportunity to perform in an activity she excels in and cares deeply about, and in the process raise her self-esteem and gain leadership and team qualities.

Each year more than 1,000,000 children in the U.S. suffer emotional effects and physical trauma of abuse, neglect, or abandonment by their families. In Maryland, over 12,000 children live in temporary foster families or group homes because the court has deemed their homes not safe. DSS is overstressed with its caseload of children in the system and cannot give these children the time and energy they need and deserve. Unfortunately many times the one who suffers the most in these instances is the child—the child who has nobody to speak or act on their behalf.

So what, exactly, does a CASA do and how can a person become a CASA? Well, a CASA is a volunteer and anyone over the age of 21 who cares about children can become a CASA. There is no educational or time requirement. Volunteers are screened through personal interview, references, and criminal background checks. After the completion of pre-service training, CASA volunteers are appointed by a Circuit Court Judge to serve as a "friend of the court." Once assigned a foster child, a CASA will learn about that child, his/her situation, review records, interview parents, teachers, anyone involved with the child.

The CASA maintains close contact with the child, parents, foster parent, teachers, and others involved in the child's day-to-day life. Every six months there will be a Review Hearing for the child. The CASA will be the eyes and ears of the judge by gathering information to assist the judge in making informed decisions about the child's best interest. The CASA will provide emotional support to the child during the hearing and submit a written report to the court giving a summary about the child, providing recommendations outlining what is in the child's best interest.

The experience of being a CASA is very gratifying and will touch your life in ways you cannot imagine. I know it has for me!

Anne Arundel County CASA, Inc., invites you to join its team of volunteers who are dedicated to improving the lives of abused and neglected children in our community. CASA volunteers work one-on-one with a child, gathering valuable information and insight about his/her needs. This information is provided to a judge, who makes decisions that can have a profound impact on the child's future.

If someone else were making decisions about your life, wouldn't you want one person looking out for your best interests?

Applications are continually being accepted. No special experience is needed, but applicants must be 21 years old. Complete training and support is provided.

For additional information, please visit the CASA website at www.aacasa.org or call 410-267-7877.

CeeCee Middlebrooks

End of Session Report from Sen. Ed DeGrange

Dear Friends,

The Maryland General Assembly's 428th Legislative Session came to an end on Monday April, 12, 2011. I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some of this Session's key accomplishments.

Protecting our priorities

As a member of the Budget and Taxation Committee and the Chair of both the Capital Budget subcommittee and Public Safety, Transportation and Environment subcommittee, the budget and budget related issues were my top priority this Session. My colleagues and I continued to enforce fiscal discipline by cutting three-quarters of a billion dollars from the baseline budget. At the same time we were able to protect our core priorities including:

Funding our public schools—Our schools have been ranked #1 in the nation for three years running, which is why it is critical that we protect the State's investment in our classrooms. We restored funding for education cuts proposed by the Governor, and increased education funding over previous years. Public education continues to represent 40% of the State's general fund budget.

Building and renovating schools—Public school construction was our priority last term, as we invested well over \$1 billion in renovating and building classrooms. We continued our commitment to school construction this year, investing over \$300

million.

Creating jobs and building infrastructure—This year's capital budget includes \$925 million for road repairs, library, hospital and school construction, as well as other projects that improve our quality of life and create jobs in the State's construction industry.

Keeping higher education affordable—We protected our \$1.2 billion investment in our public colleges and universities, which will prevent drastic tuition increases and help our students prepare to compete in Maryland's increasingly high-tech economy.

Protecting healthcare for low-income Marylanders—We cut the budget without cutting services or eligibility for services through Medicaid. We also budgeted an additional \$15 million to help reduce the waiting list for services that benefit disabled Marylanders and their families.

In addition to these investments, we set aside \$640 million in the State's Rainy Day Fund and left an additional \$50 million general fund balance for a total of almost \$700 million in reserve.

Putting our pension system on the path to sustainability—States around the nation are struggling with the costs of pensions and retiree healthcare. Maryland is not immune from this national trend. Pension costs doubled over the past five years and are projected to quadruple over the next decade. If we ignored the problem, we would face \$1.2 billion in pension costs within three years making our pension costs equal to our entire investment in higher education.

Many of our sister states are taking draconian steps, including eliminating defined benefit pensions and gutting retiree healthcare. We chose to defend a defined benefit system, to protect our retirees' existing benefits, and to ask our employees to contribute slightly more to their retirement. This will put our pension system on a path to sustainability that is fair to employees, retirees and taxpayers.

Investing in job creation—Maryland employers created 36,000 jobs last year, making our State's unemployment rate only two points below the national average. These are encouraging signs as we emerge from the recession, but we need to do more to stimulate growth in our knowledge-based economy.

Working with the Governor, we created Invest Maryland, a public-private partnership that will infuse \$75 million in capital

investments into our business sector, fueling innovation and job creation. In addition, we extended the State's successful biotechnology and film production tax credits. These are two programs that have proven to create jobs and stimulate growth in our State's economy.

Protecting Maryland's children—Maryland's Child Protective Services received 14,000 reports of neglect in 2010. They confirmed over 4,000 cases, yet, under Maryland law, prosecutors could not act on any of these cases until a child suffered a physical injury or death. While our primary goal is to address child neglect through education and social services, there are cases where neglect is so unspeakable as to require criminal prosecution. We gave our prosecutors better tools to protect our most vulnerable children by making child neglect a crime.

Maryland has some of the nation's toughest laws against child sexual predators. We continued to lead on the issue this year by closing loopholes in the definition of sexual abuse, making sure that those who solicit sex of a minor in a sting must register as sex offenders, and tightening up reporting requirements for juveniles.

Targeting prescription drug abuse—Communities across the State are facing a quiet epidemic of prescription drug abuse, as oxycontin, oxycodone and vicodin become the drug of choice in many suburban and rural communities. Unfortunately, many Marylanders gain access to these prescriptions through their physicians. To address this problem, we created a prescription drug-monitoring program that balances a patient's right to privacy against the community's interest in rooting out and cracking down on prescription drug abuse.

Controlling healthcare costs and expanding coverage—After the President signed federal healthcare reform into law, the challenge of implementing it shifted to the states. We worked with the Lieutenant Governor and stakeholders to create a health benefit exchange which will help low-income Marylanders and small businesses access federal subsidies and tax credits. According to independent studies, health care reform will save Maryland taxpayers over \$800 million over ten years, and will ultimately extend health insurance to 350,000 Marylanders.

Protecting families—Maryland's economy is beginning to grow, but many people are still looking for work. We passed

legislation to extend unemployment benefits by 13 weeks to Marylanders who have received benefits for more than one year. By taking advantage of federal funds, this extension will inject an additional \$280 million into State's economy without costing our general fund. The passage of this law will ensure that unemployed Marylanders will have the time and resources to sustain them as they work to find a job.

Making our roads safer—Cracking down on drunk driving is necessary in order to make our communities safer. This year we passed legislation to mandate ignition interlocks for repeat offender drunk drivers. This additional safeguard is crucial to stopping these egregious offenders who are causing danger and harm to all Marylanders.

Reforming government and elections—The Maryland Senate has a proven record of fighting for transparency in the legislative process. We continued this trend by creating a Joint Committee on Transparency and Open Government, which will expand legislative oversight in this area and work to harness new technologies to make government more accessible and accountable to the people of Maryland.

During the 2010 elections, numerous outside interest groups spent money to try to influence campaigns at the State and local levels. Under existing law, they could make these independent expenditures without ever reporting a nickel of their spending. We increased transparency by becoming the 45th State to require independent expenditures to be reported and we became the first State in the nation to require corporations that make independent expenditures to notify their shareholders of their spending.

Moving the Primary Election dates—To comply with Federal law and ensure that our soldiers have the right and ability to vote while serving our country overseas, we moved the dates of the Federal Primary elections. The Primary election in 2012 will take place on the first Tuesday in April and the Primary election in 2014 will take place on the 4th Tuesday in June.

Respecting our Military families—In response to the Westboro Baptist Church's protest at a young military man's funeral and to the recent Supreme Court decision holding that the church's words and actions fall under the purview of constitutionally protected free speech, the Maryland General Assembly took action

to protect military families. We passed legislation that increases the distance within which a person is prohibited from engaging in picketing activities at a funeral, burial, memorial service, or funeral procession from 100 feet to 500 feet to allow for proper respect for the mourners while not going against the Supreme Court's ruling.

If you have any thoughts, ideas, questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my Annapolis office at 410.841.3593 or email me at james.degrange@senate.state.md.us.

Sincerely, James "Ed" DeGrange
State Senator, District 32

Del. Pam Beidle: The 428th Legislative Session in Review

The General Assembly had a successful session, despite tough economic challenges. The House of Delegates focused on cutting the State's structural deficit, stimulating job creation in Maryland, and strengthening public safety laws and access to health care. We addressed the State's structural deficit, ensuring the long-term viability of the retiree benefit system and funding education programs to ensure a strong future for the State's knowledge-based economy. Despite improving revenue projections following the recession, we took a conservative approach to budgeting for next year.

- As a result of our work, the State's structural deficit—projected to be \$2 billion at the beginning of session—has been reduced by over 42% moving forward.

- Leaves the State with over \$730M in cash reserves, including the Rainy Day Fund. Maryland is one of only 4 states in the country that has not dipped into its Rainy Day Fund during the recession.

- Eliminates over \$6.5B in long-term retiree healthcare liability over the next 10 years

- Restores \$58.5M in K-12 education spending, to bring per pupil funding back to FY11 levels. We worked to ensure that the restoration of this funding was fair and equitable ñ benefitting every county in the State. The State has committed a total of \$5.8B to school systems across Maryland next year.

- Provides funding to limit a tuition increase at universities to 3% and establishes a special grant program to cap community college tuition increases at 3%, to increase access to higher education for all Maryland residents.

- Provides an additional \$13M to coun-

ties and municipalities for road maintenance funding

- Raises modest fees on certificate of title on new vehicle purchases and vanity tags to replace \$50M to the Transportation Trust Fund. This action was taken instead of a gas tax (supported by the Chamber and business organizations), given the high price of gas right now.

- Requires any new transfer from the Transportation Trust Fund be repaid within 5 years, to protect the long-term sustainability of the State's transportation system. While almost all of the General Funds have been repaid to the Transportation Trust Fund over the past 28 years, a robust transportation system is the key to attracting businesses to Maryland.

- No state employee furloughs for the first time in three years. State employees have absorbed over \$500M in reductions to benefits and salaries, as a result of the global recession.

- One-time \$750 bonus to state employees, which also has less of an impact to the State's General Fund than instituting the COLA or merit increases, and rewards State employees who have each lost an average of \$3,100 in pay over the last three years.

- Ensures long-term sustainability of the State's pension system, including preserving a defined benefit system and relieving some burden on retirees from the Governor's proposal.

- Preserves funding for business loan and loan guaranty programs, including MS-BDFA, MIDFA and MEDAF. Last year, DBED financing programs created/retained 10,000 jobs in Maryland.

- Funds the Biotech Tax Credit, stem cell research programs and provides funding for Nanotechnology. Maryland was ranked 2nd by the US Chamber of Commerce and National Chamber Foundation based on growth and investment in STEM jobs and R&D investment.

REFORMING THE RETIREE BENEFIT SYSTEM

Pension costs are one of the biggest cost drivers in the budget, with an estimated overall State liability of \$1.5 billion in General Funds for FY12. The House made a commitment to (1) maintain a defined benefit pension system and (2) identify a way to relieve some of the burden on retirees for prescription costs from the Governor's proposal, both while increasing the long-term viability and sustainability of the pension system.

- Makes changes to vesting requirements.

New employees will vest at 10 years instead of the current 5 years. The early retirement age for new employees is moved from 55 to 60 years of age. 17 states currently have a greater than 5 years vesting requirement. New employees will have to be 65 years old with 10 years of employment, or meet the "Rule of 90," meaning your age and years of service must add up to 90, in order to collect a benefit.

- Aligns Prescription Drug Benefits for Active & Retired Employees. Because of concern of drastically increased costs in the plan as initially introduced, the Appropriations Committee developed a prescription drug plan that is less onerous on retirees. Retiree co-pays will be increased slightly to align with the cost to current employees, the out-of-pocket cap for single retirees will be increased from \$700 to \$1500, instead of \$4550, and \$2000 for a couple, instead of \$9100, under the budget as introduced, and monthly premiums for retirees will increase slightly, on average \$10/month. This plan still requires Medicare-eligible retirees to enroll in the Medicare Part D benefit by 2020, and reduces almost half of the pension system's unfunded liability. Beginning in FY13, the State will reinvest savings from these reforms back into the retirement system to reduce the unfunded liability and achieve 80% funding of the system by FY23.

- Employee Contributions—all employee pension contributions will increase from 5% to 7%. Current employees will retain the 1.8% multiplier. New employees will have a 1.5% multiplier.

- Balancing Retirement Benefits Across All Systems: FY13, LEOPS will pay the same as State employees and teachers. The General Assembly Compensation Commission will review legislative pension proposals, and the Judicial Compensation Commission will review judicial pension proposals.

- Increasing vesting requirements to 10 years for all systems (except judges, due to a statutory quirk)

The Capital Budget represents our hope for the State's future. The choices that we made show our collective priorities: funding for new schools for the next generation of workers; funding for helicopter replacement to maintain the country's best healthcare delivery system; funding for universities to leverage research advancements that could change the world; and projects that will immediately stimulate job

creation. Next year's capital budget is projected to create and maintain 15,000 construction jobs, for an industry that has suffered a 25% employment loss over the last 3 years.

The FY12 capital budget:

- Cuts our debt ceiling by \$215M to \$925M in new general obligation bonds.

- Requests a comprehensive evaluation of the State's entire debt program—including all types of bonds and capital leases backed by the State—and recommendation of a process for setting annual debt limits for all types of State debt.

Specifically, the capital budget will fund next year:

- \$250M in school construction funding across the State.

- \$198M in higher education facilities, including \$60M at our community colleges.

- \$267M for environmental projects, including nutrient removal technologies at the State's 67 largest wastewater treatment plants.

- \$39M for hospitals and health facilities across the State.

- Over \$20M to continue the purchase of a new Medevac helicopter fleet.

Stimulating Maryland's economy:

- InvestMaryland (HB173)—the General Assembly passed legislation to create a premium tax credit program to fuel venture capital investment in Maryland businesses. While Maryland's job growth was twice the growth rate of the nation, we still need to invest in new and emerging technologies to keep Maryland competitive in the nation's economy. The program offers premium tax credits to institutional investors, like insurance companies, at a discounted rate in exchange for an up-front investment in the program. In January, the Milken Institute again ranked Maryland #2 in the nation for technology and science assets.

- Funding tax credits (HB70)—the FY12 budget provides \$8M funding for the Biotech Tax Credit, \$12.4M for stem cell research programs, which generate high-paying jobs, and \$2.4M for CENTR nanotechnology tax credit. The legislature also passed a film tax credit legislation to provide \$7.5M tax credits for the next three years to attract film production jobs to Maryland.

- Helping small business (HB70) - Preserves funding for business loan and loan guaranty programs, including MSBDFA, MIDFA and MEDAF. Last year, DBED financing programs created/ retained 10,000 jobs in Maryland.

Providing a quality education to every child:

- Education Funding—School funding has been the State's top priority, providing \$5.8B to K-12 public schools and \$1.4B to higher education institutions. Over half of the State's general fund is dedicated to education spending, which has led to Maryland having the #1 school system for three years in a row.

- Tuition Cap—the legislature and Governor O'Malley created a new grant program this year, Keeping Community Colleges Affordable. The grant program provides \$5M to community colleges across Maryland to limit the tuition increase to 3% for next year. Community colleges are key in the State's educational and workforce development tool box, providing high school graduates and workers with invaluable skills to compete in the knowledge-based economy.

Strengthening Public Safety Laws:

- Keeping Drunk Drivers off the Road (HB1276) - Legislation passed to expand the use of ignition interlock in Maryland to drunk drivers with a high blood alcohol content (.15), all repeat offenders and anyone who refuses a breathalyzer test. Anyone under the age of 21 who has any blood alcohol content is automatically enrolled in the ignition interlock program under the bill. About 1.4 million drivers are arrested nationwide for alcohol impairment annually. About 146,000 ignition interlock devices are in use, a proportion of 10%. Forty-eight states and the District of Columbia authorize or mandate the use of an ignition interlock system to deter alcohol-impaired driving.

- Strengthening Our Gun Laws (HB241)—Under Maryland law, if a person commits a felony or crime of violence with a handgun, they are subject to a 5 year mandatory minimum sentence in addition to the prison sentence for the underlying crime. HB241 creates a new felony for possession of a rifle or shotgun by people previously convicted of violent crimes and drug-related crimes, punishable by incarceration for a maximum of 15 years. Legislation also closes the loop hole for criminals using shotguns or rifles to commit violent crimes. These individuals will now be subject to the same penalty as those convicted of using a handgun in the commission of a crime of violence (minimum of 5 years in jail / maximum of 20 years), in addition to the penalty for the underlying crime.

- Criminal Vehicular Manslaughter (HB363)—Legislation passed to create a new crime if a person acts in a criminally negligent way while driving which results in death. The new crime carries a penalty of up to three years in prison and/or a \$5,000 penalty.

- Criminalizing Child Neglect (HB162)—The legislature also created a new crime for child neglect, to protect Maryland's most vulnerable residents. If a parent or guardian intentionally fails to provide support and resources for the physical or mental health of a child, they could face up to 5 years in prison and/or a \$5,000 penalty.

Protecting Maryland Consumers:

- Electricity Reliability (SB692/ HB391)—in response to growing concern in the Washington metro area about electricity reliability, the Economic Matters Committee passed legislation to ensure electricity reliability, while not passing the cost onto consumers. The emergency legislation directs the Public Service Commission to set a goal that each electric company establish reliability standards for each of the major utility companies in the State, and take appropriate corrective action against companies that fail to meet these standards, including civil penalties of up to \$25K. The bill also requires the PSC to adopt regulations to implement service quality and reliability standards that will include consideration of service interruption, downed wire response, vegetation management and periodic equipment review.

- Direct Shipment of Wine (HB1175)—Maryland joins 37 states and the District of Columbia in permitting out-of-state wineries to ship into Maryland. Compromise legislation this year permits the direct shipment of wine from wineries around the country to Maryland consumers. Because of concern expressed by local retailers and small businesses, out-of-state retailers are not permitted to ship wine directly to Maryland consumers.

Improving access to quality healthcare:

- Health Insurance Exchange Bill (HB166) - The Health Care Reform Package, a priority of the O'Malley Administration, establishes a framework to provide individuals and small businesses one-stop shopping for affordable insurance options; help an estimated 180,000 low-income Marylanders access federal subsidies for coverage; support small business access to affordable coverage; and allow private insurers to offer competitive plans in a fair

and transparent marketplace where consumers will be able to compare rates, benefits, and quality to secure plans that best suit their needs. According to research by the independent Hilltop Institute, implementing federal health care reform will save Maryland an estimated \$850 million and cut the number of Marylanders living without health insurance in half by 2020.

- Conforming Health Insurance with Federal Health Care Reform (HB170) ñ Legislation also passed to align Maryland law with the consumer protections in the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which have already gone into effect. These include: barring insurers from denying coverage to children with pre-existing conditions, eliminating lifetime limits on essential benefits, requiring insurance companies to cover certain preventive services like mammograms and flu shots, and allowing young adults to stay on their parents' policies until age 26.

Improving Public Health:

- Protecting the Environment—Maryland joins Virginia to curb the pollution flowing into the Bay from lawn fertilizers. We also tightened penalties for illegally poaching rockfish from Maryland waters. We also funded \$267M for environmental projects, including nutrient removal technologies at the State's 67 largest wastewater treatment plants.

- Banning Bisphenol-A (HB4)—Maryland has been a national leader in banning the use of bisphenol-A, a dangerous toxin used in manufacturing. Legislation this year expands the prohibition on use of bisphenol-A in child care articles, including infant formula containers. According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), BPA can leak from the linings of canned foods and polycarbonate water and baby bottles, resulting in possible health risks to infants and young children.

- Increasing funding for developmental disabilities (SB994 and HB1213)—Under a 3% increase in the State's alcohol tax, the State will provide an additional \$15M in funding, that will be matched by an estimated \$13M in federal funding, beginning July 1st, to take 500 of the highest need people off of the developmental disabilities waiting list. An additional one-time \$47M grant program for school construction funding will go to counties across Maryland to not only improve our schools for Maryland students, but also help stimulate the State's economy by providing construction jobs beginning this summer. Also as a result of the

bill's passage, four jurisdictions will receive increased operating funds for K-12 education programs (Baltimore City, Prince George's, Allegany and Garrett counties). Next fiscal year, the State will continue to provide additional funding for the developmentally disabled community, while all other funding from this tax will revert to the State's general fund.

Other Important Legislation:

- MOVE Act (HB671)—In 2009, Congress passed the MOVE Act to require States to send absentee ballots to military and overseas U.S. voters no later than 45 days before a federal election. The State Board of Elections has indicated that they need a minimum of 84 days between the primary and general elections in order to certify primary results, print and mail absentee ballots to military and overseas voters. Federal Primary elections beginning in 2012 will be the first Tuesday in April. Gubernatorial and legislative primary elections, beginning in 2014, will be the last Tuesday in June.

- Medical Marijuana—Compromise legislation passed this year to establish a workgroup to include members of the medical community, law enforcement, and the health community. The workgroup will develop a blueprint for legislation to provide oversight and responsibility for a medical marijuana program in the State, including specifics on dispensing and regulating marijuana for medical purposes. In addition, the legislature included an affirmative defense pleading, which allows patients using marijuana for medicinal purposes to not incur a criminal record.

Please continue to contact me with your questions and concerns. By email: Pamela.Beidle@house.state.md.us, by phone 410-841-3370, or by mail. Just a reminder, my Legislative Assistant, Nancy Crawford, is part-time when we are not in session. She will most likely be in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Thank you for your input on the issues and continued support.

Best regards,
Pamela G. Beidle
State Delegate, District 32

REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM ADULT MOSQUITO CONTROL SERVICES

This application must be completed by the individual residing within a community participating in the Mosquito Control Program who wishes to have his/her property excluded from adult mosquito control pesticide applications by truck-mounted ultra low volume (ULV) sprayers. The attached statement entitled "Objection to Adult Mosquito Control" explains the Maryland Department of Agriculture's policy on individual objectors. Please retain it for your files.

Please complete all information below. Please read the "Public Information Notice" on the attached policy statement. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Please print or type:

Name : _____

Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone No. Day _____

(Include area code) Evening _____

Name of your Community Association : _____

Name of the Subdivision in which you reside: _____

Signature: _____

(I have read MDA's Adult Mosquito Control Objection Policy)

Your city/town or community association will receive notice of the scheduled night for surveillance and spraying. It is the responsibility of the city/town or community association to notify the residents of the schedule. Spraying will be conducted only if needed and will be done on the same day (as the above mentioned survey) of each week. Please feel free to contact us if you have further questions at 301-373-4264/65 - St. Mary's County; 1-888-523-0256 - Charles County; 1-877-425-6485 –Baltimore & Harford Counties; 301-422-5080 - Western Maryland; 410-841-5870 – Anne Arundel & Queen Anne's Counties; or 410-543-6626 – Eastern Shore (remaining).

Application should be sent to:
Program Supervisor
Mosquito Control Section
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway