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GreenPort Newsletter of Baltimore

March/April 2020



Forward to a Friend!

PORT

Essential Port Operations Continue During COVID-19 Global Pandemic

During this challenging time, the Port of Baltimore remains open for business. **Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA)** continues essential operations in order to help commerce and the continuation of the flow of goods. Every precaution is being made to ensure the safety and health of our employees, tenants and contractors working on site. All public tours and programs at our dredged material containment sites have been discontinued until April 30th or until further notice.





Andrea Williams on MDOT MPA Operations during COVID...

Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore

Please watch this [video](#) from MDOT MPA's Manager of Safety and Risk Management Andrea Williams to learn about MDOT MPA's operations during COVID-19 and tips to keep the Port and Marylanders safe.

Propeller Club to Honor Katrina Jones

The Propeller Club of Baltimore recently named MDOT MPA's Outreach Coordinator for Harbor Development Katrina Jones as the 2020 Port Person of the Year. Established in 1931, the nonprofit works to educate and advocate for the importance and necessity of all waterborne commerce.

The Propeller Club received not just one, but two nominations to consider Jones for the award this year. Her supervisor, MDOT MPA's Director of the Office of Harbor Development Kristen Fidler, and MDOT MPA's Cruise Maryland General Manager Cynthia Burman both submitted nominations.

"Katrina works tirelessly to connect people to the Port of Baltimore – making both better," wrote Fidler.

"She has demonstrated exceptional customer service and extraordinary dedication and commitment to promoting the maritime industry," wrote Burman.

"I really love my work," said Jones. "I love that 'a-ha moment' when people connect the Port to the environment and when they connect the Port to their daily lives."

The award is scheduled to be given at the May 14 Port Person of the Year Luncheon.



Katrina Jones is the fifth recipient of the Propeller Club's annual award. She started her career with MDOT MPA more than 30 years ago as a temporary typist/clerk who became a full-time administrative assistant and advanced to her present position where she helped engage more than 16,000 members of the public last year. Photo by Sergio Adantor/MDOT MPA

Jill Lemke Becomes the First Certified Climate Change Professional at MDOT MPA

In January 2020, MDOT MPA's Manager of Strategic Planning and Special Projects Jill Lemke was one of 40 professionals recognized by Maryland Governor Larry Hogan as Maryland's first Certified Climate Change Professionals®, an international credential administered by the **Association of Climate Change Officers (ACCO)**.



"Not only did we learn about the science of climate change, but we also learned about a full range of ways that we can, and must, do something about it," said Lemke.

"We hope that other U.S. states will quickly follow Maryland's lead in building a competent workforce equipped to reduce our emissions while ensuring our security, public health and economic vitality through a dynamically changing climate," said Daniel Kreeger, ACCO's executive director.

Lemke's studies for this certification included six days of coursework, self-study and four exams. Courtesy Photo



These 40 professionals are Maryland's first Certified Climate Change Professionals®. The **Maryland Climate Leadership Academy** was established in 2018 to specifically offer training and continuing education for state and local government officials and infrastructure professionals on the matter of climate change. Photo by the Executive Office of the Maryland Governor

ENVIRONMENT

Bald Eagles Return to Masonville Cove

For the second year in a row, a pair of adult bald eagles have chosen to nest at **Masonville Cove**. 2019 was the first time eagles have nested on the campus since environmental restoration efforts there began in 2007. The eagles are currently working on their nest. Once they lay their eggs, incubation takes about 35 days. The eaglets could arrive in May.

Partners at Masonville Cove, which include **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**, **Maryland Environmental Service** (MES), MDOT MPA, the **Living Classrooms Foundation**, and **National Aquarium**, will ensure disturbance to the eagles is minimized during this time and establish a protected area in compliance with National Bald Eagle Nest Protection Guidelines.



A photo taken in 2019 of the nesting bald eagles at Masonville Cove. Photo by Tim Carney/MES

Volunteers Plant Trees

More than 150 volunteers from area organizations planted 119 trees along Broening Highway near the Port of Baltimore over a week last fall.

"As our cargo numbers and the economic benefits they provide continue to go up, at the same time, we have been able to reduce air emissions, control stormwater runoff and, with events like this, help improve the quality of life for our neighbors," said MDOT MPA's acting Executive Director Dave Thomas.



MDOT MPA provided funding for the trees and was a host along with [Blue Water Baltimore](#) and [HeartSmiles](#), a Baltimore youth advocacy organization. [Bloomberg Philanthropies](#) provided lunch. This event marked the 1,500th tree planted over the last three years in the Baltimore region as part of MDOT MPA's Urban Forestry Program.

Volunteers included representatives of MDOT MPA, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Cub Scout Pack 858, [Baltimore Port Alliance](#), [EcoLogix Group](#), [Johns Hopkins School of Public Health](#), [Women's Traffic and Transportation Club of Baltimore](#), Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity at [University of Maryland, College Park](#) and Alpha Phi Omega coed fraternity at [Johns Hopkins University](#). [T. Rowe Price](#) employees also volunteered earlier in the week. Photo by Blue Water Baltimore

Planning for the Future – It's Electric

MDOT MPA's Office of Safety, Environment & Risk Management (SERM) is looking forward to welcoming another [Environmental Defense Fund](#) (EDF) Climate Corps fellow this summer. The fellow will help SERM to understand what should be considered when planning for the air emission reduction, such as the expected increase in the number of electric vehicles, as well as the possible needs of current and future tenants who may be importing/exporting electric vehicles.

"This continued partnership with EDF enables us to have highly-educated and experienced researchers work with us to focus on specific studies that can help MDOT MPA better understand how we can improve our air quality and greenhouse gas emissions footprints," said MDOT MPA Environmental Manager Shawn Kiernan.

In 2019, Jon-Michael Murray served with MDOT MPA as an EDF Climate Corps fellow and spent 10 weeks at the Port helping SERM staff research possible ways to help offset greenhouse gases.



An EDF Climate Corps fellow will help MDOT MPA investigate emission reduction plans, including for the future wave of electric vehicles. Photo by Noya Fields

COMMUNITY

Making a Difference through Sponsor-a-Road

Always striving to be a good neighbor, MDOT MPA became part of the **Sponsor-a-Road** program in Baltimore City, sponsoring a monthly debris cleanup along one mile of road at five locations in the Brooklyn, Curtis Bay and Cherry Hill communities surrounding Masonville Cove. Since the program began in October 2019, MDOT MPA's sponsorship led to 205 bags of debris being removed from the roadways.

Locations include:

- Patapsco Ave and 12th street; near Benjamin Franklin High School where there is typically heavy foot traffic.
- Patapsco Ave and 3rd street; near the Enoch Pratt Free Library Brooklyn Branch where there is typically heavy foot traffic.
- Frankurst Avenue and Hanover Street; near the Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center.
- Potee Street and Reedbird Ave, an intersection with typically heavy vehicle traffic.
- Potee Street and Hanover Street, an intersection with typically heavy vehicle traffic.



As part of the program, five signs listing Masonville Cove with the partnership logo or the Captain Trash Wheel logo have been installed in neighboring communities. Photos by MES

A Look Back: Celebrating a Decade of Dedication

In 2019, the Masonville Cove stakeholder partnership celebrated 10 years in the community, with an event series titled "Decade of Dedication." The special events drew more than 1,400 visitors, including many new visitors from the neighboring communities.

During the Decade of Dedication, partners offered extended hours on select weekday evenings and weekends, hosted 15 events with shuttle and free local rideshare transportation, launched a [new user-friendly website](#), and enhanced visitor experience and activities on the campus including nature exhibits provided by the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Patuxent Research Refuge](#) and a Little Free Library installation.



During the Decade of Dedication, partners increased neighborhood engagement and celebrated many achievements. Photos by MES

EDUCATION

A Look Back: Celebrating a Decade of Dedication

The Port's environmental education team made a splash at the [Maryland](#)

Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) annual conference in Ocean City in February. The team held a workshop called Port Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) centered on issues related to water resources and conservation, as well as the Port's efforts to mitigate stormwater runoff, erosion and shoreline damage.



Workshop attendees learned about keeping waterways free of trash, with inspiration from Baltimore's own Captain Trash Wheel, and how to recycle properly. They also designed their own riverfront property to learn about the impacts of point source pollution (from a single source, such as a smokestack or drainpipe) and non-point source pollution (from multiple area sources such as stormwater runoff from roads with contamination from petroleum products and grit or runoff from property with residue from herbicides, fertilizer and animal waste).



The team also conducted a workshop called Discovering Diamonds in the Sand, conducted on the beach, where educators participated in hands-on learning about diamondback terrapins, including working through a practical simulation of the terrapin nest research at Poplar Island. The activities involved digging up painted wooden eggs, counting, measuring and weighing them, recording the data, then returning the eggs to the nest.

MAEOE is the nonprofit that certifies Maryland **Green Schools**.

Workshop attendees will be using tools from the workshop to encourage their students to jump into local and global water issues and to explore their connection to the Port of Baltimore. Photos by MES

UPCOMING EVENTS

DMMP Management Committee Meeting - Date and time TBD
Virtual Meeting
For questions or to confirm attendance please contact [Greenport](#).

 [MDOT MPA Website](#)

 [GreenPort Website](#)

 [Port of Baltimore Magazine](#)

GreenPort Newsletter is the Maryland Department of Transportation's Maryland Port Administration's bi-monthly update of projects and programs that help the agency contribute to a thriving economy, environmental stewardship, and community partnerships. As always, we thank the many private sector businesses, government leaders, communities, and individual citizens who have helped make these achievements a reality.



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