

# Community

Maryland Independent ■ Wednesday, February 14, 2018



## Calendar of events

A LOOK AT  
THE WEEK AHEAD

Send calendar events (at least two weeks in advance, if possible) to *Community*, 4475 Regency Place, Suite 301, White Plains, MD 20695. Email items to [community@somdnews.com](mailto:community@somdnews.com). Include a contact phone number or email on all submissions.

### Ongoing

**The Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 36**, Waldorf in partnership with the Air Force Sergeants Association will assist veterans and their family members prepare and file VA Claims. The Claims Center is located at the Airman Memorial Building, 5211 Auth Road in Suitland. This cost-free service is provided every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., except on holidays or closings due to inclement weather. Claims are processed by trained Service Officers that are certified by DAV National Service Officers. Call 301-899-3500 x226 for an appointment.

**The Humane Society of Charles County** is now accepting reservations for its Top Dog Dinner featuring entertainment by The Fabulous Hubcaps. Dinner, dancing, silent auction and more at the Waldorf Jaycees on Friday, Feb. 23. For reservations, email [TopDog@humanesocietycc.org](mailto:TopDog@humanesocietycc.org), go to [www.humanesocietycc.org](http://www.humanesocietycc.org) or call 301-645-8181.

**The James E. Richmond Science Center** hosts free planetarium sky shows 7 p.m. the first Monday of every month. For more information, go to [www.ccboe.com/sciencecenter](http://www.ccboe.com/sciencecenter).

**Friday Fun Nights** for children ages 5-17 will be held at various community center locations. Kids can have fun while adults enjoy a kid-free evening. Each month will feature a different theme. For a full list of dates, times and locations, go to [www.charlescountyparks.com](http://www.charlescountyparks.com).

**Platinum Senior Care Assisted Living, LLC** will host Reminiscing Cafe 6-9 p.m. Mondays-Fridays and 8-11 a.m. Saturdays-Sundays at the facility, 4018 Blackbird Court, Waldorf. For seniors with dementia and Alzheimer's to relax and enjoy themselves. For information, call 301-638-3194.

**VConnections** will hold Veterans Coffee Break 9-10:30 a.m. Mondays at Chick-fil-A, 107 Drury Drive, La Plata. For information, go to [www.vconnections.org](http://www.vconnections.org).

**Pomfret Way-of-Life Al-Anon Family Group and Alateen** will meet 8 p.m. Tuesdays at St. Joseph Church, 4950 Saint Joseph Way, Pomfret. For information, go to [www.marylandcc-alanon.org](http://www.marylandcc-alanon.org) or call 1-800-425-2666.

**VConnections** will host Veterans Coffee Break 9-10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of each month at Burger King, 30004 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall. For information, go to [www.vconnections.org](http://www.vconnections.org).

**Free Foreclosure Legal Clinic** with attorneys from the Maryland Volunteer Lawyer occurs the first Wednesday of each month at Charles County Public Law Library, 200 Charles St., La Plata. These are one-on-one online sessions with an experienced attorney. The library is located in the basement of the Circuit Court for Charles County; entrance to the building is on Washington Ave. For more information or to make an appointment, call the Law Library at 301-932-3322

**Kiwanis of Waldorf** meets Wednesdays 7:30-8:30 a.m. at Comfort Suites, 11765 Business Park Drive, Waldorf. For information, contact Carol Cox, 301-758-3082 or [carol.cox@gmail.com](mailto:carol.cox@gmail.com).

**VConnections** will hold Veterans Coffee Break 9-10:30 a.m. Wednesdays at Chick-fil-A, 3365 Crain Highway, Waldorf. For information, go to [www.vconnections.org](http://www.vconnections.org).

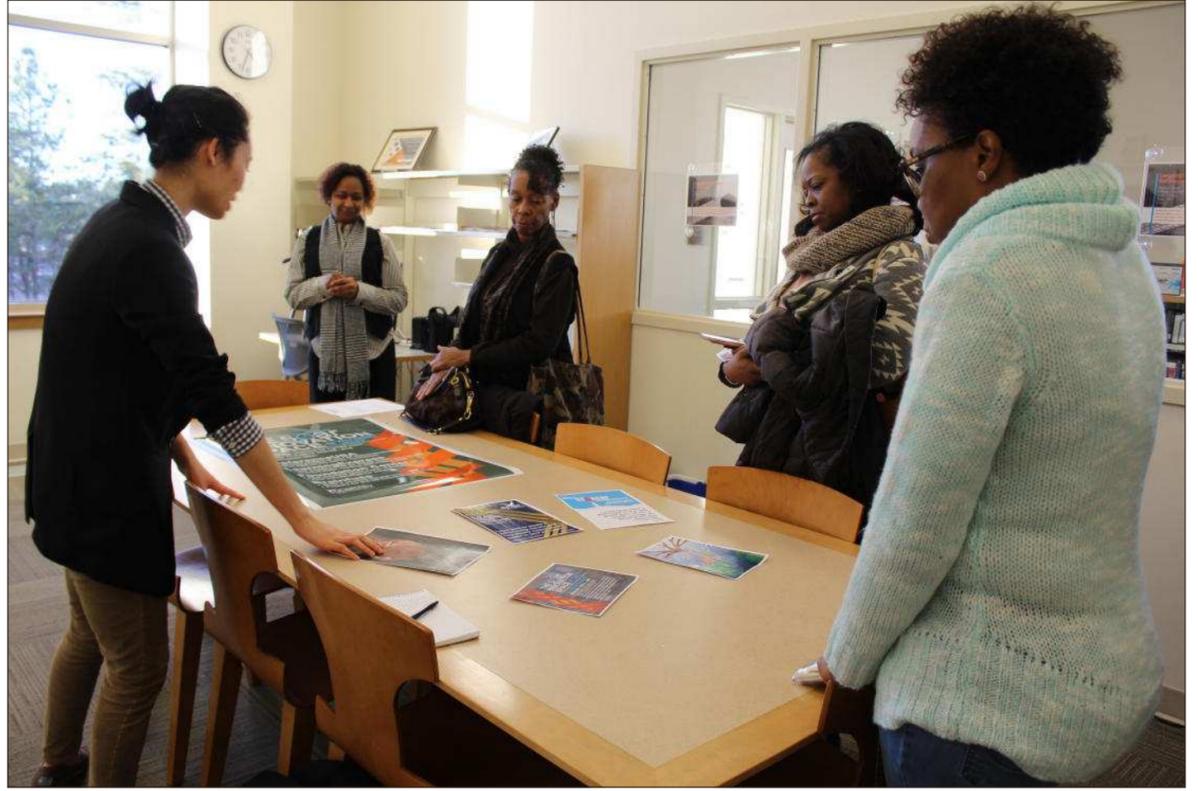
**VConnections** will hold Veterans Coffee Break 9-10:30 a.m. the second Thursday of each month at Chick-fil-A, 16003 Crain Highway, Brandywine. For information, go to [www.vconnections.org](http://www.vconnections.org).

**Charles County Professional Civitan Club** will meet 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesdays at Golden Corral, 2800 Crain Highway, Waldorf. For information, contact George Hawley, 240-367-6489 or [planit4ueventplanning@gmail.com](mailto:planit4ueventplanning@gmail.com).

**The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, NARFE, Indian Head Chapter 126** will meet at noon the first Thursday of each month at Mama Stella's Pasta House Restaurant, 7075 Indian Head Highway, Bryans Road. Different topics and pro-

See **CALENDAR**  
Page B7

## Library launches new space for community business to SOAR



Gabby Chan, left, graphic design intern for Charles County Public Library, presents the flyers and brochures she made using the equipment in the SOAR Innovation Space at Waldorf West last week.

STAFF PHOTOS BY SARA NEWMAN

### Room at Waldorf West includes equipment for small businesses

By SARA NEWMAN  
[snewman@somdnews.com](mailto:snewman@somdnews.com)

Charles County Public Library wants to see their community soar in their small business ventures.

A new space opened at the Waldorf West branch last week in an effort to expand the library's list of offerings to encourage residents to grow their career or personal interests.

"This is something we've talked about since [Waldorf West library] opened, some type of business space or small business space," Janet Salazar, executive director of Charles County Public Library said at a launch event Monday at the Waldorf West branch. "I am extremely pleased that we finally have the space opened and that we have stuff in it like we always thought we would."

The SOAR (Securing Opportunities and Aspirations Realized) Innovation Space opened last Monday at the Waldorf branch and includes a multitude of multimedia programs, software and equipment.

The space, a room on the left side of the library's second floor, features a Dell and Apple computer, equipped with a plethora of programs, including software for animation, graphic design, web design, photo editing, video editing, sound editing and more for people to work on personal and professional projects.

The room also includes a large scale digital printer, a DSLR camera that shoots photos and video, a sound mixer with two microphones, and business reference databases.

The room is equipped to be used for video conferencing, video interviewing, recording a podcast, creating brochures and flyers, designing websites, meetings and more.

"My vision was to provide the community with a place where people could collaborate and create together and really provide a place where people who may have the skills or maybe want to learn new skills but



Gabby Chan, left, graphic design intern at Charles County Public Library, shows Patrice Frazier of Prince George's County how to use the equipment in the SOAR Innovation Space at the Waldorf West branch. The new room features various equipment and editing software to help businesses and nonprofits launch projects.

may not necessarily have the resources or the money for the access, provide a place where people can access resources, build their technology skills, their job skills, work for a nonprofit or small business and help them create their own personal visions and their own goals," Shannon Bland, funding information network supervisor for Charles County Public Library, said at the opening. Bland worked on obtaining the grant that secured the funding for the space.

After touring the space, Arlene Patterson of Waldorf said she was excited to use the space in the future to work on hobbies and her own business.

"This [space] came out of the desires of the people so I think it's wonderful," Patterson said. "[The library] is always my first stop for reference and I'm always excited to see new things at the library. It's nice to see them add something that will advance the library so it doesn't become extinct. This is an excellent opportunity for anyone to come for free and learn."

Mark G. Walker, a financial advisor in La Plata, toured the site on behalf of his retired or soon-to-be-retired clients who are interested in a career change.

"They come up with ideas and what they need is a place to collect their



A large digital printer sits in the SOAR Innovation Space at the Waldorf West branch of the Charles County Public Library. The printer is part of the equipment featured in the new room that offers digital equipment and software.

thoughts," Walkers said of his clients. "If they can come into a place like this with equipment and software and like minded people, they're one step closer to bringing their dreams to fruition."

The room is available for drop-in usage and four-hour reservations through [www.ccplonline.org/policies/meeting-room](http://www.ccplonline.org/policies/meeting-room). Drop-in

hours include 3-7:30 p.m. on Mondays, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Thursdays, 1-4:30 p.m. the first and third Fridays of the month, and 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. the second and fourth Saturdays of the month.

For hours and availability, call the library at 301-645-1395.

Twitter: @indy\_community