



Access the print edition of your Gazette online FREE!

[Click here for this week's paper](#)

Friday, Jan. 21, 2011

Arizona offers lesson on mental health spending

[E-mail this article](#) | [Print this article](#)
[More News](#)

- In the wake of tragedy, Magruder celebrates its graduates and prepares to move forward
- Potomac girl competes in Scripps National Spelling Bee
- Suspect in woman's death taught her Spanish, police say
- Kentlands firehouse could come up for sale
- Community chorus to offer 'eclectic' performance Saturday

By week's end, Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley will unveil his spending plan. One area targeted for cuts is mental health and developmental disabilities services. The tragedy in Tucson shed light on the importance of mental health programs — now, we must shed light on it locally.

As president and CEO of Volunteers of America

Chesapeake — an organization 114 years strong that provides mental health and rehabilitation services to hundreds of individuals each day through 24-hour residential services, independent supportive permanent housing and outreach programs — I believe Maryland cannot afford this proposed cut.

Volunteers of America Chesapeake has seen significant increases over the past few years in demand for housing units and supportive services for the mentally ill. Yet, for three consecutive years there has been no increase to Medicaid, forcing us to use fewer employees to provide the same high-quality services to more clients.

Like other nonprofits, we're already suffering from a lack of funding. Additional cuts would be detrimental to those in need of important services.

As an organization, we are urging a public call to action against possible across-the-board cuts to mental health and developmental disabilities services. Only months ago, Arizona reduced mental health spending. Make sure Maryland doesn't do the same.

Russell K. Snyder, Lanham

The letter writer is president and CEO of Volunteers of America Chesapeake.



Business Gazette
Time for answers
Fate of Wood's tournament in members' hands
Key offers leading alternative for building schools

Subscribe to the *Business Gazette* TODAY
FOR LESS THAN
\$35 FOR 52 WEEKS!
MONTGOMERY COUNTY

[click here to subscribe and for additional rates](#)

BlackRock Center for the Arts

Registration is now open for Fall classes in music, dance, theatre, and visual arts for all ages.

[Click here for a list of classes](#)



GazetteBuyandSell.Com

Find what you are looking for...shop GBS...New items listed daily.



Suncrest Payroll LLC

Suncrest is your PG County, Maryland based Payroll Company that has been serving our community for the past 7 years. We pride ourselves on Customer Service and satisfying the needs of our small businesses. Suncrest is your First Class Payroll service with a Local presence!



ADVERTISEMENTS



2015 Toyota Corolla
\$21,444

Fitzgerald's Auto Mall Gaithersburg
Gaithersburg, MD | (866) 497-4449 | www.fitzmall.com
[See all internet specials](#)

25 CEOs You Need to Know



WIN TICKETS TO **STRATHMORE**

Copyright ©2014 Post Community Media, LLC/Gazette.Net
The Gazette | 9030 Comprint Court | Gaithersburg, MD 20877 | main number: 301-948-3120, classifieds: 301-670-2500