

THE **Business** MONTHLY

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YOUR FREE ISSUE

VOTER'S GUIDE: Meet the candidates running for office

RENAISSANCE FEST: We have the festival by the numbers

STILL CLOSED: Patapsco Valley Trail needs \$4.5 M to open

The Business of Howard + Anne Arundel Counties and the BWI Business District

Medical Cannabis Industry Grows Despite Challenges

By **Mark R. Smith**
Senior Writer

Sales have been brisk. Unanticipated challenges are still unresolved. But Maryland's medical cannabis business is moving forward.

It's been an "uneven" roll-out for the first medical cannabis dispensaries licensed to operate in the state.

It's great for the dispensaries when sales are brisk and one customer after another walks through their doors. However, software glitches - that don't provide customer verification that is necessary - are putting a crooked dent in a still healthy bottom line.

While it's frustrating, most dispensary owners feel that it's an issue that will improve as the industry grows.

Software Saga

According to Phil Goldberg, president of the Maryland Cannabis Industry Association and owner of GreenLeaf Medical, a dispensary in Frederick, performance of the software setup provided by the Linthicum-based Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission, known as METRC, is the major concern.

METRC is the seed-to-sale tracking software.

"The business owners can be checking limits, then the software

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photo by Becky Mangus

It's the season for cooler weather, earlier sunsets and, of course, pumpkins and Halloween. There are several pumpkin patches and hayrack rides in Anne Arundel and Howard counties including at Clark's Elioak Farm, Larriland Farm, Sharp's at Waterford Farm, Triadelphia Lake View Farm, Knightongale Farm and Greenstreet Gardens to name a few.

Energy Manager Ready to Cut Costs

By **Susan Kim**
Staff Writer

Cutting the cost of heat, power and light for county services by at least 20 percent, saving millions of taxpayer dollars, is the goal of Howard County's new Energy Manager.

Leah Miller, most recently Montgomery County's Sustainability Program Manager since 2016, is ready to start gathering utility billing

information from county departments and agencies and then develop plans for improving energy efficiency.

"Howard County budgets approximately \$10 million each year for electricity, natural gas, and propane," said Miller. "From my experience in this field, I would expect that the county can reduce energy use by 20 percent or more over the next five years. Once we have completed the full analysis of the county's energy usage and

identified the top priorities to reduce energy use, I'll have a better sense of exactly how much we can reduce energy use."

Howard County has nearly 200 government buildings with 2.5 million square feet of space - and Miller is looking at ways to save energy in them all.

The energy manager position is part of a policy office that works closely with the county

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WIN RAVENS TICKETS INSIDE