Beach towns endure Senior Week rowdiness and underdye drinking to boost business; teen party Gansler attended exposes the tradition

Maryland attorney general Doug Gansler (white shirt with cellphone) is seen at a Senior Week party this summer.

The transformation of a vacant, 12-story eyesore into a planning office building has brought workers, shoppers and diners to a neighborhood that now has a Keller Williams, a Coldwell Banker and an apartment tower. The project also raises questions about the future of Baltimore, where the cost of converting old buildings into apartments is a key issue in the city's economic development.

**SUMMARY OF THE NEWS**

Maryland eyes major expansion of its wildlands

By Timothy B. Wheeler

The call for the wild is being heard across Maryland — and beyond.

More than a decade after the last additions to state's wildlands network, Department of Natural Resources officials have proposed an expansion of the legally protected wilderness areas, including a section of northwestern Baltimore County. They want to preserve the area from development, cars and even bicyclists.

The proposal includes a section of northwestern Baltimore County where you can get as close to solitude as you can in a state like Maryland, with the possibility of seeing wildlife like deer, fox and raccoon. It also includes a section of northwestern Baltimore County where you can get as close to solitude as you can in a state like Maryland, with the possibility of seeing wildlife like deer, fox and raccoon. It also includes a section of northwestern Baltimore County where you can get as close to solitude as you can in a state like Maryland, with the possibility of seeing wildlife like deer, fox and raccoon. It also includes a section of northwestern Baltimore County where you can get as close to solitude as you can in a state like Maryland, with the possibility of seeing wildlife like deer, fox and raccoon. 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Maryland hears call for the wild

WILDLANDS, From page 1
If all legislative approval is given, the state's network of 300,000 acres would be expanded by more than half. The last additions were made in 2002.

The move is welcomed by bird-watchers, hikers and hunters, who see it as an affirmation of the state population growth and sprawl, this might represent the last chance to give the highest level of protection from human disturbance to Maryland's remaining wilder-

"The people here need a road, a place where they can have a little more access to the nature as left it, or God created it," said Chris Miller, conservation co-chairman of the Maryland chapter of the Sierra Club.

The purpose of the new wildlands, intended as buffers against suburban development, will be commercial activities such as timbering and limit some recreational use, including hunting, shooting, camping and shore fishing. "It's hard to step off any of the unpaved roads," he said. "We have a lot of constituents up here who have a lot of questions," said state Sen. Edwarda.

The new additions to the wildlands program, which covers nearly 100 acres in nine counties. On the Eastern Shore, Crooked Creek Park near the southern end of James Island State Park will be added to the list, as would nothing better than wildlands to protect it."

It just doesn't make any sense to us," said Mr. Debusch, co-owner of the Savage River Lodge and president of Garrett Trails. But he said he plans to extend a trail along the river or at least improve a short trail near Friendsville that follows an old railroad.

"The more people that get to see it," he said of the river, "the more people will want to protect it."

Western Marylanders have chafed at wildlands in the past, noting that the state already owns a large chunk of land in Allegany and Garrett counties. Edwards, who represents the area, said wildlands move generate little or no economic benefit for the region because access is limited to hikers for the most part and the lands are not available for commercial timbering or other revenue-generating activities.

"You talk about religions," she said. "They are 'spiritual recharge areas.'"

The Department of Natural Resources has been holding public meetings on the wildlands proposal, which is expected to wrap up Thursday. Written comments submitted by Dec. 9 will be considered by the agency. Officials will decide after that meetings to discuss them, go to news.maryland.gov/dnr/2013/09/27/.

For more on the wildlands and public recreation, including cycling, in Garrett County wants to include the river on a planned 20-mile trail, which "I thought would keep down from Pennsylvania."

"We're not trying to make it into an interstate highway or anything," said Mr. Debusch. "It's a small trail near Friendsville that follows an old railroad."

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