



## Council Passes Bill 11-12

### *Bill Requires Council Approval on Disposal of County Property*

I'm pleased to report that on May 1, the County Council passed Bill 11-12, of which I was the lead sponsor. This bill provides that the County Executive must seek County Council approval before disposing of county real property through sale or long-term lease. **Bill 11-12 provides a safeguard to ensure that one person is not solely responsible for the disposition of assets that belong to all the people of Montgomery County and that are worth millions of dollars.** The bill strengthens the checks and balances among different branches of government to ensure such transactions are in the public interest. We have a long history of good government here in Montgomery County, and this bill is simply an extension of that. The County Executive must already seek County Council approval on a number of actions, including road abandonments and economic development fund grants. That list now appropriately includes the disposition of county property. I'm sure that the County Executive and County Council will work collaboratively and expeditiously on property dispositions, as we have on the other issues as well.

## Savenia Labs

### *One of Montgomery's Small Business Heroes*



Pictured: John Jabara, Founder of Savenia Labs, among the many products he tests.

Every so often I like to spotlight local small businesses who work to make our county a more exciting, vibrant and sustainable place to live. In my role as co-founder and board member of [Bethesda Green](#), a 501c3 non profit located in downtown Bethesda, I have the opportunity to witness innovative, green startups flourish through the Bethesda Green Business Incubator. One of the earliest successes of that business incubator is Savenia Labs, a testing laboratory that provides energy and environmental impact ratings for popular appliances. The company is drawing a lot of buzz and [Channel 9 even profiled Savenia Labs a few months ago](#). What follows below is a brief interview with John Jabara, Founder of Savenia Labs.

#### **1. What is Savenia Labs and what services do you provide for consumers?**

Savenia Labs is an independent testing laboratory and information services company. We provide lab tested energy and environmental impact ratings on popular appliances so consumers can learn how much products cost to run, before they buy.

It's like MPG (Miles Per Gallon) for your appliances: the ratings give consumers the information they need to save cash and energy when shopping for appliances.

Many appliances cost more to run in energy costs than their purchase price. The most energy hungry coffeemakers we tested cost over \$500 to run over a 5-year lifetime, while the energy saving models cost around \$30. Now consumers can access this new energy cost information before they buy.

Savenia Labs Energy Rating labels are available at Strosniders True Value hardware stores and on our smartphone website at [www.savenialabs.com](http://www.savenialabs.com).

#### **2. What has been the greatest benefit of being part of the Bethesda Green Incubator Program?**

Savenia Labs was a founding member of the new business incubator at Bethesda Green. Bethesda Green was a great place to start a new company. The connections with local universities, companies, government and concerned residents were very helpful in getting Savenia Labs to market quickly.

#### **3. Consumers can currently find Savenia Labs labels at Strosniders' True Value Hardware stores in Bethesda and Silver Spring. Where do you see your company in two years?**

The feedback from our launch has been fantastic, with both consumers and retail stores asking for ratings on more product categories and in more locations. We plan to expand both our test database and our store presence nationwide to help people make more informed decisions about the products they buy.

For more information on Savenia Labs please follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/savenialabs](http://www.facebook.com/savenialabs) or on our blog 'Straight from the Lab' at [www.savenialabs.com/blog](http://www.savenialabs.com/blog).