

The Prince George's Post



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25 cents

Prince George's County Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Awards \$85,000 in Scholarships

Scholarship recipients celebrated during annual fashion show benefit

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCAC, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

CAPITAL HEIGHTS, Md. (March 23, 2022)—The Prince George's County Alumnae Chapter (PGCAC) of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated in partnership with the Delta Foundation, Incorporated held its 46th Annual Fashion Show Scholarship Benefit, "Elevated Elegance: Fire & Ice" on March 20, 2022, in-person at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt, Maryland and live-streamed for virtual attendees. The event was hosted by Guy Lambert,

WPGC 95.5 FM news director, FOX5 news anchor and Co-host of The Hughley Podcast, and musical entertainment provided by National Recording Artist and Washington, DC's own Brian Lenair & Friends.

This annual event raises funds to support PGCAC's scholarship program with the goal of assisting students financially in pursuit of higher education. During this year's affair, 26 Prince George's County students were awarded \$85,000 in scholarships. Since the inception of the program, PGCAC has awarded more than \$1.4 million in scholarships to

over 650 high school and college students residing in Prince George's County.

"I look forward to the fashion show every year," said Miriam L. Brewer, PGCAC chapter president. "The scholarship and fashion show committees work very hard to ensure a successful event that celebrates our students for their academic achievements. It's a rewarding experience to be able to assist our youth with pursuing their goal of furthering their education."

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PHOTO COURTESY THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY ALUMNAE CHAPTER (PGCAC) OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED
2022 PGCAC Scholarship recipients.

CDC Releases New COVID-19 Community-Level Tracker as Cases Decrease Across the Nation

By DYLAN JOSEPHSON
Capital News Service

As lawmakers lift mask mandates across the country, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released a new COVID-19 community-level tracker that analyzes counties based on new cases, hospital admissions and available hospital beds. Using this data, counties are sorted as either having a low, medium or high COVID-19 community level.

The tracker is part of the CDC's effort to analyze daily COVID-19 numbers by individual communities. CDC Director Rochelle Walensky explained that this new system is intended to help guide research toward more efficient precautionary measures.

"This framework moves beyond looking just at cases & test positivity to evaluate factors that reflect severity of disease, including hospitalizations & hospital capacity," she tweeted.

Along with the county-level tracker, the CDC released guidelines for counties depending on their COVID-19 level. For communities with low and medium levels, masks

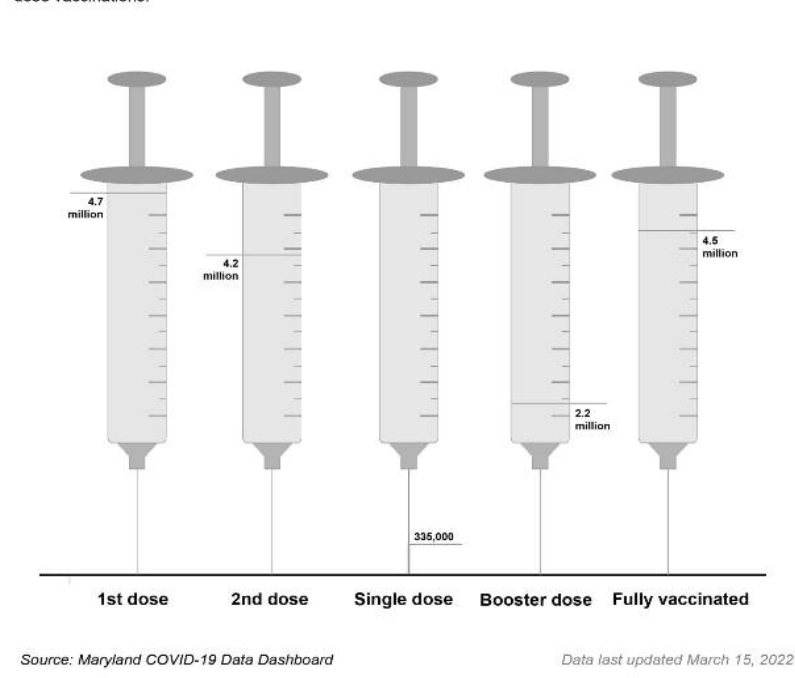
are not mandatory inside, unless an individual is part of an at-risk group. For communities with high levels, masks should continue to be worn indoors in public.

Users are able to search any county in the country and, although over 70%

See CDC Page A6

Maryland records close to 4.5 million fully vaccinated individuals

According to the Maryland COVID-19 Data Dashboard, about 4.7 million individuals in the state have received at least their first dose of two vaccinations, while about 4.2 million have also received their second dose vaccinations.



Maryland records close to 4.5 million fully vaccinated individuals



PHOTO COURTESY BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF GREATER WASHINGTON (BGGCW)

Pictured left to right: Michelle Marek, Principal, Ports Town Elementary; Dr. Judith White, Chief Academic Officer, Prince George's County Public Schools; Jim Davis, Chairman-Boys & Girls Clubs Greater Washington (BGGCW) Board of Directors; Gabrielle Webster, President & CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington Introduces Free Programming for Prince George's County Schools Students

Afterschool programming now available for record-breaking number of elementary, middle and high school students

By PRESS OFFICER
BGGCW

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. (March 22, 2022)—Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington (BGGCW) announced today a free new learning opportunity for students in Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS). The unique virtual afterschool platform, Clubhouse @ Your House, offers an extensive selection of safe and enriching, hands-on learning experiences for elementary, middle and high school students.

Launched in March 2020, "Clubhouse @ Your House" has had great success with providing homework help and hands on learning experiences for Boys & Girls Club members throughout the Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC region—and even as far as California. Boys & Girls Club members have secure access to a wide range of positive learning experi-

ences in art, music and STEM programs. College preparatory activities are available as well. With 99% of high school senior Club members graduating and pursuing college degrees, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington's life-changing programs often help bridge gaps for students between school, community and home.

Clubhouse @ Your House's interactive platform will operate through the end of June, offering the free after school program to more than 1,000 PGCPS students.

"This will be the first opportunity for many of our students to engage in the programming and connections created by Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington," said Dr. Monica Goldson, Chief Executive Officer, Prince George's County Public Schools. "We are appreciative of the partnership and look forward to a very

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Governor Hogan Announces \$291.7 Million Supplemental Budget With Health Care and Disability Services Provider Rate Increases, Support for Child Care Providers and Facilities

Also Provides \$45 Million for Federal Prosecutors, Warrant Apprehension, Victim Services
\$5.6 Million for Prince George's Community College

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (March 25, 2022)—Governor Larry Hogan today submitted a \$291.7 million supplemental budget to the General Assembly with substantial provider rate increases for health care and disability services providers, and additional resources to support child care providers and facilities.

"Every day, we are inspired by the commitment of our health care and child care providers, and these investments will help further expand access to critical

services for Maryland families," said Governor Hogan. "We continue to devote part of our record surplus to relief and resources for those in need, including our developmentally disabled community."

\$210 Million for Additional Health Care and Disability Services Provider Rate Increases

The supplemental budget commits \$210 million to fund 4% provider rate increases across the board in the fields

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The CSA, which typically sells out its available shares each year, enables members to pick up seasonal produce from mid-May until mid-November.
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National Small Business Week will take place May 1-7, 2022.
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...a community leader named Jo Ann Robinson who had been putting the community infrastructure in place long before Rosa Parks...
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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

Chuck Rohan, coached at McNamara High 42 years, dies at 79

Charles Richard “Chuck” Rohan, 79, a Defense Mapping Agency retiree and long-time coach at Bishop McNamara High School, died Feb. 7 in Annapolis. He was born in Washington to the late Arthur and Mary Rohan, the third of eight children, and was a twin.

He grew up in District Heights, attended Mt. Calvary School and graduated in 1961 from Archbishop John Carroll High School in Washington, where he was a member of the 1959/60 record-setting basketball team, which included John Thompson. He married his high school sweetheart, Joanna Nowaskey, on Oct. 12, 1963.

Chuck began working as a cartographer for the Defense Mapping Agency in 1961 and retired after 36 years, having played a key leadership role in the development of military maps for the First Gulf War.

He began his coaching career in 1967 at Bishop McNamara High School and went on to coach for 42 more years. He coached basketball at La Reine High School, 1979 to 1989, and was an assistant coach for the inaugural Lacrosse team at McNamara. He is a member of the Archbishop Carroll Hall of Fame and 5-time inductee of the Bishop McNamara/La Reine Hall of Fame.

In his free time, Chuck was a member of the Knights of Columbus softball team and the infamous Justin Street Tigers basketball team.

Chuck and Joanna raised their four children in Upper Marlboro and were longtime members of St. John the Evangelist in Clinton. After 46 years, they moved to Annapolis and joined St. John Neumann Catholic Church, where his funeral Mass was held Feb. 17.

For the past 6 years, Chuck has served as President of The Reserve at Heritage Harbour Condo Association.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Joanna. He was the father of Robert, Shelley, Colette and Dean, grandfather of 18, great-grandfather of two, brother of Franny, Lex (Kathy), John (Mary Tuthill), Jim (Cece), and Tom (Jeryl) Rohan, and the late Judy Mammano and Larry Rohan, his twin brother.

Chuck always found a way to coach his children. And to coach with his children.

Town of Morningside: Bingo Bunny Breakfast & Egg Hunt

A fun-filled morning with the Easter Bunny is coming up April 16, from 9 a.m. to noon at 6901 Ames Street in Morningside.

- Breakfast will include donuts, fruit & juice.
- There'll be five Fun Games of Bingo and door prizes, followed by
- Easter Egg Hunt for ages 3 to 12. (Don't forget to bring a basket to collect all your eggs!)
- Reservations and pre-payment required. Tickets can be purchased Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Municipal Center. Space is limited to first-come-first-served.
- A parent must remain on-site. Info: 301-736-2300.

Neighbors & other good people

Peter Earnest, 88, founding executive director of the International Spy Museum in Washington, died Feb. 13 at a hospital in Arlington. He obviously knew a lot about spies—he was a veteran of the CIA's Cold War clandestine operations which ran agents in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. (The Spy Museum has moved, by the way. It is now at 700 L'Enfant Plaza SW.)

James Oliver “Pop” Ewing, 77, who had attended Suitland High School, died March 6. He was a lifetime member and past governor of Marlboro Moose Lodge 1856, Deale Elks Lodge 2528, Sons of the American Legion Post 227, Midland Sportsman Club and Associate Member of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 89. Services for Pop will be at Lee Funeral Home April 1.

A poker player at MGM National Harbor is \$3 million richer, before taxes, after winning the casino's largest-ever jackpot. His winning hand was a 7-card straight flush of hearts, the rare hand needed to win the top payout.

Changing landscape

My saucer magnolia is blooming, and so are the daffodils and the weeping cherry. The redbud is due to flash those red buds any minute. The Cherry Blossom Festival is underway in Washington. Isn't spring wonderful!

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Via Roma has opened at 4531 Telfair Blvd. near the Immigration & Naturalization building and the Branch Avenue Metro. It's attractive and boasts really good pizzas and other Italian cuisine. Also, the bar overlooks the deck if you're ready for outdoor dining. Check it out.

The Potomac River is swimmable again. But D.C. will have to legalize it.

On Tuesday, March 15, Congressman Steny Hoyer, Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen, and Congressman Anthony Brown secured the inclusion of language to advance the process for a new FBI headquarters in the Omnibus FY2022 funding package signed into law last week by President Biden. Two of the three relocation sites under consideration, Landover, and the Greenbelt Metro in the City of Greenbelt, are in Prince George's County.

A home at 4602 Morgan Road, in Morningside, just sold for \$280,000.

How Andrews got its name

Lt. Gen. Frank M. Andrews was killed in Iceland on May 3, 1943, in an aircraft accident along with 13 other men when their B-24 lost its radio beam and crashed into a hillside. He is buried at Arlington.

General Andrews was one of the first to see the future role of air power. He was honored on March 31, 1945—77 years ago this week—when Camp Springs Army Air Field (which had been established in 1941) was renamed and dedicated to the general. His widow, Jeanette Andrews, came from Miami for the ceremonies.

COVID-19 report

Wayne K. Curry Sports and Learning Complex mass vaccination clinic will close after Friday, April 8. The Temple Hills Community Center will no longer offer COVID-19 testing services after Friday, March 25. Two State-run testing sites in the County have already closed.

For updates on COVID-19 testing and vaccinations, including a complete list of clinics in the County, visit health.mypgc.us/Coronavirus.

It really sounds like things are getting back to normal.

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Around the County

Growing Green With Pride—Spring 2022

Saturday, April 23, 2022, 8 a.m.—12 p.m.

Prince George's County will host a Countywide community cleanup program entitled “Growing Green With Pride.” This event supports our Beautification Initiative to make our community cleaner by conducting individual community litter collection events, which demonstrates our shared commitment to keeping our communities appealing and attractive. Community organizations and groups are encouraged to participate. Registration is required at <http://MyPGC.us/GrowingGreen> by April 15, 2022

Bible & Leadership Institute—2022 Spring Semester

Classes will be held online, via Zoom

DATE: Saturdays, beginning Saturday, April 23, 2022, to June 11, 2022

VENUE: Accokeek First Church of God online, via Zoom 301-283-2116 / www.accokeekchog.org

Rose Armstrong, Admin. Assistant, adminasst@accokeekchog.org 301-885-8124 (cell)

DESCRIPTION: The Spring semester of our Bible & Leadership Institute is offering the following classes:

The Truth About World Views (Evangelism and Outreach) led by Minister Lisa Kirby: Saturdays from 9–10:15 a.m.

Biblical Beliefs (Bible and Theology) led by Pastor Paula Collins: Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Registration is open from now to April 23, 2022. To register and learn more about our entire course offerings and benefits, send an email to: adminasst@accokeekchog.org. Or call or text Rose Armstrong at 301-885-8124.

Our certified instructors are Pastor Paula Collins and Minister Lisa Kirby.

DURATION: Eight (8) week semester

Fees for all classes: \$45.00 (includes tuition and textbook)

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

Jehovah's Witnesses Returning to In-Person Meetings

After Two Years Virtual, Congregations Will Meet Together Again Beginning April 1

All congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses across the world are being encouraged to begin holding in-person meetings during the week of April 1.

Gene and Vicki Thomas of Fort Washington, Maryland, had been attending in-person congregation meetings for well over 40 years, until the COVID-19 pandemic paused all such meetings. However, the recent announcement of the return to in-person congregation meetings evoked sentiments of joy from the couple. “We can hardly wait,” said Gene.

The move back to in-person meetings coincides with two global events being held in all 120,000 congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses. The first is a special lecture scheduled in most congregations for April 10, 2022, entitled, “Where Can You Find Real Hope?” Additionally, the annual commemoration of the death of Jesus Christ will be held on April 15, 2022, the very day he sacrificed his life 1,989 years ago. Both of these gatherings will be held in person at local Kingdom Halls with live speakers. No collections are ever taken.

Guidelines for holding “hybrid” meetings have been sent to all congregations in the United States. Over the past six months, many Kingdom Halls have been equipped with the required technology to hold a productive meeting that allows for in-person and remote attendees, all of whom can participate in the discussions. A pilot program was held in October and November in countries around the world to assess how this could be done most effectively. The lessons learned in these pilot meetings have helped form the plan for moving forward with reopening all Kingdom Halls, where the law permits.

As of now, Jehovah's Witnesses have no plans to resume their public ministry, though their “alternative” ministry continues. In fact, since the start of the pandemic through November 2021 in the U.S. alone, Jehovah's Witnesses spent more than 400 million hours in virtual Bible studies, writing letters of comfort to their neighbors and making phone calls. They have released 77 new language translations of the Bible and held two global virtual conventions in more than 500 languages.

For more information on Jehovah's Witnesses go to jw.org.

—Kenneth Adams, Public Communications Representative

Nearly 500 Use Local SoberRide® Program On St. Patrick's Day

DC area's DUI prevention effort removes potential drunk driver from area roadways every minute-and-a-half on St. Patrick's Day

WASHINGTON (March 22, 2022)—Nearly 500 (482) persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used the free safe ride service, SoberRide®, this St. Patrick's Day (March 17–18, 2022) as opposed to possibly driving home drunk.

“For its hours of operation this St. Patrick's Day, this level of ridership translates into SoberRide® removing a potential drunk driver from Greater Washington's roadways every minute-and-a-half.” (89.6 seconds) said Kurt Erickson, President of the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program, the organization conducting the region's SoberRide® effort.

Lyft provided SoberRide® trips throughout the Washington-metropolitan area to local residents ages 21 and older who otherwise may have attempted to drive home after drinking.

The charity also offers its free safe ride service on Cinco de Mayo, Independence Day, Halloween and the winter holidays through and including New Year's Eve.

For more information, visit WRAP's web site at www.wrap.org.

Brandywine-Aquasco

MARYLAND HOUSE & GARDEN PILGRIMAGE

The Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage is pleased to announce its 2022 tour dates. Spend the day visiting these beautiful homes and gardens throughout Maryland in April and May. Prince George's County April 30, 2022, Talbot County May 7, Baltimore County May 14, St. Mary's County May 21. Tour descriptions are posted on the website and Facebook.

EASTER DAY

Come one, come all to celebrate with us on Easter Day Sunday, April 17, 2022. Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. at St. Philip's Church. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Anne-Marie Jeffrey from Diocese of Washington. Come out and enjoy our service and give praise to the risen king. Coffee social will be immediately following the worship service. St. Philip's Church Baden is located at 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613-8426.

ESOPHAGEAL CANCER WALK

Join us Saturday, June 18 or Sunday, June 19 for our 2022 Virtual Esophageal Cancer Walk. The 2022 Virtual Esophageal Cancer Walk/Run is hosted by the Salgi Esophageal Cancer Research Foundation. Participants can decide if they would like to walk/run either one will take place on Saturday, June 18 or Sunday, June 19, 2022.

Sign up today! <http://salgivirtualwalk2022.eventbrite.com>. There are two ticket options: 1. T-Shirt Ticket: \$30 to participate in the virtual event and receive a t-shirt. Children sizes available too. Must register by May 8, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. EST. Open to continental US only. 2. Virtual Ticket Only: \$20 to participate in the virtual event only, no t-shirt. Must register by Friday, June 17, 2022, at 5 p.m. EST.

If you have ever wanted to take part in one of our Esophageal Cancer events, now is your chance. The 2022 Virtual Esophageal Cancer Walk/Run event can take place in your neighborhood, on a trail, bike path, track, by the ocean, sea, river or wherever you would like to walk or run. It is important to remember that by participating in the virtual event you must still take in accordance all social distancing guidelines.

Participants can also bicycle, rollerblade, skateboard, swim, the possibilities are endless! Since the virtual event is not timed, you are able to participate at your own pace, any distance and at any time either Saturday or Sunday. You may sign up as an individual or as a virtual team.

SIX FLAGS AMERICA

Six Flags America opened for the season Saturday, March 19, 2022. The park will be open weekends through Memorial Day then opens fully for daily operation April 9–18 for spring break, then returns to weekends only, staying open on Memorial Day. Summer hours start June 3 with the park open daily.

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

Six Flags America features ten roller coasters, a few themed, two special sections for children, plus a variety of shows and attractions. Three summer festivals also are planned, including Viva La Fiesta featuring live entertainment and bold flavors during select weekends in May. Kristin Danley-Greiner, Patch Staff (patch.com/Maryland).

SUMMER YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP BOOT CAMP 4 KIDS

Entrepreneurial Kids, preparing kids for a lifetime of success. The Boot Camp is for ages 9–14. The Boot Camp will be in each county for one full week of fun and exciting entrepreneurship coaching. Now registering in a city near you, July 11–July 15 Anne Arundel County, Maryland, Prince George's County, Maryland July 18–July 22, Richmond, Virginia July 25–July 29, Charles County, Maryland August 8–August 12.

For more information call 240-292-9053, E-mail: ENTREPRENEURIALKIDZ@gmail.com. For more information: <https://entrepreneurialkidz.com/registration>. Visit www.ENTREPRENEURIALKIDZ.COM.

“MAKING HERSTORY”

Bowie State University Office of Alumni Engagement Live at 5 March 16, 2022 “Making History” Celebrating Women's History Month with Charmayne Strayhorn, “Momager Extraordinaire” Mother of BSU Student Myles Frost, Star of MJ: This was a lively conversation with the woman responsible for “MJ: the Musical” star, Myles Frost.

Join the virtual conversation every Wednesday at 5 p.m. on the BSU Office of Alumni Engagement's Facebook Page. If you have questions, please email alumni@bowiestate.edu.

2ND ANNUAL RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND PRACTICES CONFERENCE

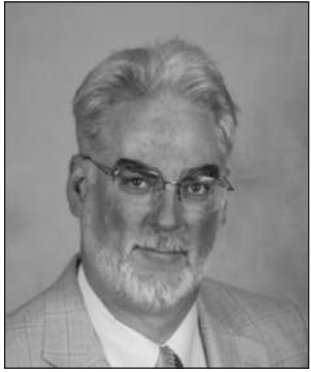
On behalf of the Bowie State University's Restorative Justice and Practices Institute, we would like to cordially invite you to the upcoming 2nd Annual conference April 8, 2022, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. entitled, “Living Beyond COVID-19—Manifesting Our Healing.”

APRIL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to Catherine Brooks, Louise Contee, Janet Barber, Audrey Davis, Lillian Makle, Wendell Lee, Freda Farmer, Andrienne Johnson, Shakira Lanier, Joseph Lewis, Mildred Makle, Wanda Makle, Amber Petty, Anthony Pinkney, Zilphia Pinkney, Glenna Graves, Comus Samuel, Barron Neal, Claudette Oshogbo, Charmaine Grant, and William Stroman, III who are celebrating birthdays in April.

COMMUNITY

Remembering John “James” Baldwin III



John “James” Baldwin III

On July 22nd, 1954, at a Naval Base in Alaska, John “James” Baldwin III was born to Kay and John Baldwin Jr. He grew up primarily in Michigan and Indiana, although there was a fair amount of traveling (including a trip to Europe with his family as a young adult). He attended undergrad at Central Michigan University where he earned a bachelor’s degree in fine arts of Broadcasting. He went on to earn two master’s degrees from Bowling Green State University: in Theater and the other in Radio, Television, and Film. While pursuing his studies in television broadcasting, he found his way to Maryland where he met the “light of his life”, Carol. Together, they raised three daughters, weathered difficult storms, celebrated life’s victories, and had many adventures.

James was a passionate theater and music lover throughout his life. For almost 40 years he was an active member in Prince George’s Little Theater where he directed, stage managed, acted in, and ran the technology for numerous productions. In his later life, James was a faithful human to his dog Ruckus, full time Pops, and the family’s resident film and theater historian. He has left his loved ones with wonderful memories and many stories to tell. He is survived by his wife, Carol; daughter Kenzie (& son-in-law Ben Turk); daughter Haley (& son-in-law Stewart Lentz); daughter Jamie Baldwin; granddaughter Abigail Lentz; his brother Robert

(& sister-in-law Susan Baldwin); as well as the many “adopted” kids he adored and a loving extended family.

A memorial service will be held with details to follow. Arrangements are by Hartzler Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his honor can be made to Heifer International, 1 World Avenue, Little Rock, AR, 72202 or the Maryland State Art Council, 401 E. Pratt St., Ste. 1400, Baltimore, MD 21202.

The family invites you to leave a message or memory on his “tribute wall” at www.hartzlerfuneralhome.com

Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George’s County Gymnast Secures Gold Medals in Germany

By ANGEL WALDRON

Prince George’s County Department of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (March 23, 2022)—The M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George’s County is proud to announce one of its gymnasts, Khoi Young, emerged as the standout at the DTB Pokal Team Challenge in Stuttgart, Germany—winning individual titles on pommel horse and vault.

A 19-year-old from Bowie, MD, Young joined the Gymnastics program (<https://www.mncppc.org/2956/Gymnastics-Center>) at the Prince George’s Sports and Learning Complex as a preschooler in 2006. He then joined the Sportsplex Gymnastics team in 2008. Under the mentorship of Coach Bob Lundy, Young went on to compete at the collegiate level for Stanford University.

On March 18, Young participated at the Team Challenge as a member of the United States Men’s National Team at the artistic gymnastics competition. He scored a 15.000 on pommel horse and 14.916 on vault to collect his second and third gold medals of the weekend.

The 2022 DTB Pokal Team Challenge and Mixed Cup (<https://www.enbw-dtbpokal.de/>) is an artistic gymnastics competition. It features a Team Challenge that has five-person teams representing their country in separate men’s and women’s junior and senior divisions and a Mixed Cup featuring teams comprised of three men and three women. The Mixed Cup features teams from four nations: host nation Germany, Italy, Canada, and the United States.

The Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George’s County, sends its warmest con-

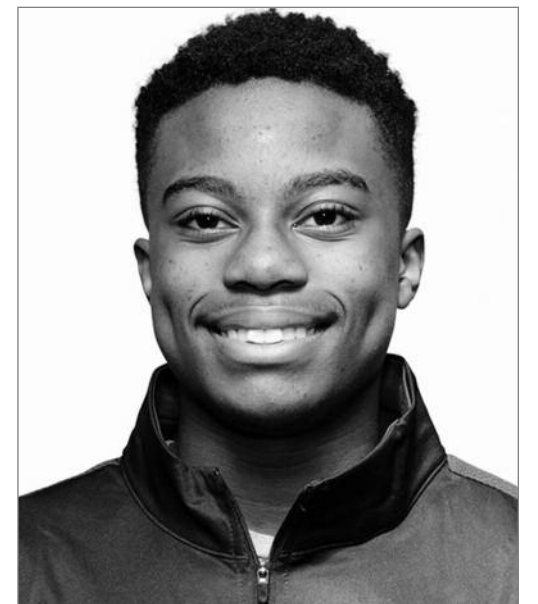


PHOTO COURTESY M-NCPPC

Khoi Young

gratulations to Khoi on this monumental achievement.

The Department of Parks and Recreation *delivers an award-winning park system through progressive, innovative leadership and a commitment to the community and the environment in Prince George’s County.* Visit www.pgpc.com and stay connected on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram. The M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities in all programs and services.

Marietta House Museum Presents: The Giving Voice Initiative: Listening to the Historical Enslaved at Marietta

By STACEY HAWKINS
Marietta House Museum

Thursday, April 7, 4-6 p.m., Marietta House Museum’s research team will present the long-awaited stories of the enslaved families and individuals who labored at Marietta in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The public is invited to attend this event in-person at Marietta or livestreamed on Microsoft Teams.

After a year-long deep dive into historical records, researchers Maddy McCoy and Chris Milko of Slavery Inventory Database, joined by Marietta’s historian and assistant curator Katherine Brodt will share an overview of their findings about the historical enslaved community. Hear about the marriages, births, escapes, manumissions, and travails that defined the lives of the Brown, Duckett, Jackson, and Butler families. The newly revealed research helps to doc-

ument the fortitude and perseverance of these families to secure their personhood and family ties. In-person and virtual guests will be invited to participate in a discussion led by discussants Marietta House Museum director Julie Rose, and M-NCPPC Black History Program historian Artura Jackson with the researchers.

Guests will also be the first to see Marietta’s new orientation film, “Giving Voice at Marietta” which will screen at the end of the program followed by a Marietta-based poem by Marcia Cole.

The program is Free, however registration is required to receive the link for online, and registration is required for those attending on-site. Please email Stacey.hawkins@pgpc.com or call 301-464-5291.

Marietta is located at 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD 20769 and is a property of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Hospice of the Chesapeake Gala Returns to Live! Hotel

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (March 23, 2022)—It’s been three years since Hospice of the Chesapeake held its popular gala. Now that Maryland is beginning to dream about a post-pandemic world, it is time once again to celebrate the incredible and courageous work of our team at An Evening Under the Tuscan Sky Gala. The event will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, April 9, at the Live! Hotel at Arundel Mills in Hanover.

The lead sponsors to date include Platinum Sponsor, The Wilburn Company; Gold Sponsors, Greenberg Gibbons Commercial Corporation and The Jim & Linda Humphrey Foundation; Silver Sponsor, The Michael Stanley Foundation Fund; Bronze Sponsors, All Green Management, Pat Taylor; John & Cathy Belcher; Tech USA, Inc., Thomas B. Howell, Sr., Founder; University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center; and University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center; Copper Sponsors, Bay Point Wealth, Bill and Chris Hufnell; Maria Colucciello, DDS; Frost Law Firm, Randy Fisher; HM2 Buck for Hope Foundation; Michael & Tammy Hofmann in honor of Stephen and Challie Samaras; John & Terri Hussman; Mission Escape Rooms, Jason Cherry; Next Day Floors; Purple Cherry Archi-

texts; Shore United Bank; Sturbridge Homes; and Lydia Vincek.

Since its all-volunteer beginnings in 1979, the hometown hospice has cared for more than 48,000 hospice patients and hundreds of thousands of family and community members in Anne Arundel and Prince George’s counties through our wide range of services. In 2020, the organization expanded its care to include the residents of Charles County.

The elegant, fun-filled evening of dinner, drinks and dancing to The Reagan Years is a heartwarming community celebration that serves as the nonprofit’s largest fundraiser. It has as its goal to raise \$500,000 through sponsorships, silent, online and live auctions, a special appeal and a drawing featuring stunning pieces donated by Zachary’s Jewelers. A safe and engaging evening is planned with guests’ well-being at the forefront and the event will follow all location and state COVID-19 guidelines at the time of the event.

To learn about sponsorship opportunities, contact Chris Wilson, Director of Advancement at 443-837-1530 or cwilson@hospicechesapeake.org.

To bid online for silent auction items, visit <https://www.32auctions.com/HOCgala2022>.

To purchase tickets, visit <https://www.hospicechesapeake.org/2022-gala>.

Programming from A1

positive response from students and their families.”

The program began last week virtually, but Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington has plans to include in-person participation in the future.

“We are thrilled that we can expand our core mission, and excited to help fill vital gaps with enriching programming where children are encouraged to expand their ambitions and develop steps for turning their dreams into reality,” said Gabrielle Webster, President & CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington.

Clubhouse @ Your House was generated in re-

sponse to restrictions created by the pandemic, and has been a welcome option by many teachers and parents for additional support and learning options.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington (BGC GW) is a 136-year-old non-profit and one of the largest affiliates of Boys & Girls Clubs of America. BGC GW is a leader in youth development serving over 21,000 children and youth annually across Washington, Maryland and Virginia. Our mission is to help boys and girls of all backgrounds, especially those who need it most, build confidence, develop character and acquire the skills needed to become productive, civic-minded, responsible adults. <https://bgcgw.org/>

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SURPLUS PARCEL PURCHASE
College Park Metro Station Development
College Ave., Lehigh Rd., Corporal Frank Scott Dr. & 52nd Ave.

± 2.6 ac
113,256 SF

Surface Parking Lot (Redevelopment) County Owned

Transit-oriented Development Near College Park Metro +UMD's Discovery District/Junior Tennis Champions Center

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
ISSUANCE OF RFP: Feb. 25, 2022
SITE TOUR: Mar. 11, 2022, at 1 P.M.
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Apr. 14, 2022
AWARD: Summer 2022
THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) at <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/807/Central-Services>.

Photo: David Wilson

Prince Georges County Office of Central Services LARP Land Acquisition & Real Property Division

COMMUNITY

Farm-Fresh Produce Shares Available for Purchase Through CBF's Clagett Farm CSA

Pickup locations in Annapolis and Upper Marlboro

By PRESS OFFICER
Chesapeake Bay Foundation

(March 22, 2022)—Residents in the Annapolis and Upper Marlboro areas of Maryland can purchase shares to receive a variety of farm-fresh produce each week through the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's popular Clagett Farm Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program.

The CSA, which typically sells out its available shares each year, enables members to pick up seasonal produce ranging from salad greens and green beans to peppers and tomatoes from mid-May until mid-November.

The vegetables and other produce are grown at CBF's regenerative farm in Prince George's County using organic farming practices that are beneficial to the environment. CBF uses the farm to practice and teach techniques

to build healthy soil and prevent polluted runoff. Agricultural pollution is the largest source of Chesapeake Bay pollution. CSA members can also visit the farm during the growing season to learn about environmentally friendly farming, pick their own food, and volunteer.

Shares for pickup in Annapolis at the Philip Merrill Environmental Center in Bay Ridge cost \$759 for a 26 week share or \$448 for a 13-week share. The center is located at 6 Herndon Ave. in Annapolis and pickups are on Thursdays from 4 to 6 p.m.

Shares for pickup in Upper Marlboro at CBF's Clagett Farm cost \$699 for 26 weeks or \$383 for 13 weeks. The farm is at 11904 Old Marlboro Pike in Upper Marlboro and pickups are available from 3 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays and 1 to 4 p.m. Saturdays.

Members can also pay in four monthly installments, which costs 2 percent more. A 50 percent discount is available for households with lower incomes.

Despite inflation, CBF has not increased the price of its CSA shares this year. As in past years, CBF will donate about 35 percent of the produce grown at Clagett Farm to local food banks. By purchasing a share in a community-supported agriculture program like Clagett's, you can help reduce pollution from factory farming and shipping as well as benefit local farmers.

If you're interested in purchasing a Clagett Farm CSA share this year you can do so on the CBF website.

Produce items typically available from Clagett in the spring and fall include:

Kales and Collards, Specialty

salad greens – arugula, Cabbages

Root vegetables such as turnips and radishes, Strawberries (in spring), Kohlrabi, Onions, Garlic scallions, Large lettuce heads, Fennel, Swiss Chard, Bok choy, Cut flower arrangements (calendulas, snapdragons, and lilies), Sweet potatoes (in fall), Carrots (in limited quantities)

In the summer:

Variety of tomatoes: heirloom, cherry, and slicing tomatoes, Sweet peppers, Chili Peppers, Sweet potatoes, Red and yellow potatoes, Garlic bulbs, Perennial herbs: parsley, basil, oregano, thyme, and sage, Cantaloupes, honeydews, and watermelons, Summer squash, Eggplant, Okra, Cut flower arrangements (sunflower, tithonia, cosmos, and zinnias), Cucumbers (pickling and slicing), Green beans



PHOTOS CREDIT CBF STAFF.

Top: Customers at a CSA pickup. Bottom: A variety of produce is available for pickup through the Clagett CSA share program.

Awards from A1

Over 1,100 people attended the fashion show in person and virtually, and featured prominent local and national designers. Special guests included Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. National President and Chair of the National Board of Directors Elsie Cooke-Holmes; Prince George's County Council Chair Calvin S. Hawkins, II; and Prince George's County Public Schools Chief Executive Officer Dr. Monica Goldson.

"Congratulations to the amazing 2022 scholarship recipients," said Charlene Proctor, Esq., Delta Foundation, Inc. president. "Our youth are to be commended for their academic excellence and commitment to public service. We have the best and brightest students right here in Prince George's County."

This year's program was dedicated in the memory of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. 27th National President Cheryl A. Hickmon, Ethel Rogers Grundy, PGCAC's first president and Edgar Brookins, longtime circulation and general manager of the Washington AFRO Newspaper.

To learn more about the PGCAC scholarship program and our annual scholarship benefit fashion show, visit www.pgcacdst.org.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was founded in 1913 on the campus of Howard University to promote academic excellence; to provide scholarships; to provide support to the underserved; educate and stimulate participation in the establishment of positive public policy; and to highlight issues and provide solutions for problems in their communities. Today Delta Sigma Theta Sorority has over 300,000 initiated members and more than 1000 chapters worldwide, including seven in Wisconsin. The Sorority uses its Five-Point Programmatic Thrust of economic development, educational development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health, and political awareness and involvement to create its national and local programs.

Ticket On Sale NOW! Your Favorite Sesame Street Characters Return to Fairfax!

Sesame Street Live! Let's Party! Plays EagleBank Arena May 6-8, 2022

By PRESS OFFICER
Feld Entertainment

FAIRFAX, Va. (March 25, 2022)—Everyone's invited to take part in the sunniest and funniest street celebration in Sesame Street Live! Let's Party! This Feld Entertainment, Inc. production features favorite Sesame Street pals Elmo, Abby Cadabby, Big Bird and more in a sensory adventure live on stage. Sesame Street Live! Let's Party! visits Fairfax, May 6-8, 2022 at EagleBank Arena.

From the moment the curtain rises, parents and children alike will be on their feet dancing along to a pop-infused soundtrack with new Sesame Street friends and live emcees Casey and Caleb. Planning a party isn't easy when everybody has a different idea of fun, but with some help from the audience, it becomes the ultimate reflection of what friendship plus teamwork can accomplish. Party guests will sing along to familiar songs, "I Love Trash" and "C is for Cookie," with Oscar the Grouch and Cookie Monster;

dance to the beat with Elmo; explore a wintry wonderland when Abby Cadabby's magic goes awry; take flight with Big Bird to learn about some of his fabulous feathered friends; and discover new cultures in an interactive Spanish lesson with Rosita.

WHERE
EagleBank Arena 4500 Patriot Circle Fairfax, VA 22030

WHEN
Friday, May 6: 6 p.m.
Saturday, May 7: 10:30 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 8: 10:30 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.

TICKETS
Tickets can be purchase online at SesameStreetLive.com or in-person at the venue box office.

*Ticket pricing is subject to change based on market demand.

For more info about Sesame Street Live!, follow Sesame Street Live! social media channels: Facebook, Twitter & Instagram. Subscribe to the Sesame Street Live! YouTube Channel at YouTube.

CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Mayor and City Council of Seat Pleasant propose to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2022, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 4.6% from \$331,418,384 to \$346,652,455.
2. If the City of Seat Pleasant maintains the current tax rate of \$.58 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 4.6% resulting in \$88,357 of new real property tax revenues.
3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$.5545, the constant yield tax rate.
4. The City is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The City proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$.58 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 4.6% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$88,357 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 7:00 pm on Monday April 11, 2022, via Zoom meeting link below to register to attend the meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PrHy5wI5QwmDggKdORCeNg

Participants who join the video/audio conference will be enabled to speak by the meeting chair. Speakers will be allowed to address the Council for five (5) minutes. Public Comment may be submitting in writing to CitizenComment.PublicSession@seatpleasantmd.gov. All electronic comments must be submitted by 5:00PM on April 8, 2022. Comments received will be read by City Clerk during the public comment portion of the meeting.

The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged. Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call Jessica Wise, Accounting Manager at (301) 336-2600 for further information.

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Do Immigrants Get Social Security Benefits?

By RUSSELL GLOOR, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor
Association of Mature American Citizens

Dear Rusty: I am 90 and a long time Social Security recipient—I signed up at age 62, which I now know was not wise, but I digress. We see from various sources that immigrants, legal and illegal, get Social Security benefits merely by attained age, regardless of contributions. Is that true? **Signed: Curious Nonagenarian**

Dear Confused: Rest assured that illegal immigrants (or “illegal aliens,” “undocumented workers” or whatever one chooses to call them) are not entitled to collect Social Security benefits. It is, however, possible for legal immigrants to collect Social Security benefits if they have individually earned the right to do so, including those who are the legally-present dependent (spouse or child) of someone who is collecting Social Security benefits. By “legal immigrant” I mean those who have immigrated to the United States and have applied for and received either a Permanent Resident Card (“green card”) or who have subsequently acquired U.S. citizenship. It’s also possible to obtain an “Employment Authorization Document” which grants a foreign citizen temporary authority to work in the U.S., mainly used by citizens of other countries who work in the U.S. (typically those working for an international corporation which has a U.S. presence). In all cases, however, only legal residents who work, earn, and contribute sufficiently to Social Security from their earnings, or who are a legal dependent of someone who is collecting Social Security, can receive Social Security benefits.

The criteria for Social Security eligibility are very strict and those without legal U.S. residency status are not eligible to collect benefits. Especially on today’s social media outlets, we often see uninformed people espousing the belief that illegal immigrants enjoy access to Social Security benefits which is simply not true. That’s not to say there are no instances of fraud, but rest assured that those cases are vigorously sought and eventually found and prosecuted by Social Security’s Inspector General’s office.

FYI, there is another category of federal benefit known as Supplemental Security Income (“SSI”) which has somewhat different eligibility criteria but still requires either legal residency as I’ve defined above, or another special residency status which defines them as a “qualified alien” (e.g., certain Indian tribes, refugees and those granted asylum, victims of human trafficking,

etc.), as defined by the federal government. SSI is, essentially, a general disability benefit for needy seniors, minors, and disabled adults with very little income and very few assets. Federal SSI benefits are paid from the general Treasury, not from Social Security funds, and do not detract from Social Security’s finances. SSI is administered by each state, which usually provide other assistance in addition to the relatively small federal monetary benefit (\$841 per month for 2022).

As you are undoubtedly aware, all U.S. States have separate laws which may provide benefits to all state citizens, regardless of their federal residency status, but that is entirely outside the realm of Social Security and does not affect Social Security’s financial structure. To receive Social Security benefits, one must have either earned the right to do so by contributing sufficiently to the program or be the legally present dependent of someone who is (or was) collecting Social Security and meet all other eligibility criteria for the benefit claimed.

Regarding your decision to claim at 62, remember that life expectancy is always an unknown factor and deciding when to claim always includes a large degree of uncertainty. We should all be comfortable knowing for certain that Social Security will be there for us until the end.

The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] www.amac.us is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation’s capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country. And the AMAC Foundation (www.AmacFoundation.org) is the Association’s non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting and educating America’s Seniors. Together, we act and speak on the Association members’ behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at www.amac.us/join-amac.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

SBA Administrator Guzman Announces National Small Business Week: Building a Better America Through Entrepreneurship

SBA Will Recognize Top Small Businesses With a Four-Day Series of Events

By JACK SPIRAKES, MPA
U.S. Small Business Administration

WASHINGTON (March 16, 2022)—Today, Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman, head of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the voice for America’s 32.5 million small businesses in President Biden’s Cabinet, announced that National Small Business Week (NSBW): Building a Better America Through Entrepreneurship will take place May 1–7, 2022. The virtual summit will acknowledge small businesses across the country for their resilience, ingenuity, and creativity. It will also recognize SBA partners for their involvement in entrepreneurial development, disaster recovery, government contracting, financial development, and overall support for small businesses and entrepreneurship.

“This year’s theme, ‘Building a Better America through Entre-

preneurship,’ celebrates the resiliency and tenacity of America’s entrepreneurs who are doing their part to power our nation’s historic economic comeback,” said Administrator Guzman. “While there is more work to do, under the Biden-Harris Administration we are on a path toward building a better, more competitive American economy centered around families, workers, and small businesses. This year’s event will offer entrepreneurs in rural, suburban, and urban communities across America a week-long program highlighting the tools and information they need to continue to power economic growth, strengthen supply chains, and deliver the goods and services Americans depend on every day.”

The SBA, along with SCORE, will co-host a free, four-day virtual summit May 2 through May 5, 2022, to honor the nation’s 32.5 million small businesses for their perseverance. This year’s summit will feature help with access to crit-

ical federal resources, educational workshops, and networking to help our nation’s entrepreneurs pivot and grow in the face of any challenge, seize new opportunities.

“We look forward to joining the SBA in co-hosting this important virtual summit,” said SCORE CEO Bridget Weston. “This event will connect entrepreneurs with a wealth of industry experts and crucial information to help them achieve success.”

The 2022 Small Business Persons of the Year award winners from each state, and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, will be honored, and the SBA will announce the 2022 National Small Business Person of the Year from among them. In addition, NSBW recognition events and educational sessions will occur throughout each of the SBA’s 10 regions and 68 district offices.

Event registration and speaker information will be posted later

Survey Reveals Optimism Among Business Owners, Despite Challenges

(StatePoint) Supply chain issues top the list of concerns for small business owners over the last six months, but they see those pressures easing by mid-year, according to new research. In the meantime, inflation is expected to continue impacting business owners, with a majority planning to further raise their own prices.

The latest PNC semi-annual Economic Outlook survey of small and mid-size business owners and executives is a good gauge of the overall economy, however analysts point out that the situation in Eastern Europe that’s unfolded since has likely intensified some of the sentiments expressed by respondents.

“The events in Ukraine were not on the minds of business owners when the survey was conducted in January,” says PNC chief economist, Gus Faucher. “There was concern at that time about rising prices, and that worry has likely intensified, given the rapid increase in energy prices, among other factors.”

In January, 34% of owners who rely on a supply chain said timeliness had worsened in the previous six months and 28% of businesses that rely on inventory are faced with the challenge of not having enough supply to meet expected demand. However, 57% expect these issues to improve in the next six months.

“Supply chain problems have been a big contributor to the highest inflation the U.S. has seen in almost 40 years. But it’s encouraging that most small businesses see this easing soon,” Faucher said. “The wild card now is how long inflationary factors due to the Ukraine crisis last.”

Rising prices also are on the minds of business owners—51% expect to increase their prices in the next six months and 34% percent say their prices have already



PHOTO SOURCE: (C) FLAMINGOIMAGES / ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

gone up in the past six months. “Six months ago, businesses were raising prices because demand was strong enough that they could. Now it appears higher costs are forcing them to,” Faucher said.

Turnover and Hiring Impacts

Forty-three percent of business owners report losing staff since the start of the pandemic, which they agree is bad for business. Top reasons for employee departures are illness or death (50%), worker concerns over health or safety (46%), and changes in lifestyle or priorities (36%).

Among businesses with employees, 26% say it’s become harder to hire qualified personnel. Businesses are responding to recruiting challenges, most notably through improved work conditions, like health and safety improvements, allowing more flexible work arrangements, and increasing compensation. In the meantime, businesses are coping with worker shortages by increasing existing employees’ workloads, having owners or managers cover shifts and by increasingly relying on technology or automation.

Other key survey findings include:

- **Vaccine boosterism:** Fifty-six percent of business owners say a majority of their workforce has a COVID-19 booster vaccination. Sixty-five percent have taken some action to encourage boosters through a requirement (31%), assistance and/or education (29%), incentives (22%) or restrictions for those who choose not to receive the booster (19%).

- **Tempered optimism:** Business leaders’ expectations about their own companies remain strong with 47% feeling highly optimistic and only 2% feeling pessimistic. However, their outlook for the national and local economies has shifted to cautious.

- **Business adaptation:** Small and mid-sized businesses have made dramatic, lasting changes to adapt to the pandemic environment. Ninety-two percent have made at least one change to policies, processes, operations or use of technology, and almost all of those owners expect one or more of the changes to become permanent.

For full survey results, visit pnc.mediaroom.com.

Labor and supply shortages continue to plague small and mid-sized businesses. Despite these challenges, there’s prevalent optimism, which experts say is an encouraging sign of what’s to come.

Request For Expressions of Interest

Prince George's County COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING (CAB) REDEVELOPMENT

CAB with its beautiful grounds and prime location, offers a significant redevelopment opportunity.

Issuance Date: March 29, 2022

Pre-Response Conference & Site Tour: April 12, 2022 at 12:00 PM

Submission Deadline: May 11, 2022 by 3 PM



SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION



IMAGE: FREEPK.COM

Workforce Strategies to Grow Your Business - Bilingual (SBDC Webinar Wednesday) Wednesday, April 6, 2022 • 10–11 a.m.

PGC EDC, 1801 McCormick Drive, Suite 350, Largo, MD 20774

Business Growth Strategies Start Small....Think BIG

Small businesses are big businesses in Prince George’s County and are a key component to creating a vibrant, successful, and global community. Being a successful entrepreneur requires thorough planning, creativity, and hard work. These webinars are designed to introduce businesses to some of the necessary tools to grow their business. Various resource partners will be invited to present the information on the topics listed below through presentations and Q&A sessions. Also 4/13: Preparing for Growth with or without Lending, 4/20: State and County Procurement Opportunities: \$50K & Less, 4/27: Enhancing Your Business with Certifications

<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/807/Central-Services>
Solicitation Number: OCS-RFEI-2022-CAB-03



COMMENTARY

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

The Invisible Backbone Leaders of Transforming Social Change

Women's History Month is a reminder that in every major American social reform movement, women have always played a critical role. Women at the forefront, acting as the catalyst for progress when it needs to happen, make the front pages and the history books. But women have also always been the invisible backbone, unseen but strong, of transforming social movements and of all anchor institutions in society—our families, congregations, schools, and communities—employing behind the scenes quiet essential leadership and organizational, communication, and fundraising skills to get things done.

Many people know Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. first rose to national prominence as a civil rights leader by serving as a spokesperson in Montgomery, Alabama during the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955–1956. Not enough of us recognize that there would not have been a bus boycott without a vigilant community catalyst working behind the scenes looking for the right spark to challenge hated bus segregation. The December 1955 arrest of Mrs. Rosa Parks, who refused to move from her seat at the front of the “colored” section of her bus when the white section got too full, was not the first such arrest in Montgomery, but it made history because she was the right public face that could mobilize the entire Black com-

munity. And behind that bus boycott was a community leader named Jo Ann Robinson who had been putting the community infrastructure in place long before Rosa Parks was arrested and was ready to spring into action when the right opportunity arose. Next month will be the 110th anniversary of Jo Ann Robinson's birth.

Robinson, an English professor at Alabama State College, was president of the Women's Political Council (WPC), a group of Black women civic leaders in Montgomery. She had been thrown off a city bus in 1949 for sitting too close to the front although the bus was nearly empty. This infuriating experience was all too common among Montgomery's Black residents, and the WPC had already chosen to make changing the bus system one of their priorities. In a 1954 letter to Montgomery mayor W.A. Gayle they raised the possibility of a city-wide bus boycott: “More and more of our people are already arranging with neighbors and friends to ride to keep from being insulted and humiliated by bus drivers . . . We, the Council, believe that when this matter has been put before you and the Commissioners, that agreeable terms can be met in a quiet and unostentatious manner to the satisfaction of all concerned.” But when the women's requests for “agreeable terms” went un-

answered, their plans for a boycott went forward. They just needed the right moment, and when that moment came Jo Ann Robinson knew what to do.

She and other women did not wait for male leaders to decide on a response before acting. She later wrote about the night after Mrs. Parks was arrested: “Some of the [Women's Political Council] officers previously had discussed plans for distributing thousands of notices announcing a bus boycott. Now the time had come for me to write just such a notice.” She called her colleague John Cannon, chair of Alabama State College's business department, and two trusted students who immediately agreed to meet her at the college where Cannon had access to the copying machines. They worked together until four in the morning making copies of the leaflet Jo Ann Robinson had prepared: “Another Negro woman has been arrested and thrown in jail because she refused to get up out of her seat on the bus for a white person to sit down . . . This has to be stopped. Negroes have rights, too, for if Negroes did not ride the buses, they could not operate. Three-fourths of the riders are Negroes, yet we are arrested, or have to stand over empty seats. If we do not do something to stop these arrests, they will continue. The next time it may be you, or your daughter, or mother. This woman's case will come up on Monday. We are, therefore, asking every Negro to stay off the buses Monday in protest of the arrest and trial. Don't ride the buses to work, to town, to school, or anywhere on Monday. You can afford to stay out of school for one day if you have no other way to go except by bus. You can also afford to stay out of town for one day. If you work, take a cab, or walk. But please, children and grown-ups, don't ride the bus at all on Monday.”

She and her two students worked for three more hours mapping out distribution routes, and as soon as she finished teaching her 8 o'clock class that morning Jo Ann Robinson began calling other members of the WPC and driving around the city to meet them at strategic drop-off locations with bundles of leaflets. She said: “By 2 o'clock, thousands of the mimeographed handbills had changed hands many times.

Practically every black man, woman, and child in Montgomery knew the plan and was passing the word along. No one knew where the notices had come from or who had arranged for their circulation, and no one cared. Those who passed them on did so efficiently, quietly, and without comment. But deep within the heart of every black person was a joy he or she dared not reveal.”

Under Jo Ann Robinson's direction, more than 50,000 leaflets were produced and distributed that day. The boycott was an enormous success, and as the day-long boycott became a year-long crusade, women remained its backbone. When a public spokesperson was needed at the very start of the boycott, Robinson, who was an active member of Montgomery's Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, recommended her congregation's new 26-year-old pastor Martin Luther King, Jr. to lead the newly-formed Montgomery Improvement Association. The WPC continued to be instrumental in organizing the car-pools that made the boycott possible. Women formed fundraising clubs to sell sweet potato pies and other baked goods and competed every week to see which club could earn the most money to support the Montgomery Improvement Association. The federal lawsuit that was filed and successfully struck down bus segregation, *Browder v. Gayle*, had four Black women plaintiffs. Black women, aided by some prominent white women like Virginia Durr, were the determined instruments of change.

Jo Ann Robinson continued to work behind the scenes but was known well enough to become a target of violence: one police officer threw a rock through her home's window and another poured acid on her car. That did not stop her. As Dr. King put it, “Apparently indefatigable, she, perhaps more than any other person, was active on every level of the protest.” Meanwhile the boycott she and other women began sparked a movement that changed our nation and world. Jo Ann Robinson and other unsung heroines of the civil rights movement remain role models for the tireless indispensable leaders whose strength and determination we desperately need right now.

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Black Americans Should Stand in Solidarity With Ukraine Against Putin

“In short, Putin and much of the Russian population that supports him are pretty much like white folks in the South who are still pissed that the Confederacy lost the Civil War. Ever since the Confederacy fell, the South has been trying to suppress Black voters from gaining political power while their economies remain in the toilet because they haven't thought of better ways to create income since negroes ain't picking their cotton anymore. That's Russia in a nutshell, folks.”

—Terrell J. Starr

Though we are separated by five thousand miles and the barriers of different languages and cultures, Black Americans share a deep and significant bond with the people of Ukraine. As defenders of democracy, we are united against a common enemy: Vladimir Putin.

Putin invaded Ukraine in violation of international law for the same reason he directed Russian spy agencies to interfere in the 2016 U.S. presidential election: he fears democracy.

“Because the primary threat to Putin and his autocratic regime is democracy . . . As long as cit-

izens in free countries exercise their democratic rights to elect their own leaders and set their own course in domestic and foreign politics, Putin will keep them in his crosshairs,” Robert Person and Michael McFaul wrote in *Journal of Democracy* last month.

No Americans were more squarely in Putin's crosshairs in 2016 than Black voters. The National Urban League was the first to highlight the extent of Russian efforts to deceive, manipulate and exploit Black voters in our 2019 State of Black America® report. A Senate Intelligence Committee report released a few months later confirmed our findings: “No single group of Americans was targeted by [Internet Research Agency] information operatives more than African Americans. By far, race and related issues were the preferred target of the information warfare campaign designed to divide the country in 2016.”

Exploiting righteous anger over against structural inequalities such as police violence, poverty and mass incarceration, Putin's disinformation machine preyed on Black Americans, urging them to tweet or text rather than vote, to “avoid the line” and “vote from home,” or to boycott the election altogether. Putin's machinations dovetailed with a surge of racially-motivated voter suppression laws that continues at an escalating pace today.

Putin also has used cyberattacks and online disinformation campaigns in efforts to manipulate elections in France, Poland, Germany, Finland, the U.K., Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, and Sweden.

As ominous as Putin finds the free exercise of democracy in the United States and Western Europe, the rise of democracy on Russia's very borders is an existential threat. And just as he exploited American racism in the 2016 U.S. election, he is exploiting long-standing ethnic tensions to whip up anti-Ukrainian sentiment. He used false claims of persecution against ethnic Russians and Russian-speaking citizens to justify his 2014 annexation of Crimea and refers to Ukraine's democratically elected leaders as “Banderites,” an anti-Ukrainian slur invoking far-right nationalist politician Stepan Bandera remembered as a Nazi collaborator.

As Black Americans, whose parents and grandparents bled and died for democracy, must stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine against the greatest enemy of democracy in the modern world. As President Biden said, “It's about standing for what we believe in, for the future that we want for our world, for liberty, the right of countless countries to choose their own destiny.”

CDC from A1

of the U.S. population was reported as having low or medium COVID-19 community levels as of February 25, Director Walensky warned not to get too comfortable without a mask on.

“I do anticipate that this is probably going to be a seasonal virus,” Walensky said in an exclusive interview with NBC News. “I would say put your masks in a drawer, anticipate you may need them again and hope that we don't.”

She continued by saying that wearing masks may be necessary in order to be “vigilant” in the cold months when other respiratory illnesses like the flu are commonly spread.

Like the majority of the country, Maryland seems to be trending towards cases decreasing over time. The CDC identified Garrett County as the only county in Maryland with a high COVID-19 community level. On March 7, Governor Larry Hogan announced that Maryland has recorded under 300 COVID-19 hospitalizations, and is experiencing its lowest case rate yet.

The total number of cases in Maryland has decreased by about 98 percent since January 9, on which there were 17,872 cases—the highest number of newly reported cases in a single day in the state this year.

LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines.	If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions.	Wear a mask indoors in public.
Get tested if you have symptoms.	Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines.	Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines.
	Get tested if you have symptoms.	Get tested if you have symptoms.
		Additional precautions may be needed for people at high risk for severe illness.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

CDC Community COVID Levels

As of March 16, only 332 new cases were reported in Maryland with the majority of these cases coming from younger age groups. Early on in the pandemic, senior citizens accounted for the most infections, but over time this has shifted. Everyone who gets vaccinated and boosted in Maryland has the chance to win money from a \$2 million pot with the lottery initiative, “VaxCash 2.0.” One fully vaccinated Maryland resident will be awarded a cash prize through a lottery drawing every Tuesday until May 3.

As of March 15, there were about 4.5 million fully vaccinated

individuals in Maryland. An estimated 4.7 million people have received at least their first vaccination of two.

Governor Hogan has used the initiative as a way to motivate state residents into staying up to date with all COVID-19 safety measures.

“We continue to urge Marylanders to get boosted for maximum protection against the virus and to be eligible for tomorrow's \$50,000 drawing of our Vax Cash 2.0 Promotion,” he tweeted.

For more information about all state COVID-19 protocols visit: <https://covidlink.maryland.gov/content/faqs/#faqVP>.

Budget from A1

of behavioral health, developmental disabilities, Medicaid, foster care, non-public schools that serve children with disabilities, and other health care services.

This is in addition to the provider rate increases provided in the governor's original FY23 budget. As a result, most providers will see overall rate increases in the 7.5–8% range in FY23.

Every budget under the Hogan administration has increased rates paid to developmental disabilities and behavioral health community service providers. The governor's FY23 budget makes historic investments in public health, including record funding for local health departments.

\$31 Million for Child Care Providers and Facilities

Earlier this year, the governor announced that the state is committing \$50 million for additional Child Care Stabilization Grants to assist providers dealing with the financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This supplemental budget provides:

- \$16 million to provide funds for retention and recruitment bonuses for child care providers and employees, to be administered by the Maryland State Department

of Education.

- \$15 million to establish a loan program through the Department of Commerce that will support critical renovations and improvements to child care facilities.

\$45 Million for Violent Crime Initiatives

The governor announced these initiatives in a press conference earlier [last] week:

- \$3.5 million to support additional prosecutors, investigators, and support staff for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland in Baltimore City and Prince George's County.
- \$6.5 million to provide funding to the Baltimore Police Department to support warrant apprehension activities.
- \$35 million to provide additional funds to guard against federal cuts and support the Victims of Crime Act program.

The supplemental budget also includes \$5.6 million in additional assistance for Prince George's Community College.

This is the governor's third supplemental budget of the 2022 legislative session: the first, submitted last month, included resources for first responders, renters, and homeowners; the second, submitted last week, provided for the resources to suspend the gas tax for 30 days.

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Morningside from A2

Wordle

Are you a Wordle player? If so, you can boast to me. I did it in 3 today, March 25. Lots of my family are competing.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Wayne Booth, Susan Frostbutter, Douglas Mangum and James Whipple, April 1; Melissa Lytton, Sophia Cordero and Bernie Saylor, April 3; longtime St. Philip's organist Motoko Howard, April 4; Earlene Erhardt Righter, Jimmy Shipman and Kaitlin Woods, April 5; Jonathan Charters, April 6; and Debbie Callison, April 8.

Happy 33rd anniversary to Walter and Fannie Dimes on April 1.

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LEGALS

**THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY,
MARYLAND**
P.O. Box 1729
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20773
**In The Estate Of:
LUCILLE SCARLETT DAVIS**
Estate No.: 123321

**THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY,
MARYLAND**
P.O. Box 1729
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20773
**In The Estate Of:
LINDA JEAN WILSON**
Estate No.: 123222

NOTICE OF JUDICIAL PROBATE

To all Persons Interested in the
above estate:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed by Thomas J. Kokolis for judicial probate for the appointment of a personal representative.

A VIRTUAL hearing will be held on **JUNE 1, 2022 at 11:00 A.M.**

This hearing may be transferred or postponed to a subsequent time. Further information may be obtained by reviewing the estate file in the Office of the Register of Wills.

REGISTER OF WILLS FOR
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
CERETA A. LEE
P.O. Box 1729
UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20773-1729
PHONE: (301) 952-3250

141625 (3-31,4-7)

NOTICE OF JUDICIAL PROBATE

To all Persons Interested in the
above estate:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed by Thomas J. Kokolis for judicial probate for the appointment of a personal representative.

A VIRTUAL hearing will be held on **JUNE 9, 2022 at 11:00 A.M.**

This hearing may be transferred or postponed to a subsequent time. Further information may be obtained by reviewing the estate file in the Office of the Register of Wills.

REGISTER OF WILLS FOR
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
CERETA A. LEE
P.O. Box 1729
UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20773-1729
PHONE: (301) 952-3250

141630 (3-31,4-7)

**THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY,
MARYLAND**
P.O. Box 1729
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20773
**In The Estate Of:
CLAIRE T. ROGAL**
Estate No.: 123855

**THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY,
MARYLAND**
P.O. Box 1729
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20773
**In The Estate Of:
MARSTON G. EDWARDS**
Estate No.: 116447

NOTICE OF JUDICIAL PROBATE

To all Persons Interested in the
above estate:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed by Thomas J. Kokolis for judicial probate for the appointment of a personal representative.

A VIRTUAL hearing will be held on **JUNE 9, 2022 at 11:00 A.M.**

This hearing may be transferred or postponed to a subsequent time. Further information may be obtained by reviewing the estate file in the Office of the Register of Wills.

REGISTER OF WILLS FOR
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
CERETA A. LEE
P.O. Box 1729
UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20773-1729
PHONE: (301) 952-3250

141627 (3-31,4-7)

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT NOTICE TO CREDITORS NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF
SANDRA LEE MICKEY

Notice is given that Kathy Swartz whose address is 1772 Siloam Road, Mt. Airy, NC 27030 was on March 10, 2022 appointed personal representative of the estate of Sandra Lee Mickey who died on January, 30, 2022 with a will.

Further information can be obtained by reviewing the estate file in the office of the Register of Wills or by contacting the personal representative or the attorney.

All persons having any objection to the appointment (or to the probate of the decedent's will) shall file their objections with the Register of Wills on or before the 10th day of September, 2022.

Any person having a claim against the decedent must present the claim to the undersigned personal representative or file it with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned on or before the earlier of the following dates:

- (1) Six months from the date of the decedent's death; or
- (2) Two months after the personal representative mails or otherwise delivers to the creditor a copy of this published notice or other written notice, notifying the creditor that the claim will be barred unless the creditor presents the claims within two months from the mailing or other delivery of the notice. A claim not presented or filed on or before that date, or any extension provided by law, is unenforceable thereafter. Claim forms may be obtained from the Register of Wills.

KATHY SWARTZ
Personal Representative

CERETA A. LEE
REGISTER OF WILLS FOR
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
P.O. Box 1729
UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20773-1729

Estate No. 124058
141531 (3-17,3-24,3-31)

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT NOTICE TO CREDITORS NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED
IN THE ESTATE OF
GILLIE JOANN MCINTOSH

Notice is given that Renee Fauntleroy whose address is 15310 Pine Tree Way, Bowie, MD 20721 was on February 25, 2022 appointed personal representative of the estate of Gillie Joann McIntosh who died on November 25, 2021 with a will.

Further information can be obtained by reviewing the estate file in the office of the Register of Wills or by contacting the personal representative or the attorney.

All persons having any objection to the appointment (or to the probate of the decedent's will) shall file their objections with the Register of Wills on or before the 25th day of August, 2022.

Any person having a claim against the decedent must present the claim to the undersigned personal representative or file it with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned on or before the earlier of the following dates:

- (1) Six months from the date of the decedent's death; or
- (2) Two months after the personal representative mails or otherwise delivers to the creditor a copy of this published notice or other written notice, notifying the creditor that the claim will be barred unless the creditor presents the claims within two months from the mailing or other delivery of the notice. A claim not presented or filed on or before that date, or any extension provided by law, is unenforceable thereafter. Claim forms may be obtained from the Register of Wills.

RENEE FAUNTLEROY
Personal Representative

CERETA A. LEE
REGISTER OF WILLS FOR
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
P.O. Box 1729
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141532 (3-17,3-24,3-31)

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Personal Representative

CERETA A. LEE
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P.O. Box 1729
UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20773-1729

Estate No. 124058
141531 (3-17,3-24,3-31)

RENEE FAUNTLEROY
Personal Representative

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Estate No. 123614
141532 (3-17,3-24,3-31)