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Colorful and Inspiring Events Mark Library's 2022 Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (Sept. 1, 2022)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) offers robust Hispanic cultural programming year-round and its 2022 Hispanic Heritage Month celebration offers a concentration of engaging events for the whole family. The Hispanic community is an important part of our customers at PGCMLS. According to the 2020 Census, Hispanics make up 18.8% of the U.S. population and 20.4% of the Prince George's County population, making Hispanics the second largest racial/ethnic group in the county.

"The Library is thrilled to present a robust series of Hispanic Heritage Month programs this year, both to invite the general public to learn more about the diversity that exists in the Hispanic and Latin diaspora, and to celebrate that role of local libraries as neighborhood spaces for learning and deepening interpersonal connections," said Nicholas A. Brown, the Library's Honduran-American Acting Co-CEO.

This year's celebration starts with an ed-

ucational event to learn how Mexican culture has influenced American cuisine. The **Mexican Food Revolution** on **September 9**, at 4 p.m., will take place at the Spaulding Branch. During **Ready 2 Read Storytime**,

virtually on Tuesday, September 20 at 6:30 p.m.; participants can borrow a copy of the book at their branch Library.

On Monday, September 26 at 7 p.m., as part of the celebration and during our Independent Film Series, the Hyattsville location will have a screening of the local film **La Manpleša**—an uprising remembered followed by a discussion with film director Ellie Walton.

Hispanic culture is known for its colorful, magical rhythms, and PGCMLS will allow families to sing and dance with musical acts throughout the Library branches. **1,2,3 Andres**, a Grammy-winning music duo who will perform their songs in English and Spanish on

Wednesday, September 28 at 6:30 p.m.

The library will also have many musical events during the Hispanic Heritage Month celebration such as:

Cantaré, which introduces audiences to the beautiful songs and rhythms of Latin America, drawing from the musical heritage of the Caribbean, Central, and South America. **Matt Keown** will delight the audience with the beautiful sounds of this massive mallet percussion instrument called the marimba.

For the list of events and more information visit: Hispanic Heritage Month



PGCMLS will offer stories, songs, and more, celebrating Hispanic culture through books and songs.

On September 19, from 1–3 p.m., the Library will showcase and have a film discussion about Pablo Larrain's movie **Neruda**. Participants will learn about the Chilean writer and the magnificent work he had done during the years with his poetry.

"**My Broken Language: a memoir**" by Quiara Alegria Hudes will be the protagonist of the Book Discussion to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. The event will take place



PHOTO CREDIT: PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FAIR

Prince George's County Fair September 8–11, 2022

Maryland's longest running fair, the Prince George's County Fair showcases the best of our local community, from agriculture competitions and showcases, to midway rides and live entertainment, to vendors (of course) food! The Fair has something for everyone young and old to enjoy. For more information, visit the fair website at <http://www.countyfair.org>.

2022 Fair Schedule: Sept. 8–11, 2022, Show Place Arena, 14900 Pennsylvania Ave, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
Days/Hours: Thurs. & Fri. 5–10 p.m.; Sat. 11 a.m.–10 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

Newly Improved Orange Line Stations to Reopen on Schedule Featuring Platform and Customer Upgrades

Stations Reopened on Tuesday, Sept. 5

By PRESS OFFICER
WMATA

(Sept. 1, 2022)—Metro customers will see a brand-new look at five Orange Line stations re-opening Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2022. New slip-resistant tiles, brighter energy-efficient LED lighting, larger digital display screens and rebuilt platform edges are among the upgrades you'll find at New Carrollton, Landover, Cheverly, Deanwood and Minnesota Avenue stations.

Over the summer, Metro closed the stations for platform reconstruction, customer improvements and to conduct safety-critical repairs on several bridges along this segment of the Orange Line.

The reopening of the five stations marks the completion of a four-year pro-

gram to rehabilitate and modernize 20 outdoor stations across the Blue, Orange, Silver, Yellow and Green lines. The project which began in 2019, used a new construction strategy to close stations during construction, consolidating years of work into months.

"I'd like to thank our customers, employees, contractors, jurisdictional partners, and everyone in the National Capital Region who made this project possible," said Metro General Manager/CEO Randy Clarke. "The completion of this project demonstrates our commitment to delivering a sustainable, equitable, and world-class transit system to the National Capital Region."

Funded by our Capital Improvement Program, the project has been the largest, most complex capital construc-

tion project completed since Metro opened in 1976. Today, these stations provide customers with safer, modern and more accessible stations including:

- Rebuilding 25,200 feet of platform edges to create safer, more accessible stations
- Installing over 467,000 square feet of slip-resistant tile to provide better traction in wet conditions
- Completing nearly 3 million customer trips on our free shuttle bus service during station closures to keep the region moving
- Installing 89 stainless-steel platform shelters with power outlets and digital screens to provide a more convenient customer experience
- Enhancing over 2,800 speakers for

clearer announcements

On Sept. 6, Orange Line trains resume normal service to all stations between Vienna and New Carrollton and parking fees will be restored. Some additional work in and around the stations may continue after stations reopen, including the eastside bus relocation at New Carrollton and portions of Park & Ride and Kiss & Ride lots that will be closed through September and as late as October.

Metro's Capital Improvement Program

Metro is investing in system safety, reliability, and the region's economy through its 10-year, \$15 billion capital program. For the first time in Metro's history, the capital program is bolstered

by dedicated funding from Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The capital program will improve the customer experience and keep the region's infrastructure in a state of good repair by investing in new railcars and buses; improving stations and platforms; upgrading fire-suppression and emergency response systems; replacing and repairing tracks, tunnels, bridges, signals and communications systems; rebuilding decades-old bus garages; and providing modern customer amenities such as passenger information systems. By spending local taxpayer dollars for capital projects, Metro is seeking to reinvest in our hometown economy, creating jobs and encouraging participation from disadvantaged, minority-owned, and small businesses in the region.

Governor Hogan Proclaims September as 4th Annual International Underground Railroad Month

Month-long Celebration Highlights Maryland's Freedom Fighters

By MICHAEL RICCI
Executive Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Sept. 1, 2022)—Governor Larry Hogan today proclaimed September 2022 as the 4th annual International Underground Railroad Month in Maryland. The month acknowledges the significance of the Underground Railroad, and all those involved, for its contribution to the eradication of slavery in the United States and as a cornerstone for the more comprehensive civil rights movement that followed. Maryland also continues to honor 2022 as the "Year of Harriet Tubman" to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Tubman's birth.

"It's an honor for Maryland to share the stories of the heroes of the Underground Railroad with

the world in every possible way," said Governor Hogan. "This month, International Underground Railroad Month, is a way to encourage everyone to visit historical sites and attractions and take part in special events, so we can continue to commemorate the visionary freedom fighters and those they rescued."

Since the tribute month coincides with "The Year of Harriet Tubman" in Maryland, the Maryland Department of Commerce Office of Tourism created a new collection of experiences highlighting the impact the Chesapeake Bay and surrounding waterways had on passengers of the underground railroad called, The Hidden Chesapeake: Slavery and Freedom through Harriet Tubman's Eyes.

"With nearly 100 sites throughout the state,

Maryland is uniquely positioned as the world's most powerful Underground Railroad storytelling destination," said Secretary Mike Gill of the Maryland Department of Commerce. "Visiting the museums and attractions and taking part in special activities this month honors the brave men and women who were involved in Maryland's contributions to free enslaved people."

Maryland has the most documented successful escapes using the Underground Railroad and the most National Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom sites. A range of sites offer permanent Underground Railroad exhibits and experiences, including the Josiah Henson Museum & Park, the Visit Hagerstown Underground Railroad Walking Tour, the Southern Maryland African American Heritage Guide, the

Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway Driving Tour, and Maryland's Frederick Douglass Driving Tour.

International Underground Railroad Month events, exhibits, and activities include:

- "**Araminta With Rifle and Veve**" by Joyce Scott. A new, temporary 10-foot bronze sculpture of Harriet Tubman will greet visitors as they enter the Banneker-Douglass Museum in Annapolis (Sept. 1, 2022–Sept. 30, 2023)
- "**We Walk with Harriet History Walks**." Narrated history tours in Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot counties which include walking, sailing,

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Chuck Miller, of Miller Farms and Surrattsville High '74, dies at 65

This tribute from the Clinton Miller Farms was posted in Facebook on June 15: "Early Sunday Morning June 12th, 2022, the Miller family lost a piece of their heart, Charles Paul Miller Jr, aka Chuck... He was our boss and friend. He was never really a boss because he worked alongside of us and worked harder than anyone else... He was a gentle soul who came in every single day with a corny joke, funny or strange little story and sometimes just a brain-twisting puzzle he wanted us to solve."

Chuck Miller was born in Washington, the oldest of the five children of Alice and the late Charles P. Miller Sr., of Clinton. He was 65.

He grew up on the family farm and graduated from Surrattsville Senior High in 1974.

During his early years of farming, he raised tobacco and livestock. He managed Miller Farms Produce Market in Clinton and eventually fulfilled his dreams of opening Miller's Country Market down in Charlotte Hall, with his wife Sue.

Chuck enjoyed traveling, being at his vacation home in Ocean City, and watching hockey. He was a huge history buff. Most important, he cherished being surrounded by his family. He was a member of St. Mary's Church in Bryantown and supported the many activities of St. Mary's School.

He's survived by his mother, Alice Miller; his wife of 20 years, Susan; children, Amanda, Melinda, Justin and Corey; seven grandchildren; and four siblings. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Mary's Church with burial at Queen of Peace Cemetery in Mechanicsville.

Another sad note: Chuck's daughter Amanda wrote "For the last month Miller's Country Market [in Charlotte Hall] has been closed, due to my father's sudden passing. Unfortunately, we will not be able to move forward with re-opening the market. I want to personally thank everyone for their continued support My dad truly loved that store and every customer that walked in was family. MCM wouldn't

be what it was without all of you. We had an amazing staff, one heck of an owner and so many wonderful memories... I'm so sorry that it had to come to this decision, but this is how it has to be. Thank you for all the years of success & for helping my dad live his dream."

(Please note: The original Miller Farms in Clinton, 10140 Piscataway Road, is still open for business.)

Town of Morningside

Morningside is hosting a Yard Sale at the Morningside Firehouse Sept. 10, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rain date Saturday, Sept. 17. For information or reservations, call 301-736-2301.

Upcoming meetings: Town Work Session, Sept. 13; Town Hall Meeting, Sept. 20. Both start at 7 p.m.

Lorenza Arcia's 100 years

Lorenza Arcia turned 100 on August 10. The staff at the Town Hall believe she marks the first time Morningside's had a resident a century old.

I met Lorenza at her Marianne Drive home but talked with her daughter Elena Gutierrez. She told me her mother primarily speaks Spanish.

She was born in Panama on August 10, 1922. She married Ricardo Arcia, who was a carpenter. He is deceased. They had four children; two of them, Sofia and Luis, have died. Two daughters survive, Elena, who lives with her mother, and Rosa Martinez, of Germantown, who was also present when I visited. There's a grandson, Eric, who lives in Williamsburg, and a great-granddaughter, Kathryn.

In 1971 Lorenza and her daughter Elena moved to the house on Marianne Drive. I asked Elena what Lorenza has done over the years. She told me her mother worked for a time at a factory in New York. But mostly, she has been a home-body. She always liked gardening, sewing, and Spanish cooking—using lots of rice and beans.

She enjoys television—both English and Spanish-language. She likes to watch football.

Happy birthday, Lorenza!

Places to go, Things to do

The Prince George's County Fair, which holds the distinction of being the oldest running Fair in Maryland, is back! Show Place Arena, Upper Marlboro, Sept. 8 to 11. Hours: Thursday & Friday: 5–10 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.–10 p.m.; Sunday: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Info: 301-404-5566.

The Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 with virtual programs and an in-person festival highlighting Hispanic history, culture, traditions and stories. Info: 202-633-1000.

Movies on the Potomac, at National Harbor, are featuring America themes during September. Family movies, Sunday at 6 are: Sept. 4, An American Tail; Sept. 11, Miracle; Sept. 18, American Underdog: The Kurt Warner Story; and Sept. 25, The Gabby Douglas Story. Date Night Movies, Thursdays at 7: Sept. 1, Argo; Sept. 8, 42; Sept. 15, Apollo 13; Sept. 22, A League of their Own; Sept. 29, Minari. Free.

Do you remember Doo-Wop?

Creative Suitland Arts Center, 4719 Silver Hill Road, has a new exhibit, Doo-Wop Under the Street Lamp, a one-room display devoted to the close-harmony singing that blossomed in the 1950s on the East Coast, including Washington. It's open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday thru Thursday; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays; and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays; through Sept. 15.

The exhibit is the work of Beverly Lindsay-Johnson, a Fort Washington documentary filmmaker who chronicles the District's contributions to the musical genre. She has had support from the African American Music Association, the Atlanta Doo-Wop Association and Creative Suitland.

Neighbors & other good people

Archie, my longtime friend and neighbor who has lived on Pine Lane Drive for years, has died. I hope to tell you more about him (including his last

See **MORNINGSIDE** Page A6

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Congratulations to Reverend Dorothea Stroman, Pastor of Clinton United Methodist Church on receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award. The award reads as: With grateful recognition the AmeriCorps and the office of the President of the United States Honors Reverend Dorothea Stroman with the President's Lifetime Achievement Award for their lifetime commitment to building a stronger nation through volunteer service. President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. 2022 Awarded.

Congratulations to Carol Bell who is a (CLM) Certified Lay Minister at Clinton United Methodist Church in Clinton, Maryland for receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award. The Award reads as: With grateful recognition the AmeriCorps and the office of the President of the United States Honors Carol Bell with the President's Lifetime Achievement Award for their lifetime commitment to building a stronger nation through volunteer service. President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. 2022 Awarded.

3RD ANNUAL PURPLE BICYCLE RIDE

Join us Saturday, October 1, 2022, from 8 a.m.–12 p.m. for the 3rd Annual Purple Bicycle Ride for Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention. This event is free, but you must register to participate. Location is Fairwood Park, 12390 Fairwood Parkway, Bowie, Maryland 20720. There are three routes!!! 5, 10, 25 miles. Food and Fun, B.Y.O.C !!! to enjoy good food and music.

To register: <https://bikereg.com/pgsao-purple-bike-ride2022>. For general inquiries & Cycling Club Partnerships contact: Sade Dennis, fodennis@co.pg.md.us. For Partnerships, Sponsorships & Volunteering contact: Denise Douglas, dadouglas@co.pg.md.

CLINTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Thanks to Clinton United Methodist Church for their splendid generosity in providing school supplies and/or monetary funds for the Back-To-School supplies. Backpacks and school supplies were distributed the week of August 25, 2022. The church was able to serve fifty-one children from Elementary to High School age. Thank you again. Pastor Stroman, The Church Office.

Thanks so much to Denise Reid-Bourne, Evangeline Crawford and Stephanie Samuel for coordinating the Back -to-School project. Also, kudos to our workers, Rendall and Ronal Crawford and Carol Bell who helped with assembling and distributing backpacks.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Osama Omoregbe who is a member of Clinton United Methodist Church in Clinton, Maryland. Osama

graduated from Towson State University with a Bachelor Arts Degree in Fine Arts and Arts. Osama has accepted a job teaching art in the Prince George's County Public School System at Decatur Middle School in Clinton, Maryland. Good Luck in your future endeavors.

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND

Bowie State University Staff Member receives Prestigious USM Board of Regents Award. The University System of Maryland (USM) announced earlier this month that Tanya Jones, executive assistant, and operations manager for President Aminta Breaux, has been recognized as a recipient of the USM Board of regents Staff Award for her extraordinary public service to the university and the greater community. The award is the highest honor presented by the Regents to exemplary staff members. Congratulations Tanya.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY MARCHING BAND

Bowie State's University's Symphony of Soul Marching Band has made a dramatic turnaround in the number of members from a low of twenty-eight last year to seventy-eight for the upcoming year, due in large part to focused recruiting by Band Director Billy Bennett. Growth attributed to Business, Computer Science, and other Degree Programs.

"Bowie offers scholarship opportunities to students that participate in our university bands (Marching, Jazz, and/or Concert Band). That is the bottom line." Bennett said, "My goal is to continue to increase the size of our marching band and instrumental music ensembles next year." Media Contact: David Thompson, dlthompson@bowiestate.edu, 301-860-4311.

BSU STRIVES TO RESPOND TO INDUSTRY AND MARKET DEMANDS

Students at Bowie State University can now enroll in four new undergraduate programs that are designed to prepare them for positions in the burgeoning technology sector. Applications are now open for students to apply to earn bachelor's degrees in cyber operations engineering; data science; software engineering and philosophy, political science, and economics (PPE). "Our goal is to bring more value to our academic portfolio so that potential students think of Bowie State as a university that provides high quality computer science, technology and engineering degree programs along with its established reputation in liberal arts education," said Dr. Carl Goodman, Provost, and vice president for academic affairs at Bowie State University. "We're committed to ensuring our students are prepared for the new jobs that are becoming available daily in the fast-growing STEM sectors of our economy." Media Contact: David Thompson, dlthompson@bowiestate.edu, 301-860-4311.

Around the County

Bowie State Football Begins 2022 Season Atop in First Ever HBCU DII Preseason Coaches Poll

BOWIE, Md. (Aug. 31, 2022)—Bowie State football adds another accolade preseason honor after being voted atop in the newly formed HBCU Division II Coaches Poll powered by BOXTOROW that was officially announced Tuesday.

For the first time ever, the preseason poll released its top-10 ranking with the Bulldogs at No. 1 to start the 2022 season off. The three-time defending Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) champions Bulldogs received 20 first place votes out of 24 over No. 2 Albany State – the defending Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association (SIAC) champions by a margin of 24, earning just three first place votes.

CIAA foe, Fayetteville State came in No. 3, followed by Savannah State and Virginia Union at No. 4 and No. 5, respectively.

There are 27 HBCU NCAA Division II schools and are eligible for the poll, which includes schools from the CIAA and SIAC and Lincoln (Mo.) and West Virginia State.

The poll will be released each Tuesday during the season.

The HBCU Division II Coaches Poll powered by BOXTOROW is administered by FROM THE PRESS BOX TO PRESS ROW, and is voted on by the HBCU NCAA Division II coaches.

2022 Preseason HBCU Division II Coaches Poll powered by BOXTOROW

No.	Team	W-L	Pts Last Week
1	Bowie State (20)	12-2	213
2	Albany State	10-2	186
3	Fayetteville State	8-2	160
4	Savannah State	8-2	127
5	Virginia Union	6-4	115
6	Shaw	6-4	82
7	Miles	6-4	75
8	Kentucky State	7-4	44
9	West Virginia State	6-5	40
10	Chowan	7-3	38

Others receiving votes: Lane (1) 6-4 35, Benedict (5-5) 30, Tuskegee (3-8) 22, Morehouse (4-6) 18, Winston-Salem State (3-6) 10, Allen (4-5) 4, Virginia State (3-6) 4, Edward Waters (4-7) 3, Fort Valley State (5-5) 2, Morehouse (4-6) 1, Livingstone (1-9) 1.

For the most up-to-date information on Bowie State University Athletics and its 13 varsity sports teams, please visit www.bsbulldogs.com.

Governor Hogan Announces Judicial Appointments

Fills Court Vacancy in Prince George's County

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Sept. 1, 2022)—Governor Larry Hogan today announced that he has appointed Nicole Barmore to the Baltimore City Circuit Court, Michael Barranco to the Baltimore County Circuit Court, Cameron Brown to the Cecil County Circuit Court, **Donnell Turner** to the Prince George's County Circuit Court, and Kathleen Murphy to the Baltimore County District Court.

"It is my pleasure to appoint these distinguished individuals to fill critical roles within Maryland's judicial system," said Governor Hogan. "I am grateful for their willingness to serve the people of our great state, and am confident they will make outstanding additions to our circuit courts."

For Prince George's County Circuit Court:

Donnell Wilfred Turner is currently the Inspector General for the Prince George's County Police Department, where he oversees independent oversight to detect fraud, abuse, misconduct, and mismanagement of police department programs. Prior to taking on his role as Inspector General, Mr. Turner held various positions in the public sector, including Deputy State's Attorney and Principal Deputy State's Attorney for the Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, and as a Trial Attorney in the Department's Criminal Division. Mr. Turner has previously practiced labor and employment law in the public and private sectors, and served as an adjunct faculty member at Prince George's Community College.

He received his B.S. from the University of Maryland at College Park and his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law.

Volunteer Opportunities at the Washington International Horse Show

Come join us in October for an exciting, world-class equestrian competition! Apply online at wihs.org.

Become an integral part of one of the most prestigious, competitive and popular equestrian events in the country! The 64th Annual Washington International Horse Show (WIHS) presented by MARS Equestrian™ is looking for volunteers to assist with the show in many areas:

Media Relations, Press Room; Event Production, In-Arena Promotions Souvenirs, Merchandise; Special Events, VIP Hospitality; And lots more Volunteers do not need prior equestrian experience or background to apply.

When: **Monday–Sunday, Oct. 24–30** (seven days and three nights)
Where: The Show Place Arena, Prince George's Equestrian Center, Upper Marlboro, Maryland

What: Experience the beauty and athleticism of the finest horses and riders in the world, including Olympic veterans, as they come together for world-class jumping competition, plus entertaining exhibitions, boutique shopping, VIP hospitality, and special events.

For questions about volunteering or the application process, email Info@wihs.org.

For more information about WIHS, visit www.wihs.org. Join us on social on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, and TikTok. Tag using #WIHS2022, #FEIWorldCup, #TimeToBeat and #Longines.

Established in 1958, the Washington International Horse Show is one of North America's most prestigious, competitive, and entertaining equestrian events with competition for international, professional, amateur, junior and child riders. Highlights include the \$406,000 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Washington for the President's Cup, and the WIHS Equitation Finals and Children's and Adult Hunter and Jumper Championships, plus popular community and charity events, like Kids' Day and Barn Night. WIHS, an official USEF Heritage Competition, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization. For more information, visit wihs.org.

COMMUNITY

Calendar of Events

Outdoor Movie: Spider Man No Way Home

Date and time: Saturday, September 10, 2022, 7:30–9:30 p.m.
 Description: Join the Town of Upper Marlboro and the volunteer events committee for our Free annual outdoor Summer Movie Night in Downtown Upper Marlboro. Come early to get to know your neighbors and share your love of movies. Attendees are welcome to bring their own blankets, lawn chairs, and snacks. Free meter parking.
 Location: Schoolhouse Pond, 14100 Governor Oden Bowie Drive Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Hispanic Heritage Celebration: Fran Oviedo

Date and time: **Art Exhibition:** September 13–November 4, Gallery Hours: Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; **Artist Reception:** September 29, 6 p.m.
 Description: In this exhibition, Fran Oviedo's paintings allude to her native country of Chile, where she lived for much of her life. However, because her work is abstract landscapes and, in some cases, reaches complete abstraction, the viewer can be transported anywhere in the world or from their imagination. Oviedo's works largely reflect her inner, optimistic and adventurous world, and that gets further influenced by particular situations she is in.
 Location: Publick Playhouse, 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD 20784
 Contact: www.pgparcs.com/2280/The-Prince-Georges-Publick-Playhouse

2022 Baltimore Rhythm Festival

Date and time: Saturday, September 17, 2022, Noon–6 p.m.; 7–10 p.m. for evening concert
 Description: For over twenty years, the Baltimore Rhythm Festival has been welcoming attendees to bring people together, inspire, and change lives. The evening concert will feature beloved African performance troupes Kulu Mele African Dance & Drum Ensemble and the Osagyefo Dance Company. We share a variety of performances, workshops, and experiences in a space of joy and community that is welcome to all.
 Cost: Festival: Free; Evening Concert: \$15 (and \$10 for students, seniors, and those in need). Note: negative PCR test or Proof of Vaccination needed to enter the theater.
 Location: **Festival:** Baltimore City Public Charter Montessori School, 1600 Guilford Ave., Baltimore, MD 21202
Evening Concert: Baltimore Center Stage, Head Theater, 700 North Calvert Street, Baltimore MD 21202
 Contact: www.baltimorehythmfestival.org

Stage Play: Unforgettable

Date and time: Sunday, September 18, 2022, 5 p.m.
 Description: Gdavis Productions and Films, LLC and the Alzheimer's Association have joined together to create a new stage play titled Unforgettable. This dynamic and emotional stage play will showcase the effects of caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's and the importance of understanding early detection and participating in clinical trials while introducing them to the plethora of resources offered via the Alzheimer's Association.
 Cost: Free; reserve your ticket at unforgettableplay.com.
 Location: Bowie Center for the Performing Arts, 15200 Annapolis Road, Bowie, MD 20715
 Contact: <https://bowiecenter.org/event/unforgettable/>

Inaugural Prince George's Film Festival

Date and time: September 22–25, 2022
 Description: In celebration of the Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council's 40th anniversary, the Prince George's Film Office presents the 2022 Prince George's Film Festival - Take One. The Prince George's Film Festival is the premier program for new film works from up-and-coming and established independent filmmakers with diverse voices. Festival passes are now available for purchase! Take advantage of the opportunity to attend a vibrant and robust film festival experience that will feature keynote speakers, panel discussions with film experts, insightful conversations, networking receptions, workshops, community activities, special events, and virtual film screenings. All proceeds from the Prince George's Film Festival will support the arts in the County.
 Cost: \$15 Single film ticket; \$40 unlimited screenings; \$50 unlimited workshops & panels; \$125 VIP unlimited access to all features. Purchase tickets: <https://pgff2022.eventive.org/passes/buy>

National Public Lands Day: Piscataway Park

Date and time: September 24 & 25, 2022, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
 Description: Give back to the space you love! Help celebrate our wonderful public lands by stewarding the plants and waters in Piscataway Park. Pull invasive plants and remove trash from the shoreline, to beautify the park's natural spaces. Registration is required.
 Ages: All ages, youth under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian for the duration of the event.
 Location: Piscataway Park, 3400 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek, MD 20607
 Register: <https://calendar.accokeekfoundation.org/events/month/2022-09/>

Platinum Movie: Just Mercy

Date and time: Thursday, September 29, 2022, 11 a.m.
 Description: World-renowned civil rights defense attorney Bryan Stevenson works to free a wrongly condemned death row prisoner.
 Cost: \$3/person
 Ages: Ages 60 & better
 Location: Publick Playhouse, 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD 20784
 Contact: www.pgparcs.com/2280/The-Prince-Georges-Publick-Playhouse

Save the Date: Purple Light Nights Lighting Ceremony

Date and time: Thursday, September 29, 2022, 6 p.m.
 Description: Join Sheriff Melvin C. High and The Office of The Sheriff Break the Cycle of Domestic Violence
 Location: Prince George's Community College, Novak Field House Courtyard (Lot H), 301 Largo Road, Largo, MD 20774

Lt. Governor Rutherford Tours Durable Medical Equipment Re-Use Headquarters

By BRITTANY MARSHALL
The Office of Lieutenant Governor Boyd K. Rutherford

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Aug. 30, 2022)—Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford joined the Maryland Department of Aging at their state-of-the-art Durable Medical Equipment (DME) headquarters in Cheltenham, Maryland to recognize the statewide DME Re-Use Program. This program collects new and gently-used durable medical equipment, sanitizes and refurbishes each item, and makes them available to adults and children who need equipment, free of charge.

"This program will continue to greatly improve the mobility and quality of life of many Maryland residents," said Lt. Governor Rutherford. "I am impressed with the DME headquarters and grateful to all those working to make this program beneficial to Marylanders in need."

Many Marylanders require the use of DME—such as wheelchairs, home hospital beds, shower chairs, walkers, and other assistive devices—to maintain their independence, safety, and standard of living. The cost of this equipment can be a financial burden, not only to uninsured residents but also to residents whose insurance will not approve the equipment needed or for whom approval is delayed. This innovative program offers DME to Marylanders across the state regardless



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Lt. Governor Rutherford tours the DME headquarters.

of illness, injury, disability, or age, at no cost to the resident.

"Before I got the scooter, I was barely able to move around independently in my manual wheelchair," said Gregory Price of Fort Washington, a recipient of the program. "Now, I can get to church and other community events, and I am enjoying my newfound freedom."

The program has made a significant and positive environmental impact by diverting equipment from Maryland's landfills. To date, the program has collected more than 13,400 items, diverting 418,008 pounds, or 230,514 cubic feet, of waste out of state landfills.

"It is with great pleasure that we offer this first of its kind, statewide program that provides free durable medical equipment to all Maryland residents with mobility needs," said Maryland Department of Aging Secretary Rona Kramer. "The benefits of increasing independence, social engagement, safety, mobility, and recycling, while reducing environmental waste, are immeasurable."

To donate or request DME for use, visit our website: <http://dme.maryland.gov> or for more information call 240-230-8000, or email DME.MDOA@maryland.gov.

City of Glenarden Contracts With CodeRED to Provide Emergency Notification Services to Community and to Test the CodeRED Community Notification System

By PRESS OFFICER
City of Glenarden

CITY OF GLENARDEN, Md. (Sept. 1, 2022)—Following an extensive evaluation and thorough review of mass emergency alerting systems, the City of Glenarden has implemented the CodeRED system, a high-speed emergency notification service provided by OnSolve, based in Ormond Beach, FL. The CodeRED system will serve as the backbone of the City's emergency planning and communications outreach. This platform will allow the City of Glenarden to communicate with residents/businesses by sending telephone calls, text messages, emails, posts to social media and mobile app messages to inform residents

of emergencies, critical general city alerts/notifications and more.

The City of Glenarden Emergency Notification System, CodeRED, will be tested during the week of September 15, 2022 to validate telephone numbers in the City of Glenarden's database. **There is no need to take action if you receive the call as this process helps us continually improve the system.** If your phone number is not in the database, you will not receive a call when we do launch an important notification.

To receive emergency and important information pertaining to City of Glenarden we encourage all residents and businesses to go to the www.cityofglenarden.org website, click on the CodeRED logo located on the homepage

and enter your contact information, including additional phone numbers, and text and email addresses, or text **GLENARDEN** to 99411 to receive the link directly to your mobile phone and sign up from there.

If you know of anyone who did not receive this call who lives in **City of Glenarden** please encourage them to visit the City's website and enter their information.

If you do not have Internet access, please contact a friend or family member to help add your contact information to the emergency database. Questions regarding this system test should be directed to City of Glenarden at (301) 773-2100.

Central Union Mission to Receive Nourishing Neighbors Donations Made at Local Safeway Stores in September

By PRESS OFFICER
Central Union Mission

WASHINGTON (Sept. 1, 2022)—Central Union Mission has been selected as a charity partner for Safeway and will receive donations from its annual Nourishing Neighbors campaign, which aims to ensure that every child has access to a healthy breakfast during the month of September.

All donations made at the following Safeway locations will help the Mission provide emergency groceries for families (including 135,000 breakfasts for children) in the DC metropolitan area who are living in poverty.

- 1701 Corcoran St. NW, Washington, DC
- 415 14th St. SE, Washington, DC
- 990 E. Swan Creek Road, Fort Washington, MD
- 7605 Crain Hwy, Upper Marlboro, MD
- 3702 East West Highway, Hyattsville, MD
- 4220 Merchant Plaza, Woodbridge VA

"Young minds and bodies need a healthy breakfast to kick off their day," said President and CEO, Joe Mettimano. "Eating breakfast improves alertness, concentration, mental performance and mood. We are thrilled to have been selected as

the charity partner for numerous Safeway locations in the DMV area and we are grateful to Safeway's Nourishing Neighbors initiative for their ongoing commitment to fighting hunger in our communities."

On average, Central Union Mission feeds more than 4,000 people each month through its Comprehensive Family Resource Center. That number increased during the height of the pandemic when many heads-of-households found themselves out of work and in need of both food and shelter for their families. Over its 138-year history, the Mission has served as a safety net for people who have no other place to turn.

Nourishing Neighbors fights hunger by keeping food banks stocked, supporting meal distribution programs at schools and supporting programs that provide food to seniors. As a program of the Safeway Foundation, it is working to eradicate childhood hunger in America. With as many as 1 in 4 children in America at risk of hunger, the funds raised in September will be dedicated to local efforts that ensure every child has access to a healthy breakfast.

"Breakfast is an essential school supply for kids to learn, grow and thrive," said Safeway President Robert Miller. "We're

just grateful to support the important work of community partners like Central Union Mission. Together we are making our neighborhoods better places for our children to grow up."

Anyone wishing to support Central Union Mission through this program can go to any of the locations previously listed and make a donation to Nourishing Neighbors at checkout between September 1–30.

Central Union Mission is a faith-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and the oldest private social service agency in Washington, DC. In addition to its emergency shelter, which provides more than 60,000 bed-nights each year, the Mission operates holistic, Christ-centered transformation and workforce development programs for men, provides benefits for veterans, helps people overcome addictions, operates a food and clothing distribution center which provides food for over 4,000 people each month, runs a camp for underprivileged children, and offers a ministry to families and senior citizens. Charity Navigator has rated Central Union Mission a three-star charity, Candid awarded Central Union Mission a Gold Seal for our financial transparency and GreatNonProfits has given Central Union Mission a Top-Rated award.

COMMENTARY

Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Labor Day

Labor Day has been celebrated in American communities since the late 1800s, and since 1894 the first Monday in September has been set aside as a national holiday to honor American workers. From the beginning Labor Day was celebrated with picnics and grand parades. Today, as retail sales have become as much of a Labor Day tradition as long weekends and cookouts, for many workers this day is no longer a holiday at all. But it should be a day to honor the people who have made America all that it is and a reminder for all of us to keep working to make it what it should be.

In his brilliant 1936 poem "Let America Be America Again," Langston Hughes made clear that our nation has never actually been what it should be for many Americans; "America never was America to me." But he still urged that America

"be the dream it used to be": a land "where Liberty/Is crowned with no false patriotic wreath,/But opportunity is real, and life is free,/Equality is in the air we breathe." Instead, for the many laborers, farmers, and factory workers on whose backs America was built, that American dream clashed again and again with American reality:

"I am the poor white, fooled and pushed apart,
I am the Negro bearing slavery's scars.
I am the red man driven from the land,
I am the immigrant clutching the hope I seek—
And finding only the same old stupid plan
Of dog eat dog, of mighty crush the weak . . .
Tangled in that ancient endless chain
Of profit, power, gain, of grab the land!
Of grab the gold! Of grab the ways of satisfying
need!

Of work the men! Of take the pay!
Of owning everything for one's own greed!

I am the farmer, bondsman to the soil.
I am the worker sold to the machine.
I am the Negro, servant to you all.
I am the people, humble, hungry, mean—
Hungry yet today despite the dream . . ."

Too many workers are still hungering for that American dream today—and it is time to make it reality for all. This Labor Day weekend is another opportunity to say along with Hughes:

"I say it plain,
America never was America to me,
And yet I swear this oath—
America will be!"

On this Labor Day, we thank You for all the people who make our country great.

Who grow food to eat and build houses where people sleep and make clothes that help us stay warm.

Who clean the schools we learn in and the parks we play in and the streets we walk on.

Who drive the buses and trains and fly the planes that take us where we have to go.

Who protect us from danger of all kinds.

Who heal us when we are sick and teach us what we need to know.

Who provide jobs with decent wages and benefits.

Who pray for us and preach to us Your word in an errant world.

Thank You, God, for all who hold our communities together.

—September 2, 2022

End of a Poetic Era: Nikki Giovanni Retires as English Professor at Virginia Tech

By PRESS OFFICER
Virginia Tech

(Sept. 1, 2022)—Nikki Giovanni rarely looks back. But when she reflects on her time at Virginia Tech, her accolades as an award-winning writer and visionary are not first of mind.

"I hope that I've done a good job," said Giovanni. "I hope that I've done at least my fair share."

It's hard to imagine Virginia Tech without Giovanni, but the legendary poet has decided that it is time to close the classroom chapter.

As of Sept. 1, she is retiring after 35 years as a professor in the Department of English.

"In all fairness, I'm getting old," Giovanni, 79, said.

Even so, the poet is not hanging up her pen. In fact, her newest children's book, "A Library," is set to debut this fall at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. It recounts her weekly visits as a child to a segregated library near her home.

Giovanni is known around the world for her poetry, essays, and written work that delve into social issues, including race and gender.

Among her many accomplishments, she has published 11 illustrated children's books, received 30 honorary degrees and seven NAACP Image Awards, and has been a finalist for a Grammy and for the National Book Award. Oprah Winfrey has named her one of 25 living legends. Giovanni is a sought-after speaker and public voice, most recently appearing on CNN's "United Shades of America."

In Blacksburg, she has used her written and spoken work to mark significant events in Virginia Tech history, creating poems for the April 16 tragedy and for the Class of 2020's commencement

ceremony, which occurred at the height of the pandemic.

Nikki Giovanni has been an important and deeply valued presence on our campus, giving voice to the spirit of Virginia Tech and helping us celebrate, mourn, learn, heal, and be better," said Virginia Tech President Tim Sands. "Her words will continue to inspire us and touch readers around the world, and while we will miss her regular presence on campus, she will always be a beloved member of our university community."

Many faculty and students know her for more than her awards. From NFL athletes to business leaders and professional writers, Hokies have gleaned years of wisdom and life lessons from Giovanni.

Giovanni landed at Virginia Tech in 1987 after receiving an invitation from Ginney Fowler, a faculty member in the Department of English who recently retired. Fowler recruited Giovanni after hearing her speak at a conference.

Giovanni said she had never heard of Virginia Tech. But she accepted the offer made over the phone and moved her mother and her son with her to the New River Valley from Ohio.

Giovanni was hired as part of the Commonwealth Visiting Professor program, which sought to bring artists and scholars from minority groups to the university. By then, Giovanni had established her name as part of the national Black Arts Movement while making a living speaking and reading her work. Some nicknamed her the "Princess of Black Poetry," Fowler said.

About a year after Giovanni came to Blacksburg, Fowler said she began to see glimpses of the ways that the author was different from other faculty.

One day, Giovanni decided to

organize a fish fry on the Drill-field. She purchased flounder and bread, talked to kitchen staff, and invited the whole campus for a free fish sandwich.

"She was talking to me about the fact that students and faculty needed to get together more," Fowler said. "I thought 'She has lost her mind. Who's going to come to a fish fry on the Drill-field?'"

But people did come, including legendary football coach Frank Beamer and many athletes.

"That was the first time I realized that she could really change things," Fowler said.

Another example of Giovanni's unique nature was when she was asked to keep the minutes at an executive committee meeting for the English department. Rather than note the meeting's main points, Giovanni documented what kind and color socks people were wearing.

"Quite naturally, nobody ever asked her to take minutes again," Fowler said.

All along, as Giovanni's reputation as a poet and activist was growing, so was her work shaping students' lives—in more ways than one.

Take Kwame Alexander, now a New York Times bestselling author and winner of the Newbery Medal, which is given to authors of American children's literature. He took his first advanced poetry class with Giovanni when he was a sophomore at Virginia Tech. But he could not understand why she spent the majority of class talking about life and current events with students. They were not learning how to write, he said.

Eventually, he figured it out. Giovanni told him, "Kwame, I can teach you how to write, but I can't teach you how to be interesting," he recalled.

"When I look back, I learned everything," he said. "That's where I got the tools to be able to write."

Will Furrer, a former Hokie and NFL quarterback who majored in English, said Giovanni taught him how to find his voice.

"The duty that we had to ourselves was to develop our own voice and learn how to tell our story so that we could do something other than sports," Furrer said, explaining that this was a point that Giovanni honed during her classes to which many athletes at the time flocked.

Her advice resonated with him, in particular now in his job as chief strategy officer for Q2 banking in Austin, Texas. The company builds banking apps.

When he was a student, Furrer recalled sitting in Giovanni's office in Major Williams Hall and listening to her stories about Aretha Franklin, Toni Morrison, Morgan Freeman, and many other famous U.S. novelists, artists, actors, and leaders. She was close friends with many of them.

In fact, Giovanni organized an event to celebrate Morrison's legacy in 2012 at Virginia Tech, and among the attendees were Maya Angelou and Rita Dove, literary legends.

"She has been a new and different voice on campus," said Furrer, who recently visited Giovanni to interview her for his company's podcast celebrating Black History Month. "She brought different people, different actors, different influencers to campus so that people in Blacksburg and Virginia Tech could experience diverse points of view."

Even students who could not get into her classes reached out to her—and she responded.

Christal Presley was one of them. As a student, she remem-

bers approaching Giovanni with her manuscript of a children's book in hand to ask for feedback. Giovanni invited Presley to her office and insisted that she call her "Nikki," rather than "Ms. Giovanni."

Shortly after that meeting, Presley received a typed page of feedback about her manuscript from Giovanni, along with the writer's home phone number.

"Call me anytime," Giovanni told her.

"She was the first writer who ever really told me I had talent and who I felt sincerely believed that," said Presley, who went on to publish a memoir about her father in 2012 for which Giovanni wrote an endorsement. "I was a nobody. I believed what she said about my writing, and that's one of the things that has carried me through the years, through a bunch of rejections."

Giovanni's presence has drawn aspiring student writers, such as Honora Ankong, to Virginia Tech. Ankong completed the university's Master of Fine Arts program this past spring.

"She was part of the allure of Virginia Tech for me," said Ankong, who met Giovanni several times but never took a class with the writer. "I was able to be in community with this living legend."

Similarly, Giovanni was one of the reasons Rebecca Weaver-Hightower, professor and chair of the Department of English, accepted a position at Virginia Tech in 2020.

"You don't find such recognizable poets much anymore across the generations," said Weaver-Hightower, who remembers being "star struck" while having dinner with Giovanni and Fowler during

her campus visit. "Her work in poetry, in diversity, in social justice have made her name a household word and made her a model for aspiring poets, young women, and people of color, as well as others."

In 2005, Giovanni created a poetry competition named for its benefactor, the late Charles Steger, former Virginia Tech president. Later, the event was renamed the Giovanni-Steger Poetry Prize competition. The annual contest recognizes poetry by students of all disciplines and carries a large cash award.

Giovanni was named a University Distinguished Professor in 1999. The honor recognizes Virginia Tech faculty whose scholarly work attracts national and/or international recognition.

Her most challenging time at Virginia Tech came in April of 2007, when Giovanni was asked to speak at a campus convocation the day following the April 16 tragedy.

"I didn't know how it was going to be received," she said. "You just did what you had to do. It still brings tears to my eyes."

In her retirement, she said will miss talking with Virginia Tech students regularly.

"I do enjoy talking to sharper minds, and Tech has good minds," she said.

One of her goals, along with helping to mentor students, has been to teach them to dig deeper.

"I want my students to not accept what they are hearing, but to look and say 'what kind of sense does this make?' and 'what is going to be the end result?'" she said.

See GIOVANNI Page A6

Underground Railroad from A1

and horse and buggy rides. (Sept. 24–26, led by Harriet Tubman Museum and Educational Center)

- **"Beacon of Hope."** A new 12-foot bronze sculpture of Harriet Tubman, created by Wesley Wofford Sculpture Studio, will be dedicated at the Dorchester County Courthouse, a former site of slave auctions and a daring escape to freedom engineered by Tubman in the mid-1800s. The ceremony will take place during the annual Day of Resilience event. (September 10, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge)
- **"Birding on the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway."** Join Harriet Tubman Tours and Delmarva Birding Weekends for a guided, self-driven tour. Learn about the life and times of the famed freedom seeker and human rights activist

known as "The Moses of Her People," and experience some of the best birding and Bald Eagle watching on America's Eastern Seaboard. (September 14)

- **"Emancipation Celebration."** Celebrate Harriet Tubman's decision to self-liberate with programs and activities throughout the day. (Sept. 18, 2022 at the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park and Visitor Center, Church Creek)
- **"The Underground Railroad: Freedom Seekers on the B&O Railroad."** A new immersive multimedia exhibit examines the role of the physical railroad in the Underground Railroad network and gives an intimate look at the lives and journeys of 27 individuals who sought freedom from slavery along the B&O. (Sept. 24, free reservations required for timed entry, B&O Railroad Museum, Baltimore)
- **"Joseph Holston: Color in Freedom,"**

Journey along the Underground Railroad. Noted contemporary artist Joseph Holston brings his graphic power and vision to creating a powerful imagined journey along the Underground Railroad. More than 50 paintings, etchings, and drawings evoke the courage and tenacity of enslaved peoples struggling toward freedom. (Opens Sept. 24, Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, Hagerstown)

To plan your journey along the Underground Railroad Month and to learn more, visit <https://www.visitmaryland.org/UGRR>.

To learn more about the Tubman Byway, download the audio guide complete with new AR/VR experiences, or request a free copy of the byway map and guide. Share your travel highlights on social media using the hashtag #MDinFocus and #Tubman200.

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Younger Widow Asks About Collecting Survivor Benefits

By RUSSELL GLOOR,
National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the
Association of Mature American Citizens

Dear Rusty: My husband died several years ago in 2019. It is my understanding that I should be receiving some portion of his Social Security payments. However, when I called to notify Social Security that he passed, they told me not to touch his last check because it would be taken back. I was 8 years younger than my husband, so I am still only 58. I also have always made more income than he did. How do I find out if there is some sort of residual that I should still be receiving? **Signed: Widowed Wife**

Dear Widowed Wife: The reason you were told “not to touch” your husband’s last check is because benefits are not payable for the month a person dies. Social Security pays benefits in the month following the month they are earned, so someone who dies before the month ends isn’t entitled to benefits for that month. Social Security will, indeed, take that payment back. As a survivor, you aren’t entitled to those benefits because they were awarded to your deceased husband and will be taken back because he didn’t live the full month.

As for any benefits you are entitled to as your husband’s survivor, you cannot collect a monthly survivor benefit until you are at least 60 years old (unless you are disabled, in which case you can collect as early as age 50). Sixty is the earliest age to collect survivor benefits, but claimed at age 60 the survivor benefit will be reduced by 28.5% from what it would be at your full retirement age (FRA) of 67. Survivor benefits reach maximum at your FRA, but taken any earlier will be reduced by .396% per month early, to a maximum reduction of 28.5%. You are, however, entitled to a one-time lump sum death benefit of \$255, for which you can contact Social Security at 1.800.772.1213 (or at your local SS office).

You should also be aware that taking any monthly SS benefit before reaching your full retirement age of 67 will subject you to Social Security’s “earnings test,” which limits how much you can earn before they take back some (or all) of your benefits. The earnings limit changes annually but for 2022 the limit is \$19,560 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 over the limit (they “take back” by

withholding future benefit payments or requiring you to repay in a lump sum). If you’re working full time and earning substantially more than the annual earnings limit, it’s usually not prudent (and may not even be possible) to claim your monthly survivor benefit before your full retirement age.

From what you’ve shared, it doesn’t appear that you are currently entitled to any Social Security survivor benefit, other than the one-time death benefit of \$255. You may consider claiming a survivor benefit when you are sixty, but your work status and earnings level may restrict or eliminate your ability to collect a monthly survivor benefit at that time. Once you reach your FRA, however, the earnings test no longer applies, and you can apply for any benefit available to you. When the earnings test goes away at your FRA, you can also choose to take your smaller survivor benefit first and let your personal SS retirement benefit grow, to maximum at age 70 if you wish.

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 ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Maryland Recognizes Clean Energy Week 2022

By PRESS OFFICER
National Clean Energy Week

(Sept. 1, 2022)—In recognition of the sixth annual National Clean Energy Week (NCEW), Governor Larry Hogan issued a proclamation celebrating September 26–30, 2022, as Clean Energy Week in the state of Maryland.

In his proclamation, Governor Hogan recognized the growing importance of clean energy—noting Maryland’s only nuclear power plant accounts for more than 40 percent of the state’s utility-scale electricity generation. Last year, Governor Hogan joined more than half of the nation’s governors in issuing proclamations to recognize NCEW in their respective states.

“We thank Governor Larry Hogan for joining us in celebrating National Clean Energy Week,” said Heather Reams, chair of NCEW and president of Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions (CRES). “Across the country, the cost of living continues to rise. It is critical that we take a hard look at the solutions clean energy technologies provide to address America’s most pressing environmental, economic, and national security needs. The sixth annual NCEW and Policy Makers Symposium connects government officials from both sides of the aisle as well as top industry leaders, researchers, investors, and advocates to discuss how we can make the prospect of a clean energy future a reality, not only in Maryland but throughout the country.”

“Maryland must harness the power of en-

trepreneurs and small businesses and broader private sector to assert energy leadership in the global marketplace and assure low-cost, reliable and resilient energy for our citizens and communities,” said Governor Hogan in his 2022 proclamation. “As America celebrates National Clean Energy Week, I encourage all individuals and organizations in Maryland to support common sense solutions that address the nation’s economic and energy needs in the 21st century.”

NCEW began in 2017 as a bipartisan forum to bring together clean energy leaders and advocates across America. Through engaging programming such as the Policy Makers Symposium, the weeklong virtual event celebrates the critical role that clean energy plays in reducing greenhouse gas emissions while simultaneously bolstering the nation’s economy and energy independence.

For more information about NCEW, including sponsorship opportunities, remote and in-person events, and registration for the Policy Makers Symposium, visit the NCEW website at <https://nationalcleanenergyweek.org>.

National Clean Energy Week (NCEW), described by POLITICO as “a veritable who’s who of the Clean Energy World,” is an annual awareness week to recognize the value of clean energy including abundant job opportunities, economic growth, energy independence, consumer choice, lower energy prices, and a cleaner environment. Twitter (@NCEWConf) and Facebook (NationalCleanEnergyWeek).

Future of Prince George’s County Content+Cocktails
Exploring the Latest CRE Opportunities in National Harbor, Largo Town Center, Hyattsville & More
October 13, 2022 • 4:00 p.m. • \$119.00
Register: <https://www.bisnow.com/events/washington-dc/neighborhood/future-of-prince-georges-county-content-cocktails-7545>
The College Park Marriott Hotel & Conference Center, 3501 University Blvd E, Hyattsville, MD, 20783, Ballroom: Patuxent Room, Located on the main level of the Conference Center
Presented by Prince George’s County Economic Development Council and United Bank

Increase Your Home’s Value

5 practical upgrades to increase style, function

FAMILY FEATURES

Whether you’ve purchased a new house or are just looking to invest in what is likely your largest asset, home improvements can make your living space more comfortable, functional and stylish.

Homebuyers are looking for practical home amenities that allow them to live, work and play – such as dedicated home offices, backyard retreats, home gyms and more – without having to worry about any potential future restrictions caused by the pandemic, according to a survey by Zolo of more than 3,300 new homeowners and potential first-time buyers in 2022.

Consider these popular upgrade ideas to create a space built for your family’s needs that can also increase resale value down the line.

Home Office

At the height of the pandemic, many professionals found themselves working remotely – a trend that continued as restrictions were lifted. In fact, 46% of survey respondents listed a dedicated office space as a must-have when purchasing a new home. When creating this space, keep function and efficiency top of mind. Build your home office around a desk – either standing or traditional – then consider additions like an ergonomic chair and keyboard, soft light desk lamp, mood-boosting plants and a white board to stay organized. Don’t forget to add flairs of personality like artwork, knick-knacks or photos of loved ones to make it your own.



Skylights

By improving the overall look and functionality of dark spaces, such as home offices where natural light can improve creativity and productivity, an option like skylights can increase the value of a home, and 55% of new homebuyers rated skylights as desirable or essential, according to research from the National Association of Home Builders. For rooms that need brightening, skylights can free up wall space for storage while adding abundant natural light and increasing ventilation. An option like Velux No Leak Solar-Powered Fresh Air Skylights help rid indoor air of bacteria, volatile organic compounds and carbon dioxide.

Over the long-term, high-quality skylights can also help reduce carbon emissions and home energy consumption, saving money on household bills, according to Urban Grade. Remote-controlled models can be opened to bring fresh air inside, and with light-filtering or room-darkening shades homeowners have maximum control over the exact amount of light they want. Plus, solar-powered shades come in more than 75 colors and patterns, allowing homeowners nearly endless customization options. Learn more at whyskylights.com.

Backyard Retreat

Perfect for hosting friends, dining al fresco or simply relaxing with the backdrop of nature, 48% of survey respondents cited a backyard retreat as a must-have home amenity. Start with a deck or patio then customize your

outdoor living space to meet your family’s wants and needs. Weather-proof furniture can add comfort while features like outdoor kitchens, fireplaces, fans and lighting can create a connection to your indoor areas that add both style and function.

Walk-In Pantry

If you want to add a pantry in your kitchen, you’re not alone. Walk-in pantries found their way onto 48% of respondents’ lists of must-haves. To get started, consider your storage needs to determine the amount of space you’ll require and remember to vary shelving heights to maximize space. Open shelving can also be combined with additional counter space, cabinets, pull-out organizers and other features to help match the design to the rest of your kitchen.

Home Gym

Another trend that rose in popularity amid the pandemic, home gyms can take on a variety of shapes and sizes, utilizing available space in the garage, basement, a spare bedroom or even the backyard. Providing more time to fit workouts into your schedule, home gyms can be customized with equipment most important for your lifestyle. From yoga mats, jump ropes and free weights to treadmills, ellipticals and benches and racks, your space, budget and goals can help in the creation or update of a dedicated, in-home workout space.



