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Several Maryland Democrats Expected to Vie to Replace Cardin

By IAN DECKER
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON (May 3, 2023)—With long-serving Maryland Sen. Ben Cardin announcing his retirement Monday, Democrats are likely to see a primary fight next year to replace him.

So far, one Democrat—Montgomery County Councilmember Will Jawando—has announced his candidacy to replace Cardin, which most political observers consider a safe Democratic seat.

Other potential Democratic candidates are Maryland Reps. Jamie Raskin and David Trone, Prince George's County Exec-

utive Angela Alsobrooks and Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski.

A Republican who could have made the general election contest more competitive—former Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan—told “The Hill on NewsNation” Tuesday he would not run for the Senate, explaining “it’s just not something I ever aspired to do.”

Cardin, 79, has served as senator since 2006. Before that, he represented Maryland’s 3rd Congressional District in the House and was the speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates.

“I am proud of all I have done for Maryland,” Cardin

said. “I have given my heart and soul to our great state, and I thank Marylanders for trusting me as your representative for all these years.”

Jawando, an attorney and author who served as an adviser to former Education Secretary Arne Duncan, announced his intention to run for Cardin’s seat in a video released Tuesday.

Jawando has focused on lowering rents, tackling racial justice issues and building affordable housing in Montgomery County. He said he’s running for Cardin’s seat because “I believe we can build a shared prosperity in Maryland that lifts everyone up.”

Jawando faces an uphill bat-

tle, especially if other high-profile candidates decide to enter the race.

“Very slim chance,” John Dedie, a political science professor at the Community College of Baltimore County, told Capital News Service. “He is known in Montgomery County and nowhere else.”

Dedie was more bullish on Alsobrooks.

Dedie pointed to Alsobrooks’ experience at the local government level, saying that her work in PG County gives her insight into challenges such as infrastructure and transportation.

See REPLACE Page A4

M-NCPPC Seeks Community Input on the US Route 1 Land Redevelopment Study

By CALISTA BLACK

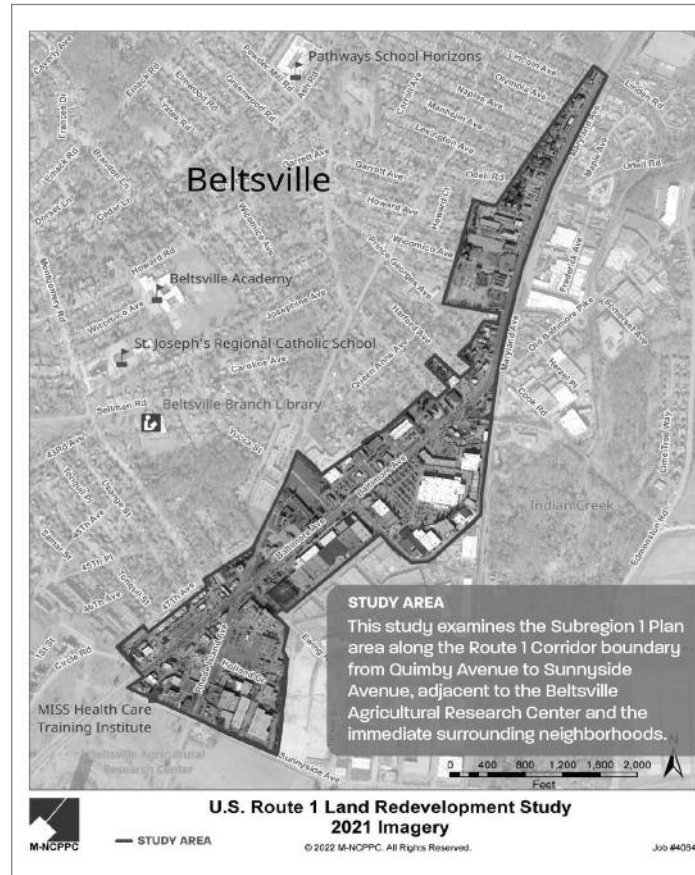
Prince George's County Planning Board, M-NCPPC

The Prince George's County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) will host a Community Stakeholder Workshop and Open House for the U.S. Route 1 Land Redevelopment Study on Saturday, June 3, 2023, at the Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville, Maryland to explore possible strategies for a more walkable, connected, and thriving corridor. Residents, business leaders, and other stakeholders will participate in an interactive workshop from 9:45 a.m.–1 p.m. to learn about findings from previous community engagement sessions, hear examples of successful case studies from across the country, and provide feedback to guide recommendations for future development along the Route 1 Corridor study area. M-NCPPC will offer an open house from 9–9:45 a.m. where planners and consultants will be available to answer questions on the study.

The U.S. Route 1 Land Redevelopment Study examines the 2010 Approved Master Plan and Sectional Map Amendment for Subregion 1 and the area along the Route 1 Corridor boundary from Quimby Avenue to Sunnyside Avenue, adjacent to the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and the immediate surrounding neighborhoods. Through collaboration, the community will help create recommendations for future development that will align with the approved master plan and sectional map amendment, improve the coordination among the commercial and industrial uses with the surrounding neighborhoods, enhance the visual appearance of the area, and ensure a pedestrian-friendly environment.

Interested participants should register online for the workshop in advance via <https://pgplan.org/Route1workshop>. For additional

details on the study and to share input via the online survey, visit the Prince George's County Planning Department's website: <https://pgplan.org/Rte1LRStudy>.



Paul Monteiro Begins Making Moore's Vision for a Service Year a Reality in Maryland

By KARA THOMPSON
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (May 3, 2023)—Just a few days after being sworn in as secretary of the Department of Civic and Service Innovation, Paul Monteiro was working Friday to get the service year program—passed by the Maryland General Assembly as the SERVE Act, and a new vision from the governor—established and operational by this October.

The Serving Every Region Through Vocational Exploration Act of 2023—its formal name—has been a priority of Democratic Gov. Wes Moore since the start of his term; he created the new department on his first full day in office. But it wasn't until

he named Monteiro on April 3—just a week shy of the end of the MGA session—as the head of the department that things could really start.

“The governor’s an ambitious guy, and that’s part of the appeal of the job, really,” Monteiro told Capital News Service. “You don’t often see government move this fast. “This is very much: The need is there, the support is there, and the demand is there, so we just have to quickly put these things together.”

Creating the union of the need, support and demand is something that Monteiro is looking forward to tackling.

With a deadline looming just five months away, there is no time to waste. The program will be open to recent high school

graduates, and will place them in service roles throughout the state as an alternative to attending college or starting a career. Those who participate will not only be paid \$15 an hour for their work (with a minimum of 30 hours a week), but will also receive mentorship and job training during their time serving. The first cohort of participants is slated to be 250, but then grow to 500 students the second year of the program, around 1,100 the third year, and peak in the fourth year at 2,000, which will be the number of students in the program for every year thereafter.

“In this early phase, it’s going to be standing up the team, hiring a core team of folks at the new agency, in addition to the great folks we’ve inherited (from the

State Service Commission),” Monteiro said of the first steps in creating the program. “Also standing up a website, setting up an application portal for the service year option in Maryland core, standing up office space—everything’s new.”

Though time is of the essence, organizations have already indicated their interest in being a part of the service program.

“I’ve already been so pleased with the response to the governor’s call,” Monteiro said. “A number of nonprofits and businesses and public offices in the state have said they want to be a part of this. They want to be a destination for folks serving in the first cohort.”

He also said he’d like to en-

sure that eligible students have a say in how the program is designed, too.

Monteiro said he wants to assure the students have opportunities to provide input on “how do we build this in a way where you and your peers would feel agency, would feel like this is something I can choose my own adventure, I can make my own way?” Monteiro said. “How do we design it so it’s something that you don’t feel is foisted on you, but is something you get to tap into to bring out and tap into whatever purpose you might have or what might light a spark in you?”

To do this, Monteiro is looking not just to school superintendents, but to elected student leaders and student councils to share their input on what type of program they would like to participate in.

Before his new secretary position, Monteiro served in the US

Department of Justice as director of Community Relations Service. He also was national director of AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America, appointed by former President Barack Obama, and before that was an associate director in the Obama White House Office of Public Engagement. Monteiro also served on Obama’s 2008 presidential campaign, and held a position as an at-large member of the Prince George’s County Public Schools Board of Education.

“Paul is a public servant who has spent his life giving back to our communities,” said Moore in a statement about the appointment. “Throughout his career, he has earned a reputation as not only someone who knows how to lead, but as someone who knows how to listen. The Department of Service and Civic

Engagement will be a place where we can learn from each other and work together to make a difference in our community.”

See SERVICE YEAR Page A4



Council Member Wanika Fisher Headlines Library's Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Events

By NICHOLAS BROWN

Prince George's County Memorial Library System

LARGO, Md. (May 4, 2023)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) celebrates Asian Pacific American (APA) Heritage with a series of special events for all ages this May. Programs include dual language and APA heritage storytimes for children, a performance by the Washington Toho Koto Society, literature discussions, craftersnoon events, and film screenings.

The keynote event features Prince George's County Council Member Wanika Fisher (District 2) and Cheverly City Council Member Amy Jean Chung Fry (Ward 6) who will discuss “Asian Pacific American Political Identities in Prince George's County” at the Hyattsville Branch Library on Wednesday, **May 10 at 6:30 p.m.** Council Member Fisher's election in 2022 was a historic occasion in local government, marking the first time an individual of South Asian heritage would serve on the Prince George's County Council. Her mother's family is from India (by way of South Africa) and her father is Yoruba Nigerian. Council Member Chung Fry is Co-Founder and President of the Asian American and Pacific Islander Democratic Club of Prince George's County, and she is a second-generation Korean American.

The APA Heritage Month series also includes special virtual events in collaboration with partner organizations the Smithson-

ian Institution's National Museum of Asian Art, Prince George's County Office of Human Rights (PGCOHR), and the University of Maryland Center for Literary and Comparative Studies. On May 18 at 6 p.m., the National Museum of Asian Art presents an online tour of Iranian post-revolutionary women's photography from their collections. Attendees will discover nuanced and compelling stories of Iran through the contemporary lenses of Hengameh Golestan, Newsha Tavakolian, Shadi Ghadirian, Malekeh Nayiny, Gohar Dashti, and Mitra Tabrizian. On May 22 at 7 p.m., PGCOHR convenes a celebration of Asian American women in business. The Library, PGCOHR, and the University of Maryland Center for Literary and Comparative Studies host the final Prince George's County Reads discussion event on Rabia Chaudry's “Fatty Fatty Boom Boom” on May 25 at 7 p.m.

Prince George's County is home to a thriving community of Asian Pacific Americans, including over 40,000 Asian Americans, 2,000 Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (2020 U.S. Census), and a large Filipino community. Asian Pacific American Heritage Month has been recognized nationally since 1990, with official week-long celebrations dating back to 1979.

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Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Recipient Speaker

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ChildWatch: Remembering the Children's Crusade

On this 60th anniversary of the Birmingham Children's Crusade it is again time to remember, honor, and follow the example of the children who were frontline soldiers and transforming catalysts in the movement for civil rights and equal justice...

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

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

Morningsiders reelect incumbents Wade and Mullins

Morningside's Election on May 1 was unusually quiet. The only candidates were two popular incumbents. And there were no write-ins (that's unusual). Despite the lack of controversy, 50 faithful voters turned out—Todd Mullins received 43 votes, Bradley Wade, 36.

They'll be sworn in Monday, May 15, time TBA.

Vice-Mayor Bradley Wade

Bradley Wade, who currently serves as Vice-Mayor, moved to Morningside in 1987 when he was 10 years old. He enjoyed the Town activities and is now serving his 5th term on the Council. In his Council position, he works on the operation of the Town, with the annual budget, State training, recreation, and Public Works. He meets regularly with an elected State official.

He will continue to work with the Mayor and Council to help the Town thrive with new opportunities. As he wrote in his bio, "I share the love of the Town with my wife Amy and our four daughters."

Council Member Todd Mullins

Todd Eugene Mullins moved to Morningside in 2008 and soon became involved in the Town. He has served on the Town Council since 2012 and is in charge of overseeing matters involving Morningside's streets and sidewalks. He is currently partnering with the Morningside Fire Department and both County and State governments, to get speed cameras back on Suitland Road.

He is employed with Metro Earth Works as a driver and maintains a lawn-care business in the Town and surrounding communities. He adds, "I happily work extremely hard for the Town and its residents."

Town of Morningside: 4th of July

The 4th is less than two months off, and Morningside needs floats, school bands, majorettes, clowns, antique cars and trucks, VFW officers, marching musicians, politicians, kids on bikes, kids pushing lawn mowers, PTA officers, school music groups, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, fire engines, police cars, military marchers, and dozens of other participants, especially those who might throw candy. For information or to register, call 301-736-2300.

Spring Clean-Up 2023 is coming up the weekend of May 13-14. There'll be roll-off containers for household and yard waste and scrap metal drop off (maximum two loads per household).

There's going to be a raffle and—while supplies last—a free bag of mulch.

A Low-Cost Shot Clinic for dogs and cats will be there. Rabies, \$15; distemper/parvo, \$20; deworming, \$10; and Admin. Charge, \$3 per pet.

And finally, G. I. Liquors is still boarded up.

Ramona Britt, patent secretary

Ramona Hansley Britt, 90, formerly of Suitland and Laurel, died March 18 in Summerville, SC, after a brief illness. Survivors include her son Jimmy, grandson TJ, and great-grandchildren Chase, Desmond and Sierra. She was predeceased by her mother, Mary Hansley, sisters Barbara and Marilyn, son Stephen and granddaughter Nicole.

Ramona worked as a patent secretary at Cushman, Darby & Cushman in Washington. During her years locally, she was a member of the Democratic Club. During her Laurel years, she was active at the Laurel Senior Center. She had a passion for adventure, always on the go, even a call at the last minute, she said. "Never pass up an opportunity."

Services for Ramona were at Lee Funeral Home on March 31 with burial at Resurrection Cemetery. Thank you to Diane Cvitko for letting me know about Ramona.

Brian gets his Eagle

Brian Doyle is now an Eagle Scout. His project—a necessity for Eagles—was the refurbishing of the site of the Morningside Town Sign, and the addition of two new benches, at the Municipal Center last fall. The Eagle ceremony was held at the Youth Center in Cheltenham.

Brian is a senior at Gwynn Park High School, in Brandywine, and the son of Ellen Ashby-Colmain and Mark Doyle. His proud grandma, Morningside's Karen Rooker, gave me this good news.

Academia

Shaquan Bagot, of District Heights, graduated April 30 from the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford with a degree in Psychology.

I will be listing graduations and awards in future columns. Email muddmm@gmail.com with the graduate's name, school and plans for the future.

Changing Landscape

Members of the Prince George's County Beautification Committee joined County officials, volunteers, staff and students at Francis Scott Key Elementary

School, in District Heights, in planting 23 native trees and shrubs on the school grounds April 28, in honor of Arbor Day.

A site on the National Mall has been approved for a memorial dedicated to journalists who've died while reporting the news and to the role of the free press in a democracy. The Fallen Journalists Memorial will be located between the National Museum of the American Indian and the Voice of America building, bordered by Independence Avenue, Maryland Avenue, and Third Street SW.

Bed Bath & Beyond declared bankruptcy on April 23. They have announced plans to close all of its 360 stores.

A home at 6612 Woodland Road, in Morningside, just sold for \$350,000.

Places to go and things to do

In celebration of Caribbean Heritage Month, Dion Parson & 21st Century Band will bring their special brand of Caribbean jazz to Harmony Hall Arts Center, in Fort Washington, June 3, 8 p.m. Are you ready for the sounds of reggae, calypso and steel pan? If so, Harmony Hall is at 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington. Tickets: \$35/adults; \$30/seniors and students. Purchase tickets through PARKS DIRECT.

Dr. Samuel A. Mudd House Museum is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sundays at 3725 Dr. Samuel Mudd Road in Waldorf. Admission is \$10 for the house and farm tour. Info: 301-645-6870.

Yes, Sam Mudd is my great-grandfather. I am his oldest surviving great-grandchild and I'm gratified that my great-grandparents' home is so lovingly cared for.

How's your Wordle going?

I've now played 430 Wordles and I have to admit that 179 of them are 4's. But I want to boast that 16 are 2's. And you?

Milestones

Happy birthday to my very special next-door neighbor John Smith, May 14; my granddaughter Naomi Gallegos and Helen Fadness, May 15; Fr. Charles McCann, Kenneth Darcey, Tim Cordero and Kitty Marshall, May 16; Mary Desmarais, May 17; Morningside Mayor Benn Cann and Patti Parco Grey, May 18.

Happy anniversary to Donna & Wayne Anderson on May 14.

If you'd like me to post a birthday or anniversary, email muddmm@gmail.com.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

It has been more than four decades since the uniting of two churches, John Wesley United Methodist Church organized in 1867, located in Aquasco Maryland, and St. Thomas United Methodist Church, organized in 1868, located in Baden, Maryland to form what is now known as Christ United Methodist Church. The two churches operated as one charge known as "The Woodville Charge" for a total of 106 years (1867-1973), tying two churches together yet separate of each other until the birth of Christ United Methodist Church in 1973.

Our history has been one of the major building blocks that have helped to shape us into the strong dedicated Christians that we are today. Minutes of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church and other references show that people of color in the Baden-Aquasco areas worshiped in congregations with whites as far back as 1816 at what was then known as the Smith Meeting House, which was located between Horsehead and Aquasco. However, the issue of slavery divided the Methodist Church and around 1840, the congregation at Smith Meeting House decided to move. Members living north of the meeting house moved the Horsehead area becoming what was known as Emory Chapel. This Chapel believed in slavery and went on to become part of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. Other members moved south to the Aquasco area where people of color were welcomed in their congregation.

In time, the colored (black) worshipers who had attended the original Smith Meeting House Chapel began to seek a place of worship on their own. White landowners sold and donated land to the Black community with the understanding that a house of worship would be erected for members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In the late 1800s the first buildings of these churches were erected. Under the supervision of the Freedmen's Bureau, public schools were opened using the churches' facilities as the schools. Later, additional land was donated to the Black community to further the growth and operation of the churches and separate schoolhouses were built for the same purpose. Our present church and fellowship hall were later built in 1961 and 1955, respectively.

It was soon realized there was a need to house the minister and his family. The churches purchased more land in Aquasco for the building of the parsonage around the turn of the 20th

century. In the late 1960s, a new parsonage was built in Baden on land donated by the St. Thomas congregation.

It was soon realized there was a need to house the minister and his family. The churches purchased more land in Aquasco for the building of the parsonage around the turn of the 20th century. In the late 1960s, a new parsonage was built in Baden on land donated by the St. Thomas congregation.

Early records indicate that both churches on the Woodville Charge had a young adult club. The clubs were organized around 1930 under Rev. C. E.O. Smallwood and continued functioning through the late 1930s. The name of the young adult club representing St. Thomas was the Golden Leaf and John Wesley's was named the Progressive Club. It is worth noting the Golden Leaf Club paid monthly dues of five cents per member and made donations to the Trustees to assist in paying the note on the Social Hall and to purchase coal for heat. They further made donations to an organization to help missionaries. Social events such as picnics, song services and bazaars were held. A highlight of being a member of these clubs to participate in debate teams. Debates went on between these two churches and with other churches as far away as Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Other area churches that had active young people's clubs often invited the Woodville Charge to participate during their event or activity. At the time of this writing, the Progressive Club of John Wesley Church is still being researched on its activities.

Early records indicate that the members of the Woodville Charge were inspired by these great pastors: Reverends G.T. Pinckney (1873—), George H. Booze (1897-1899), Elizabeth Ayers (1899-1901), A.H Tighman (1901-1905), George W. Cohen (1905-1908), Richard H. Adams (1908-1911), Robert F. Coates (1911-1922), Rufus R. Reid (1922-1929), C.E.O. Smallwood (1929-1938), Joseph N. Yearwood (1938-1947), Ernest F. Johnson, Sr. (1947-1966), and Charles A. Johnson, II (1966-1974).

The two churches, St. Thomas, and John Wesley, wanted to do more for the up building of the Kingdom of God. Therefore, under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Charles A. Johnson, II, a dream of merging the two churches began to take root. (I will finish writing about Christ United Methodist Church History in my next article dated May 25, 2023).

Events from A1

The month recognizes and celebrates the diverse Asian and Pacific Islander cultures present in the United States, including cultures from the Asian continent and Native and Indigenous peoples of the Pacific islands.

The Library's Asian Pacific American Heritage Hub highlights videos, documentaries, music playlists, online exhibits, and recommended reads (for all ages) that can help Prince Georgians develop a deeper understanding of the Asian Pacific American diasporas in the United States. Visit pgcmis.info/asian-pacific-american-heritage to learn more.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Events

- Wednesday, May 10, 6:30-7:30 p.m.: Asian Pacific American Political Identities in Prince George's County (Hyattsville) - Adults, Teens
- Thursday, May 11, 2-5 p.m.: Film Screening & Discussion: "Everything Everywhere All at Once" - Rated R (Beltsville) - Adults
- Tuesday, May 16, 6-7 p.m.: Craft and Create: Sip and Paint (Accokeek) - Adults
- Tuesday, May 16, 6:30-8 p.m.: Book Discussion: "My Life: Growing Up Asian in America" edited by Coalition of Asian Pacifics in Entertainment (Virtual) - Adults
- Wednesday, May 17, 4-5 p.m.: - Crafternoon: Celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage (Glenarden) - Ages 5-12
- Thursday, May 18, 10-10:30 a.m.: Asian Pacific American Heritage Ready 2 Read Storytime (David C. Harrington Community Park, Bladensburg) - Ages 3-5
- Thursday, May 18, 10:30-11:30 a.m.: Ready 2 Read STEM: Passport Through Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (Largo-Kettering) - Ages 0-5
- Thursday, May 18, 6-7 p.m.: My Iran: Six Women Photographers (Virtual) - Adults, Teens Co-presented with the National Museum of Asian Art
- Monday, May 22, 7-8 p.m.: Celebrating Asian American Women in Business (Virtual) - Adults Co-presented with Prince George's County Office of Human Rights
- Thursday, May 25, 7-8 p.m.: Prince George's County Reads Virtual Discussion: "Fatty Fatty Boom Boom" by Rabia Chaudry (Virtual) - Adults, Teens
- Saturday, May 27, 3-3:30 p.m.: Dual Language Ready 2 Read Storytime (New Carrollton) - Ages 3-5
- Tuesday, May 30, 5-6:30 p.m.: Family Movie Night: "Moana" - Rated PG (Glenarden) - All Ages

Request ADA accommodations at least 72 hours in advance by contacting Ask a Librarian at (240) 455-5451 or askalibrarian@pgcmis.info. Registration is required or recommended for select events. Visit pgcmis.info/events for more information.



Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County Announces Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration

By PRESS OFFICER

Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (May 2, 2023)—The M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County is excited to invite the public to celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. This year's event includes a collection of live performances and activities celebrating the diverse heritage and unique contributions of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in the United States.

Sat., May 13, 2023, 1-3 p.m.: FREE Concert and Reception, Harmony Hall Arts Center

Join us for an afternoon of celebration and education about the generations of Asian and Pacific Islanders who have enriched America's history and are instrumental in its future success. Featured artists include: Meki's Tamur Polynesian Dancers, Nriyaniketan Dancers, Washington Toho Koto Society Musicians, Japanese Calligraphy Workshop with Koto Maesaka, Bollywood Dance Workshop with SAPAN Institute, local Filipino Artisans: Kwento x Joy of Creating Good, and much more! Reception food provided by Chickboy DC (Filipino cuisine). FREE for all ages. RSVP via Eventbrite.

This program is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council (msac.org). For more information contact megan.merchant@pgparks.com or call 301-446-3238.

We believe that art—the creation of it and access to it—is a necessary component of a healthy community. Community Arts Services provides professional, affordable activities and services in dance, music, theater, and visual arts throughout Prince George's County. For more info visit arts.pgparks.com.

The M-NCPPC, 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. For more on the Department of Parks and Recreation, visit www.pgparks.com and stay connected on Facebook, Twitter, PhotoShelter, and Instagram. The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities in all programs and services. Register at least a minimum of two weeks in advance of the program start date to request and receive a disability accommodation.

The Prince George's Post
Proudly Serving
Prince George's County
Since 1932

COMMUNITY

PGCPS Continues to Lead the Way in Maryland Green School Certification

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (May 4, 2023)—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) continues to lead the state in Green School certification. PGCPS had the most schools applying for certification, the highest number of new Green Schools and tops all Maryland school districts in its total number of Green Schools.

This year, 12 schools earned first-time certification and 26 schools were recertified, raising the total number of Green Schools to 148—74 percent of all schools systemwide and approximately 23 percent of the 642 active Maryland Green Schools.

"Students and staff made a tremendous effort to put Prince George's County in the forefront as Maryland Green Schools," said Dr. Monica Goldson, Chief Executive Officer. "Their work is critical as we strive to meet goals outlined in our Climate Change Action Plan while empowering students to come up with creative strategies and work together."

Schools earning Maryland Green School certification for the first time include Barnaby Manor, Cooper Lane, James

McHenry, Oaklands, Springhill Lake and Tayac elementary schools; Beltsville Academy; College Park Academy Public Charter School; Frances R. Fuchs Early Childhood Center; Isaac J. Gourdine Middle School; James E. Duckworth Regional School; and Thomas G. Pullen Creative and Performing Arts School.

Schools must recertify every four years to maintain Green School status. Calverton Elementary achieved Sustainable status this year for maintaining certification for 14 consecutive years.

In addition, other schools earning recertification include:

- **High Schools**—Central, Frederick Douglass, DuVal, Eleanor Roosevelt and Parkdale
- **K-8/Middle Schools**—Buck Lodge, Cesar Chavez Dual Spanish Immersion School, Greenbelt, Kenmoor, Nicholas Orem, Samuel Ogle, Samuel P. Massie
- **Elementary Schools**—Beacon Heights, Francis Scott Key, Glenn Dale, High Bridge, Highland Park, John H. Bayne, Kingsford, Langley Park-McCormick, Longfields, Riverdale, Robert R. Gray, Thomas S. Stone
- **Public Charter Schools**—Chesapeake Math & IT Acad-

emy North Elementary School

Schools will be honored during the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education's (MAEOE) Annual Youth Summit on Thursday, May 18 at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis. Schools will also receive a Maryland Green School flag, statewide and local recognition and special gifts.

The Maryland Green Schools program, sponsored by MAEOE, is one of the most rigorous and comprehensive Green School certification programs in the nation. It encourages educational opportunities, increases environmental awareness and promotes environmental stewardship practices for students at all grade levels. Through a non-competitive application process, schools must demonstrate their green activities and culture in eight criteria areas.

The Williams S. Schmidt Outdoor Education Center has played a key role in growing the number of certifications by assisting schools with achieving and maintaining Green School status through modeling, educational programs, application guidance and support.

For more information about the Green School Program, visit the MAEOE website.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Recipient Speaker

A Full Circle Speaker sharing her compelling testimony of how receiving an Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift at 14 years old changed her life and how now she is giving back to other children.

By RAYNELL JETT-AKA
Operation Christmas Child

The Prince George's County Area Team of Operation Christmas Child (OCC) extends an open invitation to the public, OCC Project Leaders, donors and volunteers to join us in hearing the testimony of our Full Circle Speaker, Ms. Kimheang Vance from Cambodia on Friday, **May 19, 2023** at 7 p.m. at Berwyn Baptist Church, 4720 Cherokee Street, College Park, MD 20740. If you would like to learn more about this Full Circle Speaker event and the ministry of Operation Christmas Child, please contact Ms. Raynell Jett-Aka, Area Coordinator at princegeorgescounty.occ@gmail.com.



Kimheang Vance
Country of Origin: Cambodia

PGCPS Educators Finalists for Washington Post Awards

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (May 3, 2023)—Fort Foote Elementary Principal Dr. Ryan Daniel and Robert Goddard Montessori teacher Karuna Skariah represented Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) as finalists for The Washington Post Principal of the Year and Teacher of the Year awards, respectively.

"Dr. Daniel and Ms. Skariah are shining examples of our world class educators and school leaders who are the standard for excellence," said Dr. Monica Goldson, Chief Executive Officer. "They truly deserve recognition as among the top leaders and educators in our region."

Dr. Ryan Daniel

Dr. Daniel joined PGCPS in 2007 as a classroom teacher and information technology coordinator at Forest Heights Elementary School in Oxon Hill. She has also served as a math resource teacher, lead teacher, mentor teacher, assistant principal and principal of Chillum Elementary School.

"Dr. Daniel is highly respected among her district peers and works diligently to facilitate a vision for excellence," said Dr. Sheena Hardy, PGCPS Instructional Director. "She nurtures and sustains a culture of equity, professional growth and high expectations."

Beyond her school community, Dr. Daniel is President of the Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals and a Center for Diversity Leadership Senior Fellow for the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

Karuna Skariah

Skariah has taught gifted education at Robert Goddard Montessori School in Seabrook since 2000 and currently serves as Instructional Program Coordinator. In this role, she is a member of the principal's leadership team, provides professional development and classroom support and assists with monitoring schoolwide progress towards instructional goals.

"Ms. Skariah demonstrates strong leadership qualities through her contributions at local, state and national levels and is dedicated to ensuring equity

for all students," said Deatrice Womack, Robert Goddard Montessori Principal. "When testing students for giftedness, she tenaciously screens students of color, special needs and multilingual learners to ensure they are not overlooked by standardized cognitive tests."

Outside the classroom, Skariah, a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT), has mentored more than 35 NBCT candidates. She was a panelist for the U.S. Department of Education's (USDE) 2015 National Summit on Teacher Leadership and served as a member of the USDE delegation the following year at the International Summit on the Teaching Profession. Skariah was honored by the Maryland State Department of Education for achievements in gifted education and she is a past finalist for Prince George's County Teacher of the Year. Skariah is also a National Geographic Educator Certification Ambassador.

Winners are featured on The Washington Post website: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/public-relations/teacher-principal-awards/>.

Maryland Farm Bureau Announces 2023 Scholarship Winners

Winners are from Cordova, Ellicott City, Aquasco, Sykesville and Westover

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Farm Bureau®, Inc.

DAVIDSONVILLE, Md. (May 2, 2023)—Maryland Farm Bureau is proud to announce its scholarship recipients for 2023. Three scholarships were awarded to students pursuing academic degrees in food, agriculture and/or natural resources disciplines, and two scholarships were awarded to students pursuing degrees in other academic disciplines or are minor in food, agriculture and/or natural resources.

"Maryland Farm Bureau is excited to support our member families into the next generation," said Wayne Stafford, Maryland Farm Bureau president. "We know these students have the background and drive to contribute to their farming and overall communities one day."

The five scholarships, each valued at \$2,000, were awarded to Macy Cook of Cordova, Daniel Ding of Ellicott City, **Nithin Gudderra** of Aquasco, Ashlynn Kidwell of Sykesville, and Tawney Nelson of Westover.

Applicants were required to write an essay answering the following question: "How can Farm Bureau effectively support young farmers and

ranchers to successfully prepare for an ever-changing economy and increasing infrastructure challenges? Provide two examples, including one local program or initiative you have been a part of or been made aware of."

Recipients or their parents/guardians are members of Maryland Farm Bureau. Selection was made by a scholarship committee designated by Maryland Farm Bureau.

The scholarship awardee from Aquasco is:

- **Nithin Gudderra** of Prince George's County Farm Bureau is a high school senior at Oxon Hill High School. He will be a college freshman in the fall with plans to major in Agribusiness Management.

For more information about the scholarship program at Maryland Farm Bureau and within the county Farm Bureaus please visit www.mdfarmbureau.com/scholarships.

Maryland Farm Bureau®, Inc. is a 501(c)(5) federation that serves as the united voice of Maryland farm families. Our organizational strength comes from the active participation of over 9,500 individual and family members who belong to the state's 23 local county Farm Bureau organizations.

CITY OF GLENARDEN NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Mayor and Council of the City of Glenarden proposes to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2023, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 2.0%, from \$819,125,371 to \$835,497,803.
2. If City of Glenarden maintains the current tax rate of \$0.3338 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 2.0% resulting in \$54,651 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 \$ 0.3273, the constant yield tax rate.
4. The City of Glenarden is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The City of Glenarden proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$0.3338 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 2.0% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$54,651 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 7 pm on May 22, 2023, in person and virtual. The hearing is open to the public at James R. Cousins, Jr. Municipal Center, 8600 Glenarden Parkway, Glenarden, MD 20706. The public testimony is encouraged.

To participate via Zoom, check the city website at www.cityofglenarden.org.

Persons with questions regarding this Hearing may call the Acting Council Clerk, Robin Bailey-Walls at 301-322-1473 for further information.

Burger King Foundation Awards Prince George's Student \$10,000 Scholarship

By PRESS OFFICER
Carrols

LAUREL, Md. (May 2, 2023)—The Burger King Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the BURGER KING® brand, announced they awarded over \$4,500,000 in scholarships through the Burger King Foundation Scholarship program deserving high school students and BK employees throughout the US and Canada.

Local Judly-Hearty Agyingi was awarded a \$10,000 King Award Scholarship at a surprise event at the Burger King Restaurant at 14801 Baltimore Avenue in Laurel, where she is an employee of Carrols Restaurant Group, Inc., the largest franchisee of BURGER KING® restaurants in the United States.

All these scholarships are possible thanks to the support of Burger King Franchisees, Vendors and guests who support our Foundation through our in-restaurant fundraisers, sponsorships, and annual events. Without their support, none of this would be possible. In total, with support of local Burger King owners across the U.S. and Canada, the Burger King Foundation has awarded \$35 million in scholarships over the last decade.

Since 2012, Carrols has helped raise over \$5.5 million to support the Burger King Foundation, a non-profit organization that assists Burger King employees and their family members through educational scholarships and emergency relief grants.

The Burger King Foundation Scholarship program is the Burger King Foundation's flagship program, established to honor the legacy of the Burger King brand's co-founder James W. McLamore, whose commitment to philanthropy and education made him a pillar of community service throughout his lifetime. Scholarship recipients are selected based on their grade point average (GPA), commu-



PHOTO COURTESY CARROLS

Judly-Hearty Agyingi

nity service, financial need, and leadership/work experience.

For more information about the Burger King Foundation, please visit www.burgerkingfoundation.org. For more information about Burger King, please visit the Burger King brand website at www.bk.com or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

The Burger KingSM Foundation is a U.S. based 501(c)(3) public nonprofit that believes without education you limit your potential to be your own way. To learn more, visit www.burgerkingfoundation.org

Founded in 1954, the Burger King brand is the second largest fast food hamburger chain in the world. To learn more visit www.bk.com or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Carrols is one of the largest restaurant franchisees in North America. For more information, visit www.carrols.com.

COMMENTARY

Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Remembering the Children's Crusade

"Daddy," the boy said, "I don't want to disobey you, but I have made my pledge. If you try to keep me home, I will sneak off. If you think I deserve to be punished for that, I'll just have to take the punishment. For, you see, I'm not doing this only because I want to be free. I'm doing it also because I want freedom for you and Mama, and I want it to come before you die."

This teenage boy overheard talking to his father by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was one of hundreds of children and youths in Birmingham, Alabama who decided sixty years ago this week that they were determined to do whatever it took to stand up for freedom for their parents, elders, and themselves. They were assaulted by fire hoses and police dogs, went to jail by the hundreds, and finally broke the back of Jim Crow in the city known as "Bombing-ham." On this 60th anniversary of the Birmingham Children's Crusade it is again time to remember, honor, and follow the example of the children who were frontline soldiers and transforming catalysts in the movement for civil rights and equal justice.

The Children's Crusade happened at a critical time in the civil rights struggle in Birmingham. In April 1963 the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), together with the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights and its fearless leader

Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth, had started a desegregation campaign in the city. There were mass meetings, lunch counter sit-ins, nonviolent marches, and boycotts of Birmingham's segregated stores during the busy Easter shopping season. Dr. King was one of several hundred people arrested in the first weeks of the campaign when he was jailed for violating an anti-protest injunction on Good Friday, April 12, and four days later wrote his famous "Letter from Birmingham Jail." But as the days went on with little response from city leaders, a new tactic was raised: including more children and youths.

Young people didn't face some of the risks adults might, including losing breadwinning jobs, and college students had already proven to be extremely effective activists in cities across the South. But once it became clear that many of the children volunteering for meetings and training sessions in Birmingham were high school students or even younger, concerns were raised about whether allowing them to protest was too dangerous. Dr. King later described the decision this way: "Even though we realized that involving teenagers and high school students would bring down upon us a heavy fire of criticism, we felt that we needed this dramatic new dimension. Our people were demonstrating daily and going to jail in numbers, but we were still beating

our heads against the brick wall of the city officials' stubborn resolve to maintain the status quo. Our fight, if won, would benefit people of all ages. But most of all we were inspired with a desire to give to our young a true sense of their own stake in freedom and justice. We believed they would have the courage to respond to our call." Their response, he said, "exceeded our fondest dreams."

For the children May 2 was "D-Day." Black disc jockeys were key allies in encouraging and deploying their listeners, and class presidents, star athletes, and prom queens from local schools led the way as hundreds of children skipped class, gathered at the 16th Street Baptist Church, and marched into downtown Birmingham in groups of fifty, organized into lines two by two and singing freedom songs. More than a thousand students marched the first day, and hundreds were arrested. Segregationist police commissioner Bull Connor's overwhelmed force started using school buses to take the children to jail. But that first wave of children was only the beginning.

When hundreds more returned the next day, Bull Connor directed the police and fire department to begin using force on the child marchers. The decision surprised even those used to his meanness and brutality, but it was not enough to stop the marchers. The searing heartbreaking pictures of children being battered by powerful fire hoses and attacked by police dogs appeared on front pages around the country and world and helped turned the tide of public opinion in support of the fight for justice.

Marches and protests continued in Birmingham with children leading the way. As more were arrested and attacked others kept coming to take their place, leaving jails so overflowing some child prisoners were held at the city's fairground and in an open-air stockade where they were pelted by rain. On May 8 a temporary truce was called, and on May 10 an agreement was reached that released the jailed children and others on bond and paved the way for de-

segregation of Birmingham's public facilities.

Hateful segregationists in the city did not give in quietly. Within hours, the Gaston Motel where Dr. King and other SCLC leaders stayed and Dr. King's brother Reverend A.D. King's home were fire-bombed. Four months later, a bomb was placed under the steps of the 16th Street Baptist Church with a timer deliberately set to go off Sunday morning. The bomb exploded as children were in the church's basement preparing to lead Youth Sunday services, and fourteen-year-olds Addie Mae Collins, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley and 11-year-old Denise McNair were killed, with more than 20 others injured.

Months later, when an interviewer asked Dr. King how he felt after that bombing, he first described his despair at thinking if men could be that bestial maybe there really was no hope. But, he said, time eventually "buoyed me with the inspiration of another moment which I shall never forget: when I saw with my own eyes over three thousand young Negro boys and girls, totally unarmed, leave Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church to march to a prayer meeting—ready to pit nothing but the power of their bodies and souls against Bull Connor's police dogs, clubs, and fire hoses." He added: "I never will forget a moment in Birmingham when a white policeman accosted a little Negro girl, seven or eight years old, who was walking in a demonstration with her mother. 'What do you want?' the policeman asked her gruffly, and the little girl looked him straight in the eye and answered, 'Fee-dom.' She couldn't even pronounce it, but she knew. It was beautiful! Many times when I have been in sorely trying situations, the memory of that little one has come into my mind, and has buoyed me." The same example that buoyed Dr. King should still inspire us today.

—May 5, 2023

Statement on Passage of Diagnostic and Supplemental Imaging Legislation in Maryland

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (May 4, 2023)—Susan G. Komen®, the world's leading breast cancer organization, today issued the following statement on the passage of diagnostic and supplemental imaging legislation, which is a critical form of screening for some high-risk individuals and an important step in determining the need for a biopsy to rule out or confirm breast cancer. The legislation has been approved by the Maryland General Assembly and Senate and signed into law by Governor Wes Moore.

"We thank the Maryland legislature and Governor Moore for eliminating a key financial barrier to care so that anyone with a state-regulated health plan can now receive medically necessary diagnostic and supplemental im-

aging without any out-of-pocket expenses," said Molly Guthrie, Vice President of Policy and Advocacy at Susan G. Komen.

"We are grateful for Senator Pamela Beidle, Delegate Sample-Hughes and the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland, who championed this bill and made it easier for people of color to get the breast care they need. In the U.S., Black women are 40% more likely to die of breast cancer and breast cancer is the most common form of cancer among Latina women. Diagnostic and supplemental imaging is an essential tool for diagnosing breast cancer earlier when outcomes are significantly better. We can now better support at-risk communities because this bill has been signed into law."

Hoyer Statement on the Retirement of Senator Ben Cardin

WASHINGTON (May 3, 2023)—Today, Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) issued the following statement after Senator Ben Cardin announced that he will not run for re-election in 2024:

"My Friend Ben" was a great campaign slogan and, much more importantly for me, a reality in my life. Over the years—from our election to the General Assembly in 1966 to our service together in Congress from 1986 to today—he and his wife Myrna not only became the closest of friends but also two people whom I have greatly respected and loved.

Ben has maintained the same conviction, dedication, and humility that he displayed fifty-five years ago. In that time, we have celebrated victories, weathered challenges, and grown together as

public servants and as friends. Although Ben recently announced that he will not seek re-election to the U.S. Senate at the end of this term, I know that his service to Maryland and the country will endure long into the future.

Ben has an impressive list of accomplishments—one that is far too long to recount in full. He is one of the most talented legislators I have known, possessing a deep understanding of both the technical policy details of the legislation he sponsors and supports and the political dynamics necessary to advance them. From helping American small businesses survive the recent pandemic with the American Rescue Plan to expanding Marylanders and Americans' access to quality health care through the Affordable Care Act, Ben played an indispensable role

in enacting historic laws that will continue to make a positive impact for generations to come.

Serving with Ben on the U.S. Helsinki Commission for many years, I saw firsthand his work to protect human rights and to ensure that our foreign policy always reflects our American values—especially through his Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act. That policy remains a vital sanctioning tool for both America and our partners around the world.

Although Ben's service continues to make a difference around the world, it is felt most profoundly right here in Maryland. We enjoy a cleaner Chesapeake Bay because of his work on the environment, shorter commutes because of his efforts to develop transit and infrastructure, and so

much more because of his tireless advocacy on behalf of our state.

Ben has earned admiration not only for his long list of achievements but also for how he achieved them. Empowered by his sound judgment, strong character, devout Jewish faith and heritage, and genuine likeability, Ben always strives to build consensus among his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

"My Friend Ben" is the quintessential example of the very best public servant: high intellect, unquestioned integrity, a person of common sense, wisdom, and compassion; one who always seeks the best answer for his constituents, his state, and his country; a practitioner of decency, civility, and responsibility. All these traits will be sorely missed in the U.S. Senate and our national public square. I wish Ben and Myrna many, many happy days in the years ahead. They both have my thanks and the gratitude of our state and country.

Replace from A1

And based on her overwhelming victory in the county executive race, Dedie thought Alsobrooks could make the jump to senator.

"There's nothing like being a county executive in a highly, densely-populated area to help yourself," Dedie said of Alsobrooks. "She hasn't made political enemies that have caused any problems, so I think that she could become the natural favorite."

Alsobrooks also endorsed Gov. Wes Moore during his campaign, and he went on to win the county by almost 200,000 votes. Dedie thinks it's possible the governor returns the favor. Moore's en-

dorsement would cement Alsobrooks as a contender—other challengers might not want to anger the current governor by running against a candidate he supports.

Dedie also noted that in 1992, the 10-person Maryland congressional delegation featured five women. The delegation is currently all men, a fact that could be a strong argument in favor of Alsobrooks.

Raskin, who gained prominence when he led arguments in the impeachment trial against former President Donald Trump and recently announced his cancer is in remission, has not yet revealed his intentions.

Trone also has not announced but has been hiring staff in anticipation of a campaign, as has Alsobrooks, according to Politico.

However, Dedie pointed to Raskin's health as something that might worry voters, and he noted that should Trone run for the Senate, it would be difficult for Democrats to maintain their seat in the 6th Congressional District, which includes several conservative counties.

On the Republican side, Dedie suggested that Kathy Szeliga, who ran against Sen. Chris Van Hollen, D-Maryland, in 2016 and received 36 percent of the vote, might be someone to watch.

But in a party dominated by

Dan Cox, a staunch Trump supporter, it is unlikely that Maryland would select a moderate candidate to challenge for the open seat.

As such, Cardin and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-New York, maintained their confidence that Democrats would retain the seat. Marland hasn't elected a Republican senator since Charles Mathias in 1980.

Kyle Kondik, editor of Sabato's Crystal Ball at the University of Virginia's Center for Politics, agreed.

"...In a presidential year and in a federal election, we still think Democrats would be clearly favored to hold the seat," he wrote Tuesday.

Maryland's primary election will be May 14, 2024, and the general election is Nov. 5, 2024.

Of the 100 Senate seats, 34 will be contested next year. The Democrats are defending 20 of those 34 seats; the Republicans hold 11 seats and independents three seats.

The Democrats currently maintain a thin 51-49-seat margin

in the Senate (three independents caucus with the Democrats).

Besides Cardin, two other Democratic senators so far have announced their retirements: Diane Feinstein of California and Debbie Stabenow of Michigan. One Republican senator, Mike Braun of Indiana, has announced that he is running for governor.

Service Year from A1

Innovation will be the home of Maryland's legacy-defining service-year program, and it's going to be the place from which so many best practices in civic innovation will be launched. Paul will be a model for the young people who raise their hands and participate in Maryland's first-in-the-nation service-year program."

The service program will not only be legacy-defining for Maryland as a state, but for Moore himself, who has stressed the importance of service throughout his campaign and tenure in office. The pressure is on for Monteiro, who has to design and create this program, all in a short timespan.

"To me, it's a continuation of the work I was trying to do with the Justice Department,

but we're going upstream with this and we're saying listen, we will give pathways for you to discern what it is you want to do," Monteiro said. "We'll get you a mentor, we'll put you in an environment where you'll be developed professionally, get some soft skills and hard skills."

Both AmeriCorps and this new service program deal with the problem of "wasted human talent," according to Monteiro. Targeting those coming out of high school will be very beneficial in addressing where the needs are in a community and how the students can help.

Monteiro also said that having Moore as governor is a real asset in terms of developing the new service program.

"I have a governor and a lot of his senior staff that come out of the service world, so

they're going to have ideas, they're going to have suggestions, they're going to have network resources," he said. "What Cabinet secretary wouldn't want the boss, like, cheer-leading for the thing? I welcome having input from him and the senior team because he's clearly the chief executive of the state, and he comes with a bunch of experiences."

Monteiro wants accessibility and representation for the new department and program.

"Our real mission is going to be building a corps that looks like this state, and at all points recognizing service is something that has a place for everyone and working accordingly," he said. "We're just looking forward to building an agency that has a seat at the table for everybody."

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Caring for Life Gala Raises More Than \$550,000

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (May 2, 2022)—It was an evening of elegance matched by inspirational moments of generosity when Hospice of the Chesapeake held its Caring for Life Gala April 22 in The Hall at Live! Casino & Hotel Maryland in Hanover, Maryland. The event brought in more than \$550,000 that will support the organization's hospice, supportive and grief care programs and services provided to patients and families in Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles and Prince George's counties.

Guests enjoyed an evening that included dinner, dancing, live and silent auctions and musical entertainment by The Reagan Years. During the event, guests watched a video featuring Joyce Phillip, Hospice of the Chesapeake Board Member and a longtime friend of the organization. She shared how her grandmother's death led her to a personal mission to ensure people understand and choose how they experience living with advanced illness and end of life. This video can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/820562026>.

The organization is the largest independent nonprofit hospice provider in the state of Maryland. It is grateful for the generous support of its many sponsors, including Diamond Sponsor, The Wilburn Company; Platinum Sponsor, Greenberg Gibbons Commercial; Gold Sponsors, The Jim and Linda Humphrey Foundation; Dr. Paul Davies Family Foundation; The Michael Stanley Foundation; Maryland Oncology Hematology; Nancy Smit and Julien Hecht; Kaiser Permanente and The Geaton & JoAnn DeCesaris Family Foundation; and Silver Sponsors, Constellation Power; #makingadifference Fund; Clifton and Jessie Syms; The Baldwin Corporation; HM2 Buck for Hope Foundation; John and Cathy Belcher; John and Terri Hussman; Michael & Tammy Hofmann in honor of Stephen and Challie Samaras; Mission Escape Rooms | Tap 99; RH Fewster; Tech USA; University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center and University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center.

For more than 40 years, Hospice of the Chesapeake has been caring for life throughout the journey with illness and loss. For more information, please visit www.hospicechesapeake.org.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)/ Prince George's County Appoints Yolanda Johnson as Executive Director

Johnson brings extensive experience in child welfare, juvenile justice and community engagement to further CASA's mission to give a voice to the foster youth of Prince George's County.

By PRESS OFFICER
CASA

RIVERDALE, Md. (May 2, 2023)—Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)/Prince George's County is pleased to announce the appointment of Yolanda Johnson as the organization's next executive director, effective May 8, 2023.

Ms. Johnson is a seasoned leader with in-depth knowledge of Maryland's systems and services for children and young people, and a background in nonprofit leadership, civic and community engagement, education and training. She was most recently the senior director of Community Initiatives for Street Law, Inc., a global nonprofit designed to advance civic and legal education to empower all people to positively transform their world. Through multi-sector partnerships with criminal justice, child welfare, corporate, and education, Yolanda successfully scaled a national civic and legal education program to advance justice for youth and adult populations most vulnerable to injustice, including survivors of trafficking and domestic violence.

Prior to Street Law, Ms. Johnson spent 12 years at the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), where she held roles as a case management specialist supervisor in Montgomery County, and As-

sistant Regional Director in Baltimore City.

"We are excited to have a leader with Yolanda's background and particular strengths in areas that are critical to CASA's success as we continue to support young people and families during extremely challenging times," said Bruce Edwards, President of the Executive Board of Directors for CASA/Prince George's County. "A passionate youth advocate herself, Yolanda has dedicated her career to improving lives and outcomes for vulnerable groups. We know her contributions will continue to build on the good work our partners throughout the community have come to expect from us, and that our young people deserve."

Yolanda succeeds Ann Marie Binsner, who led the organization for more than 20 years prior to her departure in late 2022.

"I've been very familiar with the work of the organization over the years, and I've seen firsthand how CASA volunteers make a tremendous difference in the lives of children," said Johnson. "I'm humbled and honored to build on CASA's incredibly strong foundation, and my goal is to serve even more young people in need in Prince George's County. I look forward to continuing to engage the greater community so we can bring our collective resources together to meet this goal."

Yolanda has a bachelor's degree in child and adolescent studies from Bowie State University and a master's degree in organizational leadership from Nyack College. She is also a Certified Diversity Executive®.

Yolanda holds leadership roles in a number of civic and community organizations, including serving as board president for Equipment Connections for Children since 2017 and as vice president of membership for the American Business Women's Association, Maryland Capital Chapter, where she was recently awarded the 2023 Top Ten Business Woman award for her career and community contributions.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)/ Prince George's County, Inc. is a volunteer-based organization that partners with the juvenile court to improve the lives of children living in foster care who have suffered from abuse and neglect. With a strong commitment to diversity, CASA/ Prince George's County trains and supervises volunteers from the community who advocate for the best interest of children, recognizing and respecting each child's individual needs. By providing a voice to children in the foster care system, it is our goal to help children and promote the timely placement of those we serve in safe, permanent homes.

ENVIRONMENT

Prince George's County Reduces Use of Foodware Items Beginning June 1, 2023

New regulation requires businesses to provide single-use items upon request only

By BRITTANI GARNER

Prince George's County Department of the Environment

LARGO, Md. (May 3, 2023)—To reduce waste, starting June 1, 2023, Prince George's County food service businesses can only provide food service ware to customers upon request or at self-serve stations for ready-to-eat foods. Take-out or delivery orders shall not include accessory disposable food service ware unless specifically requested by the customer in person, on the phone, or online.

The County Bill, CB-014-2022, applies to all food service businesses, including full-service, fast food, cafés, delicatessens, coffee shops, supermarkets, grocery stores, vending trucks or carts, food trucks, and cafeterias. It also applies to those entities operated by or

on behalf of County departments and agencies selling or providing food for consumption on or off the premises that provide prepared or ready-to-eat food.

"These items are designed to be used once and discarded, contributing to contamination in our recycling stream," says Andrea Crooms, Director of the Prince George's County Department of the Environment. "Supporting this waste reduction and reuse culture will help our Materials Recycling Facility operate more efficiently and keep waste and litter from ending up in our communities, streets, and waterways."

Food facilities that use a third-party delivery platform shall customize their menu with a list of single-use accessories/condiments that the customers can request with their order in person, on the

phone, or online. The County will start enforcement of the regulation beginning October 1, 2023.

Single-use foodware items covered by the new requirements include:

- Utensils (knives, forks, spoons, chopsticks)
- Splash sticks and stirrers
- Straws (*Under County law, CB 52-2019, only compostable and paper straws are permitted)
- Condiment cups and packets
- Cup sleeves
- Napkins

Learn more about CB-014-2022: <http://mypgc.us/singleuse>.

Maryland's Top Invasive Plant Species Import Harm to Natives

By DOROTHY HOOD
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (May 4, 2023)—Invasive plant species are damaging Maryland's environment. From bamboo to bushes, invasives, environmentalists say, have wrapped their tendrils all across Maryland.

The United States Department of Agriculture defines invasive plants as non-native or alien to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction can cause economic or environmental harm or adversely affect human health.

Invasive plants have unfair advantages over native plants, especially in human-disturbed habitats, said the University of Maryland Extension. They reproduce aggressively in multiple ways, and at a much faster pace than indigenous plants.

Some plants are so problematic that the state mandates that sellers label them as invasive. And in the case of a plant called "running bamboo," Maryland's General Assembly approved a bill, HB 90, to allow local governments to prevent it from being sold, planted or grown without proper upkeep

and containment. The bill is awaiting Gov. Wes Moore's approval.

But there are plenty of other contenders for most-invasive plant species in Maryland. Here are five others that environmentalists have put on their hit list:

Bush Honeysuckle

The Maryland Invasive Species Council defines this invasive to be "upright, deciduous multi-stemmed shrubs that can grow up to 15 feet." These plants have leaves that can appear to be hairy and usually emerge in the early spring, giving them an advantage over native honeysuckles that grow later in the season. The flowers on these invasives are "tubular, whitish-yellow or pink," with blooms happening as early as March and as late as June.

Not only does the invader compete with native plants for space, sun and soil, but it can affect the songbird population because birds building nests in the weaker limbed, nonnative honeysuckles face more predation, the council said in an online article about the species.

According to Judy Fulton, founder of EcoPlant Consulting

and specialist in invasive and native plants, all nonnative honeysuckles are a problem. These invasives, according to the council, reproduce almost entirely by seeds, creating a high germination rate and adaptability, which makes them hard to control.

Small infestations can be removed by hand because of their shallow root system, according to the Extension. Collect all the seeds around the bush to prevent further spread. Larger infestations require a combination of cutting down the plant and herbicides.

English Ivy

Christa Carignan, the coordinator of digital horticulture education at the Maryland Extension Home and Garden Information Center said English ivy is an invasive that started in the horticulture trade as a ground cover plant.

When not controlled, Carignan said the ivy can twine around trunks and limbs and completely cover canopy trees, blocking out the foliage, which is a threat to mature trees.

"It serves as a reservoir for bacterial leaf scorch, a serious disease of trees...Any rooted piece

can resprout," according to the Home and Garden page about invasive plants.

The leaves of English ivy are waxy, which repels herbicides, so a spray must be applied in high concentrations and with a spreader sticker, which is a chemical that helps an herbicide spread and penetrate. "It's important to cut the ivy if it starts climbing a tree," Fulton said. It should be cut at the root and never pulled down from a tree because it could damage it, she said.

Japanese Barberry

This is a "fine-leaved" invasive shrub according to the Extension, growing anywhere from two-to-eight-feet high. The yellow flowers bloom between April and May, producing "bright red berries" in the later summer.

"Japanese barberry is a terrible plant," said Fulton. "It is one of the most commonly planted invasive plants."

The Extension sees a lot of this species in Western Maryland, invading agricultural areas. "The Maryland Department of Agriculture has named this a Tier 2 invasive plant. This classification means retail stores that offer this plant for sale must display a required sign indicating that it is an invasive plant," according to the Extension website.



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Callery Pear

The seeds of this plant are spread through birds and small mammals, where a single shrub can produce a "dense impenetrable mass," according to the Extension. It also tolerates a wide range of conditions, surviving in both shaded and sunny areas.

Japanese Knotweed

This perennial can grow up to 10 feet high, with small green-white flowers and greenish triangular fruits, according to the Ex-

tension. This invasive species is particularly seen around waterways, according to Ashley Bachtel-Bodkins, the Master Gardener coordinator and home horticultural agent in Garrett County.

This invasive species, according to PennState Extension's website, emerges in early spring with bright red or purple growths, with

