

# The Prince George's Post



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PHOTO COURTESY PGCAR

Pictured left to right: Mekhi Neal, Alexis Proctor, Savannah Grooms, and Christian Jefferson. Since its inception in 2008, the Scholarship Fund has provided over \$125,000 in scholarships to students graduating from Prince George's County High Schools.

## County REALTORS® Award \$10,000 in Scholarships to High School Seniors

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCAR

At a recent ceremony, The Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® (PGCAR) awarded \$10,000 in college scholarships to deserving high school graduates. Through the REAL-

TORS® David and Juanita Maclin Memorial Scholarship Fund, named in memory of PGCAR's 2006 President, David Maclin, and his wife, REALTOR® Juanita Maclin, the fund awarded four \$2,500 college scholarships.

David and Juanita contributed to the economic development of Prince

George's County, and they were key contributors to the growth and development of area churches. Their efforts were acknowledged by numerous awards, certifications, and special recognitions.

See SCHOLARSHIPS Page A5

## GRAD SZN: Celebrating the PGCPS Class of 2023

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (May 19, 2023)—Graduation ceremonies for the Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) Class of 2023 begin today with the Academy of Health Sciences at Prince George's Community College, where students will receive both a high school diploma and associate's degree.

More than 6,700 graduates will receive high school diplomas through June 2.

"The Class of 2023 embodies resilience. Not even one full year into high school, their lives were abruptly changed by a global crisis," said Dr. Monica Goldson, Chief Executive Officer. "From the classroom to virtual learning and back, they adapted and demonstrated resilience and an extraordinary commitment to their success."

While navigating unprecedented circumstances, Class of 2023 graduates continued to excel academically, earning nearly \$200 million in college scholarships.

Notable Class of 2023 scholars:

- Quadruplets **Kaila, Kailee, Kailynn and Calvin Ward** are grad-

uating from Crossland High School.

- International High School at Largo valedictorian and first generation college student **Jisleni Saavedra Cordon** is headed to the University of Maryland College Park to become an engineer. A triathlete, she is the only person in her family who has ever attended school.

- Bowie High School senior **Jason Davis** missed nearly two months of school from injuries in a car accident last October. He is graduating with his class and plans to attend Towson University this fall.

- **Diel Rhinehart** saved his younger brother from a house fire this year and has been working part-time to help a single parent rebound from the loss. He will graduate from the Gwynn Park High School Fire Science Academy and will attend North Carolina Central University.

- Laurel High School twins **Vladyslav and Yaroslav Vashchuk**, who escaped war in Ukraine, are headed to Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania on full scholarships.

Visit our GRAD SZN portal for ceremony dates, news, stories, photo galleries, videos and more celebrating this year's grads.

## Library and Washington Nationals Present Summer Prince George's 2023

Prince Georgians of All Ages Can Earn Prizes for Reading and Attending Community Events

By NICHOLAS BROWN  
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (May 15, 2023)—Prince George's County's summer reading and community engagement program, Summer Prince George's (SPG), returns in 2023 with new opportunities for Prince Georgians to learn, socialize, and engage with neighbors. Presented by the Prince George's Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) and Washington Nationals,

SPG 2023 celebrates the national summer reading theme of "All Together Now." The Library invites Prince Georgians of all ages to connect across generations and communities by reading, attending library or partner events (in-person or virtually), visiting neighborhood branch libraries, and engaging with library resources, whether streaming movies and music or taking LinkedIn Learning classes.

Between May 15 and August 17, li-

brary customers may register for the Summer Prince George's challenge at pgcmls.info/summer and log reading, event attendance, and online resource activities to earn badges and prizes. This year's prizes include tote bags, t-shirts, vouchers for Washington Nationals tickets, and grand prizes. Customers can pick up an SPG punch card to track ac-

See SUMMER Page A3



IMAGE COURTESY PGCMLS

Prince George's County's summer reading and community engagement program, Summer Prince George's (SPG), returns!

## Students From 17 Maryland Counties and Baltimore City Win Awards at Maryland History Day

11 Students and 1 Teacher from Prince George's County Receive Statewide Honors

By SARAH WEISSMAN  
Maryland Humanities

BALTIMORE (May 12, 2023)—Nearly 500 middle and high school students presented their extensive historical research at the 2023 Maryland History Day State Contest on May 6. The competition, held at University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), is the culmination of a year-long program from Maryland Humanities. Last year, more than 26,000 Maryland students participated at the school level.

Maryland History Day, produced by Maryland Humanities since 1999, sparks critical thinking and helps develop skills in research and analysis, writing, and public speaking. Working solo or in small groups, students create original documentary films, exhibits, performances, research papers, or websites exploring a histor-

ical topic of their choice on an annual theme, which this year is "Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas." Maryland History Day is open to public, private, parochial, and home-school students in grades 6 through 12.

Competitors at Maryland History Day have already won first or second place in their category at school and/or district levels. Students from twelve counties and Baltimore City received special awards, designated for outstanding Maryland History Day projects that cover specific subjects.

Students from eight Maryland counties and Baltimore City will represent Maryland in the National History Day competition, where they will compete among an estimated 3,000 participants from across the country and beyond. National History Day runs June 11–15 at University of Mary-

land in College Park.

The national competition involves students from all 50 states plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and international schools in China, Korea, and South Asia. Maryland History Day is an affiliate of National History Day, a non-profit education organization that promotes an appreciation for historical research among middle and high school students through multiple annual programs, including the National History Day Contest.

\*\*\*\*

Maryland Humanities is also pleased to name Denise Kresslein and Tom Stavelly as the Maryland History Day Middle and High School Teachers of the Year, respectively. Kresslein serves as Advanced Academics Coordinator at North Carroll Middle School

in Hampstead and Westminster East Middle School. Stavelly teaches U.S. History to ninth graders and works as the Teacher Coordinator at Parkdale High School in Hampton. Both teachers were honored at the Maryland History Day Awards Ceremony.

Maryland Humanities' Maryland History Day team has also nominated Kresslein and Stavelly for the Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award, facilitated by National History Day. National History Day affiliates nominate one high school and one middle school teacher for this award. National History Day says that "nominees' work must clearly illustrate the development and use of creative teaching methods that engage students in history and help them make ex-

See AWARDS Page A2

### MARYLAND HISTORY DAY WINNERS 2023 Prince George's County

*Advancers to National History Day:*  
Students: **Faith Adewole, Winter Swann, and Saxen Lancaster**  
Award: Junior Group Website, First Place

Topic: The Brothers Grimm: Paving A Frontier In the Preservation of Culture and Literature  
School: Kenmoor Middle School  
Teacher: Irene Prescott

*Special Prize Winners:*  
Students: **Angela Avalos, Cecilly Nelson, Hephzibah Ikpe, and Aanya Singh**

Award: Excellence in Historic Preservation, Senior Division, sponsored by Maryland Historical Trust  
Topic: The Works of Madam C.J. Walker  
Category: Group Exhibit  
School: DuVal High School  
Teacher: Patrick Wilborn

Students: **Alia Bolden and Catherine Wilson**

Award: George Washington Leadership Prize, Junior Division, sponsored by George Washington's Mount Vernon  
Topic: The Watergate Scandal : Its

Impact on Investigative Journalism  
Category: Group Documentary  
School: College Park Academy  
Teacher: Angela Ohl

Student: **Jaina Dotson**  
Award: George Washington Leadership Prize, Senior Division, sponsored by George Washington's Mount Vernon  
Topic: The Middle Passage and The Scientific Revolution

Category: Senior Individual Documentary  
School: Oxon Hill High School  
Teacher: Thomas Klug

Student: **Christopher Hill**  
Award: Excellence in Labor History, Junior Division, sponsored by Bill Barry and Friends  
Topic: Cesar Chavez: A Humble Frontiersman In Labor Rights  
Category: Individual Documentary  
School: Accokeek Academy  
Teachers: Leslie Armstrong

*Maryland History Day Statewide High School Teacher of the Year:*  
**Thomas Stavelly**, Parkdale High School

### INSIDE

- In & Around Morningside-Skyline
- Brandywine-Aquasco
- SU Spring MASMI Sales Championship Winners Announced

Towns and Neighbors, Page A2

Prince George's County Public Schools Partners With Planet Aid to Raise Money Through Clothing Donations

Boys & Girls Clubs of Maryland Announce 2023 Youth of the Year Winners

Community, Page A3

The Secret to an Extraordinary Day

Outdoors Could Be Key to Improving Post-Pandemic Learning

Memorial Day Observances

Community, Page A4

Independent Reporters Covering DC Crime Grow Big Followings

Independent reporters like Calhoun use Twitter to cover public safety in and around Washington, D.C.

Business and Finance, Page A5



# COMMUNITY

## Prince George's County Public Schools Partners With Planet Aid to Raise Money Through Clothing Donations

Partnership creates new revenue stream for participating schools and opportunity to teach students about protecting the environment

By PRESS OFFICER  
Planet Aid

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. (May 15, 2023)—Planet Aid, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the environment and funding community development projects, is pleased to announce a new partnership with Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) to raise funds for participating schools while preventing reusable clothes and shoes from ending up in landfills.

Through the PGCPS Adopt a School Program, Planet Aid will expand its used clothing collection efforts district-wide. Planet Aid provides schools with a unique way to generate funding for educational programs as well as opportunities for service learning for their students. The program encourages the students to think creatively about how they can reduce waste, and the value of reusing textiles.

"Planet Aid currently supports 10 elementary schools, five middle schools, and two high schools in Prince George's County, a relatively small portion of the 198 schools and centers in the district," said Eric Newman, Planet Aid's Director of School and Community Programs. "This partnership enables Planet Aid to increase its positive impact on the environment and in communities around the globe, all while reducing local landfill waste and raising more money for schools."

Planet Aid contributed \$4,200 to participating Prince George's



County schools in 2022. This partnership has the potential to increase that figure significantly in 2023 and beyond.

"We are thrilled to partner with Planet Aid to bring this important initiative to Prince George's County Public Schools," said Dr. Monica Goldson, PGCPS Chief Executive Officer. "This partnership will provide much-needed funds for our schools, while offering us hands-on opportunities to teach our more than 131,000 students about the importance of reusing textiles and reducing waste. It's a win-win for everyone involved."

Reducing landfill waste and raising additional money for PGCPS is just the beginning. The positive impact of donating clothes reverberates across the globe. In the U.S., Planet Aid employs 225 people to collect and resell clothes. Most of the clothes are shipped abroad where they support a second-hand clothes industry that creates millions of jobs. Finally, the money raised by reselling collected clothes is used to fund community development programs around the globe that promote education, sustainable agriculture, health and wellbeing and environmental protection.

"Providing ways for our students to do something positive for the environment and for their community is crucial," said Goldson. "It teaches the youth the value of living a sustainable lifestyle and encourages society to reduce consumption and reuse items as often as possible before discarding. And partnering with Planet Aid makes it easy for all schools to make a positive impact."

The Prince George's County Public Schools Adopt a School Program connects businesses, organizations, and individuals with schools to support and enhance student learning. The program seeks to establish long-term relationships between schools and their partners, with the goal of improving academic achievement, enhancing student self-esteem and strengthening community involvement in public education. Website: <https://www.pgcps.org/offices/community-partnerships/adopt-a-school-program>

Planet Aid is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that collects and recycles used clothing and shoes to protect the environment and support sustainable development in impoverished communities around the world. Planet Aid operates in 17 U.S. states and has collected over 1.5 billion pounds of used clothing and shoes since its inception more than 25 years ago. The funds raised through the sale of used textiles are used to support international development projects through Planet Aid's partners in the Humana People to People Federation. Read more at [www.planetaid.org](http://www.planetaid.org)

## Boys & Girls Clubs of Maryland Announce 2023 Youth of the Year Winners

Amari E. from Joint Base Andrews Youth Programs named Maryland State Military Youth of The Year

By PRESS OFFICER  
Boys & Girls Clubs of Maryland

BALTIMORE (May 18, 2023)—Today, Boys & Girls Clubs of Maryland (BGCMD) announced their 2023 Maryland State Youth of the Year Winners. Jailen L. from Boys & Girls Clubs of Carroll County was selected as Maryland State Youth of the Year, and Amari E. from Joint Base Andrews Youth Programs was named Maryland State Military Youth of The Year. The title was awarded based on outstanding leadership, service, academic excellence, and dedication to living a healthy lifestyle. As Maryland State Youth of the Year winners, Jailen and Amari will serve as representatives for Boys & Girls Clubs in Maryland, and will compete in the regional and potentially national competition.

Jailen L., a senior at Winters Mill High School, is the third teen from Boys & Girls Clubs of Carroll County (formerly known as Boys & Girls Club of Westminster) to receive the state title. Her dedication to Boys & Girls Clubs of Carroll County, where she has been an active member for 11 years and wanting to help others, has led to her goal of pursuing a career as a neonatal intensive care

nurse. Jailen's academic journey will continue as a nursing major at Carroll Community College. Throughout her membership with the Club, she has served as a leader and mentor, embodying their mission. Engaging in activities promoting wellness, leadership, and empowerment, she actively contributes to programs like SMART Girls and advocates for the SMART Moves prevention program.

"Jailen exemplifies the qualities and mindset that we work to develop in Club members," said Sean Davis, CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Carroll County. "She is a point of light in our community, and we are happy that she has chosen to stay here for college and possibly beyond."

Amari E., a senior at Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr. High School, has been honored with the title of Maryland State Military Youth of the Year for the second consecutive year. Recognized for his leadership skills, selflessness, and dedication to helping others, he is active in the JB Andrews Youth Center Keystone after-school programs, where he participates in numerous community service events. Amari loves putting a smile on others' faces and feels a great reward in making a difference in someone's life. This Fall,

Amari will be continuing his academic career at Towson University, where he will major in business administration, aspiring to become a financial officer for the United States Air Force.

"For Amari to be chosen as our Maryland State Military Youth of the Year once again shows his extraordinary commitment to service and our community on base," said Vanessa Johnson, Joint Base Andrews Youth Programs.

"I continue to be amazed with the candidates put forth for this award each year," said Y'linda Burch, Executive Director and Lead Administration for the Boys & Girls Clubs Maryland Alliance. "Jailen and Amari stood out among a strong group of nominees, and we couldn't be more proud to have these two young people represent everyone associated with Boys & Girls Clubs in our state."

Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) places priority on developing leadership skills such as communication, goal setting, and teamwork for young people preparing to meet the challenges of adolescence and adulthood. Youth of the Year is a hallmark

See YOUTH Page A6



IMAGE COURTESY PGCMLS

### Summer from A1

tivities or register for the challenge on PGCMLS's Beanstack app.

"All of us at PGCMLS look forward to Summer Prince George's every year," said Nicholas A. Brown, Acting Co-CEO and COO of Communication and Outreach. "Summer is a season for possibility, discovery, enrichment, leisure, and best of all, reading! Our team members look forward to connecting with customers at kickoff events, hundreds of programs for all ages, and community gatherings throughout the county. Visiting your neighborhood branch library is also a great option for cooling down, charging your mobile devices, and accessing free WiFi."

This summer's special events include the SPG kickoff events at various branch libraries (June 3–10), Book Crawl events for adult book-lovers (June 21–August 6), several major author events, interactive events featuring live animals with Echoes of Nature and the National Aquarium, STEM programs with The Science Guys of Baltimore, weekly Ready 2 Read Storytimes, and more.

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

### Summer Prince George's 2023 Kickoff Events

PGCMLS' neighborhood branch libraries will host kickoff events where customers can register for the SPG 2023 challenge, pick up a registration prize, and learn about resources and upcoming events.

- Saturday, June 3, 2–3 p.m.—Accokeek Branch Library
- Monday, June 5, 1–3 p.m.—Glenarden Branch Library
- Monday, June 5, 2–4 p.m.—Greenbelt Branch Library
- Tuesday, June 6, 4–5 p.m.—Fairmount Heights Branch Library
- Tuesday, June 6, 4–5:30 p.m.—Hyattsville Branch Library
- Tuesday, June 6, 4–7 p.m.—South Bowie Branch Library
- Tuesday, June 6, 4–6 p.m.—Upper Marlboro Branch Library
- Tuesday, June 6, 4:30–6:30 p.m.—Mount Rainier Branch Library
- Wednesday, June 7, 3:30–5 p.m.—New Carrollton Branch Library
- Wednesday, June 7, 4:30–6:30 p.m.—Bladensburg Branch Library
- Thursday, June 8, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.—Baden Branch Library
- Thursday, June 8, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.—Largo-Ket-

tering Branch Library

- Thursday, June 8, 12–3 p.m.—Spauldings Branch Library
- Thursday, June 8, 2–4 p.m.—Hillcrest Heights Branch Library
- Thursday, June 8, 4–5 p.m.—Laurel Branch Library
- Saturday, June 10, 1–3 p.m.—Beltsville Branch Library

### Summer Meals

As part of the Library's commitment to advancing equitable access to healthy food for children, the Library will again offer free summer meals to children and youth up to age 18 at 7 branch libraries throughout Prince George's County. According to the Prince George's County Health Department and Feeding America, 19.4% of Prince George's County children are food insecure. Programs like summer meals, offered by PGCMLS and the Prince George's County Public Schools, are key for helping local families access food in the summer. Meals are open to anyone under the age of 18 who lives in Prince George's County, regardless of the school they attend. Homeschoolers are also welcome. Free, available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Branch libraries offering free summer meals in 2023:

- Beltsville Branch Library (June 19–August 18, Monday–Friday)
- Glenarden Branch Library (June 26–August 24, Monday–Thursday)
- Hillcrest Heights Branch Library (June 19–August 17, Monday–Thursday)
- Hyattsville Branch Library (June 26–August 25, Monday–Friday)
- Spauldings Branch Library (June 19–August 18, Monday–Friday)
- New Carrollton Branch Library (June 19–August 18, Monday–Friday)
- Oxon Hill Branch Library (June 26–August 25, Monday–Friday)

### Author Events

Several major authors and writers will visit PGCMLS during SPG to discuss their work. Events are presented in collaboration with partner organizations like the Prince George's County Office of Human Rights, Hurston/Wright Foundation, MahoganyBooks, and PGCMLS Foundation. Signed books will be available for purchase.

### Vashti Harrison on "Big" with White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre

Monday, May 15, 6–7:30 p.m.—Oxon Hill Branch Library

Bestselling author and beloved illustrator Vashti Harrison discusses her new picture book, "Big," with White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-

See SUMMER Page A4

### TOWN OF LANDOVER HILLS

#### NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Mayor and Council of the Town of Landover Hills proposes to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2023, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 5.03%, from \$178,018,598 to \$186,971,915
2. If the Town of Landover Hills maintains the current tax rate of \$ 0.52 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 5.03% resulting in \$46,557 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 \$0.4951, the constant yield tax rate.
4. The Town of Landover Hills is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The Town of Landover Hills proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$0.52 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 5.03% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$46,557 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 7:00PM on June 5, 2023 at 6904 Taylor Street, Landover Hills, MD 20784.

The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged. Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call 301-773-6401 for further information.





