

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SINCE 1932

Vol. 91, No. 36 September 7 — September 13, 2023 Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents



PHOTO CREDIT: PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FAIR

Prince George's County Fair September 7–10, 2023

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

2023 Fair Schedule: Sept. 7–10

Show Place Arena, 14900 Pennsylvania Ave, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772. Days/Hours:
Thurs & Fri: 5–10 p.m.
Saturday: 11 a.m.–10 p.m.
Sunday: 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

By PRESS OFFICER

Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (Sept. 1, 2023)—M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County announces its official Hispanic Heritage Month programming for 2023. The Department celebrates the history, culture, and contributions of Hispanics. Starting September 15 through October 15, the community and media are invited to attend many family-friendly events.

Become immersed in the heart of Hispanic Heritage and experience the vibrancy of Hispanic traditions through such programs listed below. For a full list of Hispanic Heritage Month offerings and to register, visit pgparks.com.

¡Celebración! Mes de la Herencia Hispana

Saturday, Sept. 16, 2–6 p.m.

Publick Playhouse

5445 Landover Road, Hyattsville, 20784

Kick off Hispanic Heritage Month with a FREE family-friendly celebration, including an art exhibition of Puerto Rican artist Alfredo Ortiz, the 2023 Hispanic Heritage Month poster unveiling, live music, dancing, and light refreshments. The Hispanic Heritage Month poster was produced by talented Prince George's County high school student artists in partnership with Pyramid Atlantic Art Center. It showcases the national Hispanic Heritage Month theme "Prosperity, Power, Progress".

Hispanic Festival

Sunday, Sept. 17, 12:30– 5:30 p.m.

Lane Manor Park

7601 West Park Dr. & University Blvd., Adelphi, 20783

It's a Hispanic Heritage Month tradition in Prince George's County. The Hispanic Festival offers music, live entertainment, delicious ethnic food, craft vendors, displays, carnival games, and much more. Performers include the folkloric dance group Marimba Valle Verde from Guatemala, Orquesta Cenizas, Nora Reyes y Su Mariachi, and La Furia Banda. Each year the festival brings more than 10,000 people to Lane Manor Park in Adelphi to celebrate the culture and heritage of Hispanics in the DC/Maryland/Virginia metropolitan area.

Concert: Tito Puente Jr. Orchestra

Saturday, Sept. 23, 8 p.m.

Publick Playhouse

5445 Landover Road, Hyattsville, 20784

Son of legendary American salsa and Latin jazz Tito Puente, Tito Puente, Jr. is one of today's most exciting Latin musicians. Join us for an electrifying performance at Publick Playhouse in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Festival del Río Anacostia

Saturday, Sept. 30, 10 a.m.– 4 p.m., rain date Oct. 7

Bladensburg Waterfront Park

4601 Annapolis Rd., Bladensburg, 20710

The Festival del Río Anacostia is a bilingual (Spanish/English) environmental event for the whole family to learn about the Anacostia River, and become better stewards of the river and its watershed in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties of Maryland and the District of Columbia. This is the seventh year for Festival del Río Anacostia to engage the Latino community by celebrating the Anacostia River. We celebrate the Hispanic heritage of our communities and seek to connect them to their local environmental resources, working to make the river a healthier public asset. Enjoy a day of live Latin music, food vendors, and learning more about how we can protect the river.

Latinas in Aviation

Saturday, Oct. 14, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

College Park Aviation Museum

1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park, 20740

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, join the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation's College Park Aviation Museum and Airport, as we honor Latinas in aviation. Watch as pilots featured in the Latinas in Aviation book fly into the College Park Airport and share their unique experiences and passion for aviation. This one-of-a-kind event gives you the opportunity to meet and hear from contributing authors while learning about the magic of aviation. Explore static aircraft display interactives, presentations, children's activities, mentorship circles, and scholarship opportunities throughout the event.

Plan Now. Start Bringing Your Reusable Bag When You Shop!

Prince George's County Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags Starts January 1, 2024

The new ordinance protects waterways, reduces plastic pollution and litter

By LINDA LOWE

Prince George's County Department of the Environment

LARGO, Md. (Aug. 30, 2023)—A new ban on single-use, carryout plastic bags distributed at check-out registers by retailers and other businesses in Prince George's County will go into effect on January 1, 2024. CB-032-2023, approved by the County Council in June 2023, also requires retailers to charge at least a 10-cent fee for each paper and reusable bag sold to consumers. The ban was enacted to protect local waterways and marine life, reduce plastic pollution and litter, and promote reusable bags.

"Plastic bags do not biodegrade and contaminate our local waterways, causing harm to marine life, clogging our storm drains, and littering our streets and communities," says Department of the Environment (DoE) Director Andrea Crooms. "This ban encourages consumers to reduce waste and addresses one of the County's Climate Action Plan recommendations, an important step in maintaining a sustainable County and reducing our carbon footprint."

The ban applies to all retail stores, restaurants, grocery stores, or any other establishment providing single-use plastic bags to customers at the point of sale or service. The ban doesn't apply to bags that package bulk items (produce, grains,

small hardware, etc.), bakery goods, fish, meat, flowers, and dry cleaning. No charges apply to paper bags for prescription medicine and take-out food by restaurants or prepared food provided at a drive-through. Visit mypgc.us/bagitright for a complete list of exemptions.

Various studies show plastic bag laws change shopper behavior and reduce plastic pollution. Prince George's County municipalities and other local jurisdictions have implemented similar single-use plastic bag ordinances. The Department of the Environment will lead the enforcement, public outreach, and education efforts as the County shifts to reusable bags.

The legislation defines a reusable carryout bag as a bag with stitched handles specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuses, made of cloth or other washable fabric, and made of durable material suitable for various re-use that is not made of plastic film. To assist residents in making the transition, the County will provide a limited amount of free reusable bags and will announce distribution dates and locations once finalized.

You can learn more about CB-032-2023 and review frequently asked questions by visiting mypgc.us/bagitright.

Governor and First Lady Moore Visit the Historic Highland Beach for the 130th Anniversary Celebration

By PRESS OFFICER

Maryland Governor News

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Sept. 3, 2023)—Governor Wes Moore

and First Lady Dawn Moore yesterday joined the historic Highland Beach community to celebrate the town's 130th anniversary. Highland Beach is Maryland's first African American municipality. Founded by abolitionist Frederick Douglass' youngest son, Charles Douglass as an oasis for African Americans along the Chesapeake Bay.

"Highland Beach is a celebration, not just of perseverance, but of power. It is not just a landmark, it's an inheritance—built and nurtured over generations. And today, we recognize the broad shoulders we stand on," said Gov. Moore. "It's the shoulders of every family—of every child—of every property owner—of every volunteer

public servant who made this place what it is. Let's move in partnership to continue writing the beautiful story of Highland Beach."

Under the theme *Honoring Our Past, Embracing Our Future: Celebrating 130 Years*, Governor Moore and the First Lady enjoyed the celebration that included dinner, dancing and reflections from local officials, including Highland Beach Mayor Crystal Chissell.

The waterfront community of Highland Beach is a close-knit, majority-Black neighborhood of more than 100 people. Preserving the historic land there are approximately 60 homes in the area, many of which are still owned and occupied by descendants of the original owners. Other than Annapolis, Highland Beach is Anne

See CELEBRATION Page A3

INSIDE

Prince George's County Planning Board and Planning Department Announce September 2023 Events and Meetings

Iowa State University Summer Graduates

Around the County, Page A2

City of Glenarden Community Day

Collective Voices' 25th Anniversary Celebration of Their International Debut in London, England

Community, Page A3

To Be Equal: Political Cowardice Continues to Fuel Unrelenting Racist Gun Violence

But there are too many lawmakers—many of whom fall into that 90%—who value the campaign cash of gun lobbyists more than the will of their constituents.

Commentary, Page A4

City Commissioner Gyasi Gomez Selected as Delegate to Local Government 2030

WSSC Water Distributes Nearly \$4 Million to Assist

Business and Finance, Page A5

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

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

Remembering Morningside's fallen firefighter Michael McCarthy

Forty years ago, September 12, 1983, Morningside volunteer firefighter Michael Patrick McCarthy died as his unit was responding to a kitchen fire in the 7000 block of Berkshire Drive in Camp Springs.

The firetruck, driven by a career fireman, stopped to back up and make a turn when McCarthy, for reasons unknown, stepped down from the right side of the truck into the path of the right rear wheel. He was pronounced dead at Malcolm Grow Medical Center, at Andrews. He was 25.

Mike was born August 8, 1958, at Vandenberg AFB, Calif., the oldest of the four children of an Air Force Sergeant. He grew up on Air Force bases, graduated from Yokota High School in Japan, and was a 1979 graduate of Penn State University. Then—like his father before him—he joined the Air Force. He served in the Philippines before being assigned to Andrews in 1982. At the time of his death, he was a First Lieutenant but had been selected for promotion to Captain.

At Andrews he was a shift commander in a security police squadron, directly responsible for enforcing security for the President, First Lady and Secretary of State. He was named an Outstanding Security Police Company Grade Officer for 1983 at Andrews.

On March 18, 1982, he had joined the Morningside VFD, and was a live-in member at the time of his death. He'd saved several lives in the course of his firefighting duties, including carrying a child from a burning building.

Mike's funeral service was at Andrews; Prince George's County Fire Service held a memorial for him at Hope Lutheran Church in Clinton. He was named to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial, Roll of Honor, in Emmitsburg, Md.

Over the years, the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department has found ways to honor their fallen firefighter, as with the dedication of Engine 271 and the naming of the McCarthy Meeting

Room.

From the website: "Today we remember Mike McCarthy. MVFD LODD on 9/12/83 while responding to a fire. Mike is always with Engine Co. 27."

Morningside's celebrating Back-to-School

Morningside is hosting a party on Friday, September 15, for all their school-bound kids. The Back-to-School fun will let the kids create their own refreshments at a make-your-own-ice-cream-bar, as long as supplies last.

There'll be roller-skating on the Town parking lot. (Skating waivers must be signed by a parent.) A Give-a-Way Raffle will be held for the kids. Hours for the fun are 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Morningside does a great job in recreation, offering special events for kids, seniors and seasons. Coming up are the Halloween celebration, Oct. 28; Senior Holiday Luncheon, Nov. 16; and Breakfast with Santa, Dec. 9.

Town of Morningside

Morningside's next town meetings will be the Work Session, Tuesday, Sept. 12, and the General Town Meeting, Tuesday, Sept. 19. Both beginning at 7 p.m.

The board covering the smashed windows at GI Liquors is back up, again, though it looks as though there's added access. In case you don't know, last St. Patrick's Day a stolen car with three men aboard went airborne and smashed through the windows. One employee was injured and taken to the hospital. Investigation continues; no arrests have been made.

Mosquito spraying continues in Morningside on September 24.

Neighbors & other good people Former Calvert County author Lynn Franklin has a new book out, "The Poodle Who Sang Undercover." One review: "What do you get when you blend Nancy Drew with a pair of wise-cracking dogs? A hilarious and heartwarming cozy mystery for all ages." Go online for information about purchase.

In my recent obit for the Shawn Webb, I mentioned he had attended Staunton Military Academy. Rich Landon emailed that his brother was a 1976 graduate of the Academy. He said his was the last graduating class before the school closed for good. He mentioned some of the famous graduates, including John Dean, Congressman Barry Goldwater Jr., and Redskin punter Mike Bragg.

Places to go & things to do

National Harbor is hosting the U.S. Navy Band Sea Chanters, Saturday, Sept. 15, 7 p.m. on the Plaza Stage. It's part of the Sunset Concert Services. And it's free.

You have one more weekend to enjoy the Prince George's County Fair at the Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro: Thursday & Friday, 5 to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday is free for military personnel and family. Rides are \$1.75 or buy a book of 30 for \$40.

Loyola on the Potomac is holding a weekend retreat Sept. 8-10 for men and women. Loyola is set in a forest, on a hill, overlooking the Potomac River. I've attended retreats there often and have loved every minute; I recommend it to people of all faiths. Their motto is "Come aside and rest awhile." For information about their retreats and Full Days of Prayer, call 301-392-0800.

By the way, Loyola's annual Crab Feast is Sunday, Sept. 10, 2 to 5 p.m.

Changing landscape

I visited the Prince George's Library in Suitland last week to return books, only to find it closed for renovation. The signs didn't mention when it might reopen.

Crafty Crab Seafood is now open at 8821 Woodyard road in Clinton. Dine in or carryout. How about the Snow Crab Special or the Dungeness Special or the Green/black Mussel Special or the Lobster Special (\$49.99)? Info: 240-846-5185.

See **MORNINGSIDE** Page A3

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

ST. PHILIP'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH BADEN PARISH

St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Baden Parish will be celebrating their 147TH Homecoming Anniversary Sunday, September 14, 2023. Worship Service will be held at 10 a.m. "Theme: Looking back with gratitude, Standing Firm in Hope, Moving ahead in Faith." We are honored to have The Rev. Hugh E. Brown, III, D. Min. MSW, LMSW as our Speaker of the Hour. Please plan to attend and hear the spiritual message. Lunch will be served immediately following the service. The church address is 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613-8426.

KUDOS TO BSU ALUMNI

Bowie State University Alumni Miranda Haywood, Division Manager for NextGen Procurement Services and Grants Management at the Federation Aviation Administration (GAA) was featured on FAA's HBCU Initiative Group-Employee Spotlight.

Haywood discussed the legacy of her alma mater, Bowie State University, and how it led her to the Federal Aviation Administration where she educates students and others about aviation career opportunities.

UNIVERSITY NIGHT

Celebrating HBCUS at Oriole Park Thursday, September 28, 2023. Calling all Bulldogs. Join us for an unforgettable night of baseball at HBCU Night at Oriole Park. Let's show our #BSUPride and celebrate HBCUs unity, and the thrill of America's favorite pastime. Get your tickets now and make it a night to remember. BSU's specific section is 74/75. Buy tickets, use Promo Code: BSU. For every ticket purchased, \$5 will go to BSU.

PRINCE GEORGE'S FILM FESTIVAL

The Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council and the Prince George's Film Office presents the second annual Prince George's Film Festival-Take 2, Sept. 28-Oct. 1, 2023. This celebration of cinematic arts and culture is presented in partnership with Bowie State University. The festival is purposed to bolster filmmakers, provide a platform to showcase their films, and network with industry representatives and local creatives. For more information and to view the schedule at a glance, visit: pgfilmfestival.com.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY HISTORY PROFESSOR

Bowie State History Professor Dr. Karen Cook-Bell receives grant to fund underserved history projects. Dr. Karen Cook-Bell to focus on Historic African American communities in Maryland. A Bowie State University history professor doesn't want Maryland's history to be forgotten. Associate professor Dr. Karen Cook-Bell will use a \$150,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation to support micro-history projects focused on documenting the lived experiences of the African American community of Tolson's Chapel, located in Sharpsburg, Maryland. The project is sponsored by Bowie State's Dubois Center for

the Study of the Black Experience.

Sharpsburg was the site of the Battle of Antietam, which is credited as the Civil War's deadliest one-day battle. In 1866, a chapel was constructed on land donated by an African American couple which would go on to serve as one the earliest schools for former slaves.

"We're taking a look at this historic community that existed after the Civil War and looking at how they supported and sustained themselves for over a century," said Dr. Cook-Bell. "We hope to demonstrate how African Americans were in self-supportive independent communities that thrived in spite of a hostile society," said Dr. Cook-Bell.

This grant will also support the launch of two new publications for the Dubois Center, Freedom and Valiant, as forums for scholarly discourse. Freedom will be a platform for scholars to share research related to the Black lived experience across the diaspora, while Valiant will serve as an avenue for undergraduate students to showcase their writings on the African American experience. MEDIA CONTACT; Jonathan Saxon, jsaxon@bowiestate.edu, 301-860-3607.

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY-KEVIN DURANT COURT

The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony-Kevin Durant Court will be held September 21, 2023, from 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Bowie State University. In December 2022, Prince George's County native Durant and the Durant Family committed to joining the Bowie State University Athletics Department in transforming the university's main basketball gym and supporting BSU programs. The ribbon-cutting ceremony will inaugurate the opening of the newly renovated court and arena. Cost is Free. Location: Leonidas S. James Physical Education Complex, 14000 Jericho Park Road, Bowie, Maryland 20715. Contact: Jennifer Coke Email: jcoke@bowiestate.edu, phone: 301-860-4778.

OFFICE OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT & STEWARDSHIP

Alumni Athletes Pre-Game reception Saturday, September 16, 2023, at 12 Noon in the Bulldog Stadium. Are you a former Bulldog student-athlete? If so, the Office of Alumni Engagement & Stewardship and the Department of Athletics want to celebrate you at the first home game of the football season. Once a Bulldog, always a bulldog. Before kickoff, join other fellow former athletes and current student-athletes at BSU. There will be giveaways, light refreshments, step and repeat photos, alumni info., and so much more. Spread the word and share this invite with your teammates and other BSU alumni-athletes.

Registration is required to attend and receive a commemorative t-shirt (unisex sizes). You must register and purchase a game ticket to participate. BSU Bulldogs vs. Shaw University Bears, September 16, 2023 Bulldog Stadium Kickoff: 1:00 p.m. For questions and more information, email alumni@bowiestate.edu.

Around the County

Prince George's County Planning Board and Planning Department Announce September 2023 Events and Meetings

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Aug. 31, 2023)—The Prince George's County Planning Board and the Prince George's County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission announce their upcoming public events and meetings for September 2023. For more details, review the list of events and meetings below or visit www.pgplanningboard.org and www.pgplanning.org. Events and meetings are subject to change.

Prince George's County Planning Board Meetings

Thursday, September 7 | 10 a.m.
Thursday, September 14 | 10 a.m.
Thursday, September 21 | 10 a.m.
Thursday, September 28 | 10 a.m.

The Prince George's County Planning Board meets virtually each Thursday to consider planning, zoning, subdivision, and other matters within its jurisdiction. The meetings may be viewed via live streaming video. Public participation is encouraged either through a phone bridge or by using GoTo Meeting. Everyone who wishes to speak at the Planning Board meeting must register online by Noon on the Tuesday, two days prior to the Planning Board meeting. Written comments, documents, and exhibits must be received via email, fax, or mail by Noon on the Tuesday before the Planning Board meeting to be included in the record. For more details, visit: www.pgplanningboard.org.

Subdivision and Development Review Committee Meetings

Friday, September 1 | 9:30 a.m.
Friday, September 15 | 9:30 a.m.
Friday, September 29 | 9:30 a.m.

Subdivision and Development Review Committee (SDRC) is a coordination and interagency meeting early in the development review process with the applicant and M-NCPPC staff, where the public can be invited to speak. The meetings are held virtually and may be viewed via live streaming video. The agendas are posted online.

Joint Public Hearing – Proposed Minor Amendment to the 2009 Approved Countywide Master Plan of Transportation

Tuesday, September 12 | 6 p.m.

The Prince George's County Council, sitting as the District Council, and the Prince George's County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission will hold an in-person Joint Public Hearing on the Proposed Minor Amendment to the 2009 Countywide Master Plan of Transportation (CR-072-2023) at the Wayne K. Curry Administration Building, 1st Floor Council Hearing Room, 1301 McCormick Drive, Largo, MD 20774. The meeting may be viewed via live streaming video at <https://pgccouncil.us/LIVE>. To register to speak or submit comments or written testimony, please use the Council's eComment portal at: <https://pgccouncil.us/Speak>. For those unable to use the portal, comments/written correspondence may be emailed to: clerkofthecouncil@co.pg.md.us or faxed to (301) 952-5178.

M-NCPPC Full Commission Meeting

Wednesday, September 20 | 10 a.m.

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission will hold its Full Commission meeting in a hybrid format from the Wheaton Headquarters Building Auditorium in Wheaton, MD and via videoconference. The meeting may be viewed via live streaming video. Agenda packets are available online.

The Active Transportation Advisory Group Meeting

Monday, September 11 | 7-8:30 p.m.

The Active Transportation Advisory Group holds virtual quarterly meetings to discuss general issues impacting bicycle, pedestrian, and share use paths in Prince George's County.

Historic Property Grant Program Workshops

Tuesday, September 5 | 9:30-11 a.m.

Thursday, September 21 | 6-7:30 p.m.

The Prince George's County Planning Department is hosting virtual workshops to guide attendees through the application process and instructions for the Historic Property Grant Program, explain the requirements for the preservation easement, and provide examples of successful projects. Register in advance for an upcoming workshop with the online form. For more information about the Historic Property Grant Program, visit pgplanning.org/466/Grants, call 301-952-3680, or email HistoricPreservation@ppd.mncppc.org.

Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission

Tuesday, September 19 | 6:30 p.m.

Hosted by the Prince George's County Planning Department, the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission meeting will be held virtually on the third Tuesday of the month. For meeting details, visit pgplanning.org/496/Whats-New, call 301-952-3680, or email HistoricPreservation@ppd.mncppc.org.

Assistance

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission encourages the participation of persons with disabilities in all its 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. Call the Public Affairs Office at 301-952-3038, email PublicAffairs@ppd.mncppc.org, or complete the online form.

—Calista Black, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Iowa State University Summer Graduates

AMES, Iowa (Aug. 29, 2023)—Iowa State University awarded degrees to 607 graduates this summer. Students earning degrees during the summer have the opportunity to participate in fall or spring commencement ceremonies. The following graduate is from Prince George's County:

Fort Washington, MD: **Rachel Sorensen**, Doctor of Philosophy, Toxicology

—Angie Hunt, Iowa State University

COMMUNITY

The Children's Place and Jonas Brothers Announce Top 10 Finalists for *Best School Day Ever Contest* and Host Hundreds of Children to an Afternoon of Fashion, Philanthropy, and a Special Performance

Bond Mill Elementary School in Laurel is one of 10 finalists

By PRESS OFFICER
The Children's Place

SECAUCUS, N.J. (Aug. 11, 2023)—The Children's Place, Inc. (Nasdaq: PLCE), the largest pure-play children's specialty retailer in North America, announced that on August 10, together with talented partners and global pop superstars, Jonas Brothers, hosted hundreds of children and their families to an afternoon of celebrating back-to-school fashion, giving back to communities in need, engaging in interactive kid-friendly activities, as well as a performance of a special set by Kevin, Joe, and Nick Jonas. Supporting the Company's mission in giving back to children and empowering them to reach their full potential through continued education, The Children's Place has partnered with Boys & Girls Clubs of America by providing much-needed resources and monetary contributions to the organization.

The Children's Place and Jonas Brothers launched their Best School Day Ever Contest earlier this season, which encouraged parents with children in grades K-8, who are enrolled in non-tuition-based schools, to nominate their child's school for a chance to win \$100,000 toward the improvement of their school. The finalists entered by submitting a written explanation of the

improvements the school needs and how the grand prize will impact the current and future students at the school. After receiving thousands of responses across the country, The Children's Place has narrowed it down to 10 finalists, of which, one lucky finalist's nominated school will win the grand prize of \$100,000.

The following 10 finalists were selected for having the highest-scoring submissions based on the meaningful explanations of their nomination, among other scoring criteria:

- Lauren J. of Russell Springs, KY nominated Salem Elementary School
- Marissa L. of Wall, NJ nominated Allenwood Elementary School
- Marlyne H. of Grand Prairie, TX nominated Garner Fine Arts Academy
- Samantha M. of Fredericksburg, VA nominated Salem Elementary School
- Jennifer S. of St. Ann, VA nominated Buder Elementary School
- Courtney N. of Philadelphia, PA nominated Joseph Greenberg School
- **Neha B. of Laurel, MD nominated Bond Mill Elementary School**
- Shayla D. of Brooklyn, NY nominated Beginning with Children School #2
- Denisha O. of Cottonwood,

AZ nominated Mountain View Preparatory School

• Amy A. of St. George, UT nominated Little Valley Elementary School

On Thursday, Aug. 10, New Jersey-based, The Children's Place, and New Jersey-born superstars, Jonas Brothers, kicked off the voting phase of the Company's Best School Day Ever Contest by announcing the top 10 finalists who attended the exclusive event.

The event also featured a children's fashion show featuring the Brand's latest back-to-school styles. The crowd was also treated to a live performance by Jonas Brothers. Additionally, the event was filled with kid-friendly activities, such as a customization station where children heat pressed patches on the Brands' gifted-backpacks, an area where children stocked up on school supplies, an interactive photo-booth which turned into a wall mural, a fun balloon artist, basketball pop-a-shots, and a book corner filled with thousands of books donated by long-standing partner, ThriftBooks, a leading independent online seller of new and used books.

For more information about The Children's Place 2023 Back-to-School Campaign, and the Company's Best School Day Ever Contest, please visit www.childrensplace.com

City of Glenarden Community Day

By MONAY WARD
City of Glenarden

Join the City of Glenarden for This Year's Glenarden Day on **Saturday, September 16, 2023** from 11 a.m.–6 p.m. at the Glenarden Municipal Center

(8600 Glenarden Pkwy., Glenarden, MD 20706). This year's theme is centered around "Keeping the Tradition Alive".

This theme is to encourage citizens to continue the traditions of building the community through their love of God, fam-

ily, friends, and community. It is this that makes Glenarden great!

There will be FREE games, prizes, live music, arts & crafts, amusements and so much more! Hope to see you there!

Collective Voices' 25th Anniversary Celebration of Their International Debut in London, England

Saturday, September 9, 2023, 3–5 p.m.

Francis Gregory Library, 3660 Alabama Ave SE, Washington, DC 20020

By JOY ALFORD / SISTAH JOY
Collective Voices

Collective Voices, originally a sisterhood of poets, is a Washington-area poetry group that traveled to London, England 25 years ago, in 1998, to participate in an International Women's Month celebration. Members of the group, which now includes its first male member, are Sistah Joy, Ladi Di, and Brenardo. Washington area poet, Billye Okera, a member at the time of their London debut, is also participating in the celebration.

Collective Voices is best known for poems of social conscience, empowerment, and inspiration and has strong ties to community venues and Washington-area Libraries. Collective Voices, in part-

nership with the Francis Gregory Neighborhood Library, celebrates the 25th anniversary of this milestone by presenting a 2-hour free-to-the-community celebration that will highlight their poetry-related experiences in and since its international debut in London and the evolution of the group since that time. The celebration will include poetry readings by Collective Voices, African drumming by Djembe drummer, Doc Powell, artistic creations and visual imagery by Charlemagne Fezza, and light refreshments. Guests are invited to participate in a "community talk-back" with Collective Voices members about past literary activities and the group's future plans. A book signing, as well as a live music performance (African drumming), will conclude the celebration.

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County Announces African Historical and Cultural Events in September

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (Sept. 5, 2023)—The Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County, part of the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, is proud to present several upcoming events about African History and Culture. Happening throughout September, the community will have access to a variety of educational and entertaining programs offered virtually and in person. These include:

September 12, 7 p.m.—online
Echoes of the Enslaved: Virtual Book Discussion

Join our partner Joe McGill and his co-author Herb Frazier in a virtual discussion about their new book, "Sleeping with the Ancestors: How I Followed the Footprints of Slavery". Hosted by the Prince George's County Memorial Library System.

September 16, 12 noon—Surratt House Museum
Echoes of the Enslaved: Music. Dance. Dialogue.

Join us and the Slave Dwelling Project for the annual Echoes of the Enslaved. This year's program will feature a full day of conversations and provocations centered around the legacies of slavery, with an emphasis on freedom, resistance, and the right to vote. The day's activities will include a block party, discussion with activists and scholars, food, tours of Surratt House Museum, and a bonfire.

September 24, 12 noon—Bladensburg Waterfront Park
Celebrate Africa Festival

Celebrate Africa 2023 will feature performances with artists and events that showcase the rich cultures of the African continent. Enjoy a live band, vocalist, drumming and community dance, storytelling, spoken word, an art exhibition, and more.

Celebration from A1

Arundel County's only incorporated municipality with its own government.

Highland Beach is home to Twin Oaks, the Frederick Douglass Museum and Cultural Center. African American intellectuals such as Paul Robeson, Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. Du Bois, Langston Hughes and Paul Laurence Dunbar have all visited the town.

To learn more about Highland Beach, visit: <https://www.highlandbeachmd.org/>.

PHOTO MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE
Governor Wes Moore and First Lady Dawn Moore yesterday joined the historic Highland Beach community to celebrate the town's 130th anniversary.



Morningside from A2

Remember the Uptown Theater in Cleveland Park? I have fond memories of watching movies like "2001: A Space Odyssey" and "Jurassic Park" on its giant, over-sized screen. It closed in 2001, the marquee still announcing "Harry Potter." Various cultural centers—such as Smithsonian, Library of Congress, Motion Picture Association and "deep-pocket benefactors"—are considering what should happen to it now. As a Washington Post editorial says, it's "Deserving an encore." I agree.

A home at 6808 Lou Lane, in Morningside, recently sold for \$225,000.

Milestones

Happy Birthday to Charlie Deegan, Nan Brown, twins Robert Andrew Woods and John Dexter Woods, Sept. 10; Anthony Thomas and Hank Busky, Sept. 12; Patricia Epperly, Sept. 13; Kenny Clark, Sept. 14; Elnora McCall, Sept. 15; Dolores McDonald, Steven Warren and Yolanda Dooley, Sept. 16.

Happy 54th anniversary to Les and Kathy Hedrick, on Sept. 13; and to Sal and Kathy (Blankenship) Biberaj, their 20th on Sept. 14.



I-495 Southside Express Lanes Study

City of Alexandria, Fairfax County, and Prince George's County, MD

Virtual Public Information Meeting

Tuesday, September 12, 2023 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. (presentation starts at 6:30 p.m.)
<https://www.virginiadot.org/495Southside>

In-Person Public Information Meetings

All meeting times are 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. (presentation starts at 7 p.m.)

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Oxon Hill High School (Auditorium), 6701 Leyte Dr, Oxon Hill, MD 20745

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center (Multi-purpose Room), 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria, VA 22314

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

John R. Lewis High School (Cafeteria), 6540 Franconia Rd., Springfield, VA 22150

Learn about and provide input on the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) I-495 Southside Express Lanes Study (495 Southside Study), an environmental study evaluating the potential extension of the Express Lanes system on the southern section of the Capital Beltway (I-495) by 11 miles from the Springfield interchange (I-95/I-395/I-495) in Fairfax County, Virginia, across the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge, to the MD 210 interchange in Prince George's County, Maryland.

Since introducing the 495 Southside Study at the Public Information Meetings in May 2022, VDOT has developed proposed preliminary alternative concepts to address identified transportation needs within the study area, which are to extend and provide continuity of the Express Lanes system on I-495, provide additional travel choices, reduce congestion and improve travel reliability, improve safety, and provide consistency with local and regional plans. VDOT will share preliminary alternative concepts for review and input at upcoming public meetings to inform the range of alternatives that will be carried forward in the study.

The virtual public information meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 12, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. with a presentation at 6:30 p.m. Visit <https://www.virginiadot.org/495Southside> or call 703-691-6715 for information about how to access and participate in the virtual meeting.

The in-person public information meetings will be held on Wednesday, September 13, at Oxon Hill High School, Tuesday, September 19, at Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center, and Wednesday, September 20, at John R. Lewis High School. All meetings will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m., with a formal presentation beginning at 7 p.m. Meeting display boards will be available to review, and VDOT representatives will be present to answer questions.

VDOT, in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and other federal, state and local agencies in Virginia and Maryland, is conducting an Environmental Assessment in compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR Part 771.

Review and provide input on VDOT's preliminary alternative concepts that will inform the range of alternatives to be carried forward in the Environmental Assessment on the webpage (<https://www.virginiadot.org/495Southside>), or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call ahead at 703-691-6715 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions. Meeting materials will be posted on the study webpage prior to the public information meetings.

Provide your input by completing a public opinion survey at <https://www.virginiadot.org/495Southside>, and by providing your written comments at one of the meetings or submitting them by October 2, 2023 to Nick Nies, AICP, VDOT 495 Southside Express Lanes Study NEPA Project Manager, 9030 Stony Point Parkway, Suite 220, Richmond, VA 23235, or email 495southsideexpresslanes@VDOT.Virginia.gov.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT Civil Rights at 703-259-1775.

COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Political Cowardice Continues to Fuel Unrelenting Racist Gun Violence

"I've heard some people say that some of the rhetoric that we hear doesn't really represent what's in people's hearts, it's just the game. It's just the political game. Those three people who lost their lives, that's not a game."

—Jacksonville Mayor Donna Deegan

At the very moment thousands of Americans were gathered in Washington, D.C., to call for racial unity and an end to gun violence in honor of the 60th anniversary of the March on Washington, a racist terrorist opened fire with a swastika-embazoned assault rifle at a Dollar General store in Jacksonville, Florida.

He killed Angela Michelle Carr, 52, a loving mother of three and a grandmother of 16 who "would give her shirt off her back for people," her son said.

He killed Jerrald Gallion, 29, a restaurant manager who was on his way to spend the day with his 4-year-old daughter.

He killed 19-year-old A.J. Laguerre, who worked at the store to help support the grandmother who raised him and his four siblings after their mother died.

The details of their lives didn't matter to the armed terrorist, though. All that mattered to him was that they were Black.

The multiple manifestos 21-year-old Ryan Palmetter left behind detail his "hatred against African Americans and belief in the inferiority of Black people," as well as "anti LGBTQ+ and anti-Semitic grievances," said Sherri Onks, Special Agent in charge of FBI Jacksonville office.

He hoped for a race war. He praised other mass murderers, including the Oklahoma City bomber, the Norwegian summer camp killer, and the Virginia Tech school shooter.

He underwent an involuntarily psychiatric evaluation in 2017, but he was able to purchase firearms under Florida law because he was not held for treatment.

This scenario would be unthinkable in a rational, responsible democracy that acknowledged the deadly consequences of racist rhetoric and placed the safety of its citizens above the profits of gun merchants.

If Palmetter's recent mental health crisis had turned up on his background check, an investigation could have revealed his murderous intent and prevented the legal purchase of his firearms. An assault weapons ban would have kept him from legally purchasing the most lethal of his weapons under any circumstance. Judicious monitoring of social media could have curbed the onslaught of racist, violent propaganda that feeds savage delusions like Palmetter's. If public figures and politicians held themselves to a higher standard,

fanning the flames of racial resentment as a political tactic would fall into the dustbin of history.

Because the United States is not yet that rational, responsible democracy, this scenario plays out again and again and again.

Almost 29,000 Americans have died of gun violence so far in 2023. That number should send lawmakers rushing to enact common sense gun safety policies.

We know that states with safer gun policies have lower rates of gun violence. We know that states with lax gun safety regulations see more mass shootings. We know that hateful propaganda on social media emboldens racists and extremists to act on their views.

The American people know all this. That's why 90% support safer gun policies. But there are too many lawmakers—many of whom fall into that 90%—who value the campaign cash of gun lobbyists more than the will of their constituents.

Fanning the flames of racial resentment for political gain has deadly consequences when those so inflamed have nearly unfettered access to high-powered weapons of war. At some point we must recognize that the lack of even the most basic effort to prevent racist gun violence is indistinguishable from encouraging it.

—September 1, 2023

Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita, Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Prayers for Labor Day

This Labor Day Weekend is again a time to honor the workers who have made America all that it is—especially all those who work with and for children. The teachers and school administrators who are beginning a new school year right now are always on the front lines advocating for and alongside our children, sometimes under very difficult circumstances. As they return to their classrooms they are not alone. Parents and grandparents and all those who care for children and strive to be good role models for them are child advocates. Doctors, social workers, and others who work with and serve children are child advocates. Librarians and coaches are child advocates. They are all joined by the thousands of people, with or without children of their own, who spend their time and talent fighting for just policies for children and families and those

who are vulnerable. "A Child Advocate's Beatitudes," inspired by Clarence Jordan's Sermon on the Mount, is a prayer for all.

Blessed are the poor in spirit—who do not measure themselves by money or worldly power but who ask God for what they need and are not mired in pride—for theirs is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are those who mourn—who are concerned about the needs of children and the poor and those in need—for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek—who do not seek only their own good but their neighbors' too—for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness—who do not work for the praise of others or earthly gain or fame and share gladly their

talents, energy and money—for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful—who know they are sinners and are dependent on God's and others' forgiveness every minute of every day—for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart—who are not hypocrites but who struggle to live what they preach—for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers—who do not prepare for war while talking about peace, who do not kill others in order to stop killing, who do not love just those who love them but reach out to make their enemies friends—for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake—who do not run or waver in the face of criticism, threats, or death—for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who speak kindly and not meanly of others—who do not tear down others but build them up for the kingdom's work and children's well-being—for they shall receive their reward.

Blessed are the just—who do not adhere to the letter of the law and regulations for some but ignore them for others—for they will hear God's well done.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, the great president of Morehouse College who shaped so many of my

generation, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said: "I am disturbed, I am uneasy about men because we have no guarantee that when we train a man's mind, we will train his heart; no guarantee that when we increase a man's knowledge, we will increase his goodness. There is no necessary correlation between knowledge and goodness." I share one more prayer for all those who will work with and for children this year that all children will be taught what really matters.

God, help us not to raise a new generation of children

with high intellectual quotients and low caring and compassion quotients;

with sharp competitive edges but dull cooperative instincts;

with highly developed computer skills but poorly developed consciences;

with a gigantic commitment to the big "I" but little sense of responsibility to the bigger "we";

with mounds of disconnected information without a moral context to determine its worth;

with more and more knowledge and less and less imagination and appreciation for the magic of life that cannot be quantified or computerized;

and with more and more worldliness and less and less wonder and awe for the sacred and everyday miracles of life.

God, help us to raise children who care.

—September 1, 2023

Governor Moore Hosts U.S. Climate Alliance Secretariat

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Governor News

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Aug. 30, 2023)—Governor Wes Moore this week hosted the U.S. Climate Alliance Secretariat for a meeting at the State House in Annapolis. During the meeting, the governor and the alliance discussed the Moore-Miller administration's action to combat climate change and the path toward reaching Maryland's ambitious climate goals.

"I see the climate crisis in our neighborhoods every day—it's why we're working to supercharge clean energy manufacturing and why we're working to make our communities more resilient," said Gov. Moore. "We must do all we can, and we must do it in partnership, to ensure a cleaner, greener Maryland—now and for future generations."

The United States Climate Alliance is a bipartisan coalition of states and unincorporated self-governing U.S. territories that are committed to upholding the objectives of the 2015 Paris Agreement within their borders. The alliance is working to achieve the U.S. goal of reducing greenhouse gas economy-wide emissions 26-28% from 2005 levels by 2025 and meeting or exceeding the targets of the federal Clean Power Plan.

The Moore-Miller administration made clear its first official step towards combating climate change in January when Governor Moore announced that Maryland joined the U.S. Climate Alliance. That same month, the governor proposed a \$422 million investment in protecting Maryland's environment through programs to support land preservation and operations and capital projects in state parks—along with another \$129 million in General Funds to support the transfer tax repayment provision as revised by the Great Maryland Outdoors Act.

In March, Governor Moore announced major offshore wind energy initiatives to build a more economically competitive state. To move Maryland toward achieving its 100% clean energy goal by 2035, the governor announced that Maryland will significantly in-

crease its offshore wind output and prioritize wind energy partnerships to position Maryland to be the country's leader in offshore wind production.

In April, Governor Moore announced a new partnership between the Maryland Department of the Environment and The Center for Global Sustainability at the University of Maryland to model Maryland's pathway toward a greener, cleaner state. The announcement came during a roundtable discussion at the State House with climate goal stakeholders including representatives from the Maryland Department of the Environment, University of Maryland, League of Conservation Voters, Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities, and Blink Charging.

The governor also signed several major environment bills into law at the Tradeport Atlantic facility in Sparrows Point with Ørsted, including the POWER Act, the Clean Trucks Act, and the Clean Transportation and Energy Act

In May, Governor Moore signed an executive order doubling Maryland's energy conservation goal through state government greenhouse gas reductions, shifting from from a 10% decrease by 2029 to a 20% decrease by 2031. Under the order, all units of state government will, in support of their core missions, implement projects and initiatives to conserve energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In June, Governor Moore announced Maryland's entry into the Biden administration's National Building Performance Standards Coalition. The coalition will help deliver better buildings for 74 million people while eliminating an estimated 624 million metric tons of carbon dioxide. Maryland is one of only three states with statewide building performance standards. The state will require commercial and multifamily buildings that are 35,000 square feet and larger to reduce direct emissions by 20% by 2030 and reach net zero direct emissions by 2040.

In July, Governor Moore announced a major policy shift in how Maryland will deploy state resources to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and other waterways to restore the Chesapeake

and Atlantic Coastal Bays. Under the Moore-Miller administration, Maryland will become the first state in the Bay watershed to embrace the latest scientific recommendations to improve our land and clean our waterways, taking a proactive healthier waterways that are more accessible for Maryland's communities, more resilient to climate change, and benefit the important industries that depend on the Chesapeake and Coastal Bays.

Maryland's Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 calls for 60% in emissions reductions by 2031—the most ambitious target in the country. The act requires the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by setting more aggressive state goals; requires electric companies to increase gross energy savings; develops energy efficiency and emissions reduction requirements for certain buildings; establishes zero-emission vehicle requirements in the state fleet; and establishes an electric school bus pilot program.

The Maryland Department of the Environment is currently welcoming public input on climate change strategies for Maryland to create a final policy framework and plan that will be delivered at the end of 2023.

The Prince George's Post

The Prince George's Post
P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151
Phone: 301-627-0900 • Legal Fax: 301-627-6260
Email: pgpost@gmail.com
Contents © 2023, The Prince George's Post

Publisher/Senior Editor Legusta Floyd	Editor Lisa Duan
General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager Brenda Boice	Administrative Assistant/ Billing -
Legal Advertising Assistant Robin Boerckel	Web Manager Kyler Quesenberry

Prince George's County, Md. Member National Newspaper Publishers Association, and the Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia Press Association. The Prince George's Post (ISSN 10532226) is published every Thursday by the New Prince George's Post Inc., 15207 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151. Subscription rate: 25 cents per single copy; \$15 per year; \$7.50 senior citizens and students; out of county add \$1; out of state add \$2. Periodical postage paid at Southern Md. 20790. Postmaster, send address changes to Prince George's Post, P.O. Box 1001, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20773.

The Prince George's Post

Subscribe Today! Call 301-627-0900 or email bboice@pgpost.com

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

I'm 64. When Should I Claim My Social Security?

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

Dear Rusty: I am 64 years old and still working full time. My question is—when should I start my Social Security? I would like to start it in January 2024 and go part time at work, but would I be losing much Social Security by not waiting until full retirement age? **Signed: Trying to Plan Ahead**

Dear Trying to Plan: You are smart to evaluate the impact of claiming your Social Security (SS) benefits early. First, be aware that your full retirement age (FRA) for Social Security purposes is 66 years and 8 months, and that is when you get 100% of the SS benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working.

It appears you already know that if you start benefits before your FRA, you'll be subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much you can earn from working before they take away some of your benefits. But if you go part time at work you can mitigate the earnings test and claim your benefits early—just understand that your payment will be permanently reduced by doing so.

If you claim your benefits to start in January 2024, you'll be taking your Social Security about 18 months early, which means that instead of 100% of your FRA entitlement you'll get about 90% (a reduction of 10%). The earnings test will still apply, and we don't yet know what the 2024 earnings limit will be, but it will be something more than the 2023 limit of \$21,240. If your 2024 earnings exceed the annual limit, SS will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. They "take away" benefits by withholding future payments until they recover what you owe for exceeding the limit. If you work part time and don't exceed the 2024 annual earnings limit, there will be no penalty and you will get every month's SS payment. If you find you will exceed the annual 2024 earnings limit, you can call Social Security and inform them of that and by how much, and they will suspend your benefits for the number of months necessary to avoid overpaying you. If you don't inform them and you exceed the annual 2024 limit, they will catch up in 2025 when they get your 2024 earnings info from the IRS and issue an Overpayment Notice requiring you to pay back the amount owed (half of what you exceeded the 2024 annual limit by). As you likely know, the earnings test no longer applies after you reach your full retirement age.

So, the decision on when to claim your Social Security benefit is yours to make, and you are smart to consider your work plans - but should also consider your life expectancy and marital status. If you are married and eventually die before your lower earning spouse, your spouse's benefit as your survivor will be based on your benefit amount at the time of your death. Thus, your age when you claim your benefit may also affect your spouse's benefit as your survivor; the longer you wait (up to age 70) the more your spouse's survivor benefit would be. And if you enjoy at least average longevity, which is about 84 for a man your current age, then by waiting until your FRA or later to claim you'll not only get a higher monthly payment but also get more in cumulative lifetime benefits. If, however, your financial circumstances are such that you need the SS money sooner, then claiming earlier may be the right decision, provided you don't substantially exceed the annual earnings limit prior to reaching your full retirement age. I hope the above provides what you need to make an informed decision.

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

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



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF DISTRICT HEIGHTS
District Heights City Commissioner
Gyasi Gomez

City Commissioner Gyasi Gomez Selected as Delegate to Local Government 2030

By PRESS OFFICER
City of District Heights

DISTRICT HEIGHTS, Md. (Aug. 28, 2023 District Heights City Commissioner Gyasi Gomez (Ward 2) was named as one of 62 delegates from across the county to Local Government 2030 in Phoenix, Arizona in January 2024.

Local Government 2030 is a small group of elected officials, professionals, and stakeholders assembled to provide leadership in implementing solutions that address some

of the greatest challenges facing local governments across the nation: growing a resilient workforce; reimagining the way local government approach the art of communication; and envisioning a local government workforce that is resilient, equitable, and inclusive by creating employment opportunities in the public sector for justice-impacted individuals.

Commissioner Gomez is the only delegate from Maryland.

Additional information can be found online at: <https://www.localgov2030.com>

WSSC Water Distributes Nearly \$4 Million to Assist

Income-Constrained Customers with Past-Due Bills

\$3.75 Million Grant from Maryland's COVID-19 State and Local Recovery Funds

Maryland Water Assistance Also Increases Funding Availability

By PRESS OFFICER
WSSC Water

LAUREL, Md. (Aug. 28, 2023)—WSSC Water recently distributed \$3.75 million to 4,350 income-constrained customers throughout Montgomery and Prince George's counties to help pay past-due water and sewer bills incurred between January 27, 2020, and September 30, 2022. The average grant received by customers was \$863.36. Funding enabled WSSC Water to restore water service for 377 vulnerable customers. Letters have been mailed to all grant recipients.

The grant is from Maryland's COVID-

19 State and Local Relief Fund award under the American Rescue Plan Act. The distribution of funds continues WSSC Water's extensive efforts to assist customers financially impacted by the pandemic. Since March 2020, WSSC Water has provided more than \$10.2 million in financial assistance to more than 5,500 customers thanks to various federal and state programs.

"We know the financial impacts of COVID-19 continue to this day, which is why these funds are crucial to ensuring our income-constrained customers have the resources necessary to keep our safe, clean water flowing to their taps," said

WSSC Water General Manager and CEO Kishia L. Powell. "I thank Governor Wes Moore's administration for providing this money and our Commissioners, especially Commission Vice Chair T. Eloise Foster, for helping us secure funds that complement our strong portfolio of assistance programs."

Today, Maryland also increased funding available through the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program for overdue water bills – from \$2,000 to \$10,000. Act now: applications will be accepted through September 30, 2023.

WSSC Water strongly encourages customers behind on their water and sewer bills to learn more about financial assistance programs at <https://www.wsscwater.com/assistance>.

About WSSC Water: WSSC Water is the proud provider of safe, seamless and satisfying water services, making the essential possible every day for our neighbors in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. We work to deliver our best because it's what our customers expect and deserve.

CAREERS: 5 Insights to Help You Find Your Dream Job

(StatePoint) With one in four U.S. adults currently job seeking, it's a competitive market, but experts say that finding your dream job is within reach if you use smart strategies.

"A well-executed job search that combines powerful search tools and the right mindset will connect you with companies that value their employees and set them up to thrive," says Kristin Kelley, chief marketing officer of CareerBuilder.

As you get your job search under way, consider these five tips and insights from CareerBuilder:

1. Define your dream job: Research shows that the goals and desires of job seekers vary by industry. However, whether you're an administrative assistant, a retail worker or a software developer, it's important to define what matters to you in a job, as doing so will help you narrow your search. This means nailing down details like your salary requirements, while also considering intangible factors, such as whether the work will allow you to make an impact and whether the company's values and culture align with yours.

2. Build a better resume: A resume is often the first point of connection between you and your next job, yet knowing its importance can make it feel daunting to create. To make a great impression with a minimal amount of effort, check out online tools like CareerBuilder's "Create Resume" feature.



PHOTO SOURCE: © AMANALANG / ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

The platform allows you to create multiple variations of your resume that call out specific areas of expertise as they may relate to particular roles. The site has already outlined the most important fields for you to fill in, making it easy to authentically highlight a mix of hard and soft skills that will get you noticed by top employers.

3. Streamline your search: Work smart, not hard. Rather than apply for jobs individually, turn to a job search platform that will make your profile and resume available to thousands of employers. In the case of CareerBuilder, you don't actually need to register for an account to search through its millions of job listings. Search for jobs using filters like degree requirement, keywords, industry and mileage radius, then apply for positions

directly on the site. A salary search function, along with career advice and tips, make it an invaluable one-stop site for job seekers.

4. Prepare for interviews: Preparing answers to common interview questions and even practicing with a spouse or friend beforehand can help you feel competent and confident when the real interview rolls around. For behavioral questions, CareerBuilder recommends using the STAR method, in which you describe the Situation, Task, Action and Result to explain how you would act in specific work situations.

5. Check the terms: A dream job is only a dream job if the terms of employment suit you. Before signing a contract, check such details as compensation, start date, the company's leave policy, professional development opportunities, perks and benefits, as well as items that could impact you in the future, like non-disclosure agreements. If you plan to negotiate, decide whether you'll take the job if the employer doesn't modify the contract. Stay courteous and professional throughout the process.

For more career advice, or to register and search for jobs, visit careerbuilder.com/jobs.

Landing a dream job can be a labor intensive process. However, leaning on new tools and tech to do some of the groundwork for you can help ensure you start your new position with purpose and energy.

EarthTalk® Q&A

Older Car, Engine Fried: What To Do?

Dear EarthTalk:

The engine is fried on my old Honda Civic. What's the most environmentally friendly thing to do with this car?

—Tom C., Venice, CA

Studies show that the typical combustion engine has a lifetime expectation of about 200,000 miles. For the average American, reaching this mileage takes about 14 years. Surprisingly, a survey by Zebra found that the average American only keeps their longest-owned car for eight years. The manufacturing of new cars, even electric ones, generates heavy emissions, contributing to pollution. Large automotive conglomerates like Stellantis (parent company of well-known brands like RAM, Maserati, Jeep, Chrysler and Dodge) are now focusing on extending car lifetimes and reusing parts to reduce carbon emissions.

One obvious option is engine repair or replacement. Repairing or replacing your car's engine, though it may seem like a weak investment, is more environmentally friendly than buying a brand-new car. However, older cars often have poor fuel efficiency, so it is good to check online databases to compare your old car's fuel

efficiency with newer models you're considering.

Another possibility is to convert your gasoline-powered engine to electric. But it is no easy task, as you'll have to not only remove and replace the engine itself but also the transmission, gas tank and exhaust system. This option is certainly more eco-friendly than buying a new car, and you'll save on fuel costs. However, the immediate costs for the conversion kits, accessories and installation service can range from \$7,000 to \$20,000, making it reasonable only if you plan to keep your car for a while.

If your car is truly beyond repair, buying a hybrid or electric vehicle is likely the best option. Then if you're truly eco-motivated, you can choose to recycle your old car's parts yourself. In doing so, make sure to do so responsibly. Drain and recycle used motor oil. Some recycling centers accept it for re-refining and repurposing, and certain locations of Auto Zone and O'Reilly Auto Parts will recycle engine oil and filters for no cost. The same firms may also be willing to buy your car's battery for a small amount. The car's tires, if in good condition, can be held onto for spares or sold for repurposing.

Beyond those simple tasks, you'll need an auto-salvage yard or

junkyard to handle the rest. They will crush the car frame and chassis. The metal is then melted and repurposed. Car glass is laminated, so it cannot be mainstream recycled. However, your local junkyard may have contacts with large auto glass manufacturers, many of whom, according to only1autoglass, "are innovating and coming up with new ways to recycle auto glass, for multiple reuses." This practice isn't the norm throughout the industry, says only1, but it is gaining in popularity.

CONTACTS: Why The Keeping Older Cars On The Road Is The Best Way To Cut CO2 Emissions, <https://www.hotcars.com/keep-old-cars-running-to-cut-carbon-emissions/>; Survey: Average length of car ownership in America, <https://www.thezebra.com/resources/driving/average-length-of-car-ownership>; Keeping old cars longer can help the environment MORE than buying new electric cars, <https://studyfinds.org/keeping-old-cars-help-environment-more-than-new-electric-cars/>; Car Recycling Process: How Does It Work? <https://shrinkthatfootprint.com/car-recycling-process-how-does-it-work/>.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org

