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IMAGE COURTESY PGCMLS

A rendering of the new Bladensburg Branch Library

New Bladensburg Branch Library Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Scheduled November 1

By ANDREA CASTILLO
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (Oct. 27, 2023)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) will host a ribbon cutting ceremony for its new Bladensburg Branch Library building at 4820 Annapolis

Road on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at 11 a.m. However, the branch will close to the public at 1:30 p.m. until further notice. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. The ceremony will feature remarks from PGCMLS Interim CEO Richard AmRhein, County Executive Angela D. Alsobrooks, Prince George's

County Councilwoman Jolene Ivey (District 5), Bladensburg Mayor Takisha James, PGCMLS Board of Library Trustees President Angela D. Smith, and PGCMLS Chief Operating Officer for Support Services Michael Gannon, as well as an invocation by Elder Willie Duvall, senior pastor of

Word of God Community Church in Bladensburg. The new Bladensburg Library offers expanded space—nearly three times as large as the 1920s-era building it replaces—and resources to meet

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Attorney General, Public Defender Launch Collaborative to Address Inequity in Incarceration

By STEPH QUINN
Capital News Service

BOWIE, Md. (Oct. 25, 2023)—The state's top prosecutor and defense attorney united Wednesday behind an effort to end inequities in incarceration— which Attorney General Anthony Brown described as among “the worst in the United States of America”—with a partnership including state agencies, law enforcement and justice reform advocates. Representatives from over 40 such agencies and groups attended the launch of the Maryland Equitable Justice Collaborative at Bowie State University, kicking off a multi-year process that officials said will include legislative and funding recommendations for the coming General Assembly session. Brown and Public Defender Natasha Dartigue underlined the disproportionate frequency and intensity with which the court and legal systems impact Black Maryland residents. While 30 percent of Maryland's population is Black, the

state's prison population is 71 percent Black, Brown said. Nearly eight in 10 Marylanders serving sentences over 10 years in prison are Black men, and 41 percent of these Black men entered prison as children or young adults, according to Dartigue. “The overincarceration of Black men and women in Maryland is a crisis,” Brown told members of the collaborative. “This is not only a national problem, it is a cancer that infects Maryland,” Dartigue said. The collaborative's commitments, which will focus on topics such as economic and workforce development, behavioral health and reform of the youth legal system, will meet regularly in November and December and make preliminary legislative recommendations in January ahead of the 2024 legislative session. Then the collaborative will hold quarterly meetings. The collaborative will examine biases and challenges at points of entry to the criminal

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Juvenile Services Department to Move Detained Girls, Again

By STEPH QUINN
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Oct. 24, 2023)—Maryland's Department of Juvenile Services will relocate girls awaiting court hearings or long-term placement this month from a single unit of the Cheltenham Youth Detention Center, a facility that previously housed only boys, to a center the agency says will house all girls in the agency's residential care. The move is designed to correct problems highlighted in a series of reports by the Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit in the state Office of the Attorney General. The reports revealed that four moves of detained girls and one move of girls in long-term placement over seven months in

2022 disrupted school, led to longer and more frequent periods of confinement and isolation, delayed medical services and exposed girls to sexual harassment. But it's unclear whether the change to an all-girl facility will impact the inequities experienced by girls in Maryland's youth detention system. “They just treat these girls like chattel, moving them constantly from one place to another without thinking of how it will impact them,” a staffer told a JMU investigator in early 2023. “They are just replicating the streets here, it's like survival every day,” said a mental health therapist to an investigator during the same period. While all DJS long-term placement facilities are meant to offer treatment,



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE ILLUSTRATION/STEPH QUINN

the therapist told the investigator that the facility was too “short-handed” to do so.

“You can't call it treatment ... because there is not treatment going on,” the therapist said.

A 19-year-old at the facility, the Victor Cullen Center in rural northern Frederick County, said to an investigator, “There is nothing treatment-oriented about this program.” DJS has housed detained girls from most of the state at Cheltenham and all girls in long-term committed placement at Cullen since October 2022. The department said that after girls at Cheltenham are moved to the Western Maryland Children's Center in Hagerstown later this month, girls committed by the courts to DJS care will join them “at a later date.” Boys currently detained at DJS residential facilities closest to their home communities, the department said. The department also indicated that WMCC

staff are receiving training in “gender-responsive programming and trauma-informed care.” Girls and young women comprise a small portion of youth confined in DJS detention and treatment centers. For fiscal year 2022, DJS reported average daily populations of 10 girls in detention and 12 in court-ordered committed placement. The number of girls sent to detention from juvenile court in the course of a given year is much higher, though it has decreased each year since 2018, from 437 to 91 in 2022. In the 2022 fiscal year, DJS reported, 5 percent of all female

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Moore Launches Service Year, Maryland Corps With Fanfare

By KIERSTEN HACKER
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK, Md. Oct. 27, 2023)—The University of Maryland fight song echoed through the college's Reckord Armory Friday as dancers performed routines and a tunnel of cheerleaders welcomed the participants of Gov. Wes Moore's Maryland Corps and Service Year Option to celebrate its pilot launch. UMD President Darryll Pines took the stage first, touting the state's flagship institution as the first “do good” campus. The university is a partner in the Service Year Option, which will provide

job training and career development for young adults, and Maryland Corps, an opportunity for any adult to perform paid community service. The crowd of about 400 cheered “Service will save us” with Pines as he led the chant of the governor's signature phrase, saying he agrees with Moore “wholeheartedly.” “You have no idea how you have just filled my heart. Seeing you here. Seeing you ready to serve. Seeing you say yes,” Moore said, speaking directly to the inaugural class of service members. “You are the fulfillment of a promise and you are the embodi-

ment of a hope.” Service has been a top priority for Moore since he took office in January. He signed an executive order during his first full day to establish the Department of Service and Civic Innovation, and in April, Paul Monteiro, former AmeriCorps national director and U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service director, was appointed secretary. “People who thought that this would be difficult and people who, you know, might not have imagined that our state could actually lead ... like this, but we were committed and we said yes, we can. And yes, we will. And



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE/KIERSTEN HACKER

Gov. Wes Moore, left, meets with participants of the Maryland Corps/Service Year Option, at the programs' kick-off ceremony on Friday, Oct. 27, 2023. now today is a celebration of yes, we did.” The legislature approved the Serving Every Region Through Vocational Exploration Act of 2023, or SERVE Act, in April, greenlighting the governor's service year road map. The law allows

high school graduates ages 18–21 to complete a “first-of-its-kind” year of service at businesses and organizations across the state. Participants will receive job training while making \$15 an hour and when they complete the program, they will get a \$6,000 stipend for tuition or other general expenses. Maryland Corps, which was established in 2016, will be revamped under the SERVE Act. Adults of any age have the opportunity to complete a year of service through Maryland Corps, while making at least \$15 an hour and receiving the same stipend. The law provided 200 spots for service year option participants in its inaugural year. Eventually, 2,000 high school graduates will

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Prince George's County Office of Central Services and the Clean Water Partnership Collaborate to Expand Capacity Development for Local Small and Minority-Owned Businesses

The Clean Water Partnership's Mentor Protégé program is tailored to build the capacity of target class businesses... Community, Page A4

Black and Hispanic Faculty Underrepresented in Maryland Public Universities

This analysis does not include Maryland's online universities or historically black colleges and universities.

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TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

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

Owner acquitted in 2021 zebra escape caper

Seen a zebra lately? You might have back in August 2021 if you lived near Bellfield and Duley Station roads in the Upper Marlboro area. Five zebras had escaped from a farm near there. Three were traveling together and the other two were a pair. Anyone who spotted the runaways was asked to call the Prince George's County Animal Services Division. What began as a simple search in Prince George's County, became a national story. (My daughter Therese and I were among the dozens out searching.)

The zebras had escaped from a 300-acre farm owned by Jerry Lee Holly who was licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to keep 39 zebras. In partnership with Holly's farm, Prince George's Animal Services Division installed a feeding station near the farm and the zebras came there to eat in the early morning hours. A corral was set up nearby in hopes that the zebras could be fenced and taken back to the farm. Eventually, the runaways were found.

However, Mr. Holly was, at that time, charged by the State with animal cruelty.

This week the case was held before Prince George's County District Court Judge Llamilet Gutierrez who said she believed the State had not met its burden of proof, had not offered clear evidence the escaped zebras had endured animal cruelty. Mr. Holly was acquitted.

And so ends the saga of the great zebra escape.

By the way, a group of zebras is called a dazzle, named for the dazzle-effect created by a group of running zebras.

Town of Morningside: Speed cameras coming!

Slow down! Two speed cameras are coming, one in front of the Exxon Station near the intersection of Skyline Drive, westbound, and one across the Street in front of the shops, east-

bound. Once the cameras are in place, there will be a 30-day warning period; after that, a \$40 violation ticket.

The Town is working on Economic Development—road repair and infrastructure maintenance remain top priorities. They are also working on upgrading the Town Hall Municipal Building and installing three digital signs to better communicate activities.

And Morningside is recruiting two additional police officers.

Senior Residents of the Town will have a Thanksgiving Feast Luncheon followed by Bingo on Thursday, Nov. 16, 11:30 a.m. Seniors, reserve your spot no later than Friday, Nov. 13, by calling 301-736-2301.

The Morningside Recreation Committee meets the 1st Tuesday of the month at 6:30 in the conference room of the Town Hall. All are welcome.

Town meetings: Work Session, Nov. 14; Town Hall Meeting, Nov. 21, both at 7 p.m.. Morningside information: 301-736-2300.

Veterans Day at 9619

Veterans Day is a federal holiday in the United States, observed officially on November 11, regardless of the day of the week on which it falls.

VFW Post 9619, Suitland Road, will commemorate Veterans Day on Saturday, Nov. 11, beginning with a Service at 11 a.m.. Lunch will follow the service.

For more VFW 9619 information, call 301-735-5290.

Changing landscape

Marlboro Pike is becoming a boom town for new restaurants: Hip Hop Fish & Chicken (6100 Marlboro Pike); LuvPlates Soul & Grill (6120); Caribbean Grill (6041). If you've tried any of these and have a good report, email it to me.

Two pink American flamingos have landed in Chincoteague, Va. As the Washington Post says, "those tropical birds have no business being anywhere around here." They are now hanging

out in the marshland on opposite ends of the island and don't seem to be in a hurry to leave.

A home at 6705 just sold for \$220,000.

Wordle report

As I hit my 600th Wordle, I've never had a 1 (one) and I've only had 19 2s. But I'm doing more 3s than 5s; that was my aim. How are you doing? Or are you?

Quiz for really old-time Morningsiders

Did you live in Morningside back in the 1950s?

Did you get your hair cut at Johnson's Barber Shop (Suitland Rd.) or Eleanor's Beauty Shop (305 Larkspur Rd.)? Did you go to E.H. Webster (7 Pickett Dr.) to have your watch repaired? Buy Avon from Alvina Beardmore (221 Woodland Rd.)?

Did you shop at Skyline Market (5995 Suitland Rd), Morningside Variety Shop (5993 Suitland Rd.) or G.I. Market (6220 Suitland Rd.)? Buy beer and wine at G.I. Liquors or drop by for cocktail hour at Skyline Tavern (5989 Suitland Rd.)?

Did you gas up at Morningside Esso (6000 Suitland Rd.) or Morningside Texaco (6221 Suitland Rd.)? Did proprietor Jerry Bond sharpen your saw at the Morningside Lawn Mower Shop (6120 Suitland Rd.)?

Were you a member of the I-C-E Club (6119 Suitland Rd.)? Visit Helen B Hooper, Notary Public (313 Boxwood Dr.)? Attend Mrs. Smith's Morningside Co-operative Kindergarten at the Morningside Town Hall (corner of Forest and Woodland Roads)? Pray at Morningside Baptist Church, pastored by Rev. Winfield?

Did you read The Morningside Press, published by Dalton V. Brunson? Did you tune in to WPGC, 1580 on your dial, the "Morningside of Things?"

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Around the County

Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County Announces 6x Grammy[®] Nominated & NAACP Image Award Winner, The Baylor Project, Coming to Publick Playhouse

RIVERDALE, Md. (Oct. 26, 2023)—The M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County is excited to announce a special performance from The Baylor Project on **Sunday, November 12, 2023**, at 4 p.m.

A husband. A wife. An astonishing duo built on love, family, faith, culture, and community. These are the things that power The Baylor Project, featuring Jean Baylor and Marcus Baylor. This enticing collaboration is steeped in the heart and soul of jazz. Marcus' and Jean's musical roots were planted deep within the church, and it was there that the road was paved for the influence of jazz, gospel, blues, and soul to make its mark. The Baylor Project pays homage to their wide-ranging musical influences, and in doing so, generates an eclectic sound whose overall effect is spiritual, buoyant, feel-good music. Tickets are \$40 per person; \$35 for seniors/students, and can be purchased at <https://bit.ly/3rRjsWQ> or by calling the Box Office at 301-277-1710 (M-F, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.).

Tickets are on sale now for the entire 2023-2024 Season at The Publick Playhouse, which provides quality programs for intergenerational audiences. Programs include musical tributes, jazz and R&B concerts, dance performances, film screenings for seniors, and educational arts programming for children. In addition to performances, the Publick Playhouse offers a wide range of arts and wellness workshops, art exhibitions, and a summer musical theater camp.

The Publick Playhouse, one of two surviving Art Deco theatres in Prince George's County, is owned and operated by the Department of Parks and Recreation and serves as a venue for performing arts, concerts, dance, theater, and community events. For more information, to purchase tickets, or view the Digital Arts Brochure, visit www.pgparcs.com/activities-events/arts-programs. Stay connected on Facebook and Instagram, @artspgparcs.

—M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation

PGCPS Educators Recognized for Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Oct. 26, 2023)—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) educators received three of the four 2023 Maryland Educators of Gifted Students (MEGS) MEGGY Awards during the organization's annual conference on October 20. The awards honor peer-nominated educators for their exemplary contributions to gifted and talented education.

George Milan, teacher at Kenmoor Middle School, was recognized as an outstanding educator in the field of gifted education. Erica Bair, Longfields Elementary School teacher, and JanetViana Clarke-Green, teacher at Benjamin Tasker Middle School, earned their MEGGY awards by creating learning environments that allow their Talented and Gifted (TAG) students to thrive.

"Ensuring that talented students have access to a challenging curriculum is a piece of the equity puzzle that is often overlooked," said Theresa Jackson, PGCPS TAG Program Supervisor. "I commend the work our MEGGY Award winners are doing in the classroom and I'm proud of their statewide recognition they have received."

MEGGY Award recipients receive a certificate, monetary award, photograph on the organization's website and recognition during the annual statewide conference.

—Prince George's County Public Schools

Prince George's County Announces Holiday Closings for Veterans Day

Prince George's County government offices, with the exception of public safety agencies, will be closed on **Friday, November 10, 2023, in observance of Veterans Day.** LARGO, Md. (Oct. 24, 2023)—The Department of the Environment (DoE) announces the following offices, services, and facilities will be closed or suspended on Friday, November 10, 2023:

Facility/Service

Animal Services Facility, (3750 Brown Station Road): **Closed Nov. 10**
Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill: **Open**
Brown Station Road Public Convenience Center: **Open**
Electronics Recycling Acceptance Site (Located at the Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill): **Open *Only open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday**
Household Hazardous Waste Acceptance Site (Located at the Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill): **Open *Only open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday**

Missouri Avenue Solid Waste Acceptance and Recycling Center: **Open**
Prince George's County Organics Composting Facility: **Open**
Prince George's County Materials Recycling Facility (1000 Ritchie Road): **Open**

Bulky Trash Collection (White goods/appliances and scrap tires; by appointment only) **No Scheduled Collections on Friday, November 10**

Trash Collection in County-Contracted Areas: **Regular collections occur Tuesday, November 7 through Friday, November 10**

Curbside Bulky Trash Collection: **Regular collections occur Tuesday, November 7 through Friday, November 10**

Curbside Recycling Collection: **Regular Collections Occur Tuesday, November 7 through Friday, November 10**

Curbside Residential Food Scraps and Yard Trim: **Regular collections occur Monday, November 6**

TheBus, a public transit service operated by the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T), will operate on Friday, November 10, 2023. In addition, the County's Call-A-Bus and PGC Link services, including dialysis transportation, will not operate on Friday, November 10, 2023. Regular operations of the Call-A-Bus and PGC Link services will resume on Monday, November 13, 2023.

The Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE) will be closed on Friday, November 10, 2023. Regular business hours will resume on Monday, November 13, 2023.

Also, PGC311 will be closed on Friday, November 10, 2023, and will resume regular operations on Monday, November 13, 2023. However, residents can still submit service/issue requests online at PGC311.com.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

CIAA TOURNAMENT

Bowie State University is the host institution once again for the CIAA Basketball Tournament February 26-March 3, 2024, in Baltimore, Maryland. bowiestate.edu/ciaa. Bulldog fans are encouraged to stay connected to the Office of Alumni Engagement and Stewardship to be among the first to know about all CIAA events, including making your reservations at the BSU host hotel for CIAA.

VETERANS DAY 2023

Veterans Day 2023 is on Saturday, November 11, 2023. As a federal holiday, Veteran's Day is observed in honor of all Veterans past, present, and future. Veterans are proud of their military service in defending our Nation. The Bowie State University Veteran's Day Program is a salute to all Veterans and their families. Cost is free.

The Veterans' Day Program is November 10, 2023, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The program will be held in the Student Center Ballrooms, Multi-room event, 14000 Jericho Park Road, Bowie, Maryland. Contact Eartha Govan, 706-726-0622, email: egovan@bowiestate.edu, website: <https://www.bowiestate.edu/calendar/index.php?eID=5373>

MEN'S DAY SERVICE

Clinton United Methodist Church in Clinton, Maryland celebrated Annual Men's Day Sunday, October 15, 2023. Rev. Dorothea Belt Stroman, Pastor. Guest speaker was Minister Rodney Taylor of Union Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, is one of six children born to Randolph and Sylvia Taylor of Brandywine, Maryland. Rodney is a lifelong resident of Prince George's County. He and his family currently reside in Aquasco, Maryland. He is a well-respected career employee with the Prince George's County Government where he served as the Chief of Animal Services Division for twenty-two of his 40-year career. Rodney was recently promoted to Special Assistant to the Director of the Department of Environment. During his career, he demonstrated extraordinary leadership and served on the Chick-fil-A Board of Advisors. Rodney earned his Associate of Arts Degree from Prince George's Community College and is currently pursuing his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Maryland Global campus.

Minister Rodney serves as the Minister to Men and as a board member of Bethel House, Inc., a non-profit outreach organization; and he is the founder/director of an all Mentor-Ministry. The mentoring team supports students from Gwynn Park Middle School in Brandywine, Maryland. Most of these young men were in danger of having to repeat their most recent grade, lived in single-parent households and dealt with behavioral issues. The work of Minister Rodney Taylor and his mentoring team has turned these young men's

lives around and most are now on the honor roll and striving in their studies.

Minister Rodney is the recipient of many awards including the "Man of the Year" in the 2nd Episcopal District of the AME Church, representing Union Bethel AME Church and the Bishop Community Award.

A dedicated family man, Rodney, and his wife Raenette have been married for over 30 years, and have two daughters: Raenelle, a graduate of Hampton University, and Raelea, a graduate of the University of Maryland College Park.

Minister Rodney Taylor's goal is to see our youth mature into spiritual individuals who will lead their life according to the Word of God and to save souls in the process.

VIOLENCE AWARENESS SUNDAY

Sunday, October 22, 2023, Domestic/Intimate Partners Violence Awareness Sunday was held at Clinton United Methodist Church, Clinton, Maryland. Rev. Dorothea Belt Stroman, Pastor. Guest Speaker was Reverend Sheila Holmes who is a licensed ordained minister of the gospel who gives all Praise to God and acknowledges she would never have made it without the "Fragrance of His Love."

Reverend Holmes was born in Baltimore, Maryland. She has worked in healthcare for the last years as a Healthcare Advocate. Currently employed with ProMedica Hospice as a Lead Bereavement Coordinator, Rev. Holmes facilitates Grief Support Groups, Bereavement Grief Camps, Memorial Services and provides workshops and Information sessions in the community, and all with the purpose to help aid the process of loss and healing.

She is dedicated to reaching out to those who have endured the loss of a loved one and giving them the tools and encouragement to journey toward healing.

Rev. Holmes is Associate Pastor at Liberty Empowerment Baptist Church located in Colonial Beach, Virginia, under the leadership of Rev. Sherman C. Hayes, Pastor. She teaches bible study, preaches the word of God, and oversees their community wellness "WE CARE" program.

She is entering her third year at Messiah University in Pennsylvania graduate program for her Masters's Degree in Clinical Mental Health.

Her goal of advocating for empowering wounded souls under the ministry Seeds of Hope she founded in 2021, is to teach, encourage, and counsel others to step out on faith and believe. Believe that when you cry out to the Lord, He will answer and take you by the hand. Believe He will guide you and strengthen you. Most of all, He will reveal the truth about who we are, His Beloved Child. LibertyChurch2007@outlook.com Advocating for the Empowerment of Wounded Souls.

COMMUNITY

A Veterans Day Tea & Talk: “Our Men Go Off to War: The USCT Fathers and Sons From Marietta”

By STACEY HAWKINS
Marietta House Museum

Please join us on **Sunday, November 12**, 1–3 p.m. to honor Veterans Day at a Tea and Talk: Our Men Go Off to War: The USCT Fathers and Sons from Marietta.

Dr. Julie Rose will give a talk featuring the men of Marietta who joined the United States Colored Troops during the Civil War. Hear updated research about Calfus Brown, Edward Jackson, and more, including where their families relocated following the war.

An 1800's style tea will be served following the talk. Complimentary guided tour passes will be offered to Tea and Talk attendees.

Recommended for ages 12 & up, (ages under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). \$35/person. Reservations are required. **Please register at this direct link: <https://tinyurl.com/Saydppy> no later than November 8, 2023.** For more information, please call 301-464-5291 or email mariettahouse@pgparks.com.

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

Library from A1

growing community demand. The new Bladensburg branch will include 50 public computers—more than three times as many as before—a Social Equity Commons that will include recording gear for archiving community oral histories and a portable kitchen for programs, more meeting space for events and studying, as well as additional staff who will offer more programming.

“The community has waited a very long time for this. Demand for services and space in the old building long ago exceeded what the building could supply,” said Debra Capponi, Bladensburg Branch Library’s head librarian.

The original branch was dedicated on October 21, 1978, in a building that had previously been the Bladensburg Elementary School and the Board of Education Media Center. That building was demolished in September 2021 to make way for the new facility.

Describing the old space as “standing-room only,” Capponi said that Bladensburg is “a community where many rely on the library to access the internet and other information resources and to gather. The new branch not only offers more space and more computers, but we now also have twice the staff we had at the old branch. We will be able to offer more programs for all ages and more resources on site.”

The 22,834 square-foot Bladensburg Branch Library is the first PGCMCL facility that has been LEED certified, an internationally recognized green building rating system that measures a facility’s healthy, highly efficient, sustainable, and cost-saving features.

“We are excited that this will not only be the Library’s first LEED certified building, but that we expect it to drive economic development for the Bladensburg community,” said Gannon. “It is our vision that once other stakeholders see the investment the County has made in the community with this new state of the art library they will want to enhance their existing businesses and add new amenities.”

The two-story building was designed by Gant Brunnett Architects, incorporating architectural references to the dynamic nature of water and its potential. In the children’s room, with the theme “Discovery Harbor,” children can guide a sailing ship—the USS Prince George—with an authentic ship’s wheel, sit inside reading nooks shaped like dinghies, or lay on a wooden dock to look at the colorful waves hanging from the ceiling.

“The building is beautiful and is a tremendous addition to the neighborhood. What a valuable resource this will be to the community!” AmRhein said. “The nautical theme makes the experience of being inside the building so tranquil and peaceful. I’m sure that kids will find visiting a true adventure and will look forward to every visit. We are excited to continue to expand our library services to serve the growing population in Prince George’s County.”

Additional building features include solar panels on the roof, permeable pavers, electric car charging stations, energy-efficient HVAC and lighting systems, a vending cafe, a two-sided fireplace facing indoors and outdoors, a comfort room for nursing mothers, three study rooms, one quiet room, one meeting room, and an art installation by Washington Glass Studio.

Morningside from A2

All of the above were ads that ran in the Morningside Directory, January 1955.

And, if this column sounds familiar, you’re not wrong. I ran it several years ago and had some fun email comments. I’m trying it again. Let me know how you do.

Irene Leak, FDA retiree

Irene S. Leak, 88, longtime resident of Frank Street in Skyline, died September 29. She was born in Colonial Beach, the first girl in a family of 20—18 girls and 2 boys.

She married Walter Leak and they moved to Skyline in 1976. Irene was a technician for the Food & Drug Administration from which she was retired.

Her husband Walter died about 14 years ago. Survivors include her son Frank, daughter Beverly, five grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. The funeral service was at New Chapel Baptist, conducted by Pastor Kerry Hill. Irene is buried with Walter at Washington National Cemetery.

I asked her son Frank what he could tell me about her. He said, “She was a beautiful woman.”

Milestones

Happy belated Birthday to Karen Stroman who celebrated his 50th on October 27. And Happy Birthday to Brandon Wood and Bob Elborne, Nov. 5; Steve Call, Linda Beatty and Dennis Waby, Nov. 6; Davey Capps, Jr., Nov. 9; Linda Fortner Jumalon, Nov. 10.

Happy 60th anniversary to Becky and Dave Capps, who wed November 9, 1963.

Happy 48th anniversary to John and Dineen Whipple, who were married November 8, 1975, at St. John the Evangelist Church in Clinton.

National Harbor to Hold Spirit Park Celebration on Veterans Day

November 11 festivities will commemorate park’s one year anniversary with a walk/run, sealing of a Patriot’s Value time capsule, performance by U.S. Air Force Band and tree lighting!

By PRESS OFFICER
National Harbor

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. (Oct. 12, 2023)—On Saturday, November 11, National Harbor will celebrate Veterans Day at Spirit Park (115 Waterfront Street). The park opened last year on Veterans Day and is designed to honor the history of the American flag and all of those who represent it—veterans, first responders, public servants and Americans across the U.S.

The day will begin at Spirit Park at 10 a.m. with a walk/run that will benefit The Check-6 Foundation. Since its inception in 2004, The Check-6 Foundation has assisted hundreds of veterans in need in paying their bills, receiving medical attention, finding jobs and so much more. It also continues to provide an unforgettable experience for children battling serious illnesses (and their families) through its Pilot for a Day Program nationwide. “Check-6” is a military term used to reference an aviator’s practice of checking his wingman’s 6 o’clock position (directly behind him) to ensure it is clear of any threat. Simply put, it means “I’ve got your back and am looking out for you.” Participants in the walk/run must register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spirit-park-walkrun-tickets-716153072117?aff=oddtcreator>. The cost is \$24.25 for civilians, \$13.58 for military. There will be a pancake breakfast (early bird pricing is \$13.58) in Spirit Park following the walk/run.

From 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., National Harbor will host the sealing of a Patriot’s Value time capsule at Spirit Park that will contain a variety of items and memorabilia commemorating the park’s opening as well as National Harbor’s opening more than 15 years ago. Aerial photos, an American flag that has flown over the park, a challenge coin, list of long-term employees, a chip from the grand opening of MGM National Harbor and more will be included—ap-



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL HARBOR

Spirit Park at National Harbor

proximately two dozen items. Also, during this time, the U.S. Air Force Band Max Impact will perform.

The Capital Wheel will provide free wheel rides from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. for active and retired military. A military ID is required. Military family will receive the military discount.

At 5:30, National Harbor will hold its inaugural 2023 holiday tree lighting when its breathtaking 60-foot tree comes to life with a custom light show and holiday medley recorded by the United States Air Force Band. Patriotic fireworks will follow the tree lighting.

Since its opening a year ago, Spirit Park has seen thousands of visitors. The park features a 50 by 80-foot custom-made flag (flown on special occasions

including Veterans Day.) It is one of the largest flags in the U.S. It flies on a flag pole that is 177 feet and 7 inches tall commemorating the first Flag Day on June 14, 1777. It’s surrounded by 13 smaller flags representing the 13 colonies. These flags initially arrived by representatives from around the region who walked, ran, biked and swam the flags over to National Harbor.

A few of the many additional elements of the park include Union Tower that rings daily and marks significant occasions with patriotic songs and American Bison sculptures, created by John Lopez.

For more information on National Harbor, visit www.nationalharbor.com. For more information on Spirit Park, visit www.NationalHarbor.com/spiritpark.

The FedChoice Charitable Foundation Launched its First School Hygiene Drive

By PRESS OFFICER
FedChoice Charitable Foundation

LANHAM, Md. (Oct. 27, 2023)—Many children living in underserved areas can’t afford common personal hygiene products. This makes them an easy target for bullying and can lead to depression and anxiety. To help young people cope with these challenges, the FedChoice Charitable Foundation (FCF) together with FedChoice Federal Credit Union partnered with Cora L. Rice Elementary School (CLRES) and G. James Gholson Middle School (GJGMS) and launched FCF’s School Hygiene Drive.

Ms. Michelle Hibbert, Community Liaison at CLRES, and Ms. Leticia Hubbard, Community Liaison at GJGMS, shared how these two schools are coping with these growing challenges and shared how we can better help students.

“With so many barriers that our students face, a simple hygiene package can definitely boost self-esteem and decrease chances of a student being bullied,” said Ms. Hibbert.

“Our schools have partnered with Project Hygiene to help provide personal hygiene products to our students, but even this is not enough,” shared Ms. Hubbard. “We have assigned closets located at our schools which provide students with direct access and allow them to receive the basic essentials that many may not have access to. The need is very strong, and the kids are really grateful for our support. But we definitely need



PHOTO COURTESY FEDCHOICE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

From left to right: **Andrey Gidasov, FCF ED, Michelle Hibbert, CLRES Community Liaison, GJGMS Principal Brouard, Leticia Hubbard, GJGMS Community Liaison, CLRES Principal Payne, and Sandra Park, FCF Vice Chair**

more supplies, like deodorants, soap, and hygiene wipes.”

The Foundation’s Board and FedChoice FCU’s Human Resources team unanimously agreed that we should take action to help students in our community in this tangible way. As a result, FedChoice staff and FCF’s supporters donated a total of \$1,400, as well as numerous personal hygiene products to fill the school closets!

Sandra Park, FCF Vice Chair, commented, “Although what we delivered today was physical money, shampoos, toothpaste, and toothbrushes, they represent something much more than that!

They represent care, support, kindness, and hope. Educators do tremendous work, often going above and beyond their duty. I sincerely thank them for everything they do to give the students a better life experience and future and for allowing us to partake in this program.”

The FedChoice Charitable Foundation was founded in 2017 and offers financial well-being programs in local communities while being a resource, advocate, and champion for the Federal Community.

Service from A1

be able to complete the program in 2026.

Applications outpaced the number of spots available in the program this year. According to Monteiro, this year’s cohort has 280 members between the Service Year Option and the Maryland Corps. About 200 of those members are in the

Service Year Option, he said. Details about the number of host organizations were not made available.

Funding for the wages comes from a shared investment between the state and the host organization, depending on the size and the level of resources the organization has, Monteiro said. Funding also comes from the federal agency Ameri-

Corps. Monteiro said his department will also look for outside investments.

Sunflower Bakery, a nonprofit organization in Rockville, will have two members from the initial cohort, and since the organization is a nonprofit, it will not contribute to their wages. The bakery offers

COMMUNITY

Prince George's County Office of Central Services and the Clean Water Partnership Collaborate to Expand Capacity Development for Local Small and Minority-Owned Businesses

By EBONI A BLAIR

Prince George's County Office of Central Services

LARGO, Md. (Oct. 25, 2023)—The Prince George's County Office of Central Services and the Clean Water Partnership are excited to announce a dynamic collaboration that aims to bolster opportunities for local, small, and minority-owned businesses. This partnership will launch a joint capacity-building program, providing a platform for businesses to grow, develop technical expertise, and contribute to the County's commitment to increasing contracting opportunities and participation.

"The County's Mentor-Protege program has been instrumental in nurturing the growth of our County-certified businesses and it is time to expand," said Jonathan R. Butler, Director of the Prince George's County Office of Central Services. "A standout feature of the Mentor Protégé program is the CBSB/CBMBE self-performance requirement, mandating that proteges self-perform at least 20% of the value of County procurements. This requirement underscores the County's dedication to fostering local economic development and skills-building within the business community. Through this program, we have witnessed remarkable strides in growing the capabilities of our local businesses. The addition of a capacity development arm strengthens our

support and commitment to the success of our local businesses."

The Clean Water Partnership's Mentor Protégé program is tailored to build the capacity of target class businesses, ensuring their ability to participate in green infrastructure contracting opportunities led by the Clean Water Partnership and neighboring jurisdictions. In the past 7 years, over \$40 million in contracts have been awarded to protégés. These businesses are County-certified, local, small, and minority-owned, and possess the expertise to construct green stormwater infrastructure best management practices (BMPs). Through this collaborative effort with the Office of Central Services, the Clean Water Partnership will extend its capacity-building program to certified County firms in the vertical construction and facilities management sectors.

"This continues our efforts to maximize the impact of our local businesses by enhancing their capabilities through the provision of crucial technical and operating experience," said Michael Burke, Director of Business Inclusion and Capacity Development for The Clean Water Partnership.

Key Highlights of the Collaboration:

- **Expanded Business Capacity:** The joint initiative will grant Prince George's County businesses access to invaluable resources, training,

and mentorship opportunities to enhance their operational capabilities.

- **Professional support in areas such as:** Bonding, Procurement Opportunities, Business Development, Networking, Social Media & Business Marketing, Leadership Development, and more!

- **Economic Growth:** The CBSB/CBMBE self-performance requirement of at least 20% for County procurements will bolster local small and minority-owned businesses, contributing to the County's economic prosperity.

- **Green Stormwater Infrastructure Expertise:** The partnership will foster the development of businesses capable of constructing green stormwater infrastructure BMPs, aligning with the County's environmental sustainability goals.

- **Inclusive Opportunities:** The collaboration will promote participation with County-certified, local, small, and minority-owned businesses, ensuring equitable access to these valuable opportunities.

An outreach event was held on October 26, 2023 in Largo, MD. About Prince George's County Office of Central Services: <https://pgcbusinesshighway.com/>
About Clean Water Partnership: <https://thecleanwaterpartnership.com/>

Governor Moore Proclaims 2024 as Maryland's Year of Civil Rights

By PRESS OFFICER

Maryland Governor News

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Oct. 25, 2023)—Today, Governor Wes Moore proclaimed 2024 as Maryland's Year of Civil Rights during a launch event at the Banneker-Douglass Museum, Maryland's official African American history and culture museum. Joined by First Lady Dawn Moore and the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, the launch celebrated the upcoming events that will honor Maryland's Year of Civil Rights and the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

"Studying history isn't just about knowing what happened in the past. It's about knowing our power in the present. That's what Maryland's Year of Civil Rights is about," said Gov. Moore. "And so my message to Marylanders is simple—get out into our communities and take advantage of the programs being offered during Maryland's Year of Civil Rights. Let's practice our history, let's protect our history, and let's participate in our history, by making history of our own."

Maryland is home to civil rights icons such as Verda Freeman Welcome, Frederick Douglass, Harriett Tubman, Thurgood Marshall, and Gloria Richardson and has been the backdrop to pivotal civil rights legislation, from the Treaty of Cam-

bridge to Bell vs. Maryland. Throughout 2024, museums and organizations across the state will present programming that celebrates Maryland's role in civil rights with national and state heritage organizations like the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Park Service, Maryland Heritage Areas, and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum.

"I couldn't think of a better place to kick off Maryland's Year of Civil Rights than at the Banneker-Douglass Museum, where we stand in a living tribute to the extraordinary contributions of African Americans from all walks of life," said First Lady Dawn Moore. "African American history is about the vast tapestry of stories that have brought us to this point over generations. We have a responsibility to uplift our stories—and the stories of so many others."

The Moore-Miller administration is committed to uplifting and preserving Black history in the state of Maryland. In February, Governor Moore proclaimed Civil Rights Heroes Day in Maryland. And in April, Governor Moore announced increased funding for the African American Heritage Preservation Program, from \$1 million annually to \$5 million.

"Pausing to observe pivotal moments and the courageous actions of our ancestors reminds us of our responsibility to continue their important work



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

Joined by First Lady Dawn Moore and the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, the launch celebrated the upcoming events that will honor Maryland's Year of Civil Rights and the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

that yet remains unfinished," said Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture Chair Dr. Edwin T. Johnson.

To learn more about the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, visit <https://africanamerican.maryland.gov/>.

Girls from A1

intake cases involved a felony, while 4.2 percent involved a crime of violence. In just over 80 percent of female intakes, the most serious offense alleged was a misdemeanor.

The department's repeated moves of detained and committed girls in 2022 followed over a decade of debate and activism about how DJS should serve girls in its custody.

In March 2022, DJS closed the Thomas J.S. Waxter Children's Center in Laurel and moved detained girls to the Alfred D. Noyes Children's Center in Rockville, which the department had refurbished to serve as a girls' facility. The monitoring unit had been calling for Waxter's closure since 2007, stating that it was "virtually impossible to improve the physical plant sufficiently to make it suitable for a secure detention program." A 2010 bill in the House of Delegates that would have closed Waxter died in committee.

The Juvenile Services secretary at the time, Donald DeVore, told CNS he couldn't close Waxter because it would mean placing girls in a facility with boys.

"If I close Waxter, the other facilities I have are for boys. Where do I put the girls? I would hate to stuff them in two wings (in a facility) where I have boys," DeVore told CNS in 2010.

Just one month after the move to Noyes, the girls were moved again, this time into a 12-cell unit at Cheltenham after an air handler unit caught fire. The girls returned to Noyes in late May but were moved back to Cheltenham in October, this time to address a staffing shortage that had reached a crisis level. Cheltenham staff had been working back-to-back double shifts to reach the level of coverage required by departmental policy.

Girls at Cheltenham awaiting court-ordered secure placement were sent to Cullen, the center in Frederick County.

Keeping girls and boys separated at Cheltenham created new problems:

- **Delayed medical care:** Girls at Cheltenham did not have access to the facility infirmary because boys are housed there. A girl experiencing withdrawal symptoms in early 2023 was transported from Cheltenham to WMCC in Hagerstown, almost 100 miles away, because her condition required monitoring.
- **Disrupted school:** Persistent staff shortages at Cheltenham led to shortened or canceled school days. A special education teacher who had taught at Noyes quit in late 2022 after several years of service, partly due to her increased commute to Cheltenham with no definite end date, according to JJMU.
- **Increased isolation and confinement:** During a COVID-19 outbreak in late 2022, a lack of space to quarantine girls meant that girls who tested positive isolated in their cells for 23 hours a day for five to seven days, according to the monitoring unit. After seven days isolating in her cell, one girl "destroyed her room." Staff asked another youth to comfort the girl from the hallway.
- **Heightened conflict between girls:** Staff separated girls into

groups that took turns in a dayroom and small TV room, as well as going to school, to manage tensions. One girl told a JJMU investigator that all the noise made her feel anxious. She said, "It's so crazy here. It's so hard to concentrate in school because it is so loud, and loud noises are my trigger." A pregnant girl who was assaulted twice indicated, "Me and my child feel threatened."

- **Exposed girls to sexual harassment:** Two girls reported in early 2023 that a boy made repeated lewd comments and gestures when they were all in school. The boy moved his hand over his crotch and told the girls to perform a sexual favor and referred to the girls pleasuring themselves with tampons.

In its report on the first quarter of 2023, JJMU wrote, "Relegating detained girls and young women to a single unit in a secure detention facility set up to serve boys and young men indicates a lack of appropriate planning and dedication of resources and arguably demonstrates a casual disregard for the well-being of girls in DJS custody."

"At Cullen, shortages and lack of continuity of staff interfered in girls' mental health care, according to JJMU's report for the second quarter of 2023. The report described how one girl who experienced suicidal ideation was "ejected" from the program at Cullen and sent to a secure detention center for a month to "stabilize her." The girl had told staff that she thought no one loved her and that she had nowhere to go after Cullen.

Nick Moroney, director of the state's Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit, as well as DJS and other advocates of girls in the youth legal system agree that a new facility for girls is not the way to provide genuine treatment.

DJS acknowledged in its response to JJMU's first quarter 2023 report—the first of the new administration—that girls' needs were not being met at Cheltenham or Cullen, but said that the number of girls in its residential facilities—13 in secure detention and 4 in commitment on June 1, 2023—was too small "to invest a large amount of resources into correctional facilities dedicated to girls."

"The answer is not simply to provide dedicated space and gender specific treatment, although those things are important," DJS wrote in its response. "It is the institutional model itself that is failing these young women."

Moroney said, "We feel that if new facilities are built, there will be a temptation to fill those facilities."

Lindsay Rosenthal, who is the initiative director of Ending Girls' Incarceration at the Vera Institute of Justice, said the nature of incarceration runs counter to treatment for and recovery from trauma.

"Healing from trauma, which is fundamentally about someone having lost power and lost agency, is about doing everything that we can to give back agency and to give back power and to support choice and to support self determination, and everything about mandating a young person to be in a facility or treatment program is counter to that," Rosenthal said.

In the Maryland House Judiciary Committee meeting in September, DJS Secretary Vincent Schiraldi voiced the aim of expanding

Maryland's range of services for youth, which he told lawmakers has deteriorated over the past eight years.

"The continuum of residential options and community options has atrophied over time. I think we overuse residential treatment facilities—our DJS residential facilities and group homes—and I think we need to broaden that more," Schiraldi said.

But justice reform advocates differ on whether the department is equipped to divert girls to community-based services and treatment. Schiraldi told lawmakers that DJS has adequate resources to develop Maryland's community-based offerings.

But JJMU indicated in its first quarter 2023 report that there is "a shortage and lack of variety and specialization" in Maryland's community-based programming for girls.

Moroney said that although relocating incarcerated girls to their own facility is a positive step, corrections-oriented facilities are not suitable spaces for young people to receive treatment.

"We would prefer that the girls not be incarcerated in the first place," Moroney said. "But I guess if courts and the police cause kids to go to a jail-like situation, then having their own place is a better situation than being shoehorned into a boys' place."

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
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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

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

My Birthday is on the First of the Month; When Should I Claim 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 will be 62 on November first and I have chosen to take my benefits early. I know that my benefit will be less than it would be if I waited and that does not concern me, but I don't want to be without income for a long period of time. I know that if my birthday is on the first or second of the month, then I can draw that month. Does that mean that when I turn 62 on November 1st that I can receive my first check on the second Wednesday of November? And should I select November as the month I'd like my benefits to start? I also read that I would be paid the month following the month I select, hence my confusion. **Signed: Confused Senior**

Dear Confused: There are a few different Social Security rules which come into play in your specific circumstance which are likely creating your confusion. First, since you will be 62 on November first, you will first become eligible for Social Security starting with the month of November. Those born on the first or second of the month are eligible for benefits for that entire month, whereas those who turn 62 later in the month wouldn't be eligible for benefits until the following month. To claim benefits, you must be 62 for the entire month and, because your birthday is on the first, your first month being 62 for the entire month will be November, and that is the month you should specify as your benefit-start month on your application.

The next thing to be aware of is that Social Security pays benefits in the month following the month those benefits are earned. That means that your November benefits will be paid in December. The exact payment date is determined by the recipient's birthday—born before the eleventh of the month, SS payments are made on the second Wednesday; born between the eleventh and twentieth of the month, payments are received on the third Wednesday of the month; and for those born after the twentieth of the month, payment is received on the fourth Wednesday. Thus, since you were born on the first of the month and are claiming benefits to start in November, your first Social Security payment will be deposited in your bank account on the second Wednesday of December, and all subsequent Social Security payments will be made on that same second-Wednesday schedule.

You can apply for your Social Security benefits up to 4 months prior to the month you wish them to start, and SS recommends you apply at least 2 months prior to allow time for processing your application. On the application, they will ask which month you wish your benefits to begin, and you can indicate November to get your earliest possible payment in December. Actually, you can simply select the following option on the Social Security benefit application: "I want benefits beginning with the earliest possible month and will accept an age-related reduction," which will accomplish the same thing.

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.

Black and Hispanic Faculty Underrepresented in Maryland Public Universities

By NIRA DAYANIM
Capital News Service

Black and Hispanic communities are underrepresented among university faculty at Maryland's six largest public universities, according to the 2021 Integrated Post-secondary Education Data System (IPEDS). This analysis does not include Maryland's online universities or historically black colleges and universities.

IPEDS is an annual data collection system run through the U.S. Department of Education.

These findings align with trends across the country, data shows. Maryland is the fourth most diverse U.S. state, according to the U.S. Census' diversity index, and the most diverse state on the East Coast, according to the U.S. News and World Report.

The U.S. Census projects that 32% of Maryland's population are Black and 12% are Hispanic. At Maryland's six largest in-person public universities, not including HBCUs—University of Maryland, Baltimore County; University of Maryland, College Park; Towson University; Frostburg State University; Salisbury University and St. Mary's College of Maryland—less than 6% of the total faculty are Black and less than 5% are Hispanic, as of 2021.

According to Laura Perna, Vice Provost for Faculty at University of Pennsylvania and a researcher on college access, faculty underrepresentation is a widespread issue, though the specifics differ by university.

Across Maryland, faculty demographics vary widely. At Towson University, 7% of faculty were Black in fall 2021 and 3% were Hispanic. At Frostburg State University, those numbers were about halved, with 4% Black faculty and almost 1% Hispanic faculty.

Prior to 2022, Maryland's education code allowed individual public universities to implement their own plans for "cultural diversity," which ranged in length and breadth. In 2022, a new code was instituted, requiring public universities to ensure that faculty, staff, and administration demographics reflect the state's diverse population.

Between 2016 and 2021, the percentages of Black and Hispanic faculty at the universities included in the analysis both increased by just under a percentage point.

"It really is amazing how little progress there has been in some ways on this," said Perna.

But not unexpected, according to Perna. Because positions open when current fac-

ulty members retire, seeing an increase in representation might take time.

According to Dr. Kimberly Griffin, Dean of University of Maryland's College of Education, many people assume that faculty will diversify alongside the student body. This "trickle up" system is unrealistic, she says.

The problem is multifaceted, says Griffin. Academia is tasked with generating a pool, hiring inclusively, yielding candidates, onboarding hires, retaining them, and ultimately, promoting them. "We have to do more in all of those spaces," says Griffin, whose research has, for years, focused on issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in post-secondary education.

According to Perna, one roadblock is "invisible labor"; faculty of color often take on work that requires time and energy, but does not fit academia's standard promotion metrics.

"We should be looking at to what extent our definition of merit is very narrow," said Perna.

Underrepresented minorities often spend more time serving on committees and mentoring students of color, labor that often goes unrecognized, says Perna. Come time for promotions, publications and course evaluations are weighted more heavily.

Research may also go unappreciated. According to Griffin, members of minority groups often pursue research in applied topics, like solutions to community issues.

"Bias that we have around what good work looks like, and what's meaningful can shape how the tenure and promotion cases of women and men of color are perceived," Griffin says.

As the student body has diversified, the gap between representation among students and faculty has widened, straining faculty of color.

As of fall 2021, Black students made up 17% and Hispanic students made up 8% of the student body at the universities included in the CNS analysis. That was an increase of 10% and 19% since 2016, respectively. Faculty demographics remained stable.

In 2021, the resulting ratio of Black students to Black faculty members was 60:1. The ratio of white students to white faculty members was 15:1.

According to Griffin, while it's crucial for students of color to have role models and mentors of color, there isn't enough faculty of color to shoulder that responsibility alone. "That's a load everyone should share," she said.

A lack of diversity also impacts faculty of color pursuing tenure. At Maryland's six largest in-person public universities, not including HBCUs, in 2021, 71% of tenured professors were white, 5% Black, and 4% were Hispanic, according to IPEDS.

Across all six universities in 2021, there were 104 tenured Black professors, an increase of 3 professors from 2016, according to IPEDS. There were 10 more Black faculty members and 16 more Hispanic faculty members in tenure track positions than in 2016.

A lack of diversity among tenured faculty can make it harder for some faculty of color to find mentors as they pursue tenure, though many members of academia, like Griffin, are trying to combat this by developing intentional mentoring policy.

"Mentorship that helps you build a sense of connection and community in your unit and in your college is also really important for helping folks get to tenure," said Griffin.

Tenure and tenure track positions provide more job security than other faculty roles. In Maryland in 2021, 38% of Hispanic faculty and 30% of Black faculty were not tenured or on tenure track compared to 27% of white faculty.

Katharina Maisel, a bioengineering professor at the University of Maryland, College Park, co-authored a list of best practices for increasing diversity alongside several other faculty members in the STEM field.

According to Maisel, diversifying the faculty, especially tenure and tenure track, takes intention at every stage of the process, from inviting people to apply, inviting people for internships, and checking your shortlist to make sure you're not just inviting people from Ivy League schools.

But it's possible. In science, technology, engineering, and math, says Maisel, a tendency to be over-specific in job listings can discourage faculty from underrepresented backgrounds. Being more broad can cut through imposter syndrome and help develop a wider applicant pool.

Using rubrics to evaluate a candidate for hiring or promotion can help ensure an objective set of criteria, helping reel in internal biases, Maisel said.

"If you as a department are really actively interested in increasing the diversity of your faculty, there are things you can do," Maisel said.

Launch from A1

justice system, recidivism and reentry, Brown said.

Brown emphasized, though, that the collaborative's work goes beyond legislation.

"It's going to come in a combination of recommended legislation and budgets, realignment of existing resources, stronger collaborations between government and private entities, education and practices in organizations, whether it's police or whether it's our schools," Brown said.

The launch included some formerly incarcerated people working in criminal justice reform.

Earl Young, who spent almost 35 years in Maryland correctional institutions on murder charges and now works with at-risk youth at New Vision Youth Services in Baltimore City schools, called for mentoring and behavioral health services for youth and families, the establishment of effective alternatives to incarceration and rehabilitation for incarcerated individuals as soon as they enter correctional facilities.

"My sincere hope is that we can find ways to reduce incarceration

and make our communities safer at the same time," Young said.

Gwen Levi said that if she had received more effective rehabilitative services, she might have avoided being taken back to jail. Levi, a Baltimore grandmother who served 16 years for dealing heroin, was returned to custody after failing to answer phone calls from officials while attending a computer class.

"Unless we start at the beginning and make sure people are rehabilitated from day one that they go in, unless we give programs that are meaningful for their release ... we can continue to see those people returning to prison," Levi said.

Nicole Hanson-Mundell, the executive director of Out For Justice, said that as a formerly incarcerated woman, she was heartened by the diversity of the collaborative.

"In other spaces like this, formerly incarcerated women are not elevated," she said. "At this current table alone ... (there were) at least three formerly incarcerated women. I have never seen that happen in government agency collaborations."

The collaborative will host a public forum on Nov. 6 at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture in Baltimore.

Onelife Fitness Opens New 55,000-Square-Foot Sports Club in Clinton, Maryland

100 new jobs & fully renovated former Toys "R" Us location in the Landing at Woodyard shopping center

By PRESS OFFICER
Onelife Fitness

CLINTON, Md. (Oct. 25, 2023)—Onelife Fitness opened its 52nd location today in the former Toys "R" Us at 8401 Mike Shapiro Drive, Clinton, MD on October 10. The \$8 million premier Onelife Fitness Sports Club is 55,000 square feet and brings 100 jobs to the community. Onelife Fitness Clinton joins Aldi, Burlington, and Ross in the Landing at Woodyard shopping center and will be the fitness anchor and

community hub serving residents in and around Clinton/Prince George's County.

In attendance at the event ribbon cutting and opening day were many local Prince George's County leaders and business people, including:

- Council Member Sydney Harrison, Prince George's County Council, District 9
- Alexander K. Austin, President & CEO, Prince George's Chamber of Commerce
- Delegate Karen Toles, Maryland House of Delegates, Dis-

trict 25

- Mahasin El Amin, Clerk of the Court for Prince George's County

- Delegate Kent Roberson, Maryland House of Delegates, District 25
- Onelife Founders, Kirk and John Galiani, Ori Gorfine, President and Clinton
- General Manager Craig Haislip and team!

This location is the 29th Onelife Fitness in the Washington, DC area and over 50 locations throughout Virginia, West Vir-

ginia, Maryland, Washington, DC, and Georgia. The new sports club will feature luxurious amenities in a modern design its existing members have come to enjoy, including

- A large indoor saltwater lap pool and whirlpool
- Over \$1 million in top-of-the-line cardio and strength equipment
- Three boutique studios featuring Onelife Signature Classes, BodyPump, Zumba, APEX-HIIT, Spark, and more
- Mind/Body Studio featuring



PHOTO COURTESY ONELIFE FITNESS

The ribbon cutting ceremony at the Onelife Fitness in Clinton.

Barre, Yoga, and Pilates classes

- Signature Strike Boxing Studio

To learn more about the club:

onelifefitness.com/gyms/clinton or call 240-398-3634.

To learn more about career opportunities, visit careers.onelifefitness.com

