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Prince George's County Libraries Mark Milestone With First Black CEO

By NESTOR DIAZ
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (Feb. 1, 2024)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is pleased to announce the appointment of Mark Winston, Ph.D., as the new chief executive officer (CEO) for the Library. In this role, Dr. Winston will provide strategic and operational leadership to oversee a nationally recognized organization that is leading the future of libraries through innovation, democracy, and equity.

Prince George's County is one of the largest and most diverse counties in Maryland, serving a population that is 64 percent Black and nearly 21 percent

Hispanic or Latino, according to U.S. Census data, and one of the wealthiest Black-majority counties in the U.S.

Dr. Winston, the system's first Black CEO in its 78-year history and a Maryland native, began his tenure on January 29. He looks forward to meeting many in the Prince George's County community at the opening of the Baden Branch Library on February 6. Early in his tenure as CEO, he will work to establish partnerships throughout Prince George's County and the region, engaging key stakeholders including local, state, and federal government officials, agencies, community groups, and businesses.

"It is a pleasure and an honor to assume the role of CEO of the Prince George's County Memorial Library



Dr. Mark Winston
PHOTO COURTESY PGCMLS

System. I am very enthusiastic about working with such an impressive staff and dedicated Board in building on the library's success in providing library services for the community," Dr. Winston said.

"It is humbling and motivating to think of my appointment as a milestone."

Most recently, Dr. Winston was the executive director of the J. Lewis Crozer Library in Chester, PA, where he also worked as development officer and head of adult services. Additionally, he has worked as engagement officer and librarian at Widener University's Wolfgram Memorial Library, assistant chancellor and director at Rutgers University, and has also taught at University

of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Rutgers University and held librarian and administrative positions at Valdosta State University and the University of Arizona. He has also served as a management consultant, diversity consultant, and trainer, working with a range of academic, corporate, and public sector client organizations.

In addition to his library management, university faculty, and consultant experience, Dr. Winston is an author, columnist, and book reviewer, with an extensive background in grant writing. Currently, he writes a column called "Diversity Matters" for the Journal of

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Visions and Voices: The African American Voting Experience in Laurel

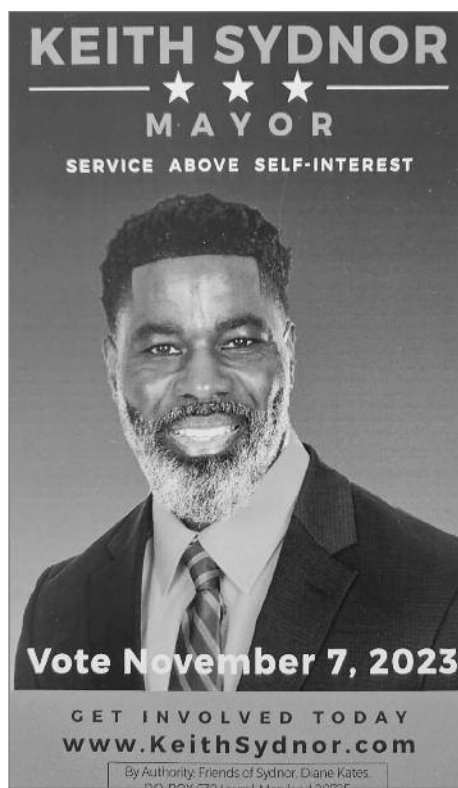
Opens February 16

By PRESS OFFICER
Laurel Historical Society

LAUREL, Md. (Jan. 31, 2024)—Keith Sydnor's 2023 election as Laurel's first African American mayor was an important milestone but only part of the African American voting story in this city of 30,000. The Laurel Museum's newest temporary exhibit "Visions and Voices 1920–2023 The African American Voting Experience in Laurel, Maryland" running February 16–June 16, 2024, celebrates his and others' election accomplishments. The exhibit also explores some of the highlights and perspectives of African Americans who ran for office. Through artifacts, interviews, and a timeline, it puts them into perspective within the United States and Prince George's County.

Visitors to the museum, located at 817 Main Street in Laurel, Maryland will discover campaign materials, and a 1922 Poll Book which lists registered voters. Men are listed separately from women, and people of color are noted with a "(col)" next to their name. Curiously, while "col" men were listed, no "col" women were. In 1928, a similar book listed nine women of color. A timeline notes the election of Reginald Parks in 1992, Laurel's first African American Council member, Fred Smalls, the longest serving African American Council Member, and Valerie Nicholas, first African American woman elected as Council President, while highlighting important Laurel and U.S. voting developments.

"We thought last year's election was the time to look at some of the electoral achievements of Laurel's leading African American citizens," noted Ann Bennett, LHS Executive Director. "We asked those

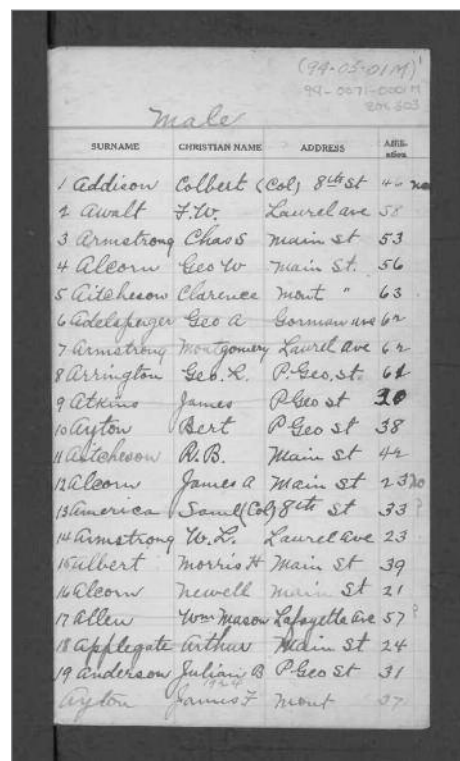


Campaign materials for Keith Sydnor, elected Laurel's first African American mayor on November 7, 2023.

who were running and had run in the past why they ran, and also their experiences, which several generously shared."

While celebrating the achievements of African Americans to elected office, the exhibit has a sub-theme on the difficulties of increasingly low voter turnout in the community. In 1920, 95% of the registered voters turned out. In 2023, during a hotly contested mayoral and Council races, only 13% of those registered voted.

"Visions and Voices" will run concurrently with the Laurel Museum's current long-term exhibit, "It's All Laurel," which continues through August 2024. That exhibit looks at the different neighborhoods and communities within and outside the Laurel city limits, which share the Laurel name. Beginning February 16 the Laurel Museum is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 12–4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information contact visit www.laurelhistoricalsociety.org or contact info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org



CREDIT: LAUREL HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION, GIFT OF JAMES BOSS.

First page of the 1922 Laurel, MD voter registration book. Two African American men, Colbert Addison and Samuel America, are noted as "(col)."

Council Member Krystal Oriadha Launches 'Green Book,' Black History Month Campaign to Highlight Black Businesses, Authors, Musicians

Launch in tandem with legislation creating Black Start-Up Fund to support Black businesses

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County Council Media

District 7 Council Member Krystal Oriadha has launched her annual #EverythingBlack campaign this Black History Month to focus on highlighting local Black business owners, artists, authors, entrepreneurs and other influencers.

Her interactive "Green Book" pays homage to Victor Green's publication of the same name, and will serve as a guide to help people eat, shop, read and listen in support of the local Black community. The launch includes new legislation that will create a Black Start-Up Fund to provide capital to allow Black-owned businesses to expand or get off the ground. The bill, which is part of the Council Member's goal to help African Americans create generational wealth, [was] presented Tuesday February 6, at the Council Meeting.

"This Green Book is about giving back the power to African Americans to share our story of Black mobility in a way that doesn't only focus on our struggle," said Council Member Oriadha. "It's important to share our stories and history in uplifting ways, while highlighting the impact we have on American history, entertainment and the economy. I hope to shed light on the jewels in our own backyard, while inspiring other like-minded creatives and entrepreneurs to create their own history."

The Green Book dates back to the Jim Crow era. The travel disparities faced by African Americans were life-threatening, and with its publication, the Green Book helped African Americans navigate the segregated South while providing a comprehensive list of Black-owned or non-discriminatory lodging, gas stations, restaurants and more.

The link to the interactive Green Book is posted on the Council Member's social media accounts and Prince George's County Council webpage. Council Member Oriadha will also be hosting her "Black on the Block" Black History Month Celebration on February 24th from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 4217 Silver Hill Road in Suitland, MD.

Link to Greenbook: bit.ly/KOGreenBook

University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center Ranked #1 in Maryland and Among the Top 10 Percent in the Nation for Stroke Care

By PRESS OFFICER
University of Maryland Capital Region Health

LARGO, Md. (Feb. 1, 2024)—University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center (UM Capital), a member organization of the University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS), has been rated #1 in Maryland and among the top 10 percent in the nation for Stroke Care according to new research released by Healthgrades. UM Capital also received five-star recognition in Cardiac, Orthopedics, Pulmonary and Critical Care.

Recognizing the signs and symptoms of a stroke is

critical and can have a life-saving outcome. One patient and her family know the importance of swift action. Hear firsthand from a young boy who used skills acquired from being a Boy Scout to take immediate action to help save his grandmother, who received life-saving care at UM Capital: (https://youtu.be/oiEOduE8i7Q?si=GeA_TLNn1Om8Y2u3)

"This achievement reflects UM Capital's dedication and commitment to providing excellent care in Prince George's County and the surrounding area," said Nathaniel Richardson Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer of UM Capital Region Health. "We remain steadfast in our pursuit to bring our

community high-quality, safe, and compassionate care. These recognitions are an outward showing of the work we continually strive to provide to all those who enter our doors and I could not be prouder."

Healthgrades evaluates hospitals on patient outcomes to determine the top-performing hospitals for specialty care in each of the 32 states assessed. Healthgrades' 2024 analysis revealed that patients who seek care for a particular condition or procedure at a top-ranked hospital have a better chance of a good outcome.

"Healthgrades is proud to recognize University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center as the

top facility in Maryland for Stroke Care with additional recognitions for Cardiac, Orthopedics, Pulmonary and Critical Care," said Brad Bowman, MD, Chief Medical Officer and Head of Data Science at Healthgrades. "Hospitals with a #1 ranking in their state deliver consistently superior outcomes for patients in their community. Consumers should feel confident knowing that they have access to top-ranked care at University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center."

Consumers can visit Healthgrades.com to learn more about how Healthgrades measures hospital quality.

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline

Betty Cummings, longtime Skyline resident, dies at 90

Elizabeth Jane "Betty" Cummings, formerly of Skyline, died January 12, surrounded by her loving family. She was born November 3, 1933, in Buffalo, N.Y., to Cletus and Katherine Kraemer.

The Cummings family moved to 4402 Ridgecrest Drive in 1962. They lived there until moving to a condo in Southern Maryland in 2018. Betty moved to Asbury of Solomons retirement community, in January 2020.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 52 years, Andrew J. Cummings, on March 6, 2009. Survivors include her children, Andrew Jr. (Chris), Diane Zoukis, and Mark; grandchildren, Andrew (Kim), Daniel, Ryan, Garrett, Mark, and Michael. She also leaves to mourn, her sister and best friend, Rose Stockton of East Aurora, N.Y. "On behalf of her surviving brothers, Francis and Paul, sister Joan, nieces, nephews and friends, the family mourns the loss of our beloved Mom, Maw-Maw, Grandma Betty, sister, aunt and friend. May we celebrate in our hearts a long life, well lived."

By the way, Betty's daughter Diane told me that her mom subscribed to *The Enquirer-Gazette*; she enjoyed reading my column.

Morningside celebrates Valentine's Day

The Morningside Recreation Committee is sponsoring a Valentine Arts & Crafts and Movie Event on Saturday, February 10, from 3 to 6 p.m., at the Town Hall. Tickets are \$10 per child, ages 5-12. Reservations and pre-payment required. Call 301-736-2301.

Morningside's monthly Work Session, usually at 7 p.m., is being moved to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 13. The Town Hall Meeting will be, as usual, at 7 p.m. on Feb. 20. Morningside information, 301-736-2300.

Want to be a Firefighter?

The Morningside Volunteer Fire Department is seeking new Volunteers. They are hosting a Live-In Weekend at the firehouse March 1-3. You could ride along with their members. Learn how their Live-In Program builds a company of excellence. No certifications required. To

register for the Live-In-Weekend or for information, call 301-736-4342.

Getting ready for Lent

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is the first of the 40 days of Lent, leading to Easter.

For years St. Philip the Apostle Church in Camp Springs has hosted the traditional Pancake Supper and will be doing it again this year. It will be in the Social Hall, 5-7 p.m. The menu includes lots of pancakes, sausage, bacon, fruit and dessert. Admission, \$6; children 8 and under, free. Carry-out available. Info, call Ligia Rojas, 240-480-9540, or Karin Yeatman, 301-899-7784.

Changing landscape

Prince George's County schools may be moving their headquarters from the aging building in Upper Marlboro. State lawmakers are beginning a study, and it looks to me like they might be moving to Largo.

Walmart plans to build or convert more than 150 stores in the next five years, while continuing to remodel existing stores.

A house at 6807 Pickett Drive recently sold for \$198,255.

Want to visit Spain or Portugal?

Fr. Ryan Pineda Pastor of St. Philip's Parish, Camp Springs, will be leading a Pilgrimage to Portugal and Spain October 1-8, 2024. The flight will leave from Washington. Cost per person, \$3,699.00 (double occupancy). For information, call 347-463-3998 or email Fr. Ryan at rpineda@stpphilip.net.

Places to go and things to do

Last year's DC Boat Show at National Harbor was the District's first boat show in 15 years, and it's back this spring. Tickets are on sale for the show which runs May 3-5. General admission is \$30 per person, \$20 for active military and first responders.

New this year, with the boat show is a VIP ticket and a luxury VIP boating experience which includes a one hour boat ride with private tours of the Potomac. The VIP package, \$225 per person, also includes bourbon tasting, appetizers, a

lounge, private restrooms, private balcony and parking.

At the Library: Banned Book discussion

The Spauldings Branch Library is hosting Prince George's Office of Human Rights meeting to discuss Toni Morrison's "The Bluest Eye," a story about 11-year-old Pecola Breedlove, a Black girl living in Morrison's hometown of Lorain, Ohio, in 1941, who wants to have blue eyes to be more like her blonde, blue-eyed peers.

The discussion will be Wednesday, Feb. 14, 6:30 p.m. at the Library, 5811 Old Silver Hill Road, in District Heights.

Betty Bryan dies at 100

Betty Bryan, age 100, of Oxon Hill, died Saturday January 20, 2024, in Morgantown, W.Va.

Betty was born August 4, 1923, in Fairmont, W.Va., daughter of Roy and Ethel Heston Ferrell. She graduated from Morgantown High School and earned her R.N. at the Ohio Valley General Hospital in Wheeling. She served in the Army Nurse Corp during WWII.

She was an active parishioner of St. Columba Church in Oxon Hill.

Betty was predeceased by husband John Bryan, brother Robert Ferrell and sister Shannon Kelly. Survivors include son John (Carolina), daughters Linn (Tom) Monahan and Shannon (Patrick) Gales; sister Jane Watterson; eight grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Services will be held in conjunction with her inurnment at Arlington National Cemetery.

Milestones

Happy Birthday to Ginny Call, Dawn Witherow and David Chambers, Feb. 11; Sophia Grace Shives, Angie Miller, Katelyn Dudding and Pat Miller, Feb. 13; Joan Rose and Scott Jenkins, Feb. 14; Father Ted Hegnauer, Mary Desmarais, David Chambers, Mary Young and Yvetta Sears, Feb. 15; Sarah Anderson and Dean Woods, Feb. 16.

Happy Anniversary to Frank & Soo Wilson on Feb. 15; and happy 66th to Wilda and Joe Cheseldine who wed Feb. 16, 1958, at Mount Calvary Church in Forestville.

Around the County

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County Announces February Events at Publick Playhouse

RIVERDALE, Md. (Feb. 1, 2024)—The Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County, part of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, is pleased to announce a variety of upcoming programs at the Publick Playhouse in Hyattsville, MD. Some of the events scheduled for February include:

February 17, 8 p.m. and February 18, 4 p.m.

Sweet Honey in the Rock

The Grammy-nominated, iconic, women-led African American vocal ensemble Sweet Honey in the Rock marks its 50th anniversary with a powerful three-year celebration that will honor its storied past and set the course for the future of the group, which has been called "one of the most dynamic, versatile and still relevant musical collectives in music today." Sweet Honey in the Rock has remained at the forefront of the ever-evolving cultural landscape, while creating a positive, loving, and socially conscious message through their music. For All Ages. Tickets: \$40/person, \$35/person for seniors, students, and groups of 20 or more. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit <https://fb.me/e/1GQSBqFdb>.

February 21, 10 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

Rosa Parks & Friends

Take a journey through time with Rosa Parks to where some of the most remarkable figures from history come to life. Meet abolitionists including Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, Sojourner Truth, and civil rights leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and, of course, Rosa Parks! An important story for any audience, this show gives a remarkable view of the challenges met by these amazing Black Americans. Bright Star Touring Theatre will delight and inspire audiences in this historical journey about the triumphant power of the human spirit. For Ages 5-11. Tickets: \$6/person. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit <https://bit.ly/3QN7mpY>.

February 27, 10 a.m.

Tiny Tot Series: The Beatbox Dads

B is for beatbox! Move, groove, and learn along with Max and Root, a dynamic dad duo. The Beatbox Dads give the letters of the alphabet rhythm and soul as they make music with their mouths! Their lively, interactive beatboxing style teaches foundational phonics, counting, and music skills as they engage kids in musical fun! For Ages 3-7. Tickets: \$5/person. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit <https://bit.ly/3tTFV6z>.

For more information on these and other February events at Publick Playhouse, visit <https://bit.ly/3to7swu>.

Local Students Honored

Students Named on Dean's List at Susquehanna University

SELINGROVE, Pa. (Jan. 30, 2024)—Susquehanna University congratulates its students named to the Dean's List for the fall 2023 semester:

Beltsville, MD: **Brian Okpala**
College Park, MD: **Zilma Flores-Aviles**
Temple Hills, MD: **Nala Washington**
Upper Marlboro, MD: **Audric Washington**

The Dean's List recognizes students who achieve a grade point average of 3.4 or higher out of a possible 4.0 for the semester. To qualify, students must complete a minimum of 12 semester hours.

Local College Park Student Wins Prestigious \$1,000 AI Innovators Undergraduate Scholarship

University of Maryland-College Park student Grace Magny-Fokam from College Park was awarded the AI Innovators Undergraduate Scholarship on January 25, 2024. Funded by CommandBar, whose mission is to support students focusing on AI. With "better" AI comes improved technology and hopefully a better society. This scholarship seeks to support students who are pursuing higher education and careers in the artificial intelligence industry.

For more information on scholarships, visit <https://bold.org/scholarships/>

—Dror Liebenthal, *The Bold Foundation*

Sam Houston State University Fall 2023 Graduates

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (Jan. 29, 2024)—The following area students received degrees during the 2023 Fall semester at Sam Houston State University.

Upper Marlboro, MD: **Julia Pardaans**, BA - Bachelor of Arts, Criminal Justice, Summa Cum Laude

Prince George's County Holds 2023

Waste Diversion and Recycling Award Ceremony

Awards recognize excellence in reducing waste and increasing recycling efforts

LARGO, Md. (Jan. 30, 2024)—The Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) and Keep Prince George's County Beautiful (KPGCB) recently hosted the 2023 Waste Diversion and Recycling Awards ceremony recognizing local entities demonstrating excellence in waste diversion and increasing recycling efforts. The awards were presented to commercial businesses, schools, and other entities that help advance DoE and KPGCB's mission.

A total of seven businesses, 23 Prince George's County schools, 37 Maryland Certified Green Schools (certified by Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education), individual volunteers, and professional organizations were honored for their outstanding environmental efforts and for helping Prince George's County reach its waste reduction goals.

"This annual event showcases some of the best environmental stewards in Prince George's County," said Andrea Crooms, Director

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

APPRECIATION DINNER

Come celebrate with us. We are having an appreciation dinner Sunday, April 14, 2024, from 3-7 p.m. to honor Reverend Tyrone Johnson for his dedication and faithful service to the Community. The dinner will be at Baden Firehouse, 16608 Brandywine Road, Brandywine, Maryland.

Tickets cost \$25/PER PERSON. Tickets available until March 24, 2024; tickets are limited and no sales at door. Please contact one of the following to purchase tickets: Mrs. Vivian G. Rich 804-301-9530, Lady Stephanie Johnson 240-733-2094, Ms. Chrystal Chase 240-602-1238, Ms. Beverly Smith 301-456-1357, Mr. Harry Butler 301-888-1353. Let us give Reverend Tyrone Johnson his flowers now. This dinner is sponsored by St. Philip's Church, Baden Parish.

CELEBRATING BLACK EDUCATORS

"Happy Black History Month. We have so much to celebrate as a parish about how God got us over, and this month we take time to reflect on the blessings that God gave our ancestors. At the core of our history as Historically Black Congregations, we are creative, we are familial, and we are loving. In addition to those things, we hold a core value of desiring justice, and to love, kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8). And so, this month we are going to explore what justice looks like in the Kingdom of God." Reverend Shemaiah Strickland.

Rudell Jones recalls his path into the academic arena. "As a child in Cambridge, Maryland, I was exposed to two types of jobs in the Black Community. The people I saw on a daily basis were either factory workers or teachers. After seeing the long hours my father and others worked on their jobs in the local factories, I knew that type of career was not for me, so I decided to become a teacher. After graduating from Bowie State College (Now Bowie State University) in 1977, I was hired by the Talbot County Public School System as an intermediate math teacher at St. Michaels Elementary School in St. Michaels, Maryland."

It was the love of music that led Gwendolyn Deville to pursuing an academic career. "She stated, when I went to High school, the class I enjoyed most was music, especially the choir under the direction of Mr. Earl Walter Pearson. I always wanted to go to college after graduating from high school, but I could not decide which career I wanted to pursue. I came to the conclusion, that if I liked music, why not major in music. I went to Morgan State (Now Morgan State University) and majored in music. Upon graduating from college, I was able to get a job in Prince George's County Public Schools as a music teacher at Frederick Douglass High School. If I had to do it all over

again, I would choose the same career path. I have had so many blessings by trying to bless others."

Rudell and Gwendolyn continue to share their wisdom and experiences with others. Rudell advises Black educators of today to "establish a positive rapport with the families of your most challenging students, make an extra effort to implement strategies needed for their success, and encourage and motivate all students to exceed their potential. Also, I would tell Black Educators to be lifelong learners, get a degree higher than a bachelor's degree, and apply for administrative positions. Our Black students need to see people who look like them working in all levels at their schools."

"While Gwendolyn remarks, "To Black Educators, I would say our children need you, it is not an easy career, and it can be frustrating but the rewards of helping a child or adult make it through some difficult situations will be blessing to you and the child/adult. You cannot put a price on it, and you will be rewarded knowing you made a difference in their lives." Information from The Messenger Nottingham Myers and Christ United Methodist Churches Cooperative/Parish Newsletter, Joyce Lee Brown/Reverend Shemaiah Strickland.

SWIM TEAM SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is geared toward improving the accessibility of competitive swimming for African American and Hispanic/Latino swimmers. Applicants must complete the Aquatics for All Swim Scholarship Application by providing all required documentation by the designated deadline (September 22, 2024).

This is a one-year need-based scholarship to assist swimmers with team fees for Prince George's Parks & Recreation (PGPR) Sharks swim team and is not guaranteed each year. Once completed applications are submitted, they will be reviewed, scholarship awards will be determined, and families will be contacted regarding application status. All applicants must agree to fulfill all of the scholarship recipient expectations as listed above. This scholarship is available for PGPR Sharks school year and summer swim seasons as funding allows. Applicants must designate the season(s) they are applying for when submitting an application. This scholarship is not eligible to meet fees and equipment. Those already registered for the 2022-2023 season are still able to apply for this scholarship.

Scholarship Recipient Expectations: Commit to competing for the full season. Make scheduled payments on time based on provided schedule. Agree to participate in promotion which may include photography. To apply, go to online application: <https://pgparks.com/swim-team-scholarship>.

COMMUNITY

Around the County from A2

of DoE. "It allows us to recognize businesses, schools, and individuals committed to finding innovative ways to educate and promote and activate recycling and waste management programs in our Prince George's County community."

John Neville, Chairman of the Board for KPGCB, added that this is an outstanding awards program. "There was a wonderful mélange of projects across Prince George's County. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you for your commitment to keeping Prince George's County beautiful. Thanks to the Prince George's County Department of the Environment for a great partnership."

KPGCB is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization empowering individuals to take greater responsibility and action to create healthier, safer, and more livable communities. KPGCB partners with the Prince George's County community to create a beautiful, litter-free environment and promote best waste management practices, including recycling and source reduction.

DoE works for a healthy, beautiful, and sustainable County through programs providing clean water, flood control, recycling and waste management, litter prevention, sustainable animal management, and pet adoption in partnership with Prince George's County's residents and stakeholders.

To view the complete list of winners and for more information on the awards, visit <http://bit.ly/KPGCB>.

Harris Teeter's Health Partner Round Up Campaign Takes Center Stage in Support of The ALS Association

Shoppers in DC, Maryland and Virginia Can Round Up for ALS—Every Cent Counts in the Fight Against ALS

By PRESS OFFICER
ALS Association

WASHINGTON (Jan. 29, 2024)—On January 24, Harris Teeter announced the launch of its Health Partner Round Up campaign, which benefits six leading health non-profit organizations, including the ALS Association.

Now through April 23, 2024, shoppers can round up their transaction to the nearest whole dollar at all Washington DC, Maryland and Virginia stores and a portion of those funds will benefit the ALS Association.

"By shopping at Harris Teeter and choosing to Round Up at checkout, you're helping raise funds that directly impact the work we're doing," said Cheryl Kunkle, vice president of corporate partnerships for the ALS Association. "Funds raised stay in the local community in which they are donated and help support our work to enhance care services, advocate for those affected by ALS, and accelerate critical research initiatives."

The funds collected throughout the campaign will be evenly distributed among the six health charity partners at the end of the campaign. The campaign raised more than \$900,000 in total for the campaign partners in 2023.

"Non-profits rely on the generosity of our valued associates and loyal shoppers. These donations are critical for these organizations to continue conducting research and providing life-saving treatments and programs," said Danna Robinson, director of cor-

porate affairs for Harris Teeter. "Through this unique partnership we can increase awareness of each non-profit organization's role in improving lives and building healthier communities."

The Health Partner Round Up campaign provides shoppers the opportunity to conveniently give back to the local community. When shoppers participate in the campaign, they'll be making an impact in the advancement of critical research programs and life-changing technology and treatments for individuals living with ALS.

The ALS Association is the largest philanthropic funder of ALS research in the world. The Association funds global research collaborations, assists people with ALS and their families through its nationwide network of care and certified clinical care centers, and advocates for better public policies for people with ALS. The ALS Association is working to make ALS a livable disease while urgently searching for new treatments and a cure. For more information about the ALS Association, visit our website at als.org.

For more than 60 years, Harris Teeter, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kroger, has enriched lives—one meal, one family, one associate, and one community at a time. Headquartered in Matthews, North Carolina, Harris Teeter employs 36,000 valued associates across more than 250 stores and 70 fuel centers in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, Maryland, Delaware, Florida, and the District of Columbia.

CEO from A1

Information Ethics. His publications, focusing on various aspects of leadership in libraries, access to information, economic inequality, and public policy, have included three books and more than 40 authored or co-authored research journal articles and book chapters. He has served on the editorial boards of a number of scholarly journals and held multiple leadership roles in the library profession at the national level, including with the ALA and ALA affiliate Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE).

He has also received several awards for his research, including the American Library Association's (ALA) National Award for Achievement in Library Diversity Research, the Emerald Literati Network Award of Excellence for a "Highly Commended Paper" entitled "Leadership in Times of Crisis and Change," and the Reference Service Press Award for Outstanding Article for "Reference and Information Services for Young Adults: A Research Study of Public Libraries in New Jersey."

He has a doctorate in library and information science from the University of Pittsburgh, as well as a master's degree in library science from the University of Pittsburgh and a bachelor's degree in business management from Hampton University.

"The Board of Library Trustees is pleased to welcome Dr. Winston to our library system and Prince George's County. As a former resident of Maryland with an impressive background in library leadership, we are confident he will move our system forward providing resources and services to our large and diverse communities," said Angela D. Smith, chairperson of the PGCMLS Board of Library Trustees.

The appointment by the Board of Library Trustees follows the close of the search for the chief executive officer position, which initially started in January 2023, followed by a second search in July after the Board appointed Interim CEO Rick AmRhein to oversee operations during that time. Both searches were conducted by the firm Bradbury Miller Associates.

Engine Company Closures Leads to Fire Fighters Operating Alone on House Fire

By GRANT WALKER

Prince George's County Professional Fire Fighters & Paramedics Association, International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 1619

BOWIE, Md. (Jan. 27, 2024)—On Friday, January 27, Prince George's County Fire/EMS continued a long trend of increased call volume, which significantly taxed response resources. By 5:30 p.m. Engine 819 - Bowie Old Town and Engine 843 - Pointer Ridge were placed out of service to move their staffing to ambulances, leaving one engine company in Bowie for fire and EMS response.

While these Bowie units were out of service, a house fire was dispatched just after 9 p.m. in the 14600 block of London Lane in Bowie. Upon arrival Engine 816 - Northview discovered a basement on fire in the home and reports of people still in the structure.

Because of the two other Bowie engines being out of service, Fire Fighters

were forced to operate alone for an extended period of time, waiting for additional resources to arrive.

Thankfully our Fire Fighters were able to extinguish the fire without injury or loss of life for themselves or the residents.

Local 1619 wants to commend the hard work and dedication of our members in the face of these challenging conditions. Their daily professionalism was on display yesterday. The dedication of the Fire Fighters and Paramedics of Prince George's County ensured a positive outcome on 665 calls and cannot be understated.

This fire highlights a disturbing trend of increased call volume without the increased investment into the safe staffing of the fire/EMS system. Since 2020 Prince

George's County has seen a 15% increase in call volume. Last year the Fire/EMS department ran 169,560 calls for service, up from 147,634 just three years prior. As the 16th busiest fire department in the nation, Prince George's County must provide enough Fire Fighters to account for the significant call volume increase so our Fire Fighters are never left alone.

For years Local 1619 has been sounding the alarm to hire more Fire Fighters to make up for deficiencies in staffing of fire houses. Last night was just another example of the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department being under resourced and under staffed. Prince George's County must hire 232 Fire Fighters to fix this problem. Without this commitment, our Fire Fighters and the residents of Prince George's County will be left wondering when help is going to arrive when they call 9-1-1.

After Long Community Push, Newly Renovated Baden Branch Library Opened February 6

By ANDREA CASTILLO
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (Feb. 5, 2024)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) host[ed] a grand opening ceremony for its new Baden Branch Library at 13601 Baden Westwood Road in Brandywine on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, offering a space that is nearly double the size of the original location next door and includes new meeting room space, a cafe with vending machines, more seating and technology to help customers connect to the internet—including 10 public computers, a printer, a scanner and digitizer, and digital signage. Members of the tight-knit rural community in southeastern Prince George's County advocated for expanded library facilities for more than a decade.

"Even though we're small, this is huge to us," said Dottie Crecelius, Friends of the Baden Library president and PGCMLS Foundation Board of Directors member.

The original Baden Branch Library opened next door to the new facility in 1970, housed in Baden Elementary School and part of a complex that also includes a community center. As the

Friends of the Baden Library celebrated the branch's 40th anniversary in 2010, they saw an opportunity to expand their small space that could no longer accommodate the crowds from storytimes—or even provide public restrooms—when a health clinic left the complex, Crecelius said.

From there, Friends of the Baden Library and their supporters began attending Board of Library Trustees and Prince George's County Board of Education meetings to advocate for the cause, eventually gaining the backing of politicians like the late Maryland Senate President Mike Miller to get the project off the ground.

"We are so excited this has finally come together," Crecelius said. "The community is so happy and so proud that we've been able to do this. They are just so excited to have a fresh new space with added features."

Inspired by the Friends of the Baden Library's outdoor garden, the new 4,864-square-foot interior includes treehouse reading nooks, decorative nods to different kinds of plants and trees throughout the space, a comfort room, and soft seating for parents and children. The building was designed by Grimm + Parker Archi-

fects and built by NARDI Construction, Inc.

"The new space has allowed us to expand our adult and teen collections, and there is now a distinct separation between the adult area and the children's area, giving the community places to sit and read or use computers and laptops," said Tiffany Dickerson, Baden's supervising public services specialist. "The new children's department is amazing, with plenty of space for children to play in our Ready 2 Read Center, as well as child-sized tables for completing homework assignments, projects, and arts and crafts. The community will be pleased with their new library!"

The opening-day ribbon-cutting ceremony, which [took] place at 11 a.m., feature[d] remarks from PGCMLS CEO Dr. Mark Winston, Prince George's County Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Health, Human Services and Education Dr. Sanmi Areola, Prince George's County Councilman Sydney J. Harrison (District 9), Maryland State Librarian Irene M. Padilla, PGCMLS Board of Library Trustees Chair Angela D. Smith, and Interim Chief Operating Officer for Public Services Megan Sutherland.

Lefty's Barbecue Unlimited, Inc. and Lefty's Spices, LLC Celebrate Black History Month With a Rich Culinary Heritage

A Black family's ongoing legacy of business success, culinary flavor, and resilient tradition.

By PRESS OFFICER
Lefty's Barbecue Unlimited, Inc.

Lefty's Barbecue Unlimited, Inc. and Lefty's Spices, LLC, two family-owned businesses with roots dating back to 1989 and 2007, respectively, are gearing up to celebrate Black History Month in a unique and flavorful way. These establishments, founded by Walter (Lefty) and Margaret Nash, hold a deep-seated history in Southern-style cuisine, barbecue, and spice manufacturing.

Walter Nash, raised in Georgia during the challenges of Jim Crow law, played a pivotal role in opening Lefty's Barbecue. The family invites readers to explore the narrative of survival, resilience, and the legacy of North Carolina-style pork barbecue during Black History Month. Walter's wife, Margaret, hailing from Alabama, adds her touch to the culinary journey with a passion for cooking that has transcended generations.

This spirit of delivering great food always puts the customer first. In that spirit, Lefty

commented, "Treat the customer right because we ain't the only bbq place in town."

As the month approaches, the spotlight will also be on Taylor Holland, the third-generation heir, who recently graduated from college and is eager to contribute to the family legacy. Taylor, inheriting a love for cooking from her grandmother Margaret, aims to elevate the Lefty's brand. The plan includes Taylor demonstrating the family's signature fry mixes, seasonings, and barbecue sauces, with Lefty himself providing guidance.

This celebration is not just about history but also the continuation of a culinary tradition that has stood the test of time. Lefty's Barbecue Unlimited, Inc. remains a landmark in Charles County, Maryland, dedicated to providing superior food and service since its inception in 1989. The slow cooking of meats over a hickory wood fire and the signature sides made on the premises have become synonymous with the warm and inviting atmosphere the Nash family has cultivated



PHOTO COURTESY LEFTY'S BARBECUE UNLIMITED, INC.

Taylor Holland and Walter L. Nash, Sr. (Lefty)

over the years.

Donald Turley, a passionate recent guest at the restaurant, remarked in a five-star review, "This is the place for Ribs! My wife and I come down from Annapolis whenever we get the urge for 'the best' Signature ribs this side of the Mississippi. When you want to really put your feed on, get down to Lefty's." Lefty's Spices, LLC, born in 2007, endeavors to bring the down-home flavor of Southern cooking from the grocery store to your home. The brand

seeks to create a sense of comfort for families across generations with products like its Fish N' Chicken Mix and BBQ Sauce. As we embark on Black History Month, Lefty's Barbecue Unlimited, Inc. and Lefty's Spices, LLC invite everyone to savor the flavors of their culinary creations and the rich history and enduring legacy that have made them a staple in the community.

To learn more, visit www.leftysbarbecue.com and www.leftyspices.com

COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Fearless Fund Continues the Fight Against Defenders of White Supremacy

"Honestly, I actually have the same belief as the plaintiff. I would like a world where race-based things do not matter. But guess what—we live in America, and there are disparities that have to be solved for us to get to that point."
—Arian Simone, Fearless Fund Co-Founder

"We are not stepping back; we leaning into this cause to make sure that women of color get the support, the funding, to grow their businesses so they can achieve the American dream. Because that's why we're here. We're here to close this wealth gap. We are here to achieve the Amer-

ican dream, and to continue to serve communities."

—Ayana Parsons, Fearless Fund Co-Founder

Few had ever heard the term "woke" when anti-racial justice activist Edward Blum began his crusade to preserve systemic racism after losing a congressional race to a Black opponent in 1992.

Even fewer would have declared, much less loudly and proudly, their opposition to it after hearing it defined as "the belief there are systemic injustices in American society and the need to address them."

For most of this nation's existence, the only

opponent a congressional candidate like Edward Blum would have faced would be another white man. The entire applicant pool for admission to an elite college or university would be white men. A white, male entrepreneur seeking funding to get his business off the ground would be competing only against other white men.

The congressional seats, the college admissions, the business funding, all were theirs by right. If anyone else gained access to any of it, they must be a thief.

That's why Blum is trying to shut down the Fearless Fund, which asked an appeals court this week to lift an injunction against a program that provides grants to businesses that are majority owned by Black women.

Black women entrepreneurs receive less than 1% of venture capital funding.

"And so we are here fighting them to say, can we at least have 1%? They're saying, no, we want all the pie," Fearless Fund's attorney, Ben Crump, said a news conference following the hearing.

Blum's organization, which sued Fearless Fund under Section 1981 of the Civil Rights Act of 1866 in August, claimed its members were excluded from the grant program because of their race, but has not identified the members. In September, a court granted its request for an injunc-

tion shutting down the grant program while the lawsuit proceeds.

The National Urban League has joined in filing an amicus brief in the case, along with Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, National Action Network, NAACP, National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, and LatinoJustice PRLDEF. As the brief explains, Section 1981 of the Civil Rights Act of 1866 was explicitly designed to further the aims of the 13th Amendment by creating a remedy for discrimination against Black people that hampered their ability to enter into contracts and fully participate in the nation's economy.

Programs like Fearless Fund, which strengthen Black Americans' rights to equal participation in the marketplace, are indisputably authorized under federal law.

Throughout his three-decade campaign to dismantle racial equity initiatives, Blum has claimed to be seeking a "color-blind society." More specifically, he seeks a society that is blind to historic and systemic racial inequity where he and his the anonymous backers can maintain the fiction that their advantages are the result of "merit and hard work."

—February 2, 2024

Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita, Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

The Child Tax Credit: Moving Forward

On Wednesday, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bipartisan tax package that included elements of the historic 2021 Child Tax Credit (CTC) expansion. The new Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act doesn't include all of the improvements that were part of that expansion, but it is still an important step that will benefit approximately 16 million young people—including more than one in three Black and Brown children under 17.

The CTC was created in 1997 to help families meet everyday

expenses raising children, and since then, it has eased economic pressure on many parents and caregivers and helped families afford groceries, clothes, school supplies, and other basics needed for children's well-being. It was expanded in 2021 as part of the American Rescue Plan, reaching 35 million families—and approximately 90 percent of all children in the United States—who benefited from its immediate relief. Monthly payments—the hallmark of the 2021 expansion—ensured even greater economic security and

flexibility for families, and the expansion helped child and youth poverty in the United States fall to the lowest rate on record. But Congress allowed the expansion to expire in 2022, and that rate skyrocketed back up to pre-pandemic levels.

When the expanded CTC was in place, research showed buying food was the most common use for the payments across all income levels, and the payments increased families' ability to eat more fruit, protein, and balanced meals—but families with children reported a 25 percent increase in

not having enough to eat after the expansion expired. A Children's Defense Fund coalition parent advisory board member who works in social services described the CTC's impact this way: "[For some families] it meant they could pay their utility bill, get a new pair of shoes for their children, and have enough food for their family. For my family it meant making it to the end of the month without having to [put] gas, groceries, or other needed items on a credit card. It meant I could avoid the constant circle of high interest payments to get our basic needs met."

Now this new bill will make it easier for millions of children and young people to again get many of the things they need to thrive. Urge your Senators to pass the bipartisan tax package, and let your Members of Congress know they must now keep going towards a permanent, fully refundable, monthly CTC to keep families moving forward. Let's stay on the right road!

—February 2, 2024

State Leaders Announce Comprehensive Plan to Improve the Juvenile Justice System in Maryland

By PRESS OFFICER Maryland Senate

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 31, 2024)—Today, Governor Wes Moore, Senate President Bill Ferguson, and House Speaker Adrienne A. Jones announced a comprehensive plan to improve Maryland's juvenile justice system through legislation, executive action, and the State budget.

The new juvenile justice legislation is centered on three pillars: accountability; rehabilitation; and collaboration (ARC).

The new legislation crafted by Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee Chair Sen. Will Smith and House Judiciary Committee Chair Del. Luke Clippinger aims to improve outcomes for children. When taken together, ARC, holds everyone within the juvenile justice system accountable and ensures that local and State agencies are collaborating every day to ensure kids are not slipping through without receiving the services needed to be rehabilitated.

"I've been clear that any juvenile justice bill that comes to my desk must emphasize accountability, both for those who commit crime and those who care for our young people—and accountability means holding ourselves to a higher standard, taking a balanced approach so our kids get the rehabilitation they need, and making sure that actions have consequences," said Governor Moore. "This bill helps us meet these priorities, and it will cre-

ate stronger guardrails for some very difficult situations. In the coming weeks, my role is to be an engaged partner in this conversation. I am confident in this team, and I am confident that when a final version of this bill gets to my desk, I will sign it."

"I continue to believe our efforts start and end with executing the laws and policies with fidelity at all levels in a coordinated way every single day," said Senate President Bill Ferguson. "This new legislation improves accountability, rehabilitation, and collaboration of the juvenile justice system to ensure better outcomes for children in Maryland."

Included in the bill's provisions are the following improvements:

- Expanding the jurisdiction of DJS to include those under 13 for firearms-related offenses, car thefts, third-degree sexual offenses, and animal abuse.
- Ensuring kids participate in treatment by allowing a court to extend probation if there are multiple unexcused absences from a treatment program.
- Increasing the possible length of probation to ensure kids are receiving and participating in needed services.
- Requiring written documentation of youth who are taken into custody by police.

The legislation has been cross-filed in the Senate and House and can be read here: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/site/Legislation/Details/SB0744>

Governor Moore Unveils ENOUGH Act With Support From State and Local Officials and Community Leaders

By PRESS OFFICER Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 29, 2024)—Governor Wes Moore today unveiled the ENOUGH Act, a first-in-the-nation state-level effort to end concentrated poverty. Joined at LIFE Ministries Church in Brooklyn by Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller; Senate President Bill Ferguson; Speaker of the House Adrienne A. Jones; Baltimore Mayor Brandon M. Scott; Baltimore City Councilwoman Phylcia Porter; Baltimore Community Foundation Chief Executive Officer Dr. Shanaysha Sauls; and Life Ministries Church Pastor Amin Flowers, Governor Moore laid out the details of the legislation, which will provide support and resources in communities to address the root causes of poverty.

"ENOUGH will be the rallying cry not just here in Baltimore, but ENOUGH will be the rallying cry all throughout the state of Maryland. We've had enough with poverty, crime and a system where generational challenges go unaddressed. We've had enough of the same neighborhoods facing the same issues—and coming up with the same solutions that drive the same results," said Gov. Moore. "We will help transform distressed communities into places

with top schools; good jobs, safe neighborhoods, quality housing, and economic momentum. That's the future we're trying to build. And we're going to build it in partnership."

"Ending the cycle of generational poverty that burdens children and families has been at the heart of our administration's mission since day one," said Lt. Gov. Miller. "Today represents the next phase in this important work. Through the ENOUGH Act, we will direct resources to the communities that need it most with targeted investments that will support the holistic development of safer, stronger, more economically prosperous communities."

The ENOUGH Act uses place-based interventions in communities with disproportionately high numbers of children living in poverty—rural, suburban and urban. Communities that show an ability to assess existing pathways to success, coordinate across sectors, and address challenges strategically and in a holistic manner can apply for competitive grant funding of up to \$10 million per year. The program will be run through the Governor's Office of Children.

"As the senator for the 46th District, and as a former educator, I have seen firsthand how poverty can impede the potential of our children," said Senate

President Bill Ferguson. "The ENOUGH Act will bring resources and support to the city to help our highest-need neighbors by concentrating and coordinating multiple partners' resources on clearly identified neighborhoods."

"We have a social responsibility as a state to protect and lift up the most vulnerable in our communities," said Maryland House Speaker Adrienne A. Jones. "The ENOUGH Act supports this effort and will reinforce the values of decency and compassion we need to create thriving communities across the State."

"Since taking office, my focus as Mayor of Baltimore has been to help our city overcome the decades of intentional disinvestment in our communities—particularly our young people. The ENOUGH Act is a sweeping assurance from Governor Moore and his administration that they share that commitment," said Baltimore City Mayor Brandon Scott. "We have made incredible progress in bolstering the neighborhoods that were once so often left behind, but when the ENOUGH Act passes, the state's level of support for this work will simply be a gamechanger for Baltimoreans everywhere."

"I am grateful and energized to implement this important legislation for community organi-

zations, non-profits, anchor institutions, and other key community members to come together and develop a locally-focused plan of action for addressing poverty. Through The ENOUGH Act, South Baltimore's District 10 will correct decades of disinvestment and craft an ending to concentrated poverty," said Baltimore City Councilwoman Phylcia Porter. "For too long, champions of South Baltimore's District 10 have not had the necessary support and resources to identify the root causes of poverty and start addressing them. This initiative and collaboration with the Moore-Miller Administration will break the cycle of multi-generational poverty and create better opportunities for education, employment, and housing for so many legacy communities in District 10."

ENOUGH will address gaps in existing funding streams to support children and families—from early child care and education to affordable housing, public safety, and support for civic infrastructure. ENOUGH partnerships must include at least one community-based non-profit; one local government entity; and one local public school. Partnerships may also include unions or worker organizations; anchor in-

See ENOUGH ACT Page A6

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Will my WEP Reduction Go Away if I Continue Working?

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'm 63 years old and have not yet started my Social Security. I now work for the State of Illinois and will draw a pension from that state's university system. I don't pay into Social Security from this position and, as a result, my Social Security payment will be reduced. But I have also worked elsewhere and contributed to Social Security for 26 years.

If I retire from the state university and begin drawing my reduced Social Security payment, and then work in a different job which does contribute to SS, will the reduction to my Social Security payment ever be eliminated? Or will I be permanently stuck with the smaller Social Security payment? **Signed: Curious Educator**

Dear Curious: A rule called the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) will apply to your Social Security benefit because your IL state pension was earned without paying into the Social Security program. The basic rule is that anyone with a pension earned without contributing to Social Security, and who is also entitled to Social Security benefits, is subject to WEP, which reduces that person's Social Security retirement benefit. It's a law enacted many years ago to equalize how SS benefits are paid to all Social Security beneficiaries. However, the WEP rules also provide relief for those who have only a small non-covered pension, and for those who have separately contributed to Social Security for a lot of years. For example:

- The WEP reduction to your SS benefit cannot be more than 50% of your non-covered (IL) pension
- The WEP reduction is smaller for each year over 20 years contributing to Social Security from substantial earnings
- WEP does not apply to those who have at least 30 years contributing to SS from substantial earnings

Although you could retire at 63 and collect your pension from the university and also collect your WEP-reduced Social Security, you have something else to consider if you take another job which pays into Social Security.

Social Security has an annual "earnings test" for those who collect benefits before their full retirement age (FRA). The earnings test limits how much you can earn while collecting early SS before they take away some of your benefits. The earnings limit for 2024 is \$22,320 and, if that is exceeded, you will lose \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. If your work earnings substantially exceed the earnings limit, you would likely be temporarily ineligible to receive Social Security benefits. FYI, the earnings test no longer applies once you reach your full retirement age, which for you is 67.

Without knowing your expected income from a new job, I can't say how much of your SS you would be able to receive, but you can use this as a guide: Social Security will take away benefits equal to half of what you exceed the annual earnings limit by, and they typically recover by withholding future benefits. If 12 months or more of benefits are withheld, you will be temporarily ineligible to receive benefits until your earnings are less, or you reach your full retirement age (the earnings test no longer applies once you reach your FRA). So, depending on your expected annual work earnings, you may wish to defer claiming your Social Security until you either earn less or reach 67 years of age.

If you already have 26 years contributing to Social Security from "substantial earnings," your WEP reduction will already be mitigated, and any additional years of substantial earnings from which SS payroll taxes are deducted will result in an even smaller WEP reduction. If you can achieve 30 years of SS contributions from substantial work earnings, WEP will no longer apply. So, you may not be "stuck with" the WEP reduction permanently, but you will need to contact Social Security to request that your WEP reduction amount be reviewed in light of any additional years of SS-covered earnings (this should be done after you submit your income taxes each year you have additional SS-covered earnings).

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.

Twenty Three MD and DC Teachers TAP Into Grant Money From FedChoice Charitable Foundation

By PRESS OFFICER

FedChoice Charitable Foundation

LANHAM, Md. (Feb. 1, 2024)—On Tuesday, January 30, the FedChoice Charitable Foundation hosted winners of its Fall 2023 Grant Cycle Teachers' Aid Program (TAP) awards at FedChoice FCU Headquarters. TAP provides \$250 educator grants for K–12 teachers of math, business, economics, or general elementary education to be used for any direct classroom expenses to help students thrive.

The Fall 2023 Grant Cycle winners include 23 teachers from the following schools:

Beltsville Academy, Oxon Hill, MD

Asenath Joy Bradley, Kindergarten Teacher

Cora L. Rice Elementary School, Landover, MD

ReGina Branch, Technology/Computers Teacher

Taylor Cook, Special Education Teacher

Karina Juarez, Parent Engagement Assistant

Carmen Latorre-Perez, General Music Teacher

Sherri Paden, First Grade Teacher

Andrea Rivers, Reading Teacher

Iman Willis, Art Teacher

Cassandra L Wilkins, Math Teacher

Kevin Wilkinson, Fifth Grade Science Teacher

Fairmont Heights High School, Landover, MD

Tameka Henson, Entrepreneurship Club

Frances Fuchs Early Childhood Center, Beltsville, MD

Emma Mateo, Pre-Kindergarten Teacher

Oaklands Elementary School, Laurel, MD

Samantha Bardoe, Prekindergarten Teacher

Yasmin Bey, Third Grade Science, Social Studies and Health Teacher

Brenda Chambers, First Grade Teacher

Kiara Cornelius, First Grade Teacher

Catherine Claros Cruz, Kindergarten Teacher

Katie (Mary C) Gorman, Vocal/General



PHOTO COURTESY FEDCHOICE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Winners of FedChoice Charitable Foundation's Fall 2023 Grant Cycle Teachers' Aid Program (TAP) awards celebrated at FedChoice FCU Headquarters with management staff.

Music Pre-K-5 Teacher

Tara McGowan, Kindergarten Teacher

Stefanie Moscati, Elementary School Teacher

Damyrah Mumford, All Subjects Teacher

Tina Sonde, Kindergarten Teacher

School Without Walls at Francis Stevens, Washington, DC

Joseph Gibbons, Special Education Teacher

Opening the TAP Award Ceremony, Brett Noll, FedChoice Charitable Foundation Chair, gave an inspiring presentation about the impact of our foundation's work in local underserved communities and the importance of supporting teachers. Recognizing the teachers, Noll said, "We are so grateful for your efforts to help young people succeed. We are keenly aware that many if not all of you dip into your own pockets to educate your students or provide much needed supplies. We hope this program helps support you in the incredible work you do and maybe even level the playing field for many." Marie Biabo, Cora L. Rice Elementary School's teacher and a recipient of last year's award, shared how the grant helped her build a small library to improve reading classes and make a difference for her students.

The teachers were thrilled about their awards. Asenath Joy Bradley, a Kindergarten Teacher at Beltsville Academy, expressed her enthusiasm, stating that the

grant will empower her to craft more engaging and personalized lessons for students with diverse learning needs. Emma Mateo, a Prekindergarten teacher at Frances Fuchs Early Education Center, plans to leverage the grant to procure tactile learning materials for students grappling with various learning challenges. Iman Willis, an Art Teacher at Cora L. Rice Elementary School, intends to channel the funds towards her innovative identity project, articulating her vision as, "I aspire for them to portray their outward self-image." Katie Gorman, a Vocal/General Music Teacher from Oaklands Elementary School, plans to purchase a xylophone or metallophone for her class. She stated, "This grant will serve as a catalyst, transforming this aspiration into a tangible reality for my students."

FedChoice Charitable Foundation partners with public, charter and private schools in the Maryland, Washington, DC, and Virginia area to provide teachers with small grants to help offset the cost of supplies and classroom materials. We want to encourage more teachers to apply for the next grant cycle this fall. The information will be available on our website: www.fedchoicegives.org

The FedChoice Charitable Foundation was founded in 2017 and works to improve financial well-being while being a resource, advocate, and champion for the Federal Community.

AFS-USA Removes Financial Barrier for Study Abroad Students in DC Area

By PRESS OFFICER

AFS-USA

NEW YORK (Jan. 30, 2024)—Good news for DC area U.S. high school students!

AFS-USA, the largest partner in a worldwide network of non-profit, volunteer-based international education organizations, announces AFS-USA Global Citizen Scholarship & Aid, offering U.S. high school students over \$1 million in scholarships to study abroad with AFS-USA. The list of countries where a student can study includes Japan, Ireland, Ghana, Italy, Argentina, India, France and Kenya.

AFS-USA is committed to meeting the demonstrated financial need of every accepted applicant, making its study abroad programs more accessible and affordable to high school students from all backgrounds.

Admissions are on a rolling basis, so people are encouraged to apply early. Applications for fall departing programs close in March while summer departing programs close in May.

"We believe that finances should not be a barrier to studying abroad. At the center of our strategic imperatives are the tenets of inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility. We seek students from all backgrounds and experiences to represent the diversity of the country and believe that fos-

tering inclusion is essential to fulfilling our mission of creating a more just and peaceful world," said Tara Hofmann, President and CEO of AFS-USA.

Through the help of generous donors, AFS-USA Global Citizen Scholarship & Aid will provide accepted applicants scholarships based on both merit and need that range from partial to full program fees for summer, semester, and yearlong AFS-USA study abroad programs.

"My experience abroad fundamentally changed how I thought about myself and the world around me. Perhaps most importantly, I learned to be more aware of the lens that I experience the world through, and to know when to look around that lens to see things from another's point of view. This has been an immeasurably valuable asset during my post-high school education."—Katie G, U.S. to Portugal.

In addition, AFS-USA remains committed to its Faces of America Scholarship program. Established 13 years ago, Faces of America works with community-based organizations across the U.S. The Faces of America Scholarship helps AFS-USA reach and engage with youth from traditionally marginalized and underrepresented backgrounds, working to expand the diversity of its participants and increase access to its programs.

"Our vision is that any student or educator can become a global citizen when schools partner with AFS-USA. By providing a barrier-free opportunity for students to develop global citizenship, even more young people will return to their U.S. classrooms after their AFS experience abroad as active global citizens, bringing experiential learning, global competency, and language proficiency to their schools and communities," Hofmann said.

AFS-USA works with over 1,000 U.S. high schools annually through its hosting and study abroad programs and engages with over 8,000 educators through its virtual and in-person programs, intercultural classroom resources, and professional development experiences. Through offering expanded scholarship opportunities, AFS-USA is working toward its organizational imperative of expanding its support of and relationship with U.S. high schools.

"While we are excited to share our new approach, we know there is still more work to be done in making study abroad more inclusive, diverse, equitable, and accessible, and AFS-USA remains committed in this endeavor," said Hofmann. For more information on AFS-USA, its physical and virtual exchange programs, educator resources, welcoming or hosting an exchange student in your community, visit www.afsusa.org.

"Glide into 2024 With Smart Money" Event for Teens and Young Adults

Date: Sunday, February 18, Time: 1–2:45 p.m.

Location: Tucker Road Ice Skating Rink, 1770 Tucker Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744

Event Highlights:

- **Smart Money Training:** A dedicated hour of financial education

for children aged 13 and older.

- **Lunch and Open Ice Skating:** Join us for a delightful lunch and enjoy open ice skating.
- **Giveaways and Prizes:** Participants stand a chance to win exciting prizes.
- **Sponsorship:** Presented by The Jamaur Law Foundation and sponsored by Boeing. Lunch sponsored by Raising Canes (Forestville, MD location).

Purpose of the Event: We are kicking off 2024 with a mission to empower our youth by providing them with essential financial knowledge and resources. The event aims to give participants a jumpstart on society, offering insights into financial topics, access to financial literature, and giveaways within the financial literacy domain.

Limited Space: Sign up on Eventbrite. Notify The Jamaur Law Foundation promptly if you are unable to make it, to ensure that they can accommodate as many participants as possible.

COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

UNITED METHODIST

WESTPHALIA Christian Community Church

"A CHURCH ON THE REACH FOR GOD"
9363 D'Arcy Road
Upper Marlboro, MD

Worship Service:
9 a.m.

(301) 735-9373
Fax: **(301) 735-1844**

Rev. Dr. Timothy West, Pastor

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www.westphaliaum.org

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"A Bible Based, Christ Centered & Spirit Led Congregation"

6801 Sheriff Road Landover, MD
20785 **(301) 773-6655**

Sunday Biblical Institute:
9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship:
7:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m.
Saturday Worship:
6:30 p.m.

"WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS WITH JESUS":
12 noon (The Power Hour) and 6:45 pm

"A Time of Prayer, Praise, Worship, & The Word"
Dr. Henry P. Davis III, Pastor
www.fhcp.org

BAPTIST

First Baptist Church of College Park

Welcomes You Where Jesus Christ Is Lord and King
Stephen L. Wright, Sr., Pastor

5018 Lakeland Road
College Park, MD 20740
301-474-3995
www.fbc-cp.org

Sunday School 9:30a.m.
Sunday Worship 11a.m.
Holy Communion 1st Sunday
Wednesday Bible Study 7-8p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service 8p.m.

UNITED METHODIST

Union United Methodist Church

14418 Old Marlboro Pike,
Upper Marlboro, MD

Church (301) 627-7389

Sunday School (Children/Adults) - 8:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Reverend Twanda E. King, Pastor
www.uumchurch.com

S. G. Spottswood A.M.E. Zion Church

419 Hill Road, Landover, MD
20785 • 301-490-2625

Rev. Ranesa Mayo, Pastor

"We are training disciples to experience victory in every area of their lives"

Matthew 28:19-20

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.

Soulful Thursdays
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

BAPTIST

Forest Heights Baptist Church

We exist to strengthen your relationship with God.
6371 Oxon Hill Road
Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745
Sunday School (Adults & Children) - 9:30 A.M.
Worship Service - 11:00 A.M.
Wed. Prayer Service & Bible Study - 7:00 P.M.
Office (301) 839-1166
Fax (301) 839-1721
E-mail: FHBC@verizon.net
Pastor: Rev. Waymond B. Duke

COMMUNITY CHURCH

WORD OF GOD COMMUNITY CHURCH

"The Church Where Everybody is Somebody and Jesus is Lord"

4109 Edmonston Road Bladensburg, MD
(301) 864-3437

Intercessory Prayer: Sundays - 8:30 a.m.
Church School: - 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship Celebration - 10:30 a.m.
Wed. Night Bible Study - 7:45 p.m.
Elder Willie W. Duvall, Pastor

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GENERAC

ENOUGH Act from A4

stitutions like local health care organizations; institutions of higher education; small businesses; local law enforcement; or faith-based organizations.

"The Baltimore Community Foundation's vision is that Baltimore boasts a growing economy where all have the opportunity to thrive. The ENOUGH Act builds the social capital, political will, ideas, credibility, capacity and scale, to take us closer to this vision," said Baltimore Community Foundation President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Shanaysha Sauls. "We are delighted and honored to support its intent and realization."

"Houses of worship have always brought grassroots leaders together to solve big problems in the community," said LIFE Ministries Church Pastor Amin Flowers. "We were proud to host the Governor and so many community leaders today, and are eager to build a bright future together."

The ENOUGH Act is part of the Moore-Miller Administration's recently announced 2024 legislative package, which includes 16 bills that advance the governor's priorities to make Maryland safer, make Maryland more affordable, make Maryland more competitive, and make Maryland the state that serves. The ENOUGH Act is a major step toward strengthening Maryland's economy and a core plank in the administration's commitment to building a state that leaves no one behind.

"By effectively harnessing the power of our communities, government can empower residents to meet their full potential and strengthen the quality of life in our neighborhoods," said Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski. "We are so excited about the potential of the ENOUGH Act to help develop, support, and build upon place-based initiatives, like what we've embarked upon in communities like Essex, to disrupt cycles of poverty and create renewed opportunities for our neighbors and for residents across our state."

"Poverty and its impacts have been the greatest obstacles to opportunity and economic growth in our state and our country," said Anne Arundel County Executive Steuart Pittman. "The ENOUGH Act demonstrates that the Moore-Miller Administration is serious about working with local governments and communities to address it."

"Through our efforts to advance health equity, we've witnessed the critical need for initiatives like the ENOUGH Act. Its focus on reducing child poverty and enhancing community health and well-being is an essential step forward that we are proud to support," said CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield President and Chief Executive Officer Brian D. Pieninck. "The ENOUGH Act lays the groundwork to create healthier, more equitable communities for our youth, which directly aligns with CareFirst's mission to address social determinants of health. We applaud the governor for this initiative and are fully committed to lending our support to see its success."

"We're proud to stand in support of the ENOUGH Act and the Moore-Miller Administration's continued focus on eradicating childhood poverty through a variety of initiatives, including continued support of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and equitably ensuring that every child in Maryland has the opportunity to pursue their dreams," said Maryland State Education Association President Cheryl Bost.

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