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Harmony Hall Chapter NSDAR Joins With John Hanson Chapter SAR To Honor Local Law Enforcement Officer

By DEANNA LUTZ
Harmony Hall Chapter NSDAR

- 2020 Award Recipient is Lieutenant Patrick Hampson, Commander of RID/North/RST of the Prince George's County Police Department.
- This award is presented annually at a joint meeting of the Harmony Hall Chapter NSDAR and John Hanson SAR chapters of Fort Washington, MD.

FORT WASHINGTON, Md. (Jan. 12, 2020)—At the joint January meeting of the Harmony Hall Chapter NSDAR and John Hanson SAR chapters of Fort Washington, MD, Lieutenant Patrick Hampson, Commander of RID/North/RST of the Prince George's County Police Department was recognized for his leadership, expert investigative skills and sound police tactics that resulted in



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY HARMONY HALL CHAPTER NSDAR

Pictured left to right is Doug Stuart, President of the John Hanson Chapter SAR; Lt. Patrick Hampson, Maj. Sunny Mrotek, and Deanna Lutz, Regent of the Harmony Hall Chapter NSDAR

the apprehension of two violent repeat felons, a loaded handgun, and illegal narcotics, demonstrating a personal commitment to the Prince George's

County Police Department and safety of the residents they serve. Members of Lt. Hampson's family joined in the honoring, along with his command-

ing officer, Major Sunny Mrotek of the Regional Investigation Division, and members of both the SAR and NSDAR chapters.

Eight PGCPS Students Awarded Posse Scholarships

Posse Scholars receive full four-year college scholarships to select institutions

By OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
Prince George's County Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Jan. 16, 2020)—Eight Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) high school seniors have been named Posse Scholars and will receive four-year, full-tuition college scholarships from The Posse Foundation's partnering schools.

Next fall, Posse Scholars from across the nation will enter colleges and universities in multicultural groups of 10 known as "posses." Throughout their college career, they will support each other and receive ongoing assistance from The Posse Foundation. Posse Scholars have a 90 percent college graduation rate and demonstrated potential to positively impact their professions.

Each scholarship is worth approximately \$140,000. More than 40 PGCPS students have received Posse scholarships since 2013.

Posse Scholars from Prince George's County include:

Name, High School, Posse University

- Chidera Nnawuba, Largo High School, Bucknell University
 - Endia Scales, Friendly High School, Bucknell University
 - Joyce Chen, Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Bucknell University
 - Delana Turner, Academy of Health Sciences at Prince George's Community College, Sewanee: The University of the South
 - Neziah Osayi, Parkdale High School, University of Rochester
 - Vanessa Velas Romero, High Point High School, University of Rochester
 - Karlos Aguilar Lopez, Oxon Hill High School, University of Rochester
 - Darius Lassiter, Academy of Health Sciences at Prince George's Community College, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- For more information on The Posse Foundation and the Posse program, visit www.possefoundation.org.

Now the Good News: Death Toll Plummeted to Multi-Year Low Along Indian Head Highway (Maryland Route 210) During 2019

Three Persons Lost Their Lives On Roadway Dubbed The "Highway of Death"

By PRESS OFFICER
AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON (Jan. 17, 2020)—Traffic fatalities dropped to the lowest level in years on Indian Head Highway (Maryland Route 210) in 2019. Three persons lost their lives on the corridor during 2019, including a pedestrian on a service road parallel to MD 210. Increased en-

forcement and other factors at play may have saved lives otherwise lost.

Although the number of traffic fatalities tends to fluctuate over a period of time, it is a remarkable sea-change on Indian Head Highway. Nearly 70 persons have lost their lives on MD 210 over the course of the past dozen years. The death toll and the carnage along MD 210 mobilized area residents and community and

civic groups. They sounded the alarm for aggressive enforcement on a heavily traveled highway with a history of violent and deadly crashes. They also called for strategic infrastructure improvements and long-term upgrades that engender safer passage for all users on the high-risk roadway. Residents also issued the clarion call for speed cameras along the high-speed highway.

During 2019, more than 30,000 drivers and scofflaws were slapped with citations for various traffic infractions along Indian Head Highway. Prince George's County Police Department officers on patrol pulled over nearly 11,000 errant drivers on the roadway in 2019 for sundry violations, including impaired driving, aggressive driving, distracted driving and speeding. In ad-

dition, nearly 8,000 drivers were ticketed by a triad of speed cameras along the MD 210 Corridor inside Prince George's County in 2019.

"Fostering a traffic safety culture along Indian Head Highway has proven to be a tedious and tenacious work in

See GOOD NEWS Page A4

Housing, Guns Bills Priority of New Senate Committee Chairman

By RYAN E. LITTLE
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 14, 2020)—A bill that would make it illegal for landlords to discriminate against voucher holders is the top priority of the new chairman of the state's powerful Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

Sen. William "Will" Smith Jr., D-Montgomery, will also push to require background checks for private sales of rifles and shotguns, appropriate more funds to hire state prosecutors and address racial disparities in the state's prison population.

Smith sponsored but withdrew the housing bill last session, when the committee was led by his predecessor, Sen. Bobby Zirkin, D-Baltimore County, who resigned from the Senate in December.

If made law, the Home Act would forbid landlords in Maryland from discriminating against would-be renters paying with government housing vouchers. The legislation has yet to be filed in either chamber of the General Assembly this year but was filed in each of the last three years.

It has been opposed by housing and real estate agent associations that have said voucher programs burden landlords with more rules than they would otherwise face.

Passing the legislation addresses another of Smith's priorities.

"It's part of a comprehensive approach to reduce

crime," Smith told Capital News Service, emphasizing that "providing economic opportunities" can be an effective tool to fight crime.

The 348 deaths in Baltimore in 2019 loom over the General Assembly's proceedings. Fighting crime in Baltimore is a top priority of Gov. Larry Hogan, R, and Democratic lawmakers in both chambers.

Hogan has said that he would put legislation forward that would increase penalties against offenders who use or possess illegal guns, require restitution for crime victims, and crack down on witness intimidation. Smith said he would not comment on the proposals until he had read them. Hogan has also proposed funding 25 more prosecutors.

The "long guns" legislation was another bill introduced last session that didn't make it to the governor's desk. Zirkin angered the bill's supporters by delaying a Judicial Proceedings Committee vote until late in the session. The delay ultimately meant lawmakers ran out of time to pass identical bills in both chambers.

Last year's sponsor, Sen. Susan Lee, D-Montgomery, is also a member of the committee. She said the bill—still not filed in the Senate this session—is a priority.

"We need to stand up as a state and pass it," she said.

She expects Smith to help get it through.

"He's been very good. He understands the issues," Lee said. "I'm very, very happy he is our leadership."



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY RYAN E. LITTLE

State Sen. William "Will" Smith Jr., D-Montgomery, presents an American flag flown over a United States base in Kabul, Afghanistan, to the Maryland Senate on Friday, January 10, 2020. The flag was flown over the base during his deployment on Sept. 11, 2019.

In his first committee meeting Thursday, Smith said he wanted members from both parties to come to a consensus, or he would at least "ensure that everyone had their fair say." Keeping things non-partisan was "one thing that Bobby got right," he said.

Smith's commitment to bipartisanship is important to Sen. Michael Hough, R-Frederick and Carroll, a member of the Judicial Proceedings Committee since 2015.

"We have to be," Hough said. "We are the one committee that, if we make a mistake, it can mean people's lives."

Smith made news last session when he was deployed to Afghanistan 10 days before the end of the 2019 session. He is a lieutenant in the United States Navy Reserve. He returned home in October.

A November report from the Justice Policy Institute found that black people make up 71% of the state's prison population—the highest disparity in the nation and more than double the national average of 32%. Black people made up 31% of the state's 2018 population, according to estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau.

"That should raise eyebrows," Smith said. "And no one is talking about it."

INSIDE

Kiddie Academy Hosts "STEM Adventures" Events

Activities are based on two themes that combine elements of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math in interactive projects that foster learning through play.

Community, Page A3

To Be Equal: MLK's Legacy Even More Relevant As Hate Crimes Continue to Rise

As disheartened as we may be by the rising level of hate crimes, and as disgusted as we may be to read the words of online trolls, we must guard against meeting hate with hate.

Commentary, Page A4

Governor Hogan Announces 2019 Award of \$9 Million in Tax Credits for Student Loan Debt

"It is critical that we look for ways to help those in our state crippled by student loan debt," Governor Hogan said.

Business and Finance, Page A5

Events Around the County:

- The Music of Dinah Washington
- Sopranos Slay: Becoming
- Annual Black History Month Opening Reception/Exhibition
- The Abstract, Poetic Language of Art: An Evocative Exhibit of Artwork by Diane Wilbon Parks

Out on the Town, Page A6

Banneker-Douglass Museum Announces The Black Vote Mural Project 2020

This year-long exhibit explores the intersection of public art, Black voices, and civil rights with sixteen murals that transform the interior galleries of the museum.

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Judie McCrone, VFW 9619's former Auxiliary President, dies at 82

Judith Ellen "Judie" McCrone, 82, Past President of VFW 9619 Auxiliary, transitioned (Judie preferred that to "died") Dec. 17. On Jan. 11, a Celebration of her Life was held at the VFW in Morningside, the only service she wanted to have. As she requested, "Precious Lord" and "In the Garden" were sung.

Judie was born in Binghamton, N.Y., daughter of Nellie and Charles Mosher. She graduated from Binghamton Central High School and went to work for the photographic company Ansco. She also sang with the local bands.

On Nov. 8, 1958 she married Francis "Frank" McCrone whom she first met at a church picnic when she was 9 years old. He was in the Air Force, which transferred him to several bases until, eventually, Andrews.

Frank and Judie joined VFW 9619, in Morningside, in 1978, and it became a huge part of their lives. Frank went on to be Commander, Judie to be President of the Auxiliary. Judie held many offices—including Chaplain of the Year—and received many awards. Later, her daughter Karen followed in Judie's steps, holding many of the same offices.

Judie was talented at knitting and crocheting and continued until a month before her death. Every year she crocheted 100 lap-quilts for veterans' homes and knitted skullcaps for McVETS.

She was once secretary for a Congressman, worked at Andrews' bowling alley (now gone) and with DIA at Bolling AFB. She sang with the VFW State Choir. She enjoyed cruises, the slots, and shoes. But mostly "the VFW was her life."

Judie and Frank divorced in 1988 but stayed friends. He died Feb. 10, 2019 and his brother Jim, who lived in Morningside, died on Oct. 5, 2019.

Judie is the mother of Karen Rooker, Diane McCrone and Aneta Lamb; grandmother of Ellen, Aimee, Patrick, America, Leslee and Sarah; great-grandmother of seven; and the sister of Cynthia Francisco. She will be buried with her parents in Binghamton.

She was proud to see her daughter

Karen become Morningside Mayor and was "known as Karen's Mom all over Morningside."

Neighbors and other good people

I received two emails last week, informing me that I had the wrong city of residence for the Draheims. It is best noted by one complainer, "Judy Draheim lives in HuntingTOWN not HuntingTON." Sorry about that.

Crystal Pruitt, of Skyline, and Caroline celebrated Christmas with a 5-day visit to Williamsburg.

Former District Heights vice mayor is now serving as interim mayor following the resignation of Mayor Eddie Martin.

The Skyline Citizens Association celebrates its 50th anniversary on May 16 at the Skyline Administrative Building (formerly, Skyline Elementary School). We hope all old-time Skyline residents will join us that day. More later.

All invited to Friday Bible Class at SRBC

Dr. Kelvin McCune, Pastor, invites you to join him in studying The Book of Mark at Suitland Road Baptist Church on Friday mornings with his Bible Class for the Community, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. All are welcome. For more information, call 301-219-2296.

Coming up

The 2020 Suburban Maryland Spring Home Show is coming to the Showplace Arena in Upper Marlboro Jan. 26, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The event features a wide selection of home improvement professionals in a fun, interactive environment. Free and open to all ages. Info: 301-952-7900.

St. Philip's, in Camp Springs, hosts its annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Feb. 25, 5 to 7 p.m. Adults, \$6; children 5-12, \$3; 4 & under, free. Bring the whole family for \$20. For information, call Karin Yeatman, 301-899-7784, or Ligia Rojas, 240-480-9540.

Morningside Memories: 1990

Thirty years ago, the Lunch Bunch, a group of past and present Morningsiders, dined at the Beef & Reef Inn in Waldorf and then went to the Waldorf

home of Doris and Bill Young for dessert. Also attending were Mary Nash, of Catonsville; Jeanne West, of Prince Frederick; Hazel Loughmiller, of Oxon Hill; Lois McMickle, of Londontown; Edythe Neale, Audrey Cook, Jean Glaubitz, Grace Carruth, and Jean Davis, all of Morningside.

A sadder note: Eleanor Snyder (1990) died Jan. 8 following a heart attack. She lived at 305 Larkspur Road and had a beauty shop in her home. An ad in an old Morningside Directory invites you to Eleanor's Beauty Shop, "HAIR STYLING, HAIR CUTTING, PERMANENT WAVING." You could call her at RedWood 6-7679. By the way, her husband Daniel was a Morningside Council Member.

Lewis Jones, member of the Iverson Mallwalkers

Maj. Lewis C. Jones, Jr., 92, President of the Hillcrest Heights Civic Association, died New Year's Day. A native of Spartanburg, S.C., he enlisted in the Air Force, and served at the Tuskegee airfield where he met many of the Tuskegee Airmen.

He earned a degree at South Carolina State University where he met his future wife, Edna Ruth Hill. He enlisted in the Army and served in WWII, the Korean and Vietnam wars. After military retirement, he earned a master's and was an administrator at George Mason University.

He was a faithful member of Cornerstone Baptist Church, Hillcrest Heights Senior Social Club and the Iverson Mallwalkers.

His wife Edna predeceased him. Survivors include sons Lewis, Wayson and Byron, in-laws, nieces and nephews. Burial will be at Arlington.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Nikial M. Boston, Jan. 17; Dennis Seaman and Linda Cullinan, Jan. 19; June Nicholson and Gina Glagola Hull, Jan. 20; my great-grandson Jason Shearer, Jan. 22; Mark Folland, Jan. 23; Claire Kennedy, Jan. 24; Kenneth Brown and Michelle Willis, Jan. 25; Father Thomas LaHood and Yvonne Garvin, Jan. 27; San' Tori Dixon, Jan. 28; Sister Zion and Lisa Call, Jan. 29; David Call and Joanne (Clark) Bunch, Jan. 30.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

2019 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Joan Wicks Oxendine was born in Southern West Virginia, the daughter of a coalminer. She graduated from Stratton High School in Beckley, West Virginia with honors. She went to St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing in Clarksburg, West Virginia on a scholarship where she received a diploma. After moving to the Washington, DC area, she entered Howard University completing the Physician Assistant Program with high honors. She would later attend Bowie State College, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in the Advance Nursing Program. After leaving Bowie, she took a leave-of-absence from Group Health and completed a master's degree in Public Health from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and Hygiene majoring in Health Policy and Management with a minor in Occupational Health.

Joan worked in Occupational Health for over 20 years both in the hospital and out-patient settings. Her last position was at Bowie State University where she operated a Nurse-Manager clinic through a HUD Grant in housing community of 1200 residences and finally as Manager of the Student Health and Wellness Center from which she retired in 2008.

Joan is very active in Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal church, where she has been a member for over 50 years. She served as a senior steward for 19 years, retiring in 2015. She taught Sunday School and was president of the President's Council for 15 years. She has been a member of the Sarah Allen Missionary Society for 31 years where she currently serves as President. She is also the president for 25 years to the Sons and Daughters of Allen, a church club that emphasizes Black History in the church. She is an active member of Church Women United where she serves as president of the Prince George's County Unit of Greater Washington.

In her community, she is president of the Civic Association and serves as a volunteer for the Prince George's County Board of Elections, registering citizens to vote.

Her most proud accomplishment is being a published author. Her book, "Growing Up in the United States of America: A Nurse Encounters Starvation in the Uninsured," was written out of her concern for the uninsured whose health insurance through the Affordable Care Act was being threatened by the Congress of the United States. Her book has been accepted by the Prince George's County Memorial Library System. She has also contributed articles to other publications including the Missionary Yearbook of the Women's Missionary Society of the AME Church, the Missionary magazine and contributed an article to the book, "When I Touched," a publication of the Sisters of the Covenant, Metropolitan AME Church, Washington, and DC. She also contributes articles to the Lenten and Advent booklets.

Joan has received several awards and recognition including an award for Humanitarian Service, given by the Washington Tuskegee Alumni Association. She was honored to be the Stratton HS reunion speaker in 2010 speaking to over 300 alumni. In 2018 she was an honoree of the Washington Conference Branch Women's Missionary Society's Annual Recognition Luncheon for her service as a missionary, she was an honoree at the Bowie State University 2019 Gala receiving the Community Service Award. She became a life member of the Bowie State University National Alumni Association in 2012. She is a member of the Prince George's County Chapter.

SUPER BOWL PARTY

Join us for our Super Bowl Party February 2, 2020 at 6-9 p.m. at American Legion Post 227. The address is 13505 Cherry Tree Crossing Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. So, is your team in the final big play off? "Regardless they are hosting a super bowl party at Post 227 in Brandywine. Appetizers, snacks, beverages, the works. There will be two 50/50, 1st drawn at halftime, 2nd one at the end of the game."

Around the County



PHOTO COURTESY TANGER OUTLETS NATIONAL HARBOR

Tanger Outlets National Harbor Donates \$13,182 To Hope Connections For Cancer Support

Tanger Outlets National Harbor donated \$13,182.01 to Hope Connections for Cancer Support at a special presentation ceremony on Wednesday, Jan. 8. The funds were raised throughout the month of October as part of the 26th annual Tanger PINK Campaign. Since 1993, Tanger Outlets has been proudly involved in the fight against breast cancer, spending the last 26 years partnering locally and nationally to make a difference in the lives of those affected by this disease.

The funds received from the PINK Campaign will support one year of the Metastatic Breast Cancer Support Group at Hope Connections for Cancer Support. The Metastatic Breast Cancer Group is a monthly support group that brings together women who are living with the unique challenges posed by metastatic breast cancer. The Metastatic Breast Cancer Support Group provides a necessary space for those facing this disease to share their questions, concerns, and feelings with others who understand their situation. This support group has helped women with metastatic breast cancer to develop a greater sense of well-being and improve not just their quantity of life, but their quality of life.

"Hope Connections for Cancer Support is proud to support these incredible women," says President & CEO Mary K. McCusker. "We are so thankful to Tanger Outlets for allowing us to continue providing a place where they can share their thoughts, obtain knowledge, and build community."

—Juan Carlos Linares, Tanger Outlets® National Harbor

Prince George's County FY 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan Needs Assessment Focus Group Meetings

The Department of Housing and Community Development will host three (3) forums with a presentation and discussion about the needs of low- and moderate-income residents in Prince George's County.

This event is part of the Consolidated Plan process, which identifies needs in the community and determines a framework for the future use of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funds to serve this vulnerable population in Prince George's County through community development, housing, and public service activities.

With limited resources, we are interested to hear from you on what you think are the most important and effective programs and services needed in our community. The purpose of this meeting is to prioritize needs in preparation for the next step in the Consolidated Plan process—identifying strategies to meet these needs.

The Needs Assessment Focus Group sessions will include: Affordable Housing, Economic Development, and Quality of Life.

The three public forums will be held at the RMS Building, 1401 McCormick Drive, Room 308, Largo, MD 20774.

1st Public Forum—Economic Development, Monday, January 27, 2020, 2-4 p.m.

2nd Public Forum—Quality of Life, Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 2-4 p.m.

3rd Public Forum—Affordable Housing, Friday, January 31, 2020, 2-4 p.m.

If you are interested in attending one or more sessions, RSVP to LeShann Murphy, Program Coordinator, at lbmurphy@co.pg.md.us or call 301-883-5457.

—Prince George's County MD, Jan. 16, 2020

Local Students Honored

Local Students Graduate from Clarion University

CLARION, Pa. (Jan. 17, 2020)—The following students graduated from Clarion University of Pennsylvania during December commencement ceremonies:

Capitol Heights, MD

Marc Bartkowiak, BA English, summa cum laude

Hyattsville, MD

Portia Oliver, MSLS Information and Library Science

—Tina M. Horner, Clarion University of Pennsylvania

Local Students Named to the Dean's List at the University of New Haven

WEST HAVEN, Conn. (Jan. 14, 2020)—The following students were named to the Dean's List at the University of New Haven for fall 2019.

Bowie, MD: **Sierra Hawkins**, Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, Bachelor of Science, Fire Science; **Meghan Pater-noster**, Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice

Forestville, MD: **Debra Henderson**, College of Arts and Sciences, Bachelor of Arts, Psychology

The University of New Haven, founded on the Yale campus in 1920, is a private, coeducational university situated on the coast of southern New England. It is a diverse and vibrant community of more than 7,000 students, with campuses around the country and around the world.

Within our colleges and schools, students immerse themselves in a transformative, career-focused education across the liberal arts and sciences, fine arts, business, engineering, healthcare, public safety, and public service. We offer more than 100 academic programs, all grounded in a long-standing commitment to collaborative, interdisciplinary, project-based learning.

Information is available at www.newhaven.edu.

—Carolyn Meyer, University of New Haven

The Prince George's Post

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COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

It's Time to Salvage Those New Year's Resolutions

No, those New Year's resolutions you made weren't a bad idea. The fact that you haven't been successful in reaching those goals may seem a problem, but the reality is that it's also a very fixable problem.

The middle of January is about when most people give up on those resolutions that, back on January 1, they swore they were going to succeed at this year. So what went wrong? In most cases, a variety of things.

The most common is that we often promise ourselves too much. We want to lose twenty pounds, or stop smoking, or get that job promotion. And we want it to happen fast. But in most cases, fast isn't really possible. Weight loss, real weight loss, is a slow process. Experts report that stopping smoking can sometimes take as many as eight attempts before someone is success. And working hard, impressing the boss, and getting that work promotion? Yeah, that might happen over months or years, but not by next week.

So how to approach change, reduce the stress and avoid the negative feelings that not achieving a New Year's resolution can sometimes bring? Start by accepting that you haven't failed, but just that you need to approach the accomplishments you desire from a slightly different direction.

A better attitude for life changes is not by starting out believing you need to fix a negative (something that is wrong with you), but instead focus on your goals as "positive" steps forward to a better and happier you.

Secondly, develop a plan that will move you in the direction of your goal in small, easy to achieve steps. Your final objective may be to stop smoking, but it doesn't have to happen overnight. Maybe it means one or two less cigarettes every day to the point where finally stopping is a much easier thing to do.

Losing weight doesn't have to mean setting a goal and then blaming yourself when you don't reach it. Instead, focus on the process of making small changes toward healthier eating and congratulating yourself as you take positive steps in the desired direction.

Don't blame yourself that you haven't achieved those New Year's resolution goals. And don't give up on working toward positive achievements. Keep on trying, but do it in small, positive steps, and you'll find you'll eventually get to the positive results you desire.

Counseling Corner is provided by the American Counseling Association. Comments and questions to ACAcorner@counseling.org or visit the ACA website at www.counseling.org.

Kiddie Academy Hosts "STEM Adventures" Events

Kiddie Academy® invites Prince George's County area families to explore the world of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math at a free indoor event

By NICOLE YOUNG
for Kiddie Academy

Kiddie Academy® Educational Child Care, a nationally recognized provider of comprehensive educational child care programs, invites local families to share in fun, educational and age-appropriate activities at indoor STEM Adventures Events hosted by Kiddie Academy of Lanham and Kiddie Academy of Laurel. Activities are based on two themes that combine elements of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math in interactive projects that foster learning through play:

Superheroes of STEM: The Sky's the Limit (measuring activity), Superhero Races (car races with ramps, angles and friction), Design a Superhero Vehicle, Melting Ice Mountain, The Fearless Funnel (demonstrating Bernoulli's Principle), Target Blaster (creating a spoon and rubber band catapult), Glide Like a Superhero (make a plain straw fly), Secret Superhero Code (coding and programming) and Superhero Boats (demonstrating Newton's Third Law of Motion)

Let's Build It!: Cup Towers (stacking cups to build structures), Pretzel Marshmallow Building, How Much Can Your Boat Hold (creating boats that float as they are filled with weight), Three Pig Challenge (construct houses that withstand wind), Newspaper Buildings (build a strong structure with just newspaper and tape), Balancing Act (create a structure you can balance on your fingertip), Marble Pinball Challenge (learn how pinball machines work and build your own), Index Card



IMAGE COURTESY KIDDIE ACADEMY

Towers (build a tall tower using just index card and tape) and Stay Dry (create a shelter for a toy using a variety of unique materials)

These events were designed to introduce kids of all ages and their families to the world of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education through age-appropriate and fun activities, according to Richard Peterson, Chief Academic Officer of Kiddie Academy. "We want our local families to see for themselves all the ways in which Kiddie Academy's Life Essentials® curriculum taps into children's natural sense of won-

der and discovery as they explore the laws that govern the world around them." The events also aim to provide parents with ideas on how to bring STEM education into the home.

STEM education in early childhood provides opportunities for building the next generation of scientists, engineers, mathematicians and critical thinkers. Recognizing that young children are naturally curious about the world around them, Kiddie Academy, a leader in education-based childcare, integrates STEM activities throughout the Kiddie Academy Life Essentials® curriculum.

Register online at Kiddie Academy STEM Adventures
<https://kiddieacademy.com/events/stem-adventures/>

Kiddie Academy of Laurel
8101 Sandy Spring Road, Suite 102, Laurel, MD 20707
Saturday, January 25, 2020, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Contact: Hemang Patel at 301-317-5330 or kiddieacademy.com/academies/laurel/

Kiddie Academy of Lanham
9845 Greenbelt Road, Lanham, MD 20706
Saturday, January 25, 2020, 2–4 p.m.
Contact: Pocahontas Filmore at 240-241-4925 or kiddieacademy.com/academies/lanham/

For Charles,
kayaking
offers total
freedom.

His heart
almost took
that away
from him.



Coronary bypass surgery ranked in the nation's top 10%. Charles lives to kayak... and he almost lost it all when he developed congestive heart failure and an aortic aneurysm. He was referred to Dr. Jamie Brown at UM Capital Region Health, who is also a faculty physician at University of Maryland School of Medicine. Dr. Brown and his team replaced Charles' aortic valve and restored his life.

Charles is thankful for the outstanding care he received. "This is a miracle to me. I'm back kayaking and playing with my grandchildren—which wouldn't be possible without Dr. Brown."



See Charles' story at umcapitalregion.org/evidence

Bowie • Cheverly • Laurel • National Harbor • Suitland

COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

MLK's Legacy Even More Relevant As Hate Crimes Continue to Rise

"The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it. Through violence you may murder the liar, but you cannot murder the lie, nor establish the truth. Through violence you may murder the hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate."

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

A report that hate crimes surged in America's five largest cities last year has broken just as we

prepare to honor the nation's best-known victim of a hate crime.

The Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino, found that hate crimes were at their highest level since September 11, 2001, in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, with the Jewish community being the most frequent target in all five of the cities.

"These data reflect several trends, including an escalating tribalism, where various prejudices like anti-Semitism, xenophobia and homophobia, among others, are widely shared across a diverse

grouping of people," Brian Levin, the report's lead author, said. "Next, local demographic changes in densely populated cities means more people are coming into contact with each other right at a time when fearful stereotypes are increasingly become the kindling for violent behavior."

In the wake of the shooting and stabbing attacks on Orthodox Jews in New York and New Jersey, far-right trolls hoping to exacerbate racial tensions have been posing online as Jews to post racist screeds against African Americans.

Online sleuths who traced the racist plot back to the website 4chan—a site that author Elad Nehorai called "a radical breeding ground"—found slur-ridden comments like "You are throwing high-quality octane fuel" on the "fire" of Jewish-Black relations, "Let's see some riots," and "If you break the Black-Jewish alliance, it's all over for the Jews."

It's instructive to note that the goal of white nationalists is to drive a wedge between marginalized groups. And vital that we actively and forcefully resist these efforts.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," Dr. King wrote in Letter from a Birmingham Jail. "We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

The National Urban League, as one of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Racial Equity Anchor Institutions, is proud to celebrate the fifth annual National Day of Racial Healing on Tuesday, the day after Martin Luther King, Jr., Day. The day is a call to action to mobilize communities, organizations, and individuals across the United States in support of truth, racial healing and transformation. More than 70 events around the nation are scheduled, and you can follow the conversation on social media using the hashtag #HowWeHeal.

As one of the Anchor Institutions, we stand side-by-side with racial justice and organizations representing Latinos, Asian-Americans, Native Americans and other ethnic and religious communities—tied together, as Dr. King said, in a single garment of destiny.

As disheartened as we may be by the rising level of hate crimes, and as disgusted as we may be to read the words of online trolls, we must guard against meeting hate with hate. Friedrich Nietzsche wrote, "Whoever fights monsters should see to it that in the process he does not become a monster."

The monster of racism feeds on hatred. The only way to kill it is to starve it.

—January 16, 2020

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Failing at Greatness

In January 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. took a rare sabbatical to write what would become his last book: *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?* In the final chapter he raised this question: "Not too many years ago, Dr. Kirtley Mather, a Harvard geologist, wrote a book entitled *Enough and to Spare*. He set forth the basic theme that famine is wholly unnecessary in the modern world. Today, therefore, the question on the agenda must read: Why should there be hunger and privation in any land, in any city, at any table, when man has the resources and the scientific know-how to provide all mankind with the basic necessities of life?"

Dr. King's answer: "There is no deficit in human resources; the deficit is in human will . . . The well-off and the secure have too often become indifferent and oblivious to the poverty and deprivation in their midst. The poor in our countries

have been shut out of our minds, and driven from the mainstream of our societies, because we have allowed them to become invisible. Ultimately a great nation is a compassionate nation. No individual or nation can be great if it does not have a concern for 'the least of these.'"

The Trump Administration has made a lot of promises about being "great," but again and again has shown a basic contempt and lack of compassion for the poorest and most vulnerable both outside our borders and in our own nation. In one of its latest failures to show concern for "the least of these," the administration finalized a new rule in December to weaken the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by imposing time limits and work requirements. Instead of using some of our vast resources to finally eradicate hunger in America in 2020, the USDA estimates nearly 700,000 people will lose benefits and be at

risk of going even hungrier. The deficit in human will is on full display.

Under the new rule more able-bodied adults without dependents will be required to work or participate in work activities for 20 hours a week in order to receive SNAP benefits for more than three months in a three-year period. States' ability to waive time limits in areas where there are many unemployed adults and too few jobs has been reduced. As CDF's policy team has explained, research suggests that rather than promoting increased employment, time limits actually harm health and productivity. Data also show the overwhelming majority of SNAP participants who struggle to meet the 20 hours of work per week requirement aren't falling short because they're not interested in working but because of the volatility in the low-wage labor market, caregiving duties, or personal health issues. Punishing them by making it harder for them to put food on the table is not going to help.

Although current law doesn't impose these time limits on children or adults with children, the rule's devastating impact will still harm children because children living in poverty often depend on pooled resources (including SNAP benefits) from extended family members who don't claim them as dependents. Right now, SNAP helps feed 19.9 million children in our nation—more than 1 in 4. With less food to go around, everyone will suffer.

In CDF's formal comments to the USDA when the rule was first proposed, we said: "Given the critical role SNAP plays for children and families

in communities across the country, we have serious concerns about any policies that would restrict access to SNAP for those who are hungry. . . . SNAP has a proven track record of reducing food insecurity, lifting people out of poverty and generating economic activity. We must continue to improve upon access to this critical safety net program, not make it more difficult to assist those it is intended to benefit."

This rule is just one of several recent inhumane attempts by the Trump Administration to take food away from hungry families—and we must continue to strongly resist and speak out against every new threat. We cannot afford to become overwhelmed or exhausted. As our nation pauses for the holiday celebrating Dr. King's birthday, our current national path seems to reject Dr. King's definition of greatness at every turn. But as Dr. King reminded us in *Where Do We Go From Here?*, in words of tremendous encouragement and hope for this moment:

"In any social revolution there are times when the tail winds of triumph and fulfillment favor us, and other times when strong head winds of disappointment and setbacks beat against us relentlessly. We must not permit adverse winds to overwhelm us as we journey across life's mighty Atlantic; we must be sustained by our engines of courage in spite of the winds. This refusal to be stopped, this 'courage to be,' this determination to go on 'in spite of' is the hallmark of any great movement. . . . Today's despair is a poor chisel to carve out tomorrow's justice."

Good News from A1

progress. The transformation to a safer Maryland Route 210 is moving in a favorable direction," noted Rev. Dr. Robert L. Screen, 210 Traffic Safety Committee. "This is a work borne of the long-haul. It entails a sustained cooperative and coordinated effort among stakeholders, agencies, and the community. It requires pushing hard against deeply rooted degrees of selfishness that apparently compel some drivers to repeatedly flout traffic laws and endanger the lives of others. Such laws are designed for the common good, civility and public safety."

Meeting monthly at the grassroots level, neighbors in local residential communities lining the highway and advocacy groups are working in tandem with the Prince George's County Police Department, traffic engineers with the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA), state and local elected officials and other decision makers and stakeholders, to change the traffic safety culture along MD 210, and to facilitate infrastructure improvements at intersections, interchanges and service roads on the state-owned roadway inside Prince George's County.

"While it is encouraging that traffic fatalities declined on MD 210 from 2018 to 2019, there are still way too many bad actors on the roadway," said Ron Weiss, Indian Head Highway Area Action Council. "The question is how will we get them to change their mindsets and become responsible drivers? It is a tough, long-term problem, but solving it will save lives."

To improve road safety, the county police also regularly conducted ongoing DUI patrols and checkpoints, an effort heightened after the deaths of three siblings on Indian Head Highway in late 2018.

"It is axiomatic: most improvements in traffic safety are episodic and incremental, and in far too many cases, tragically temporal and fleeting. Time will tell. We cannot afford to rest. We must continue to move the needle downward. The old bromide is

still true, 'one traffic death is too many, and one traffic crash is still one too many,'" said John B. Townsend II, AAA Mid-Atlantic's Manager of Public and Government Affairs. "The safety improvements along Indian Head Highway is proof positive that the community members and residents found the status quo unacceptable. Together, they emerged as untiring advocates for safer roadways and safer communities."

In terms of the 2019 death toll on MD 210, the Prince George's County Police Department's Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Unit reports:

- A passenger in a vehicle stopped at a red light was killed, and three other persons were injured during a multiple-vehicle crash on Indian Head Highway at Berry Road in Accokeek on President's Day. The fatal crash claiming the life of 59-year-old Juan Menendez Castillo occurred Monday night, February 18, 2019.
- On June 23, 2019 a pedestrian was hit and killed by a car on a service road of Route 210 (Indian Head Highway) and East Swan Creek Road. The decedent was identified as 43-year-old Lawrence Sedgwick of Constellation Court in Fort Washington. The service road runs parallel to the 11000 block of MD-210.
- Jose Miguel, age 34, of Rockville was killed after he was struck by a passing vehicle while he and another person were attempting to repair his broken-down truck on the shoulder of the I-295 southbound exit ramp on southbound Indian Head Highway. The incident occurred September 21, 2019.

In comparison, five fatalities occurred in 2018 on MD 210. The tragic roll call of victims on "the cruelest road" includes three young siblings, 5-year-old twins, Alexander Mejia and Rosalie Mejia, and their 13-month-old brother, Isaac Mejia. They were killed upon impact in a violent rear-end collision on Indian Head Highway on December 30, 2018. Their parents sustained severe injuries in the crash triggered by a suspected drunken driver. At least eight persons lost

their lives on MD 210 in 2017. All told, at least 66 traffic fatalities occurred on MD 210 from 2007 to 2018. What is more, hundreds of crashes resulting in severe injuries have also occurred along the roadway in the southern region of the county during the period.

Indian Head Highway is the scene of almost one traffic crash per day, including 354 crashes in 2018. Patrol units with the Prince George's County Police Department District VII, commanded by Major Jeffrey D. Mitchell, and other patrols, issued more than 30,000 citations on MD 210 during 2019. Police officers made 10,649 traffic stops on the roadway last year. The automated traffic enforcement units issued 7,877 tickets to motorists caught on camera while exceeding the posted speed limit by 12 miles per hour or greater inside the 13-mile corridor. "We have continued aggressive enforcement along Indian Head Highway," states the Prince George's County Police Department. "We need the public's partnership in these efforts to keep our roadways safe. We are urging drivers to obey all driving laws and to keep your eyes on the road at all times."

Long-awaited infrastructure improvements on Indian Head Highway are in the works. Such projects will also improve traffic operations and enhance highway safety, area residents say. They laud the Maryland SHA and county planning agencies for shifting into high gear to help improve road safety, lighting, marking, for upgrading pedestrian signals and regulatory signage along the MD 210 corridor, and for making progress in constructing a new interchange at the intersection of MD 210 and Kirby Hill Road/Livingston Road. With synergy, community members and stakeholders are more determined than ever to reduce traffic-related deaths and injuries to zero along the corridor they call their "Main Street." To that end, MD 210 community forums are now held like clockwork each third Monday night of the month at the PGCPD District VII Police Station.

National Newspaper Association Applauds Progress on Fallen Journalists Memorial

National Newspaper Association President Matt Adelman, publisher of the *Douglas (Wyoming) Budget*, on Jan. 16 recognized the work of the House Natural Resources Committee for approving the first stages of work for a Fallen Journalists Memorial.

The Committee completed its review of a bill authorizing the use of federal lands for the memorial. The legislation, HR 3465, will head to the House of Representatives floor for a vote at the call of Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

The memorial would be designed to call attention to journalists who lost their lives during or because of the pursuit of the news. It will reach back into history to the sacrifices of World War II journalist Ernie Pyle and those who went before him and forward to more modern casualties.

The idea for a memorial grew from the anniversary of the

See MEMORIAL Page A8

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

When Should I Claim My Widow's Benefit?

By RUSSELL GLOOR, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor
Association of Mature American Citizens

Dear Rusty:

My husband passed away at the age of 52, and I was 53. I am currently 59. I've read about and been encouraged to file for widow's benefits from Social Security when I turn 60. My question is: does doing that impact when I should file for my regular Social Security benefits? In reading on many websites regarding my question, this never is addressed on what is best. *Signed: Widowed Survivor*

Dear Survivor: You have my sympathy for the loss of your husband at such a young age. I'll try to clarify your options for you.

Provided you have not remarried you can claim your survivor benefit at age 60, but if you do it will be reduced by 28.5% from what it would be at your full retirement age (FRA) of 67. As long as you are explicit when claiming your survivor benefit that you are not also applying for your own Social Security benefit, there will be no negative impact to your eventual Social Security retirement benefit when you claim that. But, determining which benefit to take, and when, requires some thought.

Your goal should be to get the highest benefit possible for the rest of your life. To help you decide how and when to file, you should first see what your survivor benefit will be at your full retirement age (100% of what your husband was entitled to at his death). If that amount is more than you are entitled to on your own at age 70 then you should consider waiting until age 67 (your FRA) to claim your widow's benefit, so you can get that higher survivor benefit for the rest of your life. Conversely, if your own age 70 benefit will be more than your widow's benefit at your FRA, then claiming your widow's benefit first and allowing your own benefit to grow until age 70 when it reaches maximum would be the more prudent choice. You can get estimates of both your survivor benefit and your age 70 retirement benefit by contacting Social Security. But if claiming the survivor benefit at age 60 is what you decide, or if you were to instead claim your Social Security retirement benefits early (e.g., age 62) there's more for you to consider.

If you are collecting any Social Security benefits before you reach your full retirement age (FRA) and you are still working, you will be subject to Social Security's "earnings limit" which restricts the amount you can earn before they take back some of your benefits (the earnings limit changes annually; for 2020 it is \$18,240). Up until the year you reach your FRA, they will take back benefits equal to one half of any earnings you have over the limit. During the year you reach your FRA the limit increases by about 2.5 times and the penalty is less, and once you reach your FRA there is no longer a limit on your earnings. So, if you claim your survivor benefit at age 60 and are working, exceeding the earnings limit will result in you permanently losing some of your survivor benefits. If, instead, you claim your SS retirement benefit early (e.g., at age 62) you'll still be subject to the earnings limit until you reach age 67, but at your FRA they will give you time credit for any months you didn't get your retirement benefits and increase your benefit amount accordingly.

The important point to remember is that you have a choice of which benefit to take, and evaluating your options as described above should lead you to the right answer—whether you should claim your reduced survivor benefit at age 60, or to delay until it reaches maximum at age 67.

The 2 million member Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) (<https://www.amac.us>) is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. We act and speak on their 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 <https://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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

Governor Hogan Announces 2019 Award of \$9 Million in Tax Credits for Student Loan Debt

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 13, 2020)—Governor Larry Hogan and Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) Secretary Dr. James D. Fielder announced the awarding of nearly \$9 million in tax credits for 9,600 Maryland residents with student loan debt.

"It is critical that we look for ways to help those in our state crippled by student loan debt," Governor Hogan said. "This program helps Maryland taxpayers pay off student debt, while remaining in the workforce and having

a positive impact on the state economy."

"MHEC staff is proud to administer programs like this that support student success with less debt," Secretary Fielder said. "Governor Hogan's ongoing efforts to find solutions to the national student loan debt crisis is one more example of his unwavering commitment to make education a top priority of his administration."

There were 9,600 applicants who were eligible for the Student Loan Debt Relief Tax Credit. The tax credits were divided into two groups of eligibility, including Maryland residents who attended

a Maryland institution and Maryland residents who attended an out-of-state institution. There were 6,331 eligible applicants who attended in-state institutions and will each receive \$1,000 in tax credits, while 3,269 eligible applicants who attended out-of-state institutions will each receive \$813 each in tax credits.

Last year, MHEC awarded 9,484 Maryland residents the Student Loan Debt Relief Tax Credit with 5,238 applicants who attended an in-state institution receiving \$1,000 each in tax credits and 4,246 applicants who attended an out-of-state institution receiving \$883 each in tax credits.

Top Energy & Tech CEO and Equity Investor Launches MBA: Minority Business Access Podcast

Tech and Energy CEO, and Private Equity Investor, Mr. Solomon Ali, launches podcast to educate and empower people of color, and women, in business.

By JAIME KATZ
Full Scale Media

Get ready to earn your "M.B.A." with Tech & Energy CEO and Private Equity Investor, Solomon Ali. Mr. Ali's new podcast, MBA: Minority Business Access walks minority business owners and entrepreneurs through his tested, effective methods of circumventing what he calls "a slanted financial system towards people of color and other minorities," to successfully raise funding and scale their businesses.

As a corporate executive, Solomon Ali, has served as CEO of the private equity company, Rainco Industries. Mr. Ali has generated \$100 million in assets for his various companies and arranged more than \$250 million in structured investment capital and financing. Companies established through Solomon's efforts and expertise across tech and energy sectors have earned more than \$118 million in gross sales revenue during this past fiscal year. Mr. Ali has held seats on the board of three African-American owned publicly traded companies as well as simultaneously holding officer positions at these companies. "That is monumental when you consider that out of approximately 8,000 publicly traded companies in the United States, less than twenty of those companies are African-American owned," asserts Mr. Ali.

According to Solomon Ali, "There has traditionally been a large gap in business funding and business scalability for minority business owners." He cites African-Americans and other minority groups as having less access to financial information and less access to the right funding that will enable them to scale their businesses and even-



tually sell or go public, should they choose to. His new podcast focuses on the solutions to change this dynamic.

The MBA: Minority Business Access podcast features interviews with successful entrepreneurs of color and with female entrepreneurs, and the proactive steps they've taken to successfully fund and scale their businesses. The podcast also includes valuable roundtable conversations and insights from Mr. Ali and his corporate team, detailing how he managed to grow his thriving eight figure financial portfolio of businesses, and how his expertise and advice applies to entrepreneurs and small business owners.

The MBA Podcast is available for download across all podcast streaming services.

With over 28 years of business and finance experience, and a deep passion for helping disadvantaged and minority entrepreneurs and business owners bring their ideas and concepts to fruition, Solomon Ali has become a prominent voice in the area of helping businesses and entrepreneurs secure their intellec-

tual property, raise funding, bring products to market and scale businesses. His team of consultants have collectively managed and successfully closed more than 140 mergers and acquisitions. As a corporate executive, Mr. Ali has served as Chief Executive Officer of the private equity company, Rainco Industries, arranging hundreds of millions of dollars in investment capital and financing. He currently consults with profitable business to assist them in raising capital to scale their businesses. In addition, Mr. Ali is CEO of NDR Energy Group, one of the largest minority owned energy companies in the United States; and he is the owner of multiple technology patents licensed exclusively through licensee, EyeTalk 365. He was just profiled as "Innovator of the Month" in Innovation & Tech Today Magazine (p. 20-21). Visit <https://www.solomonrali.info/>.

The road to becoming a successful entrepreneur is fraught with challenges, especially with limited capital and resources. In this podcast, host Solomon Ali advises listeners on how to avoid common pitfalls, to stay, and thrive, in business. Business whiz Solomon Ali gives listeners the step-by-step guidance, inspiration, and encouragement to create a viable business plan, raise capital and scale a business. Each episode of MBA: Minority Business Access addresses areas of concern and opportunity for, both, new and established businesses: Corporation Set Up, Employee/Payroll Management, Business Credit and Capital Raises, Taxes and Insurance, Expansion, Increased Working Capital, Investments, Regulatory Issues, Insurance, Private vs Public structure and Exit Strategies for small business owners and their investors.

Women's Business Center Grant Opportunity and News from the U.S. Small Business Administration

By JACK SPIRAKES
U.S. Small Business Administration

SBA Statement on Maryland Women's Business Center Grant to Help Train Women Entrepreneurs

Applications being accepted through February 16

WASHINGTON (Jan. 16, 2020)—The U.S. Small Business Administration last week announced a Women's Business Center (WBC) grant opportunity in the state of Maryland. This expansion is part of an agency priority to open more doors for women entrepreneurs and increase access to SBA resources in underserved communities by better connecting small businesses with SBA support services.

"I am pleased to announce the SBA is offering a new grant opportunity in the state of Maryland to provide funding for nonprofit organizations to start new WBCs, with an emphasis on socially and economically disadvantaged entrepreneurs," said SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza. Women's entrepreneurship is on the rise, and we want to make sure they have access to the counseling and training they need to create healthy, sustainable businesses that create more American jobs."

The total award amount is \$75,000 each for up to two WBCs in Maryland. Applications will be accepted on grants.gov and all applications for Funding Opportunity Announcement No. OWBO-2020-01 must be submitted online by the closing date of February 16, 2020.

"It's great to see Administrator Carranza taking swift and decisive action on her promise during the U.S. Senate confirmation hearings to support underserved communities such as women business owners." SBA Mid-Atlantic acting Regional Administrator Steve Bulger added, "Through this grant, the SBA will be able to provide even more of the tools necessary for women entrepreneurs to have a greater impact in Maryland."

Eligible applicants for the grant must be private, nonprofit organizations with 501(c) tax-exempt status from the U.S. Treasury/Internal Revenue Service and must provide services in the state of Maryland. This may include universities, foundations, chambers of commerce, or economic development institutions, providing entrepreneurial development services to socially and economically disadvantaged communities. Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) and their auxiliary entities as well as other organizations meeting the WBC program eligibility criteria and serving socially and economically disadvantaged entrepreneurs are also encouraged to apply.

Interested applicants must register and receive a certificate from SAM.gov as part of the grant application process. Questions about the WBC funding opportunity can be directed to the SBA's Office of Women's Business Ownership (OWBO) at owbo@sba.gov.

New Administrator Pledges More Opportunities for Underserved

Jovita Carranza Received Bipartisan Support During Confirmation Hearings

WASHINGTON (Jan. 14, 2020)—Jovita Carranza was sworn in last week as the 26th Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). She leads the only federal agency exclusively dedicated to assisting small business owners and entrepreneurs in starting, growing, and expanding their businesses and providing targeted recovery support in declared disasters. This is Carranza's second tenure at the SBA, having served in the George W. Bush Administration as Deputy Administrator from 2006–2009. President Trump nominated Administrator Carranza to lead the SBA while she was serving as the 44th Treasurer of the United States. She was confirmed by the U.S. Senate by a vote of 88-5.

"I want to thank the President for his confidence in me to be an advocate in the Cabinet for our country's 30 million small businesses,

and I want to express my sincere gratitude to the U.S. Senate for confirming me in a bipartisan fashion," Carranza said. "I look forward to helping elevate female entrepreneurs and our military veterans, expanding access to SBA resources among entrepreneurs in disadvantaged communities, and continuing to prioritize disaster relief. I would also like to thank Linda McMahon for her leadership at the SBA, and the dedicated professionals at the Agency during this transition."

Carranza's experience includes a 30-year career with United Parcel Service, where she began as an hourly dock worker, rose to oversee operations in Latin America and the Caribbean, and ultimately retired as the highest-ranking Latina in the company's history.

"The confirmation of Jovita Carranza to lead the SBA illustrates President Trump's commitment to small business," said SBA acting Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Steve Bulger. "She is the embodiment of the American Dream and knows first-hand that entrepreneurs create jobs and economic opportunity. We're excited to welcome her back to lead our agency in helping entrepreneurs start, grow and expand."

In testimony on December 11, 2019, before the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Administrator Carranza discussed her hands-on experience in the private sector, public service and the life-changing potential of entrepreneurship, and pledged to preside over an Agency focused on creating more opportunities for women and historically underrepresented entrepreneurs while ensuring the SBA remains prepared to assist displaced homeowners and small businesses impacted by disaster.

Administrator Carranza earned her MBA from the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida, and received executive, governance, management and financial training at the INSEAD Business School in Paris, France; Michigan State University; and the University of Chicago.

OUT on the TOWN

MARIETTA HOUSE MUSEUM AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS:



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT ASSOCIATED BOOKING CORPORATION/PHOTO BY JAMES KRIEGSMANN, NEW YORK, WIKIPEDIA

Dinah Washington in 1962.

African American Women in Music Series The Music of Dinah Washington

By STACEY HAWKINS
Marietta House Museum

Please join us on Saturday, January 25, at 1 p.m. at Marietta House Museum, as we present the life and music of Dinah Washington.

Dinah Washington, 1924–1963, was very popular in the 1950s. She performed jazz, blues, R & B, and traditional pop music. She was often referred to as the “Queen of the Blues”. In 1986 she was inducted into the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame, and in 1993 into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. In 1959, she had her first top ten pop hit, with her version of “What a Diff’rence a Day Makes”, and won a Grammy Award for the song. This song was inducted into the Grammy Hall of

Fame, along with her interpretation of “Unforgettable”.

Light refreshments will be served following the program. \$5/person (ages 8 and up).

Call 301-464-5291 for more information and to reserve your seat.

Marietta is the 1813 home of Judge Gabriel Duvall, a Supreme Court Justice and Comptroller of the U.S. Treasury. Marietta stands on terraced, landscaped grounds with two contemporary outbuildings: a brick law office and a stone and brick root cellar/harness storage room.

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

“BRINGING COLOR TO THE CLASSICS”

Sopranos Slay: Becoming

A very special concert featuring Miss America 2019 Nia Franklin at The Bowie Center for the Performing Arts

BOWIE, Md. (Jan. 15, 2020)—The Coalition of African Americans in the Performing Arts (CAAPA) brings the art of opera to The Bowie Center main stage on January 25.

CAAPA’s vision is to help promote opportunities for Black classical musicians and others in the performing arts through arts performances, education, and outreach. “Teaming with this esteemed organization is a special honor, as their mission is so closely aligned with ours,” said Jason Cook, Executive Director of The Bowie Center for the Performing Arts.

This special presentation of best-loved operatic arias showcases songs that audiences will immediately recognize. Featuring a roster of world-class sopranos, the concert is headlined by a very special guest: Nia Franklin, Miss America 2019.

WHEN: January 25, 2020, 4 p.m.

WHERE: The Bowie Center for the Performing Arts, 15200 Annapolis Rd, Bowie, MD 20715

TICKETS: \$30.00 adults; children free



Annual Black History Month Opening Reception/Exhibition With the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation

By KIRA CALM LEWIS

Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (Jan. 13, 2020)—Celebrate this year’s Black History Month with phenomenal offerings of activities, events, exhibits, performing arts and more that the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation has planned throughout Prince George’s County. This year is inspired by the national theme—“African Americans and The Vote”—, which speaks to the continuous struggle on the part of both Black men and women for the right to vote.

The year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, which guarantees and protects the right of women to vote. In honor of this milestone, the Department invites you to experience their Black History Month Exhibition—“Black Women & Politics: To the Ballot and Beyond”—, which explores the various ways that Black women have engaged in electoral politics before and after gaining the right to vote.

WHAT: Opening Reception Annual Black History Month Exhibition: Black Women & Politics: To the Ballot and Beyond

WHEN: Sunday, January 26, 2020, 2–5 p.m.

WHERE: Harmony Hall Arts Center, 10701 Livingston Rd., Fort Washington 20744

COST: Free

This year’s exhibition looks at the history of Black women in the fight for suffrage and beyond. From Black women leaders in the antebellum suffrage movement to the election of the first Black woman as County Executive in Prince George’s County, this exhibit explores the multiple ways that Black women have engaged in electoral politics before and after gaining the right to vote.

Gallery exhibit is open from January 26 through to March 29, Monday–Friday 8:30 a.m.–8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.–4 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m.–2 p.m. This exhibit is curated by the M-NCPPC Black History Program. Guided tours are available for schools and community groups. To schedule a tour, contact the M-NCPPC Black History Program at Abraham Hall at 240-264-3415 or black-history@pgparks.com.

For more information on Black History Month events, visit <http://www.pgparks.com/1378/Black-History>.

DAVIES UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION PROUDLY PRESENTS:

The Abstract, Poetic Language of Art An Evocative Exhibit of Artwork by Diane Wilbon Parks

By LINDA GRAVELY

Davies Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Through figurative and abstract renderings, Diane Wilbon Parks’ boldly colorful artwork evokes musicality, magic and a rich, rich heritage in a show which is timed to celebrate of Black History Month (February) and Women’s History Month (March). Displayed in Davies’ Sanctuary, the show is free and open to the public Sundays, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Call Davies for info or to make a viewing appointment.

According to Ms. Parks, “In the process of creating, the art does not come all at once, but when complete, it’s poetry in all of its colorful form and abstract possibilities.”

A multi-talented artist, military veteran and Bowie, MD resident, Diane Wilbon Parks is the author of a children’s book and two popular collections of poetry. Recently recorded on the nationally-recognized The Poet and the Poem show from the Library of Congress, Ms. Parks has exhibited her artwork at galleries, office complexes and libraries throughout the area.

Davies Unitarian Universalist Church treasures creative expressions of local and regional artists as a part of its mission. We celebrate the fullness and diversity of human experience in our program of worship. For more information, visit our website: <https://daviesuu.org/>.

Davies’ Rev. Norman Allen and Ms. Parks standing in front of some of the exhibited artwork.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY HIRAM LAREW



On display through April 2020

Davies Unitarian Universalist Congregation,
7400 Temple Hill Road,
Camp Springs, MD 20748

Celebratory Reception

Sunday, February 2, 2020 at about 5:15 p.m.

Held just after the Davies Concert Series featuring musical artists from The Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts.

For information on the Concert, visit <https://daviesuu.org/connecting/davies-concert-series/>

Calendar Spotlight: Achieve a Goal!

Veterans and Military Families Meet & Greet

Date and Time: Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

Description: Meet Dr. James Dula, Director of Veterans Affairs in the Office of the County Executive. Learn how his department and the library can serve you to help you achieve your goals. Share your voice about what the library could do to better to meet your needs.

Cost: Free

Ages: Adults

Location: PGCMLS Accokeek Branch Library

15773 Livingston Rd., Accokeek, MD 20607

Contact: 301-292-2880

Computer Basics: PGCMLS Digital Resources Tour

Date and Time: Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

Description: Join us to get hands on experience learning the basics of computer use. This session will cover how to access and use the library’s many free online resources for learning a new skill, watching a movie, and more!

Cost: FREE

Ages: Adults

Location: PGCMLS Spauldings Branch Library

5811 Old Silver Hill, Rd., District Heights, MD

20747

Contact: 301-817-3750

Bilingual Job Fair

Date and Time: Thursday, January 30, 2020, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Description: To be hosted in Partnership with Prince George’s County Census, Employ Prince George’s, the Latin American Youth Center and many more.

Location: LAYC/MD Multicultural Youth Center, 6200 Sheridan Street Riverdale, MD 20737

Contact: <http://www.mncppc.org/4480/Prince-Georges-County-Census-2020>

Calendar Spotlight: Music and Dance!

College Park Chorale Concert—Music from Operas

Date and Time: Sunday, January 26, 2020, 7–9 p.m.

Description: The Chorale and Chamber Singers present music by Puccini, Verdi, Bernstein, Gershwin, Gilbert and Sullivan, and more! Reception to follow the concert.

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: St Andrew’s Church, 4512 College Ave, College Park, MD 20740

Contact: chorale@cpae.org

Dance Theater of Harlem, presented by PGCC

Date and Time: Thursday, January 30, 2020, 7–9 p.m.; Friday, January 31, 7–9 p.m.; and February 1, 2–4 p.m. and 7–9 p.m.

Description: The 17-member, multi-ethnic company performs a forward-thinking repertoire that includes treasured classics, neo-classical works by George Balanchine and resident choreographer Robert Garland.

Cost: \$59.75 (Level C), \$69.75 (Level B), \$99.75 (Level A) (includes \$4.75 service charge)

Location: Grand Theater, Center for Performing Arts, Prince George’s Community College
301 Largo Rd, Largo, MD 20774

Contact: 301-546-7422, <https://www.pgcc.edu/arts/events/>

Panel Discussion: Music and the Black Vote

Date and Time: Saturday, February 1, 2020, 1–2 p.m.

Description: Explore the times and history of the Black Vote in America and how music was influenced by its many challenges from the Black Codes to the 15th Amendment and today’s times. Three experts, a musician, social scientist, and historian will take you on this musical and educational journey. This event is in partnership with the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts. ADA: Yes

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Montpelier Arts Center, 9652 Muirkirk Road,
Laurel, MD 20708

Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Black Gospel Celebration

Date and Time: Saturday, February 1, 2020, 5–7 p.m.

Description: Join us as we celebrate gospel music’s contributions to black history, with performances from local church choirs and dancers. Refreshments will be served.

Cost: Free!

Location: Hillcrest Heights Community Center, 2300 Oxon Run Drive, Hillcrest Heights, MD 20748

Contact: 301-505-0896; TTY 301-699-2544

Say It Loud featuring Mousey Thompson & The James Brown Experience

Date and Time: Saturday, February 1, 2020, 8–10 p.m.

Get your tickets online, or call 301-277-1710.

Description: Mousey Thompson & The James Brown Experience is an all-star ensemble that performs popular songs of one of the greatest music legends of our time, James Brown. The band performs Brown’s biggest hits such as “This Is A Man’s World,” “Please, Please, Please,” and “Cold Sweat.” This group puts on an amazing show that will have audiences dancing all night long!

Cost: \$25/person; \$20/person: seniors (60 & better), students (18 and younger), and groups of 20 or more. Purchase through PARKS DIRECT

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Publick Playhouse, 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD 20784

Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2554

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PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT: GOVERNOR HOGAN'S MILITARY PRESS CONFERENCE BY JOE ANDRUCYK, PATRICK SIEBERT AT JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS FIFTH REGIMENT ARMORY, 219 29TH DIVISION ST, BALTIMORE, MD 21201

Governor Larry Hogan speaking at military press conference in Baltimore on January 15, 2020.

Governor Hogan Announces Military Initiatives at National Guard Armory

Expands Tuition Assistance for Maryland National Guard Members, Eliminates State Taxes on Military Retirement Income, Reforms Occupational Licensing Laws to Help Military Families

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 15, 2020)—Governor Larry Hogan last week announced new military initiatives at the Joint Force Headquarters, Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore. These initiatives include a package of legislation that will expand tuition assistance for Maryland National Guard members, provide tax relief for military retirees, and reform occupational licensing laws to create jobs and boost opportunities for military families. The governor was joined by Maryland Adjutant General Major General Timothy E. Gowen, Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs George Owings III, and Maryland Secretary of Labor Tiffany Robinson.

"Last month, we wrapped up our celebration of 2019 as the Year of the Veteran in Maryland, but we can never do enough to raise awareness—every year should be a year to show our appreciation for the brave service and sacrifice our United States veterans and families have made for Maryland and for our nation," said Governor Hogan. "With the legislation we are introducing today, we are continuing to demonstrate our strong support for our military retirees, active duty military personnel and their families, and for our National Guard soldiers and airmen."

Maryland is home to 370,000 veterans, 29,000 active duty military personnel, 19,000 reservists, and nearly 6,000 members of our National Guard.

Expanding Tuition Assistance for Maryland National Guard Members

Governor Hogan will introduce new legislation to allow the state to reimburse up to 100% of the cost of in-state tuition for undergraduate and graduate courses for all current Guard members. Through the Maryland National Guard State Tuition Assistance Reimbursement (STAR) program, the state currently reimburses up to 50% of in-state tuition costs for certain Guard members. Released today, the governor's FY21 budget increases funding for the STAR program by 200% over last year's funding level.

Tax Relief for Military Retirees

Governor Hogan is again introducing legislation to eliminate all state taxes on retirement income received as a result of military service. Since taking office in 2015, Governor Hogan has taken numerous steps to fulfill his commitment to eliminate state income taxes on all retirement income. In 2015, the governor enacted legislation to increase the tax exemption on military retiree pensions from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for retirees 65 years or older, and in 2018, he again enacted legislation that increased the exemption by 50% to \$15,000 and lowered the eligibility age to 55. He has also re-introduced the Hometown Heroes Act to provide tax relief for law enforcement and first responders.

Occupational Licensing Reform for Military Families

Governor Hogan is introducing new legislation that would create jobs and boost opportunities for veterans and military families by recognizing occupational licenses from other states. This legislation will provide significant support to military families who are often required to move from state to state, enabling them to more quickly and easily find jobs and opportunities in Maryland. The legislation will be limited to include military, military spouses, and veterans with licenses issued by the Department of Labor's Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses.

New Veterans Affairs Service Offices

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs has partnered with the Maryland Vehicle Administration to house local veterans service offices within regional MVAs. This is a first of its kind partnership that will allow greater visibility to veterans and provide easier access to services for veterans and their families. Since its opening in October, the office in Glen Burnie has made contact with more than 1,000 veterans and closed more than 100 cases. We are opening additional offices in Salisbury, Hagerstown, and Bel Air.

Memorial from A4

deaths of five employees of the Capital Gazette in Annapolis, Maryland, who were gunned down by a disgruntled reader in 2018.

The memorial is intended to be funded privately. But for it to be placed in the District of Columbia and its environs, authorization by Congress is required. A companion bill in the Senate, S 1969, awaits action by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, chaired by Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska.

"This memorial is necessary and timely," Adelman said. "We live in an era when the value of news gathering itself is somewhat under fire. Domestically, we knit the nation together. Abroad, American armed forces deployments require journalists to work alongside to tell the stories of our military missions. We need to remind ourselves and future generations that recording these first drafts of history sometimes requires journalists to give their all."

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