

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SINCE 1932

Vol. 88, No. 9 February 27 — March 4, 2020 Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents

Councilmember Jolene Ivey Honored Mildred Muhammad, Esteemed Global Award-Winning Keynote Speaker and Ex-Spouse of the DC Sniper, in Proclamation Ceremony

By ALECIA JONES
Validity Media Group

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. (Feb. 18, 2020)—The Honorable Jolene Ivey honored Mildred Muhammad in a proclamation ceremony held on Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020 at 1 p.m. at the Prince George's County Council Administration Building, 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Mildred was honored for all of the advocacy and empowering she has done to ensure that no one should stay in an abusive situation. In 2006, years following the arrest of her ex-spouse, John Allen Muhammad, known as the DC Sniper, Mildred founded "After The Trauma," a Maryland-based nonprofit. During its 6 year existence, the organization saved the lives of 200 women, nationally, including residents of the Washington DC Metro Area.

Even after the nonprofit closed due to inadequate funding, and much re-victimization, Mildred continued to assist victims of domestic abuse and violence. Mildred recalls, just a few years ago, she assisted a woman and her child from being killed. The police served the abuser with a restraining order and he threw it on the ground and urinated on it. With the help of an organization in Georgia, we were able to move them out of the Washington DC Metro Area, to a safe and secure area. That survivor returned



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

Proclamation presented to Mildred Muhammad recognizing her "Exemplary Role in the Fight Against Domestic Abuse" in Prince George's County from Council Member Jolene Ivey and Council Chair Todd M. Turner.

back to the Washington DC Metro Area years later, and recognized Mildred for saving her life. Mildred now assists, on average, 5 women per year, to flee some of the most violent cases of domestic violence. In 2010, Senator Lois Wolk, Senator Pat Wiggins, and John Garamendi, a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, were among government officials in the State of California, to honor Mildred's commitment to end domestic violence. She is recognized and received awards throughout military communities for championship of the Family Advocacy Program and their mission to educate promote and end domestic violence in military communities.

This Proclamation Ceremony was the first acknowledgment in Mildred's hometown of Prince George's County.

Mildred D. Muhammad is an Award-Winning Global Keynote Speaker. She is the ex-spouse of John Allen Muhammad, the D.C. Sniper, and a mother of 3. Since 2012, she has advanced domestic violence awareness, PTSD, and suicide conversations and education with corporations, police departments, military installations and communities across the globe. She is a Speaker for the U.S. Department of State, Certified Consultant with The U.S. Department of Justice—Office On Victims of Crime, CNN Contributor, Domestic Abuse Survivor, Humanitarian, five-time Author, Certified Domestic Violence Advocate, Trainer, and Educator. Further, Advisory Board Member for the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence. In 2018, Muhammad was sought by Sias International University and the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, China. To her impact, her VISA was denied by the Consulate. Her mission is to bring awareness to truths about domestic violence and abuse and give voice to women in national and international forums.

Sign of Spring!



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY BENDURE COMMUNICATIONS

National Harbor's cherry trees were blooming last week! It's a great sign that spring is just around the corner.



PHOTO BY JEN CAUGHORN, CHESAPEAKE LIFE CENTER

Children participating in Chesapeake Life Center's grief day camp at the College Park Aviation Museum in 2019 got to learn about the history of aviation while learning about ways to cope with their grief."

Chesapeake Life Center 2020 Day Camps For Grieving Children and Teens

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (Feb. 21, 2020)—Chesapeake Life Center will once again offer several day programs for youth ages 6 to 18 this summer. Through art, play, conversations and support, children and teens will learn new ways to cope with the difficult task of grieving while learning they are not alone.

The first children's grief day camp will be held in Prince George's County. Designed for ages 6 to 12, it will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 18 at the College Park Airport Administrative Building, 1909 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, next to the museum, and will also include an activity in the mu-

seum. The interactive workshop experience offers a safe space for children to explore their grief, make friends and have fun. The cost is \$40.

The second children's grief day camp for ages 6 to 12 will be held from 6 to 8:30 p.m. July 31 and 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Aug. 1 on the Hospice of the Chesapeake's John & Cathy Belcher Campus in Pasadena. Kids will get to know each other on Friday night, then return the next day to explore their grief, learn tools to manage it and have a lot of fun. The cost is \$50.

The teens' grief camp, Camp Phoenix, will take place from 10 a.m.

See DAY CAMPS Page A3

Md. Bill Would Ban Plastic Carryout Bags From All Stores

By HUGH GARBRICK
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Feb. 18, 2020)—Plastic carryout bags would essentially be a thing of the past in Maryland if a bill in the General Assembly gathers enough lawmakers' votes.

The bill would ban plastic carryout bags at the "point of sale" next year in July, require stores to charge customers a 10 cent fee per "durable" carryout bag—like paper bags—money that retailers would keep, and create a "Single-Use Products Workgroup,"

according to a state legislative analysis.

At a bill hearing Feb. 11 in the House Environment and Transportation Committee, Delegate Jerry Clark, R-Calvert and St. Mary's, asked the bill's sponsor, Delegate Brooke Lierman, D-Baltimore, whether paper bags are better for the environment than plastic bags.

Lierman said paper bags are better, though the goal of her bill is to encourage bringing reusable bags to stores, limiting overall waste.

"You don't go to the store without forgetting your wal-

let, and if we move this forward we won't go to the stores without remembering our bags because people don't want to pay (a bag fee)," Lierman said.

During testimony, Lierman presented a 2019 survey that shows 88.2% of Prince George's County and 76.6% of Howard County shoppers—who are not charged a bag fee—take disposable bags; and only 41.8% of Montgomery County shoppers, who are charged 5 cents, take disposable bags.

The bill is estimated to cost the state \$71,700, which is the price of Maryland's Department of Labor hiring an assistant attorney general in the program's first year to develop regulations and communicate with counties and industry associations, according to the state legislative analysis.

The ban only applies to plastic carryout bags at the "point of sale," like at grocery store checkouts; bags not banned are ones used for: packaging fruits and vegetables, wrapping meats and frozen foods, containing flowers, bagging bakery items, de-

livering newspapers, covering dry-cleaned clothes and carrying medicine from pharmacists, according to a state legislative analysis.

Lierman's bill, House bill 209, has 43 other legislators signed on, and Sen. Malcolm Augustine, D-Prince George's, is sponsoring identical Senate bill 313.

Similar bills failed to pass in 2015 and 2016, but Augustine told Capital News Service he has "done his homework" and expects the ban to become law. Augustine's legislation is scheduled to be heard in a committee Thursday.

Recently, Baltimore issued a ban on plastic bags that is scheduled to go into effect in January, according to a statement from Mayor Bernard C. "Jack" Young, who supports Lierman's bill.

Other jurisdictions also regulate carryout bags: besides Montgomery County's 5 cent fee per carryout bag, Howard County plans to implement a fee in October and the cities of Takoma Park, Westminster and Town of Chestertown all regulate single-use bags, according to the state legislative analysis.

Counties could no longer

See BAN Page A8



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT HUGH GARBRICK/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

A plastic carryout bag. These would no longer be available in Maryland beginning in mid-2021 under legislation proposed in the 2020 General Assembly.

INSIDE

Maryland Hotel Lodging Association Awards
"General Manager of the Year" to Linda Westgate of The Hotel at the University of Maryland

"We are fortunate to have her represent The Hotel and oversee operations at this award-winning property."

Community, Page A3

To Be Equal:
National Urban League and BET Networks Launch #ReclaimYourVote

#ReclaimYourVote is a social change campaign committed to harnessing Black collective power and increasing Black participation in the 2020 Census and the 2020 Election.

Commentary, Page A4

Women in Business:
The Power of Us

Women in Business: The Power of Us panel discussion will bring together influential women to empower, educate and equip one another with the knowledge and insights to create and grow successful businesses.

Business and Finance, Page A5

Dr. Richard Bell Inaugurates
"Authors for Truth" Series

The series provides Prince George's County residents with opportunities to meet and hear from national authors whose works address social justice issues and promote equality.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Is switching out meat for edible bugs to satisfy our protein needs a viable way to ratchet down our carbon emissions and overall environmental impact?

—J. Cruz., Gary, IN

Features, Page A7

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Natorium (with wooded views) and recreation complex host Grand Opening Feb. 29

The Southern Area Aquatic and Recreation Complex, known as SAARC, is the first Multi-Generational recreation complex in Prince George's County—a place where all members of a family can participate in activities together.

It's located in Brandywine, near Branch Ave/Route 5 (Md. 5) and Crain Highway (U.S. Route 301) at 13601 Missouri Avenue. Hours are: Monday to Friday, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

What will you find there? Fitness and aerobic rooms, a natatorium where you can experience panoramic scenic views of the wooded areas while swimming laps in the 6-lane pool, gymnasium (two courts), café, hospitality spaces for weddings, receptions, meetings, etc., and a full schedule of classes.

Sign up and gain full access to the facility with a monthly or yearly membership. For information, call 301-782-1442.

Rock thrown through window at Suitland Road Baptist Church

Sometime during the night of Feb. 15 or early the morning of the 16th, someone tossed a rock through a side window of the church on Suitland Road in Morningside. Pastor Dr. Kelvin McCune sent out an email, warning about "vandalism in the community." I live just behind the church and might have seen or heard something, but I didn't.

Carolyn Pruitt, a church member also notified me. I'll do a follow-up and find out if the culprit has been located.

Neighbors and other good people.

Former Morningside Councilman Russell Butler emailed news about his wife Carole who retired last June from the Calvert County Board of Education. However, she continues to coach the Northern Middle School MathCounts team which, for the 3rd year in a row, finished first. Of their sons, Ryan and his wife Ali live in Redwood City, Calif., and Eric and his wife Lindsey and their two children are in Chesapeake Beach.

Harriet Tubman and Frederick Dou-

glass statues are now unveiled and can be visited in the Old House of Delegates Chambers in Annapolis.

Former Morningsider Sue Mason emailed sad news about her niece, Carla Vandelia (Stine) Rizkallah who died in December. She was the daughter of Edward and Elaine Stine.

Kenneth Arnell Martin, Jr., who was buried from Suitland Road Baptist Church, died Jan. 17. He was only 32. His loving family survives him. Internment was at Heritage Memorial Cemetery.

Morningside notices

All petitions to become a candidate in the upcoming Town election must be turned into the Administrative Office no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, March 2. Once the petitions are verified, the candidates' names will be placed on the ballot for the May 4 election. The Mayor will appoint a Board of three Supervisors of Elections.

The town of Morningside has a Work Session coming up on March 10, 7 p.m. Then, the Town Meeting will be on March 17 at 7 p.m.

Anna Ella Carroll: Fact or Fiction?

This is the title of another of the Surratt House Museum's excellent talks—which are free! It will be at the Museum, 9118 Brandywine Rd., in Clinton, on Saturday March 28, 4 p.m. Arrive early; limited seating.

Anna Ella Carroll was a controversial Marylander of the mid-1800s, said to have participated in politics, pamphlets, and lobbying. Some historians believe she was an adviser to President Lincoln and General Grant on military strategy. Presenter Mary Margaret Revell Goodwin of the Maryland Museum of Women's History separates fact from fiction about this interesting 19th century figure.

By the way, turn your love of history into a hobby! Call about volunteer opportunities at the Surratt House, 301-868-1121.

Skyline Memories: 1980

The Skyline Citizens Association submitted an application to the county for sidewalks on Suitland Road. (We finally got them about 1990.)

Pastor and Mrs. Robert Fry, of Morningside Baptist, welcomed a daughter,

Julia Katherine on Jan. 21, 1980. Ted Burke (Skyline Dr.) opened his Pro Shop in the Skyline shopping center, selling wallpaper and paint. Melba Henry (Offutt St.) was named an outstanding leader in the 1979-80 Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges. Mark Foland (Goodfellow Dr.) received Scouting's highest honor, Eagle Scout.

Marvin Faulcon was SCA president in 1980. Other officers were Russell Kyser, LaSalle Petty, Mabel Harper, Shirley Holmes, Oneida Boone and Charlie Tretler.

On May 24, 1980, Skyline celebrated its 10th anniversary with a parade. A naturalist from Clearwater Nature Center brought furry, feathered and scaly friends. And there were: a barbershop quartet, gong show, movies and distinguished guests. (Forty years later, SCA is celebrating its 50th this May.)

Protector of rivers dies at 83

Mary Kilbourne, 83, who retired from Crossland HS after more than 30 years teaching, died Oct. 20 in Annapolis. She grew up in Suitland, daughter of Robert and Sarah Whittenburg.

She graduated from the University of Maryland before launching a successful career as a biology teacher. After retiring, she went on to serve 25 years as a naturalist and boating safety instructor at Patuxent River Park. She is known as a protector of local rivers and natural spaces and was the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Baywatcher of the Year in 1995 and Conservationist of the Year in 1999. She also served on Gov. Parris Glendening's Patuxent River Commission.

She is survived by her husband of more than 50 years, Charlie Kilbourne. A memorial service will be held in the spring.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Gerry Joliffe, Feb. 29 (better luck in three years); Winifred Lanehart, March 1; Karen (Elborne) Stern and Harold Titus, March 2; Jennifer Vilky, March 3; Amy Schlor and Matthew Flaherty, March 4; and Roy Derrick, March 6.

Happy 61st (!) anniversary to Tom and Sarah Shipman on March 4; and happy anniversary to Larry and Susan Frostbutter, March 5.

tingham Myers Family Life Center, 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Tickets are available now. Telephone number is 301-888-2171. Rev. Coni Smith, Pastor.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 227

Did you know that there is a Used Clothing Drop-Off Shed at the American Legion Post 227 in Brandywine that benefits the Post, local Boy Scouts and Brandywine community? Clean out your closets and drop off your donations today (with the help of Turnkey Enterprises, LLC). The address is American Legion Post 227, 13505 Cherry Tree Crossing Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Telephone number is 301-782-7371.

"This is a great opportunity for our post to assist our local veterans and community. Please share and support this drop-off site location with families, your church and friends."

Items accepted (all clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, bed linen, drapes and stuffed animals). "Please put your donations into plastic bags and deposit in the shed."

TEEN NIGHTS

Prince George's Best Dance Crew Competition features young, talented, energetic dancers who compete for cash and other prizes Friday, March 13, 2020, 7 p.m. Tickets (General Admission): \$5 per person. Buy your tickets early so you can support your favorite dance crew. For information about participating in the competition, please go to arts.pgpc.com or call 301-446-3259. The location is Publick Playhouse, 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, Maryland 20784.

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CAFÉ

You are invited to join us for our Dementia Friendly Café March 18, 2020 (Group) Serving the World from 1-3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at St. Paul United Methodist Church 6634 St. Barnabas Road Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745.

SAVE THE DATES

Gospel Singing March 16, 2020, Paint & Sip April 25, 2020, May 16, 2020 Jazz Café at Nottingham Myers UMC in Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Rev. Constance Smith, Pastor. Additional information to follow later.

Around the County

Participate in the Community Volunteer Academy

Join M-National Capital Park Police as a Volunteer

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (Feb. 18, 2020)—The Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Prince George's County Division, is hosting a FREE, eight-week Park/Community Volunteer Academy for those ages 18 & up. Classes meet Tuesday evenings from 6:30-9 p.m.; they begin on March 3, 2020 and conclude on April 21, 2020. Classes will be held at the Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex, located at 8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, Maryland 20785. Topics include park rules and regulations, criminal law, traffic law, crime scene management, drug and gang awareness, role of the prosecutor, safety awareness training and CPR (optional). At the completion of the academy, participants will receive a certificate and an opportunity to join our Park Police Volunteer Association.

If you would like to attend, please contact Corporal Trevin Sherard at 240-695-3891.

The Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Prince George's County Division consists of 133 authorized sworn personnel, 33 civilian employees and approximately 40 volunteers. Title 17, Subtitle 3, Land Use Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland provides the authority to enforce Maryland laws and local ordinances, as well as the rules and regulations specific to The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC). The Maryland-National Capital Park Police are tasked with protecting approximately 30,000 acres of park property in Prince George's County, as well as those who visit and staff M-NCPPC sites.

—Kira Calm Lewis, Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

District 7 News

Council Member Rodney C. Streeter will be hosting a Town Hall for all District 7 residents on Thursday, March 26, 2020 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Creative Suitland Art Center, 4719 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, MD 20746.

Hear updates from Prince George's County Agency Representatives.

—Prince George's County Council District 7

Prince George's Soil Conservation District—Monthly Board Meetings

The Prince George's Soil Conservation District hosts public, monthly board meetings at its headquarters office located at 5301 Marlboro Race Track Rd. Upper Marlboro, MD 20772. The meetings are held on the first Monday of every month, starting at 6:30 p.m. Please call the District at 301-574-5162 ext. 3 prior to each meeting to confirm its date and time.

—Katie Biley, Prince George's Soil Conservation District

Local Students Honored

Local Students Selected to

University of Minnesota Twin Cities Dean's List

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL, Minn. (Feb. 21, 2020)—The following students have been named to the 2019 fall semester Dean's List at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, the university announced today.

To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must complete 12 or more letter-graded credits while attaining a 3.66 grade point average.

Bowie, MD: **Elizabeth Allen**, Non Degree, Coll of Contin & Prof Studies
Laurel, MD: **Gabriel Wilkins**, Non Degree, Coll of Contin & Prof Studies

Mount Rainier, MD: **Roslyn J Brehl**, Senior, College of Liberal Arts

—University Public Relations, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Local Student Named to Dean's List at Anderson University

ANDERSON, S.C. (Feb. 20, 2020)—**Cory Simmons** of Bowie was named to the Dean's List at Anderson University for the fall semester, 2019. In order to be named to the Dean's List, a student must maintain a 3.5 grade point average or higher for the semester.

—Andrew J. Beckner, Anderson University

Local Students Graduate from Hood College

FREDERICK, Md. (Feb. 19, 2020)—The following local students graduated from Hood College in January 2020.

College Park, MD: **Reginald Wright, MS, Educational Leadership**
Glenn Dale, MD: **Erik Thomas, MBA, Business Administration**
Upper Marlboro, MD: **Briana James, MS, Biomedical Science**

More than 100 Hood College students were conferred with bachelor's or master's degrees in January.

—Office of Marketing & Communications, Hood College

Local Students Named to Dean's List at St. Mary's College of Maryland

ST MARY'S CITY, Md. (Feb. 17, 2020)—The following local students were awarded Dean's List academic honors for the fall 2019 semester at St. Mary's College of Maryland:

Beltsville, MD: **Omobilawa Fadojutimi; Christian Oliverio**
Berwyn Heights, MD: **Elizabeth Moore**
Bowie, MD: **Lauren Baker; Gabriella De; Stephanie Heffron; Leah Jackson-barreto; Veronica Kogut; Caroline Ryan; Benjamin Stillson; Amanda Trusen**

Brandywine, MD: **Alyssa Hawkins**
Fort Washington, MD: **Dominique Davenport**
Greenbelt, MD: **Maeve Ballantine**
Hyattsville, MD: **Jacob Rosenzweig-stein**
Lanham, MD: **Andrea Deleonibus; Nathan Donoghue**
Laurel, MD: **Ivy Antunes; Janel Holland; Carolyn Sutton**
New Carrollton, MD: **Alyssa Heintzelman**
Upper Marlboro, MD: **Kyle Musselman**

Dean's List honors are awarded to full-time students at St. Mary's College who earn a semester grade-point average of 3.5 or better on 12 or more graded credits.

—Michael Bruckler, St. Mary's College of Maryland

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

A VERY SPECIAL LADY

"Remembering a Very Special Lady one year after her Celebration of Life as I reflect on so many fond memories of my friend. She loved her family, church, community and was loved by everyone who knew her. Her life reflected the love of God as she touched the lives of many in positive ways. Precious memories, how they linger. Rest in peace, Mrs. Turner" submitted to me by Rudell Jones.

HOT SOUP AND SANDWICH DAY

On behalf of Rev. Constance Smith and Christ United Methodist Church Outreach Ministry, we cordially invite you to join us on Saturday, March 14, 2020 for our Soup and Sandwich Day from 12-3:30 p.m. We will be delivering meals to the community Sick and Shut-In and Seniors. If you can attend, please bring your appetite and one canned good to support the Baden-CSSI Food Bank.

We are looking forward to having a great time. Come to fellowship and be a blessing to others. Please share this with family and friends. Phyllis Slater-Chairperson CUMC Outreach, Ministry. For more details you may contact 301-653-7345.

SUMMER YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM (SYEP)

Applications are being accepted until February 28, 2020 for the SYEP. The Program will run from June 29 to August 7. Apply online at www.youthatwork.mypgc.us. To be eligible, youth must be ages 14 to 22 as of July 1st of the program year. Youth must be a permanent resident of Prince George's County. Legally able to work in the United States. Able to work the entire six-week employment period.

Ages 14-15 work 24 hours per week at \$9.80 per hour. Ages 16-17 work 32 hours per week at \$9.80 per hour. Ages 18-22 work 40 hours per week at \$11.50 per hour.

SOUL FEST

A "SOUL FEST" will be held Saturday, March 14, 2020 at 4 p.m. Sponsored by the Ushers of Nottingham Myers UMC of the New Hope Fellowship Cooperative Parish. There will be food, entertainment, door prizes, fellowship and Black History. Donation is \$25. The address is Not-

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Six Simple Steps to Staying Friends With Your Adolescent

Adolescence is a difficult stage for both teens and their parents. While most parents recognize adolescence as a time when young people are learning to be more independent, many are unsure about how to loosen the reins and allow more freedom. After years of making decisions for the child, it's now time to step back and watch the teenager experiment.

Here are some simple suggestions for maintaining that role of parent, but also for being a friend.

Be loving. If you have a close, loving relationship with your child, then don't change that. If it hasn't been that loving, make it so now. This is the time when love, attention and affection are needed more than ever. Keep hugging your child and don't stop praising and validating him or her.

Talk and listen. Teenagers don't want to be lectured, but often need to talk. Have something interesting to say besides, "How's school?" And be a good listener. Teens will share thoughts and feelings if they know it's safe to share and that you're really paying attention.

Spend time together. Giving your teen your time and full attention tells your child he or she really matters to you. Invite your teen on shopping trips and outings of their choosing.

Show respect and trust. Many teens say adults always want respect but don't think they have to give respect. Teenagers want to be trusted to make good decisions and choices; to show their integrity; to make mistakes and to deal with the consequences. They're anxious to show they're growing up but need assurances that they're doing it well.

Be interested. Take a sincere interest in their hobbies, music, their sports teams. Stay close and available, but don't barge in or crowd their lives. You don't have to even like all the things your teen likes. Just learn enough to hold a solid conversation.

And don't... Don't dump your problems, worries and cares on your teen. Don't embarrass or humiliate your child in front of friends to make a point or exert control. Don't be judgmental or compare your teen to other teens. Don't ever start a sentence with, "In my day..."

Adolescents want a good, healthy life for themselves. They really want to do the best that they can. Let them have their own dreams and help them fulfill them. Be a friend helping them as they find their way into adulthood.

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.

Save-the-Date: 12th Annual Fashion For a Cause Benefiting Chesapeake Kids

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (Feb. 18, 2020)—Doing good never looked so great: Now in its 12th year of combining a showcase for summer's hottest looks with a chance to help children, Hospice of the Chesapeake has mastered the formula for Annapolis' hottest red carpet fashion event. The 12th annual Fashion for a Cause once again will be hosted by Porsche Annapolis in and around its facilities on Hudson Street, this year from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, June 4, 2020. The presenting sponsor is M&T Bank.

Get a look at what you'll be seeing this summer in the city, on the beach and at parties as community and professional models take to the runway for this high energy show. Enjoy signature cocktails, delicious savory and sweet bites and a pit stop filled with food trucks.

Proceeds from the event will go to Chesapeake Kids, a program service of Hospice of the Chesapeake, designed to support children who are living with illness, dealing with the illness of a family member and who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Last year's event raised more than \$135,000.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. For details, visit www.hospicechesapeake.org/2020-ffac or contact Meg Lawton at 443-837-1531 or mlawton@hospicechesapeake.org. For pictures from last year's event, visit <http://bit.ly/3bEjleH>.



PHOTO BY MIKE B. PHOTOGRAPHY
A model takes the runway at the 2019 Fashion for a Cause.

Day Camps from A1

to 8 p.m. Aug. 15 at Terrapin Adventures at Historic Savage Mill at 8600 Foundry St. By using team building exercises and other activities to help them get to know each other, teens ages 13 to 18, will find a space where the many emotions of grief are met with care and compassion. Professional counselors offer the expertise to support these teens as they navigate grief while having fun and discovering they are not alone. The cost is \$40.

All meals, snacks and activities are included in the cost to attend. There are scholarships available for those in need. Space is limited. Registration is required and can be completed by calling 888-501-7077 or emailing griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org.

Maryland Hotel Lodging Association Awards "General Manager of the Year" to Linda Westgate of The Hotel at the University of Maryland

By GRACE CLARK
for The Hotel at the University of Maryland

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (Feb. 20, 2020)—On January 9, 2020, the Maryland Hotel Lodging Association (MHLA) hosted their annual "Stars of the Industry" awards where nearly 400 industry professionals gathered at The Hotel at the University of Maryland, a luxury hotel and conference center adjacent to the University of Maryland (UMD), to honor exemplary employees and unique programs in the hotel industry. During the ceremony, Linda Westgate, general manager of The Hotel at the University of Maryland, was awarded "General Manager of the Year" for demonstrating superior professionalism in operating a Maryland Hotel Lodging Association member property.

"We couldn't be prouder of Linda for achieving this impressive accolade," said James LoBosco, executive vice president of Southern Management's Hotel Division. "We are fortunate to have her represent The Hotel and oversee operations at this award-winning property."

As general manager at The Hotel, Westgate is responsible for overseeing and executing hotel and property operations, including staff management, guest satisfaction and community relations. With over 25 years of experience in the hospitality industry, Westgate has held management positions at Hilton Worldwide and Crescent Hotels and Resorts in Tysons, VA, Glendale, CA, Baltimore, New York City and Tampa Bay. Aside from her extensive professional experience, Westgate is an active member on the board of several organizations. She is the interim chair of the board of directors of Experience Prince George's; co-chair of the board of directors of the Maryland Tourism Education Foundation; and a member of the board of directors of the Maryland Hotel and Motel Association.

Westgate was also on the board of directors of the Baltimore Convention and Tourism Board, Maryland Tourism Development, Downtown Partnership, Baltimore City Community College Foundation and College Bound Foundation. She was also on the advisory board for the Hospitality Management Program at Morgan State University and was a member of the Greater Baltimore Committee.

Westgate holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Duke University.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY THE HOTEL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
Linda Westgate

The Hotel at the University of Maryland offers business and leisure visitors elegant accommodations, an array of dining choices and world-class service and amenities. Located directly across the street from the main entrance to the University of Maryland, College Park campus, the AAA Four Diamond luxury hotel and conference center is convenient to Washington D.C., Maryland and Virginia. LEED Gold certified, The Hotel is committed to sustainability and wellness for guests and the planet and its thoughtful design and fine interior finishes make guests feel like they've stepped into a high-luxury residence. For more information about The Hotel at the University of Maryland, visit www.thehotelumd.com or follow on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TheHotelUMD, Instagram @thehotelumd and LinkedIn @The Hotel at the University of Maryland.

Governor Hogan Announces Judicial Appointments

Fills Vacancies in Prince George's County District Court

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Feb. 17, 2020)—Governor Larry Hogan today announced he has made five judicial appointments to the Prince George's County District Court: **Wenessa Bell Snoddy, John Anthony Bielec, Dolores Dorsainvil, LaKeecia René Allen, and Stacey Maria Cobb Smith.** The governor made the appointments after interviewing nominees submitted by the Prince George's County judicial nominating commission.

"The appointment of qualified individuals to serve across our state's justice system is paramount to upholding our responsibilities to the people of Maryland and maintaining the highest standards of the rule of law," said Governor Hogan. "I have confidence that these appointees will be strong advocates for the law and will serve the citizens of Prince George's County admirably."

Wenessa Snoddy has been an associate county attorney in the Prince George's County Office of Law since 2017. Prior to joining the office, she spent 13 years as an assistant state's attorney, where she prosecuted homicide, domestic violence, and motor vehicle manslaughter cases. She served as a law clerk for the Honorable Sheila Tillerson Adams,

Circuit Court for Prince George's County, from 2003–2004. She received her B.A. from the University of Maryland, College Park, and her J.D. from the University of Baltimore School of Law.

John Bielec has worked in the Office of the General Counsel at the United States Government Accountability Office since 2002. He has served as assistant general counsel for litigation since 2008. He has also served as a member of the Government Accountability Office Contract Appeals Board since 2013. Since 1993, he has also maintained his own private practice in Beltsville, Md., where he primarily provides pro bono representation to individuals and non-profit organizations. After graduating from law school, Mr. Bielec served as a law clerk for the Honorable William H. McCullough, Circuit Court for Prince George's County, from 1991–1992. Bielec obtained his B.S. from the University of Maryland and his J.D. from the Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law.

Dolores Dorsainvil has practiced almost exclusively in the field of ethics and attorney discipline. For the past 13 years, she has worked as an assistant disciplinary counsel in the District of Columbia, where she investigates and prosecutes cases against District of Columbia lawyers for ethical misconduct. Prior to this position, she spent more than

three years as assistant bar counsel for the Attorney Grievance Commission in Maryland. After obtaining her law degree from American University, Dorsainvil worked as an associate at the Montgomery County-based firm of Goldberg & Finnegan, LLC.

LaKeecia Allen has worked as an associate county attorney for the Prince George's County Office of Law. She currently works in the legislative division, where she advises the executive and legislative branches of government regarding legislative matters. She has also worked at the Prince George's County Office of Law as legal advisor to the Prince George's County Police Department, an attorney in the litigation division, and an attorney in the Child in Need of Assistance Division. Allen served as a judicial intern for the Honorable Herman C. Dawson during the summer of 2002. She holds a B.A. from American University and received her J.D. from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law.

Stacey Cobb Smith has been a prosecutor with the Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office for her entire legal career. She is currently the chief of the Major Crimes Unit. She obtained her B.S. from Coppin State College and her J.D. from the University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke School of Law.

Maryland Tourism Education Foundation Scholarships Available

By AMY ROHRER
Maryland Hotel Lodging Association

BALTIMORE, Md. (Feb. 18, 2020)—The Maryland Tourism Education Foundation (MTEF) is now accepting applications for its 2020 Tourism and Hospitality scholarships. Scholarships are awarded to increase the skills and knowledge of Maryland's tourism workforce. They may be used for post-secondary education that meets any of the three career development objectives: acquiring an industry degree, career development, and enhancement or transitional training.

Applicants must be a resident of the State of Maryland. In addition, they must have a minimum of six months of work experience in a hospitality and tourism-related position or a minimum of one year enrolled in a Mary-

land sanctioned or accredited hospitality and tourism-related education program.

Chair of the MTEF and Executive Vice President for Plamondon Hospitality Partners, Michael Henningsen states, "This is an excellent opportunity for those in the hospitality industry. These scholarships will help provide training and opportunities for individuals, who in turn will help us strengthen and grow our workforce."

The Maryland Tourism Education Foundation scholarship program is managed by the Maryland Hotel Lodging Association (MHLA). "Managing these scholarships is a natural extension of MHLA. We are deeply connected to the hospitality industry, and we are pleased to be an integral part of tourism in Maryland," states MHLA President and CEO, Amy Rohrer.

Applications may be found online at mdtef.org and must be received via mail or email by March 31, 2020.

The Office of Tourism Development & Maryland Department of Commerce reports that visitors spent over 18.1 billion dollars in the State of Maryland in 2018, up 2.1 percent from the previous year. In 2018, more than 150,000 Marylanders were directly employed by the tourism industry, which is the 10th largest private-sector employer in the state.

The Maryland Hotel Lodging Association (MHLA) is a trade-based membership organization representing Maryland's 6 billion dollar lodging industry with more than 78,000 rooms in 700 hotels across the state. It provides advocacy, information, recognition, and networking opportunities that benefit lodging industry owners, managers, associates, related businesses, and communities in Maryland. www.mdlodging.org.

Help a Child Today! Volunteer for CASA

Volunteer Information Session March 19 at 6 p.m.

CASA Volunteers will help us reach 100% of youth (ages 0–21) in foster care in Prince George's County, MD. Currently, CASA/Prince George's County serves 200 children in foster care in Prince George's County. However, there are still about 300 children who need a CASA, but there is a lack of volunteer advocates available. By becoming a CASA Volunteer today, you can help us positively change a child's story by serving as an advocate and mentor.

To learn more about volunteering with us, attend our Spring Volunteer Information Session on Thursday, March 19 from 6–7:30

p.m. The session will be held at 6811 Kenilworth Ave, Suite 402, Riverdale, MD 20737. Applicants must be at least 21 years old and be willing to undergo a background screening. Spring Training begins on April 27 to May 21 on Monday and Thursday evenings from 6–9 p.m.

Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-2020-casa-volunteer-information-session-tickets-91155186617> or email recruitment@pgcasa.org to RSVP for the Volunteer Information Session.

COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

National Urban League and BET Networks Launch #ReclaimYourVote

"Voter suppression isn't guns and hoses and bully clubs and Bull Connor. It's administrative burdens that interfere with your right to vote. In the south they try to stop you from getting on the rolls ... and to stay on the rolls ... and have your ballot be counted. We need our democracy to work, we need poverty to end, we need disenfranchisement to be a thing of the past, because when people are suppressed or oppressed it rages. It may be silent for some time but eventually it will come out."

—Stacey Abrams

During a hearing in 2017, California Congress-

woman Maxine Waters secured her place as a social media hero when she dismissed the evasive meanderings of Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin with the stern and uncompromising report, "Reclaiming my time."

Now, the National Urban League and BET Networks have turned Rep. Maxine Waters' iconic catchphrase, into rallying cry.

#ReclaimYourVote is a social change campaign committed to harnessing Black collective power and increasing Black participation in the 2020 Census and the 2020 Election.

With its primary channel reaching more than 90 million households, BET Networks is the na-

tion's leading provider of quality entertainment, music, news and public affairs television programming for the African American audience.

The biggest part of Russia's insidious operation to disrupt the 2016 Presidential election was aimed at dissuading Black Americans from voting, as our 2019 State of Black America® report revealed. This illegal foreign operation unfortunately aligned perfectly with a wave of racially-motivated voter suppression laws that have swept the nation over the last several years.

#Reclaim Your Vote is our response.

Fully half the states in the nation have enacted restrictive voter suppression laws, aimed at racial minorities, over the last 10 years. The 2013 Supreme Court decision in *Shelby v. Holder*, which gutted a key provision of the Voting Rights Act, opened the floodgate for racially-motivated voter suppression.

Texas, for example, passed a strict voter-ID law that allows voters to use a handgun license to vote, but not a student ID from a state university. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, more than 80 percent of handgun licenses issued to Texans in 2018 went to white Texans, while more than half of the students in the University of Texas system are racial or ethnic minorities.

Meanwhile, Russia's campaign to disrupt and influence our democracy continues. We must be

vigilant against misinformation about the candidates and any efforts to mislead voters about the election. One of the most common tactics of hostile foreign actors is to abuse the trust in movements like #BlackLivesMatter to insinuate themselves into online communities to spread lies and dissuade Black people from voting.

The nationwide #ReclaimYourVote campaign will layout the most significant issues, break down otherwise confusing processes, and highlight specific ways where we can reclaim our collective power by harnessing the power of media, entertainment, and technology to drive civic engagement.

The next phases of #ReclaimYourVote will focus on rallying the community around the critical matters that directly affect them with issues-based content and comprehensive analysis.

Kicking off the campaign are a series of spots that [launched] Saturday, February 22 on BET.

Join the conversation on social media by logging on to the National Urban League's multiple social media platforms and using the hashtags: #ReclaimYourVote and #NatUrbanLeague and following @NatUrbanLeague.

For more information, visit NUL.org and <http://reclaimyourvote.org>

—February 20, 2020

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Joyous Birthday, Dear Friend John Lewis!

I am joining countless others this February 21 to wish one of our greatest moral civil rights warriors and servant leaders, Congressman John Lewis (D-GA), a joyous 80th birthday and many more. As Black History Month continues, how fitting to be able to celebrate a genuine hero whose courage and nonviolent actions changed American history. After his announcement that he was fighting cancer, the outpouring of praise, gratitude, and love for him was immediate, along with confidence in his willingness to face a fight. As he said himself, "I have been in some kind of fight—for freedom, equality, basic human rights—for nearly my entire life... So I have decided to do what I know to do and do what I have always done: I am going to fight it and keep fighting for the Beloved Community. We still have many bridges to cross."

John Lewis has set a high bar for how to confront adversity. Speaking to college-age leaders at a Chil-

dren's Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom Schools® National Training at CDF-Haley Farm, he told them when he was their age getting into "necessary trouble" shaped his life's mission. Growing up poor in rural Troy, Alabama, he desperately wanted an education and was encouraged by a teacher to read all he could. Excluded from his segregated county library like so many of our generation, he said: "I tried to read everything, the few books we had at home, the magazines. We were too poor to have a subscription to the local newspaper, but my grandfather had one, and when he would finish reading his newspaper each day, I would get that newspaper and read it." He listened to the radio to hear the news outside his small community, and started hearing about events that would change his life: "In 1955, 15 years old in the 10th grade, I heard of Rosa Parks. I heard of Martin Luther King, Jr. I heard his voice on an old radio, and it seemed like he was saying, "John Lewis, you, too,

can do something...You can make a contribution." He decided then that was exactly what he would do.

He tried first to integrate his local library. A year later, as a high school senior, he applied to all-White Troy State College (now Troy University), near his home. His application was never answered. Although temporarily discouraged, he persisted in pushing against the segregated status quo. Without telling anyone, including his parents, he wrote a letter to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. asking for help. Dr. King sent the teenager a round-trip Greyhound bus ticket to come to Montgomery and meet with him. John Lewis had already been admitted to American Baptist Theological Seminary (now American Baptist College) in Nashville, Tennessee, a historically Black institution. Over spring break 18-year-old John took Dr. King up on his offer: "So in March of 1958, I boarded a Greyhound bus [and] traveled to Montgomery... Meeting Martin Luther King Jr., meeting Ralph Abernathy, meeting Rosa Parks, and later meeting Jim Lawson, who taught me the way of peace, the way of love, the way of nonviolence, changed my life and set me on a path. And I haven't looked back since."

He explained that his parents and community had not taught him to challenge segregation: "When I would ask my parents about those signs they would say, 'That's the way it is. Don't get in the way. Don't get in trouble.'" But his experience in the civil rights movement taught him a different and crucial lesson he shares with today's young leaders: "I got in trouble. I got in good trouble, necessary trouble. I say to you, you're more than lucky. You are blessed, and you have to use whatever you see to pass it on to someone else. Bless someone else. Be bold. Be brave. Be courageous. Speak up. Speak out. You must get out there

and push and pull and help change things and bring about a nonviolent revolution, a revolution of values, a revolution of ideas...Someone must put out and say what is going on is not right, it is not fair, it is not just, and we are here to do something about it." He left the audience with a final encouragement: "Go out there and be a headlight and not a taillight. Get out there and get in the way, get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and be yourself. It will all work out."

Our country is a profoundly different place today because John Lewis has spent his life speaking out boldly and acting nonviolently against injustice. A courageous servant leader, he has always remained willing to get into necessary trouble. Decades after he survived the brutal police attack on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama that shocked the nation, he shows us there are still many bridges to cross. The man who has been called the "moral conscience of Congress" spoke out on the floor of the House as he and his colleagues voted to impeach President Trump: "Our nation is founded on the principle that we don't have kings. We have presidents, and the Constitution is our compass. When you see something that is not right, not just, not fair, you have a moral obligation to say something, to do something. Our children and their children may ask us: what did you do? What did you say?...We have a mission, and a mandate, to be on the right side of history."

In January, as he condemned the Trump Administration's drone strike in Iraq without Congressional authorization, he issued another warning: "Failure to learn from the lessons of history means that we are doomed to repeat mistakes of the past." Let's all pray for his health and strength and follow his example as he keeps pushing our nation forward.

Steny H. Hoyer

Maryland Congressional District 5



Maryland Delegation Members Announce More than \$13 Million in Renewed Funding To Combat Homelessness in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties

WASHINGTON, DC (Feb. 20, 2020)—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05), Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), and Congressmen John Sarbanes, Anthony G. Brown, Jamie Raskin, and David Trone (all D-MD) today announced the award of \$13,187,737 for 32 projects to counter homelessness in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) Program. This competitive grant program awards nonprofits, state and local governments and their agents for initiatives that provide transitional or permanent housing, rental assistance, or supportive services with the goal of ending homelessness.

"Increasing the availability of affordable housing is a com-

plicated challenge with no one simple solution. This federal funding will support a variety of community-driven initiatives that make a real and meaningful difference for thousands of Marylanders," said the lawmakers. "We are proud to represent many advocates and organizations working tirelessly to combat homelessness in our region and we remain committed to supporting their important work."

Kirstin's Haven, a Camp Springs organization focused on helping homeless veterans find sustainable housing, will receive federal funding through this grant program for the first time. According to founder and CEO Steven Foncham, "This grant will be life changing for the individuals we serve within our community. It will allow Kirstin's Haven, Inc. to provide permanent

housing solutions and offer families a place to call home."

This program is authorized under Subtitle C of Title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381-11389). The CoC Program is designed to promote community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, and State and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities; promote access to mainstream homeless programs for individuals and families; and optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

—Annaliese Davis, Congressman Steny Hoyer's Office

Maryland's Federal Family First Prevention Plan Approved by the Children's Bureau

State is among the first in the nation with an approved plan under the federal Family First Prevention Services Act

By KATHERINE MORRIS
Maryland Department of Human Services

BALTIMORE, Md. (Feb. 18, 2020)—On Feb. 18, Lourdes R. Padilla, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS), announced that the agency received approval of its Family First Title IV-E Prevention Plan on February 7. Maryland was among the first in the country, alongside Utah and the District of Columbia, to submit its plan and have it approved by the Children's Bureau, an office of the Administration for Children and Families at the US Department of Health and Human Services.

The plan outlines how Maryland will implement the federal Family First Prevention Services Act, designed to strengthen the ability of families to care for their children safely. When fully implemented, families who need additional support will have greater access to evidence-based parenting programs, substance use disorder prevention and treatment, and mental health services.

"I'm so proud of the work we continue to do to prevent child abuse and neglect and en-

sure Maryland's children grow up in strong, safe, and stable families," said Secretary Padilla. "The approval of our plan is the most recent example of how we are transforming child welfare

practices to better meet the needs of children and families across the state, and I want to

See PLAN Page A8

The Prince George's Post

The Prince George's Post
P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151
Phone: 301-627-0900 • Legal Fax: 301-627-6260
Email: pgpost@gmail.com
Contents © 2020, The Prince George's Post

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

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

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Will Selling Large Asset Affect Wife's Social Security?

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

Dear Rusty: If I have reached full retirement age (FRA) and wish to sell a \$500,000 asset, will it affect my wife's Social Security if we file jointly? I have heard that it will affect my Medicare (the amount withheld each month) but she still has three more years before she can receive benefits. Is it better to liquidate assets before she reaches FRA if we will be penalized? Would her Medicare be affected as well as mine? **Signed: Planning Ahead**

Dear Planning: Only earnings from working can affect Social Security (SS) benefits, so passive income from selling a large asset won't affect your wife's future Social Security benefits (nor yours). However, if your "combined income" from all sources (which is your Adjusted Gross Income plus any other non-taxable income you may have, plus 50% of your SS benefits) exceeds certain levels, your Medicare premium will be subject to the Income Related Medicare Adjustment Amount (IRMAA) rule, which will add a supplemental amount to your base Medicare Part B premium. If your combined income (including that sold asset) for the 2020 tax year is between \$326,000 and \$750,000 then your Medicare premium for 2022 will be at least \$462.70 (I say "at least" because the Medicare Part B premium can increase each year).

The IRMAA premium increases on a sliding scale starting at \$174,001 of combined income for a married couple filing jointly (\$87,001 for an individual). If you liquidate that large asset this year, it will be reported on your 2020 income tax return which will be filed in 2021. That will mean that your Medicare premium for 2022 will be affected by IRMAA, and so will your wife's if she has enrolled in Medicare at age 65 in 2021 (which she need not do if she has other "creditable" healthcare coverage through an employer).

So, should you liquidate that large asset before your wife reaches her SS full retirement age? It doesn't matter for Social Security purposes because that passive income will not affect your wife's SS benefit. But, if your wife enrolls in Medicare at age 65, her Medicare Part B premium, as well as yours, will be subject to IRMAA and, thus be considerably higher than the standard premium of \$144.60 (the amount for 2020). Note that if your combined income for the following year is low enough to reduce your IRMAA premium, the Medicare premium will revert back to the lower level. Medicare typically uses income data from 2 years ago to determine current year premium, so they wouldn't normally change your IRMAA premium back until they receive your income data for the previous year from the IRS. But, it is possible for you to contact Social Security earlier and provide them with proof that your income is now lower than reported in a previous year (causing the higher IRMAA premium) and they will adjust your Medicare premium sooner than they otherwise might.

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 ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

FEB. 20, 2020 UPDATE: Women Veteran Entrepreneurs Training Funding Competition

By JACK SPIRAKES
U.S. SBA

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Small Business Administration today announced that nonprofit organizations, state and local agencies, and institutions of higher learning are eligible to compete for funding of up to \$300,000 to deliver entrepreneurship training to women service members, women veterans and women military spouses.

Up to six awardees will receive a total of \$300,000 in grants administered by SBA's Office of Veterans Business Development to participate in the Women Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Program. The funds will help cover the costs of educating women service members and veterans, as well as women military spouses interested in starting or currently own a small business.

Eligible organizations should submit applications for the Women Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Program funding opportunity (WVETP-2020-01) through <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?opId=324678>. Applications not submitted via Grants.gov will not be evaluated. **The submission deadline is Thursday, March 19 at 11:59 p.m. EDT.**

The SBA hosts a conference call Wednesday, February 26 at 2 p.m. EST to answer questions related to the Women Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Program grant announcement.

• Call in at (202) 765-1264; Conference ID: 13482739.

Look for a transcript of the February 26 conference call at [grants.gov](https://www.sba.gov/ovbd) and www.sba.gov/ovbd following the conference call.

Prince George's County Office of Finance Has Moved!

As of Monday, February 24, 2020, the Office of Finance is now located in the Wayne K. Curry Administration Building, 1301 McCormick Drive, Suite 1100, Largo, Maryland 20774.

In addition, the Treasury Division Cashiering Window hours have changed. The new hours will be 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. —Community Connections - Special Edition, Feb. 21, 2020

Women in Business: The Power of Us

by The City of Mount Rainier

Join us for a power-packed discussion designed to energize and inspire. Women in Business: The Power of Us panel discussion will bring together influential women to empower, educate and equip one another with the knowledge and insights to create and grow successful businesses. They will emphasize the value of collaboration over competition.

Lineup of Speakers:

Marva Jo Camp is an attorney in private practice. Her specialties include governmental relations, real estate transactions and land use, not-for-profit governance, small, minority and women-owned business, governmental agencies and trade associations.

Veronica Jeon is an experienced executive strategist and advisor in communications and crisis management. Currently, Ms. Jeon serves as the President and CEO at VSJ, Inc., a full-service results-oriented consultancy serving local, national, and global non-profit, corporate, and government clients.

Shelley M. Gross-Wade serves as the President and CEO of FSC First which is the premier lending partner for businesses in the region, providing creative and innovative financing to grow and

sustain the local economy.

Maggy "Fancy" Francois is the brains behind Maggy Francois, LLC, a boutique event design firm that focuses

on the comprehensive planning and design of fashion, social, corporate and non-profit events, activations, image consulting and styling.

Tisa Clark is the President and CEO of J.D. Clark Professional Services, LLC, a certified Prince George's County Based Business that is an African American and Woman-Owned construction firm with core services in Property Preservation, Property Maintenance and Property Improvements.

Rhonda Dallas is a visionary arts administrator, public art curator and creative entrepreneur with a mission to expand arts opportunities in Prince George's County by building sustainable infrastructure, targeted alliances and policy driven advocacy.

Contact: Ronald A. Hopkins, Director of Economic Development, rhopkins@mountrainiermd.org; 240-462-3946

March 4, 2020 • 12–2 p.m.
at PGFD Fire Station 855 -
Bunker Hill,
3716 Rhode Island Avenue,
Brentwood, MD 20722
General admission: \$20
Register via Eventbrite

Corporate Communications Group: Named Best Workplace in the Americas 2020 Competition

By ADA SELL

Corporate Communications Group

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Feb. 12, 2020)—Corporate Communications Group (CCG) of Upper Marlboro, MD has been awarded the Best Workplace designation in the 2020 Best Workplace in the Americas (BWA) awards competition. The BWA awards are awarded to companies that create the best environments for their employees. The BWA awards, presented by Printing Industries of America (PIA), is awarded annually to only those companies meeting rigorous standards in human resources practices. This is the second year in a row that CCG has been recognized by the BWA Awards.

Being designated a Best Workplace company again demonstrates that CCG contin-

ues to commit to and invest in its employees. A panel of printing industry professionals evaluated applicants in three categories: Communications & Culture, Employee Resources & Benefits, and Safety & Work Environment. CCG recognizes that exceptional workplaces better serve the needs of the company and its clients.

"CCG is one of the premier companies in the printing industry for employee experiences," said Adriane Harrison, vice president of Human Relations at PIA. "This award is a testament to CCG's leadership in developing an 'employer of choice' culture."

"We are honored to again be recognized by the industry. Employees are a company's greatest asset and we are fortunate to have a very talented group who deserve this recognition. They continue to foster a

culture that encourages growth, support, and success for CCG," said Michael Marcian, Chief Executive Officer.

Michael F. Makin, president and CEO of PIA, agrees. "The Best Workplace in the Americas award winners stand among the most distinguished printing industry leaders by human resources standards. Congratulations to CCG for its outstanding achievement in human resources excellence."

Corporate Communications Group (CCG) is the largest employee-owned print and graphic communications organization in the Mid-Atlantic region. With robust capabilities and technology, CCG focuses on serving the print and marketing communication needs of associations, direct marketers, corporations, higher-ed institutions, corporate, and special interest groups. Visit www.ccgcreates.com.

NAREB and the NAACP Sign Ground-Breaking Agreement Committing to the Provision of Resources Crafted to Promote and Result in Increased Black Home Ownership

Memorandum of Understanding signed

By JILL S. FORTE
NAREB

NEW YORK, NY (Feb. 15, 2020)—The NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) and NAREB (The National Association of Real Estate Brokers), announced a shared commitment and partnership last week that will ensure that Black individuals and families have access to quality financial education, appropriate financial products, accredited counseling services, and financial assistance wherever available—all centered around and pointing to increasing Black wealth through home ownership.

The Memorandum of Understanding, being signed today further strengthens and expands the relationship between NAACP units and NAREB's certified branch offices to offer the information, resources and services needed to ensure that each network is strategically positioned to create positive change for the constituents and clients of both organizations. This signing is extremely timely, as NAREB, the nation's oldest professional, minority real estate trade organization, recently concluded its 73rd Mid-Winter Conference on February 13, 2020, immediately following an extremely optimistic six-month increase in Black homeownership rates. According to the latest U.S. Census Bureau reports, Black homeownership trended upward for two consecutive quarters, from a low of 40.6% in the 2nd quarter of 2019, to ending the year at a rate of 44%.

"NAREB stands together with the NAACP in this commitment to our members, leaders, and most importantly, our clients and constituents, with the goals,

objectives, and initiatives outlined in this memorandum of understanding" stated NAREB President Donnell Williams. "The "R" in NAREB stands for "Relationships" and this agreement demonstrates the power of relationships through partnership. We are grateful for this opportunity to fortify and expand our current relationship with the NAACP, which has proven to be a pillar organization for our people for 110+ years. Our members are the commanders and guardians of our communities and this MOU will provide the template, framework, and formula for successful collaboration which will create positive change nationally and globally. We must work together to organize and strategize our efforts."

Highlights of NAREB and NAACP Empowerment Program commitments include but are not limited to:

- Collaboration on NAREB's 2MN5 (2 million new Black homeowners in 5 years) program related target market research to enable generation of prospective buyers in various markets nationwide
- Development and publishing a series of recurring, multi-media, public information and marketing campaigns designed to promote awareness of homeownership opportunities/benefits and to promote increased levels of Black homeownership/wealth
- Collaboration on NAREB's House Then The Car initiative, which is an expansion of 2MN5. This initiative focuses on increasing home ownership amongst credit worthy, mortgage ready Black millennials
- Collaboration on development and re-

tention programs designed to increase and sustain increased home ownership levels while reducing racial wealth disparities

- Hosting and participating in various joint events focused on homeownership and other wealth building strategies at regional and national conventions/conferences or in agreed local markets
- Encouraging NAACP members to post properties for sale within NAREB's REALTIST Referral Network (RRN). For every property referred and sold within the RRN, an agreed upon contribution will be made to the NAACP by the identified REALTIST (NAREB) member/practitioner involved in the transaction

The signing took place during the NAACP Annual Meeting where Chairman Leon W. Russell & President/CEO Derrick Johnson, National Board Members, Foundation Trustee Members, and NAACP members from State/State-Area Conferences, Branches and Youth Units were in attendance.

The National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB) was formed in 1948 to secure the right to equal housing opportunities regardless of race, creed or color. NAREB has advocated for legislation and supported or instigated legal challenges that ensure fair housing, sustainable homeownership, and access to credit for Black Americans. At the same time, NAREB advocates for an promotes access to business opportunity for Black real estate professionals in all of the real estate disciplines. NAREB annually publishes *The State of Housing in Black America* report. www.nareb.com. Visit www.nareb.com.

Anne Arundel County, Montgomery County and Prince George's County Public Schools Present: How to do Business With Your Regional School Systems

Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 9–11 a.m.
AACPS Board of Education, Board Room, 2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD 21401

Topics include: presentations of upcoming construction projects, updates on the Knot Commission—impact on Construction. Space is limited, **RSVP by March 4**, Register at <https://www.aacps.org/cms/module/selectsurvey/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=143>. Contact msbe@aacps.org or 410-222-5131 for more information.

Calling All Maryland Veterans, Veteran Business Owners and Veteran Friendly Businesses!

Join the Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce for our Inaugural Ceremony, March 9, 2020 at 1500 (or 3 p.m. for our civilian friends)

Maryland House Office Building, 6 Bladen Street, Room 145, Annapolis, MD 21401

The Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce is the newly formed membership based nonprofit dedicated to providing support and resources to veteran-owned and veteran friendly businesses in the State of Maryland. We advocate for business and economic opportunity for the Veteran community in Maryland.

OUT on the TOWN

The Bowie Center For The Performing Arts

Auditions For Children With Ballet Training

February 29, 2020

By DAVID ANDRUSIA

The Bowie Center for the Performing Arts

BOWIE, Md. (Feb. 10, 2020)—The National Ballet Company, under the direction of Ms. Pamela Moore, has announced a casting call for classically trained young dancers. Those chosen will perform as part of the company of NBC's performances of The Tales of Beatrix Potter and Memories of the Green on April 17 and 18 at The Bowie Center for the Performing Arts.

Boys and girls aged 8–13 are invited to apply. All children 5 feet tall and under with ballet training will be considered for roles, and selections reflect our commitment to diversity and inclusion in all its forms.

WHEN: Check-in 12:30 p.m., Auditions 1 p.m. February 29, 2020
WHERE: The Bowie Center for the Performing Arts, 15200 Annapolis Road, Bowie, MD 20715

For more information on the audition process, please contact Ms. Moore at: balletnbcoffice@aol.com or 240-508-7350.

Rhea Feikin, Chris Core and Deborah Weiner Named 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients From the National Capital Radio & Television Museum

By ELLEN DAHL

The National Capital Radio & Television Museum

BOWIE, Md. (Feb. 21, 2020)—The National Capital Radio & Television Museum (NCRTV) will host its "5th Annual Ed Walker Lifetime Achievement Dinner Gala" honoring the Broadcasting Industry's top legends hailing from the Washington D.C. and Baltimore regions. The 2020 named recipients are Rhea Feikin, Host, Maryland Public Television's "Chesapeake Collectibles and "Artworks", Mr. Chris Core, Retired Radio Commentator, "Core Values" (WTOP-FM) and Deborah Weiner, Emmy Award-Winning, Co-Anchor of WBAL-TV Evening News.

The event will take place on **March 21, 2020** at the beautiful Chesapeake Conference Center at the Comfort Inn located in Bowie, MD. The annual gala will be a night to remember as we pay homage to the honorees for their contributions in the radio and television industries. All proceeds from ticket sales will aid in further developing the museum's extensive youth educational programming division.

The NCRTV annual awards is named in honor of Mr. Ed Walker, whose lifetime accomplishments earned him a spot in the Radio Hall of Fame in 2009. He was a founding member of the National Capital Radio and Television Museum serving as both a board

member and board president. Ed Walker was the first recipient of the NCRTV Museum's Lifetime Achievement in Broadcasting Award.

Past honorees of the Annual Ed Walker Lifetime Achievement Dinner Gala includes Ms. Maureen Bunyan, Mr. Arch Campbell, Mr. Ed Walker and Mr. Rob Bamberger.

To purchase tickets and support this evening of excellence, please visit www.ncrtv.org.

The NCRTV Museum was founded in 1993 and has been at its current location in Bowie, Maryland since 1999. The museum has an extensive collection of old radio and TV literature and radio and television artifacts as well as working displays. The NCRTV Museum is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of radio and television history. The museum offers guided tours on Friday (9 a.m.–4 p.m. ET) and Saturday and Sunday (12–4 p.m. ET) or by appointment. In conjunction with the City of Bowie, The National Capital Radio & Television Museum presents the history of broadcasting, a medium which so dramatically shaped our lives from the 1920s to today. The goal of the museum is to continue to teach all generations about the importance of the history of broadcasting while developing and educating the younger generations on the concepts behind today's broadcast technology.

Dr. Richard Bell Inaugurates "Authors for Truth" Series

By DONNA SCOTT-MARTIN
Prince George's County Memorial Library System

OXON HILL, Md. (Feb. 19, 2020)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) and the PGCMLS Foundation will launch a new "Authors for Truth" series with Dr. Richard Bell, author of "Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped into Slavery and their Astonishing Odyssey Home," at the Oxon Hill Branch Library on Tuesday, **March 24, 2020** at 7 p.m. The series provides Prince George's County residents with opportunities to meet and hear from national authors whose works address social justice issues and promote equality.

"Stolen" recounts the story of five young, free black boys who fall into the clutches of the most fearsome gang of kidnapers and slavers in the United States in 1825. Bell's book uncovers a reversed underground railroad and exposes the atrocities of slavery evident in this gripping true story. The boys' daring escape and quest to bring their captors to justice echoes "Twelve Years a Slave" and "Never Caught." NPR describes "Stolen" as "...a remarkable narrative, in part, because of

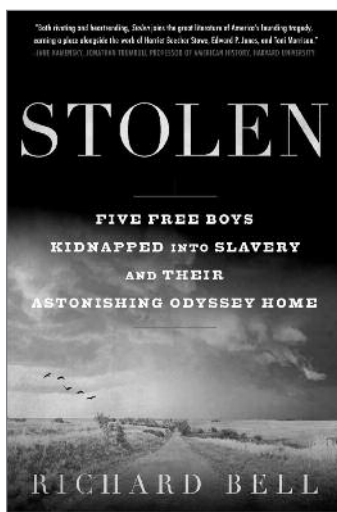


PHOTO COURTESY WWW.SIMONANDSCHUSTER.COM



PHOTOGRAPHY BY THAI NGUYEN

Dr. Richard Bell

how Bell manages to clearly relate the complex politics of the time without ever legitimizing the choices made by those who bought and sold human lives." This is a PGCMLS Foundation sponsored event, and attendees are invited to make a suggested donation of \$5 at the door. A book signing will follow the program and books will be available for purchase at the event.

Dr. Richard Bell is an associate professor of history at the University of Maryland and author of the book "Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped into Slavery and their Astonishing Odyssey Home" (2019).

He has won more than a dozen teaching awards, including the University System of Maryland Board of Regents Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching, the highest honor for teaching faculty in the Maryland state system. He has held major research fellowships at Yale, Cambridge, and the Library of Congress, and is the recipient of the National Endowment of the Humanities Public Scholar award. He serves as a Trustee of the Maryland Historical Society, as an elected member of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and as a fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

The Prince George's County

Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), consisting of 19 branches, offers strategies for life-long learning. Skills development library resources include Brainfuse's HelpNow and JobNow, MANGO Languages, ArtistWorks for Libraries and Learning Express Library. Early literacy resources are Ready 2 Read Centers, Ready 2 Read Backpacks, ABCmouse, AWE Early Literacy Stations, Beanstack, Playaway Launchpads and PebbleGo. All these services are free with your PGCMLS library card. Also, enjoy 3D printing, Minecraft, DREAM (Digital Resources for Electronic Applications in Media) Lab, chess clubs and TAG (Teen Action Group), free at your library. Engage with us on social media: Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, Instagram, and YouTube. Check out our mobile apps and learn more about what your library has to offer at www.pgcls.info.

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) Foundation provides critical philanthropic support to the Prince George's County Memorial Library System. It strengthens the Library's capacity to innovate, adapt to change, and ensure our libraries remain a vital resource for all in Prince George's County now and in the future. Our libraries are more than a place to find books; they are spaces—both physical and online—to empower individuals, strengthen families, and make our county a better place.

Get Your Tickets Now For "An Evening Under the Tuscan Sky"

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (Feb. 17, 2020)—Take a trip into a starlit night in the Italian countryside, surrounded by gardens, groves and vineyards without heading to the airport. Get your tickets or sponsor a table now for Hospice of the Chesapeake's "An Evening Under the Tuscan Sky". The nonprofit's annual gala will be held from 5:30 to 11 p.m. Saturday, **April 4, 2020**, at The Hotel at the University of Maryland in College Park.

The gala is the organization's signature black tie event and features an open bar, fine cuisine, a silent and live auction, a band and dancing. Its largest fundraiser of the year, the gala draws close to 500 attendees and directly supports the mission and programs of Hospice of the Chesapeake.

This year's leading sponsors include Annapolis Dermatology

Associates and The Wilburn Company at the Platinum level; Greenberg Gibbons and John and Terri Hussman at the Gold level; and Anne Arundel Dermatology; Reliable Contracting Company, Inc.; University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center; and University of Maryland Capital Region Health at the Silver level. Bronze level sponsors are Anne Arundel Medical Center; John and Cathy Belcher; Chesapeake Supportive Care; Exelon Power; Gilligan Design Group; Liqified Creative, LLC; Moran Insurance; Whiteford, Taylor & Preston, LLP; and Zachary's Jewelers.

For more than 40 years, the nonprofit has been serving the community and continues to celebrate its status as a leader in hospice, palliative and bereavement care in Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties.

For tickets, visit www.hospicechesapeake.org/2020-gala. For sponsorship opportunities, contact Meg Lawton at 443-837-1531 or mawton@hospicechesapeake.org.

Spotlight: Make Plans NOW!

Home School Day

Date and Time: Wednesday, March 4, 2020, 10–11:30 a.m.
Advanced reservation required.

Description: Enrich your homeschoolers study of Colonial Maryland. Children will learn what life was like for the majority of people living in 18th century Maryland. Home life, dress, hygiene, diet and education of a tenant farm family will be explored.

Cost: \$2/student Adult chaperone free

Ages: Program appropriate for ages 5–13 years.

Location: Darnall's Chance House Museum, 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20910

Contact: 301-952-8010; TTY 301-699-2544

Applications to display artwork due **March 5:** College Park Seniors Art Show & Reception

Date and Time: Friday, March 13, 2020, 4–8 p.m.

Description: Seniors 55+ are invited to show their work on a first-come basis (not juried). Two or three-dimensional work, including paintings, photographs, pottery and sculpture, textiles, needle and fabric art, will all be accepted. Artists are asked to reserve an easel or table space for their display; table top easels and standing floor easels will be acquired as needed. The Art Exhibit will bring Seniors together to celebrate their arts and to build a more robust and lively community in College Park. **To display your artwork, fill out our application at www.cpae.org by March 5.**

Location: Catholic Student Center, 4141 Guilford Drive, College Park, MD 20740

Contact: info@cpae.org

Harriet Tubman Day

Date and Time: Saturday, March 7, 2020, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Events start 11 a.m.

Description: Enjoy live music, programs by Team Tubman and self-guided activities as we honor the life and legacy of Harriet Tubman during the Year of the Woman. Visit <https://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/eastern/tubman.aspx>, download flyer.

Cost: Free; donations are always welcome.

Ages: All ages are welcome. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

Location: The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park and Visitor Center, 4068 Golden Hill Rd, Church Creek, MD 21622

Contact: 410-221-2290

Archaeology Lab Experience

RSVP required!

Date and Time: Saturday, March 7, 2020, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Description: Reach out and touch history! Join the Archaeology Program for this rare opportunity to process real artifacts discovered in the Mount Calvert Slave Quarter excavation. In the summer of 2019, we excavated the area where a community of enslaved men, women, and children lived in the decades before emancipation and found nails and bricks from the buildings, along with animal bones and oyster shells discarded after meals, fragments of plates and bottles, and personal items like buttons, keys, and tobacco pipes. Come prepared to get your hands dirty during this immersive experience!

Cost: Free

Ages: 8 & up

Location: Mount Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park, 16801 Mount Calvert Rd, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Contact: 301-627-1286; TTY 301-699-2544

Winter Youth Musical: Theseus and the Monster in the Maze

Date and Time: Saturday, March 7, 2020, 7 p.m.; Sunday, March 8, 3 p.m. and Saturday, March 14, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Description: See an original show performed by a talented teenage cast.

Cost: \$5. **Advance purchase recommended.**

Location: Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Contact: 301-397-2208

Maimouna Youssef

Date and Time: Saturday, March 7, 2020, 8–10 p.m.

Description: Maimouna Youssef (also known as Mumu Fresh) is a Grammy-nominated singer, songwriter, activist and acclaimed hip-hop artist. Maimouna's work continues to establish her as a true global citizen, a musical healer, teacher, powerhouse performer, and community pillar.

Cost: \$25/person; \$20/person: seniors (60 & better), students (18 and younger), and groups of 20 or more. Get your tickets online, or call 301-277-1710.

Ages: All ages are welcome

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

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

DiVerse Gaithersburg

Date and Time: Sunday, March 8, 2020, 2–4 p.m.

Description: Prince George's County Poet Laureate Sistah Joy will join Melanie Figg and Susan Sonde as Featured Poets at this poetry and open mic event at the Quince Orchard Library. A book-signing will follow the reading.

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages are welcome.

Location: Quince Orchard Library, 15831 Quince Orchard Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Riversdale Chamber Music Society

Date and Time: Sunday, March 8, 2020, 2:30–4 p.m.; the event ends at 3:30 p.m.

Description: Enjoy a performance of Brahms's Clarinet Quintet by the US Army String and mingle with the musicians at a post-concert reception.

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages are welcome.

Location: Riversdale House Museum, 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737

Contact: 301-864-0420, TTY 301-699-2544

Calendar of Events

February 27–March 7, 2020

PGCBlackBizChallenge Presents

Challenge Accepted: An Evening of Black Excellence

Date and Time: Thursday, February 27, 2020, 6–8:30 p.m.
Description: How you can support black-owned businesses in Prince George's County? Join us to network with local black business owners at our "Evening of Excellence" event. Networks build wealth and prosperity for generations to come!
Cost: Free. **Register at Eventbrite**
Location: Overdue Recognition Art Gallery, 15402 Emerald Way, Bowie, MD 20716
Contact: 301-383-2875

Black Table: Soulful Sounds & Soul Ties Talk

Date and Time: Friday, February 28, 2020, 6–8:30 p.m.
Description: Let's talk relationships, music, and comedy! Join Kentland Community Center of Excellence as we discuss finding hope for yourself in an unhealthy "soul tie." You can never fall so far that you can't be restored! The night closes with the joyful sounds of laughter, music, and food.
Cost: \$10/person
Ages: 13 and up
Location: Kentland Community Center, 2413 Pinebrook Ave., Landover, MD 20785
Contact: 301-386-2278; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Black History Movie Night

Date and Time: Friday, February 28, 2020, 7:30–9:30 p.m.
Description: Get comfortable as you prepare to watch a Black History themed movie. Tell a friend to come join the experience. Popcorn and refreshments will be provided.
Cost: Free!
Location: Huntington Community Center, 13022 8th Street, Bowie, MD 20720
Contact: 301-464-3725; TTY 301-699-2544

Family Day

Date and Time: Saturday, February 29, 2020, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
Description: Visit the annual Black History Month exhibition and engage in a range of activities for all ages. Activities include film screenings, storytelling, art activities, and guided tours of the exhibition.
Cost: Free!
Ages: All ages are welcome.
Location: Harmony Hall Arts Center, 10701 Livingston Rd, Fort Washington, MD 20744
Contact: 301-203-6070; TTY 301-699-2544

Leap Day Disco!

Date and Time: Saturday, February 29, 2020, 3–4:30 p.m.
Description: Kids and Parents, party down at our own neighborhood "Disco!"
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages are welcome.
Location: Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Rd, College Park, MD 20740
Contact: info@cpae.org

Rightfully Hers: A New Pop-up Exhibition from the National Archives

Date and Time: Sunday, March 1, 2020, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. (March 1–August 31; Closed April 12, May 25, and July 4)
Description: "Rightfully Hers" is presented, in part, by the National Archives Foundation through the generous support of Unilever, Pivotal Ventures, Carl M. Freeman Foundation in honor of Virginia Allen Freeman, AARP, and Denise Gwyn Ferguson. "Rightfully Hers," a new pop-up exhibition from the National Archives, commemorates the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. The exhibit contains simple messages exploring the history of the 19th amendment ratification, women's voting rights prior to and after the ratification, and its impact today. Despite decades of marches, petitions, and public debate to enshrine a woman's right to vote into the constitution, the 19th Amendment—while an enormous milestone—did not grant voting rights for all. The challenges of its passage reverberate to the ongoing fight for gender equity today. ADA: Yes
Cost: Free with a paid house tour fee! (Seniors: \$4, Adults: \$5, Children (5–18): \$2, Children (4 and Under): Free
Ages: 10 and older
Location: Montpelier Historic Site, 9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD 20708
Contact: 301-377-7817; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Job Search Seminar

Date and Time: Friday, March 6, 2020, 7–10 p.m.
Description: Teens will learn how to fill out applications, do resumes, and cover letters to prepare for employment.
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Location: Rollingcrest / Chillum Community Center, 6120 Sargent Road, Chillum, MD 20782
Contact: 301-853-2005; TTY 301-699-2544

Read Across District Heights

Date and Time: Saturday, March 7, 2020, 8 a.m.–12 noon
Description: Prince George's County Poet LaureateSistah Joy will participate in the Inaugural Read Across District Heights-Community Breakfast: A Celebration of Reading.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages are welcome.
Location: 2000 Marbury Drive, District Heights, Maryland 20747

Arts on a Roll @ Creative Suitland: Mask Making

Date and Time: Saturday, March 7, 2020, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Description: Join Arts on a Roll for an engaging, hands-on, visual arts workshop. A free drop-in activity for the whole family! Arts on a Roll @ Creative Suitland is a partnership program between the Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County and Creative Suitland. Create your own mask and explore how the use of masks are a way to express individual and group identity. The class artistically investigates the role masks play in cultures and societies around the globe before reflecting on masking behavior in American society.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages are welcome.
Location: Creative Suitland, 4719 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, MD 20746
Contact: 301-446-3232; TTY 301-699-2544

PROGRAM RECAP: African American Memories in Song

A standing room only audience enjoyed the performance of African American Memories in Song. It was a beautiful sunny afternoon on February 15.

The program was presented at the Belair Mansion, one of the City of Bowie's Museums. It featured pianist Susan Ricci Rogel and vocalist James Dorsey. After an introduction by Susan Proctor, Historic Properties Manager, the pair reminded us in song and via instrument the memory of the African American experience in the 19th and early 20th century as illustrated through their work, play, spiritual, and art songs.

Selections included "Lift Every Voice and Sing," "De Gospel Train," "Go Down Moses," "Steal Away," "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," "Juba," "Grief," and "The Young Warrior." An anecdote explained the purpose served by the musical selection in assisting the slave in his trek to freedom.

Pianist Susan Ricci Rogel is a member of Theta Chapter (DKG Maryland) of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and a resident of Bowie. She is a highly sought collaborative pianist in the Washington area. Her venues include Weill Recital/Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, DAR Constitution Hall, the Barns of Wolf Trap, and Strathmore Hall. She has been a co-owner of the Ricci Rogel Studios since 1991.

James Dorsey is a teacher in the Prince George's County Public School System. He helps young people develop their sense of personal identity. He is a National Board Certified Teacher in music and a graduate of UMBC and Loyola University Maryland. He performs locally and sings with the Chesapeake Chorale based in Bowie, Maryland.

A most appreciative audience provided persistent rounds of applause in demonstrating their delight.

—Lorraine W. Johnson



PHOTOS COURTESY GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Artworks commemorate the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment which was the culmination of the women's suffrage movement. Governor Larry Hogan proclaimed 2020 as the Year of the Woman in honor of this historic milestone and women heroes from Maryland.

Banneker-Douglass Museum Premieres The Black Vote Mural Project

Governor Larry Hogan, Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture Recognize Historic Movements for Right to Vote

By SOO KOO
Governor's Office Of Community Initiatives

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Feb. 15, 2020)—The Banneker-Douglass Museum, a unit of the Maryland Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, hosted a reception to launch The Black Vote Mural Project exhibit today. This exhibit recognizes historic movements for the right to vote by exploring the intersection of public art, Black voices, and civil rights with sixteen murals that transform the interior galleries of the museum. Painted by regional artists, these murals interpret the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) 2020 theme: African Americans and the Vote.

"Maryland is proud to recognize African American heroes and icons who fought for equality, justice, and the right to vote," said Governor Larry Hogan. "I appreciate the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture and Banneker-Douglass Museum for working tirelessly to keep these important legacies alive, and to promote and protect African American history and culture in Maryland."

The goal of The Black Vote Mural Project is to provide our visitors with a dynamic experience that demonstrates artistic excellence, cultural expression, and historical preservation. Through this exhibit and our public programs, we will highlight important milestones in the year 2020—the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment (1920) which was the culmination of the women's suffrage movement and is honored by the Year of the Woman proclaimed by Governor Hogan; and the sesquicentennial of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) which gave Black men the right to vote after the Civil War. This project will examine these stories, celebrate memories, preserve

history, and illuminate cultural experiences that demonstrate we are stronger together.

"As an election year, it is critical that we consider the power of African American voices," said Chanel Compton, Executive Director of the Banneker-Douglass Museum. "Our impact on the political process can be seen through these murals which educate, inspire, and move us toward a stronger future by examining our past."

Featured Artists: Steuart Hill Academic Academy, Ryan Allen, Bowie State University (Public Arts Class), Nikki Brooks, Jay Coleman, Lloyd Foster, Olivia Gittens, Jabari Jefferson, Gina Lewis, Megan Lewis, Janie McGee, Gretta McGill, Future History Now, Latoya D. Peoples, Zsudahya Nzinga Terrell, James Terrell, and Ernest Shaw.

This exhibit and program series is made possible by the support of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, the Banneker-Douglass Museum Foundation, Friends of the Banneker-Douglass Museum, Wells Fargo, Maryland Arts & Humanities Council, Prince George's Arts & Humanities Council, Arts County of Anne Arundel County, Four Rivers Heritage Area, Sonja Swygert Foundation, Anne Arundel County Historical Trust, Kwesi Mfume, Herbert Frisby, and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Public Programs: The Banneker-Douglass Museum will host monthly programs for people of all ages and backgrounds such as lectures, youth conferences, and celebrations. Voter registration will be featured at signature events. For more information on the program series, visit <https://bdmuseum.maryland.gov/events>.

The Black Vote Mural Project is open to visitors Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m.–4 p.m., from February 15, 2020 until December 28, 2020.

Earth TALK™ Replacing Meat With...Edible Bugs?

Dear EarthTalk:
Is switching out meat for edible bugs to satisfy our protein needs a viable way to ratchet down our carbon emissions and overall environmental impact?
—J. Cruz., Gary, IN

It's true that humans' affinity for meat—especially beef, lamb, pork and to a lesser extent chicken—takes a huge toll on the environment given the resources and emissions expended to rear and then transport it to market. In fact, the UN's Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports that raising livestock accounts for some 18 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions globally. Meanwhile, on the consumption side, cutting meat out of our diets is perhaps the most efficient way we can slash our personal carbon footprints. But eating only vegetables can make it hard to get enough protein, and that's where bugs—with half or more of their body weight consisting of proteins—

could play an important role in providing us with enough sustenance to feed ourselves, especially as our population surges to nine billion by 2050.

Proponents of eating bugs argue that emissions from so-called "insect farming"—that is, growing bugs for the express purpose of feeding humans and/or animals with them—is a much more energy- and emissions-efficient way to produce protein than traditional forms of livestock agriculture. "If we bartered beef, pork or chicken for a handful of insects, the environmental impact of our animal-protein intake would drop dramatically," says Canadian environmentalist David Suzuki. "Insects are especially effective at converting their food because they're cold-blooded and therefore waste less energy to keep warm."

If you're curious about edible insects, why not try some? Lewiston, Maine-based EdibleInsects.com ships edible insects coast to coast. UK-based PureGym is a big proponent of deriving dietary protein from insects, and offers several seemingly tasty recipes on its website and YouTube channel. Creamy Mealworm and Coconut Noodles, anyone?

Of course, just because crickets, ants, cockroaches and worms are becoming more common as food delicacies doesn't mean that eating them is new for humans. The FAO points out in its "Edible Insects" report that while bugs have always been part of human diets, recent innovations in so-called "mass-rearing systems" mean we can produce a lot more

insect-based protein than we used to: "Insects offer a significant opportunity to merge traditional knowledge and modern science in both developed and developing countries."

Suzuki couldn't agree more: "Emerging entotechnologies (from the Greek root entomo, for "insect") bring together applications that focus on what insects do best." For instance, food waste or agricultural residue is fed to fly larvae, which in turn is used as a meat-free but protein-rich livestock feed. "[L]arvae have voracious appetites for fruit and vegetable residues and could help improve the way we handle...organic waste," reports Suzuki. "It's a way to give a second life to stale food, rather than sending it to compost bins or biogas plants."

"Considering that nearly 45 percent of fruit and vegetables produced worldwide is wasted, this is not a fringe idea," says Suzuki. "After feeding the hungry with the highest quality unsold portions of our food, we could feed our breeding animals with insects raised on organic residues from grocery stores and restaurant kitchens."

CONTACTS: David Suzuki's "Save The Planet: Eat An Insect," davidusuzuki.org/story/save-planet-eat-insect/; FAO's "Edible Insects," [fao.org/3/i3253e/i3253e.pdf](https://www.fao.org/3/i3253e/i3253e.pdf); PureGym, [puregym.com](https://www.puregym.com).

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. Check out our other columns at <https://www.emagazine.com/earthtalk-qa/>. To donate, visit <https://www.earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.



CREDIT: FLAVIO ENSIKI, FLICKRCC

Some environmentalists are opting to meet their dietary protein needs by eating bugs—like this Thai green curry crickets dish—instead of meat.

COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

UNITED METHODIST

WESTPHALIA
United Methodist Church

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

**Two Worship Services:
8 and 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30**

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

**Rev. Dr. Timothy West,
Pastor**

ALL ARE WELCOME

Web Site:
www.westphaliaum.org

BAPTIST

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF HIGHLAND PARK**

'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., 11:00 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.fbhp.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.

**Rev. Dr. Kendrick D. Weaver,
Pastor**
www.uumchurch.com

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

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

Rev. Ranessa 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

Church Directory
Advertisements are
paid ads.

Call the
Prince George's Post
today and
have your Church
information published in
our Directory.

Call Today!
301-627-0900

CLASSIFIEDS

AUTOMOBILE DONATIONS

DONATE AUTOS, TRUCKS, RVs
Lutheran Mission Society of MD.
Compassion Place ministries help
local families with food, clothing,
counseling Tax deductible. MVA li-
censed #W1044. 410-636-0123
www.CompassionPlace.org

BUSINESS SERVICES

Increase your presence by advertis-
ing on FACEBOOK; TWITTER
AND GOOGLE-ADS; Call our
Multi-Media Specialists to experi-
ence the success of social media
advertising today; CALL 410-212-
0616

MISCELLANEOUS

Join other advertisers of the MDDC
Small Display Advertising Network.
Grow your Revenue with a business
size ad in this network; Let the
Multi-Media Specialists help you in-
crease your customer base; CALL
TODAY 410-212-0616—See your
results NOW

SERVICES—MISCELLANEOUS

DAY; With One Call; With One Ad
Placement & One Bill; You'll
Reach the Entire Mid-Atlantic Re-
gion; Call 410-212-0616

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Let the Multi-Media Specialists of
MDDC Advertising Network assist
you in growing your business and
increasing your customer base. Call
today at 410-212-0616 and start see-
ing results NOW. www.mddcpress.com

Place your ad on Facebook; Twitter;
Linkedin and Google Ads Words
through MDDC's Social Media Ad
Network; Call today to find out
maximize your presence on Social
Media; 410-212-0616; or email
Wanda Smith at wsmith@mddcpress.com

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

Delaware New Move-In Ready
Homes! Low Taxes! Close to
Beaches, Gated, Olympic pool.
Homes from low \$100's, No HOA
Fees. Brochures Available 1-866-
629-0770 or www.coolbranch.com

SERVICES—MISCELLANEOUS

Place a business card ad in the Re-
gional Small Display 2x2/2x4 Ad-
vertising Network—Reach 3.6 Mil-
lion readers with just one call, one
bill and one ad placement in 71
newspapers in Maryland, Delaware
and DC TODAY! For just
\$1450.00, Get the reach, Get the
results and for Just Pennies on the
Dollars Now...call 1-855-721-6332
x 6 or email Wanda Smith at
wsmith@mddcpress.com

BUSINESS SERVICES

Place a business card ad in the Re-
gional Small Display 2x2/2x4 Ad-
vertising Network—Let MDDC
help you grow your business! Call
TODAY at 410-212-0616 to in-
crease your customer base and get
results.

Bulk advertising at its best: adver-
tise in over 70 newspapers and reach
millions of readers with ONE call.
Broaden your reach and get results
for pennies per reader. Call Wanda
at 410-212-0616 or email
wsmith@mddcpress.com.

Subscribe to
The Prince George's Post!
Call **301-627-0900**

FOR SALE

SERVICES—MISCELLANEOUS

Increase your customer base and
get great results by placing your
ads in the MDDC—Classified Ad-
vertising network! Call today 410-
212-0616 Ask for Multi-Media
Specialist—Wanda & watch your
results grow.

**THIS
COULD BE
YOUR AD!**

Call today
for a quote.
301-627-0900

Increase your Frequency with your
Advertising Call one of MDDC's
Multi-Media specialists to grow
your business. Call Wanda at 410-
212-0616 or email wsmith@mddcpress.com.

HOMEOWNERS WANTED!
Kayak Pools looking for Demo
Homesites to display new mainte-
nance free Kayak Pools. Save thou-
sands of \$\$, Unique opportunity!
100% financing available. 1-888-
788-5464

SAVE loads of money with your
advertising BUDGETS; CON-
NECT with the Multi-Media Spe-
cialists of the MDDC Advertising
Networks; GET Bulk Advertising
Opportunities NOW;CALL TO-

EASY ACCESS MEANS EASY LIVING.

50% OFF INSTALL*

Schedule your free design consultation!
(844) 538-5547

ShelfGenie
EVERYTHING WITHIN REACH

LeafFilter GUTTER PROTECTION

**NO MORE GUTTER CLEANING,
OR YOUR MONEY BACK - GUARANTEED!**

0% AND 15% OFF SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS
*Contact us for additional details.

FREE ESTIMATES! **1-844-566-3227**
Promo Number: 285
Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat:
8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

844-934-0799

BOGO 40% OFF
Call for details

**Renewal
by Andersen**
WINDOW REPLACEMENT

The Better Way to
a Better Window

CANADIAN RIVER CRUISING

4, 5, 6, 7 night cruises on the
St. Lawrence and Ottawa rivers
aboard the nostalgic
replica steamboat
CANADIAN EMPRESS

Quebec City, Ottawa, Kingston departures...Call now to request our brochure
www.StLawrenceCruiseLines.com **1-800-267-7868**
253 Ontario St., Suite 200 Kingston, ON K7L 2Z4 TICO #2168740

Ban from A1

collect the revenue from bag fees under this state bill; Montgomery County collects about \$2.5 million annually, which goes toward stormwater management and water quality improvements, according to the legislative analysis.

Testifying on Tuesday, legislative director for Maryland Association of Counties Natasha Mehu wants an amendment that would "preserve" county programs like Montgomery County's "Water Quality Protection Charge Fund."

Mehu said the association is not in favor of the bill unless a "portion" of the proposed 10-cent fee per "durable" carryout bag is left for county programs.

Howard County's planned fee on disposable plastic bags would charge consumers 5 cents per plastic bag, 1 cent going to retailers and the rest to the county, according to a news release from the county's council.

The revenue would go into the "Disposable Plastics Reduction Fund," a part of which would provide reusable bags to "vulnerable individuals," according to county legislation CB64-2019.

Maryland Hunger Solutions director Michael Wilson testified Tuesday, voicing concern that the bill has a "disparate" impact on low-income consumers.

Wilson said Hunger Solutions would support the legislation with an amendment that either exempts or creates a fund for people in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—also known as food stamps—to reduce the fee's potential impact on low-income consumers.

Maryland Retailers Association president Cailey Locklair said they support the bill because a statewide ban is preferable to multiple county bans, which are burdensome to "multijurisdictional" retailers.

Locklair brought out a paper bag during Tuesday's bill hearing, telling delegates that retailers would not turn a profit off of the 10 cent "durable" bag fee.

"Our retailers want one law that they can comply with that is straightforward for consumers in the state," Locklair testified.

Locklair told Capital News Service that the Maryland Retailers Association worked with the bill's sponsors.

"One size fits all (legislation) can't work for everyone, but we want to be at the table when this gets negotiated," Locklair said.

J.S. Edwards LTD President Edward Steinberg testified in favor of the bill and said the plastic bags the men's clothing store uses cost 45 cents while paper bags are \$1.20.

"Bags, in price, can vary considerably. Another thing to consider is ... it's the face of your store, it's your advertising," Steinberg said. Melvin Thompson testified against the bill on behalf of the Restaurant Association of Maryland.

Sitting next to Thompson was Eric King, co-owner of Sea King Seafood Markets in Ellicott City, who also testified against the bill. King said plastic bag use should be "curbed," but the bill has "some unintended consequences."

"When you get steamed crabs, we put them in a brown paper bag. You get that paper bag in a plastic bag because 30 minutes later the steam and condensation from the crab has soaked through, and your crabs will be on the floor of your car," King said.

The bill creates a civil penalty worth up to \$500 for stores caught violating the plastic bag ban or failing to charge 10 cents per "durable" carryout bag, according to the state legislative analysis.

Currently, eight states ban disposable plastic bags: California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Delaware, Maine, Oregon, New York and Vermont, according to the legislative analysis.

"This bill is really a win for our consumers, a win for our state and local governments, a win for the environment and a win for our businesses," Lierman said at Tuesday's bill hearing.

Plan from A4

thank our partners who were involved in the planning and will continue to play an important role in the implementation of this plan."

Approval from the federal Children's Bureau means Maryland can intensify efforts to ready for full implementation of the Family First Prevention Plan with its state, local, and family partners, and with the support of the federal government.

"Maryland's Family First Prevention Plan builds on the success of current transformation efforts like our Families Blossom/Place Matters, which has reduced the number of children in foster care by 55%, from 10,330 in July 2007 to 4,696 in December 2019," said Michelle L. Farr, Executive Director of the Social Services Administration at DHS. "Family First reinforces the prevention work we are already doing to help change Maryland for the better."

Since Family First was enacted in 2018, the Department of Human Services has collaborated on a rigorous planning process with a diverse set of partners to design how Maryland will deploy prevention services to strengthen and stabilize families. Partners include service providers, state and local leaders, sister agencies, community members, local families, as well as child welfare experts from Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago and the University of Maryland's School of Social Work.

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) is the state's primary social service provider; annually reaching more than one million people. Through its 24 local departments of social services, the agency pursues opportunities to assist people in economic need, provide preventive services, and protect vulnerable children and adults in each of Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City. Visit dhs.maryland.gov.

**Your local marketing experts with
UNLIMITED REACH.**

MARYLAND | DELAWARE | DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MDDC PRESS
ADVERTISING SERVICES

Kevin Berrier
443-508-1936
KBerrier@MDDCPress.com