

# The Prince George's Post



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## County REALTORS® Award \$12,500 in Scholarships to High School Seniors

The Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® instituted the David and Juanita Maclin Memorial Scholarship Fund in memory of REALTOR® David Maclin, the 2006 PGCAR President.



PHOTO COURTESY PGCAR

Pictured from left to right: Carlos Lancaster (PGCAR Treasurer), Shameeka Price (PGCAR President-Elect), Veera Phillips (PGCAR 2019 Past President), Melanie Gamble (PGCAR Secretary), Yolanda Muckle (PGCAR 2020 President), Donny Frederick (PGCAR 2020 Scholarship Committee Chair & Board Member), Michael Gerard Carroll, Nezhia Osayi, and Jaily Brown

By PRESS OFFICER

### The Prince George's County Association of REALTORS®

David and Juanita contributed to the economic development of Prince George's County, and they were key contributors to the growth and development of area churches. Their efforts were acknowledged by numerous awards, certifications, and special recognitions.

In addition to their service to the community, David and Juanita served the REALTORS® of Prince George's County and Maryland in many capacities. David was twice named REALTOR® of the year by PGCAR and was named Maryland's REALTOR® of the Year posthumously in 2007, and his wife Juanita had served on PGCAR committees.

It is because of their many contributions to the community, that the Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® established the David & Juanita Maclin Memorial Scholarship Fund in 2008. Based on the theme "How I made a difference in my Community," the Scholarship Fund awards college scholarships to Prince George's County High School seniors who are actively engaged in their communities.

To date, the Scholarship Fund has provided over \$92,500 in scholarships to students graduating from Prince George's County High Schools.

This year, through the Fund, four Prince George's County high school seniors were awarded \$2,500 college scholarships and two were awarded Honorable Mention scholarships of \$1,250 to the col-

lege of their choice. Those receiving 2020 scholarships are:

- **Aiden Albert Benyarku** of Eleanor Roosevelt High School, planning to attend The Ohio State University
- **Jaily Brown** of Eleanor Roosevelt High School, planning to attend Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
- **Michael Gerard Carroll** of Riverdale Baptist School, planning to attend Liberty University
- **Nyla Howell** of Eleanor Roosevelt High School, planning to attend the University of Maryland Baltimore
- **Nezhia Osayi** of Parkdale High School (Honorable Mention), planning to attend the University of Rochester
- **Ly Phan** of Northwestern High School (Honorable Mention), planning to attend the University of San Francisco

## Samuel Dixon Art Outside the Box

Maryland artist Samuel Dixon was selected for inclusion in the Hyattsville Community Development Corporation's Traffic Box Art Wrap project, designed to transform select traffic signal cabinets in Riverdale Park community into public artworks. Traffic signal cabinets—the stainless steel structures located at every signalized intersection. Dixon's entries "Garden Movement," a charming floral watercolor painting wraps is located at the intersection of 48th and Riverdale Road. This public art allows the community of Riverdale Park to brand themselves and encourages a sense of ownership and pride within the neighborhood. The transform cabinet helps

brighten the landscape of the Prince George's County community and can be a small but important way of creating a sense of neighborhood identity.

Samuel Dixon, primarily a watercolorist, also works in oil and acrylics, described as an American Abstract Impressionist. Influenced by painting of Monet, Whistler and the branch of impressionist, his works capture the essence of inspiration and temperament.

A collection of Samuel Dixon Prints can be found the next time you're online. This project is made possible through funding from the Town of Riverdale Park and the support of the Maryland State Highway Administration.



PHOTOGRAPH BY SAM DIXON

## Nearly 58,000 Marylanders Gain Health Coverage During Two Special Enrollment Periods

By PRESS OFFICER

### Prince George's County MD

LANDOVER, Md. (July 16, 2020)—A total of nearly 58,000 Marylanders enrolled in health coverage during Maryland Health Connection's two special enrollment periods that began in February and March and ended Wednesday, July 15.

The Maryland Health Insurance Easy Enrollment program launched Feb. 26 as the first of its kind in the nation. The Comptroller of Maryland asked state tax filers to check a box on their state tax return if they lacked health insurance and desired that information to be shared with the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange. Several states are in the process of looking at creating similar programs.

Since February:

- More than 41,000 filers checked the box
- More than 3,700 enrolled as of July 13

Final numbers are pending, be-

cause tax filers had until the July 15 tax filing deadline to check the box on their state tax form, and will have several weeks to enroll.

On March 16, the marketplace also opened a special enrollment period in response to the coronavirus pandemic. With support from Gov. Larry Hogan and participating insurance providers, Maryland held one of the longest special enrollment periods in the nation.

"Maryland Health Connection was quickly able to respond to this global crisis and help our Maryland families get the health coverage they need," says Michele Eberle, executive director of Maryland Health Benefit Exchange.

Since March 16 when the coronavirus special enrollment period began, 54,028 enrolled. Of those:

- 35 percent purchased private plans
- 65 percent enrolled in Medicaid
- 90 percent of enrollees received free or reduced cost coverage
- Prince George's County had the highest enrollment with 10,897;

Montgomery County had nearly as many, with 10,594

- Ages 18–34 made up 35 percent of enrollments
- Nearly a third were self-reported Black/African American, the largest group of enrollees

Marylanders who have lost health coverage due to job loss or have experienced other major life changes may still be eligible to enroll through Maryland Health Connection within 60 days of the loss of coverage. Those who qualify for Medicaid may enroll any time of year.

To enroll, visit MarylandHealthConnection.gov or download the free "Enroll MHC" mobile app. For free consumer assistance, call 855-642-8572 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays.

Help is available in more than 200 languages through the call center, as well as Relay service for the deaf and hard of hearing. Trained navigators and brokers statewide offer free help enrolling by phone.

## Hoyer Announces Appointments to the U.S. Service Academies

By ANNALIESE DAVIS

### Office of Congressman Steny Hoyer

WASHINGTON (July 16, 2020)—Today, Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) announced the names of 13 Fifth District students appointed to the United States Service Academies. The students, nominated by Congressman Hoyer, have accepted offers to the Air Force Academy, the Naval Academy, the Merchant Marine Academy, and the Military Academy at West Point. All of the service academies require a nomination from an authorized nominating source.

Additionally, Congressman Hoyer announced two students have received the Army Congressional ROTC Scholarship. The scholarship allows Members of Congress to nominate up to five candidates who were not offered an appointment to a military service academy.

"I join in congratulating these outstanding students on their achievements," said Congressman Hoyer. "Each of these students has demonstrated a strong desire to serve their communities and their nation. Although we can't celebrate their achievements in person,

I was honored to nominate them, and I look forward to the great work they will do in service to our country."

### U.S. Air Force Academy

Tyme Collins, Charles County  
**Michael Mack, Prince George's County**

James Smith, Anne Arundel County

### U.S. Naval Academy

**Christian Bryant, Prince George's County**

Dillon Miller, Calvert County

### U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

Sarah Baker, Anne Arundel County  
John Sullivan, Charles County  
Alan Usher, Anne Arundel County  
Ethan Williams, Calvert County  
Danielle Sullivan, Charles County - Prep School Offer

### U.S. Military Academy at West Point

David Foust, Anne Arundel County  
**Derrick Griffin, Prince George's County**

**Jamie Kraske, Prince George's County**  
**Army Congressional ROTC Scholarship**

**Louisa Ellison, Prince George's County**  
Christopher Hernandez, Charles County

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Reestablished in 2020, the Foundation supports the essential work of the Prince George's County Memorial Library System's 19 branches and online library ... The PGCMLS Foundation is raising funds to support many programs and services provided by the Library.

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### 'Disk Detective' Needs Your Help Finding Disks Where Planets Form

"We're trying to understand how long it takes for planets to form," said astrophysicist Marc Kuchner, the Disk Detective project lead at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt.

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# COMMUNITY

## Earn an Accredited High School Diploma Online With a Scholarship From PGCMLS

By DONNA SCOTT-MARTIN  
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (July 20, 2020)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) supports lifelong learning for adults with a unique opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma online with a full scholarship through Career Online High School (COHS). The program is open to Prince George's County residents who have successfully completed 8th grade and will be at least age 21 by September of their enrollment year. PGCMLS will award full scholarships for the Career Online High School to qualified learners looking to earn a high school diploma and advance their careers. COHS is a GED alternative that provides students with maximum flexibility to earn a valuable credential online at a self-directed pace.

Part of the world's first accredited, private online school district, Career Online High School is designed to reengage adults into the education system and prepare them for entry into post-secondary career education or the workforce. Interested Library customers are asked to first complete a self-assessment, which will determine eligibility. Once eligibility is determined, PGCMLS staff interview prospective students prior to awarding tuition scholarships.

Once enrolled, Career Online High School pairs each student with

an Academic Coach, who assists with developing an individual career plan, offers ongoing guidance and encouragement, evaluates performance, and connects the learner with the resources needed to demonstrate mastery of the course material. COHS diplomas are AdvancED/SACS/NCA/NWAC-accredited and fully integrated with the Common Application ("Common App") system for applying to higher education programs.

PGCMLS staff member Andrea Thomas, who serves as the program lead for COHS and area assistant for the New Carrollton Branch Library discusses the valuable opportunity that COHS presents below:

Career Online High School is a gem in the offerings from PGCMLS. It is a wonderful program that allows the student to receive a diploma instead of a GED. PGCMLS is proud of the 24 students who have successfully graduated from the program. They are a diverse group with wonderful stories. One of our students had to move to Canada while she was working on her program. Through her determination and grit, she finished even though she moved several times. Another one of our students found that she had to take a sabbatical in the middle of her studies. She returned and finished her degree. I would recommend this program to anyone who is serious about completing



their studies. It is not easy, but it is so worth the effort!

Classes are supported by board-certified instructors and students have 24/7 access to the online learning platform. Coursework begins in one of eight high-growth, high-demand career fields—across a wide spectrum from childcare and education to certified transportation—before progressing to the core academic subjects. Many students are able to graduate in as few as four to six months by transferring previously earned high school credits. Get empowered to open doors to new opportunities. COHS is only available in English at present. English language learners are encouraged to utilize the Library's free language resources to prepare to be successful with COHS.

## Maryland Community Health Resources Commission Awards Prince George's Community College COVID-19 Emergency Relief Grant

By COURTNEY DAVIS  
Prince George's Community College

LARGO, Md. (July 16, 2020)—Prince George's Community College (PGCC) announced today that it has received a \$50,000 COVID-19 Emergency Relief Grant from the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission. Funding will be used to provide a new telehealth/telemonitoring student wellness program focused on diabetes, obesity, and hypertension, and personal protective equipment for PGCC students and community members.

Prince George's Community College program director for the Wellness Center, Michele Richardson, and the dean of Student Success and Engagement, Dr. Scheherazade Forman, will collaborate to identify and enroll 50 high-risk students who voluntarily choose to participate in the program. Grant funds will provide each participant with a special glucometer, blood pressure machine, or weight scale to use at home, and the devices will send data automatically to a monitoring physician under contract with the College. The physician will provide monthly monitoring of each participant's data and will provide education, advice, and medication adjustments, as appropriate.

"We are particularly excited about this grant because it will allow PGCC's Wellness Center to serve students and community members in new ways," said Anne Shepard, director of Grants and Resource Development. "As always with our grant projects, we keep the fact that we are the community's college in mind and try to match regional needs with funder priorities—and this grant does

just that. When our community does well, our College will do well."

"We are pleased to support Prince George's Community College in their efforts to provide access to health care services for its student population as our state perseveres through the impact of COVID," commented Mark Luckner, executive director, Maryland Community Health Resources Commission. "The Wellness Center is an important resource and the Commission is thrilled to support its delivery of services for students."

In order to establish sustainability, both for this project and for the new health practices individuals put into place through the monitoring program, participants will agree to complete both a pre-test and a post-test regarding their health-related practices and their particular health conditions. They will also view a webinar related to nutrition and healthy cooking during their participation in the project. Baseline physiologic parameters of each participant will also be measured to assess the effectiveness of and build a case for the project's sustainability.

Similar programs have shown excellent outcomes, helping to reduce the severity and incidence of illness and severe complicating factors that can result from underlying conditions such as those addressed in the new grant program. Such underlying conditions are a particular concern, as we grapple with COVID-19 and its myriad impacts.

Project takeaways are expected to include better health for participants, a pilot program that can be replicated not only at PGCC, but also at other colleges, and data that PGCC can use to secure funding for this and similar projects after the grant term ends.

## Rabid Cat Alert in Prince George's County

Health Department seeks public's help identifying others who may have been exposed

By DELLIA HAWTHORNE WILLIAMS  
Prince George's County Health Department

LARGO, Md. (July 18, 2020)—The Prince George's County Health Department is alerting community members that a rabid cat was recently found in the 16000 block of Baden Westwood Rd, Brandywine, MD. On or around July 9, 2020 a stray cat bit an individual. The cat is described as a short haired female orange and white tabby with a pronounced limp to the back legs and might have been seen with at least 4 kittens. The cat was captured, euthanized and sent for rabies testing. The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) confirmed that the cat tested positive for rabies on July 14.

Due to the risk of rabies exposure, the Health Department seeks the public's help in finding any persons who may have had contact with the

cat in the identified area. If you know of any persons or animals that may have had contact with the above cat or kittens between June 25 and July 9, please contact the Health Department immediately at 301-583-3750.

"Rabies is often a life-threatening disease; however, it is highly preventable by beginning post-exposure treatment immediately following exposure. Treatment is determined by the type of animal contact and patient assessment," said Dr. Ernest Carter, Prince George's County Health Officer. "Rabies is transmitted through the saliva of an infected animal and is easily transmissible through a bite of an infected animal. The best method to eliminate the risk of rabies exposure is to avoid contact with unfamiliar animals. We

See **RABIES** Page A8

## CEO Dr. Goldson Announces Plan to Reopen PGCPs Safely and Responsibly

New school year will begin with distance learning for the first two quarters.

By OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS  
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (July 15, 2020)—Today, CEO Dr. Monica Goldson announced her plan to safely and responsibly reopen Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) for the 2020-21 academic year. Following broad input from families, employees and community members, PGCPS will continue distance learning through January 2021. Prince George's County has been the epicenter of the COVID-19 public health crisis in Maryland. In light of the health disparities in communities that house more than 136,500 students and 20,000 employees, there is a significant public health concern if schools were to reopen this fall for in-person instruction.

Recently parents, educators and administrators were surveyed about their preferences for the upcoming school year given the ongoing pandemic. Forty-six percent of families expressed their preference to continue the distance learning model implemented in the spring; the percentages of educators and administrators in favor of distance learning exceeded 50 percent.

"During this global pandemic, we cannot ignore the health and safety of our students, parents and educators even while working each day to provide the highest quality teaching, learning and leadership at every school," said Dr. Goldson. "Our students and families are facing a disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. We recognize that no scenario is perfect or comparable to a traditional school year. While it is a difficult decision to not reopen our school buildings for in-person instruction, it is necessary to keep our students and communities safe."

This fall, PGCPS will enhance the distance learning program with enhanced learning software and more live instruction blended with pre-recorded lessons. Student meals will be available for distribution at all schools. The school system will also establish Parent Support Centers throughout the county to assist families with technology support and other aspects of distance learning.

Today's announcement is an important step forward in providing families with information to help make the best decisions for their children.

[This] week, PGCPS will release a report outlining how the school system will support all students, in particular English language learners, those with special needs and youth from families with low-income, during the distance learning phase. A special Board of Education meeting will be held

in late July to review the plan.

As during the initial distance learning phase, PGCPS will invest in helping to close the digital divide by providing devices and internet connectivity for families in need. The school system will distribute additional devices prior to the first day of school, Monday, Aug. 31. As part of a new districtwide 1:1 technology initiative, PGCPS aims to equip every student with their own digital device.

PGCPS will continue working with state and local health experts, government partners and the Maryland State Department of Education as information about the pandemic continues to evolve. The school system will adhere to guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, mandate social distancing and hand washing, require face masks in PGCPS buildings and conduct thorough cleaning and sanitizing procedures.

### Reopen PGCPS Plan

#### Distance Learning Instruction

- Lessons will be held five days a week.
- Lessons will also be broadcast on PGCPS-TV for younger students.
- Technology will be provided on a 1:1 ratio.

#### Digital Device Distribution

- Students will continue using PGCPS-supplied Chromebooks distributed in the spring.
- Additional Chromebooks will be available for pick-up in the weeks ahead and wifi hotspots will be established.
- The Connect PGCPS initiative will continue to provide Internet access to families.

#### Student and Family Supports

- All schools will serve as meal sites and offer twice-weekly pickups, similar to the model utilized this spring.
- PGCPS will establish Parent Support Centers throughout the county to assist families with technology support and other aspects of distance learning.

#### Key Dates

- Aug. 31—First Day of School: Distance learning will begin for all grade levels through the end of the second grading quarter in January.
- Dec. 1-18—Depending on health conditions, PGCPS will offer families the option to begin hybrid instruction at the start of third quarter (February) for the remainder of the school year.
- February to June—Second Semester: If possible, PGCPS will deliver hybrid instruction with two days of in-person learning and three days of distance learning. Full-time distance learning would continue for those students who opted in.

**Join the Prince George's County Department of Family Services and Commission for Individuals with Disabilities for the**

30<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

ADA

Americans with Disabilities Act

Virtual Celebration

Saturday, July 25, 2020 | 2PM - 4PM

Join the Celebration at

https://mypgc.zoom.us/j/93772659265 | Meeting ID: 937 7265 9265 | Password: 643744

Angela D. Abnerwicks  
County Executive

Elana DeLoe-Butler  
Director

# COMMENTARY

## Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,  
Children's Defense Fund



### ChildWatch:

## Protecting Children During Pandemic Times

On July 21 and 22, people of faith from across our nation will gather for a virtual CDF Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry. Our theme is Re-Imagining Our Future: Children, Justice, and Joy. Registration is free and open to all and more important than ever because of the extraordinary struggles our nation is facing. At this moment it has never been clearer that unwavering faith and an unceasing commitment to building a beloved community and a just nation are urgently needed. This year's Proctor will feature an extraordinary array of prophetic leaders, theological leaders, and presenters. On July 19, 20, and 23, extra sessions specifically designed for seminarians and students will be available and open to everyone. Our virtual Proctor will also feature focused calls to advocacy action to lift up children's needs, get out the vote, and encourage elected officials to act on CDF's policy agenda that

could not be more timely or important. COVID-19 poses an unprecedented public health, economic, and unemployment crisis across our nation magnifying the impact of systemic racism, poverty, economic disparities and economic injustice based on race and gender. The needs of our nation's most vulnerable children—children of color, immigrant children, poor children and children in the child welfare system—must remain the top priority. Thanks to the leadership of our great Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the HEROES Act, an expansive plan that builds on the groundwork laid by previous coronavirus relief packages to ease the damaging health and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Speaker Pelosi is the right woman in the right place at the right time. She has long been a champion of children's and families' needs and has helped lead the charge to pro-

vide relief during the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has refused to take up the House bill, noting he was hitting "pause" on additional COVID-19 legislation until at least July. His inaction is nothing new. He has neglected the great needs of tens of thousands of people in his state while in Congress and voted against the interests of the most vulnerable of his Kentucky constituents. Under Speaker Pelosi's leadership, the House of Representatives has passed and sent to the Senate at least 23 bills (many of which are reflected in CDF Action Council's recent Legislative Report Card) that if enacted would improve the odds for America's children left behind. Majority Leader McConnell has refused to bring even one to the floor for consideration. The House proposals range from the much needed HEROES Act to address the ongoing pandemic to housing assistance for youth aging out of foster care, veteran families, and children in low-opportunity neighborhoods; strengthening the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA); the American Dream and Promise Act; and a bipartisan firearms background check bill that would take a critical step forward to help address America's deadly romance with guns.

The White House and Senate GOP leadership have claimed their next COVID-19 relief package would be about "bringing back jobs and making sure we take care of our kids." Let's hold Republican leaders accountable for ensuring any next COVID relief package includes significant action to protect our children.

The House bill included much of what our children and families need to weather this unprecedented crisis. At the same time, many additional provisions are needed to fully meet the needs of all our nation's children and families, especially the most vulnerable. Majority Leader McConnell should immediately move forward additional COVID-19 legislation next week that includes critical provisions for children and families. Research shows that the investment Congress has already made to date to support children and families is working, but it must be sustained and broadened to prevent our unacceptable poverty rate from growing even larger and to make sure we Leave No Child Behind.

This crisis has upended every aspect of all of our lives. Millions of children have lost the stability that all children depend on. This has meant disruption of important daily routines with beloved caretakers or teachers and classmates. For millions, it's meant the loss of regular instruction in school—increasing the risk of children falling behind. Families and parents who have lost jobs need more help immediately.

There are two things you can do right now to help. Please join CDF's Proctor Institute July 19–23 for Re-Imagining Our Future: Children, Justice, and Joy. And please make it your top priority to hold your congressional leaders accountable for ensuring no child is left behind and that babies and children take precedence over wealthy individuals and corporations. —July 17, 2020

## Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



### To Be Equal:

## Our Children's Lives Are Too Precious to Risk Reopening Schools Without a Safety Plan

*"Common sense and intelligence can still determine what we do, even in this crazy environment. We're not going to use our children as guinea pigs."*

—New York Governor Andrew Cuomo

Of the many questions the deadly coronavirus pandemic has forced the nation to confront, the question of whether to reopen schools is one of the toughest.

Experts agree that the shutdown is widening the racial achievement gap. Black parents are far more likely to work in jobs that can't be done from home, so they're less available to supervise at-home learning. More than a third of low-income households with school-age children don't have high-speed internet access, compared to just 6% of affluent households. One in four teenagers in a low-income household don't have access to a computer.

Getting students safely back in school should be a top priority. But the Trump administration keeps ignoring the "safely" part.

It's true that children seem less susceptible to infection, but scientists aren't sure why. Children under 19 represent 22 percent of the population, but only 5 percent of coronavirus cases. And 90 percent of children who contracted the virus experienced mild or non-existent symptoms. But children with underlying conditions such as diabetes, congenital heart disease, seizures and obesity are at higher risk for serious symptoms. And far too little is known about a rare but serious complication of the virus known as multi-symptom inflammatory disease, or the role children might play in spreading the virus to adults.

Rather than devise a comprehensive plan to deal with the risks, the Trump administration wants to ignore them. The Centers for Disease

Control has issued guidelines for schools, but both President Trump and Vice President Pence have urged school districts not to follow them and have even pressured the CDC to change them.

The National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine, an influential committee of scientists and educators, this week issued a report that stressed the urgency for younger children to attend school in person. But the committee recommended safety guidelines even more stringent than the CDC's, experts went further than guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, calling for surgical masks to be worn by all teachers and staff members during school hours, and for cloth face coverings to be worn by all students, including those in elementary school.

According to an alarming report by the Washington Post, "White House officials hope Americans will grow numb to the escalating death toll and learn to accept tens of thousands of new cases a day."

Simply put: we will not.

President Trump himself has pointed toward the experiences of countries like Germany, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, where reopened schools have not led to major outbreaks. But the virus is under far better control in Europe than it is in the United States. The U.S. has set new records for daily infections seven times in the span of 11 days. In the past two weeks, more than 692,000 new cases were reported in the U.S. The European Union, with a third more residents, reported about one-twelfth as many cases.

We desperately need to send children back to school. And we desperately need to reopen our economy. But we can't do either until we bring the virus under control.

## Council Chair Todd M. Turner Issues Statement on the Passing of Civil Rights Icon, The Honorable John Lewis

The Prince George's County Council joins with our residents, the nation and the world, in mourning the immeasurable loss of the Honorable John Lewis, a revered champion of civil rights and passionate fighter for social justice.

The Council extends its condolences to the family and loved ones of Congressman Lewis; the City of Atlanta and his constituents; the congress-

sional colleagues and staff who served with him; and those who fought alongside him on the front lines of this nation's historic movement for racial and social justice.

Congressman Lewis left us a legacy marked by his strong courage and deep commitment to humanity, inspiring all to continue the work for justice and equality.

## Prince George's County State's Attorney Aisha N. Braveboy's Statement Updating the Community on Operation Safe Release

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (July 16, 2020)—Prince George's County State's Attorney Aisha N. Braveboy released the following statement to update the community on Operation Safe Release:

"As we begin to progress towards entering into Phase Three of our courthouse reopening process, I am pleased to update the community on our Operation Safe Release efforts. Since the start of the pandemic, I have stressed the importance of moving swiftly and responsibly to reduce the jail population. And I am well aware of the impact that the coronavirus has had on our community and inside the jail. As State's Attorney, I made it a priority for my office to be proactive in safely reducing the jail's population. This is reflected in our outcomes.

"On March 1, 2020, we activated Operation Safe Release, where we have been actively working with the Office of the Public Defender, the Judiciary and the Department of Corrections to reduce the jail population. Our efforts are ongoing, which is critical to ensuring that the detention center has the designated space to appropriately care for those who must remain in custody as a matter of public safety.

"As a result, we safely reduced the jail population by 192 inmates since March 1, 2020, an almost 40% reduction. There were 718 inmates in the county's detention center on March 1st. As of July 1, 2020, there were 526—approximately 1/3 of the detention center's inmate capacity—who remain in custody, most of whom are charged with violent crimes, very serious offenses or serving out sentences. Over 1,600 individuals have been released from the detention facility to include those defendants released during their initial appearance before a Commissioner, which occurs shortly after their arrest.

"Under Operation Safe Release, each case is reviewed to determine the appropriate recommendation for release. The State's Attorney's Office is not considering the release of defendants who pose a risk of danger to any alleged victims and/or the community at large. The goal is to safely and judiciously reduce the inmate population, prioritizing everyone's health and safety during the coronavirus crisis.

"My first priority will always be the safety of our victims and our community. As such, we cannot and will not recommend the

release of any individual charged with a violent crime, such as murder, rape, child sex abuse, or any other similarly serious offense and who poses a danger to the community. Under no circumstance will 100% of the prison population be released.

"I am especially grateful to the leadership of the County and members of our Circuit and District Court bench for accommodating our efforts. To the residents of this great County, I thank you for your continued support and for apprising my office of your concerns to be addressed. You know firsthand what is actually happening here in Prince George's County and we are grateful to continue serving each of you. You have assured us that our efforts to prevent the spread of coronavirus while maintaining your safety have been effective.

"My office will continue to participate in all pretrial release hearings at both the commissioner level and before a judge to provide the appropriate recommendations. We remain committed to the importance of addressing and protecting public safety at all ends of this ongoing crisis now, and in the days and weeks to come."

## Prince George's Community College Commits to 100 Percent Student Voter Registration and Participation

By COURTNEY DAVIS  
PGCC

LARGO, Md. (July 14, 2020)—Prince George's Community College (PGCC) President Dr. Charlene M. Dukes has joined more than 160 other college presidents and chancellors in committing to full student voter registration and participation on their campuses in all elections through the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge (ALL IN). To support full student voter participation of all eligible students, ALL IN and its Higher Education Presidents Council has launched a call to action for higher education presidents and chancellors to fully engage students in electoral participation.

"I am proud to sign the Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation," said Dukes. "We are committed to working with campus stakeholders to increase electoral participation in 2020 and beyond. As an institutional leader, I value providing opportunities to empower all eligible voters at PGCC to register and turn out to vote."

While college student voter participation in elections increased from the 2014 midterm election to the recent 2018 midterm election, less than half of college students made their voices heard by casting their ballots. According to the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement, voter turnout at the more than 1,000 institutions participating in the study increased by 21 points from 19 to 40 percent.

"Today, young people are truly seeing how the decisions their elected officials make impact their everyday lives, and in this critical time, ensuring that they are able to make their voices heard safely is critical," said Jennifer Domagal-Goldman, executive director of the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. "We are excited to partner with higher education leaders across the country to change the culture at colleges and universities around engagement in our nation's political process. We are calling on all college presidents to make this commitment to their students, campuses, and communities."

By signing the pledge, Prince George's Community College is committed to ensuring all eligible students are able to register to vote and cast informed ballots in the 2020 general election and beyond. Further, the College is committed to fostering campus cultures that support nonpartisan student civic learning, political engagement, and student voter participation. As such, the College will organize virtual registration and voter turnout parties around National Voter Registration Day on September 22 and Vote Early Day on October 24.

The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge is a nonpartisan, national initiative recognizing and supporting campuses as they work to increase democratic engagement and full student voter participation. The Challenge encourages higher education institutions to help students form the habits of active and informed citizenship, and make democratic participation a core value on their campus.

More than 650 campuses, enrolling more than 7.5 million students, have joined the Challenge since its launch in summer 2016.

## The Prince George's Post

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# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## Social Security Matters

### Ask Rusty:

## Why Won't Social Security Give Me My Widow's Benefit?

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

### Dear Rusty:

I have been a widow since November 2019. I retired under the Federal Civil Service Retirement System. Before my husband died, I made an appointment with Social Security to see if I could receive his Social Security if he passed on. I was told I could. Since he passed, Social Security has adamantly refused to let me have my husband's Social Security. I have had many problems with them. Who is correct here? I have lost \$1400 per month. My social security check is about \$126 per month. **Signed: Frustrated Widow**

**Dear Frustrated Widow:** First, please accept my condolences on the loss of your husband. Unfortunately, I don't have good news for you.

Because of your Federal Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) pension, you are subject to the "Government Pension Offset" (GPO) provision of Social Security. The GPO reduces the survivor benefit for anyone who also has a pension from an employer which did not participate in Social Security (neither the employer or the employee paid into Social Security), and your Federal CSRS pension falls into this category. GPO reduces any survivor benefit you might otherwise be entitled to by 2/3rds of the amount of your CSRS pension, which often eliminates the survivor benefit. For clarity, GPO also applies to a Social Security benefit from a living spouse.

As you probably already know, your CSRS pension caused your own Social Security benefit, earned from other work outside of your Federal employment, to be reduced by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). Unfortunately, whoever you previously spoke with at the Social Security Administration prior to your husband's death gave you some incorrect information, because you are also subject to the GPO. And that is why Social Security will not now pay you a survivor benefit from your husband.

I'm afraid you have no recourse on this, as both the GPO and WEP have been the law for decades. The Federal Government has now changed to a "Federal Employee Retirement System" (FERS) which fully participates in Social Security (both employees and the employer contribute to Social Security), so more recent Federal retirees are not subject to the WEP and GPO rules. But there are still many U.S. State and local government employers which, to varying degrees, do not participate in Social Security and whose employees are still impacted by both GPO and WEP.

The 2.1 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] [www.amac.us](http://www.amac.us) is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation's capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country. And the AMAC Foundation ([www.AmacFoundation.org](http://www.AmacFoundation.org)) is the Association's non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting and educating America's Seniors. Together, we act and speak on the Association members' behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at [www.amac.us/join-amac](http://www.amac.us/join-amac).

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

## PGCMLS Foundation Announces Board of Directors

By DONNA SCOTT-MARTIN  
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (July 14, 2020)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) Foundation is proud to announce its new Board of Directors. Reestablished in 2020, the Foundation supports the essential work of the Prince George's County Memorial Library System's 19 branches and online library.

"I am grateful for the PGCMLS Foundation board members who are taking a leadership role to bring additional resources to the library system," says Roberta Phillips, Chief Executive Officer of PGCMLS. "It is vital that Prince George's County has a strong library foundation. Private support will expand our services to reach even more people in our communities with access to technology, books and materials, and outstanding programming for lifelong learning."

The PGCMLS Foundation is raising funds to support many programs and services provided by the Library. This includes expanding the D.R.E.A.M. Lab, the digital resources makerspace at Fairmount Heights Library, continuing the "Authors for Truth" social justice and equality speaker series, supporting Summer @ Your Library, hosting the "Ready, Set, Read" program to teach digital financial literacy skills, and assisting the Library in meeting the daily needs of staff and customers. Learn more about the PGCMLS Foundation at [pgcmls.info/donate](http://pgcmls.info/donate).

### About our Board Members

#### Linda Washington Douglas – Chair

After more than 38 years of federal government service, Linda Washington Douglas retired from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). In her last position with the FDIC, Washington Douglas advocated at national outreach events for minority and women-owned businesses, which resulted in numerous firms obtaining multi-million dollar contracts. After retirement, she launched the Washington Douglas Consulting firm. She is married and has been a Prince George's County resident for more than 40 years.

#### Patti Kim – Vice Chair

Born in Busan, South Korea, Patti immigrated to the U.S. on Christmas, 1974. Convinced at the age of five that she was a writer, she scribbled gibberish all over the pages of her mother's Korean-English dictionary and got in big trouble for it. But that didn't stop her from writing. The author of "I'm Ok," "A Cab Called Reliable," "Here I Am," and "It's Girls Like You, Mickey." Kim lives in University Park, Maryland, with her husband, two daughters, and a ferocious terrier.

#### Tracy Simpson – Secretary

Tracy Simpson has lived in Prince George's County since age 3 when her football player father was traded to the Washington Redskins. She was a student

in the Prince George's County Public Schools, and attended Prince George's Community College and The Catholic University of America. Her professional experience includes work as a corporate manager, trainer, marketing content developer, and special events organizer. Simpson served as a therapeutic licensed foster parent for 20 years until the untimely diagnosis of her late husband with early onset Alzheimer's and Lewes Body Dementia. She remains focused on youth social development and the support of resources for caretakers and families affected by dementia. In addition, Simpson currently serves on her church Board of Trustees.

#### Ian Spears – Treasurer

Ian Spears is the Legislative Director for Representative Lucy McBeth of Georgia and works on Capitol Hill. He started his work on the Hill in the Office of Leader Steny Hoyer, whose district includes portions of Prince George's County. Spears is a proud Prince George's native and he attended Riverdale Baptist High School. He obtained his bachelor's degree in political science from Frostburg State University and his master's in public policy from George Mason University. Spears resides in Largo.

#### Damon Austin – Member

Damon Austin is a librarian with more than two decades of experience in library and information sciences. He is currently the director of library and media services for DeMatha Catholic High School in Hyattsville and has held library faculty positions at the University of Florida and the University of Maryland. Austin serves ex-officio with the Board of Trustees of the American Library in Paris via the American Library Association. In addition, he is a professional tennis coach and player consultant, working with Top 100 ranked men and women touring professionals.

#### Karen Clark-Reddon – Member

A lifelong resident of Prince George's County, Karen Clark-Reddon is a proud graduate of the University of Maryland College Park. As a mentor and personal enrichment coach, she empowers adults and pre-teens to follow their dreams. Clark-Reddon is a serial entrepreneur who turned her passions into profits and founded Devonshire – A Perfect Events Company, LLC. She and her daughter Kaelyn co-own DBK Bath Bombs and soaps. Clark-Reddon is the vice president of the Friends of the South Bowie Branch Library.

#### Dottie Crecelius – Member

Dottie Meinhardt Crecelius has been the president of the Friends of the Baden Library for the past 12 years. She is a retired business owner of a building permit expediting company and very involved her family business, property management and investment group. She lives in Baden, on a farm in the southern part of Prince

George's County where she spends time with her husband, children, and grandchildren.

#### Antoine Lunsford – Member

Antoine Lunsford is an elementary school educator with Prince George's County Public Schools and a children's book author of the "Little Andy's World" series. He is the host of "Antoine and Friends: Local Children's Author Series," a weekly virtual program for PGCMLS.

#### Roberta Phillips – Ex-Officio Member

Roberta Phillips is the chief executive officer of the Prince George's County Memorial Library System. She assumed the role in 2019, having previously served as the director of planning and projects at the Richland Library in Columbia, South Carolina, library director for the Orangeburg County Library in Orangeburg, SC, and as assistant director of collection management for the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library. Phillips also worked as a school librarian and as a teacher. She holds degrees from Michigan State University and Wayne State University. Phillips lives in Brandywine with her husband Chris.

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.

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) helps customers discover and define opportunities that shape their lives. The Library serves the 915,000+ residents of Prince George's County, Maryland through 19 branch libraries, a 24/7 online library, and pop-up services throughout the community. PGCMLS is a responsive and trusted community-driven organization. Programs, services, and outreach activities serve booklovers, immigrants and refugees, job seekers, children, young professionals, seniors, and families alike. The Books from Birth and Ready 2 Read programs make the Library the primary source of early literacy education and Kindergarten readiness programs in the County. PGCMLS' robust online offerings include curated content collections for kids, teens, educators, Spanish speakers, and more. Special programs include the D.R.E.A.M. Lab, STEM Pals, and 3D printing, which offer teens and lifelong learners with opportunities to learn cutting-edge technology and STEM skills for job readiness or personal enrichment. The Library's Laurel Branch Library received the 2018 AIA/ALA Library Building Award and was designated the best new public building in Maryland.



Register here:

<https://tinyurl.com/peorecessionproof>

### NAIMA BARNES

Naima Barnes, ChFC® is a financial planner and speaker. As a speaker, she has empowered over 300 people to take control of their finances to jumpstart their journey to become financially independent.

Questions? Contact [PEOTarget3@gmail.com](mailto:PEOTarget3@gmail.com)

## Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter

Presents:

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A presentation on personal finances and how they have been affected by COVID 19. Learn more about:

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- Protecting your Legacy

Saturday July 25, 2020

10:00-11:00 am

Zoom link will be provided to all registrants

Financial Empowerment Center



# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## Historic Preservation: A Step on the Road to Social Equity

*African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund Announces \$1.6M for Its 2020 Grantees*

By PRESS OFFICER

National Trust For Historic Preservation

WASHINGTON (July 16, 2020)—The call to action by American citizens during this year has made us all rethink how we view American history. Protestors have demanded the nation target injustice and fix the systems that promote the unequal treatment of African Americans. The African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund was founded at a similar time of crisis, after the 2017 rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, that led to the creation of a national preservation campaign meant to uplift and honor the Black American experience.

“The AACHAF was created out of the recognition that we in the field of preservation needed to do more,” said Brent Leggs, executive director of the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund. “We realized that the American story we often tell repeatedly negates the transformative contributions of African Americans, whose capability, intellect, and creativity were and still are invaluable to the building of this nation. The Trust decided then and there to create the Action Fund as a way to help fill in those gaps. We realized that preservation of historic sites, where African Americans changed the American landscape, could be one way our nation comes to understand the need to create a more fair and just society. We saw a more inclusive approach to historic preservation as one step on the long road to heal the divisions between us.”

Through its African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, the Trust is investing more than \$1.6 million in grants to 27 sites and organizations across 22 states and the District of Columbia. Thanks to our partnership and a generous grant provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, we are funding communities to protect, restore, and interpret African American historic sites and uncover hidden narratives of the African American contribution to the American story.

“The Action Fund plays a crucial role in elevating Black voices and stories in our national dialogue about arts and culture, and in expanding our collective knowledge and understanding of African-American history,” remarked Mellon Foundation President Elizabeth Alexander. “We are thrilled that the 2020 Action Fund grants will continue to provide transformative support to Black cultural organizations and heritage sites throughout the country.

Leggs underscored the importance of this work, noting, “The recipients of this funding exemplify centuries of African American resilience, activism, and achievement, some known and some yet untold, which tell the complex story of American history in the United States. Over the past two years, the Action Fund has funded 65 historic African American places and invested more than \$4.3 million to help preserve landscapes and buildings imbued with Black cultural heritage. With urgency and intention, the nation must value the link between architecture and racial justice and should fund these and other cultural assets to ensure their protection and preservation.”

Grants are given across four categories: capacity building, project planning, capital, and programming and interpretation. Local grantees include:

### Banneker-Douglass Museum Foundation

### Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (Annapolis, Maryland)

The Banneker-Douglass Museum is the only museum in the country operated by an African American state commission, the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture—the first state ethnic commission in the nation. Housed within the 1874 former Mt. Moriah AME Church, the museum’s hiring of a development director will help them achieve their programmatic and philanthropic goals.

### The Clifton House (Baltimore, Maryland)

Home of luminary African American poet Lucille Clifton, the Clifton House will provide established and emerging writers and artists with networking and creative development, education, and programming opportunities.

### Association of African American Museums (AAAM) (Washington, D.C.)

With 539 members in 41 states, AAAM is the premier organization for African American museums nationwide. Funding will enable AAAM to strengthen their board and create training for its members about the preservation, identification, and evaluation of African American historic sites.

## 5 Ways Seniors Can Safeguard Against Cyber Criminals Stealing Their Identity

As the use of personal computers and cell phones has grown over the last two decades, identity theft has surged. One study found that over 14 million consumers were victims of identity fraud in 2018, and that their out-of-pocket costs totaled \$1.7 billion.

Seniors have been particularly vulnerable in recent years to online scams and telemarketing tricks. Unfortunately, another negative effect of COVID-19 has been scammers targeting seniors and the elderly by developing coronavirus hoaxes that prey on fears of the virus.

The growing problem of identity theft for all age groups makes it vital for consumers to develop a strategy to protect their devices, and those of their loved ones, although no system is perfect, says Chris Orestis (www.retirementgenius.com), a senior care advocate known as the “Retirement Genius” and president of LifeCare Xchange.

At a minimum, no one should give out their Social Security number to a stranger and should never click a link in an email from an unknown source. But cyberthieves have many ways to steal your identity, invade your computer, or raid your bank account and credit cards. What should you do to protect yourself from these scam artists and criminals?

“First, it’s important to understand that identity-theft protection services don’t actually stop identity theft,” Orestis says. “There is no fool-proof way to stop identity theft from happening; there are just too many different types of valuable information and avenues for cyberthieves to hack them.

“The Federal Trade Commission actually prohibits identity-theft services from using the word ‘prevention,’ and if a company is promoting that as part of their service they should not be trusted. But regardless of any service you might use, no one can be disengaged from protecting their own identity. It’s important to take care of your identity and credit health with smart and regular maintenance, just like you do with your physical health.”

Orestis offers a five-step plan to help protect your identity:

- **Register for fraud alerts.** “You want these alerts on credit cards and bank accounts so you can be notified quickly of any suspicious activity on your accounts,” Orestis says. “With fraud alerts, data security companies and financial services will text, email or phone you if there is a suspected security breach, or if they detect spending on a card or account that doesn’t align with your spending habits or your location.”
- **Review accounts regularly.** Vigilance of your identity protection means you should go over your monthly bank and credit card statements and review online account ac-

tivity weekly. “Immediately notify your bank or credit companies if you detect fraudulent activity,” Orestis says. “Either freeze your account or cancel your card. If you believe there could be a problem with your credit, you can place a credit freeze by phone with each credit agency’s customer service line.”

- **Monitor your credit reports.** Orestis says monitoring credit reports from Experian, Equifax and TransUnion is another way to find discrepancies that may indicate fraud.

- **Don’t leave a paper trail.** “It’s a good idea to get rid of physical private records and statements that include personal or financial data,” Orestis says. “Identity thieves get into mailboxes and trash. They can use receipts to piece together your personal data, so it’s smart to shred those and avoid any kind of paper trail.”

- **Create strong passwords.** Orestis suggests mixing upper and lower-case letters with numbers and symbols, and to avoid using the same password for every account. “Not having a strong password on your smartphone or computer is like leaving your house with the front door wide open,” Orestis says. “Identity thieves are counting on people to use the same or similar passwords for their electronic devices and financial accounts. Mix up your passwords, and change them whenever you suspect an account has been compromised.”

“Identity theft and cyber security are a very real threat in today’s internet-connected world,” Orestis says. “We all live online and are exposed to a lot of risk if we don’t do the right things to protect ourselves.”

*Chris Orestis (www.retirementgenius.com), known as the “Retirement Genius,” is President of LifeCare Xchange and a nationally recognized healthcare expert and senior advocate. He has 25 years experience in the insurance and long-term care industries, and is credited with pioneering the Long-Term Care Life Settlement over a decade ago. A political insider, Orestis is a former Washington, D.C., lobbyist who has worked in both the White House and for the Senate Majority Leader on Capitol Hill. Orestis is author of the books Help on the Way and A Survival Guide to Aging, and has been speaking for over a decade across the country about senior finance and the secrets to aging with physical and financial health. He is a frequent columnist for Broker World, ThinkAdvisor, IRIS, and NewsMax Finance, has been a featured guest on over 50 radio programs, and has appeared in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, CNBC, NBC News, Fox News, USA Today, Kiplinger’s, Investor’s Business Daily, PBS, and numerous other media outlets.*

## MSBDC Webinar—Move From At-Risk to Excellent: Be on the “Road to Excellence” in the New Economy

**Cost: Free of Charge—Registration Required:** <https://msbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/16283>

Contact Information: Russell Teter

- Thursday, July 30 (9–10:30 a.m.) on WebEx by the University of Maryland; after registration, you will receive an account login for live webinar from the University of Maryland.
- No Cost! (Normal Cost: \$35) Powered by the U.S. Small Business Administration

Description: Discover the 14 Blind Spots and the 6 Leadership Strategies for Organizational Excellence; Learn how to hone the skills necessary for making critical decisions and overcoming real-world challenges; The purpose of this program is to help you move your company closer to excellence—by having a vision for where you want to be, a plan to get there, the right positions laid out on the organizational chart, the right people in those positions

following the right systems and processes, and posting measurable results that are analyzed regularly to gauge progress towards critical goals using the right KPIs; Find the answers to the crucial question: What, exactly, stands between my company and organizational excellence, and what do I do about it? Gain access to information that will assist your organization in achieving superior results; How to recognize “hard work” vs. “productive work” as you identify the bottlenecks that are keeping you from higher levels of success; How to carefully implement changes in your leadership style that results in long-lasting, positive effects on your business; RECEIVE a complete “Blind Spot Assessment” of your business (\$1,000 Value; RECEIVE complimentary e-book: “Why Salespeople Fail... And What You Can Do About It!” PLUS MORE RESOURCES, including 10+ Webinars on sales & leadership, 100+ How to Succeed Podcasts, and 20+ Whitepapers!

## Over \$1.4 Million Announced to Support Green Infrastructure Projects to Improve Communities and Provide Jobs

By PRESS OFFICER  
Chesapeake Bay Trust

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (July 14, 2020)—The Chesapeake Bay Trust, manager of the funds from the “Protect the Chesapeake” license plate program, in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announce \$1,429,161 in funding for the Chesapeake Bay Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Grant Program (G3). These awards help communities develop and implement plans that reduce stormwater runoff, increase the amount of green spaces in urban areas, improve the health of local rivers, streams, and the Chesapeake Bay, create “green jobs,” and enhance livability in cities and communities.

This announcement highlights awards made to 25 innovative green infrastructure projects that span Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia with almost half of the recipients being new applicants to the program.

The work of the G3 program is in-

tended to facilitate and encourage community integration of green techniques into traditional “gray” infrastructure projects. As communities have to, for example, repave roads, reconfigure intersections, or implement other gray infrastructure projects, the G3 program encourages them to add green elements at little additional up-front cost for cost effective savings on stormwater treatment, flooding abatement, and other community benefits.

“The EPA congratulates all of our grantees for putting forth Green Infrastructure projects that will support clean water and strong neighborhoods,” said EPA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio. “We are proud to assist communities in their efforts to reduce pollution to local waters and the Chesapeake Bay while improving their economy and quality of life.”

The awardees announced today will not only implement projects that include enhanced community safety and quality of life, the removal of impervious surfaces, expansion of urban tree canopies, inclusion of bioretention and other

stormwater treatment practices, vacant lot retrofitting, and other green infrastructure practices throughout the region’s watershed, but also share their plans and projects to ensure that others in the greater Chesapeake Bay watershed community can benefit from their lead.

“The communities and organizations receiving awards today serve as models for the entire Chesapeake watershed and beyond,” Maryland Department of Natural Resources Secretary Jeannie Hadaway-Riccio said. “By supporting these green infrastructure initiatives, we will continue to foster innovation and acknowledge the multiple benefits of meeting our water quality goals.”

Eligibility for application extends to communities within Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., Virginia, and West Virginia thanks to the collaboration of funding partners within Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic region.

“This year, perhaps more than ever, communities are seeing the importance of providing green spaces and green features that encourage their residents to walk, recreate, and just ‘be’ outdoors,”

stated Dr. Jana Davis, executive director of the Chesapeake Bay Trust. “During these times of the pandemic, so many more residents are realizing the aesthetic, health-related, and even economic power of being outdoors, and grants like these will enhance their ability to do so.”

Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Awarded Since Inception: See the map at [https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/G3-Projects-Map\\_2020.pdf](https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/G3-Projects-Map_2020.pdf).

Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Program Overview: Read at [https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/G3-Infographic\\_July\\_2020.pdf](https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/G3-Infographic_July_2020.pdf).

Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Program Award Numbers Since 2011: Read at [https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/G3-Metrics-Poster\\_2020.pdf](https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/G3-Metrics-Poster_2020.pdf).

The list of the Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Grant Program awardees include:

**Prince George’s County, Maryland, \$100,000**  
Implementation - Publick Playhouse

Stormwater Management Retrofit Project  
Landover, Maryland

For four micro-bioretenion projects at the Publick Playhouse to provide stormwater quality control as a part of a community-wide green street installation.

**Anacostia Watershed Society, \$32,878**  
Greening Fairmount Heights  
Fairmount Heights, Maryland

For a community greening project addressing stormwater runoff, increasing urban tree canopy, native plant gardens, and educational signage along with resident clean-up efforts and events.

**Joe’s Movement Emporium/World Arts Focus, \$30,000**  
Green Street Engineered Design: Story of Water and Art  
Mount Rainier, Maryland

To design visible stormwater treatment train for the Joe’s facility integrating art, storytelling, and creative placemaking practices to engage and educate visitors; address public safety; and treat stormwater runoff.

# FEATURES

## 'Disk Detective' Needs Your Help Finding Disks Where Planets Form

By ELIZABETH LANDAU  
NASA Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

Planets form from gas and dust particles swirling around baby stars in enormous spinning disks. But because this process takes millions of years, scientists can only learn about these disks by finding and studying a lot of different examples.

Through a project called Disk Detective, you can help. Anyone, regardless of background or prior knowledge, can assist scientists in figuring out the mysteries of planet formation. Disk Detective is an example of citizen science, a collaboration between professional scientists and members of the public.

"We're trying to understand how long it takes for planets to form," said astrophysicist Marc Kuchner, the Disk Detective project lead at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, and the Citizen Science Officer for NASA's Science Mission Directorate. "Tracing the evolution of these disks is the main way that we know how long planet formation takes."

Disk Detective has just relaunched with a new website and a new dataset of about 150,000 stars. This new version of the project focuses on M dwarfs, which represent the most common type of star in the Milky Way galaxy. It also concentrates on brown dwarfs, which are balls of gas that don't burn hydrogen the way stars do and often more closely resemble giant planets like Jupiter.

After reading the instructions, participants can start identifying disks right away in Disk Detective. The interface presents a series of real astronomical images and asks visitors questions that will help determine more definitively if a disk is present. The images come from NASA's Wide-Field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE), which now operates as NEOWISE, as well as the ground-based Panoramic Survey Telescope and Rapid Response System (Pan-STARRS) in Hawaii and the NASA-funded Two Micron All-Sky Survey (2MASS), which operated from 1997 to 2001.

"We have multiple citizen scientists look at each object, give their own independent opinion, and trust

the wisdom of the crowd to decide what things are probably galaxies and what things are probably stars with disks around them," said Disk Detective's director, Steven Silverberg, a postdoctoral researcher at Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Kavli Institute for Astrophysics and Space Research.

Advanced users learn more about the objects they're studying using professional data archives. Those who contribute substantial insight receive credit on scientific papers describing the discoveries made through Disk Detective's efforts. Professional scientists then follow up on citizen scientists' input using more sophisticated tools and new observations. Fifteen citizen scientists have already become named co-authors on peer-reviewed scientific papers through Disk Detective.

One enthusiastic Disk Detective "superuser" is Hugo Durantini Luca, a computer technician in Córdoba, Argentina. He began classifying disks with the project in 2014 and since then has taken on additional responsibilities: writing tutorials, moderating discussions, and even helping use telescopes in South America to follow up on interesting targets. While he became involved because of his interest in detecting planetary systems and analyzing images, he says he highly values "the way you are able to work with the science team directly." He is in frequent communication with Kuchner and other professional astronomers, and he participates in a weekly video call for superusers.

"I think we are going to have an interesting new season," Durantini Luca said. "The new way we are processing the data will allow us to analyze the image[s] with better detail."

Citizen scientists at Disk Detective made an important discovery in 2016: a new class of disks, called Peter Pan disks. Most disks around young, low-mass stars should lose their gas, due to planet formation and natural dissipation into space, after 5 million years. Yet Disk Detective citizen scientists discovered a disk with plenty of gas orbiting a star that is roughly 45 million years old.

Since then, seven similar mysteriously young-looking disks have been found, each at least 20 mil-

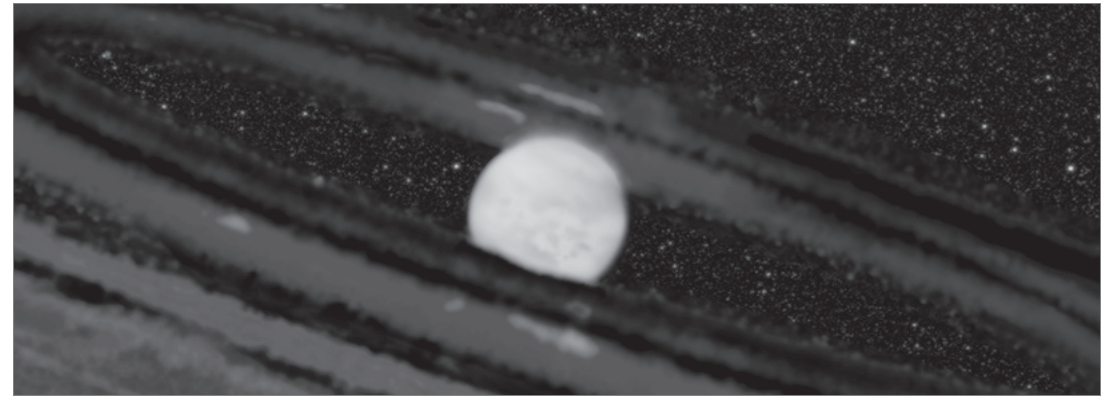


PHOTO CREDIT: COURTESY OF JONATHAN HOLDEN

**Researchers, with the help of citizen scientists, have identified a young brown dwarf that is about 333 light-years away. The brown dwarf, named W1200-7845 and depicted in this illustration, appears to have the kind of disk that could form planets.**

lion years old. Scientists are still puzzling out why planet formation goes on for so long in these disks. They predict that citizen scientists may find as many as 15 new Peter Pan disks through the newly revamped Disk Detective.

"To figure out how disks evolve, we need a big sample of different kinds of disks of different ages," Kuchner said.

More recently, Disk Detective's efforts resulted in a discovery announced on June 2 at the American Astronomical Society's (AAS) 236th meeting, which was held virtually. With the help of citizen scientists, astronomers identified the closest young brown dwarf disk yet, one that may have the capability to form planets. This 3.7-million-year-old brown dwarf, called W1200-7845, is about 333 light-years away. A light-year is the distance light travels in one year; the closest star beyond the Sun is over 4 light-years away.

"There are not many examples of young brown dwarfs so close to the Sun, so W1200-7845 is an exciting discovery," said Maria Schutte, a predoctoral graduate student at the University of Oklahoma, who led the study and presented the findings at the AAS meeting. Durantini Luca and other citizen scientists were included as co-authors.

Since the last Disk Detective data release, ESA's (European Space Agency's) Gaia satellite has delivered an unprecedented bounty of information about the locations, movements, and types of stars in the Milky Way. The Disk Detective science team used the new data from Gaia to identify M dwarfs

of interest to the project. A second improvement to the project is that the new images from the surveys listed above have higher resolution than the previous batch of data, making more background objects visible.

"NASA needs your help," Kuchner said. "Come discover these disks with us!"

*About Disk Detective:* Disk Detective is a NASA-funded citizen science project that is part of the NASA-sponsored Zooniverse citizen science platform.

Check out the revamped Disk Detective project at <https://diskdetective.org>.

Learn more about NASA Citizen Science at <https://science.nasa.gov/citizenscience>.

*About WISE and NEOWISE:* NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California managed and operated WISE for NASA's Science Mission Directorate from 2009 to 2011. Edward Wright at the University of California, Los Angeles was the principal investigator. The mission was selected competitively under NASA's Explorers Program managed by the agency's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. In late 2013, the spacecraft was reactivated and renamed NEOWISE. For more information about NEOWISE, visit:

<https://www.nasa.gov/neowise>

<http://neowise.ipac.caltech.edu/>

For more information about WISE, visit:

<http://www.nasa.gov/wise>

<https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/wise/>

## VIRTUAL EVENTS / EXHIBITS

### The Banneker-Douglass Museum: Annual Youth Conference

Friday, July 31 • 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

This virtual summit is dedicated to the empowerment of Maryland's youth. Learn how you can use public art and protest to bring forth change in your community.

Special presentations from Future History Now, Dr. David Fakunle, Rashad Staton, and BDM Executive Director, Chanel Compton; free giveaways; and much more!

Looking for something exciting to do from the comfort of your own home? Check out our online collection of over 12,000 curated archival records, books, maps, photographs, and artwork.

To search the online collections database:

<https://bannekerdouglass.pastperfectonline.com/>

### The Virtual Unveiling of the Fascinating Stones: The Shona Sculptures of Zimbabwe

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (July 14, 2020)—The San Diego African American Museum of Fine Art (SDAAMFA) is pleased to announce the unveiling of its first virtual exhibit, "Fascinating Stones: The Shona Sculptures of Zimbabwe". The exhibit features Shona sculptures which are part of a larger African Art collection, formerly owned by Al and Betty Waxman and recently donated to SDAAMFA by their daughters Sheri Roseman and Denise Miller.

African stone sculptures from Zimbabwe are called Shona sculpture, after the largest tribe engaged in sculpting. In the Shona language "Zimbabwe" means "great house of stone" and it is fitting that stone sculpture is the art that most represents the people of Zimbabwe. The energy, the vast varieties of stone and the tremendous skill of the sculptors has led to major exhibitions worldwide and have been greeted by remarkable critical acclaim.

Major art institutions noted in the beginning of the 20th century that "Shona Sculpture was perhaps the most important art to emerge from Africa." The inspiration for the artists is steeped in traditional culture and the resulting contemporary sculptures leave many wanting more. "I collect art from all over the world, and I have found the contemporary style of Shona art powerful, distinctive, and extremely beautiful," said SDAAMFA Board Member Fern Nelson.

The exhibit is available on the museum website at [www.sdaamfa.org](http://www.sdaamfa.org)

The Waxman Collection is the largest permanent African Art collection received by SDAAMFA to date. The collection includes a variety of African art pieces which celebrate the traditional customs and tribal life of several countries in Africa. We look forward to sharing additional pieces of the collection in the near future.

—Gaidi Finnie, SDAAMFA

### Classical Pianist Brian Ganz Performs Chopin's Revolutionary Etude and Others for Free River Concert Series Online Performance

July 24, 2020 at 7 p.m.

ST. MARY'S CITY, Md. (July 15, 2020)—Pianist Brian Ganz will perform a selection of nine Chopin etudes including the "Revolutionary Etude" as part of a virtual performance for St. Mary's College of Maryland's River Concert Series Friday, July 24, at 7 p.m. EDT. "The Sheer Virtuosity" free concert will also feature mezzo-soprano Olivia Vote and The Chesapeake Orchestra Strings. The concerts will be available online at St. Mary's College website: <http://www.smcm.edu/river-concert/>

Ganz will discuss how Chopin took piano music in new directions in the first half of the 19th century and took piano technique in new directions too. Ganz said, "In his late teens, Chopin began writing what are quite simply the greatest etudes (French for 'studies') ever composed for the piano. I'll be playing a selection of etudes from the 12 Chopin published as Opus 10, among them the wild (and wildly popular) 'Revolutionary' Etude. Tune in to watch and hear how Chopin set out to help young pianists the world over develop and hone their technical virtuosity, and ended up creating works of stunning beauty and emotional power."

This is the first year the River Concert Series has been performed virtually. Music Director of the Chesapeake Orchestra and Chair of the Music Department at St. Mary's College of Maryland, Jeffrey Silberschlag, explained, "For the safety of our audience and our artists, it is the only reasonable alternative. However, the resulting programs are a lot more creative and fun than one might have imagined at the onset of the change." The final concert of the series will take place on July 31. All video performances will be archived for viewing anytime at the SMCM River Concert web site. —Chesapeake Orchestra

## Sheehy Auto Stores Announces Plans for 23rd Annual Sheehy 8000 to Benefit the American Heart Association

Community-Wide Effort Runs July 17–September 8 with Outreach, Virtual Events & More!

By HILLARY REYNOLDS  
for Sheehy Auto Stores

FAIRFAX, Va. (July 16, 2020)—Sheehy Auto Stores is proud to announce the return of the 23rd annual Sheehy 8000 Sales Race, a community-wide initiative in which all 29 Sheehy dealerships sell cars while raising awareness and funds to benefit the American Heart Association, to run from July 17 through September 8.

"The Sheehy 8000 is one of our most significant annual sales events and fundraising partnerships," said Vince Sheehy, President of Sheehy Auto Stores. "As we all navigate living through the COVID-19 pandemic and our new reality, it is important now more than ever to stay well through heart healthy diets and exercise. We are proud to once again partner with the American Heart Association and their 'Healthy for Good' initiative to

provide homebound and socially distant support and guidance."

Last year, the Sheehy 8000 campaign raised \$300,000 for the charity. To date, Sheehy's fundraising efforts have raised more than \$40 million for community and non-profit organizations, and over \$1.6 million raised for the American Heart Association.

Each of Sheehy's 29 dealerships throughout Washington, DC, Richmond, VA, Hagerstown

and Baltimore, MD will lead various initiatives in support of the Sheehy 8000 to include virtual events to engage the community with ways to stay heart healthy and safe while maintaining social distance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"All of us at the American Heart Association are grateful for Sheehy's unwavering loyalty during these unprecedented times. COVID-19 disproportionately affects heart and stroke pa-

tients, making their support more important and life-saving than ever," says Soula Antoniou, Executive Director at the American Heart Association.

"The Sheehy 8000 is a phenomenal sales race and truly a team effort! The commitment of Sheehy's employees, vendors and customers can be seen in funds raised and the lives impacted—in Sheehy dealerships and in our communities," added Antoniou. "With over \$1.6 million raised to date, this campaign has made much of our work around blood pressure management, healthy food access, and CPR training possible. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!"

The mission of the American Heart Association is to build healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

Sheehy Auto Stores is the 37th largest dealer group in the country and serves customers throughout the Mid-Atlantic. A family-owned business which began as one Ford store in 1966 in Marlow Heights, Md., the company has grown to more than \$1.6 billion in sales with more than 45,000 new and used vehicles sold each year. The company is recognized as a leader in customer satisfaction, retention and community involvement. For more information, visit [www.sheehy.com](http://www.sheehy.com).

