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Fort Washington Native Serves Aboard USS Ronald Reagan in the Indo-Pacific Region

By PRESS OFFICER
Navy Office of Community Outreach

PACIFIC OCEAN (NNS) (September 9, 2020)—Fort Washington, Maryland native and Robert E. Lee High School graduate Aaron Caspa is serving aboard USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), which is continuing to conduct operations in the Indo-Pacific region.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Caspa, an aviation structural mechanic, is responsible for the repair of aircraft hydraulic components.

"It is a privilege to be part of the Navy and be able to support

the mission in this part of the world," said Caspa.

Since the ship's Yokosuka departure in June 2020, the Ronald Reagan continues to operate in the Indo-Pacific alongside allies and partners to demonstrate the United States of America's commitment to defense agreements, as well as provide security and stability in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

In early July 2020, USS Nimitz (CVN 68) and USS Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Groups started conducting dual carrier operations in the Philippine Sea and South China Sea. These carrier strike groups incorporate the capabilities of em-

barked fixed and rotary wing aircraft, Aegis guided-missile cruisers and destroyers, and attack submarines. This opportunity for two carrier strike groups to train and operate together in the region provides combatant commanders with significant operational flexibility and capabilities that only the U.S. Navy can bring.

Most recently, Ronald Reagan completed a trilateral naval exercise with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) and Australian Defense Force (ADF). Australia and Japan have both fostered long-standing alliances with the United States. This year also marks the 60th anniversary of the treaty of mutual

cooperation and security between the United States and Japan.

The Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group is the Navy's only forward-deployed strike group and one of America's most visible symbols of resolve. The Ronald Reagan CSG, consists of Carrier Air Wing 5, the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Antietam (CG 54), and Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Mustin (DDG 89).

Visit the USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) photo gallery for more photos and information regarding past and current operations here: <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/CVN76>

Prince George's County Ranks 2nd Among the Top Ten Digital Counties In the U.S.

County is Recognized as a Leader in Advanced Analytics, Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Infrastructure and COVID-19 response

By SHELBY HENDERSON
Office of Information Technology

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (September 9, 2020)—Prince George's County has advanced to 2nd in ranking as one of the top ten Digital Counties in the United States in the 18th annual Digital Counties Survey. The survey, conducted by the Center for Digital Government (CDG) and the National Association of Counties (NACo), identifies the best technology practices among U.S. counties, including initiatives that streamline delivery of government services, encourage open data, collaboration and shared services, enhance cybersecurity and contribute to disaster response and recovery efforts.

"This important national recognition is continued evidence that even in the midst of a pandemic, Prince George's County is a leader in our region, state and nation. Digital innovation that uses technology and data to better serve our residents is critical to the success of education, public safety, economic development, and providing government services to residents," said Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "I am Prince George's Proud of our Office of Information Technology and all of our County stakeholders for ensuring we have a modern, 21st century government to improve the quality of life for our residents."

"I am proud of the Office of Information Technology's talent, perseverance and commitment which kept us moving forward

through these challenging times. Our enterprise technology approach, which includes collaboration with County agencies and tech industry, enabled agility to enhance virtual government, cybersecurity, data analytics, and digital innovation aligned with County priorities," said Prince George's County CIO Wanda Gibson. "This County is motivated and this award demonstrates who we are and shows that our engagement on strategic vision is positioned well for the next generation."

The County ranked 2nd due in part to the Office of Information Technology's (OIT) risk and disaster recovery strategic planning efforts. The County was able to quickly facilitate business continuity through teleworking in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the existing network infrastructure and laptop-friendly environment was easily expanded to accommodate additional business needs and remote capabilities. OIT was also able to quickly stand up technology to carry out several of the County Executive's COVID-19 initiatives, including the Emergency Rental Assistance program, the Temporary Outdoor Restaurant Seating permit program, and the Business Recovery Initiative that awarded more than \$20 million in grants to small and local businesses.

For more information about the Digital Counties Survey and a full list of winners, visit https://www.govtech.com/dc/digital-counties/Digital-Counties-Survey-2020--Winners-Announced.html?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.



PHOTO COURTESY NAVY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH

AM2 Aaron Caspa

NASA Goddard's First Virtual Interns Reflect on Their Summer Experience

By EMILY FISCHER and KATHLEEN GAETA
NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md.

When many NASA employees transitioned to a mandatory work-from-home status in March 2020, because of COVID-19, the agency prepared to launch its first-ever fully virtual internship to ensure students would still have a summer learning opportunity. Interns who successfully worked for NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, shared their experiences.

"Interning at NASA puts me ahead of some of my friends in the same field," said Noah Sandler, a software engineering intern and rising sophomore at the University of Maryland, College Park. "It's been a privilege to have this experience early on in my life."

In the past, NASA visualized a virtual or hybrid format for internships to expand reach in diversity and inclusion, allowing students to intern who otherwise would not have the opportunity. This summer provided the chance to implement a virtual program, which could be a step toward virtual or hybrid internships in the future.

NASA prioritized accessibility when moving online. NASA shipped interns laptops with pre-installed software, while online video meetings helped teams and mentors stay connected virtually.

"Using messaging and video conferencing has been nice because you can still communicate with your mentor really easily, so everything is really accessible in that way," said Scout Crooke, third-year intern at Goddard and rising freshman at Haverford College in Haverford, Pennsylvania.

Crooke worked three different internship positions over her time at NASA, each in a different branch, a common experience among NASA Goddard interns.

Stephanie Introne, from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York,

NASA's First Virtual Internship—
In Their Own Words
<https://youtu.be/oimGnmyHcqM>

interned at NASA Goddard four times, and this is her second year with the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope team. "Working with NASA these past couple summers has been some of the most meaningful work I've had to do with my mechanical engineering degree so far," Introne said. "This experience is unique because NASA tries to expose you to a lot of educational opportunities. I really appreciate that there's a focus on not just doing your work for them, but also trying to expand your own learning."

Myah Rather dove headfirst into her first summer internship at NASA last year, measuring formaldehyde in homes and ambient air. At the end of last summer, she gave a speech thanking the program and her mentor for the internship opportunity. Following her presentation, Wade Sisler, executive producer for NASA Goddard's Office of Communications, congratulated her for the courage to speak in front of her peers and supervisors and asked her to apply as a communications intern this summer. For her second round, she worked on social media outreach, collaborating with content creators and expanding NASA's online audience.

"Facing my fears and speaking in front of people got me to where I am now," Rather said. "Communication is one of the most important things, so it's been a good time to work on that."

The tenacity of this year's summer interns impressed Sarah Alspaw, NASA intern program coordinator. She said they challenged themselves by searching for additional projects, innovative solutions, and more opportunities to work together in a virtual environment. "It shows their resilience—their willingness to go above and beyond into an environment like this and still get a lot out of it," said Alspaw.

See VIRTUAL INTERNS Page A6

Scholarship Program Seeking Maryland's Top Youth Volunteers

By PRESS OFFICER
Prudential

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (September 10, 2020)—In this time of disruption due to COVID-19, it's more important than ever to celebrate young people making a difference through volunteer service.

Today through November 10, Prudential Financial and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) are calling on Maryland youth volunteers to apply for scholarships and national recognition through The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

Maryland students in grades 5–12 are invited to apply for 2021 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards if they have made meaningful contributions to their communities through volunteering within the past 12 months—vir-

tually or otherwise. The application is available at <http://spirit.prudential.com>.

"More than 25 years ago, we founded The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards to honor young volunteers working to meet the needs of our changing world—a mission that feels especially timely today," said Charles Lowrey, chairman and CEO of Prudential Financial. "As life evolves due to COVID-19, young Americans are continuing to address urgent issues facing their communities, and we celebrate their service in hopes that they'll inspire others to do the same."

"While this is one of the most unusual times in recent history for American students, we know that young volunteers have a long his-

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Greater Washington Community Foundation Invites Area Residents To Put the Future of the Region "On the Table"

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To Be Equal: Keep Politics Out of the Coronavirus Vaccine Approval Process

A poll from the Kaiser Family Foundation released this week found that 62 percent of Americans are concerned that a COVID-19 vaccine will be rushed to the market before it's ready because of political pressure from the Trump administration.

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Emerge Stronger

County businesses can access FREE interactive and informative webinars.

Acclaim USA Inc. Provides COVID-19 Backpack Kit to Employees

The backpack kit includes a personal thermometer, facemask, goggles, long sleeve Acclaim USA uniform, nitrile gloves and hand and air sanitizers.

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Morningside Volunteer Fire Dept. awarded \$80,000 FEMA Grant

Chief Michael Poetker and President Michael O'Brien announced Sept. 4 that the Morningside VFD has been approved to receive \$80,000 in federal funding from FEMA. They are the recipients of a FY19 Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response, known as the SAFER Grant.

This federal funding will help recruit Volunteer firefighters and paramedics, ensuring the community receives the service it deserves.

For more than 75 years our fire department has been committed to providing exceptional emergency fire and medical services to the residents of Morningside, Skyline and near-by neighborhoods.

And during the past several months, they have been a part of the valiant and ongoing response to the pandemic.

The purpose of the SAFER Grant is to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighters' organizations to assist in increasing the number of firefighters to help communities meet industry minimum standards, fulfill traditional missions of fire departments and, perhaps most important, get 24-hour staffing.

Morningside VFD on 9/11

Nineteen years ago, Morningside VFD was called to respond to an unbelievable tragedy.

Shortly after the plane crashed into the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, the Prince George's fire departments dispatched units to fill in at empty fire stations in Washington. Morningside sent Engine 271 and its crew: Lt. Tony Johnson, Lt. Syd Girven, firefighters Carl McKlveen and Jon McKlveen, along with Deputy Chief Dave Fuller.

When the third alarm sounded, No. 271 headed to the Pentagon and was sent through the tunnel into the Pentagon's inner courtyard. Men and hoses were put to work. They remained on the scene for about eight hours until relieved by other departments.

Neighbors & other good people

Maya Davis, who graduated from Bishop McNamara HS in 1997, is a research archivist and legislative liaison with

the Maryland State Archives. She was part of the team that unveiled the statues of Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass at the State House in Annapolis on Feb. 10.

Marlyn Meoli, 82, longtime resident of Auth Village and recently of Ellicott City, died Sept 8. Burial will be in Springfield, Pa. At a later date, the family will host a Memorial Mass and reception at St. Philip's in Camp Springs. Marlyn was very active at St. Philip's and much beloved. I'll have an official obit for her in a future column.

Judith Mary Reid Duvall, 82, Suitland High graduate, died Aug. 24 in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. She's survived by her husband of 62 years, Emerson Duvall; four children, grand- and great-grandchildren.

The Morningside VFD Engine Crew spent Sept. 5 filling in for the Dunkirk Volunteer Fire Department while they laid to rest one of their own. The Rescue Squad and chief's buggy participated in the funeral procession while the Rescue Engine and Ambulance remain "staffed in quarters."

COVID-19 report

Through 5 p.m. Sept. 9, Maryland had 113,575 cases of the virus; 336 of those are new. As for coronavirus-related deaths, there have been 3,816 with 9 new deaths.

I'm still pretty much shut in, but have been going to Mass at St. Philip's Church on Sundays and this week I made it to Safeway and CVS. I feel like an explorer seeking new lands to conquer.

Changing landscape

Arlington Cemetery reopened to the public on Sept. 9 with limited hours (8 a.m. to noon), face coverings mandatory. It's been closed to visitors since March because of the virus, although those attending funerals have been permitted. The Kennedy gravesite and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier remain closed. By the way, my dear brother Joe Mudd and his wife Rosemary are buried at Arlington.

Malcolm Grow Hospital at Andrews is now a huge pile of rubble, which makes me sad. It opened in 1958. In 1962 it was dedicated to Maj. Gen (Dr.) Malcolm Grow who served as a field doctor in both world

wars, was selected as the first Air Force Surgeon General in 1949, and was active in military medicine until his death in 1960.

The Maryland Independent (Charles County), The Enterprise (St. Mary's County) and The Calvert Recorder (Calvert County) have been consolidated into one newspaper, The Southern Maryland News, which publishes once a week, on Friday. Eli Wohlenhaus is Executive Editor.

Were you a Sub-Teen?

Back in 1958 the Morningside Recreation Council organized the Morningside Sub-Teen Club, managed by a Director. During the ten years the Club existed, there were three Directors: Versie Carson, Charlie McKeown and Tillie Seaman.

The Club met every Friday night for three hours at Foulis. The most difficult problem was recruiting enough chaperones. (I can imagine that!)

Twenty years ago, Oct. 7, 2000, a Morningside Sub-Teen Club Reunion Dance was held at the VFW. (There had been an earlier reunion, in 1996.) Reunion 2000 Committee members were: Janice (Seaman) Peters, Wayne Neale, Donna (Bookhultz) Bivens and Dennis Seaman.

Announcements were sent to 223 former Sub-Teen Members and to some of their chaperones, including Waverly Miller, Don & Betty Harder, Dice & Jean West, Gloria Grapevine, Catherine Schoen, Evelyn McKeown and well-known, well-loved Morningside School teacher Margaret Dickens.

Admission was \$15 in advance, \$25 at the door, and there was a cash bar. (They didn't have that back in Sub-Teen days.) Proceeds went to the Children of Morningside.

I have a copy of the Club membership. I wonder if your name is on it.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Lee Burkhart, her 95th (!) on Sept. 20; Linda Holbart Van Meter, Karen Rooper and Teresa Kessler, Sept. 22; Elizabeth Long, Sept. 23; Dottie Arehringer, Amy Schlor and Peg Richardson, Sept. 24.

Happy anniversary to Ken and Janet Kay, on their 66th, Sept. 25.

Around the County

Voter Education Workshop and Virtual HBCU Fair

WHAT: **Know Before You Go: Understanding Your Rights at the Polls with State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy**

WHEN: **Sept. 17, 2020, 7 p.m. EST**

WHERE: Join via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8604521839> Meeting ID: 860 4521 8396 or Dial by your location: 301.715.8592

This workshop featuring State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy will highlight voting rights for formerly incarcerated individuals, immigrants, and others with questions about their ability to legally cast a vote in November.

WHAT: **HBCU Virtual Fair Featuring Bowie State University & University of Maryland-Eastern Shore**

WHEN: Sept. 19, 2020 10 a.m.–12 p.m. EST Register at peohbcufair.eventbrite.com

In Sept. we celebrate our historically Black colleges and universities (HBCU) as part of HBCU week. This virtual college fair will include a financial aid workshop and student/alumni panel.

—Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated®, Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter

Library Announces "Antoine and Friends: Children's Authors Series" Fall Lineup

LARGO, Md. (September 9, 2020)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) and local children's author Antoine Lunsford will continue "Antoine and Friends: Children's Authors Series," this fall. These virtual programs will feature distinguished self-published area children's book authors every Saturday at 10 a.m. All programs are on PGCMLS YouTube and made possible by the PGCMLS Foundation.

Antoine & Friends Virtual Events Lineup: Saturdays, 10 a.m.

September 19

Children's book author Cyana Riley was born and raised in Washington D.C. She graduated from George Washington University and spent the first 6 years of her career as a preschool teacher. Riley will share her book, "Not so different."

September 26

Brothers Elijah Smith and Isaiah Smith will share their book, "Pick me, Pick me!," about a young boy named Cree, one of the shortest players on the basketball team. Fully illustrated, the book is for young readers.

October 3

T.B. Darks will read from her book, "The Fluffy Adventures of FROMO: Book 2 The Halloween Haircut." Ghost, zombies, and ghouls alike will send this hero running. But, will she be able to face her fears and save the day?

October 10

Local author Rick Daniels will share one of his books from the "Little Remy" series. Daniels believes that if children understand the serious consequences of bullying, they will be less likely to bully others.

Program host Antoine Lunsford is the author of the "Little Andy's World" series for young readers and an elementary school educator. He serves on the PGCMLS Foundation Board.

—Donna Scott-Martin, PGCMLS

Watch the Newest Pride of Place Parlour

Check out our latest interview with Town of Cheverly native Delegate Julian Ivey. He's a dedicated community activist with a heart for standing up against social injustices like illegal evictions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Watch now to learn all about why he loves Prince George's County; and how he's doing his part to make it a better place for all residents. <https://youtu.be/YtRQO2pJ4bs>

—Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center

Virtual Community in the Courthouse

Please join Prince George's County State's Attorney Aisha N. Braveboy and #TeamPGSAO for the next Virtual Community in the Courthouse Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 6 p.m. The theme for this month is "Meet the Agency Heads" in honor of Public Safety Month.

If you would like to attend, please visit Eventbrite for registration and further instructions on how to join this online event.

For more information or to send advance questions, send email tamichaelides@co.pg.md.us.

Scholarship from A1

of rising to the challenges of the moment," said JoAnn Bartoletti, executive director and CEO of NASSP. "Today through November 10, we call on parents, educators and local leaders to join us in celebrating the young volunteers who are innovating and adapting to serve their communities, and setting an important example for their peers in the process."

The top middle level and high school volunteer from each state and the District of Columbia will be named State Honorees in February. They will receive \$1,000 scholarships, engraved silver medallions and an invitation to the program's national recognition events in early May.

In May, the program will name America's top 10 youth volunteers of 2021. Those National Honorees will receive additional \$5,000 scholarships, gold medallions, crystal trophies for their nominating schools or organizations, and \$5,000 Prudential grants for nonprofit charitable organizations of their choice.

Local-level honorees in each state will receive awards ranging from bronze medallions to certificates. Qualifying local honorees also receive President's Volunteer Service Awards.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards was created in 1995 to recognize the exemplary volunteer work of middle level and high school students. Since then, awards have been granted to more than 140,000 middle and high school students across the country at the local, state and national level. Spirit of Community programs are also conducted in Japan, Ireland, India, China and Brazil, where Prudential has significant business operations.

For complete details on the 2021 program and the stories of Maryland's top youth volunteers from years past, visit <http://spirit.prudential.com>.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

INAUGURAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH VIRTUAL ADDRESS

The Office of Multicultural Programs and Department of Language, Literature, and Culture in partnership with Races (Latino student affinity club) Sigma Gamma Lambda (Multicultural Latino Sorority Colony Chapter) held their Inaugural BSU Hispanic Heritage Month Virtual Address with Maryland Delegate Gabriel Acevero September 17. Hispanic Heritage Month will be celebrated (September 15–October 15) on Bowie State University campus.

Delegate Acevero highlighted the importance of Hispanic Heritage Month, diversity, and the upcoming general election. He has been a member to the House of Delegates since January 9, 2019. Member, Appropriations Committee, 2019 (public safety & administration subcommittee, 2019; oversight committee on pensions, 2019); Work Group to Address Police Reform and Accountability in Maryland, 2020, 2nd Vice-Chair, Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland 2020 (member, 2019). Treasurer, Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus, 2019. Member, Maryland Legislative Transit Caucus, 2019. Contact: Dr. Keadrick email: kpeters@bowiestate.edu.

AVP FOR TRANSFER & GENERAL STUDENT ADVOCACY

In supporting an enhanced focus on student retention, Bowie State University has appointed a two-time alumna Dr. Shirelle Briscoe ('88, '91) as the new assistant vice president for transfer and general student advocacy.

Reporting to the vice president for enrollment management, Dr. Briscoe will help to smooth the transition of transfer students to BSU and facilitate their success in completing their course of study. Working closely with Admissions and Academic Affairs on transfer student communications, she will act as a liaison with academic colleges and departments, as well as other student support services. She will be a resource person for transfer and other students to connect them to the many support services available to them at the university and beyond.

She will also be charged with advocating for the general student population to smooth issues that are not resolved through the designated channels and educating students about the appropriate ways to resolve concerns with other campus units. In this unique student advocacy role, Dr. Briscoe will serve as a member of a BSU group tracking and guiding at-risk students through issues that might hinder their successful and timely graduation.

"Throughout her time at Bowie State, Dr. Briscoe has demonstrated a deep devotion to promoting the success of our students and has problem-solving skills that will serve the students well in her new position," said Provost Carl Goodman.

Dr. Briscoe joins the Division of Enrollment Management team after successfully serving as the assistant vice president for undergraduate studies in the Division of Academic Affairs. She was previously a member of the faculty of the Department of Communications and the Department of Teaching, Learning & Professional Development. Before that, she taught in the School of Education at Howard University.

She holds Doctor of Education degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, as well as a master's degree in organizational communication and a bachelor's degree in business management and pre-law, both from Bowie State University. MEDIA CONTACT: dchambers@bowiestate.edu.

MEDSTAR SOUTHERN MARYLAND HEALTH CENTER

If you've driven by MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center recently, you will have noticed that construction of the hospital's new emergency department (ED), and front entrance is continuing to progress despite COVID-19.

After the new addition is complete, the focus will shift to renovating the old ED space, bringing the new addition, and existing space into one, cohesive department. The project is the largest construction and renovation effort in the hospital's 40-year history. Stay up to date with the construction and renovation at MedStarSouthernMaryland.org/Construction. Information from MedStar Health Summer 2020.

PROVIDENCE-FORT WASHINGTON

It was in the 1960s that the Friendly Fort Washington area saw the beginning of rapid growth. By the early 1970s, this rural area of Prince George's County was becoming suburban. There was no room in the "inn". Under the leadership of Reverend C. Gordon Claws, the present Colonial Church House, patterned after the Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg, Virginia, was completed in 1979. The first worship service was held in the new sanctuary on Mother's Day. The debt was retired in 12 years, and during the first part of the 2000s, the Congregation contributed the needed funds to build the new Education Wing.

In 1998, the "Little" Church and education rooms were reconsecrated as the Providence Community Service Center, providing a Youth Center and two Fellowship Halls for the church family and community outreach ministries. The Fellowship Halls are still used today. Reference: Providence-Fort Washington United Methodist Church history (edited) available at <http://pfwumc.org/about-us/church-history>. This article concludes the information on Providence-Fort Washington United Methodist Church.

COMMUNITY

Prince George's Community College Center for Performing Arts Kicks Off Virtual Fall Season

Celebrate diversity in arts from the comfort of your home with free events

By SONJI JOYNER

Prince George's Community College

LARGO, Md. (September 10, 2020)—Prince George's Community College's Center for Performing Arts (CPA) has reimagined live arts by offering FREE virtual programs beginning on Saturday, October 10. The CPA curated a diverse line-up of events, including live orchestra, ballet performances, and a program that's just in time for election season: USA to Z is an interactive children's show that teaches audiences how to be good citizens and what it means to vote. For more information and to register for events, visit pgcc.edu/arts.

The health and safety of staff and patrons continues to remain of the utmost importance for the CPA. The Center for Performing Arts will offer virtual performances during the pandemic as a way to support students and local artists while providing audiences a safe way to experience shows.

"We are committed to connecting our community, as we know exposure to the arts helps individual well-being, academic performance, and much more," said Center for Performing Arts Director LaNiece Tyree. Tyree adds, "We've dedicated ourselves to bringing audiences fresh and diverse productions right to their homes, including Life's A Drag, Prince George's Philharmonic and Ballet Theatre of Maryland's An American Southwest Carmen from our theater to your home. Technology allows us to bring you these events remotely, and most importantly, they're all FREE."

The 2020 Center for Performing Arts Fall Schedule appears below:

Performance

Prince George's Philharmonic
Life's A Drag
USA to Z
Ballet Theatre of Maryland's
An American Southwest Carmen
Prince George's Philharmonic
Doug's Japanese Kanji Workshop
Henna-style Workshop
Holidays Around the World
Aesop's Fables

Date

October 10
October 12
October 24

November 7

November 14

November 18

November 19

November 21

December 5

During these unprecedented times, Prince George's Community College's Center for Performing Arts strives to keep creativity and arts alive, which helps strengthen communities. A special message from the Prince George's Community College Foundation invites you to make a gift to help support robust educational programming, musical, and theatrical productions that celebrate the cultural vibrancy of our community as a Friends of the Arts at Prince George's Community College. For more information on giving, donate at <http://www.pgccfoundation.org/giving/cpa>.

Prince George's Community College's Center for Performing Arts is a premier, state-of-the-art facility that nurtures and develops students' passions for dance, music, theater, and communications. The center also provides public access to some of the most renowned, star-studded national productions in music, dance, and theater. For more information and tickets, visit pgcc.edu/arts. Follow the Center for Performing Arts on Facebook and Instagram @PGCCArts.

Community Partners' is Going Virtual!

The Community Partners' Meeting is going virtual for the first time in its history! Due to social distancing guidelines from the COVID-19 pandemic, the in-person community meeting has been cancelled for the fall. Instead, the three agencies that co-sponsor Community Partners'—Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE), Department of the Environment (DoE) and Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T)—will virtually upload the presentation on September 24, allowing residents to "attend" from the comfort of their homes or offices.

The PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the websites of

the three sponsoring agencies on September 24th. Each agency will offer a welcome by the department director and news about current projects and upcoming programs.

The presentation will also feature a Q&A section with questions from citizens answered by authorities from each of the agencies.

Request Your Mail-in Ballot

Don't delay, request your mail-in ballot today! An application for a mail-in ballot should have arrived in your mail, so be sure to complete it and return it as soon as possible. There are also several other ways to complete this application, including online at elections.maryland.gov.

—The DoE Sprout

Remembering Esther McCready, UMSON's First African-American Student, Visionary Pioneer

By LAURA HAGER

University of Maryland School of Nursing

BALTIMORE (September 8, 2020)—Esther E. McCready, DPS (Hon.), DIN '53, the first African American to gain admittance to the University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON), died on September 2, 2020, after a lengthy illness.

In 1950, at only 19 years old, McCready pursued a Maryland Court of Appeals decision after UMSON originally denied her admission. Earlier, the School's offer to pay McCready to attend a Tennessee nursing school had been upheld as legal by a Baltimore court. With the help of her attorney Thurgood Marshall, who had already gained prominence for his work with the NAACP, McCready sued for admission to UMSON, and the Maryland Court of Appeals ruled in her favor. The case helped lay the groundwork for the 1954 landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision.

The ruling, however, marked only the beginning of McCready's struggle for justice and equality. During her years at UMSON, she faced students who were hostile to her, professors who ignored her, and supervisors who attempted to sabotage her work. Yet, through it all, she maintained a quiet dignity and determination that could not be defeated. Her courage helped open the doors for generations of African-American nursing students, for whom she has served as a mentor and role model. Today, 49% of UMSON's student body represents ethnic and racial diversity.

Upon graduation in 1953, McCready passed the state nursing boards on her first attempt and began a career that included nursing, teaching, and public speaking. She worked in hospitals in Baltimore, Boston, and New York for 35 years. She pursued her passion for music, completing undergraduate and graduate degrees at the Manhattan School of Music. She credited her older brother as a significant influence on her musical appreciation; he taught piano lessons at home, and she was permitted to sit quietly in a corner and listen. Later, her brother would ask her to evaluate the lesson and the student's performance. This early exposure left a lasting impression on McCready and stirred in her a desire for music education. She served for 20 years as an edu-

cator in the New York City public school system, sang with the Metropolitan Opera production of *Porgy and Bess*, and toured with opera singer Grace Bumbry. She also taught Raven Symone, the child actress who played Olivia on *The Cosby Show*.

McCready returned to Baltimore in the mid-1990s and was active at the School as well as in the Baltimore community. She served on UMSON's Board of Visitors from 1996–2004 and on the Alumni Council and as a docent for its Living History Museum from 2002–12. In 2004, McCready was inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame for her unique and lasting contributions to the economic, political, cultural, and social life of the state. Always deeply interested in the challenges faced by nursing students, McCready took every opportunity to connect with and encourage students, including speaking with students as an invited guest to their classrooms, interacting with students as a volunteer docent at UMSON's Living History Museum, and reaching out to students whenever she was on campus for alumni- or School-related events. In 2011, she was asked by UMSON Master of Science Clinical Nurse Leader option graduate Nicole Parson's to serve as her pinner at the graduation ceremony.

In 2014, on the occasion of the School's 125th anniversary, she was inducted as one of

the UMSON's 25 inaugural Visionary Pioneers, selected for having made a significant impact on and contributions to the nursing profession based on their leadership, innovation, or entrepreneurship. In 2015, McCready received a Doctor of Public Service honorary degree from the University of Maryland, Baltimore—the same institution that in 1949 denied her entry to the School of Nursing because of her race.

"There is a famous poem by African-American writer Langston Hughes that asks the question of what happens to a dream deferred," said UMSON Dean Jane M. Kirschling, PhD, RN, FAAN, during the ceremony conferring the degree. "To Esther McCready, the answer is that it isn't [deferred]. She applied to nursing school in the hopes of earning her diploma in nursing, and her application was denied. Never one to back down from a challenge, she agreed to let the NAACP argue her case in the Maryland courts. Not only were Esther's dreams not deferred, but thanks to her courage and bravery, the dreams of so many others did not have to be, either. Esther, you are a civil rights icon, a transformational figure in education. You are a treasure."

Esther lived at home as long as she was able, and enjoyed spending time with her family, friends, and the family of cats that kept her company and endlessly entertained her. Even in the final chapter of her life, when her voice was a whisper and movement required significant effort, she remained an independent, strong-minded woman. She spoke her mind, maintained her sense of humor, and shared her unique and profound experiences with anyone who would take the time to listen to this Visionary Pioneer for our time, for all time.



PHOTOS COURTESY UMSON

Esther E. McCready, Nursing Pioneer

Maryland—Good Trouble Think Tank

Honor the life of Late Congressman John Lewis

By RENEE CLARKE

Good Trouble

LARGO, Md. (September 8, 2020)—Maryland resident forms a think-tank to honor the life of late Congressman John Lewis. *Good Trouble* hosts virtual meetings to identify ways to deescalate encounters with the police, restore trust of law enforcement within the communities, and to end the use of excessive force by the police.

Since the passing of John Lewis, Renee Clarke and other Prince George's County residents responded to his call to action to "Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America."

Good Trouble members discuss all matters regarding social injustice and the recent incidents of policing in black communities. The zoom meetings are held every Sunday afternoon at 2:30 p.m.

Residents from Maryland, Ohio, Michigan, and Virginia participate in weekly zoom meetings to find solutions on policing within our communities. *Good Trouble* is committed to seeking change, justice and equality for all.

If you would like more information about the *Good Trouble* think tank, please contact Renee Clarke at 240-838-6653 or email at G e t n 2 g o o d t r o u b l e @ y a h o o . c o m

Greater Washington Community Foundation Invites Area Residents To Put the Future of the Region "On the Table"

Residents to Gather Through Virtual or Face-to-Face Small-Group Conversations on Thursday, October 1

By PRESS OFFICER

Greater Washington Community Foundation

WASHINGTON (September 9, 2020)—Residents from across the Greater Washington region will gather for virtual or face-to-face small-group conversations on a single day—Thursday, October 1, 2020—to discuss and reimagine the future of our communities as part of VoicesDMV On the Table, presented by the Greater Washington Community Foundation.

"The COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing calls for racial justice in health, policing, and economy highlight how far we have to go to address the deep economic inequities and social challenges experienced by so many residents of the DMV region," said Tonia Wellons, president and CEO of the Greater Washington Community Foundation. "As a community foundation, it is central to our mission to have a finger on the pulse of our community in order to effectively respond to the most critical issues affecting our region. On the Table is an opportunity for our community to talk with, listen to and learn from each other as we work to build a more resilient community where racial justice is prioritized and everyone has equal opportunity to thrive."

Hosts can plan their conversations to take place any time on Thursday, October 1. Virtual discussions can be convened through The Community Foundation's free interactive online platform, which includes easy-to-use, built-in discussion guides, or through another preferred video conference tool. Face-to-face conversations can be convened using proper social distancing at homes, offices, parks, community centers and other locations.

The topics, issues and ideas discussed during each of the On the Table conversations will be driven by the unique perspectives of participants, and the opportunities and challenges that are most important to them. The Community Foundation will provide discussion guides on important issues, such as racial equity, education, housing and homelessness, economic security, employment and workforce, and more, that were identified through a regional survey conducted this spring by the public opinion research firm, Gallup, to better understand the diverse

experiences of the people who live and work in the Greater Washington region. Thousands of residents shared their feedback about the most important issues facing the Greater Washington region. The full report, along with summaries of survey responses by geographic region and a customizable data dashboard that helps participants to explore the report, are available at www.VoicesDMV.org.

"We are grateful to the thousands of residents who shared their insights through the survey," said Wellons. "And we hope thousands more will join us to discuss what we can do to make our communities stronger through On the Table conversations. Together, we have the power to improve the quality of life for everyone in the Greater Washington region."

On the Table is part of The Community Foundation's VoicesDMV initiative, which launched in 2017 as a way to explore the region's challenges and opportunities related to housing, transportation, safety, economic security, race relations, and community well-being. This year, VoicesDMV returns as a three-part initiative that, in addition to the regional survey and On the Table conversations, will help to fund ideas sparked during those discussions through Community Action Awards of up to \$2,000 to move ideas from the discussions into action.

Created by The Chicago Community Trust in 2014, to date, the On the Table model has been adopted by more than 30 communities that have collectively engaged more than 300,000 people from coast to coast.

American University will serve as The Community Foundation's lead outreach partner in encouraging Greater Washington area residents and organizations to host and/or participate in these On the Table conversations.

For more information or to sign up to host an On the Table conversation on October 1, visit www.VoicesDMV.org.

Since 1973, the Greater Washington Community Foundation has been a champion of thriving communities and a catalyst for change through local philanthropic engagement, effective community investment, and civic leadership.

COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Keep Politics Out of the Coronavirus Vaccine Approval Process

Maintaining the American public's trust in the FDA is vital. If the agency's credibility is lost because of real or perceived interference, people will not rely on the agency's safety warnings. Erosion of public trust will leave consumers and patients doubting our recommendations, less likely to enroll in clinical studies or to use FDA-regulated products when they should to maintain or improve their health. This is problematic under normal circumstances but especially if we are to ultimately overcome COVID-19. Protecting the FDA's independence is essential if we are to do the best possible job of protecting public health and saving lives.

—Senior FDA executives Patrizia Cavazzoni, Peter Marks, Susan Mayne, Judy McMeekin,

Jeff Shuren, Steven Solomon, Janet Woodcock and Mitch Zeller

It's no secret that the White House believes the approval of a vaccine or treatment for COVID-19 would be a boon for the President's reelection campaign. From the moment the novel coronavirus first reached America's shores in January, he has regarded it first and foremost as a political inconvenience.

Without evidence, has portrayed anything that delays the "magic bullet" he believes will end the pandemic—or at least appear to end it—as the result of a conspiracy to damage his candidacy. This includes the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approvals process.

If we have any hope of developing a safe, ef-

fective vaccine that brings the virus under control, it depends entirely on the FDA's resolve to resist this shameful political pressure.

In an encouraging move, eight top FDA officials and doctors this week published an op-ed in USA Today pledging that all "decisions will continue to be guided by the best science" and maintain independence from political pressure.

Their statement came a day after executives representing nine companies working on coronavirus vaccines pledged to submit the vaccines for FDA approval only after they're shown to be safe and effective in large clinical studies.

"We believe this pledge will help ensure public confidence in the rigorous scientific and regulatory process by which COVID-19 vaccines are evaluated and may ultimately be approved." The pledge was signed by the CEOs of AstraZeneca, BioNTech, GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson, Merck, Moderna, Inc., Novavax, Inc., Pfizer Inc., and Sanofi.

It's worth noting that many of the regulations that still govern the FDA's drug testing process were developed in the wake of the thalidomide scandal of the early 1960s. The drug, taken by pregnant women, killed thousands of babies in the womb and caused at least 10,000 others in 46 countries to be born with severe deformities. The U.S. escaped this tragedy largely due to the determination of FDA medical officer Frances Oldham Kelsey. "For a critical 19-month period, she fastidiously blocked its approval while drug company officials maligned her as a bureaucratic nitpicker,"

the New York Times wrote in a 2015 obituary.

Widespread vaccine use helped eliminate deadly and disabling diseases in the U.S. The last natural outbreak of smallpox—which killed three of every 10 people who contracted it—was in 1949, and the disease was declared eliminated in 1952. Measles was declared eliminated in the U.S. in 2000, although outbreaks among the unvaccinated are triggered by infected travelers bringing the virus from other countries. Rubella, a typically mild illness that can cause serious complications for pregnant women and their babies, was declared eliminated in the U.S. in 2004. Prior to 1955, polio permanently paralyzed thousands of children every year. No cases of polio have originated in the U.S. since 1979.

I have faith that one day, coronavirus can be added to this list. But only if we can maintain faith in our public health institutions. A poll from the Kaiser Family Foundation released this week found that 62 percent of Americans are concerned that a COVID-19 vaccine will be rushed to the market before it's ready because of political pressure from the Trump administration.

A smaller majority, 54 percent, said they wouldn't take a vaccine that is approved before Election Day.

It's hard to estimate how much damage the Trump administration has done by allowing politics to override responsible public health policy. The FDA and the pharmaceutical companies must invoke the spirit of Frances Oldham Kelsey and stand as a firewall against his interference.

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita, Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Beloved Friend and Great Civil Rights Leader John Lewis

During Easter weekend in 1960 I took my first airplane ride, from Atlanta, Georgia (where I was a senior at Spelman College) to Raleigh, North Carolina, on a plane chartered by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) at great SCLC organizer Ella Baker's behest. She was a brilliant, strategic, tough, and compassionate mentor. She invited student leaders from the sit-in protests happening at largely Black colleges across the South to travel to Shaw University to share experiences and see how we could sustain and strengthen our student movement challenging southern segregation in public areas. Although some in SCLC wanted to incorporate students as its youth arm, during the weekend Ella Baker urged us to form our own independent organization and find our own voice. The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was

born, bringing together freedom-hungry fearless college youth with energy and creativity and willingness to push the edges of the envelope. A fellow attendee was a sit-in leader and student from Nashville who became SNCC's chairman a few years later: John Lewis.

As our nation paused recently in public mourning to say our final goodbyes to this great servant leader, I said goodbye to my longtime dearly beloved friend. For college students during the 1960s Civil Rights Movement, as the youngest of the "Big Six" civil rights organizational leaders and the 23-year-old youngest speaker at the March of Washington, John Lewis was our peer and our generation's voice. But he long ago transcended that early role. He served 33 years as the representative for Georgia's 5th District and became not only "the conscience of the Congress" but helped fuel the moral conscience of

our nation and his lifetime of activism and service ultimately pushed our country closer to its founding ideals. Former Vice President Joe Biden and Dr. Jill Biden said, "We are made in the image of God, and then there is John Lewis. How could someone in flesh and blood be so courageous, so full of hope and love in the face of so much hate, violence, and vengeance?...[P]erhaps it was that he was truly a one-of-a-kind, a moral compass who always knew where to point us and which direction to march."

When he spoke on the House floor last year as he and his colleagues voted to impeach President Trump, he said: "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." At every step of his journey, from having his skull fractured leading the voting rights march on Selma's Edmund Pettus Bridge to his Congressional leadership championing civil rights, LGBTQ rights, and immigrant rights to his final public visit to the Black Lives Matter Plaza across from the White House in Washington, D.C., John Lewis was on the right side of history leading us.

Throughout his life John was unfailingly generous with his time nurturing and encouraging young people, including many convened by the Children's Defense Fund at CDF's Haley Farm. In one talk with CDF's young leaders he said 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.'" As he told our rapt youth audiences and others so often over the years, he rejected that advice: "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. . . Go out there and be a headlight and not a taillight. Get out there and get in the way. Get in good trouble."

John participated in a virtual town hall in June with former President Barack Obama and young activists after George Floyd's murder. As the event ended he told President Obama he was proud of this generation, and President Obama replied: "I told him that all those young people—of every race, from every background and gender and sexual orientation—they were his children. They had understood through him what American citizenship requires, even if they had heard of his courage only through history books."

I hope young people everywhere in our nation and world will aspire to follow John Lewis's fearless servant leadership as headlights and not taillights, always get into good trouble, and keep marching, organizing, voting, and running for public office until we have leaders and institutions at every level of government that are worthy of all our people and all of our children.

Rep. Meeks and Rep. Green Introduce American Dream Down Payment Act

WASHINGTON (September 8, 2020)—Today, Representative Gregory W. Meeks (D-NY) and Representative Al Green (D-TX) introduced the American Dream Down Payment Act to help Americans across the country obtain the dream of home ownership. The bill would aid families throughout the nation by establishing tax-exempt savings accounts that would be instrumental for households seeking to save up for a down payment. This legislation would also help close the racial gap in home ownership rates, by providing a new tool for black and brown families to save up for a home of their own. A companion bill in the Senate has been introduced by Senator Doug Jones (D-AL).

"Home ownership is the route to the middle class for tens of millions of Americans, and it is the largest financial asset most Americans own," said Congressman Gregory Meeks. "This bill will provide the push, the means, and the opportunity for Americans to save for a down payment at a time when mortgage interest rates are a historic low. By boosting the path for black home ownership, this bill will also help close the stubborn and pernicious racial wealth gap."

Representative Al Green (TX-09) stated, "When we talk about the American dream, we often hear the adage that insists people must pull themselves up by their bootstraps to attain a better quality of life. Unfortunately, many in underserved communities have neither bootstraps nor boots. The American Dream Down Payment Act provides boots, via tax-exempt savings accounts that will help people save for a down payment on a home, with bootstraps, home loans that make homeownership more accessible. This legislation provides the boots and bootstraps necessary for many to transform the American dream into a reality. I must thank my colleague and friend Congressman Gregory Meeks for crafting this bill. I am proud to serve as an original cosponsor, and I look forward to it and its Senate companion being passed and enacted as the law of the land."

"The introduction of the American Dream Down Payment Savings Act offers Black American families and individuals the opportunity to build legacy wealth through homeownership. The ability to accumulate tax-free savings funds breaks down/eliminates one of the most prominent barriers to achieving homeownership, the down

payment. This Act serves as a tangible springboard to increase Black homeownership and real wealth building prospects which the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB) includes in the meaning of its time-honored slogan, Democracy in Housing," stated Donnell Williams, National President.

"This legislation is a bold and critical step forward to helping families achieve the American Dream of homeownership. For too many Black families, the saving for the down payment a home is an insurmountable mountain, now help is on the way," stated Antoine M. Thompson, National Executive Director of National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB).

—National Association of Real Estate Brokers

Brown: Governor Hogan Bears Full Responsibility For This Oncoming Disaster

WASHINGTON (September 11, 2020)—Congressman Anthony G. Brown (MD-04), sole Maryland member on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, released the following statement on the Purple Line:

"Governor Hogan bears full responsibility for the dithering, delays and lack of leadership that have brought us to this moment - the dissolution of the largest public-private partnership in the country and the logistical, financial and neighborhood disaster confronting Maryland. The victims are Montgomery and Prince George's families who must not only confront torn-up streets, unfinished bridges and half-completed rails, but deferred hopes of shorter commutes, greater access to jobs and revitalized communities.

"After choosing the lowest-bid contract, the Hogan Administration

let delays compound and failed to address escalating costs for years. Instead of trying to reach a fair settlement that would enable residents to reap the benefits of this much-needed project as quickly as possible, Marylanders are left with vague promises that the Purple Line will eventually be completed even though Governor Hogan has depleted the Transportation Trust Fund. It is outrageous that the only idea the Hogan Administration has to continue Purple Line construction is to cut MARC, bus service and Baltimore's subway - despite already failing to sufficiently invest in Maryland's aging transit infrastructure.

"It is absolutely unacceptable for the Purple Line to go unfinished. It is time for Governor Hogan to pause his book tour and presidential campaign planning, to break this impasse and deliver the Purple Line for the people of Maryland."

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Can I Claim My Widow's Benefit at Age 57?

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

Dear Rusty: My husband passed away in 2001, and he paid into Social Security every year he worked, which would be over 30 years. If he were alive today, he would be 75 years old. I am 57 years old and still working full time. Am I able to collect his Social Security benefits now since I am still working? **Signed: Widowed Worker**

Dear Widowed Worker: You are not eligible to collect a survivor benefit from your deceased husband if you have remarried, and you cannot collect the survivor benefit until you are at least 60 years of age. And, if you claim at age 60, the survivor benefit will be reduced by 28.5% from what it would be if you waited until your full retirement age (FRA) to claim it (your full retirement age is 67). Any time any Social Security (SS) benefit is taken before FRA, it is reduced.

You can claim only your survivor benefit (not your own SS benefit) at age 60, but whenever benefits are taken before full retirement age, and you are still working, you are subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much you can earn before Social Security takes back some of your benefits.

The earnings limit for 2020 is \$18,240 (it changes yearly) and if the limit is exceeded Social Security will take back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. Such lost survivor benefits are not recoverable. Social Security publishes next year's earnings limits in the fall of each year prior, so what the earnings limit will be when you reach age 60 isn't yet known, but it will be an amount that is more than the 2020 limit.

Assuming you will also be eligible for your own Social Security benefits from your own lifetime work record, you should evaluate which benefit, at maximum, will give you the highest benefit amount. If that is your survivor benefit from your husband (which, at your FRA, would be 100% of the benefit your husband was collecting when he died), then you should consider maximizing the survivor benefit by not claiming it until you reach your FRA. If money is needed earlier, you could claim your own SS benefit as early as age 62 and allow your survivor benefit to reach maximum at your FRA. Conversely, if your own Social Security benefit from your own work record will be higher at maximum than your survivor benefit, then you could claim your survivor benefit first and delay claiming your own benefit until it reaches maximum at age 70 (your own benefit will be 24% more at 70 than it will be at your FRA). Your goal should be to get the highest possible benefit for the rest of your life and comparing these two options will permit you to do that. You can find out your estimated benefit amounts in both cases by contacting Social Security.

And remember, if you decide to claim your own benefit before your FRA that, too, will be subject to the earnings limit until you reach your FRA, after which there is no longer a limit to how much you can earn.

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

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

EMERGE STRONGER

The Emerge Stronger Business Recovery and Resilience Program is underway with FREE interactive and informative webinars for our County businesses. Check out some of the past programming here and register for the remainder of your industry specific sessions today!

County CEO's are invited to participate in a FREE business recovery session with experienced business counselors to receive immediate feedback on their current Covid19 recovery efforts.

Counselors will include one or more members of the PGCEDC staff and other experts with business management, finance, marketing and strategic planning experience.

Companies will be asked to submit their recovery/continuity plan, if available, and specific questions in advance of their session.

<https://www.emergestrongerpgc.com/session-library>
—PGC Economic Development Corporation

Acclaim USA Inc. Provides COVID-19 Backpack Kit to Employees

By PRESS OFFICER
Acclaim USA Inc.

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (September 9, 2020)—The Prince George's County-based Acclaim USA facility maintenance firm introduced its COVID-19 backpack kit to its employees August 28. Known for introducing industry innovation and technological solutions, the backpack kit includes a personal thermometer, facemask, goggles, long sleeve Acclaim USA uniform, nitrile gloves and hand and air sanitizers. Also included in the kit, enclosed in plastic, are company PPE policy regulations along with state and federal PPE guidelines. The company requires 100% COVID-19 testing of all employees and hires prior to placement.

Acclaim USA deploys electrostatic sprayers to disinfect



PHOTO COURTESY ACCLAIM USA INC.

The Acclaim USA employee COVID-19 backpack kit.

employee pathways :15 prior to arrival and departure times. The company's innovative "Triple Kill" deep cleaning program provides the quality, service and value consumers seek when making purchasing decisions.

Visit Acclaim USA at www.acclaimusa.com.

Finmarc Management Welcomes Burlington and Several New Stores to Largo Town Center With Assist From Prince George's County Commercial Property Improvement Program

Investment of nearly \$1 million in 280,000 square foot shopping center focusing on exterior upgrades yields significant leasing results approximately 18 months following asset purchase

By PRESS OFFICER
Finmarc Management, Inc.

BETHESDA, Md. (September 10, 2020)—Finmarc Management, Inc., upon its acquisition of the 280,000 square foot Largo Town Center last year, immediately initiated a nearly \$1 million property upgrade strategy that—approximately 18 months later—has yielded significant results highlighted by today's opening of the 35,000 square foot Burlington store. The Bethesda, Maryland-based commercial real estate firm also signed leases with Foot Locker, which recently opened and Rock & Toss Crab House, a fast-casual restaurant that is expected to open this fall. Finmarc credits its award of nearly \$350,000 from the Prince George's County Commercial Property Improvement Program

(CCIP), which enabled the firm to proceed with the upgrades, as a major reason for this recent leasing success. The company acquired the asset, located in the Upper Marlboro section of Prince George's County, in January 2019 for \$43.95 million.

Formerly known as Burlington Coat Factory, the retailer rebranded several years and shortened its name to reflect its de-emphasis on outer wear, Burlington now operates 651 locations throughout 45 states and Puerto Rico, Burlington offers branded product in women's ready-to-wear apparel, menswear, youth apparel, baby products, footwear, accessories, home goods and coats.

Foot Locker is an international retailer focusing on athletic footwear which currently operates more than 7,200 stores throughout 12 countries

with combined sales exceeding \$6.6 billion. Rock & Toss Crab House is a locally-owned restaurant specializing in authentic-seasoned seafood including crab and shrimp dishes. The concept also maintains locations in Bowie and Owings Mills.

The Finmarc property improvement program at Largo Town Center included the installation of state-of-the-art light emitting diode (LED) lighting throughout the parking lot, the milling and repaving of the parking lot and the façade enhancement of the former 70,000 square foot Regency Furniture store space that is being backfilled by Burlington. A 35,000 square foot space remains available for lease.

"Competition for compelling new

See LARGO Page A6

Maryland Small Business Development Center

Webinar: Time-Saving Strategies for Busy Business Owners

September 30, 2020 • 1-2:30 p.m.

County/Sponsor: Maryland SBDC, Location: Online

Cost: Free of Charge-Registration Required:

<https://mdsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/16321>

As a busy entrepreneur, you're an expert in your particular craft, but managing the day-to-day marketing of the business can leave you exhausted and unmotivated. Join marketing expert, Melody Belotte to learn simple, practical and sanity-saving strategies to spend less time on marketing and more time on what matters.

Webinar: Achieving 8(a) Certification Successfully

October 1, 2020 • 10-11:30 a.m.

County/Sponsor: Maryland SBDC, Location: Online

Cost: Free of Charge-Registration Required:

<https://mdsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/16355>

This 8(a) Certification workshop provides information on how small businesses can better position themselves to compete more effectively in the federal marketplace. We will review this business development program including eligibility requirements and benefits of the program.

Presenter, Maria Asuelimen, AMA Consulting

UMD Extension Is Partnering Up With the Maryland Dept. of Transportation to Create 'Walktober'

A month dedicated to promoting a safe and healthy community

By PRESS OFFICER
University of Maryland Extension

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (September 14, 2020)—Just in time for October, University of Maryland Extension (UME) is teaming up with the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to begin the tradition of Walktober.

Walktober is a full month dedicated to health, safety and education for pedestrians and drivers to build safer, more sustainable communities in Maryland.

"Promoting health and wellness in our state's communities is a priority for the University of Maryland Extension," said Jinhee Kim, Family and Consumer Science Program Leader. "We're excited to partner with MDOT to enhance the safety of our neighborhoods, to educate pedestrians and drivers, and help make Maryland a safer, healthier place for

everyone."

Walktober events include four "Walkinars"—online webinars about pedestrian-related topics in Maryland—and WalkMaryland! Day on Oct. 7, 2020.

There will be four different opportunities for the public to participate in the free, online Walkinars. Participants through the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) will be able to earn 1.5 CEU credits for attending the sessions.

Oct. 1: Get Maryland Walking: What Can We Do? <https://go.umd.edu/walkinar1>

Oct. 15: Pedestrian Infrastructure, Safety, and Health <https://go.umd.edu/walkinar2>

Oct. 22: New Trends and Technologies to Support Walkability and Walking <https://go.umd.edu/walkinar3>

Oct. 29: Maryland Walk Events <https://go.umd.edu/walkinar4>

WalkMaryland! on Oct. 7, 2020, is a great way to encourage your community to increase physical activity levels. Group leaders register to lead a neighborhood walk and encourage members to engage in physical activities individually or together in their neighborhood.

As a registered "Sole Mate," you can choose from a list of registered walk leaders in your own neighborhood. WalkMaryland is a program that encourages you to increase your physical activity in a fun, community-oriented way while promoting pedestrian and driver safety throughout the state of Maryland. You may participate as an individual or as a group with others, such as a class or youth group such as 4-H.

Appropriate face coverings and COVID safety guidelines will be followed during the Oct. 7 event. To register to be a Group Leader, go to <https://go.umd.edu/WalkMaryland>. We hope you will be inspired to join us and others in Maryland and get more active and create healthier, safer communities for pedestrians and drivers. Learn more about WalkMaryland! at <http://extension.umd.edu/WalkMD> and register to join the walks at <http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/walktober>.

BUY Prince Georges



Step 1: Shop online



Step 2: Wait for your curbside delivery

Buy Prince George's. Support your local businesses by shopping online. For more information please visit pgcedc.com/buyprincegeorges

Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation
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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**

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Web Site:
www.westphaliaum.org

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& 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.fhbp.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. Ranesa Mayo, Pastor

"We are training disciples to
experience victory in every
area of their lives"
Matthew 28:19-20

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

Soulful Thursdays
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

BAPTIST

**Forest Heights
Baptist Church**

We exist to strengthen your
relationship with God.
6371 Oxon Hill Road
Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745

Sunday School
(Adults & Children) - 9:30 A.M.
Worship Service - 11:00 A.M.
Wed. Prayer Service & Bible
Study - 7:00 P.M.
Office (301) 839-1166
Fax (301) 839-1721
E-mail: FHBC@verizon.net
Pastor: Rev. Waymond B. Duke

COMMUNITY CHURCH

**WORD OF GOD
COMMUNITY
CHURCH**

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Jesus is Lord"

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

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

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Virtual Interns from A1

"At the forefront of innovation, NASA operates on the cutting edge, and NASA interns are no different," said Raquel Marshall, program manager for NASA's education initiatives. "They have the willingness to push the envelope and develop resourceful solutions. Mentors, leaders in their field, stand ready to delegate projects and cultivate learning."

"From a mentor and organizational perspective, we get fresh ideas," Marshall said. "To get those fresh ideas and innovation and creativity infused into the work that we're doing on a day-to-day basis, that's the value of the intern program."

Working online also provided more options for collaboration among centers. Interns from Goddard joined presentations from other centers, such as NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, and NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., over Microsoft Teams and Cisco WebEx.

"Interns at NASA can use their experience to validate their studies and build experience in their field," Marshall said. "The networks they develop and techniques they learn will last beyond the end of their internship."

Spring 2021 and Summer 2021 internship applications are open online. Mentors are actively updating their projects to reflect if they are virtual or on-center. For more information about NASA's internships and access to online applications, go to <https://intern.nasa.gov/>.

Largo from A5

retail uses in the Prince George's County region remains fierce, so it is extremely important to maintain a first-class environment to provide differentiation among the available shopping venues," explained Sean Sullivan, Vice President, Finmarc Management. "The CPIP funding mechanism is extremely unique and we believe it provided the critical advantage that enabled us to attract three new uses, highlighting by Burlington, which provides a new anchor and destination tenant for the center. Further, it is an excellent example of the use of a public program to incentivize landlords to invest in their property for the betterment of the entire community."

Located at 950 Largo Center Drive, Largo Town Center is anchored by national retailers Burlington, Marshalls, Shoppers Food Warehouse, Advanced Auto, and Dollar Tree and contains 35 tenants representing a mix of fast-casual and sit-down restaurants, as well as retailers offering products, and business and consumer services. The shopping center is positioned adjacent to MD Routes 202 (Landover Road) and 214 (Central Avenue) and is less than one mile from an Interstate 495 (Capital Beltway) exit.

"The Prince George's County Redevelopment Authority's CPIP program has supported facade improvements in 15 shopping centers, but none compare with the dramatic impact that the Redevelopment Authority's grant to Finmarc had on the redevelopment of Largo Town Center," stated David Iannucci, President & CEO of the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation. "The Economic Development Corporation is thrilled to see this public support for Finmarc's private investment keep a productive retail complex updated and thriving in the midst of what is a time of unprecedented challenges in the commercial marketplace. The RDA CPIP has achieved exactly what was envisioned."

Over the course of the two-year old CPIP Grant Program, \$2.8 million has been contributed to Prince George's County-area shopping centers.

"The shopping experience at Largo Town Center has been substantially improved over the past 18 months with the upgrades in the physical plant and tenant roster, and we are extremely optimistic about the prospect to lease the remaining 35,000 square feet of space," Sullivan added. "Among the strengths of the center is the exceptional daytime population nearby, due to the presence of stable and dense neighborhoods nearby and the new University of Maryland Regional Medical Center."

Finmarc Management, Inc. is a fully integrated commercial real estate company that focuses on real estate investment, management, leasing and development of retail, industrial/flex, and office properties throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. The firm presently owns and manages a diverse portfolio encompassing nearly 6.6 million square feet of commercial properties located in Maryland, Washington, D.C., Virginia, Delaware and Pennsylvania. For additional information, visit www.Finmarc.com

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