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New Agreement Allows PGCC Students to Transfer to CSM Medical Laboratory Technology Program With In-County Tuition Rate

By ANGELA WALTERS SMALL
College of Southern Maryland

LA PLATA, Md. (October 20, 2020)—The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) will now offer Prince George's Community College (PGCC) students the opportunity to transfer to CSM's Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) program and pay CSM's in-county tuition rate. The agreement builds on a 15-year model that has allowed CSM students to articulate to PGCC for Radiography and Respiratory Therapy classes and more recently, the PGCC Nuclear Medicine Technology program.

"This on-going collaborative relationship that conserves college resources, yet allows program expansion, is a win-win for both colleges and our students," said Acting Dean of the School of Science and Health Dr. Laura Polk.

- Each of these agreements uses the same model:
- Students complete General Education requirements at their home community college, then apply for admission to their specialized program at the neighboring college.
 - Each college reserves 25 percent of specialized program spaces for students who are transferring to the neighboring college.
 - Students receive in-county tuition rates after transfer to the neighboring college.

"The benefits of such programs are numerous," Polk said. "The supplies and equipment requirements for such specialized health programs are extensive and expensive. Articulating with PGCC allows CSM students access to the three specialized health fields without CSM incurring the cost or physical space requirements for the laboratory, and now PGCC students will get the same benefits with our MLT program. Through these partnering agreements, CSM and PGCC students can take advantage of the tuition savings by paying in-county tuition rates and each college benefits by the increase to its respective program's enrollment for these highly specialized health classes."

Never has the work of MLT's been more important than it is



PHOTO COURTESY THE COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND

CSM MLT Program Coordinator and Professor Tiffany Gill talks antibodies on the steps of the La Plata Campus library last fall. Thanks to a new transfer agreement, PGCC students will be now be able to take CSM's MLT classes.

today as the nation battles the COVID-19 pandemic. CSM's MLT program prepares students to perform diagnostic lab work that is a critical part of patient care. MLTs perform tests that include complete blood counts, urinalysis, cross matching blood for transfusion, identifying pathogenic organisms and chemical analysis of blood and other body fluids. CSM MLT graduates can apply to take the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Certification exam to obtain national certification as a medical lab technician and for the last three years, CSM graduates have had a 100 percent pass rate for ASCP certification and a 100 percent placement rate.

CNBC recently reported MLTs are one of 21 of the most in-demand jobs in the United States. According to a 2018 study from the Mercer human resources consulting firm, the United States will face a shortfall of around 95,000 nursing assistants and 98,700 medical and laboratory technicians and technologists by 2025. Overall employment of MLTs is projected to grow 13 percent from 2016 to 2026, faster than the average for all occupations. An increase in the aging population is expected to lead to an even greater need to diagnose medical conditions, such as cancer or Type 2 diabetes, through laboratory procedures.

For more information about these articulation agreements or to learn more about the Health Pathway at CSM, visit online at <https://www.csmd.edu/programs-courses/pathways/health/>.

State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy To Speak at 2020 "Legacy Global Summit"

By DENISE ROBERTS SMITH
Office of the State's Attorney, Prince George's County

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (October 23, 2020)—Prince George's County State's Attorney Aisha N. Braveboy will be a featured speaker at 2020 "Legacy Global Summit" hosted by the Legacy Premiere on November 5-6, 2020.

"The Legacy Premier Foundation is a global developmental non-profit organization that offers dynamic solutions to socio-economic issues faced by industries, corporations, and developing nations. I am honored to support this event and be a featured speaker," said State's Attorney Braveboy.

The Legacy Global Summit is two-day event designed to create a platform where business owners, international trade agencies, corporations, and governmental organizations can gain access to global financial resources and capital. The Summit also aims to promote business goals by leveraging strategic partnerships both locally and internationally. There will be a 5-6 continent representation at this summit focusing on Trade and Investment with primary focus on Africa.

This premiere conference will be an inter-generational bridge builder for emerging entrepreneurs and looking to grow and have access to resources and capital through partnerships with various chambers of commerce in the region, economic development corporations, private entities, government agencies, trade and investment desks of embassies and legislators.

If you would like to attend virtually, please register at https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Eamzqd_xSwS3ODQsm4a_xg.

For more information regarding this event, contact Remi Duyile at 240-604-1000 or info@legacypremier.org.



PHOTO COURTESY PGCMLS

New Carrollton Branch Library Receives 2020 Merit Awards for Excellence in Architectural Design

By DONNA SCOTT-MARTIN
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (October 22, 2020)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is the proud recipient of two 2020 Merit Awards for Excellence in Architectural Design for the New Carrollton Branch Library, which reopened in 2019. The New Carrollton Branch Library was designed by GWWO Architects, a Baltimore-based firm that "strives to enrich the human experience through responsible design that is inspirational, evocative, and progressive." The awards were issued by the American Institute of Architects (AIA), Maryland Chapter and the AIA, Potomac Valley Chapter, which represent the local and statewide architecture and design community.

These awards are a testament to Prince George's County's regional and national leadership in library architecture. PGCMLS' capital improvement projects are all community informed and they focus on accessibility, modernization, and captivating design. For example, the Library's Laurel

Branch received the 2018 AIA/ALA Library Building Award and was designated the best new public building in Maryland.

The design for the full interior renovation and addition of the New Carrollton Branch Library breathes new life into the two-story structure, creating a welcoming, technology-rich facility that establishes its place as a community anchor and meets the needs of today's library customers.

The New Carrollton Branch Library received an architectural award from The Society of American Registered Architects for its Brutalist design when it was built in 1971. The Brutalist-style structure embraced the architectural Field Theory movement of Walter Netsch and featured an interior layout comprised of a series of rotated equilateral triangles.

Taking its cues from the two-dimensional triangular floor plan, a new three-dimensional glass prism breaks through the former understated entry, framing the

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COVID-19 Decreased Maryland's Air Pollution, Research Shows

By RACHEL CLAIR
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (October 21, 2020)—In the early months of the coronavirus pandemic, as stay-at-home orders took effect and more commuters worked from home or lost their jobs, air pollution dropped markedly in Maryland, according to a recent report from the University of Maryland and the state's Department of the Environment.

Levels of noxious pollutants were markedly lower: nitrogen oxide decreased around 15 percent, and carbon dioxide and carbon

monoxide by 30 percent each from roughly mid-February to late May following plummets in traffic due to Gov. Larry Hogan's stay-at-home orders, joblessness, an increase in telework and closed school buildings.

Traffic also decreased—registering between 50 and 80 percent fewer Vehicle Miles Travelled according to preliminary data—since the early weeks of the pandemic in Maryland, according to the study. (https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Air/ClimateChange/MCCC/STWG/Analyzing%20Air%20Quality%20and%20Climate%20Change%20Update_Tad%20Aburn.pdf)

A pollutant called "black carbon"—tied largely to diesel fuel—decreased 30 percent during a two-month period, though data indicated that truck traffic decreased less than from other vehicles.

The state's environment department, working closely with the University of Maryland, NASA and other government agencies and university researchers, used satellites, air samples from airplanes, roadside monitoring and traffic data to calculate the effects of the pandemic on the state's air quality. Much of the data was collected from mid- to late-March through late May.

Researchers took into account pollution decreases that would normally occur with changes in weather, established teleworking and commuting trends and other expected changes to determine what was likely a result of the pandemic.

The significant decreases in air pollution are not surprising, according to Maryland Secretary of the Environment Ben Grumbles, as traffic on I-95 alone was down 50 percent at the beginning of March.

Now, as COVID restrictions are gradually being lifted, the main issue is how this reduction in air pollution is maintained when to-

day's "stay-at-home" reality moves into the past.

Grumbles, in an interview late last month with Capital News Service, pinpointed two key measures to keep air pollution at a reasonable minimum: teleworking and wide support for zero emissions vehicles.

Making teleworking more common and a routine in people's lives is a way to maintain at least part of this drop, according to Grumbles.

"(C)ommon sense efforts to expand telework policies could generate significant reductions in (greenhouse gas) emissions," the researchers found.

There is no denying the decrease in greenhouse gas emissions was a direct effect of people staying at home and traveling less, so teleworking is "the wave of the future," Grumbles said.

The pandemic has created a stronger argument in favor of more zero-emissions vehicles in Maryland.

Currently there are around 26,000 zero-emissions vehicles in Maryland, according to the Maryland Department of Environment website. (<https://news.maryland.gov/mea/2020/09/30/tracking-mary->

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FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF SARAH BENISH

An aerial picture of Baltimore from June 2018, taken during a research flight to measure air quality. Studies this year indicated a decrease in air pollution during the early months of the coronavirus pandemic.

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Prince George's County Launches NEW Electronic Procurement System Called SPEED

The cloud-based platform offers a digitized and simplified end-to-end procurement workflow in an integrated solution to drive consistency and efficiency.

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Life continues in The Time of Coronavirus

The number of new coronavirus infections across the greater Washington region has jumped to a two-month high. Just in Maryland, as of 5 p.m. Oct. 22, there have been 137,979 cases, 743 of which are new. As for COVID-19 deaths, Maryland's had 4,070. And 12 died yesterday.

Walk-in COVID-19 antibody testing is now available at all Patient First centers. Our closest one is at 9000 Woodyard Road in Clinton.

Schools are having a tough time, but somehow getting through it. My local grand- and great-grandchildren are getting their education virtually: Samantha McHale at Towson University, Sarah McHale at UMBC (University of Maryland Baltimore County), Mary McHale at Bishop McNamara HS, and Wesley McHale at St. Philip the Apostle School.

Meanwhile, I'm mostly at home. I get to Mass on Sunday at St. Philip's and do a masked grocery run about once a week. Otherwise, I'm here, waiting for you to email or call with news.

Neighbors & other good people

Tim Cordero, formerly of Skyline, retired several years ago from the Prince George's County Police. He now is the VP/Owner of BlueLine Security Services.

Former Morningsider Jill Booth and her husband Wayne have a new granddaughter, Lacie Jean, born July 4 weighing in at 8 lb., 3 oz. Proud parents are Sarah (Booth) and Michael Kane. Years ago Jill lived on Woodland Road in Morningside; her dad was a Morningside Council Member. (See "Bells" below.)

Fr. Charles McCann, former pastor of St. Philip's and other parishes, has sent a message, asking prayers for his family in Northern Ireland who are suffering from the coronavirus.

Richie LaGreta Coleman Scott, 83, graduate of Tuskegee and George Washington University, who served as teacher and administrator with Prince George's Schools for 30 years, died Sept. 24. She requests donations to St. Ignatius Church in Ft. Washington or to the Oxon Hill Food Pantry.

Bells are ringing

Kristen Bryant, parish secretary for

St. Philip's and Holy Family parishes, and Julian Ehiem were married Sept. 12 at Sacred Heart Church in Bowie.

Jennifer Booth and Travis Campbell were married Aug. 28 at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in Solomons. Jennifer is the daughter of Jill and Wayne Booth and the granddaughter of Morningside Councilman William Gilmartin, who served 1958-1964, and his wife Alice. Celebrant was Father John T. Dakes.

Election 2020

Have you voted yet? I filled my out my ballot and mailed it at the Clinton Post Office.

Ballot Drop Boxes, near me, will be open Sept. 28-30 at the Suitland Community School Center, 5600 Regency Lane, and at Friendly HS, 10000 Allentown Road.

My daughter, Therese Gallegos, is campaign manager for Bill Berg, down in Texas, running for the Port of Brownsville, Place 5. Bill's purpose is "to keep our port clean and protect the environment so that we can eat the fish we catch there, enjoy the view as we drive past and smell the ocean, not petrochemicals." Therese and Bill are both retired professors of the University of Texas at Brownsville.

Also, Therese is a Crossland '72 graduate.

Changing landscape

New homes in Suitland are going like hotcakes. The most recent sale I've seen was 4712 Towne Park Road, a townhouse with 4 bedrooms and 5 baths, which sold for \$418,000. Town Park Road appears to be the former Homer Avenue, which begins at Suitland Road, next to the Post Office.

The Navy has announced plans to build a new \$450 million flagship museum, the exact location not yet decided. It will replace the facility that has been at the Washington Navy Yard for more than 50 years. It was a favorite place to take my kids years ago—planes to climb on, a small submarine (Japanese, I think), a periscope to look through, and so much more. And it was free!

Animal Services Facility has a message for you

We invite you to visit the animals at

our state-of-the-art Animal Services Facility. Lost animals and animals available for adoption can be viewed through our website.

If you would like information about any of the animals available at our facility, contact the Prince George's County Animal Services Facility & Adoption Center Web Site at 301-780-7201.

Morningside Memories: VFW 9619

They were a bunch of Anacostia High School graduates who went off to war and returned home to Anacostia where they often hung out at a drugstore on Good Hope Road.

While they whiled away their time at the drug store, those WWII vets talked about starting their own VFW in Anacostia, but there was already one. So, they applied to the Maryland VFW.

On Nov. 4, 1947, Veterans of Foreign War Post 9619 was chartered. Robert Burns was the first Post Commander. The first meetings were at Strick's Restaurant, corner of Branch and Naylor Road on Tuesdays.

The Auxiliary was chartered a year later, in Nov. 1948. Commander Burns' wife Ethel was the first President.

In April 1965 they moved to Morningside along with a cannon (three-inch anti-tank howitzer). The Post was named Scott-Johnson-Collins to honor James Vachel Scott, Alfred H. Johnson and Michael Francis Collins, three GIs who died in WWII action. Scott and Johnson had gone to Anacostia HS; Collins, to Eastern.

Happy 73rd birthday, VFW 9619, and many more.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Don Eisenberg, Oct. 31; Carolyn Follin and former Morningside Councilman Jim Ealey, Nov. 1; Pearl McNamara and Carl McKlveen, Nov. 2; my son-in-law Luke Seidman and the Washington Navy Yard for more than 50 years. It was a favorite place to take my kids years ago—planes to climb on, a small submarine (Japanese, I think), a periscope to look through, and so much more. And it was free!

Happy anniversary to Michael and Maria (Blankenship) Jinks, their 18th on Nov. 1; and to Al and Debbie Callison, Nov. 4.

Happy Halloween to all my Readers!

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

Brandywine-Aquasco

MARYLAND (WOCN) ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Maryland Women of Color Network Maryland (WOCN) Annual Conference sponsored by MCASA, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Rape and Sexual Assault Prevention Program and Bowie State University WOCN is hosting its Annual Conference, Virtually, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Thursday, November 12, 2020 and Friday, November 13, 2020. This year's theme is Bold & Courageous: Strengthening Community Connections to end Sexual Violence.

Cost is free. Location: Virtual Session. Contact: Isha Taylor-Kamara. Email: itaylorkamara@bowiestate.edu. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/15th-annual-maryland-women-of-color-network-virtual-conference-registration>. Categories: Health & Wellness.

VIRTUAL BSU ALUMNI COMMUNITY

Make sure you join the conversation every Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. on the Bowie State University Office of Alumni Engagement (Facebook Page). Join the Virtual Community. Follow the conversation on all social media platforms, Facebook@BSUOAE, Twitter: @BSUAlumni Office, or Instagrami@Bowiealum.

CLINTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Clinton United Methodist Church in Clinton, Maryland celebrated Annual Men's Day Sunday October 18, 2020 in a virtual sermon. Pianist Avis Balkcom-Williams, Percussionist Lawrence Oghogho, Worship Leader was Barron Neal, Lay Servant. Nurbert Hughes, CLM delivered the Sermon. Pastor Rev. Doreatha Stroman. Congratulations Men on another celebration.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations Westphalia United Methodist Women for being a 5 Star Unit in 2020 with the Washington-East District United Methodist Women presented October 3, 2020. Diane Shorts, President and Linda LR Ford Treasurer.

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU

On behalf of the Bowie State University golf planning committee, outstanding student-athletes coaches, and staff members of the Athletic Department, we thank all our sponsors, golfers and supporters of the Bulldog Golf Classic that was held October 5, 2020.

This marked the 9th consecutive year of the Bulldog Golf Classic and despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the event was a success because of YOU !!! with more than 100 golfers playing

in the tournament at Oak Creek Golf Course. We raised funds to support our student-athletes as they continue to pursue their education at BSU. A considerable portion of our success is due to the commitment made by our sponsors to whom we extend our sincerest gratitude. Thank you, Bulldog Golf Classic sponsors. We appreciate your support. Save the date: The next Bulldog Golf Classic will be Tuesday October 12, 2021.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Juliet Onyiba and Jr. Mbakwe who celebrated their Wedding Ceremony Saturday, October 10, 2020 at Our Lady Help Christian Catholic Church 100 Village Street, Waldorf, Maryland 20602.

AMAZON DAY OF SERVICE

Makayla Eugene is a junior at Frederick Douglass High School in Prince George's County. She is an IB Diploma Programme Scholar who decided to focus on giving back to her community as part of her CAS project. She reached out to Amazon and secured a \$10K partnership, to which Amazon will donate small desks, TI-84 calculators, computer accessories to Makayla so that she can provide school supplies for students in need. E-mails were sent out to eligible students. Thanks, Makayla, for your hard work.

Distribution Day was Friday, October 16, 2020 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Frederick Douglass High School, 8000 Croom Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Thank you, Darrell Lewis for Amazon's support, in the community. Congratulations on the new distribution site in Upper Marlboro.

FOOD BASKETS FOR THE NEEDY

Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association (FDHS-AA) supports the SHARE Food Network. In 2019, through your generosity, FDHS-AA was able to underwrite the cost of food baskets for 20 families. In view of the difficult economic circumstances many families are experiencing because of the pandemic, we anticipate an even greater need this year.

A donation of \$50 can provide a package of a turkey (10-12 lbs.), whole roasting chicken (5 lbs.), Ground Pork Sausage (1), Tilapia (1 lb.), sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, mixed greens, green beans, macaroni & cheese, celery, onions, apples, oranges and pie. Make checks payable to FDHS-AA Upper Marlboro. Mail to Frederick Douglass HS Alumni Association, P.O. Box 2954, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20773. ZELLE to fdhsauppermarlboro@gmail.com (In Note section, write "Food Basket Donation"). Thank you for your donations.

Around the County

Prince George's Community College Center for Performing Arts

Receives Grant for Free Children Programs

LARGO, Md. (October 22, 2020)—Prince George's Community College's Center for Performing Arts (CPA) received a \$5,000 grant from the Nora Roberts Foundation to support its virtual children series, featuring BrightStar Theatre. All programs are free and appropriate for all ages. For more information and to register for events, visit pgcc.edu/arts.

Nora Roberts created the Nora Roberts Foundation in 2001 to support organizations promoting and encouraging literacy, children, the arts, and humanitarian efforts. Through this partnership, young audiences are exposed to the arts for free from the comfort of their homes.

"We are thrilled to have received this award from the Nora Roberts Foundation," said Center for Performing Arts Senior Manager Andre Mazelin. "It could not have come at a more perfect time. Families are experiencing increased economic burdens due to COVID-19, and this grant enables us to provide free literacy-focused family programs to our community," he added.

Each month, attendees can view live theater beginning with USA to Z on Saturday, October 24. USA to Z is an interactive children's show that teaches audiences how to be good citizens and what it means to vote. Additional performances in the series include:

Performance	Date
Holidays Around the World	November 21
Aesop's Fables	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. 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, visit <http://www.pgccfoundation.org/giving/cpa>.

—Sonji Joyner, Prince George's Community College

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation Confirms Safe Lead Levels

Local Playgrounds Reopened

RIVERDALE, Md. (October 21, 2020)—The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation today announced the results of lead testing at two playgrounds in Prince George's County. The results—no elevated lead levels—were determined by Air, Land and Water Engineering, Inc. (ALWE)*, environmental consultants licensed by the state of Maryland, which the Department contracted to perform lead testing at the following locations:

1. South Bowie Community Center: 1717 Pittsfield Lane
2. Walker Mill Regional Park: 8001 Walker Mill Road

"The health and safety of our residents, especially our youth, is top priority for the Department," stated Department of Parks and Recreation Director, Bill Tyler. "These assuring test results confirm what we already knew—our playgrounds are safe. We are pleased to now safely reopen these playgrounds for the enjoyment of our community."

ALWE was contracted to perform lead testing and analysis of rubberized play surfacing, Poured in Place (PIP), in two parks in Prince George's County. While there are no lead standards for rubberized play surfacing, the Department elected to use the most stringent standards, established by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for lead in bare soil in children's play areas, to evaluate the rubber bulk samples. This standard sets a limit of 400 parts per million (ppm) (or 0.04%). ALWE performed various samples: lead dust wipes (surface), bulk samples (base), and colored rubberized samples (top layer).

ALWE prepared various reports, see excerpts listed below, for full reports see web page here. The Department is proactively conducting lead testing at all of its other playgrounds with similar surfaces, and will post those results, when testing is completed, as well.

South Bowie Community Center playground:

South Bowie Community Center playground had five (5) bulk samples taken of the rubberized material on September 28, 2020. The light purple sample had a result of 237ppm, the gray sample had a result of 19 ppm, the brown sample had a result of 9 ppm, the green sample had a result of 16 ppm, and the black bottom layer sample had a result of 9 ppm for lead. Each of these are well below the 400 ppm standard. This PIP material was installed in 2010, and at the time of sampling, there were a few small patches near the gate entrance to the park. Another patch was also noted at the 'tail' of the dragon. A few holes were present where disks had been removed from the playground. The playground has six distinct colors of PIP material; gray, blue, green, brown, light purple, and dark purple.

Walker Mill Regional Park:

Walker Mill Regional Park playground initial testing had five (5) bulk samples taken of the rubberized material on September 28, 2020. The green sample had a result of 10 ppm, the brown sample had a result below the detection limit of 11 ppm, the red brown sample had a result of 12 ppm, the blue sample had a result of 13 ppm, and the black bottom layer sample had a result less than the detection limit of 10 ppm for lead. Each of these are well below the 400 ppm standard. The PIP material was installed in 2012 and at the time of sampling the only damaged area was below the swing area. Discoloration of the PIP material was noted in the water park area, and on the blue river area of the material (where the sample four (4) dust wipe was collected). This playground has many different colors of PIP material; green, light green, brown, red brown, yellow brown, blue, dark blue, black, etc.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS:

The samples tested were all well below the Maryland standard for lead of 400 ppm, established by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. **Based on these results, the PIP playgrounds do not pose a lead based hazard.**

*ALWE environmental consultants are licensed in Maryland as Lead Inspector Technicians and Licensed in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. as Lead Risk Assessors.

—Angel Waldron, Dept of Parks and Recreation

COMMUNITY

Habitat for Humanity and Bank of America Partner on Affordable Homeownership and Workforce Development

Bank of America Contributes More Than \$135,000 to Support Habitat for Humanity in Maryland

By LAURA TORALDO
for Habitat for Humanity

BALTIMORE (October 19, 2020)—Throughout the state, Habitat for Humanity is building a better Maryland, advancing affordable homeownership with the support of \$137,000 from Bank of America. Local affiliates receiving grant funding include: Habitat for Humanity Wicomico; Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna; Habitat for Humanity of Carroll County; Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland and Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake, serving Baltimore City and Wicomico, Harford, Cecil, Carroll, Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Prince George's, Montgomery, and Howard counties.

In addition to offsetting the cost of acquiring the homes, Bank of America's commitment will provide intensive hands-on training for individuals facing employment barriers through Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake's workforce development program, HabiCorps. HabiCorps trainees gain more than 10 months of meaningful work experience in the construction trades. The program also focuses on financial literacy coach-

ing, case management services and job placement assistance, while building homes for families in need and transforming communities.

"Bank of America's support has reached far beyond the Chesapeake, helping to make homeownership affordable for families throughout the State of Maryland," said Mike Posko, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake. "We're grateful for partners like Bank of America that make it possible for us to fulfill our mission of helping those in need build stability and self-reliance, through workforce development opportunities and affordable housing."

Bank of America has partnered globally with Habitat for more than 30 years, investing more than \$85 million in philanthropic funding to help create affordable housing across the country. Contributing nearly \$550,000 in local support over the last five years and hundreds of bank employees volunteering time to work at home construction sites, Bank of America continues to ensure

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Brighter Bites Receives Walmart Foundation Grant to Expand Access To Fresh Produce and Nutrition Education Across Schools This Fall

The \$1.5 Million Grant Will Help Scale Brighter Bites' Ongoing Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic to Reach 30,000 Families Nationwide

By KATHARINE PERROW
Brighter Bites

HOUSTON, Tex. (October 20, 2020)—Brighter Bites, a Houston-based nonprofit that provides underserved families with fresh produce and nutrition education to improve health outcomes, today announced it has received an additional \$1.5 million grant from the Walmart Foundation to expand programming in diverse communities throughout the country. The grant will support Brighter Bites' ongoing response to the Covid-19 pandemic and nutrition crisis by fueling growth in Houston, Dallas, Austin, the Washington, D.C. metro area, New York City, and Florida, as well as expansion to Brighter Bites' first city in California.

The Covid-19 pandemic and resulting economic downturn have exacerbated the worst hunger and nutrition crisis in recent history. Health disparities in nutrition and obesity have manifested in minority groups that face hurdles to accessing healthy, affordable food experiencing disproportionate rates of infections, hospitalizations, and deaths from Covid-19.

"Access to healthy food builds the foundation for good health in communities," said Eileen Hyde, director of sustainability, food systems and food access for Walmart.org. "Our goal is to improve people's ability to more consistently consume nutritious food, and we're thrilled to support Brighter Bites who work every day to do just that."

This summer the organization experienced a 2,000% increase in demand for services compared to the same time period last year and has been forced to pivot operations in order to safely bring its three-part program back to schools this fall.

This school year Brighter Bites will enroll

nearly 30,000 underserved families in the program across 126 schools nationwide. Each week, participating families will receive specially curated boxes filled with 20–25 pounds of 8–12 different produce items, along with nutrition education materials and recipes to help families prepare healthy meals together at home.

Brighter Bites traditionally utilizes a volunteer co-op model with parent and community volunteers helping to bag the bulk produce on school campuses. However, due to safety concerns the organization is now paying distributors to pre-package the produce into individual cardboard boxes for families to receive via car-pool lines. Brighter Bites is also ramping up its work with farmers to facilitate the recovery and distribution of fresh, high-quality produce that would otherwise go to waste.

"Brighter Bites is incredibly grateful for the Walmart Foundation's ongoing support, especially at a time when an unprecedented number of families are struggling to put fresh, immune-boosting food on the table," said Rich Dachman, Brighter Bites CEO. "This grant provides the resources we need to rapidly innovate in order to safely bring our program back to schools this fall without missing a beat."

And whereas before Brighter Bites' staff would distribute printed nutrition education materials to families at in-person events, this year the entire process will be streamlined with families scanning a QR code on their produce boxes to access all of the corresponding recipes, tip sheets, and materials via the new Brighter Bites Mobile App. Brighter Bites will also be conducting virtual cooking demonstrations, and engaging with families at a higher level through online channels and social media.

Through third-party research partnership with the UTHealth School of Public Health, Brighter Bites is able to demonstrate impact in terms of improving families' nutrition and long-term health. A few topline statistics that UTHealth researchers reported from last school year include:

- Of the families who participated in Brighter Bites over the 2019-2020 school year, 99% of parents reported their family ate more fruits and veggies during the program, while 97% reported continuing to eat more produce on their own during the summer after.
- As compared to the shopping and consumption habits of families at baseline, by the end of the spring participating families reported a significant decrease in the amount of added sugars consumed, as well as a significant increase in eating produce-heavy meals together at home.

With the mission of creating communities of health through fresh food, Brighter Bites' ultimate goal is to increase access to—and sustainable consumption of—fruits and vegetables to reduce health disparities among populations that are particularly vulnerable to obesity and diet-related diseases. Brighter Bites is an evidence-based, multi-component elementary school, preschool, and summer camp program that utilizes reliable access to fruits and vegetables, nutrition education, and consistent exposure to recipes and messages that feature fresh food. Visit BrighterBites.org.

Walmart.org represents the philanthropic efforts of Walmart and the Walmart Foundation. By leaning in where the business has unique strengths, Walmart.org works to tackle key social issues and collaborate with others to spark long-lasting systemic change.

STENY HOYER IS FIGHTING FOR US IN CONGRESS.

Steny puts the needs of Maryland families first. He's fighting to deliver critically-needed relief to Maryland families and businesses struggling because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Steny helped create and save nearly 23,000 jobs throughout the Fifth District, and he's a strong advocate for fair pay and benefits for federal employees, including at Goddard Space Flight Center. As Majority Leader, he brought to the House Floor critical legislation to lower health care costs, hold the Trump Administration accountable, grow our economy, and address racial injustice in our communities.

AND HE'S FIGHTING FOR THE THINGS THAT MATTER MOST TO US:



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 3!

- ✔ Protecting our communities from COVID-19 and addressing health disparities among our communities of color
- ✔ Bringing down health care costs
- ✔ Protecting our environment
- ✔ Raising wages and ensuring equal pay
- ✔ Making college more affordable
- ✔ Advocating for local infrastructure projects to keep our communities connected
- ✔ Combating corruption in government
- ✔ Passing commonsense gun safety legislation
- ✔ Supporting bipartisan criminal justice reform to make our justice system more equitable and fair

Hoyer for Congress

HOYERFORCONGRESS.COM

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COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Racism Leaves America Vulnerable to Foreign Manipulation and Exploitation of The Threat of Violent Voter Intimidation

"We have to accept that foreign powers seize upon these divisions because they are real—because racism remains the United States' Achilles' heel. Indeed, it is, and always has been, a national security vulnerability—a fundamental and easily exploitable reality of American life that belies the image and narrative of equality and justice we project and export around the world."

—Sherrilyn Ifill, President and Director-Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund

Voters in Florida and Alaska woke up to a chilling

message in their email this week.

"We are in possession of all your information. You will vote for Trump on Election Day or we will come after you."

The messages seemed to be coming from the far-right white supremacist group, Proud Boys.

It was a terrifying reminder of America's long history of white supremacist terrorist tactics used to keep Black Americans from exercising their right to vote.

Intelligence officials have determined the messages were the work of Iranian operatives and that

more of this kind of interference could be in store from Russia.

Russian interference in the 2016 election is well-documented—and the largest part of their efforts were aimed at suppressing the Black vote.

Exploitation of American racism by both Russia and Iran extends back through the decades. In the 1960s, KGB and Soviet influence operations were aimed at discrediting Martin Luther King Jr. During the Iranian hostage crisis that began in 1979, the hostage-takers declared a unified stance with "oppressed minorities" in the United States, and released all Black and woman hostages in an attempt to use American racial tensions as a wedge issue. In the 1980s the Soviet Union stoked racial tensions ahead of the 1984 Olympics.

The simple truth is American racism—which is very real—makes us vulnerable to foreign adversaries intent on weakening our democracy.

The threat of violence contained in the emails sent by Iran appears to be an empty one. And Black voters do not appear to have been singled out in this operation.

But the threat of election-related violence from white supremacist terrorists is real, not an invention of Iran or Russia. In the last presidential election, Neo-Nazis and groups related to the Ku Klux Klan—threatened to send "armies" to Black precincts. Arsonists who set fire to a Baptist Church in Missis-

sippi spray-painted the message "Vote Trump."

Devin Burghart, executive director of the Institute for Research and Education on Human Rights, told WBUR, "We are seeing a high level of activity from militia-type groups and other far right organizations discussing the possibility of interfering in the electoral process, either on Election Day or after the ballots are cast."

The Department of Homeland Security's October Threat Assessment warned that violent extremists might target events related to the 2020 Presidential campaigns, the election itself, election results, or the post-election period. "Among [Domestic Violent Extremists], racially and ethnically motivated violent extremists—specifically white supremacist extremists (WSEs)—will remain the most persistent and lethal threat in the Homeland."

In the same document, the Department also warned that Russian actors would exploit "perceived grievances within minority communities, especially among African Americans" and "engage in efforts to discourage voter turnout and to suppress votes" in the 2020 election just as they did in the 2016 election.

The fact that both foreign and domestic actors have focused their efforts on Black Americans is proof of the power of the Black vote. If your vote didn't matter, they wouldn't fight so hard to block it.

We won't be intimidated, and we won't be fooled. Please make a plan to vote, early if possible.

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita, Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Vote, Vote, Vote

"The first fact that we need to understand is that America has a longer history of disenfranchisement than it does of enfranchisement. What do I mean by that? At the time of the American Revolution when America was finding its footing, more than two-thirds of the people who resided in the colonies couldn't vote. You had to be white, you had to be male, you had to have property, and you had to be privileged. This history of America is a history of political exclusion . . . It was because people were trying to control power from the very beginning."

—Dr. Hasan Kwame Jeffries, speaking at a Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools® training

When I moved to Mississippi in 1964 to head the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund office there, Black people in that state were denied their constitutional right to vote by procedural barriers, economic reprisal, and violent intimidation. The mere

process of registering to vote was daunting for Black Mississippians. They had to find transportation to travel to the county courthouse, which could be many miles away. There they would be required to take a written "literacy test" and "interpret," to the satisfaction of a White circuit clerk, the meaning of an arcane section of the Mississippi Constitution. This was an easy way to deny the franchise to even well-educated Black professionals who were routinely declared "illiterate" and thus determined ineligible to vote. Those who tried to register commonly had their names published in the local newspaper which would often result in their immediate dismissal by their White employers.

This kind of discrimination pervaded the South and was extremely effective. Some places like Holmes County, Mississippi, only had 20 Black registered voters in 1965 despite their majority population status. To reinforce this systematic disenfranchisement night riding Ku Klux Klansmen shot into Black people's homes, bombed Black businesses, and committed other acts of violence. Terror groups didn't hesitate to commit murder. Among those who made the ultimate sacrifice to secure the right to vote were Mississippi NAACP

leader Medgar Evers and Freedom Summer voter registration volunteers James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner.

Although the sacrifices of the Civil Rights Movement are still fresh wounds for all of us who lived through them for some Americans they may seem like ancient history. But as the voter suppression and intimidation tactics happening right now are proving, there has never been a safe time in America to drop vigilance about attempts to shut people out of the vote, the lifeblood of democracy.

When historian Hasan Kwame Jeffries spoke at a CDF Freedom Schools training event several years ago he warned college-age young leaders that throughout America's long history of disenfranchisement the same old threats have reorganized under different policies and new names. Today's methods are at their most precise: "Before . . . the goal was to take the vote away from all African Americans. But if you understand how electoral politics works, particularly at the federal level but even at the local level, you understand that you no longer need to take the vote away from everybody . . . All you have to do is take out a couple thousand. That's what voter suppression is about, and that's what we're dealing with today . . . Just make it hard enough for [a few] not to be able to go down on Election Day to vote, and you can carry the day. And they propose this legislation in state after state after state under the guise of democracy. It's the most undemocratic thing that you could do."

We are watching this happen now. When powerful forces chisel away at the ability to vote for some Amer-

icans they threaten the American promise for all Americans. No American should be complicit in allowing this to happen. It should have been little surprise that some desperate leaders and states would continue to make it as difficult as possible for citizens to safely cast their votes even during the ongoing pandemic. As Frederick Douglass warned us in 1857, "Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will." He taught us that even when it is wrapped up in new euphemisms and better etiquette we must always be on guard for "the same old snake." If that snake is rearing its vicious head in your own community right now, don't give up!

If you have not already cast your vote, vote. Use your power as one citizen. Don't let anyone take it away from you. Urge and help others in your family, neighborhood, and congregation to do the same. Go to CDF's Voter Resources Hub to make sure you know what ID or documentation (if any) your state requires and where your polling location is for early voting or for voting on Election Day, because they may have changed since the last election. Prepare for long lines if needed. If you witness voter suppression, call the Election Protection Hotline at 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683) and make sure your friends and family know to do the same.

Let's mount an urgent and systematic fight against the latest attempts at disenfranchisement and counter every single effort at voter suppression and intimidation with our own redoubled commitments to record breaking voter turnout. Our democracy and our children's futures depend on it.

Maryland In-Person Early Voting Began Monday

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (October 22, 2020)—The Maryland State Board of Elections reminds voters seeking to cast their ballots in person that early voting began Monday, Oct. 26 and runs for eight consecutive days, including Saturday and Sunday. Early voting in Maryland concludes on Monday, Nov. 2, the day prior to Election Day.

Eligible voters may cast their ballots at any authorized early voting center in their jurisdiction of residence. A complete list of early voting centers is available at

<https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2020/2020%20Early%20Voting%20Centers.pdf>. Voters may also search <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/PollingPlaceSearch> for early voting centers, Election Day voting centers and ballot drop box locations in their area simply by including their zip code.

For voters who missed the advance voter registration deadline, same-day registration will be available at early voting

and Election Day vote centers. To prove their place of residence, Marylanders registering in person during early voting or on Election Day will need to bring their Motor Vehicle Administration-issued driver's license, identification card or change of address card, or a paycheck, bank statement, utility bill or other government document that includes the voter's name and new address.

"We encourage Marylanders who would like to vote in person to take advantage of early voting," said Maryland State Board of Elections Administrator Linda Lamone. "While many Marylanders have, and continue to, cast their votes using mail-in ballots, voting early is one way

to reduce lines and limit wait times at vote centers. The best time to vote in person is on a weekday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m."

Voters who have already requested a ballot should vote the ballot they receive in the mail. Voters simply complete the ballot, sign the oath on the postage-paid return envelope that accompanies the ballot, seal the envelope and submit it by mail or at an approved ballot drop box location.

Voters may not "trade in" their mail-in ballot during early voting or on Election Day, nor can they scan their mail-in ballot at an in-person vote center. If a voter has already requested or received a mail-in ballot and wants to vote early, the voter

will have to cast a provisional ballot. This ballot will be held until election officials confirm the voter did not also return a mail-in ballot. This process ensures only one ballot per voter is counted.

Voters may drop off a mail-in ballot at an early voting center, but the ballot must be properly sealed in the return envelope that accompanied the mail-in ballot. Voters must sign the oath on the return envelope in order for the ballot to be counted.

As a reminder, early voting centers and Election Day vote centers will be following approved health guidelines. Voters must wear a mask and maintain a distance of at least six feet between other individuals. —State Board of Elections

Council Chair Todd M. Turner Issues Statement on The Council's Final Approval to Legislation Addressing Alternative School Construction Model For Prince George's County Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (October 20, 2020)—Today's Prince George's County Council's action adopting CR-100-2020, as amended, provides final approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) governing the Alternative Financing Construction program, a multi-year public-private partnership to build six new public schools in the County and provide upgraded learning environments for approximately 8,000 students over the next four years.

With today's vote, the County Council continues to make critical investments in our children, their

families and our County, and reinforces school construction as a priority. Prince George's County, through a joint commitment between Prince George's County Schools CEO, Dr. Monica Goldson and our school system, the Board of Education, County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, the County Council and state lawmakers, is leading the way for this first of its kind school construction model in Maryland and the nation.

The Council's final approval of the MOU sets the structure for the Council to fulfill its budget and over-

sight obligations as we move closer to design and construction on these six new or renovated County schools. While this novel, innovative and collaborative public-private partnership approach to building schools in our County is an exciting undertaking, we expect to meet some additional opportunities and challenges along the way. The MOU adopted by the Council will guide the County's collective roles and responsibilities as we proceed down this path.

We strongly encourage the endorsement of this historic project by the Board of Education when it convenes tomorrow for a scheduled vote on the matter. For the benefit of our children and resi-

Maryland and 15 other states signed an agreement to increase the number of zero-emissions vehicles on the roads, according to the director of the Maryland Department of Environment's Air and Radiation Management Administration Tad Aburn.

A combination of long-term solutions is key to maintaining the reductions seen in 2020, Aburn said.

ratory infection.

Public transportation and investment in this sector will be one way to achieve lower air pollution levels, according to Director of Environment Maryland Kate Breiman, who said people need to find a greener way to get around.

The Hogan administration has looked to invest in not just green cars, but more environmentally friendly buses and trucks. In July,

Pollution from AI

lands-zero-emission-vehicle-activity/)

Maryland has a goal to reach 300,000 electric vehicles by 2025 to have a substantial impact on the environment, Grumbles said. (<https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy19osti/71198.pdf>)

Maryland and other states signed on to adhere to these princi-

ples. Northeastern states also partnered to create an action plan and set specific goals for zero-emissions vehicles.

"This is an audacious and ambitious goal but it is an excellent goal. However, we need game-changers to help with this," said Grumbles.

Air pollution is especially relevant in a pandemic where the virus is usually evident as a respi-

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Prince George's County Launches NEW Electronic Procurement System Called SPEED

Prince George's County Continues Commitment to Support County Local, Small and Diverse Suppliers by Developing Technology-Supported Solutions

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County MD

LARGO, Md. (October 20, 2020)—The Prince George's County Office of Central Services is pleased to announce the launch of SPEED (Strategic Purchasing & Efficient Evaluation Domain), an electronic procurement system for the County Government. SPEED is a SAP Ariba product that offers online strategic sourcing and contracting capabilities to enhance and streamline the procurement process for County Government and local businesses.

"When I took office, I promised to bring innovative solutions to the County Government to help streamline processes for residents and our business community," said Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "This electronic procurement system is our latest tool to support small and local businesses by making it easier to do business with the County Government."

The cloud-based platform offers a digitized and simplified end-to-end procurement workflow in an integrated solution to drive consistency and efficiency. SPEED identifies qualified suppliers

through the integrated Ariba platform to improve bid competitiveness. This cloud-based solution not only helps locate suppliers and get a price, but also defines and executes supplier selection, and creates contracts that connect to actual savings.

"We are Prince George's Proud of the County's new electronic procurement platform. Now more than ever, we need solutions that advance and enhance the County's way of doing business and positions us as leaders in setting the pace," said Jonathan R. Butler, Director of the Office of Central Services.

SPEED is the latest tool within The Business Highway, an online portal where newly developed business resources are located, including the Green Book opportunities guide and the County's business certification system, Contract Certification and Compliance System (CCS). The Business Highway also includes a host of capacity building and training resources for County businesses.

View the SPEED portal online at <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/3692/SPEED>

Habitat from A3

Maryland Habitat for Humanity organizations have the resources needed to revitalize communities throughout Baltimore and surrounding counties.

"Bank of America is committed to expanding access to affordable housing in our communities, a critical step toward financial stability and success," said Sabina Kelly, Greater Maryland market president for Bank of America. "Through our partnership with Habitat for Humanity, we're able to make homeownership a reality for deserving indi-

viduals and families and support them on their path towards economic mobility."

Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope. Since 1982, Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake has built more than 770 homes in 18 communities, providing a brighter future for 2,700 children and family members. Homeownership is proven to transform lives—improving health, increasing children's chances of academic success and offering an opportunity to build wealth across generations. www.habitatchesapeake.org

Over 11,000 Votes Cast to Choose Top 2020 RMI Champions of Maryland Manufacturing

By STACEY SMITH
Regional Manufacturing
Institute of Maryland

BALTIMORE (October 20, 2020)—Individuals from across the State of Maryland cast over 11,000 votes online, as part of Regional Manufacturing Institute of Maryland's (RMI) People's Choice Awards, choosing their favorite stories of those that are "championing Maryland manufacturing."

Voters Across Maryland chose from 143 unique stories in seven categories featured in RMI's new online Champions of Maryland Manufacturing Directory that demonstrated great leadership, innovation and resiliency from a variety of organizations including manufacturers, non-profits, academic institutions and agencies who are part of Maryland's manufacturing ecosystem in the following categories below. The top two Champions which received the most votes in each category listed below are the winners of the People's Choice Awards:

Battling COVID-19: Notre Dame Preparatory School, Baltimore County and Patriot, Calvert County

Community Engagement: Exelon, Calvert County and Conagra Brands, Washington County

Diversity & Inclusion: Patuxent Brewing Company, Charles County and Manufacturing Innovation Hub Cooperative, Baltimore City

Energy Efficiency & Sustainability: C-Care, Anne Arundel County, Gotham Greens*, Baltimore County and XCo*, Queen Anne's County (*2nd place tie)

Innovation: SAFT, Baltimore County and *Airgility, Prince George's County*

Resiliency: CHUTES International, Charles County and Rinker Materials, Frederick County

Workforce: UMBC & MxD, Baltimore County and Towson University, Baltimore County

The 143 Champions stories in the Directory provide a fantastic resource for anyone to learn more about Maryland manufacturing. Champions stories were submitted from every Maryland county and Baltimore City. These stories can be found at <https://rmiofmaryland.com/>

"The contributions came from all kinds of organizations who champion our industry every day," said Mike Galiazzo, President of RMI. The outpouring was unprecedented and the interest from across the State has been nothing but amazing," he said. "This year's Champions celebration was much different than our past mega events because of the pandemic, but the current environment also has illuminated Maryland's great contributors to our industry as never before," said Galiazzo.

Recognizing the Champions of Maryland Manufacturing is a key element of RMI's image

campaign to help put a face on today's next generation manufacturing. By helping to tell the stories of those that are championing the manufacturing effort in Maryland, we help policy-makers better understand the products made in their jurisdictions and how those goods help us in our daily lives. We also help educators, parents, and kids see manufacturing as a viable, enriching career opportunity.

RMI will be hosting webinars with each of our People's Choice awardees so that the public can hear directly from them regarding their phenomenal impact in their communities and on Maryland's economy.

Future announcements on the webinars can be found on RMI's website under "upcoming events" at www.rmiofmaryland.com

The Regional Manufacturing Institute of Maryland's (RMI) mission is to advocate for Maryland manufacturing and help companies grow and be competitive. RMI was Founded in 1990 as a non-profit association, created for manufacturers in the Baltimore Metropolitan area. Today, RMI of Maryland represents the interests of manufacturers statewide—providing programs, services, and advocacy. RMI represents the interests of manufacturers in every Maryland county. RMI is dedicated to serving people, families, and communities by growing manufacturing. Jobs in manufacturing provide livable wages that contribute immeasurably to stronger families, communities and economic growth.

The Prince George's County Department of Housing Community Development Announces its Emergency Rental Assistance Relaunch



The Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is now offering relief to landlords on behalf of renters experiencing financial difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic through its second Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program.

Landlords submit your application by 11:59 p.m. EST on Nov. 10, 2020! Funds are limited, so apply now. Funds will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Landlords/Owners of multi-family, single-family, condominium and cooperative properties with a valid County rental license are eligible to apply.

Landlords must complete an on-line application and submit the following documents on behalf of all eligible delinquent tenants:

- Application
- Rental Assistance Agreement
- IRS Form W-9
- Owner Losses Report
- Rent Ledger
- Property Deed
- Rental Lease (1st and signature page)
- Agent or Management Agreement
- (between the Owner and the Agent)
- PGC Electronic Funds Transfer Form
- Tenant Self-Certification of Eligibility and Annual Income Form
- Client Information Authorization
- Rental License (issued by the County for the property)

Tenants must meet the following requirements:

- Have a valid lease agreement in their name.
- Income eligible families whose annual income does not exceed 80% of the area median income, as determined by HUD, and adjusted for household size.
- The household has COVID-19 triggering event.



Program opens Tuesday, October 27, 2020

For detailed information about the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, visit the DHCD website:
<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/908/Housing-Community-Development>

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Wed. Night Bible Study - 7:45 p.m.
Elder Willie W. Duvall, Pastor

Library from A1

new entrance and housing additional community gathering space. The Library's new interior layout responds to the existing triangular configuration and places major destinations at each of the three apices: children's collection, public meeting rooms, and the entrance with adjacent café.

"We are so proud of receiving these awards in recognition of the work that was done to bring this facility into the 21st century," said Michael Gannon, Chief Operating Officer for Support Services. "It is remarkable that the architectural design team was able to take a prize-winning building from the past that was well past its prime and reinvent it into a prize-winning facility that is now capable of embracing the future," he expounded. Gannon oversees all PGCMLS building projects.

The November 3 general election ballot in Prince George's County includes a proposal for a bond issue to support ongoing and future PGCMLS capital improvement projects. The ballot question (Question B) seeks community support for the allocation of \$28,829,000 in funds "to finance the design, construction, reconstruction, extension, acquisition, improvement, enlargement, alteration, renovation, relocation, rehabilitation, or repair of Library Facilities."

Projects supported by the proposed funding include:

- Baden Branch Library rehabilitation
- Bladensburg Branch Library replacement
- Brandywine Branch Library new construction
- Hillcrest Heights Branch Library renovation
- Langley Park Branch Library new construction
- Surratts-Clinton Branch Library rehabilitation
- Library Branch Renovations—systematic improvements of existing branches

To learn about current library capital projects, visit PGCMLS Builds. A ballot proof is available at <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/31743/PG20-Ballot-Proof---BOT-3> and more information about the bond issue is at <https://princegeorgescountymd.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4577260&GUID=65F93FE2-FFB3-41D1-9283-B0C78FAA774E>.

Prince George's County Residents Can Get Free, Expert Help Enrolling in Health Coverage

"Get Connected" Virtual & Call-In Events Nov. 10 & 17 To Kick Off Open Enrollment
Marylanders may enroll Nov. 1–Dec. 15 for 2021 private health plans

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County MD

LANDOVER, Md. (October 22, 2020)—Prince George's County Health Connect (PGC Health Connect), in conjunction with Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), will hold a series of virtual "Get Connected" events in early November as part of efforts to help inform Maryland residents on the open enrollment period for health insurance. Sponsored by the state's health insurance marketplace Maryland Health Connection (MHC), the 2020 open enrollment period for health and dental insurance is from November 1 through December 15; upon enrollment, the coverage begins 2021.

The first "Get Connected" event scheduled will take place on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 4 pm. It will feature a presentation, followed by a Q&A segment. Bilingual navigators will be on standby to enroll community members during the program. To participate in this virtual event, go to <https://www1.pgcmcls.info/event/4646367>.

On Tuesday, November 17, 2020, at 7 p.m., there will be a virtual community town hall meeting on "Accessing Health Insurance." To participate, go to <https://pgcmcls.info/event/4660776>.

PGC Health Connect is a program of Prince George's County Department of Social Services (PGCDSS); providing the County with certified health insurance navigators who educate, conduct outreach, and enroll County residents ages 18 to 64 in health plans. "Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 has been a challenging year for many Prince Georgians," says Gloria Brown Burnett, Director of PGCDSS. "If this year has taught us anything, it's that we need to be prepared—especially when it comes to healthcare and maintaining wellness. Taking advantage of this open enrollment period is a great way to do that."

Navigators, many of whom are bilingual, help residents understand their plans and coverage options, as well as provide financial help. Trained health insurance brokers are also available to help residents throughout the entire six-week open enrollment period. This does not apply to Medicaid, as Medicaid enrollment is year-round. People who have coverage through Medicaid will receive a notice when it's time to renew.

Beginning November 1, PGC Health Connect navigators will be available at three call centers daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; late evenings until 7 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To talk with a navigator in Prince George's County, call 301-927-4500, 240-719-2167, or PGC Health Connect's partner organization, CASA at 301-270-8432 and 240-270-1318. For a listing of the hours and times, visit PGCHealthConnect.org.

Residents may enroll online at MarylandHealthConnection.gov, through the free "Enroll MHC" mobile app, or by calling toll-free at 1 (855) 642-8572 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays. For extended and weekend hours, go to MarylandHealthConnection.gov. To learn more about 2021 health insurance plans and prices, residents can visit marylandhealthconnection.gov/find-help/ to find free help.

Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE) is a public corporation and independent unit of the state government. It was established in 2011 in accordance with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA) and is responsible for the administration of Maryland Health Connection. Maryland Health Connection: One of every six Marylanders receive their health coverage through Maryland Health Connection (MHC), the state-based health insurance marketplace. Residents can compare and enroll in health insurance as well as determine eligibility for Medicaid or financial help with private plans.

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