

# The Prince George's Post



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Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford was joined by Dr. Henry P. Davis III, pastor of First Baptist Church of Highland Park, as well as members of the Prince George's County Council, including Councilman Mel Franklin and Councilwoman Jolene Ivey.

## Maryland Vaccine Equity Task Force Conducts Clinic at First Baptist Church of Highland Park

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL  
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (March 18, 2021)—[Last Thursday], Lieutenant Governor Boyd K. Rutherford toured the Maryland Vaccine Equity Task Force vaccination clinic at First Baptist Church of Highland Park in Prince George's County. The clinic, facilitated in partnership with Safeway, provided 200 doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

The lieutenant governor's visit comes the

same day as Governor Larry Hogan announced Maryland surpassing the 2 million vaccination milestone, as well as the timeline for Maryland to begin Stage 2 of its vaccination plan. Marylanders age 60 and older will be eligible for vaccination March 23.

"In the next few weeks, we could get more vaccines from the federal government, and over the next few weeks, substantially more people will become eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine," said Lt. Governor Rutherford. "It is crucial that we continue building out the infrastructure with clinics

like this one, so we can deliver vaccines to people in all communities."

Lt. Governor Rutherford was joined by Dr. Henry P. Davis III, pastor of First Baptist Church of Highland Park, as well as members of the Prince George's County Council, including Councilman Mel Franklin and Councilwoman Jolene Ivey.

Next week, the clinic at First Baptist Church of Highland Park anticipates distributing 500 vaccines to the community. Learn more about the Maryland Vaccine Equity Task Force at [governor.maryland.gov/vetf](http://governor.maryland.gov/vetf).

## One Year Into the COVID-19 Pandemic, No Kid Hungry Has Provided \$1.5 Million In Grants to Help Maryland Schools and Nonprofits Serve Free Meals for Kids

By JOHANNA ELSEMORE  
No Kid Hungry Campaign

BALTIMORE, Md. (March 16, 2021)—Since COVID-19 first forced students across Maryland to transition from classrooms to virtual learning, No Kid Hungry has provided a total of more than \$1.5 million in grants to schools and community organizations across the state that are providing free meals for kids. The funding has helped expand and improve meal programs to meet the increased need while also adapting to safely reach children regardless of where they're learning.

The crisis of the past year has reversed a decade's worth of progress toward ending child hunger. Today, as many as 1 in 4 kids in Maryland could be facing hunger, compared with 1 in 6 prior to the pandemic.

"It's been nearly a year since the pandemic upended daily life in Maryland, putting many more children at risk of hunger. The economic devastation this has caused for families will continue even as case counts go down and Marylanders are vaccinated. No Kid Hungry remains committed to supporting the meal programs that will be a critical lifeline for kids and families as we begin to

rebuild from this crisis," said No Kid Hungry Maryland Director Ayesha Holmes.

Grant funding from No Kid Hungry helps school districts and community organizations with the added staffing and equipment costs required to expand and adapt their programs to meet increased need and operate safely under these unprecedented circumstances, using grab & go, delivery and other innovative models.

No Kid Hungry has also launched a text line to help families find free meals for kids and other food assistance. You can text "FOOD" or "COMIDA" to 877-877 or visit No Kid Hungry's Meal Finder Map to find resources in your community.

Since March, No Kid Hungry has granted to the following schools and nonprofits:

Access Art  
4MYCITY INC  
Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington  
Associated Catholic Charities  
Asylee Women Enterprise  
Baltimore Hunger Project  
Bnos Yisroel of Baltimore  
Bon Secours Baltimore Foundation

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## Governor Hogan Visits Maryland Vaccine Equity Task Force Clinic at First Baptist Church of Glenarden

Dedicated Community Site for Prince Georgians Will Administer Nearly 1,000 Doses Daily

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL  
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (March 16, 2021)—Governor Larry Hogan toured the community vaccination site at the First Baptist Church of Glenarden, which is facilitated by a partnership between the Maryland Vaccine Equity Task Force and the University of Maryland (UM) Capital Region Health. He was joined by Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks; Brigadier General Janeen Birkhead; Acting Secretary Dennis Schrader of the Maryland Department of Health; Nathaniel Richardson Jr., president and CEO of UM Capital Region Health; and Pastor John K. Jenkins, Sr.

"By harnessing the clinical expertise of one of our world-class hospital systems, the logistical ca-

pabilities of the Maryland National Guard, and the trusted voices of Maryland's faith leaders, this new clinic will serve hundreds of Prince George's County residents every day," said Governor Hogan. "It is a shining example of Maryland's adaptive, comprehensive, and community-centered vaccine strategy, and one more way we are ensuring equitable access to vaccines."

Learn more about the Vaccine Equity Task Force at [governor.maryland.gov/vetf/](http://governor.maryland.gov/vetf/).

The clinic, held in the church's 63,000-square foot family life center, will administer approximately 200 doses today as part of a soft launch, and ramp up to nearly 1,000 shots per day.

Initial appointments have been made available to individuals who have pre-registered through UM Capital Region Health. Additional appoint-

ments will become available in the coming days. At this time, the clinic is dedicated to serving residents of Prince George's County.

UM Capital Region Health will supply vaccines and support personnel, which means no resources will be diverted from the county government or the Six Flags America mass vaccination site.

The clinic is seeking medical and nonmedical volunteers. Interested individuals can visit [www.fbglenarden.org/vaccine-volunteer](http://www.fbglenarden.org/vaccine-volunteer).



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

Pastor John K. Jenkins, Sr., Governor Larry Hogan, and Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks at the opening of the community vaccination site at the First Baptist Church of Glenarden.

## Responsible Legacy Task Force Launches Survey to Solicit Input Concerning the Future of County Monuments and Landmarks Linked to A Prejudiced Past

Newly-Launched Survey to Aid in Determining the Best Path Forward

By ANGELA J. ROUSON  
Prince George's County Council Media

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (March 17, 2021)—The Prince George's County Responsible Legacy Task Force (RLTF), established by Council Resolution-81-2019, has launched a countywide survey seeking input from residents and stakeholders concerning the renaming of County buildings, landmarks and public areas linked to a prejudiced past. The Prince George's County Responsible Legacy Task Force is working to ensure that the County's legacy is one of equality, diversity and inclusion.

The newly launched survey asks residents for input concerning the evaluation process for existing names and what factors should be considered in the renaming process. Additionally, residents are asked to share their knowledge of landmarks that may be linked to historical figures with ties

to racism and discrimination, and offer new names for consideration.

The Responsible Legacy Task Force is committed to engaging Prince George's County residents in the process of reviewing the names of County buildings and places of honor to determine if they are linked to a prejudiced past and chart the best path forward. The Task Force encourages community input during this process and urges residents to complete the survey and share their insight, as well as any information that might aid in the decision-making process.

The Prince George's County Responsible Legacy Task Force submitted its Interim Report on December 30, 2020. The final report will be prepared on or before June 30, 2021. **The deadline to complete the survey, is March 31, 2021.** Visit <https://pgccouncil.us> for the survey and criteria for evaluation.

## Four Maryland Teachers Selected for National Professional Development Opportunity

Montgomery County, Prince George's County, and Baltimore City Teachers Honored

By SARAH WEISSMAN  
Maryland Humanities

BALTIMORE, Md. (March 19, 2021)—National History Day® (NHD) selected Maryland teachers Dr. Jermaine Ellerbe, Michelle Holden, Joshua Pleasant, and Laya Theberge for an NHD spring professional development program. Ellerbe teaches at Eastern Middle School in Silver Spring, Holden and Pleasant teach at Benjamin Tasker Middle School in Bowie, and Laya Theberge teaches at Baltimore Leadership School For Young Women in Baltimore City. Nationally, 120 teachers were invited to participate in this free opportunity.

The virtual program, the 2021 Historical Argumentation Webinar Series,

focuses on using online Library of Congress primary and secondary sources to develop and support student research skills. In this program—a feature of NHD's membership in the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources (TPS) Consortium—participating teachers will collaborate for several months with each other and National History Day staff to build knowledge for teaching with online primary sources from the Library of Congress. Upon completing the course, Ellerbe, Holden, Pleasant, Theberge, and their peers will have demonstrated the



PHOTOS COURTESY MARYLAND HUMANITIES

Joshua Pleasant and Michelle Holden

ability to pair these resources with active learning strategies and to share with their students key strategies for researching, supporting, and presenting historical arguments bolstered by the primary sources.

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PGCMLS Offers Mother Goose on the Loose: Hatchlings Program

Parents that attend "Hatchlings: Read to Hatch" will gain knowledge about key developmental stages in their newborns along with participating in fun activities that provide age-appropriate stimulation.

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ChildWatch: COVID-19 Vaccines: Finding the Right Facts

Disinformation about the coronavirus and vaccines has pervaded social media, feeding on long-held and absolutely warranted distrust of health institutions in Black communities.

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# TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

### Florence Cray, knitted covers and hats for Walter Reed amputees, dies at 97

Florence B. Cray, military wife, volunteer, florist and longtime Skyline resident died January 2021 at a Boca Raton hospice. She was 97.

Originally from Fall River, Mass., Florence married her high school sweetheart, James Robert Cray, and together they embarked on a military career that lasted 25 years and eventually brought them to Andrews AFB where they put down roots.

They were the first residents of a home on Elmendorf Drive, in the Skyline community, and were founding members of the Skyline Citizens Association. The Crays were parishioners at St. Philip the Apostle where some of their children attended elementary school. The six Cray offspring graduated from La Reine, Suitland or Crossland.

Florence was active with Andrews Officer's Wives Club for more than 50 years. During the 1960s and '70s, she was a Red Cross assistant, helping with Viet Nam wounded as they were brought to Andrews. A knitter, she made caps and covers for amputees at Walter Reed Medical Center and hats and blankets for babies born in local military hospitals.

She worked for years at Andrews Florist—later known as La Fleur Florist—in Andrews Manor Shopping Center.

Florence and James moved to Owings Mills six months before James died in March 2013. Florence was mother of John, Jimmy, Pamela, Cynthia, Lisa and the late Sheila; grandmother of ten and great-grandmother of four.

In November 2019 Florence traveled to South Florida to winter with Cyndi, but her health failed and Covid hit. She was unable to return to Maryland where she had left so many good friends. She'll be buried later with James at Arlington.

### Neighbors & other good people

Last week I ran a story about Joe, an employee of Eastover Auto Parts, who was killed in a traffic accident. The police were seeking information about him so they could contact family members. A roommate of Joe's contacted Eastover

with the address where Joe lived. The investigation continues.

James F. Church, 95, of Oxon Hill, owner of a commercial landscaping company, died March 5. Service was at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Temple Hills with burial in the church cemetery.

### Town of Morningside

Susan Mullins emailed that Morningside is in the beginning stages of planning upcoming events. They are seeking volunteers and participants. For more information, contact Susan at 301-412-0135 or tinkerbelle092573@yahoo.com.

You can also contact Susan who has Notary Services available.

The Town had a flashing speed camera up last week on Suitland Road. Sure slowed things down. The speed limit is 30! Really.

A home on Pine Grove Drive just sold for \$341,000.

### Changing landscape

Suitland Revitalization Meetings continue virtually. Last week District 7 County Councilman Rodney Streeter was on hand to address concerns and share his priorities.

Since there is no "credible threat against Congress," some of that ugly fencing—topped with razor wire—is coming down. For me, it can't be too soon.

Black Lives Matter Plaza, which has been closed to traffic for more than nine months, now has two lanes open to vehicular traffic (one northbound and one southbound) allowing drivers to access businesses along 16th Street NW, including two hotels.

The National Park Service announced the new granite Wall of Remembrance at the Korean War Veterans Memorial will include names of 36,574 Americans and more than 7,200 Koreans who served as advisers and interpreters. The Wall will encircle the existing Pool of Remembrance at the 25-year-old memorial. The haunting statues will also be repaired.

MedStar Shah Medical Group of Waldorf is officially open. Among its services: walk-in primary care clinic, cancer center, pharmacy, CT scans and MRIs, surgical and medical specialties. Call

301-705-7870 for information.

Six Flags America will operate daily during Spring Break, March 31–April 5. All guests 2 & up must wear masks. Info: www.SixFlags.com/America.

### Mary's Covid report

My local family turned out last weekend to celebrate my 92nd birthday. They built me a new picnic table, cleaned house, provided delicious food and beautiful cakes and great fun. It was our first family gathering in more than a year, safer now since all the adults have had at least one shot. Most have had two.

MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center began community vaccinations on Jan. 20. To reserve a place in line, go to MedStarHealth.org/Vaccine and fill out the COVID-19 appointment request form.

As you know, it ain't over yet—Maryland has had 395,633 cases and 917 were added on March 5. Also, 8,099 (!) Marylanders have died—19 of them the day before.

### Morningside Memories: March 1961

The Morningside-Camp Springs Boys Club held elections 60 years ago this month: Phil Hutton, president; Jim Heflin, 1st vice president; Gordon Dandois, 2nd vice president; Lloyd Hochstetler, treasurer; and Louise Schwab, secretary.

The first awards banquet was held at the ICE Club with 350 attending. Special guests included Rev. & Mrs. Ralph Wott; Mr. & Mrs. Leo Abernethy; Morningside Mayor Leonard Gardner; Patrick Heenan of the Washington Redskins and his wife; and Joe Mona, University of Maryland football star.

Warner School of Dance entertained.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Walter Dimes, March 27; Robert Hay, Jr. and David Righter, March 28; Ben Surratt and Kimberly Smith, March 29; Akwete Bedewi, March 30; Sylvia Barbour and Mark Cummings, March 31.

Happy anniversary to Antoinette and Charles Mattison on March 29.

*Be careful on  
April Fools' Day!*

## Around the County

### Cheverly High School Senior Awarded Berkeley College Scholarship

**Erin Caldwell** of Cheverly in Prince George's County, MD, a senior at Elizabeth Seton High School, has received a scholarship to attend Berkeley College. Each year, these scholarships are awarded to high school seniors who demonstrate a high level of achievement. The scholarships are renewable, based on the recipient's cumulative grade point average at the end of each academic year and continued enrollment as a full-time student.

"Congratulations to all the Berkeley College scholarships recipients on persevering through these interesting times and excelling in your studies," said Michael J. Smith, President of Berkeley College. "At Berkeley College, we believe in you and your future. Take the time to think about how you can best continue your educational journey to make the most of your talents and build your skills to achieve your goals. Your potential is our promise."

—*Ilene Greenfield, Berkeley College*

### G&V Hauling Service Becomes U-Haul Neighborhood Dealer

DISTRICT HEIGHTS, Md. (March 9, 2021)—U-Haul Company of Maryland, Inc. is pleased to announce that G&V Hauling Service signed on as a U-Haul® neighborhood dealer to serve the District Heights community.

G&V Hauling Service at 2650 Marble Court will offer essential services like U-Haul trucks, trailers, towing equipment, moving supplies and in-store pickup for boxes.

Normal business hours are 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Saturday. Reserve U-Haul products at this dealer location by calling 240-767-6881 or visiting <https://www.uhaul.com/Locations/Truck-Rentals-near-District-Heights-MD-20747/042454/> today.

G&V Hauling Service owner Geo Palucho is proud to team with the industry leader in do-it-yourself moving and self-storage to better meet the demands of Prince George's County.

U-Haul has teamed with independent dealers to offer moving equipment since 1945. With the COVID-19 outbreak creating challenging times for small businesses, more than 20,000 dealers across the U.S. and Canada are creating supplemental income through their U-Haul partnership. When a customer rents from a U-Haul dealer, they are directly supporting an independent small business in their community.

As an essential service provider, U-Haul stores and dealers continue to serve the public. Our products are utilized by First Responders; delivery companies bringing needed supplies to people's homes; small businesses trying to remain afloat; college students; and countless other dependent groups—in addition to the household mover.

Please visit [uhaul.com/announcement](http://uhaul.com/announcement) for more information on how U-Haul is keeping its Team Members and customers safe.

U-Haul is pleased to offer programs that inherently promote social distancing with minimal or no contact with others. U-Haul Truck Share 24/7® allows customers to create an online account and pick up their truck at any hour using only their smartphone with photo feature and GPS. Trained Live Verify agents interact with customers online, enabling them to skip the lines and go straight to their truck.

—*Andrea Batchelor and Jeff Lockridge, U-Haul*

### uBreakiFix Brings Industry-Leading Smartphone Repair to Brandywine

*Electronics repair business keeps Brandywine community connected*

BRANDYWINE, Md. (March 10, 2021)—Electronics repair shop uBreakiFix is now open in Brandywine at 15816-A Crain Highway. The store offers repairs on smartphones, tablets, computers, and more to help Brandywine and the surrounding communities stay connected.

At uBreakiFix Brandywine, most basic repairs can be completed in under two hours, making tech repairs convenient and efficient for all customers.

"Technology has allowed entire communities to stay connected, even during a time of limited in-person gatherings and travel," said Ryan Sisserson, Director of Operations for uBreakiFix. "At uBreakiFix, we're dedicated to providing peace of mind for the Brandywine community. With just a simple fix to a cracked screen or broken charging port, we can help reconnect them with loved ones, colleagues, teachers, and beyond."

While common devices include smartphones, tablets, and computers, uBreakiFix offers repair service on anything with a power button, including drones, hoverboards, game consoles, and everything in between. The store offers support for most technical problems on any electronic device, regardless of make or model.

uBreakiFix was founded in 2009 by millennial entrepreneurs Justin Wetherill and David Reiff to fill a gap in the market for affordable, high-quality phone repair. The duo soon partnered with Eddie Trujillo to transition their Internet-based repair brand to a brick-and-mortar model. uBreakiFix began franchising in 2013 and currently operates more than 600 locations across the U.S. and Canada.

"At uBreakiFix, our story has been shaped by an unwavering commitment to continually improving the repair experience for customers," Wetherill said. "We founded this company to fill a need for high-quality, convenient repair with great service at a fair price. We always say we're a customer service company first, and a tech company second. As we begin serving Brandywine and the surrounding communities, we look forward to sharing the care and credibility that define the uBreakiFix experience."

For more information and to view a service menu, visit [ubreakifix.com/locations/brandywine](http://ubreakifix.com/locations/brandywine). uBreakiFix Brandywine is located at:

uBreakiFix  
15816-A Crain Hwy, Brandywine, MD 20613  
301-782-4352

*Founded in 2009, uBreakiFix specializes in the repair of small electronics, ranging from smartphones, game consoles, tablets, computers, and everything in between. Cracked screens, software issues, camera issues, and most other problems can be repaired by visiting uBreakiFix stores across the U.S. and Canada. Since 2016, uBreakiFix has served as the exclusive walk-in repair partner for Google Pixel customers. In 2018, uBreakiFix became a Samsung Care authorized service provider offering same-day, in-person support for Samsung Galaxy customers across the U.S. In 2019, uBreakiFix joined the Asurion family and now operates as a subsidiary of the tech care company while still maintaining the uBreakiFix leadership team and franchise model. For more information, visit [ubreakifix.com](http://ubreakifix.com).*

—*Ashley Curtis, SEE • SPARK • GO*

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

### BSU FEATURED WINNING WOMEN

Bowie State University is featuring winning women in March. Toyan Espeut ('93) is a prominent leader in the technology industry. She has led high performing sales teams for start-ups and publicly traded software companies locally, in Silicon Valley and Seattle. Toyan also serves on the Technology Business Management (TBM) Council where she promotes women and diversity in tech along with educating students on STEM career paths.

Her tip for success: "Know your value and how to apply that value in solving a problem. When you do, you can literally create your own opportunities!"

Angela Brock ('81). When it comes to management, Angela believes in leading by example. This native Washingtonian and Bowie State Alumna has maintained a strong and welcoming business in Washington, DC since 2005. In August of this year, her Rita's Water Ice franchise will celebrate 15 years of success. "Serving happiness, community involvement, and employing our rising youth, is a passion that yields great assets."

Donita Brooks ('95) started her career as a high school and college English composition teacher. She learned American Sign Language and founded English & Sign Language Masters, LLC, (ESLM), which provides interpreting services, diversity workshops, and editing services. In 2019, she published a book, "The Other Side of Unforgiveness," and emotionally so we can all live full lives together. #LiveLoveForgive.

Stephanie L. Bynum ('92), affectionately known as Pastor Stephanie, is co-founder and pastor of Shekinah Glory Deliverance Church in Fort Washington, Maryland. Under her leadership, she started Radiant Unstoppable Believers Inspiring Sisters (RUBIES) Ministry, with a mission to teach, inspire, encourage, help, train, and assist all women. She is a mentor, speaker, and teacher who encourages others to live a life of purpose.

Pastor Stephanie is also employed as an IT Specialist with the Department of Defense; an adjunct professor at Bowie State University; owner of ADT Cleaning Solutions; and a successful real estate agent in Maryland for more than 15 years. She is married to Apostle Dwight Bynum and they have three adult children.

Angela Dingle ('97) published "Discovering Your Girl Powers," a business leadership book based on research and successful leaders' insights. In the book, Angela offers 10 strategies for building confidence, charisma, and credibility. "This book offers some great advice for tapping into leadership skills that

goes beyond simply being business savvy." D. Wheeler

Kisha Houston ('00) published "Succeed Anyway", a new book about over coming mental illness, relationship issues, and low self-awareness to succeed anyway. "I had to learn to go through the fire, the pit and be brought up from the valley of the shadow of death."

Regina Robinson ('00) with more than 15 years of experience, is sought after as an expert and thought leader in the field of education. She is a global speaker, best selling author, and college coach. Regina provides education strategies and accountability for middle school through college students, as she empowers them to connect their vision to a future of action. Regina prides herself on providing families with step-by-step guidance to "Winning the Game of College Admissions" in their efforts to identify the right college fit socially, academically, and financially. A University System of Maryland Member Institution. Contact: [webmaster@bowiestate.edu](mailto:webmaster@bowiestate.edu)

### PALM SUNDAY

All are invited to join Westphalia March 28, 2021 at 8 a.m. for a Virtual Worship Service Live at <https://westphalia.thechurchonline.com>, <https://www.facebook.com/westphaliaum>. Phone 301-735-9373. Rev. Timothy West Senior Pastor. Information sent to me from Westphalia UMC communicationsministry@westphaliaum.org.

### BSU 10TH ANNUAL BULLDOG GOLF CLASSIC

Join the Bowie State University Department of Athletics for the 10th Annual Bulldog Classic Tuesday, October 12, 2021, Oak Crest Golf Club. Staggered Tee Times: Start at 8 a.m. Registration Fees: Per Foursome: \$650, Per Golfer: \$175, Golf Clinic: \$100. Fees includes 18 holes, Golf Cart, breakfast and lunch during tournament, complimentary beverages, gift bags, prizes and much more.

Space is limited. Per the Covid-19 rules and regulations at Oak Creek Golf Club and for the health and safety of our golfers, a limited number of foursomes will be allowed to play the Bulldog Golf Classic this year. The Bulldog Classic was sold out last year. Do not delay in securing your spot! Register today. For more information, visit the website: <https://www.bowiestate.edu/about/bsu-foundation/bulldog-classic/>.

### MEDSTAR HEALTH

We are open and safe. We are taking measures to keep our patients safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. To learn more, please visit [MedStarHealth.org/Safe](http://MedStarHealth.org/Safe).

# COMMUNITY

## PGCMLS Offers Mother Goose on the Loose: Hatchlings Program

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

LARGO, Md. (March 16, 2021)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) offers a range of engaging programs for children and families to promote early literacy and kindergarten readiness. This spring, PGCMLS will offer the new "Hatchlings: Read to Hatch" program to expectant mothers as a part of the Maryland State Library's Hatchlings pilot project from March to June, 2021. PGCMLS is one of only four library systems in Maryland selected to participate. This program is based on the award-winning early-literacy Mother Goose on the Loose: Hatchlings program for parents and caregivers of children from birth to 3 years old and the Mother Goose on the Loose Goslings program for premature babies and their mothers created by Betsy Diamant-Cohen, DCD.

In March and April, PGCMLS library staff will initially work

with partners like the County's two Judy Hoyer Centers to recruit and register families for these sessions. Interested families can register directly with the center or organization where they are affiliated. The program will be available in both English and Spanish. This program will increase participant awareness of the importance of reading, singing, and talking to their babies daily, before, and after birth. "We want to empower parents as their child's first and best teacher," commented Pamela Hamlin, Family Literacy Specialist at PGCMLS.

Parents that attend "Hatchlings: Read to Hatch" will gain knowledge about key developmental stages in their newborns along with participating in fun activities that provide age-appropriate stimulation. The goal for parents and caregivers is to develop a daily reading routine with their babies. Participants will receive a board book, song sheet, and early literacy calendar to use with their newborns and be invited back in the fall to attend "Hatchlings: In the Nest," a series of parent/infant storytimes.

With the support of community partners, the awareness of library programs, resources, and services will increase among families that are underrepresented and are not established library users. Additional "Read to Hatch" programs with partners and through the library will be offered later in the spring. For more information, please contact Pamela Hamlin.

The Hatchlings project steering committee includes Carrie Sanders, Maryland State Library; Dorothy Stoltz, Carroll County Public Library; and Elaine Czarnecki, Early Literacy and Assessment Consultant. The three other library systems involved in the pilot project are Carroll County Public Library, Calvert County Library, and Howard County Library System.

Children from birth to age 5 that reside in the County are invited to participate in PGCMLS' Books from Birth program to receive a free book by mail every month. MakeMake (Lectorum) offers animated children's ebooks in Spanish (and bilingual English/Spanish). OverDrive includes appropriate ebooks and audiobooks for kids.

### CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Mayor and City Council of Seat Pleasant propose to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2021 the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 2.7% from 319,174,604 to 327,925,359.
2. If the City of Seat Pleasant maintains the current tax rate of \$.58 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 2.7 % resulting in \$50,754 of new real property tax revenues.
3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$.5645, the constant yield tax rate.
4. The City is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The City proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$.58 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 2.7 % higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$ 50,754 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 6:30 pm on Monday April 12, 2021 at City Hall, 6301 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743.

The hearing is open to the public and public testimony is encouraged. Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call Mike Lightfield, Interim Chief Financial Officer at (301) 336-2600 for further information.

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

#### Community in the Courthouse 2021

Date and Time: Tuesday, March 30, 2021, 6–7:30 p.m. Virtual event via Zoom and streamed live on Facebook.

Description: Please join Prince George's County State's Attorney Aisha N. Braveboy and #TeamPGSAO for the first Community in the Courthouse of 2021! This program provides residents an opportunity to learn more about the justice system here in Prince George's County. In addition, they will hear about State's Attorney Braveboy's initiatives and programs. During the monthly sessions attendees can ask questions, voice their concerns and engage with Ms. Braveboy and her team. Last Tuesday of Each Month (March thru October)

Cost: Free. Register: Via Eventbrite  
Contact: Karen Toles | krt@co.pg.md.us.

#### Investing 101

Date and Time: April 3, 2021, 9:30–11 a.m. via Zoom

Description: Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc®, in collaboration with Pearl Elegance Foundation presents Investing 101. This session provides basic information on investing including terminology used and facts about the stock market. This is a great session for teens, young adults and those seeking to reach financial goals over an extended period of time. Jeanna Pryor, Founder and CEO of Pryor Financial Services LLC, is an accredited wealth strategist and financial counsel with the Association for Finan-



PHOTO COURTESY  
PEO CHAPTER

Jeanna Pryor

cial Counseling & Planning Education. Register: <https://tinyurl.com/PEOInvest>  
Contact: [programs@aka-peo.org](mailto:programs@aka-peo.org)

#### Giving Voices Initiative: The Black Madisons, Uncovering the History of a President's Black Family (Virtual Event)

Date and Time: April 8, 2021, 4–6 p.m.

Description: Join us as we launch the Giving Voices Initiative with this engaging and meaningful event. Share your thoughts and questions with Dr. Bettye Kearsse, author of "The Other Madisons: The Lost History of a President's Black Family" and Smithsonian Institution Anacostia Museum director Dr. Melanie Adams. Register through ParksDirect.

Cost: Free  
Ages: 12 & up  
Contact: [mariettahouse@pgparks.com](mailto:mariettahouse@pgparks.com)

#### Bookworm Garden

Date and Time: Saturday, April 17, 2021, 11 a.m.–noon

Description: Stretch your bodies and join us outdoors for this brand new series. Explore a new nature-inspired theme and related children's story and craft each month this spring. Little ones and their caregivers can learn, create, and grow together while taking a closer look at what is blooming in Riversdale's beautiful gardens. **Capacity very limited; advance registration required by April 14.**

Cost: \$5 resident child; \$6 non-resident child\*; FREE adults  
Ages: 2–6  
Register: <https://tinyurl.com/Bookworm0421>  
Location: Riversdale House Museum, 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park MD 20737

### Restaurant Association of Maryland Education Foundation Brings the Heat With First-Ever Brunch Battle

Maryland ProStart® students from high schools across the state will compete in an Iron Chef-style culinary competition on Wednesday, April 14

By NICOLE GOULD  
Maroon PR

COLUMBIA, Md. (March 16, 2021)—The Restaurant Association of Maryland Education Foundation (RAMEF) will host its first-ever "Brunch Battle" on Wednesday, April 14 in Columbia, Maryland. Maryland ProStart® students from high schools across the state will be paired with professional chef mentors for a live Iron Chef-style culinary competition. The top three students will walk away with bragging rights and a cash prize while the first-place team's chef mentor will win a chance to compete for Team Maryland in the Bacon Category at the 2021 World Food Championships in Dallas, Texas.

"Our Maryland ProStart program provides high school culinary enthusiasts with the knowledge, skills, and opportunity to begin their journey toward becoming future restaurant and foodservice leaders," said Kirsten Unger, ProStart Program Coordinator, RAMEF. "We're excited to host this unique event while giving students a unique opportunity to further develop their culinary expertise in a fun, competitive setting."

Eleven high schools from Anne Arundel, Harford, Howard, Montgomery and Prince George's counties will be competing at the first-ever Brunch Battle, alongside 24 chef mentors ranging from skills and expertise in BBQ, American fare, seafood and more. Prior to competition day, students and chefs will connect through a Zoom meeting to introduce themselves, decide on a menu item and a game plan. Armed with their ideas, they'll have one hour to select their ingredients, then prep and plate their best brunch dishes.

Due to COVID-19 health protocols, each team will be allowed four viewers onsite. The Brunch Battle will also be live-streamed via TheAvenue.Live.

"The RAM Education Foundation and Maryland ProStart® program are an essential part of our association. Their efforts help make passion a reality by offering a pipeline of opportunity for those interested in pursuing a career in the culinary arts. At a time when restaurants are climbing their way back from a challenging year, the Brunch Battle is a great way to celebrate the joy of food and the future of our beloved industry," added Marshall Weston Jr., president & CEO, RAM.

ProStart® is a nationwide, two-year high school program that unites the classroom and industry to develop the best and brightest talent into tomorrow's restaurant and foodservice leaders. From culinary techniques to management skills, ProStart's industry-driven curriculum provides real-world education and builds practical skills that will last a lifetime. Over 4,000 students participate in the Maryland ProStart program at 90+ Maryland high schools. The program capstone is the ProStart National Certificate of Achievement which gives eligible recipients the opportunity to earn special scholarships and college credit.

The Restaurant Association of Maryland Education Foundation's mission is to enhance the foodservice and hospitality industry's training and education, career development and community engagement. Maryland ProStart® provides high school students with the knowledge, skills, and opportunity to begin their journey towards becoming tomorrow's restaurant and foodservice leaders. Learn more about RAMEF and its programs at [www.marylandrestaurants.com/foundation](http://www.marylandrestaurants.com/foundation).

The Restaurant Association of Maryland (RAM) exists to promote, protect and improve Maryland's foodservice and hospitality industry. To learn more or become a member, visit [www.marylandrestaurants.com](http://www.marylandrestaurants.com).

**Dine**  
Prince George's

VOTE for your favorite PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY restaurant to help them win CASH Prizes.

Voting starts at on Monday, March 15th at [PGCEDC.com/](http://PGCEDC.com/)  
[DinePrinceGeorges](http://DinePrinceGeorges.com)

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# COMMENTARY

## Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,  
Children's Defense Fund



### ChildWatch:

## COVID-19 Vaccines: Finding the Right Facts

I learned my first lessons about injustice and health growing up in segregated Bennettsville, South Carolina. I remember being awakened in the middle of the night after a Black migrant family's car collided with a white truck driver's vehicle on the highway in front of our church parsonage, and the horror I felt when my Daddy, siblings and I witnessed the white ambulance driver and attendant arrive on the scene only to leave behind the seriously injured Black migrant workers after they saw that the two white drivers were not hurt. I also remember my parents' and church members' sadness over the senseless death of little Johnny Harrington, who lived three houses down from our church parsonage and who died after he stepped on a rusted nail because his hard-working grandmother didn't know about the need for or have the money for him to get a tetanus shot. The sorrow and outrage I felt as a child helped

shape my life's work. Way before and through the Civil Rights Movement it was always clear that health care was one of the basic rights for which we were fighting because it could mean life or death.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put the life or death consequences of our nation's enduring health disparities on full display. Black, Latino and Native Americans and low-income white families, including children, are getting sick and dying at disproportionate rates. Now that COVID-19 vaccines are available, making sure communities of color have ready and equitable access to them is critical. And despite a dark history of past mistreatment and distrust in the health care system, Black and brown communities must not let any untrue rumors or fears about vaccines today make these deadly disparities even worse. We must all do our part to educate ourselves and share the right facts.

A group of Black experts led by Dr. Thomas A. LaVeist, a medical sociologist and the dean of the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine at Tulane University, and Dr. Georges C. Benjamin, a physician and the executive director of the American Public Health Association, published an op-ed in The New York Times sharing their own confidence in the research showing the available vaccines are safe and effective. They write: "We are among 60 Black members of the National Academy of Medicine, the premier health science organization in the United States. Together we are scientists, doctors, nurses, other health care professionals and public health experts. We feel compelled to make the case that all Black Americans should get vaccinated to protect themselves from a pandemic that has disproportionately killed them at a rate 1.5 times as high as white Americans in cases in which race is known . . . Disinformation about the coronavirus and vaccines has pervaded social media, feeding on long-held and absolutely warranted distrust of health institutions in Black communities. The lies are an assault on our people, and it threatens to destroy us."

They note Black scientists helped develop and test these vaccines, including Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, the leading immunologist at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) who worked on the Moderna vaccine. Dr. Corbett said recently: "I have studied health disparities since I was in college. I'm a double major in sociology. I understand the

intricate interlacing of science and health, particularly for disparities, and particularly for people of color. So it's near and dear to my heart. It's actually the reason vaccine development is important to me and is where I chose to take my viral-immunology career. Vaccines have the potential to be the equalizer of health disparities, especially around infectious diseases. I could never sleep at night if I developed anything—if any product of my science came out—and it did not equally benefit the people that look like me. Period."

Experts like these are valuable sources of information for our communities, adding to the messages from Dr. Anthony Fauci and other trusted voices. Organizations like the Black Coalition Against COVID-19, whose allied health, academic, civic, civil rights and faith organizations include the NAACP, the National Council of Negro Women, the National Urban League, the Links, the National Pan-Hellenic Council of the "Divine Nine" historically Black Greek organizations, the National Black Nurses Association, all four historically Black medical schools and the African Methodist Episcopal Church, are doing their part to share the most up-to-date science-based information and address questions and concerns. Congregations, community leaders and others are joining in.

Please be sure you and your family seek out sources you trust to answer any questions you have. We all need to be fully informed and armed for this latest life or death fight.

## Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



### To Be Equal:

## #StopAsianHate: Racism, Misogyny and Easy Access to Guns Are a Deadly Combination

"I can't remember ever having experienced racism separate from sexism. When I turn into a lane too slowly on the streets of Los Angeles, I am not surprised if someone rolls down the window to call me a 'c--- b----.' When I reject or ignore sexual propositions from white men, some come back at me with racial slurs and even threats. Even the perception that I will not fight back if I am attacked racially is a form of racism intersecting with sexism. This is the lived reality for too many Asian American women."

—Sociologist and author Nancy Wang Yuen

[Last] week our nation suffered another deadly shooting spree inspired by misogyny and racism, enabled by irresponsibly lax firearm regulation.

A self-described "sex addict" seeking to rid himself of "temptation" fatally shot eight people at Atlanta-area massage parlors, six of them women of Asian descent. The initial response of investigators,

who downplayed the role of race in the killings, revealed a disturbing ignorance of the nation's history of sexualized racism and violence.

Even the agency investigating the shootings appears to be steeped in anti-Asian sentiment. Not only did its spokesman express empathy for the shooter, saying he was "at the end of his rope" and was having "a really bad day," but that same sheriff's deputy has made anti-Asian social media posts and promoted a racist t-shirt.

The suspect purchased a gun just hours before the killings; Georgia requires no waiting period for firearms sales. The state has earned an "F" from the Giffords Law Center on its on their annual scorecard of gun laws in all 50 states. Easy access to firearms—most background checks take about 100 seconds, according to Giffords' executive director—is especially deadly in a climate of rising hate crimes and record levels of white supremacist propaganda.

[Recently], Center for the Study of Hate and Ex-

tremism at California State University reported that hate crimes targeting Asian people rose by nearly 150 percent over the last year, stoked by former President Trump cynically seeking a scapegoat for his tragic mishandling of the coronavirus pandemic.

White supremacist propaganda in the form of flyers, stickers, banners and graffiti doubled in 2020, reaching the highest level ever recorded by the Anti-Defamation League.

Stop AAPI Hate, a national coalition addressing anti-Asian discrimination during the pandemic, received nearly 3,800 reports of hate incidents over the last year, ranging from verbal harassment to workplace discrimination to physical assault. When women are the targets, racial slurs are often accompanied by crude references to sex.

"Killing Asian American women to eliminate a man's temptation speaks to the history of the objectification of Asian and Asian American women as variations of the Asian temptress, the dragon ladies and the lotus blossoms, whose value is only in relation to men's fantasies and desires," Sung Yeon Choimorrow, executive director of the nonprofit National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, said.

The National Urban League rejects the objectification, fetishization and stereotyping of women of color. Our hearts are with the families who lost their loved ones, including Delaina Yaun, mother of a 13-year-old boy and an 8-month-old baby girl; Paul Andre Michels, an Army veteran and business owner; Xiaojie Yan, owner of the spa where she was shot; and Daoyou Feng. Police have not released the names of the other four victims, but our prayers are also with them and Elcias R. Hernan-

dez-Ortiz, who was wounded.

Last month, the National Urban League and other civil rights and social justice groups outlined a comprehensive set of actions to combat anti-Asian hate and violence. These include:

- Enacting comprehensive hate crime laws at both the state and local levels and ensuring that law enforcement agencies fully implement and enforce them;
- Uniform Crime Reporting agencies need to standardize and include more details in their documentation of hate crimes;
- Local law enforcement and state agencies should fully comply with the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, and efforts should be made to include detailed data on the Asian American and Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander communities;
- A public campaign to push back on hate speech promoted by government officials and those running for office; and
- Greater investment in linguistically and culturally competent community resources.

After four years of policy, rhetoric and messaging at the highest levels of government that fanned the flames of bigotry and inspired acts of violence against communities of color, the pandemic has brought us to a crossroads. It exposed America's racial fault lines in nearly every indicator—health care, economic stability, justice, and democracy—and forced the nation to confront its legacy of white supremacy. We must seize the opportunity to create lasting change by emerging from this crisis a stronger nation determined to achieve a more perfect union for all its people.

## Chris Van Hollen

United States Senator for Maryland



## Van Hollen, Capito Introduce Bipartisan, Bicameral Legislation to Support National Children's Museum

WASHINGTON (March 18, 2021)—Today, U.S. Senators Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) introduced legislation to provide measured fiscal relief to the National Children's Museum, through a GSA agreement to pay the Museum's leasing fee. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) and Congressman Rodney Davis (R-Ill.) introduced the House version, H.R. 1703, on March 10, 2021.

Founded as the Capital Children's Museum in 1974, the Museum served children and families in the Washington region for thirty years in Northeast Washington, D.C. In 2003, the U.S. Congress designated it the National Children's Museum (NCM), and for several years, NCM operated as a museum without walls by serving the region through traveling exhibitions, partnerships with other nonprofits, as well as community and school outreach programs. From 2012–2015, a small museum space was opened to the public at National Harbor, but closed in preparation for NCM's next chapter in downtown D.C.

Unfortunately, the NCM reopened just days prior to the pandemic and had to once again close its doors until it is safe to reopen. Due to these circumstances, the Museum has faced severe fiscal challenges. This legislation would direct GSA to enter into an agreement with the Museum to cover its leasing expenses—approximately \$1 million annually—as GSA does for the other Congressionally designated national museums.

"For years, we've worked to get the National Children's Museum officially up and running in our

national capital—after it had already served our communities for decades. But as with many organizations across our country, the pandemic could not have come at a worse time for the reopening of the Museum. Providing this modest fiscal relief to the Museum—which all other Congressionally-designated museums receive—will help it weather the COVID-19 storm and ensure that it can continue to bring joy to children visiting it for generations to come," said Senator Van Hollen.

"In 2003, I joined with my colleagues to designate the National Children's Museum. Its recent reopening at a new location near the National Mall came at an unfortunate time, as the COVID-19 pandemic prevented our nation's kids from experiencing all the museum has to offer. This effort will help ensure that as life returns to normal, the National Children's Museum will be there to provide enriching experiences for children in the D.C. area and from around the world," said Senator Capito.

"Thank you, Senator Van Hollen, for reintroducing this important bill in the Senate. The National Children's Museum is the only congressionally designated museum expected to pay rent in a federal building. This bill would allow NCM to remain in its current federal location without payment of rent, allowing it to focus on bringing 21st century science, technology, engineering, arts, and math learning techniques to the nation's capital," said Congresswoman Norton.

"The National Children's Museum is one of many key attractions for American families visiting our

national capital. It's unfortunate that pandemic restrictions forced the museum to close shortly after moving to a new location, but with vaccinations increasing exponentially each day, families will be eager to once again visit Washington. Our bipartisan legislation provides the Museum with financial flexibility to focus their resources on serving children who visit and would treat the Museum like other Congressionally-designated museums," said Congressman Davis.

"National Children's Museum is a crucial part of the cultural landscape in our nation's capital. The Museum is a home for innovation and science education, serving children and families through hands-on exhibits and programs. Despite having to close our doors just 18 days after opening

in February 2020, the Museum has served teachers and students in 45 states + DC with virtual field trips and other digital resources throughout the pandemic. Private donations allowed for the renovation of a previously empty federal space into the Museum, but we are now the only Congressionally-designated museum expected to pay rent to the federal government. The Museum will bring in millions of dollars in federal revenue every year through the building's parking garage and other amenities, but this legislation is critical to its success," said Crystal Bowyer, President and CEO, National Children's Museum.

"The National Children's Museum is unique in the landscape of Washington, DC's museums and fills a void in the city with its new home in downtown DC," said Elliott L. Ferguson II, President & CEO of Destination DC, the official destination marketing organization for Washington, DC. "We

know that when the museum reopens, it will be a top attraction in the city welcoming visitors and locals alike. The pandemic has been challenging for everyone, especially children. Having a fun, educational and centrally-located museum that's just for them will assist in ensuring a vibrant downtown for family travel and is an undeniable strength while promoting Washington, DC as a top travel destination."

"Museums are a vital part of the nation's education infrastructure. This legislation is critical to ensuring the National Children's Museum can devote its resources to supporting the STEAM education of children and families not only in the nation capital region, but across the country," said Laura Lott, president and CEO, American Alliance of Museums.

## The Prince George's Post

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