

# The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SINCE 1932

Vol. 89, No. 28 July 15 — July 21, 2021

Prince George's County, Maryland

Newspaper of Record

Phone: 301-627-0900

25 cents



PHOTOS COURTESY PSI EPSILON OMEGA (PEO) CHAPTER OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.

Members of Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. plant potatoes to help food-insecure families in Prince Georges County. They will harvest the potatoes this fall and donate them to a food pantry.

## Prince George's County Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Plans to Harvest 1,908 Potatoes to Feed Food Insecure Families

By RACINE TUCKER-HAMILTON  
Psi Epsilon Omega (PEO) Chapter

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. (July 6, 2021)—Psi Epsilon Omega (PEO) Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. launches its "1908 Potato Harvest Gardening" project. Members of the sorority are planting potatoes this summer that will be harvested in the fall and given to county families in need.

"The purpose of this initiative is to grow and harvest healthy and nutritious potatoes to fight against food insecurity in Prince George's County," said Benita A. Swindell, Psi Epsilon Omega President. "We want to plant and harvest 1,908 potatoes to donate to a local food pantry in September or October (depending on our growing schedule). 1,908 potatoes is significant because the sorority was founded in 1908 on the campus of Howard

University in Washington, D.C." Potatoes are a great produce to raise as they are low maintenance and have a long shelf life once harvested. The group estimates that it will take 75–115 days to grow the potatoes. Currently, the sorority has an 8 X 8 plot at the Bowie Community Garden Center.

Psi Epsilon Omega's Environmental Justice Subcommittee highlighted food insecurity as an Environmental Justice issue, which is why the chapter is taking action. The potatoes will be donated to the Elizabeth House, a food pantry that serves the homeless and working poor in Laurel, Md.

"Serving the community is our priority, we strive to meet the most pressing needs of people and families in our service areas of



Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. President Benita A. Swindell joins members of the sorority to plant potatoes to donate to Prince George's County families in need.

Laurel, Bowie, and Greenbelt," added Swindell. "Eventually we hope our potato harvest is going to multiply and feed plenty."

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority In-

corporated®, Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter was chartered in 2007. Since its founding, the chapter has been aggressively implementing its programs of service in Laurel, Bowie, and Greenbelt Maryland.

## Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County Announces Reopening Of Senior Activity Centers

By ANGEL WALDRON

Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (July 7, 2021)—The Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County, part of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), is pleased to reopen five senior activity centers for people ages 60 & better. The senior activity centers offer special events, trips, classes, health programs, information, and referrals.

These centers reopen[ed] to the public on July 12, 2021:

- Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center: M–F 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Sat 8 a.m.–2 p.m.
- Camp Springs Senior Activity Center: M–F 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Sat 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

- Gwendolyn Britt Senior Activity Center: M–F 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
- John E Howard Senior Activity Center: M–F 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
- Southern Area Aquatic Recreation Complex Senior Operations: M–F 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Summer 2021 classes at the senior centers include:

- Exercise: Virtual Total Body Workout, Virtual Chair Tai Chi, Virtual Belly Dance Exercise, Outdoor Yoga on the Patio, Chair Yoga, Chair Exercise, Outdoor Chair Ex-

See REOPENING Page A5

## Maryland Humanities Awards Nearly \$100,000 to Nonprofits in Maryland

By SARAH WEISSMAN  
Maryland Humanities

BALTIMORE (July 9, 2021)—Maryland Humanities is pleased to announce it has awarded \$99,498 in grants to 10 organizations based in Maryland. The grantees span Baltimore City and six Maryland counties: Caroline County, Frederick County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, St. Mary's County, and Talbot County.

Funding goes to nonprofit organizations that use the humanities (literature, philosophy, history, etc.) to inspire Marylanders to embrace lifelong learning, exchange ideas openly, and enrich their communities.

Maryland Humanities' Grants Program is undergoing a structural shift: the organization will announce details later

this year. Because of this, the round of Major Grants (up to \$10,000 per recipient) announced here is the final in this format. The application period for a final round of Mini Grants (up to \$1,200 per recipient) closed on July 1. Maryland Humanities' Grants Program is supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, with grant awards being funded by the State of Maryland.

To learn more about our Grants Program, visit [www.mdhumanities.org/grants](http://www.mdhumanities.org/grants)

**Spring 2021 Major Grant Awards include:**  
**Joe's Movement Emporium Commissioning Project: Freedom Story Prince George's County Grant Award: \$10,000**

See AWARDS Page A5

## Prince George's County Man Claims \$40,000 VaxCash Prize

Father of four claims prize from July 1 drawing

By SETH ELKIN  
Maryland Lottery and Gaming

BALTIMORE (July 12, 2021)—Maynor Castro Hernandez is the latest winner to claim a \$40,000 prize in the \$2 Million VaxCash Promotion. The New Carrollton resident, who won in the July 1 drawing, had a hard time believing he was really a \$40,000 winner.

"I was going to throw out the paperwork because I thought it was a scam, but then I showed it to my daughter," Castro Hernandez said. "She told me I really won \$40,000."

The auto repair worker still didn't believe it, so he showed the letter to a friend, who eventually accompanied him to Lottery headquarters to claim his prize on July 12.

The father of four plans to save his winnings. He will use some of it toward his daughter's Quinceañera (15th birthday celebration) in a few years.

Castro Hernandez, originally from El Salvador, told Lottery officials he received his second COVID-19 shot in May and that he got the vaccine to protect his family.

The VaxCash Promotion, announced by Governor Larry Hogan on May 20, was a collaboration of the Maryland Lottery and the Maryland Department of Health, aimed at incentivizing Marylanders who had not yet received their COVID-19 vaccinations while rewarding those who had. All Maryland residents 18 and older who had received a COVID-19 shot at a non-Federal facility in Maryland at any time were automat-

ically entered into daily drawings held from May 25 through July 4. Beginning with the June 27 drawing, any Maryland resident 18 or older who was vaccinated at a Veterans Affairs (VA) facility located in Maryland was also eligible.

Each day through July 3, one winner was awarded a \$40,000 prize, and the promotion concluded on the Fourth of July with a single winner of a \$400,000 prize. All VaxCash Promotion winners have been notified.

Since its inception in 1973, Maryland Lottery and Gaming has awarded more than \$28.2 billion in prizes to Lottery players and more than \$17.3 billion in Lottery revenue to the State of Maryland. One of Maryland's largest revenue sources, the Lottery supports important state programs and services including



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND LOTTERY AND GAMING

Maynor Castro Hernandez, a father of four from New Carrollton, won \$40,000 in the July 1 VaxCash drawing.

education, public safety and health, human resources and the environment. For more information, go to [mdlottery.com](http://mdlottery.com). Please remember to play responsibly

and within your budget. For confidential help or information about gambling problems, visit [mdgamblinghelp.org](http://mdgamblinghelp.org) or call 1-800-426-2537.

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CASA/Prince George's County Awarded \$300,000 to Launch New Fund

"The CASA Fostering Opportunities Fund will be instrumental in helping youth in Prince George's County," says Executive Director Ann Marie Binsner.

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Nine Artists | Nine Months | Nine Perspectives: Birth of 2020 Visions

Work by nine black women artists documents traumatic events of 2020.

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# TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

With Mary McHale, will be back soon!

### Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

#### CASINO ACTION

It is Casino Time again with St. Philip's Church. So come and join us on our trip to Delaware Park Raceway and Casino, Wilmington Delaware, Sunday, August 15, 2021. Bus will leave St. Philip's Church at 11 a.m. and Clinton Park-N-Ride at 11:30 a.m. and returns at approximately 9 p.m.

Fun package includes a \$30.00 slot play rebate, plus Ole School Music, 50/50, and Cake Sales. MASKS ARE REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES. Tickets must be purchased by July 30, 2021. Donation is \$50.00. Absolutely no refunds. You are welcome to bring your own spirits. Benefit: St. Philip's Church Baden Parish. For tickets contact Doretha Savoy 301-233-3136, Vivian Rich (804) 301-9530, Shirley Cleaves 302-690-4260.

#### ALUMNI & FRIENDS

#BSU4LIFE, once a Bulldog, always a Bulldog! We welcome you to the online community for Bowie State University alumni and friends. Your connection to BSU does not end once you leave campus. We encourage you to socialize, network, share news and get involved with your fellow alumni, current students, parents, friends, faculty, and staff. You are part of the Bulldog Nation that represents more than 30,000 alumni with one thing in common—Bowie State University, so stay engaged, get connected, give back and visit often. Contact: webmaster@bowiestate.edu.

#### CONGRATULATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS Rev. Dr. Timothy West on 24 years as Pastor of Westphalia United Methodist Church. We praise God for sending us such a wonderful Pastor that builds Healthy Christians to build Healthy Communities through H.O.P.E. # We love our pastor. Westphalia UMC communities ministry@westphaliaumc.org

#### TIMOTHY BRANCH RELIEF ROAD

Mel Franklin-Timothy Branch Relief Road. Attention South County Folks: The Brandywine Relief Road is finally open, extending Mattawoman Drive from Brandywine Crossing Shopping Center up to Brandywine Road, and giving residents an alternative to the crushing traffic of the Maryland 5/US-301 merge. Thanks to everyone who made this happen. #PrinceGeorgesRising.

#### TRIBUTE

A Tribute to a former Pastor Sykesville Circuit was held Sunday, December 3, 1978, at Frock's Sunny Farm, Westminster, Maryland. Rev. Ernest Francis Johnson was born in Washington, D.C. March 19, 1917. Educated in the Public Schools of Prince George's County, Maryland and the city of Washington, D.C.

He attended the Morristown College in Morristown, Tennessee for one year and the Pastor's School at Harper's Ferry, West Virginia for 4 years.

He married Mary Elizabeth Hawkins, July 9, 1938. To this union five children were born. There is one adopted daughter and six grandchildren. The children are Mary Magdalene who attended Maryland State and Federal Teacher's College, Washington, D.C. and worked at the D.C. Police Department.

Ernest, a graduate of Southwest Missouri State. Ernest worked as the Recreation Director of Park and Planning. Brenda (deceased) his wife worked as a teller and bank supervisor in Washington, D.C.

Lawrence (deceased) was a captain in the U.S. Army. He was an Officer Project Test Writer. Glenda his wife was a Senior High School Teacher in Baltimore, Maryland.

Hildegard was a graduate of South Carroll and a Master Sergeant in the Air Force, served in the Philippines. Nathaniel her husband was a staff Sergeant and served in the Philippines in the Engineering Division.

Debbie the youngest attended Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland. Lillian Stephen, their adopted daughter graduated from Douglas Senior High School and was a supervisor at a Giant Food Store.

Rev. Ernest Johnson served as Pastor of the following churches: Salem Circuit, Salem, Virginia, year (1946). Woodville Circuit, Aquasco, Maryland, 19 1/2 years (1947-1965). Sykesville Circuit, Sykesville, Maryland, 12 years (1966-1978).

He served as Chaplin at Southern Maryland Correctional Camp for eight years. Served on the Board of Department of Social Service Carroll County Advisory for three years. Served on the Carroll County Advisory Board of Education for three years. Served on the Board of Housing Board of Housing and District Board of Church location and Building of the Baltimore Annual Conference. Founder and Coordinator of the School House Road Project.

He was a true gift that will always remain in our hearts, which was a portion of himself. We saluted him for a job well done. He served as a devoted leader and pastor in the community at large, or wherever a human need existed. Thanks for all your hard work and sincere dedication. Johnsville, Mt. Gregory Church, St. Luck United Methodist Church, White Rock United Methodist Church, and Christ United Methodist Aquasco, Maryland (Woodville).

Rev. Ernest Johnson was a Husband, Father, Grandfather, and a friend to all, but although he retired, he was always a preacher and a child of God.

## Around the County

### 2021 Redistricting Commission Announces First Public Hearing—July 19

Redistricting in Prince George's County is the process of redrawing legislative districts every ten years, following the completion of the United States Census. The 2021 Prince George's County Redistricting Commission is holding its first Public Hearing on Monday, July 19, 2021 at 5 p.m. Your input is needed to shape the future of Prince George's County.

The hearing will be livestreamed, and may be viewed at: <https://pgccouncil.us/LIVE>

Learn more about Redistricting and why it matters to you and your community: [https://pgccouncil.us/326/Redistricting-Commission?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://pgccouncil.us/326/Redistricting-Commission?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

—Council Connections Newsletter, July 2, 2021

### St. Mary's College of Maryland Inducts 22 Students into Phi Beta Kappa's Zeta Chapter of Maryland

ST MARY'S CITY, Md. (July 9, 2021)—On Friday, April 9, twenty-two St. Mary's College of Maryland students were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa's Zeta Chapter of Maryland. Two members of the St. Mary's College faculty—Dr. Todd Eberly and Dr. Julia King—were inducted as honorary members. The virtual ceremony took place via Zoom.

Eighteen seniors and four juniors were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest academic honor society. The society's founding dates to 1776. The Zeta Chapter at St. Mary's College was approved in 1997, after a rigorous three-year review by the national organization.

The newest members of Zeta Chapter's Phi Beta Kappa are as follows:

Brandywine, Maryland: **Alyssa T. Hawkins**

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

### UConn 2021 Graduates

STORRS, Conn. (July 12, 2021)—The University of Connecticut announced 2021 graduates—students who graduated in December 2020 and May 2021. Congratulations to:

Bowie: **Abiola Olawale Olaniyan**

Brandywine: **Whitney Renee Joyner**

Upper Marlboro: **Taylor Nicole Woods**

—UConn - Media Relations

### 17 County Libraries Open for Full Browsing and Computer Use

The Library is now open Monday-Saturday for full browsing and computer use, no appointment needed. Free WiFi, study rooms, printing, scanning, curbside service (by appointment), and virtual/outdoor programs are also available. Visit [pgcmls.info/reopening](http://pgcmls.info/reopening) for current hours and location details. —Community Connections Newsletter, July 12

## Sean Semper, Aerospace Engineer, Reaches for the Stars

By ELIZABETH M. JARRELL  
NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt

**Name:** Sean Semper  
**Formal Job Classification:** Aerospace Engineer  
**Organization:** Code 596, Components and Hardware Systems Branch, 590 Division, Engineering and Technology Directorate

*What do you do and what is most interesting about your role here at Goddard? How do you help support Goddard's mission?*

I am the product development lead for a SmallSat called BurstCube, which will look at stars that explode. I am a systems engineer for another SmallSat called petitSat that will study space weather around Earth.

*Where did you go to school?*

I attended the State University of New York, Buffalo, for a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. I stayed and got a master's degree and then a Ph.D. in aerospace engineering.

*What makes engineering interesting to you?*

As a child, I was fascinated with airplanes, cars and anything technological. I began to understand that one of the better ways to spend my time around these things was to become an engineer.

*How did you come to work at Goddard?*

In the summer of 2010, when I was one year away from finishing my doctorate, I became a co-op at Goddard. After I got my doctorate in the fall of 2011, I became a full-time, permanent employee.

*What did you initially do at Goddard?*

I started on a star catalogue for the instrument for the Ice, Cloud and land

Elevation Satellite -2 (ICESat-2). A star catalogue is like an address book only for stars, giving their positions in the sky.

My next major job was developing the ground system for the Station Explorer for X-ray Timing and Navigation Technology (SEXTANT) experiment. X-ray Navigation (XNAV) is like GPS for spacecraft to use to travel throughout the universe.

*What have you invented?*

Interwoven with these two jobs, I worked on several Internal Research and Development (IRAD) projects. Around 2014, some colleagues were working on formation flying. I was working on how to increase the magnification of certain science events. In a way, we were creating a telescope using two different spacecraft similar to the relationship between a pair of glasses and your eyes if you happen to wear any.

I received a patent for a sensor to align the two separated spacecraft. The sensor aligned these two spacecraft with each other and with the stars.

I have another patent in the works. It is a sensor that will be used on spacecraft that is required to spin. This sensor will look at the stars very quickly as the spacecraft spins on its axis.

*Please tell us about your work on the SmallSat BurstCube?*

I am the lead engineer for this mission, which includes project management duties involving people, money and schedules. The fun part is that I also get to manage some of the engineering design.

As mentioned, BurstCube will look at exploding stars outside our solar system to study short Gamma ray bursts (sGRB). BurstCube will focus on capturing events lasting merely two seconds or so.

*What makes working on petitSat interesting?*

I am the deputy systems engineer for petitSat, a CubeSat that will study irregularities in the ionosphere including certain ionized gas and free electrons. I support the project management duties and am also involved in the engineering design. These irregularities in the ionosphere can disrupt our GPS and even radar systems.

*What is your involvement with NASA Headquarters education outreach?*

I am a co-investigator for a cooperative agreement under the NASA MUREP Innovations in Space Technology Curriculum (MISTC), funded by the NASA Office of STEM Engagement. The lead institution on this award is CUNY Queensborough Community College, and this funding allows us to hire students from minority-serving institutions to work as interns at Goddard. A good candidate is someone who is hard working, a good communicator, willing to ask for help and naturally inquisitive.

In addition, I am a mentor, along with others, for these students. I tell the students to try to balance school, family and work. I also tell them that it is always good to ask questions and to remember that it is okay not to have all the answers. Most importantly, I also tell them to dream bigger than what they think is their biggest dream.

*What additional community outreach do you do?*

I am a member of Community Praise Church in Alexandria, Virginia. Our church has an outreach program for the local community students, from kindergarten to college. Over five years ago, I started out tutoring the kids in math and science, now this includes reading. Our program is free! Our group of tutors and students meet twice a month on Sundays. Our group has helped the kids academically. In many cases, we have also helped by representing different career choices they may not otherwise have considered.



PHOTO CREDITS: COURTESY OF S. SEMPER

### Semper with his wife, Natalie

Also, I am on the board for a non-profit that focuses on after-school tutoring in Westbury, New York. This is an after-school program for students whose parents work full-time. We provide the opportunity for these children to be in a safe space and also get help with their homework. Once, we even organized a trip for these students to visit Goddard.

*Are you a professor, too?*

I am teaching a graduate school course called "Spacecraft Attitude Dynamics and Control" at the University of Maryland School of Engineering. There are 10 students, so I can give each a lot of individual attention.

*Who inspires you?*

My parents inspire me. My father studied technology and engineering and was always willing to work with his hands. My father studied engineering and technology in college, then became a mechanic because he wanted to be his own boss. He showed me that you can have a technical but artistic approach to life.

My mother, who recently passed, was a nurse. She had a very loving character and inspired me to work with people, especially students. She made sure

that I treat people respectfully. I do not need to know what you do to treat you with kindness. Everyone deserves to be treated with kindness.

My mother was very particular about my education and spending extra time learning. I always resisted, but now I tutor and teach. I feel there is a plot twist, especially as my wife is a teacher, too.

*Is there something surprising about your hobbies outside of work that people do not generally know?*

I am a soundman for my church. I help with the service and ensure the audio works smoothly.

I enjoy watching Formula-1 car racing. As a child, I wanted to be a race car driver until I discovered it would be too expensive.

*What do you do for fun?*

My wife and I like to take random road trips to explore places. One of our favorite trips was going to Tennessee to watch the 2017 solar eclipse.

*What is your "six-word memoir" A six-word memoir describes something in just six words.*

Be patient. Have courage. Seek peace.

# COMMUNITY

## University of Maryland Extension Awarded Funding to Assist in Vaccination Education in Underserved Communities

*Protecting Marylanders through the Extension COVID Immunization Training and Education (EXCITE) program*

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (July 8, 2021)—A team of University of Maryland Extension (UME) Family and Consumer Sciences educators are leading a drive to provide outreach and access to targeted populations in Maryland through the Extension COVID Immunization Training and Education (EXCITE) program.

The EXCITE program, funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA), is a collaborative effort of Land-grant Universities (LGUs) and the Cooperative Extension System (CES) to improve vaccination coverage in rural and other medically underserved communities throughout the nation.

Focusing on community engagement, the team, led by senior agent, licensed dietitian, and nutritionist Lisa McCoy, will examine adult hesitancy and other barriers preventing people from obtaining the COVID vaccination, now available to all people over the age of 12.

"This project will target communities that are not only at an increased risk for severe COVID-19, such as seniors and people with diabetes, but also vulnerable groups that may struggle to find vaccine information, sign up, or physically get to vaccination sites, such as farm workers, immigrants and low-to-moderate income families," said McCoy.

An assessment of the COVID-19 Pandemic Vulnerability Index (PVI) shows that the targeted rural counties of Maryland had vaccination rates of less than 21%, highlighting the need for outreach and education for these hard-to-reach populations, McCoy said.

The team includes McCoy, Carrie Sorenson, Crystal Terhune, and Jinhee Kim, program leader for the UME Family & Consumer Sciences Program. Their work will focus on creating educational and outreach materials in multiple languages, utilizing resources from trusted and credible sources like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and engaging those communities through partnerships, marketing and communications.

A new COVID-19 Vaccination Education page is now available at <https://extension.umd.edu/covid-19-vaccine-education>, providing detailed information about the vaccine, its effectiveness, as well as information on making a vaccination appointment in all of Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City.

—For more information on this grant or its associated activities, please contact Laura Wormuth, UME communications program manager, at 301-405-6869 or [lwormuth@umd.edu](mailto:lwormuth@umd.edu).

## Dept of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County Aquatics Staff Save Local Pastor's Life

*Aggressive Recruitment for Additional Lifeguards Underway*

By ANGEL WALDRON  
Prince George's County Dept of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (July 7, 2021)—The aquatics staff of M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County rescued a prominent area pastor when he had a heart attack on May 12, 2021 in the pool at Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex in Landover, Maryland.

Accustomed to rescuing parishioners from their troubles, Rev. Dr. Earl D. Trent, Jr., who is senior pastor of Florida Avenue Baptist Church in Washington, DC, found himself in need of rescue during his regular weekly swim at Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex. Trent has served as senior pastor of Florida Avenue Baptist Church since 1995. He is a proud resident of Prince George's County.

Though athletic all his life, Rev. Trent had a cardiac emergency in the pool. The lifeguard on duty, Miguel Vargas, noticed Trent unconscious in the water and staff enacted the facility's Emergency Action Plan. Vargas entered the water and extricated Trent to a safe location. Initially without a pulse, Trent was assisted by a five-person team who administered CPR and used an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to deliver a shock to his

chest. Showing subtle signs of life, Rev. Trent was aided by the same staff until paramedics arrived to provide further medical care.

Aquatics staff Sydnee Minor, Marcus Brown and Robert White alongside Assistant Field House Manager, Jonathan Cabatbat were also critical in the heroism displayed that day. "It was a whole team approach in rescuing me," said Rev. Trent, "Their training kicked in. It was seamless, and that's why I'm here today."

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that in the United States, someone has a heart attack every 40 seconds.

### Need for Additional Lifeguards

Lifeguard shortages are area wide and having trained aquatics staff at the ready for emergencies in its facilities is a Department priority. To meet those challenges, the Department is making aggressive efforts to recruit lifeguards for training and American Red Cross (ARC) certification. The Department is an ARC training provider. Lifeguard hiring is currently underway with pay at \$15 per hour or more (depending on experience), flexible work schedules, free uniforms, and additional perks. Interested persons are strongly encouraged to apply at <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mncppc>.



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Left to right: Marcus Brown, Rev. Earl Trent, Sydnee Minor, Jonathan Cabatbat. Not pictured: Miguel Vargas, Robert White

Lifeguard Marcus Brown reflected on why he chose the noble profession, "I wanted to give back to the community... to provide great care. You are leaving a mark in the community. It's a great job."

Assistant Field House Manager, Jonathan Cabatbat emphasized that career interest in any aspect of the medical field is bolstered by a start as a lifeguard. He said that being a lifeguard provides the basic skills to progress toward the medical field and "it can be used on your resume for that future job in medicine."

Lifeguard Sydnee Minor added, "To someone who is

thinking of joining our team, I encourage you to do it. It is moments like this that make it very special. You truly are guarding lives." She concluded, "I helped save a life, and that's something I'll never forget."

The M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation delivers an award-winning park system through progressive, innovative leadership and a commitment to the community and the environment in Prince George's County. For more on the Department of Parks and Recreation, visit [www.pgparcs.com](http://www.pgparcs.com) and stay connected on Facebook, Twitter, PhotoShelter, and Instagram.



## Our new hospital is about to **changeUP** everything.

Amazing health care can do so much more than help you feel better. It can lift up an entire community. Our new, state-of-the-art hospital in Largo is now open - which means this entire community is about to rise. Here, you'll have access to more top specialists, a comprehensive Heart & Vascular Institute, a beautiful new maternity center with the latest advances for moms and babies, and so much more. As part of University of Maryland Medical System, we're stepping up the strength of all that we offer ... because when we stand strong, so do you.

See how we are changing up health care for you at [UMcapitalregion.org/changeUP](http://UMcapitalregion.org/changeUP).



# COMMENTARY

## Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



### To Be Equal:

## World-Class Sprinter Sha'Carrie Richardson Is The Latest Casualty of Decades of Racist Application of Marijuana Policies

“... ‘the rules are the rules.’ Yet, rules aren’t inherently neutral—more likely than not, rules are an extension of a status quo of racism, and are often written by people who have never faced the sort of marginalization that their rules create. While marijuana is widely legal, and widely used by people of all races and backgrounds today, that wasn’t always the case. And while plenty of legal weed businesses are helmed by white people, prisons across the country are still filled with Black and brown drug offenders, sentenced for marijuana use. There will always be racist implications to who is and isn’t punished for drug use across lines of race and class. Richardson’s case is just another devastating example of this”.

—Kylie Cheung

Millions of Black and Brown lives have been upended by decades of racist application of marijuana policies. Track and field sensation and

Olympic hopeful Sha'Carrie Richardson is the latest casualty.

The news of Richardson’s suspension from Team USA because of a positive marijuana test came just days after the announcement that competitors would be permitted to bring alcoholic beverages into the Olympic village, highlighting the absurdity of marijuana prohibition.

As many addiction specialists have noted, cannabis does not meet the World Anti-Doping Agency’s criteria for prohibition: it is neither “performance enhancing” nor a health risk to the athlete, and the suggestion that it violates the “spirit of sport” is nonsensical.

Richardson, for her part, has handled the controversy with Sha’grace and humility. Before the news of her test even broke, she tweeted, simply, “I am human.” She later elaborated that she was coping with the devastating news of her biological mother’s death—imparted to her by a reporter, a

relative stranger. While this explanation of her emotional state is sympathetic, it should be wholly unnecessary.

It is long past time to end marijuana prohibition—in sports, and in the law.

Marijuana prohibition, and the application of such laws, have been inextricable from systemic and overt racism for more than a century. Before the outbreak of the Mexican revolution sparked an influx of immigration beginning 1910, marijuana was a common ingredient in over-the-counter medicines and was sold openly in pharmacies. As the Great Depression stoked resentment of Mexican immigrants, among whom recreational use was common, efforts to link marijuana use with violent and criminal behavior intensified.

Ironically, it was the end of alcohol prohibition that led to the first federal law against marijuana. As head of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, Harry Anslinger was responsible for enforcing the Volstead Act, prohibiting the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages. When the 21st Amendment repealed alcohol prohibition, Anslinger pivoted to marijuana—intentionally exploiting racial fears and false stereotypes to launch the first American Drug War.

Even as more states move to legalize recreational use of marijuana—18 and counting—extreme racial disparities in marijuana possession arrests persist in every jurisdiction in the nation.

According to a report issued by the ACLU last year, Black Americans are 3.64 times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than white Americans, even though Black and white people use marijuana at similar rates. In some states, Black people were up to six, eight, or almost 10

times more likely to be arrested. As the authors of the report note:

• Criminal consequences [are] not the only harm of marijuana prohibition. There is a range of potentially debilitating collateral consequences as well, many of which persist even after marijuana is decriminalized or even legalized. These can further erode people’s civil rights by impacting housing rights, parental rights, the administration of public benefits, access to education, and immigration status. For example, families who live in federally subsidized public housing face eviction or family separation if someone is accused of using marijuana on their premises. Parents may lose their children in family court proceedings if accused of using marijuana. Disabled and poor recipients of public benefits still face the threat of losing their benefits for marijuana use. Immigrants can face deportation for marijuana use. Because of the race-driven way in which marijuana criminal laws have been enforced, each of these potentially life-altering consequences of criminalization has been borne disproportionately by communities of color.

Attitudes about marijuana use are changing quickly, and the outrage over Sha’Carrie Richardson’s suspension may even be the catalyst for a rule change by the World Anti-Doping Agency. More importantly, state and federal prohibition and the racist enforcement of these laws must end—and any legislation legalizing marijuana must not only redress for past wrongs and create economic opportunities for communities that bore, and continue to bear, the negative effects of the War on Drugs.

## Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,  
Children’s Defense Fund



### ChildWatch:

## Still Riding

“Boarding that Greyhound bus to travel through the heart of the Deep South, I felt good. I felt happy. I felt liberated. I was like a soldier in a nonviolent army. I was ready.”

—Congressman John Lewis

In 1961, my dear friend and late Congressman John Lewis was a 21-year-old student leader from American Baptist College in Nashville when he joined an interracial group traveling through the South by bus to test the recent Supreme Court decision banning segregation in interstate travel. These were the Freedom Riders—more than 400 Black and white volunteers who risked their lives and freedom 60 years ago to face down segregation in the Deep South. The original group organized by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) began with 13 riders who left Washington, D.C. on May 4, 1961, with plans to arrive in New Orleans on May 17, the seventh anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision. During that ride and the 60 others that followed that summer and fall, John Lewis and many others were beaten, brutalized, and arrested. Buses were firebombed and destroyed. But at every step, brave and determined new volunteers traveled to meet the riders and take their places. The 1961 Freedom Rides brought national attention to the cause, led Attorney General Robert Kennedy and the Justice Department to strengthen the laws outlawing segregation in interstate

travel, and marked a crucial early turning point in the Civil Rights Movement.

For young people today, the fight against segregated buses and train cars might feel like a triumphant victory that is now ancient history. But the dangerous and systemic assaults on voting rights happening across our nation right now are a stark reminder that even though we won that battle and many others, the war is still not over. During a May 1865 American Anti-Slavery Society debate on whether the organization’s work was complete with the end of the Civil War, Frederick Douglass issued a famous warning on the need for ongoing vigilance: “Slavery has been called a great many names, and it will call itself by yet another name; and you and I and all of us had better wait and see what new form this old monster will assume, in what new skin this old snake will come forth next.”

Systemic racism, white supremacy, and inequality did not end with either Emancipation or the Civil Rights Movement. The same forces that used poll taxes, literacy tests, grandfather clauses, and violent intimidation against earlier generations of citizens are continuing to use every voter suppression tool at their disposal to try to cling to power right now, and in many places “election integrity” has become the latest new name for a very old snake. In June, Black Voters Matter held a Freedom Rides for Voting Rights bus tour from Mississippi to

Washington, D.C. These 60th anniversary rides both honored the original riders and showed just how much is still at stake as the fight to protect our sacred right to vote rages today.

This week, President Biden and Vice President Harris held a White House meeting with key civil rights leaders, who stressed the urgent need for taking more forceful action immediately during what must become a “summer of activism.” The John Lewis Voting Rights Act is one of several legislative battlegrounds. In a White House proclamation on the Freedom Rides anniversary, President Biden said: “Across his lifetime of service in and out of Government, John Lewis was the moral compass of our Nation—though he absorbed the force of human nature’s cruelty, he emanated dignity and grace. On the anniversary of his journey on the Freedom Rides, I am reminded of the message he shared with me before he passed away last summer: that we must stay focused on the work left undone to heal this Nation.” He added: “My Administration also supports further legislation to protect that most fundamental right [to vote]—to make our democracy more equitable and accessible for all Americans.” But as other lawmakers continue enacting legislation explicitly seeking to do the exact opposite in state after state across the country right now, today’s nonviolent soldiers must stay focused, stay organized, and stay on the move.



PHOTO COURTESY COUNCIL CONNECTIONS, PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY COUNCIL

Police Chief Malik Aziz was sworn into office on July 6.

## Prince George’s County State’s Attorney Aisha N. Braveboy’s Statement Regarding the Confirmation of Police Chief Malik Aziz

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (July 6, 2021)—Prince George’s County State’s Attorney Aisha N. Braveboy released the following statement regarding the confirmation of Police Chief Malik Aziz:

“I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Malik Aziz on his confirmation as Prince George’s County’s new

police chief. As State’s Attorney, I look forward to working with Chief Aziz as we work together to pursue justice and keep each and every resident of the County safe. I am impressed with his commitment and service in law enforcement most notably his expertise in community policing and his successful record in crime re-

duction. A leader who is respected by both community and police, he has been at the national forefront in law enforcement and making policing more equitable. Again, I look forward to the leadership, vision and fresh perspective Chief Aziz brings to Prince George’s County and our residents.”

## Van Hollen Statement on Biden Decision to Remove Social Security Commissioner Andrew Saul & Deputy David Black

WASHINGTON (July 9, 2021)—U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) released the following statement regarding President Biden’s decision to remove Social Security Commissioner Andrew Saul and Deputy Commissioner David Black:

“The Social Security Administration is tasked with providing vital benefits to American retirees,

survivors, and those with disabilities. During their tenure, Commissioner Saul and Deputy Commissioner Black have worked to undermine that core mission—making it harder for many in Maryland and around the country to receive these benefits. Additionally, Saul and Black repeatedly attacked the unions that enable Social Security’s workers to organize

and bargain collectively for basic workplace standards, creating an increasingly toxic environment for these crucial employees. President Biden’s decision is the right one and is absolutely necessary to ensure the success of the Social Security program, secure workers’ rights, and restore confidence in the Social Security Administration’s leadership.”

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Contents © 2021, The Prince George’s Post

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

# BUSINESS

## Hospice of the Chesapeake Announces New Board Members

PASADENA, Md. (July 8, 2021)—Several prominent members of the community have been appointed to the boards of directors of Hospice of the Chesapeake and its foundation and began serving this year.

Noel Cervino, David Hunt and Delegate Edith J. Patterson were elected to the Hospice of the Chesapeake Inc., Board. Cervino is President and CEO of University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center, Hunt is Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer for University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center, and Patterson represents Charles County's District 28 in the Maryland House of Delegates.

Stacy Martin and Challie Samaras were elected to the Hospice of the Chesapeake Foundation Board. Martin is Vice President Business Banker for First Citizens Bank and Samaras is with Zachary's Jewelers.

Headquartered in Pasadena, Maryland, the nonprofit provides hospice and supportive care as well as bereavement services to residents of Anne Arundel, Charles and Prince George's counties.

—Elyzabeth Marcussen, Hospice of the Chesapeake

## Social Security Matters

### Ask Rusty:

## When Should I Claim My Survivor Benefit?

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

**Dear Rusty:** My wife passed away in 2014. I'm 60 years old and have been retired since August 2020. I know I'm entitled to survivor benefits, but my question relates to when to file for them. To say the information online is confusing is an understatement. Some background. My wife was born in 1960 and would have turned 62 next year. I was born in 1960 and turned 60 this past April. I do not plan on taking my SS until age 67 (I could wait until age 70 if it is more beneficial). I have not remarried. When should I file for survivor benefits to maximize the benefit? **Signed: Surviving Husband**

**Dear Surviving Husband:** Survivor benefits reach maximum when you reach your full retirement age (67), but you can claim a reduced survivor benefit as early as age 60. The amount of your survivor benefit will be determined by a) the benefit your wife had earned up to the month she passed, and b) your age when you claim the survivor benefit. At age 67 you would get 100% of the amount your wife was entitled to when she passed; if you claim at age 60 you would only get 71.5% of the benefit amount your wife had earned up to her death. The reduction may, or may not be, acceptable to you depending on your personal circumstances.

First, you should be aware that if you claim your survivor benefit before your full retirement age (FRA) and return to work, you'll be subject to Social Security's earnings test which limits how much you can earn before SS takes away some of your benefits. The earnings limit for 2021 is \$18,960 (changes annually) and if that is exceeded SS will take back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. The earnings limit applies until you reach your full retirement age, although the limit is much higher and the penalty less severe in the year you attain FRA. If your earnings prior to your FRA are high enough, it could disqualify you from receiving a survivor benefit. Of course, if you are not working and do not plan to return to work, the earnings test is not a concern.

Assuming you are fully retired from working, here are some things to consider:

- Claiming your survivor benefit now at age 60 would permit you to receive 71.5% of the survivor benefit for at least 7 years (until you reach your FRA), or perhaps longer until you are 70. Although the survivor benefit would be reduced, claiming it at age 60 would also permit you to delay taking your own Social Security benefit until age 70 when your personal benefit would be 24% more than it will be at your FRA. The above would be prudent if your age 70 (or 67) benefit amount will be higher than the survivor benefit you would be entitled to at your full retirement age.
- If your survivor benefit at your FRA would be more than your own benefit will be at age 70, then it would be wisest to maximize your survivor benefit. To maximize your survivor benefit you must wait until age 67 (your FRA) to claim it. If your full survivor benefit will be the highest you can get, then maximizing it by waiting until your FRA to claim it is your smartest move.

So, as you can see, you have a choice of when to claim your survivor benefit. If your personal benefit at age 70 would be higher, it would be wise to claim your survivor benefit first (at age 60) and collect the reduced survivor benefit until you later switch to your own higher benefit. But if your survivor benefit at maximum would be more than your age 70 benefit, then waiting until your full retirement age of 67 to claim your survivor benefit would be your best choice.

The 2.3 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] [www.amac.us](http://www.amac.us) is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation's capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country. And the AMAC Foundation ([www.AmacFoundation.org](http://www.AmacFoundation.org)) is the Association's non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting and educating America's Seniors. Together, we act and speak on the Association members' behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at [www.amac.us/join-amac](http://www.amac.us/join-amac).

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## Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)/Prince George's County Awarded \$300,000 to Launch New "CASA Fostering Opportunities Fund"

By JACQUELINE COPEK  
CASA/Prince George's County

RIVERDALE, Md. (July 9, 2021)—Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)/Prince George's County has been awarded \$300,000 by an anonymous donor to launch the new CASA Fostering Opportunities Fund. Starting July 2021, CASA will have \$50,000 to fund opportunities for youth over the next 12 months and our generous donor will continue to replenish funds annually until all funds are expended.

The funder, who has extensive experience working with the juvenile court system in Prince George's County, is committed to providing youth in care with access to opportunities that the Child Welfare system is unable to fund. CASA/Prince George's County is thrilled to steward these funds and help bridge opportunity gaps that often stand in the way of youth having a childhood similar to that of their peers.

"The CASA Fostering Opportunities Fund will be instrumental in helping youth in Prince George's County," says Executive Director Ann Marie Binsner. "While the courts are able to ensure youth have

basic needs met, often youth in care have to go without the other 'stuff.' This fund is going to change that. Individuals working with youth can fill out a quick form to request funds for musical instruments, summer camps, braces, sports equipment, really anything that can give youth in foster care opportunities to bridge the gap between them and their peers."

CASA/Prince George's County works to recruit, train, and supervise volunteers that advocate for the best interest of youth in foster care. Volunteers work one on one with youth to get to know them beyond their case file, provide consistent adult support throughout the duration of their case, and make recommendations to the court regarding their best interest.

With the close-knit nature of the relationships established by volunteers & youth in care, CASA is uniquely positioned to steward funds, ensuring that youth have access to enrichment opportunities that will aid in their emotional, physical, and educational growth. This fund will help normalize their experiences while also providing access to opportunities that will benefit them for years to come.

In Prince George's County, over 60% of the youth served are ages 14–21. These

youth are tasked with preparing themselves for independence and navigating a complex foster care system. While all youth within the Prince George's County Foster Care system are eligible to use the CASA Fostering Opportunities Fund, CASA will target these older youth to help ease their transition to independence and help them build a path to a successful and stable future.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)/Prince George's County is a volunteer-based organization that partners with the juvenile court to improve the lives of children living in foster care who have suffered from abuse and neglect. With a strong commitment to diversity, CASA trains and supervises volunteers from the community who advocate for the best interest of children, recognizing and respecting each child's individual needs. By providing a voice to children in the foster care system, CASA's goal is to help children and promote the timely placement of those we serve in safe, permanent homes.

To volunteer with CASA/Prince George's County, call 301-209-0491 or go to [www.pgcasa.org](http://www.pgcasa.org).

## Governor Hogan Celebrates Ribbon Cutting of Bioenergy DevCo's New Anaerobic Digestion Facility

Reaffirms Administration's Commitment to Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL  
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (July 7, 2021)—Governor Larry Hogan today participated in the ribbon cutting of Bioenergy DevCo's new anaerobic digestion (AD) facility, located on the Maryland Food Center campus in Jessup. Upon completion, the site will be Maryland's largest AD facility.

"Maryland and the nation face significant challenges when it comes to excess food scraps and discarded organic waste," said Governor Hogan. "We can and we must do better, and that's why facilities like this one are so exciting. It is a shining example of Maryland's innovative approach to addressing the challenges associated with our solid waste stream."

Bioenergy DevCo's new anaerobic digester is a public-private partnership that began with a land lease between the parties, key regulatory support from the Maryland Department of the Environment, and the approval of the Board of Public Works in February 2018. The Maryland Energy Administration granted more than \$460,000 to help launch the operation.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

Governor Larry Hogan participated in the ribbon cutting of Bioenergy DevCo's new anaerobic digestion (AD) facility, located on the Maryland Food Center campus in Jessup.

The site is expected to process 125,000 tons of food waste each year and produce enough energy to power 4,800 homes. In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emis-

sions and creating renewable energy, it will also improve Maryland's recycling processes and create up to 50 new jobs.

### Reopening from A1

- exercise, Virtual Chair Exercise
- Zumba and dance: Virtual Line Dance, ZumbaFit, Outdoor ZumbaFit
- Art, Music and Theatre: Virtual Piano Intermediate, Virtual Piano Beginner, Virtual Special Home Projects, Virtual Sewing
- Summer 2021 one day events include: Virtual: Virtual Paint & Sip, Virtual Sassy Seniors Bingo, Virtual Photo

- Management, Virtual Laughter Yoga
- Outdoor: Fishing with the Rangers, National Ice Cream Day, Tie Dye Party, Concrete Crafts

### Eligibility Requirements

Patrons must be over 60 years of age and have valid M-NCPPC PARKS DIRECT Senior Identification (ID): These cards are free for Prince George's and Montgomery County residents. Non-residents can join for a

nominal fee. To obtain a card, bring proof of residency and age to any M-NCPPC community center or senior activity center in Prince George's County during operating hours. Patrons must have ability to participate in recreational activities with minimal personal assistance and take care of personal needs (i.e. hygiene, eating, mobility, medication, etc.)

Register for senior classes and events at [www.pgparksdirect.com](http://www.pgparksdirect.com).

### Awards from A1

Freedom Story will bring historical content and subject matter to present-day relevance by drawing on content from A Question of Freedom: The Families Who Challenged Slavery from the Nation's Founding to the Civil War by historian Dr. William G. Thomas, III as well as present-day research conducted with descendants of the enslaved in Prince George's

County. The commissioning phase of Freedom Story will result in a production script and staged reading series. Multiple educational events will engage Maryland residents (school-aged children, college students, and community members).

Maryland Humanities is a statewide nonprofit organization that creates and supports educational experiences in the humanities that inspire all Marylanders to

embrace lifelong learning, exchange ideas openly, and enrich their communities. For more information, visit [www.mdhumanities.org](http://www.mdhumanities.org). Maryland Humanities is generously supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities; the State of Maryland; the Citizens of Baltimore County; private foundations; corporations; small businesses; and individual donors. Connect with Maryland Humanities on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram.

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# OUT on the TOWN

## Nine Artists | Nine Months | Nine Perspectives: Birth of 2020 Visions

Work by 9 Black Women Artists Documents Traumatic Events of 2020

Featuring: Adjoa J. Burrowes, Julee Dickerson-Thompson, Aziza Claudia Gibson-Hunter, Michele Godwin, Francine Haskins, Pamela Harris Lawton, Gloria Patton, Gail Shaw-Clemons, and Kamala Subramanian.

By KATE TAYLOR DAVIS  
Pyramid Atlantic Art Center

NINE MONTHS | NINE ARTISTS | NINE PERSPECTIVES opens Saturday, July 24 online and in person. Pyramid continues to practice caution with social gatherings. Masks are required and the first weekend's in-person viewings are by RSVP to allow for social distancing. Starting July 28, the public is welcome during regular gallery hours without appointment. Admission is free and gallery hours are Wed–Thu, 10–8 p.m.; Fri–Sat, 10–6 p.m.; and Sunday 12–5 p.m. The exhibition runs through August 29, 2021. Pyramid is located at 4318 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville Maryland 20781. More info at pyramidatlantic.org or 301-608-9101.

These artists came together on this project, each tasked with creating a unique artist's book with space for the other eight artists to express their views. Once a month over a period of nine months they would contribute to another artist's book, handing them off to the next artist in the circle every 30 days. When the books returned to their original creator for finishing, they were filled with

images, text, and objects from their colleagues. Throughout the process, these women held fellowship meetings to swap books, critique the process, and document the experience in a group blog.

The resulting artist books are filled with responses, perspectives and reflections during one of the most tumultuous years in the last 100. These works are inspired by the continuous struggle for justice for BIPOC bodies, the effect of COVID-19 on the health and social welfare of marginalized people, the lack of response from the federal government, and the synergies created by socio-political grassroots movements like BLM and the election of the nation's first BIPOC woman vice president. Artmaking became a transgressive act—their "artivism."

Of the work, the artists write, "We understand that the narratives of white people may take precedence in the gestation of traumatic events taking place. However, we reject the attempts of white neutrality to define our realities. In transforming our trauma, we created visual narratives to document our images, our words, and our assessments of this era; a transgressive act. As seasoned Womanist artists, we have acquired skills over decades sharpened by profound life experiences."

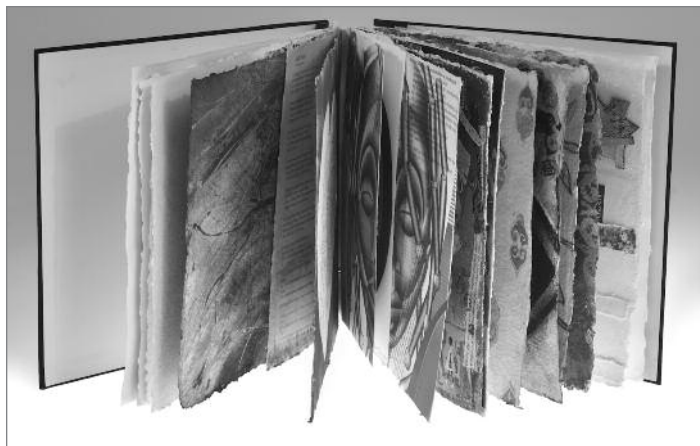
This exhibition is made possible in part through the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County.

.....  
*Founded in 1981, Pyramid Atlantic is a nonprofit contemporary art center fostering the creative disciplines of papermaking, printmaking, and book arts*



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY  
PYRAMID ATLANTIC ART CENTER

**THE CROCODILE**—Gail Shaw-Clemons with additional contributions by other artists in the collective



**THE X FACTOR**—Kamala Subramanian with additional contributions from other artists in the collective



**FOR NAME SAKE**—Adjoa J. Burrowes with additional contributions by other artists in the collective

*within a collaborative community. We equip, educate, and exhibit in our historic Hyattsville home. Our vision is to create an artistic hub in Hyattsville that inspires and enables local, national, and international artists to create and innovate in our core disciplines; elevates the local arts and small business scene; and enhances the quality of life for artists and neighbors. We value artistic excellence, infrastructure for artists, hands-on experiences, and collaboration.*

### Calendar Spotlight

## A Virtual STEAM Presentation: "Bones in the White House"

By STACEY HAWKINS  
Marietta House Museum

Please join us on **Thursday, July 22**, 3–4 p.m. for A Virtual STEAM presentation: "Bones in the White House".

American artist, Charles Wilson Peale was also a scientist who collected fossils and dinosaur bones. Peale created a painting for President Thomas Jefferson called the "Exhumation of the Mastodon". The painting helps us see how Peale collected the Mastodon's skeleton for his museum in Philadelphia. This painting helps tell of President Jefferson's interest in showing Europeans that North America has better fossils than Europe!

A children's book explains Thomas Jefferson's quest to display the mastodon that Peale assembled for his museum. A discussion with the children will bring these points together using the STEAM vision. The children's book and illustrations will be used for this presentation.

Free. Ages 6-12. Please register on Parks Direct using this direct link: <https://tinyurl.com/foxjmy7d>

The presentation will be held virtually on Microsoft Teams. For assistance or for more information please contact [Stacey.Hawkins@pgparks.com](mailto:Stacey.Hawkins@pgparks.com) or (301) 262-0532.

Marietta is located at 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD 20769 and is a property of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

## Registration for the Y'S THINGAMAJIG Invention Convention Is Open and Ready for Young Inventors to Start Building New Dreams

Children can create inventions, learn more about STEM, win prizes and celebrate their achievements all virtually

By LINDA BLAKE  
YMCA of Metropolitan Washington

WASHINGTON (July 8, 2021)—In 2021, the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington will celebrate 27 years of hosting the THINGAMAJIG® Invention Convention. As our nation gradually opens back up from the pandemic, THINGAMAJIG will delay being held at its annual location at the Prince George's County Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. THINGAMAJIG will be reimagined again this year as a virtual program where children can still participate in amazing STEM learning.

Recognized as the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington's signature event, the THINGAMAJIG Invention Convention challenges youth to use their creativity, imagination, recyclables, engineering design process and a bit of trial and error to solve a challenge. They are encouraged to design, build, and present their

original prototypes in the Invention Competition. Recognition and prizes will be awarded based on a set of judging criteria.

The THINGAMAJIG Invention Convention is designed to connect young people ages 5-14 to the importance and relevance of science and technology in all aspects of living. THINGAMAJIG also motivates them to use their imagination, creativity and strategic thinking to "think outside of the box" and explore STEM in a manner that is highly engaging.

Children have several weeks to plan, design and construct inventions using recyclable materials based on provided categories through the virtual host, [dc-thingamajig.zfairs.com](https://dc-thingamajig.zfairs.com). Inventions can be submitted individually or as a team. Volunteers serve as judges in each invention category.

For details and to register, visit <https://dc-thingamajig.zfairs.com>

- Create your unique invention with recycled materials at home selected from one of the provided categories listed in [dc-thingamajig.zfairs.com](https://dc-thingamajig.zfairs.com).
- Upload a video and logbook of your invention by July 17.
- Join us July 29 for an exciting THINGAMAJIG Day to have fun as well as celebrate all of the inventions and achievements.

*The YMCA of Metropolitan Washington is a 501©3 non-profit charity organization that has been serving the communities and families of Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia in the areas of youth development, healthy living and social responsibility, for nearly 168 years. Through opportunities in wellness, aquatics, youth sports, summer camps, childcare and more, the Y engages more than 250,000 individuals and families. Visit [www.ymcadc.org](http://www.ymcadc.org) for more information.*

## Governor Hogan Announces \$1 Million VaxU Scholarship Promotion

Winners Will Receive \$50,000 Scholarship, Covers Full Tuition and Fees For a Public, In-State Institution

Vaccinated 12- to 17-Year-Olds In Maryland Eligible

Drawings To Run Through Labor Day

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL  
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (July 7, 2021)—Governor Larry Hogan today announced the launch of the \$1 million VaxU Scholarship Promotion, an incentive program to encourage 12- to 17-year-olds to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Winners will receive a \$50,000 scholarship, which covers the equivalent of full tuition and fees at a public, in-state institution of higher education. The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) will jointly administer this initiative, which will select 20 winners through random drawings between now and Labor Day.

The governor made today's announcement at the University of Maryland, College Park, where he was joined by University System of Maryland Chancellor Jay A. Perman and UMD President Darryll J. Pines.

"Promotions like this are just one more way that we are reinforcing the importance of getting every

single Marylander that we can vaccinated against COVID-19, especially our young people," said Governor Hogan. "If any of our 12- to 17-year-olds or their parents needed another good reason, then now they can get vaccinated for a chance to win a \$50,000 college scholarship."

Beginning July 12, the VaxU Scholarship Promotion will randomly select two winners per week for eight weeks. On Monday, September 6—Labor Day—four winners will be selected. To qualify for the scholarship, students must both live and be vaccinated in Maryland.

"This is an outstanding and innovative approach to incentivize our youth to learn more about the countless higher education opportunities that are available to them here in Maryland," said MHEC Secretary Dr. James D. Fielder. "We are proud to continue paving the way for access and success of their higher education goals."

The award will be distributed in the form of a Prepaid College Trust or College Investment Plan

from Maryland529, and can be utilized in accordance with the guidelines for those programs:

- A 4-Year Maryland Prepaid College Trust Account will be funded for a winner who is between the ages of 12–14 at the time of the drawing.
- A Maryland College Investment Plan contribution will be awarded to individuals between the ages of 15-17 at the time of the drawing.

"When a Marylander who is 12–17 years old is vaccinated, they, their family, friends, and countless others are protected from COVID-19, and those young community members become role models to their peers who are still unvaccinated," said MDH Secretary Dennis R. Schrader. "To date, more than half of our 12- to 17-year-olds have been vaccinated, and VaxU is just one more tool we're using to reach this critical audience."

Winners will be selected utilizing the same random number generator used for the \$2 Million Vax-Cash Promotion. Similar to that promotion, the win-

ners of the VaxU promotion will be permitted to remain anonymous. However, the city or county of the winner will be published.

"For me, the governor's announcement represents a perfect marriage: We're helping secure the health of our young people while giving them a low- or no-cost college education," said Chancellor Perman. "I'm so grateful that our state has made COVID vaccination a public health priority and that we're embracing creative ways to protect the safety of all Marylanders."

"Higher education provides opportunities for the next generation of Marylanders to tackle the grand challenges of our time and thrive in an ever-evolving world," said President Pines. "The promise of higher education opportunities as an incentive to get vaccinated against COVID-19 is an outstanding effort from Governor Hogan. We applaud his ongoing commitment to research-based, data-driven decisions throughout this public health crisis, and the University of Maryland is a proud partner in working to end the pandemic."

Federal COVID-19 relief funds will be used to cover the cost of the program. For more information, visit the MHEC VaxU Scholarship Promotion website: <https://mhec.maryland.gov/Pages/vaxU-scholarship-promotion.aspx>

# COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

**UNITED METHODIST**

**WESTPHALIA**

**United Methodist Church**

"A CHURCH ON THE REACH FOR GOD"

9363 D'Arcy Road  
Upper Marlboro, MD

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

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

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

ALL ARE WELCOME

Web Site:  
[www.westphaliaum.org](http://www.westphaliaum.org)

**BAPTIST**

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HIGHLAND PARK**

'A Bible Based, Christ Centered & Spirit Led Congregation'

6801 Sheriff Road Landover, MD  
20785 (301) 773-6655

Sunday Biblical Institute:  
9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship:  
7:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m.  
Saturday Worship:  
6:30 p.m.

'WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS WITH JESUS':  
12 noon (The Power Hour) and 6:45 pm

"A Time of Prayer, Praise, Worship, & The Word"  
**Dr. Henry P. Davis III, Pastor**  
[www.fhbp.org](http://www.fhbp.org)

**BAPTIST**

**First Baptist Church of College Park**

Welcomes You Where Jesus Christ Is Lord and King  
Stephen L. Wright, Sr., Pastor

5018 Lakeland Road  
College Park, MD 20740  
**301-474-3995**  
[www.fbc-cp.org](http://www.fbc-cp.org)

Sunday School 9:30a.m.  
Sunday Worship 11a.m.  
Holy Communion 1st Sunday  
Wednesday Bible Study 7-8p.m.  
Wednesday Prayer Service 8p.m.

**UNITED METHODIST**

**Union**

**United Methodist Church**

14418 Old Marlboro Pike,  
Upper Marlboro, MD

**Church (301) 627-7389**

Sunday School: (Children/Adults) - 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

**Rev. Dr. Kendrick D. Weaver,**  
Pastor  
[www.uumchurch.com](http://www.uumchurch.com)

**Have a Safe Weekend**

Church Directory Advertisements are paid ads.

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

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

*Rev. Ranessa Mayo, Pastor*

"We are training disciples to experience victory in every area of their lives"

Matthew 28:19-20

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

Soulful Thursdays  
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

**BAPTIST**

**Forest Heights Baptist Church**

We exist to strengthen your relationship with God.

6371 Oxon Hill Road  
Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745

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

**COMMUNITY CHURCH**

**WORD OF GOD COMMUNITY CHURCH**

"The Church Where Everybody is Somebody and Jesus is Lord"

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

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

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

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MINISTRIES

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[www.CompassionPlace.org](http://www.CompassionPlace.org)

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## LEGALS

**REQUEST FOR CONCEPTUAL PROPOSALS**

RFP NO. 2021-03

**Redevelopment of Approximately 26 Acres on the Former Hospital Sites located at 3001 and 3005 Hospital Drive Hyattsville, MD 20785**

The Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County (RDA) has issued this Request for Conceptual Proposals ("RFP") for a master developer or team for the development of an approximate 26-acre site consisting of two contiguous parcels located at 3001 and 3005 Hospital Drive, Hyattsville, MD.

The RFP with Supporting Documentation will be available on July 8th, 2021 on the following website:  
<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/3537/Solicitations>

Email questions to Ernest Williams - Senior Manager at [eywilliams@co.pg.md.us](mailto:eywilliams@co.pg.md.us). Proposals must be received by the Redevelopment Authority no later than September 30th, 2021 at 12:00 PM EST unless otherwise noted in the RFP.

139866 (7-8,7-15)

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NO. 2021-04**

**Forestville Road Townhome Smart Community**  
Development of a 32 Acre Site located at Forestville Road and Suitland Parkway

The Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County (RDA) is hereby soliciting proposals for the development of an approximate 32-acre site located at the intersection of Forestville Road and Suitland Parkway.

The RFP with Supporting Documentation will be available on July 8th, 2021 on the following website:  
<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/3537/Solicitations>

Email questions to Ernest Williams - Senior Manager at [eywilliams@co.pg.md.us](mailto:eywilliams@co.pg.md.us). Proposals must be received by the Redevelopment Authority no later than September 30th, 2021 at 12:00 PM EST unless otherwise noted in the RFP.

139867 (7-8,7-15)

**City of Hyattsville, MD**

**Notice of 2021 Ward 1 Special Election Deadline for Filing for Candidacy**

The 2021 City of Hyattsville Ward 1 Special Election will be held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. All registered voters in the City will be mailed a ballot in early August. Ballots may be returned via mail or official drop box.

Qualified residents of the City who desire to be a candidate for the Ward 1 Councilmember may file an application between Tuesday, July 6, 2021 and Friday, July 23, 2021.

Applications for candidacy may be filed in the Office of the City Clerk, 4310 Gallatin Street (3rd Floor) by appointment. To make an appointment, call 301-985-5001 or email [cityclerk@hyattsville.org](mailto:cityclerk@hyattsville.org)

The office up for election on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 is for the remaining two (2) years of a four (4) year term for Ward 1 Councilmember to expire in 2023

139868 (7-8,7-15)

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