

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SINCE 1932

Vol. 90, No. 38 September 22 — September 28, 2022 Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents

Prince George's Film Festival Closes on Sunday, September 25, 2022 at the MGM National Harbor With Richard Lawson and Tina Knowles Lawson

Veteran Actor, Director, WACO Theater Center Founders, and Philanthropists to host in-depth discussion on revolutionary characters and moments in film with Tressa Smallwood and Russ Parr

By PRESS OFFICER
PGAHC

LARGO, Md. (Sept. 14, 2022)—Prince George's Film Festival (PGFF) is pleased to announce that veteran actor and director Richard Lawson and philanthropist and renaissance woman, Tina Knowles Lawson will headline its closing festival event. PGFF is September 22–25 and will convene local and national filmmakers, film lovers, actors, producers, animators, writers, digital creators, and County stakeholders for a four-day celebration of cinematic arts. PGFF is purposed to high-

light Prince George's County as a blossoming filmmaking destination, bolster the local filmmaker community, provide a platform to showcase local independent films, and network with industry experts, creatives, and film enthusiasts.

"We're honored to have industry powerhouses Richard Lawson and Tina Knowles Lawson to close this year's festival and are equally as thrilled to have the dynamic Russ Parr and filmmaker Tressa Smallwood to join in on this rich discussion," says Donna Foster, Prince George's Film Office General Manager. "Mr. Law-

son is a veteran in the film industry having been featured in over 120 films and television shows throughout his career. Mrs. Tina Knowles-Lawson has been in the entertainment industry for over 20 years working behind the scenes spearheading the images and careers of iconic and legendary superstars. They both continue to influence countless artists all over the world. We are excited and know this is going to be an extraordinary closing event at our inaugural festival."

Richard Lawson has had a long and distinguished career as an actor and master teacher that

spans six decades. Some of his selected films include Steven Spielberg's Poltergeist, Walter Hill's Streets of Fire, Stick with Burt Reynolds, The Main Event with Barbra Streisand and Ryan O'Neal, Coming Home with Jane Fonda and Jon Voight, Audrey Rose with Anthony Hopkins and Marsha Mason, Wag the Dog starring Robert De Niro and Dustin Hoffman, How Stella Got Her Groove Back starring Whoopi Goldberg and Angela Bassett, Guess Who starring Bernie Mac and Ashton Kutcher, For Colored Girls starring Janet Jackson, Whoopi Goldberg, Thandie New-

ton, Kerry Washington, and a host of others. A few well-noted indie projects include Blue Hill Avenue, The Last Stand, and Love for Sale. He was a series regular on The Days and Nights of Molly Dodd, Dynasty, and Chicago Story. He has also guest-starred on popular series such as MacGyver (recurring character spun off to a pilot called The Coltons), Wiseguy, Amen, The Parent 'Hood, St. Elsewhere, Picket Fences, Judging Amy, The Division, NYPD Blue, All of Us, Numb3rs, and Real Husbands of Hollywood, The Royal Feast and The Royal Family Christmas and

Saints and Sinners to name a few.

Tina Knowles Lawson is a fashion designer who has been featured in a slew of publications including Vogue, Cosmopolitan, Harper's Bazaar, L'official, InStyle, and Sports Illustrated. Tina was a designer and stylist for the superstar group, Destiny's Child, designing original garments for the group's tours, magazine shoots, and television appearances, including the Video Music Awards (VMAs), BET Awards, and the Grammys. She has also

See FILM FESTIVAL Page A3

Maryland Launches Outreach to Speed Up Rollout of New COVID Boosters

By SHANNON CLARK
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS — After a relatively slow start to the rollout of the new COVID-19 booster, the Maryland Department of Health began a outreach program [last] week, aimed at increasing the booster vaccination rates in the state.

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, R, announced the state's already established 'COVIDReady' campaign will focus on encouraging residents to get the updated COVID booster and flu shot at the same time, to maximize protection against the upcoming flu season and the Omicron variant.

"The new bivalent booster shot is another important tool in our toolbox to help Marylanders stay COVIDReady," Hogan said in a press release on Tuesday, Sept. 13.

So far, the response to the booster has been uneven.

For example, only 11 people received the vaccine at a pop-up booster event Sunday (Sept. 11) hosted by the state health department at the Salvadoran Independence Festival at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds in Gaithersburg.

In Howard County, the health department's first booster clinic Monday was "completely full," said Lisa DeHernandez, director of communications and public information. The department so far has given out 300 vaccinations, she said.

"We are seeing a very positive response from the Howard County community," DeHernandez said. "The interest is there and people continue to protect themselves and their families from serious illness."

In Anne Arundel County, 242 boosters have been administered since shots began on Sept. 12, said Megan Pringle, communications director of the Anne Arundel County Health Department.

"The demand is pretty low as of right now," Pringle said. "We have doses for about 814 people, and obviously it would be great if we could get more people signed up, but I just don't think it's at the forefront of people's minds right now."



PHOTO CREDIT ABBY ZIMMARDI/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

State health department officials are trying to speed up the number of state residents getting the new booster and their flu vaccine. In some locations like Howard County, the number of people being vaccinated is high, while in others like Anne Arundel County the interest is pretty low, county health department officials said.

The state's GoVax Call Center is currently notifying Marylanders who are booster eligible through phone calls and text messages. The boosters are now available at over 850 pharmacies and drugstores, according to the governor's office, but some chains like Walmart said they are still waiting on doses to arrive. State health-care officials recommend Marylanders use the state's COVID Vaccination Site Searcher for the most updated locations with boosters available.

"We continue to encourage all Marylanders to be COVIDReady by getting vaccinated and boosted when eligible," said Chase Cook, deputy director of media relations for the state health department.

The Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County Celebrates the Diverse Hispanic Community During Hispanic Heritage Month

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (Sept. 15, 2022)—September 15th marks the start of Hispanic Heritage Month. Each year the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County celebrates our Hispanic community. More than 18% of the county's population has roots in Mexico, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, Colombia or one of many other Spanish speaking countries. Come celebrate this rich culture at one of our events that commemorate Hispanic Heritage Month. Some of the programs for 2022 include:

Hispanic Heritage Month Opening Reception

Thursday, September 29, 6–8 p.m.

Publick Playhouse, 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD 20784

Enjoy an evening of art, live music, delicious cuisine, and interactive activities that are fun for the whole family! Meet featured exhibition artist Fran Oviedo and receive a free 2022 Hispanic Heritage Month poster. While you're there, don't forget to pick up our Hispanic Heritage Month guide featuring a full month of art, music, film, and dance throughout Prince George's County.

Latinas in Aviation Global Festival

Saturday, October 1, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

College Park Aviation Museum and Airport, 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD 20740

Join the College Park Aviation Museum to honor Latinas in Aviation. Watch how pilots featured in the book Latinas in Aviation fly into the College Park airport and share their unique experiences and passion for aviation. This unique event is an opportunity to meet and hear from contributing authors while learning about the magic of aviation. There will be displays, vendors, interactives, book signing, children's activities, music performances and much more.

Fiesta de la Familia

Sunday, October 16, 1–4 p.m.

Lane Manor Park, 7601 West Park Drive, Adelphi, MD 20783

Enjoy live music, folkloric dances, children and youth areas, information tables, and food vendors. Scheduled entertainment includes Elena la Fulana, Grupo Miel (Salsa and Bachata music) and Marimba Princesa Xinabajul (traditional group from Guatemala). Children ages 5–10 can participate in a free soccer skills clinic and win prizes during the celebration.

For more information on more Hispanic Heritage Month Events, visit <https://www.pgparcs.com/2855/Hispanic-Heritage-Month>.

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 and stay connected on Facebook, Twitter, PhotoShelter, and Instagram. The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities in all programs and services. Register at least a minimum of two weeks in advance of the program start date to request and receive a disability accommodation.

Prince George's County Recognizes September as National Preparedness Month

County's Office of Homeland Security's Emergency Management Division encourages residents to take action now to prepare for disasters and emergencies

By ALEXANDRA HARRIS
Office of Homeland Security
Prince George's County

LANDOVER, Md. (Sept. 13, 2022)—September is National Preparedness Month, an annual observance that highlights the importance of individuals, families and communities being prepared for a disaster or emergency. During this month, the Office of Homeland Security's Emergency Management Division encourages County residents to take the necessary steps to ensure they are prepared.

"Emergency preparedness is a year-round effort," said Ronald E. Gill Jr., Director of the Office of Homeland Security. "From the snow we received in January, to the multiple heavy rain and thunderstorm events we ex-

perienced this summer, residents need to always be in disaster preparedness mode. Emergencies and disasters can happen anytime and anywhere without notice."

This year's National Preparedness Month theme is "A Lasting Legacy," which recognizes the importance of being prepared for a disaster or emergency so that you can create a lasting legacy for your family and future generations. Protecting your legacy doesn't need to be difficult or expensive. The Emergency Management Division encourages residents to start with these simple steps to help you be better prepared. Be sure to include each member of your household, so that everyone has a part in safeguarding the future.

- Learn your risks and make a plan. Ready.gov offers free resources to learn

more about the disasters you may face and what to consider when planning for them.

- Sign up for Alert Prince George's on <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov> to receive life-saving information from your local government.
- Verify your home is fully insured for the disaster risks in your area. Talk to your insurance agent to ensure there are no gaps in your coverage, but also remember you should shop around to get the best rate. Ask about discounts that may be available and consider increasing the deductibles to reduce your premiums.
- Make sure everyone in the house knows how to turn off the electricity, gas, and water in case of emergency.

See PREPAREDNESS Page A6

INSIDE

- Hope Connections and UM Capital Region Health Partner to Offer Cancer Care, Support
- Monkeypox Vaccine Appointment Pre-Registration Available for Prince George's County Residents
- Bowie State University Ranks Among Top 20 HBCUs

Around the County, Page A2

College Partners With Prince George's County Sheriff's Office for Purple Light Nights

Purple Light Nights is free and open to the community. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the program begins at 6:30 p.m.

Community, Page A3

To Be Equal: National Urban League's Innovative Urban Civil Rights Museum Will Bring Little-Examined Corners of History to Light

The Urban Civil Rights Museum will illuminate the history of Weeksville and other similar communities across the North.

Commentary, Page A4

Leadership Maryland Now Accepting Applications for Class of 2023

Library Leaders Recognized by Citizens for Maryland Libraries

Business and Finance, Page A5

TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Mr. Phil's Hair Force turns 50— with great reviews!

Phil Casamento established Mr. Phil's Hair Force in September 1972, 50 years ago this month. He had several salons, but the only one I know is at 6109 Old Alexandria Ferry Road in Clinton, right there at Andrews' west gate.

After Phil died in 2005, his wife Jeanne took over and the shop became just Hair Force. Their daughter Tara is now in charge.

Currently there are 12 operators. Theresa and Sheri have been there longest—more than 20 years. Early on, I had Diane (a Morningsider who used to give me Morningside news) but she moved and only returns from her home in Virginia one day a week. Tina, who's been there 17 years, became my operator. Last week, she not only gave me the usual great haircut, but she encouraged me to write this story about Hair Force's 50 years.

Online I found dozens of enthusiastic reviews. For example, Niki P. wrote, "This is a hidden gem... A diamond in the rough! I have been searching for years for a great stylist and good salon, after moving numerous times due to being a military family... I am excited that I finally found an amazing place and an amazing stylist!"

Kendra A. wrote, "This the perfect place for anyone who wants expertise with a welcoming atmosphere.... I've referred multiple male/female friends from base to go there and they all have positive experiences regardless of who they go to. The great thing about Hair Force is you get a comfortable and welcoming family feel without an expensive price." Reviewers also praised Sarah and Suki, and other operators.

The shop offers men's haircuts, beards and mustaches, kids' haircuts, bridal services, waxing, coloring, manicures, and more. For information or an appointment, call 301-868-2622.

Happy 50th birthday, Hair Force!

COVID-19 cancels Booth Escape Route Tours for this Fall

The home of the ill-fated Mary Surratt has long been a tourist attraction, especially among those who study the assassination of President Lincoln. For many years the Surratt Society has run a 12-hour (or so) bus tour that follows the path John Wilkes Booth took when

he escaped through Southern Maryland into Virginia.

Louise Oertly, Surratt Society President, writes, "Out of an abundance of caution, the Surratt Society has decided not to schedule Booth Escape Tours for this Fall. It is our hope... to be able to resume our popular tours in the Spring."

Meanwhile, the House is closed Sundays through Wednesday. Visiting hours are: Thursday & Friday, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. for pre-arranged tours; Saturday, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. for walk-ins. There's also a charming gift/book shop. The House is closed Sunday through Wednesday. Adults, \$5; seniors, \$4; students (5–18), \$2; age 4 & under, free.

The Surratt House is at 9118 Brandywine Road, in Clinton. Contact: surratt.society@gmail.com or 301-868-1121.

Bob Cook dies, lived in an historic tavern

Robert William "Bob" Cook, who lived in the Bryantown Tavern, died July 26. Here is the story:

On April 15, 1865, the morning after President Lincoln's assassination, Lt. David D. Dana made the Tavern his headquarters while pursuing John Wilkes Booth, the assassin, with a detachment of the 13th New York Cavalry. Col. Henry H. Wells, in overall command of the pursuing forces, soon occupied the tavern, and it later served briefly as the headquarters of Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock, who arrived on April 27.

Bob has always welcomed curious visitors to his home. I remember visiting him there with my parents, Dr. Richard and Rose Mudd.

As for Bob, a native of New York City, he had a 40-year career as Intelligence Officer for the CIA, and before that was an actor at the American Shakespeare Theater in Stratford, Conn. He had a great love of literature, history, anthropology, philosophy, American filmmaking, and popular culture, and generously volunteered with historical and cultural societies.

Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Suzanne, son Matthew, grand- and great-grandchildren. He asked that the well-wishers make donations to the Surratt Society.

Places to go and Things to do

Have you ever wanted to enter Darnall's Chance House Museum's annual Gingerbread House Contest & Show, but weren't sure how to make a gingerbread house? Well, the Museum is sponsoring a workshop to help you learn basic gingerbread recipes and techniques. Get helpful hints from gingerbread veteran Anita Guit, past multi-year winner. For ages 8 & up. Reservations and payment required. Saturday, Oct. 15, 1 p.m.–2:30 p.m. \$5 per person. Contact: 301-952-8010 or darnallschance@pgparks.com. Capacity is limited, so call now!

The 3rd Annual Purple Bicycle Ride for domestic violence awareness & prevention is coming up Saturday, Oct. 1, 8 a.m.–12 p.m. at Fairwood Park, 12390 Fairwood Parkway, Bowie. There are 3 tours (5, 10, 25 miles), food & fun; register at <https://www.bikereg.com/pgsao.purple.bike-ride2022>.

This year marks the Centennial Anniversary of the Robert Crain Highway Monument, erected in Upper Marlboro in September 1922. You are invited to attend the celebration and re-creation of an original photograph on Saturday, Oct. 1, 11 a.m. at the monument, Main Street at Old Crain Highway, in Upper Marlboro. Dignitaries from Baltimore City and the five original counties will participate. For more information, visit www.uppermarlboromd.gov or call the town offices, 301-627-6905.

Changing landscape

Gov. Larry Hogan has proclaimed September the annual International Underground Railroad Month in Maryland. The State of Maryland has already named 2022 the Year of Harriet Tubman, to celebrate the 200th year of her birth.

St. Philip's School, Camp Springs, held its First Responders' Appreciation Day on September 12 with police cars and motorcycles, fire trucks and ambulances. The students were excited to participate.

The Girl Scouts have introduced a new cookie, the Raspberry Rally. Did you know the Girl Scouts have two bakeries, Little Brownie Bakers and ABC Bakers? The review in The

See MORNINGSIDE Page A5

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Laity Moment: We have been through a lot within the last couple of years. We have contended with the pandemic. We have endured our own personal battles and issues. Through it all we have trusted God and kept the faith, and He has brought us through. As part of the Visitation Ministry, I have had the opportunity to visit and serve our seniors as well as those that are sick and shut in during this period. It has been such a rewarding experience just to talk with and listen to them as they share personal stories. We must remember the scripture Matthew 25:36, "I was naked, and You clothed me, I was sick, and You visited me. I was in prison, and You came to me." In 2015, while working on a project for my CLM training, I was tasked with creating a new ministry. After praying to God for clarity and wisdom, I prepared and created the Nursing Home Ministry.

I approached Pastor Coni for approval before submitting my concept. Not only did she approve it, she advised that the Ministry would begin immediately. The first opportunity began on the 3rd Sunday in December at Restore Health Rehabilitation Facility. The men from both churches joyfully accompanied me, and we still provide a Worship Service with the patients and staff every 3rd Saturday. The men gladly share that they get more out of this opportunity to serve than the patients. The patients frequently inquire about the next service. As I continued my journey God laid it on my heart to become a volunteer at Restore Health Rehabilitation Facility. I talked with the Activities Director about my desire to volunteer and she set up a meeting with the Director of the Facility, Pastor Coni, and me.

They provided an overview of the facility and their expectations. I filled out paperwork, which included a request for a background check. That was just the beginning. I had to take a Tuberculosis (TB) test to move forward. Next, a meeting was scheduled with the Director of the Facility and the Activities Director. I was made aware of the rules and responsibilities involved in caring for patients, as well as my duties as a volunteer.

Once I completed these requirements and signed the necessary paperwork, I officially became a volunteer at the Restore Health Rehabilitation Facility. As a volunteer I am onsite two days per week. I visit the patients, share scripture

and prayer if requested. If they want to talk, I sit and talk with them, and if their family is there, I pray for and with them as well. It is a wonderful experience and I cherish each interaction. I am now retired and will be there as much as possible. I will reflect on Matthew 25:36 as I continue my journey as a volunteer. Information received from Nottingham Myers and Christ Churches Cooperative Parish Newsletter. Minister Cary Montgomery.

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HOMECOMING

Come Home to Christ 2022! Tell your family, relatives, friends, and those in your neighborhood that they are invited to the 49th Annual Homecoming of Christ United Methodist Church in Aquasco, Maryland. Let them know that they are welcomed to come and celebrate the blessings God has given them over the past year as the faithful continue to praise, worship, serve and lift up the Lord's name. This year, the family and friends of Christ will gather under the prophetic theme of "Lord, Expand Our Territory" as taken from 1 Chronicles 4:9–10, known as The Prayer of Jabez. This great day will kick-off at 11 a.m. with a Testimonial Service of soul-stirring singing and sharing. The Celebration of Praise and Worship will begin at noon with Evangelist Tasha Stephens Miller, the First Lady of Memorial Church of God in Christ in Haverford, Pennsylvania. Evangelist Stephens Miller is a much sought-after preacher, teacher and facilitator who is an anointed Woman of God who flows in the Spirit. Following worship, there will be a delicious luncheon and then at 3 p.m., everyone will enjoy a special treat ... a musical concert! Tell your "peeps" to mark their calendars NOW! Plan to be at Christ Church because nobody wants to miss any part of this celebration day. Because Annual Homecoming is a special day in the life of Christ Church, it is also a day of "second mile giving" to support the church's mission and ministry. Therefore, everyone is asked to prayerfully consider giving \$100.00 to the church's commitment to make "Jesus disciples" who help transform the world and advance God's Kingdom. So, spread the word! Share the news! Get ready for a blessing! It is Annual Homecoming at Christ Church. Come Home! Information received from Nottingham Myers and Christ Churches Cooperative Parish September Newsletter/ Joyce Lee.

Around the County

Hope Connections and UM Capital Region Health Partner to Offer Cancer Care and Support

LARGO, Md. (Sept. 12, 2022)—Individuals with cancer need both emotional and clinical support. University of Maryland Capital Region Health and Hope Connections have partnered to provide cancer support services to better serve cancer patients in Prince George's County and the surrounding area. Patients now have the benefit of seamless referrals to the All-Cancers Support Group, a free resource offered by Hope Connections for Cancer Support.

While rates of cancer incidence in Prince George's County are lower than those of Maryland as a whole, mortality rates in the County are higher. Prince George's age-adjusted cancer mortality rates are the fourteenth highest of Maryland's twenty-four counties. The three most common cancer diagnoses in Prince George's County Maryland include breast cancer, prostate cancer, lung and bronchus cancer, and colorectal cancer.

Through an array of services, this partnership offers patients resources and support to manage stress and obtain information and emotional support from people with similar experiences.

These services support clinical care offered by UM Capital Region Health, which can now easily refer its patients to Hope Connections.

One year after opening the University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center, the first brand-new hospital in the region in more than 30 years, construction is underway to expand the campus to include a Regional Cancer Center.

The new Regional Cancer Center aims to reduce the cancer disease burden in the local community, providing greater access to cancer screenings, leading to earlier detection and diagnosis of cancer and better outcomes for patients.

For more information on how to join the All-Cancers Support Group and access a suite of available resources that benefit the mind and body please visit: <https://hopeconnectionsforcancer.org/programs>.

The support group meets weekly, virtually from 12–1 p.m.

Hope Connections for Cancer Support came into existence in 2005 to ensure that no one in the Greater Washington Area would have to face cancer alone. We accomplish this through professionally facilitated programs of emotional support, education, wellness, and hope—all provided free of charge. We welcome anyone affected by cancer regardless of their cancer diagnosis, stage of disease, age, economic status, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or where they receive their medical care. We opened our Bethesda home in 2007 and our Landover home in 2016. We offer 40 support groups, 60 mind/body groups, and 36 annual educational workshops.

Providing primary and specialty health care services to Prince George's County and the neighboring area, University of Maryland Capital Region Health was established in September 2017 upon formal affiliation with the University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS) and is committed to improving health outcomes in the communities it serves. University of Maryland Capital Region Health operates the University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center in Largo, University of Maryland Laurel Medical Center, University of Maryland Bowie Health Campus, and the University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Group with practice locations in Cheverly, Suitland, Bowie, Laurel, and the National Harbor. Together, community physicians and University of Maryland School of Medicine (SOM) faculty provide clinical expertise across a range of specialties and programs including acute rehabilitation; anesthesiology; critical and chronic ventilation care; emergency medicine; neonatology; orthopedics; and vascular surgery. University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center is home to the State's second-busiest trauma center and a highly regarded cardiac surgery program, which is led by faculty from the University of Maryland School of Medicine, a certified and designated primary stroke center. For more information, visit www.umcapitalregion.org

Monkeypox Vaccine Appointment Pre-Registration Available for Prince George's County Residents

Residents may pre-register online for a monkeypox vaccination; patients will be contacted when their appointment becomes available

LARGO, Md. (Sept. 13, 2022)—Through the State of Maryland's online immunizations registration system PrepMod, the Prince George's County Health Department is accepting pre-registrations from County residents to be vaccinated against monkeypox. Residents can pre-register by visiting the Health Department's dedicated monkeypox webpage, health.mypgc.us/monkeypox.

As appointments become available, individuals who have pre-registered will receive email and text invitations to schedule their appointments. When filling out the pre-registration form, please be sure your email address and mobile phone number are accurate so you will receive appointment invitations.

All information collected through the pre-registration system is confidential and secure and used only by the Prince George's County Health Department and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to determine vaccine eligibility and to schedule vaccine appointments.

Anyone may pre-register for a vaccine appointment, but you may not receive an appointment unless you meet at least one of the following criteria:

- individuals who have been identified as close contacts to laboratory-confirmed monkeypox cases through public health contact tracing investigations
- presumed contacts that know their sex partners were diagnosed in the past 14 days or have had multiple sex partners in the past 14 days in a jurisdiction with known monkeypox cases
- healthcare workers who may have been exposed to a known case and Laboratory Response Network or other laboratory staff working directly with monkeypox testing.

"Right now, the Health Department is vaccinating residents with the highest risk of contracting monkeypox to avoid further community spread. If you notice a rash or sores anywhere on your body that look like monkeypox, I highly recommend you speak with a health care provider about getting evaluated and tested for monkeypox, even if you don't think you had contact with someone who has monkeypox," said Prince George's County Health Officer Dr. Ernest Carter. "It's also important to avoid all sexual activity with others or be around other people if you have monkeypox symptoms or if you have been diagnosed with monkeypox. It typically takes anywhere from two to four weeks for the sores to scab over, fall off, and develop a new layer of skin, thus ending your infectious period. If you need to go out, cover your rash, wear a well-fitting face mask, and avoid public transportation."

Monkeypox is spread through prolonged close or skin-to-skin contact with someone who has monkeypox or showing monkeypox symptoms. Spread can happen from sustained touching or brushing up against someone's monkeypox rash or sores, most often through sexual activity, or from sharing

See AROUND THE COUNTY Page A3

COMMUNITY

Around the County from A2

saliva through kissing or other intimate/sexual contact with someone who has monkeypox or is showing symptoms of monkeypox.

For more information and guidance about monkeypox symptoms, transmission, prevention, and vaccination, please visit the County Health Department's monkeypox webpage here: health.mypgc.us/monkeypox, MDH's webpage here: health.maryland.gov/monkeypox, or the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention webpage here: cdc.gov/monkeypox.

U.S. News & World Report Ranks Bowie State University Among Top 20 HBCUs

Overall Academic Quality Rating Increases Six Places to Rank 18
BOWIE, Md. (Sept. 12, 2022)—The U.S. News and World Report 2022–2023 Best Colleges ranking released today recognized the academic quality of Bowie State University, listing it at 18 among Historically Black Colleges and Universities, a rise of 6 places from last year.

“Bowie State’s rise to the Top 20 HBCU’s recognizes the impact of our campus-wide focus on our strategic plan, ‘Racing to Excellence,’” said President Aminta H. Breaux. “The plan’s three priorities of academic excellence, student success and long-term viability of the institution aim to assure quality educational experiences and outcomes for our students.”

Bowie State also ranked among the best schools serving students with financial need. The university rose 35 places to rank 41 on the list of Top Performers in Social Mobility among regional universities in the north, and also claimed a spot as a top public university in the north. Additionally, BSU undergraduate programs in nursing and computer science earned recognition among the best in the nation.

Each year, U.S. News & World Report recognizes Bowie State’s educational quality among the best regional universities that offer a full range of undergraduate majors, plus master’s and doctoral programs.

The publication ranked 77 HBCUs using nearly all the same indicators as it does for its regional universities list, but with slightly different weights, including graduation and first-year student retention rates, student excellence, faculty resources, and alumni giving. It also assesses the results of a separate peer survey for HBCU administrators.

The social mobility honor highlights Bowie State’s success in graduating students who receive federally funded Pell Grants, typically from households earning less than \$50,000 annually.

Bowie State University (BSU) is an important higher education access portal for qualified persons from diverse academic and socioeconomic backgrounds, seeking a high-quality and affordable public comprehensive university. The university places special emphasis on the science, technology, cybersecurity, teacher education, business and nursing disciplines within the context of a liberal arts education. For more information about BSU, visit bowiestate.edu.

College Partners With Prince George’s County Sheriff’s Office for Purple Light Nights

Ceremony to raise awareness of domestic violence, honor advocates and survivors

By COURTNEY DAVIS
Prince George’s Community College

LARGO, Md. (Sept. 13, 2022)—Prince George’s Community College announced its annual Purple Light Nights Lighting Ceremony, which will be held on **September 29**, at 6:30 p.m. on the College’s Largo campus. Co-sponsored by the Prince George’s County Sheriff’s Office, the signature event raises awareness of the negative effects of domestic violence, uniting advocates and survivors in support of collective change.

The theme of this year’s event is “Break the Cycle of Domestic Violence. End the Silence.” The program features a keynote address by Lisa Spicknall, a domestic violence survivor and past Office of the Sheriff advocate. Additional speakers include Dr. Falecia D. Williams, Prince George’s Community College president; Melvin C. High, Prince George’s County sheriff; Darrin C. Palmer, Prince George’s County chief assistant sheriff; and elected officials. During the ceremony, select community members will be honored in recognition of their distinguished service.

“When the Office of the Sheriff launched the inaugural Purple Light Nights Lighting Ceremony in 2014 as a kick-off event for October’s Domestic Violence Awareness Month, they wanted to galvanize partnerships and a unified county effort to shine a light in the darkness that is domestic violence,” said Lt. Barbara Smith,

Department of Public Safety, Prince George’s Community College. “With a plain purple lightbulb, we joined the efforts and asked the College community to shine on their porches or in a window, to engage the community to break the silence.”

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, one in four women and one in ten men experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime. Historically, the rates of domestic violence in Prince George’s County trend higher than those of neighboring areas in the state.

“The Prince George’s County Sheriff’s Department has made tremendous progress in a united effort to educate county residents about domestic violence, and Prince George’s Community College joined the efforts to eliminate it from our community,” said Lt. Smith.

“We are committed to joining the partnerships, to reach the surrounding communities, which includes our staff, faculty, and students, by sharing the efforts and the message to stop the cycle and end the silence, which will reduce incidents of domestic violence. If you see something, Say something.”

Purple Light Nights is free and open to the community. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the program begins at 6:30 p.m. The event will be held outdoors on the campus of Prince George’s Community College, 301 Largo Road, Largo, MD 20774, Lot H/Novak Field House Courtyard.

If you or someone you know is in

need of support, contact the Prince George’s County Family Justice Center hotline at 301-780-8008.

Named a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance designated by the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security (2015–2020), Prince George’s Community College (PGCC) provides high-quality education and training for the progressive and career-oriented residents of Prince George’s County. From new high school graduates and career seekers to more seasoned professionals and senior citizens looking to enhance their skillsets, PGCC is comprised of students who represent a wide range of ages, backgrounds, and goals. Serving nearly 35,000 individuals annually, the College is the first choice for higher education for residents of Prince George’s County. Collaborative partnerships, responsive degree and training programs, and a commitment to student success enables PGCC to address diverse education and workforce development demands. For more information, visit the college website at www.pgcc.edu. Prince George’s Community College is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104; (267-284-5000); www.msche.org. The Middle States Commission on Higher Education is an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Council on Higher Education Accreditation.

Prince George’s County Drug Policy Coalition, Inc. (PGCDPC) Awards 10 Scholarships to Students for its Annual “Empowering Future Leaders” Scholarship Awards Program

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCDPC

OXON HILL, Md. (Sept. 12, 2022)—The Prince George’s County Drug Policy Coalition, Inc. awarded 10 scholarships to students for its annual “Empowering Future Leaders” scholarship awards program. Student applications were reviewed by the Coalition’s scholarship awards committee chaired by Jerome “Duke” Haggins. Maryland State Senator Obie Patterson provided citations recognizing their academic achievements.

The ten students receiving scholarships this year were: Trinity Gourdin, Cassandra Swilley, Arielle Swilley, Evelyn Anderson, Kelsey Gourdin, Webster Jackson, Jada Riley, Matthew Waits, Jabari Riley and Marlon Waits. Two of the students were high school graduates, attending

either St. Stephens and St. Agnes High School, or Suitland High School.

Other recipients are currently attending either the University of Miami, Frostburg State University, Towson University, University of Maryland, or Tennessee State University.

Students shared their views on many issues associated with recreational marijuana use. Over the past ten years, the Prince George’s County Drug Policy Coalition, Inc. has awarded over \$208,000.00 in scholarships to students, allowing them to continue their education in preparation for their future careers.

This year’s award recipients participated in a host of community activities. They included: tutoring elementary students in math and science, working on mental health research projects, and collecting food for their

community. Other students pursued their aviation license, or stayed active in national groups such as the National Association of Eagle Scouts Association.

The Prince George’s County Drug Policy Coalition, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that promotes policies and laws that embrace the public health nature of drug abuse. Through our scholarship program, we provide community-based support to families within the county with a focus on students obtaining higher education and living a drug free life. Through the support of interested organizational partners, and grassroots members like you, we hope to prevent and reduce illegal drug abuse and related crimes in Prince George’s County. For more information, please visit our website at <https://www.pgcdpc.com>.

Film Festival from A1

designed for Beyoncé’s tours and television performances, including The Academy Awards.

Tina designed costumes for several hit movies including Dreamgirls, Pink Panther, Austin Powers in Goldmember, Obsessed, and Cadillac Records.

The Prince George’s Film Festival is the premier event for new film works from up-and-coming and established independent filmmakers with diverse voices. PGFF venues include the MGM National Harbor, Sunset Room at the National Harbor, and Bowie State University. Learn more at www.pgfilmfestival.com.

View the full event schedule at <https://www.pgfilmfestival.com/line-up>.

Festival Passes and Information

Festival Passes are on sale now. Pass options include:

- VIP - Unlimited access to all features of the festival including the festival opening and closing ceremonies as well as screenings, and workshops for \$125.
- Unlimited Workshops and Panels - Get unlimited access to workshops and panels and mixers during the festival for \$50.
- Unlimited Screenings - Excludes panels, work-

shops, and opening and closing ceremonies for \$40.

- Single Film Ticket - Access to just ONE film for \$15 each.

Passes can be purchased online at <https://pgff2022.eventive.org/passes/buy>.

Founding Festival Partners

The Prince George’s Film Festival is founded and generously supported by the Prince George’s Arts and Humanities Council, Experience Prince George’s, and Bowie State University.

About Prince George’s Film Office: Prince George’s County is steadily becoming a prominent destination for both local and national filmmakers. In 2013, the Prince George’s Arts and Humanities Council established the Film Office to assist filmmakers with telling stories through film. Their mission is to streamline the path to completing film projects in Prince George’s County by helping filmmakers navigate state and county permits, production protocols, and resources hassle free and expeditiously. As the legislated local arts agency for Prince George’s County, PGAHC fosters and expands art opportunities for all County citizens and visitors to create a world-class cultural environment where high-quality arts and humanities programs are diverse, equitable, and inclusive.



Need More Time to Pay Your Video Tolls?

If you have Video Tolls, DriveEzMD is here to help. All civil penalties will be waived for Video Tolls paid in full by November 30, 2022, at 11:59 p.m.

And, save on Video Tolls when you pay early! **SAVE 15%** (maximum \$5 savings per transaction) when you pay before we mail your toll notice.

Visit DriveEzMD.com to pay your tolls and learn more.



DriveEzMD.com

COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

National Urban League's Innovative Urban Civil Rights Museum Will Bring Little-Examined Corners of History to Light

"Recognition of the price paid in human life and liberty for economic advancement—and the costs of resources extracted as nature's systems were exploited—must inform and guide us as we work to transform our cities and regions. We must forge a new path illuminated by justice, respect for the dignity of each and every human being, and determination to maintain and restore the web of life as the foundation for health and sustainability."

—Carl Anthony

The history of African Americans in the North

does not begin with the Great Migrations of the early 20th Century, when millions of Black Southerners fled the white supremacist terrorism of Jim Crow. The institution of slavery was as critical to the development of the manufacturing economy of the North as it was to the agricultural development of the South. The oldest and largest known excavated burial ground in North America for both free and enslaved Africans was unearthed in lower Manhattan less than a mile from the National Urban League's current headquarters. Enslaved laborers even built the wall from which Wall Street gets its name.

"It would be misleading to present the history of the northern cities outside the context of the Atlantic Slave Trade and the institutionalized enslavement of African people and their descendants," said Jennifer Scott, the newly-appointed Executive Director Chief & Curator for the Urban Civil Rights Museum, New York City's first museum dedicated to the American Civil Rights Movement and one of the only museums in the nation to delve into the movement in the North.

The museum will be housed in National Urban League's new Harlem headquarters, the Urban League Empowerment Center, currently under construction and slated to open in late 2024/early 2025.

Scott, most recently the Senior Vice President of Exhibitions and Programs at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit, brings decades of experience to her new role — including her many years as a public historian at Weeksville Heritage Center, a historic house museum in Brooklyn, that memorializes a Free Black, independent community in the 19th century.

The Urban Civil Rights Museum will illuminate the history of Weeksville and other similar communities across the North.

"What did it really mean to be a free Black New Yorker, pre-Civil War when states as nearby as New Jersey were still enslaving people, and how complicated was the idea of freedom at that

time?" Scott said.

The history of the National Urban League, which was born in Harlem in response to the Great Migrations, and its role in nurturing the Harlem Renaissance, will be interwoven in the museum's sweeping narrative.

Opportunity: A Journal of Negro Life, for many years the official monthly publication of the National Urban League, employed Harlem Renaissance writers, publishing their poetry and short stories and promoting African-American literature through articles, reviews, and literary prizes.

The museum also will explore the Black cultural, artistic, and political Renaissances that flourished in other communities like Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood, Washington DC and in Los Angeles.

"We're really taking a long view of civil rights, not just the period of the 1950s and 1960s that most people think of as the Civil Rights Era," Scott said. "We're looking at it from the very roots of the urban north, all the way up through the present day and the Black Lives Matter movement. The policy decisions and political decisions that have impacted northern city centers will be brought out, along with the different forms of injustices and inequity.

"We invite people to reflect on what brought us to where we are, and how that influences us and inspires us to move forward," Scott said.

—September 15, 2022

Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita, Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Doing What Works to End Child Poverty

Unprecedented. Historic. Unequaled. Astounding. We rarely hear adjectives like these associated with good news about child poverty, but these are a few of the words being used to describe new reports on the decline in child poverty rates in the United States. The Census Bureau has just released data showing in 2021 child poverty in the U.S. fell to the lowest rates ever recorded. This coincided with a report by Child Trends that documented how sharply child poverty in the U.S. fell between 1993 and 2019, even before the plunge recorded during the pandemic. Both pieces of news shared a common denominator the Children's Defense Fund has

emphasized time and time again: child poverty is preventable in our rich nation, and there are policy solutions that work to end it. We must build on those policy solutions, make them permanent, and work even harder to make sure they reach every child.

The Census Bureau reported that child poverty was cut nearly in half between 2020 and 2021 thanks to anti-poverty programs established or expanded in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including expansions to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC). The expanded Child Tax Credit alone

lifted nearly 3 million children out of poverty in 2021, including 1 million children under 6.

Many of these same programs that made a historic difference during the pandemic have also been a key part of the longer declines in child poverty rates. Child Trends notes that between 1993 and 2019 the number of children protected by the social safety net, which also includes the Earned Income Tax Credit, Social Security, SNAP, and housing subsidies, more than tripled. At the same time, they warned that although the social safety net made an enormous difference for millions of poor children, our nation made the least progress in strengthening this safety net for children with the fewest resources, including children in deep poverty, those in immigrant families, and children without stably employed parents. These are the children who still need help the most, and these findings reaffirm the importance of the expanded anti-poverty programs put in place during the pandemic and the obvious but critical observation that when more children were protected by anti-poverty programs in 2020 and 2021, child poverty dropped even more dramatically.

This last point was reinforced by yet another piece of data released this week. The Children's Defense Fund and other organizations recently part-

nered with the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) on a national survey of low- to moderate-income parents to see how they have been affected by the expiration of monthly expanded CTC payments. CLASP's results underscored again that the expanded CTC significantly reduced family hardship and hunger. Not surprisingly, however, the survey also found that as soon as CTC payments ended families faced more difficulties affording bills, groceries, clothing, and other essentials. We've made significant progress in reducing child poverty over the last quarter-century, and pandemic-era improvements proved we can immediately reach even more children and cut child poverty even faster. Why wouldn't we keep doing it?

The decline in child poverty is wonderful news, and the dramatic pandemic-era plunge does not have to be a blip on the graph. We cannot let child poverty rates tick upwards again when every tenth of a point represents thousands of children who deserve a better future. We know what works, and we now know what we can do to keep bending that child poverty rate curve downwards towards zero. Our nation can—and must—continue this progress and expand effective policies to end child poverty now.

—September 16, 2022

In Washington, British Embassy Becomes Focus of Queen Elizabeth II Tributes

By EKATERINA PECHENKINA and NOLAN CLANCY
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON—Mourners gathered at the British Embassy in Washington Friday Sept. 9 to pay respects to Queen Elizabeth II. For many, the queen, who died Thursday, was the only monarch they have ever known.

Some Washingtonians stopped in front of the embassy during their morning walks, while others made intentional visits. Guests signed a condolence book inside the embassy and left flowers or cards along a Union Jack emblem on Massachusetts Avenue.

President Biden and First Lady Jill Biden left their condolences in the embassy Thursday evening. Biden told reporters Friday that he planned to attend the queen's funeral but "I don't know what the details are yet."

"I wanted to pay my respects to an icon, a wonderful woman and monarch who I respected all my life," said Ellen Harmon, 71, of Alexandria, Virginia.

Harmon said the queen was always popular in her house growing up, and that she identified the queen with her parents.

"The connection with the country is through the queen, her presence, her speaking out. It's always her as the center in my mind," said Juanita Illera, of Alexandria, who visited the embassy with Harmon.

"Frankly, yesterday was sad for me because it reminded me of my father's death. Two

World War II-era people who suffered and came through and did their best and did good," Harmon said.

"I'm here to pay condolences to my queen," said Mark O'Neill, who grew up in the United States but had a British mother. He said he felt "deeply sad" when he heard of the 96-year-old queen's death, although he expected it would happen sometime over the next few years.

"She meant everything. She was brilliant, she was compassionate," O'Neill said.

Terri Miracle, who traveled to Washington from Xenia, Ohio, for a wedding, also went to the embassy to pay tribute to Queen Elizabeth II. "She was, is and always will be an inspiration to people around the world," Miracle said.

She brought a small doll with her and put it between the flowers on the Union Jack emblem.

"I've had her since I was about eight or 10 years old," Miracle explained. "I've taken her everywhere I've moved. And I thought she should be here to honor Queen Elizabeth."

Rushad Thomas, of Prince George's County, Maryland, said he has been a fan of the queen and the royal family since he was in fourth grade, citing his love of history for his vested interest. He wore a "God Save The Queen" t-shirt to leave his condolences.

"I think she really left her mark on the institution," Thomas said. "The fact that this feudal institution from a thou-

sand years ago survives into the 21st century is largely due to her shepherding of it into the new millennium."

Thomas visited London for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June, one of her last public appearances.

"It was great because it was such a big celebration of her life," Thomas said. "We weren't anticipating her death, but when she's that old and she wasn't able to participate in a lot of the celebrations, it was sort of like a big 'thank you' while she was still with us."

"In the Black church we call it 'Giving you your flowers while you are still living,'" Thomas added. "I feel like the Platinum Jubilee was giving her her flowers while she was still living."

Mourners are invited to sign a virtual condolence book on the royal family's website, www.royal.uk.

Isaiah Cummins, a freshman politics major at the Catholic University of America, was one of the early visitors to the embassy. He decided to go to the embassy Thursday afternoon, shortly after he heard the news of the queen's passing.

He said he is thankful to be attending school in the nation's capital so he can witness important moments like this.

"When historical events go down, you're right where it all happens," Cummins said.

Capital News Service Washington reporter Courtney Cohn contributed to this report.

SECU Named Official Banking Partner of the Maryland Terrapins

Multi-year partnership will support students through scholarships and financial education and includes naming rights for UMD's Big Ten football stadium

By PRESS OFFICER
SECU

BALTIMORE (Sept. 16, 2022) —Today, SECU, Maryland's largest state-chartered credit union, continued its longstanding commitment to Maryland communities with an exclusive 10-year partnership with Maryland Athletics. As "The Official Banking Partner of the Maryland Terrapins," SECU will provide support for students and athletes through scholarships, financial education, and other wellness programs.

SECU will also secure the naming rights to University of Maryland's (UMD) Big Ten football stadium, home of the Maryland Terrapins, which will be known as SECU Stadium. SECU Stadium will debut on October 1, 2022, as Maryland Football opens its Big Ten home opener against Michigan State.

The partnership, valued at \$11 million over a 10-year term plus additional variable-based compensation, will include financial wellness workshops for students, athletes and the entire campus community. The investment includes a \$2.5 million gift that will support programs and facilities, including the construction of the Barry P. Gossett Basketball Performance Center, athletic scholarships, career development, mental health programs, and other support services.

To increase accessibility, SECU will also provide convenient, on-campus ATMs and access

to SECU Member Advisors. SECU will provide tools and resources to educate UMD's students, faculty and staff on various financial topics, including full financial wellness reviews and guidance on basic budgeting, new purchases and financing, lending opportunities, and debt management.

To further the partnership and its impact on the community, SECU and its staff volunteers will support a number of UMD's events. UMD will also provide support for SECU-sponsored

events, including the Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics Maryland, SECU's Kindness Connects campaign and Day of Kindness, and the SECU MD Foundation's Golf Tournament.

"SECU is a longstanding stalwart corporate citizen of the state of Maryland and the University of Maryland is thrilled to be partnering with them on a wide-range of initiatives that will benefit not just Maryland Athletics, but our entire campus community," said Darryll J. Pines, President of the University of Maryland.

The Prince George's Post

The Prince George's Post
P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151
Phone: 301-627-0900 • Legal Fax: 301-627-6260
Email: pgpost@gmail.com

Contents © 2022, The Prince George's Post

Publisher/Senior Editor Legusta Floyd
Editor Lisa Duan

General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager Brenda Boice
Administrative Assistant/ Billing -

Legal Advertising Assistant Robin Boerckel
Web Manager Kyler Quesenberry

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 AND FINANCE

Hoyer Visits SemaConnect to Highlight The Make It In America Agenda & the Future of Electric Vehicles

BOWIE, Md. (Sept. 9, 2022)—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) met with SemaConnect Chief Executive Officer Mahi Reddy, Chief Operating Officer Mark Pastrone, and other senior executives at SemaConnect to discuss the future of electric vehicle manufacturing and highlight House Democrats' Make It In America Agenda. SemaConnect, an electric vehicle manufacturer in Bowie, Maryland owned by Blink Charging Company, is a leader in ground-breaking work to supply electric vehicle amenities to consumers around the country. The event spotlighted the recently enacted Inflation Reduction Act which provides a \$4,000 consumer tax credit for low and middle-income families to buy used

electric vehicles, and up to \$7,500 tax credit to buy new electric vehicles.

"I was thrilled to take part in today's visit to SemaConnect and meet with the leadership of the company, who are doing innovative work in manufacturing electric vehicles in the Fifth District," said Congressman Hoyer. "I was impressed by the work happening at SemaConnect to provide and pioneer electric vehicle charging stations for consumers across the United States. What is happening here reflects the greatness of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which made a \$7.5 billion investment to help expand EV charging

See ELECTRIC Page A6

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Surviving Spouse Benefits Explained

By RUSSELL GLOOR,

National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens

Dear Rusty: If I file at age 63 what percentage does my wife receive if I die? Does this percentage change if I wait to file closer to my full retirement age? And what does my wife receive if I die before I file for my benefits? **Signed: Planning Ahead**

Dear Planning: When you file for your own Social Security benefit will affect the survivor benefit your wife is entitled to as your widow. If you claim at age 63, her benefit as your widow will be based on your age 63 amount. If you wait longer to claim your own Social Security, your own benefit will be higher and so will your wife's entitlement as your survivor. In other words, your wife's benefit as your widow will be based on the amount you are receiving when you die, and the longer you wait to claim your own Social Security, the higher your wife's survivor entitlement will be.

Exactly how much your wife will get monthly as your widow depends also on her own age when she claims her survivor benefit. If you were to die first, your wife can claim a reduced survivor benefit as early as age 60 but doing so will result in a benefit which is 28.5% lower than it would be if she waits until her own full retirement age (67) to claim. Survivor benefits do not reach maximum until the survivor reaches full retirement age (FRA) and, if claimed before that, the benefit will be reduced by 4.75% for each full year early, to a maximum reduction of 28.5%. So, although your wife's base survivor benefit will be the actual (100%) amount you were receiving when you die, her monthly survivor payment will be reduced if she claims the survivor benefit before her FRA. It is an actuarial reduction of .396% less survivor benefit for each month prior to FRA the survivor benefit is claimed.

If you wait to file for your own benefit but die before you actually start collecting your benefits, your wife's entitlement as your widow will be based upon the amount you were entitled to when you died. She will not lose her survivor benefit—it will be based upon the amount you were entitled to when you died, even though you had not yet claimed. Your wife can also delay claiming her survivor benefit until she reaches her FRA to maximize her benefit as your widow. But there is more to consider.

If your wife is working full time, it is often not prudent (and may not be possible) to collect Social Security benefits before reaching full retirement age. That's because of Social Security's earnings test, which limits how much can be earned while collecting SS benefits before FRA. The earnings limit for 2022 is \$19,560 (changes yearly) and if that is exceeded SS will take away benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 over the limit. If the limit is significantly exceeded your wife could be temporarily ineligible to get benefits, until her earnings are less, or until she reaches her full retirement age (the earnings limit no longer applies when FRA is reached).

Finally, it's important to note that all Social Security rules are gender-neutral, meaning that the rules apply equally to both spouses. But in any case, a surviving spouse can only get one benefit—either their own or their survivor benefit, whichever is highest.

The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] www.amac.us is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation's capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country. And the AMAC Foundation (www.AmacFoundation.org) is the Association's non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting and educating America's Seniors. Together, we act and speak on the Association members' behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at www.amac.us/join-amac.

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

Leadership Maryland Now Accepting Applications for Class of 2023

Deadline to Apply is October 31, 2022

By PRESS OFFICER
Leadership Maryland

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Sept. 8, 2022)—Leadership Maryland, the professional development program dedicated to building a better Maryland by harnessing the strength of its local business and community leaders, is now accepting applications for the Class of 2023. Leadership Maryland's selection committee will choose 52 applicants to complete an eight-month hands-on learning program focused on the state's most vital social, economic and environmental issues.

Applications are open to senior-level executives with significant achievements in their careers and/or their communities. Ideal Leadership Maryland applicants will have a desire to learn more about Maryland's most critical issues and a personal commitment to be a force for positive change in their organizations, their communities, and their state. The chosen class will reflect a cross-section of the state by including diversity of geographic location, profession, ethnicity, age and gender.

To be considered for the Class of 2023, application packages must include:

- Completed application, available online

only at www.LeadershipMD.org;

- Paid non-refundable application fee of \$250;
- Two references;
- One letter of recommendation;
- Authorizing official statement from applicant's supervisor or CEO (unless applicant is self-employed or are their own supervisor);
- Professional color photo

Completed application packages and registration fees must be received by Leadership Maryland (PO Box 2442, Easton, MD 21601) by 5 p.m. on Monday, October 31, 2022. Upon acceptance of the application, candidates will be contacted to schedule an interview with members of the Leadership Maryland selection committee. The selected Class of 2023 will be announced in early February 2023.

Before applying, candidates should know they will be able to attend Class of 2023 sessions on the following dates:

- March 13 (evening reception)
- April 20 & 21 (Orientation—mandatory)
- May 11 & 12
- June 15 & 16
- July 13 & 14
- September 14 & 15

- October 12 & 13
- November 10
- December 5 (Graduation)

Full information regarding Leadership Maryland's application instructions, selection process, tuition and financial assistance, 2023 program dates and locations, and attendance policy are available at www.LeadershipMD.org. Anyone with questions may contact Leadership Maryland at 410-841-2101 or Info@LeadershipMD.org.

Leadership Maryland is a professional development program dedicated to building a better Maryland by harnessing the strength of its local business and community leaders. Each year, as many as 52 diverse and accomplished executives from Maryland's public and private sectors are selected to come together as a class for an eight-month hands-on learning program focused on the state's most vital social, economic and environmental issues. The first Leadership Maryland class graduated in 1993, and the organization's alumni network now consists of more than 1,100 leaders from all industries and regions of the state. Call Leadership Maryland at 410-841-2101 or visit www.LeadershipMD.org.

Library Leaders Recognized by Citizens for Maryland Libraries

By NICHOLAS BROWN
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (Sept. 16, 2022)—In keeping with the longstanding tradition of Prince George's County as an incubator of transformative leaders, the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is privileged to announce that two of its senior leaders were recently recognized with awards from Citizens for Maryland Libraries (CML). Carla Moore, Director of Information Technology, received the 2022 Davis McCarn Technology Award and Heather Jackson, West Area Director, received the 2022 Outstanding Library Employee Award during the September 15, 2022 PGCMLS Board of Library Trustees meeting.

The Davis McCarn Technology Award is presented in recognition of outstanding effort to use technology to improve library service in Maryland. McCarn was a chair of the Montgomery County Library Board and employee of the National Library of Medicine, where he managed the development of MEDLINE, the first nationwide online health-related database. He was also a chair of Citizens for Maryland Libraries.

Moore was nominated for her exemplary leadership in improving internet access and cybersecurity for PGCMLS customers and Maryland library users alike. She recently led the development and implementation of the Library's digital equity and inclusion initiative, which helps the 116,000+ Prince George's County residents who lack home broadband get online through the Library. A highlight of this program is the Online 2Go Chromebook program, which has connected 3,533 households with borrowable technology and internet access since July 2021. She is also responsible for the expansion of drive-up WiFi services during the COVID-19 pandemic, which provide 24/7 WiFi access outside PGCMLS' neighborhood branch libraries.

The Outstanding Library Employee Award is presented to a library employee or team who has made exceptional contributions to the Library, particularly in the areas of customer service or outreach.

Jackson was nominated for her extraordinary leadership in outreach service and community engagement. As the leader of



PHOTOS COURTESY PGCMLS

Carla Moore (left), director of information technology and Heather Jackson area director for the west branches.

the Bladensburg, Hyattsville, Mount Rainier, and New Carrollton branch libraries, Jackson is a trusted community leader who is an expert when it comes to adapting library services to anticipate the needs of community members, especially immigrants and refugees.

"We are so proud of both Carla and Heather," said Michael B. Gannon, Acting Co-Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer for Support Services. "We know how much positive change they are accomplishing in the community, but to have them recognized on the state level with this distinguished award is tremendous."

About Carla Moore

Carla Moore has been the director of information technology for Prince George's County Memorial Library System for eight years. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology. She brings more than 35 years of information systems and technology experience to the library. She oversees the architecture and implementation of information technology (IT) operations and business support systems. She provides leadership for the continued development of an innovative, robust and secure information technology environment. She is a strong technology-focused leader who can easily discuss business needs to determine the best solution. Her extensive and broad technical background provides the experience necessary to guide business leaders to the solutions that will achieve the best result. Her work and experience in-

clude: security awareness, broadband initiatives, virtualization and server consolidation, firewalls, mobile device management, eCommerce, disaster planning, digital literacy, collaboration tools, VOIP, data backups, and remote access.

About Heather Jackson

Heather Jackson has been the area director for the west branches of PGCMLS since 2016 and has been with PGCMLS since 2014 as a department head and branch manager. She received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Texas at Austin and her Master's in Library Science from the University of Maryland. She has years of career experience in social work, education, and non-profit management. During her tenure at PGCMLS, she created a network of three pop-up libraries cohoused in local community agencies in book deserts and launched Biblio-Consulta, the PGCMLS call center for Spanish speaking customers. She has served on numerous community agency steering and advisory committees focusing on immigrant, refugee and asylee populations in Prince George's County. She was a Fellow in the Maryland New Leaders Council in 2018 and frequently serves as a guest lecturer, presenter, and trainer on topics ranging from youth services and literature to community outreach. She has been published in multiple professional journals and has received multiple grants to facilitate robust programming and services to the community. She is the co-creator, host, and editor of the literary podcast, "These Books Made Me."

Morningside from A2

Washington Post says the Raspberry Rally from Little Brownie Bakers is far superior. Anyway, nothing will take the place of Samoas.

NY Chicken & Grill has opened at 9021 Woodyard Road. C-Crab, Cajun Seafood is coming soon to Andrews Manor Shopping Center.

Tropix Laundromat is also coming to Andrews Manor.

A home at 6001 Goodfellow Dr., in Skyline, just sold for \$210,000.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Alice Lucke and former Skyline agitator Judy Hansel Waby, Sept. 27; Marshall Carson and Tim Ward, Sept. 28; my brother Tom Mudd and former Morningside Town Clerk Janice Diggs, Sept. 29; Peggy Nanney and Jessica (Williams) Proctor, Sept. 30.

Happy 59th anniversary to André and Cynthia Jordan on September 28.

Email birthdays and anniversaries to muddmm@gmail.com.

