

# The Prince George's Post



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## Prince George's County Receives Transportation Association of Maryland (TAM), INC. Awards

By PAULETTE L. JONES  
Prince George's County  
Department of Public Works and  
Transportation

LARGO, Md. (Sept. 27, 2022)—The Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) was the recipient of the "Outstanding Transit System Achievement" and "Driver of the Year" award by The Transportation Association of Maryland (TAM), INC. during their annual awards ceremony on Wednesday, September 21, 2022. TAM is an association made up of public, private, and nonprofit organization members

with the mission to strengthen community transportation in Maryland through advocacy and professional development. DPW&T is pleased to be a participating member and eager to continue advancing and promoting world-class transportation systems.

"We are Prince George's Proud that DPW&T has been recognized as a leader in the transit community by receiving the Transit System Achievement Award," said Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "We are also so very proud of our own Jamie Holloway for being recognized as the 'Driver of the Year. Jamie is a shining example of the excellent transit op-

erators we have working in our public transportation fleet."

The announcement of the Transit System Achievement Award shows that TheBus is making an impact in the community and will continue to be a leader in the transit industry with its Zero Emissions goals and initiatives through the "Proud to Charge" program. With many of its riders commuting through the County and making connections to Washington, DC, DPW&T's TheBus has continued to be relied on to provide effective, efficient, and

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## Moore, Cox Join Other Candidates and Politicos at Eastern Shore Campaign Event

By SHANNON CLARK and ABBY ZIMMARDI  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS—Democratic gubernatorial nominee Wes Moore and his opponent, Republican Dan Cox, shook hands and spoke with visitors from across the state Wednesday, Sept. 28 in between "all-you-can-eat" crabs, watermelon and corn at the J. Millard Tawes Crab & Clam Bake.

For the past 44 years, the event has served as an opportunity for the local chamber of commerce to highlight Somerset County's economy, while also doubling as a platform for politicians statewide.

A traditionally Republican county, Somerset voted for the former President Donald Trump during 2020's presidential election, according to the Maryland State Board of Elections.

Approximately 5,000 people attended this year's event, where booths, signs and hats advertising 2022 political candidates could be spotted throughout the event.

Along with the gubernatorial candidates, other Maryland politicians and public officials attending the event included Gov. Larry Hogan, R, who appears to be gearing up for the 2024 presidential race, Comptroller Peter Franchot, D, who lost in the primary to Moore, U.S. Rep. Anthony Brown, the Democratic attorney general candidate, and Moore's running mate for lieutenant governor, Aruna Miller.

Prior to arriving at the festival, Moore spoke to students, faculty and deans at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, a historically black university 26 miles north of Somers Cove Marina in Crisfield where the event was held.

Meanwhile, Cox spoke Wednesday morning with Kim Klacik, a radio talk show host on WBAL. He discussed his previous night's appearance at a forum at Morgan State University, a historically black university in Baltimore.

The event, hosted by the college's student-run news organization, was originally to include appearances by both gubernatorial candidates, but Moore declined the event in August.

Cox and Moore are scheduled to debate Oct. 12 at an event hosted by Maryland Public Television and WBAL-TV.

Cox also discussed the upcoming fundraiser hosted by Trump at his Mar-a-Lago resort, which he described as an "intimate event." Trump has endorsed Cox's candidacy, which helped him defeat former Commerce and Labor Secretary Kelly Schulz, R, who was endorsed by Hogan.

The event is an effort to raise money for Cox's gubernatorial campaign. Moore currently has a 10-1 fundraising lead over Cox,



PHOTO COURTESY OF WES MOORE CAMPAIGN

**Democratic gubernatorial nominee Wes Moore shakes hands with some of the more than 5,000 visitors at the 45th annual J. Millard Tawes Crab & Clam Bake in Crisfield, Maryland, on Wednesday, Sept. 28. Moore was one of many politicians and candidates seeking office Nov. 8.**

according to the Maryland State Board of Elections campaign finance report.

Tickets to the private cocktail portion of the event are \$1,776 per person, and invitees can also get a photo taken with both Trump and Cox for \$25,000, according to the invitation to the event.

"This is not a meet and greet," Cox said. "This is a fundraiser. It is designed to help us get the cash that we need to push through the finish line and win."

Additionally, Cox spoke about his second attempt Tuesday (Sept. 27) to halt the Maryland State Board of Elections from counting mail-in ballots earlier.

Cox lost a previous effort to stop early counting of the ballots last week when the Montgomery County Circuit Court approved a board of elections emergency petition to allow counting of early mail-in votes, which were scheduled to begin Oct. 1.

Election officials said in their petition for the change, they needed the new counting rules "to ensure that all critical election-related deadlines established by law are met."

In the July primaries, more than 345,000 mail-in ballots were cast. As of last week, more than 525,000 Maryland voters asked for a mail-in ballot, an election board member said.



## Governor Hogan Proclaims October as Move Over Awareness Month, Expanded Law to Protect Road Users Took Effect Saturday

By MICHAEL RICCI  
Office of Maryland Governor Larry Hogan

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Sept. 29, 2022)—Governor Larry Hogan today declared October as Move Over Awareness Month in recognition of an expanded law taking effect on Saturday to protect all road users. Read the Move Over Awareness Month proclamation.

"Moving over and slowing down when passing a vehicle stopped on the highway isn't just a matter of following the law—it is about saving lives," said Governor Hogan. "This is especially critical to protect the crews and first responders who are working on the roads within inches of fast-moving traffic. We can all do our part to make sure that everyone gets where they're going safely."

The governor is issuing this proclamation today as part of a unified statewide effort—including an event being held this afternoon in Upper Marlboro featuring attendees from the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA), the Maryland General Assembly, and AAA Mid-Atlantic.

**Background on Expanded Move Over Law.** The expanded Move Over Law (SB147) requires drivers to move over or slow down when approaching any vehicle that is stopped or parked and displaying hazard warning lights, road flares, or other caution signs. The expanded law is in place to protect law enforcement, emergency responders, and any motorist who may encounter a roadside emergency and must stop near travel lanes. Maryland is the eighth state to expand its Move Over Law to include all disabled vehicles.

Previously, the Move Over Law applied only when approaching law enforcement vehicles, tow trucks, and emergency response vehicles and equipment. Last year, 1,847 citations were issued for move-over violations in Maryland.

**Roadside Emergencies:** The state's Highway Safety Office has published a guide for what to do in the event of a roadside emergency. <https://zerodeathsmd.gov/how-you-can-help/roadside-emergencies/>

**Public Awareness Campaign.** Surveys by state transportation officials have shown that the overwhelming majority of drivers are unaware of the provisions of the Move Over Law and the importance of slowing down when approaching vehicles stopped on the highway.

MDOT and the Maryland State Police will continue to collaborate with federal, state, local, and grassroots partners on efforts to raise awareness of the expanded law. 'Move Over or Slow Down' messaging will be promoted on social media platforms as well as major roadways across the state.

**Zero Deaths:** The State of Maryland has set a goal of zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries through a data-driven approach.

## PGCMLS Celebrates Lifelong Learning This October

By SILVANA QUIROZ  
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (Sept. 30, 2022)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is pleased to announce several special events and initiatives to celebrate culture, encourage reading, and support education this October. The month begins with the second annual Festival of Cultures at the Hyattsville Branch Library [held] on Saturday, October 1. Other special initiatives include Maryland STEM Fest, a series

of local and statewide programs for youth and families to explore science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and Teentober, PGCMLS' annual focus on teen engagement and enrichment through programs and service opportunities.

PGCMLS is also proud to participate in the annual One Maryland One Book statewide read program, presented by Maryland Humanities. The 2022 selection is "What's Mine and Yours" by Naima Coster.

"Library staff have developed a vibrant array of engaging programs for Oc-

tober that will inspire a lifelong love of reading and learning, said Nicholas A. Brown, Acting Co-Chief Executive Officer. "Whether you are a teen interested in preparing for college applications or a voracious reader looking for a book club, the Library has something for everyone's interests."

### Festival of Cultures

PGCMLS presents the Festival of Cultures to highlight these communities' contributions to the area. The celebration will be a family event to enjoy storytime,

crafts, performances by Ayelen Dance Group, and Washington Toho Koto Society. The event [occurred] at the new Hyattsville Branch Library on October 1.

### One Maryland One Book

In partnership with the PGCMLS Foundation and Prince George's County Office of Human Rights, the Library is thrilled to present One Maryland One Book. This program was created to connect readers through the same book and later participate in a discussion where

they can share their experiences. This year's selection is "What's Mine and Yours" by Naima Coster. This book is a multigenerational saga featuring two North Carolina families who collide in ways neither is prepared for when Black students from the east side of the county are integrated into the predominantly white schools on the west side. Readers will follow these families over decades as they break apart and come back together. Customers can request their free copy by completing this form by **October 8, 2022**. Virtual book discussions will

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# TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

## In & Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

### Fr. Pearson, pastor of Mount Calvary and Holy Spirit Parishes, dies at 61

Father Everett Pearson, a priest of the Archdiocese of Washington for more than 30 years and beloved pastor of Mount Calvary Parish in Forestville, died August 23.

He was born in Washington, the youngest of the three children of Ray and Dorothy Pearson. He attended Nativity Parish School and graduated from Archbishop Carroll High School. He attended Catholic University and the University of Maryland before entering the seminary and attending the North American College in Rome where he earned a degree in Sacred Theology.

He was ordained a priest by Cardinal James Hickey on Nov. 17, 1991, at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington. His early assignments were St. Matthias, Mount Calvary, and Assumption Parishes. In 1998 he became pastor of Holy Name Parish in Washington.

Then, in 2009, he was named pastor at Mount Calvary. In 2012 he was appointed administrator of Holy Spirit in Forestville, serving both parishes until his death. He also served as chaplain to the St. Charles Lwanga Council of the Knights of Columbus and chaplain of the First Friday Club.

Father Pearson is survived by his sister Camilla Pearson, several aunts and uncles, and his parishioners. Washington Cardinal Wilton Gregory was the main celebrant of the Mass of Christian Burial at Mount Calvary; about 40 priests celebrated the Mass with him. Hundreds of people from Mount Calvary, Holy Spirit and other parishes crowded the church. Burial was at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Washington.

During the final procession, as his casket was wheeled down the center aisle, many reached out to touch the casket of the priest who had so touched their lives.

### Town of Morningside

Morningside has two monthly meetings coming up: Work Session, Oct. 11, and Town Meeting, Oct. 18, both at the Municipal Center at 7 p.m.

Trunk-or-Treat/Movie Night is coming up Saturday, Oct. 29. More about Halloween next week. For Morningside information, call 301-736-2300.

Morningside Memories: In Oct. 1957—65 years ago this month—the Owakonzi Camp Fire Group with Mrs. Milton Mayhew, Guardian, participated in a splash party at the Ambassador Hotel. Attending were Karen Broderick, Elaine

Gold, Barbara Hickman, Carol Miller, Barbara Ann Parr, Nancy Talbott, Jan Stocklinski, Linda Valentine and Babs Zdobysz. To my old-time readers: How many of them do you remember?

### Surratts-Clinton Library opening delayed

I've been excited with the news that my favorite library is due to open this year.

Not so! On Sept. 9 it was announced that power issues are causing new delays. "The building's original transformer was mislabeled by Pepco and was discovered to be undersized for the building. Due to supply chain issues, a new, correct-sized transformer has a very long lead time into next year."

Which, I assume means Surratts-Clinton is not opening this year. Maybe not next year even. You can go online and get the whole story—with lots of photos.

### American Indian Festival

The 14th Annual American Indian Festival is coming up Saturday, Oct. 15, at the Group Campground & Picnic Area of Patuxent River Park. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission and parking.

Discover the rich and diverse culture of Native American Indians with live music, drumming, singing, dancing, storytelling, interactive & educational exhibits, demos, American Indian games, traditional food, craft vendors, raffles, and live birds of prey.

The Park is at 16000 Croom Airport Road, in Upper Marlboro. Info: 301-627-6074, patuxentriverpark@pgparks.com.

### Places to go and things to do

Join the County Health Department at the 2022 Walk to End Alzheimer's. Walk to raise funds and awareness for Alzheimer's research, care, and support for all those facing Alzheimer's and other dementia. The Walk will be Saturday, Oct. 29, at the National Harbor Capital Canopy (201 Waterfront Street). Register or donate at [https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2022/DC-NationalCapitalArea?fr\\_id=15460&pg=entry](https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2022/DC-NationalCapitalArea?fr_id=15460&pg=entry).

Since last March, the National Zoo has added 19 new residents, including a Komodo dragon, Black tree monitor, Amur tiger, Southern tamandua, Rock hyrax, Golden-headed lion tamarin, Cave salamander, Binturong, and more. I guess it's time to head to the Zoo.

The National Air and Space Museum's west wing is reopening on Oct. 14 after

three years' closure. If you want to be one of the first to experience the museum's new wing, grab free, timed-entry tickets now. Go to [airandspace.si.edu](http://airandspace.si.edu).

Bishop McNamara High School, in Forestville, will hold its Fall 2022 Open House on Oct. 30, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information: [bmhs.org/admissions/visit](http://bmhs.org/admissions/visit).

### Changing landscape: Hello Book World, Goodbye Flashbacks

The Washington Post has brought back Book World, which they discontinued in 2009. The new Book World, a weekly stand-alone 8-page section, began Sunday Sept. 25. I love it!

In the same edition, Flashbacks, by Patrick M. Reynolds, ran for the very last time. It has for years been my favorite strip in the Sunday comics.

Familiar area codes 301 and 240 are running out. Officials say that, in 2023, Maryland telephone users will have to get used to a new area code: 227. No changes in dialing will be required and existing phone numbers will not change.

In a recent column I mentioned the Hooper Island Lighthouse. It was for sale at \$15,000 and had many problems. Well, for 30 days no one offered to buy it. Then the first bid came in. And soon a second. And soon there was a bidding war for a lighthouse with zero amenities; it cannot be used as a residence. It sold Sept. 22 for \$192,000!

A home at 6301 Woodland Road, in Morningside, has just sold for \$335,000.

### Bee Duncan

Beulah "Bee" Duncan, 90, died last Feb. 27. Bee and her husband, M.Sgt. John Duncan USAF, lived for years on Auth Road and were active members of St. Philip's Church.

John died April 20, 2010. They were parents of Skip and Gregory Duncan and had several grandkids. Bee's funeral was at Our Lady Help of Christians in Waldorf with burial at Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Greta Chambers, Oct. 9; Mary Deans, Oct. 11; Tj Foster, Oct. 12; Mildred Peaire and Carolyn Williams, Oct. 16.

Happy 69th anniversary to Daisy and Ralph Young who were married October 15, 1953.

Email me at [muddmm@aol.com](mailto:muddmm@aol.com) with birthdays and anniversaries.

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

### MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Morgan State University Alumni Association Southern Maryland Alumni Chapter held their 2022 15th Annual Blue and Orange Scholarship Dinner Dance and Awards Program Saturday, September 10, 2022, at Greater Waldorf Jaycees.

Congratulations to Mr. Everard Johnson, Sr., Calvert County, Ms. Vera Walton Merritt, Charles County, Mr. R. Owen Johnson, Jr., Prince George's County, Ms. Terrilyn Williams, Prince George's County, Dr. Linda W. Lyman, St. Mary's County who are 2022 Honorees of the Year. Congratulations to Denise Barnes, Alumnus of the Year for 10 years of Outstanding Leadership as the president of the Morgan State University Southern Maryland Alumni Chapter. David Burton, 1967 graduate of Morgan State University, received a special achievement award in recognition of contribution for the continued success of the four Maryland Public HBCUs.

### FALL BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study (morning and evening) will be held on Wednesdays, beginning October 5 through November 16, 2022. Listed below is detail about the studies: Mid-Week Recharge is the title of our morning Bible Study at 11 a.m. to 12 noon. The resource book we will use is titled: "The Big Picture" (Seeing God's Dream for Your Life) by Niccole and Jevon Caldwell Gross. If you would like to participate, please notify Lillie Skinner as soon as possible so she may order the resource book. Book cost: \$12.99 for paperback or \$11.99 for an e-book). Evening Bible Studies at 7 p.m.

Men's Bible Study will be held both in-person or via Zoom at Christ Church. Rev. A. Tyrone Johnson will lead the study with the theme: "Building Your Spiritual Tool Belt."

Women's Bible Study will be held via Zoom only. Rev. She-maiah Strickland will lead the study with the theme: "Catching Fire: God Is." Further details will be forthcoming with the Zoom links. If there are any questions, please contact Rev. Strickland.

### 11TH ANNUAL BULLDOG GOLF CLASSIC

Join us for the Annual Bulldog Golf Classic Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at the Country Club at Woodmore. Golf Classic includes eighteen holes, greens fee and golf cart, breakfast and lunch during tournament, complimentary beverages, gift bags, prizes and much more. Shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. Register today.

Proceeds from the Bulldog Golf Classic will support our award-winning sports programs and establish ongoing student scholarships. The University is also planning to introduce its first-

ever co-ed golf program.

If you are unable to participate or sponsor the tournament this year, you can still make a donation to support student-athletes. Donate today. For more information, visit the website: [bowie.state.edu/bulldog.classic](http://bowie.state.edu/bulldog.classic).

### BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY BULLDOGS

The No. 20 Bowie State Bulldogs combined for 376-yards of total offense but fell to Shaw University (1-2, 1-0 CIAA) in the final moments as the Bears scored on a two-yard rushing TD that sealed the fate of the Bulldogs in a 17-14 decision on the road at Durham County Memorial Stadium.

The Bulldogs start the 2022 season 1-2 overall first time since 2016 and 0-1 in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) as its win-streak against conference opponents was snapped at 18 straight. The setback also is the first time since 2014, Bowie State has lost two-straight games. For the most up-to-date information on Bowie State University Athletics and its thirteen varsity teams, please visit [www.bsbulldogs.com](http://www.bsbulldogs.com).

### TROT FOR TURKEY

Saturday, November 19, 2022, 6 p.m. at Watkins Regional Park Trot for Turkey. Help families in need by running or walking through the beautiful Winter Festival of Lights. For more than 30 years, visitors to the annual Winter Festival of Lights have been dazzled by twinkling light displays as they drove through Watkins Regional Park. This year register to walk or run the almost 3-mile course and see the dazzling displays up close.

Your registration fee will provide a family in need with a holiday turkey. For information, call Park Ranger office at 301-627-7755.

### UPLIFT: INSPIRATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL AUDITIONS

Register for the Uplift: Inspirational Dance Festival Auditions. All dance styles are welcome. Seeking uplifting dance pieces that lend their artistic voices with healing, comfort, and gratitude. Auditions are by appointment only.

Date is Saturday, October 29, 2022, from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. at Publick Playhouse. Address is 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, Maryland 20784. Contact: 301-277-1710. Email for more information! ([publickplayhouse@pgparks.com](mailto:publickplayhouse@pgparks.com)). Cost is free.

Selected dancers will perform as part of the Uplift: Inspirational Dance Festival performance on Sunday, February 19, 2023. Registration Deadline: Friday, October 14, 2022, 5:00 p.m. Register online! (<https://forms.office.com/r/ckJjGzY9Jf>)

## Around the County

### Prince George's Community College Announces the Inauguration of its Ninth President Dr. Falecia D. Williams

LARGO, Md. (Sept. 29, 2022)—Prince George's Community College (PGCC) is pleased to announce the inauguration of the College's ninth president, Dr. Falecia D. Williams, on **Thursday, October 6, at 11 a.m.** in the College's Center for Performing Arts. Dr. Williams began her tenure at the College in August 2020. Under Dr. Williams' leadership, the College has returned to in-person learning; partnered with organizations such as Bank of America, Education Design Lab, and MGM National Harbor; and secured a multimillion-dollar grant with the Department of Education among others.

In addition to the inaugural ceremony, the week will include several other events including the Prince George's Community College Foundation, Inc.'s Partners for Success Gala at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center on **Friday, October 7 at 6 p.m.** For more information about this event and others, visit <https://www.pgcc.edu/about/pgcc/leadership/office-of-the-president/presidential-inauguration/>.

What: Prince George's Community College's Inauguration Ceremony for Ninth President Dr. Falecia D. Williams

Who: Prince George's Community College's Ninth President, Dr. Falecia D. Williams

Prince George's Community College Board of Trustees  
Prince George's Community College Students, Faculty, and Staff  
Prince George's County Elected Officials

When: 11 a.m.

Where: Center for Performing Arts, Grand Theater, 301 Largo Road, Largo, Maryland 20774

### Natural Dyeing and Screenprinting Party As Part of *we are and will be dust*

#### By Danny Varillas, at the Pallet Rack

**NEW DATE: Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022, from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Material Things parking lot.**

*Free and open to the public; bandanas for dyeing and printing will be sold on-site.*

*All ages are invited to participate.*

NORTH BRENTWOOD, Md. (Sept. 30, 2022)—Material Things and local artist Danny Varillas invite the community to a hands-on dyeing and screenprinting event, held in conjunction with the closing of Varillas' exhibition of handwoven works, *we are and will be dust*.

On Saturday, October 8, from 2 to 5 p.m. artist Danny Varillas will lead natural indigo dyeing and screenprinting stations for the public to explore these processes and create their own unique fabric items. The processes of textile dyeing and screenprinting, both integral to Varillas' creative practice, have histories of reflecting communities and servicing collectives. Participants are welcome to drop in at any time during the event.

Bandanas prepped for dyeing and printing will be sold while supplies last. Posters designed by Varillas for *we are and will be dust*, and pottery seconds and prototypes from the Material Things Studio, will also be for sale. This event will take place in the parking lot outside Material Things, and all ages are welcome to participate. Masks are required inside Materials Things.

*we are and will be dust* will be open for the public to view during the event. The exhibition opened in The Pallet Rack, an experimental gallery space at Material Things, on September 3, and will be open for viewing until 5 p.m. on October 8.

Material Things is located next to NE DC at 4531 Rhode Island Ave, North Brentwood, MD, 20722. To learn more, visit [materialthingsstudio.com](http://materialthingsstudio.com) and [@materialthingsstudio](https://www.instagram.com/materialthingsstudio).

The Pallet Rack is a 24 sq.-ft. exhibition space inside Material Things. *we are and will be dust* can be viewed Fridays 5–8 p.m. and Sundays 12–3 p.m., or by contacting Grace at [grace.marie.dewitt@gmail.com](mailto:grace.marie.dewitt@gmail.com) to make an appointment.

### Prince George's County Planning Department Hosts Virtual Listening Session for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Behavioral Study

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Sept. 29, 2022)—The Prince George's County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) will host a virtual meeting for the Pedestrian and Bicyclist Behavioral Study on **Wednesday, October 19, 2022** at 6 p.m. During the listening session, planners will highlight how the presence, design, and location of County transportation facilities affect pedestrian and bicyclist behaviors. Residents will be able to share their thoughts on walking and biking in Prince George's County.

Meeting participants will learn the overall purpose of the study, timeline of the project, and how the design of facilities can accommodate future active transportation users. With a focus on equity, infrastructure, and safety, the findings of the Pedestrian and Bicyclist Behavioral Study will help inform the Planning Department in their recommendations of area master plans, evaluating submitted development applications, and ensuring conformance with the adopted subdivision and zoning regulations.

For more information on the study, visit <https://www.mncppc.org/5309/Pedestrian-Bicyclist-Behavioral-Study>. To register for the Listening Session, visit <https://pbbs.eventbrite.com/>.

WHO: Prince George's County Planning Department  
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission  
WHAT: Pedestrian and Bicyclist Behavioral Study Listening Session  
WHEN: Wednesday, October 19, 2022 | 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams—*Register in advance:* <https://pbbs.eventbrite.com/>

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission encourages the participation of persons with disabilities in all its programs and services. For special assistance, call the Public Affairs Office at 301-952-3038.



# COMMUNITY

## Nationally Recognized Nonprofit Organization Celebrates 29 Years of Success With Grand Re-Opening Including Comcast Lift Zone

By PRESS OFFICER  
The Training Source, Inc.

SEAT PLEASANT, Md. (Sept. 26, 2022)—On **Friday October 7, 2022** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., The Training Source, Inc., a nonprofit community-based training organization, will celebrate 29 Years of service to Prince George's County, Maryland and the DC Metro region with the Grand Re-Opening of its training facility in the heart of Seat Pleasant, MD. The facility has undergone complete floor to ceiling renovations including space reconfiguration and new energy efficient lighting, plumbing, wiring and HVAC. In addition to the renovations, The Training Source is also the newest Comcast Lift Zone site in the beltway region, providing free high-speed internet and technology access to the community to advance digital equity in Prince George's County, especially inside the beltway where such access is lacking in many households.

Executive Director Kim Rhim says, "The Training Source is extremely grateful to the Maryland General Assembly, especially the District 24 Delegation, for supporting a bond bill for The Training Source to renovate its building with the first major renovations since we occupied the facility in 1998. We are also grateful to the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County for supplementing the funding for renovations as well as loyal funders such as the Cafritz Foundation, the Greater Washington Community Foundation, and the Philip L. Graham Fund with critical support that helped us transition from 100% in-person training to 100%

remote training during COVID-19." Despite funding that was initially expected to cover all the renovations, pandemic-related delays and cost increases resulted in the project being converted to phases with the Grand Re-Opening celebrating the conclusion of the first phase. The State has pledged support for the second phase of the renovation and The Training Source will launch new fundraising initiatives, including room naming corporate sponsorship opportunities.

Established on October 7, 1993, The Training Source's mission is to provide education, training and services that promote positive economic mobility. The Training Source develops people, not just skills by providing holistic, life-changing and results-oriented adult life skills and job training programs; youth job readiness, college and career planning programs; and community supportive services to some of Prince George's County and DC Metro area's most disadvantaged residents, including individuals who are low-income, unemployed, physically or intellectually challenged, returning citizens and at-risk youth. The organization also provides staffing assistance and staff training for employers to promote effective and efficient workplaces.

With the addition of the Comcast Lift Zone, The Training Source expands its partnership with Comcast and increases its capacity to serve the community by providing a space where community members, even those not yet connected to Training Source programming, can access technology for career exploration and advancement, academic activities, personal or professional business, etc. en-

suring their ability to participate in the digital economy. Even during non-business hours, residents can access the internet outside the facility.

Rhim adds, "Getting our doors back open, and being in the community for the community is what was paramount for us. We struggled to recruit program participants during the pandemic because our target population is not digitally savvy—that's the training they come to us for. Being a Comcast Lift Zone site is Comcast's gift to us and our gift to the community. We see people standing outside Starbucks or closed libraries just to check email on their phones before going home where there is no WiFi. Now they can check email on their phones outside when we're closed, but more importantly, they can come inside when we're open and conduct business online while learning about our no-cost training and services that can change their future and learning about Comcast and national incentives to bring WiFi and technology into their homes at little or no cost to them. **Residents should RSVP to tour the facility on October 7** where they can meet representatives and sign up for training and WiFi during their visit."

Community members, Training Source Alumni, Board Members, Supporters and Partners are invited to join us on Friday October 7, 2022 beginning at 9 a.m. for our formal ribbon cutting ceremony and open house tours of the renovated space throughout the morning.

For more information or to RSVP to attend, please visit our website at [www.thetrainingsource.org](http://www.thetrainingsource.org) or contact Kim Rhim,

Executive Director, at (301) 499-8872.

The Training Source, Inc. was founded in 1993 by its current Executive Director, Evelyn Kim Rhim with the mission to provide education, training and services that promote positive economic mobility. The organization's award-winning programs and services include youth and adult workforce training, youth leadership development, community outreach and education, supportive services, and employer services. During its 29-year history of operating inside the beltway, The Training Source has served thousands of local residents, including the unemployed and underemployed, at-risk youth, individuals with disabilities, survivors of domestic violence, formerly incarcerated individuals, low-income families, employees gaining new skills, and more. Today, The Training Source is an award-winning premier workforce development organization, recognized nationally for enhancing the financial literacy of low-income women. It is one of only a few nonprofits in Prince George's County to carry the Maryland Nonprofits' Standards For Excellence® seal of accreditation and GuideStar® Platinum Rating. Its founder has received numerous awards including Nonprofit Leader of the Year; Woman Business Leader of the Year; NAACP Hometown Champion, Nonprofit Pride Award, and William Donald Schaefer Helping People Award. With thousands of Prince George's County families served over the past 29 years, echoing sentiments of how The Training Source positively impacted their lives, The Training Source truly lives up to its calling to "develop people, not just skills."

## Pulitzer Prize Winner Leonard Pitts Jr. Headlines South Bowie Branch Library 10th Birthday

By SILVANA QUIROZ  
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (Oct. 4, 2022)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library (PGCMLS) invites the community to celebrate the 10th birthday of the South Bowie Branch Library on **Tuesday, October 25, 2022**, from 12–8 p.m. The South Bowie Branch Library has provided the local community with a state-of-the-art facility to enjoy lifelong learning, access to services, internet, and technology, and engaging programming for all ages. The 10th birthday celebration will feature a special appearance by Pulitzer Prize-winner Leonard Pitts Jr at 6 p.m. The Pulitzer Prize-winning Bowie resident, author, and syndicated columnist will speak on a topic entitled "Think Again: The Library's Role in a Misinformation Age." The family-friendly celebration includes stori-time, music, dancing, finger plays, flannel boards, and, of course, birthday treats. Registration for the cele-

bration is encouraged and available at [pgcmls.info/events](http://pgcmls.info/events).

"We are so excited to celebrate ten years of this amazing branch. When we opened it in 2012, we were proud to offer several new features that we later incorporated into other branches: our first fireplace, our first drive-up window, our first computer training lab and our first vending cafe. The children's area, 'Discovery Glen' with its life-size oak tree, is a favorite with so many families," stated Michael B. Gannon, Acting Co-Chief Executive Officer.

Residents from the Pointer Ridge, Collington Manor, Mitchellville, and other communities in and around the City of Bowie advocated for more than a decade to have their own neighborhood library branch, due to the distance from the existing Bowie Branch Library. In 2012 the new South Bowie Branch Library opened and has served the interests and needs of tens of thousands of Prince Georgians.

### About Leonard Pitts Jr.

Leonard Pitts Jr. was born and raised in southern California. He was awarded a degree in English from the University of Southern California at 19, having entered school at 15 in a special honors program. In a career that spans 46 years, Pitts has worked as a columnist, a college professor, a radio producer, and a lecturer. But those are just the job titles. If you ask him what he does—what he is—he'll tell you now what he would have told you then. He is a writer. Millions of readers are glad that he is. In addition to winning a Pulitzer Prize for commentary, Pitts has won multiple awards from the Society of Professional Journalists, the National Association of Black Journalists, the National Society of Newspaper Columnists, and the American Society of Newspaper Editors. Twice each week, millions of newspaper readers around the country seek out his rich and uncommonly resonant voice. For 27 years, he and his wife have called Bowie their home.

## Cora L. Rice Elementary School: A School That Cares

By PRESS OFFICER  
Cora L. Rice Elementary School

Cora L. Rice Elementary School, located at 950 Nalley Road, Landover, Maryland, has started off the new school year with a bang! They are hosting a Beautification Day at the school grounds on **October 8, 2022**, at 9 a.m. All interested parties willing to assist in this endeavor, can connect with Mrs. Hibbert at [michelle.hibbert@pgcps.org](mailto:michelle.hibbert@pgcps.org)

The school Principal, Dr. Mickelli Dunn, has done an amazing job in keeping the students uplifted and proud of their environment. As such, Dr. Dunn wants to continue to beautify the facility by sprucing up the building with a fresh coat of paint, and inspirational quotes and diverse pictures and languages that represent our school community.

Michelle Hibbert, Community School Coordinator, has diligently worked with local community partners to implement exciting events that bring its community together for the good of the school and she will be spearheading the beautification project as well.

Mrs. Hibbert works closely with a local business in Capitol Heights, ServiceMaster by America's Restoration Services, L.L.C. The company's President, Cleta McCain is

an avid supporter of projects or events that inspire our children to set and achieve their goals for success. In the past the company has donated clothes, gloves, hats, participated in their very successful book fairs, the back-to-school event and will contribute to the beautification project with donations of supplies.

In August, the school sponsored a back-to-school event offering bookbags and school supplies to the students. There were numerous community attendees, police, food vendors that provided free prizes, educational information and other giveaways. There were more than 150 attendees at the event.

Let's applaud the Principal, Dr. Dunn and Mrs. Hibbert and all staff members of Cora L. Rice for caring about our children every day of the year.

For ways in which you can participate in this or other events or to assist throughout the year, please contact Mrs. Hibbert at [michelle.hibbert@pgcps.org](mailto:michelle.hibbert@pgcps.org) or see the information to volunteer and/or donate for the beautification project <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf1u9xLDYFMdQmaoNE9wLNUnUMR9QSSx7B9btRRg5-7ZDwp0g/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>

### Awards from A1

eco-friendly service to all riders. These awards highlight the hard work and perseverance DPW&T and TheBus staff provide to Prince George's County's transit system.

Operator Jamie Holloway is the recipient of TheBus "Driver of the Year" TAM award. She has over 14 years of experience working for DPW&T's TheBus. Jamie, a bus operator who was born and raised in Prince George's County, Maryland, values and takes great satisfaction in the service she renders to her community. Jamie is recognized in the neighborhood as an operator who cares, and she demonstrates this by greeting customers as they board her bus with a friendly smile and great customer service. Jamie is a person who puts safety first in all she does, including driving TheBus and interacting with all her passengers.

"It is an honor to receive these awards, because they are a recognition of the hard work and dedication our employees showed throughout the pandemic," said DPW&T Director Michael D. Johnson. "Everyone at this agency understands the critical role public transportation plays in keeping our County moving, and they demonstrate their commitment every day."

DPW&T will continue to improve and be pioneers in the County's transit industry as it implements the Zero Emissions "Proud to Charge" program initiatives. For more information on DPW&T transit services, follow us on social media (@PGCountyDPWT) or visit our website at [DPWT.MYPGC.US](http://DPWT.MYPGC.US).

## The Washington International Horse Show Brings Thrilling Five-Star Jumping, Top Hunters, Entertaining Exhibitions, and Special Events to Prince George's County

By PRESS OFFICER  
Washington International Horse Show

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Sept 29, 2022)—The 64th Annual Washington International Horse Show (WIHS) presented by MARS Equestrian™ returns to the Washington, D.C. area **October 24–30** with seven days and three nights of thrilling five-star international jumping, top hunters, entertaining exhibitions, and special events for the whole family. Join us in our new location at The Show Place Arena, Prince George's Equestrian Center, in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.  
Information: <https://wihs.org/tickets/>

### Highlights:

- Opening Day, Monday, Oct 24, free admission
- Kids 12 and under are free for all daytime performances (Monday-Sunday)
- Complimentary Daytime Ticket Program for U.S. military, first responders, seniors (60+), students and teachers

### Evening Events (Thurs., Fri., Sat.)

#### WIHS Barn Night: Thursday, Oct. 27

Barn Night blends exciting equestrian sport with pre-event contests and prizes for barns and horse-loving groups. The Gallop Green contest theme created in partnership with Green is the

New Blue, encourages groups to use their creativity to share eco-friendly ideas in their submissions. Contest entry deadline is Oct. 17, and winners will be announced at the show.

Local students from Frederick Douglass High School will sing the National Anthem to kick off the international jumping competition—the \$75,000 Welcome Stake and the \$37,000 International Jumper Accumulator Costume Class where riders go wild with fun and surprising costumes.

#### WIHS Military Night presented by Boeing—Friday, Oct. 28

Military Night presented by Boeing is about power and speed as WIHS salutes the U.S. Armed Forces with exciting classes and exhibitions. Voices of Service, featuring military veterans, will perform the Star-Spangled Banner. Look for the "Jump for TAPS" American flag in the \$75,000 International Jumper FEI Speed Final benefiting Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), the WIHS Official Military Charity since 2010.

#### ETHOS Award Champagne Brunch—Saturday, Oct. 29, 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

WIHS is honored to host the inaugural ETHOS Award Ceremony to recognize contributions by African Americans to the horse world. This year's

recipients are from families where excellence in equestrian sport has spanned more than one generation. Honoree Donna Cheek will receive a special ETHOS Award for her participation as the first Black member of the United States Equestrian Team. Visit <https://wihs.org/ethosaward/> to learn about the six honorees.

#### World Cup Night—Saturday, Oct. 29

The marquee event of the week, the \$406,000 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Washington CSI5\*-W presented by Experience Prince George's, will feature top international riders and superstar horses as they take on the biggest jumps and most challenging course for the largest purse in the history of the show.

#### WIHS Kids' Day presented by Delta Air Lines—Free, Educational and Fun

A variety of activities are planned for the two WIHS Kids' Day events, including pony rides, a grooming station, face painting, a horseless horse show where kids can jump on foot to win ribbons, a pony kissing booth, carousel rides (National Harbor), plus 'special guest' horses, ponies, and more!  
**Saturday, Oct. 22**, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., National Harbor Carousel Lot  
**Saturday, Oct. 29**, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Prince George's Equestrian Center



# COMMENTARY

## Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita,  
Children's Defense Fund



### ChildWatch:

## Prayers After the Storms

The Children's Defense Fund's logo comes from a drawing I saw in a gallery window during a walk through Cambridge, Massachusetts nearly fifty years ago, after my family had moved to the Boston area where CDF had its beginning. The artwork was by five-year-old Maria Coté, and shows a bright sun shining on a small boat with a tiny sail adrift on a very wide sea. Above the boat in Maria's handwriting is the ancient fisherman's prayer: "Dear Lord, be good to me. The sea is so wide and my boat is so small."

In 1974, when CDF completed its first report,

I asked permission from Maria's mother to use the drawing on the cover. A few years later, when someone suggested CDF ought to have a logo, I looked at Maria's drawing hanging above my desk and realized it reflected CDF's mission more truthfully than any abstract piece prepared by the graphic arts firm we'd consulted ever could. Maria's mother agreed to our trademarking her daughter's piece.

Children's tiny lifeboats are always so small and in need of protection as they navigate their way through our world. But the metaphor of chil-

dren adrift in dangerous seas feels painfully literal when they are caught in actual storms. Right now children and adults in Puerto Rico, Florida, and other places along the Southeast coast and waterways are struggling to recover from Hurricanes Fiona and Ian. Many will spend the next days and weeks in deep uncertainty, waiting to find out when schools will reopen, whether adults will be able to go to work, and when—if ever—families will be able to go home.

José Andrés is the extraordinary chef and humanitarian who founded the nonprofit World Central Kitchen to provide and serve meals after Haiti was devastated by an earthquake in 2010. World Central Kitchen is already on the ground serving hot meals after these storms, just as they have now done in disaster zones and war zones around the world. Andrés has said his humanitarian work is influenced by something he learned about boats while serving in the Spanish Navy: "I learned the power of bringing a group of people together to try to move a ship against winds and against currents, but always trying to take it to safety of a good port."

This is what we all must do. I share a few

prayers for the adults and caregivers affected by these hurricanes and floods who must continue trying to steer children to safety right now even in the midst of their own uncertainty.

God, straighten our backs  
clear our heads  
strengthen our voices and judgment  
infuse our hearts  
with Your mighty and comforting spirit.

\*\*\*

O God for whom nothing is too hard  
Who makes the impossible possible  
Every minute of every day  
Kindle within us an unshakable faith  
In Your presence, power, and goodness.

\*\*\*

God, help us to be like bamboo, which bends and bows and sways in the winds but never breaks.

—September 30, 2022

## Judge DaNeeka Varner Cotton Named Administrative Judge for the Circuit Court for Prince George's County

By PRESS OFFICER  
Maryland Judiciary

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Oct. 3, 2022)— Court of Appeals of Maryland Chief Judge Matthew J. Fader has named Judge DaNeeka Varner Cotton as county administrative judge for the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. Judge Cotton succeeds Chief, Circuit, and County Administrative Judge Sheila R. Tillerson Adams, Seventh Judicial Circuit, who will retire on December 31, 2022, after serving nearly three decades on the bench.

"On behalf of the Maryland Judiciary, I thank Judge Adams for her commitment to justice during her tenure as administrative judge and her leadership during this transition period," said Maryland Court of Appeals Chief Judge Matthew J. Fader. "Her retirement at the end of the year punctuates an illustrious career as a jurist of nearly 30 years. I am delighted to appoint Judge Cotton as county administrative judge for the Circuit Court for Prince George's County and I look

forward to working together on our common mission of providing fair, efficient, and effective justice for all."

County administrative judges oversee the administration of the court, budget, and procurement functions. They also manage trial calendars to ensure the expeditious disposition of cases.

"I am honored to be appointed as administrative judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County by Chief Judge Fader," said Judge DaNeeka Varner Cotton. "The past eleven years working with Judge Adams has prepared me for this opportunity and I am confident I will continue to provide equal justice under the law as she so astutely has done. I understand the importance of ensuring timely access to justice and have an appreciation of the impact that the Judiciary has on the lives of people that we serve in our community. As a lifelong resident of Prince George's County, I am deeply committed to ensuring that all receive 'A Fair Forum for Justice.' I congratulate Judge Adams on her retirement, which culminates her distinguished ju-

dicial career in Prince George's County. I will work hard to ensure a smooth transition over these next few months."

Judge Cotton has served as an associate judge in the Circuit Court for Prince George's County since October 2011, upon her appointment by then-Governor Martin O'Malley. From September 2006 to October 2011, she served on the District Court of Maryland, District 5, Prince George's County, after being appointed by then-Governor Robert Ehrlich.

Judge Cotton earned a Bachelor of Arts in business management from Hampton University in 1988 and earned a juris doctorate from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1991. She was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1991. Judge Cotton began her legal career as a staff attorney for the Legal Aid Bureau of Maryland from 1991 to 1993.

Judge Cotton currently serves as vice-chair of the Judicial Council's Domestic Law Committee. She also serves on the Guardianship and Vulnerable Adult Work Group, and as faculty member at the Maryland Judicial College, instructing

on the issues of guardianship and family law. Judge Cotton is a member of the Maryland State Bar Association, Prince George's County Bar Association, J. Franklin Bourne Bar Association, National Bar Association, National Association of Women Judges, National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges, Maryland Circuit Court Judges Association, Women's Bar Association, National Guardianship Association, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She also serves on the board of directors for Bishop McNamara High School, Forestville, Maryland.

Judge Cotton has received several awards and accolades, including being named to the Daily Record's list of Maryland's Top 100 Women in 2021. She received the Leadership Award from the Prince George's County Health Department's Adam's House program in 2004 and the Woman of Achievement Award from the Lieutenant Governor's Office in 2002. Judge Cotton also received the Governor's Citation for Outstanding Service in 1998.

"I am thankful for all of the opportunities that the Judiciary has provided me to serve the people of this state and specifically, Prince George's County," said Judge Adams. "I leave my service as a judge proud of the strides the Judiciary has made in technology, service and improving access to justice, but mindful of the journey still ahead to make the court system accessible to all, while maintaining the integrity of the system and protecting the rights of all. I also congratulate my esteemed colleague, Judge Cotton, on her appointment, as she is uniquely qualified to fill this critical role."

During Judge Adams' tenure, the Circuit Court for Prince George's County was expanded and modernized with technology and security enhancements. The circuit court has increased numerous services for the public through the expansion of its Problem-Solving Court Division, which includes adult and juvenile drug court, re-entry court, veterans court, juvenile diversionary court, and truancy court. Judge Adams also worked with Prince George's County on the creation of the Family Justice Center, which has more than 21 partnering agencies providing connections to services for local residents.

## Maryland Early Mail-In Vote Count Moves Forward

By ABBY ZIMMARDI  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS (Sept. 30, 2022)— The Maryland State Board of Elections can begin counting early mail-in ballots Saturday following the Court of Special Appeals' decision to deny Republican gubernatorial nominee Dan Cox's effort to halt the process.

The board of elections asked the Montgomery County Circuit Court in August for permission to change its counting process of mail-in ballots, because, it said, it anticipated a much larger number of ballots.

The increased volume could

delay the certification of the election until late December or early January 2023, the board said. Normally, mail-in votes are counted Thursday after election day.

So far, more than 530,000 people have requested mail-in ballots for the Nov. 8 election, according to the board of elections mail-in ballot request count report.

The number of requested mail-in ballots has already exceeded the unprecedented half a million mail-in ballots in the July primary election.

The board's initial petition was challenged by Cox, but the court approved the board's peti-

tion last week. Following Judge James Bonifant's ruling, Cox filed an appeal that stated the ruling was unconstitutional because the decision to change the election process should not be left to the judiciary.

The Court of Special Appeals denied Cox's request to immediately halt the early mail-in vote count. Judicial action on Cox's overall appeal is pending.

For more information about the Maryland general election, check out the CNS 2022 General Election Guide: <https://cns.maryland.org/interactives/fall-2022/election-explainer/index.html>.

## CNS Explores Evolution, Future of Supreme Court in "Takeover" Podcast

By HUNTER SAVERY and KATE SELTZER  
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON—"Presidents come and go, but the Supreme Court goes on forever."

William Howard Taft said that. And he was an authority: he was the 27th president of the United States from 1909 until 1913, then served as the nation's 10th chief justice of the Supreme Court from 1921 until 1930. He is the only person to hold both posts.

Taft, by the way, also was responsible for securing a separate, permanent building for the nation's highest court.

But what has transpired inside that building over the decades has been the focus of an endless debate among legal scholars, politicians, journalists, voters—and even the justices themselves. Has the court been a force for change or a conservative roadblock

against progress? Does the court reflect the tenor of the times or is it hopelessly out of step with the majority of Americans? Is it even proper to ask the court to mirror public opinion?

With the high court's overturning of *Roe v. Wade* earlier this year, the moment seems right to trace the evolution of the Supreme Court, weigh the pressures it is facing now and assess its future. Capital News Service Washington Bureau reporters Hunter Savery and Kate Seltzer are producing a six-part podcast that intends to do just that.

Listen to the first episode of the podcast, titled "Takeover" at <https://rss.com/podcasts/cns-takeover/633931/>

### Learning from A1

take place on:

Wednesday, October 12, 7-8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 18, 6:30-8 p.m.

Wednesday, October 19, 6:30-7:35 p.m.

### Teentober

PGCMLS offers teens the opportunity to be part of programs and educational services that support their growth and cognitive development. Some of the events and initiatives are developed entirely by teen volunteers through the Library's Teen Action Groups (T.A.G.), such as the second annual P.A.D. drive, which invites members of the public to donate personal feminine products, to benefit families in need. Items can be donated at all 19 branch libraries through October 31. From talent shows, games, parades, and learning how to write, teens can experience how to make a difference in the community.

Some of the events include:

- **Teens Create: Sharpie Sugar Skulls:** Thursday, October 6, 4-5 p.m. at the Laurel Branch Library
- **Teen Writers' Group: Spooky Stories:** Tuesday, October 11, 4-5:30 p.m. at the Largo-Kettering Branch Library
- **Need For Speed:** Wednesday, October 12, 5 p.m. at the Hillcrest Heights Branch Library
- **Teen Book Discussion:** 'Cemetery Boys' by Aiden Thomas: Friday, October 14, 3-4 p.m. at the Bowie Branch Library

- **Cosplay Parade:** Saturday, October 22, 1-5 p.m. at the Hyattsville Branch Library
- **Teen Movie Night: Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse:** Tuesday, October 25, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Glenarden Branch Library  
Visit for the list of events: <https://ww1.pgcmls.info/events?t=teentober&r=nextmonth>

### Maryland STEM Fest

As part of the Library's program supporting and encouraging education in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, PGCMLS is organizing a variety of events to encourage participants to explore exciting science activities. Students will demonstrate a willingness to try new technology and processes, sharing strategies for problem-solving positively, such as building kits, robotics, circuits, and basic coding.

Here are some of the featured events:

- **Futuremakers: Hypnotizers:** Saturday, October 15, 1-2 p.m. at the New Carrollton Branch Library
- **Fizzle, Pop, Boom! Presented by The Science Guys of Baltimore:** Saturday, October 22, 1-2 p.m. at the Accokeek Branch Library
- **Dragons: Return of the Ice Sorceress:** Tuesday, October 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Laurel Branch Library; Wednesday, October 26, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Spauldings Branch Library; Saturday, October 29, 1-2 p.m. at the Bowie Branch Library
- **STEM Fair:** Tuesday, October 18, 4-5:30 p.m. at the Upper Marlboro Branch Library

## The Prince George's Post

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# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## Social Security Matters

### Ask Rusty:

## Veteran Asks About Disability and Ex-Spouse Benefits

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

**Dear Rusty:** I am a military veteran with a total & permanent disability. I was married for over ten years to a military man who has since honorably separated from military service. I was originally on Social Security disability, which automatically converted to regular Social Security retirement benefits when I turned 65—with the amount remaining at the “disabled” level instead of the “regular” rate based on my Social Security employment contribution record. Why wasn’t my “regular” Social Security rate used when I turned 65? Also, I contacted Social Security regarding my ex-husband’s Social Security since I was married to him for over 10 years but was told I am not entitled to a portion of his Social Security benefit. Why not? I was told the amount I would receive wouldn’t subtract from his SS entitlement. **Signed: Disable Veteran**

**Dear Disabled Veteran:** First, I want to thank you for your service to our country. Your sacrifice is sincerely appreciated, and I’ll be honored to answer your Social Security questions.

Regarding your current Social Security amount versus your previous disability amount, the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefit you were receiving was, in fact, the amount you were entitled to at your full retirement age, even though you claimed disability benefits earlier. Your SSDI benefit, when awarded, was computed using your entire lifetime earnings history up to the point that you became disabled, resulting in you getting your earned full amount as your disability benefit before you reached your full retirement age. And that is why the amount stayed the same when it automatically converted to your normal SS retirement benefit (at your full retirement age which, by the way, was 66 if you were born before 1955). Said simply, SSDI is the full Social Security amount you have earned up to the point you stopped earning, so it stays the same when you reach your full retirement age.

As for additional benefits from your ex-husband, although you meet the length of marriage rule for ex-spouse benefits, there are additional criteria as well—you must not have remarried and remained so, and your ex-husband must be already receiving his own Social Security benefit (unless you’ve been divorced at least two years, in which case your ex need only be eligible to collect). But you can only get an additional benefit, known as a “spousal boost,” if you meet all the other criteria and half (50%) of the benefit your ex-husband is/was entitled to at his full retirement age is more than your current Social Security benefit. Since Social Security said you aren’t entitled to an ex-spouse benefit, you apparently do not meet all of the eligibility criteria mentioned above. And to address your last point, if you had met all criteria and been entitled to an ex-spouse benefit it, indeed, would not have affected your ex-husband’s benefit in any way.

Again, please accept my sincere gratitude for your military service. You may wish to visit the “For Veterans” section at our [www.amacfoundation.org](http://www.amacfoundation.org) website.

The 2.4 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).

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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).

## WSSC Water Receives Patent for Innovative Universal Fire Hydrant Tool

Employee Idea Replaces Multitude of Tools to Repair Different Fire Hydrants  
Innovation at Work: New Tool Saves Time, Money and Protects Public Safety

By LUIS MAYA  
WSSC Water

LAUREL, Md. (Sept. 28, 2022)—WSSC Water received a patent from the United States Patent Office for its Universal Fire Hydrant Tool, developed by employees to simplify maintenance and repairs. The one tool replaces many tools needed by WSSC Water crews to repair five different types of hydrants in a network of 42,000 hydrants strategically positioned throughout a 1,000-square-mile distribution system.

“Fire hydrants are crucial to protecting public health and safety,” said WSSC Water General Manager and CEO Carla A. Reid. “This one tool will allow our crews to more quickly and efficiently make repairs to hydrants - safeguarding our customers and saving money. The Universal Fire Hydrant Tool and this patent represent our commitment to fostering and maintaining an innovative, can-do culture here at WSSC Water.”

In 2019, WSSC Water Utility Technician Terry Hartle discussed the need to simplify the fire hydrant repair process. He noted that crews had to carry approximately 10–15 tools per hydrant in their trucks to ensure they were ready to fix any hydrant they came across. When a tool was unavailable or broke during use, crews would have to dig up the hydrant to make repairs—a process that cost approximately \$8,000 per dig.

To solve this problem, James Haldeman, a principal engineer from WSSC Water’s Strategy and Innovation Office, worked with field technicians and the utility’s trade shop to develop a universal fire hydrant tool. This tool uses a variety of interchangeable adapters to operate every type of hydrant main valve in WSSC Water’s distribution system. Its lightweight design provides maximum leverage to handle even the most challenging repairs. The innovative design will result in significant cost savings and repair time.

The issuance of a patent allows WSSC Water to work with a manufacturer and distributor to market and sell the Universal Fire Hydrant Tool to other water utilities in the United States and around the globe. WSSC Water’s Strategy and Innovation Office is currently developing this business plan.

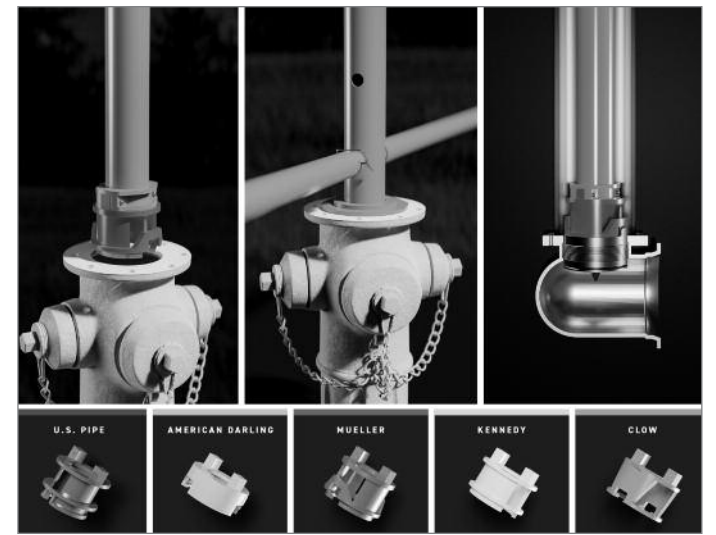


IMAGE COURTESY WSSC

WSSC Water received a patent from the United States Patent Office for its Universal Fire Hydrant Tool, developed by employees to simplify maintenance and repairs.

To see the tool in action, check out this short video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJLl9p3XCAC>). For more information on the developing business plan, contact our Strategy and Innovation Office at 301-206-8001 or email [innovation@wsscwater.com](mailto:innovation@wsscwater.com).

This is not the first patent WSSC Water has received. In 2008, the utility received a patent for a universal adjustable plate manhole repair tool.

WSSC Water is the proud provider of safe, seamless and satisfying water services, making the essential possible every day for our neighbors in Montgomery and Prince George’s counties. We work to deliver our best because it’s what our customers expect and deserve.

## PROTECTING YOUR MONEY Three Fraud Prevention Tips

(NAPSI)—Since government pandemic assistance programs have largely come to an end, fraudsters have turned their attention back to developing increasingly clever ways to trick you into giving them your money—but you can protect yourself and your assets.

Here are two confidence schemes that have been trending in recent months:

- **Malicious Links:** Bad actors text a link that appears to be from a legitimate company. Even if you don’t provide any information, clicking on the link can lead to malicious software or viruses on your phone.
- **Spoofing:** Fraudsters attempt to steal personal information by pretending to be someone with an urgent request—these bad actors often pose as government agents or fraud investigators from your bank.

In both scenarios, the goal of the bad actors is to trick the customer into providing personal information as well as bank account and login details that will let the fraudster take over the account and empty it using various peer-to-peer payment services or wires. Since the bad actors have personal information and the bank account

login details, they are able to pose as the customer and confirm that they want to send money. In the case of the impostor phone call, the scammer will often trick the customer into sending them money to “resolve fraudulent activity” while speaking with them on the phone.

The experts at Citi suggest the Top 3 Tips to help you avoid these types of fraud:

1. **Scammers Have Learned How to Spell:** Don’t assume that all scammers misspell or use obvious email addresses and URLs, or make requests that you send money to a faraway land to claim a lost fortune. Today’s fraudsters send emails and text links that closely imitate those from real companies or other trusted individuals and that may appear to be legitimate.

2. **Be Skeptical of Unsolicited Messages:** Be aware of seemingly real emails, texts and phone calls that ask you to urgently provide personal or account information. These tricks are especially successful when people are distracted by their busy lives. Don’t click on a link from any email or text that you receive unexpectedly and delete unsolicited incoming emails and

texts. Additionally, don’t provide any personal identifying or account information to any inbound communication by phone, email or text. Contact your bank or the merchant directly via known and trusted communication channels if you are concerned about an account that is the subject of an unsolicited or suspicious message.

3. **Don’t Take the Call—Make the Call:** If you get a call from an unknown number, don’t answer it or return it. Instead, reach out directly to your bank by logging in to its secure website or by calling the known customer service number from the back of your card to review account activity and information. Even if you get a call from a number which appears on caller ID as your bank’s name and number, do not provide personal information on that inbound call as fraudsters can easily spoof the incoming caller ID information.

Cyber-enabled fraud is very lucrative and bad actors work around the clock, using sophisticated algorithms that enable them to set up convincing confidence schemes that will trick you into giving away your credentials, your identity, even your life savings. Be vigilant to avoid taking the bait.

### Learn More

For further information about fraud and how to fight it, visit: [www.citi.com/fraudprevention](http://www.citi.com/fraudprevention).

## Earth TALK™ Will Air Conditioning Be the Death of Us?

Dear EarthTalk:

Is it true that as the planet warms, it will be the huge demand for and use of air conditioning that will push us all over the edge of cataclysmic warming?

—Joseph Still, New York, NY

As innocuous as it may seem, the common household air conditioner is actually a significant contributor to climate change! According to researchers from the Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and Xerox’s Palo Alto Research Center (PARC), almost four percent of global greenhouse gas emissions are the result of air conditioning use alone.

Even more worrisome, that number is expected to grow. AC usage, especially in countries like

India, China and Indonesia, has been increasing steadily as average yearly income increases. In an analysis by the International Energy Agency, it was found that AC use would likely triple by 2050.

AC usage is of course problematic, but it is also unavoidable, so what can we do? For starters, there are definitely improvements that could be made with regard to the engineering of AC units. Interestingly enough, the technology is quite archaic—in fact, it is nearly the same as it was 100 years ago.

Many air conditioners use a vapor compression cycle to cool the air inside your home. It is a system that requires refrigerants—chemical compounds like chlorofluorocarbons and hydrochlorofluorocarbons—to ac-

complish the cooling effect. However, most of these refrigerants actually destroy the ozone layer.

Thankfully, more modern air conditioners avoid the use of chlorofluorocarbons and hydrochlorofluorocarbons, opting for less destructive refrigerant alternatives. There are dozens available that do not harm the ozone layer; however, they are still considered greenhouse gasses.

Despite these improvements, modern air conditioners will still need a lot of re-engineering if we hope to ever make them carbon neutral. They are very inefficient, not just use, but in their production and transportation, too. According to the NREL and Xerox PARC study, of the 1,950 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) released into the atmosphere as a result of AC use every year, only

531 million tons are associated with actually cooling the air; 599 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> are associated with the dehumidification process, and 820 million tons are due solely to leakage during production and transportation.

Fortunately, there are a few worthwhile prototypes being tested today that may finally change the AC game for good. The startup Transaera has been testing what they call metal organic fibers (MOF’s), a type of manufactured, highly porous material, that is capable of passively pulling moisture from the air. Since almost half the energy usage of a traditional AC unit is spent on dehumidification, passive dehumidification would translate into huge energy savings, and therefore, huge carbon savings as well.

Another startup known as Blue Frontier has been working on an AC unit that uses liquid desiccants (drying agents) to passively dehumidify the air that passes

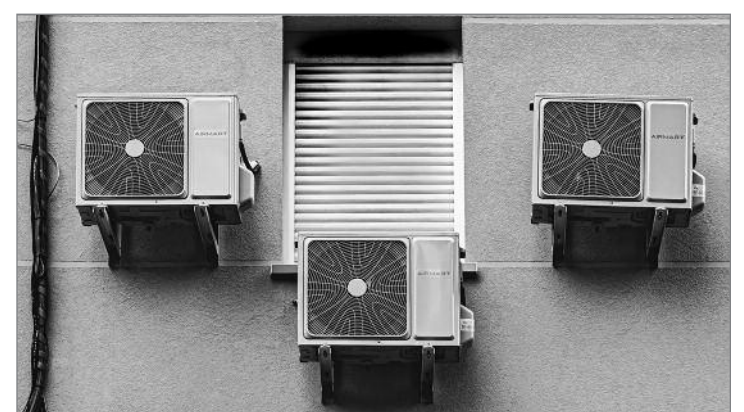


IMAGE CREDIT: PEXELS.COM.

Some new technologies hope to make the increasingly necessary “luxury” of air conditioning less of a planetary burden.

through it. In addition, the machine only uses refrigerants to regulate a heat pump that maintains the salt concentration of the desiccants. This vital change in design separates contact between the air passing through the machine and the refrigerant itself, thereby preventing refrigerant leakage. The end result is an AC unit that contributes 85-87 percent less carbon emissions than traditional AC

units!  
**CONTACTS:** Blue Frontier, [bluefrontierac.com/](http://bluefrontierac.com/); Transaera, [transaera.com/](http://transaera.com/).

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