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Alzheimer's Association Invites Prince George's County Residents to Walk to End Alzheimer's on October 29

By CINDY SCHELHORN
Alzheimer's Association
National Capital Area Chapter

MCLEAN, Va. (Oct. 17, 2022)—Prince George's County residents and their families and friends are uniting in a movement to reclaim the future for millions at the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's - Prince George's County on Saturday, Oct. 29 at the National Harbor's Capital Canopy.

Many community members have been participating in Walk to End Alzheimer's for several years. Among them is Oxon Hill resident Fran Braxton-Downs, who has participated in and volunteered for the Walk for the last 18 years and helped to bring the Walk to Prince George's County in 2014.

"My sister and I were my Mom's caregivers for over 3 years before her passing in

2006," said Braxton-Downs. "The Walk is my way of spreading the word about this disease and reaching many caregivers who feel they are alone. It's also about raising awareness that the Alzheimer's Association is here for them. Come to the Walk and see that you are not alone, and that there is HOPE! Listen to the stories of how caregivers function and how close we are to a cure."

Leading the team fundraising efforts once more is The Power of Love, headed by team captain Irma Nicholson of Upper Marlboro. Nicholson has participated in the Walk for the past six years in honor of her husband, who has been living with Alzheimer's for the past 15 years. "I chose The Power of Love as our team name because it was revealed through God's Holy Spirit. He said His power and the love for our loved ones will get us through. We

raised over \$14,000 last year, and have been the #1 team for last 3-4 years. I want to bring more awareness to Alzheimer's so the next generation won't have to deal with this dreadful disease."

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Since 2014, the Walk in Prince George's County has raised more than \$900,000. To date, this year's Walk has raised almost \$80,000 toward the goal of \$135,000.

Tonya Muse, Prince George's County resident and chair of the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter's board of directors, shared why funds raised through the Walk are so important. "I lost my paternal grandmother and father to Alzheimer's. I believe in the mission of the Alzheimer's Association. I want to raise money to support the research efforts in hopes that one day there will be a cure for this disease, and to help educate others who have family or friends impacted by the disease. Increasing awareness and building support will help others not feel like they are alone as they navigate through the impact this disease has on loved ones."

The Walk features a poignant Promise Garden ceremony—a mission-focused experience that signifies the solidarity of the Walk participants in the fight against the disease. The colors of the Promise Garden flowers represent people's personal connection to Alzheimer's:

Blue: Someone living with Alzheimer's or another dementia.

Purple: An individual who has lost someone to the disease.

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PHOTOS COURTESY ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA CHAPTER

Team Power of Love with their Promise Garden flowers.



Participant and advocate Fran Braxton-Downs



PHOTO COURTESY PGCPSS

Chidi Duru with students

PGCPS High School Science Teacher Receives Fulbright Award

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County
Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Oct. 19, 2022)—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) educator Dr. Chidi Duru, a teacher and Science Department Chair at Crossland High School, has earned a Fulbright Teachers for Global Classrooms Program award from the U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

"The Fulbright program will potentially help my students to gain a better appreciation of other cultures and acquire the global competencies and crucial critical thinking skills needed to thrive in the 21st Century," said Dr. Duru. "I tell my students to hold their heads high because they are as good as any students anywhere. I am eager to demonstrate this to them as they interact with students from across the United States and around the world."

An 18-year PGCPS educator and National Board Certified

Teacher (NBCT), Duru is a mentor to new NBCT candidates, a member of his school leadership team, professional development facilitator for PGCPS, and presenter at national conferences.

"Dr. Duru has represented Crossland for many years in the science community, and I'm proud of him as a colleague and member of the Crossland family," said Principal Dr. Michael Gilchrist. "He will continue to impact our community as a leader and our students are blessed to have him."

As a Fulbright recipient, Duru will join a network of thousands of esteemed scholars and leaders in their fields. Fulbright alumni include 60 Nobel Prize laureates, 89 Pulitzer Prize recipients, and 40 who have served as a head of state or government. Fulbrighters engage in cutting-edge research and expand their professional networks, often continuing research collaborations started abroad and laying the groundwork for forging future partnerships between institutions. Upon returning to their classrooms, they share their sto-

ries and often become active supporters of international exchange, inviting foreign scholars and educators to their school or campus and encouraging their colleagues and students to go abroad.

"I am so proud of this prestigious achievement that will offer unique opportunities and connections to impact not only students who pass through Dr. Duru's classroom, but students across the nation and globe," said Dr. Monica Goldson, PGCPS Chief Executive Officer.

The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government's flagship international educational exchange program. For over 75 years, the Fulbright Program has provided more than 400,000 participants—chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential—with the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas, and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns.

For more information about the Fulbright Program, visit <http://eca.state.gov/fulbright>.

Coalition Seeks Voting Access for Marylanders Awaiting Trial

By SHANNON CLARK
Capital News Service

LARGO, Md. (Oct. 18, 2022)—Thousands of Maryland residents will not cast a ballot in this year's election because they are behind bars. They have not had their voting rights taken from them. In fact, they have not been convicted of a crime.

But because they are in jail prior to adjudication, they won't get voting information. They won't get a ballot. They won't vote.

Qiana Johnson knows the situation from personal experience.

"When you are sitting in a jail cell, you don't care about a voter registration card," said Johnson, who was once incarcerated. "You don't care about a vote. You don't care about any of those things." "What you care about is getting home to your family."

Johnson is the CEO and executive director of Life After Release, an organization that works on issues for previously incarcerated Maryland residents. Her organization and other members of the Expand the Ballot Coalition are trying to focus attention on those currently and previously behind bars and their inability to exercise their right to vote.

Coalition members, which includes Freedom Fighters, PG ChangeMakers and the NAACP, spoke during a press conference outside the Prince George's County Board of Elections on Tuesday about the need for education and advocacy surrounding voting rights for those previously incarcerated in Maryland and others currently in jail awaiting trial.

According to a study by the Department of Justice, the average time in jail before going to trial for a person who is not able to attain pretrial release is about 135 days. Consequently, they are removed from the voting process.

Johnson said it points up the need for her and others like her.

"We need to go into the jails, into the prisons, because we are the ones they trust," Johnson said. Beginning in 1851, any Marylander with a felony on their record was permanently barred from voting. In 2007, the Maryland General Assembly passed the Voting Rights Restoration Act, which banned lifetime disenfranchisement and



SHANNON CLARK/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Qiana Johnson, a formerly incarcerated woman, speaks at the Expand the Ballot Coalition press conference on Tuesday (Oct. 18). Johnson, CEO and executive director of Life After Release, works with women as they transition from incarceration and back to their communities.



SHANNON CLARK/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Chy Brew and Troya Bagby, friends who met during their incarceration, had little knowledge about voting during their incarceration and are now working to educate other Black voters who were behind bars.

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Bowie State Joins Blackstone LaunchPad Entrepreneurship Network

Blackstone LaunchPad is a co-curricular program available to all students on the campuses regardless of their course of study.

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

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

VFW Post 9619 turns 75 on November 4

They were a bunch of Anacostia High School graduates who went off to fight in World War II and returned home to Anacostia where they spent their spare time hanging out at a drug store on Good Hope Road.

They talked about starting their own VFW Post in Anacostia, but there already was one. So, they applied to the Maryland VFW and on November 4, 1947, Veterans of Foreign War Post 9619 was chartered; Robert Burns was elected Post Commander. The Auxiliary was chartered a year later, on Nov. 13, 1948, and Commander Burns' wife Ethel was the first President.

The Post was named Scott-Johnson-Collins to honor James Vachel Scott, Alfred H. Johnson and Michael Francis Collins, three who died in action during the War. Scott and Johnson had gone to Anacostia High School; Collins graduated from Eastern.

The early meetings were at Strick's Restaurant, corner of Branch Avenue and Naylor Road, on Tuesdays (because Strick's was closed on Tuesdays). For the next 18 years the Post met at various locations including the Half-Shell (later, Riordan's) and the Telephone Building, which they bought. Stanley Ridgeway, one of their members, arranged the sale of the Telephone Building, and later the purchase of the I.C.E. Club on Suitland Road, which became the Post home in 1965.

Two years later a memorial wall was built along Suitland Road in front of the Post and two cannons—one from Silver Hill and the other from St. John's College High School—were added. The flagpole and flag were gifts of the McDonald Restaurant Corporation.

A number of famous people have been members of Post 9619, but perhaps the most famous was Gen. Benjamin D. Foulois, "Father of the U.S. Air Force," who flew with the Wright Brothers, served under General Pershing, led the first American Squadron in dogfights with the Germans in WWI, and was responsible for the adoption of the B-17 in WWII. He died at Andrews on April 25, 1967. A school in Morningside is named for him.

On November 4, VFW 9619 turns 75. Commander James Holland and other VFW officers will be in New Hampshire for the Eastern State Conference on that date. The Post's 75th celebration will be at another time.

Nola is 75, too

Nola Cook, General Manager of VFW 9619, turned 75 on Oct. 18. I

went by the Post and spent time learning about the Post and about her.

She was born in Washington, moved to Hillcrest Heights and was in the first graduating class of Crossland High School. She is now widowed and living in Anne Arundel. Her son Ramon Valdez, known as Boo, died suddenly of a heart attack; he was only in his forties.

Nola has been General Manager for 45 years. The bartenders threw her a party to celebrate her on her big day. Happy Birthday, Nola!

Town of Morningside: Halloween, now & then

Halloween will be celebrated in Morningside on Sat., October 29, as cars pull into the parking lot at 7 p.m. for Trunk-or-Treating and the Car Decoration Contest. Then you can bring blankets and watch the Halloween classic, Hocus Pocus 2. Refreshments will be on sale. To register or for Info: 301-736-2301.

How many of you old-time Morningsiders remember what Halloween was like back when you were a kid? We'd have trick-or-treat a day early, on Oct. 30; almost every house participated, meaning that kids came home with a huge sack of goodies. The Halloween Parade-and-Costume-judging was on Oct. 31.

I pulled my file for Halloween 1979. After the Parade, "Several hundred children in costume, parents and workers ate 50 dozen doughnuts and drank gallons of Coke, while Mayor Gerald Glaubitz emceed the costume-judging. Judges were Frances Boswell, Marty Barlow, Charles Roberts and Bonnie Kamenicky." Teen winners were Todd Ellis, Pam Tice, Bob Jumalon, Mark Talbott and Steve Witherow. There are too many younger winners to list.

The event was a joint project of the Town, the Morningside-Skyline Parks & Recreation Council, and the Morningside Sportsmen.

Neighbors & other good people

Jerry Edward Jenkins, 79, of Lake Mary, Fla., died October 8. Sue Mason wrote that he grew up one street up from her in Dillon Park and was a member of Suitland Class of 1961. His friend Larry Medley remembered, "We always had fun in Dillon Park with Jerry growing up sleigh-riding down Harper Street Hill when we had snow, and the block parties when the streets were closed off." Janie Darcangelo remembered Jerry on the first day of school—he was "handsome and nice to talk with."

Daughter Therese Gallegos has been with me for a week, and is now back home in Brownsville, Tex. We attended the Van Gogh Immersive Experience in Washington—pricey, but worth every cent. I give it 5 stars. Then we took a ride to Delaware and stayed overnight at the home of Teddy Burke who used to live next door on Skyline Drive. We also toured the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park in Dorchester County, Md. Very much worth the trip! Therese's visit was much too short, but we made good use of it.

Gingerbread House Contest—register by Nov. 4

It's not too late! Darnall's Chance Museum is looking for contestants of all ages for the Annual Gingerbread House Contest & Show. Show off your creative talents with a homemade gingerbread structure. Deadline for registration is November 4 and the registration fee is \$5.

There are three divisions: Adult (age 17 & up), Child (8 to 16), and Family (group of 3 to 7 individuals of any age). Prizes range from \$50 to \$100. Rules and Info: 301-952-8010.

Darnall's Chance is at 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, overlooking Schoolhouse Pond in Upper Marlboro. By the way, I always visit the Museum to see the winning entrees—I would love for one of them to be yours.

Schools

Bishop McNamara High School, in Forestville, holds its Fall 2022 Open House on Oct. 30, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information: bmhs.org/admissions/visit.

Elementary and middle school students in Prince George's County could see changes in where they attend class starting next school year. The school board is reviewing a proposal that would increase enrollment at newer schools and lower the number of students attending schools scheduled for renovation or replacement. Enrollment in the school district is the 2nd largest in Maryland and is projected to increase from its current 136,000 to 142,000; 12 new schools or renovations are planned.

All Souls Day

If you have loved ones buried at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton, you may want to attend the Commemoration of All Souls Day on Wednesday,

See **MORNINGSIDE** Page A6

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

NATIONAL CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH

Rev. Dorothea Belt Stroman of Clinton United Methodist Church in Clinton, Maryland was presented with a Pastor Appreciation Gift during National Clergy Appreciation Month. "Pastor Stroman is a good shepherd who works tirelessly within our church and the community. She is highly respected for her leadership, compassion, and spiritual walk with God. She helps to guide our personal relationship with Jesus Christ through her sermons and teachings. While her pastoral work may seem effortless, there is so much more that takes place behind the scenes than we know. Pastor Stroman answers late calls about major life events and responds to email and voicemail messages from congregants needing prayers for either themselves or friends and family members. She is dedicated to her calling as a pastor and is a true example of a woman of God who earnestly seeks to serve the Lord. Her work at Clinton United Methodist Church in Clinton, Maryland has been a blessing to us."

"On behalf of the United Board, I would like to express my gratitude to Pastor Stroman for your time, efforts, and service in ongoing work for the church as well as for your contributions towards various ministries at Clinton United Methodist Church this year. Thank you for your kindness, generosity, and continued support. May God richly bless you. Respectfully yours in Christ." Written by Evangeline C. Crawford, Clinton United Methodist Church Unified Board Chair.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Festival of lights will be on display Friday, November 25, 2022—Sunday, January 1, 2023, nightly from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Fees: Cars pay \$10 online and \$15 at the gate, Van/Limo: \$20, Bus: \$30. Free admission December 25 in appreciation to the residents of Prince George's County for their year-round support of the Department of Parks and Recreation programs. Make a difference this season. Please bring canned goods for the donation to local Food Banks. Location and directions, Watkins Regional Park, please enter along route 202.

Save time and money, buy online. Cars pay \$10 with online purchases or \$15 admission at the gate. Purchase tickets online at pgparksdirect.com. For your safety and the safety of our staff, face coverings are required if interacting with personnel.

Bikes and Lights, Sunday, November 20, 2022, 5–8 p.m., \$5.00 per bike. Kids 1 year and under free. Registration is required. Register through Parks Direct using registration code: NRLS-SPECGA-20221120.

The event was so amazing last year that it sold out. They are offering it again this year. Enjoy a unique experience riding your bike through the Winter Festival of Lights. Experience dazzling scenes that celebrate the magic of the holiday season. For safety, bike lights and helmets are required. Costumes and bike decorations are welcome. No vehicles will be allowed during this time.

ANNUAL HOMECOMING

Annual Homecoming will begin at 11 a.m. October 30, 2022, at Christ United Methodist Church in Aquasco, Maryland with melody and ministry during a special Testimonial Service. The Theme is Lord Expand Our Territory. The celebration of Praise and Worship will begin at noon. Everyone will enjoy a musical concert to conclude this amazing day.

PGCPS

Prince George's County Public Schools operates the largest high schools in the state of Maryland. The two high schools are Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr., located at 12350 Brooke Lane, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772, telephone number is 301-780-2100; and Northwestern High School, which is a public comprehensive and magnet high school in Hyattsville, Maryland.

WORKFORCE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Base Camp is a monthly informational and resource session for all members of the armed forces. This series, a partnership between PGCMLS and Prince George's County Office of Veterans Affairs offers participants access to upcoming events, information, initiatives, and resources that can aid veterans and their families. Veterans, active military, ROTC, potential service members, and family members are welcome. The last Wednesday of every month at 1 p.m. Registration is required for the Virtual Event. pgcmls.info/events.

Around the County

Prince George's County to Host Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Recycling Event Oct. 29

Residents can properly dispose of household chemicals and old electronics for free

LARGO, Md. (Oct. 14, 2022)—County residents looking for a way to dispose of both household hazardous waste (HHW) and old electronics (E-Waste) safely can drive thru or drop off their items at the next Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Recycling event **Saturday, October 29**, at Friendly Senior High School, 10000 Allentown Road, Fort Washington, from 8 a.m.–1 p.m. Participants may be asked to show proof of County residency.

This is the second HHW and E-Waste collection event held this year. More than 740 residents dropped off items at the first event held at Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School in Beltsville. The total collection of materials filled two 28-foot box trucks of HHW waste and two 40-yard roll-off containers of E-Waste. DoE will hold two additional events in 2023 and will announce the dates and locations when scheduled.

"DoE is pleased to provide this opportunity to our residents to dispose of household hazardous waste and electronic items properly," said Director Andrea Crooms. "We want to continue to make it convenient for Prince Georgians to demonstrate their commitment to protecting the environment."

Some accepted items include oil-based paints, pesticides, herbicides, propane tanks, household batteries, cell phones, and computer monitors. To see a list of other accepted items, visit bit.ly/pgcwastefacilities.

The following materials cannot be accepted: business or commercial waste, biological or infectious waste, hypodermic needles or syringes, radioactive waste, prescription medicine, explosives, ammunition, and unknown items. The onsite staff reserves the right to refuse any item brought to the event.

For more information about HHW and E-Waste collection, visit bit.ly/pgcwastefacilities or contact PGC311.

—Linda Lowe, Prince George's County Department of the Environment

Prince George's County Office of Transportation Selected as Recipient of the Coveted "Transit Fleet of the Year Award"

LARGO, Md. (Oct. 19, 2022)—The Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) receive[d] the Transit Fleet of the Year Award from the Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GRWCCC) on October 20, 2022. This award was founded in 1993 as part of an initiative spearheaded by the U.S. Department of Energy. The GRWCCC gives this award out every year to the transit fleet that has best shown its commitment to using alternative energy sources within its fleet, as well as other measures implemented to improve fuel economy, lower the carbon footprint, and increase overall rider safety.

"We are Prince George's Proud that DPW&T has been recognized as a leader in the transit community by receiving the Transit Fleet of the Year Award," said Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "Since early 2021, Prince George's County has proudly integrated 12 new battery electric buses into its TheBus fleet. These new buses will reduce the carbon footprint of the fleet, help improve the air quality for County residents and reduce the cost it takes to keep a bus operational."

"The department takes pride in being innovative leaders of change and forging forward with Zero Emission Transition planning," said DPW&T Director, Michael Johnson. "DPW&T is excited to launch its "Proud to Charge" initiative bringing emerging technology, advanced workforce development, and improved air quality for our residents."

Prince George's County's transit system includes more than 70 bus routes in the County through TheBus, Call-A-Bus, Paratransit services, the upcoming Purple line light rail spanning 16 miles, 15 Metrorail stations, and RideSmart solutions that provide alternative transportation options. The advancements and the accomplishments that the County is making continues to connect communities with diversity, equity, and inclusive transit programming.

Also, since the beginning of the pandemic, Prince George's County DPW&T has prioritized the safety of its riders and operators. Every bus is outfitted with sanitization station and protective shield. Operators and other personnel are continuously provided PPE to maintain clean environments onboard the buses, reducing the transmission of COVID-19.

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.

—Paulette L. Jones, Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation

Statement: Council Chair Calvin S. Hawkins, II, Announces Resignation of District 4 Council Member Todd M. Turner

Council Member Todd M. Turner has resigned, effective Saturday, October 22, 2022.

First elected to the District 4 Council seat in 2014, and reelected in 2018, the Honorable Todd M. Turner, has served Prince Georgians and this body with impeccable integrity and a sense of justice and fairness for nearly 20 years.

I have watched him place the interests of this body ahead of his own, and the legacy he leaves is one of excellence. Former Chair Todd Turner provided strong leadership of this body for two consecutive years, and successfully guided this Council as we transitioned to virtual governance in the face of an unprecedented global pandemic.

His measured approach and steady hand, even when challenged with adversity and uncertainty, has been a gift to us all, and it was my unique privilege to serve as his Vice-Chair in Legislative Year 2020.

We will miss our Council colleague, thank him for his leadership, and wish him Godspeed as he charts new paths for serving our great County.

The District 4 Council office will remain responsive to the needs of constituents. For assistance, District 4 residents can call 301-952-3094 or email councildistrict4@co.pg.md.us

—Karen D. Campbell, Prince George's County Council Media

COMMUNITY

74-Year-Old Participates in 5k Walk-A-Thon!

And was very close to the front runner

By JANICE EUPELL
Something to Think About Podcast

FREDERICKSBURG, Va. (Oct. 14, 2022)—Even though Barbara J. Black, a former resident of Prince George's County, recently relocated to Fredericksburg, Virginia, we still consider her a Prince Georgian. Her story needs to be shared because she is a real inspiration to her peer group. She participated in the 10th Annual Virginia Heritage at Lee's Park 5K Walkathon this month and was only 20 minutes behind the winner who finished in 48 minutes. Way to go #125!

Ms. Black is a very active senior. How did she do it? She walks 3-5 miles 3 to 5 times a week anyway. She doesn't allow her age to be a deterrent for not keeping up with her fitness regime, which accounts for

her good physical condition that enables her to walk a 5k race, take two minutes to change, ride to Richmond, stay all day and come back home in the evening. She also goes bowling, mows her own lawn and keeps her home spotless.

All of us can take a cue from Ms. Black and take the need for physical activity seriously as we ease into our next phases of life.

Congratulations, Ms. Black—you are to be congratulated and admired for showing us what it takes to live without assisted living facilities.

The most endearing quality of all of these things is that she is this writer's best friend! We look forward to seeing you in your red corvette or on the red carpet!

Please feel free to send her a note of congratulations to www.somethingtothinkaboutpod.com.

Oxon Hill Native Serves in the Combat Information Center Aboard USS Chung-Hoon



PHOTO CREDIT U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 3RD CLASS KENNETH LAGADI

221017-N-ZQ263-1092 PACIFIC OCEAN (Oct. 17, 2022) U.S. Navy Operations Specialist 1st Class Brian Daniels, from Oxon Hill, Md., checks status of communications systems in the combat information center aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93). Chung-Hoon is currently operating with Nimitz Carrier Strike Group in preparation for an upcoming deployment.

Oldest Known World War II Veteran Laid to Rest at Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery

Mr. Ezra Edward Hill's family presented with Maryland State Flag and Memorial Tribute Certificate

By DANA BURL, MA
Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (Oct. 18, 2022)—Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) Deputy Secretary Robert Finn was honored today to represent Maryland Governor Larry Hogan at the interment service for the nation's oldest known World War II Veteran. Mr. Ezra Edward Hill, a veteran of the United States Army, was laid to rest at MDVA's Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery in Owings Mills.

At [last Tues]day's viewing for Mr. Hill, Deputy Secretary Finn presented the family with a Maryland State Flag flown over the State House in Annapolis. In addition to the flag and certificate, they were given a memorial tribute certificate honoring his life achievements signed by Governor Hogan, Lt Governor Rutherford and Secretary of State John Wobensmith.

Mr. Hill was born in Maryland on December 19, 1910 and graduated from Frederick Douglass High School in 1931. He opened a shoe store on Gay Street in Baltimore and remained in business for 60 years before retiring. Mr. Hill was drafted during World War II and served in the United States Army; he landed at Normandy shortly after D-Day. After the war, he returned to his shoe salesman career. Mr. Hill passed

away October 4, 2022 and was the oldest known American man.

"Just before Veterans Day last year, I had the incredible opportunity to talk with Ezra Hill about his service to our nation and the secrets of his longevity," said Governor Hogan. "Today, as this Maryland hero is laid to rest, I am reminded of his amazing selflessness and positivity. On behalf of an eternally grateful state, we extend our heartfelt condolences to Ezra's family and loved ones."

"Today at Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery, a true American hero was laid to rest," said MDVA Secretary George Owings. "We are humbled to now provide the perpetual care and dignity Mr. Hill deserves for his civilian and military achievements."

MDVA operates one of the busiest state cemetery programs in the nation. The first state veteran's cemetery was established in December 1976 in Hurluck, Maryland. Since then, four additional cemeteries have opened to include Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery. Since December 1983, more than 40,000 veterans and dependents have selected the cemetery in Owings Mills as their final resting place. MDVA is honored to provide perpetual care for the five state veterans cemeteries. For more information visit veterans.maryland.gov/cemetery-and-memorial-program/

Prince George's County Artists, Volunteers Assemble Artwork for New Abortion Clinic

By PRESS OFFICER
The Clinic Art Project

MOUNT RAINIER, Md. (Oct. 16, 2022)—On Oct. 16, as part of The Clinic Art Project, local artists and community volunteers helped assemble a major art installation for an abortion clinic that is opening in Prince George's County.

"Right now, abortion clinics need support from their communities, and Prince George's County is a community of artists. Our work can help ground these critical healthcare facilities and remind providers and patients that they are not alone," lead artist Valerie Theberge stated.

Partners in Abortion Care will soon provide expert abortion care—including later abortion care—in an affirming and supportive environment. It will serve both patients from the community and from across the country, as many patients are now being forced to travel to receive abortion care.

Theberge worked with the clinic's team to design one of her signature floating walls for the space. Theberge and a group of local artists gathered dozens of community volunteers to help put the art-



PHOTO COURTESY THE CLINIC ART PROJECT

A group of local artists gathered dozens of community volunteers to help put the artwork together.

work together. Her team will soon install the piece at the clinic.

"So many have rallied around us as we prepare to open our clinic," said Partners in Abortion Care co-founder Morgan Nuzzo. "We are grateful to Valerie and The Clinic Art Project for donating their time and talent—and infusing our clinic

with the spirit of community."

Greater Good Strategy donated \$5,000 and the Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council donated \$1,500 to help cover materials and expenses. Additionally, the Clinic Art Project crowd-sourced \$5,931 in donations from the broader community.

Washington International Horse Show Returns to D.C. Area After Two-Year Hiatus

The 64th Annual Equine Extravaganza Will Be Held From Oct. 24-30 at the Show Place Arena, Prince George's Premier Equestrian Center

By RAY FELDMANN
Town of Upper Marlboro

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Oct. 20, 2022)—Prince George's County, the Town of Upper Marlboro, and The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County are excited to host the 64th annual Washington International Horse Show (WIHS) beginning [this] week at The Show Place Arena, County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and Mayor Sarah Franklin said [last Thursday morning] during a kickoff news conference at the event venue.

Alsobrooks and Franklin were joined last Thursday morning by Experience Prince George's President and CEO Leslie W. Graves; WIHS Executive Director Mary Helen Shaughnessy; Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning (M-NCPPC) Deputy Director for Parks and Facilities Management Steven Carter; and Maryland Horse Industry Board Executive Director Ross Peddicord.

The WIHS returns to the Washington, DC area this year following a two-year hiatus when it was held outdoors at the Tryon International Equestrian Center (TIEC) in North Carolina due to coronavirus concerns. This year's show in Upper Marlboro being held Oct. 24-30 will include seven days and three nights of thrilling five-star international jumping, top hunters, entertaining exhibitions, and special events for the whole family.

"We are Prince George's Proud to be able to host the prestigious Washington International Horse Show in Prince George's County, the Crown Jewel of Maryland," Alsobrooks said. "Some of the most talented equestrian riders from across the country and world will be gathered here, which will have a significant economic impact on our County and State. We look forward to an amazing competition and being able to showcase all that Prince George's County has to offer."

Hosting the WIHS in Upper Marlboro is particularly noteworthy, Mayor Franklin said, because of the town's historical connection to horses and equestrian events. The region around Upper Marlboro is home to a horse-riding facilities and even hosts a residential community that offers horse stabling.

"We are excited to welcome the Washington International Horse Show back to the Metro DC region," Mayor Franklin said. "The Town is especially honored to be hosting this event in Upper Marlboro. The Show Place Arena is expanding and continuing its tradition of hosting

nationally acclaimed equestrian events such as the WIHS. Welcoming this prestigious show is another step toward achieving our goal of becoming a regional tourist destination."

Experience Prince George's, the official destination marketing organization for Prince George's County, shared the mayor's enthusiasm about this year's event being held at The Show Place Arena.

"The Show Place Arena is an ideal setting for this illustrious event, and as our sports industry continues to flourish, we look forward to welcoming the equine community and all attendees to experience a sport of this distinction," said Leslie W. Graves, President and CEO of Experience Prince George's.

Carter echoed Graves' comments about the Show Place Arena, which M-NCPPC operates.

"M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County is committed to providing a world-class experience at all our facilities, and The Show Place Arena is a great example," said Steven Carter, Deputy Director of Parks and Facilities Management for M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County. "We take pride in our agency's diverse programs, facilities, and services that all contribute to the County's dynamic offerings for residents and visitors to the region. We're excited to welcome the Washington International Horse Show to Prince George's County, and we look forward to continuing our support for events like this in the future."

Daytime events will be held throughout the week (Monday, Oct. 24 through Sunday, Oct. 30) and will include "hunters," where horses are judged on accuracy, grace, and elegance as they jump a course of natural-style obstacles similar to what might be found in fox-hunting. The daytime events will also feature junior and amateur jumpers, where young riders will compete over decorated courses where speed and accuracy determine the winner.

Evening events will take place [this] Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Oct. 27-29. These evening events will include international show jumping, entertaining exhibitions, and the WIHS equitation final.

"We are very excited that the 64th annual Washington International Horse Show will take place at The Show Place Arena at Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, Maryland," stated Mary Helen Shaughnessy, Executive Director, WIHS. "Our return to the D.C. area will be particularly exceptional and we're extremely grateful for the pos-

itive reception and hard work put forth by Maryland state and Prince George's County officials and teams that are dedicated to making this event the best yet. The show's new FEI five-star designation means this year's event will attract more of the world's top riders, from 10 different countries, including Olympic medalists McLain Ward, Jessica Springsteen, Laura Kraut, Kent Farrington, and Rodrigo Pessoa, as well as last year's Grand Prix winner Tiffany Foster of Canada.

"The new partnership with National Harbor enables us to offer exhibitors, spectators, and sponsors special access to top lodging, entertainment, and community events, including the popular WIHS Kids' Day," Shaughnessy added. "WIHS has long been known for its world-class jumping and its ability to bring horses to people in the surrounding areas so we're looking forward to a successful and engaging event that will be beneficial for equestrian sport and our local communities alike."

Additional WIHS highlights taking place during the week will include Barn Night on Thursday, Oct. 27; Military Night presented by Boeing on Friday, Oct. 28; an inaugural ETHOS Award Ceremony (to recognize contributions by African Americans to the horse world) and World Cup Night on Saturday, Oct. 29; and Kids' Day activities on Saturday, Oct. 29 at The Show Place Arena Equestrian Center.

Details about all of the week's events can be found at the WIHS website: wihs.org.

Established in 1958, the Washington International Horse Show is one of North America's most prestigious, competitive, and entertaining equestrian events with competition for international, professional, amateur, junior, and child riders. Highlights include the \$406,000 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Washington for the President's Cup presented by Experience Prince George's, and the WIHS Equitation Finals and Children's and Adult Hunter and Jumper Championships, plus popular community and charity events, including Kids' Day and Barn Night. WIHS, an official USEF Heritage Competition, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization. For more information, visit wihs.org.

The Show Place Arena is an adaptable entertainment and sports facility that can configure to accommodate a variety of event types. The Arena has been the venue for college basketball tournaments, cheer and dance events, consumer shows, concerts, rodeos, nationally acclaimed equestrian events, graduations and the Prince George's County Fair.

COMMUNITY

Free Halloween Weekend Lyft Rides Offered Throughout Greater Washington to Prevent Drunk Driving

Nearly half (46%) of U.S. traffic deaths on Halloween involve drunk drivers

By ALEXANDRA LUCCHESI
WRAP

WASHINGTON (Oct. 17, 2022)—Preparing to combat that time of year when, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, almost half (46%) of U.S. traffic deaths involve drunk drivers,* a local non-profit organization announced today that free safe rides will be offered to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area during this Halloween weekend.

Offered by the non-profit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) the, 2022 Halloween SoberRide® program will be in operation from 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 29 and operate until 4 a.m. on Sunday, October 30 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk period.

During this twelve-hour period, area residents age 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download the Lyft app to their phones, then enter the SoberRide® code in the app's "Payment" tab (under the "Add Lyft Pass" option) to receive their no-cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home.

WRAP's 2022 Halloween SoberRide® promo code will be posted at 3 p.m. on Saturday, October 29 on www.SoberRide.com.

Nearly half of U.S. traffic fatalities during Halloween involve drunk drivers according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration," said Kurt Erickson, WRAP's President. "Halloween is of particular con-

cern for younger drivers as 2020 NHTSA data shows that 68-percent of drunk driving deaths on U.S. roadways during the fall holiday involve drivers ages 21 to 34."

During the 2021 Halloween period, 700 (777) persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used WRAP's SoberRide® program rather than possibly driving home impaired. The charity also offers its SoberRide® program on St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Independence Day and the winter holidays.

"Lyft is dedicated to providing access to reliable and responsible rides, and we're proud to partner with programs like WRAP to offer Lyft as an alternative to impaired driving," said Kamillah Wood, Director of Public Policy for Community Safety at Lyft. "Through our Roadway Safety Program and our partnerships with the public, we hope to empower our community with the tools to protect themselves and those around them this holiday season."

SoberRide® is offered throughout Lyft's Washington D.C. coverage area which includes all or parts of: the District of Columbia; the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince George's and towns therein plus the cities of Bowie, College Park, District Heights, Gaithersburg, Glenarden, Greenbelt, Hyattsville, Laurel, Mount Ranier, New Carrollton, Rockville, Seat Pleasant and Takoma Park; and the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William and towns therein plus the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park.

Sponsors of WRAP's 2022 Halloween SoberRide® campaign include the 395 Express Lanes, Amazon, Anheuser-Busch, Beer Institute, Brown-Forman, Constellation Brands, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Foundation of Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, Giant Food, Glory Days Grill, Kendall-Jackson, Lyft, Molson Coors Beverage Company, New Belgium Brewing, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington, and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association. WRAP's 2022 Partner SoberRide®

Sponsors include the District of Columbia Department of Transportation, Maryland Highway Safety Office/Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration and Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

Since 1991, WRAP's SoberRide® program has provided 82,735 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

Founded in 1982, the nonprofit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is a coalition of diverse interests using effective education, innovative programs and targeted advocacy to end alcohol-impaired driving and underage drinking in the Washington, DC metro area. www.SoberRide.com.

* National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2020, 46% of all U.S. traffic fatalities from 6 p.m. October 31 to 5:59 a.m. November 1.

Workshops Will Help Adults, Children and Teens Cope With Grief During the Holidays

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (Oct. 17, 2022)—For many years, Chesapeake Life Center's popular Living with Loss through the Holidays workshops have helped adults grieving a loss get through a difficult time of the year. This year, children and teens can get that help, too.

The season begins with an adult workshop hosted by Calvert Hospice, an affiliate brand of Hospice of the Chesapeake. It will be held from 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Nov. 19, at the Burnett Calvert Hospice House, 4559 Sixes Road, Prince Frederick, Maryland. Led by grief professionals, participants can join in group activities that help them find a way to honor the memory of their loved ones while still granting

themselves permission to grieve.

The adult workshop will be held again for adults on from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 7, at two different locations: On the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, Maryland, and at the Prince George's County office at 9500 Medical Center Drive, Suite 250, Largo, Maryland. For those who prefer to participate from their own home, the Largo session also will be held via Zoom. Participants will be able to interact with those in attendance.

There are two opportunities for children ages 6 to 18 to take part in holiday-themed activities that will help them learn about getting through the holidays without their special person. Each will include breakout sessions for various age groups. The first children and teens workshop will be held

from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 7, on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena. The second will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 14 at the Calvert Library Prince Frederick, 850 Costley Way.

Other than the Calvert library workshop, which is free, the cost is \$10 per person. Registration is required and can be completed by calling 1-888-501-7077 or emailing griefinfo@chesapeakehospice.org.

Chesapeake Life Center, a program service of Hospice of the Chesapeake, serves hospice family members and the community with bereavement services and activities aimed at enhancing the quality of life for those grieving the loss of a loved one. For more information, visit www.chesapeakehospice.org.

Elected Officials, Community Leaders Urge Voters to Legalize Cannabis

By TIMOTHY DASHIELL
Capital News Service

BALTIMORE (Oct. 20, 2022)—Members of the Maryland House of Delegates and community members, including retired law enforcement and former Baltimore Ravens player Eugene Monroe, said Thursday legalization of recreational cannabis would create new jobs and investment opportunities and save the state money by eliminating the incarceration of thousands of residents annually on marijuana possession charges.

Spearheaded by Monroe's advocacy organization, Yes on 4, the group urged Maryland residents to vote yes on question four to approve legalization of recreational cannabis when they go to the polls Nov. 8.

"Marijuana sales would create tens of thousands of well-paying jobs," Monroe said during a press conference in West Baltimore. "It would also open doors for hundreds of new small business owners and create opportunities for workers in other industries, including those in real estate, construction and manufacturing."

A recent poll by the Washington Post and the University of Maryland showed that 73% of registered Maryland voters support legalization of recreational cannabis.

"The numbers show Maryland residents want to legalize cannabis, because they know it will create good paying jobs and boost the state's economy," he said.

Maryland is one of five states that will consider legalization initiatives on Nov. 8, including Arkansas, Missouri, North Dakota, and South Dakota. So far, 19 states and Washington, D.C. have legalized cannabis for adults 21 and older.

Advocates Thursday said taxes from marijuana sales would generate tens of millions of dollars that could be used to repair neighborhoods disproportionately affected by the "war on drugs."

"Independent analysis suggests marijuana legalization would provide the state with over \$135 million in tax revenue," Monroe said. "That figure doesn't even include the savings from the more than \$100 million Maryland spends each year en-

forcing marijuana possession laws."

Monroe noted how taxes on cannabis sales have been used in other states.

Colorado, the first state to legalize recreational cannabis use, has raked in millions in taxes on its sales and licensing.

According to the Colorado General Assembly, 10% of the revenue from taxes on marijuana retail sales is allocated to local governments while the remaining money is divided between healthcare, health education, substance abuse programs, law enforcement and a special fund for public education.

Colorado received over \$423 million in cannabis tax revenue in 2021, according to state officials. Since the state began receiving cannabis sales tax revenue in 2014, Colorado has received \$2.2 billion, officials said.

Massachusetts, which is closer to Maryland in population, legalized recreational cannabis in 2016. The state received over \$175 million in tax revenue in 2021, according to the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission.

Alzheimers from A1

Yellow: A person who is currently supporting or caring for someone living with Alzheimer's.

Orange: A participant who supports the cause and the Association's vision of a world without Alzheimer's and other dementia.

According to the Alzheimer's Association, an estimated 6.5 million Americans age 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's disease, including 110,000 in Maryland. More 242,000 Marylanders are among the 11 million Americans who provide unpaid care to someone living with Alzheimer's. The estimated value of that unpaid care nationwide is valued at \$271.6 billion dollars.

"There has never been a greater need for the community to join in the fight against Alzheimer's disease by participating in Walk to End Alzheimer's," said Kate Rooper, President and CEO of the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter. "Funds raised through the Walk will provide information, education and support to people living with Alzheimer's and their families and caregivers, while also contributing to advancing critically-needed research."

Registration will open at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday. The ceremony will begin at 9:30 a.m., followed by the Walk. Participation is free; however, participants are encouraged to raise funds. The health and safety of participants, staff and volunteers remain the top priorities, so the Alzheimer's Association will continue to closely monitor CDC, state and local guidelines to ensure Walk events adhere to the latest recommendations. For more information and to register, visit alz.org/ncawalks or contact Sonya Amartey at 703-766-9025 or samartey@alz.org.

Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's®

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Since 1989, the Alzheimer's Association mobilized millions of Americans in the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk®; now the Alzheimer's Association is continuing to lead the way with Walk to End Alzheimer's. Together, we can end Alzheimer's.

Alzheimer's Association®

The Alzheimer's Association is a worldwide voluntary health organization dedicated to Alzheimer's care, support and research. Its mission is to lead the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia—by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. Visit alz.org or call 800.272.3900.

Voting from A1

gave back voting rights to Marylanders who had completed all terms of their felony sentence.

In 2016, the General Assembly extended the act to those on parole or probation, allowing approximately 40,000 felons at the time the ability to vote again. The Expand the Ballot Coalition formed the same year to bring together voting rights organizations in Maryland, hoping to increase voter turnout at elections, Johnson said.

The problem now, say those in the coalition, is that too many residents on probation or parole are unfamiliar with their rights and the steps that have to be taken for them to vote.

"There is a huge lack of information in regards to the rights of formerly incarcerated people being able to have the right to vote," said Alexis Kurtz-Hoggarg, operations director for Life After Release, and because of that, that is why you see a lack of turnout."

Robert Morgan, a lawyer with Freedom Fighters, an organization that provides parole consultation, agreed.

"You can't exercise a right that you don't know you have," Morgan said.

Of particular concern for the coalition is the disproportionate number of African Americans among the group the coalition seeks to empower.

Of the nearly 18,600 people in prison in Maryland in 2019, 71% of the prison population was Black, while Black people made up 29% of the state population, according to 2019 state imprisonment data records from a 2021 The Sentencing Project report.

Black Voters Matter, an organization focused on increasing voting in predominantly Black communities, donated vans to the coalition to use over the next three weeks. Representatives from the coalition will visit state jails and detention centers to educate incarcerated Marylanders on the importance of voting.

The Prince George's Post

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PHOTO CREDIT TIMOTHY DASHIELL CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Former Baltimore Ravens player Eugene Monroe, in rear, and members of Yesfor4 are urging Maryland residents to vote yes on question four on the ballot to approve legalization of recreational cannabis when they go to the polls Nov. 8.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

How Do I Handle an Overpayment Notice From Social Security?

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

Dear Rusty: Things have gone good for me until now. I got a job and have enjoyed going back to work after being retired. But I just got some bad news—a letter from Social Security saying I owe them \$17,000 because when I went back to work, I earned more than allowed in 2021. They never mentioned that I told them I was going back to work! They now say they can't pay me benefits in 2022 because I am working. Good job SSA, since I told you when I went back to work! Anyway, I can't repay them all at once, I'm lucky to buy gas to get groceries. They list items for a waiver, but I am not sure what is best for me. I was planning on moving for health reasons, but if I paid them all at once I have nothing left for the move. I just started my research on how to handle this but hoped you would have some insight. **Signed: Un-retired Worker**

Dear Un-retired Worker: Sorry to hear of the Overpayment Notice you have received from Social Security. Here are my thoughts: The repayment options they offered you are probably a) remit the entire amount in full or b) have your SS benefits withheld until they recover what you owe, or c) ask for special payment terms because doing either of the above is a hardship.

At this juncture, you can request a waiver of the Overpayment in either of two ways:

- File form SSA-632, which essentially says you agree you've been overpaid but think you shouldn't be required to pay it back because it wasn't your fault (it was Social Security's fault because you notified them when you returned to work).
- File form SSA-634, which essentially says you agree you've been overpaid and want to pay it back, but you can't afford to pay it back in the manner they've offered.

I suggest you start by filing SSA-632, mainly because you notified them in August of 2021 that you had returned to work and they, nevertheless, continued to pay you thus causing the overpayment themselves (see Section 3, question.12 of SSA-632). While I can't predict the probability of you having the entire amount waived, I think there's a reasonably good chance they may provide you with some special accommodation because the overpayment was, indeed, a result of their own inaction after you notified them you had returned to work.

I suspect what happened is that they simply neglected to act after you notified them, and then when they received your 2021 earnings data from the IRS, they found you had earned more than the 2021 limit, causing them to issue the Overpayment Notice. But their lack of action shouldn't result in a financial hardship for you, which is why I suggest you seek a waiver. Be aware too that if your waiver request is denied you have the right to appeal that denial, including requesting a hearing by an independent Administrative Law Judge, or by the SS Appeals Council, or even in Federal court if desired.

In any event, while your case is pending, they shouldn't require you to repay them—they should temporarily suspend the repayment demand until your case is adjudicated.

Assuming you are still working full time, it's probable that your benefits are now suspended because your income is too high. FYI, you will later get credit for any months your benefits are suspended, which will result in your benefit amount increasing after you reach your full retirement age (FRA). Thus, you may be able to, over time, recover some of the SS benefits you've lost because of your earnings prior to reaching your full retirement age.

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.

Bowie State Joins Blackstone LaunchPad Entrepreneurship Network

Foundation Commits \$2 Million to HBCUs in Maryland and North Carolina

By DAVID LEE THOMPSON
Bowie State University

BOWIE, Md. (Oct. 18, 2022)—The Blackstone Charitable Foundation today announced that Bowie State University will receive \$500,000 as part of a \$2 million commitment to four Historically Black Colleges and Universities to expand access to its student venture and entrepreneurial skill-building program Blackstone LaunchPad to underrepresented populations. The partnership is an element of the Foundation's broader \$40 million commitment to expand LaunchPad to higher education institutions that have a majority underrepresented population or are serving under-resourced communities.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for students at Bowie State," said Johnetta Hardy, Executive Director of the university's Entrepreneurship Innovation Center. "Blackstone LaunchPad's campus-based entrepreneurship program, designed to introduce entrepreneurship as a viable career path, perfectly aligns with Bowie State University's institution-wide commitment to help students develop an entrepreneurial mindset no matter what academic program they pursue. Our new Entrepreneurship Living Learning Community already cre-

ates a real-world innovation hub that provides resources for aspiring entrepreneurs and encourages creative collaboration and entrepreneurial thinking."

LaunchPad's campus-based programming and national network will provide students at Bowie State University, Morgan State University, North Carolina A & T University, and North Carolina Central University with the resources and opportunities to support their entrepreneurial endeavors and career ambitions.

"Bowie State University is thankful for the Blackstone Foundation's recognition and investment in the excellence of HBCUs," said President Aminta H. Breux. "The Blackstone LaunchPad partnership at BSU will support many initiatives and programs already planned or implemented in our growing entrepreneurial ecosystem."

For students at Bowie State and the other HBCUs, LaunchPad will fund new programs on campus to help them experience building a startup and access a pipeline of internship opportunities. Additionally, students will be able to participate in national programs such as pitch competitions, fellowships, and conferences where they can build a lasting network of professional relation-

ships. Blackstone LaunchPad is a co-curricular program available to all students on the campuses regardless of their course of study.

Blackstone's support of the BSU Bulldog Venture Competition on Oct. 20 will help fund \$7,000 in cash awards to aspiring entrepreneurs pitching business ideas that will make life better for the local community. The competition will focus on ideas for businesses in four categories: health and life science; social and climate impact; consumer products/services and fashion design; and technology.

"We are thrilled to welcome this new generation of LaunchPad schools into our network and community," said Maura Pally, Executive Director of the Blackstone Charitable Foundation. The first step in breaking entrepreneurial barriers is to bring entrepreneurship to those who need it by meeting students where they are, and no better place to start than right on their campuses."

Blackstone Charitable Foundation's partnership with Bowie State and the other three HBCUs is part of its effort to ensure that the development of an entrepreneurial mindset and skills is available to a more diverse set of students.

Hints For Home Buyers

Debunking the Five Myths That Deter Homeownership

(NAPSI)—Buying a home can seem daunting, especially for first-time homebuyers facing record housing prices, tight supply, and rising interest rates. Quite often, misconceptions about homeownership discourage prospective buyers from starting a search even before it begins.

The good news is homeownership can be much closer than you think. Lisa Frison, Head of Financial Inclusion and Racial Equity at Citi, recalls that growing up her parents rented their home for years before eventually becoming first-time homebuyers. "Even so, I found myself struggling to understand what I needed to do and what resources were available to me when I was ready to buy my first home nearly a decade later," she says. Here Frison debunks these Top 5 Myths to help you get on track to building generational wealth through homeownership.

1. I Don't Have Credit (a FICO Score). Nearly 11% of Americans (50 million people) are "credit invisible," according to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, meaning they have no or limited credit history. This disproportionately affects diverse and underserved communities. To help, Citi's HomeRun mortgage program offers non-

traditional ways to demonstrate credit readiness, such as providing proof of paying rent, utilities or other monthly payments.

2. I Don't Have Enough Money Saved. You may have more money than you think. Many banks offer programs for new homebuyers that do not require mortgage insurance for those qualifying. Also, HomeRun has some mortgages for as little as 3% down, with a minimum 1% borrower contribution. This, along with the bank's Lender Paid Assistance, which provides up to \$7,500 closing cost funds that do not need to be paid back, saves qualifying borrowers thousands of dollars in closing costs, helping them afford more house. These programs are offered only in select markets and have income limitations.

3. I Should Start House Hunting with a Realtor. It seems logical to begin with a real estate agent but your best bet may be to start with your lender, who can explore homebuyer assistance programs with you and give you a realistic view of what you can afford through a pre-qualification or pre-approval. A real estate agent will then narrow the search to help you find the right home for you and your

budget.

4. I Earn Too Much to Qualify for Assistance. Lender assistance programs may be more expansive than you think, especially in response to inflation and rising home prices. For example, Citi has increased lending assistance to borrowers with income up to 120% of median income—up from 80% of the median local income. The bank's loan officers can tell customers where their income is relative to the local median family income and also whether a property is located in an eligible census tract.

5. I Should Keep Renting Because I Missed the Market and Now I'm Priced Out. First-time or affordable homebuyer programs can help you get on the path to buying a home you can afford. Remember, a home is more than a place to live and build memories—it is a way to build wealth that you can pass on to future generations. That's something you can't achieve by renting.

Learn More

For more information, visit www.citi.com/mortgage/community-lending-homerun.

Earth TALK™

Manufactured Homes: Greener Than Traditional Houses?

Dear EarthTalk:

How do manufactured homes stack up against traditionally constructed houses in terms of energy efficiency and overall environmental footprint?

—Jen Jackson, via email

As one might expect, manufactured homes run the gamut with regard to energy efficiency. In an analysis completed by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE), it was found that modern manufactured homes used 70.4 MM btu/year, a significant amount less than the 108.5 MM btu/year average seen in traditional, or "site-built" homes.

In addition, the actual manufacture of manufactured homes produces much less waste, as does the on-site setup. According to the Manufactured Housing Association of British Columbia, the construction and set-up of manufactured homes creates 50 to 70 percent less waste than traditional home-building.

Traditional home-building also requires that the materials, tools and workers all be sent to different sites throughout the year. This approach is far less organized and efficient than the streamlined factory process associated with manufactured homes. As a result, all kinds of emissions are produced. In an in-depth report commissioned by the Sturgeon Foundation of Alberta, Canada, carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions of both modular and on-site building projects were compared. It

was determined that the on-site construction process produced a whopping 43 percent more CO₂ emissions!

According to ACEEE, those who lived in a manufactured home before 1976 "spent more money on their energy bills than on home loans" and spent double on energy per square foot than those who occupied a traditional home. How is this possible? Before 1976, manufactured homes were built more quickly, for less money and with far less regard for energy efficiency. By June of that year, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) devised and implemented the HUD Code, setting a higher standard in quality, safety and efficiency of product.

Today, manufactured homes must have sufficient levels of insulation (this includes around ductwork, electrical outlets, lighting, etc.), modern water heaters and energy-efficient appliances. If the manufactured home does not meet the minimum standards set out by HUD, then it is illegal for it to be sold, leased or rented to anybody.

That being said, if you happen to own a manufactured home that was purchased before 1976, there are still many ways that you can upgrade your pad-from-the-past to meet the energy demands of the modern age. Passive solar design is one such avenue, whereby manufactured home-owners orient and design their home space to maximize the amount of sun exposure. This will not only power any solar panels that may have been installed more efficiently, it will also provide both natural light and heat.



IMAGE CREDIT: WES DICKINSON, FLICKRCC

Manufactured homes can be greener than traditional houses if they are designed and built that way—but this may be the exception.

Using a solar water heater is another great way to reduce one's energy expenditures. Though roof-mounted options may be limited (as manufactured homes are less sturdy), the ground-based options are definitely a good choice for anyone with a manufactured home that isn't moved often.

CONTACTS: Comparison of Carbon Emissions of Modular and Site Built Houses, researchgate.net/publication/360173050_Comparison_of_Carbon_Emissions_of_Modular_and_Site_Built_Houses; Mobilizing Energy Efficiency in the Manufactured Housing Sector, aceee.org/sites/default/files/publications/researchreports/a124.pdf.

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Lynnette D. Espy-Williams Appointed Newest WSSC Water Commissioner Representing Prince George's County

*Brings Experience in Commercial Law and Diversity,
Equity and Inclusion*

By LUIS MAYA
WSSC Water

LAUREL, Md. (Oct. 19, 2022)—WSSC Water Commissioners welcomed Lynnette (Lynne) D. Espy-Williams as the newest member of the Board of Commissioners. A Prince George's County resident, Espy-Williams—Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer at the law firm Cozen O'Connor—was appointed to serve as Commissioner by County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and unanimously approved by the Prince George's County Council September 27.

"I welcome the opportunity to use my legal background and commitment to diversity to ensure our water infrastructure investments are fiscally sound and advance our shared goals around racial equity and social justice," said Espy-Williams. "I thank County Executive Alsobrooks and members of the County Council for entrusting me to serve this vital agency and our customers."

A Member of the law firm Cozen O'Connor, Ms. Espy-Williams brings experience in commercial litigation and is widely recognized in the industry. She has led many complex commercial litigation matters and routinely speaks on industry issues.

Beyond her work with Cozen O'Connor, Espy-Williams has used her legal background and leadership skills for the betterment of the community and spends a significant amount of time participating in various pro bono activities.

A graduate of Spelman College, she earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Maryland's Francis King Carey School of Law. You can find her complete bio at <https://www.wsscwater.com/person/lynnette-d-espy-williams>.

Espy-Williams becomes the second of three Commissioners representing Prince George's County. The county is in the process of selecting its third Commissioner to fill the last vacancy. Six Commissioners, three from each county, govern WSSC Water. They are appointed to four-year terms by their respective county executives and confirmed by their county councils. More information on WSSC Water Commissioners is on the Governance page.

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.

Morningside from A2

November 2. There will be Mass (under a huge white tent) at 9 a.m. Rev. Mario A. Majano will celebrate the Mass and give the homily. I always try to go—that's where my dear husband Jack is buried. For information, call the cemetery, 301-868-5141.

Milestones

Happy Birthday to Carolyn Follin and former Morningside Councilman Jim Ealey, Nov. 1; Carl McKlveen, Nov. 2; my son-in-law Luke Seidman and Flossie Keck, Nov. 3; Bella Cordero, Nov. 4; Brandon Wood and Bob Elborne, Nov. 5.

Happy Anniversary, Michael and Maria (Blankenship) Jinks, their 20th on Nov. 1; and Al and Debbie Callison, on Nov. 4.

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