

# The Prince George's Post



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## Prince George's County Receives \$21M U.S. Department of Transportation Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant

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

LARGO, Md. (Feb. 2, 2023)—The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has awarded Prince George's County a \$21,253,985 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant. The award will implement seven safety and connectivity improvements along the high injury networks and similar corridors. The SS4A program funds regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries.

The SS4A grant funds the Vision Zero Prince George's "Proud to Pave the Way for Multimodal Safety: Improvements Along the Prince George's County, MD, High Injury Network" program. This program includes seven safety projects that will address growing climate change, social inequality, and economic concerns by connecting communities with existing high-capacity transit stations while creating a safer roadway network to achieve the goal of zero traffic deaths in Prince George's.

"We understand the critical need for infrastructure improvements to make our streets safer for everyone, which is why we launched Vision Zero

Prince George's in 2019," said County Executive Angela Also-brooks. "This grant that will help us make safety improvements to County roads that have seen some of the highest frequency of bike and pedestrian crashes. We want to thank the Biden Administration, as well as members of our federal delegation, for passing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that made this historic funding available to help us move closer toward our Vision Zero goals."

The SS4A grant will help redesign roads to improve visibility, slow vehicle speeds, and promote pedestrian and bicyclist safety in underserved communities. Approximately 92% of funding is expected to go to underserved communities, supporting equitable investment in the County's Vision Zero goals.

The Proud to Pave the Way for Multimodal Safety Improvement Projects include:

- Metzert Road Pedestrian Safety CIP Improvements (MD 650 to Adelphi Road), Hyattsville
- Langley Park Neighborhood Bicycle Boulevards



- Adelphi Road Corridor Safety Improvement Project (Cool Spring Road to MD 410), College Park
- Belcrest Road Safety Improvement Project (Adelphi Road to Queens Chapel Road), Hyattsville
- Sheriff Road Safety Improvement Project (Eastern Avenue to Glen Willow Drive), Fairmount Heights
- Marlboro Pike Pedestrian Safety Improvements Phase II CIP Project, Coral Hills

"Vision Zero Prince George's is dedicated to eradicating the issue of roadside deaths by educating the public through outreach activities and making critical improvements to roadways across the County", said DPW&T's Director Michael D. Johnson. "The proposed 7 projects will complement the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) proven

Project (Riggs Road, Langley Park)

- Cool Spring Road/Adelphi Road Pedestrian and Bicycle Access Improvements Project, College Park

safety countermeasures for safe, sustainable, and equitable infrastructure improvements."

Prince George's County has the highest number of fatal and serious injury crashes in the State of Maryland. Vision Zero Prince George's is currently focused on improving the most dangerous segments of roads, which reflect the greatest severity of bike and pedestrian crashes. The SS4A grant will provide additional funding to implement multimodal safety improvements on County roadways, which is critical to addressing this trend.

The seven safety projects completed as part of the SS4A grant will contribute to a robust multimodal network that is equitable, sustainable, and crucial to economic vitality, especially in areas of the County with higher concentrations of low-income and minority residents.

Projects associated with Vision Zero Prince George's rely on a data-driven safe systems approach to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries on County roadways by 2040, while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all road users.

For more information on Vision Zero Prince George's, visit <https://visionzero-princegeorges.hub.arcgis.com/>, or follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram @PGCountyDPWT.

### Pathway to Becoming a Published Author

Presented by the Hurston/Wright Foundation

Bowie Branch Library  
Tuesday, February 21 at 6:30 pm  
Adults

IMAGE COURTESY PGCMLS

## Library Commemorates Black History Month With Performances and Family Programs

By NICHOLAS BROWN  
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (Jan. 31, 2023)—Black heritage and cultural programs are offered throughout the year at the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS). This Black History Month, the Library showcases a range of performances, family and teen programs, film screenings, and historical and literary programs that connect important figures, amazing innovators, and folk culture with the present. Over 57 events will be presented at neighborhood branch libraries, in the community, and online. All programs are free and open to the public, though registration is required or recommended for select events. Prince Georgians are encouraged to visit the Library's Black Heritage Hub at [pgcmls.info/black-heritage](http://pgcmls.info/black-heritage) to explore Black history and culture through research databases, recommended books, streaming media, and educational content curated by the Library's Black History and Culture Team.

### Performing Arts Programs

Performing arts programs feature Dramatic Play, Janice The Griot, InterAct Story Theatre, The Uncle Devin Show, a panel on "Black Musicians & Classical

Music" (co-presented with the Prince George's County Office of Human Rights), and Cortenia Smith's one-woman show, "The Life and Legacy of Harriet Tubman" (co-presented with Joe's Movement Emporium).

### Featured Performing Arts Events

**Dramatic Play Presents "Anansi and the Moss Covered Rock—A Trickster Tale"**  
Wednesday, February 8, 6:30–7:30 p.m. (Greenbelt Branch Library)

**Dramatic Play Presents "Historical Perspectives" with Khaleshia Thorpe-Price**  
Saturday, February 18, 1–2 p.m. (New Carrollton Branch Library)

**Dramatic Play Presents "Historical Perspectives" with Khaleshia Thorpe-Price**  
Saturday, February 25, 2:30–3:30 p.m. (Spauldings Branch Library)

**InterAct Story Theatre Presents "The Magic Tree"**  
Tuesday, February 7, 6:30–7:30 p.m. (Glenarden Branch Library)

**The Uncle Devin Show on "ABCs of Percussion"**  
Tuesday, February 7, 6:30–7:30 p.m. (Oxon Hill Branch Library)

**Cortenia Smith Presents "The Life and Legacy of Harriet Tubman"**

Wednesday, February 8, 6:30–7:30 p.m. (Hyattsville Branch Library)

Wednesday, February 15, 6:30–7:30 p.m. (Hillcrest Heights Branch Library)

Tuesday, February 21, 6:30–7:30 pm (Baden)

**Janice the Griot Presents "Fun with Animal Folktales"**

Wednesday, February 8, 6:30–7:30 p.m. (Largo-Kettering Branch Library)

Wednesday, February 15, 6:30–7:30 p.m. (South Bowie Branch Library)

Saturday, February 18, 1–2 p.m. (Bowie Branch Library)

### Historical & Literary Programs

Historical and literary programs explore the books of great writers like Toni Morrison, celebrate the work of Black LGBTQ+ authors, and encourage writers to develop their craft. Bowie-based author Courtney Duke Foster discusses her book "Passing Notes: A Novel," which examines the experience of two young Black women in 1950s New York (Thursday, February 23, 7–8 p.m., virtual, co-pre-

See LIBRARY Page A3

## State's Attorney Braveboy Focuses on Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform During 2023 Legislative Session

By DENISE ROBERTS

Office of the State's Attorney, Prince George's County

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Feb. 1, 2023)—Prince George's County State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy is focused on public safety enhancements, criminal justice reform and violence prevention and intervention for the 2023 General Assembly Legislative Session.

"Our legislative agenda is focused on protecting the safety of Prince Georgians," said State's Attorney Braveboy. "My approach to public safety has been and remains centered around delivering justice in a manner that is both balanced and effective. My highest priority is protecting the

residents of this county. This is reflected by both our high felony conviction rates and our expanding opportunities for rehabilitation and restoration. We cannot do this work without our legislative partners."

State's Attorney Braveboy's 2023 legislative priorities include:

**Maryland Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act**—This legislation will make it a crime to acquire, receive income from, or operate an enterprise through a pat-

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## Jamaur Law Foundation and Spectra Credit Union Host "Glide Into 2023 With Smart Money"

Youth from across the community participated to learn financial literacy concepts

By PRESS OFFICER

The Jamaur Law Foundation

(Feb. 6, 2023)—The Jamaur Law Foundation and Spectra Credit Union collaborated this past weekend to host "Glide into 2023 with Smart Money," a free event designed to teach underserved youth and young adults financial literacy concepts like budgeting; checking and savings; the power of credit; and investing. To kick-off the event, leaders from Spectra Credit Union presented Jamaur Law with a \$2,000 donation to support the Foundation's financial literacy programming.

"Spectra Credit Union is honored to partner with the Jamaur Law Foundation," said Veronica Floyd, Community Outreach Manager, Spectra Credit Union. "Their dedication to educating people about the power of financial literacy aligns with our mission. Together we look forward to building a community where everyone can reach their full potential and secure a financial future."

The financial literacy event was held at the Tucker Road Athletic Complex and attracted youth from across the community. Additionally, a group of students from Volunteers of America attended.

"Financial education may be more important than ever, but not everyone has access to it—especially those who are in need," said Jamaur Law,

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- M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County
- PGCMLS

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**To Be Equal: Nine Decades After NFL Banned Black Players, Super Bowl LVII Is the First to Feature Two Black Starting Quarterbacks**

Patrick Mahomes of the Kansas City Chiefs and Jalen Hurts of the Philadelphia Eagles have more in common than this milestone moment.

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**Everything Legendary Is Providing Plant-Based Gourmet Foods to Bowie State**

The rapid rise of Everything Legendary, the nation's fastest growing plant-based meat company, began in early 2021 when the founders were making burgers by hand in their kitchen at home.

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# TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

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

### Cardinal Gregory blesses St. Philip's new food pantry

"By the grace of your Holy Spirit, make this new food pantry a house of blessing and a center of love," the Cardinal prayed on Jan. 22, "where your flock is tended to and fed, and where the faithful come to care for Christ in the person of their brothers and sisters." He sprinkled holy water over the pantry. Cardinal Wilton Gregory is the Catholic Archbishop of Washington.

Accompanied by Ligia Rojas, longtime parishioner and volunteer who now runs the pantry, the Cardinal cut the red ribbon in the doorway.

The garage, which houses the new pantry, and the large farmhouse have been the heart of the Darcey Estates in Camp Springs, long owned by Eugene Darcey. About 10 acres of the Estate were purchased back in 1957 by St. Philip's Parish for a church, school, and rectory. The Darceys stayed on in their home and farmed the rest of the Estate. After they moved away, St. Philip's purchased the property, including house and garage, and sought a purpose for it. Now, they've found it.

After blessing the pantry, the Cardinal visited the farmhouse which has been reconstructed by friends of the parish. It serves as Good Shepherd House, where members of St. Teresa of Calcutta's Missionaries of Charity teach religion classes to children on Saturdays.

The Cardinal stayed on long enough to say the 10 o'clock Mass in St. Philip's Church, warmly received by the parishioners, including me.

The beginning of the pantry was the realization, by St. Philip's pastor, Father Patrick Lewis, that some parishioners and others in the community needed help, many dealing with COVID. In May of 2020 the parish started providing food weekly for 17 parish families and homebound seniors. Now the parish provides food to about 70 families on a monthly basis.

The new pantry is open Thursdays from 9 to 11 a.m. In addition to canned and packaged food, the pantry distributes fresh produce, bread, eggs and meat. To help stock the pantry, the parish collects non-perishable donations in the back of the church on the last weekend of each month.

### Coming up

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, at St. Philip's, Feb. 21, in the Parish Hall, 5-7

p.m. Price, \$6 per person, children under 8, free. Information: Ligia Rojas, 240-480-9540, or Karin Yeatman, 301-899-7784.

Free Movie Night in Morningside, Feb. 11, 6 p.m. "Matilda the Musical" at the town hall, 6901 Ames Street. Concessions (popcorn, candy, hotdogs, nachos, drinks and more) will be sold. Cash only. Reservations required by Feb. 2. Call 301-736-2300.

### Academia

Angel Harmon, of Skyline, is graduating this spring from Dr. Henry A. Wise High School where she is on the Honor Roll. Years ago, Angel used to deliver the Skyline Newsletter on her street. I always appreciated that and look forward to hearing about her post-grad plans. Thank you to Grandma Elizabeth Harmon who shared this news.

I'll be running graduations over the next few months. Call me with a report on your graduate.

Bucknell University, in Lewisburg, Pa., has released the Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the last semester. Three local students are on the list: Derrick Anderson, of Fort Washington; Endia Scales, Temple Hills; and Caleb Wooten, Upper Marlboro.

### CSCA meets March 9

Camp Springs Civic Association holds its meetings the 2nd Thursday of September, October, November, January, March and May at Central Baptist Church, 5600 Old Branch Avenue in Camp Springs. The next meeting of CSCA will be March 9, starting at 7 p.m., ending by 9.

Fire safety will be discussed, along with other issues (now in the planning stage). Besides Mary McHale's column, signs announcing meetings will be posted at the intersections of Auth & Allentown Roads, and Branch Avenue at Allentown.

President Monique Taylor says, "Everyone is invited!" Other officers are Delonta Harrison, Vice President; Carolyn Fleming, Corresponding Secretary; and Arlene Wilson, Treasurer.

Thank you to Betty Kohut who'll keep me informed about CSCA activities.

### Changing landscape

Suitland High School Modernization includes the complete modernization of the comprehensive high school. The existing Center for the Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) building will be demolished

and a new CVPA addition constructed. Modernization is expected to be complete by 2026.

President Biden announced last week that more than \$4 billion in federal infrastructure money will be used to replace the Baltimore and Potomac Tunnel which is a major part of the Northeast rail network and is suffering from a variety of age-related issues. At nearly 150 years old (Civil War era!), it's the oldest tunnel that Amtrak inherited. It will be replaced by the new Frederick Douglass Tunnel.

D.C.'s low-slung downtown is a distinct feature of our skyline. Local lore is that our skyline is short because no building could be taller than the Capitol or the Washington Monument. That's what I've always thought, but it's a myth. The real reason for the height limit is much more practical. It's a feature of 19th-century health and safety standards, including how high a fire ladder could reach back then. With this new realization, it looks like downtown buildings will be taller.

### Bye-Bye KidsPost

KidsPost is gone! It has run daily on the page behind the comics for 23 years. My great-grandkids Mary and Wesley, and kids all over the Washington Post territory, have grown up with KidsPost. I believe it has introduced them all to the value of reading the newspaper.

KidsPost spokesman Christina Barron wrote in the Feb. 2 issue, "It has been a section about anything and everything that would interest kids: science, history, current events, sports, entertainment, books and kids doing cool things."

And now, Washington Post, (this is me talking) how are you going to replace it?

### Milestones

Happy Birthday to my great-granddaughter Molly McHale, Feb. 8; Ruth Sanford's gr-gr-granddaughter Sophia Grace Shives, Angie Miller, Katelyn Dudding and Pat Miller, Feb. 13; Joan Rose, Scott Jenkins and Mary Reilly (her 98th!), on Feb. 14; Father Ted Hegnauer, Yveta Sears, David Chambers and Mary Young (of the VFW), Feb. 15; Sarah Anderson and Dean Woods, Feb. 16; Charlene Holmes and Danny Fowler, Feb. 18.

Happy anniversaries to Frank & Soo Wilson, Feb. 15; and Wilda & Joe Cheseldine who were wed Feb. 16, 1958, at Mount Calvary Church.

*Celebrate Black History Month!*

## Chesapeake Life Center Brings Back Its Weekend Summer Grief Camp for Kids and Teens

*By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN  
Hospice of the Chesapeake*

PASADENA, Md. (Jan. 30, 2023)—Chesapeake Life Center is excited to announce that it is bringing back Camp Nabi, its summer overnight camp program for grieving children and teens. The weekend-long camp is for children ages 6-18 and will be held Aug. 4 to 6.

Chesapeake Life Center Director Brian Berger said the camp program will be familiar to volunteers and facilitators who participated in the program that ran for 27 years up until 2018. Just as it was previously, it will be held at the Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center in Millersville, Maryland. And just as in years past, the goal is for kids experiencing loss to have fun.

"The kids will go swimming, canoeing, do low ropes course, do the kind of things that people expect from an overnight camp," Berger said. "The goal is to provide space to remember loved ones who have died through expressive arts and guided conversations mixed with opportunities to engage in camp activities in a community of peers who have had similar experiences."

There will be grief professionals and trained volunteers there to help the campers learn how to cope with their grief, and more importantly, formal, and informal opportunities for peer-to-peer support in an exciting but safe environment.

Since the last overnight camp, Hospice of the Chesapeake has expanded to include Hospice of Charles County and Calvert Hospice. This growth has Berger and his team planning transportation so that any grieving child in the four counties can participate. "We'll have transportation to

and from our Anne Arundel, Charles, Calvert and Prince George's County offices," Berger said.

Though the organization has had successful day camps, Berger said there is a sense of community that comes from spending an extended period of time together. They are not saying goodbye only a few hours after having met these new friends. They get uninterrupted time to befriend their fellow grievers. "They're supporting each other in various ways. It's not only the support around grief. For some it's their first time away from home. There might be peer support that comes from saying, 'Hey, let's do something in the cabin to make it feel a little bit more comfortable or let's play a game,'" Berger said. "There's a bit of a magic that happens by them being able to stay in that space of support from beginning to end versus coming back and forth. That's the power of the overnight camp."

Additionally, it is something the community has been asking for and there is already some excitement coming from the news of its return. "These camps take a lot of support, both financially and through staff and volunteer participation," Berger said. "But this is something our community really supports and wants to be a part of. It feels great to be confident in knowing that we will be able to draw the funding and volunteer support that we need to be able to help kids and teens who are hurting find friendship and healing."

Details regarding cost and registration is still being finalized. Watch for updates at [www.chesapeakelifecenter.org](http://www.chesapeakelifecenter.org) or email [griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org](mailto:griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org) to be included in future emails.

## Maryland Dentists Focus on Kids' Smiles in February for Children's Dental Health Month

*Maryland State Dental Association Foundation and ADA sponsor Give Kids a Smile*

*By PRESS OFFICER*

**Maryland State Dental Association Foundation**

COLUMBIA, Md. (Feb. 2, 2023)—Maryland children will have an opportunity to learn more about oral health care on Feb. 3, and throughout the month as part of the Give Kids A Smile program. Give Kids A Smile, a program of the American Dental Association, and supported and sponsored locally by the Maryland State Dental Association Charitable and Education Foundation, provides underserved children free oral health care and education.

Give Kids A Smile was launched in 2003 by the American Dental Association (ADA) to provide dental care to kids throughout the year. The goal of Give Kids A Smile (GKAS) is to provide underserved children with free oral health care. According to the ADA, nationally, each year approximately 6,500 dentists and 30,000 dental team members volunteer at local GKAS events to provide free oral health education, screenings, preventive and restorative treatment.

The events traditionally kick off on the first Friday in February as Children's Dental Health Month gets underway, and continue throughout the year.

"Ensuring access to dental care for every child in the state has been the top priority for Maryland dentists and the Foundation," said Dr. Tom a'Becket, President of the Maryland State Dental Association Charitable and Education Foundation. "This access often starts with seeing a dentist in their local school or at a place of comfort to them. The MSDA Foundation is committed to helping our kids get the best care possible."

Give Kids A Smile events provide oral hygiene education, oral hygiene products, information, and resources to find a dentist (Maryland Healthy Smiles), referral services, and school supplies.

There are four Maryland State Dental Association Foundation-sponsored Give Kids A Smile events taking place in February to kick-off the program. **There will also be educational information at barber shops in Hyattsville and Baltimore City.**

The Foundation is also partnering with individual dentists and other oral health organizations, the Children's Oral Health Institute, Catholic Charities, and Eastern Shore Chesapeake Health who are all hosting their own dental clinics and educational events.

The Foundation recommends that interested parties check the website (<https://www.msda.org/events/>) often as additional events will continue to be added throughout the year.

*Prince George's Post—Proudly Serving  
Prince George's County  
Since 1932*

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

### THE TOWER ROAD BUS DOCUMENTARY

The Tower Road Bus documentary will be screened at Bowie State University on **Thursday, February 9 at 4 p.m.** immediately followed by a panel discussion with the principal, teachers and students.

Synopsis: Fifty years after the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed the constitutionality of busing children to achieve racial integration in schools, The Tower Road Bus revives the unresolved stories of African American students and educators thrust into all-white schools during the 1970s.

Against the backdrop of violent ant-busing protests across the nation, Dotson Burns, Jr., a child of the Jim Crow South, lands on the frontlines of school integration, first as a teacher and then as the first Black principal of a majority-white school in Prince George's County, Maryland. Mindful of the eyes of white parents and the suspicions of Black students and families, he must oversee the busing of frustrated Black students from the historically Black community of Tower Road in Brandywine, Maryland of the mostly white Crestview Elementary School.

### TRIBUTE TO OUR MOTHER

Ruth Harper Turner rested on January 8, 2019, married to the late James Garnell Turner of Brandywine, Maryland. She matriculated through the Prince George's County Public Schools and was a graduate of Douglass High School in Croom, Maryland. Upon her high school graduation, she was instrumental in opening the PX Exchange Services at Andrews Air Force Base, in Camp Springs, Maryland, and served as its first manager. In 1964, she received a Licensed Practical Nursing Degree from Prince George's Community Hospital School of Nursing in Cheverly, Maryland where she served in the surgical wing as the post operating Charge Nurse. Because of her leadership and academic achievement, she was awarded the 1964 Honor Bar for attaining the highest-grade point average in Theory and Practice for Obstetrical Nursing.

After a successful tenure at Prince George's Community Hospital, Ruth went to work at Clinton Community Hospital in Clinton, Maryland. Possessing solid nursing skills, Ruth entered the Prince George's County Public School's System to serve as a school nurse at Bethune and Gwynn Park Middle Schools until her retirement in 1998.

She served on the Board of Trustees as a member and secretary; on the Usher Board for 21 years, served 20 years as President. She served on the Communications Ministry as a member and Chairperson. She served on the Health and Welfare Ministry

as a member who offered blood pressure screenings and taught CPR, and a member of the United Methodist Women.

Ruth was president of the Washington East District Auxiliary and Volunteer Service of the N.M. Carroll Home in Baltimore, Maryland. A highlight of her church life was serving as a Certified Lay Speaker who used her gifts to share God's Word in sermons and acts of ministry.

A core belief in Ruth's life was giving back to her community. Her commitment to volunteer and community work was acknowledged by her receiving numerous certificates and awards. Among those recognitions were Service Ministry Award in Christian Education, Certificate of Merit from Regency Nursing and Rehabilitation Treatment Center, and a Certification of Appreciation for the Food Distribution Program for Prince George's County, Maryland. Ruth was awarded the state of Maryland Governor's Volunteer Service Certificate from Governor Parris Glendening in 1999. She fondly cherished this recognition. A pursuit of Ruth's was being a columnist for the Prince George's Post Newspaper for many years.

Her love for life touched the lives of many people in positive ways. She left a great impact on everyone that she touched in her family and the community. She will always be remembered for the wonderful memories that she left, and the values that she instilled in us. She always advised us on every aspect of life. The positive lessons that she taught us will be passed on for generations to come. She was a pillar in her community with good moral standards and integrity. She loved us unconditionally and was a woman of strong principles. Our mother will always be remembered and admired for her strength, endurance, beautiful loving personality and a beautiful legacy. Love Audrey, Patricia, Joyce, Cleo.

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH THEME 2023

Our theme for 2023 is Black Resistance, established by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). The ASALH is the organization founded in 1915 by historian, author and educator Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who is also known as the father of Black History.

### FANNY JACKSON COPPIN

Fanny Jackson Coppin (1837-1913) was the first black woman to be named principal of a school in 1869. She was also the first black Superintendent of a school district in the United States. Coppin State University in Baltimore, Maryland is named after Fanny.

# COMMUNITY



PHOTO COURTESY BANNEKER-DOUGLASS MUSEUM

Join us for a Collage and Portrait Activity on Saturday, February 11, 2023.

## The Banneker-Douglass Museum Invites You to Celebrate Black History Month With These Engaging Events

By JAN F. LEE  
Banneker-Douglass Museum

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 30, 2023)—The Banneker-Douglass Museum will celebrate Black History Month with a host of engaging and exciting events throughout the month focusing on the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) theme of “Black Resistance”.

As ASALH states, “African Americans have resisted historic and ongoing oppression”, and Banneker-Douglass Museum, as well as the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, aim to create spaces of learning and healing for all. Continuing to carry out the mission of preserving Maryland’s African American heritage, visitors and residents should take time during February to check-in with the Banneker-Douglass Museum for a transformative experience. The events are as follows:

### Portrait and Collage Activity

\*Great for families and children!

Saturday, February 11, 2023 | 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Banneker-Douglass Museum, 84 Franklin Street, Annapolis MD 21401  
Join us for a Portrait and Collage Activity with Executive Director and Artist, Chanel C. Johnson. Families with children of all ages can drop-in to explore the museum’s Black history exhibitions and engage in a hands-on portrait and collage activity that celebrates Maryland Civil Rights leaders such as Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, and Thurgood Marshall.

### Artist Talk Part I: The Radical Voice of Blackness Speaks of Resistance and Joy

Saturday, February 18, 2023 | 1–3 p.m.

Banneker-Douglass Museum, 84 Franklin Street, Annapolis MD 21401

Link to register: <https://bit.ly/BDMArtistTalkPt1>

Join us for a panel discussion as we delve into contemporary African American art and the Black experience in America with selected exhibiting artists Devin Allen, Wesley Clark, and Chrystal Seawood from the current exhibition, The Radical Voice of Blackness Speaks of Resistance and Joy. The panel discussion will be moderated by Myrtis Bedolla, exhibit guest curator and renowned owner of Galerie Myrtis.

### EXHIBITIONS

#### The Radical Voice of Blackness Speaks of Resistance and Joy

On display through September 30, 2023

Guest curated by Myrtis Bedolla of Galerie Myrtis, The Radical Voice of Blackness Speaks of Resistance and Joy presents fine art by seventeen Black Maryland-based artists, including the Banneker-Douglass Museum’s Fine Art Collection, to examine historic and contemporary themes of Black joy and healing created in opposition to and despite oppression.

#### Deep Roots, Rising Waters:

#### A Celebration of African Americans in Maryland

Permanent Exhibit

This exhibition provides an overview of African American history in Maryland from 1633 through present day. Learn how African Americans throughout Maryland made lasting changes for all Americans.

Learn more about current exhibitions here: <https://bdmuseum.maryland.gov/exhibitions/>.

## Local Students Honored

### Local student achieves Dean’s List at TCNJ

EWING, N.J. (Feb. 2, 2023)—The following student has earned the esteemed honor of placement on the Dean’s List at The College of New Jersey for the fall 2022 semester. To achieve this honor, a student must carry 12 or more credits that semester and earn a 3.5 (or above) grade point average:

Bowie, MD: **Maya Randall**, Interactive Multimedia

### Area resident named to dean’s list for the Fall 2022 semester at Quinnipiac University

HAMDEN, Conn. (Feb. 1, 2023)—The following area student was named to the dean’s list for the Fall 2022 semester at Quinnipiac University:

Fort Washington, MD: **Yadel Negash**

To qualify for the dean’s list, students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 with no grade lower than C. Full-time students must complete at least 14 credits in a semester, with at least 12 credits that have been graded on a letter grade basis to be eligible. Part-time students must complete at least six credits during a semester.

### Minnesota State College Southeast announces Fall 2022 President’s List

WINONA and RED WING, Minn. (Feb. 1, 2023)—Minnesota State College Southeast in Red Wing and Winona, Minnesota, is proud to announce the President’s List for Fall Semester 2022.

To be eligible for the President’s List, students must complete a minimum of 12 credits at MSC Southeast during an academic term and achieve a GPA of 3.5 or above.

College Park, MD: **Elizabeth Dumm**

## M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George’s County Announces 2023 Black History Month Programming

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

RIVERDALE, Md. (Feb. 1, 2023)—The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George’s County, is pleased to announce a robust programming schedule in honor of Black History Month 2023. From performances to history lessons, there is an abundance of exciting events and activities planned for the community.

“Each year, the M-NCPPC Black History Program strives to bring an engaging month of African American history and educational and cultural experiences, and 2023 is no exception,” says Dr. Dennis Doster, Black History Program Manager. “This February, the public can expect month-long virtual and in-person programming for people of all ages, including intellectual panel discussions, art exhibitions, book discussions, documentary screenings, interpretative tours, and musical recitals.”

The following are just a few of the programs available. For a full list of Black History Month offerings, and to register, visit [blackhistory.pgprarks.com](http://blackhistory.pgprarks.com).

### February 11, 10 a.m.:

#### FREEDOM exhibition

The Uhuru Quilters Guild, a group of 80 predominantly African American quilters who meet monthly to share work, challenge skills, and inspire future projects, has a mission to promote the work and accomplishments of African American quilters and preserve the traditions, culture, and history of quilting. This ex-

hibition will include a collection of masterful quilts, varying in size, technique, and imagery, inviting the audience to the power of functional art. Included in the opening reception of this exhibition will be a live performance from artist Liz Ann Miller titled Rituals for Cleansing Racial Violence, a fascinating visual experience celebrating the importance of hair as it relates to African American culture.

### February 12, 1–2 p.m.:

#### Black Aviators Tour

This tour highlights just some of history’s Black Aviators, from the legendary Eugene Bullard to local aviator Gus McLeod, and their impacts on aviation. We will also dig deeper into the story of the nearby Columbia Air Center, which was the first licensed airfield owned and operated by black aviators in the country. This tour last about 45 minutes-1 hour and is geared towards those 12 and older. Registration is NOT required.

### February 18, 4–5:30 p.m.:

#### Arts and Activism Series

Join us for a conversation with artist and activist Lea Gilmore. Named by “Essence Magazine” as one of “25 Women Shaping the World”, Gilmore is founder and director of Umoja Musica, an international effort promoting non-violence, peace, and human rights through music. Gilmore will share her journey from a political science student at Morgan State University, to performing and leading choirs all over the world. She will also share her triumphs over personal tragedy, and her current position as the director of the racial justice ministry at Govans Presbyterian Church in Baltimore.

### February 19, 4–5:30 p.m.:

#### Voices from the Past

There are thousands of Black classical music composers throughout history. This concert highlights the music and lives of two of them, Philippa Duke Schuyler and Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, with music performed by two CAAPA pianists. Narrated and curated by Nevilla Ottley, Schuyler was an American pianist, composer, author, journalist, and child prodigy. By contrast, Taylor was an English composer and conductor. Taylor was also referred to by white New York musicians as the “African Mahler” in the early 1900s. By the age of four, Schuyler was a noted pianist performing public recitals and radio broadcasts. Both of mixed-race birth, they achieved success in part because of their looks. The concert is produced by the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts (CAAPA).

### February 26, 12–2:30 p.m.:

#### The Green Book

The Negro Motorist Green Book has been used as a tool of resistance for African Americans as it provided tips on how to safely travel through the country. While the book is no longer published, the legacy of the book has lived on through the award-winning movie, “Green Book,” and critically acclaimed show “Lovecraft Country.” The movie and show provide the perfect opportunity to dive deeper into the history of the text that saved so many lives. Our panel will pull excerpts from the original document, share personal experiences, and discuss how our history is reflected through entertainment.

## Library from A1

sented with Prince George’s County Office of Human Rights).

PGCMLS’ own Edith Johnson-Gilmore of the New Carrollton Branch Library discusses her own past involvement with the Black Panther Party in New York City (Tuesday, February 21, 6–7 p.m., New Carrollton Branch Library).

The Hurston/Wright Foundation and the Library present a panel on “Pathway to Becoming a Published Author” moderated by Dr. Khadijah Ali-Coleman. The Hurston/Wright Foundation provides services, support, and opportunities that mentor, recognize, and provide a community for professional and aspiring Black writers.

### Featured Historical & Literary Programs

Grown-Up Storytime: Celebrate Black LGBTQ+ Authors—Wednesday, February 22, 6:30–7:30 p.m. (New Carrollton Branch Library), Teens/Adults

Book Discussion: “Blackout”—Wednesday, February 8, 4–5 p.m. (Bowie Branch Library)

Writers’ Group: Black Authors in Mysteries & Thrillers—Wednesday, February 8 and Wednesday, February 22, 6–7:15 p.m. (Virtual)

Book Discussion: “Sula” by Toni Morrison—Wednesday, February 8, 7–8:30 p.m. (Virtual)

A Conversation with a Former Black Panther—Tuesday, February 21, 6–7 p.m. (New Carrollton Branch Library), Teen/Adults  
Pathway to Becoming a Published Author—Tuesday, February 21, 6:30–7:30 p.m. (Bowie Branch Library)

Book Discussion: “My People: Five Decades of Writing About Black Lives” by Charlayne Hunter-Gault—Tuesday, February 21, 6:30–8 p.m. (Virtual)

Base Camp: Veterans Information and Resource Session—Wednesday, February 22, 1–2:30 p.m. (Virtual)

Pins and Needles: Elizabeth Keckley—Wednesday, February 22, 5–6 p.m. (Accokeek Branch Library)

Courtney Duke Foster on “Passing Notes”—Thursday, February 23, 7–8 p.m. (Virtual)

The Elephant We Don’t See: A Diversity Dialogue on “Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave” by Frederick Douglass—Tuesday, February 28, 7–8 p.m. (Virtual, co-presented with Prince George’s County Office of Human Rights)

### Film Screenings

Two special film screenings will take place during Black History Month. The Hyattsville Branch Library’s Independent Film Series screens “The Inheritance” (2021, Not Rated) on Monday, February 13 at 7 p.m. The film’s writer and director Ephraim Asili will discuss their work and the way the film explores different facets of the African diaspora. The Mount Rainier Branch Library and Joe’s Movement Emporium present a screening of “The Last Black Man in San Francisco” (2019, Rated R) on Friday, February 17 at 7 p.m. (at Joe’s Movement Emporium, 3309 Bunker Hill Road, Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712).

### Family & Teen Programs

The Library offers a range of storytime, STEM, craft, and game night programs for families. Children can discover the stories of Black inventors, astronauts like Dr. Mae Jemison, and explore their interests as creators. Culture Queen returns to

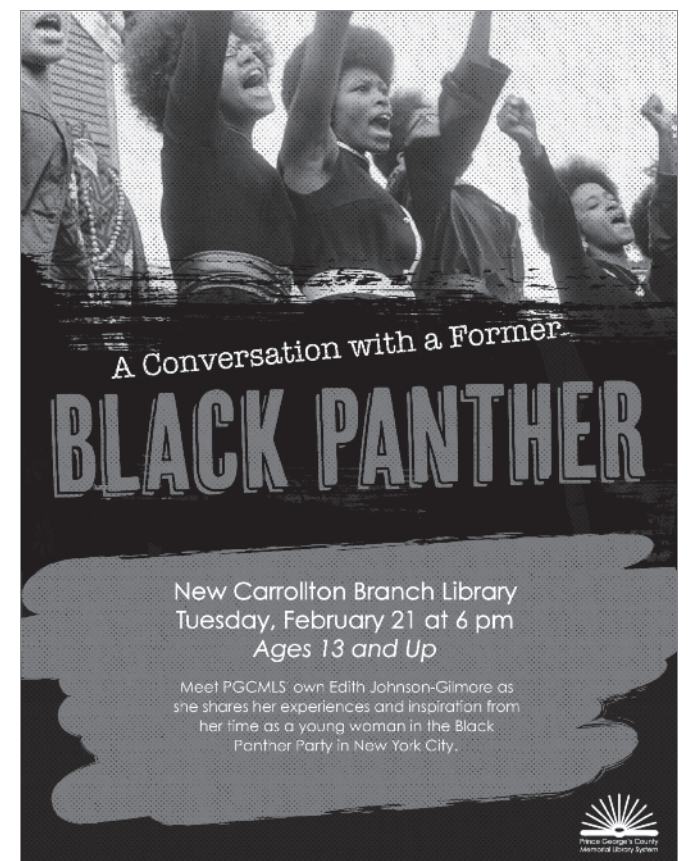


IMAGE COURTESY PGCMLS

PGCMLS for two presentations of “I Like the Me I See!” Teens can earn service hours while learning about Black history through the Teen Action Group at the Greenbelt Branch Library on Wednesday, February 1, 4:30–5:30 p.m.

### Featured Family Programs

Ready 2 Read Art: Ages 3–5—Saturday, February 11, 10:30–11:30 a.m. (Bowie Branch Library)

Ready 2 Read Storytime: Ages 0–2—Monday, February 13, 10:15–10:45 a.m. (Greenbelt Branch Library)

Ready 2 Read Storytime: Ages 2–3—Monday, February 13, 11:30 a.m.–12 p.m. (New Carrollton Branch Library  
STEM-tastic (English/Spanish)—Tuesday, February 14, 4–5 p.m. (Hyattsville Branch Library)

Ready 2 Read Storytime: Ages 3–5—Thursday, February 16, 10:30–11:15 a.m. (Oxon Hill Branch Library)

Ready 2 Read Storytime: Ages 2–3—Friday, February 17, 11:15–11:45 a.m. (Greenbelt Branch Library)

Craftroom—Saturday, February 18, 1–2:30 p.m. (Oxon Hill Branch Library)

Story Explorers - Tuesday, February 21, 4:30–6 p.m. (Oxon Hill Branch Library)

STEM-tastic: Black Inventors—Tuesday, February 21, 4:30–5:30 p.m. (Greenbelt Branch Library) and Monday, February 27, 4:30–5:30 p.m. (The SPACE at Beltway Plaza Mall, 6000 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, Maryland)

Trivia Night: African American Culture—Tuesday, February 21, 5–6 p.m. (Upper Marlboro Branch Library)

STEM for Families: Afrofuturism—Tuesday, February 21, 5:30–7:30 p.m. (Largo-Kettering Branch Library)

Culture Queen Presents “I Like the Me I See!”—Tuesday,

# COMMENTARY

## Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



### To Be Equal:

## Nine Decades After NFL Banned Black Players, Super Bowl LVII Is the First to Feature Two Black Starting Quarterbacks

*“The NFL has a long and racist history with Black QBs. There was a time when people questioned if Black quarterbacks had the intellectual capability to play the most mentally challenging position in American team sports. Often praised for their athletic ability, they’ve been criticized for not having the acumen to be the signal caller for a professional football team. Now, nearly 50 years after James “Shack” Harris and Marlin Briscoe became the first wave of Black players to start at the position, the two best teams in the NFL are being led by two Black QBs and Black people couldn’t be happier about it.”*

—Noah A. McGee

The National Football League has traveled a long and rocky road to Super Bowl LVII, the first in history to feature two Black starting quarterbacks.

In 1920, when the NFL was founded, major league baseball had been racially segregated for more than 50 years. But football was unpopular and good players were hard to find. Team owners figured the public wouldn’t care enough to complain about the few Black players on their rosters. In 1933, George Preston Marshall, who owned the only team south of the Mason-Dixon line, instigated a secret ban on Black players.

After World War II, which saw more than a million Black Americans fight for their country, the integrated All-America Football Conference emerged to compete with the NFL. By the time the two leagues emerged in 1950, six teams had signed Black players.

But racist assumptions kept Black players from the starting quarterback position for nearly another two decades. Doug Williams became the first quarterback to start in—and win—a Super Bowl in

1988. It was not until 2017 that all 32 NFL teams had started at least one Black quarterback.

And it has taken until 2023 for two teams with Black starting quarterbacks to meet in the Super Bowl.

Patrick Mahomes of the Kansas City Chiefs and Jalen Hurts of the Philadelphia Eagles have more in common than this milestone moment. Both of them followed their fathers’ footsteps into professional sports. Mahomes’ father, Pat, is a retired Major League pitcher. Hurts’ father, Averion, turned to coaching after a knee injury ended his professional football career, and he coached his son throughout high school.

Mahomes, who led his team to the Super Bowl two years ago, has already made history as the youngest player in NFL history to have won the regular-season MVP award and Super Bowl MVP honors. His father’s career has given him special insight into the culture of professional sports.

“He gives me advice about how he transitioned into becoming a pro athlete and the work that you actually have to put into it,” Mahomes told the Kansas City Star. “Not a lot of people see that when you’re growing up. You don’t get to see that people really have to work hard to become as good as they are. So, for me seeing that as a young age as I’ve grown up, has shown me that I have to work just as hard to get to that level.”

Even before he reached high school, Hurts would tag along to practices with his father and sometimes jump into drills. “I was born into this stuff because of my dad,” he said in a 2016 interview with the Associated Press. “I’m happy it happened that way.”

Both have started their NFL careers during a

time when players have become more outspoken about racism and social justice and pushed the league to take a stand. Hurts’ former teammate, Malcom Jenkins, co-founded The Players Coalition in 2017 to improve social justice and racial equality. Hurts wears a Black Lives Matter decal on the back of his helmet and has used his platform to speak out against gun violence. He’s also the first Super Bowl quarterback to be represented by a Black woman agent.

In the days after George Floyd’s murder in 2020, Mahomes and other NFL players recorded a powerful video calling on the NFL to “condemn racism and the systematic oppression of Black people” and “admit wrong in silencing our players from peacefully protesting.”

Mahomes followed up the video by starting a voter registration project in Kansas City and joined LeBron James’ More Than A Vote to educate, energize and protect Black voters.

Both quarterbacks are keenly aware of the significance of their achievement.

“It is history. It’s come a long way,” Hurts said, noting there have been only eight previous Black quarterbacks to play in a Super Bowl. “To be the first for something is pretty cool. I know it’ll be a good one.”

If the Chiefs win next Sunday, Mahomes will achieve another milestone: the first Black starting quarterback to earn multiple Lombardi Trophies.

“I’ve learned more and more about the history of Black quarterbacks since I’ve been in this league and the guys that came before me and Jalen set the stage for this,” Mahomes said Thursday. “I’m glad we can set the stage for kids that are coming up now.”

—February 3, 2023

## Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita, Children’s Defense Fund



### ChildWatch:

## “He Should Have Been Safe”

The first day of Black History Month brought a soul crushing ritual that has been repeated over and over in our nation’s history: a funeral for a Black son, father, and brother killed by police. Vice President Kamala Harris was among the White House officials and members of Congress who attended the service for 29-year-old Tyre Nichols at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church in Memphis, Tennessee. His family and friends were also joined by the families of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Eric Garner, Botham Jean, and other victims of police violence.

Tyre Nichols was stopped, dragged from his car, and assaulted by Memphis police officers on his way home after taking sunset photos at one of his favorite parks, and some of those pictures were shown in a montage during the service, along with pictures of him performing on his skateboard, a picture of him beaming as he held his infant son, and pictures of him as a young child and with his beloved mother. Nichols was just yards away from his mother’s home when he was fatally beaten, and on the traumatic video captured at the scene, he can be heard calling out for her as he repeated that he was just trying to go home. But she could not hear his cries, and the officials who were enjoined to protect and help him did neither.

When Vice President Harris spoke she began by praising Nichols’ mother, Mrs. RowVaughn Wells, for her extraordinary

strength, courage, and grace. She then said: “Mothers around the world, when their babies are born, pray to God, when they hold that child, that that body and that life will be safe for the rest of his life. Yet we have a mother and a father who mourn the life of a young man who should be here today. They have a grandson who now does not have a father. His brothers and sister will lose the love of growing old with their baby brother. And when we look at this situation, this is a family that lost their son and their brother through an act of violence at the hands and the feet of people who had been charged with keeping them safe. And when I think about the courage and the strength of this family, I think it demands that we speak truth. And with this, I will say: This violent act was not in pursuit of public safety . . . When we talk about public safety, let us understand what it means in its truest form. Tyre Nichols should have been safe.”

Tyre Nichols should have been safe. The call and cry for police reform has been heard again from every corner of our country since his death, including renewed demands for Congress to pass the reforms in the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which Vice President Harris co-authored while still a Senator and called for again at the funeral. When Mrs. Wells rose to speak through tears she also mentioned that legislation: “We need it passed, need to take some action, because there should be no other child that suffers the way my son (did), and the way

all the other parents have lost their children. We need to get that bill passed, because if we don’t—the next child that dies, that blood is going to be on their hands.” She has said she hopes reform will be her son’s legacy and the reason he was “sent here on assignment from God”—“so when this is all over, it’s going to be some good and some positive, because my son was a good and positive person.”

Will this be the moment it happens? In 2015, several months after 18-year-old Michael Brown was killed by a police officer in Ferguson, Missouri and 12-year-old Tamir Rice was killed by a police officer in Cleveland, Ohio, the Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago created a two-minute video titled “Get Home Safely: 10 Rules of Survival If Stopped by the Police” that they encouraged Black parents and all adults to share with children. It reiterated the urgent message, “Remember that your goal is to get home safely. Your goal is to get home safely.” Yet we have been reminded once again that no amount of “compliance” can guarantee survival and the ability to get home safely after an encounter with police, especially for Black boys and Black men. Tyre Nichols’s death also reinforced the stark reality that diversifying a police force does not guarantee safety for Black citizens either. Studies of disparities in overpolicing and police violence show it is the victim’s race that continues to matter most, and African Americans remain at greatest risk. Systemic and transformative change is desperately needed.

As Vice President Harris concluded her remarks at Tyre Nichols’ funeral she said, “One of my favorite verses in Scripture is Luke Chapter 1, Verse 79, which tells us God will help us to shine a light “upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet in the way of peace...” Let our memory of Tyre shine a light on the path toward peace and justice.” We urgently need to forge a path toward peace, justice, accountability, and safety.

—February 3rd, 2023



PHOTO COURTESY THE JAMAUR LAW FOUNDATION

### The Jamaur Law Foundation check presentation.

### Smart Money from A1

founder, The Jamaur Law Foundation. “There is a major disconnect in the black and brown communities, and I would like to create a system of savings, fiscal responsibility, and a philosophy of investment into their future. This commitment both Spectra and I have into building the financial foundation of tomorrow will promote a system that alleviates the generational poverty that has plagued our impoverished DMV communities.”

The Jamaur Law Foundation was founded to create opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals in the greater Washington, D.C., region to build financial security, savings and wealth for the future. Foundation programming includes financial education, financial coaching, and credit coaching to support individuals of all ages enhance their financial capability and security.

Founded in 1946 to serve the Naval Research Lab, Spectra Credit Union is a \$590-million financial institution serving more than 26,000 members. Membership is open to employees of the Naval Research Laboratory and their immediate family members, employees of more than 90 Select Employer Groups and their immediate family members, members of the American Consumer Council (ACC), and family members of current members in good standing. For more information, visit [spectracu.com](http://spectracu.com).

## The Prince George’s Post

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### Safety from A1

tern of racketeering. In addition to prosecuting violations of individual criminal statutes, they can pursue patterns of criminal acts committed by direct and indirect participants in criminal enterprises.

**Safe Harbor and Service Response—Sexual Crimes against Child Victims.** This legislation alters procedures that a law enforcement officer or court must follow when there is reason to believe that a child who has been detained is a victim of sex trafficking or human trafficking. The legislation provides that a minor may not be criminally prosecuted or proceeded against under certain provisions of the law for certain offenses—if the alleged offense is the direct result of human trafficking.

**Expanding Expungement—** This legislation will allow individuals, who have committed certain felonies, to have their criminal records expunged after a significant time pe-

riod without subsequent convictions. The current expungement statute only allows for certain misdemeanors to be expunged. This legislation expands this opportunity to include individuals who were convicted of more serious offenses, but who have not committed any additional crimes for 20 years after their release from incarceration.

**Prosecutorial Reconsideration—** This legislation will provide limited discretion to State’s Attorneys to file a motion to modify a sentence during any period of active incarceration. This legislation also establishes factors for the court’s consideration at a hearing on the motion including: (1) the inmate’s disciplinary record and record of rehabilitation and maturity while incarcerated; (2) evidence that reflects whether age, time served, or diminished physical condition has reduced the inmate’s risk for future violence; and (3) evidence reflecting a change in circumstances since the original conviction and sentencing such that the inmate’s continued incarceration

is no longer in the interest of justice.

**Cannabis Public Awareness Campaign Funding Authorization—** This request will authorize funding for law enforcement agencies to create public education campaigns aimed at educating youth and adults about the potential negative health effects and risks of recreational cannabis use.

**Emerging Adult Working Group—** The Prince George’s County State’s Attorney’s Office (SAO) is requesting funding for the Emerging Adult Program. This program focuses on individuals aged 18-26 years old who are currently incarcerated or serving out sentences in the community. The program establishes key re-entry programs for our young adults, including mentorship, counseling, job training, and work placement. The program begins when the young adult is sentenced and continues through any period of incarceration, parole, or probation to reduce recidivism and promote successful re-entry into the community.

# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## Springs Promoted to Head Athletic Trainer at Bowie State

BOWIE, Md. (Feb. 2, 2023)—Courtnee Springs, who has served as an Assistant Athletic Trainer at Bowie State University since 2021, has been promoted to Head Athletic Trainer, announced by Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation Clyde Doughty, Jr. on Thursday [Feb. 2].

Springs currently serves as the primary athletic trainer for football, men's basketball and softball.

Springs joined Bowie State in January of 2022 after spending time as the athletic trainer at Lackey High School for ProFlex Physical Therapy.

The native of Burlington, N.C. graduated from Chowan University in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in Exercise Science. She received her master's degree in Athletic Training from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 2019.

Springs is a member of the National Athletic Trainers Association. She is certified as a Professional Rescuer in CPR, First Aid, and AED and is certified in the use of Hawk Grips.

For the most up-to-date information on Bowie State University Athletics and its 13 varsity sports teams, please visit [www.bsbulldogs.com](http://www.bsbulldogs.com)

—Dr. Jolisa Williams, Bowie State University

## Social Security Matters

### Ask Rusty:

### Will Social Security Be There for Me?

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 56 and hope to hold out to get maximum Social Security at age 70. However, with all of the talk of Social Security funds being depleted, is it wise to continue with this mindset? Will there even be Social Security benefits for folks in my age bracket? Should I think about starting Social Security benefits as soon as I am eligible? I am employed; however, I don't have a large amount of savings. I contribute to my company's 401(k) and receive the match, and I own my own home (almost paid off) with an estimated \$250,000.00 in equity, but I won't be able to stay in the home long term. Any insight you can provide would be greatly appreciated.  
**Signed: Weary Worker**

**Dear Weary Worker:** I don't suggest changing your strategy due to fears of Social Security not being there—it will be. Although the program is facing some future financial issues, the very worst that could happen is that everyone's benefits might be cut by 20+% if Congress fails to act to restore the program to solvency before the Trust Funds are depleted in the early to mid-2030s. In my opinion, Congress will not likely fail to act because to do so would be political suicide. The fact is, they already know how to fix Social Security's financial issues; they just lack the bipartisan spirit and political fortitude to do so until they extract every possible ounce of political capital from the issue. So, it's largely a matter of how long Congress will wait to reform the program.

Right now, the Social Security Trust Funds hold about \$2.8 trillion in reserves to ensure full benefits will be paid. But Social Security now pays out more in benefits than it receives in revenue, so the extra money needed to pay full benefits is taken from those reserves. What is needed is reform which addresses the reality that people today are living much longer and collecting benefits for much longer than the program is structured to accommodate. Many possible solutions are on the table in Congress, including raising the full retirement age a bit to deal with the reality of people living much longer, and increasing the program's tax revenue by withholding a bit more from American workers. The eventual reform will likely include some variation of both, as well as other "tweaks" which further guarantee the program will be there for future generations.

As for the thought of claiming your benefits as soon as you are eligible (age 62), be aware that Social Security has an "earnings test" which applies to anyone who collects benefits before reaching full retirement age (FRA). If you are working full time when you first become age-eligible, you likely wouldn't be able to collect benefits because your benefit amount would be insufficient to pay the penalty for exceeding the earnings limit (\$1 for every \$2 over the limit) within one year. And, as you may already know, your age 62 benefit would be cut by about 30% from your FRA amount, while your benefit at age 70 would be about 76% more than your age 62 benefit.

So even if the worst case scenario happens (which it almost certainly won't), an across the board cut of 20+% to your age 70 benefit would yield a higher monthly payment than that same cut to your age 62 benefit amount. So, I suggest you stick with your current strategy to continue working and wait as long as practical to claim your benefits (up to age 70). As an aside, AMAC (Association of Mature American Citizens) has, for years, been proposing (to Congress) its "Social Security Guarantee Plus" which would restore Social Security to solvency for generations to come and would not require an increased payroll tax rate. Congressional reaction has been generally positive, leading us to be hopeful for a reasonable solution to the problem.

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).

## Everything Legendary Is Providing Plant-Based Gourmet Foods to Bowie State

African American owned plant-based manufacturer enters agreement with the oldest HBCU in Maryland

By PRESS OFFICER

### Everything Legendary

BOWIE, Md. (Feb. 1, 2023)—Everything Legendary, creators of plant-based food with legendary flavor, announced today that it has a new agreement with Bowie State University (BSU) to provide gourmet, plant-based food in campus dining facilities beginning in February. Founded by Historically Black College and University (HBCU) graduates, it's the company's first agreement with an HBCU or any other institution of higher learning.

"We are pleased to be working with BSU and believe it is just the beginning of a long and fruitful relationship," said Duane "Myko" Cheers, Everything Legendary co-founder. "BSU is just the beginning. Our goal is to work with colleges and universities across the United States to provide them with plant-based food."

Both Duane Myko Cheers and co-founder Danita Claytor are HBCU graduates. Cheers graduated from Morgan State University while Claytor earned her undergraduate degree from BSU.

"Everything Legendary is rapidly developing a reputation of providing good tasting plant-based food that appeals particularly to young adults," said Wade Henley, associate vice president of auxiliary services. "Options are important to students at BSU and Everything Legendary will provide them and others on campus with choices to ensure that they have a pleasant dining experience."

In less than two years, the company has grown from a family kitchen operation to a nationally-recognized brand with a strong retail footprint, three manufacturing facilities and a legendary rock star team to take the company to the next level.

The rapid rise of Everything Legendary, the nation's fastest growing plant-based meat company, began in early 2021 when the founders were making burgers by hand in their kitchen at home. In just 15 months, they went from zero to 4,000 national grocery store shelves including retailers such as Whole Foods, Safeway, ACME Markets, Target, Sprouts, Kroger, Ralphs, Kings, and Balducci, with additional placements coming this year.

"We have been very successful with our grocery store expansion. In 2023, we are focusing on food service expansion and HBCUs are up first," said Cheers. "We are



**AFRICAN AMERICAN OWNED EVERYTHING LEGENDARY REACHES DEAL WITH BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY, MARYLAND'S OLDEST HBCU, TO PROVIDE GOURMET, PLANT-BASED FOODS IN THE DINING HALL.**

IMAGE COURTESY EVERYTHING LEGENDARY

HBCU graduates and live this culture. We know what it is like to live on a campus with limited plant-based options. Through our relationship with BSU, we are excited to raise the bar by offering healthy, plant-based options to the students and faculty on campus. This is just the beginning."

In support of this initiative, Everything Legendary will be leveraging their partnership with Live Nation to offer events, prizes, and concerts exclusively for students at BSU. There are also plans for Everything Legendary to launch in 50 additional colleges and universities in the spring of 2023, with a focus on HBCUs.

"The Washington Post has reported that African Americans are the fastest growing group of plant-based consumers. However, there are very few black-owned companies producing plant-based products," said Danita Claytor, co-founder of Everything Legendary. "We want to inspire the next generation of African American plant-based entrepreneurs to go after their dreams. We are grateful to partner with all the illustrious HBCUs, especially my alma mater, BSU."

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

Everything Legendary, founded by Duane "Myko" Cheers and Danita Claytor, is leading the flavor revolution with a line of healthy, plant-based ground and burger patties. Inspired by Mom, created by a chef, and taste-tested by the community, Everything Legendary is a black-owned company that goes above and beyond the impossible to deliver food with legendary flavor and superior quality. Everything Legendary can be found at retailers nationwide, in restaurants and on their website. For recipes, tutorials, product information and more, visit <https://golegendary.com>. Join the movement. Connect with Everything Legendary on Instagram, Facebook and TikTok.

## Earth TALK™ A Greener NFL: American Football Marches Downfield Toward Net Zero

Dear EarthTalk:

What is the National Football League doing to reduce its environmental impact and carbon footprint?

—Mitch Trevino,  
Las Vegas, NV

Like any major spectator sport league, the National Football League (NFL) is no darling to environmental advocates. Stadium construction, maintenance and energy use contribute significantly to carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions and resource depletion. Transportation of fans to games, waste generated during games, and production and disposal of merchandise and equipment can also contribute to environmental harm.

That said, given these points against it, the NFL has made a concerted effort in recent years to reduce its environmental impact, even vowing to become a "net zero" emissions league—meaning it will offset all of its greenhouse gas emissions through a combination of reducing its own emissions and supporting projects that remove or reduce CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere—in the near future.

Indeed, the NFL has made a major push to offset CO<sub>2</sub> emissions over the past few years, offsetting upwards of 20,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year, league-wide. The leading non-profit Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) is partnering with

the NFL on its emissions reduction and offset strategy. The goal of this unusual partnership is to reduce emissions through improved energy efficiency and the increased use of renewable energy sources.

The league also encourages and promotes sustainability practices—recycling, reducing single-use plastics, and using environmentally-friendly transportation—at stadiums across the country. And an NFL tree planting campaign also helps reduce the league's carbon footprint. The league rounds out its emissions reduction strategy by purchasing renewable energy credits to "offset" emissions from energy usage in NFL facilities and events. The league proudly offsets all energy used at major Super Bowl venues.

Waste reduction is also a source of pride for the NFL. Starting in 2019, upwards of 90 percent of the waste generated at and around the Super Bowl was diverted from landfills through recycling and composting. Likewise, the league has started to take water conservation seriously, implementing low-flow plumbing fixtures and drought-resistant landscaping at various stadiums nationwide, while simultaneously working to educate fans on water conservation through its sustainability outreach program.

Another area where NFL planners have made strides is

sustainable building and retrofits, implementing green building practices—such as the implementation of energy-efficient lighting and HVAC systems and the use of recycled building materials in several facilities across the country. For example, Levi's Stadium, home of the San Francisco 49ers, is LEED Gold Certified and has a 27,000 square-foot green roof (green roofs provide numerous benefits, including stormwater management, improved air quality, energy efficiency, fire retardation and noise reduction).

The NFL isn't the only American sports league fixated on sustainability of late. The National Basketball Association (NBA) has its annual "Green Week" celebration, Major League Baseball (MLB) has its "Green Game" initiative that runs the length of the baseball

season, and the National Hockey League (NHL) has its "Green Initiative" that promotes sustainability year-round. But the NFL runs the highest profile sporting event on the planet—the Super Bowl—so it has a much larger opportunity to reach fans across the continent and around the world with its messages and examples of sustainability.

**CONTACTS:** NFL Green, [nfl.com/causes/nfl-green/](http://nfl.com/causes/nfl-green/); Environmental Defense Fund, [edf.org](http://edf.org).

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The NFL has made great strides in the last few years to green up its operations, and will soon become a net zero emissions league. CREDIT: JONATHAN MOREAU, FLICKRCC

