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Prince George's County Honorees: (from left) Aliyah Smith, Saniya Pearson, Lillian Merrill, Stephen Albert, with Senator C. Anthony Muse at the Maryland State House in Annapolis.

State Senators and Delegates Honor Maryland History Day Students at State House

Maryland Humanities reaches 24th year as state affiliate of national program

By SARAH WEISSMAN
Maryland Humanities

BALTIMORE (March 3, 2023)—Nineteen outstanding Maryland middle and high school history scholars received commendations from State Senators and Delegates at the Maryland State House in Annapolis. The students were acknowledged on February 27 for awards or honors they re-

ceived at the 2022 National History Day competition. They represented Baltimore City, Howard County, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County.

Teachers Michael Muscavage and Devin Page were also recognized for being named the Maryland History Day High and Middle School Teachers of the Year, respectively. Muscavage teaches at Arundel High School

in Anne Arundel County and Page teaches at Northern Middle School in Calvert County. At the 2022 National History Day Competition, Page was also named as one of six finalists nationwide for the Junior Division of the Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award.

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Prince George's County Deploys Advanced Camera Surveillance Systems to Stop Illegal Dumping

Mobile cameras will provide real-time evidence for civil and criminal penalties

By LINDA LOWE
Department of the Environment

LARGO, Md. (March 2, 2023)—The Prince George's County's Department of Environment (DoE) has begun deploying new, advanced, covert camera surveillance systems across the County to catch illegal dumpers in the act.

These advanced surveillance systems, supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, are strategically placed in known dumping areas referred to as "hot spots."

They will allow the Environmental Task Force, led by the Department of Environment and in partnership with other agencies, including the Police Department, to provide real-time evidence to enforce County property standards, litter, and illegal dumping laws. These new systems will supplement the County's current supply of operating mobile surveillance cameras.

See DUMPING Page A4

New Bill Looks to Establish Water Safety, Swimming Elective for Upper-Grade Students

By KARA THOMPSON
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (March 9, 2023)—Of the many bills in this year's legislative session set to make changes to education in Maryland, one stands out: a bill that would develop a water safety and swimming curriculum for high school-aged students.

Del. Karen Toles, D-Prince George's, is the main sponsor of HB1105, which would require the State Board of Education to establish an elective course for public school students in grades 8–12 that would teach them the basics of swimming and water safety.

"It is a huge issue, particularly in the Black community, that more minority kids drown from not knowing how to swim than any other group of individuals," she said. "I think it's something that we should look at, which gave me the idea to put something like this forward."

Toles also noted that many Historically Black Colleges and Universities like Howard and Hampton made sure kids knew how to swim before they could graduate, which is something she took into consideration when coming up with the bill.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional death for children ages 17 and below. In children aged 10–14, Black children drown at 7.6 times the rate that white children do in swimming pools.

The bill suggests public middle or high schools offering this course partner with a local parks and recreation agency to connect them with the pool and facilities needed in order to successfully teach it.



A life preserver hangs on the pier along the downtown Annapolis waterfront on March 9, a sunny day in the state's capital.

"I drafted the bill to say that you can use (it) as a physical education credit, and having it during middle school and high school, they actually get credit for physical education," said Toles. The idea has the added benefit of possible lifeguarding jobs down the road for students successfully completing the course.

The delegate also said she would like to see more competitive swimming programs lead to recruitments to colleges and universities. Having a program that teaches teenagers swimming and water safety skills increases the opportunities for them to be a part of a competitive swim team.

"It is important to our community that has been underrepresented and has been underserved for far too long in order to be able to bring quality swimming opportunities to our communities in Maryland, as well as to continue to promote water safety and drowning prevention," said Nicholas Askew, head coach and director of Swimming and Diving at Howard University, in testimony on the bill before the House Ways and Means Committee March 8.

Dr. William Ramos, member of the American Red Cross Scientific Advisory Council, said that one unique thing about HB1105 is that it targets high-school-aged children, while typically this type of legislation is targeted at younger kids.

"We start seeing teen boys drowning at higher rates around those grades, so it's an important and intervention piece," he said. "Often I think we forget about the older kids, assuming they got something when they were younger, but many don't."

If the bill passes, local boards of education would have to implement the course beginning in the 2025–2026 school year.

"This bill is a step, a huge step in being able to have a solution to this public health crisis," said Askew. "Many of our communities are around waterways, many of our children will try to enjoy different areas around pools and splash parks, and it is our obligation as adults to be able to provide them with the safest opportunities as possible."

Some Maryland public schools already offer some sort of water

See WATER SAFETY Page A4

Moore and Lawmakers Plead Maryland's Case for New FBI Headquarters

By MICAELA HANSON AND AUZINEA BACON
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON (March 8, 2023)—After a final pitch meeting Wednesday with the General Services Administration to land the new FBI headquarters in Prince George's County, Maryland Gov. Wes Moore and the state's congressional delegation said they urged federal officials to equally weigh racial equity in making a final decision.

The GSA said it is willing to reassess the September criteria, Moore said in a press conference after the meeting.

"All we're asking was a fair and transparent process and one where a thumb is not being put on the scale to unfairly disadvantage a community that has already been historically disadvantaged," the governor said. "And we know that with a fair process, Maryland will prevail."

The GSA is believed to be nearing a final decision on locating the new FBI headquarters, ending a search that began 10 years ago. The choice, narrowed from 35 initial candidates, is down to three locations: Greenbelt and Landover in Prince George's County and Springfield in Fairfax County, Virginia.

Prince George's County is the only majority-Black jurisdiction in the national capital region. Greenbelt and Landover are the only sites near a historically Black college and university, Bowie State University.

The FBI headquarters search was suspended during the Trump administration. Restarted by the Biden administration,

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WASHINGTON—Surrounded by state and county officials and much of the state's congressional delegation, Maryland Gov. Wes Moore speaks to reporters about the state's pitch to the General Services Administration for getting the new FBI headquarters.

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Paint Party With a Purpose

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ChildWatch: The Truth of Selma

The Selma march was originally planned not only to gain the right to vote, but to protest the tragic death of Jimmie Lee Jackson, a 26-year-old Black church deacon and military veteran killed in Marion, Alabama ...

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Youth Career Center Offers Job Training, Cash Incentives for Prince George's County Youth

The Youth Career Center now offers a variety of programs, including career services, to help our youth and young adults prepare for and secure jobs.

Business and Finance, Page A5

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

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

Remembering Dolores Pitts and the plane crash of 1951

I first met Dolores when she worked at Parr's Variety Store in the Skyline shopping strip on Suitland Road. It was a convenient little store where you could pick up a spool of thread or a greeting card. Dolores was a friendly clerk, who bragged about her young grandchildren and showed their photos to the customers.

Dolores and Claude Pitts had moved from Kansas City when Claude took a job in Washington back in the early '40s. In 1942 they bought a home at 417 Allies Road in Morningside, most of which back then was just fields and trees.

They were among Morningside's founding residents when the town incorporated on March 11, 1949.

They were only a block away when, on April 8, 1951, a B-25 bomber flying out of Andrews crashed into a house at the corner of Allies Road and Poplar Road, killing two little girls and their visiting uncle.

Dolores was busy raising her four children, but she worked at Parr's Variety Store until it closed. When St. Philip's Parish in Camp Springs was founded in 1957, Dolores helped organize the Sodality, worked with the Teen Club and ran fashion shows for the benefit of parish organizations.

She died of cancer 40 years ago this month, on March 9, 1983, at her home on Allies Road. She was survived by Claude, her husband of 48 years, her children and their spouses, Bob and Jan Pitts, Patricia Pitts, Cindy and Robert Harnsberger. Another son, Ed, was killed in an auto accident. She also left behind five grandchildren.

Dolores' Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Philip's. She is buried at Resurrection Cemetery.

Town of Morningside

Morningside's Yard Sale is coming up Saturday, April 15, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Morningside Volunteer Fire Depart-

ment. Space is limited. To register, call 301-736-2301.

Election Day 2023 will be Monday, May 1, at the Morningside Municipal Center, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Two Council Members are on the slate. Candidates will be profiled as they come forth. To vote, you must live within the municipal Town limits and be registered at your current address. If you are not registered with the County Board of Elections, you can still register in the Town by April 3.

There may still be need for one more Election Judge. Call 301-736-2300.

The Easter Bunny is coming to Morningside for Bingo Bunny Breakfast & Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8, 9 a.m. to noon at the Morningside Municipal Center. Breakfast will include pancakes, fruit, water and juice. And there'll be 5 fun games of Bingo and door prizes. For the Egg Hunt, bring a basket to collect your eggs. The Egg Hunt is for walkers through age 12. Admission, \$5 per person.

Tickets can be purchased Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 6901 Ames St. (Town Hall). They must be pre-purchased. Seating is limited. For information, call 301-736-2301.

The Regular Town Hall Meeting is coming up Tuesday, March 21, 7 p.m.

Neighbors & other good people

Morningside Mayor Bennard Cann has been named an Honorary Commander of Joint Base Andrews! The full story next week.

Thurgood Marshall, civil rights lawyer and former U.S. Supreme Court Justice, will be honored by the University of Maryland when their newly opened School of Public Policy is named for him.

Mary Elizabeth Hartigan Mudd, my grandmother, was Irish. The youngest in her family, she was born in Brooklyn after her family left Ireland to settle in the U.S. I figure that means I can celebrate on March 17. How about you?

Changing landscape

Gov. Wes Moore has joined U.S. Rep. Steny Hoyer and other political heavy-hitters in lobbying for a new FBI headquarters in Prince George's County. The Washington Post says, "This move isn't just the right thing to do; it's also the responsible thing to do. The two Maryland sites are build-ready now; the Virginia site isn't." Stay tuned.

Sardi's has acquired 8900 Woodyard Road in Clinton for \$1.6 million and a new Sardi's may soon be opening there, at the busy intersection of Woodyard Road and Branch Avenue. This location is the former Young Chow Bar & Grill (a favorite of mine, now gone forever).

The Smithsonian's renovated bird house at the National Zoo reopened Monday, March 13. As zoo visitors "migrate" through the shores of the Delaware Bay, a lush prairie pothole and a tropical Bird Friendly coffee farm, free-flight birds stride, paddle, tweet and fly all around them in this multi-sensory, immersive aviary. The zoo is free, but parking isn't, and entry passes are required. Summer hours, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., begin March 15.

A home at 4746 Towne Park Road in Suitland, has sold for \$470,000. Town Park Road is a new street near Suitland Elementary School.

May they rest In Peace

- Motoko Howard, longtime organist at St. Philip's Church, died March 9. She was an amazing musician and a beautiful person. More about her later.
- Sister Constance Ward, mainstay in the Washington Archdiocese's Office of Worship, died in October. In recent years she lived at Holy Family Convent in Hillcrest Heights. She was 97.
- Dr. Louis V. Kaufman, of Ft. Washington and La Plata, an internist and pulmonologist for 40 years in Prince George's County, died Feb. 20. At the

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Around the County

St. Philip's Little Chapel Food Pantry Sunday, March 19, 2023

The next St. Philip's Little Chapel Food Pantry is this Sunday, March 19, 2023 from 9 a.m. to Noon or until supplies run out. We are located at the corner of 6th and Prince George's Streets, one block off Main Street, Laurel, MD, behind the main church and next to the playground.

Council Vice Chair Wala Blegay Introduces Legislation Addressing Nurse-Patient Ratios in Prince George's County

Prince George's County Council Vice Chair Wala Blegay, Esq., concerned about the impact of nurse-patient ratios on the level of care provided to patients in urgent care facilities and hospitals in the County, introduced Council Resolution-013-2023, encouraging the state of Maryland to ensure an optimum level of care for patients by creating a standard for nurse-patient ratios, during Council session on Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

The Prince George's County Council, in its role as the County's Board of Health, has substantial interest and investment in assuring that acute care general hospitals, emergency rooms, urgent care facilities and psychiatric hospitals retain sufficient staff to promote the best and safest health outcomes.

Council Vice Chair Blegay noted that bringing access to quality health-care to County residents and communities is a People's Agenda priority for the People's Council.

"In our County, emergency rooms are crowded, wait times are too long, and there are concerns about the impact of inadequate staffing of nurses and other health professionals, on the patient's overall experience and care. I am committed to ensuring significantly improving working conditions for nurses and patient health outcomes in Prince George's County."

The state of Maryland maintains authority to increase nurse-patient ratios. Under the proposed measure introduced Tuesday, the Board of Health would collect empirical data on nurse-patient ratios in the County, submit its findings to the County, and share the results with Maryland Governor Wes Moore, Senate President Bill Ferguson, House Speaker Adrienne Jones, Prince George's County Senate Delegation Chair Michael A. Jackson, and Prince George's County House Delegation Chair Nick Charles, with a formal request urging state action using Prince George's County as the example by the data collected.

CR-013-2023 has been referred to the Council's Health, Human Services and Public Safety (HHSPS) committee for legislative review.

Prince George's County's PreventionLink Program Partners With Local Jurisdictions to Spread Awareness About Diabetes

PreventionLink will attend and host community events to engage and enroll at-risk Prince George's County residents.

LARGO, Md. (March 7, 2023)—The Prince George's County Health Department is working to engage and enroll County residents with chronic health conditions into PreventionLink, a nationally recognized Diabetes prevention and management program. In 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) awarded the Prince George's County Health Department with the Full Plus Recognition for providing residents with high-quality, evidence-based lifestyle change programs that help prevent or manage Type 2 diabetes. PreventionLink is the groundbreaking program used to administer this service.

Through upcoming community events and partnerships, PreventionLink and the County Health Department will engage the local population in an effort to vitally increase levels of service. In May and June, the County Health Department will host various community programs to raise awareness and access to enrollment that will be free and open to the general public. Details about those events are forthcoming.

PreventionLink services include Cardiac Rehabilitation, Remote Patient Monitoring, Lifestyle Client Management, and the National Diabetes Prevention Program. Residents can participate by filling out this form.

To learn more about PreventionLink and the comprehensive programs and services offered to Prince George's County residents, visit: <https://preventionlinkmd.com/>. To learn more about the standards of a CDC Full Plus Recognition, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and view the CDC's national registry of recognized organizations.

Register Now for "The Woods in Your Backyard" Online Course

Monday, April 3 to June 13, 2023

Registration is now open for the spring 2023 session of "The Woods in Your Backyard" online course. Our self-directed, non-credit course runs 10 weeks from April 3 to June 13, 2023. The course will help landowners convert lawn to natural areas and enhance stewardship of existing natural areas. The course provides strategies to landowners of small parcels of land (1-10 acres) that improve the stewardship of their property for personal enjoyment and environmental quality. It uses a hands-on learning approach to help participants develop and implement a plan for their property. Activities include how to map habitat areas, understand basic ecological principles about woodland and wildlife, choose and implement a few habitat management projects, and how to set a timetable and record your progress. Online discussion groups will allow participants to interact with others taking the course. A certificate of completion is awarded when all assignments are completed.

The course costs \$95.00 per person, which includes the 108-page "Woods in Your Backyard" guide, workbook, and a tree identification guide. The course is limited to 25 participants, so sign up now! Registration closes April 3 or when filled. Registration is through Eventbrite; go to <https://spring23.eventbrite.com>.

For more information, go to <https://go.umd.edu/3XUbbDb>, or contact course coordinator Andrew Kling, University of Maryland Extension, akling1@umd.edu, 301-432-2767, extension 307.

The University of Maryland Extension programs are open to any person and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, genetic information, political affiliation, and gender identity or expression.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

LENTEN SERVICES

March 22, 2023 Lenten Service will be at Christ United Methodist Church 7 p.m. "For I was naked" (donate clothing to Shepherd's Closet). Christ Church address is 22919 Christ Church Road, Aquasco, Maryland. Rev. Shemaiah Strickland, Pastor. March 29 "For I was sick" (Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church (Caregiver Support Group Meeting) at 7 p.m. 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Rev. Shemaiah Strickland, Pastor. Brookfield United Methodist Church April 5 "For I was in prison" (Prison Service Project) at 7 p.m. 12806 Croom Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Rev. Samuel R. Tryon, Pastor.

FRIED CHICKEN BOX SUNDAY

It is our Fried Chicken Box Sunday. Come and get your chicken box and enjoy some social time with our family, members and friends Sunday, March 19, 2023 at 11 a.m. Chicken Box cost \$7.00. Cash App- \$stphilipsbaden. Preorders and payments appreciated. Chicken Boxes includes 2 pieces of Chicken (Drum & Thigh) potato salad and roll.

Benefit: St. Philip's Church Feed My Sheep Program. Point of contacts Shirley A. Cleaves (302) 690-4260, Vivian Rich (804) 301-9530, Jackie Harper (301)-385-2620, St. Philip's Church (301)-888-1536.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY MEMORIAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

Family Library Mini-Golf 18 holes of mini-golf fun with treats, March 18, 2023, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Bring the kids and putt-putt your way through eighteen holes of Mini-Golf. Tickets cost \$5.00-\$10.00. Go online (www.pgmls.info/event/7806767) and get tickets via eventbrite. All proceeds benefit Books from Birth. By: Prince George's County Memorial Library System Foundation. Location: South Bowie Branch Library (PGCMLS) 15301 Hall Road Bowie, Maryland.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SUMMER JOBS

The Prince George's County Summer Employment Program is now accepting applications for young people ages 14-22. Application dates are March 1-March 31, 2023. Program dates are July 5-August 11, 2023. Earn money, learn new skills, explore a Career Field and meet new people. For more information about the program and to apply visit the Youth@Work/SYEP website. <https://www.princegeorge'scountymd.gov/4218/SummerYouth-Enrichment-Program>. Source: County Executive Angela A. Alsobrooks Community Connections Newsletter.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Theme for 2023 Women's History Month is celebrating women who tell our stories from Wednesday, March 1, 2023-Friday March 31, 2023. The month will be commemorating and encouraging the study, observance and celebration of the vital role of women in American history. Visit online at <https://womenshistorymonth.gov>

JORDAN PEER RECOVERY CAP CONFERENCE

Join our 5th Annual Culturally Aligned Peer Recovery Conference Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 4 p.m. to June 9, 2023, 5 p.m. at Bowie State University for the advancement for culturally responsive peer services. Address is 14000 Jericho Park Road, Bowie, Maryland.

This conference is designed to support the advancement of culturally aligned recovery. This includes a variety of culturally aligned methods, practices, rituals, programs, and belief systems that promote a recovery to discovery process. We expect our attendees to come away with a broader knowledge of culturally aligned peer recovery services while being refreshed in their journey of recovery. Unfortunately, due to funds being allocated to support the planning of the conference, we do not offer refunds on ticket sales. We may be inclined to deduct your ticket cost from future course purchases, events, webinars, etc. Thank you. Planning Team!

Ticket Information. Student Registration cost \$35, Early Bird Registration cost \$35, General Admission Registration cost \$70. Hosted by Jordan Peer Recovery. (<https://allevents.in/bowie/jordan-peer-recovery-cap-conference-2023/10000473516008127>)

SUMMER CAR SHOW

Join us Sunday, June 11, 2023, at 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the Summer Car Show, 15501 Annapolis Road, Bowie, Maryland hosted by Crescent Wine & Spirits. It is that time of year. Come join us for our annual car show and wine/beer/spirits festival. There will be fun for all ages, so bring your family and friends. We will have raffles, face painting, free tastings, food and more.

MARCH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday to Elizabeth Davis, Redland Robert V. Kelley, Marquis Wallace, Shirley Brown, Dezmmond Wood, Anthony Oghogho, Elena Gatling, Safiya Terry-Joseph, Brittany Baker, Denise Reid Bourne, Mildred Edwards, Vedall Grant, Lloyd Brown, Patricia Stephens, Tina Fields, Niecia Tay, Aja Laylonie Bell, and Henry Thomas who Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating birthdays in March.

MARCH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to Marian and Dr. Anthony Thomas, Emmanuel and Claudette Oghogho, Chris and Jasmine Taylor Marshall who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating Wedding Anniversaries in March.

HBCU CON 2023

Join us for #BlackGeekHomecoming as HBCU Con brings a Different World to the campus of Bowie State University Friday, April 28, 2023, 4 p.m.-Sunday, April 30, 5 p.m. Address: 14000 Jericho Park Road, Bowie, Maryland. Information and Tickets: Eventbrite.com, Allevents.

COMMUNITY

Library Celebrates Women Writers & Aviators This Women's History Month

By NICHOLAS BROWN
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (March 6, 2023)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is proud to present a series of 27 special events this March to celebrate Women's History Month. This annual national commemoration was established in 1981 and is part of the Library's year-round cultural heritage programming. PGCMLS recognizes the essential contributions of women in American history and in leading the Prince George's County and Maryland communities forward. Customers are invited to attend children's, youth, and adult education programs that will deepen their appreciation of many women leaders by learning about their stories.

The 2023 Women's History Month lineup includes special events, new episodes of PGCMLS' "These Books Made Me" podcast, new on-demand event videos that share first-person stories of women leaders (like PGCMLS' own Edith Johnson-Gilmore who was a mem-

ber of the Black Panther Party), and a wide range of curated reading and streaming media recommendation lists. This month's featured book discussions explore works by Rabia Chaudry (author of the 2022/2023 Prince George's County Reads selection "Fatty Fatty Boom Boom"), Janet Beard, Maggie Shipstead, and Gabriela Garcia.

Latinas in Aviation Special Events

The Library and College Park Aviation Museum will co-present a series of events this spring that feature authors and pilots who contributed to the book "Latinas in Aviation: Maryland Edition." The speakers are also participants in the College Park Aviation Museum's Latinas in Aviation Festival. This festival is an engaging annual event in the fall that attracts Hispanic/Latin women pilots and aviation enthusiasts to celebrate the empowerment of Latin women in aviation. The joint Women's History Month events will take place at several PGCMLS branch libraries and aim to engage teens and adults in learning about pathways to careers in

STEM and aviation fields. Books will be available for purchase and signing at the events.

- Thursday, March 16, 4:30–5:30 p.m.—Teen Action Group: Latinas in Action Q&A, Hyattsville Branch Library (Teens)
- Tuesday, March 28, 6:30–7:30 p.m.—Latinas in Aviation Panel & Discussion, Laurel Branch Library (Adults)
- Wednesday, April 19, 6:30–7:30 p.m.—Latinas in Aviation Panel & Discussion, Beltsville Branch Library (Adults)

Schedule of Additional Featured Events

- Thursday, March 16, 10:30–11:30 a.m.—Ready 2 Read STEM: Women in STEM, Largo-Kettering (Ages 0–5)
- Tuesday, March 21, 4:30–5:30 p.m.—STEM-tastic: Women Computer Scientists, Greenbelt Branch Library (Ages 5–12)
- Tuesday, March 21, 5–6 p.m.—STEM-tastic: Watershed Activity, Beltsville Branch Library (Ages 5–12)

- Tuesday, March 21, 6:30–7 p.m.—Women's History Month Ready 2 Read Storytime, Greenbelt Branch Library (Ages 3–5)
- Tuesday, March 21, 6:30–8 p.m.—Book Discussion: "Agent Josephine: American Beauty, French Hero, British Spy" by Damien Lewis, Virtual (Adults)
- Thursday, March 23, 4–5 p.m.—Trivia Afternoon: "That's What She Said", Spauldings (Teens, Adults)
- Thursday, March 23, 4:30–5:30 p.m.—Teens and Tech: Ozobots and Women's History Month, Largo-Kettering (Teens)
- Saturday, March 25, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.—STEM for Families: Women in STEM, Bowie (Ages 5–12)
- Tuesday, March 28, 4–5 p.m.—Story Explorers | Explorando los cuentos: Quilters of Gee's Bend, Hyattsville (Ages 5–12)
- Tuesday, March 28, 7–8 p.m.—The Elephant We Don't See: A Diversity Dialogue - "Minor Feelings" by Cathy Park Hong, Virtual (Adults)—co-presented with the Prince George's County Office of Human Rights
- Tuesday, March 28, 7–8 p.m.—Community Led Book Discussion: "Of Women and Salt: A Novel" by Gabriela

- Garcia, Laurel (Adults)
 - Wednesday, March 29, 1–2:30 p.m.—Base Camp: Veterans and Information and Resource Sessions: Women's History Month, Virtual (Adults)
 - Wednesday, March 29, 5:30–6:30 p.m.—Teens Create: Silhouette Painting, Upper Marlboro (Teens)
 - Wednesday, March 29, 6–7 p.m.—The History of the Woman's Club of Laurel, Laurel (Adults)
 - Thursday, March 30, 7–8 p.m.—Prince George's County Reads: Virtual Discussion of "Fatty Fatty Boom Boom" by Rabia Chaudry, Virtual (Teens, Adults), co-presented with the Prince George's County Office of Human Rights
- Visit pgcmls.info/events for complete event details. Accommodations for individuals with disabilities are available upon request. Please contact (240) 455-5451 or askalibrarian@pgcmls.info at least 72 hours in advance.

"These Books Made Me" Podcast
PGCMLS' podcast, "These Books Made Me," celebrates literary heroines. Newly released episodes feature discus-

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Students from A1

Maryland History Day is a year-long educational program with more than 25,000 middle and high school student participants that culminates in a statewide history contest. Working solo or in small groups, students create original documentary films, exhibits, performances, research papers, or websites exploring a historical topic of their choice on an annual theme.

Maryland History Day, coordinated by Maryland Humanities since 1999, is open to public, private, parochial, and homeschool students in grades 6 through 12. This year's Maryland History Day state competition will take place on Saturday, May 6, 2023, at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. The theme of the competition is Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas.

The annual National History Day competition involves more than 3,000 students from 50 states plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and international schools in China, Korea, and South Asia. This year's competition occurs June 11–15, 2023 at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Support for Maryland History Day is provided by the State of Maryland through the Maryland State Department of Education, Columbia Gas of Maryland, Venable Foundation, Wegmans, and The Citizens of Baltimore County. Maryland History Day in Baltimore City is supported in part by the Thalheimer-Eurich Charitable Fund and The Creative Baltimore Award, provided by the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts on behalf of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore.

Honorees (by county): Please note that schools listed are those that students attended during the 2021–22 school year.

Prince George's County:

- Stephen Albert, Kenmoor Middle School
- Lillian Merrill, Accokeek Academy
- Saniya Pearson, Accokeek Academy
- Aliyah Smith, Accokeek Academy

Maryland Humanities creates and supports bold experiences that explore and elevate our shared stories to connect people, enhance lives, and enrich communities. For more information, visit www.mdhumanities.org. Maryland Humanities is generously supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities; the State of Maryland; the Citizens of Baltimore County; private foundations; corporations; small businesses; and individual donors. Connect with Maryland Humanities on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. Maryland History Day is an affiliate of National History Day and a year-long educational program of Maryland Humanities. More than 20,000 middle and high school students create original projects that explore a historical topic of their choice on an annual theme. Professional development for teachers is offered through online courses and platforms, summer teacher institutes, workshops, and classroom outreach. Maryland Humanities produces Maryland History Day. For more information, visit www.mdhistoryday.org. Connect with Maryland History Day on Facebook and Twitter.

National History Day (NHD) is a non-profit organization based in College Park, Maryland, which seeks to improve the teaching and learning of history. The National History Day Contest was established in 1974 and currently engages more than half a million students every year in conducting original research on historical topics of interest. Students present their research as a documentary, exhibit, paper, performance, or website. Projects compete first at the local and affiliate levels, where the top entries are invited to the National Contest at the University of Maryland at College Park. For more information, visit nhd.org.

Morningside from A2

time of his death, he was Medical director of Sagepoint Senior Living in La Plata. Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Pat, two daughters and grandchildren.

- Courtney Clow Dempsey, 74, died at Asbury Care facility in Solomons on Feb. 25. She was a 1966 graduate of Crossland High School. Her full obit can be found at www.rauschfuneralhomes.com.

Milestones

Happy Birthday to Sharon Ryan, Helene Williams, Judy Bormman and Alysha Perez, March 18; Christopher Calhoun and Audrey Pridgen, March 19; Gladys Davidson, March 20,

Russ Kyser, Matthew Curcio–Bobbitt and Dejuh Bedewi, March 21; Ruth Anthony, my great-grandson Jack McHale and Hudson Murphy Glaubitz, great-grandson of Morningside Mayor Jerry and Jean Glaubitz, March 23; Lewis Woods, March 24; Ken Kyser and Jay Rollins, March 25.

Happy anniversary to Morrine and Harold Wilson on March 22.

Happy St. Patrick's Day to all you Irish!

Paint Party With a Purpose

A virtual scholarship fund-raising initiative of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Incorporated (Zeta Mu Chapter/ Upper Marlboro, MD)

By LATRICE BROGSDALE-DAVIS
Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Incorporated

The ladies of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Incorporated (Zeta Mu Chapter), invite you to join them for Paint Party With a Purpose, a virtual scholarship fund-raising initiative being held on Saturday, April 1, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., to support students in Prince George's County, MD.

Visit <https://linktr.ee/IotaZetamu> for additional information and to register/pay for the event.

Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Incorporated—We are "Business and Professional Women Building the Foundation of Generational Financial Empowerment".



To learn more about the Zeta Mu Chapter of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Incorporated, please contact:
Web Address: ipzetamu.org, Email:

ipzetamu@gmail.com, Mailing Address: PO Box 2111, Upper Marlboro, MD 20773

More Than 70 Percent of PGCPS Schools Achieve Top Three Ratings on Maryland Report Card

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (March 9, 2023)—The Maryland State Department of Education has released report cards and star ratings for the state's more than 1,400 public schools based on performance during the 2021–2022 school year. In Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), 71.4 percent of schools received the three highest ratings.

"State ratings offer a snapshot of how schools are helping students achieve success in the classroom and beyond, and we use it as a tool to strengthen teaching and learning," said Dr. Monica Goldson, Chief Executive Officer. "I am proud of

our continued progress and work to accelerate learning and close achievement gaps. Every student deserves a five-star school, and I know we can get there."

Scoring schools on a five-star scale, the Maryland School Report Card is designed to help families and students understand school performance and progress. For school leaders, the report card and ratings help make decisions about where to invest instructional time and resources.

Maryland School Report Card ratings for presently enrolled schools in each category is as follows:

- Five-star—nine schools (five elementary, one high, three combination)
- Four-star—38 schools (26 elementary, two middle, four high, six charter)

- Three-star—91 schools (65 elementary, 11 middle, eight high, four charter, one combination)

- Two-star—51 schools (23 elementary, 11 middle, 14 high, three combination)

Combination schools include those with an elementary, middle and/or high school configuration.

The Maryland School Report Card includes student achievement growth on state tests in English Language Arts and math; postsecondary readiness; proficiency for English language learners; graduation rate; and students with access to and earning credit for a well-rounded curriculum.

The 2022 Maryland School Report Card is available at MDReportcard.org.

Youth Survey Validates Impact of Boys & Girls Clubs in Maryland

More than 85% of Maryland Boys & Girls Club participants report their local Club helps them feel safe, connected and accepted.

By PRESS OFFICER
Boys & Girls Clubs of Maryland

BALTIMORE (March 6, 2023)—Boys & Girls Clubs of Maryland today announced results from a survey they commissioned to learn the impact their services have on Maryland youths, and to further refine programming to meet Club member needs. In a statewide sample, 657 youth and teens were polled to understand aspects of the Club that impacted their well-being. The research data proves that Clubs help members feel safe, connected, accepted, hopeful and fulfilled.

According to Boys & Girls Club participants:

- Club members feel safe, connected, accepted, hopeful, and fulfilled as a result of their Club experience.

- More than 85% of Maryland Club members say their Club helps them understand and express their feelings and solve problems.

- Clubs help members feel valued, listened to, and accepted, which results in them feeling less sad, frustrated by school, and stressed out by problems at home, and more likely to be relaxed, in a good mood, and look forward to the day.

- Club teens are 15% more likely than peers who do not attend a Club to have an adult from whom they seek help.
- When disaggregated by race, outcomes further increase:

- Hispanic teens who are Club members are 30% more likely to have an adult at the Club they can count on as compared to their peers that do not

- attend a Club.
- Black teens who are Club members are 15% more likely to have an adult at the Club they can count on as compared to their peers that do not attend a Club.

- 92% of Club members feel valued by their peers and adults in their lives.

"In more than 80 communities throughout the state Boys & Girls Clubs are providing vital services for kids and teens," said Y'landa Burch, lead administrator, Boys & Girls Clubs of Maryland. "With the support of public and private funders, Clubs are not only reaching more kids but we are meeting them where they are to support their well-being. Boys & Girls Clubs stand ready to help more Maryland families."

As outlined in the US Surgeon General's Advisory "Protecting Youth Mental Health," communities have an opportunity and responsibility to meet the needs of youth, including through the expansion of "programs that promote healthy develop-

See **SURVEY** Page A4

COMMENTARY

Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

The Truth of Selma

"History matters . . . The truth matters—notwithstanding what the other team is trying to hide. They're trying to hide the truth. No matter how hard some people try, we can't just choose to learn what we want to know and not what we should know. We should learn everything—the good, the bad, the truth—of who we are as a nation. And everyone should know the truth of Selma."

On Sunday, President Biden spoke at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, to commemorate the anniversary of "Bloody Sunday." That was the day in March 1965 when John Lewis, Hosea Williams, and 600 others who had set out on a nonviolent march from Selma to Montgomery to demand their right to vote were brutally attacked at the bridge by lawless state and local law enforcement officials.

President Biden continued: "Six hundred believers put faith into action to march across that bridge named after the Grand Dragon of the KKK. They were on

their way to the state capitol in Montgomery to claim their fundamental right to vote, laid in the bedrock of our Constitution, but stolen by hate harbored in too many hearts. With unflinching courage, foot soldiers for justice marched through the valley of the shadow of death, and they feared no evil. The forces of hate conspired to demise, but they endured. They forced the country to confront the hard truths and to act to keep the promise of America alive." The televised images of the attacks on the bridge and the savage beatings of the marchers—including John Lewis, whose skull was fractured, and 53-year-old Amelia Boynton (later Boynton Robinson), who was tear gassed and beaten unconscious—did indeed force the country to confront hard truths. They became a pivotal moment in the Civil Rights Movement and in America's struggle to become America.

The Selma march was originally planned not only to gain the right to vote, but to protest the tragic death

of Jimmie Lee Jackson, a 26-year-old Black church deacon and military veteran killed in Marion, Alabama days earlier when he, his mother, sister, and 82-year-old grandfather attended another nonviolent voting rights demonstration where marchers were brutally attacked by racist Alabama law enforcement officials. Jimmie Lee Jackson was beaten and shot trying to shield his mother from a police nightstick. This week's release of the Justice Department report documenting the Louisville, Kentucky police department's pervasive patterns of racial bias, constitutional rights violations, and excessive use of force against Black residents was a reminder of the tragic and deadly through line that connects Jimmie Lee Jackson to Breonna Taylor and thousands of other Black citizens, then and now. Just as voting rights are under renewed attack in Alabama and elsewhere, buoyed by those who are still trafficking in lies about the last election and fighting desperately to find new ways to suppress and challenge votes in the next one, we are still fighting to keep the promise of America alive. The struggle towards progress is only compounded when we need to divide our energy to fight those trying to hide the truth about our nation's history.

Two weeks after Bloody Sunday, I traveled from Mississippi, where I was working as a young civil rights lawyer, to Alabama to join John Lewis, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and about 25,000 fellow citizens to resume marching the 54 miles from Selma to Montgomery. As Dr. King spoke from the steps of the state's capitol at the end of the exhilarating march, he said we needed to keep going: "Let us therefore continue

our triumphant march to the realization of the American dream. Let us march on segregated housing until every ghetto or social and economic depression dissolves, and Negroes and whites live side by side in decent, safe, and sanitary housing. Let us march on segregated schools until every vestige of segregated and inferior education becomes a thing of the past . . . Let us march on poverty until no American parent has to skip a meal so that their children may eat . . . Let us march on ballot boxes until we send to our city councils, state legislatures, and the United States Congress men [and women] who will not fear to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God."

President Biden ended his own remarks in Selma this way: "We know history does not look kindly on those who deny the march across the bridge to redeem the soul of America. Let me close with this: In many of your faith traditions, Sunday is the Sabbath, a day of rest. But on that Sunday morning, on March 7, 1965, Amelia Boynton Robinson and 600 of her fellow children of God chose different pews. On this bridge of her beloved Selma, they were called to the altar of democracy, unsure of their fate but certain that the cause was righteous. So she would go on to say, 'You can never know where you're going unless you know where you've been.' We know where we have been. And, my fellow Americans, on this Sunday of our time, we know where we've been and we know, more importantly, where we have to go: forward together. So let's pray, but let's not rest. Let's keep marching. Let's keep the faith." This is what we must all still do. —March 10, 2023

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Legislative Policy Conference Is the Centerpiece of National Urban League's Role in Shaping Federal Agenda for Civil Rights and Urban Advocacy

"Some of the best work that has happened in the ongoing movements for justice, for freedom, for liberty, led by the Urban League, have been fueled by what we all know we do so well when we do it, which is coalition building. Urban League does this so well."

—Vice President Kamala Harris

The anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery marches this week shone a spotlight on the escalating assault on voting rights. U.S. Department of Justice's scathing rebuke of the Louisville Police Department underscored the urgent need to redefine public safety. The U.S. Senate overturned criminal justice reform in the District of Columbia, reinforcing the case for D.C. statehood.

In the midst of it all, about 500 Urban League leaders, staffers, and volunteers were on the ground in the nation's capital, advancing our agenda on

these issues and others, as part of the National Urban League's milestone 20th annual Legislative Policy Conference.

Before I became President and CEO of the National Urban League 20 years ago, I served in elective office, including two terms as Mayor of New Orleans and one as a Louisiana state senator. As the first public official to lead the National Urban League, I understood better than most how the proverbial "sausage" of public policy is made and I was determined that the Urban League movement would play a more influential role in making it.

The Legislative Policy Conference became the centerpiece of our redefined role.

One longtime affiliate leader confided in me, "Before you came, we didn't understand the relationship between politics and policy." The preeminence of our Legislative Policy Conference, which attracted the top leaders from Congress, the Cabinet,

and even President Biden himself, is evidence of how well we understand it now. The National Urban League's influence can be seen throughout the most significant and wide-ranging federal initiatives undertaken in recent years, particularly those which impact the five pillars that drive our mission—workforce development, education, housing, health, and social justice.

The landmark American Rescue Plan, which helped bring the crippling COVID-19 pandemic under control and hastened a robust economic recovery, was dramatically enhanced by provisions the National Urban League proposed and advocated like the expanded Child Tax Credit, extended SNAP benefit increases and supplemental unemployment insurance, and a National Urban League-backed community-based vaccination plan to target the hardest-hit neighborhoods.

President Biden's historic Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was modeled on the Main Street Marshall Plan, the National Urban League's comprehensive blueprint for addressing lack of opportunity and economic inequality in America's urban communities. In addition to once-in-a-generation investments in modernizing the nation's railways, roads, bridges, airports; the legislation also includes the transformational expansion of broadband internet infrastructure for which we advocated in the Lewis Latimer Plan for Digital Equity and Inclusion.

Not only did President Biden heed our call to make the Minority Business Development Agency permanent, but he also appointed National Urban League Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Donald R. Cravins, Jr., to lead the agency as the first-ever Under Secretary of Com-

merce for Minority Business Development.

President Biden's Executive Order on Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing, and Criminal Justice Practices to Enhance Public Trust and Public Safety, incorporates many of the themes of the National Urban League's comprehensive framework for criminal justice advocacy, 21 Pillars for Redefining Public Safety and Restoring Community Trust. These include bans on racial profiling, chokeholds, no-knock warrants, and shooting at moving vehicles; investigation of police misconduct, revision of use-of-force policies, demilitarization of police, data collection on misconduct and use of force, mandatory use of dashboard and body cameras strengthening of hiring and training standards, and increased diversity among both leadership and ranks.

The National Urban League's influence on national policy stretches back through the decades: Executive Director Eugene Kinkle Jones served as part of President Franklin Roosevelt's "Black Cabinet" in the 1930s. His successor Lester Granger led the effort to desegregate the nation's armed forces under President Harry Truman. The legendary Whitney M. Young, Jr., was integral to the passage of the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act. And Vernon Jordan rebutted President Ford's State of the Union Address with the first State of Black America® report, the definitive annual benchmark of the economic and social status of African Americans. The Legislative Policy Conference, however, represents a historic expansion and redefinition over the last 20 years of the position our movement now occupies in the nation's legislative, administrative, and political institutions. —March 9, 2023

Dumping from A1

"My administration has worked diligently to promote a sense of pride in this County by asking every Prince Georgian to join us in keeping litter and illegal dumping out of our neighborhoods and communities," said Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "Prince Georgians are tired of seeing mattresses, couches, and other items dumped along our

roads and in our communities. By deploying these advanced mobile surveillance cameras, we are adding another tool to help us hold people accountable and keep our County clean and beautiful."

The mobile systems can identify the responsible parties in any lighting conditions. They can also be moved around the County and redeployed in a few hours as criminal dumpers change their patterns due to their

solar-powered technology.

"These systems will enable us to issue fines and convict dumpers," said DoE Director Andrea Crooms. "We want these bad actors to know we are taking this seriously and will not tolerate dumping in our community."

Illegal dumping and environmental crimes require immediate cleanup and have become very expensive for Prince George's County. Over the last several years, as part of the County Ex-

ecutive's Beautification Initiative, the County has invested in outreach and education efforts to change behaviors to combat illegal dumping. The County will combine outreach and education with strict enforcement of no-dumping laws through criminal prosecution and civil fines.

Learn more about County ordinances that pertain to fines, violations, and enforcement for illegal dumping, property standards, and littering below.

Code of Prince George's County Ordinances Related to Illegal Dumping and Litter

- Accumulation of Garbage, Litter, Or Refuse Prohibited — § 12-161
- Combustible Waste and Refuse — § 11-280
- Establishing Commercial Tenant's Duty to Properly Store Refuse & Penalty for Violation — §12-160
- Accumulation or Deposit of Litter Prohibited — § 13-265

- Discarded Appliances — § 14-134
 - Duty of Commercial Property Owner to Remove Snow, Ice, Weeds, Litter, and Debris — § 23-150
- To report illegal dumping in Prince George's County, contact PGC311 or call 301-883-4748. To learn more ways to keep Prince George's County clean and beautiful, visit www.pgcproud.com.

Water Safety from A1

safety program to students. Charles County Public Schools, for example, has fifth graders watch a video from the Red Cross about water safety, discuss good conduct to have around bodies of water, and take a field trip to a nearby pool for a day of water activities.

"Learning to swim and having those skills certainly has a buffering effect on drowning, but it also opens amazing opportunities for people to use the water right for recreation and leisure therapy," said Ramos. "But if we think of swim lessons as the only cure, by the time a child has to use their swim skills to rescue themselves or perhaps somebody else, they've missed the smarts part, so we want to start by teaching people how to make sure

they don't get into these situations."

Fifth graders in Anne Arundel County Public Schools participate in a Drownproofing Program, where they learn personal water safety skills as a part of the physical education and language arts curriculum.

Toles told Capital News Service that her home county also offers a water safety program for its elementary schoolers.

"We do have that program where they're taking second graders out for a few days and teaching them how to swim after they've had their water safety course," she said.

The American Red Cross has a whole page on its website dedicated to its water safety and aquatic resources, training, and information.

More and more jurisdictions are producing

legislation concerning water safety, including some that put students in the pool, Ramos said.

Ramos also clarified the difference between just teaching kids to swim, versus teaching them water safety. Water safety is preventative—learning how to be smart around bodies of water so kids don't get into positions where they then have to rely on their swimming and water skills. But swimming skills are also necessary so that children can get to a safe place in the event of an emergency.

The bill has bipartisan support: One of the 23 sponsoring delegates is Republican Rachel Munoz, R-Anne Arundel.

"We definitely need to focus on equity and inclusion when it comes to kids learning how to swim," said Toles.

Survey from A3

ment, support children, youth, and their families, and increase their resilience." Additionally, the report encourages that "programs rigorously evaluate mental health-related outcomes."

The impacts of isolation, anxiety, and de-

pression manifest differently by age, gender, and other demographic factors. Maryland Boys & Girls Clubs complement efforts in schools and support families as the impact of COVID-19 continues to unfold. Clubs focus on prevention and equipping young people with the tools to identify emotions, resolve conflict, and cope with challenges.

Each spring, MD Clubs administer a common survey capturing indicators, some of which align with those in statewide tools, creating an opportunity for comparison. In spring of 2022, Clubs surveyed 597 youths. Rapid

See SURVEY Page A6

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Cutting Social Security Will Make Me Lose My Home!

By RUSSELL GLOOR,

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

Dear Rusty: Politicians are talking about taking money from Social Security, but I need that money to support my daughter and pay for my home. I'm a widow, and my husband passed in 2017. I'll lose my home if my Social Security benefits are cut. Please help. **Signed: Widowed Senior**

Dear Widowed Senior: Despite what you might read or hear in the media, the main threat for you to lose any of your Social Security money is if Social Security is not reformed. In that case, everyone who receives benefits will see a cut of about 23% to their monthly benefit starting in about 2034. The way to avoid that is by updating the current Social Security law to address two primary issues:

1. People now live much longer than when Social Security was enacted in 1935 and when the last major program change occurred in 1983. Average life expectancy of beneficiaries today is mid-80s, compared to mid-60s when the program started. In other words, people now collect benefits for much longer (often decades longer) than the program is designed to support.

2. The number of workers contributing to the program is growing much slower than the growth in beneficiaries receiving benefits. That means the ratio of contributors to recipients is much less now than it has been in the past, which means program costs are growing faster than incoming revenue.

Reality is that reform is necessary now to avoid cuts to everyone's benefits later. But here's a very important point that should comfort you—any reform enacted will almost certainly affect only those who have not yet claimed their Social Security benefits. That means you should not be affected because you're already receiving benefits, and you will continue to do so at the same amount except for the increases you will get from Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA). Every Social Security change ever made has affected only future beneficiaries, not current ones. The only real threat to your Social Security benefit is if no changes are made and, even then, any cuts wouldn't happen until about 2034.

So please rest assured that your personal Social Security benefits will not be cut. Anything you hear now implying otherwise is a scare tactic designed to make headlines for political gain. The program must be reformed or face insolvency in a bit more than 10 years, and that is what both Republicans and Democrats want to prevent. The difference between the parties is that one side wants to solve the problem mainly by raising Social Security payroll taxes on workers, whereas the other side wants to adjust the program to deal with the above two factors causing the problem. What is needed is bipartisan cooperation to reach a compromise, which Congress will hopefully eventually achieve. They already know how to fix Social Security; they just need to find the bipartisan spirit needed to do so. For its part, the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) has, for years, proposed changes which would restore Social Security to full solvency without raising taxes on American workers, and AMAC's proposal has been well received by many in Congress. If you wish to review AMAC's proposal, please go to www.amac.us/social-security/.

In any case, contrary to what you might hear in the media, your current Social Security benefits should not be negatively affected by any future Social Security reform enacted.

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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

Youth Career Center Offers Job Training, Cash Incentives for Prince George's County Youth

Career coaches, services, and support are now available to teens and young adults.

By PRESS OFFICER
Eckerd Connects

LARGO, Md. (March 6, 2023)—In partnership with Eckerd Connects, the Employ Prince George's Youth Career Center is proud to announce the success of its educational opportunities, resources, and incentives available at the Youth Career Center for teens and young adults aged 16–24.

The Youth Career Center now offers a variety of programs, including career services, to help our youth and young adults prepare for and secure jobs. Each participant works one-on-one with a Career Coach who will guide and assist through every step of the program.

- Some of our program offerings include:
- Basic Career Services, with a Resource Room providing access to job search assistance, resume development assistance, Labor Market Information access, and other critical career services.
 - Individualized Career Services, with access to post-secondary occupational skills training and work readiness workshops tailored to individual needs.
 - Supportive Services that offer transportation assistance, training supplies, required job supplies, and other services based on individual needs.
 - Cash incentives for participants up to \$850.

We offer internships, job shadowing, and "On the Job" training as part of the experience at the Youth Career Center.

Students can complete their high school credentials while advancing in a chosen career or vocation and earning industry credentials. Participants can earn occupational skills credentials such as a Commercial Driver's License or Professional IT certifications. The YCC has many employer partners and a proven job placement rate among its program completers. You can find more details here on our website.

Here's what our participants have to say:

"The program has allowed me to grow in many ways and become a successful young adult," said Floannie Goode, who completed the Youth Career Center Program to become a nurse assistant. Floannie received essential Career Services from the EPG Youth Career Center, such as labor market education, career interest matching, and job searching & interviewing skills.

Goode received nearly \$5,000 in assistance for supplies and is now studying to become a registered nurse. Her support included a new laptop, uniforms, and car repairs to help with her transportation to school. These funds were available through partnerships and a Success Award from Eckerd Connects.

The Youth Career Center also provides a Work Experience Program that connects participants with paid internships in their career path. So far, we have placed 10 participants with internships this year and are ready to serve many more.

Leon Lewis, a young father with limited work experience, stopped by the Youth Career Center to find a job. His true passion was fashion design, but he didn't have the support to help him get started.

"When I was alone, I didn't have any guidance, and nobody in my corner believed in me," said Lewis. "The program helped me focus on what I want for myself. It opened my mind to see a vision for my life."

Ameisha Gathers, an EPG Youth Career Center Workforce Development Specialist, helped Leon enroll in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Program, which provided funding for a paid internship with a local fashion designer. Because of the Eckerd Connects programs at the Youth Career Center, Leon was able to learn, get paid, and pursue his dream of starting his own design business.

If you know a young person that needs help getting a job or training, Eckerd Connects and the EPG Youth Career Center are here to help.

Eckerd Connects was founded in 1968 by Jack and Ruth Eckerd with the belief that everyone deserves the opportunity to succeed. The national nonprofit organization has connected nearly 316,000 people to the help they need through programs in job corps, workforce development, juvenile justice, and family & children services. To learn more, please visit www.eckerd.org.

Council Vice Chair Wala Blegay Introduces Legislation to Increase Procurement Opportunities for Small Businesses

Proposed Measure Provides Right of First Award for Certified County-based Small Businesses

By PRESS OFFICER

Prince George's County Council Media

Prince George's County Council Vice Chair Wala Blegay, Esq., (District 6), in keeping with a core tenet of the People's Agenda committed to increasing opportunities for local minority businesses and nonprofits in the County, introduced Council Bill-030-2023—County Based Business Utilization legislation during Council session on Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

Under the measure, certified County-based small businesses will have the right of first award for County procurements at or under \$150,000 unless the total invoice exceeds the prevailing market range.

Council Vice Chair Blegay reaffirmed her commitment to supporting the County's small and minority businesses.

"Many of the County's certified small and minority businesses are owned and operated by Prince Georgians. These are also the businesses that employ County

residents. Small and minority businesses are the engines that drive the local economy and contribute to our growth and prosperity. I am committed to doing everything within my purview to ensure they are provided with opportunities to grow and thrive in the communities where they live."

CB-030-2023 has been referred to the Council's Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GOFP) committee for legislative review.

Maryland Department of Agriculture Expands Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Zone

By PRESS OFFICER

Maryland Department of Agriculture

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (March 6, 2023)—The Maryland Department of Agriculture today expanded its spotted lanternfly quarantine to include the following counties: Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Washington and Wicomico, as well as Baltimore City. This quarantine is effective immediately, and restricts the movement of regulated articles that might contain the spotted lanternfly in any of its life stages, including egg masses, nymphs, and adults.

The original quarantine order from 2019 included Cecil and Harford counties, which have established spotted lanternfly populations. In early 2022 the quarantine zone was expanded to nine additional jurisdictions

based on the confirmed existence of known spotted lanternfly populations in these areas. A map of the new quarantine zone is available.

Businesses, municipalities, and government agencies that require the movement of any regulated item within or from the quarantine zone must have a specialized permit. The permit may be obtained by taking a free online training course and exam through PennState Extension. Examples of regulated articles include landscaping, remodeling, or construction waste; packing materials like wood boxes or crates; plants and plant parts; vehicles; and other outdoor items.

Managers, supervisors, or employees of a business or organization operating in the quarantine zone must receive the approved training and pass the exam to demonstrate a working knowledge and understanding of pest and quarantine requirements. Training

of other employees, inspection of vehicles and products, and removal of living stages of spotted lanternfly must also be completed.

All spotted lanternfly permits for Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware are transferable and valid throughout the region.

The spotted lanternfly poses a major threat to the region's agricultural industries as it feeds on over 70 different types of crops and plants, including grapes, hops, apples, peaches, oak, pine, and many others. Originally from Asia, the spotted lanternfly was first detected in Berks County, Pennsylvania in fall 2014. As a known hitchhiker, the spotted lanternfly has also spread to Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia.

Those living within the quarantine zone are encouraged to be vigilant in containing the spread of spotted lanternfly. Sightings may be reported through MDA's online survey. Other informational materials are available on the program's website (mda.maryland.gov).

FBI from A1

the selection process criteria was revised last September to give more weight—counting as 35% of the decision—to locating the new facility close to the Justice Department (which is in central Washington) and the FBI's training center in Quantico, Virginia.

The other factors in the relocation are transportation access (25%), development flexibility (15%), racial equity and sustainable citing (15%), and the cost to acquire and prepare the site (10%).

"It showed a clear bias. It was not consistent with congressional intent. It questioned the integrity of the process," Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Maryland, told reporters, referring to the criteria.

Instead, Cardin said, the governor and a delegation of local and state officials and Democrats in Congress urged the GSA to weigh criteria equally, at 20 percent.

The change would increase the importance of the racial equity criteria, something that the Biden administration has emphasized. In 2021, President Joe Biden signed an executive order that prioritized advancing racial equity through federal agencies. Last month, Biden reaffirmed the administration's support for racial equity in another executive order.

Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks said both counties deserve an equal opportunity for federal investment. Ac-

cording to U.S. Census Data, the median income in Fairfax County is \$134,000, compared to Prince George's County with a median income of \$90,000.

Locating the site in Maryland would save taxpayers \$1 billion, Alsobrooks added.

The Marylanders also disagreed with GSA officials that cost should be given the least weight in a location decision.

"GSA says that it wants to get value for the taxpayer. They say that is one of their very top priorities," Sen. Chris Van Hollen, D-Maryland, said. "So how is weighing the cost of site preparation and getting everything going only weighted 10 percent?"

Maryland Lt. Gov. Aruna Miller emphasized that the two Prince George's County sites best meet the transportation accessibility criteria, including distance to commuter airports. The locations also provide access to Maryland universities, granting the FBI a pipeline for recruitment and for training a diverse workforce, she said.

The Greenbelt location is only 140 steps away from a Metro and MARC train station. The Landover site provides access to three Metro stations less than two-and-a-half miles away, Miller said.

The Purple Line, a light-rail system with stops in Maryland, will be operating by 2026 with a stop in Greenbelt.

"Both Maryland sites are ready to go in every sense. Transportation is no exception," Miller said.

Moore said that the two Maryland sites in Greenbelt and Landover are more prepared for construction and will be built on two to four years sooner than at the Springfield location.

He pointed out that any decision to put the headquarters in Virginia would not be because Maryland lacked anything. He said that the changes made in September gave the Springfield location an advantage.

Despite final meetings between Virginia, Maryland and the GSA, there is still no specific timeline on when the final location will be announced.

"Where the Biden administration decides to put the new FBI headquarters will inform the mission, the growth and also the efficacy of the bureau. Not just for this year, but for years to come," Moore said.

Maryland Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Mary Kane issued a statement backing the Prince George's County sites.

"Maryland is a hub for cybersecurity, serving as the home of the National Security Agency and Cyber Command at Fort George G. Meade, and as a perfect location for the FBI's Cybersecurity Center," she said. "Our highly accessible transit and highway system, strong business community, well-equipped higher educational institutions and skilled workforce provide the accessibility, infrastructure, workforce and talent pool needed to support the FBI's mission and cybersecurity center needs."

