

# The Prince George's Post



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## Library Launches Rock Banned Book Club for Pride 2023

*Pride Month Lineup Features Hate Crimes Summit, Community Festivals, Author Events, and Family Programs*

By NICHOLAS BROWN  
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (May 31, 2023)—This LGBTQ+ Pride Month, the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is proud to reaffirm its commitment to providing welcoming and inclusive spaces, services, and programs for LGBTQ+ community members and their families. PGCMLS presents LGBTQ+-focused programs year round. Pride Month, which is commemorated nationally in June, provides a platform for sharing the stories of LGBTQ+ Americans with the broader community to advance cross-cultural understanding. PGCMLS' Pride Month calendar features an appearance by award-winning debut novelist Jeffrey Dale Lofton ("Red Clay Suzie"), a summit on hate crime presented by local and national law enforcement and civil rights agencies, Pride festivals at the Hyattsville (Saturday, June 3) and Bowie (Saturday, June 24) branch libraries, teen and family programs, and the debut of PGCMLS' Rock Banned Book Club.

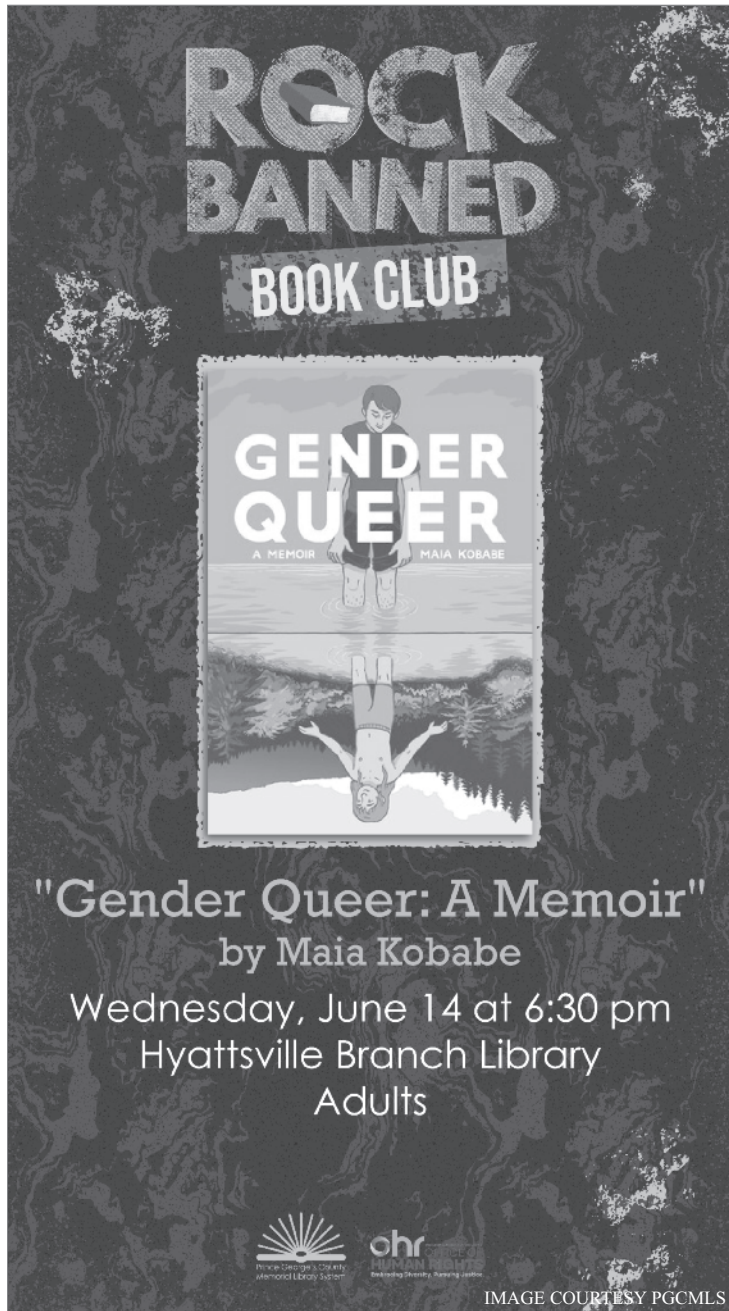
### Rock Banned Book Club

According to the American Library Association, 2022 saw

the highest number of attempts to challenge and censor books across the United States in recent decades. Most of the top 13 banned books in 2022 center LGBTQ+ identities. As part of ongoing efforts to promote the right to read as a fundamental component of democracy, PGCMLS and the Prince George's County Office of Human Rights will launch the Rock Banned Book Club this Pride Month with a discussion of "Gender Queer: A Memoir" by Maia Kobabe on Wednesday, June 14 (6:30 p.m.) at the Hyattsville Branch Library.

From June 2023 to June 2024, the Library and Prince George's County Office of Human Rights will host a monthly discussion of one of the top 13 banned books of 2022. Taking place at branch libraries throughout Prince George's County on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m., these discussions will provide book lovers opportunities to deepen their understanding of both contemporary and classic literary works by authors like Toni Morrison, George M. Johnson, and Maia Kobabe. The books are all available for borrowing through PGCMLS' collections.

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## Hoyer Recognizes Fifth District Educators at Annual Luncheon

By PRESS OFFICER  
Congressman Steny Hoyer

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (June 1, 2023)—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) hosted his annual Educators Luncheon [last Thursday] in Upper Marlboro, where he honored 17 exceptional teachers and principals in the Fifth Dis-

trict. Honorees included recipients of the Washington Post Finalists for the Teacher of the Year, Principal of the Year, and County Teacher of the Year Award Winners.

"Teachers are the best of us, giving their careers to prepare the next generation of students with the skills they need to succeed," said Congressman

Hoyer. "I am proud to be with these extraordinary educators today and to celebrate all the teachers of the Fifth District. Over the past few years, they have faced enormous challenges but adapted and showed resilience. In Congress, I will continue to fight for the funding needed to expand education and resources for teachers."

The following Prince George's County principals and teachers were honored:

1. **Ryan Daniel**, Fort Foote Elementary School, Washington Post Principal of the Year finalist
2. **Karuna Skariah**, Robert Goddard Montessori School, Washington Post Teacher of the Year finalist
3. **Mary Truman**, Kenmoor Early Childhood Center, Co. Teacher of the Year (2023-24)
4. **Evelyn Policarpio**, Benjamin Tasker Middle School, County Teacher of the Year (2022-23)

## Attorney General Brown Sues 3M, Dupont, and Other Chemical Manufacturers for PFAS Contamination of Maryland's Waters and Other Natural Resources

By PRESS OFFICER  
Maryland Department of the Environment

BALTIMORE (May 30, 2023)—Maryland Attorney General Anthony G. Brown today announced two lawsuits, filed on behalf of the State of Maryland, the Maryland Department of Environment, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and the Maryland Department of Health, seeking to hold multiple chemical manufacturers accountable for widespread and continuing contamination of Maryland's natural resources and harm to public health. The lawsuits allege that through the manufacture, marketing, and sale of toxic per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), or "forever chemicals," these corporations, including 3M, DuPont, and others, caused PFAS contamination of the State's environment through multiple pathways and put Maryland residents' health at risk.

One lawsuit addresses contamination caused by PFAS present in aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF), more commonly referred to as "firefighting foam," which has been used for decades by the U.S. military, airports, industrial facilities, and local fire departments. The

second lawsuit addresses contamination caused by PFAS from non-AFFF sources, including but not limited to a myriad of consumer products, and which were introduced into Maryland's environment through industrial facilities, the use and disposal of these products, landfills receiving PFAS-containing waste, and wastewater treatment facilities containing PFAS-contaminated waste streams. Both lawsuits allege that defendants knew the dangers associated with their PFAS products many decades ago. Yet despite that knowledge, they kept the risks secret and failed to alert the State or the public. Rather, they continued to pursue profits through the manufacturing, marketing, and sales of their PFAS products in Maryland.

"Protecting the health and well-being of Marylanders and the environment in which we live and raise our families is one of my top priorities," said Attorney General Brown. "Access to safe drinking water, a clean environment, and the precious natural resources of Maryland will not be jeopardized by those who put profits above public health and safety. These corporations must pay to clean up the damage and be held accountable for the harms they have caused."

Exposure to PFAS in humans and animals has been linked to several

diseases, including kidney and testicular cancer, thyroid disease, ulcerative colitis, high cholesterol, pregnancy-induced hypertension, and low birth weight, and may also impair the immune system, including the immune response to vaccines. PFAS pose a serious threat to human health, as they are not just present in drinking water, but can also be ingested, inhaled, and even absorbed through the skin. PFAS are estimated to be detectable in the blood stream of 99 percent of the U.S. population.

"Those who would choose to pose a risk to Marylanders' well-being must be held accountable," said Gov. Wes Moore. "By filing these claims, Maryland is making clear that we value health, safety, and preserving our state's precious natural resources for future generations over corporate profits."

"The Maryland Department of the Environment continues to take aggressive action to identify PFAS risks and address the harm this has caused people across the state," said Maryland Department of the En-

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## Prince George's County Among Winners of 2023 100 Best Public Fleet Awards

By EBONI A BLAIR  
Office of Central Services  
Prince George's County

LARGO, Md. (May 30, 2023)—Prince George's County's Office of Central Services (OCS) proudly announces the selection of Prince George's County's Fleet Operations as an awardee for the 2023 100 Best Public Fleets. Each year, nation-wide government-operated fleets are evaluated and selected for their high performance and management operations. This year, the County's Fleet Operations advanced and is now ranked #3 among the nation's top public fleets.

"This is an amazing achievement but also to take our place as number three in the entire nation. We are proud of our County Fleet as they continue to be a leader in our region on fleet management," said Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks.

Recently, the County's Fleet Program placed in the top 50 for

Green Fleet operations. NAFA is the nation's largest fleet membership association with more than 2,000 national fleet members who come from corporations, public safety (law enforcement, fire departments), education (universities and K-12 school systems), governments agencies (federal, state, municipal, provincial), utilities, and any other entity that uses fleet vehicles in its normal conduct of business.

"Our continued advancement in the national rankings reflect our commitment to providing reliable and dependable mobility for the County's essential and emergency employees," said Jonathan Butler, Office of Central Services Director.

For more information about the 2023 100 Best Public Fleet Awards, and to view a full list of winners, visit the NAFA website ([www.nafa.org/100-best-fleets-2023/](http://www.nafa.org/100-best-fleets-2023/)). For more information about the Office of Central Services, visit the OCS website ([www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/807/Central-Services/](http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/807/Central-Services/)).

## Maryland State Police Warn Public About Possible Phone Scam Fraud by Police Impersonators

By OFFICE OF MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS  
Maryland State Police

PIKESVILLE, Md. (June 2, 2023)—Maryland State Police are warning residents to be aware of a phone scam involving police impersonators that is currently active in Maryland.

Maryland State Police have received reports from multiple residents advising that callers contact them claiming to be state troopers or police officers. The reports are attempts to gain financial information or money from residents. The impersonator tells the potential victims that they need to obtain information from the caller due to a police

investigation or they are asking for a donation to support law enforcement and their families.

In some instances, the impersonator will use a real name of a law enforcement officer in an attempt to gain the trust of the victim. The Maryland State Police does not call individuals and request money from anyone under any circumstances. Residents are urged to be cautious of unsolicited phone calls.

Other tips to follow include:

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#### Juneteenth Events

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#### To Be Equal:

To Be Equal: Celebrating 20 Years of Upholding a Tradition as "The Voice of Black America"

Each of Young's successors has continued to publish To Be Equal, and it has been my honor to uphold the tradition as he intended it to be, "the voice of Black America."

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"Keep Restaurant Workers in Prince George's County" Grant Program Announced

Temporary Water Bill Amnesty Program

Maryland Mobile ID Google Wallet Launches

Business and Finance, Page A5

# TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

## In & Around Morningside-Skyline

### **Kathleen Giroux, longtime Morningsider and Pizza Lady**

Kathleen Helen Giroux, who lived on Pickett Drive in Morningside for as long as I can remember, died May 21. She was 80. She was born in Washington and grew up on Capitol Hill, the daughter of Andrew and Kathleen Fekete. She attended St. Joseph's School and graduated from Notre Dame Academy.

She met her future husband, David Giroux, when, one weekend he came home from the Navy with her brother, Dave, originally from North Dakota, was a Lakota Sioux and knew the family of Sitting Bull, also a Lakota.

Kathleen and David were married in 1963 at St. Joseph's Church on Capitol Hill.

She worked for several Federal agencies, including Immigration, Naval Research and Defense Intelligence Agency, from which she retired.

She was active at St. Philip's Parish, particularly in working with kids. She taught PE and coached. In recent years, she worked the Pizza Lunch, which ended when Covid hit.

She enjoyed all sports and was a diehard Nats fan.

Kathleen was preceded in death by her husband Dave and her son David. Survivors include daughters Suzy Giroux, who lived with her on Pickett Court, and Kathy Levandusky, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial was May 27, with celebrants Fr. Patrick Lewis and Fr. Jeffrey Samaha. Fr. Lewis, in his remarks, called her the Pizza Lady.

### **Town of Morningside**

Want-to-be firefighters can apply to the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department for their Live-In Recruitment Weekend, June 23–25. Call 301-736-4342 for information.

The annual Morningside 4th of July Parade seeks marchers, riders, and walkers. For information, or to register, call 301-736-2300.

Morningside's June meetings: Work Session, June 13, and Town Meeting, June 20, both beginning at 7. For All Things Morningside, call 301-736-2300.

The Town, in cooperation with the State

of Maryland and Prince George's County, will begin spraying for mosquitoes on Sunday, June 11, at 10 p.m., and every 3rd Sunday, through Sept. 24. I received a flyer reminding us, "Please have all pets and humans inside while the spraying is occurring."

The flyer also asks that we remove standing water—such as in a birdbath—to help with mosquito control, and to change water in outside pet bowls daily.

GI Liquors is still boarded up.

### **Juneteenth Freedom Day Mass**

Cardinal Wilton Gregory, Archbishop of Washington, will celebrate a Juneteenth Freedom Day Mass at Mount Calvary Catholic Church on Sunday, June 18, 10:30 a.m. Mount Calvary is at 6700 Marlboro Pike, in Forestville. All are welcome. Info: 301-853-5335.

Juneteenth, June 19, is now a federal holiday in the United States, commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans.

### **Transfers announced by the Catholic Archdiocese**

Every June there are transfers of priests, parochial vicars and administrators in the Washington Archdiocese. Of those affecting our area:

Father Patrick S. Lewis, from pastor of St. Philip the Apostle Church, Camp Springs, to pastor of St. Patrick's, Washington. Father Ryan I. Pineda, from administrator, St. Francis Xavier Parish, Leonardtown, to pastor, St. Philip's, Camp Springs.

Father Daniel P. Leary, from mission assignment in Mexico, to pastor of St. John the Evangelist, Clinton. Father Mario A. Majano, from pastor, St. John the Evangelist Parish, Clinton, to pastor of St. Mary Parish, Landover Hills.

Father Alberto Biondi, from parochial vicar, Mother Seton Parish, Gaithersburg, to administrator, Mount Calvary, Forestville, and Holy Spirit, Forestville.

### **Changing landscape**

I drove past the site which used to be La Reine High School, in Suitland, and saw the huge, handsome new building, the new Drew-Freeman Middle School. Looks like

it might be ready for classes by fall.

Sardi's Pollo a La Brasa has opened at 8900 Woodyard Road in Clinton. Noted for its Peruvian Chicken and more. Hours: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Go online for good reviews. Info: 240-846-5273.

In Hampton Park, there's a 24.5-acre project coming, located next to the Beltway along Central Avenue near the site of the new University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center. The project will include a new hotel, multifamily units, retail, and the new home of the Prince George's County Health and Human Services office complex.

A home at 4512 Morgan Road, in Morningside, just sold for \$415,000.

### **Places to go & things to do: free outdoor movies**

Free Movies on the Potomac have returned to National Harbor, Sundays at 6 p.m. and Thursdays at 7 p.m., through Sept. 24. Movies are shown on the giant 18-by-32 foot LED screen in front of the harbor, with the Capital Wheel and Wilson Bridge in the background. Plenty of places to pick up a picnic lunch.

June movies: Family films on Sundays at 6 p.m.: Lyle, Lyle Crocodile (June 11); Honey, I Shrank the Kids, 1989 version (June 18); and Cool Runnings (June 25). Date Night Movies on Thursdays at 7 p.m.: Ticket to Paradise (June 8); Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (June 15); Jurassic World Dominion (June 22); and King Richard (June 29). Info: Nationalharbor.com.

### **Skip McConkey, Singleton Electric retiree**

Elmer M. "Skip" McConkey, 72, who grew up in Morningside, died April 27 in Waldorf.

He was the son of the late Elmer and Mary McConkey, and was predeceased by brothers Paul and Richard McConkey, and sisters Linda Gurzell, Shirley Downey and Vicki Sweeney.

Skip worked at Singleton Electric Co. as an Outside Electrical Superintendent from 1975 until retirement in 2016. He was responsible for the manpower on some of Sin-

See MORNINGSIDE Page A6

## Scam from A1

- **Never provide any personal identifying information** over the phone unless you have verified the source.
- **Never provide any payment information** over the phone unless you have verified the source.
- **Police will never call and request money** for fines, arrest warrants, fundraisers, etc...
- If you do not trust the source and want to **verify**, look up the **unit/group/barrack** they said they are from on the internet and call the listed number directly.
- **If you believe you have provided information to a scam**, please immediately notify your financial institutions.

Those who believe they have been the victim of a scam are encouraged to contact their local police department or the Maryland State Police barrack that serves your area. If you believe you have fallen victim to any type of online crime, file a complaint at ic3.gov.

## Around the County

### **News from Animal Services**

#### **Save the Date: June 24 Adoption and Community Event**

Be sure to mark your calendar for a special Adoption and Community Event to be held on Saturday, June 24, 2023 from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at Animal Services Facility & Adoption Center, Upper Marlboro, MD. Stay tuned for more information and visit [www.princegeorgespets4us.com](http://www.princegeorgespets4us.com) for updates.

#### **June is Adopt a Shelter Cat Month**

June marks the beginning of Adopt a Shelter Cat Month and is the height of kitten season. Thousands of newborn kittens join the already millions of cats in shelters and they need our help! Adopt or foster a shelter cat if you can, or support your local shelter and spread the word!

Remember, you save lives when you Adopt, Don't Shop! Learn how you can adopt cats, dogs, small animals, birds, and even lizards by visiting [bit.ly/pgcadoptapet](http://bit.ly/pgcadoptapet).

#### **ASD Is Looking for Volunteers**

We are looking for volunteers to help walk and socialize dogs, play with cats, assist with feeding animals, cleaning, office work, off-site events and more!

##### *Upcoming Orientations*

**Thursday, June 8, 2023 6–8 p.m.**

Saturday, June 17, 2023 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

If you are 18 years old or older and are interested in helping with animals at the Animal Services Facility and Adoption Center (ASFAC) visit our website at [www.princegeorgespets4us.com](http://www.princegeorgespets4us.com) or call 301-780-7200 for more information.

—DoE - Animal Chatter News, June 1, 2023

### **Zion Russell Named to NIU Spring 2023**

#### **Dean's List**

DeKALB, Ill. (June 1, 2023)—Northern Illinois University announces its spring 2023 Dean's List students. To earn this distinction, students must meet a minimum semester grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology or a minimum of 3.75 on a 4.0 scale in the colleges of Business, Education, Health and Human Services, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Visual and Performing Arts.

Students from our area who achieved this honor include:

Zion Russell, of Upper Marlboro, who is majoring in Sport Management - BS. Russell is a graduate of National Christian Academy.

—Cathy Craddock, Northern Illinois University

### **Prince George's County Student Named to Spring 2023 Dean's List**

FAIRMONT, W.Va. (May 30, 2023)—More than 900 students have been honored for their academic achievement at Fairmont State University after completing the spring 2023 semester.

Fairmont State University has released the Dean's List to recognize high-achieving students for their academic distinction. Full-time students who earned a 3.4 or better grade point average are named to the Dean's List.

Term: Spring 2023 Dean's List

Prince George's County: **Kehinde Adebayo**

—Fairmont State University

### **Area Residents Earn Academic Honors at Benedictine College**

ATCHISON, Kan. (May 25, 2023)—Benedictine College has recognized those students who have distinguished themselves academically during the last semester, which ended May 9, 2023.

Any full-time student carrying a minimum of 12 hours and a perfect 4.0 grade point average through the spring term is named to the President's list. Full time students with 12 hours and a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.95 are named to the Dean's List. Of the 2,234 students on campus for 2022–2023 academic year, 166 made the President's List and 698 made the Dean's List.

Those area residents who have earned these honors are:

Bowie, MD: **Annalucia Duggan**, President's List

Glenn Dale, MD: **Luke Lombardi**, Dean's List

### **Luke Lombardi of Glenn Dale Earns Degree at Benedictine College**

ATCHISON, Kan. (May 24, 2023)—Luke Lombardi of Glenn Dale, MD, has graduated Summa Cum Laude from Benedictine College in Atchison, Kan., majoring in History.

The college graduated 424 students at the end of the academic year during ceremonies on May 13, 2023. The graduates heard from Leonard Leo, chairman of CRC Advisors and the Federalist Society, who delivered the Commencement Address.

He spoke about the life of St. Benedict, one of the patron saints of Benedictine College, the fall of the Roman Empire, and how monasteries rose up to help the people in the surrounding areas. He told the graduates to focus on the larger picture of St. Benedict's story, and not dwell on only certain parts. He said the bottom line was that St. Benedict sought to do God's will.

—Steve Johnson, Benedictine College

## Brandywine-Aquasco

### **CIEE STUDY ABROAD AWARDS**

The following students who attend University of Maryland Eastern Shore were awarded the Council of Institutional Educational Exchange (CIEE) Frederick Douglass Global Scholars Grant. These awards will assist students with their study abroad programs in summer 2023, fall 2023, or summer 2024. Some students are considering study abroad programs in Spain, China, and Japan.

These awards will assist Fallon Orcurto who is a Junior majoring in Aviation Science (Pilot) from Bowie, Maryland; Nyles Burton, a freshman who is majoring in Computer Science from Upper Marlboro, Maryland; Alexandria Camp who is a sophomore majoring in Biochemistry from Waldorf, Maryland; Caleb Clark, a sophomore majoring in English Education from Adelphi, Maryland. Congratulations Hawks. Information received from University of Maryland Eastern Shore (THE KEY) March 2023, a newsletter for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends.

### **ALL-STAR CHALLENGE QUIZ BOWL TEAM**

Members of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore Honda Campus All-Star Challenge quiz bowl team posed for a photo with Bowie State University President Dr. Aminta Breaux during the National Qualifying Tournament, which was hosted by Bowie State University at the CIAA Basketball Tournament on February 25, 2023. Information received from University of Maryland Eastern Shore (THE KEY) March 2023, a newsletter for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends.

### **1000 FATHER'S DAY RALLY**

Council Member Mel Franklin announces one thousand Father's Day Rally for Peace in Prince George's County on Sunday, June 11, 2023, a week before Father's Day. Council Member Mel Franklin urges at least one thousand Fathers and Father figures in Prince George's County to make this free event. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/1000fathers-rally-2023>. The rally will be at the Show Place Arena from 3–6 p.m. The address is 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Email received from Mel Franklin's office.

### **SUPPORT OUR VETERANS**

Vietnam Veterans of America (Help our Heroes). Donate your car. Donation supports our dedicated Veterans and their families. Help our Vets. Chartered by Congress, any car accepted, 100% Tax Deductible, free 24-hour pick-up, helping Vets since 1978. Call today 1-888-850-3362 or Donate Online: [HelpOurVets.org](http://HelpOurVets.org). 2023 Vietnam Veterans of America Car Donation Program.

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to Joelle Oghogho who graduated from John Hopkins University with a doctorate degree in Public Health, Wednesday, May 24, 2023. Congratulations, Dr. Joelle Oghogho, and her family.

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

### **NATIONAL HARBOR KID'S DAY**

Join us for a morning of fun at National Harbor's Kids Day: Story time with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System. Tuesday June 13, 2023, 10:30–11:30 a.m. This week's activity is interactive story time, singing, dancing and more with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System. Address: 150 National Plaza, National Harbor, Maryland.

### **NATIONAL HARBOR KIDS' DAY: BLUE SKY PUPPET THEATRE**

Join us for a morning of fun at National Harbor's Kid's Day, Tuesday, June 20, 2023, 10:30–11:30 a.m. This week's performance is Blue Sky Puppet Theatre: A puppet show performance of "The Three (not so little) Pigs," a twist on the classic children's tale that is as much fun for the adults as it is for the kids. Address: 150 National Plaza, National Harbor, Maryland.

### **FIRST SYSTEMWIDE COLLEGE & CAREER DECISION DAY**

Prince George's County Public Schools hosted the first systemwide College & Career Decision Day at Bowie Baysox Stadium. The event coincided with National Decision Day. PGCPS kicked off the 2023 graduation season on Monday, May 1 with the first ever systemwide College and Career decision day to celebrate graduates as they announced their future plans.

Hosted by the Department of Student Services and Career and Technical Education, PGCPS Decision Day brought together more than 3,000 seniors from across 20 high schools. College, business, and military representatives were in attendance, along with the U.S. Army Band, community partners and vendors.

### **SPIRIT PARK CAROUSEL**

The 36-foot Americana themed Spirit Park Carousel at National Harbor offers classic fun plus a playground, shared picnic tables and a new pavilion perfect for birthday parties. The address is 137 National Plaza, National Harbor, Maryland 20745. Amenities, family friendly.

### **MOVIES ON THE POTOMAC**

Pack your chairs, grab food to go from one of the delicious dining establishments, and meet at the Plaza's Big Screen for free fun. The Plaza Screen, 150 National Plaza, National Harbor, Maryland. Thursday Date Night Movies begin at 7 p.m. Sunday Family Fun Night movies begin at 6 p.m.

### **NOTTINGHAM MYERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church in Upper Marlboro, Maryland SHOE pick up date was Saturday, May 27, 2023. The Church collected a total of 1,369 pairs of shoes. Thank you to all who came to help tag the bags and load up the truck. They are reaching beyond the community. The Shoes will be sent to developing countries to create job opportunities.

# COMMUNITY

## JUNETEENTH EVENTS

### Mount Calvary Catholic Church: Juneteenth Freedom Day Mass

*Principal Celebrant: Wilton Cardinal Gregory, Archbishop of Washington*

*Concelebrant: Most Reverend Roy E. Campbell, Jr., Auxiliary Bishop of Washington.*

By PRESS OFFICER  
**Mount Calvary Catholic Church**

What : Juneteenth Freedom Day Mass

When : **Sunday, June 18, 2023, 10:30 a.m. EST**

Where: Mount Calvary Catholic Church, 6700 Marlboro Pike, Forestville, Maryland 20747

Celebrant - Cardinal Wilton Gre-

gory - Concelebrant - Most Reverend Roy E Campbell Jr, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington D.C.

Plenty of parking  
For additional information: Contact The Office of Cultural Diversity Outreach 301-853-5335 or [culturaldiversity@adw.org](mailto:culturaldiversity@adw.org)

For ASL interpretation, contact [deafcatholic@adw.org](mailto:deafcatholic@adw.org) two weeks in advance

### The Banneker-Douglass Museum Celebrates Juneteenth With Engaging Events

By PRESS OFFICER  
**Banneker-Douglass Museum**

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (May 30, 2023)—The Banneker-Douglass Museum will celebrate Juneteenth month with a host of engaging and exciting events. Continuing to carry out the mission of preserving Maryland's African American heritage, the Banneker-Douglass Museum aims to provide visitors and residents with impactful experiences through programs and exhibitions in June.

#### PROGRAMS

**Friends of Banneker-Douglass Museum John A. Makell**

#### Scholarship Ceremony

Wednesday, June 14, 2023 | 4 p.m.  
Banneker-Douglass Museum  
84 Franklin Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

The Friends of Banneker-Douglass Museum will present scholarships in honor of John A. Makell, celebrating his 21 years of service to the museum.

#### Youth Art Exhibit and After-School Program Finale

*\*Great for families and children!*

Saturday, June 17, 2023 | 10–11:30 a.m.

See JUNETEENTH Page A4

### Strathmore Celebrates Juneteenth With Step Afrika! Step Xplosion

*Performance includes explosive new work by Step Afrika!, crowd favorite Dem' Raider Boyz, and four talented step teams from Maryland, Virginia, and New York*

By PRESS OFFICER  
**Strathmore**

NORTH BETHESDA, Md. (June 6, 2023)—Strathmore, a premier arts center in the Washington, DC area, and Step Afrika!, the country's first professional dance company dedicated to the African American tradition of stepping, will present Step Xplosion on Juneteenth—**Monday, June 19—at 7 p.m.** in Strathmore's Music Center. The show, now in its 8th year with Strathmore, honors stepping's rich roots in the Black fraternity and sorority experience and its presence in the daily and future lives of students.

"As the oldest African American holiday in the country, Juneteenth can also be considered America's second Independence Day, and the 19th of June has always been both a day of reflection and celebration," says C. Brian Williams, Step Afrika!'s founder and executive producer. "Step Afrika! is one of the most celebrated African American dance companies in the world, and we are honored to partner with Strathmore on this day to bring communities together to mark the end of slavery in the United States."

This year's Step Xplosion will feature the local premiere of The Movement, a new work choreographed by Step Afrika!'s assistant artistic director and longstanding performer, Conrad Kelly II. It's an epic tribute to Black Lives Matter and the domino effect of activism experienced in 2020. Embodying the passion and power of protest, the piece demonstrates how one can become many as we step towards social justice. The Movement has been performed live only one other time, in New York City, and Strathmore and Step Afrika! are excited to premiere the work at home in the DMV.

Additionally, Step Xplosion will feature DjG, the Disk Jockey General, and dynamic performances from some of the most exciting and innovative middle school, high school, and college step teams in the

region: Virginia State University NPHC All-Stars (Petersburg, VA); Brooklyn Divas (Brooklyn, NY); **Dem' Raider Boyz Step Squad (Greenbelt, MD); Blue Madness Stroll Team (Bowie, MD);** and Fatal Attraction Step Squad (Baltimore, MD).

"Step Afrika! continues to energize and educate us in remarkable ways," says Joi Brown, Strathmore's artistic director and vice president of programming. "The Strathmore performance scheduled for Juneteenth will be another mile marker in our robust partnership with Step Afrika! It will feature not only the return of in-person regional step teams selected by Step Afrika! but also the regional premiere of The Movement—an extraordinary celebration of determination and resilience."

#### Pre-Event Workshop

In addition to the show, Strathmore will offer two 30-minute pre-concert step workshops on Monday, June 19, at 5:30 p.m. and 6:10 p.m. in the Music Center, led by Step Afrika! performers and guest artists. Open to all ages and skill levels, the workshops will cover the history and basic techniques of stepping. Admission is included with purchase of show ticket, but RSVPs are required.

"We are delighted to offer another pathway into the electric experience of step with all-ages workshops prior to the performance," says Lauren Campbell, Strathmore's vice president of education and community engagement. "Our nearly decade-long partnership with Step Afrika! has always included robust educational outreach—including step residencies at Montgomery County Public Schools—and community participation, which are core commitments of both organizations."

Tickets for Step Xplosion and other Strathmore performances are on sale now and can be purchased online at [strathmore.org](http://strathmore.org) or by calling the Strathmore Box Office at 301.585.1050.

### Marietta House Museum and the Prince George's County Historical Society Present:

### Beyond Old Bowie: A 20-Year Ancestry.com Search for African and Prince George's County, MD Ancestors

By STACEY HAWKINS  
**Marietta House Museum**

Please join us for a hybrid program on **Saturday, June 10** from 1–3 p.m., as Nathania Branch Miles, of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society of Prince George's County, and family researchers Denise Barton and Karen Pearson, present a family journey with place-based research and online information, leading them to numerous other family members and names, such as Duckett, Spriggs, Clark, Queen, and more. The oral and documented history of the Barton-Johnson branch of the family includes

property in "Old Bowie" and family burials in the Sacred Heart and Ascension Catholic churches. Prince George's County genealogical resources information will be shared during this presentation.

Denise Barton spent her career in public service, including being an Assistant Attorney General in Michigan. Ms. Barton and her husband live in Ann Arbor. She has two daughters and three grandchildren.

Karen Pearson lives in Texas with her son and his family and has a daughter in New York. Karen spent her career in non-profit management and established "The Reading Light", an initiative that helps adults gain independence.

Recommended for ages 12 & up (ages under 18 must be accompanied by an adult). Walk-ins welcome. Registration is recommended but not required, however, online participants must register. Direct link for registration: <https://tinyurl.com/ym33z8x2>

For more information, please call 301-464-5291 or email [mariettahouse@pgparks.com](mailto:mariettahouse@pgparks.com).

We look forward to seeing you.

Marietta House Museum is located at 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD 20769, and is a property of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

### Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County Announces 2023 Fairwood Community Park Performance Series

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

RIVERDALE, Md. (May 30, 2023)—The M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County is pleased to present the 2023 Fairwood Community Park Performance Series. This incredible—free—series shines a light on many phenomenal artists resident in Prince George's County and has been bringing community residents, artists, and culture lovers together since 2013. With a sizzling lineup of diverse genres covering Caribbean to Cumbia, R&B to Soul, Gospel to Motown, as well as a performance by Prince George's County's Shakespeare in the Parks, this

year's Fairwood Community Park Performance Series promises something for everyone.

This year's series kicks off on **Sunday, June 11**, and will continue select Sundays throughout the summer. Featured artists include Pan Masters Steel Orchestra, Los Nuevos Diablos de la Cumbia, Eclipse International, Tribe Band, Deborah Bond, Suttle, DuPont Brass, the Prince George's County Chorale Society, Bowie State University Chorale, Black History, 8 Ohms Band and Marcus Johnson.

Grab your lawn chair or blanket and join us at Fairwood Community Park in Bowie as we immerse ourselves in the sweet, smooth sounds of live music. For more information and to view the full lineup, visit <https://arts.pgparks.com/2857/>

Fairwood-Community-Park-Summer-Performer.

The M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation *delivers an award-winning park system through progressive, innovative leadership and a commitment to the community and the environment in Prince George's County. For more on the Department of Parks and Recreation, visit [www.pgparks.com](http://www.pgparks.com) and stay connected on Facebook, Twitter, PhotoShelter, and Instagram. The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities in all programs and services. Register at least a minimum of two weeks in advance of the program start date to request and receive a disability accommodation.*

### Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County Launches New Web Experience

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

Riverdale, Md. (June 5, 2023)—Today, M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County launched its redesigned [www.pgparks.com](http://www.pgparks.com) with streamlined content and a more user-friendly web experience. Searching for programs, facilities and parks in Prince George's County just got easier. Patrons are now able to use new tools like facility finder, trail finder, and park finder to help in their search.

Exploring programs and services for seniors and youth or classes and activities in sports, arts, and history is made easier with filters and tool bars. Visitors can access information and registration with fewer clicks. Notable improvements to the website include:

- **ADA Tool Bar**—adjust image contrast and saturation, in-

crease text size or spacing, adjust line height, pause animations, hide images, and activate a dyslexia-friendly font.

- **Search Bar**—enter letters, words, terms for a more intuitive search for information.
- **Translation Button**—choose from multiple languages to explore programs and services on each web page.
- **Park/Trail Finder**—filter information according to zip code, park/trail name, amenities, activities, and rental options.
- **Facility Finder**—much like Park/Trail Finder, filter information by facility type, amenities, activities offered, and rental options.
- **Events Page**—search by date, location, name, or categories like visual arts, youth, and fitness & training with a direct link to registration.

To use all these features and much more, visit [www.pgparks.com](http://www.pgparks.com).

### Maryland Youth Benefit From Public Libraries' Summer Reading Partnerships

*'All Together Now' Theme Explores Kindness and Friendship Through Books, Outdoor Activities, and More*

By PRESS OFFICER  
**Maryland State Library Agency**

BALTIMORE (June 1, 2023)—The Maryland State Library Agency is pleased to announce the Summer Reading Program at Maryland Public Libraries. This year's theme, All Together Now, encourages youth and families to explore practicing kindness and friendship through books, games, projects, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) enrichment programs, outdoor activities, and more.

Summer reading programs encourage reading and other enrichment opportunities during the summer months. Participation is simple and fun. Youth may choose the books they read, activities to explore, and programs or classes to attend then track their progress through game boards or logs, available free of charge at Maryland public libraries. Each county library system tailors the program to their customers, so youth interested in participating should inquire at their local library; many locations also provide an online reading system.

Last summer, more than 46,000 youth participated in the Maryland Public Library Summer Reading Program. The program is a collaborative project between the local public libraries and the Maryland State Library Agency, with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Maryland is a participating member of the national Collaborative Summer Library Program.

The Maryland State Fair donated family passes and bookmarks to all Maryland public libraries to incorporate into their summer reading programs. During a special Reading Ceremony in August at the Maryland State Fairgrounds, the 2023 Summer Reading representatives from each county library system will be acknowledged for their reading efforts during the summer.

The Baltimore Orioles, the Maryland Science Center, and the National Aquarium have also donated tickets as incentives to youth to fully participate in library summer reading programs throughout the state, providing youth the opportunity to enjoy sports, nature, and STEM activities.

Marylanders are encouraged to learn more about all the fun and free programs coming up this summer by visiting local libraries in person or on-line.

*As the state library agency for Maryland, MSLA administers state and federal funds to support Maryland libraries in their mission to offer outstanding resources, programs, and excellent customer service. The State Library Resource Center, located in the central branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, serves as Maryland's state library. MSLA has oversight of the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled; Maryland's Public Libraries; the State Library Network including the three regional libraries; the Library Capital Grants Programs; and the Deaf Culture Digital Library.*

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

# COMMENTARY

## Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



### To Be Equal:

## To Be Equal: Celebrating 20 Years of Upholding a Tradition as “The Voice of Black America”

*“Show me a person who is full of prejudice, and I will show you a sick, unhappy, fearful individual who is not going anywhere and who is not growing. People don’t shut other people out; they fence themselves in.”*

—Whitney M. Young, Jr.

It was 20 years ago this week that I humbly assumed the responsibilities of leadership of the National Urban League—one of which is the honor to author this very column, To Be Equal, established by the esteemed Whitney M. Young, Jr.

The column shares its name and takes its inspiration from Young’s first full-length book, published on New Year’s Day, 1964, in the wake of what Young called “the year of the Negro Revolution,” a year that saw thousands of children, marching through Birmingham, Alabama, attacked by police dogs and blasted with firehoses; the Woolworth’s lunch counter sit-in in Jackson, Mississippi; Gov. George W. Wallace’s Stand in the Schoolhouse Door at the University of Alabama, the assassination of Medgar Evers, the March on Washington for Jobs and Justice, and the deadly

bombing of Birmingham’s 16th Street Baptist Church.

The first To Be Equal column to be published in New York’s Amsterdam News was headlined, “How Much Are Negroes Worth?” Young recounted his conversation with “a middle-aged white housewife” who declared she harbored no prejudice against Black Americans but could not comprehend the push to desegregate schools. “Her arguments against school integration, it turned out, were directed against sending her children to slum schools,” Young wrote. “But supposedly there is nothing wrong with sending Negro children to slum schools.”

The last To Be Equal column published under Young’s byline ran three weeks after his tragic March 11, 1971 drowning in Nigeria and consisted of excerpts of his various speeches. The last column he authored, also published after his death and headlined “Old Story, New Beginning,” concerned his efforts as part of a special commission tasked with updating the recommendations of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, also known as the Kerner Commission.

“The Kerner report’s sound recommendations have been ignored, and concerned citizens are going to have to put some muscle into their principles if this nation is to survive,” Young wrote. “The Kerner Commission recommended, among other things, greater concern by private citizens, and it’s

good to note that at a time when many private groups are simply throwing up their hands and refusing to become involved, at least one national organization has devised an imaginative new program.

That national organization was the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and the imaginative new program was the National Committee for Commitment to Brotherhood, formed to support the work of the National Urban League, NAACP, and Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

The first To Be Equal to be published after Young’s death was authored by Harold R. Sims, who served as the National Urban League’s acting executive director until the appointment of Vernon E. Jordan. Appropriately, it was a tribute to Young headlined “Nation Mourns A Great Leader.”

“Whitney Young was a man who transcended the boundaries of race, nationality, and ideology,” Sims wrote. “He was a man who formed a human bridge between the rich and the poor, the white and the black, the conservative and the liberal. Labels simply don’t apply to such a universal man.”

Each of Young’s successors has continued to publish To Be Equal, and it has been my honor to uphold the tradition as he intended it to be, “the voice of Black America.”

—June 1, 2023

## Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita, Children’s Defense Fund



### ChildWatch:

## “I See Myself and the Books Give Me Hope”

Amanda Gorman, the eloquent 25-year-old Harvard graduate who was our nation’s first ever National Youth Poet Laureate, recently became one of the latest authors to have her work banned after a Florida parent petitioned to have The Hill We Climb, the book version of the poem Gorman read at President Biden’s inauguration, removed from the elementary school section of a Miami-Dade County public school library. The parent, who incorrectly attributed the book to Oprah Winfrey, said in her complaint the poem “is not educational and have indirectly [sic] hate messages.” The parent also wrote she believed its function was to “cause confusion

and indoctrinate students.”

In response, Gorman posted a statement saying she was “guttled” by the book’s removal:

“Book bans aren’t new. But they have been on the rise—according to the [American Library Association], 40% more books were challenged in 2022 compared to 2021. What’s more, often all it takes to remove these works from our libraries and schools is a single objection. And let’s be clear: most of the forbidden works are by authors who have struggled for generations to get on bookshelves. The majority of these censored works are by queer and non-white voices.” She continued: “I wrote The Hill We Climb

so that all young people could see themselves in a historical moment. Ever since, I’ve received countless letters and videos from children inspired by The Hill We Climb to write their own poems. Robbing children of the chance to find their voices in literature is a violation of their right to free thought and free speech.”

Gorman noted that her own publisher, Penguin Random House, has already joined PEN America and others in a lawsuit in Escambia County, Florida challenging book restrictions like these, and urged her readers to visit PEN America to learn more and support their challenge. Florida has made many recent headlines for these kinds of bans, and the current climate of hostility towards diversity and inclusion under Governor and presidential candidate Ron DeSantis has just led the NAACP to warn against travel to the state. But none of us can be complacent about the growing numbers of book restrictions in school districts and states across the country, including those proposed by uninformed parents who suspect any book written by a Black author or portraying Black history or culture is likely a “hate”-filled threat to their own children’s worldview.

The Children’s Defense Fund has long championed the opposite belief. Hundreds of college-aged servant leaders are preparing right now for training to teach at CDF Freedom Schools® summer programs for children in grades K–12 at sites across the

country. These programs are centered around the CDF Freedom Schools’ research-based Integrated Reading Curriculum featuring high quality books reflecting a wide variety of cultures, races, and experiences. For some children, it’s the first time they’ve seen books with characters who look like them and share some of the struggles in their lives. It’s hard to be what you can’t see, and just as children of color need to be able to see themselves in the books they read, all children need to be exposed to a wide range of books that reflect the true diversity of our nation and world as they really are. As one CDF Freedom Schools scholar said, “I see myself and the books give me hope.”

We believe experiences like these should be encouraged for all children. During National Reading Month the CDF Freedom Schools program created a list of “Banned Books We Love,” a five-week curriculum of excellent diverse books for every reading level from K through 12th. Now is the time to add some of them to the summer reading list in your home this year! Children everywhere deserve the chance to find and choose books that will allow them to see themselves, understand what they have in common with others, and give them hope. As Amanda Gorman also wrote, “Together, this is a hill we won’t just climb, but a hill we will conquer.”

—May 26, 2023

### PRIDE 2023 from A1

#### Rock Banned Book Club Schedule:

- June 14, 2023—“Gender Queer: A Memoir” by Maia Kobabe (Hyattsville Branch Library)
- July 12, 2023—“Looking for Alaska” by John Green (South Bowie Branch Library)
- August 9, 2023—“Flamer” by Mike Curato (Bowie Branch Library)
- September 13, 2023—“All Boys Aren’t Blue” by George M. Johnson (Oxon Hill Branch Library)
- October 11, 2023—“Lawn Boy” by Jonathan Evison (Laurel Branch Library)
- November 8, 2023—“The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian” by Sherman Alexie (Accokeek Branch Library)
- December 13, 2023—“Crank” by Ellen Hopkins (Greenbelt Branch Library)
- January 10, 2024—“Out of Darkness” by Ashley Hope Perez (Fairmount Heights Branch Library)
- February 14, 2024—“The Bluest Eye” by Toni

Morrison (Spauldings Branch Library)

- March 13, 2024—“A Court of Mist and Fury” by Sarah J. Maas (New Carrollton Branch Library)
- April 10, 2024—“Me and Earl and the Dying Girl” by Jesse Andrews (Largo-Kettering Branch Library)
- May 8, 2024—“The Perks of Being a Wallflower” by Stephen Chbosky (Bladensburg Branch Library)
- June 12, 2024—“This Book is Gay” by Juno Dawson (Beltsville Branch Library)

#### Community Pride Events

The Library hosts its second annual Rainbow Festival on Saturday, June 24 (11 a.m. to 2 p.m.) at the Bowie Branch Library. This family-friendly event includes performances, opportunities to connect with community service providers, story time, crafts, and a live DJ set. Legendary DC cultural icon Rayceen Pendarvis serves as master of ceremonies.

The PGCMLS staff community and special guests will also represent Prince George’s County

in the Capital Pride Parade (Saturday, June 10).

#### Pride Month Schedule

##### Pride Programs for Adults

- Monday, June 12, 7–8 p.m., Author Event: Yseult P. Mukantabana and Hannah Summerhill on “Real Friends Talk About Race” (Virtual) - Co-presented with Prince George’s County Office of Human Rights
- Wednesday, June 14, 6–7:15 p.m., Writers’ Group: Writers with Pride (Virtual)
- Wednesday, June 14, 6:30–7:30 p.m., Rock Banned Book Club: “Gender Queer: A Memoir” by Maia Kobabe (Hyattsville Branch Library) — Co-presented with Prince George’s County Office of Human Rights
- Wednesday, June 21, 7–9 p.m., Book Crawl: Pride Bingo, feat. Ricky Rosé (Pizza Paradiso, Hyattsville)

##### Pride Programs for Adults & Teens

- Thursday, June 22, 4–5:30 p.m., Queer Art Club (Fairmount

Heights Branch Library)

#### Pride Programs for Children & Families

- Monday, June 12, 10:30–11 a.m., Rainbow Ready 2 Read Storytime - Ages 3–5 (Accokeek Branch Library)
  - Saturday, June 17, 2–3 p.m., Crafternoon: Rainbow Suncatchers (Accokeek Branch Library)
  - Tuesday, June 20, 4:30–5:30 p.m., STEM-tastic: Turing Tumble (Greenbelt Branch Library)
  - Saturday, June 24, 11 a.m.–2 p.m., Rainbow Festival (Bowie Branch Library)
  - Saturday, June 24, 2–4 p.m., Queer Question Palooza (Upper Marlboro Branch Library)
  - Monday, June 26, 4–5 p.m., STEM for Families: Sensory Bottles (Laurel Branch Library)
- Request ADA accommodations at least 72 hours in advance by contacting Ask a Librarian at (240) 455-5451 or askalibrarian@pgcmls.info. Registration is required or recommended for select events. Visit pgcmls.info/pride for more information.

### Juneteenth from A3

Banneker-Douglass Museum  
84 Franklin Street, Annapolis MD 21401

Exciting news: First Lady of Maryland, Dawn Moore, will speak at this celebration of youth creativity and expression! Over the past several months, our dedicated young artists of the BDM After-School Program have honed their skills and explored their passions through a variety of mediums, from painting and drawing to photography and mixed media, led by teaching artist Nikki Brooks. The After-School Program is organized in partnership with the Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis, and supported by BGE, Anne Arundel County, and Annapolis Symphony Academy. Breakfast will be served.

Exhibiting artists: Nyrek Banks, Eian Burno, Zion Cheak, Jazzlyn Gladden, Zaria Harris, Xion Mackell, Quencii Scott, and Breon Wells.

Link to register: <https://conta.cc/42Tr1tn>

#### Annapolis Juneteenth Parade

Saturday, June 17, 2023 | 12 p.m.  
West and Main Streets, Annapolis MD 21401

The Banneker-Douglass Museum, the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, the Banneker-Douglass Mu-

seum Foundation, and the Friends of Banneker-Douglass Museum groups will all be participating again this year in the Annapolis Juneteenth parade. We would love to have you cheer us on for this celebratory event!

#### 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 the Civil Rights Era. Learn how African Americans throughout Maryland made lasting changes for all Americans.

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

## The Prince George’s Post

The Prince George’s Post  
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# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## Social Security Matters

### Ask Rusty:

### What If I Delay but Die Before Claiming Social Security?

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

**Dear Rusty:** Hypothetically, if I plan to sign up for Social Security at 70 and pass away before that, I will get nothing. My spouse would still get a boost in the amount she receives because I made more, but everything I put into the program vanishes. I haven't reached my full retirement age yet and I still have income, but if I sign up now at 63 my benefits will be withheld due to my income. Then at full retirement age (presuming I elected to claim earlier) a re-calculation will take place and my monthly amount would be adjusted. Well, what happens if I decide to wait until 70 but pass away before I claim? Are my contributions repaid in a lump sum, or will I (or someone else) still lose everything? **Signed: Uncertain About My Future**

**Dear Uncertain:** You are correct that if you pass away before collecting your earned Social Security benefits you won't personally get anything. Social Security has, since inception, been a "pay as you go" program where those currently working and contributing to Social Security pay benefits for those currently receiving Social Security. That means that if you die before collecting, the monies you contributed will have already been used to pay other recipients, but the contributions you made may still entitle your dependents to benefits on your record. For those who are in their early 60s, average longevity is mid-80s, meaning your spouse would likely collect benefits on your record for more than two decades, any minor children could collect until they are adults, and any permanently disabled child you may have would get benefits from your record for the rest of their life as well.

The Social Security payroll taxes you contributed were not put into a private account in your name. And, on average, it is to the beneficiary's advantage the program doesn't work that way because that personal account would be depleted fairly quickly after you claim—rather than getting benefits for the rest of your life, you'd only get benefits (plus interest) from your personal account, which would run dry pretty fast. FYI, we have researched this very carefully and found that, on average, all payroll taxes contributed to Social Security by an individual will be recovered within about 5 years of starting benefits. The actual length of time to recoup one's contributions varies somewhat depending on lifetime earnings and contributions made, but lower earning beneficiaries will recover everything contributed through payroll taxes within about 3 years, while it could take as much as 5 years for higher earners to get back everything they've paid into the program. And for clarity, since self-employed individuals pay both the employee and employer portion of the payroll tax, it does take longer for those who own their own business to recoup what they've contributed. Nevertheless, on average, most who claim benefits will get considerably more from the program than they paid in Social Security payroll taxes.

As to your specific question, if you die before collecting, the contributions you made weren't deposited in a personal account for you and won't be paid out in a lump sum. Rather, the payroll taxes you paid while working were used to pay benefits to beneficiaries receiving at the time, and those working and contributing after you die will fund the benefits paid to your spouse or disabled adult child until they die, or to your minor children until they are adults. The Social Security benefits you earned aren't just for you—your eligible dependents will also benefit from your record.

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).

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## Contamination from A1

Environment Secretary Serena McIlwain. "We will be relentless in holding to account the companies that threatened public health with PFAS."

PFAS is a group of over 9,000 human made chemical compounds containing fluorine and carbon atoms. PFAS has been used since the 1940s in industrial settings and in the production of household and commercial products that are heat resistant, stain resistant, and water and oil repellent. The most widely studied PFAS chemicals, PFOS and PFOA, have been shown to be toxic at very low concentrations. They are easily transported through soil and groundwater where they can migrate long distances, including into surface water. PFAS are commonly referred to as "forever chemicals" because they do not readily biodegrade or chemically degrade

and remain in the environment for hundreds or even thousands of years.

Both lawsuits allege a number of claims, including defective design, failure to warn, public nuisance, trespass, and negligence. The two complaints seek to recover damages and costs related to the investigation, cleanup, restoration, and treatment of its natural resources from PFAS contamination.

The Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) has made substantial efforts to better understand and reduce the risks to public health associated with PFAS contamination of the State's natural resources. MDE is working to identify additional sources of release of PFAS at Department of Defense locations, wastewater treatment plants, industrial sites, and landfills. Thus, more investigation and work are necessary to determine the full extent of PFAS contamination.

## "Keep Restaurant Workers in Prince George's County" Grant Program Announced to Promote Fair Wages and Equity in the Restaurant Industry"

\$150,000 to be Awarded to 20+ Local Restaurants in PGC

By PRESS OFFICER  
**One Fair Wage**

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. (June 1, 2023)—One Fair Wage and RAISE High Road Restaurants have announced the "Keep Restaurant Workers in Prince George's County" Grant Program, addressing the challenges faced by the local restaurant industry. This initiative aims to support BIPOC-owned restaurants, promote higher wages, and foster fair labor practices within the county.

In response to the increasing wage competition and the ongoing exodus of workers from the local restaurant industry, the program will award 20–30 establishments with a grant of \$5,000–\$7,500 each. This crucial funding is aimed at facilitating the hiring or rehiring of staff and transitioning from Maryland's current \$3.63 to a fair wage of \$15 plus tips.

"The 'Keep Restaurant Workers in Prince George's County' Grant Program

is our strategic response to the ongoing mass exodus of workers from the restaurant industry, especially given that neighboring DC's wages will soon be five times those in Prince George's County," says Saru Jayaraman, President of One Fair Wage. "We hope to sustain local talent and ensure a resilient restaurant industry in Prince George's County."

As in most metropolitan areas, the restaurant industry has been disproportionately impacted by the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to financial hardship and an ensuing exodus of workers to other industries offering better remuneration and worker protections. Nearly 20,000 workers have left the Maryland restaurant industry. Additionally, the passage of Initiative 82 in neighboring Washington DC, which will raise the minimum wage for tipped workers to at least \$16 an hour (almost 5 times Maryland's subminimum wage) has intensified wage competition and caused further migration of

restaurant workers.

To participate in this program, restaurants must commit, with support, to transition to paying all staff at least \$15 an hour plus tips, with support from the program, and implement equitable employment practices. **To be eligible, restaurants must submit their application by June 10.**

The announcement of the program and application process included

- Council Member & Vice Chair Wala Blegay
- At-Large Council Member Mel Franklin
- Council Member Ingrid Watson (District 4)
- Saru Jayaraman, President, One Fair Wage
- Joseph Geevarghese, Executive Director, Our Revolution

The selection of grant recipients will be announced at a special awards ceremony on Friday, June 16 at 12 p.m. at one of the participating restaurants.

## WSSC Water Launches Get Current: Temporary Water Bill Amnesty Program

Program Runs June 1–June 30

Eligible Customers Receive Bill Credits and Waived Fees

Residential Water Service Turnoffs Temporarily Suspended During Amnesty Program

By LUIS MAYA  
**WSSC Water**

LAUREL, Md. (June 1, 2023)—WSSC Water today announced the launch of its much-anticipated temporary water bill amnesty program to help eligible customers with a delinquent balance as of May 1, 2023. The Get Current program, which will run the month of June, provides bill credits and waives 100 percent of late payment charges and turn-on fees for customers who qualify. During June, WSSC Water will temporarily suspend residential water service turnoffs to encourage program participation. As of today, approximately 83,000 accounts are past due, totaling more than \$53 million in total revenue—the vast majority of which are residential customers.

Eligible residential customers whose household income is below 150 percent of area median income\* will receive the

following benefits:

- Ten percent bill credit for payment in full of the delinquent amount and 100 percent of late payment charges and turn-on fees waived; and
- Five percent bill credit for 50 percent payment of the delinquent amount and successful completion of a six-month payment plan. Upon completion of the payment plan, 100 percent of late payment charges and turn-on fees are waived. The five percent bill credit is also applied after completion of the payment plan.

Residential customers above 150 percent of area median income and commercial and multi-unit residential accounts with master meters are eligible for the 100 percent waiver of late payment charges and turn-on fees.

"We know customers are struggling to pay their water and sewer bills due to current inflationary pressures and the long-

standing financial impact of COVID-19, which is why we created this temporary amnesty program," said WSSC Water General Manager and CEO Kishia L. Powell. "We strongly encourage customers to take advantage of the financial benefits of the Get Current program before July 1 to avoid service interruptions."

To learn more about WSSC Water's Get Current program and determine if you qualify, visit [wsscwater.com/getcurrent](http://wsscwater.com/getcurrent).

You can find information on other customer assistance programs at [wsscwater.com/assistance](http://wsscwater.com/assistance).

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

\* Get Current 150 percent Area Median Income Limits by Household Size for Prince George's and Montgomery counties.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Household Size	PERSON	PERSON	PERSON	PERSON	PERSON	PERSON	PERSON	PERSON
Household Income	\$149,500	\$170,800	\$192,150	\$213,450	\$230,550	\$247,650	\$264,700	\$281,800

## Governor Moore Announces Maryland Mobile ID Google Wallet Launch

Maryland is First State in the Nation to Offer Digital Licenses and IDs on Two Major Mobile Operating Systems

By PRESS OFFICER  
**Maryland Governor's Press Office**

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (June 1, 2023)—Governor Wes Moore today announced that the Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration launched Maryland Mobile ID in Google Wallet. Maryland is the first state in the nation to offer digital licenses and IDs in Google Wallet, which will enable users to verify their identity easily and securely for airport security screening.

"Maryland is leading the way in creating a more competitive and innovative digital environment while prioritizing accessibility and customer service," said Gov. Moore. "Maryland Mobile ID advances our administration's work to deliver safe and secure services that benefit all Marylanders."

In May 2022, Maryland became only the second state to offer Mobile ID in Apple Wallet. With the addition of Google Wallet, Maryland is now the first state to offer Mobile ID on two major mobile wallet platforms. Maryland Mobile ID in Google Wallet and Maryland Mobile ID in Apple Wallet are the only forms of dig-

ital IDs issued through the Motor Vehicle Administration.

"Innovation and technology are keys to building a transportation system that's more equitable, accessible and safe for all Marylanders," said Maryland Department of Transportation Secretary Paul J. Wiedefeld. "Maryland Mobile ID is a tool that puts more convenience in the hands of our customers."

Marylanders may now add their driver's license or ID card to Google Wallet and present it at select Transportation Security Administration airport PreCheck checkpoints, including at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. Maryland Mobile ID is only available to individuals with a valid Maryland-issued driver's license or ID. As Maryland Mobile ID serves as a companion to a physical driver's license or ID, Marylanders should always carry their physical driver's license or ID.

"Google Wallet makes navigating day-to-day life easier by enabling quick and convenient access to everyday essentials like your payment cards, loyalty cards, concert tickets and more," said Google

Wallet Vice President and General Manager Jenny Cheng. "Our research shows that having a way to save an ID to Wallet is critical in adopting a fully digital wallet. By bringing IDs to Wallet, we're excited to provide yet another way for people to move seamlessly throughout their day, toward a future without the need for a physical wallet."

Safety and security are built into every part of Google Wallet, including with Maryland Mobile ID. IDs in Wallet are stored encrypted, meaning no one will have access to personal identification information unless a user chooses to share them with consent. Presenting an ID will require users to authenticate on their device and select which fields they wish to share. Google does not have access to users' IDs and contents cannot be shared without user permission. All verification and validation of Maryland Mobile ID enrollment is completed by the Motor Vehicle Administration only.

For more information about Maryland Mobile ID in Google Wallet—including how to add and how to use at an airport—visit the MVA website.

