

The Prince George's Post



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Governor Moore Visits Prince George's County Housing Redevelopment Project and Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development in Support of Moore-Miller Administration's Housing Priorities

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 24, 2024)—Governor Wes Moore [on Jan. 23] visited Hospital Hill, a redevelopment project in Cheverly, and toured the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development headquarters in Lanham. Joined by Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Jake Day, the governor thanked developers and state employees for their work to support the Moore-Miller Administration's commitment to making Maryland more affordable by working in partnership to address the state's housing crisis.

"I want to thank Secretary Jake Day and the employees at the Department of Housing and

Community Development for their dedication to making Maryland more affordable and developing deep connections and delivering on investments within our communities to help them thrive and our economy grow," said Gov. Moore. "To build a stronger economy and give more Maryland families a fair shot at success, we must address the housing crisis head-on and build a stable housing market that drives long-term economic growth. Our housing legislative package goes to the heart of this issue, and we will work in partnership with the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Maryland General Assembly to pass this legislation."

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PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

On January 23, Governor Wes Moore visited a redevelopment project in Cheverly and toured the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development headquarters in Lanham.

Library Celebrates Arts and Culture During Black History Month

By ANDREA CASTILLO
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (Jan. 25, 2024)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is hosting more than 60 programs to celebrate Black History Month in February 2024, with many that celebrate arts and culture, including a panel of local Black women fiction writers featuring Eden Appiah-Kubi, Courtney Duke Foster, Shameka Erby, and Nikki Payne; a multi-day symposium about the Black Arts Movement of the 1960s and 1970s; a virtual discussion with Stanford University gymnast and Artistic Gymnastics World Championships athlete Khoi Young; storytelling events for children, and more.

"While PGCMLS takes pride in celebrating many cultures all year round, we are especially excited to feature a variety of programs for Black History Month," said Pam Hamlin, PGCMLS' family literacy specialist. "There will be exciting and informative programs for all ages, including storytimes and storytelling, music, poetry, discussions, films, art, and authors. Please celebrate with us!"

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Programs for children
Aisha Rice Presents:
"My Kinky, Coily Hair"

DC-area based children's author Aisha Rice explores themes of loving yourself, race, and more in her book, "My Kinky, Coily Hair," on Monday, February 5 at 4:30 p.m. at the Hillcrest Heights Branch Library. The event is targeted toward children ages 4-9.

Beat the Drum for Black Storytelling with Sista' Martha

Griot Sista' Martha explores Black history by combining stories, songs, and poems about Africa, the Caribbean, and Black America through characters such as Anansi, Alex Haley, and Sojourner Truth. Watch the performance targeted toward elementary-age children on Saturday, February 10 at 1 p.m. at the Glenarden Branch Library, Thursday, February 22 at 4:30 p.m. at the Beltsville Branch Library, or Thursday, February 29 at 4:30 p.m. at Joe's Movement Emporium, 3309 Bunker Hill Road, Mount Rainier, MD 20712.

African Storytelling Reimagined with Ada-Ari!
Children's author Ada-Ari

See LIBRARY Page A3

MGM National Harbor Celebrates Year of the Dragon With Magnificent Conservatory Display and Lion Dance

Festive celebrations include 70-foot jade water dragon Conservatory display, spectacular lion dance, and an authentic Lunar New Year menu from Ginger

By PRESS OFFICER
MGM National Harbor

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. (Jan. 22, 2024)—MGM National Harbor is celebrating the Year of the Dragon with a delectable Lunar New Year menu at Ginger, traditional lion and dragon dances and an awe-inspiring Conservatory display featuring a 70-foot jade water dragon.

The Conservatory

MGM National Harbor's newest Conservatory display pays tribute to the Year of the Dragon—designed to wish good luck, strength and health to all who enter. A Feng Shui master oversaw the design to ensure a positive flow of energy throughout the Conservatory. Guests can experience the festive display from January 26 through March 17.



PHOTO COURTESY MGM NATIONAL HARBOR

MGM National Harbor's newest Conservatory display pays tribute to the Year of the Dragon

Highlights of the 2024 Lunar New Year Conservatory display include:

- A coin tree
- One 70-foot jade water dragon and jade rock foun-

- tain
- A bamboo forest
- Golden orange topiary koi fish
- A large pagoda
- Large Chinese paper fans

Lunar New Year Celebrations

Lion Dance—Guests can celebrate the Year of the Dragon with a special lion and dragon dance on Saturday, February 10 at 6 p.m. The performance will begin in the Casino Valet and continue throughout the Conservatory, casino and National Market. The lion dance is a traditional celebration for the holiday bringing prosperity and good luck for the upcoming year.

Ginger—MGM National Harbor's signature pan-Asian restaurant invites guests to celebrate the Year of the Dragon with a special Lunar New Year menu available February 8-18. Highlights include Crispy Fried Crab Claws, Shrimp and Scallops, Golden Egg Yolk Lobster and more. For more information or to make a reservation, visit mgmnationalharbor.com.

As Maryland Considers Medical Aid in Dying, Here's How It's Playing Out in D.C.

By SAPNA BANSIL
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON (Jan. 26, 2024)—A 74-year-old man with Lou Gehrig's disease. An 88-year-old man with congestive heart failure. A 54-year-old woman with cancer.

These are among the 24 terminally ill patients who, between 2017 and 2022, ended their lives under Washington, D.C.'s Death with Dignity Act, according to public records. The law gives D.C. residents with incurable illnesses the option to die by ingesting lethal medication and requires the government to generate annual reports on those who chose to do so.

Those reports are of interest this year as legislatures across the country push to expand access to medical aid-in-dying options like the one in D.C. In neighboring Maryland and Virginia, for example, measures

to legalize the procedure are now pending in the legislatures.

In Maryland, aid-in-dying proposals in past years have faced pushback from a number of opponents. Religious groups and pro-life activists argue it infringes on their belief in the sanctity of life. Physicians fear it may violate medical ethics. And disability rights groups worry that aid in dying would be used to encourage individuals with disabilities to end their lives.

But advocates say there's unprecedented momentum this year for an aid-in-dying law in Maryland—in part because arguments for the option have been strengthened by its implementation in D.C. and 10 other states.

People in Maryland "should feel safe knowing that it's tried and tested," said Donna Smith, the Maryland and D.C. campaign director for the nonprofit group Compassion and Choices. "It's not a large num-

ber of people that use this, but for the people that need it, it's everything."

In 2016, D.C. became the sixth jurisdiction in the nation to pass aid-in-dying legislation. According to a Capital News Service analysis of annual reports released by the D.C. Department of Health, the 24 people who have died under the law ranged in age from 40 to 98. Seventeen patients had cancer, while others had neurological, heart or lung conditions.

Data was available through February 2022. The District officially counts 23 people as having utilized aid in dying; however, 24 patients are listed in Department of Health records.

Many who sought aid in dying did so to end their suffering, according to Dixcy Bosley, a nurse care manager in D.C. who

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The National Urban League launched a new phase of advocacy and activism based on "3Ds": Defend Democracy, Demand Diversity, and Defeat Poverty Commentary, Page A4

Sheila Curry, Dr. Amy Burk Elected to Lead Maryland Horse Industry Board

Planning Department Launches Retail Revitalization Online Guide to Encourage Redevelopment of Retail Corridors in Prince George's County Business and Finance, Page A5

TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Sam Wynkoop, Surrattsville '61, Hoyer Chief of Staff, dies at 80

Samuel Evans Wynkoop Jr., 80, a true Prince Georgian, died December 28. He was born in Washington, son of Dorothy and Samuel Wynkoop Sr., but spent most of his life in Prince George's County.

He graduated President of his class from Surrattsville High School in 1961 and attended Frostburg State where he met his bride, Sunday. He continued his education with a master's at Catholic University.

In the early '70s he entered the political arena, working on the successful campaign of Winnie Kelly for Prince George's County Executive. Sam later became Administrator of the County Council, working with a number of elected officials including his good friend, the late Wayne Curry.

He went on to serve in the federal government as Chief of Staff for Congressman Steny Hoyer and traveled to Russia in 1991 as part of the official delegation. He finished his career as Director of Environmental Resources for Prince George's County.

Sam's social involvement and activism grew with his commitment to Habitat for Humanity, traveling to Africa and Cambodia to immerse himself in the culture, including—according to his official obit—eating a tarantula. He traveled to New Orleans with Habitat after Hurricane Katrina.

Sam loved music, especially Bob Dylan, the theater, movies, golfing, the Orioles, the Washington Football Team, making new friends wherever he went.

He was predeceased by his parents and brother Gerard. Survivors include Sunday, his wife of 54 years; son Daniel (Andrea) and daughter Carrie (Bob); four grandchildren; brothers Robert and Martin and sister Holly. His memorial and service were at Beall funeral Home on January 6. To honor this remarkable man, donations may be made to Habitat for Humanity in his name.

Runaway-zebra owner loses license

I wrote about the runaway zebras in a recent column and, back in 2021, daughter Therese and I went in search of them ourselves. No luck.

Well, the zebras and their owner are back in the news.

After years of violations of animal wel-

fare laws, federal officials have permanently revoked the U. S. Department of Agriculture license of Jerry Lee Holly, owner of the zebras, and fined him \$15,000. Mr. Holly resides at historic Bellefields Estate in Upper Marlboro; the zebras and other exotic animals caged or fenced nearby.

This move—according to the officials—should keep Holly from profiting from the exotic-animal trade.

The escape of three zebras made national news as they were on the lam for months. They eventually were coaxed back. I wonder where they will end up now.

Town of Morningside

Morningside's February meetings are the Work Session, Feb. 13, and the Town Hall Meeting, Feb. 20, both at 7. For All Things Morningside call 301-736-2300.

Morningside Volunteer Fire Department: Live-In Weekend

On January 12, 1992, Morningside Volunteer Firefighter Kenneth Hedrick died in the Line of Duty after heroically saving a child from a house fire at 3807 Walls Lane, Suitland, and then reentering the burning house because he thought another child was still inside. In 2022, the 30th anniversary of the sad event, The Town of Morningside declared January 12 "Kenneth Hedrick Day" by Proclamation.

The Department is seeking new Volunteers. They are hosting a Live-In Weekend at the firehouse: March 1-3. Ride along with their members. Learn how their Live-In Program builds a company of excellence. No certifications required! To register or for information, call 301-736-4342.

Changing landscape

The snowfall last week is the highest total in two years. The birds (dining on seeds on my back porch) and I were delighted. But, as a Michigan girl, I really want a Real Snowfall.

Girl Scouts Nation's Capital announced January 9 that it has sold hundreds of acres of forest in Prince George's County to a group dedicated to conserving it, rather than selling it to developers. Marlton forest will be added to Charles Branch Stream Valley Park. The Scouts plan to use money

earned from the sale to create a fund dedicated to outdoor programs and resources for girls in the region. The forest is off Crain Highway, near Rosaryville State Park.

Jersey Mike's Subs opened recently in The Shops at District Heights (5412 Silver Hill Road). Reviews online are good! For hours, etc. call 240-563-1952.

A home at 6705 McKeldin Drive, in Skyline, recently sold for \$470,000.

Library update

"Wish You Were Here," a 1975 album, due back January 4, 1989, just turned up this month in a book-return box at the Laurel Branch County Library. What happens now? Nothing. The library hasn't stocked CDs since 2018, and the County eliminated all overdue fines on July 1, 2020. But who had it all those years?

The Spauldings Branch Library, in District Heights, has reopened after being closed for renovation. However, I note it is closing again Sunday, February 9 through March 29 for recarpeting and shelving replacement. Info: 240-455-5451.

I checked online to see when the Surrattsville-Clinton Branch is going to reopen. The message is that it's planning to open in 2022. Yeah, right! I drove by and it looks like they're stocking it, but no word on an opening.

Happy 103rd Birthday, Dad!

My father, Dr. Richard Dyer Mudd, was born in Anacostia on January 24, 1901, to Dr. Thomas Dyer Mudd and his wife Mary Elizabeth Hartigan Mudd. He was the grandson of Dr. Samuel A. Mudd, who was arrested and sentenced to prison at Dry Tortugas, in the Gulf of Mexico, for setting the broken leg of John Wilkes Booth, President Lincoln's assassin. (He was later freed by President Andrew Johnson.)

Dad graduated from Gonzaga High School and earned four degrees—including M.D.—at Georgetown. He interned at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit where he met my mother, Rose Marie Krummack, a nurse from Ravenna, Nebraska. They married in Ravenna in June 1928, and I was born at Henry Ford Hospital nine months

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Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month will be celebrated February 1, 2024-Friday March 1, 2024. Five important things to know about this meaningful commemoration is that a week in 1915, Harvard-educated historian Carter Woodson was the Father of Black History. The four colors that are used for Black History Month are black, red, yellow, and green. Black represents resilience, red denotes blood, yellow is optimism and justice, and green symbolizes rich greenery.

The theme for Black History Month 2024 focuses on "African Americans and the Arts. Is in the fields of visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression the African American influence has been paramount.

CONSTANCE BAKER MOTLEY

February 23, 1965, Constance Baker Motley elected Manhattan Borough president, the highest elective office held by a Black woman in a major American city. <https://www.southamptontowny.gov>> Black-History Month.

What happened this day in Black history February 24? On this day in 1864, Rebecca Lee became the first African American woman to receive an M.D. degree. On this day in 1931, Lillie Brown, the Civil rights activist, was born in Troy, Alabama. On this day in 1974, the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ) was founded.

CONGRATULATIONS MAKAYLA EUGENE

"I am pleased to announce that I have been selected as an USDA 1890 Center of Excellence for Nutrition, Health, Wellness and Quality of Life Health Disparities Scholar. As a scholar, I will be responsible to complete a diet-related disparities research project under the mentorship of research faculty and Agriculture Extension agents. At the capstone of the program, I will present research and co-host a student led symposium session during the Association of Extension Administrators and the Association of 1890 Research Directors joint meeting. I am excited for the opportunity to increase my capacity as an Agriculture and Food resource community Ambassador." MaKayla Eugene is the daughter of Curtis and Stephanie Eugene of Brandywine, Maryland. Granddaughter of Gwendolyn DeVille and the late Frank Deville of Brandywine, Maryland.

KEENAN, BILLY, LEONARD

Ray, Goodman, & Brown originated as The Moments in the mid-1960s, whose greatest success came in the 1970s with hits including Love on a Two-Way Street, Sexy Mama, and Look at Me (I am in Love). In 1978, they changed their name to Ray, Goodman, & Brown. The group was composed of Harry Ray, Al Goodman, and Billy Brown, who went on to have further hits in-

cluding Special Lady. The first single under their new name, Special Lady became their biggest hit, reaching #1 on the R&B Charts in early 1980, earning them a good Record.

Over the years, Harry Ray and Al Goodman passed, leaving Billy Brown as the sole surviving original member of Ray, Goodman, & Brown since 2010. Ray, Goodman, & Brown continue to perform before sellout crowds both nationally and internationally. Under the leadership of Billy Brown, current members, Kenneth Brown, and Keenan Blount, continue to thrill audiences with their tight harmony and smooth choreography. If you are a special Lady or have a special Lady, you do not want to miss this Valentine's Day week-end performance.

The Ray, Goodman, and Brown performance will be on Saturday, February 10, 2024, from 8:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. at Harmony Hall Arts Center (301) 203-6070. The address is 10701 Livingston Road Fort Washington, Maryland 20744. harmonyhallarts@pg-parks.com. Ticket Price: \$50, Age: All Ages. Event Category: Arts Performances. Event Programs & Series: Harmony Hall Arts Center.

NOTTINGHAM MYERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Fresh Fruit Fundraiser sponsored by NMUMC AV Ministry until February 16, 2024. Your support will help enhance our online presence and worship experience. This is an online fundraiser and to place an order go to floridaindianrivergroves.com -Click Order Now- Enter Code 141970. All orders will ship between March 4-18, 2024. Nottingham Myers UMC 15601 Brooks Church Road Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772, Rev. Shemaiah Strickland, Pastor. Email-nottinghammyers@outlook.com, <https://www.nmc1867.org/>

BOYZ II MEN

Boyz II Men redefined popular R & B and continues to create timeless hits that appeal to fans across all generations. The band has penned and performed some of the most celebrated classics of the past two decades. For the past two decades Boyz II Men have given fans a rich catalog of hits filled with smooth harmonies and enduring themes. The group continues to craft new albums and bring their legendary act to stages across the world. The group will perform February 18, 2024, at 8:00 p.m. Read more on Prince Georges County. The group will perform at MGM National Harbor Resort & Casino, 101 MGM National Harbor, Oxon Hill, Maryland.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to Wendell and Florella Wallace, Steven and Denise Bouyer Carter who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating Wedding Anniversaries in February.

Medical from A1

specializes in hospice and end-of-life care. As a volunteer with Compassion and Choices, Bosley has counseled several patients in the District who pursued it as an option.

"I've been with five people," Bosley said, "and every single one was just a really peaceful experience."

Bosley recalled the first aid-in-dying patient she cared for in the District: A man in his 60s and former electrician who depended on an oxygen tank to breathe. To be eligible, patients must have less than six months to live, make a series of oral and written requests and be sound of mind.

Bosley said she was struck by how the man planned for his death. He set a date and had family and friends visit to say their goodbyes.

"He was not suicidal," Bosley said. "He really just wanted to stop suffering."

On the day he died, his wife and daughter were by his side as he mixed and ingested the medication. Through the cracked windows in his room, they could hear the sounds of a neighboring elementary school.

"We could hear the kids in the elementary school playing and laughing outside," Bosley said. "I just felt like it was just a beautiful death."

Concerns about ethics and access

Fewer people have utilized aid in dying in D.C. than advocates had expected, according to Smith.

Among the biggest barriers to accessing the procedure is the lack of doctors and pharmacies willing to provide care. In D.C., there have never been more than four physicians who have prescribed life-ending medications in any given year, the CNS analysis found.

And according to Bosley, many retail pharmacies refuse to fill aid-in-dying prescriptions. (Major retailers declined or did not respond to CNS requests to discuss their policies on this.)



PHOTO CREDIT SAPNA BANSIL/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Dixey Bosley, a nurse care manager who specializes in hospice and end-of-life care, sits on a porch swing outside her Washington, D.C., home on Jan. 25, 2024. Bosley has cared for five individuals who have ended their lives through the District's medical aid in dying option.

The Medical Society of the District of Columbia, which represents physicians in the District, did not offer an opinion as the D.C. Council was debating its law in 2015 and 2016. A spokesperson for the group declined to comment for this story.

But many providers feel that aid in dying is inconsistent with their obligations to treat and heal their patients.

"People bristle at the idea that we would be able to heal through killing," said Daniel Sulmasy, a physician who serves as director of the Kennedy Institute of Ethics at Georgetown University, located in D.C. "This is something that I think grates against the fundamentals of the profession."

MedStar Georgetown University Hospital prohibits doctors from participating in the District's aid-in-dying program, according to Sulmasy.

"We can stop treatments and make sure people are comfortable, but we never act with the specific intention of making somebody dead," he said.

Within the advocate community, there are also concerns about

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Local Students Honored

Local Residents Named to Dean's List at Gonzaga University

SPOKANE, Wash. (Jan. 25, 2024)—The following local residents have earned placement on the Gonzaga University Dean's List for fall semester 2023. Students must earn a 3.5 to 3.84 grade-point average to be listed.

Gonzaga University is a humanistic, private Catholic University providing a Jesuit education to more than 7,500 students. Situated along the Spokane River near downtown Spokane, Washington, Gonzaga is routinely recognized among the West's best comprehensive regional universities. Gonzaga offers over 75 fields of study, 24 master's degrees, four doctoral degrees in one college and six schools.

Glenn Dale, MD: **Carissa Victoria Halili**

Iowa State University announces fall semester 2023 Dean's List

AMES, Iowa (Jan. 22, 2024)—More than 10,800 Iowa State University students have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the fall semester 2023 Dean's List. Students named to the Dean's List must earn a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work.

Students listed below are from our area.

Upper Marlboro, MD: **Pamela Jeanette McCune**, 1, Design Undeclared

Noble Earns Degree at Susquehanna University

SELINGROVE, Pa. (Jan. 22, 2024)—Susquehanna University is pleased to announce its December graduates.

Cameron Noble, of Upper Marlboro, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in communications.

Susquehanna University is a selective, residential liberal arts college that provides a solid background in the liberal arts and sciences, as well as professional experiences. Students develop critical thinking, writing, teamwork and communication skills which, combined with internships and research opportunities, prepare them for a lifetime of personal and professional success. The university is recognized nationally for its commitment to off-campus study through its Global Opportunities program. Small classes enable faculty members to serve as mentors, as well as teachers.

COMMUNITY

Marietta House Museum's Black History Month Program: Research on the Queen Family & Descendants

By STACEY HAWKINS
Marietta House Museum

Please join Marietta House Museum on **Monday, February 19, 1 p.m.–3 p.m.** for a fascinating black history genealogy talk “Research into the Queen Family & Descendants.” This hybrid event features two influential genealogists, Judy Riffel and Kevin Porter, who have researched the Queen family.

Many Queen family members can trace their ancestry to their enslaved ancestors in Louisiana. Join Louisiana genealogist Judy Riffel and Kevin Porter—a Queen family member and Maryland genealogist. Riffel and Porter will present side-by-side to discuss the history of the Maryland Jesuits of White Marsh’s infamous sale of the enslaved to Louisiana sugar plantations.

Recommended for ages 8 & up. \$5/person. Please register at this direct link: <https://tinyurl.com/2av366hb>

Online attendees must register to receive TEAMS link. For more information call 301-464-5291 or email mariettahouse@pgparks.com. Walk-ins are welcome.

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.

Library from A1

celebrates African folklore through book readings, African dance, and hands-on activities with authentic artifacts at the Laurel Branch Library on Wednesday, February 21 at 5:30 p.m. and at the Upper Marlboro Branch Library on Saturday, February 24 at 1 p.m.

Programs for teens and adults

The Blues: Lyrics of a Life Well-Lived—Discussion and Musical Presentation

Jael “Ya Ya” Patterson and Miles Spicer lead a discussion and musical presentation exploring songwriting, the stories and social issues behind blues songs, and more at the Greenbelt Branch Library on Thursday, February 15 at 4:30 pm.

Empowering the Game: Khoi Young

Prince George’s County native Khoi Young shares his experiences as a student gymnast at Stanford University and a member of Team USA at the Artistic Gymnastics World Championships in a virtual session on Thursday, February 6 at 7 p.m.

Programs for adults

Panel Discussion: Celebrating Black Women’s Voices in Fiction

On Saturday, February 3 at 2 p.m., join local authors Eden Appiah-Kubi, Courtney Duke Foster, Shameka Erby, and Nikki Payne at the South Bowie Branch Library in “Celebrating Black Women’s Voices in Fiction” as they discuss the people and experiences that have shaped their work.

Redeeming the Declaration:

A Moral Compass for A More Perfect Union

Asa Gordon of the African American Civil War Museum leads “Redeeming the Declaration: A Moral Compass for A More Perfect Union,” a discussion about the Declaration of Independence and how it shaped U.S. history, especially during the Revolutionary War and Civil War at the Hyattsville Branch Library on Tuesday, February 6 at 6 p.m.

Remembering the Black Arts Movement Symposium series

The Remembering the Black Arts Movement Symposium series, presented by the Hurston/Wright Foundation, is a symposium hosted over several days and at multiple locations that provides an opportunity to explore Black artists, writers, musicians, and other people in the midst of civil rights activism in the 1960s and 1970s through events with panels, readings, and discussions.

- **The Poetry of Amiri Baraka—Poetry and Panel Discussion**
Tuesday, February 6 at 6:30 p.m. at Oxon Hill Branch Library
- **Ntozake Shange—Panel Discussion**
Wednesday, February 7 at 6:30 p.m. at Bowie Branch Library
- **The Power of Poetry: Readings by PG County Residents**
Tuesday, February 13 at 6:30 pm at Largo-Kettering Branch Library
- **The Women of the Black Arts Movement—Panel Discussion**
Tuesday, February 20 at 6:30 p.m. at New Carrollton Branch Library
- **The Poetry and Music of Gil Scott-Heron: A Conversation featuring Liberated Muse Arts Group** Wednesday, February 21 at 6:30 p.m. at Bowie Branch Library

Rock Banned Book Club: “The Bluest Eye” by Toni Morrison

PGCMLS and the Prince George’s County Office of Human Rights (PGCOHR) host February 2024’s meeting to discuss Toni Morrison’s “The Bluest Eye,” a story about 11-year-old Pecola Breedlove, a Black girl living in Morrison’s hometown of Lorain, Ohio, in 1941, who wants to have blue eyes to be more like her blonde, blue-eyed peers. Join the event at Spauldings Branch Library on Wednesday, February 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Programs for all ages

The Beauty of African Rhythm:

An Introduction to Traditional West African Instruments

See, hear, and learn about Manding instruments from West Africa during a performance, demonstration, and discussion with Uasuf Gueye about history and culture through the region. The all-ages event takes place on Tuesday, February 6 at 6 p.m. at the South Bowie Branch Library, on Wednesday, February 7 at 6 p.m. at the Fairmount Heights Branch Library, and on Tuesday, February 20 at 6 p.m. at the Accokeek Branch Library.

Uhuru Quilters Guild Exhibit

African-American quilters in the area will display a range of colorful, one-of-a-kind quilts to honor the history and traditions of the community at the Spauldings Branch Library on Saturday, February 10 from 11 am-2 p.m.

The Banneker-Douglass Museum Celebrates Black History Month and its 40th Anniversary This February

By PRESS OFFICER
Banneker-Douglass Museum & Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 25, 2024)—The Banneker-Douglass Museum (BDM) and Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) are proud to announce a series of dynamic programs and exhibitions in celebration of Black History Month, Maryland’s Year of Civil Rights, and BDM’s 40th anniversary. Residents and visitors are in for transformative and inspiring experiences!

“With so much to celebrate this month in Maryland African American history and culture, we are taking this opportunity to honor changemakers, reflect on the journey, and inspire future generations”, said Chanel C. Johnson, Executive Director of BDM and MCAAHC.

Programs

Black Power Freedom Party & Reception: The 10 Points and Beyond

Friday, February 2 | 6–10 p.m.
St. John’s College, Annapolis, MD 21401
Tickets: \$40

freedomparty.eventbrite.com

Kick off Black History Month with the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture! Join us in a grand celebration as we pay homage to the radical Black history makers of Maryland who have fearlessly challenged the status quo and left a lasting mark on history, art, and culture.

The evening will include a conversation with NAACP Image Award-winning author and Maryland native, Carole Boston Weatherford. Honorees are Myrtis Bedolla, Carl Snowden, Delegate Shaneka Henson, W. Paul Coates, Speaker of the House Adrienne A. Jones, Gov. Wes Moore & First Lady Dawn Moore, and Erricka Bridgeford. April Sampé and Dem B-more Katz will provide live music. Tickets include entry to the talk, reception, heavy hors d’oeuvres, and drink tickets.

MCAAHC February 2024 Public Meeting

Monday, February 5, 2024 | 11 a.m.
Reginald F. Lewis Museum
830 East Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202
Register:
<https://bit.ly/Feb2024PublicMeeting>
Join us for the Black History Month

edition of the public meeting for the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC). This month’s public meeting hosts will be the Baltimore City commission delegation. Guest speakers are Dayvon Love, Director of Public Policy for Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle, and Dr. Schroeder Cherry, Museum Curator at the James E. Lewis Museum of Art. Attendees can also network with various Black Baltimore-based cultural arts vendors.

Baltimore Read Aloud Story Time

Thursday, February 15, 2024 | 11 a.m.–12 p.m.
Banneker-Douglass Museum
84 Franklin Street, Annapolis MD 21401
Register:
<https://bit.ly/Feb2024StoryTime>

Join us for a fun-filled morning where stories come to life! Baltimore Read Aloud and Banneker-Douglass Museum presents Day Out at the Museum, a monthly storytime series for ages 2 to 5. Let their imaginations run wild as we dive into enchanting tales. Expect a read aloud, interactive games, art activities, and light snacks. Pre-K classes and day care groups welcome!

String of Pearls the Musical

Sunday, February 18, 2024 | 4 p.m.
Maryland Hall
801 Chase St, Annapolis, MD 21401
Tickets:
<https://bit.ly/StringofPearlsMusical>

Maryland Hall, in association with Banneker-Douglass Museum, is proud to present the jazz musical String of Pearls. This captivating musical tells the love story of Nettie and Sam, sharecroppers, who dare to preserve their love in a daring and ingenious escape from the Chikoree Wood Cotton Plantation to Washington, D.C.’s Greater U Street neighborhood. The adventures, calamities, and flashes of joy and wonder they encounter are the thread that holds them together—The String of Pearls. A panel discussion with Annapolis cultural leaders, including Dr. Edwin T. Johnson will follow the show.

REVISIT/REIMAGINE Exhibition Opening Reception & BDM’s 40th Anniversary

Saturday, February 24, 2024 | 12–4 p.m.
Banneker-Douglass Museum
84 Franklin Street, Annapolis MD 21401
Register:
<https://bit.ly/RevisitReimagineOpening>

Join us in celebrating BDM’s anniversary and the opening of the meditative exhibition REVISIT/REIMAGINE: The Civil Rights Era in Maryland and Parallels of Today. REVISIT/REIMAGINE is a multidisciplinary exhibition that remembers the legacies of civil rights leaders and their effect on Black Marylanders and the United States in totality. In collaboration with AFRO Archives, images of nationally and locally recognized civil rights leaders will be on display accompanied by the work of contemporary artists living and working in the Maryland area. Come and hear from featured artists in the exhibit during an artist talk led by the exhibit’s curator, Thomas James.

Exhibitions

REVISIT/REIMAGINE: The Civil Rights Era in Maryland and Parallels of Today

On display February 24, 2024–January 4, 2025

REVISIT/REIMAGINE: The Civil Rights Era in Maryland and Parallels of Today, a multidisciplinary exhibition that remembers the legacies of civil rights leaders and their effect on Black Marylanders and the United States in totality. In collaboration with AFRO Archives, images of nationally and locally recognized civil rights leaders will be on display accompanied by the work of contemporary artists living and working in the Maryland area. The gallery will be designed to emulate that of an interior home space with books, records, and other objects scattered throughout. This layout will serve as a visual representation of intergenerational relationships and how the issues of civil rights have transformed, progressed, and regressed throughout the 60 years between the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and our current existence today.

Deep Roots, Rising Waters: A Celebration of African Americans in Maryland

Permanent Exhibit

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

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

Prince George’s County Planning Department Launches Retail Revitalization Online Guide to Encourage Redevelopment of Retail Corridors in Prince George’s County

By PRESS OFFICER
M-NCPPC

LARGO, Md. (Jan. 25, 2024)—The Prince George’s County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) released a new online Retail Revitalization Guide, and supporting Retail Revitalization Report 2023, identifying market opportunities for retail and residential development within Prince George’s County to meet the demands of consumer shopping trends and encouraging reinvestment into surplus older retail properties unable to meet current and future market demand. Developed in collaboration with the Prince George’s County Economic Development Corporation and Revenue Authority, the Retail Revitalization Guide uses the Branch Ave Corridor to assess the performance of existing retail and identifies five pilot sites across the County to offer inspiration on what potential revitalization to the existing shopping corridors would look like. The guide explores a range of solutions available to private property owners and to County agencies, from small-scale improvements to complete redevelopment projects. The Prince George’s County Zoning Ordinance,

adopted April 1, 2022, allows for more flexibility to facilitate the development of existing commercial corridors into mixed-use centers. The guide also informs stakeholders and property owners about the potential financial benefits of revitalizing their properties and provides an interactive toolkit that includes illustrations of potential revitalization strategies, imagery of successful projects, and step-by-step recommendations for implementation.

“Through collaboration and innovation, the Retail Revitalization Guide guides business owners, developers, and property owners with reimagining commercial spaces and connecting to economic development incentives to help spark property improvement along retail corridors,” said Peter A. Shapiro, Chair of the Prince George’s County Planning Board.

“Designed to assist decision makers with navigating the numerous opportunities within Prince George’s County, the interactive website not only explores revitalization strategies—reprogramming, renovations, repurposing, retrofits, and redevelopment—but it links stakeholders directly to the County resources, new zoning codes, partnering agencies, and real-life case studies,” said Lakisha Hull,

Director of the Prince George’s County Planning Department.

The Retail Revitalization Report 2023 and online guide offers users five key insights:

- A framework for understanding the range and variety of revitalization strategies available to investors.
- deep-dive market information to aid in programming decisions and investor decision-making.
- an overview of typical retail typologies that reflect the on-the-ground conditions of properties.
- successful national and local case studies for inspiration.
- conceptual plans for five pilot sites along the Branch Avenue Corridor that offer investors a concrete vision for market-informed redevelopment that is also compliant with the new zoning framework.

“While the guide presents recommendations for shopping center owners and managers who want to explore options to revitalize their properties throughout Prince George’s County, a deeper dive into different shopping center typologies along the Branch Avenue Commercial

COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Protecting Elected Officials From Intimidation Is Vital to Achieving the “3Ds”

“Conventional wisdom may call such intimidating conditions the price of holding elected office. But its fallout harms everyone who relies on a free, fair, and functional democratic process. By deterring officeholders from seeking reelection or running for higher office, taking on important policy positions, or interacting with their constituents, unchecked extremist intimidation distorts government’s ability to represent the people it serves.”

—Brennan Center for Justice

After a drive-by shooting, orchestrated by a political adversary, sent three bullets through her 10-year-old daughter’s bedroom, New Mexico State Senator Linda Lopez mused, “Is it worth me putting my family at risk because I vote a certain way, I espouse certain ideals?”

A healthy democracy depends not only upon unfettered access to the voting booth for all eligible citizens, but also upon the unfettered ability of those elected to exercise the will of the people.

An alarming report released this week by the Brennan Center for Justice found that threats, harassment, and physical violence against elected officials have spiked in recent years, threatening the free and fair functioning of representative democracy.

The vast majority of state legislators, 89%, reported experiencing some form of abuse in the last three years, with 40% experiencing actual violence or threats of violence.

Glynda Carr, president and CEO of Higher Heights, a nonpartisan nonprofit focused on expanding pipelines for Black women at all levels

of elected government, told the researchers, ““It is a privilege and oftentimes a joy to be able to hold elected office and serve one’s community. But there is a long way to go, still. This study shows that those with power and resources must do more to foster the conditions for all talented people to be able to step up and lead.”

People of color at both the state and local levels were at least three times as likely as white officeholders to experience abuse related to their race. Women were three to four times as likely as men to experience abuse targeting their gender.

“I have been called everything, a c---, a n----, a b----, you name it,” Wisconsin State Senator Lena Taylor said.

An unnamed Black state legislator said, “My first session, it was just a lot about race. There was someone who made a lynching joke and a three-fifths comment. I think the ones that I remember the most are the ones where I was called the n-word.”

Pervasive intimidation threatens to exacerbate the under-representation of women and people of color in elected office. Just 28% of Congressional seats and 33% of state legislative seats are held by women. Though they represent nearly a quarter of the population, women of color hold only 9% of Congressional seats and 8% of state legislative seats.

Those who do brave the harassment to make their way into office are less likely to tackle to critical issues once they arrive.

“I’ve had abolitionists—so, people who believe

in the abolition of abortion—make death threats against my family, my children, myself,” said a Republican state lawmaker who failed to toe his party’s line on reproductive rights.

Illinois State Rep, Kelly Cassidy opted not to lead gun safety legislation because “my kids were too little, the threats were too common and too on point.”

Among the measures the Brennan Center recommends to combat the threat are:

- State and local governments should provide officeholders training, conducted by experts, in resisting hate-based violence that includes techniques in bystander intervention.
- States should regulate open and concealed carry of guns in places where officeholders engage with the public.
- States should protect local and state officeholders’ personal information, such as home addresses, with appropriate exceptions to enable public accountability.
- Legislative bodies, officeholders, and social media companies should prioritize the freedom to safely engage in public discourse as they update policies to reduce serious harm online.

Earlier this month, the National Urban League launched a new phase of advocacy and activism based on “3Ds”: Defend Democracy, Demand Diversity, and Defeat Poverty. Protecting elected officials from intimidation is vital to achieving all three.

—January 26, 2024

Republicans Push Back Against Cannabis Odor Law, But Repeal Seems Unlikely

By ANGELIQUE GINGRAS
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 23, 2024)—Republicans are pushing to repeal a controversial Maryland law that prohibits police from pulling over and searching drivers simply because they smell of marijuana, but Democratic leaders say they aren’t interested in dramatic changes to the state’s cannabis legislation this year.

Senate President Bill Ferguson, D-Baltimore City says Democrats are only considering what they refer to as “improvements” to Maryland’s cannabis law, following its legalization for adult use last year.

“I think we’re going to have a cannabis bill this year that sort

of does some—I don’t want to call it clean-up—but adjustments to the system that we passed last year,” Ferguson said. “I don’t think you’ll see major changes to the program, but implementation adjustments.”

In 2023, the Maryland General Assembly passed the new “odor” law hoping to prevent unwarranted search and seizure against people of color, according to members of Maryland’s Legislative Black Caucus, who were proponents of the bill. With Democrats controlling both chambers of the General Assembly, their opposition to repeal makes it unlikely.

But critics of the law—Republicans in particular—say the law is making it harder for police to do their jobs.

“The irony is, if we see someone chugging a beer, police can pull them over,” said Sen. William Folden, R-Frederick, a police officer who serves in the legislature. He says the law potentially takes away probable cause for police when “there is a crime occurring, just because you’re saying, well, you’re not allowed to use your nose anymore.”

After voters approved a ballot referendum legalizing cannabis for adult use, the General Assembly passed legislation in 2023 setting up licensing and taxation as well as other rules.

Those laws were meant to address “the harms of the past when it comes to criminalization of cannabis,” Del. Jheanelle Wilkins, D-Montgomery, chair-

person of the Black Caucus and sponsor of the odor law, told Capital News Service.

Maryland’s odor law isn’t uncommon. In fact, several states that have legalized cannabis have said its smell doesn’t warrant a police search of a vehicle, or they’re considering such a provision.

“The public clearly wanted marijuana legalized, fine,” said Sen. Jack Bailey, R-Calvert and St. Mary’s. “But we shouldn’t do away with the requirements.”

But top Democrats said they are only considering small alterations, including adjustments to the duties and make-up of the Maryland Cannabis Administration and related authorities.

“It was hugely complicated, lots of moving pieces for the



PHOTO CREDIT ANGELIQUE GINGRAS/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE
Senate President Bill Ferguson, D-Baltimore City, addresses the Senate chamber in the 2023 legislative session.

cannabis bill last year,” Ferguson said. “And as we’ve been implementing, there’s little things that have to be worked through.”

Wilkins says the goal of De-

mocrats and the Black Caucus is “working closely with the administration to make sure that our intentions of the bill are carried out.”

Housing from A1

On the visit, Governor Moore announced \$7.5 million in State Revitalization Program (SRP) funding to Hospital Hill in the Moore-Miller administration’s FY25 proposed budget. The new funding will support ongoing preservation, design, and pre-development efforts to transform the site into a modern, mixed-use community asset to functionally serve as a downtown district for Cheverly.

When completed, the Hospital Hill redevelopment project will span 26 acres and more than 1,000 housing

units, including 40,000 square feet of retail and entertainment options, a public square and space for a grocery store, a dog park, and a new hotel. The project was awarded a total of \$5 million in FY23 and FY24 funding through two of DHCD’s State Revitalization Programs to continue design and pre-development efforts.

The governor’s 2024 legislative agenda includes a housing package to address housing cost, housing shortages and housing instability, including mechanisms for local investment through the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. The gover-

nor’s proposed capital budget also reflects an increase of \$115 million in FY 2025 for priority housing and community development investments. By increasing funding for housing, reducing barriers to new construction, and protecting Maryland’s most vulnerable renters, the total package addresses the issues driving unaffordable housing costs and housing instability.

The three bills included in the Moore-Miller administration’s legislative housing package include:

- The Housing Expansion and Affordability Act of 2024, which seeks to establish regulatory incentives to vi-

tal development to address the housing supply and affordability crisis in a manner that is sensitive to local zoning.

- The Housing and Community Development Financing Act of 2024, which unlocks new tools to strengthen Maryland communities and address the ongoing housing crisis.
- The Renters Rights and Housing Stabilization Act of 2024, which enhances protections for renters, strengthens the enforcement of existing laws, and reduces the impact of evictions on Maryland families.

“The Governor’s housing package and proposed capital budget will have a direct impact on the lives of Marylanders and the economic future of our state. This is a critical step forward in our mission to ensure all Marylanders have access to affordable housing options,” said Secretary Jake Day. “Our response to the housing crisis must be comprehensive and leverage better outcomes than past efforts to build housing or build communities. Now is the moment to work together, to turn up every dial and ensure no Marylander is left behind.”

Medical from A2

racial disparities in accessing aid in dying.

In D.C., where 45% of the population is Black, 22 of 24 patients who have utilized the option are white, the CNS analysis found. One patient was Black, while another was Hispanic.

Similar trends have appeared in other states that have legalized aid in dying. In California, among most racially diverse jurisdictions with an aid-in-dying law, 0.8% of patients have been Black.

The disparities stem, in part, from broader health inequities, Smith surmises.

“I know in [the Black] community, we’re still fighting to live,” said Smith, who serves as the diversity, equity and inclusion advisor to Compassion and Choices. “We don’t get adequate health outcomes to begin with. So it’s hard to say, ‘Okay, let me offer you this option [at the end of life]’ when you haven’t been given the support you need to live.”

Prospects in Maryland

Maryland is among 18 states currently weighing aid-in-dying legislation. The bill is modeled after existing laws across the country and is the same as a measure that failed to make it out of committee a year ago.

Like in other jurisdictions, the bill would require patients to self-ingest medication. Physicians and health care facilities are not obligated to provide aid-in-dying services.

Similar measures have been considered in Maryland in the past but failed to pass—though they came close. In 2019, the House of Delegates approved an aid-in-dying bill that failed in the Senate on a 23-23 tie vote.

This year, as issues of bodily autonomy gain heightened awareness following the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, Maryland Senate President Bill Ferguson, D-Baltimore City, has indicated a willingness to bring an aid-in-dying bill to a vote.

Governor Wes Moore has also expressed support for bringing the option to Maryland.

“If a bill makes it to my desk with transition with dignity at its core, I will sign it,” Moore said.

Senate Minority Leader Stephen Hershey, R-Kent, Queen Anne’s, Caroline and Cecil expects most Republicans to oppose such a bill.

“From a perspective of the sanctity of life, a lot of times, it boils down to our religious beliefs on some issues,” Hershey said. “This is certainly one of them.”

Among those who hope the Maryland bill passes is Diane Kraus, a 59-year-old Balti-

more native who was diagnosed in May 2021 with metastatic breast cancer and has since been advocating for the right to end her life.

Kraus has undergone four different types of chemotherapy and continues to receive treatment every three weeks. But it’s become increasingly difficult for her to manage her symptoms, which include pain, nausea, confusion and headaches, among others.

Motivated by her own experiences with a terminal illness and 35 years of working as an occupational therapist in hospice and home health settings, Kraus testified in support of Maryland’s aid-in-dying bill last year.

“I wanted it for me,” Kraus said in an interview with CNS. “I had seen so many people die in pain and so many people have such a poor quality of life at the very end. And they would say, ‘I just want to go home and be with God and be with my relatives.’ ... And that just really struck me.”

Kraus was devastated when Maryland’s bill stalled last year and has considered relocating to a state where aid in dying is legal. She hopes that existing laws, like the one in D.C., help sway skeptics in Maryland this legislative term.

“Even people highly opposed... come around to some degree when they see it and have to live with it,” Kraus said.

The Prince George’s Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Will Withdrawing From 401(k) Affect My 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: My full retirement age (FRA) is 66 and 8 months, which I'll reach in September 2024. I'm still working 3 days a week. I want to cash in my 401K and want to know if I have to wait until my FRA for IRS purposes or can cash it in anytime in 2024. I don't want to affect my Social Security or end up paying taxes on my benefits. **Signed: Seeking to Avoid Taxes**

Dear Seeking: We're not experts on IRS matters here at the AMAC Foundation so I can't address 401(k) questions, but we can provide information on your Social Security circumstances and how 401(k) withdrawals may affect your SS. I assume from your question that you are now receiving early Social Security and wish to avoid any tax consequences thereto by cashing in your 401(k), as well as from working. Here's what you need to know:

- Since you will reach your full retirement age (FRA) in 2024, your 2024 work earnings limit will be \$59,520 up to the month you reach FRA. If you were born in January 1958, you'll attain FRA in September 2024. After you have reached your FRA there is no longer a Social Security limit to how much you can earn from working, so your work earnings thereafter will not affect your monthly Social Security benefit regardless of how much you earn. If your part time work between January and August 2024 won't put you over the \$59,520 limit, your work earnings will not negatively affect your gross monthly Social Security benefit.
- Assuming you are on Medicare, the premium for which is deducted from your Social Security payment, withdrawals from your 401(k) might affect your net monthly Social Security payment in two years hence. Medicare premiums are based upon your combined income from all sources, including 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year. If your 401(k) withdrawal(s) put you over an income threshold for your tax filing status, you may be required to pay an "IRMAA" (Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount) on top of the standard Medicare premium. That IRMAA supplement would be deducted from your Social Security, which would affect the net amount of your Social Security payment. Your Medicare premium for each coming year is determined by your combined income from two years prior, so if you "cash in" your 401(k) in 2024, it would affect your net Social Security payments in 2026.
- Whether you will pay income tax on your Social Security benefits is determined by your combined income from everywhere, which the IRS calls your "Modified Adjusted Gross Income" or "MAGI." MAGI is your income from all sources (except ROTH IRA withdrawals) and includes half of the SS benefits you received during the tax year. If you file your taxes as a single, and your MAGI is over \$25,000—or if you file your taxes as "married-jointly" and your MAGI is over \$32,000—then 50% of the Social Security benefits received during the tax year becomes part of your overall income taxed by the IRS (at your normal IRS tax rate). But if your MAGI as a single filer is more than \$34,000—or as a married/jointly filer over \$44,000—then up to 85% of the SS benefits received during the tax year becomes part of your overall income taxed by the IRS.

So, to recap:

1. Your part time work earnings in 2024 won't affect your monthly Social Security benefit, unless your 2024 work earnings prior to September 2024 exceed \$59,520.
2. Depending on the amount of your 401(k) withdrawals, your 2026 net Social Security payments may be impacted by Medicare's IRMAA provision. But your 401(k) withdrawals will not affect your gross Social Security payments.
3. Depending on the amount of your 401(k) withdrawals, some of the Social Security benefits received during the 2024 tax year will likely be subject to income tax. That is, if your annual total income, including your 401(k) withdrawals, exceeds the MAGI thresholds described above.

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.

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Morningside from A2

later. Thanks, Dad, and Happy Birthday! Oh, Mom, thank you, too!

Milestones

Happy Birthday to Adam Cook, Feb. 5; George Desmarais and Diane McCrone, Feb. 6; Theo Carter, Rita Beall and J.B. Thomas, Feb. 7; Jesse Ritter and my great-granddaughter Molly McHale, Feb. 8; Connie Waby and Mary (Stakem) Crane, Feb. 9; and Alma Richardson, Feb. 10.

Happy 74th Anniversary to William and Betty Fitzpatrick on February 4.

Email birthdays and anniversaries, and news, to me at muddmm@gmail.com.

Sheila Curry, Dr. Amy Burk Elected to Lead Maryland Horse Industry Board

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Department of Agriculture

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 25, 2024)—The Maryland Department of Agriculture today announced Sheila Curry has been elected chair of the Maryland Horse Industry Board while Dr. Amy Burk has been chosen as vice chair. The board, which comprises 12 members appointed by the governor, is charged with licensing and inspecting more than 800 public lesson and boarding stables as well as serving as an economic incubator to help sustain and grow the industry.

"Sheila and Amy are true leaders, they both know the ins and outs of the Maryland horse industry from the ground up," said Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary Kevin Atticks. "Together they will create a tremendous leadership team for the Horse Industry Board. I thank them for their service."

Curry's election marks two milestones in the board's 26 year history—the first woman and the first African American to chair the board. Appointed by Governor Wes Moore in late 2023, she is an enthusiastic promoter of equestrian sports in Prince George's County and was instrumental in bringing the prestigious Washington International Horse Show to Maryland through her position with the

Strategic Partnerships Office of Prince George's County Executive Angela Also-brooks.

"I have been working with the Maryland Horse Industry Board for the last several years to help secure improvements to the Prince George's County Equestrian Center," Curry said. "These improvements included world class footing, new indoor and outdoor sound systems, and landscaping to name a few. We were delighted to welcome the Washington International Horse Show to our very own Prince George's County Equestrian Center in October 2022. There are so many amazing projects ahead that I'm excited to work on to advance every aspect of Maryland's Horse Industry. I am so excited to be a part of the board's efforts to spread the awareness and joy associated with our equine friends!"

Dr. Amy Burk was re-appointed by Gov. Moore to serve her third term, representing the equine academic community. Dr. Burk currently serves as director of the undergraduate program in the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences at the University of Maryland, has won numerous teaching awards and provides statewide educational leadership and training in the areas of equine nutrition and pasture management.

"I am truly honored to assume the role



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

(L to R) Dr. Amy Burk and Sheila Curry

of vice-chair alongside our new chair, Sheila Curry," said Burk. "I look forward to working with board staff and board members, and our wonderful horse industry to ensure its vitality for many years to come!"

For more information about the Maryland Horse Industry Board, please contact Executive Director Ross Peddicord at ross.peddicord@maryland.gov or (240)-344-0000.

University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center Rated as High-Performing in Five Areas

Medical facility is also ranked in the top 10 percent of hospitals nationwide for excellence in cardiac surgery

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCEDC

LARGO, Md. (Jan. 22, 2024)—Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation celebrates the naming of the University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center in Upper Marlboro, MD as High-Performing in Five Adult Procedures and Conditions. The medical facility performs highly in five adult procedures and conditions, per U.S. News & World Reports.

The five areas include Heart Attack, Heart Bypass, Heart Failure, Diabetes, and Stroke. University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center is a general medical and surgical facility.

"The University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center is a catalyst for Economic Development in Downtown Largo," said Alexis Allen-Shorter, PGCEDC Business Development Director of Health & Life Sciences. "The health system's commitment to delivering quality care has fueled interest from specialty providers looking to expand their services in Prince George's County, particularly the medical office buildings in the Largo area. In addition to being the County's only Shock Trauma center, the University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center is ranked in the top 10% of hospitals nationwide for excellence in Cardiac Surgery, successfully opened the only Adult Sickle cell infusion clinic in Prince George's

County and was awarded the American Heart Association's highest honor for their commitment to quality stroke care. Expansion truly starts here."

U.S. News & World Reports generates hospital rankings by evaluating data on nearly 5,000 hospitals to help patients decide where to receive care. To be nationally ranked in a specialty, a hospital must excel in caring for the sickest, most medically complex patients. The publication's evaluation of the University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center also includes data from Gladys Spellman Specialty Hospital and Nursing Center and the University of Maryland Capital Region Health at Laurel Medical Center.

Leadership Maryland Launches New Professional Development Program for Rising Stars and High-Potential Employees Across the State

Applications for Leadership Maryland's Emerging Leader Program are being accepted now; Deadline for the Class of 2024 is February 26, 2024

By PRESS OFFICER
Leadership Maryland

EASTON, Md. (Jan. 18, 2024)—Leadership Maryland, the statewide nonprofit offering professional development programs dedicated to building a better Maryland by harnessing the strength of its business and community leaders, today announced the launch of a new program targeting the rising stars within our state's public, private, government, education and nonprofit sectors. Leadership Maryland's Emerging Leader Program is open to high-potential employees, mid-level and above, who are poised for upward growth within their organizations and who are eager to hone their core leadership skills. Applications for the inaugural class will be accepted through February 26, 2024, and the 30 applicants selected for the Class of 2024 will be announced in early April.

For the past 30 years, Leadership Maryland has facilitated the state's premier executive professional development program for senior-level leaders with significant achievements in their careers and/or their communities. With the launch of its Emerging Leader Program, Leadership Maryland is offering more Maryland professionals the opportunity to participate in the organization for the first time.

Leadership Maryland's Emerging Leader Program will span six months, consisting of monthly day-long sessions that will include both interactive training led by a facilitator and panel discussions featuring

leaders from across the state as guest speakers. The program's curriculum offers a holistic approach to leadership development, designed to help each applicant increase their self-awareness and gain behaviors, skills, and tools to become more adaptive, inclusive, strategic, and impactful leaders. Emerging Leader Program participants will also have the option of receiving mentorship from senior Leadership Maryland alumni. "After 30 years of empowering many of the most impactful leaders across our state, demand for Leadership Maryland's flagship Executive Program is higher than ever," said David Fike, '16 (LM), President and CEO, Leadership Maryland. "In response to this demand, we recognized a need for statewide programming specifically for those professionals who are seeking to become more fully developed leaders. With the launch of Leadership Maryland's Emerging Leader Program, we are excited to address this need and welcome a completely new cross-section of ambitious and promising leaders to our powerful alumni network."

Applications for Leadership Maryland's Emerging Leader Program are open to individuals who are advancing in their careers, are actively involved in their communities, and desire to become stronger leaders in both areas. The chosen class will reflect a cross-section of the state by including diversity of geographic location, profession, ethnicity, age, and gender.

Completed application packages and registration fees must be received by Leader-

ship Maryland by 5 p.m. on Monday, February 26, 2024.

Full information regarding Leadership Maryland's Emerging Leader Program, including application instructions, selection process, tuition, and financial assistance, 2024 program dates and locations, and attendance policy is available at: <https://www.leadershipmd.org/apply.html> Anyone with questions may contact Leadership Maryland at 410-841-2101 or Info@LeadershipMD.org.

Leadership Maryland is a statewide nonprofit offering professional development programs dedicated to building a better Maryland by harnessing the strength of its business and community leaders. Established in 1992, Leadership Maryland's Executive Program selects as many as 52 diverse and accomplished senior-level leaders from Maryland's public and private sectors each year to come together as a class for an eight-month learning program focused on the state's most vital social, economic and environmental issues. And new in 2024, Leadership Maryland's Emerging Leader Program brings together a class of 30 of the state's rising stars and gives them the skills and tools they need to advance in their careers. With an alumni network comprised of leaders from all industries and regions of the state, Leadership Maryland has established thousands of Marylanders on their career leadership path, equipped with the knowledge, skills, and connections needed to influence positive change.

COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

UNITED METHODIST

WESTPHALIA Christian Community Church

"A CHURCH ON THE REACH FOR GOD"

9363 D'Arcy Road
Upper Marlboro, MD

Worship Service:
9 a.m.

(301) 735-9373
Fax: (301) 735-1844

Rev. Dr. Timothy West,
Pastor

ALL ARE WELCOME

Web Site:
www.westphaliaum.org

BAPTIST

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HIGHLAND PARK

'A Bible Based, Christ Centered & Spirit Led Congregation'

6801 Sheriff Road Landover, MD
20785 (301) 773-6655

Sunday Biblical Institute:
9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship:
7:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m.
Saturday Worship:
6:30 p.m.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS WITH JESUS:
12 noon (The Power Hour) and 6:45 pm

"A Time of Prayer, Praise, Worship, & The Word"
Dr. Henry P. Davis III, Pastor
www.fhbp.org

BAPTIST

First Baptist Church of College Park

Welcomes You Where Jesus Christ Is Lord and King
Stephen L. Wright, Sr., Pastor

5018 Lakeland Road
College Park, MD 20740
301-474-3995
www.fbc-cp.org

Sunday School 9:30a.m.
Sunday Worship 11a.m.
Holy Communion 1st Sunday
Wednesday Bible Study 7-8p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service 8p.m.

UNITED METHODIST

Union United Methodist Church

14418 Old Marlboro Pike,
Upper Marlboro, MD

Church (301) 627-7389

Sunday School: (Children/Adults) - 8:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Reverend Twanda E. King,
Pastor
www.uumchurch.com

S. G. Spottswood A.M.E. Zion Church

419 Hill Road, Landover, MD
20785 • 301-490-2625

Rev. Ranesa Mayo, Pastor

"We are training disciples to experience victory in every area of their lives"

Matthew 28:19-20

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.

Soulful Thursdays
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

BAPTIST

Forest Heights Baptist Church

We exist to strengthen your relationship with God.
6371 Oxon Hill Road
Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745

Sunday School (Adults & Children) - 9:30 A.M.
Worship Service - 11:00 A.M.
Wed. Prayer Service & Bible Study - 7:00 P.M.
Office (301) 839-1166
Fax (301) 839-1721
E-mail: FHBC@verizon.net
Pastor: Rev. Waymond B. Duke

COMMUNITY CHURCH

WORD OF GOD COMMUNITY CHURCH

"The Church Where Everybody is Somebody and Jesus is Lord"

4109 Edmonston Road Bladensburg, MD
(301) 864-3437

Intercessory Prayer: Sundays - 8:30 a.m.
Church School: - 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship Celebration - 10:30 a.m.
Wed. Night Bible Study - 7:45 p.m.
Elder Willie W. Duvall, Pastor

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Library from A3

The Legacy of Harriet Tubman: A One-Woman Performance
Take a glimpse into the life of Maryland native and Underground Railroad conductor Harriet Tubman in a one-woman show performed by Cortenia Smith at the Hyattsville Branch Library on Saturday, February 10 at 1 p.m.
REVIVAL: Music of the Third Arts Movement in America
Tenor Wayne Jennings and other performers showcase Black artists from the Middle Passage to modern times in a narrated concert centered on American musical history at the Oxon Hill Branch Library on Saturday, February 17 from 2-4:30 p.m.

Additional resources

Explore PGCMLS' Black Heritage Hub for a full list of programs hosted during Black History Month, as well as videos, book recommendations, online resources, and more, including access to databases such as The American Mosaic: The African American Experience through ABC-CLIO for historical and cultural information and a list of African American nonfiction ebook titles available to PGCMLS cardholders. Customers are also invited to visit the Sojourner Truth Room at the Oxon Hill Branch Library.

Retail from A3

Corridor are used as examples to show the wide range of options available in the County," said Chidy Umeozulu, project team leader.

Key Findings from the Branch Ave Study Area:

- The number of higher-income households with incomes over \$100k grew 269% in the last 12 years.
 - Nearly 10,000 new housing units in the residential development pipeline are expected to bring \$766 million of new retail spending.
 - There is demand for full-service restaurants with 60% of local households not spending at local fast-food restaurants.
- The public may visit the Planning Department's website, <https://www.pgcrrguide.com>, to explore the online guide, to discover county resources, and to access and download a digital file of the Retail Revitalization Report 2023 publication free of charge.

The Prince George's County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) is responsible for preserving, protecting, and managing the county's resources through high-quality planning services and growth management guidance. Visit www.pgplanning.org.

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