

The Prince George's Post



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State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy to Host 7th Homeowners Association Conference

U.S. Congressman Anthony Brown among special guests

By DENISE ROBERTS
Office of the State's Attorney, Prince George's County

UPPER MARLBORO (September 9, 2019)—Prince George's County State's Attorney Aisha N. Braveboy, in partnership with Olde Mill Foundation, will host the 7th Annual Prince George's County Community Associations Conference on **Saturday, September 21, 2019** at 9 a.m. at Charles Herbert Flowers High School, 1001 Ardwick-Ardmore Road, Springdale, MD 20774.

"As State's Attorney, I am continuing my commitment to protect County residents and one of the largest investments they will make in a lifetime. I strongly believe that with the support of our community partners we can promote responsibility, enforce ac-

countability and reduce the number of complaints that result in legal actions associated with community associations," said Braveboy.

Braveboy will be joined by U.S. Congressman Anthony Brown, a special guest speaker.

This conference is designed to educate residents on the roles and responsibilities of their homeowner, civic, condominium and community associations. More than 300 communities will participate in a series of workshops. Additionally, the event will include exhibitors, a continental breakfast, lunch and giveaways.

This free event is open to the public. Everyone is encouraged to attend and preregister: <https://pgccac2019.eventbrite.com>.

Prince Georgian Josh Paschal of the University of Kentucky Named 2019 Mayo Clinic Comeback Player of the Year Award Nominee

By PRESS OFFICERS
Mayo Clinic and CoSIDA

ROCHESTER, Minn. (September 10, 2019)—The College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA), in association with The Associated Press (AP) and the Fiesta Bowl Organization, have selected three college football student-athletes—Kaleb Barker of Troy University, **Josh Paschal of the University of Kentucky** and Isaiah Pola-Mao of the University of Southern California—as the first of 30 nominees for the 2019 Mayo Clinic Comeback Player of the Year Award.

Ten times during the 2019 college football season, three inspiring student-athletes from all levels of college football, who have overcome injury, illness or other challenges, will be recognized as Mayo Clinic Comeback Player of the Year Nominees by a panel of writers, editors and sports information directors from CoSIDA, AP and Touchdown Illustrated. CoSIDA members can nominate student-athletes at Comeback-Player.com.

At the end of the season, three of the nominees will be chosen as Mayo Clinic Comeback Player of the Year Award winners and will be recognized at a special ceremony during the College Football Playoff Semifinal at the PlayStation Fiesta Bowl at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Ariz. Additionally, \$30,000 will be donated in the names of the nine student-athletes selected as finalists to their school's general scholarship fund, with \$15,000 being awarded in the names of the three winners and \$15,000 on behalf of the six named honorable mention.

For more details, follow on social media at [@ComebackPlayFB](https://twitter.com/ComebackPlayFB) and [#MayoClinicCPOY](https://twitter.com/MayoClinicCPOY), or visit www.Comeback-Player.com.

Josh Paschal, a sophomore defensive lineman for the University of Kentucky, was poised for a breakthrough season in 2018 after playing in all 13 games as a freshman. Unfortunately, he was forced to miss most of UK's memorable 2018 season when, in July, a dot on his left foot was diagnosed as malignant melanoma. After undergoing three surgeries and ongoing



IMAGE CREDIT MAYO CLINIC

monthly immunotherapy treatments, the Prince George's County, Md., native returned on a limited basis for the team's final three games. He opened this season as a starter on the defensive line and made his presence felt immediately, recording four tackles, one sack and one forced fumble in the Wildcats' 38-24 win versus Toledo. He followed that up with five tackles, including two tackles for a loss in the Wildcats' 38-17 win over Eastern Michigan. With his health scare behind him, Paschal now uses his platform to speak about his faith and bring melanoma awareness.

"We understand how challenging it can be for student-athletes to return from injury or illness," says Dr. Michael Stuart, co-director for Mayo Clinic Sports Medicine. "We are honored to be part of this award

that recognizes qualities like motivation, determination and perseverance."

Mayo Clinic is a nonprofit comprehensive organization committed to clinical practice, education and research, providing expert comprehensive care to everyone who needs healing. Learn more about Mayo Clinic. Visit the Mayo Clinic News Network.

College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) was founded in 1957 and is a 3,000+ member national organization comprised of the sports public relations, media relations and communications/information professionals throughout all levels of collegiate athletics in the United States and Canada. The organization is the second oldest management association in intercollegiate athletics. Visit cosida.com.

speaker will be professor, Dr. Yvonne Bronner, of Morgan State University, Department of Public Health.

The conference is open to Prince George's County residents that are caring for an older adult or individual diagnosed with dementia. Participants must pre-register by calling 301-265-8658 or by registering online via eventbrite. Valid identification is required on the day of the event.

—Jermoni Dowd, Prince George's County Department of Family Services

PG Fire Department Receives American Heart Association's Mission Lifeline EMS Gold Plus Recognition Award

By MARK E. BRADY
Prince George's County Fire

LARGO, Md. (September 9, 2019)—The Prince George's County, MD, Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department has received the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline® EMS Gold Plus Award for implementing quality improvement measures for the treatment of patients who experience severe heart attacks.

Every year, more than 250,000 people experience an ST elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) the deadliest type of heart attack caused by a blockage of blood flow to the heart that requires timely treatment. To prevent death, it's critical to restore blood flow as quickly as possible, either by mechanically opening the blocked vessel or by providing clot-busting medication.

The Mission: Lifeline initiative provides tools, training and other resources to support heart attack care following protocols from the most recent evidence-based treatment guidelines. Mission: Lifeline's EMS recognition program recognizes emergency medical services for their efforts in improving systems of care to rapidly identify suspected heart attack patients, promptly notify the medical center and trigger an early response from the awaiting hospital personnel.

"The Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department is dedi-

cated to providing optimal care for heart attack patients as well as providing the best possible pre-hospital care for all patients in the County," said Fire Chief Benjamin M. Barksdale. "We are pleased to be recognized for our dedication and achievements in emergency medical care efforts through Mission: Lifeline."

"EMTs and paramedics play a vital part in the system of care for those who have heart attacks," said Tim Henry, M.D., Chair of the Mission: Lifeline Acute Coronary Syndrome Subcommittee. "Since they often are the first medical point of contact, they can save precious minutes of treatment time by activating the emergency response system that alerts hospitals to an incoming heart attack patient. We applaud the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department for achieving this award in following evidence-based guidelines in the treatment of people who have severe heart attacks."

The Prince George's County Fire/EMS Departments is one of the largest and busiest combination, career and volunteer, Departments in the country. The Department responds to about 150,000 requests for service a year with about 120,000 of those requests for emergency medical services. The Department protects 500 square miles and a population of nearly 1 million from a base of 45 Fire/EMS Stations located throughout the County.

Hoyer Announces Grant Funding for Fifth District Fire Departments

By ANNALIESE DAVIS
Congressman Steny Hoyer's Office

WASHINGTON, DC (September 9, 2019)—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) announced last week that the College Park Volunteer Fire Department, the Prince George's County Fire Department, the Berwyn Heights Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, and the Hughesville Volunteer Fire Department and EMS have been awarded grant funding through the Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG). These funds will ensure local departments have the resources they need to protect families in our communities.

"I am pleased that these four departments in the Fifth District will receive more than \$415,000 combined in grant awards," said Congressman Hoyer. "The funds awarded through these grants will allow local departments to purchase new equipment and ensure our firefighters have access to the tools they need to do their jobs safely. I commend these departments for their hard work to keep our communities safe, and I will continue to advocate for the resources they need."

The following amounts were awarded to each department:

- College Park Volunteer Fire Department: \$17,619.04
- Prince George's County Fire Department: \$272,727.27
- Berwyn Heights Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad: \$71,428.57
- Hughesville Volunteer Fire Department and EMS: \$53,885.71

As co-chair of the Congressional Fire Caucus, Congressman Hoyer took a lead role in helping to establish the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Program, and each year he leads a letter with Members of Congress to the Appropriations Committee to ensure adequate funding is appropriated for the program. Over \$15 million has been awarded to Fifth District fire departments since the program was established. Visit www.fema.gov/welcome-assistance-firefighters-grant-program for more information.

Free Caregivers Conference September 25

CAMP SPRINGS, Md. (September 11, 2019)—The Prince George's County Department of Family Services, Aging and Disability Services Division, is sponsoring a FREE Family Caregivers Conference, "Empowering Caregivers to Care for Others" on Wednesday, September 25, 2019, with check in 8:30 a.m., program from 9 a.m.—2 p.m. at Martin's Crosswinds, 7400 Greenway Center Drive, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

The purpose of the Family Caregivers Conference is to provide information, support, and resources for families who face the challenge of caring for an aging parent, relative, or friend. The conference will provide caregivers with an opportunity to increase their knowledge of services and programs available to caregivers, learn strategies to reduce caregiver stress and develop a network of resources and support. The keynote

speaker will be professor, Dr. Yvonne Bronner, of Morgan State University, Department of Public Health.

The conference is open to Prince George's County residents that are caring for an older adult or individual diagnosed with dementia. Participants must pre-register by calling 301-265-8658 or by registering online via eventbrite. Valid identification is required on the day of the event.

—Jermoni Dowd, Prince George's County Department of Family Services

INSIDE

Four U.S. Military Dogs Receive Nation's Top Honors for Valor at American Humane's 2019 K-9 Medal of Courage Awards

MWD Emmie served with the U.S. Marine Corps during Operation Enduring Freedom ... conduct sweeps for high ranking dignitaries in the Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia areas.

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Cardin, Brown Say Andrews Military Families Are Paying For Trump's Wall

"Trump said Mexico is paying for the wall," Brown said at Joint Base Andrews Friday, "but military families are paying for the wall."

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State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy Delivers First State of Justice Address

"...Over that last nine months, we have made great strides in improving our processes to ultimately administer justice in a way that is right for the people of Prince George's County, indisputably the best county in the world."

Business and Finance, Page A5

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month 2019 at Your Library

Visit any of our neighborhood branches to enjoy Hispanic Heritage Month events. Go to www.pgcmils.info for details.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

I've heard that school buses cause a lot of pollution, especially for the kids riding inside. Is anyone making greener school buses yet?

—Jake McConnell, Philadelphia, PA

Features, Page A7

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

October, time for a spooky visit to Congressional Cemetery

Halloween is coming. You might want to think about hosting the coolest of creepy parties by renting... a crypt. At Congressional Cemetery.

Congressional Cemetery has been dubbed "the hippest cemetery in America," and it lives up to that title.

Coming up in October: Dead Man's Run (Oct. 5, 6 p.m.), Tour of Ghostly Congressional Cemetery (Oct. 6, 3-5 p.m.), and Soul Strolls (Oct. 18-26). For more information, call 202-543-0539 or go to staffcongressionalcemetery.org.

It's in Washington, off to the right after you cross the Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge, at 1801 E Street SE, an area known as Hill East. It was America's first national cemetery, established in 1807. Among its famous inhabitants are John Philip Sousa, J. Edgar Hoover and former D.C. Mayor Marion Barry.

At one time the cemetery was in disarray. But it started promoting itself as a dog park and now charges people to walk their dogs there—it has a long dog-walking wait-list.

The cemetery has tours with wine, horror-novel book clubs, yoga, and free live music in the chapel.

And you can rent a crypt.

Neighbors & other good people

Suzanne Kenney has taken on the chairmanship of the Skyline Citizens Association's 50th anniversary, which will be celebrated next May. She has formed a committee of Skyline residents and promises an event "that everyone in Skyline will talk about for years to come."

Monica Goldson, Prince George's County Public Schools CEO, kicked off the school year by visiting a few schools and connecting with students and teachers. She first visited Suitland High School along with Board of Education Member K. Alexander Wallace, County Councilmember Rodney and Delegate Jazz Lewis. Then she continued on to William Beanes, which is the assigned elementary school for Morningside and Skyline students; William Wirt Middle School; Largo High and John Hanson Montessori School.

Leslie Garrett is a new volunteer at the Morningside VFD. She comes to them with a wealth of experience and has not only served as a volunteer at other area stations, but is past Fire Commissioner of Prince George's County.

Deanna Johnson is the interim principal of St. Philip the Apostle School. She comes to St. Philip's from Bishop McNamara HS, where she served as Admissions Director, Dean of Students and Spanish teacher.

Dr. Marco Clark, President/CEO of Bishop McNamara High School, is leaving at the end of the school year to serve as the first lay Executive Director of the Holy Cross Institute at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. He has been at McNamara for 23 years.

My daughter Therese Gallegos is in town from Brownsville, Texas, and as I write this, she is downstairs making soup. She also vacuums, does the wash, and plans to make oatmeal cookies later. No, she is not available for hire.

The Skyline Citizens Association cancelled its September meeting. The next meeting will be Nov. 20, and we hope it will be at the site where our first meeting was held—Skyline School. We're waiting for permission. The School is now an office building for the Prince George's County Schools.

Coming up

- Bat & Beaver Walk at Clearwater Nature Center, Cosca Regional Park, on Saturday Sept. 28, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Take an evening walk with a naturalist and look for night animals, including bats, beavers, insects and owls. Fee, \$4. Recommended for ages 5 & up.
- Glow in the Dark Mini-Golf, Friday, Oct. 11, 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Watkins Regional Park. All ages. Residents, \$5. Info: 301-218-6700.
- The 20th Annual Gingerbread House Contest & Show at Darnall's Chance House Museum is coming up Nov. 29-Dec. 15. Cash prizes and ribbons will be awarded to 1st, 2nd & 3rd place in Adult, Child & Family entries. Start planning your gingerbread house, farm, boat, and castle now. For rules and dates, call 301-952-8010.

Morningside Memories, 45 years ago

The Morningside Senior Citizens installed their new officers in January 1974, with Claude Shaffer, president. Other officers were Jesse Holmes, vice-president; Audrey Cook, secretary; and Blanche McCormick, treasurer.

By then, Jerry Glaubitz had been mayor for 13 years. Town Council members were M. Lee Ditmars, Isaac Earl Everson, Mary Elizabeth Hood and William A. Schaub, with Harry Franklin Messer taking over for Mr. Schaub.

Also that year Morningsiders voted against reducing the Mayor's minimum age from 30 to 25 and the Council Members from 25 to 21.

In October 1974 the new park next to Foulis Jr. High was dedicated to Douglas Patterson, a recreation leader in the community. I remember how he always lined the ball fields for baseball.

May they rest in peace

- Jack Stanley Pippen, 88, of California, Md., former President of the Southgate Lions Club, died July 29. He was born in Texas, attended Texas Christian U., served in the Navy, and retired after 30 years with Washington Gas Light. He had lived in Upper Marlboro and was past director of Melwood Horticultural. Survivors include his wife Betty, four children, grand- and great-grandchildren.
- Vernice Gist Cole, 69, of Suitland, who recently retired from the Dept. of Justice (DEA) after 42 years. Her husband Johnny B. Cole predeceased her. Survivors include her children, Macia, John, David and Reva. Services were at Strickland Funeral Home.

Milestones

- Happy birthday to Karen Rooker, Linda Holbart Van Meter and Teresa Kessler, Sept. 22; Mary Kilbride and Elizabeth Long, Sept. 23; Dottie Arehringer, Amy Schlor and Peg Richardson, Sept. 24; Alice Lucke and Judy Hansel Waby, Sept. 27.
- Happy 65th (!) anniversary to Ken and Janet Kaye on Sept. 25.

Around the County

Hoyer Attends State of Justice Symposium

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (September 10, 2019)—[On September 10], Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) attended the State of Justice Symposium in College Park. Hosted by Prince George's County State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy and community partners, the symposium focused on criminal justice issues in Prince George's County.

"I thank State's Attorney Braveboy and community leaders for bringing us together to discuss the criminal justice issues facing our County," said Congressman Hoyer. "I was pleased that Democrats and Republicans came together last year to pass the First Step Act, important legislation to address some of the breakdowns in our criminal justice system. The law is an important step toward achieving a more fair system, but there are still persistent disparities that minority communities face."

"In Congress, I'll continue to work with my colleagues to reverse the kinds of policies that led to nonviolent offenders being locked away for decades and prevented the rehabilitation and reentry of those individuals into society," continued Congressman Hoyer. "I appreciate the work community leaders do throughout Prince George's County to address issue and look forward to our continued partnership."

—Annaliese Davis, *Congressman Steny Hoyer's Office*

All Jazz Band Instruments—Auditions Open!

All musicians are welcome!

BOWIE, Md. (September 11, 2019)—FAME—Foundation for the Advancement of Music & Education, Inc is accepting applications for its year-round FAME Jazz Band Program (FJBP). FJBP was established in 2015 to provide year-round high caliber music and academic support and instruction to talented Prince George's County MD middle and high school youth, who are serious about music and want to take their skills to a higher level.

In the program, students receive:

- Music Instruction
- Academic Support
- College Preparation
- Summer Music Programs at the University of Maryland School of Music
- Opportunities to Perform on Major Stages
- Career Readiness

You do not need to have a jazz background, nor play in a school band to audition for the program.

Home-schooled students are also invited to apply. This program is ideal for youth who want to enjoy a unique opportunity to grow musically and academically while having fun with other youth musicians.

For more information: info@FAMEJazzBand.org or 301-805-5358, <http://famejazzband.org/auditions/>

FAME String Ensemble

Violin, viola, cello and bass middle and high school students who live and/or attend school in Prince George's County Maryland. Applicants must be committed to playing their musical instrument and performing music from various genres.

Instrumental instruction, Master Classes, Music theory classes, Renowned staff and educators, Summer enrichment programs, Premiere performance venues and more!

Registration Ends: Oct. 21st, Auditions: Oct. 31 and Nov. 1

Location: University of Maryland School of Music College Park

<http://famemusic.org/auditions/>

—FAME - Foundation for the Advancement of Music & Education, Inc.

Attention Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center Supporters

For the entire month of September, when you purchase a \$2.50 reusable Community Bag at the Giant Food at 5700 SE Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772, \$1 is donated to the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc., unless otherwise directed by the customer through the Giving Tag attached to the bag.

Our goal is to sell 200 bags, equivalent to \$200 raised. We are confident that with the help of our dedicated supporters, we can reach this goal.

—Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center

Infinity Speaks Veteran Resource Day

September 27, 2019, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

VFW Morningside 6527

6527 Suitland Rd

Morningside, Maryland 20746

Resources Include: VBA claims assistance neurologumen pain management; suicide prevention; minority veterans outreach, transitional housing assistance, veteran employment assistance, and much much more!

—13 September MDVA News and Announcements

National Alliance on Mental Illness—Prince George's County Events

NAMI Maryland sponsors events and shares information about events in order to educate the public about mental illness, reduce the stigma associated with mental illnesses and to raise funds for our programs and advocacy. Contact NAMI Prince George's County at 301-429-0970. See event listings at www.namipgc.org.

8(a) Accelerator Program at Bowie BIC

Following the success of our 8(a) Accelerator Program last spring, the Bowie Business Innovation Center (Bowie BIC) is launching another program in the fall. It is a six-week initiative developed to give 8(a) companies the edge they need to win more government contracts.

6 Half-Day Sessions

October 11–November 15, 2019 + Bonus Event
Capability Review with Contracting Officers

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Attend the 8(a) Accelerator Briefing Breakfast:

Please join the Bowie Business Innovation Center with Capital One sponsorship and our resource partners for our free 8(a) Accelerator Breakfast Briefing on Friday, September 20, 2019, 7:30–10 a.m. at the Crown Plaza Greenbelt, 6400 Ivy Lane, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Register at eventbrite.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

CLINTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Body Recall started again at Clinton United Methodist Church on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m. Rev. Dorothea J. Belt Stroman, Pastor. The address is 10700 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland. Church office number 301-868-1281.

The American Red Cross Blood Drive at Clinton United Methodist Church on Saturday, October 5, 2019 has been cancelled.

FALL REVIVAL

Clinton United Methodist Church, 10700 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland Fall Revival Saturday, September 21, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. Guest Speaker will be Rev. Constance Smith, Pastor New Hope Fellowship Cooperative Parish Christ UMC, 22919 Christ Church Road, Aquasco, Maryland 20608 and Nottingham Myers UMC, 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Liturgical Dancers from Asbury UMC, 4004 Accokeek Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. A light meal will be served after the service. Revival is sponsored by the Evangelism Committee. Stephanie Samuel, Chairperson. Rev. Dorothea Belt Stroman, Pastor.

TIMOTHY BRANCH DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Mr. Michael Gardiner, Vice president, Gardiner Realty & Development Company stated at the Brandywine-North Keys Civic Association meeting "that several single-family homes and other types of properties have been sold and that building permits and contracts are pending on some properties." "He re-emphasized his commitment to building the alternate (spine) road leading to the Brandywine Crossing Shopping Center, pointing out that progress has been slow." He is still seeking to obtain funds from the Brandywine Road Club to assist with completing construction of the road. If Road Club funds become available, it is conceivable the road can be completed in 2020."

HOME COMING 2019

Please join us in sharing not only the magic of "Homecoming" but the magic on the Big Screen for Christ United Methodist Church Pre-Celebration "Let's Rock and Roll".

We are standing on the Rock and Our Names on the Roll. Disney Aladdin Friday September 20, 2019 at 7 p.m.

Location is "The Farmhouse" at Adams Funeral Home 20605 Aquasco Road, Aquasco, Maryland 20608. Rev. Constance Smith, Pastor. Committee Co-Chairs are Tracy Pinkney and Phyllis Slater. Please bring your own chairs, blankets and pillows. Snack and drinks provided.

CELEBRATE BADEN DAY

It's that time of year again to gather your family and friends to enjoy a grand afternoon of music, food and vendors at our annual celebration of you and the community. The little ones will have an area specifically geared to their liking with a wide array of crafts, games, rides and more.

The celebration will be held Saturday September 28, 2019 from 12–5 p.m. at Baden Community Center 13601 Baden-Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Cost is free (nominal fee for Children's Fun Area).

CRAB FEAST

St. Philip's Episcopal Parish Church will have "All You Can Eat" Crab Feast Sunday, September 29, 2019 from 3–6 p.m. at St. Philip's Church Hall sponsored by The Peter A. Gross, Sr. Scholarship Memorial Fund (Helping Others One by One). Menu includes Chicken, Fish, Corn, String Beans, French Fries, Crabs, Crabs, Drinks.

Address is 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland. Tickets cost \$55 advance, \$65 at door, children under 12 cost \$25. For tickets contact Michele Chase 240-882-3369, Shirley Cleaves 302-690-4260 and Vivian Rich 804-301-9530.

SAARC

Southern Area Aquatic & Recreation Complex project is nearing the "finish line." The contractor is in the process of completing the gymnasium flooring and installing floor tile throughout the entry level. Exterior work consists of the installation of patios and preparing the parking lot to receive asphalt paving. The contractor is also working on road-frontage improvements along Missouri Avenue. The facility is expected to be completed this summer and open to the public this fall.

Prince George's County Department of the Environment's Fifth Annual Green Summit is October 12! Register for your free ticket, visit bit.ly/doesummit2019

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

A Resource Not To Be Ignored— The School Counselor

Many parents aren't aware of the wide range of services their schools' counselors have to offer. Yes, professional school counselors often provide help for students facing classroom struggles, but their range of assistance goes far beyond that.

School counselors have expertise and skills to benefit just about every student. They're also a resource to support every parent. A starting point in making the best use of your school's counselors is to recognize that these are counselors who have completed extensive training to work in schools. All school counselors are certified or licensed by their state and in most states are required to have completed at least a Masters degree or the equivalent.

A school counselor's training is focused on understanding young people and their educational and developmental needs. A school counselor's education equips him or her with the tools and means to help students achieve their academic, personal/social, and career goals. Through their work with students, counselors can advise teachers, students and parents about classes offering the appropriate challenges and the best educational outcomes.

School counselor's work with older students can include information about which classes can best fulfill their educational and career goals, as well as explaining options for colleges, technical training or other directions after high school.

And, as trained professional counselors, school counselors can also assist students facing potential problem areas. From substance abuse to bullying situations to improving study skills, school counselors are there to help students at any grade level, as well as their families, better handle the variety of challenges students face today. Counselors aren't magicians, but they can offer proven techniques and approaches that can assist in addressing real problems.

Don't wait for a crisis to talk with your child's school counselor. An introductory meeting early in the year gives you a chance to meet the counselor, discuss your child, and learn what assistance might be available. Even more important is to contact that counselor quickly when problems first appear. Slipping grades or abrupt changes in a child's attitude, behavior or friends, can all be signs that help is needed. That's when a professional counselor can make a real difference.

School counselors are professionals who have a great deal to offer our children. When we don't take advantage of their training, skills and experience, we're only shortchanging ourselves, our children and our children's educational experience.

Counseling Corner is provided by the American Counseling Association. Comments and questions to ACAcorner@counseling.org or visit the ACA website at www.counseling.org.

Prince George's County Council Convenes Retreat

UPPER MARLBORO (September 16, 2019)—The Prince George's County Council today convened a Council Retreat focusing on economic development program tools, incentives and strategies, at Newton White Mansion in Mitchellville, Maryland.

Prince George's County Council Chair Todd M. Turner (D) — District 4, shared the importance of the Council Retreat, discussing the County's economic development challenges and opportunities.

"The Council Retreat served as a continuing conversation about the economic future of Prince George's County. To best evaluate where we want to go, there must be a comprehensive discussion about where we are and a viable plan for reaching our shared economic development goals in the future. I want to thank my Council colleagues, County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and all of today's presenters for their contribution to the discussion and we look forward to working collaboratively with each of them to move Prince George's County forward."

Chair Turner opened the Council Retreat by welcoming County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and her economic development team for an overview of her economic development goals for Prince George's County.

"I want to thank the County Council for hosting this informative session that allowed us to come together and discuss our economic development strategies. I look forward to working collaboratively with the Council as we develop new tools and incentives to attract the quality dining and entertainment venues and businesses our residents want and deserve," said County Executive Alsobrooks.

The County Executive's remarks were followed by presentations on economic development incentives and strategies from leaders of the County's Economic Development Corporation (EDC), Financial Services Corporation (FSC First), Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and the Revenue and Redevelopment Authorities. Presentation topics included tools and incentives programs for major County investments, tax credits, and those available from the state of Maryland.

Council Members spent the afternoon engaging in discussion with agency officials while assessing the status and effectiveness of the County's overall economic development efforts and strategies and plans for any potential adjustments to the County's related programs.

For more information and retreat updates, visit <https://pgc-council.us/468/Council-Retreat>.

—Angela Rouson, Prince George's County Council Media

SAVE THE DATE:

Hospice of the Chesapeake Gala
Saturday, April 4, 2020 • 5:30 to 11:30 p.m.
The Hotel at the University of Maryland
College Park



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY AMERICAN HUMANE

Four U.S. Military Dogs Receive Nation's Top Honors for Valor at American Humane's 2019 K-9 Medal of Courage Awards

On eve of September 11, country recognizes courageous canines assisting in the war on terror

By MARK STUBIS
American Humane

WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 11, 2019)—A brave black Lab who was wounded in action while uncovering IEDs in Afghanistan; an intrepid Dutch Shepherd who helped safely evacuate a critically injured soldier; a four-footed warrior who undertook 600 missions for the U.S. Department of State; and an Improvised Explosive Device Detector dog who protected those who protect us at the Pentagon have all been chosen as the 2019 recipients of American Humane's K-9 Medal of Courage.

The awards, presented at a Capitol Hill ceremony, are the nation's highest honor for military working dogs for extraordinary valor and service to America. They were created under the aegis of American Humane, which has worked with the U.S. military for more than 100 years, and internationally renowned philanthropist and veterans advocate Lois Pope.

The awards were conferred upon the courageous canines by some of the country's foremost military leaders and animal advocates, including American Humane President and CEO Robin Ganzert, PhD, United States Marine Corps Brigadier General Robert C. Fulford, United States Marine Corps Colonel Scott Campbell (Ret.), former Commanding Officer of the Wounded Warrior Regiment in Quantico, Va., Crown Media Family Networks President and CEO Bill Abbott, and philanthropist Lois Pope.

A dozen members of Congress and hundreds of congressional staffers attended the packed event.

"I'd like to thank everyone for joining us as we honor some of our bravest, most courageous heroes," said Rep. Gus Bilirakis, co-chair of the Congressional Humane Bond Caucus, which hosted the event. "By helping locate enemy positions, engage the enemy, and sniff out deadly IEDs and hidden weapons, military dogs have saved countless lives in the fight for freedom. I consider it a moral responsibility to support America's veterans and military working dogs, both during their service and in retirement."

"Military working dogs are invaluable members of their units," said Rep. Henry Cuellar, co-chair of the Congressional Humane Bond Caucus. "Their deeds deserve recognition, their names deserve to be heard, and their service remembered."

"I cannot think of a better reason for all of us to come together—whether we are Democrats or Republicans or Independents ... whether we are civilians or in the military or are veterans ... than to honor courageous canines who have served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard or National Guard," said internationally renowned philanthropist and veterans' advocate Lois Pope. "My thanks to all the members of Congress and leaders of the Armed Services branches who have taken time from their extremely busy schedules to join us."

"Military dogs are vital to protecting those who protect our freedom," said American Humane President and CEO Robin Ganzert, PhD. "At American Humane, which has been supporting the U.S. military and military animals for over 100 years, we believe it is important to recognize and honor the extraordinary feats and acts of devotion

these heroic animals perform every day."

Meet this year's medal winners
Military Working Dog Emmie (Mechanicsville, MD)

MWD Emmie served with the U.S. Marine Corps during Operation Enduring Freedom. This 12-year-old black Lab completed three tours in Afghanistan from 2009–2012. As an IED Detector Dog Emmie worked primarily off-leash along roadways with a different handler for each of her three tours. Her last handler said that she was a high-drive dog, stubborn at times, who never stopped working. K-9 Emmie came to Pentagon in December of 2012. She would now work primarily on-leash and be tasked to search vehicles, buildings and open areas. Emmie breezed through training and in February of 2013, Emmie and Eric Harris were certified as a Pentagon Police Explosive Detector Dog team. Emmie would search hundreds of cars and perform random sweeps of parking lots. She and Harris were regularly assigned to conduct sweeps for high ranking dignitaries in the Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia areas. Emmie participated in numerous canine demonstrations at federal facilities including "Bring Your Child to Work Day" at the Pentagon and "Career Day" at local schools. Two highlights of her career at the PFFPA include having an article written about her in *The Shield* magazine and being interviewed on CNN about her transitioning from the Marine Corps to working at the Pentagon. In 2018, K-9 Emmie retired in from PFFPA. Her job

See **MILITARY DOGS** Page A8

West Nile Virus Detected in Maryland Resident

Residents reminded to take basic steps to reduce risk

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Department of Health

BALTIMORE, Md. (September 10, 2019)—The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) today confirmed the first case of West Nile Virus (WNV) in Maryland this year. The infected individual is an adult living in the National Capital Region in Maryland. MDH routinely tracks and responds to mosquito-borne infections; no other locally acquired arboviral infections have been identified this year.

The number of human WNV cases in Maryland has varied greatly from year to year. In 2003, there were 73 cases. In 2012, there were 47 cases; in 2015, 46 cases; and in 2018, 45 cases.

MDH wants to remind Marylanders there are simple steps to reduce the risk of getting infected. Protective measures include:

- Avoiding areas of high mosquito activity.
- Wearing long pants, long-sleeved shirts and hats when outdoors.
- Using an EPA-registered insect repellent according to package directions.

Most individuals (4 out of 5) infected with WNV will not have any symptoms. People who do develop illness usually will have any combination of fever, headache, body aches, skin rash vomiting, or diarrhea. These symptoms generally appear 2 to 14 days following the bite of an infected mos-

quito. Fewer than 1 percent of people exposed to the virus will develop more severe infections, with symptoms such as headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness and paralysis.

People 60 years of age and older have the greatest risk of developing severe disease. People with compromised immune systems also may be at high risk of WNV infection. In rare instances, WNV can be fatal.

Residents are urged to monitor their own yards and gardens for standing water that can serve as a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Small amounts of water in a discarded can or container will support dozens of mosquitoes. To eliminate mosquito-breeding areas:

- Clean rain gutters to allow water to flow freely.
- Empty or screen corrugated drain pipes.
- Remove old tires or drill drainage holes in tires used as playground equipment.
- Turn over wading pools, wheelbarrows, wagons and carts when not in use.
- Flush water from the bottom of plant holders twice a week.
- Replace water in birdbaths at least twice a week.
- Turn garbage can lids upside down and make sure trash receptacles are empty of water.
- Fix dripping faucets.
- Aerate ornamental pools and water gar-

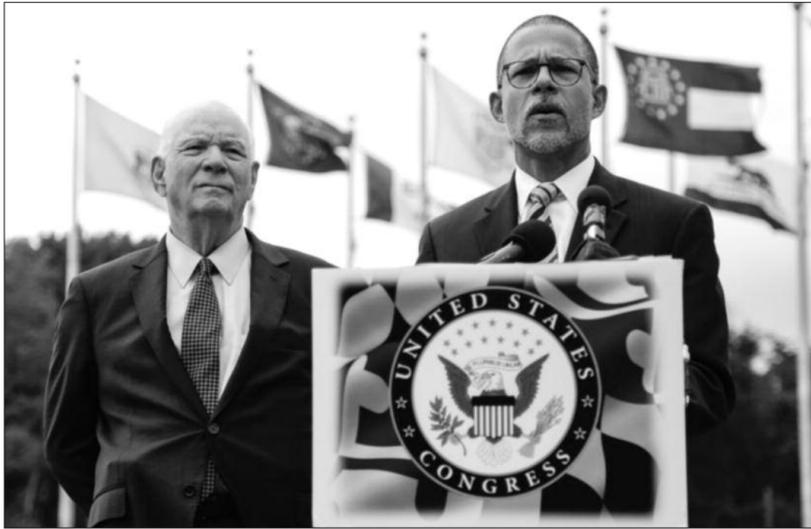
dens or stock with fish and use a circulating filter system.

Although birds are not routinely tested for WNV in Maryland, sick or injured birds can be reported to an appropriate local wildlife rehabilitator. Residents can call 1-877-463-6497 for a list of licensed rehabilitators or visit the Maryland Department of Natural Resources web site at http://dnr.maryland.gov/Wildlife/Pages/plant_s_wildlife/wildlifeproblems.aspx. Detailed instructions on what to do when you find a sick or dead bird can be found at <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/Pages/west-nile-virus.aspx>.

MDH provides weekly updates on its website of WNV activity detected in mosquitoes, and cases in which humans or other mammals in Maryland have been infected. For each case, MDH indicates whether the infected individual is a child or adult and the region of the state where the individual resides. The reports will be available each Wednesday at <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/Pages/west-nile-virus.aspx>.

For additional information on West Nile virus, visit MDH at <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/Pages/west-nile-virus.aspx>, MDA at <http://mda.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx> and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov/westnile>.

COMMENTARY



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT: HEATHER KIM/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Maryland—Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Maryland, and Rep. Anthony Brown, D-Largo, hold media availability after touring the Child Development Center at Joint Base Andrews, which is slated to lose money under President Donald Trump's plan to divert funds to the border wall with Mexico.

Cardin, Brown Say Andrews Military Families Are Paying For Trump's Wall

By SAMANTHA HAWKINS
Capital News Service

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md. (September 13, 2019)—With sewage backups, flooding, mold and pests, and frequent internet, phone, and air conditioning outages, Joint Base Andrews is in desperate need of a new child care center.

Congress allocated \$13 million to replace the deteriorating center, but last week the money was taken away and instead diverted to fund President Donald Trump's border wall. The Andrews facility was one of 127 military construction projects that were cancelled or indefinitely delayed to provide \$3.6 billion to 11 different border wall projects.

Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Maryland, and Rep. Anthony Brown, D-Largo, toured the outdated building Friday afternoon—a 1941 medical facility—and were shown the blueprint and location for the much-anticipated new center.

"The location is there, the plans are there, it's ready to go," Cardin said. But, without money for a replacement facility, the Air Force fears the center won't be able to get accredited.

"The people that work at these facilities, they're doing the most important work in the country," Cardin said. "But they deserve to have a facility in which they can keep their children safe, and have the best opportunity for early childhood education, which is critically important to a child's growth."

Military families rely on the center to take care of their kids, and when there isn't enough room at the center, they are forced to find more expensive childcare outside of the base—the Air Force estimates each family that takes its kids to day-care off base spend an additional \$9,400.

There are 200 kids currently on the wait list to get into the facility.

Sen. Chris Van Hollen, D-Maryland, said on the Senate floor Thursday that the money being taken away from fixing "awful conditions" at the child care center would build only half a mile of the president's border wall with Mexico.

Democrats have decried the plan, saying the president is forcing kids and military families to take a hit in order to fund a wall that the majority of the country doesn't even want, according to a recent Gallup poll.

"Trump said Mexico is paying for the wall," Brown said at Joint Base Andrews Friday, "but military families are paying for the wall."

Officials at the Pentagon released a list of the projects getting slashed, which includes projects in 23 states, 19 countries and three US territories. Other Maryland projects that had their funding stripped includes \$37 million for a hazardous cargo pad at Joint Base Andrews and \$16.5 million to fix roads and traffic congestion at Fort Meade.

"The wall is unnecessary, but even if you believe we need to

build a wall this long, you should agree we do not need to be robbing monies out of the accounts of our servicemen and women," Van Hollen said Thursday.

In February, Trump grudgingly accepted the \$1.375 billion Congress approved to fund the border wall in order to end a 35-day government shutdown. But unable to get enough money to construct the wall, Trump declared a national emergency in order to access already appropriated funding without congressional approval.

Part of what critics call the "cash grab" to fund the wall includes diverting \$2.5 billion from the Defense Department's counter-drug activities and \$600 million from the Treasury Department's asset forfeiture fund.

About a half billion dollars were diverted from schools or childcare facilities.

Maryland Democrats said the diversion of funds jeopardizes national security.

"This is quality of life. Anytime you impact military quality of life, you jeopardize military readiness," Brown said.

But the Democrats in the Maryland delegation say they are planning to fight the funding diversion in Congress by reducing the discretion a president has to redirect funds.

"With the number of states that were affected by this, we think we're going to have strong bipartisan support to reverse what the president has done in regards to this money grab," Cardin said.

Maryland State Police Remind Motorists of the Importance Of Proper Child Safety Seats Usage

By RON SNYDER
Office of Media Communications,
Maryland State Police

PIKESVILLE, Md. (September 16, 2019)—With this week being national Child Passenger Safety Week, Maryland State Police are reminding the public the importance of ensuring that motorists are utilizing the correct car seat and that it is being properly installed and utilized.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 723 children ages 12 and younger died and another 128,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes in 2016. Of those, 35 percent were not buckled up, making at least some of those deaths preventable.

Proper use of car seats and booster seats, when utilized correctly greatly reduce the chances children have of getting injured or killed in a vehicle crash. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, car seats can reduce the risk of fatal injury in a crash by 71 percent for infants and by 54 percent for toddlers.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends the following:

- Keeping children in rear-facing seats as long as possible, at least until age 2. This is the safest way for your little ones to travel.
 - Switching to forward-facing only when the child exceeds the rear-facing weight limit. It's okay if their feet touch the back seat. They'll still be safe and comfortable.
 - Changing to a belt-positioning booster seat only after they outgrow their car seat. Again, always consult the manufacturer instructions for weight limits.
- Maryland's current law requires that children under 8 must ride in an appropriate child restraint, unless that child is 4-foot-9 or taller. Also, every child from 8 to 16 who is not secured in a child restraint must be secured by the vehicle's seat belt. It is the driver's responsibility to ensure all children are correctly buckled. Violators of this law are subject to an \$83 fine.
- For more information and resources on child safety seats, contact Kids in Safety Seats (KISS) at 800-370-SEAT. For more KISS resources, including free safety inspections, visit <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/ohpetup/kiss/Pages/Home.aspx>.

Todd M. Turner

Prince George's County Council Chair



Statement From Council Chair Todd M. Turner

County Council Commemorates 18th Anniversary of 9/11

September 11, 2001 is forever marked in history as a time of heartfelt pain and tragedy for America.

Nearly 3,000 Americans perished in terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and outside Shanksville, Pennsylvania, on that Tuesday morning.

Among the victims of the horrific 9/11 attacks were hundreds of first responders rushing to the rescue in New York City, and 24 Prince Georgians who lived in the communities of Forestville, Temple Hills, Springdale, Camp Springs, Up-

per Marlboro, University Park, Clinton, Fort Washington, Lanham, Capitol Heights, Landover, Oxon Hill, Forest Heights and New Carrollton, killed in the attack on the Pentagon. It was the greatest loss of life among jurisdictions in our region.

As we commemorate the 18th Anniversary of these deadly attacks, we join with fellow citizens to remember each life sacrificed on 9/11; recommit to fighting terrorism and injustice; and embrace acts of service and volunteerism that strengthen the resolve of our nation and communities.

We remain grateful for the ul-

timat sacrifice of courageous first responders. Even as they recall the terrible losses among their own ranks on 9/11, these brave men and women remain at the highest state of readiness, continuing to risk it all for our protection. We honor their heroism, and are heartened by the news that they will now receive the health benefits they deserve.

Located near the entrance of the Bladensburg Waterfront Park and Peace Cross, residents can also visit the County's 9/11 Memorial Park, dedicated on Sept. 11, 2006, and honoring the memory of 9/11 victims.

We will never forget.

Summit Highlights Racial Disparities In Maternal Care

By GABRIELLE WANNEH
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON (September 12, 2019)—Racial disparities in health care in America continues to present much greater health risks to black women and babies, according to participants at the National Maternal and Infant Health Summit.

More than 700 women die each year due to preventable complications during pregnancy or childbirth in the United States, with mortality rates proving to be disproportionately higher among Black women than for other races.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported last week that pregnancy-related deaths for black women, as well Native American women, was four to five times higher than that for white women.

"It is on all of us—whether we're a man or a woman, whether we have children or never plan to, regardless of our race," summit host and Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser said Tuesday. "We all have a role to play in turning this crisis around."

The summit was created last year to raise public awareness about the challenges that mothers, infants, and families face throughout all stages of childbirth, as well to focus on potential policy changes.

This year's program brought together elected leaders, healthcare experts, early education professionals, policy makers, and Washington area residents.

Racial disparities were a major theme of the summit.

"When America fails black mothers, it fails the backbone of the black community, the primary educators of our children... and it fails the generations to come," said David Hinson, president of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation.

The summit was a kick-off for the caucus's Annual Legislative Conference, a week-long event

focused on health, education and business policies as well as civic engagement aimed at improving the health of the black community.

"If there is a policy that restricts black women—in fact, all women—from the health care they need and deserve, we will change that policy," Hinson said. "And if there's an obstacle to women living lives... free of pain and suffering, then we will remove that obstacle."

Panels covered the challenges of motherhood, early education, the significance of food and nutrition, and the roles of men and fathers.

Speakers, panelists and attendees were also encouraged to share personal stories of disparities they experienced related to childbirth and the process around it.

Dr. Esther Gamuchirai Madzivire, an OB/GYN for Atrium Health in North Carolina, said her medical difficulties surrounding the births of her two children, both premature, were compounded by insensitive comments from medical personnel about the problems she would face as a mother who gave birth prematurely.

"I had the education and the resources... and yet I still fell into judgment," Madzivire said.

She recalled a time when her then-infant daughter was in the intensive-care unit, when she asked what formula her daughter would need, and the response was "Why? It's not like that's going to cover it anyway."

"Why are we shaming someone who's looking for help?" Madzivire said.

This and similar experiences are what fueled the duration of the summit and it's overall goal to address the implicit and explicit problems regarding the health care of mothers and children

Stacy Stewart, president and CEO of the March of Dimes, said "we are facing an urgent maternal health crisis," and the sharing of stories, statistics and experiences would "surface the facts" that can effect change.

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

When Will My Earnings Not Hurt My Social Security Benefits?

By RUSSELL GLOOR,
AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor
Association of Mature American Citizens

Dear Rusty: I will turn 66 in June of next year. I do not plan to stop working but I do plan on starting to collect my Social Security. How soon can I start to collect without having to give it back because my income is too high? And after I start collecting will I still have to pay into the program with deductions from my current salary, and if I do, will those payments from me help to increase what I will be able to collect from SSA? **Signed: Planning Ahead**

Dear Planning Ahead: Social Security's earnings limit goes away when you reach your full retirement age (FRA), which for you is 66. So, if you claim Social Security benefits to start in June of next year you do not need to worry about your earnings causing Social Security to take back benefits - you'll have reached your full retirement age (FRA) and the earnings limit disappears at your FRA. But, whether you can claim any earlier in the year without it affecting your benefits depends on your earnings level.

Starting next year, because that will be the year you reach your FRA, the usual earnings limit (\$17,640 for 2019) will be about 2.5 times greater, or a little more than this year's limit of \$46,920 for those in their FRA year. So, if you claim benefits to start before June when you reach your FRA, you'll be subject to that higher 2020 annual limit and - depending on the month you claim - perhaps a monthly limit (the annual limit divided by 12). Exceeding the annual limit will cause Social Security to take back some of your benefits, and if you exceed the monthly limit you won't be entitled to benefits for that month. However, if your income starting next year won't exceed those limits you can claim earlier in the year without having benefits withheld. And if you don't start your benefits before June of next year you won't be subject to an earnings limit at all next year, nor for any year thereafter. And just to be sure you're aware, you can apply for Social Security about 3 months before you want your benefits to start - but if you want to start benefits at your FRA just be sure to specify June 2020 as your benefit start month. For clarity, you can get benefits for the full month of June, the month you reach your FRA, regardless of the day of the month you were born.

As to your question about continuing to pay into the program, yes, for as long as you continue to work you will need to pay Social Security FICA payroll taxes - everyone who works and earns must pay that tax. But paying Social Security FICA, by itself, doesn't increase your benefit. What may affect your benefit is if your current earnings are more than the inflation-adjusted earnings in any of the 35 years used to compute your benefit when you start Social Security. Each year, Social Security will look at your annual earnings and, if an increase is appropriate because you have more recent higher earnings, they will automatically make that adjustment for you.

The 2 million member Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) (<https://www.amac.us>) is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. We act and speak on their 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 <https://amac.us/join-amac>.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssad-visitor@amacfoundation.org.

The Children's Guild School Names Ahmed Evans Assistant Principal

CHILLUM, Md. (September 16, 2019)—The Children's Guild School of Prince George's County, which serves children and youth with behavioral, emotional and learning disabilities including children on the autism spectrum, named Ahmed Evans assistant principal. Evans brings more than 18 years of experience in education.

"We do important work at The Children's Guild, helping students with disabilities explore, learn and grow, and I'm excited to bring my experience and passion to help lead the school and provide the best educational experience for these children," Evans said.

Previously, Evans served as the head of school for Monarch Academy Baltimore, a public charter school serving students in kindergarten through eighth grade. He has held positions as acting principal, academic dean and academic resource coordinator in Prince George's County Public Schools.

He previously served as assistant principal in a District of Columbia public school and associate principal for Francis Hammond Middle School in Virginia. Evans also held positions as a social studies department chair for Blue Ridge International Academy and as a teacher in Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia and Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools in North Carolina.

Evans earned a master's degree in educational leadership from George Mason University and a bachelor's degree in social science from Johnson C. Smith University.

"Ahmed has been a leader in our schools for several years, so I am confident his positive spirit, high energy and skilled leadership will enhance our high-quality learning environment at The Children's Guild School of Prince George's County. We're grateful to have him on our team," said Kathy Lane, chief of educational services for The Children's Guild Alliance.

—Andrew Aldrich, for The Children's Guild School

State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy Delivers First State of Justice Address In Prince George's County

By DENISE ROBERTS
Office of the State's Attorney, Prince George's County

UPPER MARLBORO (September 11, 2019)—Before a crowd of over 500 residents, business owners, community leaders and elected officials, Prince George's County State's Attorney Aisha N. Braveboy delivered the first-ever State of Justice address.

"In January when I was sworn in, we laid out an agenda to transform the justice system of our county," Braveboy said during the opening of her address. "Tonight, we can say that as a result of staying focused and working hard, our efforts are paying off. Over that last nine months, we have made great strides in improving our processes to ultimately administer justice in a way that is right for the people of Prince George's County, indisputably the best county in the world."

During her address Braveboy discussed one of her signature initiatives, youth justice reform.

"Reforming the juvenile justice system is one of my top priorities. Often we see young people coming into the criminal justice system for minor offenses," she said. "But when you peel back the layers you find they have faced mental health issues, abuse, homelessness and other problems that have led them down this path. I believe with intervention and other solutions we can make a difference in their lives."

Another priority she talked about is adult diversion and the need to expand the number of programs that are being offered. Braveboy also discussed the new units that she created since taking office. The Discovery Unit is a separate unit that ensures the office receives the evidence needed to successfully prosecute cases in a timely manner. The Public Integrity Unit handles

police misconduct, excessive use of force and public corruption cases. "There is no excuse for officials who violate the public's trust. My Office has a zero-tolerance policy for these types of cases," she said.

In addition, Braveboy elaborated on the Conviction and Sentencing Integrity Unit, which will review cases that are brought to the State's Attorney's Office where there are questions or serious doubts about the basis for a sentence that is handed down.

Braveboy credits the hard work of the Special Prosecutions Unit in the State's Attorney's Office for reducing the amount of time it takes to indict motor vehicle manslaughter cases.

Prior to Braveboy's speech, a video highlighting the issues, initiatives and programs she has made progress on was shown to the audience.

Braveboy announced several other initiatives that she is working on including the development of a strangulation policy as it relates to domestic violence. That is something that she plans to roll out in October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness month. She also announced new practices around bail reform. "Starting October 1, my Office will no longer request cash bail as a condition of release," she stated. "Instead, we will be working with other stakeholders and decision makers in the system to find alternatives to money bail."

Braveboy concluded that "in our finest hour, our character, our values, our compassion while we seek truth and pursue justice in our focus on being a victim-centered office. When we seek justice, we do it on behalf of victims and their families. So, my Office will remain victim-focused and work together, united in that purpose."

The President Sang Amazing Grace

Words by Zoe Mulford & Artwork by Jeff Scher

By PRESS OFFICER
for Cameron + Company

A faith-filled lyrical account of the day President Obama sang with a grieving nation following the 2015 shooting in a Black church in Charleston, South Carolina.

"I was driving when I heard 'The President Sang Amazing Grace,' and I had to pull over to make sure I heard whose song it was, because I knew I had to sing it." —Joan Baez

March 15, 2019; Petaluma, California—When nine people were killed in a historic Black church in Charleston, South Carolina, in 2015, the nation grieved as one. When President Barack Obama sang "Amazing Grace" during his eulogy for Reverend Clementa Pinckney, it was acknowledged as one of the most powerful moments of his presidency.

Singer/songwriter Zoe Mulford was so

moved by this moment in history, that she wrote the song "The President Sang Amazing Grace," which was heard by 79-year-old folk legend, Joan Baez, who knew she had to record the new song—reflective of a new time in American history—and included in her final album, Whistle Down The Wind. Joan Baez's rendition of Zoe Mulford's original song "The President Sang Amazing Grace" has been animated in a powerful new video by Jeff Scher, that has been viewed countless times.

A tribute to the ties that bind us, rather than divide us, the book THE PRESIDENT SANG AMAZING GRACE presents the lyrics to Mulford's song, Scher's paintings, an excerpt from President Obama's eulogy, biographies of those who were killed, along with historical context and sheet music.

Zoe Mulford is a singer/songwriter. She is based in Philadelphia and Manchester, UK.

Jeff Scher is an Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, animator, and painter whose work is in the collections of major museums. He resides in New York City.



THE PRESIDENT SANG AMAZING GRACE
Publisher: Cameron Kids (an imprint of Cameron + Company)
ISBN: 978-1-944903-84-8
Format: Hardcover with jacket, 40 pages, 10 x 12
Publication Date: September 24, 2019
Distributor: ABRAMS
Retail: \$18.95
Age Range: 5 to 7

Scholarship Available

Meeting the High Cost of Higher Education

(NAPSI)—If you or someone you care about is—or hopes to be—a college student soon, a few facts and stats may prove educational:

- As of February of 2019, the U.S. had \$1.56 trillion in total student loan debt
- This exceeds U.S. credit card debt by about \$521 billion
- Of the college students from the class of 2018, 69 percent took out student loans.

Fortunately for the many current and former college students struggling with this financial burden—and the large number who simply can't attend college because of finances—there are organizations that offer a solution: scholarships.

Some scholarships for college are merit-based. You earn them by meeting or exceeding certain standards set by the scholarship-giver. Merit scholarships might be awarded based on academic achievement or on a combination of academics and a special talent, trait or interest. Other scholarships are based on financial need.

Many are geared toward particular groups of people; for instance, there are scholarships for women or graduate students. Some are available because of where you or your parent works, or because you come from a certain background (for instance, there are scholarships for military families).

A scholarship might cover the entire cost of your tuition or it might be a one-time award of a few hundred dollars. Either

way, it's worth applying for, because it'll help reduce the cost of your education.

The experts at the U.S. Department of Education suggest you try these free sources of information about scholarships:

- The financial aid office at the college or career school you're considering
- A high school or TRIO counselor
- Federal agencies
- The state grant agency
- The library's reference section
- Foundations, religious or community organizations, businesses and civic groups
- Organizations (including professional associations) related to your field of interest
- Ethnicity-based organizations
- The U.S. Department of Labor's free scholarship search tool.

One organization, Scholarship America, has been committed to giving as many students as possible access to higher education. Since 1958, the organization has distributed \$4.2 billion to more than 2.5 million students.

To further help with the financial burdens college students may face—such as overdue rent and child care—the organization created initiatives such as Dreamkeepers, which offers emergency financial aid, and Collegiate Partners, which gets educational institutions to promise not to take away student aid because of private scholarships.

Currently, Scholarship America is accepting applications for the 2020 Scholar-



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT NAPSI

Student loan debt has reached astronomical levels in the United States but special scholarships can help.

ship America Dream Award. It provides financial stability to those who have overcome significant obstacles in their lives and gotten off to a strong start at college. Applicants must be in their second year or higher of postsecondary education to be eligible for the award.

Learn More

To apply for a scholarship, to learn more or to donate to the education of scholarship recipients, visit <https://scholarshipamerica.org>.

OUT on the TOWN

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month 2019 at Your Library

By ROBIN JACOBSEN
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (September 10, 2019)—Hispanic Heritage Month is September 15–October 15. Come celebrate the history, heritage, culture and contributions of the Latinx community with your library! Sign up for a Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) signature library card. Access Gale's Biography in Context to research famous Latinxs, Mango to learn a language, RBDigitals's Pongalo to stream Spanish-language telenovelas and translated movies. All for free with your library card! Visit any of our neighborhood branches to enjoy Hispanic Heritage Month events. Go to www.pgcmls.info for details. Autobiographies, books, e-books, DVDs and CDs too, await you at your library!

Library events and services of interest to the Latinx community include: Kids Achieve Clubs (KAC), English Conversation Clubs, Spanish Conver-



sation Clubs, Leamos @ Your Library, English Learners Community Series, Beginner English Classes, ESOL Teens, Books from Birth, Ready 2 Read storytimes in English and Spanish, Passport Services, Computer literacy instruction in Spanish and more. KAC provides homework help to students in Grades K–6. Leamos @ Your Library helps with literacy in the Spanish language, which facilitates learning English. Conversation clubs provide a relax atmosphere to practice speaking in a given language. Love learning at your library!

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), consisting of 19 branches, offers strategies for lifelong learning. Engage with us on social media. Check out our mobile apps! Learn more about what your Library has to offer at www.pgcmls.info.

Hispanic Heritage Month Events: Latin Dance Instruction with Dance in Time

Monday, September 23, 7–8 p.m. • Ages 13 and up. Learn Latin dance types and techniques with professional teachers through 'feet-on' instruction. Laurel Branch Library, Large Meeting Room A, 507 7th St., Laurel MD 20707; 301-776-6790
Tuesday, October 1, 7–8 p.m. • Adults Bowie Branch Library, Auditorium, 15210 Annapolis Rd, Bowie, MD 20715

Film: Ruben Blades Is Not My Name Monday, September 23, 7–9 p.m. This documentary is a portrait of one of

Latin America's most important singer/ songwriters whose socially charged lyrics and explosive rhythms brought Salsa music to an international audience. University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Rd, Hyattsville, MD

Latin Dancing Showcase with Dance in Time

Tuesday, September 24, 7:30–8:30 p.m. • All ages. Watch Latin dance performances, try a few moves and learn about Salsa, Merengue, Bachata and Cha-cha—their history and cultural relevance. Beltsville Branch Library, Large Meeting Room, 4319 Sellman Rd., Beltsville, MD 20705; 301-937-0294
Monday, September 30, 7:30–8:30 p.m. • Ages 5–12, South Bowie Branch Library, 15301 Hall Rd., Bowie, MD 20721, 301-850-0475
Tuesday, October 1, 4:30–5:30 p.m. • Ages 5–12, Beltsville Branch Library, Large Meeting Room, 4319 Sellman

Rd., Beltsville, MD 20705; 301-937-0294

Cantaré: Latin American Music Friday, September 27, 4:30 p.m. • Ages 5–12, Enjoy an entertaining blend of songs from Latin America, while exploring the music's cultural and historical background. Spauldings Branch Library, 5811 Old Silver Hill, Rd., District Heights, MD 20747, 301-817-3750

Ready 2 Read Storytime | Monday, September 30, 10:15 a.m. & 11 a.m. • Ages 2 and under. Bring your baby and join us for stories, songs, fingerplays and more! We'll have a song and story in Spanish for Hispanic Heritage Month. Hyattsville Branch Library (Temporary location), 6502 America Blvd., Hyattsville, MD 20782; 301-985-4690

Find more events: www.pgcmls.info

Calendar Spotlight: History

Traveling Exhibition—Paul Henderson: Photographs from the Civil Rights Era

Date and Time: Exhibit opens September 19, 2019, 10 a.m. Public viewing hours are during normal library operations.

The Maryland Historical Society's Paul Henderson Photograph Collection travels for the 2019–2020 school year. Paul Henderson (1899–1988) worked as a staff photographer and occasional writer for *The Baltimore Afro-American* newspaper, operated a freelance photography business, and participated in civic organizations. Education, religious life, street scenes, sports, civil rights, and politics are major subjects of Henderson's photographs. The collection, which contains over six thousand negatives and several hundred prints, is an unparalleled visual record of African American life during the civil rights era.

Cost: Free

Location: Upper level of the Sanford J. Ungar Athenaeum, Goucher College, 1021 Dulany Valley Road, Baltimore, MD 21204

Contact: <https://www.goucher.edu/library/special-collections-and-archives/exhibits/paul-henderson-exhibit>

Ranger Demonstration Maryland Agricultural College Cadets, "Before the Fire"

Date and Time: Saturday, September 21, 2019, 11 a.m.

Description: Greenbelt's Neighbor, the University of Maryland, had humble beginnings as an agricultural land-grant college before a devastating fire razed the barracks dormitory and left the campus a charred ruin in 1912. The students were then "Cadets". Watch a demonstration of the common rifle of military cadets at the turn of the century. Meet in Sweetgum Picnic Area.

Cost: Free

Ages: 8 and older

Location: Greenbelt Park, 6565 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Contact: John Reid, 301-344-3948

End of Summer Dance

Date and Time: Saturday, September 21, 2019, 1 p.m.

Description: End the summer on the right foot and join the Arlington House Victorian Dance Society for an afternoon of dance. Instruction will be provided on proper etiquette, and dance step. So kick up your heels and promenade down to the Enlisted Men's Barracks. Quadrilles, Reels, and Waltzes are all on the dance card. We request for safety, that appropriate shoes be worn if participating in the dance.

Cost: Free

Ages: Adults

Location: Fort Washington Park, 13551 Fort Washington Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744

Contact: 301-763-4601

The Green Book and Prince George's County

Date and Time: Saturday, September 21, 2019, 3 p.m.

Description: Join historians Anne Bruder and Susan Pearl as they discuss how the Green Book helped African-Americans travel safely across the country and what local places were part of the safe travels.

Cost: Free

Ages: Adults

Location: Belair Mansion, 12207 Tulip Grove Dr, Bowie, MD 20715

Contact: 301-809-3089; museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



PHOTO COURTESY DNR

Rosaryville is a 982 acre day-use park with miles of trails for hiking, biking and equestrians. To gain access to Rosaryville State Park, make a right turn into the entrance just south of Osborne Road while traveling south on U.S. 301. Open sunrise to sunset. The park is also the location of the historic Mount Airy Mansion. Parties, great and small, weddings, births, and visits from seven Presidents have left their mark, lending a wonderful feeling of expectancy to this lovely old home. Visitors can experience the history and atmosphere of Mount Airy and your own celebrations and special memories will enrich and secure Mount Airy for the enjoyment of future generations.

Rosaryville State Park, Fred Eskew Recreation Area
• 7805 West Marlton Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD 20735
• 301-888-1410
• <https://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/southern/rosaryville.aspx>

ERIC D. SNIDER'S IN THE DARK

... Movie Review ...

Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood

Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood

Grade: B+

Rated R, pervasive harsh profanity, some brutal and graphic violence, some sexual references

2 hrs., 41 min

There was cause for concern when Quentin Tarantino announced he was making a movie involving the Manson Family murders. It seemed likely, given QT's usual approach, that the result would be tacky and exploitative, maybe even turn a horrific (and, historically speaking, comparatively recent) tragedy into violent entertainment. Most of his films have had killers for protagonists, after all, and the killing has been part of the fun.

But it turns out that Charles Manson and his crew are only in the periphery of *Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood*, 98% of which is one of Tarantino's gentlest movies (the other 2%—YIKES). Not only are they not the focus, they are portrayed as useless hippies who gallingly desecrate the sanctity of Tinseltown, disrupting the chummy, fraternal idyll of moviemaking. This, even more than the

killings, seems to offend Tarantino, who spends most of "OUATH" gamboling through 1969 Hollywood like a kid in a nostalgia store. For all his fetishes, QT's favorite is Hollywood of 40–60 years ago, and this is his moseying, sentimental love letter to it.

The story is really about Rick Dalton (Leonardo DiCaprio), once the star of a very popular Western TV series, now getting by on TV guest spots and roles in mediocre films. He's dangerously close to being washed-up, though still living happily in a nice house next door to director Roman Polanski and his beautiful new wife, Sharon Tate (Margot Robbie). Encouraged by his best friend and stunt double, Cliff Booth (Brad Pitt), and by a movie producer (Al Pacino) who offers advice, Rick sets out to revive his career before it's too late, throwing himself passionately into his latest villain-of-the-week gig on *Lancer* (a real show, 1968–70).

As all of this is unfolding, pleasantly and unhurriedly, we see Sharon Tate living her life. Her husband is gone a lot, but she has friends, including ex-boyfriend Jay Sebring (Emile

Hirsch). Sharon is pregnant and happy, and when she catches a matinee of a film in which she has a supporting role (*The Wrecking Crew*), she shows childlike delight at hearing the audience's warm response to her onscreen slapstick.

In the sidelines, there's a bunch of mostly female hippies hanging around town. We understand them to be the Manson family, though the movie doesn't call them that. Manson himself (played by Damon Herriman) has only a few seconds of screen time, and his last name isn't given. Cliff the stunt double has an encounter with the group at the ranch where they're camped out, and Tarantino does great work milking tension from the scenario in such a way that you'd be nervous even if you didn't know who they were. They're an ominous low note heard periodically throughout the film, usually not loud enough to drown out the sunny La La Land story happening on the main stage.

Rick and Cliff have a surprisingly tender relationship (for a Tarantino movie anyway), DiCaprio and Pitt giving terrifically open, good-natured performances. Rick's determination to do his best in his small TV role is both hilarious and endearing; his slight stammer when he's nervous and his heart-on-sleeve emotions are just endearing. Pitt, too, is flat-out lovable as Cliff, to the extent that we're disinclined to believe it when we hear unsavory rumors about the stuntman's past.

Most of QT's usual touchstones are here—brutal violence,

humorous profanity, feet. There are flashbacks, including an amusing and possibly embellished vignette to a run-in Cliff had with Bruce Lee (Mike Moh); an alt-reality scene from *The Great Escape* starring Rick in the Steve McQueen role; a narrator who pops up startlingly to give a clarification early on, then disappears again until the end; one- or two-scene appearances by a cavalcade of actors—Kurt Russell, Timothy Olyphant, Luke Perry, Bruce Dern, Michael Madsen, Damian Lewis, Dakota

Fanning, Rumer Willis, Scoot McNairy, Margaret Qualley, etc., etc.—some based on real people, some not. Tarantino's fond obsession with period details means a nonstop stream of 1969 radio (including commercials!) heard on innumerable car stereos as the characters tool around an impeccably recreated L.A. of 50 years ago. And I don't remember if we already knew that Tarantino hated hippies, but we know now.

Unlike many Tarantino films, though, this one isn't plot-heavy.

There's actually very little story: It's a "let's hang out with these guys" situation, get to know them, learn snippets of their histories, spend a couple hours shootin' the breeze. It's not my favorite Tarantino film, but it's the one whose world I'd most like to live in (up to a point). If most QT productions are a bracing slap in the face, this one is a friendly arm around the shoulder. After the harsh cynicism of his last few movies, it's nice to see Tarantino reveling in the things he loves.



ROTTENTOMATOES.COM

Quentin Tarantino's ninth feature film is a story that takes place in Los Angeles in 1969, at the height of hippy Hollywood. The two lead characters are Rick Dalton (Leonardo DiCaprio), former star of a western TV series, and his longtime stunt double Cliff Booth (Brad Pitt). Both are struggling to make it in a Hollywood they don't recognize anymore. But Rick has a very famous next-door neighbor ... Sharon Tate.

Calendar of Events September 19–September 22, 2019

3rd Annual Wellness Expo for Adults Living With Disabilities

Date and Time: Friday, September 20, 2019, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Description: This is our 3rd event that will bring together wellness resources covering: health, education, finances, social opportunities and future planning. The event will have over 40 exhibitors, workshops, giveaways and demonstrations.
Cost: FREE. Register through eventbrite: <https://tinyurl.com/y3sqyc56>
Location: Heritage Hall at Holy Family Catholic Church, 12010 Woodmore Road, Bowie, MD 20721

Prince George's County Community Association Conference (PGCCAC)

Date and Time: Saturday, September 21, 2019, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. (Check in begins at 7:30 a.m., Continental Breakfast at 7:30 a.m., Program begins at 9:00 a.m.)
Description: Hosted By State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy
Cost: Free. Register at eventbrite
Ages: Adults
Location: Charles Herbert Flowers High School, 10001 Ardwick Ardmore Road, Springdale, MD 20774
Contact: Thelmetria Michaelides, Community Engagement Director, 240-508-2018, LaJoia Cannon, Legal Assistant, 301-379-0615

Deep Water

Date and Time: Saturday, September 21, 2019, 9–10 a.m.
Description: A non-impact total body aerobic workout emphasizing the cardiovascular and respiratory systems. Build stamina, tone and strengthen all muscle groups—it's a win-win for your overall health! Levels: Recommended for all levels of fitness
Cost: Resident: \$7; Non-resident: \$10; Seniors (60 & better) Resident: \$6; Non-resident: \$8
Ages: 13 and older (ages 13–15 must be accompanied by a paying adult)
Location: Fairland Sports and Aquatics Complex, 13820/13950 Old Gunpowder Road, Laurel, MD 20707
Contact: 301-362-6060; TTY 301-699-2544

Pollinator Festival

Date and Time: Saturday, September 21, 2019, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Description: Join the Friends of Patuxent as they celebrate the magnificent pollinators of North America. See biologist and volunteers tag monarch butterflies. Discover how domestic and native bees sustain your environment. Join in on a guided nature walk.
Cost: FREE!
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Patuxent Research Refuge, North Tract—Visitor Contact Station, 230 Bald Eagle Drive, Laurel, MD 20724
Contact: 301-497-5770

The Write Women Book Fest

Date and Time: Saturday, September 21, 2019, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Description: "Write Women Book Fest" co-hosted by Marietta House Museum and the Women Authors of Maryland. Focusing the spotlight on female creatives, we will have authors, books, poets, artists, workshops, games, crafts, stories, and crafts for children! There will be author presentations, and music throughout the day. The Glenn Dale Farmer's Market will be here with food, produce, and more while you attend the event, and stroll the grounds.
Cost: Free; food and crafts are available for purchase.
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Marietta House Museum, 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD 20769
Contact: 301-464-5291

Downtown Hyattsville Arts Festival: Arts & Ales

Date and Time: Saturday, September 21, 2019, 12 p.m.–6 p.m.
Description: Everyone is invited to this free, family event in Downtown Hyattsville! The Festival features over 100 jury-selected artist and artisans as well as craft breweries, food vendors, live music performances, and children's activities. There's something for everyone at this event. From shopping, locally brewed beer, great food, and fun activities, we have you covered.
Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: The festival spans three streets of downtown Hyattsville: Farragut St, Gallatin St, & Church Alley
Contact: 301-683-8267

Mi Casa es Su Casa: Flight Fest

Date and Time: Saturday, September 21, 2019, 1–4 p.m.
Description: Did you know that many of the birds we see here in our area migrate to central America? Join Prince George's Audubon Society and College Park Aviation Museum for a celebration of birds and flight with films, exhibits, activities and more.
Cost: FREE!
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: College Park Aviation Museum, 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD 20740
Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo—Matinee

Date and Time: Saturday, September 21, 2019, doors open at 12:30 p.m. Showtime is 1:30 p.m.
Description: The Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo celebrates and honor Black Cowboys and Cowgirls and their contributions to building the west. Highlighted are the irrefutable global appeal of Black Cowboys and Cowgirls in the West and the stories behind a sub-culture that is still strong today.
Cost: \$32 Adults (Ages 13–61); \$27 Child/Senior* (2–12 and 62 & better). *Senior Tickets are only sold at The Show Place Arena (proper ID required).
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: The Show Place Arena, 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Collage Workshop

Date and Time: Sunday, September 22, 2019, 1:30–4 p.m. Arrive by 12:15 p.m. for the house tour.
Description: Create a collage of your wedding memories with mixed media artist Susan Farrer. Bring photos, invitations, and other ephemera and turn them into artwork on canvas. Additional supplies provided by instructor. Includes optional tour of house.
Cost: \$25 Purchase through PARKS DIRECT!
Location: Riversdale House Museum, 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

Every Kid Outdoors Program Provides Fourth Grade Students With Free Entrance to Public Lands

Authorized for the next seven years, the new program replaces Every Kid in a Park

By PRESS OFFICER
U.S. Department of the Interior

WASHINGTON (September 4, 2019)—Fourth grade students can get a free annual pass to visit more than 2,000 federal recreation areas with their families, classmates, and friends. The Every Kid Outdoors Program is an interagency collaboration between the Department of the Interior, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and U.S. Forest Service that provides fourth graders with free access to explore, learn, and recreate in spectacular settings, including national parks, wildlife refuges, marine sanctuaries, and forests.

"Introducing fourth grade students to America's public lands provides them with limitless opportunities to have fun, be active, improve fitness, and learn critical skills," said U.S. Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt. "Visits on class trips or family vacations to the rich variety of astonishing landscapes and historic treasures located on public lands will result in unforgettable experiences and, hopefully, forge lifelong connections to the outdoors."

The bipartisan John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act, which was signed into law by President Trump on March 12, 2019, authorized funding for Every Kid Outdoors for the next seven years.

To obtain the free pass, fourth grade students visit the Every Kid Outdoors website, participate in a short educational activity, and download a voucher. The voucher is valid for multiple use between Sept. 1, 2019 and Aug. 31, 2020 to correspond to the traditional school year. The voucher may be exchanged for a keepsake pass at participating federal lands.

The voucher or pass grants free entry for fourth graders, all children under 16 in the group and up to three accompanying adults (or

an entire car for drive-in parks) to most federally managed lands and waters. The pass does not cover expanded amenity fees such as camping or boat rides.

The great outdoors make a great classroom. Fourth grade educators are encouraged to take advantage of the wide range of educational programs and tools associated with the Every Kid Outdoors Program. Educational activities, field trip options, information and tools in English and Spanish, and the ability to print vouchers for passes for students are all available on the website.

The Every Kid Outdoors Program replaces the Every Kid in a Park Program that was established in 2015.

The program focuses on children 10 years of age—the age of most fourth graders—based on research that indicates children ages 9–11 are at a unique developmental stage in their learning where they begin to understand how the world around them works in more concrete ways and they are more receptive to engaging with nature and the environment. By focusing on this age group year after year, the program aims to ensure every child in the United States has the opportunity to visit their Federal lands and waters by the time he or she is 11 years old, thereby establishing a lifelong connection to enjoy and protect our American outdoor heritage.

There are seven federal agencies participating in the Every Kid Outdoors Program. You can search for participating lands and waters (by agency) through the links below:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- National Park Service
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Earth TALK™ Greener School Buses = Better Student Health, Improved Test Scores

Dear EarthTalk:

I've heard that school buses cause a lot of pollution, especially for the kids riding inside. Is anyone making greener school buses yet?

—Jake McConnell, Philadelphia, PA

Now that school is back in session, those big yellow diesel-fueled school buses are all over the roads again. While they're relatively safe—and definitely old school—they're also big polluters, chugging along at 4-6 miles to the gallon while creating a cloud of harmful airborne pollutants.

According to the non-profit Clean Air Trust (CAT), some 25 million American kids travelling on half a million school buses every day are exposed to five to 15 times more air toxins than the rest of us. "Those buses travel more than four billion miles each year and these kids spend three billion hours on [them]," reports the group. "About 90 percent of these buses run on diesel fuel, annually emitting 3,000 tons of cancer-causing soot and 95,000 tons of smog-causing compounds."

If you don't think all that pollution is having a negative effect, think again. A March 2019 study from researchers at Georgia State University found that students did significantly better on standardized English tests and marginally better in math when they spent their commutes riding in school buses retrofitted to reduce emissions by 95 percent as compared to students riding in non-upgraded buses. The researchers conclude that "engine retrofits can have meaningful and cost-effective impacts on health and cognitive functioning."

Luckily the retrofits are easy to come by and relatively inexpensive, especially when you factor in the costs of health care to treat sick kids, not to mention the price tag for raising kids' test scores in other ways. Retrofitting 10 percent of the average school district's bus fleet in Georgia, for instance, would cost less than \$100,000, a drop in



IMAGE CREDIT: MADAME.FURIE, FLICKRCC

Research shows that replacing or retrofitting dirty old diesel school buses can reduce the pollution inhaled by students significantly and can even lead to better health and higher standardized test scores.

the bucket of the state's \$10.6 billion K-12 public schools budget.

And beginning in October 2018, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set aside \$9 million to help pay for upgrading older diesel school buses nationwide. School districts and other public agencies charged with transporting school kids can apply for rebates of up to \$20,000 per bus to help cover the retrofits on up to 10 individual buses.

Retrofitting is a great start, but even better would be replacing old buses with new, more efficient all-electric models. But few school districts can justify the \$300,000 price tag to replace perfectly functional older diesel buses. That didn't stop the school district in White Plains, New York, though, which purchased five electric buses last year with financial help from the local utility, Consolidated Edison, and a grant from the state.

These outside contributions helped bring the final cost to the school district down to

something along the lines of buying new diesel buses. While ConEd gets the benefit of good public relations and good karma, it also gets to use the buses during the summer as excess electricity storage that can be moved around to where it's needed most (when the air conditioners are blazing). White Plains is hoping other school districts across the country will follow a similar model to clean up their acts.

CONTACTS: Clean Air Trust, cleanairtrust.org; "School bus emissions, student health and academic performance," <https://www.emagazine.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0272775719301530#>.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)(3) nonprofit EarthTalk. Check out our other columns at <https://www.emagazine.com/earthtalk-qa/>. To donate, visit <https://www.earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

AUTUMN ON MY MIND

With summer winding down and kids back in school, now is the best time to look into preparing your home for fall and colder weather.

- Check for drafts and weatherstrip doors or windows where needed.
- Get your HVAC system serviced and cover the outdoor unit to prevent falling debris.
- Turn off and drain outdoor faucets and sprinklers.
- Store your lawn equipment for the winter by draining fuel and oil. Dispose properly at the Household Hazardous Waste Acceptance site in Upper Marlboro. More info at bit.ly/hwaste.

Prince George's County Second Nature is an initiative of the Department of the Environment, Redevelopment Authority, and Office of Central Services to promote cost savings and sustainability in our everyday behavior.

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Wednesday Prayer Service 8p.m.

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Military Dogs from A3

now is helping Eric Harris' autistic son, something she started doing on her own. As Harris says: "I guess her old handler was right. She never stops working."

Military Working Dog Troll (El Paso, TX)

During a 2012 deployment to Afghanistan, MWD Troll and his handler, then-Air Force Staff Sergeant Robert Wilson, conducted 89 combat missions, logging 1,240 hours, supporting United States Army and Special Operations units outside the wire. During a four-day air assault mission, Troll was tasked with clearing routes of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and conducting a raid on an insurgent compound. During the eight-kilometer movement, Troll located three IEDs, saving 65 Coalition Forces members. Upon reaching the compound, Troll executed a sweep detecting buried IEDs, and a concealed tunnel containing nine pressure plates, six AK-47s, 20 pounds of homemade explosives and two high-value targets known to have conducted attacks on Coalition Forces. Once secure, they exited the compound with an Afghanistan National Army (ANA) soldier and immediately came under fire. The ANA soldier was critically wounded, and Wilson and Troll facilitated his immediate evacuation. Wilson returned fire and moved with Troll to a position of cover as they were directly targeted and engaged by insurgents. They were then tasked to clear a landing zone for a Medevac helicopter. They moved into the open with a four-man security element, exposing themselves to grave and imminent danger while clearing the landing zone of IEDs and maneuvering to engage the insurgent location. Their quick reaction to enemy fire, and their gallant actions resulted in the elimination of insurgent threats. Furthermore, Troll's courageous actions allowed for the safe and secure arrival of the Medevac and the rapid evacuation of the critically injured soldier from the battlefield. This 12-year-old Dutch Shepherd is a hero.

Explosive Detection Dog Sgt. Yeager (Cary, NC)

Sergeant Yeager is a 13-year-old black Lab who honorably performed combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan as an Improvised Explosive Detection Dog with the United States Marine Corps. Sgt. Yeager has been credited with detecting the locations of dozens of explosive devices. During his three combat tours, Sgt. Yeager participated in over 100 patrols, and was tasked with clearing routes for his fellow Marines. On April 12, 2012, Sgt. Yeager suffered shrapnel wounds from an IED that caused him to lose part of his ear. He was awarded the Purple Heart for his injuries. Unfortunately, the same explosion took the life of his handler, Lance Corporal Abraham Tarwoe. The pair was trying to protect the other Marines in the 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. Fellow Marines attest to the unbreakable bond between Tarwoe and Sgt. Yeager. After the attack, Sgt. Yeager was transported back to the U.S. and treated for his injuries until he was stable enough to retire from the USMC. Lance Corporal Tarwoe's widow was unable to adopt Sgt. Yeager as she would now be raising their infant son alone. Sgt. Yeager was adopted by another Marine Corps family. Today, Sgt. Yeager is beginning to show signs of aging, though his spirit is undiminished. Despite his trials and witnessing acts of terrorism, Yeager remains a sweet dog with an infinitely joyful disposition. He has settled in North Carolina with his family, where he is an ambassador for the Project K-9 Hero Foundation.

Military Working Dog K-9 Niko (Willow, AK)

K-9 Niko is a 10-year-old Dutch Shepherd who worked all over Afghanistan protecting foreign and U.S. dignitaries, embassy personnel including the U.S. Ambassador, and visiting U.S. Presidential and Secretary of State details from 2012 to 2016—never leaving the country until he retired. K-9 Niko was trained in North Carolina and was subsequently deployed to Afghanistan, where he conducted more than 600 missions for the U.S. Department of State in support of Department of Defense, the Central Intelligence Agency, the United States Agency for International Development, and other alliance of countries that are a part of NATO. During Niko's career, he assisted with route clearance for advance teams, open area and house-to-house sweeps prior to high-level meetings, and the endless searching of support vehicles that came into camp. He also flew around the country in helicopters, clearing the way for U.S. diplomacy.

When Niko was not finding bombs, he spent his down time lifting the spirits and morale of his teammates. He was a familiar face in the gym. When working out with his handlers and teammates, you could always find him running on the treadmill. Niko worked hard, risking his life to ensure that everyone he worked with returned home to their families and never taking a vacation during his career. K-9 Niko is living out the rest of his years on the Alaska frontier, running free and living a new chapter in the book of his life.

American Humane, the country's first national humane organization, has worked with the U.S. military to support veterans and military animals for more than 100 years, starting in 1916 when we worked to rescue 68,000 war horses wounded each month on the battlefields of World War I Europe. Since then, the group helped pioneer the use of animal therapy for veterans, reunites retired war dogs with their handlers, rescues animals in need of forever homes and trains them as lifesaving service dogs for veterans with PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury, and much more. American Humane's Lois Pope LIFE K-9 Medal of Courage was created in 2016 to recognize and honor the extraordinary sacrifice and feats of valor that America's K-9s perform to keep us, our troops, and our country safe. For more information visit: www.AmericanHumane.org.

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