

# The Prince George's Post



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## Maryland and Local Officials to Join BSU Community to Mark Start of Construction

By DAMITA CHAMBERS  
Bowie State University

BOWIE, Md. (October 9, 2019)—Marking a significant expansion of space for business innovation, dozens of Maryland and local officials join[ed] the Bowie State University community to mark the start of construction of a residence hall and entrepreneurship center with a ceremonial groundbreaking on Thursday, October 10, 2019 at the university's Robinson Hall, Lawn.

Construction on the Entrepreneurship Living-Learning Community is slated to begin in February 2020, with completion planned by

July 2021. Among the officials attending Thursday's event were Maryland Senator Douglas J.J. Peters, District 23 (Prince George's County), Robert Brennan, executive director, Maryland Economic Development Commission (MEDCO), Tom Sadowski, vice chancellor for economic development, University System of Maryland, and Alfred D. Lott, Bowie city manager.

The residence hall will house more than 500 students and become the new home of the university's Entrepreneurship Academy, as well as the Bowie Business Innovation Center (Bowie BIC), the first business accelerator located at a Maryland historically black uni-

versity. Not only will it meet the university's growing demand for on-campus student housing, but the facility will also provide retail space that will be open to the public, space to house Bowie State student businesses, a student makerspace, technology-infused classrooms and more.

The \$42 million project is substantially funded with tax-exempt bonds through the Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO). Balfour Beatty Construction, the lead contractor for the project, is partnering with Smoot Construction, a minority-owned general contractor, and Design Collective, Inc., a national, award-winning design firm.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

At the groundbreaking ceremony (L to R): Lisa Smith, executive director, Bowie Business Innovation Center (Bowie BIC); Tom Sadowski, vice chancellor for economic development, University System of Maryland (USM); Robert Brennan, executive director, Maryland Economic Development Commission (MEDCO); Maryland Senator Douglas J.J. Peters, District 23 (Prince George's County); Aminta H. Breaux, president of Bowie State University; Ray Gilly, Prince George's County Deputy Chief Administrative Office; Johnetta Hardy, executive director of Entrepreneurship Academy; Bob Shepko, division president, Balfour Beatty Campus Solutions

## As Popularity of Ride-Sharing Grows, Safety Concerns Rise

By ERIC MYERS  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (October 9, 2019)—Beaudouin Tchakounte was driving for Uber on the night of Aug. 27 in Oxon Hill, Maryland, when he and passenger Casey Xavier Robinson were fatally shot inside the 2015 silver Mercedes-Benz, Prince George's County Police said.

Prince George's County State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy announced Sept. 26 that Aaron Wilson Jr. of Fort Washington, Maryland, was indicted on two counts of common law murder, two counts of use of a firearm in a crime of violence and two counts of use of

a firearm in the commission of a felony in connection with the deaths.

If convicted, Wilson could be sentenced to a maximum of two life sentences plus 40 years, according to Braveboy's office. Wilson had requested a shared ride via Uber, police said.

Anytime similar troublesome events occur, both to drivers and passengers, ride-hailing—or ride-sharing—platforms such as Lyft and Uber see their safety policies face increased scrutiny.

"It's tragic. It's heart-breaking to hear," said Dylan Himmerich, who runs The Rideshare Hub ([https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-ivJVv3GtB\\_w\\_lpk\\_WQxHW](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-ivJVv3GtB_w_lpk_WQxHW)),

a YouTube channel dedicated to providing tips and information for drivers. "I think rideshare safety should be stressed more—for drivers and for passengers. I think there are a lot of holes."

Representatives for Lyft and Uber said that their respective companies continue to emphasize safety and further enhancements that can be made in that area.

Safety for passengers starts with the background checks both top ride-hailing platforms conduct on prospective drivers. Uber and Lyft's background checks review an applicants' driving record and criminal history.

Uber and Lyft also said they conduct annual background checks of each driver on their platform.

States also have their own regulations to determine driving applicants' eligibility.

In Maryland, the Public Service Commission reviews information it receives about each driver from a transportation network company such as Uber or Lyft, and makes a final determination on whether it will issue a license to operate as a ride-hailing driver in the state.

Of the greater than 230,000 applications processed from July 2015 through June 2019, the state's Public Service Commission rejected 2,005 for criminal reasons and 3,422 for driving-related issues, even though those drivers passed Uber or Lyft's background checks, according to data Capital News Service received from a public information request.



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT ERIC MYERS/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Company decals prominently placed on ride-hailing vehicles help passengers identify their requested rides.

See RIDE-SHARING Page A6



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

## Michael Abobar Wins Second Place for Pitching Long-lasting Marker Pen

By DAMITA CHAMBERS  
Bowie State University

BOWIE, Md. (October 9, 2019)—A Bowie State University student inventor won second in a regional pitch competition at the 3rd annual African Diaspora Entrepreneurship Summit, which encourages entrepreneurship in the regional Pan-African community and provides innovators with funding and other vital resources to start, grow or expand their businesses.

Michael Abobar ('04), a student in the Doctor of Science in computer science program, pitched the business idea for his invention, Xtended Yus Markers, which he developed with faculty mentor and biology faculty Dr. Eric Bonsu during the 2018 Summer Launch Program hosted by the BSU Entrepreneurship Academy. Abobar captivated the judges with the details of his invention, a long-lasting marker pen. Oluwole Ajayi, a 2019 BSU graduate from the master's degree in management information systems program, also participated in the competition.

BSU College of Business adjunct faculty member Jainaba Ceesay moderated a panel on the importance of mentorship and strategic partnerships and was a panelist for a discussion on the legal considerations of starting a business. Ceesay is a BSU Entrepreneurship facilitator and teaches entrepreneurship courses.

Opportunities like the entrepreneurship summit are part of the diverse experiences students can receive then they join the Entrepreneurship Academy. The program not only prepares students to compete in local, regional and national pitch competitions, but it also provides resources and opportunities for all BSU innovative thinkers who are interested in developing a business.

—See page A2 for news of another Bowie State University student achievement.—

## University of Maryland Extension Awarded \$1M To Combat the Opioid Epidemic

UME to expand training and build capacity for rural Maryland to manage behavioral health crises.

By LAURA WORMUTH  
University of Maryland Extension

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (October 7, 2019)—According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, Maryland ranks in the top five in the nation for opioid-related overdose death rates with the largest increase attributed to cases involving synthetic opioids (mainly fentanyl). University of Maryland Extension faculty and partners have been awarded a grant of over \$1M to build capacity within rural communities to help deal with the growing opioid issues throughout the state.

The Rural Opioids Technical Assistance Grant, awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), funds an effort to utilize the successful Extension education model to deliver training to the rural Maryland communities struggling with mental and behavioral health issues.

"One of the things we noted while conducting a needs assessment was gaps in understanding the opioid crisis and available resources to help or get information," said Dr. Jinhee Kim, Professor and Family & Consumer Sciences Program Leader with the University of Maryland Extension and principal investigator on the grant.

"The overarching goal of this grant is to strengthen the understanding of the epidemic and prevention strategies in rural Maryland and to provide technical assistance with cutting-edge research," said Ali Hurtado, Co-Principal Investigator and Assistant Professor in the School of Public Health at the University of Maryland.

See OPIOID EPIDEMIC Page A4

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#### Free Halloween Lyft Rides Offered Throughout Prince George's County to Prevent Drunk Driving

"Nearly half (42%) of all U.S. traffic fatalities during Halloween from 2013 to 2017 involved drunk drivers according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP's President.

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#### ChildWatch: God Help Us to End Poverty In Our Time

October 18–20, 2019 is our 28th Annual National Observance of Children's Sabbaths® Celebration, "Uniting Hearts and Voices to End Child Poverty."

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#### M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation Presents Annual American Indian Festival

The Annual American Indian Festival offers something for all ages and gives a firsthand opportunity to learn about local American Indian culture.

Out on the Town, Page A5

# TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

### McNamara High School welcomes Dian Carter as new Principal

Dr. Marco J. Clark, President/CEO of Bishop McNamara High School, has announced that Mrs. Dian Carter as the Interim Principal at McNamara. She is the first woman to serve as principal in the school's 56 years.

She comes as a veteran educator, having spent 15 years as an English teacher, human resource specialist, curriculum development specialist, and assistant principal in Prince George's and Montgomery County public schools.

She came to McNamara in 2016 as Assistant Principal.

She has been an active parent volunteer and President of the Home & School Assn., Archdiocese of Washington Board of Education, High School Admissions & Advisory Committee, a leader with the Elementary Schools Principals' Association and the National Catholic Educational Association.

She has a bachelor's from the University of Maryland and a master's in education, supervision and curriculum from Bowie State University. She is a parishioner at St. Joseph Church in Largo, and St. Ambrose in Cheverly where she served nine years as principal in the parish school. She is married to Kevin Carter and they have two children, Brenna who graduated from McNamara in 2016 and Caleb who'll graduate from there in 2020.

### Neighbors & other good people

Morningside VFD was honored for its 5,321 training hours by the Prince George's County Volunteer & Rescue Association at the annual awards ceremony on Sept. 27. That's the most training hours of any single volunteer company in Prince George's County.

Louise Oertly was reelected president of the Surratt Society's executive board at the Sept. 8 general meeting. Other officers are Bill Binzel, vice president; Marietta Arenberg, secretary; and Tom Buckingham, treasurer.

Dr. Jon Willen, Surratt Society member, has been elected president of the Civil War Round Table (CWRT) of the District of Columbia, Bill Binzel, Surratt Society office, was elected to the CWRT board of directors.

I wished Frank McCrone a Happy Birthday on October 17—but, sadly, he

had died Feb. 10. However, his daughter Karen Rooker said the greeting made her smile. I know Frank celebrated in Heaven.

### Changing landscape

- The County Police Department has opened a new district station in Upper Marlboro. District VIII represents the busiest sector in the county, covering 18 square miles and serving the neighborhoods of Suitland, Forestville, Westphalia, Coral Hills, and areas surrounding Capitol Heights and District Heights.
- There's a site plan proposal afoot for building six houses in the woods next to VFW Post 9619, in Morningside. The address listed is 6507 Suitland Road. Several in the community are planning to become persons of record so they can testify.
- A new Lidl grocery at 7200 Marlboro Pike Forestville/District Heights opened Oct. 9.
- A new Target is opening this month at 6183 Oxon Hill Road, at the site where once was Kmart.
- A Residence Inn Marriott at 1700 Ritchie Station Court, has opened in Capital Heights, behind Buffalo Wild Wings.
- Most of the Capitol Center Boulevard shopping center has been razed to make room for University of Maryland's Capital Region Medical Center. Surviving businesses are Carolina Kitchen, Magic Johnson Theater, Chick-Fil-A, Longhorn Steakhouse, TGI Fridays, Golden Corral Buffet and Chuck E. Cheese.
- Nautilus Solar and Neighborhood Sun held a ribbon-cutting on Oct. 7 for their new solar project in Fort Washington. It will be the largest community solar project in the United States.

### October is Adopt-A-Dog Month

Throughout the month of October, fees are reduced for dogs adopted from our local shelter! Normally \$225, fees are just \$125, which covers the cost of spay/neuter procedure—unless they are already altered, and if so, your new dog is free! Call the Animal Services Facility, 301-780-7200. You can view available pets at [www.princegeorgespets4us.com](http://www.princegeorgespets4us.com).

By the way, an amendment to repeal

the County's 22-year-old ban on pit bulls is advancing and may be repealed. However, a majority of the 11-member Council still seems to support the ban, or is undecided.

### Washington Post carriers needed

One day last week my Post arrived in a plastic bag advertising, "Carrier wanted! Routes available now! Apply today at [deliverthepost.com](http://deliverthepost.com)." Need a job? Check it out.

### Morningside Memories: 1959

Sixty years ago this month, the Morningside Camp Fire girls entertained their families and their sponsor, Mrs. James Broderick, with a party at the Town Hall. The guest list included Karen and Alma Broderick, Polly Allen, Charlotte Edwards and son Johnny, Audrey Holmes, Mr. & Mrs. Logan Koch and son Bobby, Mr. & Mrs. Charles McKeon and sons Donald and Wayne, T/Sgt. Frank Miller, Theresa Miller, Rory Miller, Frank Miller Jr. and Thelma Rogers.

### Skyline's 50th: 1982 (continuing)

Oct. 6: The Ridgecrest home of Peter and Judy Wilson won 1st place in the "Private Homes—Andrews AFB Area" category at the 1982 Beautification Awards Program. They received a plaque and a bluebird house.

Nov. 16: Robert W. Thomas, of the County Cable Commission, spoke at a Skyline meeting on what cable TV is and when will we get it? What will it cost? What will it offer us? What choices do we have?

Dec. 8: Capt. Beavers of the County Police, held a meeting at the Firehouse to address a rash of break-ins in Skyline, on Elmendorf, Skyline Terrace, John, Frank, Goodfellow and Suitland Road.

Dec. 18: The Morningside Sportsmen, with their elves and the Morningside Kedettes cruised through Skyline collecting canned goods for the needy. Bob Walker was chairman that year, 1982.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Jody Nyers, Catherine Alvis, Christina Ramsey Eckloff and Clyde Miller, Oct. 22; Mary Flood Dawes, Oct. 23; Daniel John Fitzgerald and Anna Norris, Oct. 24; and Donna Anderson, Oct. 25.

## Around the County

### Prince George's Soil Conservation District—Monthly Board Meetings

UPPER MARLBORO (October 10, 2019)—The Prince George's Soil Conservation District hosts public, monthly board meetings at its headquarters office located at 5301 Marlboro Race Track Rd., Upper Marlboro, MD 20772. The meetings are held on the first Monday of every month, starting at 6:30 p.m. Please call the District at 301-574-5162 ext. 3 prior to each meeting to confirm its date and time.

—Katie Bliley, Prince George's Soil Conservation District

### Board of Education Seeks Applicants For Ethics Advisory Panel

UPPER MARLBORO (October 4, 2019)—The Prince George's County Board of Education is seeking residents to serve on its five-member Ethics Advisory Panel. Panel members are appointed by the Board Chair with Board approval to a three-year term. As noted in Board Policy 0107, the panel is an advisory body responsible for interpreting the ethics policy, including issuing advisory opinions to the Board concerning its application and addressing complaints filed regarding alleged violations.

Panel members may not be incumbent members of the Board of Education or employees of Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), elected officials, candidates for elective office or employed by businesses working with PGCPS. All individuals recommended for membership on the panel are subject to fingerprinting and a criminal background check before final approval.

Individuals interested in serving on the Panel must submit a letter of interest along with a resumé or other documentation to support the application as soon as possible, but no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, October 25. Individuals with strong, demonstrable experience in reviewing and evaluating ethical matters or providing advice concerning administrative and legal matters are encouraged to apply.

Please send a letter of interest and resumé by mail to Suzann M. King, Board Executive Director, Prince George's County Board of Education, 14201 School Lane, Room 121, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772, or by e-mail to [Suzann.King@pgcps.org](mailto:Suzann.King@pgcps.org). The Board will issue Panel appointment notifications in November.

—Office of Communications, Prince George's County Public Schools

### Biology Student Takes Second Place in Research Competition

Whitney Okoe Shines Against Students From Institutions Around the Nation

BOWIE, Md. (October 2, 2019)—A top Bowie State University undergraduate biology student took second place in a national student research competition with her presentation on research aimed to combat a menace to citrus plants at the 20th annual National Role Models Conference hosted by Minority Access, Inc.

Whitney Okoe, a senior biology major, presented research on a potential remedy for citrus greening disease, which has threatened to devastate the nation's citrus industry, especially in Florida. Okoe took home a \$700 prize for her outstanding presentation. She was one of 48 undergraduate students, representing colleges and universities from around the country, who presented their projects to a panel of judges in three categories: biomedical sciences, social sciences/humanities and engineering/technology. The students represented institutions that included Rutgers University, California State University and Howard University. Okoe was the only student from Bowie State.

In addition to honing their presentations skills in the competition, Okoe and the other students received guidance from seasoned researchers, mature scholars and their peers. Minority Access, Inc. also distributed summaries of exemplary presentations to prominent pharmaceutical and high-tech firms.

Okoe's research took place last summer with BSU Assistant Professor Kari Debbink, as part of the university's Summer Undergraduate Research Institute (SURI). Dr. Debbink's team investigated a potential remedy for citrus greening disease, which would involve using a harmless virus to deliver a cure to plants infected with the disease.

—Damita Chambers, Bowie State University



PHOTO COURTESY BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

### SAFARI HUT PLAYGROUND

Up for a safari experience? Visit the colorful Safari Hut Playground, where your children will have plenty opportunities to slide. This playground was designed with three large safari hut decks that can be accessed from rock-like climbers and ropes. Once a child reaches the top of the hut deck, there are nine opportunities to slide down an escape route to the ground.

Suggested visit time is 1–2 hours. The play area includes a paved path to equipment and engineered wood fiber under equipment. The playground is nestled within a neighborhood with park benches. There's street parking only. No restrooms on site. The playground is in Windsor Park, 6100 Welshire Court, Upper Marlboro Maryland 20772.

### FARMFEST

Farm Fest runs annually and benefits local organizations that are involved in helping the community. This family-oriented, charitable Western event involves cowboys, cowgirls, and their horses coming together and performing routines and stunts to show support for worthy causes. There will be local performers, vendors, pony rides, and lots of fun for the entire family.

Farm Fest will be held Saturday October 26, 2019 from 10 a.m.–7 p.m. at the Show Place Arena, 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Cost is free for spectators.

### AMERICAN LEGION POST 227

Join us for a grilled to perfection premium steak dinner with baked potato, salad and roll. Dine in or carry out. Donation of just \$15 for this great meal. Steak Dinner November 1, 2019. Public: Hosted by American Legion Post 227 at 13505 Cherry Tree Crossing Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613.

### FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE

Please join Mel Franklin and your community at the first quarterly community partners meeting for the next phase of the #Fathers Stand Up Initiative and the #Fathers Stand Up Pledge. From working with the Community Schools Initiative to improve achievement, partnering with the Dept. of Family and Social Services to strengthen fatherhood and reduce domestic violence, to supporting Employ Prince George's workforce development initiatives for returning citizens and the unemployed. We will focus on the multiple

ways we can work together to strengthen fatherhood and families in our County.

The meeting will be held Monday, October 21, 2019 at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. at South Bowie Public Library, 5301 Hall Road, Bowie, Maryland 20721. Free and open to the public. Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/fathers-stand-up-fall-mtg>. What: #Fathers Stand Up Initiative Fall Community Partners Meeting.

### MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK

Mental Illness Awareness Week was established in 1990 by the U.S. Congress in recognition of efforts by the National Alliance on Mental Illness to educate and increase awareness about Mental Illness. It takes place every year during the first full week of October. During this week, mental health advocates and organizations across the U.S. join to sponsor events to promote community outreach and public education, concerning mental illnesses such as major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia.

Examples of activities held during the week include art/music events, educational sessions provided by healthcare professionals and individual with lived experience and/or familial lived experience, advertising campaigns, health fairs, prayer services, movie nights candlelight vigils, and benefit runs.

### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to John Tyree, Camden Knight, Shellie Sims, Kaylee Davis, Madison Stroman, Dwayne Wood, Khia Knight, William Stammer, David Samuel, Ulric Thomas, Erica Barron, Barbara Washington, Jr. Mbakwe and George Taylor who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating birthdays in October.

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Wedding Anniversary to Lawrence and Roseline Omoregbe, Clarkie and Georgia Kinard who are Clinton United Church members celebrating Wedding Anniversaries in October.

### CLYDE WATSON BOATING AREA

Clyde Watson Boating Area provides boating access to the Patuxent River. Standard boat ramp with pier and fishing area. Permit required. The address is 17901 Magruder's Ferry Road, Baden, Maryland 20613. For general information about local parks log on to [pgparks.com](http://pgparks.com) and click on the "Parks & Facilities" tab.

# COMMUNITY

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### Planning Ahead Can Lower College Application Stress

For most families, the college application process is a major source of anxiety. But it doesn't have to be extra stressful if a family takes enough time to address the many questions and issues related to college applications.

A starting point for most families should be the financial issues. A college education is an expensive investment. You and your student need to talk realistically about how that education will be paid for and what schools are affordable.

Are scholarships a possibility? How about work-study programs or a possible off-campus job? Will there have to be one or more college loans and if so, who will be paying them back?

Financial planning should include not just tuition and room and board if the school being considered isn't local, but also other school expenses. These can include books, perhaps a new laptop or cell phone, trips back home and daily living expenses. Today, most college websites include a wide range of information about the actual costs involved in attending their schools.

Stress levels are also reduced by acting early. Schedule ACT or SAT testing as soon as practical, especially if a retest might be needed. Your high school counselor will have information about available testing and can also offer advice on school choices. He or she should be able to advise on college choices appropriate to your student's interests, grades and past scholastic and personal achievements.

As school choices become clearer, now is the time to gather information. There are numerous college guide books offering detailed information on the programs, costs and admission requirements of most schools. Online visits to a school's website will usually provide a wealth of information, as well as a chance to view the school's campus if you're unable to schedule a personal college visit.

When a family has done its research and answered the necessary questions, it's time to realistically narrow down the list of possible schools. Today, students tend to apply to 3 to 7 schools. Some may be a reach, but one or two should be "safety" schools where admission is almost certain.

The most important factor in minimizing college application stress is to start the actual application process early. Complete the applications, get the needed recommendations and write those application essays. Get it all done early and the only anxiety left will be waiting for that admission office's answer.

Counseling Corner is provided by the American Counseling Association. Comments and questions to [ACACorner@counseling.org](mailto:ACACorner@counseling.org) or visit the ACA website at [www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org).

#### 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

This year's theme, "An Evening Under the Tuscan Sky," will take guests to the Italian countryside filled with gardens, groves and vineyards. The gala is the organization's signature black tie event and features an open bar, fine cuisine, a silent and live auction, a band and dancing. The gala draws close to 500 attendees and directly supports the mission and programs of Hospice of the Chesapeake.

The nonprofit is celebrating its 40th year of serving the community and continues to celebrate its status as a leader in hospice and palliative care as well as grief support in Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties.

For sponsorship opportunities, contact  
Meg Lawton at 443-837-1531 or  
[mlawton@hospicechesapeake.org](mailto:mlawton@hospicechesapeake.org).

## Free Halloween Lyft Rides Offered Throughout Prince George's County to Prevent Drunk Driving

Nearly Half of U.S. Highway Deaths On Halloween Involve Drunk Drivers

By TAMMY WAN  
Washington Regional Alcohol Program

UPPER MARLBORO (October 8, 2019)—Preparing to combat that time of year when, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), nearly half (42%) of all U.S. traffic deaths involve drunk drivers\*, free Halloween Lyft rides will be offered to deter impaired driving throughout Prince George's County, Maryland beginning Saturday, October 26, 2019.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the 2019 Halloween SoberRide® program will be in operation beginning at 10 p.m. Saturday, October 26 until 4 a.m. Sunday, October 27, 2019 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

During this six-hour period, area residents age 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a SoberRide® code in the app's "Promo" section to receive their no cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. **WRAP's Halloween SoberRide® promo code will be posted at 9 p.m. on Saturday, October 26 on [www.SoberRide.com](http://www.SoberRide.com).**

Last year, 387 persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used WRAP's Halloween SoberRide® program rather than possibly driving home impaired. The charity also offers its SoberRide® program on St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Independence Day and the winter holidays.

"Nearly half (42%) of all U.S. traffic fatalities during Halloween from 2013 to 2017 involved drunk drivers according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP's President.

SoberRide® is offered throughout Lyft's Washington, D.C. coverage area which includes all or parts of: the District of Columbia; the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince George's; and

the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William.

"Lyft is proud of the role ridesharing has played in reducing impaired driving across the nation. Here in the DC area, partnering with the Washington Regional Alcohol Program allows us to take our commitment to providing reliable, convenient, and responsible transportation a step further, particularly during times of the year when people are out celebrating and in need of a ride home," said Steve Taylor, GM, Lyft Washington, D.C.

Sponsors of this year's Halloween SoberRide® campaign include the 395 Express Lanes, AAA Mid-Atlantic, Anheuser-Busch, Brown-Forman, Constellation Brands, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Giant Food, Glory Days Grill, Lyft, MillerCoors, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association.

Since 1991, WRAP's SoberRide® program has provided 77,804 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

Founded in 1982, the nonprofit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is a coalition of diverse interests using effective education, innovative programs and targeted advocacy to end alcohol-impaired driving and underage drinking in the Washington, DC metro area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths historically lower than the national average.

More information about WRAP's SoberRide® initiative can be found at [www.SoberRide.com](http://www.SoberRide.com).

\*Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, see: <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/drunk-driving/buzzed-driving-drunk-driving/halloween>

## Maryland Health Department Confirms Season's First Flu Cases; Urges all Marylanders to Get Flu Shots

By PRESS OFFICER  
The Maryland Department of Health

BALTIMORE, Md. (October 8, 2019)—The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) urges Marylanders to get vaccinated against influenza, as the flu season has already begun, with 11 laboratory confirmed cases identified since September 1.

The majority of the cases so far have been subtyped as influenza A (H3N2), with a few classified as influenza B. The vaccine protects against both influenza A and B.

"We don't know yet whether flu activity this early indicates a particularly bad season on the horizon," said MDH Secretary Robert R. Neall. "Still, we can't emphasize strongly enough—get your flu shot now. Don't put it off. The vaccine is widely available at grocery stores, pharmacies and local health clinics, in addition to your doctor's office."

Influenza is a contagious respiratory disease that may lead to serious complications, hospitalization, and even death. Although most influenza cases are mild and people recover with little to no complications, influenza can pose a serious risk for children younger than 5 years, adults older than 65 years, pregnant women and individuals with compromised immune systems.

During last year's influenza season, 3,274 influenza-associated hospitalizations and 82 influenza-associated deaths were reported to the MDH, including four deaths of individuals under the age of 18.

The influenza virus spreads from person to person through coughing or sneezing, as well as through contact with infected people or contaminated surfaces and objects. Common symptoms include fever, body aches, fatigue, coughing and sore throat. Symptoms usually begin one to four days after being exposed.

"The best way to protect yourself and your family is to get a flu shot. Getting vaccinated every year is important because the strains change over time," said Deputy Secretary for Public Health Fran Phillips. "Also, keep in mind that it takes about two weeks after being vaccinated before the body's full immune response kicks in."

Influenza vaccine is recommended for everyone six months of age

and older. It is especially important for individuals who are at high risk for influenza-related complications including:

- Children 6 months through 5 years old;
- People over 50 years old;
- Adults and children who have chronic pulmonary, cardiovascular, renal, hepatic, neurologic, hematologic, or metabolic disorders;
- People who are immunocompromised;
- Women who are or will become pregnant during the flu season;
- Children and adolescents who are receiving aspirin- or salicylate-containing medications and who might be at risk for Reye syndrome after influenza virus infection;
- Residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities;
- People who are extremely obese (body mass index more than 40 for adults).

- If you think you have the flu:
- Contact your health care provider to help manage symptoms or complications
- Get rest and drink plenty of fluids
- Cover your mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers and wash your hands often
- Stay home from work or school to avoid spreading the flu

For more information on prevention, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/index.html>. Stay up-to-date on influenza activity in Maryland by visiting <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/influenza/fluwatch/>.

The online Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking Survey (MRITS) was designed to enhance existing influenza surveillance by monitoring influenza-like illnesses among those who may not seek medical care. Sign up at <http://flusurvey.health.maryland.gov/>. For more information about the seriousness of influenza and benefits of vaccination, visit <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/influenza/> or <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/> or call the CDC at 1-800-CDC-INFO.



PHOTO CREDIT: MORGUEFILE, DODGERTONSKILLHAUSE

## Social Security Matters

### Ask Rusty:

## Understanding the Family Maximum

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

#### Dear Rusty:

My husband passed away when our children were 3 and 5 years old. I received benefits for myself, our two children and my 14-year-old son from a previous relationship. When my 14-year-old son turned 18, the amount he received stopped and was added to ours, keeping the total family amount the same. Then in July of this year my youngest daughter turned 16 so I fell off with that amount now going to my kids. Again, the total family amount stayed the same—\$625.00 each for my daughter and son. The very next month in August, my youngest son turned 18 so of course, he fell off. I called Social Security and the representative said that she couldn't guarantee that my son's full amount will go to my daughter. It turns out that none did, decreasing the family amount by \$625.00. My question is why was the family amount reduced when she still has 2 years before she turns 18? **Signed: Confused Survivor**

**Dear Confused:** I understand your confusion—let me clarify what happened in your situation: Social Security (SS) sets a "Family Maximum" amount, which is the most all eligible family members combined can receive from a worker's (your husband's) record. SS uses a rather complex formula to compute the Family Maximum amount, but it comes out to be somewhere between 150% and 180% of your husband's "primary insurance amount" (or "PIA," what he was enti-

pled to when he passed). The family maximum is in effect whenever there are multiple beneficiaries on a worker's record.

The benefits you were personally receiving were "child in care" benefits which entitled you, as a surviving spouse with a minor child, to collect 75% of the benefit your husband was receiving, or entitled to receive, at his death. Child in care benefits stop when the youngest child reaches 16 years of age. Each of your 3 minor children were also entitled to receive 75% of their deceased father's (or stepfather's) benefit amount. Minor children can receive 75% of the deceased parent's benefit until they reach 18 years of age (or 19 if still in high school). However, all benefits are subject to the "family maximum." The total of benefits paid to all survivors of the deceased is limited to that family maximum and, if that amount is reached, all eligible survivors share equally in that family maximum amount. Then as each survivor becomes ineligible due to their age, the remaining survivors each receive a proportional share of the family maximum amount, but that adjustment cannot result in an individual's benefit being more than they are otherwise entitled to (their maximum individual benefit of 75% of your husband's PIA).

When your oldest son turned 18 and became ineligible, the sum of benefits due all remaining survivors was still more than the family maximum, so the family maximum amount was equally divided among the remaining eligible survivors. Then, when your eligibility

for child-in-care benefits ceased when your youngest turned 16, your two remaining minor children each received either a) their equal share of the family maximum, or b) 75% of their father's PIA (their normal entitlement as a surviving minor child). When your youngest son turned 18 and became ineligible, your youngest daughter was then eligible to receive only her full benefit as a minor surviving child (75% of your husband's benefit), which she can continue to receive until she is 18 (or 19 if still in high school). So, as you can see, the family maximum isn't an amount which is fully available to any survivor, it is an amount that restricts the total amount which can be paid to all when there are multiple eligible survivors.

Please note that at age 60 you are once again eligible for a surviving spouse benefit, which will be based upon 100% of the benefit your husband was entitled to at his death, subject, of course, to normal reductions and earnings restrictions for claiming benefits before your full retirement age.

*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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).*

# COMMENTARY

## Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,  
Children's Defense Fund



### ChildWatch:

## God Help Us to End Poverty In Our Time

[October 18–20, 2019] is our 28th Annual National Observance of Children's Sabbaths® Celebration, "Uniting Hearts and Voices to End Child Poverty," when people of every religion will reflect on and respond to the sacred texts, teachings, and traditions that call us to end poverty and act with love and justice to ensure all children have what they need not only to survive but thrive and realize their God given potential. We hope you will join us.

God help us to end poverty in our time.

The poverty of having a child with too little to eat and no place to sleep, no air, sunlight and space to breathe, bask, and grow.

The poverty of watching your child suffer and get sicker and sicker and not knowing what to do or how to get help because you don't have a car or health insurance.

The poverty of working your fingers to the bone every day taking care of somebody else's children and neglecting your own and still being unable to pay your bills.

The poverty of having a job which does not let you afford a stable place to live and being terrified you'll become homeless and lose your children to foster care.

The poverty of losing your job because you cannot find reliable child care or transportation to work.

The poverty of working all your life caring for your children and others and having to start all over again caring for the grandchildren you love.

The poverty of earning a college degree, having children, and taking home \$300 a week if you're lucky.

The poverty of loneliness and isolation and alienation—having no one to call or visit, tell you where to get help, assist you in getting it, or care if you're living or dead.

The poverty of having too much and sharing too little and having the burden of nothing to carry.

The poverty of convenient blindness and deafness and indifference to others, of emptiness and enslavement to things, drugs, power, violence, and fleeting fame.

The poverty of low aim and paltry purpose, weak will and tiny vision, big meetings and small actions, loud talk and sullen grudging service.

The poverty of believing in nothing, standing for nothing, sharing nothing, sacrificing nothing, struggling for nothing.

The poverty of pride and ingratitude for God's gifts of life and children and family and freedom and country and not wanting for others what you want for yourself.

The poverty of greed for more and more and more, ignoring, blaming, and exploiting the needy, and taking from the weak to please the non-needy and strong.

The poverty of addiction to drugs, to drink, to work, to self, to the status quo, and to injustice.

The poverty of fear which keeps you from doing the thing you think and know is right.

The poverty of despair and cynicism.

God help us end poverty in our time in all its faces and places, young and old, rural, urban, suburban and small town too, and in every color of humans You have made everywhere.

God please help us to come together and raise our voices to end poverty on Your earth in all its guises—inside and out—physical and spiritual, so that all our and Your children may live the lives that You intend in the world You created for us to share.

## Hoyer, Brown Meet with U.S. Census Bureau Employees

SUITLAND, Md. (October 8, 2019)—[Last week], Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) and Congressman Anthony Brown (MD-04) met with Census employees and representatives from AFGE to discuss preparations for the 2020 Census. They also spoke about the importance of ensuring the U.S. can recruit and retain the best civil service possible and protecting their pay and benefits.

"I appreciated the opportunity to meet with Census employees and representatives from AFGE this morning in Suitland," said Congressman Hoyer. "Ensuring every American is counted during the 2020 Census is critically important. Every ten years, the Census determines critical decisions for our communities, including how federal resources are allocated for public health, transportation, education and workforce training, and other services. It also is used to apportion seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. That is why it is so important that the process not be politicized as the Trump Administration sought to do. We must work together as a community to

ensure that no one is left out. I join in thanking the federal employees who work at the Census Bureau for the critically important work they do. I will continue to stand with AFGE and federal workers across the country to ensure our civil servants can accomplish their work on behalf of the American people and receive fair pay and benefits."

"The dedicated employees of the U.S. Census are at frontlines as we work together to ensure a fair and accurate count in Maryland and across the country in 2020," said Congressman Brown. "The census determines how state and federal dollars are invested in local communities and will impact funding for education, public health, housing and infrastructure. For every Marylander who isn't counted, the state stands to lose up to \$2,000. I am committed to doing everything we can to boost education and outreach efforts to bolster participation—especially in our hard-to-count neighborhoods—and ensure every person understands the importance of answering the census questions."

### Opioid Epidemic from A1

Partnering with the Center for Substance Abuse Research, the UMD School of Public Health, MayaTech, and the Maryland Rural Health Association, Extension educators will deliver evidence-based training programs to local residents that will help strengthen the ability of rural communities to recognize, understand, and respond to opioid misuse and other behavioral health issues.

Over the next two years, UME will train 120 educators in the evidence-based program Mental Health First Aid. That curriculum will also be delivered to 500 community leaders and service providers within the identified rural regions. Several organizations, including the Rural Maryland Council, the Mental Health Association of Maryland, the Maryland Association of Conservation Districts, and the Maryland Department of Agriculture, have already made commitments to work with UMD

Extension and partners to assist in the program's delivery.

"The misuse and opioid addiction is a national public health concern that kills over 130 people every day nationwide," said Hurtado. "Our study team will collaborate with local partners that have the expertise and are trusted in the community."

"Ideally, increasing their capacity will help them acknowledge, be aware, and understand the mental and behavioral health issues impacting their community," said Kim. "You don't have to be dealing with someone who has an opioid issue to gain resources and knowledge from this training—it trains people to assist anyone with a mental or behavioral health issue."

A second goal of the project is to deliver a proven prevention program, the Botvin LifeSkills curriculum, to middle-school aged children as well, thereby decreasing youth susceptibility to substance abuse. Training will

be provided for 40 educators throughout the next two years, and the program will be provided for 650 students, as well as parents or caregivers.

The team will also increase community capacity for combating the opioid epidemic in rural Maryland by creating an advisory group on Rural Maryland Opioid Issues and creating a virtual network of Extension and community educators, partners, and local practitioners. Six virtual trainings will be available for educators and practitioners, and eight webinars will be produced for individuals, families and communities, all available through an online platform.

"Extension's role is very important because we are a trusted source of health and wellness information within our communities," said Kim. "Great work has been, and is being done in the opioid crisis here in Maryland, and we're helping and supporting those programs by building out the capacity of rural Maryland for a comprehensive approach."

## Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



### To Be Equal:

## 2020 Census National Tele-Town Hall to Feature Activists and Experts on How to Prevent an Undercount

*"The extent to which the 1960 undercount has shortchanged inner-city residents of the political representation and economic assistance to which they are entitled is incalculable. Two million blacks missed in 1960 could symbolize the loss of five congressmen and scores of state legislators to the black community. Moreover, since more and more Federal and state aid to cities is being allocated on a per capita basis, ghetto residents are increasingly being denied this economic support because of Census underenumeration."*

—Whitney M. Young, Jr., testimony to Congress, 1970

The 2020 Census could fail to count more than 4 million people, most of them Black and Latino.

Among the many dire consequences of undercounting people of color is the draining of political influence from diverse communities into predominantly white communities. An unfair census will deprive communities of color of billions of dollars in federal funding for programs like Head Start, Medicare, school lunch programs and transportation and safety infrastructure. It would interfere with the just enforcement of civil rights laws and constitutional protections like fair housing and voting rights.

The National Urban League and our civil rights allies are determined not to let this happen. And you can help.

**Join us on October 22, 8 p.m. Eastern time, for the 2020 Census National Tele-Town Hall.**

We're gathering leaders, activists, clergy, and experts for a conversation on ways to make sure the Black community is counted. Among the speakers is former Georgia gubernatorial candidate and activist Stacy Abrams.

Abrahams this year launched a new group, Fair Vote, that seeks to reach out to "hard-to-count populations" in the Georgia before counting begins. She will be joined by the leaders of the organizing coalition, National Urban League, NAACP, National Action Network, the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, NAACP

Legal Defense Fund, and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

It's easy to participate. Just visit <http://bit.ly/MakeBlackCountTeletownhall> to register.

You can also follow our efforts to ensure a fair Census on social media, using the hashtag #MakeBlackCount. Make Black Count was the campaign conducted by the Coalition for a Black Count, a project of 13 civil rights organizations spearheaded by the National Urban League under the leadership of Whitney M. Young, Jr.

"The Coalition feared that many non-white Americans would be missed in the 1970 Census," Young testified to Congress. That fear was based on an evaluation of the Bureau of the Census' plans for counting minorities. In the opinion of the Coalition, those plans were fraught with many serious deficiencies." Young listed these as inadequate mailing procedures, inadequate assistance for completing the complex forms, poor community educational activity about the Census and distorted publicity from the Bureau of the Census, "which tended to shift the blame for a potentially large undercount to a 'hostile black community.'"

Sound familiar? Threats to an accurate 2020 Census include underfunding, hiring issues, inadequate testing and the lingering effects of a failed attempt to add a citizenship question. Even though the effort to add a citizenship question was defeated, the controversy around it could intimidate some immigrants and their families from responding to the census.

Earlier this year, the non-partisan think tank Urban Institute found that a "high risk" scenario could result not only in Black and Hispanic households being undercounted nationally by almost 4 percent, but also in white households being overcounted by .03 percent nationally.

This raises concerns that "one group will benefit more than it should at the expense of others," the Institute's vice president and chief methodologist, Robert Santos, said.

Fight back against the shortchanging of Black communities. Find out how on the 2020 Census National Tele-Town Hall.

## Prince George's County to Recognize Second Monday in October as "Native American Day" Beginning 2020

*Council Legislation Renames Columbus Day to Native American Day in Prince George's County*

UPPER MARLBORO (October 11, 2019)—The Prince George's County Council, recognizing the history, culture, and accomplishments of Native Americans in Prince George's County and across the nation, has adopted legislation renaming Columbus Day to Native American Day in Prince George's County.

At-Large Council Member Mel Franklin (D), proposer of the legislation, says renaming Columbus Day to Native American Day honors the sacrifices and contributions of Native Americans and ensures that this national holiday accurately reflects history.

"The native and indigenous peoples of Prince George's County and the United States have significantly contributed to the rich fabric of history and culture we celebrate in our commu-

nities and should be rightly recognized. Whether it is the Piscataway-Conoy tribe in the County, or the many Native American tribes indigenous to every region of our nation, recognizing their place as the 'First Americans' is long overdue."

Council Bill-008-2019, adopted unanimously by the County Council in September, takes effect November 8, 2019. The renamed holiday will be formally celebrated as Native American Day in Prince George's County for the first time, on the second Monday in October 2020.

—Angela Rouson, County Council Media

## The Prince George's Post

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## Calendar of Events October 17–October 25, 2019

### 18th Annual Prayer Breakfast

Date and Time: Saturday, October 19, 2019, 8:30 a.m.–noon  
Description: The Prince George's County Section National Council of Negro Women, Incorporated, is having its 18th Annual Prayer Breakfast. The Reverend Marcietta Washington will be the keynote speaker. The event theme is "Where God Guides, He Provides", Isaiah 58:11.

Location: Martin's Crosswinds, 7400 Greenway Center Drive, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Contact: Bonita Brown at 301-651-3356, e-mail bonitabrown13@gmail.com, or Carolyn Tibbs at 240-695-3032, or c2tibbs@verizon.net.

### Scam Awareness Seminar

Date and Time: Saturday, October 19, 2019, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.  
Description: Presented by Rhonda Holyfield-Mangieri, AARP Volunteer Representative. Seminar Topics Covered Include: Online fraud, Cyber scams, Online risk factors, Public Wi-Fi scams, Phishing scams, Steps you can take

Cost: Free. **Reservations required:** Rose Kitt, 301-885-8124, admin@accokeekchog.org

Location: Accokeek First Church of God, 15821 Livingston Road, Accokeek, MD 20607

Contact: 301-283-2116, www.accokeekchog.org

### Maryland Mysteries: Olivia Floyd and the Legend of the Blue Dog

Date and Time: Saturday, October 19, 2019, 1–2 p.m.  
Description: Have you heard the Legend of the Blue Dog? Did you know that communicating with the beyond was extremely fashionable in the late 1800s? And that the most successful spies during the Civil War were women? Historian and reenactor Kate Taylor shares the life story of Ms. Olivia Floyd. Marylander, spy, spiritualist, and some say...author of the Legend of the Blue Dog.

Cost: Free. Limited seating.

Ages: Adults

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

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

### The Great Jack O' Lantern Campfire

Date and Time: Saturday, October 19, 2019, 7–8:30 p.m.  
Description: Join Darnell's Chance House museum staff for an evening of Fall fun! Roast marshmallows over a campfire, view a dazzling display of hand-carved illuminated jack o' lanterns, go on a pumpkin hunt and more! Enjoy popcorn and hot cider.

Cost: \$5/person. No reservation required. Cash only.

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Darnell's Chance House Museum, 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Contact: 301-952-8010; TTY 301-699-2544

### A Night of Blues

Date and Time: Saturday, October 19, 2019, 8–10 p.m.  
Description: BRENCORE Entertainment presents "A Night of Blues" featuring the music of Bobby Blue Bland ("Let the Good Times Roll"), B.B. King ("Thrill is Gone"), Ray Charles ("I Got a Woman"), Etta James ("At Last"), and more. Coming to the stage will be the legend himself, Anthony "Swamp Dog" Clark, and his band who have won numerous blues festivals competitions

Cost: \$25/person; \$20/seniors (60+), students (18&below)

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Harmony Hall Arts Center, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744

Contact: 301-203-6070; TTY 301-699-2254

### Halloween on the Farm

Date and Time: Sunday, October 20, 2019, 4–7 p.m.  
Description: No reservations required. Join Old Maryland Farm for a Halloween- and Fall-themed event! Enjoy hayrides, games, crafts, cider, creepy-crawly animals, costumed contest, and pumpkins for purchase. Bring the family, enjoy the scene.

Cost: \$4 per person

Ages: 2 and older

Location: Old Maryland Farm, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Contact: 301-218-6770; TTY 301-699-2544

### Dine, Learn & Move: Budget for Health

Date and Time: Wednesday, October 23, 2019, 6–8 p.m.  
Description: Living well doesn't have to cost a lot. Learn the secrets of smart shopping for food and fitness equipment that won't break the bank! No registration is required.

Cost: FREE!

Ages: All ages; children under 13 must be with parent

Location: Suitland Community Park School Center, 5600 Regency Lane, Forestville, MD 20747

Contact: 301-736-3518; TTY 301-699-2544

### Living Architecture: Green Walls for Residential and Community Scales

Date and Time: Thursday, October 24, 2019, 6–8 p.m.  
Description: Join the University of Maryland Extension Master Gardener Program for a lecture from Furbish, the company who designed and installed green walls at Stamp Student Union and McKeldin Library! Learn from these experts how you can utilize green walls, green roofs, and vertical gardens in your community. After 4 p.m., Parking Lot Z, JJ, and I are open.

Cost: \$10–\$15 **Register at eventbrite.**

Ages: Adults

Location: Adele H. Stamp Student Union, 3972 Campus Drive, Pyon Su Room, College Park, MD 20742

### Trunk & Treat! at Baden Community Center

Date and Time: Friday, October 25, 2019, 7–8:30 p.m.

**This event sells out quickly—register early!**

Description: An evening of fun for little Goblins! Enjoy costume and trunk decorating contests, hay rides, s'mores, spooky spaces to walk thru and carnival rides! Enter the contests for Best Costume and Best Family Trunk!

Cost: Resident: \$5; \$7 Non-resident (before October 24); Resident: \$7; Non-resident: \$9 (at the door)

Ages: 10 and under with families

Location: Baden Community Center, 13601 Baden-Westwood Road, Brandywine, MD 20613

Contact: 301-888-1500; TTY 301-699-2544

# OUT on the TOWN

## M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation Presents Annual American Indian Festival

*Celebrate the Rich and Diverse Cultures of Native Americans*

By KIRA CALM LEWIS and IYANA MOORE  
**Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation**

RIVERDALE, Md. (October 10, 2019)—Musicians, dancers, artists, storytellers, and more from Prince George's County will gather for another year of a popular Department of Parks and Recreation festival. The Annual American Indian Festival offers something for all ages and gives a firsthand opportunity to learn about local American Indian culture. Activities include craft demonstrations, interactive exhibits, games, traditional foods, and other festival favorites.

The American Indian Village at Patuxent River Park, the location of the festival each year, is a replicated Eastern Woodland Indian

Village giving visitors an opportunity to explore the history of the First Peoples of Prince George's County, Maryland and the surrounding areas.

Saturday, October 19, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Patuxent River Park, 16000 Croom Airport

Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

FREE admission, parking, nominal fees for some activities



PHOTO COURTESY M-NCPPC

## While We Waited: Works by Khánh H. Lê

Date and Time: Opening Reception: Friday, October 18, 6:30–9 p.m. Exhibit Open October 18–November 17, 2019

Description: For Khánh H. Lê, identity plays a central role in artistic output. Recent refugee crises have made the artist reflect on his personal experience of waiting with his family for permission to come to the United States in the late 80s. Through prints and mixed-media collage, he layers together fragmented images, including photographs of D.C.'s Vietnamese community and memories, to create a new historical narrative that is reflective of the tension within identity.

Location: Pyramid Atlantic Art Center, 4318 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville, MD 20781

Contact: 301.608.9101



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF PYRAMID ATLANTIC ART CENTER

**Khánh H. Lê, *We're Still OK*, multimedia**

## Maryland Zoo Celebrates 36th Annual ZooBoo!

*The Elephant Pumpkin Smash is Back!*

By CLAIRE AUBEL

### The Maryland Zoo

BALTIMORE, Md. (October 8, 2019)—For the 36th year, The Maryland Zoo brings growls and ghouls together in ZooBOOO! presented by Chase. The Zoo offers the wildly festive event on October 25, 26, and 27, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. ZooBOOO! includes safe Halloween trick-or-treating, visits from our Animal Ambassadors, two costume contests each day, carnival games, crafts, a "not-so-spooky" hay maze, family entertainment and much more!

The Zoo's newly expanded and renovated

African Journey habitats set the stage for one of the most popular Halloween traditions—the Elephant Pumpkin Smash! Watch as African elephants Anna, Felix, Samson and Tuffy enjoy their fall treats in a big way at 11:00 am each day of the event weekend.

Thanks to our generous sponsor, Chase, the event is free for Zoo members and free with paid general Zoo admission. Activity sponsors include Goddard School, Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital, and Stifel. Some activities do require an additional fee.

Entertainment Stage Schedule:

- Silly Goose & Val's Musical Zoo, 10:30 a.m. show

- KAPOW Show—featuring Evan Young, 1:30 p.m. show
- ZooBOOO! Costume Contests sponsored by Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital
- 11:30 a.m. & 2:30 p.m. daily. Registration for the first contest closes 11:15 a.m. and 2:15 pm. for the second contest.

Many Zoo animals receive pumpkin enrichment during the festivities, as well. Enrichment activities are designed to add variety and stimulation to the daily routines of animals at the Zoo. They also showcase the keepers care and knowledge of the animals, as the treats are specially created for each species.

The daily enrichment schedule is as follows:

|       | Friday                 | Saturday               | Sunday                 |
|-------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 10:30 | Lions                  | Lions                  | Lions                  |
| 11:00 | Otters/Bobcats         | Otters/Bobcats         | Otters/Bobcats         |
| 11:00 | Elephant Pumpkin Smash | Elephant Pumpkin Smash | Elephant Pumpkin Smash |
| 11:30 | Farmyard               | Farmyard               | Farmyard               |
| 12:30 | Bears                  | Bears                  | Bears                  |
| 1:30  | Leopard                | Leopard                | Leopard                |
| 2:00  | Cheetahs               | Warthogs               | Warthogs               |
| 2:30  | Chimpanzees            | Chimpanzees            | Chimpanzees            |

Parents and kids of all ages are encouraged to bring trick-or-treat bags and wear costumes! If you forget your costume, face painting will be available for a small additional cost. This event is rain or shine.

For updates on ZooBOOO! presented by Chase and other Zoo events, visit [www.marylandzoo.org](http://www.marylandzoo.org) and [www.facebook.com/marylandzoo](https://www.facebook.com/marylandzoo).

## Earth TALK™

## One-For-One: For the Planet?

Dear EarthTalk:

*Are any companies in the "one-for-one" charitable space pioneered by shoe maker TOMS focusing specifically on environmental sustainability?*

—Becky B., Los Angeles, CA

TOMS may have been the first company to implement a "one-for-one" model, whereby it matches customer purchases with donations of free shoes to those in need in developing countries. But dozens of other businesses are now following suit with their own so-called "in-kind aid" programs. And yes indeed, several are focused on improving environmental conditions one way or another.

To wit, Brooklyn-based MPOWERD makes and sells solar powered task lights and other related off-grid gear—and donates another of each item sold to someone in need through partnerships with 650 "on-the-ground" non-profits in one of six developing countries. The company's mission is to distribute clean energy options that provide a more economical and environmentally friendly approach to everyday tasks, whether users are in New York City or the Andes mountains. MPOWERD is a Certified B Corporation, meaning it pledges to use the power of business to build a more inclusive and sustainable economy and to operate in an ethical and environmentally responsible manner. Maybe it's finally time to order some solar-powered string lights for that patio you've been ignoring?

Another eco-friendly business in the "one-for-one" sector is LifeStraw, which makes pocket-sized water filters that remove 99.99 percent of waterborne bacteria so

users can stay hydrated and healthy even if there's no clean water source around. While LifeStraws are great for backpackers or others who choose to go off-grid on adventures, they are also handy—and potentially life-saving—in developing countries, where the company donates one filter for every actual customer purchase. In many cases, LifeStraw partners directly with schools in remote areas of developing countries to ensure that students can focus on their studies instead of worrying about where their next sip of water might come from—and whether or not it will make them sick.

While these one-for-one programs look good from a public relations standpoint and often actually really benefit those in need, critics wonder if the companies behind them could have a bigger impact through alternative models of charitable giving. "Handing out aid in kind gives plenty to worry about," reports The Economist. "It could suck life from local markets, and foster a culture of aid-dependency." Another criticism of the model is that handing out goods instead of cash runs the risk of spending money on things people don't need and won't use.

Even TOMS itself seems to be shying away from the in-kind donation model it pioneered in favor of making direct contributions to worthwhile charities. The company recently started channeling some of the profits from its new line of coffee to non-profits



IMAGE COURTESY EARTHTALK

**Brooklyn-based MPOWERD makes and sells solar powered task lights and other related off-grid gear—and donates another of each item sold to someone in need through partnerships with 650 "on-the-ground" non-profits in one of six developing countries.**

like Water for People, which provides sustainable, community-owned water systems (and safe drinking water as a result) to impoverished communities in seven developing countries. These donations are not tied directly to sales and represent a new direction for TOMS charitable giving.

While it may have its issues, the "one-for-one" model remains a great sell to consumers who like to know just how their purchasing power is being harnessed for the betterment of humanity and the planet.

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](mailto:question@earthtalk.org).

# COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

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**WESTPHALIA**  
United Methodist Church

"A CHURCH ON THE REACH FOR GOD"  
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Upper Marlboro, MD

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**8 and 10:30 a.m.**  
**Sunday School: 9:30**

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

**Rev. Dr. Timothy West,**  
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20785 (301) 773-6655

Sunday Biblical Institute:  
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Sunday Worship:  
7:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.  
Saturday Worship:  
6:30 p.m.

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

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**Dr. Henry P. Davis III, Pastor**  
**www.fhbp.org**

**BAPTIST**

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Stephen L. Wright, Sr., Pastor

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

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

**UNITED METHODIST**

**Union**  
United Methodist Church

14418 Old Marlboro Pike,  
Upper Marlboro, MD

**Church (301) 627-7389**

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

**Rev. Dr. Kendrick D. Weaver,**  
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Soulful Thursdays  
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Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745  
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Worship Service - 11:00 A.M.  
Wed. Prayer Service & Bible Study - 7:00 P.M.  
Office (301) 839-1166  
Fax (301) 839-1721  
E-mail: [FHBC@verizon.net](mailto:FHBC@verizon.net)  
Pastor: Rev. Waymond B. Duke

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### Ride-Sharing from A1

Both apps have safety features built in that allow drivers and passengers to report dangerous or concerning behavior right from their smartphones.

During a ride, with both top ride-hailing platforms, drivers and passengers have access to support from the company and can reach emergency personnel with the click of a few buttons within the app.

Both apps' safety hubs display the current location and vehicle information, so that they can easily transmit that information.

Uber has rolled out "911 Integration" in more than 60 cities, and counting, spokeswoman Kayla Whaling told Capital News Service. 911 Integration automatically sends the location, license plate and the vehicle's make and model to the dispatcher when the user taps the emergency assist button on their phone.

The apps also use GPS tracking of trips as an indication of when something may be wrong, for example if a vehicle is stopped at an unplanned location for an extended period of time.

Uber's "RideCheck" and Lyft's "Smart Trip Check-In," both of which debuted last month, send a push notification to both the driver and passenger to ask whether they need assistance when a trip incurs a long delay.

Tracking rides has also allowed Uber users to share trips with another person. A similar ride-progress tracking tool is "coming soon" to Lyft, according to its website.

Drivers are also given the right to use their own discretion to protect themselves.

"If drivers feel unsafe, and want to cancel the ride, they have full autonomy to do so," Whaling said.

Thomas Widmer, an Uber and Lyft driver in Austin, Texas, said he once found himself in an unsafe situation and used his own judgment to end a ride early.

Widmer described a passenger who he believed to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs and was being very aggressive and trying to dictate how he was driving. After the passenger's repeated attempts to get Widmer to stop for him to urinate, Widmer took him to a shopping plaza and ended the trip.

After reviewing the situation, Widmer said Uber told him that he wouldn't be matched with that account in the future. But, Widmer said, the account belonged to somebody else, and said there should be a feature to identify the actual passenger when it's not their account.

Matching riders with the correct drivers garnered heavy media attention after an incident in March.

University of South Carolina student Samantha Josephson requested an Uber, but got into a vehicle that officers believe she incorrectly thought was her ride, Columbia Police Chief Skip Holbrook said in a March 29 news conference. Josephson was later found dead in a wooded area in South Carolina, Holbrook said.

In June, New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy signed "Sami's Law" in Josephson's hometown of Robbinsville that requires ride-hailing vehicles to have a scannable barcode to confirm the ride, along with two identifying markers on the front windshield and back window.

U.S. Rep. Christopher Smith, R-N.J. introduced a similar bill at the federal level, also called Sami's Law, in June.

Uber announced on Sept. 26 that an optional feature will provide riders a unique four-digit PIN number to give the driver before entering the vehicle. The driver must then enter the correct pin on the app before the trip begins. This feature is expected to be available on the app in November, according to Uber.

But when the ride gets underway, problems can still arise. Himmerich said a logical step to adding another layer of protection would be adding cameras inside cars.

"It's pretty shocking that there isn't cameras inside of every car," said Himmerich, who drives in Southern California. "With so much technology available, it would be easy to set up cameras."

When rides do go wrong, Uber has a Special Investigations Unit to look into incidents.

A Sept. 26 report in the *Washington Post* found concerns that the unit prioritized protecting the company over passenger safety, citing interviews with more than 20 current and former Uber employees.

Uber, however, disputed those claims made about the unit, created in 2017 to, "provide specialized customer support to riders and drivers dealing with very serious real-life situations," the company said.

"We are very proud of this team's work and know they approach their jobs with tremendous compassion and understanding. Characterizing this team as anything but providing support to people after a difficult experience is just wrong," an Uber representative said in a statement. "We will continue to put safety at the heart of everything we do and implement new approaches, based on expert guidance, to the benefit of both our customers and employees."

Despite the concerns about ride-hailing platforms, the industry continues to grow. From 2017 to 2018, the number of ride-hailing users increased from 51.5 million to 58.4 million, according to Statista. That number is projected to reach 97.4 million in 2023.

"There's a lot of safety issues because when you're picking up strangers in your car... there's a lot of room for error or things to go bad," Himmerich said. "You're in such a tight space with another individual, and a lot of the times there's no one around."

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