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Reid Temple AME Church Feeds 500 Needy Families To Help End Growing Community Food Insecurity

By HANNAH N. JONES
Reid Temple AME

GLENN DALE, Md. (April 2, 2020)—Reid Temple AME partnered with Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) and community leaders to feed 500 needy families, helping to end food insecurity in the community and showing how to reimagine service during the COVID-19, coronavirus pandemic. On Saturday, April 4 at Reid Temple AME Church, a "grab n' go grocery giveaway" took place primarily to benefit Reid Temple's adopted PGCPS school families impacted by school closures. Reid Temple AME Pastor, Rev. Dr. Mark E.

Whitlock Jr. says "no child should ever go hungry, and it is our responsibility to meet the needs of the marginalized as well as our seniors who are the most vulnerable."

Previously, on Saturday, March 21, 2020, Reid Temple mobilized its ministries to feed over 100 seniors in the community and regularly makes wellness check-in calls, takes medicine and other essential items to seniors.

Reid Temple continues to lead—practicing community responsibility while building the beloved community safely. To implement Governor Hogan's stay-at-home mandate, Reid Temple has canceled all in-person gatherings, requiring social distancing, and

exploring innovative means to meet community needs.

On March 15, 2020, to take practical measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 virus and ensure the health of the larger community, the mega church closed its administrative offices and moved to online worship only. Simply put, Reid Temple is Building the Beloved Community Online—offering a variety of ways to stay engaged with its faith family and meet the spiritual, physical, and social needs of all people.

To support and contribute to Reid Temple's community work, visit www.reidtemple.org/give or call 301-352-0320.

Capital Region Economic Development Organizations Join Forces With a Focus on Collaboration, Cooperation and Inclusion

By LORI VALENTINE
PGCEDC

LARGO, Md. (April 6, 2020)—Last Wednesday, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) joined with economic development organizations from Anne Arundel, Charles, Frederick, Howard, and Montgomery Counties, known as the Maryland National Capital Region Economic Development Alliance, in signing a Joint Statement on Regional Collaboration among Maryland Capital Region Local Economic Development Organizations to outline their collective commitment to growing a stronger Maryland Capital Region.

The genesis for the Joint Statement began in October 2019 when the six Capital Region economic development organizations began meeting to discuss economic development issues of mutual concern to their 3.3 million citizens, representing over 52% of the Maryland economy. While the COVID-19 crisis sweeping the nation has created a greater urgency for regional collaboration, this Joint Statement is an agreement to: explore joint marketing and promotion; establish shared rules for ethical marketing; formalize protocols for communications with regard to business prospects; evaluate policy changes to address competitiveness; evaluate the joint pursuit of targeted industry sectors; and engage other regional economic development partners.

The six economic development organizations have been teleconferencing weekly since the onslaught of the COVID-19 crisis and have engaged in a strong exchange of shared experiences, issues, resources, best practices, and challenges. Along with federal and

State resources, the six economic development organizations are working collectively to create regional solutions to the economic recovery of the Capital region, a commitment reflected in the addition of language referring to cooperation in addressing emergencies such as COVID-19.

The signing of this Joint Statement via teleconference, because of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, moves the gathering of the six County economic development organizations to a new level of regional cooperation and collaboration.

"This Joint Statement is more important in today's COVID-challenged economy than when we first agreed to it in concept more than six months ago," said David S. Iannucci, President and CEO of the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation. "In a normal economic climate, which will return, we know that we are more competitive working together than separately. COVID-19 crystallizes for the six of us that collaboration is critical to getting through this unprecedented economic, and of course, health crisis".

The Joint Statement was signed by:

Jill Seamon, Anne Arundel County Economic Development Corporation

Darrell Brown, Charles County Economic Development Department

Larry Twele, Howard County Economic Development Authority

Ben Wu, Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation

David S. Iannucci, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation

Helen Prophetter, Frederick County Office of Economic Development

Kids Bouncing Off The Walls During the Pandemic and Falling Behind in Their Schoolwork?

Delight them with this free, award-winning series of animal e-books & lesson plans

By MARK STUBIS
American Humane

WASHINGTON (March 30, 2020)—The scene is becoming all-too-familiar: You're trying to get work done while sheltering at home during the COVID-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, the kids are bouncing off the walls with boredom and you're beginning to worry that being out of school for so long, they will start falling behind in their studies.

What better way to keep your kids engaged, happy, and learning than by giving them the present of an exciting, free series of animal stories and lessons, designed to boost their reading and math skills, while encouraging them to care for and help conserve the remarkable, endangered and disappearing creatures of the Earth?

The award-winning "Humane Heroes" series of free e-books for elementary, middle-school and high-school students were created by American Humane, the country's first national humane organization, and the publishers of the popular Chicken Soup for the Soul series of books.



PHOTO COURTESY AMERICAN HUMANE

The award-winning "Humane Heroes" series of free e-books for elementary, middle-school and high-school students were created by American Humane, the country's first national humane organization, and the publishers of the popular Chicken Soup for the Soul series of books.

Through inspirational stories of animal rescue, rehabilitation, and humane conservation being performed at the world's leading zoological institutions, and professionally developed lesson plans developed by teacher-trusted Resources for Learning and tied to English Language Arts (ELA) and social and emotional learning (SEL) skills, "Humane Heroes" makes learning fun and teaches children kindness and compassion at the same time.

Parents who homeschool or who are looking for a way to spend quality time together during this period of isolation will also enjoy reading and going through the easy-to-follow downloadable lesson plans with their children.

Among the animals they will meet are a baby cheetah who was orphaned and found a special friend, a penguin who was able to walk again with the help of a 3-D printer, and an abandoned baby dolphin who was saved.

"American Humane has been teaching children about the value of treating animals well for more than a century," said American Humane President and CEO Dr. Robin Ganzert, who conceived the project. "We hope that during this time when children are out of school and looking for things to do that our Humane Heroes books and curricula can bring

See **SCHOOLWORK** Page A5

The Library and Old Greenbelt Theatre Launches Crowdcast Storytelling with ASL

Visit <https://www.crowdcast.io/e/storytelling-with-asl> to join us at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday mornings for an ASL reading adventure.

By DONNA SCOTT-MARTIN
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (April 1, 2020)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) in partnership with the Old Greenbelt Theatre is excited to offer Storytelling with ASL hosted by Erikson Young, [which started last] Saturday on Crowdcast. This new weekly virtual storytelling program,

recommended for ages 2–5, will continue for the duration of the public health emergency.

Host Erikson Young will present beloved children's stories from the Library's vast ebook collection. These programs, presented in ASL only, are free and open to the public. Each program will feature two ebooks.

Erikson Young is fluent in American Sign Language (ASL), Costa Rican Sign Language (LESCO), and Kenyan Sign Language

(KSL). He has a master's degree in Social Justice in Intercultural Relations (Education and Training) from SIT Graduate Institute in Brattleboro, Vermont. His bachelor's degree is from Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. Young is a board member of the D.C. Association of the Deaf (DCAD).

Not only is Erickson the Procurement Analyst for Smithsonian Facilities at Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, in his free time, he enjoys his volunteer job as Portrait Signs at Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery. Prior to coming to the Smithsonian Institution, Young began his volunteering career as a Peace Corps Volunteer and served in Kenya, East Africa, from 2005–2007.

Deadline Extended to July 15 For Uninsured Marylanders to Enroll in Health Coverage When They File State Taxes

Partnership between Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, Comptroller of Maryland creates an easy path to sign up for health coverage

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Health Benefit Exchange

BALTIMORE, Md. (April 2, 2020)—The Maryland Easy Enrollment Health Insurance Program, a partnership between the Office of Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot and Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, the agency that runs Maryland Health Connection, will allow uninsured Marylanders to enroll in health insurance through July 15. The extended date coincides with the new state income tax filing and payment deadline,

which is now July 15, 2020 due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

This year, a new question on state tax forms (502 and 502B) asks tax filers if they want to share some information, like household size and income, with the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange to see if they are eligible for free or low-cost health insurance. Since the program began this year, more than 35,000 households have checked the box, and after receiving a notice from Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, have 35 days from the date on the mailed notice

to enroll. So far, more than 1,600 have enrolled in health coverage. About 95% have qualified for free or low-cost coverage. And more than 40% of all enrollments have been by young adults ages 18–34, higher than the 30% range more typical for Maryland marketplace enrollments in recent years.

Free help enrolling is available by phone from trained navigators, brokers and the call center for those who file their taxes before July 15 and check the box on their tax form, at: <https://www.marylandhealthconnection.gov/find-help/>

Safeway and Safeway Foundation Launch Major Fundraiser to Fight Hunger During COVID-19 Crisis

Funds will be used to provide meals to school children, seniors, and others financially impacted or isolated during this time.

By KERRY LYNN BOHEN
for Safeway

LANHAM, Md. (March 31, 2020)—Safeway's Eastern Division and Safeway Foundation are helping to fight hunger in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis. With millions of Americans out of work, free school meals and meals for seniors harder to access, the need for hunger relief assistance is substantial. Safeway and Safeway Foundation have joined parent company Albertsons Companies and Albertsons Companies Foundation to announce a pledge of \$3 million and the launch of Help Feed Families During This Crisis, a major fundraising campaign to help feed families in need during the COVID-19 crisis. The campaign takes place through April 30 in Safeway stores in Maryland, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Delaware.

Hunger relief programs are stretched to capacity due to the

necessary measures schools, businesses, and governments have taken to curb the spread of COVID-19. As an extension of Albertsons Cos.' Nourishing Neighbors program—a program to support hunger relief organizations, with a particular focus on breakfast programs for kids—the Help Feed Families During This Crisis fund will assist neighbors in need.

Donations made to the Help Feed Families During This Crisis fundraiser conducted in Safeway stores will be collected at store check stands. Funds will stay local so donors can help fight hunger in their communities in the following ways:

- Keep food banks stocked so they can respond to increased demand
- Support emergency meal distribution programs at schools

See **FIGHT HUNGER** Page A5

INSIDE

- Events Cancelled or Postponed
 - Student Meal Pick-Ups Changed to Twice a Week, as of April 6
 - Bible & Leadership Institute: 2020 Spring Semester
 - YMCA Opens Branches and Program Centers to Provide Day Care for Essential Workers
- Around the County**, Page A2

Congressman Anthony Brown and Army Leaders Inspect FedEx Field Coronavirus Testing Site

"Communities in Maryland and across the country need help, and we are responding," said Congressman Anthony Brown. "The outbreak of coronavirus poses an unprecedented challenge..."

Community, Page A3

Prince George's County Launches Business Relief Fund

To Be Equal: Trump Administration Hides Behind Coronavirus Crisis

Business / Commentary, Page A4

Social Security Benefits Will Be Paid On Time and Other Updates Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Visit the agency's COVID-19 web page at www.socialsecurity.gov/coronavirus/ for important information and updates.

Features / Classifieds, Page A5

TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Four candidates running for two Morningside Council Seats

Morningsiders are due to go to the polls on Monday, May 4, to vote for two Town Council Members. The last time I checked, there were no plans to cancel. But, of course, things are changing every day in this coronavirus epidemic.

If the polls open, hours for voting will be 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

I plan to cruise through the Town and see if campaign signs are showing up on lawns and fences.

Four candidates are in the running. Here they are:

John Anthony

moved to Morningside in 1968 when he was eight. He has been married to Ruth for 41 years. They have three children; two of them, as well as four granddaughters, live in Morningside. John has served as Councilmember and Vice Mayor in the past. Now retired, he has more time to dedicate himself to helping govern the town, keeping Morningside “a safe and pleasant place to live.”

Sharon Fowler

has served on the Town Council since 2014 and is seeking her 4th term. She has attended Maryland Municipal League Training, coordinated recreation events, updated the Town Ordinance, brought the municipal center up to code and voted to keep the town tax rate the same throughout her terms. She appreciates working with a wonderful team—the Mayor and Council, staff, local leaders and most of all, the residents. “I believe getting involved makes a difference.”

Sheila V. Scott

has lived in the town for 29 years and previously served as Vice Mayor and Councilwoman. She’s involved with County and Maryland’s Departments of Environment, the Sustainable Business Community Connection Network and other organizations valuable as resources for the town. As an advocate, she aids seniors with housing, health and medical concerns. With all her experience and knowledge, she feels she is “an excellent candidate for Councilwoman of Morningside.”

Dave Williams

was born and grew up in Morningside, part of the Williams family which has lived in the town for four generations. He was a longtime member of the Morningside Sportsmen’s Club that sponsored Santa’s annual food drive and other activities for the good of the town. He says,

“Morningside is home to me and my family and I would love the opportunity to service my community on the Town Council.”

In the time of Coronavirus

Time (April 6/13 issue) has a two-page spread of Father Matthew Fish of Holy Family Church, Hillcrest Heights, sitting on a folding chair in the church parking lot, behind his makeshift confessional. “I got some clamps, found an old curtain, and duct-taped and clamped it together.” No mention of how many sinners showed up.

Also, Father Patrick Lewis, pastor of my parish, St. Philip’s, has been holding a Benediction service on the parking lot, and setting up space to hear Confessions as cars make their way around the circle in front of the rectory.

The National Guard has set up a screening and testing location in the Washington Redskins’ stadium parking lot. Tests are available only by preregistration through a physician.

Daughter Kathleen drove from West Chester, Ohio, in early March to help me celebrate my birthday, planning to return home in a week or two. But (thank God!) she’s still here. We visit with family while they sit on the deck and chat, through the screen door, while we sit on the enclosed porch.

Email what you and your family are doing to while away the virus.

Changing landscape

For a list of restaurants offering delivery or pick-up in National Harbor, visit www.nationalharbor.com/dine/togo.

Free meals for children are now available at several locations in South County, including Danbury Youth Center, 5501 Silver Hill Road, Forestville: Mondays and Fridays, 12-1 p.m. And at St. Stephen’s Baptist Church, 5757 Temple Hill Road, Temple Hills: Tuesdays, 12-2 p.m.

Frank C. Journey, retired D.C. fireman

Frank Columbus Journey Jr., 79, who grew up in Morningside, son of the late Frank and Mae Journey of Morgan Road, died at home in Clarke County, Va., on March 28.

He was appointed to Engine 6 of the Washington D.C. Fire Department on Nov. 1, 1961 and was retired from Engine

29 as Captain on Feb. 29, 1988. He was a member of the Retired Firefighters Association of Washington.

Survivors include his wife of 39 years, Cyndy; daughter Robyn Rogers (Shane), granddaughter Candace Crosen (Matelin); brothers Don and Gary. A memorial of his life will be held at a later date. Condolences may be sent to www.endersandshirley.com.

Bubba Nelson, ate crabs and drank Coors ‘til his last days

Frances Leroy “Bubba” Nelson, 78, one of the original Prince George’s County motorcycle officers, died March 16 in Venice, Florida. He was born in Chaptico, one of the 15 children of James and Beatrice Nelson.

A career police officer, he participated in the torch run for the 1984 Olympics, rode in President Nixon’s inaugural parade, and provided escort to dignitaries, including Presidents Reagan, H.W. Bush and Clinton, Queen Elizabeth II and the Queen of Jordan. He was a mounted officer for the Maryland Park Police, and served with the Hyattsville Police.

But, he was a true St. Mary’s County native—ate crabs and drank Coors Light with his family only days before he died. He’s survived by Lori, his wife of 50 years, daughter Katherine, son Tom, four grandkids and siblings. Services were held previously.

The Washington Post obit reports: “Bubba was a man of many names... Frank, Bubba, Leroy, Cleo, Yo-Yo and likely a few others that can’t be printed.”

Milestones

Happy birthday to Donna Wood on April 11; (Darlie) Fay Norton and Donald Brown Jr., April 13; Donald Brown Sr., Sarah Shipman, Autumn Williams and Fr. Jeffrey Samaha, April 14; Bill Ward, Eva Hay and Les Bornman, April 15; Tara Destiny Proctor, Edna Ducote and Wanda Brooke, April 16; Eloise Carnes, Ruby Cunningham and Veronica Frostbutter, April 17.

Happy anniversary to Tex and Rickie Beardmore on their 56th, April 11; John and Emily Tierney, their 70th (!) on April 15; Edward and Jane (Martin) Talbert, their 71st (!) on April 16; Chuck and Laura Smith Jenkins, their 44th on April 10.

An especially Blessed Easter to all of you!

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

Brandywine-Aquasco

STAR STUDENT ATHLETE

A Bowie State University sophomore was selected the 2020 Bowler of the Year by the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA), after being named Rookie Bowler of the Year last season.

Cauly Snowden had the CIAA’s highest scoring average this season at 175.08 pins per match in 26 bowling contests. The nursing major also had the highest total pin count across three league events with 4,552.

The Bowie State Bulldogs claimed the CIAA Northern Division title with a 30-6 conference record (22-2 in division Play). The Bulldogs have won five straight CIAA Bowling Championships. Media Contact: Damita Chambers, dchambers@bowiestate.edu.

HISTORY OF CLINTON, MARYLAND

“Clinton was founded in the 1770’s. The town, then named Surratt’s Villa was a simple crossroads with a few buildings. Clinton became known as Surrattsville in the 1800’s. The main building served as the post office, an inn and tavern, and a polling place.”

“This main residence was one of two properties owned by the widowed Marry Surratt; the second property was in Washington; D.C. Clinton is historically known for its role in the American Civil War concerning the Abraham Lincoln assassination.” The information pertaining to the history of Clinton was taken from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clinton,_Maryland

BSU’S WINNING WOMEN

Regina Robinson (00) with more than 15 years of experience is a sought-after expert and thought leader in the field of education. She is a global speaker, best-selling author and college coach. Regina provides education strategies and accountability for middle school through college students, as she empowers them to connect their vision to a future plan of action. Regina prides herself on providing families with step-by-step guidance to “Winning the Game of College Admissions” in their efforts to identifying the right college fit socially, academically and financially. Information from Office of Alumni Engagement, alumni@bowiestate.edu.

SOME HISTORICAL PLACES

Listed are some Historical Places in Prince George’s County,

Maryland. Billingsley House Museum located at 6900 Green Landing Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Telephone number is 301-627-0730. Greenbelt Public Library located at 11 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770. Telephone number is 301-345-5800. Darnall’s Chance House Museum located at 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Telephone number is 301-952-8010. Oxon Hill Manor located at 6901 Oxon Hill Road, Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745. Telephone number is 301-839-7782.

CENSUS 2020

Have you completed your 2020 Census? Challenge your neighbors to complete the 2020 Census TODAY, by visiting My2020Census.gov or calling 1-844-330-2020. If you have not received your respondent identification code in the mail, you will still be able to go online to complete the Census form by selecting “If you do not have a Census ID. click here.” If you have additional questions about the online process, please visit <https://www.census.gov/library/video/2019/preview-2020-census-video-language-guide.html> for a brief overview.

Show your neighbors that you are “Prince George’s County Proud” and “Proud to be Counted,” by changing the profile frame to your Facebook page. Information from my e-mail from Prince George’s County Council Media councilmedia@pgccouncil.us. Your Prince George’s County 2020 Census Team. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Nextdoor@PGCensus2020. “Please be safe and continue practicing social distancing” Councilman Sydney J. Harrison, District 9.

GARDEN PLOTS

There are four plot locations that are situated around Prince George’s County where residents can come together and garden. Visit pgparks.com for more information.

APRIL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday to Barron Neal, Samuel Cosmus, Samuel Bell, Claudette Oghogho, William Stroman, III, William Stroman, IV, Catherine Brooks, Audrey Davis, Lula Hawkins, Doris Slater, Lawrence Dorsey, Freda Farmer, Andrienne Johnson, Shakira Lanier, Joseph Lewis, Mildred Makle, Wanda Makle, Zilpha Pinkney, Carolyn Savoy, Rhoda Slade, Janice Watkins and Audrey Johnson who are celebrating birthdays in April.

Around the County

Events Cancelled or Postponed

Cancelled: Prince George’s County Growing Green with Pride Day
Postponed: New Horizons Supported Services, Inc. “A Fairway to Help” golf tournament

Cancelled: Hospice of the Chesapeake’s 12th Annual Fashion for a Cause

Student Meal Pick-Ups Changed to Twice a Week, as of April 6

Starting Monday, April 6, Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) students can pick up a week’s worth of “grab and go” meals in fewer visits.

Meal pick-up will occur twice a week going forward. Students can get meals for two days on Mondays and three days on Wednesdays. There will be no meal service on Monday, April 13 due to spring break. Service will resume Tuesday, April 14 with one meal; three meals will be available on Wednesday, April 15.

Breakfast, lunch and a snack are available at 43 sites. Parents may now pick up meals for students who are unable to come to the site by showing a student ID or report card.

Meals are available from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Parents and guardians are not required to accompany students nor are students required to show ID.

—Prince George’s County Public Schools

Bible & Leadership Institute: 2020 Spring Semester

The eight (8) week Spring semester of Accokeek First Church of God’s Bible & Leadership Institute is offering the following classes, online, via Zoom, which start Saturday, April 18, 2020. Fees for all classes: \$45.00 (includes tuition and textbook)

1. God of Covenant: A Study of Genesis 12–50: 9–10:15 a.m.
2. Exalt His Name: Understanding Music and Worship 101: 10:30–11:45 a.m.

Registrations are open now up to April 18, 2020. To register and learn more about our entire course offerings and benefits, go to: <http://accokeekchog.org/bible-institute/> or email to: adminasst@accokeekchog.org. Or call Rose Kitt at 301-885-8124. All Are Welcome!

—Rose Kitt, Accokeek First Church of God

Fight Family Cabin Fever

Grow vegetables with your kids! It doesn’t take much money or space to grow fresh, delicious produce.

The HGIC Youth Gardening web page (<https://extension.umd.edu/hgic/topics/youth-gardening>) has some resources to help you, especially:

- (PDF) GE 133 Twenty Vegetable Crops for School Container Gardens
- (PDF) Crops for Youth Gardening

We also have information on raised beds, container gardens, and growing transplants.

—University of Maryland Extension, HGIC, Spring 2020 newsletter

51st Annual Laurel Art Guild Juried Exhibition

The 51st Annual Laurel Art guild show may have been interrupted, but you can still view the show online at <https://laurelartguild.org/LAGOpenShop/index.php?category/1>. We hope you enjoy!

—April at Montpelier newsletter, Montpelier Arts Center

YMCA Opens Several Branches and Program Centers in Maryland to Provide Day Care for Essential Workers

WASHINGTON (April 3, 2020)—The YMCA of Metropolitan Washington has opened several of its branches and program centers in order to provide emergency childcare support for those in the community who are delivering critical services at this time.

YMCA Prince George’s County (at Trinity Lutheran Church, 6600 Laurel Bowie Rd., Bowie, Md. 20715) will take children ages 4 to 12. The location will be open from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. (schedule may change and expand depending on need, please check ymcadc.org/EmergencyChildcare.) As the pandemic continues, the Y hopes to be able to open other centers.

Regarding childcare for emergency workers, Angie L. Reese-Hawkins, YMCA of Metropolitan Washington, president and CEO, advised parents, who are essential workers in other areas of the Washington, D.C. region, to check the website, www.ymcadc.org/EmergencyChildcare, regularly for other locations and hours.

YMCA staff have thoroughly cleaned, and will continue to clean, the participating facilities throughout the day and each evening and they’ll conduct a health screening of each child and care giver arriving at each facility. Children will be provided with breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack.

Space is limited at each site and available on a first-come, first-served drop-in basis for essential workers only. To register, go to www.ymcadc.org/EmergencyChildCare. Parents will need to provide proof that they’re an essential worker and provide a work schedule.

—Linda Blake, The YMCA of Metropolitan Washington

RDA Announces Application Deadline Extension To May 7, 2020 For Its Commercial Property Improvement Program

LARGO, Md. (April 1, 2020)—The Redevelopment Authority of Prince George’s County (RDA) has \$900,000 in available funding for its Commercial Property Improvement Program (CPIP) and is now accepting applications for funding.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the application deadline has been extended to Thursday, May 7, 2020 by 3 p.m. The CPIP was established to assist owners of shopping centers and main street retail space with exterior facade, place making, lighting and major building systems improvements that enhance retail competitiveness and viability.

Email all questions to Victor Sherrod at the RDA: vsherrod@co.pg.md.us Responses to all questions will be posted to the RDA’s website on Thursday, April 23, 2020.

For more information visit the RDA’s website: <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/865/Redevelopment-Authority> and click on Commercial Property Funding Availability or e-mail Mr. Sherrod.

—Prince George’s County MD

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Handling the Stress of the Current Health Crisis

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has created high levels of stress and fear for many of us. The anxiety that a disease such as this can bring on can seem overwhelming to many people but learning to cope with and manage that stress is important for every one of us.

While we all have different reactions to stressful situations, there are ways for most people to reduce the negative effects that the stress of a crisis can have for us and those around us.

As you might expect, fear and anxiety over this disease is highest for those most at risk. This can include older people and those with chronic diseases and other underlying health issues putting them at higher risk. But stress can also be high for those whose work requires them to deal directly with the disease and those suffering from it. This includes not only doctors and other health care providers, but first responders as well.

The effects of stress that an infectious disease outbreak can bring on include not merely worrying about your own health and the health of those close to you, but also the changes it may bring to your life. You may find you're experiencing changes in eating or sleeping patterns. Everyday issues or simply concentrating may be more difficult to handle. Excessive stress can lead to a worsening of chronic health issues and may lead some to increased use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs. Those with preexisting mental health conditions may find themselves facing new or worsening symptoms.

It's important to pay attention to high stress levels in your life and to try to reduce their effects as best you can. One starting point is to simply take breaks from all the news stories and social media reporting of the pandemic. Constantly reading or hearing about the issue only amplifies the stress you're already feeling.

It's also important to stay physically and mentally healthy. Eat regular, well-balanced, healthy meals. Get plenty of exercise (maybe your gym is closed, but the great outdoors offers plenty of opportunities for walks), stay well rested and avoid drugs and alcohol. Make time to relax, maybe reading books or watching favorite TV shows. Stay in contact with others using the phone or texting if self-isolating is being practiced.

If you find your stress is overwhelming, call your health provider. Stay in control and you'll get through this.

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.

Congressman Anthony Brown and Army Leaders Inspect FedEx Field Coronavirus Testing Site

By CHRISTIAN UNKENHOLZ
Congressman Anthony Brown's Office

WASHINGTON (March 31, 2020)—On March 31, House Armed Services Committee Vice Chair Anthony G. Brown (MD-04), United States Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy and Adjutant General of Maryland, Maj. Gen. Timothy E. Gowen visited the newly opened COVID-19 testing site at FedEx Field in Landover, Maryland. The facility is operated in partnership with the Maryland National Guard, Maryland Department of Health, Prince George's County Health Department and University of Maryland Medical System.

The pilot testing site at FedEx Field is part of a government effort to bolster state medical capacity and alleviate screening traffic at hospitals and emergency rooms in preparation for an expected surge of patients with the coronavirus.

On Friday, March 27, Congressman Anthony Brown presided over the House of Representatives as it passed the \$2 trillion CARES Act to provide medical resources and economic support during this public health crisis. More than \$2 billion is expected to go to Maryland to ramp up testing and aid frontline medical workers.

"Communities in Maryland and across the country need help, and we are responding," said Congressman Anthony Brown. "The outbreak of coronavirus poses an unprecedented challenge and threat to public health. By leaning on the expertise and discipline of our national guardsmen and military personnel, we will boost our testing capacity, stop the spread of the coronavirus, treat the sick and defeat this virus once and for all. This is how we rise to the occasion."

The COVID-19 testing site is supported by the 1229th Transportation Company, the 115th Military Police Battalion and the Mary-

land National Guard Medical Detachment. About 250 Maryland National Guard members support the overall effort at FedEx Field.

"The health protection of our force and our families, coupled with our ability to support state and local governments, creates the conditions to suppress and defeat the COVID-19 virus," said United States Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy.

Approximately 1,600 Maryland Army and Air National Guard members are actively supporting efforts to limit the spread of coronavirus in the state. About 700 members are in an enhanced readiness status, on standby to respond within 8 hours.

"The Maryland National Guard couldn't be more proud to serve our communities during this challenging time," said Army Maj. Gen. Timothy E. Gowen, adjutant general for Maryland. "Our presence in the community along with our capabilities make us perfectly suited to help our neighbors get through this. We're all in this together."

The screening location is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. **by appointment only**, and the process is as follows:

*****Walkups exhibiting no symptoms will not be tested.**

- Call the PG County Health Department Coronavirus hotline at 301-883-6627 to schedule an initial telehealth screening.

The telehealth medical professional will speak to the caller to obtain information to determine if the patient meets the CDC testing requirements.

If the caller meets CDC testing guidelines, they will receive an appointment time



PHOTO COURTESY CONGRESSMAN BROWN'S OFFICE

From left, Congressman Anthony Brown and military personnel at the COVID-19 testing site at FedEx Field.

and an appointment number to go to the FedExField site on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday—they must show up at their appointment time, with their appointment number, and be able to answer questions based on their telehealth screening.

- Upon arriving at the testing site, the individual will receive instruction from law enforcement as to where to park and when to exit their vehicle.
- The individual will walk to the checkpoint and give their appointment number, then they will be escorted to a tent based on their symptoms.
- If the individual meets testing requirements outlined by the CDC, they will be escorted to the testing tent. Following the testing, the individual will be given instructions on home self-care, and social distancing.
- Those who do not meet CDC guidelines will not be tested. Those individuals who do not meet criteria but are symptomatic will receive instructions on home self-care and self-isolation, as needed. Those individuals who are asymptomatic will receive instructions on home self-care and social distancing. The individual will then be escorted to the exit.

TOWN OF BERWYN HEIGHTS NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Town Council of the Town of Berwyn Heights proposes to increase real property taxes.

- For the tax year beginning July 1, 2020, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 5.48%, from \$347,948,453 to \$367,017,539.
- If the Town of Berwyn Heights maintains the current tax rate of \$0.545 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 5.48% resulting in \$103,927 of new real property tax revenues.
- In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$0.5167, the constant yield tax rate.
- The Town of Berwyn Heights is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The Town proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$0.545 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 5.48% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$103,927 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15, 2020. The Town Council will meet virtually, and no in-person attendance is possible. The meeting will be broadcast on Verizon FiOS Channel 12 and Comcast Channel 71 and live-streamed at www.berwynheightsmd.gov/town-council/pages/watch-council-meetings. Comments will be taken over the telephone at 301-474-9570.

Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call 301-474-5000 or email kharper@berwynheightsmd.gov for further information.

MOUNT RAINIER NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The City Council of the City of Mount Rainier proposes to increase real property taxes for residential/single family homes (Box 1).

- For the tax year beginning July 1, 2020, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 7.3% (Box 2), from \$321,325,516 (Box 3) to \$334,712,816 (Box 4) for residential/single family homes.
- If the City of Mount Rainier maintains the current tax rate of \$0.81 (Box 5) per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 7.3% (Box 6) resulting in \$189,437 (Box 7) of new real property tax revenues for residential/single family homes.
- In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$0.7550 (Box 8), the constant yield tax rate for residential/single family homes.
- The City is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The City proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$0.81 (Box 9) per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 7.3% (Box 10) higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$189,437 (Box 11) in additional property tax revenues for residential/single family homes.

Box 1, Property Class	Box 2, Percentage Change In Base	Box 3, Previous Assessable Base	Box 4, New Assessable Base	Box 5, Current Tax Rate	Box 6, Percentage Change in Revenue
Residential/Single Family Homes	Increase 7.3%	\$321,325,516	\$334,712,816	0.81	Increase 7.3%
Apartment/Multi-Family	Increase 5.2%	\$149,562,430	\$157,315,373	0.86	Increase 5.2%
Commercial	Increase 5.2%	\$33,236,096	\$34,958,972	0.81	Increase 5.2%
Industrial	Increase 5.2%	\$5,539,349	\$5,826,495	0.81	Increase 5.2%
Townhouse	Increase 8.2%	\$4,748,896	\$5,136,508	0.81	Increase 8.2%

	Box 7, Revenue Change	Box 8, Constant Yield Tax Rate	Box 9, Proposed County Tax Rate	Box 10, Percentage Greater Than Constant Yield Rate	Box 11, Revenue Increase
Residential/Single Family Homes	Gain of \$189,437	0.7550	0.81	7.3%	\$189,437
Apartment/Multi-Family	Gain of \$66,675	0.8176	0.86	5.2%	\$66,675
Commercial	Gain of \$13,955	0.7701	0.81	5.2%	\$13,955
Industrial	Gain of \$2,326	0.7701	0.81	5.2%	\$2,326
Townhouse	Gain of \$3,140	0.7489	0.81	8.2%	\$3,140

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 9:00 AM on April 18th, 2020 at City Hall, One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712.

The hearings are open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged. Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call 301-985-6585 for further information.

BUSINESS / COMMENTARY

Prince George's County Launches Business Relief Fund To Support Businesses Impacted By COVID-19

Announces New Grant Funding for Local Nonprofits to Support Residents During this Crisis

By GINA FORD

Office of the County Executive
Prince George's County

LARGO, Md. (April 1, 2020)—Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks last week launched the COVID-19 Business Relief Fund to assist local small businesses facing economic hardship by the spread of COVID-19. The new initiative is a public-private partnership of County and private resources providing loans and grant funding of up to \$15 million for area businesses. The Prince George's County Council approved \$10 million in EDI Funds during a virtual council session on Tuesday, and \$5 million of the relief fund comes from local banks and private entities.

"We are Prince George's Proud to announce a number of new resources available to our businesses, nonprofits and residents today due to the support of our community partners. These resources will be critical to help sustain our business and non-profit communities as we weather this storm," said Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "Coronavirus will not have the final say, and we will continue leveraging all of our resources and partnerships to ensure we can make it through this unprecedented crisis together."

Small businesses will have access to loans up to \$100,000 and grant funding of up to \$10,000. Eligible businesses can apply for the funds through the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation beginning April 13, 2020. The application period will be open until May 15, 2020. The Business Relief fund was developed in partnership and with the full support of the Prince George's County Council.

"County-based businesses provide jobs, products and services for our residents and form the foundation for economic development progress in Prince George's County," County Council Chair Todd Turner said. "The COVID-19 Business Relief Fund

will help these small, local, and minority-owned enterprises, now facing closure and layoffs, retain their pre-pandemic workforce and sustain operations during the coronavirus emergency. The use of EDIF economic development funding will work in conjunction with both Federal and State financial assistance available to County-based businesses and employees. The County Council looks forward to its continued partnership with the Alsobrooks Administration on this and future initiatives on behalf of the residents and businesses of Prince George's County during this global pandemic."

In addition to the \$15 million relief fund for small businesses, the Prince George's County Strategic Partnership Office is coordinating efforts with philanthropy, nonprofits, government, and small business leaders to collect and organize resources and funds for those providing COVID-19 relief efforts for Prince George's County.

This innovative public-private partnership will provide an additional \$900,000 in grants to support local nonprofits to help them deliver the resources and assistance needed by the community during these challenging times. Two of the organizations raising funds include the Greater Washington Community Foundation and the United Way of the National Capital Area.

"We are proud to stand with County Executive Alsobrooks in supporting families, nonprofits, and small businesses in Prince George's County during these unprecedented times," said Rosie Allen-Herring, President and CEO, United Way of the National Capital Area. "And we commit to continuing to convene the best resources and partners to ensure that the County's small business community is able to sustain through the crisis and thrive in the future. Your United Way is here to be part of the solution and working collectively with the community to fight for the health, education and financial stability of all residents in this region."

The grants will be administered by The Greater Washington Community Foundation, as part of its COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund. The fund was established to support emergency preparedness and response efforts to mitigate the impact on disadvantaged communities in the area.

"We are grateful to our generous donors and strategic partners like the County Executive's office and PGCPs for stepping up to help us meet the evolving needs and challenges associated with the impacts of coronavirus on Prince George's County residents," said Tonia Wellons, President and CEO of the Greater Washington Community Foundation. "The Community Foundation is committed to working with our partners to address both the immediate needs of our neighbors and to plan for the longer-term needs of our communities. During this time of crisis and uncertainty, we are inspired by how members of our community have come together to care for one another."

A generous financial donation of \$900,000 was provided to the Emergency Response Fund by Sam Brin, a former resident of Prince George's County. Years ago, Mr. Brin's refugee family faced challenging times of their own, and he has never forgotten how his family was welcomed into our county. Some of the groups selected to receive grants from the Emergency Response Fund include:

Nineteen Local Nonprofit Organizations: Will receive \$550,000 in funds to provide direct services and support addressing the immediate health and economic needs of individuals, youths, families, and disproportionately impacted communities in Prince George's County.

Prince George's County Public Schools: Will receive \$100,000 for the purchase of new devices for students to access distance learning and other online resources.

United Way of the National Capital Area: Will receive \$250,000 to support small businesses in the County assisting with the coordination of food relief efforts.

To learn more about the Community Foundation's COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund, visit their website at <https://www.thecommunityfoundation.org/covid-19>.

Council Chair Todd M. Turner Issues Statement Regarding Council Support of Funding For County's COVID-19 Business Relief Fund

The Prince George's County Council, during its virtual session on Tuesday, March 31, 2020, unanimously voted to support a request from County Executive Angela D. Alsobrooks, establishing a Prince George's County COVID-19 Business Relief Fund.

With Tuesday's Council action, this financial relief initiative, will be supported with \$10-million in resources from the County's Economic Development Incentive Fund (EDIF), and additional partnership support from private sector, including local banks, of up to \$5 million. These funds will provide immediate assistance to small, local, and minority County-based businesses impacted by the COVID-19 public health crisis sweeping Maryland, the United States and the world.

County-based businesses, which provide jobs, resources and services for our residents, form the foundation for economic development progress in Prince George's County. The COVID-19 Business Relief Fund will help small, local, and minority-owned County-based enterprises, now facing closure and layoffs, retain their pre-pandemic workforce and sustain operations during the coronavirus emergency. The COVID-19 Relief Fund will work in conjunction with both Federal and State financial assistance available to County-based businesses and employees.

The County Council looks forward to its continued partnership with the Alsobrooks Administration on this and future initiatives on behalf of the residents and businesses of Prince George's County during this global pandemic.

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Trump Administration Hides Behind Coronavirus Crisis to Eliminate Civil Rights Protections

"Indisputably, due to historic inequities, this crisis disproportionately burdens Americans of Color and Women. They need continued Federal protections and oversight, not abandonment. The suspension of Equal Opportunity requirements in this crisis would not only penalize those protected by the civil rights laws, but it would also hinder the government's work. The research is clear and compelling—diverse workforces produce better results. This Government policy should be reversed at once."

—National Bar Association President
Alfreda Robinson

The Trump era has seen a relentless erosion of civil rights protections. The Administration pivoted from defending voting rights to enabling suppression. It shifted resources from investigating discrimination and violence against racial minorities toward the protection of white Americans.

Every step of the way, the Administration has made it easier to discriminate, and more difficult to seek relief from discrimination.

In the earliest months of his Administration, President Trump proposed eliminating the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, the section of the U.S. Department of Labor that is charged with ensuring that employers doing business with the Federal government comply with the nondiscrimination laws and regulations.

In August 2018, the Trump administration rescinded guidance that the Department of Labor had used to analyze whether federal contractor compensation practices comply with federal laws and regulations.

Now, in an act of breathtakingly bad faith, the federal compliance office has issued an order suspending equal opportunity requirements during the coronavirus crisis. Companies who contract with the federal government are now free to discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national origin, disability, or veteran status.

Falling as it did during a period of unprecedented chaos as the Administration struggled to respond to the crisis, the order has received almost no attention.

This underhanded move serves absolutely no legitimate purpose and must be reversed at once.

More than six million Americans this week applied for unemployment compensation, bringing the two-week total to a staggering 10 million. The Labor Department's monthly jobs report for March is expected to show a net job loss for the first time in 9/2

years. Economists predict the total of job losses to be double those lost in the Great Recession, but over a much shorter period of time.

This is a time for the federal government to exert more protection for workers of color, not less.

Even before the Great Recession, Black Americans lagged white Americans economically. The average Black household income in 2007 was about two-thirds the average white household's. The Black unemployment rate was—and remains—twice as high as the rate for whites.

The economic crisis wiped out all the gains in Black homeownership made since the Fair Housing Act of 1968, dramatically widening the nation's racial wealth gap.

The impacts will be felt for a generation. An ACLU report analyzing the effects of the 2008 financial crisis Great Recession concluded:

If economic trends had continued without the shock of the Great Recession, the ratio of white to black median wealth would have been forecast to drop from 4.4 times greater in 1999 to 4.0 times greater by 2031. But given the impact on black family wealth of the financial crisis, by 2031 the racial wealth gap will instead grow: the typical white household's wealth is projected to be 4.5 times that of the typical black household's wealth. This increased disparity will be even more profound from the perspective of home equity wealth. Without the Great Recession, home equity values for black and white families at the same income and education levels were headed toward parity by 2050. As a result of the Great Recession, however, the gap between black and white home equity will likely remain large decades into the future.

It's important to keep in mind that the disproportionate impact of the Great Recession unfolded under an Administration that was committed to upholding the federal government's traditional duty to protect American workers from racial discrimination. In an economic crisis of even greater magnitude, under an Administration that has abandoned that duty, the impact will be far worse.

As Congress ponders a phase-four response to the coronavirus crisis, protections for vulnerable workers of color must be a top priority. House and Senate leaders need to press the Administration to fulfill its constitutional duty and restore equal opportunity requirements for federal contractors.

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Wisdom from Civil Rights Leader Rev. Joseph Lowery, A Big Oak Tree of Hope

In the midst of the sadness and fear surrounding the pandemic our nation is struggling through, we have lost a civil rights giant. When Joe Lowery was about 11 years old in 1930s Alabama, a policeman hit him in the stomach with a bully stick for being in a white man's way. He responded by trying to run home to get his father's gun. His father stopped him from retaliating that day, but Joe made it his mission to fight back against injustice when he grew up. He remained a courageous warrior for justice all of his life. The "Dean of the Civil Rights Movement," Joe Lowery was a constant companion to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who led the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the march from Selma to Montgomery and a cofounder and later long-term president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He fought against apartheid in South Africa and for LGBTQ rights and marriage equality. He gave the moving benediction at the end of President Barack Obama's first inauguration. When he passed away on March 27 at age 98, President Obama said: "Rev. Joseph Lowery was a giant who let so many of us stand on his shoulders...He carried the baton longer and surer than almost anybody. It falls to the rest of us now to pick it up and never stop moving forward until we finish what he started—that journey to justice."

Just a few weeks ago I wrote about that historic inauguration and the symbolism of Joe Lowery's benediction. He began by quoting the wonderful Negro National Anthem written by James Weldon Johnson, "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing." The words he chose from the third verse contain a promise that resonates right now as they remind us of all we've overcome before:

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way,
Thou who has by thy might,
Led us into the light,

Keep us forever in the path we pray...

Other lines in his benediction also resonate deeply now. Our nation was undergoing another financial crisis at the time and Rev. Lowery prayed for true leadership to help those who needed it most: "Because we know You've got the whole world in Your hand, we pray for not only our nation, but for the community of nations. Our faith does not shrink, though pressed by the flood of mortal ills. For we know that, Lord, You are able, and You're willing to work through faithful leadership to restore stability, mend our brokenness, heal our wounds..." He prayed that we would all be willing "to turn to each other and not on each other." And he prayed: "Help us to make choices on the side of love, not hate; on the side of inclusion, not exclusion; tolerance, not intolerance. And as we leave this mountaintop, help us to hold on to the spirit of

See **CHILDWATCH** Page A5

The Prince George's Post

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