

The Prince George's Post



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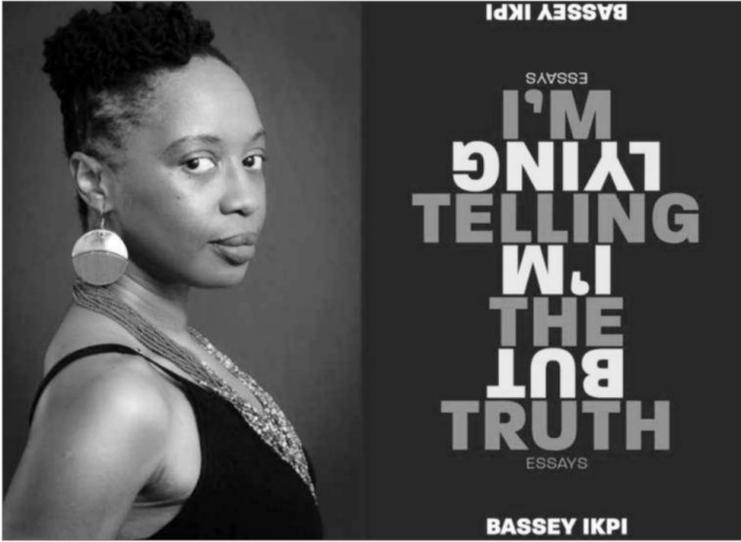
Prince George's County, Maryland

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25 cents

Library Hosts Virtual Events With National Bestselling Authors *See page A3*



PHOTOS COURTESY PGCMLS

See Prince George's County resident and national bestselling author Bassey Ikpi (who wrote part of her book "I'm Telling You the Truth But I'm Lying" at PGCMLS' Bowie Branch Library) on August 24 at 7 p.m.



Prince George's County native and National Ambassador of Young People's Literature Jason Reynolds joins PGCMLS CEO Roberta Phillips in conversation on September 1, 2020 at 7 p.m.

COVID Prevention Hotline Now Available

By PRESS OFFICERS

Maryland Emergency Management Agency
Maryland Department of Health
Maryland Department of State Police

REISTERSTOWN, Md. (August 13, 2020)—As part of Maryland's ongoing efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, several state agencies are working together to facilitate a statewide communication process for citizens to report concerns about potential situations where precautions are being ignored that will prompt follow-up by local health officials and, if necessary, law enforcement officers.

The Maryland Emergency Management Agency, Maryland Department of Health and Maryland Department of State Police are today announcing Maryland's toll-free COVID Prevention Line.

1-833-979-2266

prevent.covid@maryland.gov

This is a statewide toll-free number and an email address which can be used 24-hours-a-day to report situations of concern where prevention guidelines are being ignored and the potential for the spread of COVID-19 is high. Callers/emailers may remain anonymous or they can provide their name and phone number in the event additional information is needed from officials.

Information provided on this line will be forwarded to the local health department officials in the jurisdiction of the location or situation described in the call. Depending on the circumstances, teams of appropriate local officials from agencies including the health department, liquor board, and law enforcement will assess the situation and take the appropriate action. Ultimately, individuals violating the Governor's Executive Order could be charged with a violation of that order, which carries a penalty of up to one year in jail, a \$5,000 fine, or both.

It is important for each Marylander to do their part to stop the spread of COVID-19 in the state of Maryland. Following state and local health guidelines will result in a safer and healthier state that can return to normal sooner rather than later.

Prince George's County NAACP, National Capital Baptist Convention Hand Out Face Masks at United Communities Against Poverty

2,000 face masks, donated by Northeast Maglev, distributed to those negatively impacted by poverty, unemployment, homelessness, crime, and inadequate public health services

By APRIL MARTIN
PGC-NAACP

CAPITOL HEIGHTS, Md. (August 13, 2020)—The NAACP Prince George's County Branch and the National Capital Baptist Convention moved to protect vulnerable Prince George's County residents against the COVID-19 pandemic, handing out 2,000 face masks to those served by United Communities Against Poverty and other shelters for those in need.

Representatives of the NAACP Prince George's County Branch and the National Capital Baptist Convention distributed the masks on Thursday at the United Communities Against Poverty in Capitol Heights. The organizations were joined in their effort by representatives of Northeast Maglev, the company bringing the Superconducting Maglev (SCMAGLEV) high-speed train project to the Northeast Corridor. Northeast Maglev donated the reusable/washable 3-ply cotton masks with antimicrobial treatment.

"We are incredibly proud to partner with the National Capital Baptist Convention and Northeast Maglev to do what we can to help our community during this health emergency," said Robert "Bob" Ross, President of the NAACP Prince George's County Branch.

The combined effort was organized to aid in the reduction of COVID-19 in Prince George's County, the Maryland county with the largest number of diagnosed COVID-19 cases this year.

Rev. Charles W. McNeill, Jr., president of NCBC and senior pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., emphasized the importance of the community coming together to help those most vulnerable as the COVID-19 crisis continues.

"We are stewards of our community's welfare, and must work to guarantee all members of our community have access to the protection they need to stay healthy during this pandemic," Rev. McNeill said.

United Communities Against Poverty (UCAP) is a registered

501(c)(3) nonprofit located in Prince George's County, Md. Through advocacy and outreach activities, the UCAP team works tirelessly each day to provide solutions for individuals and families whose quality of life has been negatively impacted by poverty, unemployment, homelessness, crime, and inadequate public health services. Services offered by UCAP include housing services, crisis care, case management, transformative education, emergency food pantry services, assistance for the homeless and more. To learn more or support UCAP, visit <https://www.ucappge.org/>.

Founded in 1935, the Prince George's County NAACP is a member of the nation's oldest and largest nonpartisan civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities. Read more about the NAACP's work and our six "Game Changer" issue areas by visiting [NAACP.org](https://www.nacpnaacp.org/). To become a member of the PGCNAACP, and part of the solution,

visit: <https://pgcnaacp.org/membership>

Founded in 1886, the National Capital Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. is the nation's oldest and largest African American religious convention with an estimated membership of 7.5 million. The mission of the Convention is to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ through preaching, teaching, and healing. For more information about NCBC, visit <https://www.nationalcapitalbaptistdc.org>.

Northeast Maglev is a private, 100% U.S.-owned company working to promote the world's fastest ground transportation system—the Superconducting Maglev (SCMAGLEV)—in the Northeast Corridor of the U.S. The SCMAGLEV train is a safe and transformative transportation solution that will revolutionize how people live and work in the most congested region of the U.S. The first leg will provide 15-minute service between Baltimore and Washington, D.C., and ultimately one-hour service to New York City. The Northeast Maglev is modeled on the Central Japan Railway SCMAGLEV project in operation since 1998. Visit www.northeastmaglev.com

County Stakeholders Announce New Program to Provide Technical Support to Local Businesses

Emerge Stronger Program Draws on Strengths of County Economic Development Consortia
Joining Forces to Guide COVID-19 Impacted Small Businesses

By PRESS OFFICER
Emerge Stronger PGC

LARGO, Md. (August 12, 2020)—Today, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation, in partnership with FSC First and the Bowie Business Innovation Center announced the launch of the EmERGE Stronger Small Business Recovery & Resilience (ESBR) program. The EmERGE Stronger program is a multimodal technical assistance program designed to provide direct resources

to the County's Business Recovery Initiative (BRI) participants to create and maintain healthy business operations and finances. Through a convergence of supplemental grant funding, technical assistance and industry specific mentoring, the EmERGE Stronger program is dedicated to improving the short-term recovery odds and post-pandemic resilience of local small businesses.

"We have witnessed first-hand how important cash grants are to help our business community keep afloat during this

economic crisis," said David Iannucci, President and CEO of the Economic Development Corporation. "However, we are also keenly aware that some of the companies may require guidance and expert counseling for optimum utilization of their grants and resources to sustain them through the pandemic. We are extremely grateful to our County partners, for Pepco Holdings generous support of the EmERGE Stronger program and their commitment to our business community."

The ESBR will provide three cohorts,

each designed to support companies as they pivot their business models based on industry best practices. Starting this month, the CEO Boot Camp cohort will begin with monthly webinars and virtual meetings that will provide technical support on recovery planning, supply chain management, social media utilization, e-commerce and employee relations. Industry sectors covered will include healthcare, restaurants and retail. In addition, the CEO Boot Camp will provide an all-Spanish cohort on financial management, accounting, marketing, and e-commerce for the County's Hispanic business community.

The second cohort, Capital Matters, will begin in September. This exciting series will bring financing experts from around the region to explore the pitfalls and delays to obtaining access to capital, the importance of compliance and report-

ing for business grants and loans, how to understand lender language and how to pivot to the new economy.

"FSC, EDC and the Bowie BIC have worked collaboratively to launch the "EmERGE Stronger" technical assistance, mentoring, and counseling program," said Shelly M. Gross-Wade, President and CEO of FSC First. "This concept has evolved out of the critical needs we've observed while analyzing the grant applications."

ESBR will also provide a One-on-One Counseling and Mentoring cohort that will also begin in September. CEO's are invited to participate in business recovery sessions with experienced business counselors to receive immediate feedback on

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INSIDE

Library Hosts Virtual Events With National Bestselling Authors

Prince George's Community College Welcomes New President

Maryland Department of Health Launches COVID-19 Antibody Study

Community, Page A3

To Be Equal:

Kamala Harris Selection Represents Unprecedented Moment of Racial Reckoning, Outsized Role of Black Women Leading the Nation Through Crisis

It's no surprise that Black women have emerged among the nation's strongest and most competent leaders.

Commentary, Page A4

Franchise Experts and Mother-Daughter Trio Bring First Hand & Stone Massage and Facial Spa To Prince George's County

The trio currently owns three Tropical Smoothies in Prince George's County, and they even created a course to help other potential franchisees find their beat.

Business and Finance, Page A5

EO Kids Feature: Shifting Shapes of Sandy Scapes

Smart Start: Savvy Tips to Kick Off a New School Year

Emotionally Preparing Your Children for Back-to-School Season

Back to School, Page A6

PGCPS Announces Special Student Transfer Window

Prepping for a Successful School Year

Why Your Child's Back-to-School Eye Exam Is so Important

Back to School, Page A7

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Ike's Memorial, Frederick Douglass Bridge and more Changing Landscapes

• It's been long in coming (since October 1999), but the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial will officially open on the Mall Sept. 17. It pays tribute to Ike as the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe during World War II and the 34th President of the United States. Reviewers say it's particularly spectacular at night.

• The new Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge, over the Anacostia River, had its sixth arch installed Aug. 13 and is on track to open next year. It'll replace the bridge we've been driving for 70 years.

• On Sept. 24 Washington gets its central library (MLK Library) back after a 3½-year, \$211 million renovation. One million books, vast rows of public computers, six stories of D.C. history, movies, games, art supplies, power tools and music, and a new rooftop garden overlooking downtown—all of it free to browse and borrow. I already have my DC library card ready to go.

• In last week's column I wondered about the future of JC Penney in Forestville. Stephanie White wrote that it's not closing. However she said the JC Penney at Woodmore, near Wegmans, is closing at the end of September. The women's store, Catherines, and Modell's, in the shopping center at exit 13 off the Beltway, will close.

• Daughter Sheila and I ate recently at the new Quickway Poke Bowl in the Woodyard Crossing Shopping Center in Clinton. We watched them prepare our order; all employees wore masks and gloves. I felt comfortable eating there and my lunch was delicious. I can't wait to go again.

Morningside #27

Through my front window, I can see the Morningside fire engines and ambulances racing down Suitland Road. I hear them every time that siren is employed. So I regularly check their website for news when I write this column.

Typical of their workload, during the week of July 31 they worked a fire in a

single-family home in the 6800 block of Woodland Road in Morningside. They extricated someone from a car on fire on Ritchie Road. And returning from another run, they were dispatched to the 5100 block of Allentown Road for a bedroom fire and performed "primary and secondary searches."

Later they responded to a fire on Clayton Lane Drive, in Skyline. I don't know if there was much damage. I only know it's a comfort to have the Morningside Volunteer Firefighters just down Skyline Hill.

Neighbors & other good people

Robert "Bob" St. Pierre, 75, who was Chair of the English Department and later, Director of Studies/Vice Principal at Bishop McNamara HS, died July 12 in his Huntingtown home. After 15 years at McNamara, he had become Director of Student Development and an English Professor at Prince George's Community College.

Salisbury University named some of our local students to the Spring Dean's List, including William Hall, Imani Pendarvis and Makayla Smith of District Heights; Donald McNeill and Akirah Thomas of Suitland; and Leah Artis and Jada Odom of Temple Hills.

Carol Tucker, daughter of Virginia Rosch whose obit I ran in this column two weeks ago, sent corrections. I listed Virginia as having lived recently in Brentwood. Carol said her mom never lived there; that she had been a resident at Country Home Assisted Living in Harwood for the past two years. A service was held for her on July 25 at Ft. Lincoln. Sorry, Carol, for the misinformation. I appreciate being corrected (and often am).

Census 2020

Just a friendly reminder that The 2020 Census is still being taken and is vital to Morningside and other communities for getting their fair share of funding for all sorts of services. (Think: hospitals, parks, libraries, roads & bridges.) Failure to take the survey hurts us for the next ten years. Please, take the very few minutes to fill out this vital survey. For those of

you who aren't sure how, go to <https://2020census.gov>.

Down in Brownsville, Texas, my daughter Therese is training before going door-to-door registering those who have not yet done so.

July Wildman, Potomac High Peppermint Piper

Judith Ann "Judy" Wildman, 66, of Edinburg, Va., formerly of Hillcrest Heights and a Potomac HS graduate, died July 31.

She was born in Washington, daughter of Marian and Joseph Goheens, and grew up in Hillcrest Heights. At Potomac High she was a cheerleader and member of the Peppermint Pipers, a nationally-recognized teen singing group.

After high school, Judy worked for the Navy Department and later for the U.S. Travel & Tourism Administration at the Department of Commerce where she met her future husband Robert "Bob" Wildman. They wed August 3, 1980.

Judy and Bob lived in Saudi Arabia for three years, working for JECOR, a U.S. Government sponsored technology exchange task force. After returning stateside, Judy worked briefly for NASA's Office for Space Flight. But, her career job was as office manager at the U.S. Geological Survey in Reston.

Her parents and brother Joseph W. "Billy" Goheens, Jr, predeceased her. Bob, her husband of 40 years, survives her. A graveside service will be held later at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Silver Spring.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Wayne Anderson, Barbara Phipps and Gavin Michael Glaubitz, Aug. 22; Joseph R. Maiden, Jr., Aug. 23; Edith Hull, Aug. 26; twins Anthony and Avery Simmons, Shirley Holmes, Chris Busky and William Fowler, Aug. 27.

Happy anniversary to my next-door neighbors, John and Stacie Smith who'll celebrate their 17th on Aug. 23.

Email me (muddmm@aol.com) with birthdays and weddings. Many I have on my long roster are celebrating in Heaven.

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

Brandywine-Aquasco

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY GOLF CLASSIC

Once again, it is on for our 9th Annual Bulldog Golf Classic. Join the Bowie State University Department of Athletics for a special day of golf at Oak Creek Golf Club Tuesday, October 13, 2020. Staggered Tee Times start at 8:30 a.m. Do not miss out on early bird registration through September 1. Per Foursome: \$500 and Per Golfer: \$150.

Fee include 18 holes, bag breakfast and box lunch during tournament, complimentary beverages, gift bags, prizes and much more. Per the COVID-19 rules and regulations at Oak Creek Golf Club and for the health and safety of our golfers, only 20 Foursomes will be allowed to play at the Bulldog Golf Classic this year.

Register today (Sponsorship opportunities). Support student-athletes and win. With the suspension of the fall 2020 athletics season, our student-athletes need you now more than ever. As an auxiliary to the university, the BSU Department of Athletics is responsible for all program fundraising. Proceeds from the Bulldog Golf Classic will support the Department's goal of establishing ongoing student scholarship program. Visit the website: www.bowiestate.edu/BulldogClassic for more information.

PGATLAS

PGAtlas is a no-cost, web-based mapping tool developed and managed by the Prince George's County Planning Department of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC). It offers residents a wealth of information concerning properties throughout Prince George's County.

The Prince George's County Planning Department has developed a PGAtlas Development Notification Web Tool designed to provide users with a weekly update of recently accepted development applications to be reviewed by the Planning Department. Users can enroll at <http://notify.pgatlas.com> and select one or more ZIP Codes. For more information contact ppd-gis@ppd.mncppc.org.

A comprehensive help link connects users with quick start video tutorials, links to general help, a dictionary that describes the data, and much more. In addition, periodic, no-cost PGAtlas training classes are offered at the Planning Department offices in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Send your request for training to ppd-gis@ppd.mncppc.org.

THE BOWLING HOUSE

Bowling House is a historic home located in Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County, Maryland, across the street from the county courthouse. The home is a 2 ½ story, two-part frame structure built in three stages. The first section built in three stages. The first section, built in 1787, consisted of the present main block, with a small hall and porch were added. A

north wing was added before 1844. Content is one of the oldest buildings remaining in the county seat of Upper Marlboro, along with Kingston and the Buck (James Waldrop) House. Content has always been owned by prominent families in the civic, economic, and social affairs of town, county, and state including the Magruder, Beanes, and Lee families; and the Bowling and Smith families of the 20th century.

Content was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. It is located in the Upper Marlboro residential Historic District. From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Life changes. Goals do not have to. Most schools are online. Why pay more? Affordable in-county tuition, scholarships and grants, credits transfer to most 4-year universities, student loaner device program, variety of virtual learning options available. Register for fall by August 22. Classes start August 24. Contact 301-546-PGCC (7422) or apply @pgcc.edu/NOW.

JOHN HOPKINS MEDICINE

Primary Care Brandywine is now accepting new patients in Brandywine. John Hopkins Community Physicians offers a complete range of health services for the whole family. We are proud to offer: Family medicine (care for adults and children) and Internal medicine.

Doctors are Internal medicine physician Bonita Coe, M.D., and family medicine nurse practitioner Tamika Jones, C.R.N.P., would be honored to care for you and your family. Now scheduling appointments online or by phone. JHCP.ORG/BRANDY-WINE/ 301-242-5678.

The address is 7704 Matapeake Business Drive Suite 110 Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Located in the Brandywine Crossing Medical Office Building between CarMax and Xscape Theatres. Complimentary parking available.

AMERICAN LEGION

Welcome to American Legion Post 227, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Located at 13505 Cherry Tree Crossing Road. Telephone number is 301-782-7371. Post 227 is open during Phase 2. We will be operating at 50% capacity inside and in our hall. We will also have modified hours of operation, Monday–Thursday: 4–9 p.m., Friday: 3–10 p.m., Saturday–Sunday: 2–8 p.m. We kindly ask that you continue to be vigilant and if you are not feeling well or are experiencing any COVID 19 or flu like symptoms to please stay home. Wear a mask to help stop the spread. Please respect our new hours of operation and any other posted signs. Stay safe, well and COVID free. Donations are not being accepted at this time. We will post when we are ready to do so again. To all who have served America: Thank You.

Around the County

100 Events of Summer Back 2 School Grab-n-Go Event

Each summer, under their 100 Events of Summer initiative, the Office of Community Relations participates in at least 100 fun, family-friendly community events and activities across the County, in an effort to engage and connect with residents and the community. **Join them on Saturday, August 22 as they close out this summer with a Back 2 School Grab-N-Go Event!** Giveaways include pre-packaged meals and non-perishable goods, backpacks, school supplies, community resources, and a chance to win a Tanger Outlets gift card. *Please register* at ocr100eos.eventbrite.com or email Harrison Nwozo at hnwozo@co.pg.md.us for more information.

C.A.R.E. Kit Giveaways

The Office of Community Relations is dedicated to connecting the community with available resources. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, they have created C.A.R.E. (Community Action Reaching Everyone) Kits to include items such as home essentials, baby diapers, wipes, masks, and hand sanitizer to assist those most in need. Join them **Friday, August 21 as they host part two of their C.A.R.E. Kit Giveaway from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., and Friday, August 28 as they host the Caregivers Edition Giveaway from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.** *Registration is required and limited to Prince George's County residents.* For more information, email Caryne Moses at ctmoses@co.pg.md.us.

—Community Connections Newsletter, August 14, 2020

LEARN Foundation Awards \$63,000 in Scholarships

LANDOVER, Md. (August 10, 2020)—The Landover Educational Athletic Recreational Nonprofit (LEARN) announces \$63,000 in scholarship awards for the 2020–2021 school year to 32 Prince's George's High School graduates.

LEARN was established in 1996 to support educational programs for Prince George's County youth residing in the vicinity of the FedEx Field football stadium. This was an agreement negotiated between former County Executive Wayne Curry and the Washington Football Team and agreed to by the Prince George's County Council.

Since its inception, the LEARN Foundation has awarded approximately one million dollars in scholarships and grants to students and community organizations.

LEARN also awards several specialty scholarships in honor of persons working with and supporting the LEARN Foundation. This year's specialty awards were presented to five outstanding students:

The Ed Clement Award was presented to **Ameenat Afolabi**, the student with the highest cumulative grade point average. Ed Clement was a former educator and member of the original LEARN Foundation Board.

The Wayne Curry Award was presented to **Jessica Redd**, the student with the highest academic score and lives within 1 mile of the stadium. Wayne Curry was the first African-American County Executive for Prince George's County and the LEARN Foundation visionary.

The Hilda Pemberton Award was presented to **McKenzie Cleveland**, the student with outstanding and exemplary community service. Hilda Pemberton was formerly a Chair of Prince George's County Council and served as the first chair of the LEARN Foundation Board.

The Helen Noble Jones Award was presented to **Starr Williams**, a Charles Herbert Flowers High School student who demonstrated a respect for hard work and preserving spirit. Helen Noble Jones was the first principal of Charles Herbert Flowers High School.

The Christa Beverly Baker Award was presented to **Taelor-Shanel Sanders**, the student whose application essay best reflects personal challenges as related to career and educational goals. Christa Beverly Baker was the former First Lady of Prince George's County and a former member of the LEARN Foundation Board.

—Dorothy Bailey, *The LEARN Foundation*

FAME Jazz Band Program Auditions Open

WHO: All middle and high school students who live and/or attend school in prince George's County Maryland. Applicants must be committed to playing their musical instrument and performing and excelling in jazz music.

WHAT:

- Music instruction (Online & In-Person)
- Academic tutoring
- College Prep
- Career Readiness, and more!

WHEN:

<http://famemusic.org/fame-jazz-band-program-auditions-open/>
Applications Open: August 10—September 18, 2020

Auditions: Saturday, September 26, 2020

Questions: About the program or to request a hardcopy of the application: Email: mmorales@famemusic.org; Call: 301-805-5358.

Location: Audition location will be determined

Bowie Ice Arena Is Open with Some Limitations

The Bowie Ice Arena has reopened and welcomes back skaters. There are some limitations in place to comply with state and county directives and to protect patrons and employees.

Permitted activities include:

- Stick & Puck
- Pickup Figure Skating
- Public Sessions
- Ice Rentals
- Other limitations in place:
 - Prepaid reservations are required
 - No rental skates or skating aides are available for use during public skating sessions
 - Masks must be worn, on and off the ice
 - Social distancing must be observed
 - Skaters must submit to temperature checks and present signed waiver forms
 - No games or scrimmages

More information can be found in the Return to Skate at the Bowie Ice Arena document on the city website: <https://www.cityofbowie.org/105/Ice-Arena>.

—Una Cooper, *City of Bowie*

COMMUNITY

Library Hosts Virtual Events With National Bestselling Authors

Jason Reynolds, Bassey Ikpi, Michele Harper, Steven Rowley, and More

By DONNA SCOTT-MARTIN
Prince George's County Memorial Library System

LARGO, Md. (August 11, 2020)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) will host a blockbuster lineup of national bestselling and debut authors throughout the late summer and early fall. Featured authors include Prince George's County native and National Ambassador of Young People's Literature Jason Reynolds, Prince George's County resident and national bestselling author Bassey Ikpi (who wrote part of her book at PGCMLS' Bowie Branch Library), debut author and physician Michele Harper ("The Beauty in Breaking: A Memoir"), Calvin Baker ("A More Perfect Reunion: Race, Integration, and the Future of America"), Steven Rowley ("The Editor"), Byron Lane ("A Star is Bored"), author and advocate Simran Jeet Singh ("Fauja Singh Keeps Going: The True Story of the Oldest Person to Ever Run a Marathon"), and One Maryland One Book author Lisa See ("The Island of Sea Women").

Upcoming author events are presented with a wide range of local and national organizations: the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Maryland Humanities, partner public library systems in Maryland, and the Prince George's County Human Relations Commission. Throughout the public health emergency, PGCMLS has presented a robust lineup of virtual programs, including appearances by Ibram X. Kendi, Washington Nationals and DC United players, and distinguished local authors and poets. The Library has also featured local authors on a weekly basis through the Antoine & Friends: Local Children's Authors Series and Local Authors Series.

PGCMLS virtual author events are streamed live online on a number of platforms. Please visit pgcmls.info/virtual-events for the direct broadcast links for upcoming events.

Chronological List of Featured Events

- Monday, August 17 at 7 p.m. | Steven Rowley on "The Editor"
- Wednesday, August 19 at 8 p.m. | Byron Lane on "A Star is Bored"
- (Note: Steven Rowley on "The Editor" (8/17) and Byron Lane on "A Star is Bored" (8/19) will be available on demand after August 20.)
- Thursday, August 20 at 7 p.m. | Calvin Baker on "A More Perfect Reunion: Race, Integration, and the Future of America"
- Monday, August 24 at 7 p.m. | Bassey Ikpi on "I'm Telling You the Truth But I'm Lying"
- Thursday, August 27 at 7 p.m. | Author Works: Alice Randall on "Black Bottom Saints"
- Friday, August 28 at 10 am | Simran Jeet Singh Reads "Faujah Singh Keeps Going"
- Tuesday, September 1 at 7 p.m. | Jason Reynolds
- Tuesday, September 1 at 7 p.m. | Dr. Jennifer Eberhardt on "Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do"
- Wednesday, September 9 at 7 p.m. | Michele Harper on "The Beauty in Breaking: A Memoir"
- Thursday, September 10 at 7 p.m. | Fredrik Backman on "Anxious People"

Jason Reynolds

Library of Congress National Ambassador for Young People's Literature Jason Reynolds joins PGCMLS CEO Roberta Phillips in conversation on September 1, 2020 at 7 p.m. EST. Reynolds is a #1 New York Times bestselling author, a Newbery Award Honoree, a Printz Award Honoree, a two-time National Book Award finalist, a Kirkus Award winner, a two-time Walter Dean Myers Award winner, an NAACP Image Award Winner, and the recipient of multiple Coretta Scott King honors. His many books include "When I Was the Greatest", "The Boy in the Black Suit", "All American Boys" (cowritten with Brendan Kiely), "As Brave as You", "For Every One", the "Track" series (Ghost, Patina, Sunny, and Lu), "Look Both Ways", and "Long Way Down", which received a Newbery Honor, a Printz Honor, and a Coretta Scott King Honor. He lives in Washington, DC and grew up in Oxon Hill, Maryland. This event is sponsored by the following Library Friends Groups: Accokeek, Bowie, Hillcrest Heights, Laurel, Mount Rainier, New Carrollton, and Oxon Hill. This event is also made possible with support from the PGCMLS Foundation.

Partnership with the Black Caucus of the American Library Association

PGCMLS launches a new collaboration with the Black Caucus of the American Library Association that showcases prominent authors whose work focuses on the Black experience in the United States. The series starts this August and September with Calvin

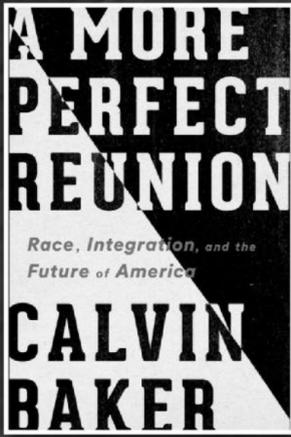
Baker (August 20 at 7 p.m.), Bassey Ikpi (August 24 at 7 p.m.), and Michele Harper (September 9 at 7 p.m.).

The Black Caucus American Library Association, which celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2020, serves as an advocate for the development, promotion, and improvement of library services and resources to the nation's African American community; and provides leadership for the recruitment and professional development of African American librarians.

Critically-acclaimed author Calvin Baker discusses his new book, "A More Perfect Reunion: Race, Integration, and the Future of America" on August 20 at 7 p.m. Kirkus Review describes Baker's new book as "Required reading for any American serious about dismantling systemic racism" (Kirkus Review). He presents a provocative case for integration as the single most radical, discomfiting idea in America, yet the only enduring solution to the racism that threatens our democracy. Baker has taught at Yale, Columbia, and the University of Leipzig in Germany, and is the author of four novels: "Naming the New World," "Once Two Heroes," "Dominion," and "Grace." Baker's appearance is also co-presented with the Prince George's County Human Relations Commission. He is interviewed by Silvia Bolivar of the PGCMLS Board of Library Trustees and Elizabeth Ajunwa of the Glenarden Branch Library.

Bassey Ikpi embodies the brilliance of multifaceted creative minds. The writer, performer, advocate and author of the instant New York Times bestselling book, "I'm Telling the Truth, but I'm Lying," joins PGCMLS on August 24 at 7 pm. Essence esteemed this debut collection of essays as "beautiful and compelling," while Audible defines the writing as both "visceral" and "comforting." Appearing on stages and screens across the world as a public speaker and TV personality, Bassey first gained public acclaim as an internationally recognized poet. In a past life, she was a featured poet on HBO's Def Poetry Jam and toured with its Tony Award-winning Broadway show. Also an active voice in pop culture com-

See VIRTUAL EVENTS Page A6




Calvin Baker
on "A More Perfect Reunion"

Thursday, August 20 at 7 pm
Virtual Event



Prince George's Community College Welcomes New President

By COURTNEY DAVIS
PGCC

LARGO, Md. (August 11, 2020)—Prince George's Community College (PGCC) welcomes Dr. Falecia D. Williams as the College's ninth president. Dr. Williams assumed her role yesterday, August 10. She succeeds Dr. Charlene M. Dukes, who retired after 25 years of service to the College, including 13 years as president.

Dr. Williams joins PGCC after more than 22 years at Valencia College in Orlando, Fla., where she served as president of the Downtown and West campuses, comprised of more than 30,000 students out of the college's total student body of 68,000. Dr. Williams was responsible for providing academic, administrative, and fiscal leadership to support the vision, mission, and values of Valencia College. She led a team of 17 administrators, including 15 deans, and oversaw 13 academic divisions, the library and learning support services, two student service divisions, and two faculty senate presidents. She also managed a \$41 million budget. Prior to her role as president at Valencia College, she served in a series of progressively responsible roles, including interim provost for West Campus, assistant vice president for Workforce Development, dean for Workforce Development, and professor.

"I've always felt that the heart of a place lies within its people," said Dr. Falecia Williams. "I am honored to start the semester anew as president of Prince George's Community College, a place that radiates with such a rich history of excellence and innovation because of its people. I look forward to working alongside the faculty, staff, students, and community to guide the College to what I know will be an exciting and promising future."



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dr. Falecia Williams PGCC

A noted expert in Pathways, PGCC's highest strategic student success priority, as a campus president at Valencia College, Dr. Williams implemented a comprehensive \$1.5 million Title III Pathways project to revamp student services, upgrade educational planning tools, pilot early alert protocols, and increase faculty engagement in coaching students for success. She also opened a Center for Teaching/Learning Innovation on the West campus as a place for faculty and staff to explore new technologies and build communities for innovation and exchange.

Her other noteworthy accomplishments include: the disruptive design, development, and launch of a new educational ecosystem model for a joint campus in partnership with the University of Central Florida; accreditation for the B.S. Nursing and B.S. Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology and renewed programmatic accreditation with commendations for 11 health-related programs; opening a summer bridge program

that resulted in a 97 percent course success rate and 87 percent retention rate compared to 80 percent course success rate and 76 percent retention when students engaged in traditional enrollment; and garnering more than \$30 million over five years to support promising practice, intellectual experimentation, capacity building, and faculty development.

Prior to Valencia College, Dr. Williams served for 10 years as a K-12 educator and coordinator.

Dr. Williams is active in numerous professional, business, civic endeavors, and board service. She holds an extensive collection of honors and awards that include: Orlando Business Journal Top Five Leaders for Economic Development; Orlando Magazine, Top 15 People to Watch; Orlando Magazine, 50 Most Powerful; Central Florida YMCA Achievers Education Advocate of the Year; and Leadership Award, American Association of Women in Community Colleges.

Dr. Falecia D. Williams holds a doctorate in curriculum and instruction-community college leadership from the University of Central Florida, Orlando; a master's degree in education, teaching, and learning, from Stetson University, Deland, Fla.; and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla.

She also holds professional certifications from Stanford University as a Design Thinking Professional, and from Harvard University's Institute for Educational Management (IEM). Dr. Williams also completed an Aspen Presidential Fellowship at the Aspen Institute's College Excellence Program.

More information about Dr. Falecia D. Williams is available online at <https://www.pgcc.edu/about-pgcc/leadership/office-of-the-president/about-our-president/>.

Maryland Department of Health Launches COVID-19 Antibody Study

By PRESS OFFICER
MDH

BALTIMORE (August 13, 2020)—The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) today announced its collaboration with 13 hospitals in the state to conduct an antibody (serology) study to determine how many Marylanders have been exposed to COVID-19. More than 6,000 people will be tested in the initial phase.

Serology tests indicate whether people have had a previous infection by looking for antibodies in their blood. Serology testing is not diagnostic like a PCR test to determine whether a person has an active COVID-19 infection. The serology test uses a blood sample to look for antibodies made in response to COVID-19, rather than looking for the virus itself.

The MDH study is part of an ongoing serology testing strategy to determine the prevalence of COVID-19 based on scientific data to guide state and local policies to ensure the health and safety of Marylanders. Additional testing will take place based on lessons learned and statistical gaps identified in the initial survey.

"Understanding the level and pattern of unrecognized community transmissions of

COVID-19 is crucial to curb transmission and prevent a future wave of the pandemic," said MDH Secretary Robert R. Neall. "Establishing a baseline of those who have tested positive will help us better understand how it spreads so we can fight it more effectively."

Hospitals participating in the study are representative of the state's geography and expected levels of infection, based on confirmed COVID-19 cases and patients visiting emergency departments. Participating hospitals include:

- UMPC Western Maryland
- Carroll County Hospital
- UM Shore Medical Center at Easton
- Peninsula Regional
- Frederick Memorial
- Anne Arundel Medical Center
- MedStar Franklin Square
- Johns Hopkins Health System
- Howard General Hospital
- Holy Cross Hospital
- Shady Grove Adventist
- UM Prince George's Hospital Center
- MedStar Southern Maryland

MDH enlisted a design team for the serological testing study that includes the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Johns Hopkins Uni-

See ANTIBODY Page A8

COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Kamala Harris Selection Represents Unprecedented Moment of Racial Reckoning, Outsized Role of Black Women Leading the Nation Through Crisis

"I just sat with that for a minute. I just sat there. And then I found, out of nowhere, just tears coming down—like they are now. I thought about Betty Shabazz. I thought about Coretta Scott King. I thought about Maya Angelou. I thought about Dorothy Height. And I thought about everything that they have poured into us. ... It took Joe Biden to say, 'It's time to come out from the shadows.' To say, 'I see you.' He saw her. He saw her qualifications despite all the negative stuff that was being thrown at her. He made history, but I think he will never know how much history he has made."

—Political strategist

The selection of Senator Kamala Harris to be the Democratic Vice Presidential nominee represents many "firsts." The first Black woman to be nominated on a major party ticket. The first person of South Asian descent. The first HBCU grad.

More importantly, though, her candidacy is emblematic of this unprecedented moment of racial reckoning in America, and the outsized role that Black women are playing in leading the nation through this period of crisis.

It's no surprise that Black women have emerged among the nation's strongest and most competent leaders. The formidable challenges that women, particularly women of color, must overcome to achieve positions of prominence, are like the fire that tempers steel.

The National Urban League

has had a strong relationship with Senator Harris for many years. We honored her as one of the first recipients of our "Woman of Power" awards in 2004, just after she was elected District Attorney of San Francisco. In 2017, when she assumed office as California's third female U.S. Senator, and the first of Jamaican or Indian ancestry, we honored her with the Hiram Revels Award for Achievement, named for the first African American to serve in the U.S. Congress.

While we've worked closely with her since her election to the Senate, her fierce advocacy for underserved communities since the onset of the pandemic has been invaluable. She, along with Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey, was a prime sponsor of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act in the Senate. We recently joined her and other members of Congress to announce legislation that would allow those at risk of eviction to access legal representation, and help protect their credit. As a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, she famously held Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh and Attorney General nominee William Barr to account during their confirmation hearings.

Her groundbreaking selection to the position of vice presidential nominee has drawn comparison to the legendary Shirley Chisholm, whom she often cites as a source of inspiration. In 1968, Chisholm became the first Black woman to

serve as a member of Congress, and in 1972 became the first Black woman to seek the nomination of a major party for President.

When she launched her presidential campaign, Harris chose a red and yellow design for her logo that resembles Chisholm's campaign buttons.

Chisholm faced abhorrent racial harassment on her campaign, and nearly half a century later, the racist attacks not only have not subsided—they're amplified through social media. But it's not just crude slurs hurled on Twitter by anonymous trolls. Within hours of the announcement that she had been selected as Joe Biden's running mate, a major magazine amplified a racist "birther" conspiracy theory about her.

Chisholm was realistic about the obstacles her candidacy faced. "I just want to show it can be done," she often said.

Harris was a child when Chisholm ran for President, just to show it could be done, and now she stands a realistic chance of being the first woman to hold the second-highest office in the land.

As Joe Biden said the day after announcing his choice, "This morning, all across the nation, little girls woke up, especially little black and brown girls, who so often feel overlooked and undervalued in their communities, but today, today just maybe, they're seeing themselves for the first time in a new way, as the stuff of presidents and vice presidents."

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Prayers For Us All in These Challenging Times

I share below two wonderful prayers by my dear friend Rev. Frederick J. "Jerry" Streets, Senior Pastor of Dixwell Congregational Church in New Haven and former chaplain and pastor of Yale's Battell Chapel. He is a licensed clinical social worker and an anchor and we are blessed to have him as a co-chaplain-in-residence at the Children's Defense Fund's Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry at Haley Farm. These prayers were nurtured by CDF's virtual Proctor experience and they are prayers that will nurture all of us now as we face both the COVID-19 pandemic and the continued atrocities of this administration.

A Prayer for Us

We Come to God

Dear Lord:

You are our God during our weary years and you are with us during our silent tears. You have provided a bridge for us over our troubled waters. Thank you!

A virtual call to worship summons us to an approximate togetherness. Sometimes we come to you with Zoomed prayers and parking lot praises.

Our joyful noise can hide from the world the complaints of our souls and our aching hearts. With sorrows too wrenching for words, we moaned and breathed deeply our prayers to you. We speak to you in our music, our poetry, our dance, our art and in our silence. From a doctor's office, hospital room, or our kitchen table or from a pew in a sacred space, or

on sidewalks or street corners, dirt roads or concrete pavements, on our jobs or standing in an unemployment line, we never cease calling upon you, because where-ever we are our very daily living is our prayer of hope to you.

We listen for you in our anguish and in our joy.

We listen for you in voices crying for justice, for peace, for health, and for strength.

We listen for the healing of our wounds and feelings of wounded-ness that are found in our reading and hearing your sacred words and in the grace-filled actions of those whose gifts make us laugh and feel good about being alive.

We pray for our nation that this time of its crisis be an opportunity for an old dream to have new life. A renewal to our mutual commitment that all of us have life, liberty and freedom to pursue our happiness. Let us lay down by the riverside our burdens and all forms of human oppression and war.

We come to you O, God, as we are and with all we hope to be in this world.

We come to you O, God, standing on your promise to be with us always and to make a way when there seems to be no way to go or turn.

We come to you O, Lord, for in our faith in you we find strength to endure today and hope for tomorrow.

We come to you merciful God, to a holy pause in which to find rest for our souls.

We come to you with decisions to make and to celebrate

our thanksgivings.

We come to you, our Creator, so that we can come to ourselves and know that we are precious in your sight.

We come to you with humility and yet also with the boldness of one who is your beloved and for this we give thanks. Amen.

Again

We will laugh again, without caution.

We will smile again, without constraint.

We will embrace again, without defense.

We will speak again, without muted sounds.

We will, again, side by side, look at the stars.

Again we will gather in places and spaces unsoiled by our anxiety and fear.

We will freely breathe deeply, again.

We will dance again with our cheeks close enough to hear our whispering to one another.

We will mourn again, openly.

We will greet each other again closely, without suspicion.

Children will hug us again. And we will hug children, again.

We will invite solitude, again.

We will imagine again without desperation.

We will again feel the joy that hope brings.

We will play together again.

We will sing together again.

We will cheer together again.

We will pray together again.

We will feel each other's hands and arms,

Again, tomorrow. Tomorrow, again.

CASA in Action Elated as First Black Woman On Major Ticket

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (August 11, 2020)—CASA in Action President Gustavo Torres issued the following statement after presidential candidate Joe Biden picked California U.S. Senator Kamala Harris to be his running mate in advance of the November 3 election.

"We are pleased to hear that Senator Kamala Harris was picked as our champion's vice presidential nominee. It's a great day to celebrate the first Black vice-presidential candidate on a major party ticket. November's election is critical for our

Latino, Black and immigrant communities and we are sure that Harris, daughter of immigrants with extensive experience in public service, is the right leader who will fight for social and economic justice for all working families, regardless of their country of origin, the color of their skin, or their immigration status.

"Latinos and Black people have the power to shape the future of this nation, and CASA in Action is doing everything to ensure Biden and Harris get elected. CASA in Action has al-

ready begun engaging voters and registering hundreds of thousands of Latino, Black, and other voters of color through targeted data-driven electoral programs in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia."

With more than 100,000+ lifetime members, CASA in Action is the largest electoral organization fighting for immigrant rights in the Mid-Atlantic region. For more information, please visit CASAINAction.org. Follow us @CASAINAction.

Hoyer Statement on 100,000 COVID-19 Cases in Maryland

WASHINGTON (August 16, 2020)—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) released the following statement today after the state of Maryland passed 100,000 COVID-19 cases:

"Over 100,000 Marylanders have tested positive for the coronavirus, and it is clear that this public health crisis is not going away anytime soon. Families throughout our state have been severely affected by this pandemic, and it is imperative now more than ever that we take every available step to slow the spread. The House of Representatives passed the Heroes Act three months ago to provide states with the funding they need to contact trace, test, and treat individuals. It is unacceptable that Senator McConnell, Senate Republicans, and Pres-

ident Trump have failed to act. Marylanders are getting sick and dying because of Republicans' inaction.

"This Republican inaction impacts our economy and the health of our citizens. As the number of cases continues to rise and the school year begins, it is critically important that we make the health and wellbeing of students, teachers, administrators, and staff our top priority. We must fight this virus with science-based solutions, and protecting the health of families in our state must remain our most important goal. I continue to urge the Senate to pass the Heroes Act and ensure our state has the resources it desperately needs to slow the curve and prevent the spread of COVID-19."

Voting – Democracy in Action

The Prince George's County Human Relations Commission and Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) invite you to their "Voting – Democracy in Action" discussion on August 31 at 7 p.m. They will review the long fight for voting rights in this country and why using your voice and your vote is democracy in action. Special guests include University of Maryland History professor Dr. Richard Bell and Daneen Banks from the Prince George's County Board of Elections, with opening remarks by PGCMLS CEO Roberta Phillips.

Register in advance at https://mypgc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Cp7Fz1JFQlykTavR3OH6TA?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery for this free event.

—Community Connections Newsletter, August 14, 2020

REQUEST YOUR BALLOT TO VOTE BY MAIL

Anyone registered to vote in Maryland can vote a mail-in ballot. You can request your ballot to vote by mail today online: <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineVoterRegistration/InstructionsStep1>. You must return your ballot to your local election office by mail, by dropping it in a drop-off box, or by taking it to your local election office. You can do this at any time. A list of designated drop off locations will be included with your ballot.

—Council Member Deni Taveras

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The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

About the Virtues of Claiming Benefits Early

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

Dear Rusty: It seems like we are always encouraged to wait until our full retirement age or age 70 to claim our Social Security. For me, benefits at age 62 were a good jump start to my retirement. How about listing the many benefits to early (age 62) retirement? And at what age does it become a liability, if ever? **Signed: Happily Retired at age 78**

Dear Happily Retired: You're correct that most financial advisors and Social Security Advisors, including me, frequently encourage people to delay claiming Social Security until at least their full retirement age (FRA). And that's because far too many claim their benefits as soon as they are available at age 62 "because it's there," without evaluating whether that's a smart move for them personally. There are many reasons why it's best to wait, but there are also some very good reasons for claiming benefits at age 62. Let's explore those.

Claiming at age 62 is exactly the right move if you are in poor health and don't expect to live a long life. Benefits taken age 62 are 25% less for those with a full retirement age (FRA) of 66, and 30% less if your FRA is 67. But those reductions become insignificant if you don't expect to live a long, healthy life from that point forward. If you wait until your FRA, it takes about 12 years to collect the same amount in total benefits as if you had claimed at age 62.

Even if you are in decent health now, if your family history and your lifestyle suggest less than average longevity, claiming before your FRA, as early as 62, may be a prudent choice. By "lifestyle" I mean, for example, whether you exercise regularly, smoke or drink excessively or drive without a seatbelt. There are several life expectancy calculators available which can assist with predicting your life expectancy by evaluating your family history and lifestyle, including those available at this website: <https://socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/>. Just remember that no one can accurately forecast how long they will live but making an informed decision on when to claim should consider your estimated longevity, among other things.

If collecting your Social Security benefits early is needed to help pay for life's necessities, such as food, housing, and out-of-pocket medical costs, then claiming as early as age 62, or any other time before your FRA, could be exactly the right choice. In other words, the need for the money now is a driving force in deciding when to claim.

Which brings me to your point that claiming at age 62 was a "jump start" to your retirement, allowing you to begin enjoying your golden years much earlier than you might have otherwise been able to. There's a lot to be said for taking benefits early to fulfill your bucket list while you're still young enough to enjoy it. And, from your signature, it looks like you've been putting that extra Social Security money to good use for many years now. Good for you! Now, at age 78, you've reached your "breakeven point" where, if you had waited until your FRA to claim, your cumulative lifetime benefits would hereafter be more than they will be because you claimed at 62. That may not, however, offset the many years of happy retirement you've been able to enjoy because you took your benefits early.

In the end, deciding when to claim Social Security should be done after carefully evaluating your personal situation. Anyone who claims benefits before their full retirement age must beware of Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much you can earn before your benefits are affected. But those who can afford to wait and who expect to live to a ripe old age would do well to consider delaying until their full retirement age, or even beyond, to claim their Social Security benefits. If their life expectancy is at least "average" they'll collect much more in cumulative lifetime benefits by doing so.

The 2.1 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] www.amac.us is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation's capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country. And the AMAC Foundation (www.AmacFoundation.org) is the Association's non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting and educating America's Seniors. Together, we act and speak on the Association members' behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at www.amac.us/join-amac.

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Franchise Experts and Mother-Daughter Trio Bring First Hand & Stone Massage and Facial Spa To Prince George's County

With a passion to bring a premier wellness experience to the community, Toya Evans, Lauren Williamson and Chanel Grant are opening the first massage and facial spa franchise in Brandywine this fall.

By PRESS OFFICER
for Hand & Stone Massage and Facial Spa

BRANDYWINE, Md. (August 14, 2020)—Hand & Stone Massage and Facial Spa, a 450-plus unit franchise that brings luxury spa experiences to the masses, is expanding to Brandywine. Prince George's County business owners and mother-daughter trio Toya Evans, Lauren Williamson and Chanel Grant have signed on to open their first Hand & Stone location in early fall of 2020.

With a passion to bring health and wellness services to the predominately African American community of Prince George's County, Evans, Williams and Grant are bringing the first Hand & Stone Massage and Facial Spa to Brandywine this fall, marking a total of seven locations for the brand in Maryland. The family looks forward to bringing new jobs to the area at a time when unemployment is at an all-time high, while also giving the community a place to unwind.

Though it's their first Hand & Stone, they're no strangers to the franchising world. As described by her daughters, Evans is an entrepreneur by nature and has owned businesses her whole life. The trio currently owns three Tropical Smoothies in Prince George's County, and they even created a course to help other potential franchisees find their beat. Evans, Williamson and Grant are looking forward to growing with the Hand & Stone brand with a goal to open five to 10 spas throughout Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina, one spa at a time.

"We're looking forward to bringing the first massage service concept to the underserved community of Prince George's County," says Evans. "Hand & Stone is an innovative brand with a wide range of wellness offerings, and my daughters and I are passionate about making those offerings more accessible to the local community."

Hand & Stone Massage and Facial Spas specialize in the highest-quality services at affordable prices, making soothing stress relief accessible to more people than ever. Hand & Stone offers deluxe massages, facials and hair removal experiences, perfect for both beginners and seasoned veterans alike. Hand & Stone locations are open seven days a week, with convenient hours so that wellness is always an option for patrons. The spa also offers a convenient membership package, making regular care for the mind and body an easy choice.

"We're thrilled to bring the Hand & Stone spa experience to the community of Prince George's County," said Bob McQuillan, vice president of franchise development for Hand & Stone. "We make sure every client feels taken care of by customizing the services to their needs. A rejuvenating spa experience can be beneficial for people of all profes-



PHOTO COURTESY NO LIMIT AGENCY

Prince George's County business owners and mother-daughter trio from left to right Chanel Grant, Toya Evans, and Lauren Williamson have signed on to open their first Hand & Stone location in early fall of 2020.

sions and from all walks of life."

The brand is currently seeking new franchise owners in Maryland, Virginia and Washington D.C. Markets.

For more information on Hand & Stone's new location in Brandywine, visit www.handandstonebrandywinemd.com/.

Hand & Stone is a 450-plus spa franchise with a mission to bring massage and facial services to the masses. Launched in 2004 by passionate physical therapist John Marco and now led by franchise veteran Todd Leff, Hand & Stone has locations in 28 states and Canada. Visit www.handandstone.com. For more information on Hand & Stone's franchising opportunities, visit <https://handandstonefranchise.com>.

Comcast Launches New "Internet Essentials Partnership Program" For Cities, Schools, And Students as Nation Gears Up for the Academic Year

Adds Free xFi Platform for Parents to Protect Children's Devices and Monitor Online Activities; Continues to Offer 60 Days of Free Internet Service for New Internet Essentials Customer

By SANDY ARNETTE, APR
Comcast

PHILADELPHIA (August 13, 2020)—With distance learning plans rolling out across the country due to the coronavirus, Comcast today announced a new program for cities, schools, and nonprofits to connect large numbers of low-income K-12 students to the Internet at home. The "Internet Essentials Partnership Program" is designed to help accelerate Internet adoption at a critical time. In nearly ten years, Internet Essentials has become the nation's largest and most successful low-income Internet adoption program and has connected millions of people to the Internet. It offers households low-cost, broadband Internet service for \$9.95/month, the option to purchase a heavily subsidized computer, and multiple options for digital literacy training.

Comcast also announced it is giving all Internet Essentials customers its innovative xFi platform, which enables parents to control and manage their children's WiFi connected devices.

Accelerating Internet Adoption:

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the "Internet Essentials Partnership Program" has already collaborated with more than 70 schools across the country. The program relies on public-private partnerships and enables entire communities to work together to coordinate funding to help connect K-12 students. The program also includes two months of free Internet service for new Internet Essentials customers. Recent partnerships with schools in Chicago, Atlanta, Sacramento, Pittsburgh, Portland,

and Arlington, VA mean more than 200,000 qualified students now have a greater opportunity to get connected. Visit: www.comcastcorporation.com/IEPP for more information.

"We've seen firsthand that low-cost Internet access is an important part of improving digital equity and creating positive opportunities for low-income students and families," said Dana Strong, President of Xfinity Consumer Services. "Through this new partnership program, we are accelerating the efforts of cities, schools, philanthropies, nonprofits, and private citizens to collaborate and open the doors of Internet access for more families in need."

The initiative builds on Comcast's recent announcement that it will continue to offer, through the end of 2020, all new Internet Essentials customers two months of free Internet service and it will forgive back debt due so more families can apply.

Putting Home WiFi Controls into Parents' Hands and Keeping Families Safe Online:

With so many families at home, parents and caregivers need controls to manage their home WiFi connection and their children's devices. So, Comcast is providing all Internet Essentials customers free access to xFi, which is a simple, digital dashboard that enables customers to set up and manage their home WiFi. With it, they can see what devices are connected, set safe-browsing modes so children can only access age-appropriate content, get notifications about activity on their home WiFi, and have the ability to pause devices for dinner or bedtime.

Partnering to Accelerate Internet Adoption and Address Digital and Media Literacy:

As research shows, barriers to broadband adoption are more complex than having access to an Internet connection, even when it's heavily discounted or free. It's also clear that no single entity can solve the digital divide alone. As a result, the success of Internet Essentials is due to partnerships with more than 10,000 government and elected officials, school districts, libraries, nonprofits, community-based organizations, and others. Collectively, they help to address the full range of barriers to broadband adoption.

Comcast also announced plans that it will convene a series of virtual national and regional summits this fall. Each one will focus on several issues including: education, broadband adoption, digital and media literacy and training, and Internet safety. In addition, this fall Comcast will publish its annual Internet Essentials progress report and relaunch its Internet Essentials Partner Portal, located at www.internetessentials.com/partner, to include case studies, research, and links to creative broadband adoption solutions. Resources there will be made free for anyone to access, including other Internet Service Providers and nonprofits.

Since August 2011, Internet Essentials has connected millions of low-income households to the Internet. The program has grown from focusing on bridging the "homework gap" for school-age children to addressing digital equity issues for all Americans. The program offers low-cost, high-speed Internet service for \$9.95 a month plus tax, provides access to free digital skills training, and includes the option to purchase a low-cost Internet-ready computer. For individuals and organizations interested in becoming a partner, visit: <https://partner.internetessentials.com>. To apply, go to: www.internetessentials.com using any web-connected device, including mobile phones. There is an option to video chat with customer service agents in American Sign Language. In addition, there are two dedicated phone numbers: 1-855-846-8376 for English and 1-855-765-6995 for Spanish.

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BACK TO SCHOOL

EO Kids Feature: Shifting Shapes of Sandy Scapes

Nature builds with sand, using wind to create dunes. Explore how wind and sand form different types of dunes on coastlines and in deserts. And find out how satellites help scientists figure out how dunes formed and how they are changing them over time. Then try the DIY Science activity, "Sandbox Dunes" to make your own model dunes.

<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/blogs/eokids/shifting-shapes-of-sandy-scapes/?src=eoa-blogs>
EO Kids is written for audiences aged 9 to 14. It is published with support from NASA's Landsat, Terra, and Aqua missions.



Emotionally Preparing Your Children For Back-to-School Season

(Family Features) Between sheltering-in-place, online learning and time away from friends, many children will need a little extra support as they head back to school this fall.

Consider these tips from the experts at KinderCare to help you emotionally prepare your children to return to school with confidence, optimism and excitement.

It's also important to respect your child's growing independence and empower him or her to help others. As you explain safety precautions like covering the mouth when sneezing or coughing, or proper hand washing, emphasize how your child's actions can help keep family, friends and teachers safe.

"Children may already be apprehensive about returning to school, let alone trying to cope with new safety practices," said Dr. Joelle Simpson, a pediatric emergency medicine physician and medical director for emergency preparedness at Children's National Hospital. "Explaining these precautions ahead of time can help your children see them as part of the school day routine instead of something to fear. For parents, remember that while children can get sick from this virus, it occurs less frequently than in adults and at lower rates than the flu."

Celebrate the start of a new school year

Try to plan a special activity or some extra family time the week before school starts and encourage your child to participate in the planning.

"Remember, children didn't have time for a clean break and celebration at the end of the last school year, and this can help your child mentally adjust to a new routine and schedule," Yalow said.

Let your child know how proud you are to see him or her growing up, learning how to be a good friend and exploring and learning about the world. Be sure to talk with your child each school day—what was learned, funny things friends said, the things that seem little but are important to your child.

For more tips about how to help your child prepare for the new school year, visit kindercare.com.

Address your feelings (and theirs)

Children often take cues about how to react from their parents. Think about what it takes for you to feel calm and prepared (or even excited) for the start of a new school year. That could mean talking with your child's teacher or school about the safety precautions they're taking so you can feel more at ease, taking a few minutes to establish a morning routine or stepping away from news that makes you anxious. Focus instead on the positive aspects of school, like the opportunity your child will have to learn, make friends, interact with others and grow into his or her own person.

"Children need a sense of belonging, and school provides an important connection point for them," said Dr. Elanna Yalow, chief academic officer for KinderCare Learning Centers. "Nothing builds a sense of community like personal contact with friends and teachers. That connection is essential in supporting a child's growth and development."

Set expectations about what to expect before the first day

Some children may feel ready to go and eager to explore, while others can be more reserved or even fearful of new places, faces and routines. When your child knows what to expect, it can go a long way in soothing any worries he or she may have about leaving home and going to school.

Smart Start Savvy Tips to Kick Off a New School Year

(Family Features) Returning to learning may bring more new experiences this fall than anyone ever imagined. Regardless of the learning environment, there are some tips and supplies that can make it easier on the whole family to restart curriculum.

Whether your kids will be at home or in the classroom, making education easy is likely a top priority as you plan for the weeks and months ahead. These supplies and ideas can help you get organized and ready to tackle a new school year with confidence.

Find more back-to-school tips and solutions at eLivingtoday.com.

Calculate Your Way to School Success

Whether learning from home or the classroom, Texas Instruments has students covered with new additions to its colorful collection of TI-84 Plus CE graphing calculators. Available in colors like "Rose Curve Gold" and "Measure Mint," these math and science machines help students grasp important STEM concepts and succeed on exams. The super-sleek graphing calculator can take students from middle school through graduate school, and can even help them learn to code. Find more school solutions at education.ti.com.

Don't Overlook Organization

Staying organized during school season is a goal for many families, and one of the best ways to do so is with an option like ClosetMaid Mini 6 Cube Organizers, which are refreshed versions of old favorites. Use these organizers, also available in matching offset designs, on flat surfaces or mounted on the wall to store, organize and display any number of small items. Find more solutions for the school year at closetmaid.com.

Make Lunchtime Easy

You can make lunchtime fun, flavorful and easy for

your little learner with Sabra Singles, a plant-based snack perfect for kids. Pair with classics like carrots, cucumbers, tortilla chips or pretzels. They're available in varieties like Classic and Roasted Red Pepper Hummus and allow kids to help themselves to make lunchtime a cinch. Find more inspiration at sabra.com.

Better Organization with a Bookshelf

A new school year and the learning it entails calls for plenty of books, which means organization is paramount. Store your student's books and more, like picture frames, with an option such as the Wide 3-Shelf Ladder Bookshelf from ClosetMaid. These sleek and modern units, available in multiple finish colors and sizes, can be easily assembled and quickly ready for use anywhere in your home. Visit closetmaid.com to find additional organization solutions for this school year.

Enjoy a Delectable, Better-For-You Dessert

A long day of reading, math and more deserves a treat to end the school day on a high note. For a delicious option you can feel good about enjoying and serving to your kids, consider fairlife's Light Ice Cream, expertly crafted with ultra-filtered milk and natural flavors to deliver a lactose-free treat with a rich, creamy texture and 40% less sugar than traditional ice cream. Find more information at fairlife.com.



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Virtual Events from A3

mentary and the mental health community, Bassey has been published by The Root, Huffington Post, and Essence, as well as in anthologies including *Rookie On Love* from acclaimed editor Tavi Gevinson. As the founder of The Siwe Project, a mental health organization, Bassey also created the global movement #NoShameDay, an initiative that aims to reduce stigma and increase mental health awareness.

New York Times bestselling author Michele Harper, an emergency room physician, explores how a life of service to others taught her how to heal herself in "The Beauty in Breaking: A Memoir." Harper shares her experience as a Black female physician in a profession that is overwhelmingly male and white with PGCMLS on September 9 at 7 p.m. Harper is interviewed by Nicholas A. Brown, the Library's COO for Communication and Outreach, and Hawa Jalloh of the Glenarden Branch Library.

Summer Reads: Steven Rowley, Byron Lane, Simran Jeet Singh, and Fredrik Backman

National bestselling author Steven Rowley discusses his latest novel "The Editor" (August 17 at 7 p.m.), which Oprah describes as "filled with whimsy and warmth." The book follows the story of a struggling writer who is trying to get his big break, with a little help from Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, his editor and unexpected friend. Rowley is also the author of "Lily and the Octopus," which has been translated into nineteen languages. He has worked as a freelance writer, newspaper columnist, and screenwriter. Originally from Portland, Maine, Rowley is a graduate of Emerson College. He lives in Palm Springs, CA. Rowley is interviewed by Nicholas A. Brown of PGCMLS.

Byron Lane discusses his debut novel, "A Star is Bored," on August 19 at 8 p.m. The book is about a celebrity assistant struggling to manage his eccentric and hilarious movie star boss, inspired in part by Lane's time as assistant to beloved actress Carrie Fisher. The novel has been featured in Entertainment Weekly, OK Magazine, and People Magazine which hails: "Funny, dishy, deeply affectionate...the force is with him." Lane is also playwright and web series writer. He wrote and co-starred in the play "Tilda Swinton Answers an Ad on Craigslist," a comedy hit that had sold out runs in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, London, and Edinburgh Fringe. Lane is a regional Emmy Award winner from his time as a TV News

journalist. He's originally from New Orleans and lives in Palm Springs, CA. Roswell Encina, chief communications officer of the Library of Congress interviews.

Nationally renowned author and advocate Simran Jeet Singh celebrates the launch of his debut children's book, "Fauja Singh Keeps Going," on Friday, August 28 at 10 a.m. "Fauja Singh Keeps Going" is the first-ever children's book from a major publisher to center a Sikh story. The true story of Fauja Singh, who broke world records to become the first one hundred-year-old to run a marathon, shares valuable lessons on the source of his grit, determination to overcome obstacles, and commitment to positive representation of the Sikh community. Dr. Simran Jeet Singh is an educator, writer, activist, and scholar who speaks regularly on issues of diversity, inclusion and equity. He is currently based at Union Seminary, and he's the first Sikh wire-service columnist in U.S. his-

tory. Singh connects with a diversity of audiences by bantering on Twitter (where he has 80,000+ followers), doing on-air commentary on programs like The Daily Show with Trevor Noah, and hosting Spirited, a new podcast on faith and spirituality.

International bestselling Swedish author Fredrik Backman ("A Man Called Ove") joins PGCMLS and Maryland libraries to discuss his new novel "Anxious People." The book is a poignant comedy about a crime that never took place, a would-be bank robber who disappears into thin air, and eight extremely anxious strangers who find they have more in common than they ever imagined. His books are published in more than forty countries. PGCMLS co-presents this event with the Frederick County Public Libraries, Curious

See VIRTUAL EVENTS Page A7

Simran Jeet Singh
reads "Fauja Singh Keeps Going"
Friday, August 28 at 10 am
Ages 4-8

Prince George's County
Memorial Library System

BACK TO SCHOOL

EDUCATION

Prepping for a Successful School Year

(StatePoint) Whether heading back to the classroom or back to a digital device this fall, it is important to be prepared. Get your children set up for academic success with the following resources and gear:

- **Comfortable workstation:** A few considerations will improve ergonomics and comfort, for better focus when working at home. Consider a height-adjustable table or desk as well as an adjustable chair in order to accommodate your growing child's needs.

If possible, select an area for your child to work that gets plenty of natural light. A good desk lamp is also essential.

- **Math tools:** Did you know that there are free math resources available online that can help to alleviate the challenges posed by remote-learning? Check out Casio's learning site, available at [CasioEducation.com/remote-learning](https://www.casio.com/remote-learning), which provides math activities, YouTube videos, an online calculator and downloadable resources. The brand also offers a variety of models of scientific and graphing calculators, providing students of all levels with the features they'll need to make the grade.

- **Headphones:** With so many distractions that can derail a student's attention, a good set of noise-canceling headphones can make all the difference.

- **Music instruction:** Give kids the tools they need to play music wherever and whenever they'd like. With the ultra-compact LK-S250 keyboard, novices can easily learn to play favorite songs using the instrument's Key Lighting system and library of built-in songs. By connecting to the free Chordana Play app, they can take lessons further by mastering favorite tunes from downloaded MIDI files. The class-compliant USB port connects to any Mac, PC, iOS or Android device with no drivers needed.

- **Functional fashion:** The best accessories also serve a purpose. Look for a watch that has a range of features that help students stay on task. Check out the Pro Trek line of watches. Its different alarm settings can be used to keep a schedule.

Be sure kids are equipped for a successful school year, no matter where or how their learning takes place.



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PGCPS Announces Special Student Transfer Window

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) will offer a special student transfer window from Wednesday, Aug. 5 through Tuesday, Aug. 25.

Parents and legal guardians of currently enrolled PGCPS students may only submit transfer requests for the following circumstances:

- New to PGCPS (enrolled after Monday, March 16)
- Incoming kindergarten students who were not enrolled in PGCPS last school year
- Terminal grade (i.e., Family moved out of boundary, but student wants to complete final grade-level year, such as fifth, sixth, eighth or 12th, at current school.) Contact the Transfer Office at 301-567-8751 for special instructions.

Families of currently enrolled students can submit transfer requests electronically through the SchoolMax Family Portal. Families of new students can get login credentials and assistance through their boundary school.

The Office of Student Records, Transfers and Archival Services will not accept transfer requests to schools that exceed state-rated capacity. Visit <https://www1.pgcps.org/student-transfers/available-seats/> to view a list of schools eligible to receive transfer students.

For details, visit the Student Transfer Request webpage by visiting <https://www1.pgcps.org/student-transfers/>.

—Prince George's County Public Schools

HEALTH

Why Your Child's Back-to-School Eye Exam Is so Important

(StatePoint) This year, going back to school may mean attending class physically or virtually, with states and districts deciding on a case by case basis. Wherever your child attends school this fall, eye exams are essential for a successful academic year. Here's what to know:

- When should I get my child's eyes checked? The American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend having vision checked regularly, starting in infancy.

Not only will an eye exam help provide the clear vision necessary for a child to see the blackboard and work on digital devices without straining, but this essential visit can also detect a broad range of issues related to eye health and overall wellness.

Kids—and adults for that matter—don't always know they are experiencing a vision problem. As a result, they may be compensating for vision issues by turning their head to the side, squinting or holding reading material

up close or far away.

- What information should I share at the appointment? Be sure to share any behaviors or symptoms with your child's doctor that could be related to eye health. You should also mention all the activities and sports your child participates in which may be impacted by vision.
- Are contacts right for my child? Contact lenses may give the wearer a full field of clear, focused vision and many eye care professionals believe that children who demonstrate responsibility are excellent candidates for them. With many teens preferring contact lenses over glasses, this upcoming eye exam may be a good time to get your child fitted. And it makes sense in the current environment, as contact lenses can be a great alternative for glasses that fog up with a face mask.

Contact lenses that provide comfortable vision when working for long hours on digital devices can also prove to be beneficial. Research has shown



PHOTO SOURCE: © NEW AFRICA / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

that half of teens are almost constantly online—between smartphone usage, video games, and school work—it's important to know that digital devices can contribute to reduced blink rates, which can lead to dryness. Ask your eye doctor about lenses that have a high moisture content, feel comfortable throughout the day and are easy to insert, like Biotrue ONEday contact lenses from Bausch + Lomb, which maintain nearly 100 percent of their moisture for a full 16 hours. The brand's daily disposables are also a great choice for first-time wearers, as there is no need to clean and store the lenses after removal, just dispose of them and start with a fresh new pair each day. For more information, visit [BiotrueONEdaylenses.com](https://www.biotrue.com).

Make the most of the back-to-school season by scheduling an eye exam for your child. With healthy eyes and good vision, you can set your child up for a successful academic year.

Earth TALK™

Can Waterfalls Make Me Happy?

Dear EarthTalk:

Is it true that being around a waterfall makes you feel good?

—S.B., Lewiston, ME

The notion of waterfalls making you happy is often viewed as an "old wives' tale," but there may be some truth to it given the so-called "negative ions" pervasive in such environments. The collision of water molecules with each other causes water to be positively charged and surrounding air to be negatively charged. According to Pierce Howard, Ph.D., author of *The Owner's Manual for the Brain: Everyday Applications from Mind-Brain Research*, it makes sense that waterfalls can make you feel good, given that negative ions hitting our bloodstream can produce biochemical reactions linked to alleviating depression, relieving stress and boosting energy.

"High concentrations of negative ions are essential for high energy and positive mood," he reports. "Negative ions suppress serotonin levels in much the same way that natural sunlight suppresses melatonin. Hence the invigorating effect of fresh air and sunshine and the correspondingly depressed feelings associated with being closed in and dark."

"The atmosphere we breathe normally is full of positive and negative ions," he adds. "Air-conditioning, lack of ventilation, and long dry spells remove negative ions...the best ratios of negative to positive ions are associated with waterfalls and the time before, during and after storms," says Howard. "The worst are found in windowless rooms and closed, moving vehicles."

Our love of waterfalls only underscores that people thrive when they are exposed to nature on a regular basis. A 2013 study in the journal *Environmental Science & Technology* definitively linked exposure to nature directly with improved mental health, comparing the

mental health of those who moved from city landscapes to greener, more natural settings with those who relocated in the reverse direction. Researchers found that those who relocated to settings with a higher exposure to nature were noticeably happier during the three-year study period. "[E]nvironmental policies to increase urban green space may have sustainable public health benefits," they concluded.

In another recent study, researchers sampled the effects of nature on 537 University of Rochester students in both real and imagined situations, and found that individuals who spent time outdoors—or even just imagined themselves in nature—consistently experienced higher energy levels and increased feelings of happiness. Study participants who spent just 20 minutes outdoors a day experienced significant increases in energy levels as well as noticeable mood boosts. Even indoor plants played a role in helping study participants feel more energized.

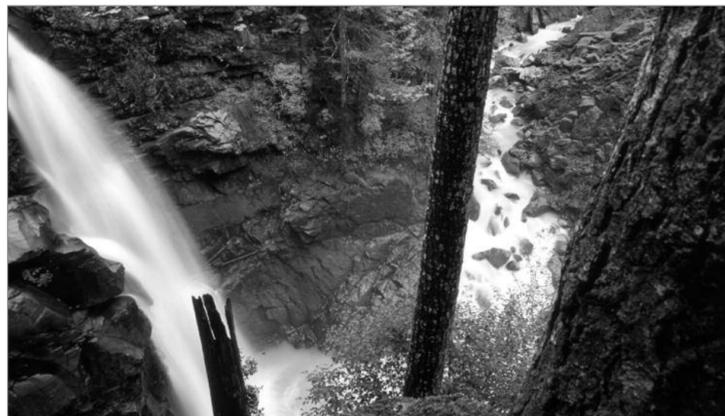
Another way to look at it would be to consider our sedentary, indoor lifestyle as a drain on our energy reserves and taxing to our mood and general sense of well-being. In the landmark 2005 book "Last Child in the Woods", Richard Louv coined the term "nature deficit disorder" to explain how our lack of time outdoors has led to behavioral problems in kids and adults alike. Louv's prescription? Spend more time outdoors (away from screens) interacting with nature and each other.

In case you needed another reason to get off

the couch and out into the woods on a waterfall hike, now you have it. You'll be sharper. You'll be more productive. You'll be invigorated. And you'll be happier.

CONTACTS: *The Owner's Manual for the Brain*, [amzn.to/3gAILTm](https://www.amazon.com/dp/0312335417); *Last Child in the Woods*, [amzn.to/3kcRb4b](https://www.amazon.com/dp/0312335417); "Green spaces deliver lasting mental health benefits," [medicalxpress.com/news/2014-01-green-spaces-mental-health-benefits.html](https://www.medicalxpress.com/news/2014-01-green-spaces-mental-health-benefits.html).

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CREDIT: RODDY SCHEER

Being around waterfalls—like this 88-foot doozy along the North Fork of the Nooksack River in Washington State—could help us with a little mental uplift courtesy of the "negative ions" floating around crashing water molecules.

Virtual Events from A6

Iguana, Weinberg Center for the Arts, and public library systems throughout Maryland.

One Maryland One Book: Lisa See

One Maryland One Book is an annual program that brings diverse people in communities across the state through the shared experience of reading the same book. The 2020 book is "The Island of Sea Women" by New York Times bestselling author Lisa See. The book chronicles the lives and friendship between Young-sook and Mi-ja, two girls living on the Korean island of Jeju. They become the closest of friends. However, their differences are impossible to ignore: Young-sook was born into a long line of haenyeo and will inherit her mother's position of leading the divers; whereas Mi-ja is the daughter of a Japanese collaborator and will forever carry that mark. From the Japanese occupation of the 1930s and 1940s, World War II, to the Korean War, events will push their seemingly unbreakable bond to its breaking point. This beautifully written and thoughtful novel shines a light on the remarkable haenyeo culture and two women who are a part of it. **Author Lisa See launches her Maryland**

virtual book tour in conversation with PGCMLS CEO Roberta Phillips on October 4 at 7 p.m. The event is co-presented with the Prince George's Community College Library, PGCMLS Foundation, and Prince George's County Human Relations Commission. One Maryland One Book is a program of Maryland Humanities.

Collaborations with Maryland Public Libraries

PGCMLS continues to strengthen its programming collaboration with public libraries throughout Maryland, on the heels of the successful virtual event with Ibram X. Kendi on "How to Be an Antiracist" in July.

Alice Randall discusses her kaleidoscopic novel, "Black Bottom Saints," on August 27 at 7 p.m. The book is a celebration of African American life, culture and achievement as refracted through the prism of a famed Detroit neighborhood during its decades of glory. Randall is the Harvard-educated author of novels, including *The Wind Done Gone*, *Pushkin* and the *Queen of Spades*, *Rebel Yell*, and *Ada's Rules*. An award-winning songwriter, she co-wrote the #1 hit XXX's and OOO's which celebrates Aretha Franklin. With her daughter, Caroline Randall Williams, she co-authored the acclaimed cookbook *Soul Food Love* which won the

NAACP Image award and the young adult novel *The Diary of B. B. Bright, Possible Princess*, which received the Phillis Wheatley Award. A Professor and Writer-in-Residence at Vanderbilt University, Randall teaches courses on soul food, African-American children's literature, and African-American film. A native of Detroit, she lives in Nashville, Tennessee. Presented in collaboration with the Howard County Library System and Charles County Public Library.

Dr. Jennifer Eberhardt discusses her book, "Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do," on September 1 at 7 p.m. Dr. Jennifer Eberhardt offers us the language and courage we need to face one of the biggest and most troubling issues of our time. She exposes racial bias at all levels of society—in our neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and criminal justice system. Yet she also offers us tools to address it. Dr. Eberhardt is a professor of psychology at Stanford and a recipient of a 2014 MacArthur "Genius" Grant. She has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and was named one of Foreign Policy's 100 Leading Global Thinkers. She also is co-founder and co-director of SPARQ (Social Psychological Answers to Real-World Questions), a Stanford Center that brings together researchers and practitioners to address significant social problems.

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Technical Support from A1

their current COVID-19 recovery efforts. Counselors will include experts from around the region with business management, finance, marketing and strategic planning experience.

"The Emerge Stronger Program is a true collaborative effort," said Lisa S. Smith, Executive Director of the Bowie Business Innovation Center (Bowie BIC), a hub for business acceleration located at Bowie State University. "By leveraging the collective training, technical business assistance and mentoring resources of the PGCEDC, FSC First and Bowie BIC for the Emerge Stronger program, we can strengthen and accelerate the ability of our county's small businesses to recover from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and build the resilience they need to thrive in the future."

The ESBR CEO Bootcamp cohort will kick-off on August 20. Each program is designed to meet businesses at their needs and to provide consultation services from a field of experts. For more information about the program and to explore program options, please contact us at info@emergestrongerpgc.com.

Antibody from A3

versity and the John Hopkins Emergency Department. The design team created a plan for hospitals to collect existing unused blood samples for the study. The plan was finalized by the MDH Scientific Advisory Board, a multi-disciplinary team of academics, hospital leaders, and biostatistics experts.

"Emergency departments are a window into communities and can reveal the state of public health. They are one of the most important resources to provide information on the prevalence of COVID-19 among all patients," said Acting Deputy Secretary of Public Health Dr. Jinlene Chan.

"Results of the study will help state health officials refine patient surge needs and respond to additional waves of COVID-19 should they occur," said Chief Operating Officer and Medicaid Director Dennis R. Schrader.

The MDH laboratory will process samples from patients who have their blood drawn during routine clinical care at the hospitals' emergency departments/emergency rooms. Aggregate results will be reported back to the hospitals for their surge planning and community health efforts. MDH will include the data, including other aggregate serology data from other sources at <https://data.imap.maryland.gov/datasets/mdcovid19-serologytests>.

Additional information about the COVID-19 pandemic can be found at coronavirus.maryland.gov.

**Maryland State Arts Council
Awards \$40,000 in Folklife
Apprenticeships**

Maryland Traditions, the traditional arts program of the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC), has awarded \$40,000 in Folklife Apprenticeship grants. The funding supports the sharing of traditional arts skills from a master artist to a learner artist during a one-year teaching period. Ten grants of \$4,000 each have been awarded for the 2020-2021 granting period to the apprenticeship teams listed below, with master artists named first.

- Peter Arteaga (Montgomery County) & Pablo de Oliveira (Prince George's County): Cape Verdean music
- Marquis Gasque (Anne Arundel County) & Torian Sanders (Baltimore City): Baltimore Club music
- Julia Gutiérrez-Rivera & Xiomara Rivera (Frederick County): Puerto Rican bomba and plena percussion and dance
- Amadou Kouyate & Jacquelyn Clemmons (Baltimore City): Manding (west African) music
- Janice Marshall (Somerset County) & Anna Marshall (Kent County): Smith Island cake making
- Deepak Ram & Nistha Raj (Montgomery County): Hindustani music
- Gerald Rameau & Gary Aime (Baltimore City): Haitian drumming
- Rickie Simpkins & Abigail Hobart (Prince George's County): Bluegrass fiddle
- Rich Smoker & Larry Beauchamp (Somerset County): Decoy carving
- Ralph Zotigh & Dennis Zotigh (Charles County): Native American powwow singing

Maryland Traditions has offered Folklife Apprenticeship grants annually since 2004. Applications are accepted in winter, with awards disbursed the following summer. As part of their work, each team participates in a photo shoot and recorded interview to document their activities. Folklife Apprenticeships are distinct from registered apprenticeships offered through the Maryland Apprenticeship Training Program, which supports workforce development.

—Maryland State Arts Council

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