

The Prince George's Post



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Brighter Bites, Amerigroup Partner to Expand Access to Fresh Produce and Food Literacy in Prince George's County

\$40,000 grant from Amerigroup will support ongoing COVID-19 distributions and Brighter Bites expansion in the fall

By ALICIA HARRIS
for Brighter Bites / Amerigroup

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. (July 2020)—To address rising levels of food insecurity in the wake of COVID-19, Brighter Bites and Amerigroup, an Anthem company, have partnered to expand access to fresh produce and nutrition education to residents in Prince George's County, MD. Brighter Bites will use the \$40,000 grant from Amerigroup to support ongoing emergency community distributions, which are currently serving more than 9,000 families with 20–25 lbs of fresh produce per week, as well as the expansion of the organization's school-based programming in the fall.

Food insecurity in Prince George's County was already a massive problem prior to the

COVID-19 outbreak, with an estimated 10.3% of residents identifying as food insecure. Now, more than 30,000 residents have filed for unemployment since March 14 and food access disparities across the county have skyrocketed.

Brighter Bites is one of the dozens of nonprofits in the area that have experienced a surge in demand for services as a result of the pandemic. The organization is currently distributing 9,050 boxes of fresh food from Coastal Sunbelt Produce per week across 20 schools, churches, and community centers as part of the USDA Farmers to Families Food Box Program. In addition to the fresh



PHOTO COURTESY INSPR MEDIA

Left to right, Carolina Moppett, Senior Program Manager, Brighter Bites and Lori Hammond, Community Relations/Medicaid Marketing Director, Amerigroup Maryland.

produce, Brighter Bites also provides families with digital and printed nutrition education resources to promote long-term, sustainable changes in dietary behavior. Northeast Regional

Director Melanie Button says the number of families Brighter Bites serves on a weekly basis

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New Crash Visualization Tool Supports Prince George's County's Vision Zero Strategy

By PAULETTE L. JONES

Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation

LARGO, Md. (August 25, 2020)—Prince George's County is launching a new online tool with the ability to visualize pedestrian and traffic crash data in the County, helping County officials create safer roadways while providing accessibility and transparency to the public. Designed for Vision Zero Prince George's, the geographical data visualization tool was created by information science students from the University of Maryland's College of Information Sciences (iSchool) as part of a collaboration between Prince George's County and the University's Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability (PALS) program.

"We are Prince George's Proud to launch this innovative tool in collaboration with students from the University of Maryland, showing that we continue to come together as a community to find solutions to the challenges that we

face," said Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "We know that the loss of even one life on our roadways is too many, and this will be another tool to help us prevent these tragedies."

Using geolocation data provided by the County, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Transportation, the ArcGIS tool creates a visual of where and when pedestrian and vehicular crashes have occurred across the County. Maps indicate the locations of crashes, including the date they occurred and severity of injuries, enabling viewers to zoom in on specific roadways or intersections.

"Implementing the Vision Zero strategy relies on a data-driven approach, and this innovative tool will help translate what's happening on our County roadways into

See TOOL Page A2

Alzheimer's Association Invites Prince George's County Residents To Walk to End Alzheimer's On September 19

County Executive Alsobrooks returns as Walk Honorary Chair

By CINDY SCHELHORN
Alzheimer's Association

MCLEAN, Va. (August 26, 2020)—The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's, the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research, is moving forward in 2020. This year, Walk to End Alzheimer's is everywhere—including Prince George's County on Saturday, September 19!

Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks returns as honorary chair of the Walk to End Alzheimer's in Prince George's County. "I am truly Prince George's Proud to serve as the Honorary Chair again this year for the Prince George's County Walk," said Ms. Alsobrooks. "We have an estimated 14,500 residents living with Alzheimer's in our County. Together, we can not only bring awareness to this disease, but work to end it once and for all."

With the health and safety of Walk participants and volunteers as a top priority in the wake of COVID-19, the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter will not host a large gathering on Walk day, as in years past. Instead, the Chapter encourages participants to walk that day as individuals or in small groups in their

neighborhoods and on sidewalks, tracks and trails throughout the County (following CDC and local health department guidelines).

To ensure that participants have the full "Day of Walk" experience, the Walk will have virtual Walk Mainstage, an interactive online experience featuring an Opening Ceremony with local speakers and a presentation of Promise Garden Flowers to honor the personal reasons participants join together to fight Alzheimer's and all other dementia.

The Walk to End Alzheimer's mobile app allows participants to access the Walk Mainstage, track their steps and distance, follow a virtual Walk path, manage their Facebook fundraisers, and access information and resources from the Association and Walk sponsors to help individuals and families affected by the disease. A new audio track is available to encourage participants along the way and to congratulate them upon completion of their Walk.

"The pandemic is changing how we walk, but it doesn't change the need to walk," said Wendy Vizek, vice president, constituent events at the Alzheimer's Association. "This year, more than

ever, we need to come together to support all those affected by Alzheimer's and other dementia. With the dollars raised, the Alzheimer's Association can continue to provide care and support to families during these difficult times while also advancing critical research toward methods of treatment and prevention."

Sign up today for the Walk to End Alzheimer's in Prince George's County on Saturday, September 19 at alz.org/ncawalks. Participation is free. Walkers are encouraged to raise funds. For more information, contact Faith Walters at 703-766-9035 or fawalters@alz.org.

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® is the world's largest event to raise

awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Since 1989, the Alzheimer's Association mobilized millions of Americans in the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk®; now the Alzheimer's Association is continuing to lead the way with Walk to End Alzheimer's. Together, we can end Alzheimer's.

The Alzheimer's Association is a worldwide voluntary health organization dedicated to Alzheimer's care, support and research. Its mission is to lead the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia—by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. Visit alz.org or call 800.272.3900.

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY WALK SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

ADDITIONAL WALKS AVAILABLE SIGN UP TODAY AT ALZ.ORG/WALK

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation Announcing Extending Summer Swimming and Expanding Fall Fun

By KIRA CALM LEWIS
Department of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (August 28, 2020)—The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation announces the reopening of more outdoor amenities including camping, canoeing,

kayaking, and nature activities. The Department is expanding golf and tennis programming, as well as extending the outdoor swim season until Sunday, September 27, 2020.

"Making additional outdoor recreation activities safely available again is our top priority," says Bill Tyler, Director of the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and

Recreation. "We will continue providing virtual programming and reopening activities and programs, in the safest manner possible for staff and patrons, and at the high standard that the community has come to expect."

For all swim sessions, capacity remains limited. Reservations are required for all swim sessions. See locations, avail-

ability, and make reservations at pgparks.com/swimmingreservations.

SWIM session times: 10 a.m.–12 noon, 1–3 p.m., and 4–6 p.m.

Saturdays and Sundays only after Labor Day, from September 7–September 27.

All outdoor pools will be OPEN on Labor Day, Monday, September 7, for

the 10 a.m.–12 noon and 1–3 p.m. sessions.

TENNIS: The three tennis bubbles (Fairland, Cosca, and Watkins) are expanding services to begin contract tennis play, as of Tuesday, September 8. Reservations will be accepted as of September 1. Visit pgparks.com/Tennis for locations, hours, and to call for reservations.

OLD MARYLAND FARM is now open for visitors Tuesdays–Sunday from

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INSIDE

Prince George's Community College Partners With Give 8/28 in Support of Black Nonprofits

Since 2018, Give 8/28 has raised thousands in support of black-led and black-benefiting nonprofits from nearly 300 organizations.

Community, Page A3

ChildWatch: Where Do We Go From Here?

And while we love to celebrate his dream and great oratorical skills, we continue to ignore his fears and repeated warnings about America's misguided priorities, values foot dragging and failure to ensure justice for all.

Commentary, Page A4

More Than \$1 Million for Fire Departments in Prince George's, Montgomery Counties

B&O Railroad Museum Wins 2020 Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice Award for Museums

A Dozen Helpful Hints for Building Your Company Business and Finance, Page A5

How People and Businesses Can Reduce Plastic Use, Even During a Pandemic

Earth Talk: Moving Underground to Save What's Above?

Environment, Page A6

Registration Is Open for Hospice of the Chesapeake's Free Virtual Healthcare Symposium

Expanded #MasksOnMaryland Campaign

Nearly 40 Maryland Companies, Universities Working on Vaccines...

Health and Wellness, Page A7

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

The Pohankas, founders of one of the oldest and largest U.S. auto dealerships

John Jay “Jack” Pohanka, chairman of the Pohanka Automotive Group of 16 Washington-area auto dealerships and President of the National Automobile Dealers Association, died May 17 at a hospice in West Palm Beach. He was 92.

He was the son of Frank Pohanka who was born in the Bronx, ran away from home in his eighth grade year, found a job at a Long Island horse farm and became a jockey. But he had weight problems and had to find something else to do the rest of his life.

He returned to New York City, read every book on automobiles in the library, became a car mechanic and was hired by General Motors. GM transferred him to a Chevy dealership in Washington.

In 1919 he opened his own Chevrolet dealership in N.W. Washington and became noted as a master mechanic. In 1923 he moved to 1126 20th Street, N.W. and became an Oldsmobile dealer. He converted a movie theater into a three-car showroom and converted a Civil War-era livery stable into a repair shop. He died in 1958.

His son Jack grew up in Washington, attended Sidwell Friends School and graduated from Princeton with a degree in economics. After college he went to work for his dad. When Frank died, Jack took over.

In 1967 Jack moved Pohanka Oldsmobile to St. Barnabas Road in Marlow Heights. He acquired more franchises and locations, until today Pohanka sells nine makes of vehicles, including Honda, Lexus, Acura, Hyundai, Nissan, Chevrolet, Mercedes-Benz, Toyota and Volkswagen, and employs more than 1,400.

The Pohanka Automotive Group has won multiple awards including Time Magazine National Quality Dealer Award and Sports Illustrated AIADA All-Star Dealer Award for outstanding customer service.

Jack was a golfer and member of many country clubs. He was a board member of the Washington Opera and gave lectures on subjects such as Richard Wagner, Charlie Chaplin, Maria Callas and Richard Burton. In

April, he was unable to deliver his lecture on Franco Zeffirelli because of the coronavirus but you can attend his talks on YouTubeJack.

Wife Lynn, son Geoffrey, daughter Sue, grand- and great-grandchildren survive him. He was preceded in death by former wives Jean Pohanka and Lori McCalip and son Brian.

It was at Pohanka Oldsmobile on St. Barnabas Road that Jack and I bought our last car, a red Oldsmobile. Only weeks later Olds folded.

Neighbors & other good people

Lt. John “Zeek” Teletchea is retiring after 24 years with the Prince George’s County Police and as Union president. He has accepted a civilian job as Armorer with the Department. He has other reasons, too, to be happy—daughter Morgan received her RN in June and is working at Baltimore Washington Hospital; son Marshall, a proud Marine, just returned from Okinawa.

Former Morningsider Jan Stocklinski appreciated the information about Jerry Richardson in a recent column. That news was not good—Jerry had died. Jan hadn’t talked to him in a long time, but they both once taught at Suitland Junior High School. They often met at teachers’ Christmas get-togethers to reminisce about those school years.

Jan saw some of those colleagues on Feb. 29 when she spoke at the retirement of Gary McCorkle. He had been a student at Suitland JH and went on to be an administrator for the County Schools.

Monsignor T. Ansgar Laczko is celebrating his 60th anniversary as a priest of the Archdiocese while living out retirement in a cabin in rural Martinsburg, W.Va. One of his parishes was St. Margaret of Scotland, Seat Pleasant.

Jody Bowman Nyers was going through her deceased mother-in-law’s items and came across journal entries referring to a bar, 1952–1953, called The Kitchen or Haney’s Bar in Suitland? Does anyone recognize those names?

Changing landscape

The Fish Market in Clinton is still shut down, following a racist remark by one of the owners. Protests and boycott followed. Apologies were made,

but were apparently not enough. It’s sad; here in South County we don’t have a wealth of sit-down restaurants. And I miss the clam chowder.

Crossland HS: Show Biz 1980

My Aug. 7, 1980 column mentions several local VIPs:

“All My Children” fans may recall that Dr. Cliff Warner was really Pete Bergman, Crossland Class of 1971. And his wife, Christine Ebersole, was on Broadway playing opposite Richard Burton in “Camelot.”

Crossland ’71 also boasted Kevin Fisher who was starring in “Practice,” Off-Off-Broadway at the Perry St. Theatre. Kevin was the son of the Paul and Nina Fisher, of Camp Springs.

Betty Whittington, Board of Ed retiree

Mary Elizabeth “Betty” Whittington, 91, Surrattsville HS graduate, died at her daughter’s home in Louisville, Ky., on July 21.

Following high school, she was a clerk at the Census Bureau, then worked at Ross Jewelers in Washington before becoming a health aide for the Prince George’s Board of Education for 21 years.

She was a longtime member of Holy Family Church, Heritage Harbour Women’s Club, and the Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion. She enjoyed reading and doing word searches.

Her husband of 51 years, Joseph Melvin Whittington, predeceased her. Survivors include daughters Darlene (Peter) Whittington-Ward and Joanne (Rick) Nance, two grandchildren and four sisters-in-law. Mass of Christian Burial was at Holy Family with burial at Resurrection Cemetery.

Milestones

Happy birthday to my choir director Frank Howard, Justine Poe, Paul M. Locke, Harietta Boo Henson, my granddaughter Nina McHale and Dan Needham, Sept. 6; Melissa Howell, Sept. 7; Mike Dawes, Sept. 9; Charlie Deegan, twins Robert Andrew and John Dexter Woods and Nan Brown, Sept. 10; and Carol Lee, Sept. 11.

Remembering my husband Jack McHale who was born Sept. 11, 1925 in Houston. He died Aug. 2, 2004.

Around the County

9/11 Memorial Service

Women Veterans United Committee, Inc. because of COVID-19 with no large gatherings, will hold its 9/11 Memorial Service on Saturday, September 5, 2020 at 10 a.m. in the yard of Dr. JoAnn Fisher, 646 Maury Avenue, Oxon Hill, MD 20745. Social Distancing, wearing of gloves, and mask as well as hand sanitizer will be enforced. The purpose of the Service is to remember the fire, rescue and law enforcement personnel who lost their lives on September 11, 2001 as well as the men and women of the Military, those serving and those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Names will be read of those from Maryland who died during that time and will include the names of children. We must always remember this day. All are invited—FREE. Point of Contact: Dr. JoAnn Fisher, CEO, WVUCI, 240-305-5516

—28 August 2020 MDVA News and Announcements

MCC 2019–2020 graduates announced

MARSHALLTOWN, Iowa (August 24, 2020)—On Friday, May 8, graduates of Marshalltown Community College took their next step as they became alumni of the College. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, unfortunately, MCC was unable to have a ceremony to honor the graduates. Graduates include those that completed their degree or diploma work during the winter 2019 term and spring and summer 2020 terms.

All MCC FY20 graduates are listed by their hometown, followed by the degree/diploma awarded (AA is Associate of Arts, AS is Associate of Science, AGS is Associate of General Studies and AAS is Associate of Applied Science), and the students’ majors. Symbols following the names signify the following: ** = 4.0 GPA, * = 3.5 cumulative GPA or higher (Honors).

Laurel, MD: **Quavon Dean Blackwood***, AA, Liberal Arts

—Michele Frost, Marshalltown Community College

New Principals on Board for 2020–21 School Year

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (August 26, 2020)—This fall, 19 schools will welcome new leaders. Some are first-time administrators in Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) while others are new to their school communities.

Approved last week by the Board of Education, the new principals for the 2020–21 school year are as follows:

School	Principal
Bladensburg High School	Lisa Faulkner-Jones
Bowie High School	Joseph Kautzer
Carmody Hills Elementary	Hope Albritton Smedley
Carrollton Elementary	Teresa Bey
Central High School	Sheree Savoy
Chesapeake Math and IT Charter-South Elementary	Ronald Miller
Clinton Grove Elementary	Renee Hall-McNeil
Dora Kennedy French Immersion	James Spence
Glenarden Woods Elementary	Brian Baudoin
Glenridge Elementary	Sharone Anderson Davis
Hyattsville Elementary	Richard McKee
Hyattsville Middle School	Chanita Stamper
John Hanson Montessori	Pattie Barnes
Largo High School	Kimberly Aldridge
LEGENDS Public Charter School	Courtney Ford
Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School	Robynne Prince
Mary Harris “Mother Jones” Elementary	Evylyn Quinones
Phyllis E. Williams Elementary	Cynthia Rodgers
Suitland High School	Dr. Ronald Hollis

—Office of Communications, PGCPS

Saiquan Jamison Signs Deal With Professional Team in Finland

BOWIE, Md. (August 26, 2020)—Former Bowie State University standout Saiquan Jamison has taken his basketball talents to Finland.

Jamison recently signed a one-year deal with the defending champion Salon Vilpas Vikings (Korisliiga).

As a collegian, Jamison scored 996 career points (787 at Bowie State), averaged 9.4 rebounds per game over 115 games played and recorded 22 double-doubles during his time as a Bulldog. Jamison was selected to the 2019–2020 All-CIAA Team as well as a Presidential Honor Roll member (2015–2016).

—Gregory C. Goings, Bowie State Sports Information

Lidl US Plans Maryland Expansion, Adding 400 New Jobs by End of 2021

America’s Fastest Growing Retailer Will Open 10 New Stores Across the State

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (August 25, 2020)—Governor Larry Hogan announced today that Lidl US, America’s fastest growing retailer, will open 10 new stores and add 400 jobs in Maryland by the end of 2021, more than doubling its footprint in the state. The new stores announced this week are part of a planned \$500 million U.S. expansion, with a total of 50 new stores along the East Coast. The company offers a leading wage and benefits package that includes healthcare insurance for all full- and part-time employees.

The new Maryland stores are:

Oxon Hill (Prince George’s County) on Livingston Road

—Shareese Churchill, Office of the Governor

Tool from A1

easily accessible information that will shape our approach,” said Terry L. Bellamy, Director, Prince George’s County Department of Public Works and Transportation.

The County Executive launched Vision Zero Prince George’s on July 25, 2019 as a countywide strategy to eliminate traffic incidents and deaths. Positioned as a collaborative community model, Vision Zero Prince George’s focuses on supportive road and transportation design coupled with education and safety measures for all roadway users. In the Vision Zero strategy, everyone in the community shares responsibility for ensuring the safety of all roadway users, whether they are pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists, transit users or drivers.

The new tool can be accessed at VisionZeroPrinceGeorges.com, which is also a platform the community can use to provide feedback and suggestions.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

OUTREACH MINISTRY OF CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

In 2019 members of Christ United Methodist Church in Aquasco, Maryland traveled to Alabama on the Alabama Civil Rights Tour. Powerful moments in African American history were experienced while visiting sites and museums related to the Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham, Selma, Montgomery, and Tuskegee. In Birmingham, the group visited the 16th Street Baptist Church, the site where four little girls were killed during the September 15, 1963 bombing. Also toured was the Kelly Ingram Park, the central staging ground for demonstrations during the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Last stop in Birmingham was the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, a museum that dedicated the history and life of African Americans.

Selma sites included Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church. Brown Chapel was the starting point for the Selma to Montgomery marches. Marches which played a major role in the adoption of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Next was the crossing of the Edmund Pettus Bridge, the site of the conflict of Bloody Sunday. Selma sights ended with visiting the National Voting Rights Museum and Lowndes County Interpretive Center.

In Montgomery, the group visited the Civil Rights Memorial Center, the Legacy Museum, the Rosa Parks Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice. The tour ended in Tuskegee at the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site.

Touring all the historic sites and museums was an experience which rendered a greater appreciation for the sacrifices made by the individuals who participated in the activities of the Civil Rights Movement during the 1950s and 1960s. Powerful excursion it was.

MILITARY STRONG

At Prince George’s Community College, we recognize and appreciate the sacrifices and contributions that our students make as active duty service members, reservists, guardsmen, veterans, and dependents. Explore the possibilities with certifications in Information Technology, Health Care, and Real Estate. The schedule of classes is subject to change. For more information contact 301-546-0159 or Visit Owl for the latest course updates at www.pgcc.edu.

REQUEST A VOTE BY MAIL

Marylanders will not be mailed an Absentee Ballot for the

November 3, 2020 Election unless one is requested from the Board of Elections. The deadline for requesting ballots has been moved up to October 20. Dates for the Presidential General Election and Early Voting are Tuesday, November 3, 2020 7 a.m.–8 p.m. Early voting begins on Monday, October 26 and ends on Monday, November 2, 2020 7 a.m.–8 p.m. each day. To reduce the risk of spreading the COVID-19 we encourage voters to vote by mail. REQUEST BY MAIL (You will not automatically be mailed a ballot).

We need Election Judges for the 2020 Presidential Election on November 3, 2020. If you are interested call the Prince George’s County Board of Elections at 301-341-7300 or visit our website: <https://elections.mypgc.us> Students are welcome.

SEPTEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Wedding Anniversary to Kevin and Jazzmyn Simmons, Franklin and Joyce Isaac, Jose and Daphne Rojas, Wade and Gloria Garrett, Ted and Rebecca Mosley, Norville and Deserae, Joe and Patrice Perkins, Ronald and Evangeline Crawford, Owen and Audrey Johnson, Adrian and Shellie Simms.

NOTTINGHAM MYERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church (New Hope Fellowship Cooperative Parish) of Upper Marlboro, Maryland celebrated their ZOOM HOMECOMING SERVICE Sunday, Sunday, August 30, 2020. Rev. Tony Love, Asst. to the Bishop of the Baltimore Washington Conference was the speaker of the Day. Some of the Seniors were highlighted. They as always have wisdom and words of encouragement to share and spread the word near and far to our former members and family. Rev. Constance Smith, Pastor.

NATIONAL HARBOR

National Harbor is a census designated place in Prince George’s County, Maryland, located along the Potomac River near the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, and just south of Washington, D.C. It originated as a 300-acre multi-use waterfront development. The population was 3,788 at the 2010 census.

Most population for Museums, Architecture, Monument, Landmark, Historical. National Harbor offers signature meeting spaces, shopping with top brands, local boutiques, world-class gaming, and restaurants from celebrated chefs. It is a beautiful place to visit.

COMMUNITY

Prince George's County's "TheBus" Increases Frequency on Active Bus Lines and Restores Service To Additional Routes

By PAULETTE L. JONES

Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation

LARGO, Md. (August 24, 2020)—Starting today, August 24, 2020, "TheBus" will increase frequencies on bus lines in operation during COVID-19 service reductions from 60 minutes to 30 to 40 minutes. This includes Routes 13 (West Hyattsville), 16 (Greenbelt/New Carrollton), 17 (Mt. Rainier/College Park), 28 (Woodmore), 30 (Branch Avenue/Southern Maryland Hospital), 33 (Southern Avenue/Camp Springs), 35 (Southern Avenue/National Harbor/Camp Springs), and 36 (Clinton/Brandywine). Routes 18, 20, 21, 24 and 32 will continue to operate under their current enhanced 30-minute schedules.

Collectively, these changes align with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (WMATA) increases to Metrobus and Metrorail service that began on Sunday, August 23, 2020. Although "TheBus" is still operating at reduced levels due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these enhancements will enable residents, especially essential workers, to better connect to regional services.

The Department of Public Works and Trans-

portation (DPW&T) is also reactivating service on Route 34 (Suitland/Whitehall Square/Capital Crossing), with buses arriving every 15 minutes during 6am to 6pm and every 30 minutes during off-peak hours (9am to 3pm).

Additionally, Route 53 (Upper Marlboro) will merge with Route 51 (Courthouse/Upper Marlboro). On the newly revamped Route 51, buses will arrive every 30 minutes and provide service around the greater downtown Upper Marlboro area, including John Rogers Boulevard and Village Drive West. A new peak hour only service (Route 51X) will operate solely between the Courthouse, County Administration Building and the Equestrian Center to handle anticipated demand from employees and visitors to the Courthouse complex.

Reminders for customers

Customers are reminded that face coverings are required when traveling on "TheBus" and passengers must board through the rear doors, except persons with disabilities and those with mobility devices and strollers. Customers can visit <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1122/Maps-Schedules> to access maps, schedules and other information.

Prince George's Community College Partners With Give 8/28 in Support of Black Nonprofits

By COURTNEY DAVIS

Prince George's Community College

LARGO, Md. (August 26, 2020)—Prince George's Community College (PGCC) has partnered with Give 8/28, a 24-hour online giving campaign sponsored by the Young, Black, & Giving Back Institute, to promote financial giving for black-led and black-benefiting nonprofits. The campaign is held annually on August 28 at the conclusion of Black Philanthropy Month.

As a minority-serving institution, with more than 70% of students identifying as black, the College has a rich history of providing affordable, high-quality learning experiences for diverse populations. Prince George's Community College employees, students, and alumni are encouraged to show their solidarity by participating in the campaign.

"There continues to be an immediate and emerging need to support our students during this pandemic, and that's why the College is participating in Give 8/28," said Brenda Mitchell, executive director of the Office of Institutional Advancement. "Give 8/28 presents a unique opportunity for us to promote financial giving for our institution, as we express our solidarity against systematic racial injustice and inequity. I'm confident in the generosity of our community to propel us to continue to provide much-needed support to our students."

Funds raised support the College's Owl Emer-

gency Response Fund, which was launched by the Prince George's Community College Foundation to help students overcome immediate and emerging educational needs and hardships that pose barriers to their academic success. Since spring 2020, the Owl Emergency Response Fund has raised more than \$145,000 in support of more than 450 students.

August 28 is an important day in African American history. Among other historic moments, it was the day: 14-year old Emmett Till was brutally murdered; Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech; Hurricane Katrina made landfall in Louisiana, uprooting many of New Orleans' black residents; and then-Senator Barack Obama became the first black man to win the nomination and bid for the presidency.

Since 2018, Give 8/28 has raised thousands in support of black-led and black-benefiting nonprofits from nearly 300 organizations. Guided by its mission to educate, inspire, and empower black Gen-Xers and Millennials to invest in changing their communities through philanthropy, the DC-based Young, Black, & Giving Back Institute has sparked a movement against systematic racial injustice by investing in those who work directly in black communities to create positive change.

To learn more about Give 8/28, visit <https://www.give828.org/giving-events/ybgb20/home>. To make a donation, visit <http://www.pgccfoundation.org/giving/give828>.

Bowie State Places Nine on D2ADA Academic Achievement Award

By GREGORY C. GOINGS
Bowie State Sports Information

CLEVELAND, OHIO (August 28, 2020)—The Division 2 Athletic Directors Association (D2 ADA) announced the 2019-20 recipients of the D2 ADA Academic Achievement Awards. The Academic Achievement Awards, in its 13th year, is a program that recognizes the academic accomplishments of student-athletes at the Division II level.

Bowie State placed nine student-athletes to the list. Full list of Bowie State student-athletes to achieve award list below:

Joshua Carter (Track and Field), **Benvindo Chica** (Cross Country/Track and Field), **Telicia Farmer** (Cross Country/Track and Field), **Jordan McDonald** (Track and Field),

Caitland Okorafor (Volleyball), **Uvel Paul** (Football), **Alexa Stewart** (Track and Field), **Morgan White** (Softball) and **Koby Willis** (Cross Country/Track and Field)

In total, there were 15,226 student-athletes from 200 institutions recognized for the 2019-20 Academic Achievement Awards. These numbers shattered the records for highest number of participating institutions and the largest number of student-athletes being nominated since the award program's inception. A total of 182 Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) student-athletes were honored.

"In a year when we can use all of the good news, the D2 ADA Officers and Board of Directors are proud to recognize

the highest number of student-athletes with the Academic Achievement Award than ever before," said D2 ADA President JR Smith, director of athletics at Chadron State College. "The nominations also came from a record number of institutions, showcasing the passion and dedication of our Association and Division II as a whole."

Also, the student-athletes must:

- have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale
- have attended a minimum of two years (four semesters) of college level work
- have been an active member of an intercollegiate team during his/her last academic year

PGCPS Establishes School Renaming Commission

By OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
Prince George's County Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (August 27, 2020)—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) has established a School Renaming Commission to review the appropriateness of certain buildings named after individuals.

In light of national unrest over racial inequities, PGCPS has taken a renewed interest in reviewing the symbols and structures that do not reflect the school system's commitment to diversity, inclusion and democracy. Chaired by Rev. Dr. Grainger Browning Jr., the eight-member commission [held] its first meeting Thursday, Aug. 27.

A report to Chief Executive Officer Dr. Monica Goldson is expected by Friday, Oct. 30, which will include any new name recommendations. Dr. Goldson will then provide final recommendations to the Prince George's County Board of Education for consideration.

The School Renaming Commission members are listed below:

Bill Barnes, Retired PGCPS Administrator
Oretha Bridgewater-Simms, Retired PGCPS Administrator; Prince George's Community College Trustee

Rev. Dr. Grainger Browning, Jr., Senior Pastor, Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church

Raven Hill, PGCPS Associate Superintendent for Communications and Community Engagement

Frederick C. Hutchinson, Former Prince George's County Board of Education Member
Franklin Jackson, Attorney

Howard Stone, Jr., Former Prince George's County Chief Administrative Officer, Prince George's Community College Trustee

Dr. Dawn Williams, Dean, Howard University School of Education

PUBLIC NOTICE

Time Critical Removal Action BARC 32 Area of Concern Beltsville Agricultural Research Center Beltsville, MD 20705

The Beltsville (MD) Agricultural Research Center (BARC), a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service, has successfully implemented a Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) at the BARC 32 Area of Concern (AOC). This location is about a 14-acre area of concern that is part of BARC's National Priorities Listing (NPL/Superfund) by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The BARC 32 AOC was identified in 1991 based on its historical use for maintenance and storage of transformers and other equipment. In 2004, the AOC underwent a TCRA for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in soils. Following the confirmed removal of the PCBs in soils, a solvent groundwater plume consisting of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE) was identified in the underlying surficial aquifer. PCE and TCE were detected at concentration above their respective Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Maximum Contaminant Limits (MCLs). A groundwater investigation was completed to determine the nature and extent of the groundwater contamination and the site underwent a Remedial Investigation (RI) in 2018 to determine the risk posed by the contamination in groundwater.

Based on the findings of the RI, it was determined that contaminated groundwater was migrating offsite and had potential to put offsite human health at risk. ARS, with EPA support, determined that a TCRA should be completed to control offsite migration of PCE and TCE and selected to use nano-meter scale activated carbon to create a sorptive barrier. On July 28, 2020, the nano-carbon was injected to create a groundwater barrier along the BARC facility property boundary. This underground carbon barrier passively absorbs PCE and TCE, thus preventing its migration offsite and reducing the potential risk to human health. The nano-carbon was injected along the BARC facility boundary preventing additional PCE and TCE from moving offsite. ARS will conduct routine performance monitoring of the barrier and groundwater to assess the effectiveness of the TCRA. In coordination with EPA, ARS is currently reviewing technologies for the final remediation of the BARC 32 AOC to protect human health and the environment.

This finalized TCRA Memorandum has been included with all current final reports and documents related to BARC 32 and all other BARC NPL/Superfund AOCs that are available for public review on the BARC Information Repository/Administrative Record. <https://cercla.ba.ars.usda.gov/>

These documents are also stored and generally available for review in the physical IR/AR located on BARC. However, due to Covid19 restrictions the physical IR/AR is currently closed to the public.

In addition, the TCRA Memorandum will also be available for a 30-day public viewing on the ARS's website at: [https://www.ars.usda.gov/northeast-area/CERCLAdocs/Time Critical Removal Action Memorandum/from September 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020](https://www.ars.usda.gov/northeast-area/CERCLAdocs/Time%20Critical%20Removal%20Action%20Memorandum/from%20September%201,%202020%20through%20September%2030,%202020). Hard copies may also be obtained by contacting Mr. Sarath Seneviratne, Safety, Occupational Health & Environmental Staff, USDA-ARS, 10300 Baltimore Avenue, Bldg.003 BARC-West, Room 115, Beltsville, MD 20705, or via email to Sarath.Seneviratne@usda.gov.



Don't Wait ★ Vote Safe!
Request Your Mail-in Ballot TODAY!

Prince George's County is strongly encouraging voters to vote by mail in the 2020 General Election. Voters can request a mail-in ballot by:

Going online to elections.mypgc.us or elections.maryland.gov

Texting VBM to 77788

All ballot requests must be received in the Prince George's County Board of Elections office by Tuesday, October 20, 2020. Actual ballots will be mailed starting mid-September.

Not registered to vote? Visit elections.maryland.gov to register online or call 301-341-7300 to receive a voter registration form.

#DontWaitVoteSafe

COMMENTARY

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Where Do We Go From Here?

In a sense we've come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was the promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the 'unalienable Rights of Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.' It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked 'insufficient funds.' But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation.

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., speech at the March on Washington, August 28, 1963

To celebrate the 57th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, Martin Luther King III and the Reverend Al Sharpton's National Action Network and their partners are hosting a commemorative march on August 28 to bring awareness to the "anti-Black pandemic" raging across our nation alongside the "disproportionate impact of a global health pandemic" on Black Americans and others left behind in poverty 57 years ago and still left behind today. This year

some participants will gather in person while many others are "marching" virtually but Dr. King's message then is as relevant and urgent now and we need to hear, heed, and do what he told us to do to make America a more just United States of America with urgency and persistence.

Just as Old and New Testament prophets were rejected, scorned, and dishonored in their times, so was Dr. King by many when he walked and worked and preached among us. Now that he is dead, many Americans remember him warmly but have sanitized or trivialized his crucial messages and prophetic life. They remember Dr. King the great orator but not Dr. King the disturber of unjust peace. They applaud the Dr. King who opposed violence but not the Dr. King who called for massive nonviolent demonstrations to end war and poverty in our nation and world. They recite the "I Have a Dream" part of his August 1963 speech but ignore its main metaphor of a promissory note still bouncing at America's bank of justice, waiting to be cashed by millions of citizens who are poor in all races. And while we love to celebrate his dream and great oratorical skills, we continue to ignore his fears and repeated warnings about America's misguided priorities, values foot dragging and failure to ensure justice for all. He worried we were missing God's opportunity to become a great and just nation by sharing our enormous riches with the poor and overcoming what he called the "giant triplets" of racism, materialism, and militarism.

In his last Sunday sermon at Washington National Cathedral, Dr. King retold the parable of the rich man Dives who ignored the poor and sick man Lazarus who came every day seeking crumbs from Dives' table. Dives did not respond. Dives went to hell, Dr. King said, not because he was rich but because he did not realize his wealth was his opportunity to bridge the gulf separating him from his brother and allowed Lazarus to become invisible. He warned this could happen to rich America, "if we don't use her vast resources to end poverty and make it possible for all of God's children to have the basic necessities of life."

Dr. King died in 1968 calling for a Poor People's Campaign with urgency. There were 25.4 million poor Americans, including 11 million poor children, and our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was \$4.13 trillion. Today there are 38.1 million poor people, including 11.9 million poor children. Our country has been plunged into a coronavirus recession because President Trump and other federal leadership have failed to take timely and effective steps to protect our most vulnerable people. It's time to ask again with urgency whether our nation is shirking its great responsibility to be a beacon of hope and help and justice at a time of such great need and suffering.

The day he was assassinated in Memphis Dr. King called his mother to give her the title of his next Sunday's sermon. It was "Why America May Go to Hell." In his 1967 book "Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?", Dr. King stated that America hadn't yet committed to paying the real price—in actual dollars and cents—of equality: "The practical cost of change for the nation up to this point has been cheap. The limited reforms have been obtained at bargain rates. There are no expenses, and no taxes required, for Negroes to share lunch counters, libraries, parks, hotels, and other facilities with whites." But, he said, "the real cost lies ahead... The discount education given Negroes will in the future have to be purchased at full price if quality education is to be realized.

Jobs are harder and costlier to create than voting rolls. The eradication of slums housing millions is far beyond integrating lunch counters." He said the price would be great but so would the rewards. It would all come down to our will: "The great majority of Americans...are uneasy with injustice but unwilling yet to pay a significant price to eradicate it." Will the social justice movement required to trump the grossly inadequate leadership by the Trump administration enable us to rise up and be sustained to produce a sufficient response? This is still the question in 2020 as the pandemic recession is pushing millions of families further behind.

In his last week of life Dr. King told a group of close friends: "We fought hard and long, and I have never doubted that we would prevail in this struggle. Already our rewards have begun to reveal themselves. Desegregation...the Voting Rights Act...But what deeply troubles me now is that for all the steps we've taken toward integration, I've come to believe that we are integrating into a burning house." "What would you have us do?" one shocked friend asked. Dr. King answered: "I guess we're just going to have to become firemen."

At a time of unprecedented national risks and an unmoored leader we must all prepare to be firefighters and lanterns of hope. Fifty-seven years after Dr. King's March on Washington we must renew and strengthen our actions to build a just and united America and ensure a level playing field for every child. We must not let anyone tell us that our rich nation's vaults of justice and opportunity are bankrupt. And we must stop the raiding of national resources by the powerful and rich at the expense of the millions of children and people left behind. We must together build and sustain a transforming non-violent movement to ensure a true United States of America that lives up to its promises of liberty and justice for all beginning with our children who only have one childhood. Let's honor Dr. King and save America's future and soul by heeding and following our great American nonviolent prophet.

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

National Urban League Sues to Stop Trump's Rushed Census Timeline

"Having helped to plan, execute or lead five decennial censuses serving nine Presidents of both parties, our expert opinion is that failing to extend the deadlines to April 30, 2021, will result in seriously incomplete enumerations in many areas across our country. The Census Bureau will not be able to carry out the nonresponse follow-up fully and will be forced to take steps such as fewer in-person visits and rely instead on the use of administrative records or statistical techniques on a much larger scale than in previous census. The end result will be underrepresentation of those persons that nonresponse follow-up was expected to reach, and at even greater rates for traditionally hard-to-count populations with potentially extreme differential undercounts."

—Former U.S. Census Bureau Directors Vincent Barabba, Robert Groves, Kenneth Prewitt, and John Thompson

Last month, President Trump signed an executive order remove millions of undocumented immigrants from the population data Congress uses to apportion House seats among the states.

In order to carry out the order, which is widely regarded as unconstitutional, he needs to receive that population data while he's still in office. The Census Bureau's COVID-19 Plan would push that date to April 30, when a new President is likely to be in office. So the administration is scrapping the COVID-19 Plan and replacing it with a Rush Plan.

The National Urban League is suing to stop them. The Rush Plan, announced August 18, slashes a crucial four weeks from the Census data collection operation and ignores the Bureau's own prior conclusions that such rushed processing renders it impossible to fulfil its constitutional obligation to ensure reasonable quality and accuracy of 2020 Census data.

"Both the text of the Rush Plan announcement and the timing of the decision suggest that the federal government's motivation for the Rush Plan is to facilitate another illegal act: suppressing the political power of communities of color by excluding undocumented people from the final apportionment count," our lawsuit states. "To increase the chance that the President can fully effectuate the apportionment exclusion order, he must receive the population totals while he is still in office."

The American people are about to be cheated out of a fair and accurate Census count because politics has infected the process. We will not accept a count that has been manipulated to deprive communities of color of their rightful share of resources and political representation.

With the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, led by Kristen Clarke, serving as our pro bono counsel, our co-plaintiffs in the lawsuit are Black Alliance for Just Immigration, the League of Women Voters, Harris County in Texas, King County in Washington, the cities of Los Angeles, San Jose, and Salinas (California), and Commissioners Rodney Ellis and Adrian Garcia of the Harris County Commissioners Court.

The suit names as defendants the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Census Bureau, along with their heads, Commerce Secretary Wilbur L. Ross and Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham.

When it became clear in April that the coronavirus pandemic would make it impossible for census workers to conduct house visits, the Census Bureau asked Congress to approve a new timeline, adjusting the deadlines for critical operations but not shortening the time allotted for them. Door-knocking was pushed from May through July 2020 to August through October 2020. The deadline for reporting the state-population totals, used to calculate the congressional apportionment, to the President was extended from December 31, 2020 to April 30, 2021.

At the time, even President Trump recognized the need for the shift. "I don't know that you even have to ask [Congress]," he said. "This is called an act of God. This is called a situation that has to be. They have to give in. I think 120 days isn't nearly enough."

We agree. That's why we've asked the court to declare the his Rush Plan unlawful and put the 2020 Census back on the COVID-19 schedule proposed by census officials in April.

The 14th Amendment requires that "Representatives shall be apportioned among the several states according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each state..."

As the Census Bureau's own website says: "The Founders of our fledgling nation had a bold and ambitious plan to empower the people over their new government. The plan was to count every person living in the newly created United States of America, and to use that count to determine representation in the Congress. Enshrining this invention in our Constitution marked a turning point in world history. Previously censuses had been used mainly to tax or confiscate property or to conscript youth into military service. The genius of the Founders was taking a tool of government and making it a tool of political empowerment for the governed over their government."

Anthony Brown

Maryland Congressional District 4



"We Cannot Lose Sight of the Fact That This Country's Relaxed Approach to Firearms Has Resulted in Preventable Deaths and Tragedy"

WASHINGTON (August 27, 2020)—House Armed Services Committee Vice Chair Congressman Anthony G. Brown (MD-04) released the following statement regarding the shootings in Kenosha, Wisconsin that killed Anthony Huber and Joseph Rosenbaum, while seriously injuring Gaige Grosskreutz:

"A teenager had easy access to an AR-15. A teenager took that assault-style rifle, crossed state lines and then shot into a crowd of protesters. Two men are dead and one is injured because this teenager was able to get access to a deadly weapon. Amidst the tragedy and heartbreak, we cannot lose sight of the fact that this country's relaxed approach to firearms has resulted in preventable deaths and tragedy.

"We need to speak truth at this moment. We need to understand how insurrectionists, white su-

premacists and would-be vigilantes are exploiting glaring loopholes in our gun laws to purchase and obtain military-style weaponry. We need to recognize how they exploit open-carry loopholes to intimidate and threaten communities, particularly Black and Brown communities. We need to call out the fact that male supremacists used guns in 70% of domestic terror attacks. Most importantly, we need to act now to make common sense and comprehensive gun reform a reality. And, let us all acknowledge that no child should be able to get access to an assault weapon.

"My heart continues to go out to Jacob Blake and his family as well as the families of those who were shot during these protests and the broader Kenosha community. As they and the rest of the country work through their grief we must take action to address

systemic racism and reform this nation's policing, criminal justice system and gun laws. Inaction will only compound these terrible tragedies."

The House of Representatives has passed numerous bills to expand background checks, regulate magazine purchases, restrict criminals convicted of hate crimes from purchasing firearms, and adopt national red flag laws to allow local authorities to remove firearms from individuals believed to be a danger with a court petition. Each of these bills has yet to receive a vote in the Republican led Senate.

Congressman Brown has introduced bipartisan legislation to raise the age to purchase a semi-automatic military-style rifle, such as an AR-15, from 18 to 21, to be in line with the age limit to purchase a handgun from licensed firearms dealers.

The Prince George's Post



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Do you have news or
events to share? We'd
love to hear from you!

Email the editor at
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The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Can I Hide My Social Security in a Tax-Advantaged Account?

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

Dear Rusty: Dear Rusty: I will be 62 years of age at the end of this year. Can I start drawing my Social Security at age 62 and have it directly deposited into my IRA (arm's length), not spend it and continue to work without affecting my tax position? I will defer actually using it until a later date. **Signed: Curious Investor**

Dear Curious Investor: Regardless of where you have your Social Security benefits deposited, if you continue to work after claiming early benefits, you'll be subject to Social Security's earnings test. The earnings test applies to anyone who collects benefits before they reach their full retirement age (which for you is 66 years and 8 months).

It doesn't matter if you spend your benefits, save them, or invest them; you'll still be subject to Social Security's earnings limit. And, since IRS rules say that only earned income (which excludes Social Security benefits) can be deposited into an individual retirement account (IRA), it is not possible for you to direct-deposit your Social Security benefits into an IRA. In any case, even if you otherwise save your benefits for later use; you will still be subject to Social Security's earnings limit. For 2020 the annual earnings limit is \$18,240 (the limit changes annually) and if that is exceeded, Social Security will take back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. The earnings limit goes up by about 2.5 times in the year you reach your full retirement age (FRA) and goes away once your FRA is attained.

Social Security gets your earnings information from the IRS when you file your income taxes, and you cannot avoid the earnings test by having the money deposited for later use. The earnings test will still apply, and they will take back some of your benefits if you exceed the limit. For information, by "take back" benefits, I mean they will notify you that they have overpaid you (due to your earnings from working) and will give you the option of either paying them back in full with a lump sum payment, or they will withhold your future benefits until they recover what you owe because you exceeded the earnings limit.

As for your "tax position" on your benefits, that will depend upon your combined income from all other sources (investments, interest, pensions, earnings, etc.), plus 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year, plus any non-taxable interest you may have (combined this is known as your Modified Adjusted Gross Income, or "MAGI"). If you file your income taxes as a single and your MAGI is more than \$25,000 (or if you file "married-jointly and your MAGI is more than \$32,000) then 50% of your SS benefits will become part of your taxable income. And filing single with a MAGI of more than \$34,000 (or \$44,000 if married-filing jointly), up to 85% of your Social Security benefits will become part of your taxable income (by the IRS). Once again, it doesn't matter how you dispose of your benefit payments; they will still be taxable if you exceed the clip levels mentioned above, and you will still be subject to Social Security's earnings test until you reach your full retirement age.

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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Maryland Delegation Members Announce More Than \$1 Million for Fire Departments in Prince George's, Montgomery Counties

WASHINGTON (August 25, 2020)—Today, U.S. Senators Chris Van Hollen and Ben Cardin and Congressmen Steny Hoyer, Anthony G. Brown, and Jamie Raskin (all D-Md.) announced \$1,142,500 in federal funding for Prince George's and Montgomery County firefighters through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program.

Awards were allocated as follows:

- \$448,500 to the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department
- \$226,000 to the Kentland Volunteer Fire Department

• \$468,000 to the Burtonsville Volunteer Fire Department

"Every minute counts in an emergency. This funding will help ensure that our fire departments have the staffing levels necessary to protect Maryland families and businesses," said the lawmakers. "For the good of Maryland's communities, we will continue to focus on getting our first responders the staffing resources they need."

"Recruiting new volunteers is challenging in these times but the resources the SAFER grant program provides to our department and others is critical to ensure we continue to provide the best in class service to our growing community," said Kevin King, Vice Presi-

dent of the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department.

"The Kentland Volunteer Fire Department is deeply grateful for the funds awarded by the safer grant, which will be used to build upon existing initiatives focused on recruiting, training, and retaining world class volunteers. With this support, KVFD will be able to expand on programs to guarantee we are able to provide exemplary emergency response to the greater Landover community," said Oleg Pelekhaty, Chief of the Kentland Volunteer Fire Department.

"The Burtonsville Volunteer Fire Department is both grateful and relieved to receive the SAFER grant funding. Keeping

a full-time recruiter is our only chance of meeting the constant demand of attracting and retaining qualified volunteers to staff emergency apparatus in these challenging times. SAFER grant funding has proven to be the pivotal piece in a comprehensive and coordinated campaign. The BVFD also expresses great appreciation to Senator Van Hollen for his ongoing support of volunteers in today's fire service," said Tamara Bulla, President of the Burtonsville Volunteer Fire Department.

The SAFER grant program enhances the ability of fire departments around the country to attain and maintain 24-hour staffing by providing grants directly to fire departments for marketing activities, recruiter hiring, higher education tuition reimbursement, training and professional development and company incentive programs.

B&O Railroad Museum Wins 2020 Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice Award for Museums

The B&O Railroad Museum is Recognized Among Best in the World Based on Outstanding 2019 Traveler Reviews

By DANA GOLDSTEIN
B&O Railroad Museum

BALTIMORE (August 25, 2020)—The B&O Railroad Museum today announced it has been recognized as a 2020 Travelers' Choice award-winner for museums worldwide. Based on a full year of Tripadvisor reviews, prior to any changes caused by the pandemic, award winners are known for consistently receiving great traveler feedback, placing them in the top 10% of hospitality businesses around the globe.

"Our team isn't happy unless the guest is happy" said Kris Hoellen, Executive Director of the B&O Railroad Museum. "We are thrilled to receive this award, a great recognition that we are achieving our goals."

"Winners of the 2020 Travelers' Choice Awards should be proud of this distinguished recognition," said Kanika Soni, Chief Commercial Officer at Tripadvisor. "Although it's been a challenging year for travel and hospitality, we want to celebrate

our partners' achievements. Award winners are beloved for their exceptional service and quality. Not only are these winners well deserving, they are also a great source of inspiration for travelers as the world begins to venture out again."

To see traveler reviews and popular features of the Museum, visit www.BORail.info/TripAdvisor or www.BORail.org.

The B&O Railroad Museum, a full affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of American railroading and its impact on American society, culture and economy. The Museum is home to the oldest, most comprehensive collection of railroad artifacts in the Western Hemisphere including an unparalleled roster of 19th and 20th century railroad equipment. The 40-acre historic site is regarded as the birthplace of American Railroading and includes the 1851 Mt.

Clare Station, the 1884 Baldwin Roundhouse and first mile of commercial railroad track in America. In 2019, the Museum welcomed guests from all 50 states and 40 countries. For further information on the B&O Railroad Museum, please call 410-752-2490 or visit www.BO-Rail.org.

Tripadvisor, the world's largest travel platform*, helps 463 million travelers each month** make every trip their best trip.



PHOTO COURTESY B&O RAILROAD MUSEUM

The B&O Railroad Museum

Background on Business

A Dozen Helpful Hints for Building Your Company

(NAPSI)—Now is an excellent time to start or grow a business. While this may seem surprising, there are several reasons and very simple ways to go about it. For one thing, consumer needs and desires are increasing—and so are their savings accounts. According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, the personal savings rate is at an historic 33 percent. Once the country opens up, people will want to buy products and services they've been missing. Entrepreneurs can meet that need, suggests Nicole Rodrigues, founder and CEO of NRPR Group, an award-winning, exclusive public relations and marketing machine serving game changers and disruptors around the world. She suggests 12 ways to start and build a company:

How to Entrepreneur

1. Conduct market research. This will tell you if there's an opportunity to turn your idea into a successful business. Gather information about potential customers and about businesses already operating in your area.

2. Write your business vision. You don't need a full plan. You need a clear vision to guide your road map for how to structure, run, and grow your new business.

3. Fund your business. Figure out how much money you'll need to start your business and how to either self-fund, raise or borrow the capital. Be sure you have a separate bank account for your business, to keep personal expenses out so there's no confusion.

4. Pick a location. Whether you're setting up a brick-and-mortar business or launching an online store, the choice could affect your reputation, audience, taxes, legal requirements and revenue.

5. Choose your business name. You'll want one that reflects your brand and captures your spirit. You'll

also want to make sure it isn't already being used by someone else.

6. Be smart about staffing. Do you need a team yet? Your team needs to align in both skills and attitude with your overall vision. When people know they'll get great service, it increases your chances of getting word-of-mouth advertising.

7. Tap into useful tools. For example, e-mail marketing has now become one of the best ways to connect with clients and prospective customers. Businesses use e-mails to continually engage with their target audience and convert them into paying customers. It's a cost-effective approach to reach a wide range of consumers who regularly check out your content.

8. Look for low cost or even free resources. For instance, it costs nothing to post your information and pictures on Instagram, Pinterest, Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook. Start accounts and slowly add relevant content for free to help build an organic following.

9. Turn to Earned Media and PR. Learn who covers your competitors and businesses in your community and get in front of them so they cover you regularly. Share earned media coverage on social media to save money and impress your audiences. Don't be afraid to show off that great coverage. It's impressive to prospective customers.

10. Remember: Perception is important. Think about how your website or storefront looks. Have great looking marketing materials and case studies on your site.

11. Downloadable brochures are also a good idea. This is an example of marketing materials from the last point. For example, a hair salon can create a flier about an online event where the stylists will give virtual tips for trimming split ends; a restaurant can put out a flier about offering special curbside pickup or outside dining options; a nail salon can create a brochure about how it's protecting people by erecting barriers between technicians and showing off the visuals, so people see and want to come in.

12. Don't hesitate to call in the experts. You don't have to do everything on your own. Hiring professionals can be expensive—but hiring amateurs can cost you a lot more in the end.

Learn More

For further facts and tips about starting or growing a business, visit www.nrprgroup.com.

Buy Prince George's. Support your local businesses by shopping online. For more information please visit pgcdc.com/buyprincegeorges

Stay Home ...
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Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation
1801 McCormick Drive, Suite 350 Largo, MD 20774 301.583.4650 | pgcdc.com

ENVIRONMENT

How People and Businesses Can Reduce Plastic Use, Even During a Pandemic

(StatePoint) If your effort to reduce your personal plastic use has fallen by the wayside in recent months, you're not alone—reusable bags and containers have gotten a bad rap during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, a new report shows that they can be a safe, effective way to tackle the global plastic pollution crisis.

The new report from Greenpeace USA, "Reusables Are Doable," available at [greenpeace.org/usa/reports/reusables-are-doable](https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/reports/reusables-are-doable), highlights various reusable programs globally that have continued or can be used during the COVID-19 pandemic by ensuring strong sanitization or contactless systems for cups and containers. The report seeks to assure retailers, restaurants and other large brands that a pandemic doesn't need to mean shifting toward widespread disposable plastic. Indeed, 130 health experts have weighed in to reinforce the public health necessity of moving away from single-use plastic and to detail how reusables can be used safely during a pandemic.

"At a time when communities of color are disproportionately impacted by both the plastic pollution crisis and COVID-19, reusable systems are not only possible right now, they are needed more than ever," says Greenpeace USA plastics campaigner, David Pinsky. "Reusable systems can pro-

tect workers, customers and our environment by meeting basic hygiene and distancing requirements, and can help get people back to work."

According to the report, here are just a few of the reusable systems and companies that can instill confidence during the pandemic:

- Contactless coffee systems have been embraced by hundreds of cafes worldwide to minimize waste. With this system, a customer places their reusable cup on the counter, backs away, and allows the barista to fill it with a separate cup that doesn't touch the customer's.

- Loop, which launched in 2019, offers well-known grocery brands to customers in reusable containers. The company collects used containers, sanitizes them according to FDA standards, and uses them for future products. Loop has reported a sales increase during the pandemic.

- The Wally Shop, which recently expanded nationally, and Zero, also offer grocery delivery with reusable containers.

- To-go reusable models such as CupClub enable customers to borrow a reusable cup, use it, then return it at a drop-off point to be cleaned.

- Takeout meal systems such as Dispatch Goods partner with local restaurants to provide meals in reusable containers that customers return for commercial cleaning.



PHOTO SOURCE: © PHOTOGRAPHER / ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

- Algramo, based in Chile, uses vending machines and an electric vehicle delivery service that allows people to pay for only the amount of product they need in reusable containers.

"It is time for restaurants, retailers and all food businesses to end their reliance on useless plastic

packaging, bags and containers," says Pinsky. "Individuals who want to see continued action on the plastic pollution crisis can get involved by encouraging their favorite businesses to continue to prioritize reuse in ways that maintain proper hygiene and safety."

Earth TALK™

Moving Underground to Save What's Above?

Dear EarthTalk:

If we lived in underground buildings (and cities), would it be better for the environment overall?

—Marty M., Hoboken, NJ

It's certainly true that moving more of our infrastructure, let alone work and live space, underground would relieve some of the pressure

that our conventional above-ground development and habitation puts on the environment. While building below the surface presents its own set of challenges, underground spaces are less susceptible to external influences and their overall impact (including carbon emissions) tends to be less than the equivalent amount of space above ground. Indeed, given the environmental problems we're experiencing, moving

more below the surface does indeed have the potential to make things safer, healthier and more sustainable for all of us.

In and of themselves, underground buildings have a built-in advantage in regard to energy usage for heating/cooling, given their typically more constant temperature, humidity, heat insulation, shading and airtightness. Furthermore, underground buildings are much less affected by wind, rain, frost, snow, sun radiation or other external conditions. At the same time, the temperature fluctuation range of underground space is small, especially as compared to the "hot-and-cold load" in above-ground buildings. In short, underground buildings use only a fraction of the energy required by conventional buildings to keep the interior environment comfortable, with most of the energy consumption concentrated instead on less power-intensive lighting and ventilation systems.

Beyond being better for the planet in some ways as compared to above-ground buildings, just having some underground buildings in the mix—even below regular cities—could yield vast benefits. "Underground solutions can solve or help improve multiple of the problems that urban developments face: traffic congestion; environmental problems; lack of (green) space; need for protection against disasters; lack of infrastructure for food, energy, water and sanitation," reports Dutch researcher Wout Broere.

"Placement of infrastructure and other facilities underground presents an opportunity for realizing new functions in urban areas without destroying heritages or negatively impacting the surface environment, and at the same time brings

opportunities for long-term improvements in the environmental impact of cities and more efficient use of space and resources," adds Broere.

Many cities around the world—from Helsinki to Moscow to Montreal to Beijing—are developing underground space to alleviate population and environmental pressures. Helsinki, for instance, has adopted a strategic 'Underground City Plan' which calls for the construction of some 200 more underground buildings there to accompany the city's existing subterranean swimming complex, shopping area, and hockey rink.

Meanwhile, Russian developers are converting a defunct 550-meter-deep mine shaft in Eastern Siberia into an eco-friendly underground city under a huge glass dome. The ambitious project—replete with vertical farms, forests and recreation areas in addition to climate controlled underground offices and housing—promises to eventually accommodate 100,000 residents.

While many of us shudder at the thought of living a subterranean lifestyle, at least making the option available to those who choose it willingly could be a big win for the environment.

CONTACTS: "Urban Underground Space: Solving The Problems of Today's Cities," sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0886779815302923#!; "Future Cities Live Underground—And That's Not a Pile of Schist," thenatureofcities.com/2017/01/22/future-cities-live-underground-thats-not-pile-schist/; "Study on the Energy-Saving Design of Underground Building," scientific.net/AMR.1065-1069.2205.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.



CREDIT: JORDI CUETO-FELGUEROSO AROCHA, FLICKRCC

This view shows off Helsinki's underground water works. The Finnish capital is a world leader in moving people and their infrastructure below the surface where they can live more energy-efficient lifestyles.






TUESDAY TIP

COAL TAR SEALANT BAN

Did you know that Coal Tar Sealant (CTS) products are illegal in Prince George's County? These products contain highly toxic chemicals which can be washed into our waterways.

- Alternate options like pervious concrete decrease stormwater runoff.
- If CTS products are used, homeowners and/or contractors can be subject to a \$1000 fine per day.
- Find more information about CTS product ban at bit.ly/coaltarsealantbanpgc.








TUESDAY TIP

PROHIBICIÓN DEL SELLADOR DE ALQUITRÁN

¿Sabía usted que los productos de sellado de alquitrán son ilegales en el Condado de Prince George? Estos productos contienen un nivel alto de químicos tóxicos que pueden ser arrastrados a nuestras vías pluviales.

- Opciones como concreto permeable disminuye las corrientes de agua lluvia.
- Si productos de sellados de alquitrán son usados, dueños de casa y/o contratistas pueden ser sujetos a una multa de \$1000 por día.
- Encuentre más información acerca de productos de sellados de alquitrán en bit.ly/coaltarsealantbanpgc.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Registration Is Open for Hospice of the Chesapeake's Free Virtual Healthcare Symposium

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (August 24, 2020)—For its third year of offering a free healthcare symposium for professionals and community members, Hospice of the Chesapeake, Chesapeake Life Center and Chesapeake Supportive Care had to think “inside” the box and move it to a computer near you. Now, anyone is welcome to register online for the Caring for the Continuum of Life 2020: A Virtual Healthcare Symposium. It will be held from 7:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Oct. 24.

The symposium will feature a morning of presentations from experts in the fields of hospice and palliative care, racial disparity in healthcare and spirituality. Two of the sessions offer free continuing education units for Maryland

social workers, while all will offer insight into important end-of-life topics made more relevant by this year's coronavirus epidemic and increased awareness into racial and cultural inequities.

After opening remarks, the first session will begin at 8 a.m. with keynote speaker Karen Bullock, Ph.D., LCSW, a professor and Assistant Dean of the School of Social Work at North Carolina State University. She will present “Racial Inequities Exacerbated by COVID-19,” reviewing recommendations for how hospice and palliative care communities can take culturally competent steps to helping individuals, families and communities to engage in restorative practices through courage, hope and leadership, during the pandemic. Professionals can earn 1.5 CEUs with this session.

From 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Gloria Thomas Anderson, Ph.D., LMSW, will present “A Community Conversation: The Impact of COVID-19 and Historical Mistrust on African-American Health and Decision-Making.” Anderson will explore some of the root causes of inequities in healthcare that often perpetuate discrimination against people of color. Additionally, she will talk about the best practices for culturally competent care across faith, ethnic and cultural traditions of African-American patients and caregivers in order to ensure quality care at the end-of-life. This session also will offer 1.5 CEUs for professionals.

Between the two speakers, Dr. Eric Bush, chief medical officer for Hospice of the Chesapeake and Chesapeake Supportive Care will lead a panel of faith-based leaders in a candid conversation

about race, religion, and healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic. Panelists include the Rev. Dr. Henry P.

Davis III, senior pastor for First Baptist Church of Highland Park in Landover, Maryland; Nadia Hassan, MBA, founder and executive director of Young Leaders Institute; and Rabbi Steve Weisman of Temple Solel in Bowie, Maryland.

Event sponsors include Gold Sponsors First Baptist Church of Highland Park and Crescent Cities Charities, Inc. For details and to register, visit www.caringforlifemd.org. The Mary-



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE

Left to right: Karen Bullock, Ph.D., LCSW and Gloria Thomas Anderson, Ph.D., LMSW

land Board of Social Work Examiners certifies that this program meets the criteria for up to 3 credit hours of Category 1 continuing education for social workers in Maryland if all CEU presentations are attended.

Caring for life throughout the journey with illness and loss is the mission of Hospice of the Chesapeake. For more information, visit www.hospicechesapeake.org.

Maryland Department of Health Expands #MasksOnMaryland Campaign, Launching New Media and Social Components

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Department of Health

BALTIMORE (August 27, 2020)—The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) today announced the expansion of its #MasksOnMaryland campaign, with new media and social components to debut this week in English and Spanish. The campaign, which initially launched on June 25, encourages Marylanders to use face coverings in public places to help to protect themselves, their loved ones, co-workers and communities from COVID-19.

“Reminding Marylanders to continue to be vigilant is critical, so we can continue to slow the spread of COVID-19 as we move into the fall,” said Governor Larry Hogan. “#MasksOnMaryland encourages all of us to recognize how we can go about living our lives if we take the right precautions, like wearing masks. We all have a role to play in keeping our communities safe.”

The new campaign elements are designed to speak to a wide range of Marylanders, but especially to people aged 18 to 34 and those who have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19, including Maryland's Hispanic and African American communities. The campaign includes radio, digital, TV and social media ads. Local “influencers” will also help spread the message that residents can “carry on” when they “mask on.”

“In taking this new approach, we aim to inspire action for more Marylanders to wear masks, practice social distancing, wash their hands and avoid large crowds,” said MDH Secretary Robert R. Neall. “If we all do our part, we can help keep our numbers trending in the right direction.”

To date, Maryland has confirmed 106,063 cases of COVID-19 and has conducted more than 1.8 million COVID-19 tests. On July 31, Maryland's mask order expanded to include public areas of businesses and buildings, and outdoor public areas when it is not possible to maintain physical distancing. Combined with increased testing, contact tracing and sustained social distancing, wearing face coverings are essential to mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

To view new media for the #MasksOnMaryland campaign, visit covidlink.maryland.gov/content/masks-on-maryland/

To learn more about the latest COVID-19 developments in Maryland, visit coronavirus.maryland.gov.

The Maryland Department of Health is dedicated to protecting and improving the health and safety of all Marylanders through disease prevention, access to care, quality management and community engagement. Follow us at <http://www.twitter.com/MDHealthDept> and at [Facebook.com/MDHealthDept](https://www.facebook.com/MDHealthDept).

Fall Fun from A1

11 a.m.–4 p.m. and closed on Mondays. There is NO admission fee and walk-ups only. Space is limited and visitors may have to wait to enter if the facility is at capacity. Please follow the directional arrows and practice social distancing at all times. The Gift Shop and bathroom are closed until further notice.

CAMPING: Watkins Regional Park and Patuxent River Park campgrounds offer campsites and primitive tenting available for Friday–Sunday rentals only. Online reservations are required at least 24 hours in advance of the rental date with a 10-person maximum. To make a reservation and for the list of rules and regulations, please visit outdoors.pgparcs.com and PatuxentRiverPark.com.

CANOE/KAYAK RENTALS: Patuxent River Park offers canoe and kayak rentals Saturdays and Sundays beginning, September 5 and 6, from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Online reservations are required at least 24 hours in advance of the rental date and patrons must be 18 years of age or older. To make a reservation and the list of rental regulations, please visit PatuxentRiverPark.com.

Bladensburg Waterfront Park offers canoe and kayak rentals Saturdays and Sundays, starting the weekend of September 5 and 6, 2020, from 9 a.m.–4 p.m., last launch time at 2 p.m. Online reservations are required at least 24 hours in advance of the rental date and patrons must be 18 years of age or older. To make a reservation, visit www.pgparcsdirect.com and for the list of rental regulations, visit www.pgparcs.com/BladensburgWaterfrontPark.

GOLF: The Department has added adult programming and youth leagues this fall:

- PGA Junior League 13U is a team-based golf competition for juniors ages 7–13.
- PGA Junior League 18U is a team-based golf competition for high-school aged players.

Cost: \$50/per player

Register through www.pgparcsdirect.com, beginning Tuesday, September 8.

The First Tee of Greater Washington will remain our program for introducing the game of golf to the youth of Prince George's County. First Tee has been an excellent way of exposing youth in the county to golf. We will continue to offer First Tee programming in fall 2020, with 2 classes at Paint Branch, 2 classes at Henson Creek, and 3 classes at Enterprise. These classes will not conflict with the PGA Junior League sessions.

Register for First Tee Programs hosted at Department golf courses at www.thefirstteede.org.

ADULT GOLF Programming: Intro to Golf 4-week Program at Paint Branch Golf Course held once a week on Monday nights, beginning September 21.

Cost: \$50/ per person

Class size: 9 (students and 1 instructor)

Time: 6–7 p.m.

Register through www.pgparcsdirect.com, beginning Tuesday, September 8.

A full list of COVID-19 related protocols, guidelines, safety modifications, and procedures will be provided at the time of registration.

The M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation delivers an award-winning park system through progressive, innovative leadership and a commitment to the community and the environment in Prince George's County. For more on the Department of Parks and Recreation, visit www.pgparcs.com and stay connected on Facebook, Twitter, PhotoShelter, and Instagram. The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities in all programs and services. Register at least a minimum of two weeks in advance of the program start date to request and receive a disability accommodation.

Nearly 40 Maryland Companies, Universities Working on Vaccines, Therapeutics, Diagnostic Tests, and Clinical Research

Maryland's Life Sciences Companies Have Secured More Than \$3 Billion For Vaccine Development

Hopkins Commits 260 Scientists and Researchers to COVID-19 Projects

University of Maryland School of Medicine Begins Phase 3 Trials of Vaccine

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (August 24, 2020)—Governor Larry Hogan today commended the nearly 40 Maryland life sciences companies that are working on developing and manufacturing COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics, improving diagnostic tests, and providing clinical research and technological support to ensure safe and effective health care delivery.

The University System of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University have also dedicated millions of dollars toward research, testing, and clinical trials. The University of Maryland School of Medicine recently began phase 3 trials of a COVID-19 vaccine.

“On the day of our first coronavirus cases, I said that Maryland was home to some of the top health research facilities in the world, and vowed that we would be a part of developing treatments and perhaps even a vaccine for this deadly virus,” said Governor Hogan. “I want to

commend our world-class life sciences community, our universities, and federal research labs for working together to fight this unprecedented global pandemic. Our state will continue to lead on the road to recovery.”

To date, Maryland's life sciences companies have secured more than \$3 billion for the development of a vaccine for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

- Gaithersburg-based Novavax was awarded \$1.6 billion through Operation Warp Speed to complete late-stage clinical development, establish large-scale manufacturing, and deliver 100 million vaccine doses as early as late 2020, as well as \$388 million from the international Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and \$60 million through a U.S. Department of Defense contract to support vaccine production.
- Emergent BioSolutions, with its headquarters and product development facility also based in Gaithersburg and

three manufacturing facilities in Baltimore and Rockville, announced it signed contracts with AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Novavax, and Vaxart as well as with Operation Warp Speed for a total of \$1.5 billion to support COVID-19 vaccine candidate development and manufacturing.

- Bethesda-based Longhorn Vaccines and Diagnostics won a \$225 million U.S. Department of Homeland Security contract to transport clinical samples to testing labs.
- Altimmune, headquartered in Gaithersburg, was awarded a \$4.7 million contract from the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command and is working with Rockville-based Vigene Biosciences on the development of a single-dose intranasal COVID-19 vaccine.

“Emergent is proud to be a part of Maryland's efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Robert G. Kramer, president and CEO of Emergent BioSolutions. “Maryland's life sciences cluster enhances our ability to

partner with pharmaceutical and biotechnology innovators. Along with our longstanding partnership with the federal government in support of its efforts to combat public health threats, we are uniquely positioned to work quickly to help advance vaccine and hyperimmune therapeutic candidates.”

“We are grateful to be part of Maryland's collaborative life sciences cluster that, together with the state's superb academic institutions, is making rapid progress in the fight against COVID-19,” said Stanley C. Erck, president and chief executive officer of Novavax. “Novavax's swift response in developing one of the world's most promising vaccines for this pandemic is a testament to the value of these close relationships, rich local resources, and government support in effectively addressing pressing public health needs.”

The University System of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University both mobilized quickly to develop a comprehensive response to the pandemic. Johns Hopkins dedicated \$6 mil-

lion in funding to support about 260 scientists and researchers working on more than two dozen projects related to COVID-19. In addition, Hopkins' School of Medicine is conducting more than 100 clinical studies to develop COVID-19 diagnostics and, with \$35 million from the U.S. Department of Defense, is working with the Bloomberg School of Public Health to test the efficacy of blood plasma from COVID-19 survivors as a treatment option.

The University System of Maryland faculty are working to develop a rapid COVID-19 test and are conducting a clinical trial of experimental stem cell therapy to reduce death in the sickest patients. The University of Maryland School of Medicine will receive up to \$3.6 million over the next year from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency to rapidly test hundreds of drugs, approved and marketed for other conditions, to see if any can be repurposed to prevent and treat COVID-19.

“It's in crises like these that you see why Maryland is one of

the country's top biosciences hubs,” said University System of Maryland Chancellor Jay A. Periman. “Our USM institutions are on the front lines developing COVID-19 diagnostics and therapeutics, testing multiple vaccines, leading dozens of other R&D projects. But they're also reaching out to our close industry partners, joining our assets and expertise to theirs so we can quickly commercialize COVID-19 solutions. There are few states that have the breadth and depth of our life sciences talent, and fewer still that have an ecosystem like ours that thrives on collaboration.”

“As we confront a global pandemic on a scale not experienced since the 1918 flu, it is remarkable to see the extraordinary depth and breadth of expertise being galvanized against COVID from right here in Maryland,” said Ron Daniels, president of Johns Hopkins University. “Johns Hopkins researchers quickly mobilized to launch an emergency, cross-divisional COVID-19 research program to stem the tide of the virus and save lives. From investigating the underlying biology and developing treatments for the disease to addressing its devastating impact on our local communities, and reporting rigorous data about its spread, Hopkins researchers are at the forefront of the fight to stop COVID-19.”

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has increased by more than 500% since the beginning of March. "The COVID-19 pandemic has cast a glaring light on how those living in economically disadvantaged communities without reliable access to fresh, healthy food are bearing the heaviest burden of COVID-19 infections," said Button. "We are thrilled to join forces with Amerigroup to expand our reach throughout Prince George's County and address food insecurity as a major social determinant of health. Together, we're ensuring that families are not only able to put food on the table, but more importantly, consume the right foods to keep them nourished and their immune systems strong."

In addition to supporting emergency COVID-19 distributions through the summer, Amerigroup will also be sponsoring Brighter Bites' expansion to two additional elementary schools this fall: Judge Sylvania W. Woods and Riverdale Elementary School.

Brighter Bites is a nonprofit that creates communities of health through fresh food with the goal of changing behavior among children and their families to prevent obesity and achieve long-term health. Brighter Bites is an evidence-based, multi-component elementary school, preschool, and summer camp program that utilizes reliable access to fruits and vegetables, nutrition education, and consistent exposure to recipes and messages that feature fresh food. Since 2012, Brighter Bites has provided nearly 30 million pounds of produce and millions of nutrition education materials to more than 350,000 individuals (including teachers) in Houston, Dallas, Austin, New York City, the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area, and Southwest Florida. To learn more about Brighter Bites visit www.brighterbites.org.

Amerigroup, Maryland has provided health care coverage since 1999. Statewide, we serve approximately 288,000 members in the Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs. Amerigroup Maryland is the state's second-largest Managed Care Organization (MCO) and is the second-largest MCO in both Baltimore City and Anne Arundel County, and one of the largest MCOs in the counties of Baltimore, Montgomery and Prince George's. Employees share genuine pride in making a difference in the lives of people who might need a little extra help.

**New CDC Web Page on
How to Select, Wear, and
Clean Your Mask**

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html?deliveryName=USCDC_2067-DM36401

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COVID-19
(Coronavirus)

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Effective Friday, July 31, 2020
Governor Larry Hogan requires that

All State of Maryland Residents & Visitors

must wear face coverings in the public spaces of all businesses,
on public transportation, and in outdoor public areas whenever
it is not possible to maintain physical distancing.

(You may use a homemade face covering like a bandanna, scarf,
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