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Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® Honor 2020 REALTOR® of the Year Yolanda Muckle

By ERICA KALEDA
PGCAR

LANDOVER, Md. (September 23, 2020)—Please join us in celebrating the 2020 REALTOR® of the Year, Yolanda Muckle, with Long & Foster Real Estate in Largo, MD. Muckle has been a REALTOR® and member of the Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® (PGCAR) for 17 years, where she has served in many different roles, including 2020 Association President.

Each year, PGCAR members nominate one REALTOR® who has best served the real estate profession and the community. REALTOR® of the Year (ROTY) winners are selected for possessing numerous qualities including high principles of integrity, adherence to the REALTOR® Code of Ethics, exceptional service to clients, imaginative and creative advertising programs, community service, notable business accomplishments, and state, local and/or national association activity.

Kenneth Fagan, Long & Foster Senior Vice President and Regional Manager made

the announcement: "The REALTOR® who has demonstrated significant business-accomplishments, faithfulness to the Code of Ethics, leadership, civic and community involvement, and local, state and National Association activity to a degree which makes her truly worthy of the title PGCAR "REALTOR® of the Year" is our 2020 President Yolanda Muckle."

Congratulations, Yolanda, and thank you for all you do in the Prince George's community and the Prince George's County Association of REALTORS®.

By being recognized as PGCAR's REALTOR® of the Year, Mrs. Muckle will be considered for the Maryland REALTOR® of the Year award.

The Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® is the voice for real estate in Prince George's County, Maryland, representing more than 3,600 real estate professionals in the national capital area. PGCAR is an affiliate of the Maryland and National Association of REALTORS®. We are proud to serve our members and our community and work to ensure professionalism in the



PHOTO COURTESY PGCAR

PGCAR's REALTOR® of the Year for 2020, Yolanda Muckle

industry. Our volunteers and staff work to offer services to real estate professionals and to provide avenues for our members to become more successful. We proudly work to promote and protect home ownership and private property rights.

Prince George's County Turns Social Distancing Into One-of-a-Kind Travel Experience

Ideal Spaces Make Social Distancing Worth The Trip

By PRESS OFFICER
Experience Prince George's

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. (September 28, 2020)—Kick fall travel into high gear with Experience Prince George's as they launch the season with a new campaign geared towards fun and social distancing.

"Whether you are a proud Prince Georgian or a visitor to our County, we have so many ways you can experience the natural beauty and numerous amenities of the Crown Jewel of Maryland safely," said Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "We look forward to welcoming visitors to our County safely and responsibly, showing them some of the many reasons that

we are Prince George's Proud."

"Social Distance Here", encourages locals and travelers from afar to stay active and engaged in the county's expansive outdoor amenities, from golfing and hiking excursions, to unique shopping and historical expeditions.

Honing in on visitor arrivals from New York City, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Delaware and Richmond, VA, all are welcome to enjoy the colorful autumn hues, which create storybook strolls through local vineyards and memorable escapes to the National Harbor for delectable dining.

"The county is a perfect road trip getaway. People are seeking new and different scenery that is not too far from home, and we provide

it safely and responsibly. Travelers can spend a full day enjoying the many amenities found only here, or extend their time by overnighting in one of our bespoke properties," said Leslie W. Graves, CEO & President of Experience Prince George's. "Our tourism and hospitality industry felt the impact of COVID-19, but we have remained steadfast in our approach to ensure that businesses and vendors continue to maintain their establishments and adhere to the mandated health and safety guidelines to protect our residents and the arrival of guests for the ultimate tourism experience."

See TRAVEL Page A6

How to Cast Your Vote In Maryland, D.C. or Virginia Before— Or on—Nov. 3

By RACHEL CLAIR, KAANITA IYER and JACOB ROUSSEAU
Capital News Service

With confusion looming over voting amid the coronavirus pandemic, several states have announced their plans to make it easier to vote in the upcoming general and local elections on Nov. 3.

The revamped voting process includes ballots sent via mail and accessible drop box locations for those who wish to avoid in-person voting, as well as early voting centers to ease expected delays.

Capital News Service has assembled the following guide on voter registration, voting by mail, and early and Election Day voting in Maryland, the District of Columbia and Virginia.

Maryland

There are lots of ways to vote in Maryland. Let's break down the steps for each.

First, you must be registered to vote. Contact your local or state Board of Elections to confirm your address. You may register online or by mail. The deadline is Oct. 13. For more information: <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineVoterRegistration/InstructionsStep1>.

If you do not want to go to a polling place in person on or before Election Day, the first step is to request a ballot.

The Board of Elections is urging Marylanders to vote through mail-in ballots—formerly known as absentee ballots—due to the coronavirus pandemic. Maryland's mail-in process is two steps: A ballot request form; and then the ballot.

Maryland voters should have received, by mid-September, mail-in voting applications in the

mail sent to their home addresses. Return this application to the Board of Elections to have a ballot sent to you. Here is a video explaining the process: <https://youtu.be/X3SEja6u6xg>

Voters who did not receive a mail-in voting application in the mail can request one on the Maryland Board of Elections website: <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/onlinemailinrequest/InstructionsStep1>.

Mail-in voting applications, whether sent online or through the mail, must be returned by Oct. 20.

Once your application for a mail-in ballot has been processed, you may pick up a ballot at some local boards of elections; you may print your ballot from an email link sent to you; or it can be mailed or faxed to you.

Ballots can be sent via the U.S. Postal Service, hand delivered to a local board of elections or polling place, or put in official drop boxes. Ballots may be marked online, but may not be emailed, faxed or cast online.

Voters who choose to mail-in their votes through the Postal Service must have them post-marked by Nov. 3 and received by 10 a.m. Nov. 13, in order to be counted. Ballots must be filled out in black ink and the envelope (but not the ballot) should be signed.

The Board of Elections is installing around 280 boxes in public places around the state. Here is a list of locations: https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2020/PG20_Drop%20Boxes%20Locations.pdf

See VOTE Page A3

Substance-Abuse Deaths in Maryland Spike During Pandemic

By BRENDA WINTRODE
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (September 22, 2020)—The COVID-19 pandemic contributed to a spike in methamphetamine, alcohol, cocaine and opioid-related overdose deaths in Maryland, according to a state health department report released Tuesday.

Accidental overdose deaths related to methamphetamines more than doubled in the first half of 2020 compared to the first half of 2019, according to the quarterly report from the Opioid Operational Command Center and the Maryland Department of Health. Alcohol-related deaths increased nearly 35% and cocaine overdose deaths increased by 13.3%.

Opioid-related overdose deaths in Maryland climbed 9.4%, according to the report, and fentanyl was involved in nearly 93% of opioid-related deaths.

"Taken together, the associated social isolation, disruptions of support, impeded access to care, and economic distress have helped to create an extremely dangerous environment for those suffering from substance use disorder," the report said.

Eric Weintraub, director of the University of Maryland Medical Center's Division of Alcohol and

Drug Abuse estimated because of COVID-19 safety precautions, clinics treating opioid dependency had to limit the number of daily visitors. He said his clinic reduced patient visits by around two-thirds.

"Before COVID, we would have 300 to 350 patients coming in for medications," Weintraub said. "So you can imagine that would be an issue and putting people at risk, including our staff and patients."

Weintraub said medication-assisted treatment is a "critical component" to treatment and can decrease overdose rates by up to 50%. He said, "My understanding was it was harder for patients to access treatment during this time, whether it was for medications, or different types of therapy and treatment," a factor exacerbated in remote parts of the state where "there's already a lack of access to treatment."

In rural Somerset and Dorchester counties, opioid-related deaths jumped 600% and 100% respectively compared with the first half of 2019. In Prince George's, opioid-related deaths jumped 135% in the same time period.

But not all substance-use statistics increased. Heroin-related fatalities continued to decline, with 288 deaths in the first part of this year—a 30.4%

decrease over the first half of last year.

Also notable, Emergency Department visits for non-fatal overdoses declined nearly 27%, to 2,574—attributed by state officials at least in part to a reluctance to visit hospitals during the pandemic.

Some in the recovery community say the increases in opioid-related overdoses occurred because access to counseling—in addition to medical treatment—for addiction was limited.

Overall, support meetings were cancelled during the height of COVID-19-related shutdowns. Clinicians and attendees said online support group meetings have been an inadequate substitute.

Jennifer Redding, executive director of behavioral health at University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health, said isolation jeopardizes substance abuse recovery.

"For folks in particular in recovery, they need that face-to-face interaction," said Redding, who oversees a group of facilities in Harford County providing substance abuse disorder and mental health services.

Redding said that people are "truly struggling" with the interruptions caused by COVID-19.

"We're seeing that symptoms and use are just truly escalating because they're trying to cope," Redding said.

In Anne Arundel County, typically one of the top three counties in the state for opioid-related overdoses, Angel Traynor, director of a transitional housing program, said that in addition to the absence of

meetings, the influx of unemployment checks and stimulus money also contributed to the spike, especially for the newly recovering.

"They're stuck at home left with their own brains, with all this money, and using looks like a really good option," Traynor said.

She estimated it took the network of meetings in Anne Arundel County about six weeks to connect through teleconferencing apps and said she saw those new to recovery struggle with their attention spans during online meetings.

Traynor, who is 13 years sober, remembers how important frequent meetings were to her in the beginning of her recovery.

"I'm a firm believer that the opposite of addiction is not sobriety," she said. "The opposite of addiction is connection."

Meeting participant Jessica Murphy, who has been attending online recovery group meetings since March, said the format is "not as personable."

She said her meetings make the group "feel like we have a life again, because we were in a dark place for so long."

"You take that away from us and tell us you can't do those things and be around the people that we know love us. It sucks," she said.

The 32-year-old Lansdowne, Maryland, mother of two said she has lost many friends to opioid overdoses, and just last year, her father died from one. She said she wants people to know "there is a solution and that they don't have to live that way."

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Community, Page A3

ChildWatch:

Ruth Bader Ginsburg: Great United States Supreme Court Justice and Role Model for All Little Girls and Women

She is a role model for everyone, especially little girls, but also boys, reminding them that they can be and do anything if they believe in themselves and never give up despite obstacles.

Commentary, Page A4

The Bizzell Group's Dr. Anton C. Bizzell Selected as Small Business Person of the Year for Maryland by U.S. Small Business Administration

"The entire Bizzell Group team shares this honor with me, as we have all worked hard to deliver impactful services to our clients and to the world community, and this recognition is a validation of everyone's hard work," said Dr. Bizzell.

Business and Finance, Page A5

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Marlyn Meoli, master organizer, great cook, dies at 82

Mary Marlyn Meoli, a remarkable planner and organizer at St. Philip’s Church and a sought-after caterer, wedding planner, and floral arranger, died peacefully Sept. 8 in her home at Arbor Terrace Fulton Assisted Living Community. She was 82.

Marlyn was born in Philadelphia, the older of the two daughters of Grazio and Nicolina Pasquarello. She graduated from Overbrook High School in 1956 and immediately entered the workforce. On June 16, 1962 she married Angelo Meoli and entered her true calling as the mother of five.

Eventually, the Meolis settled on Cable Avenue in Auth Village. When the children were older, Marlyn enjoyed day jobs at a gift shop, dental office and day-care program. However, it was the work that she did outside of traditional employment for which she is best known.

She threw herself into serving at nearby St. Philip’s. She served as Sodality Prefect (1979), chairman of the 25th anniversary cookbook and the 50th Anniversary Committee among many other activities. What I appreciated most was her Senior Program, where I learned—among many other things—how to exercise.

She was a master organizer of volunteer activities of any scope and size for every school, scout troop, and sport program of all five of her children, senior citizens of Camp Springs, and the Heartlands Senior Living Community in Ellicott City.

Marlyn is survived by her husband of 58 years, Angelo; her children Nicole, Peter, Victoria, Marc and Andrew; eleven grandchildren; and her sister Dee Aquilante. She was preceded in death by her parents and stepmother Kathryn Pasquarello. On Sept. 11, Marlyn’s family held a private service and interment. At a later date, the family will host a memorial Mass and reception at St. Philip the Apostle Church.

Marlyn was a master in the kitchen. She made her trademark pizzelles and gnocchi soups like no one else.

AAA Car Care Event Oct. 10

AAA at 16301 Crain Highway in

Brandywine is hosting free vehicle inspections, prizes & gift bags, and more on Saturday, Oct. 10, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Their free inspections will be held drive-through, so you won’t have to leave your vehicle. They’ll help keep your car running smoothly by checking tires, fluids, lights, wipers, A/C, heating, and under the hood.

Plus, you can enter to win great prizes—including a set of 4 tires. You’ll enjoy the gift bags. So, take advantage of this special Car Care, Travel, and merchandise savings. Info: 301-909-9519.

Neighbors & other good people

William Paley Peirce, educator and wood artist, died Sept. 2 in Silver Spring. He was Professor of English at Prince George’s Community College from 1965 to 2007. He was 81.

Last week I mentioned the Morningside Sub-teen Club, which met Friday nights at Foulois for dancing and fun back in the late 1950s and ’60s. My daughter Therese recalled going as guest of her friend Sue Patterson. Do any of you remember those Friday nights of loud music at Foulois back then?

Changing landscape

Brown Station Road Sanitary Landfill in Upper Marlboro has fully opened Monday through Saturday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

A homeowner on Auth Road has turned some of his or her front yard into a Community Garden. Sweet!

El Papi Street Tacos has opened at 5904 Allentown Way. The Washington Post gave it a great review. We tried it and will be back to do it again.

Lost husky

On Nextdoor Morningside, David reported his female Siberian husky managed to open the gate and has taken off. She is black-and-white with a black dot on her tongue and weighs 45 pounds. If you have seen her anywhere near Manchester Drive and Deer Pond Lane, call David at 240-481-0892.

Morningside Memories: October 1979

The Morningside–Skyline Park &

Recreation Council had been working since the early ’70s to realize the development of the park that Mike Polley first championed. In October 1979 the Dedication Ceremony was finally happening, with food, magic, mounted police units, and more.

The Morningside Seniors were on hand to help serve the food. They were Louise Rousseaux, Ethel Benden, Pauline Valentine, Alvina Beardmore, Vera Chaney and Edna Lucas.

Sad to say, a large sign for Michael J. Polley Park, at Suitland Road and Randolph, has Mike’s last name misspelled (Polly instead of Polley). I intend to contact Park & Planning and hope for a fix.

Carol Cropper, Census retiree

Carol Mae (Buckshorn) Cropper, 85, of Temple Hills, longtime parishioner at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Camp Springs, died Sept. 17.

She was born in Fort Mitchell, Ky. When she was ten, the family moved to St. Petersburg, Fla., where she went to high school and met her future husband, John Cropper.

She had short-term jobs at Hecht’s and Hot Shoppes before working at the Census Bureau from which she retired at age 67 with a GS-12.

Carol’s husband John predeceased her. She was mother of David, Christopher and Philip Cropper, grandmother of Jennifer, and sister of Dorothy Buckshorn. A Celebration of Her Life was held at St. Philip’s on Sept. 23, followed by Mass of Christian Burial celebrated by Father Patrick Lewis.

I remember Carol fondly during the years she was an enthusiastic member of St. Philip’s Book Club.

Milestones

Happy birthday to John Ihrig, Oct. 3; Marlene Titus, Oct. 4; Muriel Ireson and Sue Gilmore, Oct. 5; Rory Lohman, Carmen Buffington and George Nixon, Oct. 6; Dr. Alvin Thornton and Kam’Ron Blade, Oct. 7; and Greta Chambers, Oct. 9.

Happy anniversary to Bill & Terry Ratliff on their 34th, Oct. 4; and my daughter Elaine and Luke Seidman, their 31st on Oct. 7.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

2020 MEGGY talented and gifted educators award recipients in Prince George’s County Public Schools are Marites Melad, Benjamin Tasker Middle School, Debra Perhach, Talented and Gifted (Tag) Coordinator, and Wendy Walton, Capitol Heights Elementary. Meland, Walton and Perhach were recognized as Outstanding Educators in the field of Gifted and Talented Education category. Congratulations and thank for your dedication in the field of Gifted and Talented Education.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Bowie State University National Alumni Association was established in 1939 to keep alumni connected to the history and traditions of their beloved alma mater. The primary mission of the BSUNAA is to: advance the cause of education, establish a mutually beneficial relationship between Bowie State University and the National Alumni Association, Inc., financially aid students who wish to attend Bowie State University and to financially aid Bowie State University.

All persons having attended Bowie State University, formerly Bowie State College, Maryland State Teacher’s College, Bowie Normal School #3, and Maryland Normal School for Colored Youth are eligible to join.

By being an active member in the BSUNAA, keeping us apprised of your accomplishment and networking with other alumni and current students, you will continue to find enrichment from your relationship with Bowie State University and members of the Bowie State University National Alumni Association.

RICHARD W. COLLINS, III SCHOLARSHIP

Richard W. Collins Leadership with Honor Scholarship Award Ceremony was held Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. Established in July 2018 by Senate Bill 1202, the Collins Scholarship provides opportunities to Maryland HBCU cadets to pursue their goal of higher education and service to their country as officers in the U.S. Military.

The Scholarship recipients in BSU’s first-ever virtual Collins Scholarship Ceremony. The event recognized the posthumous promotion of Collins to a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Join our brand -new Virtual Alumni Book Club and our first read of the year. Register (Free). Purchase your book online. Join us over the month of October in our private book discussion room. Tell your family and friends. New York Times Best seller. Author of the Other Wes Moore. Wes Moore the Work at <http://bit.ly/BSUALUMNIREADS>. “Wes Moore’s gripping

personal story, set against the dramatic events of the past decade, goes straight to the heart of an ancient question that is as relevant as ever; not just how to live a good life, but how to make that life matter. Above all this book is about how to make our journeys not just about surviving and succeeding but coming truly alive.” Arianna Huffington.

ACRYLIC PAINTING

Cleo Turner Mitchel, daughter of the late James and Ruth Turner of Brandywine, has uncovered another hidden talent-acrylic painting, which has proven to be great fun. She quickly mixes different colors and then marvels at the abstract images that emerge, with a short drying time. If you are on Instagram, check out her artwork at cleoseashellcreations.

#COVID KINDNESS

Staff at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center in Clinton Maryland has received out pouring of donations since March 19, 2020. “We wish to offer our warm and sincere gratitude to every generous individual, company, and organization who thought of our staff during this time. We greatly appreciate your support.” MedStar Health Summer 2020.

THANK YOU

Thank you to our Healthcare Heroes. We see the sacrifices all of you are making, and we want you to know that we appreciate all of you. At times like these, we know it truly takes a village and we are grateful that each one of you is a part of the team. Thank you for all that you do. We are in this together. #MSMHC HealthcareHeroes.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

Kudos to Bowie State U’s Department of Language, Literature, and Cultural Studies professor Hoke Glover by publishing his second book, “One Shoe Marching Towards Heaven,” a poetic blend of African American and Asian cultures.

50 YEARS

September month marks over 50 years since Bowie State University offered its first graduate program. We continue to help professionals advance in their careers, offering 19 master’s degree Programs, 14 specialty certificate and 2 Doctoral programs. Check periodically for virtual information session dates to learn more about our Masters, doctoral and certificate programs.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to Jerre and Anne Kauffman, Lawrence and Roseline Omoregbe who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating Wedding Anniversaries in October.

Around the County

National Harbor Burger Week Returns September 25 Through October 4

Special \$10 burger deals at seven National Harbor restaurants

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. (September 25, 2020)—National Harbor’s popular Burger Week returns today and runs through October 4 with seven participating restaurants offering a variety of \$10 burger specials.

Participants and burger specials include:

The Walrus Oyster and Ale House (152 Waterfront Street) is offering a half-pound Walrus Burger made with local ground and blended beef, Tillamook cheddar, special sauce, iceberg lettuce, heirloom tomato, onion, and sweet and sour pickles.

Redstone American Grill (155 National Plaza) is featuring General Tso’s Turkey Burger topped with broccoli slaw, caramelized red onions and sweet and spicy General Tso sauce.

Saucy at the Westin (171 Waterfront Street) is offering three angus sliders with roasted garlic aioli.

Elevation Burger (108 Waterfront Street) has a Burger of the Week Deal (ask for it) and get a single burger with cheese, fries and a drink.

Tap Sports Bar at MGM National Harbor (101 MGM National Avenue) is offering the Tap Burger with lettuce, tomato, red onion, pickle, American cheese and Tap Sauce on a potato bun with French fries.

Bar Harbor at Hyatt Place (123 Waterfront Street) has a Harbor Burger with a half-pound of certified Angus beef, American cheese, onion, lettuce and tomato on brioche and with tater tots.

The Brass Tap (164 Fleet Street) features its single All-American Pub Burger with aged cheddar cheese, applewood bacon, lettuce, tomato and pickle on a butter brioche bun.

“Each of these restaurant participants has its own special burger creation,” said Deborah Topcik, director of marketing at National Harbor. “This is a great opportunity to experience some of the many restaurants at National Harbor and try some delicious burgers. All are available for dine-in or take out.” Customers are welcome to bring a blanket and enjoy carry out on the Waterfront Plaza or in various seating areas around the waterfront. Some of the restaurants have their own outdoor dining areas.

For more details on participating restaurants, burger creations and offers, go to www.nationalharbor.com/burgerweek2020.

—*Bendure Communications, Inc., for National Harbor*

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation Announces Openings of Wells Ice Rink and Several Indoor Pools

RIVERDALE, Md. (September 24, 2020)—The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation announces the reopening of some popular indoor amenities. The community will be able to register for the following amenities at www.pgparcs.com through the Department’s online registration system PARKS DIRECT on Thursday, October 1.

“With the changing of the seasons we are adding to the recreational activities we are reopening for our patrons. We are pleased to open several indoor pools and the Herbert Wells Ice Rink,” says M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation Director, Bill Tyler. “As always, we continue to follow the guidance of public health officials, and implement procedures and guidelines put in place to ensure the safety of our staff and patrons.”

Sunday, October 4

Herbert Wells Ice Rink, 5211 Campus Drive, College Park, MD 20740. Make reservations with your PARKS DIRECT account, or create a new account at www.pgparcs.com/PARKSDIRECT

The following indoor pool locations:

Monday, October 5:

Rollingerest-Chillum Splash Pool, 6122 Sargent Road, Chillum, MD 20782
Theresa Banks Memorial Pool, 8615 McLain Avenue, Glenarden, MD 20706

Allentown Splash, Tennis, and Fitness Park, 7210 Allentown Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744

Monday, October 12:

Fairland Sports & Aquatic Center, 13820/13950 Old Gunpowder Rd., Laurel, MD 20707

Prince George’s Sports & Learning Aquatic Center, 8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD 20785

Reservations are required for all swim sessions. For all swim sessions, capacity remains limited. For availability, and to make reservations with your PARKS DIRECT account, visit pgparcs.com/swimming reservations.

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.

—*Kira Calm Lewis, Prince George’s County Department of Parks and Recreation*

Celebrating 10 Years of Capital Bikeshare in the Region

LARGO, Md. (September 18, 2020)—Sunday, September 20, 2020 mark[ed] the 10th year that Capital Bikeshare has provided bikeshare as a convenient, affordable and sustainable transportation option to riders in the Washington Metropolitan Area! Capital Bikeshare provides riders access to traditional pedal bikes as well as hybrid pedal-assist eBikes. Today Capital Bikeshare is available in seven jurisdictions across the region, including Prince George’s County and Montgomery County in Maryland; Fairfax, Falls Church, Arlington and Alexandria in Virginia, and Washington, DC.

Prince George’s County continues to grow its inventory of bikes and docking stations, with 24 bikeshare stations currently and additional locations planned. Bikeshare not only provides an eco-friendly traveling option, it helps to improve accessibility throughout the County by connecting commuters to other forms of public transportation during their first and last mile of travel.

Join us in celebrating 10 years of Capital Bikeshare by becoming a Capital Bikeshare member or by taking a ride for a day on a Capital Bikeshare bicycle. To learn more about Capital Bikeshare and the various plans, programs and promotions offered, please visit the Capital Bikeshare website at <https://www.capitalbikeshare.com/>.

—*Paulette L. Jones, Prince George’s County Department of Public Works and Transportation*

COMMUNITY

Vote from A1

The deadline to drop ballots in one of these boxes is 8 p.m. on Nov. 3.

Maryland residents may vote in person at early voting locations or, on Election Day, at polling places.

Early voting will run from Monday, Oct. 26, to Monday, Nov. 2. Voters must vote in their home county. There are at least 89 early-voting centers across the state: <https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2020/2020%20Early%20Voting%20Centers.pdf>.

On Election Day, there will be more than 300 voting centers statewide, and these can be found here: https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2020/PG20_List%20of%20Election%20Day%20Vote%20Centers.pdf

Centers will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Nov. 3. COVID-19 precautions and signs will be implemented at these centers to ensure the safety of voters.

District of Columbia

The District will send ballots to every registered voter via mail for the Nov. 3 general election. Residents may drop off the ballots at any of the 55 drop box locations at any time before 8 p.m. on Election Day.

In-person voting is also available in the District starting Oct. 27 at 8:30 a.m. The Board of Elections has set up 32 early vote centers, along with nearly 100 day-of vote centers that will open at 7 a.m.

The complete list of drop box locations, early vote centers and Election Day vote centers can be found at www.dcboe.org/Voters/Where-to-Vote/Find-Out-Where-to-Vote.

Residents may register to vote via email or mail by filling out this voter registration application: <https://www.dcboe.org/dcboe/media/PDFFiles/Voter-Registration-Form-FINAL.pdf>. All applications must be emailed by or, if by mail, received by the Board of Elections no later than Oct. 13. Same-day registration is available as well during early voting and on Election Day with acceptable forms of proof of residence. You can also check your registration status at www.dcboe.org/Voters/Register-To-Vote/Check-Voter-Registration-Status.

For more information, see the Board's voter registration guide.

Virginia

To help lessen the burden on voters during the pandemic, early access voting began Sept. 18 and ends on Oct. 31 at local elections offices. Voters must have an acceptable form of identification, which includes a drivers license or passport.

Virginia citizens may also vote via mail-in or absentee ballots by filling out this voter registration application. Local registrars made these ballots available to the public starting Sept. 18 and the deadline to request a ballot is 5 p.m. on Oct. 23. You may also fill out your mail-in ballot at home and return it in-person.

If you are unable to make certain voting deadlines, emergency absentee ballots can be requested from your local elections office until 2 p.m. on Nov. 2.

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam signed legislation on Sept. 4 to allow cities and counties to deploy ballot drop boxes. Virginia residents should consult their city or county elections offices for locations.

For more voting information, see Virginia's Department of Elections, frequently asked questions page.

The Island of Sea Women Author Lisa See To Tour Maryland Virtually

Maryland Humanities' Statewide Reading and Discussion Program Enters Thirteenth Year Award-Winning Author Virtually Visits Prince George's County on October 4

By SARAH WEISSMAN
Maryland Humanities

BALTIMORE (September 21, 2020)—This year, 2020 One Maryland One Book author Lisa See will make virtual visits to Maryland to discuss her book, "The Island of Sea Women". Maryland Humanities, which coordinates One Maryland One Book, has partnered with organizations across the state for six virtual events October 4–7. All events are free. Participants must register to receive a virtual event link. Register at onemarylandonebook.org.

The Island of Sea Women follows the decades-long friendship of two haenyeo (female divers) from Jeju Island in Korea. The book was chosen by a committee of librarians, educators, authors, and bibliophiles in February from more than 165 titles suggested last fall by readers across the state for the theme, "Friendship." In 2019, The Island of Sea Women made the New York Times' list of best sellers.

See says: "I'm thrilled and honored that The Island of Sea Women has been chosen as the 2020 One Maryland One Book selection. This has been a trying year and some of us have sustained terrible losses. I'm proud of the way we've had to come together in our families, communities, and states. Books have always given me joy, solace, and courage. Now we have the opportunity to come together to have a shared reading experience. I hope the sea women that I wrote about—their physical and emotional bravery—are as inspiring to all of you as they have been to me. I'm so looking forward to our events and meeting all of you. We're going to have fun!"

Lindsey Baker, executive director of Maryland Humanities, says "We are truly pleased to bring Lisa See to Maryland in a manner that is safe for all to enjoy. We're looking forward to delving further into this rich, multi-faceted novel with readers across the state."

About the Book

The Island of Sea Women by New York Times bestselling author Lisa See chronicles the lives and friendship between Young-sook and Mi-ja, two girls living on the Korean island of Jeju. They become the closest of friends. However, their differences are impossible to



PHOTO CREDIT PATRICIA WILLIAMS

Author Lisa See

ignore: Young-sook was born into a long line of haenyeo and will inherit her mother's position of leading the divers; whereas Mi-ja is the daughter of a Japanese collaborator and will forever carry that mark. From the Japanese occupation of the 1930s and 1940s to World War II to the Korean War, events will push their seemingly unbreakable bond to its breaking point. This beautifully written and thoughtful novel shines a light on the remarkable haenyeo culture and two women who are a part of it. Readers won't soon forget the journey of Young-sook and Mi-ja's friendship.

About the Author

In her beloved New York Times bestsellers, which include Snow Flower and the Secret Fan, Peony in Love, Shanghai Girls, Dreams of Joy, China Dolls, and The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane, Lisa See brilliantly illuminates the immigrant experience and the indissoluble bonds between women. Her newest novel is a story of family secrets and female friendship on a remote Korean island. The Island of Sea Women introduces readers to the fierce and unforgettable women divers of Jeju Island and the dramatic history that shaped their lives. Her first book, the national bestseller and New York Times Notable Book, On Gold Mountain: The One Hundred Year Odyssey of My Chinese-American Family, traces the journey of her great-grandfather, Fong See, who overcame obstacles at every step to become the 100-year-old godfather of Los Angeles's Chinatown and the patriarch of a sprawling family. See was the Publishers Weekly West Coast correspondent for thirteen years, and her arti-

cles have appeared in Vogue, Self, and More. 2020 One Maryland One Book Author Virtual Tour Sponsored in part by Harford County Public Library

Co-host: Prince George's County Memorial Library System
Sunday, October 4, 7 p.m.

About One Maryland One Book

When we read a great book, we can't wait to share the experience and talk about it with others. That's one of the joys of reading.

In that spirit, through our Maryland Center for the Book program, Maryland Humanities created One Maryland One Book (OMOB) to bring together diverse people in communities across the state through the shared experience of reading the same book. We invite readers to participate in book-centered discussions and related programs at public libraries, high schools, colleges, museums, bookstores, and community and senior centers around the state.

One Maryland One Book is presented in partnership with Enoch Pratt Free Library and is sponsored by The Institute of Museum and Library Services via the Maryland State Library as well as PNC Foundation and BGE, with additional support from M&T Bank, an anonymous donor, and the Citizens of Baltimore County.

About Maryland Center for the Book

The Maryland Center for the Book (MCFB)—an affiliate of the national Center for the Book in the Library of Congress—develops and supports literary programs and outreach activities that engage citizens across Maryland in literature and reading. As a program of Maryland Humanities, MCFB highlights our region's literary heritage and calls attention to the importance of books, reading, literacy, and libraries.

Want to discuss the book now or get updates on upcoming events? Join the conversation on the Maryland Center for the Book page.

Maryland Humanities is a statewide nonprofit organization that creates and supports educational experiences in the humanities that inspire all Marylanders to embrace lifelong learning, exchange ideas openly, and enrich their communities. Visit www.mdhumanities.org.

Bowie State Student-Athlete Spotlight: Telicia Farmer

By Bowie State Athletic Media Relations Student Assistant KEVIN PARRISH
Bowie State University

BOWIE, Md. (September 24, 2020)—Every Thursday, Bowie State University Department of Athletics will spotlight one student-athlete in wake of COVID-19 pandemic that forced CIAA to suspend fall competition until the spring of 2021. This week's spotlight will feature Telicia Farmer—a standout cross country runner—from Lanham, Maryland.

Growing up, Farmer was a basketball player during most of her teen years. It was who she was and what she was known most for. That, however, changed in November of her freshman year at Charles H. Flowers high school.

"I was going to go and try out for the basketball team, but then I had a long-time friend say, 'no, you should come and run cross-country with me,'" Farmer said. "And I don't know why, but I just kept going with it. I just kept showing up to practice, and I got better and better and better. And then in my senior year, I started having recruiters calling."

Bowie State was not her first option. Lincoln University of Pennsylvania was the school she dreamed of spending her college years. She liked its location in Chester County, Pennsylvania. And how she was in constant communication with the cross-country head coach. Farmer is a relationships-type-of-person. So that meant a lot to her. The pair also formed a strong relationship outside the normal recruitment process, too.

After taking an official visit, Farmer decided to commit to Lincoln (Pa.). There she was excited to excel athletically and academically and looked forward to experiencing the school's culture. But that plan quickly went haywire before it officially began.

"I wasn't getting the money that I was promised," Farmer said. So, I was like, 'I'm going to go look at Bowie.' "I had a

meeting with Coach Latimer, and I connected with her in more than a coach-athlete type connection. I looked at her as family. And when I got that family vibe from her, my mom was like, 'yeah, I think this would be a great fit for you.'"

When Farmer officially came to Bowie in the fall of 2017, she was awarded a merit scholarship for her outstanding high school grades. But an athletic scholarship was not awarded since she committed to the school on late notice. It was a humbling experience for her since everyone else on the team had an athletic scholarship. She had to show coach Latimer exactly what she could bring to the table.

She did just that and the benefits came soon after.

"Not only was I getting a merit scholarship, but then my sophomore year, I was awarded an athletic scholarship as well," Farmer said.

Farmer spoke to Bowie State Athletic Department about her athletic career at Bowie State, how she's dealing with the season on hold, and much more.

How has your experience been at Bowie State?

The experience has been nothing but amazing. I have learned so much over the past three years, going into my fourth year. I wouldn't change it for anything. Every lesson I've learned has been amazing, and I've never had a negative experience with Bowie State. It has just been a learning experience.

Why didn't you initially want to come to Bowie State?

I didn't want to go to Bowie because my aunt went to Bowie, and I think she graduated in class '89 or '90. And then my sister went to Bowie. I just wanted to

have my own identity. Create my own legacy. And lay my own foundation. But then I learned that you are who you are. And that they did their own thing. Like, you don't have to live in that shadow. Once I got out of that, I was fine.

What are you and your team doing right now, with the season postponed?

Right now, I'm juggling school and internships. It's just trying to find those times where I can just work out and go on a run. Our team focus is, like, are we training for indoor or outdoor? And then people are still staying indoors is too soon. So, let's just focus on the outdoors.

We're trying to decide what we want to do, and then make sure we're on the same page. So, we're just training on our own right now, and we're all still trying to get our physicals in line, too.

How did you handle being in quarantine months ago?

At first, I didn't have a great routine with quarantine. I went from living pretty much on my own to having to come back home. For a few months, I was just out of it. I was, like, man, this is tough. I would work out some days, and I'd just fall off. The mental portion was weighing heavy on me. It was challenging.

Then, my coach had us do zoom calls twice a week. And at first, I was like, "oh my God, like we have another zoom call." But it gave people hope. Then I communicated with my coach and let her know where I was at mentally—how it was hard for me to train, and stuff like that. Her support and everything helped me get back into just doing and say, "Okay, let's go run. Let's go lift weights. That really helped me."

Do you feel the quarantine did any good for you?

Yeah, definitely. The quarantine has

helped me with my self-determination and my ability to adjust to things not going my way. My relationship with God also strengthened over the quarantine. As well as my spare life.

How does it feel to be graduating during a global pandemic?

It's great, but it's also tough—since it's tough for graduating students our age—to find jobs right now. So, it's exciting but then it's also just the uncertainty.

What are you looking to do after graduation?

I plan to go to graduate school, get my master's degree in Public Policy, and ultimately work with the government. My long term goal and dream is to become a politician. So, work at the delegate, work throughout the government, page, legislation—and policy advocating for our community.

How long have you wanted to be a politician?

At first, I wanted to be a lawyer, and people would say, 'Oh, you go to law school, and then you become a politician. That's how it works.' Then I realized through my internships and networking that I didn't have to do that. Since elementary school, I knew what I wanted to be. So, it was no brainer.

Where did that desire of being a politician come from?

I wanted to advocate. I'm a talker. I've always felt the need to advocate for people. And I wanted to find a different way of doing it. Not everyone can do it. Not everyone can be a politician. Not everybody understands the government's process—legislation, creating bills, how bills come from the House, how bills are created in the Senate. That's very interesting to me.

So, for me, it was just the interest and



PHOTO COURTESY BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

Bowie State University athlete Telicia Farmer.

the desire—and seeing how America interacts with other countries. How everything interacts, along with the power struggle. That's what politics is—the study of power, and who can have the most.

Do you have that one professor or mentor who gives you sound advice during your journey?

I would say, Professor Walker, Professor Lewis, Professor Robinson—are all great components in helping me understand-and-tailor what I want to do. I can also say my internships have helped. I'm very selective in what internships I receive, and how they will help me achieve my goals.

What are these internships you completed?

My first internship was something small, but it was still fun. It was a summer youth enrichment program, where I helped students create a business plan, designed like Prince George's County public schools—to help them create their resumes and business portfolios.

My next one was with the House of Delegates, where I worked with Andrea Harrison as an intern. Unfortunately,

COMMENTARY

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Ruth Bader Ginsburg: Great United States Supreme Court Justice and Role Model for All Little Girls and Women

"I attended law school in days when women were not wanted by most members of the legal profession ... Yes, there are miles in front, but what a distance we have traveled from the day President Thomas Jefferson told his Secretary of State: 'The appointment of women to [public] office is an innovation for which the public is not prepared. Nor,' Jefferson added, 'am I.'"

"The increasingly full use of the talent of all of this Nation's people holds large promise for the future, but we could not have come to this point—and I surely would not be in this room today—without the determined efforts of men and women who kept dreams of equal citizenship alive in days when few would listen. People like Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Harriet Tubman come to mind. I stand on the shoulders of those brave people."

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg stated these words before the Senate Judiciary Committee after becoming the second woman nominated to the United States Supreme Court. She acknowledged the women who paved her way and throughout her lifetime fighting gender discrimination, paved the way for countless others. She was a trailblazer and teacher for all Americans of all genders and races just as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was. I adored her.

She is a role model for everyone, especially little girls, but also boys, reminding them that they can be and do anything if they believe in themselves and never give up despite obstacles. She described many instances of discrimination including from a Harvard Law School professor who chided her for taking a man's spot but she was not deterred. After graduating at the top of her Columbia Law School class no New York City law firm offered her a job but she never gave up and inspired countless girls, women, and men to shatter the glass ceilings women and people of color still face.

The outpouring of grief and gratitude since her death reflects how many feel her loss. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi ensured Justice Ginsburg would be the first woman honored to lie in state at the Capitol. This overdue 'first,' which she so richly deserved, was a fitting honor for her tireless fight for equal rights for all.

She received the National Constitution Center's 2020 Liberty Medal the evening before her passing.

In accepting, she said: "It was my great good fortune to have the opportunity to participate in the long effort to place equal citizenship stature for women on the basic human rights agenda. In that regard, I was scarcely an innovator. For generations, brave women and enlightened men in diverse nations pursued that goal, but they did so when society was not yet prepared to listen. I was alive and a lawyer in the late 1960s and the decade commencing in 1970. Conditions of life had so changed that audiences responded positively to pleas that society—men, women, and children—would be well served by removing artificial barriers blocking women's engagement in many fields of human endeavor—from Bar membership to bar tending, policing, firefighting, piloting planes, even serving on juries. Helping to explain what was wrong about the closed door era was enormously satisfying."

Too many leaders and citizens seek to turn the clock of progress backwards for girls, women, people of color, and others left behind but we must steadfastly follow Justice Ginsburg's example and precepts in our families, schools, colleges, and universities for boys and girls and all of our children alike. She lived up to the charge in Deuteronomy framed on the wall of her Supreme Court chambers: "Justice, justice you shall pursue." May her memory goad us to action to see that every girl child and woman in our nation has the same opportunity as every boy child and man. We must Leave No Child Behind®.

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Grand Jury Decision in Breonna Taylor Case is a Glaring Example of America's Two-Tiered Justice System

"The rallying cries that have been echoing throughout the nation have been once again ignored by a justice system that claims to serve the people. But when a justice system only acts in the best interest of the most privileged and whitest among us, it has failed. For the sake of Breonna Taylor, for the sake of justice, and for the sake of all Americans, law enforcement agencies and their representatives throughout the country need to take a long, hard look in the mirror. Is this who you are? Is this the example you want to set for the rest of the world and for future generations?"

—Benjamin Crump, attorney representing Breonna Taylor's family

Perversion of justice is too feeble a term to describe the decision of a grand jury in Louisville not to file even a single criminal charge related to Breonna Taylor's death.

The barrage of gunfire that endangered Breonna's neighbors is the very same gunfire that took Breonna's life. The grand jury's decision that the risk of injuring neighbors is a crime but the actual killing of an innocent young woman is not defies comprehension.

Grand juries respond to the evidence presented to them by prosecutors; because the proceedings are secret, we don't know what the jurors were told and what was withheld from them. Witnesses are questioned only by the prosecutor, and there is no one to challenge inconsistencies in their statements or cross-examine them.

The tragedy of Breonna Taylor's death is likely to go down in history as one of the most glaring examples of the two-tiered system of justice we have in the United States in 2020—one for white Americans and another for Black people.

Kentucky is a Castle Doctrine state and has a

"stand your ground" law. But when Breonna's boyfriend, Kenneth Walker—a licensed gun owner with no criminal record—exercised his right under Kentucky law to defend himself and Breonna, he was charged immediately with attempted murder. There is no earthly reason to doubt that he believed a home invasion was in progress and their lives were at stake. He immediately telephoned 911, crying and pleading for help.

The white officers who smashed their way into the home and returned Kenneth's single shot with a flurry of deadly and reckless gunfire, are absolved. That's the justice system for white America. If not for the sustained pressure of activists and protesters, Kenneth would still be in jail. That's the justice system for Black America.

Endangering neighbors with gunfire is a crime. That's the justice system for white America. Fatally shooting an innocent woman is not a crime. That's the justice system for Black America.

When white shooters who live in a "stand your ground" state claim self-defense in the death of a Black person, 36 percent are ruled justifiable homicides. That's the justice system for white America. When Black shooters claim self-defense in cases involving the deaths of white people in these same states, just 3 percent are ruled justifiable homicides. That's the justice system for Black America.

In February in Georgia, father and son Gregory and Travis McMichael, who are white, fatally shot 25-year-old jogger Ahmaud Arbery, who is Black, after running him down in their truck. The prosecutor in charge of the case immediately determined the gunmen were justified under Georgia's citizen arrest and self-defense laws.

It wasn't until May, after the New York Times shone light on the case and video of the killing

emerged, that the pair were criminally charged.

Attorney Robert Patillo, executive director of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition's Peachtree Street Project in Georgia, told NBC News, "Let's say Arbery was a 19-year-old cheerleader named Lily White, running down the street. Two or three black men hopped in a pickup truck and the chase ended when they shot Lily White down on tape. I ask you, who among us believes seriously we would be having a conversation, any kind of debate, about whether they should be charged, will be tried or convicted?"

Would police have filed attempted murder charges against a white man who fired on intruders who burst into his home, smashing the door off its hinges? Would police even have sought, or been granted a "no knock" warrant for Breonna's apartment had Breonna been white? Such warrants, which allow police to enter without declaring themselves, are reserved for targets who are a known danger. Neither Breonna nor Walker had criminal records.

The grand jury's decision was all the more disheartening for the six months Breonna's family has waited for justice. It is hard not to give in to despair.

In his most famous speech, Martin Luther King, Jr., called despair both a valley and a mountain. He encouraged us not to wallow in that valley, and to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. Our protests and our advocacy have not been in vain. They have shone a light on injustice. They pressured prosecutors to drop the unjust charges against Kenneth Walker. The criminal justice system may continue to discriminate against men and women of color, but it no longer does so in the shadows.

Governor Hogan Announces Extension of Homeowners' and Renters' Property Tax Credit Deadlines

Applicants Are Strongly Encouraged to File Online by October 31

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (September 28, 2020)—Governor Larry Hogan today announced that the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) is extending the deadline to apply for 2020 Homeowners' and Renters' Property Tax Credits from October 1 to October 31. These two tax credit programs save Marylanders more than \$65 million per year, with homeowners receiving an average credit of \$1,348 on their tax bill and renters receiving an average direct payment of \$414. Applications can be submitted online through Maryland OneStop.

"This is yet another step our administration is taking to ensure more of our citizens can remain safe and secure in their homes," said Governor Hogan. "Tens of thousands of Marylanders who have not yet applied may still be eligible for these tax credits, and now have an additional month to apply for this much-needed relief."

The Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Program provides relief for eligible homeowners by setting a limit on the amount of property taxes owed based on their income. If a resident has already paid their property tax and applies before October 31, any tax credit that the homeowner may be eligible for will be refunded by their local county finance office. Many counties and municipalities also provide supplemental homeowners' credits, which will be automatically applied if the applicant is approved for the state homeowners' credit.

The Renters' Property Tax Credit Program provides tax relief for eligible renters who pay high monthly rent relative to their total income and do not receive federal or state housing subsidies or reside in public housing. The credit is issued in the form of a direct check payment of up to \$1,000.

SDAT is also encouraging Maryland homeowners to submit an application for the Homestead Tax Credit if they have not yet done so. Once approved, the Homestead Credit accrues over time by limiting the increase in taxable assessment each year to a fixed percentage, and is a one-time application without a specific filing deadline. The Homestead Credit provides nearly \$20 billion in assessment relief per year.

Sufficiently completed tax credit applications will be processed 30-90 days after they are submitted, although online applications will be processed significantly faster than those submitted by mail. For additional questions about these credits, applicants should visit www.taxcredits.sdat.maryland.gov or contact SDAT as follows:

Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Program:
sdat.homeowners@maryland.gov, 410-767-4433
Renters' Property Tax Credit Program:
sdat.renters@maryland.gov, 410-767-4433
Homestead Property Tax Credit Program:
sdat.homestead@maryland.gov, 410-767-4433

For more information about these programs, please visit dat.maryland.gov/Pages/Tax-Credit-Programs.

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

No Dumb Questions About Social Security

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

Dear Rusty: I have some questions about Social Security, but I've never been old before so these may be dumb questions.

1. My 66th birthday is in October 2021; do I put in for Social Security in January 2022? Or when?

2. I am a 30-year military retiree. Do I need to bring my DD-214 to the SSA Office when I apply?

3. My wife has not held a job outside the home, but she has worked as hard if not harder than me running and taking care of our home and affairs when I was away a lot of the time. She turns 66 in September 2022. Can she apply for Social Security and, if so, does she get a percentage of what I get?

Thank you for any help you can give me. *Signed: Retired Military*

Dear Retired Military: There are no "dumb questions," especially when it comes to Social Security which has over 2,700 different rules sure to perplex even the most learned among us. I'll answer your questions in the order you posed them:

1. Your full retirement age (or "FRA") is 66 years and 2 months. Your FRA is when you get 100% of the benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working. Claiming earlier will mean a reduced benefit; waiting longer can mean a larger benefit. If you wish to claim benefits at your full retirement age in December 2021, you should apply for those benefits in September 2021 (SS suggests you apply 3 months before you wish benefits to begin). Just be sure to specify your benefit start month as December to get your full benefit.

2. You do not need your DD-214 when you apply for Social Security. Your earnings during your military career are already known to Social Security and will, along with any non-military earnings, form the basis for your Social Security benefit. Your SS benefit will be based upon the highest-earning 35-years of your lifetime earnings career (adjusted for inflation). You do not need to go to the SS office to apply; you can apply over the phone (call to make an appointment first) or online at www.ssa.gov/retire. Applying online is by far the easiest way to claim your benefits.

3. Even though your wife is not eligible for SS benefits on her own work record, she can still collect a spousal benefit from you. If she waits until she reaches her FRA before she claims, she'll get 50% of the benefit you are entitled to at your full retirement age. Your wife's FRA is 66 years and 4 months and, although she can claim the spouse benefit before that, if she does it will be actuarially reduced according to the number of months before her FRA that she claims. FYI, your wife cannot collect her spousal benefit until you have started to collect your benefits.

Finally, thank you for your many years of service to our country. Your pay while serving will be part of the 35 highest-earning years over your lifetime used to compute your Social Security benefit.

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.

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

The Juanita C. Grant Foundation, in conjunction with the National Council on Aging, is sponsoring an on line discussion. TRUST, SKEPTICISM OR REJECTION....Communities of Color & the Covid-19 Vaccine will take place on **Thursday, October 8, 2020 from 2-3 p.m. (ET).**

Trust, Skepticism, or Rejection— Communities of Color & The COVID-19 Vaccine

A conversation with national leaders and health professionals that will provide useful resources to mobilize in your communities.

Featuring:

- **S. Orlene Grant, RN, MSN**
President and CEO, Juanita C. Grant Foundation
- **Kathleen A. Cameron, MPH**
Senior Director, Center for Healthy Aging, National Council on Aging
- **Sandra C. Quinn, PhD**
Professor & Chair, School of Public Health, University of Maryland, College Park

Thursday, October 8, 2020 • 2-3 p.m. (ET)
REGISTER
<https://bit.ly/3kJUSIN>
Capacity Is Limited

—The Juanita C. Grant Foundation

The Bizzell Group's Dr. Anton C. Bizzell Selected as Small Business Person of the Year for Maryland by U.S. Small Business Administration

Awardees from across the United States will be honored during National Small Business Week in Washington, D.C.

By PRESS OFFICER
for The Bizzell Group

LANHAM, Md. (September 21, 2020)—Ahead of National Small Business Week (NSBW), the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has announced this year's Small Business Persons of the Year winners—over 50 outstanding small business owners and entrepreneurs from across the United States, Puerto Rico and Guam. Anton C. Bizzell, M.D., owner of The Bizzell Group, an award-winning strategy, technology, and consulting services firm with a passion for improving lives, has been selected as Maryland's Small Business Person of the Year for 2020.

"It is an honor to be selected to represent my peers in Maryland's business community by the SBA, and to stand among fellow small business owners across the nation," said Dr. Bizzell. "The entire Bizzell Group team shares this honor with me, as we have all worked hard to deliver impactful services

to our clients and to the world community, and this recognition is a validation of everyone's hard work."

Each year, the SBA celebrates National Small Business Week by recognizing the achievements of outstanding small business owners and entrepreneurs across the United States. All NSBW winners have been invited to attend virtual ceremonies from Washington, D.C., September 22-24, where Dr. Bizzell will be honored with his individual award along with special recognition of the three runners-up and the naming of the 2020 National Small Business Person of the Year.

SBA will also co-host a free, two-day virtual conference featuring educational workshops and networking. Additionally, recognition and educational seminars throughout SBA's 10 Regions and 68 Districts will be held throughout the week. To get involved in the National Small Business Week activities and to see all the 2020 awardees, visit www.sba.gov/nsbw.

Established in 2010, The Bizzell Group (Bizzell) is a U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) 8(a) certified strategy, consulting, and technology firm that specializes in program management, administrative support, communications and outreach, conference management and logistical support, health services and research, technical assistance, and training and development. Bizzell's expert staff and consultants work on health, scientific, education, environmental, research, and information technology projects that advance national priorities. Under the leadership and vision of founder, Anton C. Bizzell, MD, the company has grown from a staff of two in one small office, to a thriving firm with four offices in Lanham, MD, Rockville, MD, Atlanta, GA and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), with ongoing projects around the world. Learn more about how we develop data-driven, research-informed, innovative solutions to complex-real-world challenges: www.thebizzellgroup.com.

Leisure Investment Properties Group of Marcus & Millichap Awarded Exclusive Listing To Market Lake Presidential Golf Club, Upper Marlboro

By PRESS OFFICER
Leisure Investment Properties Group

TAMPA, Fla. (September 23, 2020)—The Leisure Investment Properties Group (LIPG) of Marcus & Millichap Real Estate Investment Services (NYSE: MMI), the nation's largest real estate investment services firm with offices throughout the United States and Canada, has been retained to exclusively market for sale, Lake Presidential Golf Club located in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Steve Ekovich, National Managing Director, of the firm's Leisure Investment Properties Group, announces Rob Waldron as the Lead Investment Advisor and Bryn Merrey as the Broker of Record for this 18-hole championship caliber daily fee golf club.

According to Mr. Waldron, "Lake Presidential is a traditional golf club featuring a classic parkland design. The layout is routed through rolling terrain taking advantage of the elevation changes indigenous to the property. The course features bent grass from tee to green, tree lined fairways, native grasses, pristine lakes, and streams in a beautiful, natural setting. Lake Presidential GC has been recognized by

numerous regional and national publications as one of the premier daily fee courses in the Washington, DC Metropolitan area."

Lake Presidential Golf Club offers a challenging, yet enjoyable test of golf. The par 72 layout plays to 7,230 yards from the Championship Tees with a course rating of 74.0 and a slope of 137. Multiple sets of tees make the course playable for golfers of all ability levels. The 11,000 SF clubhouse features a 275-seat banquet room, food and beverage operation, pro shop, and locker facilities. The double-sided grass driving range includes a putting and chipping green and Golf Academy building. The majority of the maintenance equipment is owned and included in the sale.

The Club serves as a recreation amenity to the BeechTree Residential Community located off MD Route 301 in Upper Marlboro, MD. Lake Presidential Golf Club is readily accessible from Washington DC, and the Maryland and Virginia suburbs, home to some of the wealthiest counties in the US.

Founded in 2009, and formerly known as the National Golf & Resort Properties Group,

the Leisure Investment Properties Group has become the renowned industry leader in golf course and marina sales nationwide. The group has sold over 143 golf courses, marinas and other leisure-oriented properties since its founding utilizing its powerful platform and proactive marketing techniques. Our management team has over 100 years of experience in arranging the sale of golf courses, marinas and other commercial real estate. For more information please visit: www.leisurepropertiesgroup.com

With nearly 2000 investment sales and financing professionals located throughout the United States and Canada, Marcus & Millichap is a leading specialist in commercial real estate investment sales, financing, research, and advisory services. Founded in 1971, the firm closed 9,726 transactions in 2019 with a value of approximately \$49.7 billion. Marcus & Millichap has perfected a powerful system for marketing properties that combines investment specialization, local market expertise, the industry's most comprehensive research, state-of-the-art technology, and relationships with the largest pool of qualified investors. To learn more, please visit: www.MarcusMillichap.com

Versona to Open in Bowie Town Center Thursday, October 8

By PRESS OFFICER
The Cato Corporation

CHARLOTTE, NC (September 28, 2020)—Versona will open its first store in Bowie, Maryland on Thursday, October 8. The store is located in Bowie Town Center at 15412 Emerald Way.

Versona is a women's fashion boutique offering apparel, jewelry and accessories at exceptional prices every day. Committed to high quality fashions, the store will carry everything needed to complete an individualized outfit including jewelry, handbags, shoes and all the fashion trend items of the season. Customers

will enjoy an upscale shopping environment in an easy-to-shop format.

"Versona promises to be a fun shopping experience where women can find unique, on-trend styles at a great value. We are excited about our newest Versona store opening at Bowie Town Center," said John Cato, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, The Cato Corporation.

The store manager will be Laura Stephenson. The store hours are 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Versona is also opening five other stores on October 8 in Merrillville, Indiana; Georgetown, Texas; Paducah, Kentucky; Moosic, Pennsylvania and Omaha, Nebraska. This is the only Versona store in Maryland. Additional information is available at www.shopversona.com.

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Experience Prince George's created their campaign with MDB Communications.

EXPERIENCE PRINCE GEORGE'S is the official destination marketing organization (DMO) for Prince George's County, Maryland. Through the efforts of Experience Prince George's and our many partners, we actively market and promote Prince George's County (regionally and nationally) as a prime Mid-Atlantic destination for leisure travelers, meetings, conventions, reunions, group tours, sporting events and special events. These efforts help drive the local economy and generate demand for many of our local and regional businesses. Hospitality & Tourism has grown into an over \$620 million industry for Prince George's County. It supports over 10,000 jobs and creates more than \$50 million in local tax revenue.

Spotlight from A3

COVID-19 shut it down. But in the three months I was there, I learned the process of building education. I also helped Andrea research the healthcare bill—for kids to receive proper dental care.

Now, I'm currently working with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce for Political Affairs and Federation Relations.

Are you involved with anything on campus?

In my sophomore year, I started as the secretary for SAAC (Student-Athlete Advisory Committee). In my junior year, I joined SGA (Student Government Association) as a corresponding secretary. Then I ran for SGA vice president, heading into the academic year. I came up short, but it motivated me to run for VP of SAAC and was voted and elected. Then my senior year, I became involved with AMA (American Marketing Association), where I serve as the VP of Communications.

What would you want your legacy at Bowie to be?

That's a great question. Just to remember me as a student who participated in extracurricular activities. Then as an athlete—who was a leader and a captain for two years. But overall, just how I'm always smiling, asking how everyone's day is—stuff like that—and someone involved with the Bowie State community as a whole.

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