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Hyattsville Native Speaks to a News Reporter During A Flag Raising Ceremony at NTAG Philadelphia



PHOTO CREDIT: U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS DIANA QUINLAN/RELEASED

01013-N-WF272-1085 PHILADELPHIA (Oct. 13, 2020) Cmdr. Kemi Elebute, from Hyattsville, Md., commanding officer of Navy Talent Acquisition Group Philadelphia, speaks to a News Philadelphia FOX29 reporter during a Navy flag raising ceremony as part of the Navy's 245th birthday celebration held in front of Philadelphia City Hall. NTAG Philadelphia encompasses regions of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and West Virginia, providing recruiting services from more than 30 talent acquisition sites with the overall goal of attracting the highest quality candidates to ensure the ongoing success of America's Navy.

MVLS Volunteers in Prince George's County Provide Pro Bono Legal Help For Residents Experiencing Financial Hardships

By PRESS OFFICER
MVLS

BALTIMORE (October 13, 2020)—Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (MVLS), the largest provider of pro bono civil legal services to Marylanders experiencing financial hardships, announced today that in the past 12 months Prince George's county-residents received free legal services from MVLS volunteers to overcome their civil legal challenges. Below is a full list of volunteers and the total number of cases they accepted from MVLS. Moges Abebe, Esq. - 1 case Sarah E. Adkisson, Esq. - 7 cases Genevieve A. Augustin, Esq. - 2 cases Richard O. Bagudu, Esq. - 1 case Mayabanza Bangudi, Esq. - 2 cases Glyn W. Cashwell, Esq. - 1 case Denisha D. Daughtry, Esq. - 1 case Shadawn N. Deas, Esq. - 9 cases Annette DeCesaris, Esq. - 3 cases Kathleen L. DeNobile, Esq. - 1 case June W. Dillard, Esq. - 4 cases Anne S. Gold-Rand, Esq. - 13 cases

Leta M. Jackson, Esq. - 6 cases Ibrahim Koroma, CPA - 1 case Philip P. Kuljurgis, Esq. - 2 cases GERALYN R. LAWRENCE, Esq. - 1 case Nicole Lemon, Esq. - 8 cases Margaret Maguire, EA - 1 case Sean G. McGuern, Esq. - 16 cases Steven B. Mudd, Esq. - 21 cases Regina W. Njogu, Esq. - 4 cases Jumoke F. Oladapo, Esq. - 2 cases Danielle Ann-Marie Parkinson, Esq. - 1 case John Robotham, Esq. - 1 case Lanet R. Scott, Esq. - 1 case Krystil E. Smith, Esq. - 1 case Mark O. Sobol, Esq. - 1 case Raquel White, Esq. - 4 cases Cameron A. Williams, Esq. - 1 case Juanita Wills, Esq. - 2 cases In the past year, 602 MVLS volunteers across the state assisted with 4,459 cases through individual representation or assistance at a clinic. Our volunteers donated 15,243 hours of pro bono legal services, which is valued at more than \$6,097,440. MVLS's network of volunteers provides services for criminal record relief and expunge-

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Prince George's County Is Proud to Support National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Department of Family Services Hosts Disability Sensitivity Training and Thanks Supportive Employment Agencies for Their Commitment to Working with Persons with Disabilities

By JERMONI DOWD
PGC Dept of Family Services

CAMP SPRINGS, Md. (October 14, 2020)—Held each October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) aims to educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. This year's theme, "INCREASING ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY," celebrates the ingenuity people with disabilities

bring to America's workplaces. NDEAM is led by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, but its true spirit lies in the many observances held at the grassroots level across the nation every year. This year marks not only the 75th observance of NDEAM, but also the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reflecting this year's theme, the Department of Family Services kicked off the NDEAM celebration by hosting a Disability

Sensitivity training webinar on October 1, 2020. "As our workforce continues to grow, so has the number of employees and clients with differing abilities," said Elana Belon-Butler, Department of Family Services Director. "Through this training we educated participants and provided them with the tools to communicate with respect and sensitivity when interacting with persons with differing abilities." The Department of Family Service's disability apprenticeship

program, Project HIRE, would also like to recognize the following Supportive Employment agencies for their commitment and dedication towards ensuring that persons with disabilities in Prince George's County have a positive work experience where they can grow both professionally and personally: Cerenity, Inc. EBED, Inc. Full Citizenship of Maryland Maryland Community Connection

Maryland State Department of Education Division of Rehabilitation Service (DORS) Melwood New Horizons The ARC of Prince George's County Sunrise Community Work Opportunities Unlimited The NDEAM celebration continues with the Job Development 3-part Training series for persons with disabilities on November 3, 10, and 17, 2020. Participants will learn how to create a resume and cover letter, how to prepare for a job interview, and how to get job ready once you land a job. To register, please contact Valerie Berkeley at VFBerkeley@co.pg.md.us. For more information on National Disability Employment Awareness Month, visit

dol.gov/odep/. If you are an individual with a disability and would like to participate in County-sponsored services, programs, or activities, please call the Department of Family Services, Aging and Disability Resource Center at 301-265-8450 or Maryland Relay 711. History of National Disability Employment Awareness Month: In 1945, Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October, each year, "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

It Is an Unforeseen Tragedy—Pedestrian Deaths Spiking Along Indian Head Highway Despite Drop in Driving Amid COVID-19

Ahead of National Pedestrian Safety Month, 7 persons were killed on MD 210 so far in 2020

By PRESS OFFICER
AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON (October 13, 2020)—In a year upended by the coronavirus pandemic and a summer of social unrest, it is an unforeseen tragedy. Traffic deaths, overwhelmingly involving pedestrians, are spiking along Indian Head Highway (Maryland 210) in 2020, although fewer cars are traversing the highway this year.

As the carnage continues to unfold on Maryland 210, at least seven persons lost their lives in crashes on the hard-luck roadway to date. In a year like no other due to the virus, it is an

unexpected development on a roadway that mercifully experienced a precipitous drop in traffic deaths in 2019. Heading into the tenth month of this calendar year, more than the double the number of people have already perished on the star-crossed roadway, then in all of last year. That tragic tally includes five people on foot, "vulnerable highway users," and two car deaths. Five of those mortalities—all pedestrians—occurred within a two month period. This compares to only three fatalities along the roadway in 2019. Of the three demises in traffic on Indian Head Highway in 2019,

two were foot-travelers, or 66.6 percent or two thirds. As the fatal pedestrian toll rises on Maryland 210, October is declared as National Pedestrian Safety Month, for the first time. Perilously, pedestrian deaths are up 150% on this arterial this year, as of October. Prince George's County is a hot spot for lethal pedestrian episodes and an epicenter for traffic deaths. The County topped the metro area in all traffic deaths—112 persons—in 2019, 36.6 percent of the regional total. A third of the region's pedestrian deaths befell the County in 2019. That year, 30 pedestrians

perished across the County, including two souls on MD 210. Another 480 pedestrians were injured on roads countywide. In 2019, 92 pedestrians perished in the region: 17 in Fairfax County; 14 in Montgomery County; and 12 in the District. "Unfortunately, we are witnessing a tragic spate of traffic fatalities and deadly pedestrian crashes along Indian Head Highway (Maryland 210) in the year 2020," said John B. Townsend II, AAA Mid-Atlantic's Manager of Public and Government Affairs. "Ominously, this time around, pedestrian fatalities comprise 71.4 percent of traffic deaths along this arterial, so far

in 2020. This deadly scenario 'reared its ugly head' amid stay-at-home and social distancing protocols induced by coronavirus mitigation efforts, and the subsequent phased re-opening of the Prince George's County economy and the regional economy." Indian Head Highway has emerged as the singular "road to perdition," or one of the most dangerous arterials, in the Washington metro area and across Maryland. Nearly 80 persons have lost their lives on Maryland 210 over the course of the past dozen years or so. "Road casualties along this major corridor dropped to its lowest level in a decade in 2019," noted Ron Weiss, Indian

Head Highway Area Action Council. "This year, however, loss of life is heartbreakingly up 133.3 percent along Maryland 210." With the big drop in traffic on the roadway during the pandemic, residents along Maryland 210, and traffic safety advocates, were hopeful of a sea-change. They were expecting fewer traffic deaths this year. Instead, traffic deaths spiked, with five pedestrians struck down and killed since the first Sunday in August. A 56-year-old pedestrian was killed in a hit-and-run crash while out walking along Indian Head Highway, around 9:30 p.m. October 4, 2020. He was not in or near the crosswalk at the time he was struck

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ChildWatch: Millionaires and Billionaires Keep Winning And Poor Children Keep Losing

Cash assistance, child allowances, rental and housing support, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and unemployment insurance need to be immediately expanded to help families survive and thrive.

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Governor Hogan Announces Maryland Finishes in Top Ten for 2020 Census Response

"Our administration is proud that even amid all of this year's challenges, Marylanders stepped up with one of the country's leading response rates to the 2020 Census," said Governor Hogan.

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TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

After 200 fruitful years, Forest Memorial has “disbanded”

A virtual Closing Service was held on Sunday, Sept. 27, with 64 members and former members of Forest Memorial United Methodist Church coming from all over the United States. At that Service, “An Order for Disbanding a Congregation” was ready, and officially closed the church.

The history of Forest Memorial, in Forestville, goes back to the horse-and-buggy era—a time of infancy for Prince George’s County. In 1816, one minister (a Circuit Rider) covered the Methodist churches on a circuit of about 600 miles. Records show that covering all the Methodist churches might take six weeks, causing Circuit Services to be performed every three weeks at each church.

A group of Methodists established a church building on the current Joint Base Andrews property. It ultimately became Chapel 2. That church was called “Old Long Fields Church,” relating to the nearby tobacco fields.

In 1885 that same congregation purchased land between Ritchie Road and Forestville Road. A concrete building was erected (still stands today) to house a Chapel and Fellowship Hall, and the surrounding cemetery. The building has currently been labeled “constructionally unsafe” because of its age. The Church Trustees have not had it removed because of the historical Chapel still there. In its recent history, this building housed a Thrift Shop, and classes of Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous.

The present building houses not only a 350-person Sanctuary with an elegant Chancel stained-glass window depicting the New Testament, a pipe organ, and Parlor. Also, an Educational wing for Sunday School. Over the years—besides weekly Sunday Services and Sunday School—there have been service groups: Methodist Men and Methodist Women, Appalachian Service Project, Puppet Ministry, Boy Scouts, Contemporary Christians, Campers, Bible Studies, and “Young at Heart,” a monthly luncheon for community seniors. Even Our Savior’s School used the building for 20 years.

Most recent pastors: Dennis Schulze, James “Ed” Chance, Richard Craig, Dr. Robert Burdette, George Aist, Linda Rettenmayer, Ty Blackwell and Esther Holimon.

We give God thanks for a strong, influential congregation in Prince George’s, as well as in the state! At present, there are several groups interested in purchasing the building. We wish our next group the same success as Forest Memorial.

Thank you to Betty Cottrell for the contributing this remarkable history.

Car smashes into Suitland Rd. house

A Morningside woman lost control of her car and crashed into the corner of a house at Suitland Road and Ridgecrest Drive. It happened Sunday, Oct. 11, about 5 p.m., and it was raining. Police said the cause might have been a combination of excessive speed and a slick road. Light rain or drizzle had been falling all day.

Fortunately, no one was injured. As the shocked driver stood out in the rain staring at the damage, a concerned neighbor brought her an umbrella.

The Mercedes-Benz C300 is probably totaled and the badly damaged basement of the house is still open to the elements. By the way, Morningside Volunteer Fire Department responded in 5 minutes, or less.

Neighbors & other good people

Jack Edward Longfellow, 71, died Oct. 6 at his home in La Plata. Survivors include his wife Nancy, formerly of Morningside and daughter of William J. Gilmartin, a Morningside Councilman from 1958 to 1964. Other survivors include four children, and 12 grandchildren. Services were at Sacred Heart Church in La Plata with burial in the Church Cemetery.

Father John A. Vidal has been appointed pastor of Saint Ignatius Parish in Oxon Hill, where he has been parish administrator.

I had my flu shot, administered by a pharmacist at CVS in Clinton. Because I was a good patient, I got a lollypop. Go thou, do likewise.

Changing landscape

A new community, Gateway Park, is under development in District Heights adjacent to Walker Mill Regional Park. One ad mentions 37 single-family homes, one of them going for \$440,990. Thank you to Mae Boone who called me with this news. Compare Foods Super Market has

opened in the Coral Hills Shopping Center, 4801 Marlboro Pike.

Prince George’s County has plans to build new schools. Also, under the contract, some schools would be rebuilt, including Drew-Freeman Middle School (formerly La Reine HS), Kenmoor Middle School and Walker Mille Middle School.

Is this your favorite hardware store?

Clinton Hardware has “... the best customer service!” says Yvette Morris, who lives on Old Alexandria Ferry Road. “People are not only friendly but there is always someone in there to help you. Depending on what I need, I go there before going to Lowes.” She had this remark on the NextdoorMorningside website.

Several others also responded, “I go there before Lowe’s.” Ernest Canlas thinks the store “is a neighborhood gem.” His opinion was similar to 47 other favorable responses. Not a single one of the 48 who responded had a complaint about Clinton Hardware.

COVID-19 cancels Mass at Catholic Cemeteries

All Souls Day is coming up Nov. 2. Usually I’d head for Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton to attend the All Souls Day Mass, and then visit my husband Jack’s grave.

This year I can still visit him, but there will be no Mass because of the pandemic.

Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese include: Gate of Heaven, Mount Olivet, Resurrection, St. Mary’s, St. John’s Forest Glen, St. Mary’s Queen of Peace, and All Souls. They’ll be open 7:30 a.m. until 7 p.m. on Nov. 2.

The Catholic Standard newspaper suggests, “Come pray for your deceased loved ones, and remember all those who have died during the coronavirus.”

Milestones

Happy birthday to Daniel John Fitzgerald and Anna Norris, Oct. 24; my granddaughter Kathryn (Shearer) Garcia and Donna Anderson, Oct. 25; Linda (Ferguson) Sandoval, Juanita Starke and Christopher Flaherty, Oct. 27; Diane Cvitko, Oct. 28; my grandson Isaac Gallegos, Oct. 29; Denise Williams, Kim Miller and my wonderful daughter Kathleen (McHale) Shearer, Oct. 30.

Around the County

SAO EVENT: NOT ONE Campaign Against Domestic Violence

Please join State’s Attorney Aisha Braveboy, Chief Anthony Ayers and other partners for the “Not One Campaign Against Domestic Violence” Wednesday, October 28 from 6–8 p.m.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic violence affects millions of people, women and men alike. It touches every race, religion, culture and social status. It’s not just hits, punches and slaps. It’s humiliation, stalking, manipulation, threats and isolation. One out of 10 people personally know someone who is or has been a victim of domestic violence.

Join in with survivors and special guest speakers. This event will be virtual, Facebook Live and in-person at Cottage City Municipality. There will be giveaways and literature on-site. Advanced registration is required. If you would like to attend, visit www.eventbrite.com to register.

Partners:

Cottage City Municipality
Family Justice Center
I’m Bruised but Not Broken
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.
Grace Heaven Boutique “A New Beginning”
She Rises Int’l, Inc.
Movement Ministries

When: Wednesday, October 28 from 6–8 p.m.

How to join the event: Facebook Live and via Zoom:

Join by Zoom: <https://mypgc.zoom.us/j/85889739955>, Passcode: 016502 or by Telephone: US: 301-715-8592 or 877-853-5247 (Toll Free) Webinar ID: 858 8973 9955 Passcode: 016502

For more information, contact: Thelmetria Michaelides at 240-508-2018 or tamichaelides@co.pg.md.us.

—Office of Aisha Braveboy, State’s Attorney

Prince George’s County Public Schools & BookNook Announce Community Reading Initiative

PGCPS READS, an innovative community tutoring initiative, will help students strengthen literacy skills during virtual learning

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (October 14, 2020)—Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) and BookNook will launch PGCPS READS, a new literacy tutoring initiative that will provide students with small group reading instruction. This initiative will help students strengthen and reinforce skills during virtual learning.

PGCPS will partner with professional tutors, various community leaders, nonprofit and civic organizations through the end of the school year to pair adult volunteers and tutors with 4,000 students in kindergarten through second grade. The adult volunteers will spend 1-2 hours per week reading virtually with their students.

“We are embarking on an unprecedented initiative to bring our community together during virtual learning,” said Dr. Monica Goldson, Chief Executive Officer. “We know from research how isolating virtual learning can be for our youngest students. Today’s announcement will provide our youngest learners with greater support and enrichment, while also providing them with access to Reading Guides who can share the experience of a fun and exciting book.”

The school system will use BookNook, a comprehensive online reading program, to offer up to 4,000 students access to 800 different texts in English and Spanish. With BookNook, students receive instruction in basic skills, vocabulary development and reading comprehension. Reports of student progress are measured after each lesson.

“We have seen the power of programs like this all across America and are excited to partner with PGCPS to bring the community together to support students,” said Michael Lombardo, founder and CEO of BookNook.

PGCPS READS will launch in November with the following partners: Ebenezer A.M.E. Church, Kingdom Fellowship A.M.E. Church, Reid Temple A.M.E. Church and The Ivy Community Charities of Prince George’s County, Inc. Individuals and groups interested in volunteering should contact Barbara Holt Streeter, Partnerships Officer, at partnerships@pgcps.org or visit <https://www.pgcps.org/pgcps-reads> for more details.

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

Prince George’s County Is Awarded Funding to Purchase New Electric Buses

LARGO, Md. (October 13, 2020)—Prince George’s County is excited to purchase eight state-of-the-art Proterra battery-electric buses for the County’s fixed-route transit service, “TheBus”, which will be fully funded by the Maryland Department of the Environment’s Volkswagen Mitigation Plan Grant. The total amount awarded to the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) was \$2.22 million.

The new zero emissions electric vehicles will help reduce nitrogen oxide emissions, while furthering the Prince George’s County Department of Public Works and Transportation’s vision to reimagine public transportation through innovation. In addition to lessening the carbon footprint, these buses provide a cost-effective alternative to diesel vehicles and have a 120-mile capacity between charges.

“We are Prince George’s Proud to continue expanding the number of electric buses in our County’s bus fleet, showing our commitment to quality transportation and innovation,” said Prince George’s County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. “Integrating even more electric vehicles into our fleet will improve the quality of life for Prince Georgians and help move our County toward the goal of achieving a more sustainable future.”

The new buses will be added to DPW&T’s growing fleet of recently purchased electric vehicles. Prior to receiving this latest grant, DPW&T was awarded the Low or No Emissions (Low-No) Program Grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The Low-No Grant allowed the agency to purchase four Proterra battery-electric buses and three charging stations.

These new electric buses are set to be delivered starting in mid-2021, with the first four arriving in June 2021. They will serve routes with shorter distances such as the Greenbelt, New Carrollton, National Harbor, Upper Marlboro and Landover communities.

Investing in alternative fuel solutions by replacing conventional fuel buses with clean energy vehicles is part of the Department’s commitment to deliver efficient and safe service throughout the County, while doing its part to protect the environment.

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

Brandywine-Aquasco

NEW HOPE FELLOWSHIP COOPERATIVE PARISH

New Hope Fellowship Cooperative Parish coming together to celebrate Men’s and Women’s Day Sunday, October 25, 2020 at 9 a.m. “Brothers and Sisters Standing Firm on God’s Word” 1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV). Guest Preacher: Rev. Robert H. Alston, Jr., Pastor Thankful Baptist Church, Washington, D.C. Faith offering (Men \$100 and Women \$100). Your offering can be dropped off at Christ Church or Nottingham-Myers 10–11 a.m. October 25, mailed to the churches or given online.

Color of the Day: Shades of Gold. Wear your Gold October 25, take a picture and email it to RAHawkins58@yahoo.com by Wednesday, October 28. View a slide show of our members and guests wearing their Gold during our 9 a.m. and 11a.m. worship services Sunday, November 1, 2020.

View the service live on YouTube: [ChristUMCAquasco](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ChristUMCAquasco). Radio Broadcast available from Christ Church’s Parking Lot: 88.7 FM. Rev. Constance Smith, Pastor. Note: Only one service, no zoom service October 25, 2020. Nottingham-Myers U.M. Church is located at 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Christ U.M. Church is located at 22919 Christ Church Road, Aquasco, Maryland 20608.

PGCPS PROFESSIONAL LIBRARY

PGCPS Professional Library is open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Bonnie F. Johns Media Center. For pick-up or to have items mailed to your school, employees can contact cathe.francoeur@pgcps.org. There are also professional e-Books available in Sora (use county username and password to login).

HAPARA INSTRUCTIONAL SUITE

In the News: Hillcrest Heights Principal offers advice on easing COVID-19 Anxiety. Principal David Brown recently shared with Education Dive how he implements and improves supports for students, families, and staff during this pandemic. Friday, October 9, PGCPS he introduced the Hapara Instructional Suite, a classroom management tool compatible with Google Classroom. Hapara allows teachers to deliver instruction tailored to meet individual student needs, keep students safe during online lessons and provide students with ongoing feedback on their work to encourage continuous learning and growth.

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

Teachers will have access to student documents and online activity through their PGCPS-issued accounts, including: Visibility into web activity when students are logged in to their school account during instructional hours. Real-time access to provide specific guidance and feedback to struggling students. A place to engage in classroom work so students can have personalized learning experiences. In addition, the software encourages organization and time management skills with a Student Dashboard that gathers all digital schoolwork from Google Classroom and Google Drive into one central location. Information from PGCPS Express A Newsletter for PGCPS Employees.

NOTTINGHAM MYERS DRIVE BY

Way to show up Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church and Pastor Constance Smith. Sunday, October 4, 2020 they were on the road again to visit another Diva Mrs. Rosie Wilkerson in Brandywine, Maryland who is a Senior member in the church. Thanks Nottingham Myers and Pastor Constance Smith for recognizing our Seniors during the Pandemic.

JOIN PURPOSITY

Teaming up with Purposity to help students in need. Join Purposity, a not-for-profit app that shares the needs of local students and families. After downloading the app and following PGCPS, you will receive one weekly notification with special needs from students and families. You decide if you want to help meet a need in just a few clicks right from your phone, and you will know exactly who you are helping and why. Purposity is available in the App Store and Google Play. Information from PGCPS Express Newsletter for PGCPS Employees.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to John Tyree, Camden Knight, Kaylee Davis, Madison Rae Stroman, Khia Knight, David Samuel, Ulric Thomas, Erica Barron, Barbara Washington, Iheanyi (Junior) Mbakwe and George Taylor who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating Birthdays in October.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING

We will miss seeing you on campus for our Homecoming activities this year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all in person homecoming events have been cancelled.

COMMUNITY

Alzheimer's Association to Host Webinar Series on Cultural Competence in Dementia Care

Webinars Presented in Partnership With George Washington University

By CINDY SCHELHORN
Alzheimer's Association

MCLEAN, Va. (October 15, 2020)—The Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter is partnering with George Washington University to deliver a free three-part webinar series: "Cultural Competence in Dementia Care: Discussing Diversity, Inequity, and Compassionate Care". The series will launch on Wednesday, October 28 at Noon with a one hour webinar focusing on dementia care in the Black community, with case presentations and discussions on socio-cultural considerations in care.

"Although African Americans are a racial minority in the United States, they are twice as likely to develop dementia, compared to their non-Hispanic White counterparts," said Emeobong "Eme" Martin, MPH, Regional Health Systems Director for the Alzheimer's Association chapters serving the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. "Further alarming is that some research suggests that a misdiagnosis of dementia is more common among African-American patients than non-Hispanic Whites, creating a strong imperative to educate the African-American community and their providers about Alzheimer's disease and dementia."

Ms. Martin will moderate the hour-long discussion on racial disparities and building equitable, compassionate care for African Americans living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Featured speakers and panelists include:

- Karyne Jones, President and CEO, National Caucus and Center on Black Aging, Inc.
- Carl V. Hill, Ph.D, MPH, Interim Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Alzheimer's Association
- Tania Alchalabi, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Medicine, The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences
- Christina Prather, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Medicine, The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences
- Arthena Caston, Early-Stage Alzheimer's and Dementia Advocate

"The National Capital Area Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association is pleased to be partnering with the Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Care at George Washington University to discuss this timely and critical issue," said Martin. "Throughout the series, we will address culturally competent, or patient-centered, compassionate care, for traditionally underserved communities, including African American, Latinx and LGBTQ+ to highlight disparities in dementia and educate provider and communities on equitable solutions."

Dates are being finalized for parts two and three of the webinar series. Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits are pending. To register for this free webinar, visit alz.org/nca.

The Alzheimer's Association leads 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. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia®. Visit alz.org or call 800.272.3900.

Virtual Healthcare Symposium Offers Free CEUs for Maryland Social Workers, Counselors and Therapists

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (October 13, 2020)—The Caring for the Continuum of Life 2020: A Virtual Healthcare Symposium recently received approval from the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists to offer continuing education units to its members. That means that along with Maryland social workers, now counselors and therapists licensed to practice in Maryland can earn up to 3 free CEUs at the free online event that will be held from 7:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Oct. 24.

Hosted by Hospice of the Chesapeake, Chesapeake Life Center and Chesapeake Supportive Care, the event is made possible through the generosity of Platinum Sponsor CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield; Gold Sponsors Anatomy Gifts Registry, Crescent Cities Charities, Inc., and First Baptist Church of Highland Park; Silver Sponsors Adams Law Office, LLC, and GW Koch Assoc., Koch Homes; and Bronze Sponsors Doctors Community Hospital, Kalas Funeral Home and Crematory; Kirkley-Ruddick Funeral Home, PA; and Prince George's County Area Agency on Aging.

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 1.5 CEUs each for Maryland social workers, counselors and therapists 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,



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE

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

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.

For details and to register, visit www.caringforlifemd.org.

The Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners certifies that each of these CEU presentations meets the criteria for 1.5 credit hours Category I continuing education for social workers in Maryland.

The Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists certifies that each of these CEU presentations meets the criteria for 1.5 credit hours of Category A continuing education for counselors and therapists in Maryland.

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

Maryland Department of Health Urges All Marylanders to "Fight the Flu" in Statewide Vaccination Campaign

Television and social media outreach emphasizes the importance of getting a flu shot during the COVID-19 pandemic

By PRESS OFFICER

Maryland Department of Health

BALTIMORE (October 13, 2020)—The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) today launched a statewide multimedia campaign, "Fight the Flu," on television and social media. The campaign encourages all Marylanders to get their flu shots as soon as possible, especially while COVID-19 remains a threat.

"Getting vaccinated for the flu every year is important, but this year it's critical," said

MDH Secretary Robert R. Neall. "Make sure you make time to get your flu shot—it's a simple, safe and effective way to help protect yourself, your loved ones and the most vulnerable in your community from the flu."

Although most influenza cases are mild and people recover with few to no complications, influenza can pose a serious risk for children younger than 5 years, adults older than 65 years, pregnant women and individuals with compromised immune systems. During last flu season, Maryland health care providers

reported to MDH nearly 4,000 influenza-associated hospitalizations and 82 influenza-associated deaths, including six deaths of individuals under the age of 18.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this winter reducing the spread of respiratory illnesses, like flu, is more important than ever because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Experts are concerned that the

See "FIGHT THE FLU" Page A6

Anacostia River to Undergo Partial Toxics Cleanup

11 spots with highest PCB levels to get early action in \$35.5 million project

By TIMOTHY B. WHEELER
Bay Journal News Service

(Oct. 8, 2020)—The Anacostia River, once dubbed the "forgotten river" because of centuries of abuse and neglect, is forgotten no longer. Its toxic-laced bottom is due for an initial cleanup expected to cost \$35.5 million under a long-anticipated plan released Sept. 30 by the District of Columbia.

The District's Department of Energy and Environment posted an "interim record of decision" on its website spelling out its intent to dredge or cap and treat contaminated river sediments in 11 "hot spots" along a 9-mile stretch of the lower Anacostia before it joins the Potomac River.

Those areas have the highest levels in the river of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), long-banned chemicals once

widely used as coolants or insulators in electrical equipment that are now associated with cancer and other health effects. The presence of PCBs and other toxic metals and chemicals in the sediments make it a health risk to eat many fish caught locally or to go swimming or wading.

The 507-page blueprint calls for dredging PCB-tainted sediment in some areas while capping others with clean sediment and activated carbon granules to keep the toxic chemicals from getting back into the water.

Tommy Wells, the DOE's director, said the plan's release means that "District residents can look forward to a future where they can safely swim and fish in what was once a degraded urban waterway." Officials say the remedial actions outlined in the plan are expected to yield a 90% reduction in people's

risk of exposure to PCBs from eating contaminated fish.

That may still be years away. With more time needed to issue contracts and get permits, Wells said at a meeting previewing the plan that work likely won't begin until 2023.

District officials stress that this interim plan is likely to be revised as work proceeds. Kingman Lake, an artificial impoundment created in the 1920s, would be the first area targeted, followed by the Washington Channel, a constructed waterway paralleling the Potomac that has been the focus of waterfront redevelopment. The mainstem Anacostia is the third area in line for cleanup.

The interim decision is largely unchanged from an "early action" plan originally unveiled in December 2019. After reviewing about 850 comments received since then, officials say they have tweaked it to do more dredging in the Kingman Lake area to allow for safer water recreation around Kingman Island, a municipal park undergoing restoration.

The District is fronting the funds to launch the cleanup but is hoping to re-

cover at least some of the remediation costs from companies and federal agencies determined to be responsible for the contamination. Three entities—Pepco, the U.S. Navy and Washington Gas—have already signed consent decrees pledging to clean up pollution left behind by facilities they once operated on the river.

Anacostia Riverkeeper Trey Sherard said he is "thrilled to greet the publication of the Interim Record of Decision, locking in the early action areas for the first big step towards cleaning up the toxic chemicals that have been choking the Anacostia River for over a century."

Jim Foster, president and CEO of the Anacostia Watershed Society, also welcomed the plan but cautioned that "this isn't the whole enchilada." He estimated there are another 14 contaminated areas this plan doesn't address. He also questioned why the District doesn't tackle the first 11 hot spots together, which he suggested would speed cleanup and reduce costs.

Tim Wheeler is the Bay Journal's associate editor and senior writer, based in Maryland. You can reach him at 410-



PHOTO CREDIT: BAY JOURNAL PHOTO BY DAVE HARP

Jim Foster, president and CEO of the Anacostia Watershed Society, says there are another 14 sites on the river where toxics need to be addressed.

409-3469 or wheeler@bayjournal.com. This article was first published in the Bay Journal and was distributed by the Bay Journal News Service.

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COMMENTARY

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Millionaires and Billionaires Keep Winning And Poor Children Keep Losing

A recent Americans for Tax Fairness press release headline read: "BILLIONAIRE WEALTH GREW BY \$845 BILLION, OR 29%, AS AMERICA STRUGGLED THROUGH FIRST SIX MONTHS OF PANDEMIC: While Millions Lost Jobs, Businesses, Health & Lives, Nation's 643 Richest Saw Their Collective Fortune Leap Nearly 30%." The report continued: "Needless to say, ordinary workers did not fare as well . . . In fact, this billionaires' bonanza occurred against a general backdrop of working-class pain: 6.6 million Americans got coronavirus, and almost 200,000 died from it. Over 50 million Americans lost jobs, with nearly 14 million still unemployed. 30 million are collecting unem-

ployment benefits (counting contract workers), up from 1.6 million a year earlier. Nearly 30 million Americans have gone hungry. 12 million Americans have lost employee-sponsored health insurance. Big swaths of business have shut down, including 100,000 restaurants."

How does this comport with any standards of justice and common decency?! It is hard to believe fortunes have jumped astronomically for the wealthiest while millions of people are suffering including children who already were our poorest Americans pre-pandemic and most vulnerable to harm. Even at the economy's height with low unemployment, 10.5 million children lived in poverty and millions more

children lived in families on the edge—just one missed paycheck or financial shock away from hunger and homelessness and the dreadful stress they bring. In 2019 nearly 4 in 10 American adults didn't have enough resources on hand to cover an unexpected \$400 expense.

Families were working to care for their children but our economy was not working for them with too many having a job that did not guarantee stability or security. Current poverty measures have not kept pace with the cost of living and the latest numbers don't count the toll of the COVID-19 crisis. Recently released poverty data giving a snapshot of our nation before the pandemic confirmed about 1 in 7 children were poor in 2019. The overwhelming majority of poor children (70.1 percent) lived in working families struggling to make ends meet. Our youngest children were poorest and nearly three-quarters of all poor children were children of color.

The scary pandemic has exacerbated these economic disparities and exposed the fragility of an economy that invests in billionaires before babies, corporations before children, and warships before hard working Americans struggling to pay their bills. Recent Pulse Census data show more than half of adults in households with children say they or another household member have lost employment income since the pandemic began although the billionaires' wealth increased. Nearly a quarter of adults

in households with children are behind on rent and 1 in 7 said their children are not getting enough to eat. The annual cost of the Children's Defense Fund's proposed 2019 Ending Child Poverty Now package was \$52.3 billion. Congress could fund our plan to cut poverty for 16 years with the same amount of money the richest Americans have racked up since the pandemic began. This is outrageous, insane, and profoundly unjust.

Congress can and must act now to protect millions of children and families left behind. The too small progress in reducing child poverty before the pandemic will be reversed if Congress fails to immediately pass robust COVID relief for families left behind and expand basic programs to help children survive, grow, learn and thrive during and beyond the pandemic. Cash assistance, child allowances, rental and housing support, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and unemployment insurance need to be immediately expanded to help families survive and thrive. Investing in healthy child development will not only help our economy but reduce racial disparities and improve child opportunities in the long run. It's shameful that our nation permits billionaires to be big winners and poor children big losers. It's way past time to vote for leaders who will put babies and children ahead of billionaires and wealthy corporations.

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Confirmation of Barrett to Supreme Court Will Mark the Point of no Return for Independence of Federal Courts

"The Supreme Court doesn't have an army, and it has no power of the purse. Its power comes from the fact that the public accepts its decisions, even when it disagrees with them. The Supreme Court has of course always been a political institution, but if it's going to retain its public legitimacy it can't be seen as simply another wing of partisan politics. Supreme Court nominations have become far too politicized, but packing the Supreme Court weeks before a presidential election is different in kind. It's not simply another stress test for our institutions—there's a real risk it will break them. That is genuinely scary—not just for the Supreme Court, but for the basic functioning of our country and the rule of law."

—Alice Bannon, managing director, Brennan Center's Democracy Program

The Trump administration and Senate leadership have spent the last four years cramming the Supreme Court and lower federal courts with ideologues intent on eradicating hard-fought civil rights and constitutional gains of the past few decades.

They've made no effort to respect the racial and gender diversity of our nation. Nearly 90% of his nominees to lifetime judicial appointments have been white and 76% of them are men—a reversal of a 30-year trend toward more diversity on the federal bench and an erosion of judicial legitimacy that is unprecedented in recent American history.

The confirmation of Amy Coney Barrett to the United States Supreme Court will mark the point of no return for the independence of the federal judiciary.

While Judge Barrett may qualify by training and experience, she was nominated by the President because she passed a litmus test for judges likely to severely limit or overturn the Affordable Care Act, civil rights and voting rights, and women's reproductive freedoms enshrined in *Roe v. Wade* and successor cases. Among the first cases a new justice will face involves a demand by the Trump Justice Department to repeal the ACA in its entirety, along with election challenges that could determine whether the president who appointed her is re-elected.

Trump has said the quiet part out loud. He makes no secret of the fact that he expects the Court to decide these election lawsuits in his favor and strike down the law that provides health care to millions of Americans during a deadly pandemic.

This administration inherited more than 100 federal court vacancies because during President Obama's second term the Senate abandoned its Constitutional role in the lower court confirmation process—just as it did by refusing to consider President Obama's nomination of Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court.

This administration has now appointed, and the Senate has confirmed, more than 200 life-tenured judges. Americans are, right now, in the process of electing a new president. Never has the Senate confirmed a new Supreme Court justice during a general election that will decide the presidency. The undemocratic rush to confirm this justice is part of a scheme to create a conservative supermajority on the Court that could overturn the will

of a majority of Americans for decades to come.

What do African Americans have to lose with a super majority of conservative extremists on the Court? Monday's appalling ruling by the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Texas is a prime example of how rank partisanship has infected the federal courts, obliterating any pretense of judicial objectivity and the rule of law. The three-judge panel—all appointed by this administration and confirmed along political party lines—upheld the governor's decision to create a single ballot collection site for each county, including a single site for five million voters in a landmass larger than Rhode Island.

If the Supreme Court can sanction this kind of political manipulation, there are no limits on the rampant voter suppression we can expect in November's election and years beyond.

The contempt this administration and Senate leadership have for the will of the voters and the Constitutional responsibilities of Congress is nothing short of breathtaking.

Even as a growing majority of citizens have loudly voiced their demand for racial and economic justice, firm enforcement of civil and individual rights, and the security of health care under the Affordable Care Act, Judge Barrett's lifetime appointment to the Supreme Court represents a trampling of those demands.

History will not look favorably on what the Senate leadership appears poised to do. There is one last chance for them to honor their oath of office and the will of the American People and reject the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett.

Pro Bono from A1

ments, divorce and child custody proceedings and other family law matters, landlord-tenant disputes, foreclosure, bankruptcy, estate planning, deed issues, and tax controversy issues as well as many other civil legal challenges.

"We are extremely honored to have a network of volunteer attorneys across Maryland who give their time and expertise to help the less fortunate fight for

their families, homes and livelihoods through the legal system," said Susan Francis, executive director, Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service. "The current pandemic is giving rise to increased legal needs—from income tax controversies to landlord/tenant issues—so we are asking all attorneys in Maryland to take a pro bono case. You can pledge to take a case on our website at [mvls.org](http://www.mvls.org). The need is real, and we need your help now."

MVLS will honor its MVLS volun-

teers for their commitment to providing pro bono legal services at its annual Celebrate Pro Bono celebration October 25-31, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, MVLS transitioned its annual in-person Celebrate Pro Bono Awards ceremony to a virtual celebration. To learn more, please visit <http://www.mvls.org/cpb2020>.

If you know someone in need of free civil legal services, please visit www.mvls.org or call MVLS's intake line at

410-547-6537 or 1-800-510-0050 Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. If you're an attorney, CPA, or enrolled agent interested in volunteering, please visit MVLS's Pro Bono Portal at <http://www.mvls.org/probonoportal/> to review available cases.

For nearly 40 years, Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (MVLS) has been serving Marylanders facing financial hardships by offering free legal services and full repre-

sentation for their civil legal cases. MVLS matches clients with volunteer lawyers and staff attorneys who represent them in a wide range of consumer finance, family and housing situations, including foreclosure, bankruptcy, and income tax disputes, estate planning, divorce/custody, deed changes, and criminal record expungements. MVLS advocates for racial equity in Maryland's legal system and works in concert with community partners to move closer to achieving this goal for future generations. Visit www.mvls.org.

Cardin Seeks Swift Release of LIHEAP Heating Help

40 U.S. Senators urge Trump Administration to make LIHEAP funds available to states

WASHINGTON (October 16, 2020)—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.) joined a bipartisan coalition of 40 Senators in a letter to U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, urging HHS to release funds for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) as swiftly and at the highest level possible under the current continuing resolution. The Senators say the federal LIHEAP funding is a crucial lifeline that assists low-income households and seniors on fixed incomes pay their energy bills and stay safe during the winter. HHS typically releases 90 percent of the \$3.7 billion full year appropriation under a continuing resolution.

"Families right here in Maryland and across our nation continue to grapple with the economic fallout of the pandemic. As the seasons change, and chilling winter weather approaches, the cost of utility bills are projected to increase, which will bring additional financial burdens to families. I was proud to join my Senate colleagues in a bipartisan manner in urging the administration to release the funds for LIHEAP, as we worked together to appropriate this spending," said Senator Cardin. "This critical funding will ensure families are warm and have the resources they

need in paying their bills."

The average cost of home heating is unaffordable for millions of low-income households, costing an average of \$911 per year nationally. The timely release of these funds will provide critical assistance to families unemployed as a result of the pandemic pay their energy bills. According to the National Energy Assistance Directors' Association, 15 to 20 percent of residential customers are at least 60 days behind on their electric and natural gas bills. As of July 31, 2020, the estimated resulting electric arrearages are between \$8 billion and \$9.9 billion and natural gas arrearages are between \$975 million and \$1.3 billion.

LIHEAP is a federally funded program that helps low-income households with their home energy bills by providing payment and/or energy crisis assistance. Maryland's LIHEAP is administered by the Department of Human Services, and accessed through Local Home Energy Program Offices.

Marylanders wishing to apply for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program may go to the Maryland Department of Human Services website to get more information and links to an online application. Or, Marylanders may contact their Local Home Energy

Program Office. Eligibility for LIHEAP is based on income, family size, and the availability of resources.

In addition to Senator Cardin, the bipartisan letter was signed by Senators Jack Reed (D-R.I.) and Susan Collins (R-Maine), Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), Patty Murray (D-Wash.), John Hoeven (R-N.D.), Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), Bob Casey (D-Pa.), Tina Smith (D-Minn.), Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.), Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.), Angus King (I-Maine), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Michael Bennet (D-Colo.), Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.), Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.), Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), Ed Markey (D-Mass.), Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Chris Coons (D-Del.), Gary Peters (D-Mich.), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), Mark Warner (D-Va.), Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.), Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.), Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), Doug Jones (D-Ala.), Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), and Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.).

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

I Need Guidance on Social Security and Medicare

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

Dear Rusty: I am turning 67 in October and as of today am still employed full time. I really do not plan on retiring unless I am forced to. But how do I arrange my Social Security and Medical care stuff. It seems this subject is like a color, and everyone has a different color they like. Is there any way for me to figure this out with help or on my own? I could really use some guidance. **Signed: Perplexed**

Dear Perplexed: Okay, let's look at your Social Security and your Medicare separately, because they're two totally independent programs.

You do not need to do anything about Social Security until you are ready to start collecting your benefits. Since you have already reached your full retirement age (FRA) of 66, you are now earning Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) at the rate of .667% per month. That means that your benefit in October, if you were to claim it then, would be 8% more than it would have been at age 66. If you continue to delay applying for SS benefits, you will continue to earn those DRCs up to age 70, when your benefit amount would be 32% more than it would have been at your FRA. The choice of when to claim your Social Security is yours to make, considering your need for the money, your health, and your expected longevity. The longer you wait (up to 70) the more your benefit will be, and if you expect at least average longevity (about 84 for a man your current age) then you'll get both a higher benefit amount and more in cumulative lifetime benefits by waiting to claim your Social Security.

As for Medicare, if you are now covered by your employer's "creditable" healthcare plan, you can delay enrolling in Medicare until your current employer coverage ends (when you stop working). "Creditable" is a group plan with more than 20 participants. If you now have "creditable" employer healthcare coverage (including drug coverage) you won't be liable for a Late Enrollment Penalty for enrolling in Medicare (or a drug plan) later. If you are still working and know your creditable employer coverage will end soon, you can enroll for Medicare benefits to start coincident with the end of your employer coverage. Or, after you stop working, you can enroll in Medicare during a "Special Enrollment Period" (or "SEP" for those transitioning from employer coverage to Medicare coverage). Your SEP for Medicare will last for 8 months after you stop working, but you only have 63 days after the end of your employer drug coverage to enroll in a Part D prescription drug plan.

The bottom line is this—you don't need to enroll in Medicare until your creditable employer healthcare coverage ends. And you don't need to apply for Social Security until you wish to start receiving benefits (just don't wait beyond 70).

One final point because you were born in 1953: if you are now married and your wife is already collecting her SS, you can file a "restricted application for spouse benefits only" and collect only a spouse benefit from your wife, while still allowing your own benefit to continue to grow until you are 70. But this option is only available to you because you were born before January 2, 1954.

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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Governor Hogan Announces Maryland Finishes in Top Ten for 2020 Census Response

More Than 2.2 Million Households Counted, 99.9% Total Response Rate Exceeds 2010 Self-Response Rate
Carroll County Ranked 24th Out of More Than 3,200 Counties Nationwide

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (October 16, 2020)—Governor Larry Hogan today announced that Maryland finished ninth in the nation for response to the 2020 Census. More than 2.2 million households were counted, representing a total of 99.9 percent of the state's population.

"Our administration is proud that even amid all of this year's challenges, Marylanders stepped up with one of the country's leading response rates to the 2020 Census," said Governor Hogan. "The participation of 2.2 million Maryland households will mean critical federal funding for our state over the next decade for services used by our citizens every single day—from meals to Medicare and health care to highways. I want to sincerely thank all of the community leaders and volunteers who helped make this a successful Census for the State of Maryland."

Maryland's Response Rates. Every Maryland household that responded contributed to a record response despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Maryland ranked ninth for self-response in the U.S. with 71% of all Maryland households completing their forms online, by mail, or by phone. Maryland surpassed its 2010 self-response rate of 69.5%.
- Maryland ranked fourth in the U.S. for Internet response.
- Carroll County led the state with a self-response rate of 81.5%, ranking 24th in the U.S. out of more than 3,200 counties. Twenty-one of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions exceeded their 2010 self-response rate.
- Every Marylander counted represents more than \$18,250 over the next decade in federal funding for programs including Medicare and Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), school construction, emergency preparedness, and transportation projects. Census data also determines reapportionment, informs redistricting, and ensures that Maryland receives appropriate representation in Congress.

"This process has been a testament to the power of collaboration," said Maryland Planning Secretary Robert McCord. "Partnership efforts among the state and

local complete count committees (CCCs) along with the tireless commitment of nonprofit organizations, businesses, faith leaders, and other state agencies will make a difference in the lives of all Marylanders for years to come. Each has played a role in helping to shape the future of Maryland."

Due to the pandemic, Census marketing and outreach efforts to connect with Marylanders had to be significantly modified to reach people who were no longer commuting to work, school, and other activities. The Maryland Department of Planning created several online tools to reach hard-to-count populations in urban and rural communities. Digital marketing, social media, and virtual and limited in-person events helped to supplement traditional advertising. Planning created materials in English, Spanish, Korean, and other languages, and worked daily with the state and local CCCs to ensure a full count of all Marylanders. Governor Hogan, Lieutenant Governor Boyd Rutherford, and First Lady Yumi Hogan all recorded public service announcements as part of their year-long efforts to help promote the Census.

Tragedy from A1

by a vehicle that fled the scene, the police said. The incident took place that Sunday night near the intersection of Indian Head Highway and Salisbury Road in Oxon Hill.

- A 39-year-old pedestrian lost his life on Indian Head Highway, after reportedly attempting to cross the roadway mid-block, the night of September 4, 2020. The driver of the striking vehicle remained on the scene. This tragic incident, which occurred at 10:45 p.m., marked the second pedestrian death within a week on Indian Head Highway, and the third pedestrian fatality on the roadway within a two week period.
- A 38-year-old woman, with no fixed address, afoot in Indian Head Highway was killed by a vehicle on August 31, around 10:45 p.m. Police investigators tried to determine why the victim was in the road when fatally struck between Livingston Road and Bald Eagle Road. The driver remained on the scene.
- On August 24, Osadolar Omozee, a 16-year-old standout student-athlete, at Woodbridge High School, was killed in fatal collisions on Maryland 210 at Palmer Road. He was reportedly struck by two vehicles. Police responded to the crash scene at 9:45 p.m. Both drivers remained on the scene.
- A 60-year-old Virginia man perished early Sunday morning, August 2, while strolling in the 17000 block of Maryland 210 north in Accokeek. Both drivers were still on the scene as a police investigation revealed he wasn't in a crosswalk when struck by two vehicles in the traffic lanes after midnight, 12:55 a.m.

Without a "suit of armor," pedestrians are most at risk in traffic, as well as motorcyclists, school children, seniors, and cyclists, notes the National Institutes of Health (NIH). During 2019, "99 people were killed while out walking and biking in metropolitan Washington," reports the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board. "This accounts for nearly one third of all traffic fatalities across the region."

"Once more, Indian Head Highway is recapturing its telling

sobriquet 'one of the deadliest arterials' in the entire region. This year it seems as if it is full of 'landmines' rigged for pedestrian fatalities," said Rev. Dr. Robert L. Screen, Maryland 210 Traffic Safety Committee. "Long before the pandemic, many drivers along Maryland 210 were prone to dangerous driving and excessive speeding."

Nowadays, a triad of speed cameras on MD 210 are capturing drivers zipping at 143 mph and over 161 mph.

Episodes of Egregious Speeding along Maryland 210 from January 1–Mid-September 2020

Excessive Speeds Clocking by Speed Cameras	Tally of Drivers Captured by Speed Cameras
More than 100 miles per hour	414 motorists
80–100 miles per hour	495 motorists
80–90 miles per hour	1,400 motorists
70–80 miles per hour	More than 10,000 motorists

Despite a big drop-off in the number of cars and traffic along Maryland 210 in the wake of pandemic, speed cameras stationed along the roadway generated more than 18,000 photo-enforced tickets, carrying a face value of \$720,000 in fines, in the period from January through September. Episodes of egregious speeding cropped up on Indian Head during the early stages of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, which continues into fall and winter. Hundreds of errant drivers captured by speed cameras in 2020 were repeat violators.

From January through September police officers patrolling Indian Head Highway issued 3,157 citations to dangerous drivers and traffic scofflaws for manifold traffic infractions and/or impaired driving. Police-issued citations were down 80 percent, compared to the same period a year earlier. In any given prior year, Indian Head Highway (Maryland 210) ranks as one of the most congested arterials (non-freeway) in the entire state of Maryland during peak travel periods, and during both the a.m. and p.m. rush hours.

MONEY

Budget-Building Resources for a More Resilient Tomorrow

(StatePoint) Hispanic communities have been making vital contributions to the American cultural landscape and the national economy for decades.

The second largest ethnic or racial group in the U.S., Hispanics poured \$2.6 trillion into the U.S. economy in 2018, have the purchasing power of approximately \$1.7 trillion, and are the most likely among other minority groups to be entrepreneurs. However, with the ongoing pandemic, many are finding themselves struggling financially, lacking adequate access to healthcare, and worried about their children falling behind in school given the multitude of challenges presented by remote learning.

Despite these hardships, a recent Pew Research Center poll showed that nearly 50 percent of Hispanics expect the U.S. economy to improve a year from now, a strong indicator of the optimism and resiliency that this community embodies.

"Latinos represent an important component of the United States economy and

population in today's time of uncertainty," says Eugenio M. Alonso, president and CEO, Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Puerto Rico Inc./Florida Consumer, a nonprofit that provides financial counseling services. "Now more than ever, ensuring their right to financial wellness and the American dream is essential."

During tough economic times, having a budget and understanding how it should be managed is the key to gaining control of one's finances, according to financial experts. Even for those who feel that their current financial situation doesn't allow them to build a budget, having an understanding of budgeting basics can help when making everyday financial decisions.

"A budget can help people tighten spending, prioritize saving, and most importantly, help them focus on and achieve their long-term financial goals. Creating a budget may sound complicated, but with a little bit of guidance and organization, everyone can do it," says Alonso.



PHOTO SOURCE: © DIEGO_CERVO / ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

To get started, here are some resources to help Hispanic families feel more empowered in their budgeting journey:

1. **Video content:** For practical tips on budgeting, view the short video, "A Minute about Money," available at youtu.be/mUwDxb0mOTs.

2. **Resource hub:** Check out Hands on Banking, a free, non-commercial financial education program created by Wells Fargo to support the needs of communities. The site features a variety of resources on money management subjects such as building a rainy day fund, banking basics, es-

tablishing credit and more, and is available in English and Spanish at handsonbanking.org and elfuturoentusmanos.org.

3. **Hands-on assistance:** Those experiencing financial hardship and needing more guidance can seek help with a reputable nonprofit that offers financial counseling, like Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Puerto Rico Inc./Florida Consumer. To learn more, visit consumerpr.org.

As the nation moves forward, Hispanics will continue to fuel the country's economic growth. It is vital that this deeply impacted community has the tools to succeed and recover.

The Prince George's Post



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