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PHOTO COURTESY OF HEATHER CROWDER

Victoria Bayless (left), chief executive officer for Luminis Health, and Deneen Richmond, president of LHDCMC, at the official groundbreaking for the Behavioral Health Services Building.

Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center and Prince George's County Break Ground on New Behavioral Health Facility

By JUSTIN MCLEOD
Luminis Health

LANHAM, Md. (April 19, 2021)—Meeting the behavioral needs of residents in Prince George's County is the motivation behind a new partnership between Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center (LHDCMC) and Prince

George's County. Today, Victoria Bayless, chief executive officer for Luminis Health, and Deneen Richmond, president of LHDCMC, joined County Executive Angela Alsobrooks for the official groundbreaking for the Behavioral Health Services Building.

Located on the campus of Luminis Health Doctors Com-

munity Medical Center, the facility will offer a broad continuum of behavioral health services. "Today is a momentous occasion for Luminis Health as we break ground on this facility—to provide patient centered care and local access to community members suffering from mental health and substance use disorders," said Victoria Bay-

less, CEO of Luminis Health. "We are committed to removing barriers to health care, and ensuring everyone has access to the care needed to live a healthy life."

Right now, there are limited mental health resources in

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United Way NCA and Deloitte AI Institute for Government Launch 12-Week Virtual Stem Program for Eight Middle Schools in Prince George's County

Students Will Experience Engineering and Career Exploration Activities in Human Centered Design and Artificial Intelligence

By NORMA KELLY
United Way NCA

WASHINGTON (April 15, 2021)—United Way of the National Capital Area (United Way NCA) today announced it has collaborated with Deloitte's AI Institute for Government to offer a 12-week virtual STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), one-hour, after-school program for eight Title I middle schools that are part of Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) Community Schools, including Buck Lodge Middle School. The program is designed to engage students not typically exposed to expanded STEM opportunities to experience unique engineering and career exploration activities in Human Centered Design (HCD) and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

"One of the pillars of work that your United Way NCA does in the community is to create transformational programs that move us towards more equity in education for our students," said Rosie Allen-Herring, President and CEO of United Way of the National Capital Area. "Through this new program, we are able to connect 7th and 8th grade students with STEM professionals from Deloitte's AI Institute for Government. The students have an opportunity to learn more about 21st Century careers in STEM, and just as important, help them see themselves as future professionals and experts in Human Centered Design (HCD) and Artificial Intelligence (AI)."

The program launched the first week of February at Buck Lodge Middle School, Andrew Jackson Academy, Charles Carroll MS, Drew Freeman MS, Hyattsville MS, Nicholas Orem, Oxon Hill MS, Samuel Massie Academy, and William Wirt MS. STEM professionals from Deloitte designed and deliver the curriculum virtually to 50 students across the county. The program features topics such as "What it means to be a technologist," "Introduction to HCD," "AI Vision, Ethics and Teams," as well as Conversational AI and its framework, engaging discussions and interactive demonstrations. PGCPS Community School Coordinators and United Way NCA volunteers serve as coaches to encourage student persistence and engagement.

"We think it's time to expose students to the specific technologies and trends that are driving opportunity in today's world," said Tasha Austin, Advisory Principal, Deloitte & Touche LLP, on behalf of the AI Institute for Government. "It's one thing to provide general educational support to students through collaborations like this, but it's another to give them a straight line into what's commanding attention and success in the business world. If only current business executives or students at certain schools are getting this, then we are creating unintended disparities."

Deloitte remains committed to social empowerment by championing opportunities

to help communities transform and thrive. The Deloitte AI Institute for Government explores the uses of AI in areas such as education, environment, social welfare and health. Collaborating with United Way NCA, to ignite the curiosity and support the educational development of these students in the field of AI, is the first of many social responsibility efforts planned for the year.

"We are grateful to United Way NCA and Deloitte's AI Institute for bringing this program to Prince George's County's Community Schools," said Dr. Monica Goldson, Chief Executive Officer, Prince George's County Public Schools. "The commitment they are making to our schools exemplifies the value they place on our students. The program has already enriched our students' education and interests and provided an engaging way for them to learn more about STEM."

"Our students are innately curious and instinctive when it comes to STEM practices just by the nature of growing up surrounded by technology and devices," said Kenneth Nance, Principal, Buck Lodge Middle School. "To help them unlock their potential is the opportunity to connect what they already know about HCD and AI and associate it with real-world application and career opportunities. When you add to that the mentorship from the Deloitte team, I know our students will walk away with excitement for STEM and new education and career goals to work toward."

Prince George's County Hosts Spring 2021 'Growing Green With Pride' Countywide Clean-Up on Saturday, May 1, 2021

By PAULETTE L. JONES

Department of Public Works and Transportation

LARGO, Md. (April 14, 2021)—Prince George's County's bi-annual countywide beautification event, 'Growing Green with Pride', will take place on Saturday, May 1, 2021, rain or shine. The County invites community organizations, schools, businesses, municipalities, and anyone interested in helping keep our County clean and green to participate.

"'Growing Green with Pride' is a win-win on several levels. Not only is it great for the environment with the litter and illegal dumping removal, it also creates opportunities for neighbors to reconnect with one another and for new residents, businesses, and organizations to get to know their communities," said Terry L. Bellamy, Director of the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T).

Registration for the Spring 'Growing Green with Pride' will

close on April 23, 2021. For registered participants, DPW&T will provide plastic gloves, trash bags, safety vests, litter grabbers, and a maximum of six (6) bags of mulch for the event. Students who participate in 'Growing Green with Pride' can receive community service hours. Community service verification forms are available through the school system.

"Growing Green with Pride" is a partnership between Prince George's County Government, Prince George's County Public Schools, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Keep Prince George's County Beautiful, and the Neighborhood Design Center.

If you have any questions or need more information, please call DPW&T's Office of Highway Maintenance at (301) 499-8641 or e-mail Tonya Hairston at TYHairston@co.pg.md.us

Town of Upper Marlboro's Sustainable Communities Designation Is Renewed By State Smart Growth Coordinating Committee

"This designation will also help the Town's Sustainable Communities Work Group continue to move forward to implement our strategic Sustainable Communities Action Plan"

By RAY FELDMANN
Town of Upper Marlboro

UPPER MARLBORO, MD (April 19, 2021)—The Town of Upper Marlboro's application to renew its Sustainable Community designation has been approved by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's (DHCD) Smart Growth Coordinating Committee, Upper Marlboro Mayor Linda Pennoyer announced today. The designation has been extended for five years and will expire in February 2024.

Therefore, the Town of Upper Marlboro will continue to be eligible to apply for funds from the Community Legacy Programs from DHCD to revitalize and attract growth and development within its Sustainable Community. Specifically, this program provides local governments and community development organizations with funding

for essential projects aimed at strengthening communities through activities such as business retention and attraction, encouraging homeownership and commercial revitalization.

"This is outstanding news for the Town of Upper Marlboro," Mayor Pennoyer said in making the announcement. "As a result of our application being renewed by the State, we will have the opportunity to access what is referred to as 'an interagency revitalization toolbox' of financing programs and tax credit incentives. DHCD has a variety of financing programs, including a Main Street Improvement Program, as well as tax credit programs and other incentives.

"This designation will also help the Town's Sustainable Communities Work Group continue to move

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Prince George's Community College Announces Phased Reopening and Return to In-Person Learning for Summer 2021

By COURTNEY DAVIS

Prince George's Community College

LARGO, Md. (April 14, 2021)—Prince George's Community College (PGCC) announced today its plan to implement a phased return to in-person services and learning beginning May 24, the start of the summer 2021 semester. The updated stance reflects the College's commitment to ensuring student needs are met while promoting the health and safety of the entire community.

"The College looks toward its phased reopening with an abundance of cautious optimism and excitement," said Dr. Falecia Williams, Prince George's Community College president. "Our core

mission as an institution has been hampered by the intensity and necessity of our prolonged remote posture. In order to deliver on our promise to students, we must adopt a blended model that allows us to balance the safety of our College community with our need to serve students where they are, which in some cases, is in person."

Beginning May 24, the College will add in-person services for students to the essential services currently being provided at its main Largo campus and extension cen-

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Researchers Test Ways to Encourage Healthier Lifestyle in African-American Men

Men's Health Network reported that a recent survey found that men want to take control of their health.

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Msgr. Godfrey Mosley, who served at four County parishes, dies at 67

Monsignor Godfrey Mosley, a priest of the Archdiocese of Washington for more than four decades, died March 16 at Capital Care Hospice of the Providence Health System.

During his 42 years as a priest he served in parishes throughout the Washington Archdiocese, including four in Prince George's: St. Margaret of Scotland, Seat Pleasant; Holy Spirit, Forestville; St. James, Mount Rainier; and St. Columba in Oxon Hill where he was pastor from 1993 to 2001.

Godfrey Thomas Mosley was born in Washington, son of Hermit and Thelma Mosley. He grew up in St. Gabriel's Parish in NW Washington, graduated from the now-closed Mackin High School and the University of Scranton.

Deciding to be a priest, he attended Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg and was ordained in 1979. His first assignment was as associate pastor at St. Margaret's. Later, Archbishop James Hickey transferred him to the University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome where he graduated in 1987 with a doctorate in canon law.

He served in many capacities for the Archdiocese and in 2001 was honored with the title monsignor. His funeral Mass was at St. Gabriel's where he went to grade school. He is buried at Gate of Heaven in Silver Spring.

In a 2019 interview, Msgr. Mosley said, "I am happiest doing what a priest does—helping people from birth to death."

Attention, Suitland High alumni

The Suitland High School Multi-Class Reunion date is set for Saturday, Nov. 6, at the Annapolis Doubletree Hotel. Also, there will probably be a happy gathering at Mike's Crab House the evening before (Friday the 5th). Contact Larry Medley if you plan to attend; he's on Facebook.

Congratulations, Graduates!

Kamron Blade, son of former Morningside Council Member Katie Blade, is graduating from Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr. High School in Upper Marlboro.

Taylor Foster, daughter of Terry and Gina Foster, will be graduating from Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr. High School.

Email (muddmm@aol.com) or call with news of your graduate. You can also add what the new graduate plans to do after high school.

Changing landscape

A car wash is planned next door to VFW Post 9619, on the site where there once was the Village Barn. It has to pass stringent County development rules, so I trust it will be a good neighbor to the VFW.

The National World War I Memorial, on Pennsylvania Avenue, was unveiled on April 15, in ceremonies which included a military flyover, and is now open to the public. It honors the nearly five million Americans who fought for liberty overseas.

The National Building Museum, 401 F Street NW, is now open Friday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$7-\$10. It has two new exhibits: "Gun Violence Memorial Project," which includes four glass houses filled with objects remembering victims of gun violence, and, "Justice is Beauty. The Work of MASS Design Group," featuring the work of a nonprofit architecture firm that attempts to improve lives through innovative designs.

A house at Peggyanne Court, in Skyline, just sold for \$370,000.

Kennedy Center plans full-capacity season

The Kennedy Center opened 50 years ago, in 1971. They'll celebrate this landmark event with plays, readings and workshops and in September 2022 they'll host the revival of Leonard Bernstein's Mass, the production that christened the Kennedy Center.

Twelve Broadway musicals are planned, between October 2021 and August 2022, including: Tony winners Hadestown, Hamilton, The Band's Visit and Dear Evan Hansen. Also the Washington debut of To Kill A Mockingbird and from London's Old Vic Theatre, A Monster Calls. Wow! I'd like to attend them all!

Mary's COVID report: 9 died yesterday

Maryland has had 430,351 cases, 1,552 of which were just yesterday (Wed., April 14, through 5 p.m.). And 8,493 deaths, including 9 yesterday.

Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks announced on April 15 that the County continues to hit new vaccine milestones with more than 150,000 residents fully vaccinated—which means 20% of County residents ages 16 and older.

The County schools opened for in-person learning.

Down in Brownsville, Tex., daughter Therese got her first shot. As for me, I'm still here. Waiting impatiently for you to send news.

Morningside Memories: Election 1958

On May 3, 2021, Morningsiders will go to the polls, voting as they've been doing every May since 1949.

Thanks to The Women's Civic Group of Morningside scrapbook, I have good coverage of who ran, and who won those early years. There's especially good coverage for Election 1958 when the Town was 10 years old:

Mayor William H. Stewart, of Morgan Road, was seeking re-election. He was 38 years old, had lived in Morningside for five years and was an engineer for RCA and a Technical Advisor to the Air Force.

Running for Council:

- Agnes Dallas Bragunier, 44, incumbent, Clinton Oil Company employee.
- Leonard F. Gardner, 36, incumbent administrator for Naval Bureau of Aeronautics.
- William J. Gilmartin, 38, Supervisor for Merchants Transfer & Storage.
- Charles Joseph Kiker, 32, working at the Naval Air Station.
- Jack Wayne Langford, 38, Steamfitters' Union employee.
- William Schaub, incumbent, 51, Sheet Metal Lead Man at the Bureau of Engraving.

And who won? Mayor Stewart was re-elected. Incumbent Council Members Dallas Bragunier, Leonard Gardner and William Schaub were re-elected. Bill Gilmartin, who had only lived in Morningside for only eight months, won the 4th seat.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Jim Reilly, David Titus, Cindy Pitts, Barbara Sparks and Margaret White, April 23; Edna Lucas, April 24; Sue Stine McConkey-Mason, Daisy Young, Kenia Spivey and my grandson David McHale, April 25; Christy Cooper and G.A. DeFelice, April 26; Michael Call, April 27; Cathy Miller, Hazel Ball, Beverly Gotshall Marquis, DJ Fowler and Jessica Phipps, April 28; Lael McCune, April 30; and Morningside Council Member Todd Mullins, April 30.

Happy anniversary to Janet and Brian Spivey on April 23; and to Jan and Cindy Smith, their 49th on April 28.

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

Facebook. No entry charge, ballots are for sale for people's choice awards. Proceeds will go to charity. Awards announced at 3:00 p.m. More details to follow.

All American Harley-Davidson 8126 Old Leonardtown Road, Hughesville, Maryland. All American Harley-Davidson is a 35,000 Square foot state of the art facility located in Southern Maryland. The number one spot to find all your favorite Harley gear and view the best selection of Harley-Davidson Motorcycles.

10TH ANNUAL BULLDOG GOLF CLASSIC (REMINDER)

Join the Bowie State University Department of Athletics for the 10th Annual Bulldog Classic Tuesday, October 12, 2021, Oak Crest Golf Club. Staggered Tee Times: Start at 8:00 a.m. Registration Fees: Per Foursome: \$650, Per Golfer: \$175, Golf Clinic: \$100. FEES includes 18 holes, Golf Cart, breakfast and lunch during tournament, complimentary beverages, gift bags, prizes and much more.

Space is limited. Per the COVID-19 rules and regulations at Oak Crest Golf Club and for the health and safety of our golfers. A limited number of foursomes will be allowed to play at the Bulldog Golf Classic this year.

The Bulldog Classic was SOLD OUT Last Year. Do not delay in securing your spot! Register today. For more information, visit the website: www.bowiestate.edu/BowieState.edu/bulldogclassic.

CHRIST CHURCH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday to Janet Barber, Catherine Brooks, Taniya Cole, Audrey Davis, Joyce Lee, Delarenta Lee, Lillian Makle, Wendell Pinkney, Doris Slater, Delonte Young, Freda Farmer, Lawrence Dorsey, II, Lawrence Dorsey, III, Reginal Pitt, Princess Pitt, Andrienne Johnson, Shakira Lanier, Joseph Lewis, Mildred Makle, Wanda Makle, Alice Myers, Amber Petty, Anthony Pinkney, Zilpha Pinkney, Janice Watkins who are members of New Hope Fellowship celebrating birthdays in April.

BREAKING NEWS

New Plaque Installed: The County recently installed a plaque recognizing the Village of Pomonkey. It is located as you enter the driveway off Metropolitan Church Road. The school plaque that the association installed after a bad storm toppled the old oak tree has been moved to the center of the yard, still close to the highway and visible to passersby. The new plaque recognizes the Village of Pomonkey, and our plaque honors our school. The signs complement each other, are similar in design, and both focus attention on our building. Be sure to stop and look when you are in the area. PHSAA March 2021 Newsletter

Around the County

Expungement Fair in Laurel

Please join State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy and Councilman Bren-cis Smith (City of Laurel - Ward 2) for an expungement fair in recognition of National Second Chance Awareness Month.

A criminal record can significantly impact an individual's ability to obtain housing, public benefits, financial aid, occupational licenses, quality employment, citizenship and much more. Legal professionals will be available to evaluate criminal records, discuss options and assist with expungement filings. Bring identification and court documents, if available.

*Maryland arrests and convictions only.

If you would like to attend, register through eventbrite.

When: Saturday, April 24, 2021 | 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

For Questions: Sean Wilson, smwilson2@co.pg.md.us

—Office of the State's Attorney for Prince George's County

Prince George's County Department of Social Services Recognizes Child Abuse Prevention Month, Encourages all Adults to Ensure the Safety and Well-Being of Children

LANDOVER, Md. (April 13, 2021)—April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and Prince George's County Department of Social Services (PGCDSS) encourages all individuals and organizations to play a role in keeping Prince George's County a safe place for children and families. This year's theme is Thriving Children and Families: Prevention With Purpose. The most important thing adults can do to help children thrive is to support families before they reach a crisis.

Through the collaboration of individuals, families, and the community, prevention services and supports help protect children and produce thriving families. By ensuring that parents have the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to care for their children, PGCDSS helps to prevent child abuse and neglect by making meaningful connections with children, youth and families in our communities.

While our Child, Adult, and Family Services division leads PGCDSS' efforts to protect children and vulnerable adults, the Agency offers a variety of safety net programs and services designed to promote the well-being of children and help families thrive.

Research shows that protective factors are present in healthy families. Promoting these factors is among the most effective ways to reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect. They are:

- Nurturing and attachment
- Knowledge of parenting and of child and youth development
- Parental resilience
- Social connections
- Concrete supports for parents
- Social and emotional competence of children

In support of these efforts, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, its Child Welfare Information Gateway, and over 30 National Prevention Partners have created 2021/2022 Prevention Resource Guide. This latest resource guide, designed for service providers who work throughout the community to strengthen families, is available online https://www.child-welfare.gov/topics/preventing/preventionmonth/resources/resource-guide/?utm_campaign=ncapm21&utm_medium=email&utm_source=ncapmwebsitelive032921.

To report child abuse and neglect in Prince George's County, call (301) 909-2450. For more information about child abuse prevention programs and activities during the month of April and throughout the year, go to pgsafekids.org. To learn more about PGCDSS programs and services, visit <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1634/Services>.

The Prince George's County Department of Social Services is in the business of providing opportunities for residents of the County to become independent, responsible and stable members of the community. We do this by providing intervention services that strengthen families, protect children and vulnerable adults, encourage self-sufficiency and promote personal responsibility.

—Kellye Beathea, J.D., Prince George's County Department of Social Services

In-Person from A1

ters. In-person services, offered by appointment only, will allow students to come to campus for assistance with registration, advising, financial aid, and other resources. The College also plans to expand its learning modalities, adding additional options for hybrid on campus and virtual courses.

For the fall 2021 semester, which begins August 23, the College will gradually return more of its faculty and staff to the campus and increase the variety of its learning modalities, including face-to-face, hybrid on campus, hybrid virtual, structured remote, and online. To promote the safety of the College community, there will be no more than a 50% campus density on any given day for all students and employees.

"Our faculty and students have demonstrated such patience, flexibility, and ingenuity as we continue to navigate these extraordinary times," said Dr. Clayton Railey, executive vice president and provost of Teaching, Learning, and Student Success. "We are confident that with increased access to the COVID-19 vaccine and close monitoring of the conditions, we can return safely to our classrooms in the coming months and amplify our efforts to deliver a high-quality education to our students."

As part of the College's ongoing partnership with Luminis Health, all employees now have an opportunity to receive the COVID-19 vaccine on the College's campus. To date, more than 12,000 individuals have been vaccinated at the site, including Prince George's Community College faculty and staff.

The College's return to in-person services and learning is informed by its COVID-19 metrics and will be executed in a manner that aligns with CDC, state of Maryland, and county guidelines. All plans are contingent on metrics that continue to trend in a manner that supports a safe return on the listed dates. Enhanced on-site safety measures include a robust COVID-19 tracking and reporting system, increased cleaning and sanitation of high-traffic areas, College-wide signage promoting physical distancing, and ongoing training for employees and students.

Summer 2021 classes begin May 24, with flexible learning options that allow students to pursue a degree or credentials on their terms. To learn more or to register, contact enrollmentservices@pgcc.edu.

Brandywine-Aquasco

WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2021

Woman of the Year 2021-Religious Service Dorothea Joanne Belt Stroman has taught several courses, including "Leading Worship" for at least 20 years. In addition, Pastor Stroman has received several citations from Prince George's County government officials, the State of Maryland government officials, Heartland Hospice, and the Prince George's County Chapter of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness).

Pastor Stroman has served on multiple committees in the Washington DC and currently, she serves as a Mentor for the Candidacy Process for those exploring Ordained Ministry. She is a contributor in The Woman of Color Study Bible, 1993. An excerpt from a sermon titled, The Potter Shapes Our Lives, Turning Flaws into Strengths, appeared in the Washington Times, February 14, 2000. She is currently the published author of a Christian fiction titled, The First Man. Favorite scripture "Whatever you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them" Mark 11.24. Pastor Stroman was honored at the Finer Womanhood Virtual Awards Ceremony. She is the Pastor of Clinton United Methodist Church in Clinton, Maryland. Congratulations Pastor Stroman on your major accomplishments.

WINNERS

We are honored to be named the 2020 Southern Maryland Reader (SOMD) approved best Orthopedic (podiatry) Practice. Thank you to all who voted. Leave us a Review. Please do not forget to share your great experiences at Southern Maryland Foot & Ankle on Google or Facebook! This will help future patients find the podiatry they need. Somdfootandankle.com, 301-843-9581.

CHARTERING CEREMONY

Four years ago, today April 2, 2021 the Chartering Ceremony was held for the Upper Marlboro Waldorf (MD) Silhouette Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Happy Fourth Anniversary Silhouettes. The Upper Marlboro/Waldorf (MD) Silhouettes serve as an auxiliary to the Upper Marlboro/Waldorf (MD) Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. "We promote social, civic, and economic development within the Upper Marlboro/Waldorf communities to make a positive and lasting impact. As wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters, we lay the foundation of love and devotion that strengthens the connection between family and community." Silhouette Jacqueline Wilcher. Happy Fourth Anniversary Silhouettes.

ALL AMERICAN HARLEY-DAVIDSON EVENT

You do not want to miss this show and a performance by The Night-Hawks Shovelheads and earlier are welcome Saturday, June 19, 2021 at 10:15 a.m. Price: Free, Public: Anyone on or off

COMMUNITY

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County Announces Food Sovereignty Theatrical Program

By ANGEL WALDRON

Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (April 16, 2021)—Publick Playhouse, a part of M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince County announces Food Sovereignty, Seeds and Stories: Theatre & Conversation on **Saturday, April 24, 2021, 5-6:30 pm.** This virtual theatrical program features a reading of an excerpt from *The Invention of Seeds* by Annalisa Dias. Following will be a conversation among Black and Indigenous food justice workers who have relationships with the Prince George's County community. The program will ignite the community to take agency and action for their food sovereignty.

"Food deserts and food swamps are a real problem in Prince George's and across the country that disproportionately affect Black, Indigenous and People of Color", states Publick Playhouse Assistant Director Megan Merchant. "We're excited to use art to catalyze conversation and action in the county."

Speakers during the program include:

Groundwater Arts is a predominantly POC, half Indigenous, women-led artist collaborative based across the United States. Groundwater is committed to re-envisioning the arts field through a climate justice lens, which is activated through the principles of a Green New Theatre (GNT) - a movement-building document penned in partnership with arts makers throughout the country. Their mission is to shape, steward, and seed a just future through creative practice, consultation, and community building.

Annalisa Dias is a Goan-American citizen artist, community organizer, and award-winning theatre maker working at the intersection of racial justice and care for the earth. She is Director of Artistic Partnerships & Innovation at Baltimore Center Stage, where she is responsible for new work development and civic programming. She is a TCG Rising Leader of Color. Recent work includes *THE EARTH, THAT IS SUFFICIENT*, a performance project about hope for the future in the face of the climate catastrophe, produced by *The Welders* throughout 2019 in Washington DC and globally.

Anna Lathrop is a futures design researcher and facilitator based in Lenape territory (Brooklyn, NY). Her work is sit-

uated at the intersection of speculative visioning, design research and social justice. Recent projects include a month-long project with TONYC's Rapid Response Troupe exploring the role of speculative design in imagining and actualizing just futures. Her background is rooted in directing and producing for theatres in Washington, DC and New York City. She is the former Executive Director of The Muse Project in New York City, and the co-founder of the Washington DC Coalition for Theatre & Social Justice.

Tara Moses (she/her) is a citizen of Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Mvskoke, director, multi award-winning playwright, co-Artistic Director in Residence at Red Eagle Soaring, Producing Artistic Director of *telatúsa*, co-Founder and Senior Producer of *#Binge*, and co-Founder of Groundwater Arts.

DeLesslin George-Warren is an artist, researcher, and educator from Catawba Indian Nation whose work ranges from performance to installation art to community education to food sovereignty to language revitalization.

Xavier Brown is the founder of Soilful City, an organization dedicated to food justice in the Black communities in SE DC and neighboring area. Xavier is a native of Washington, DC and a graduate of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. He operates at the boundaries of urban agriculture, environmental sustainability, and African Diasporic culture. His work intertwines sustainability with the issues that impact stressed communities from gun violence to mass incarceration.

Food Sovereignty, Seeds and Stories is intended for Ages 18 and Up. Tune in on the Arts PG Parks Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/Artspgarks.

Known for its comfortable, inviting space and great acoustics, the Publick Playhouse is one of the best performing arts venues in the greater Washington, DC area. Since 1947, the richly historic Playhouse continues to serve as a popular venue for music and modern dance, musical theater, historical drama, educational programs and monthly events for seniors. With its ornate sky scene and plush seating for 494, the theatre is one of the two surviving Art Deco theatres in Prince George's County. Contact publickplayhouse@pgparks.com.

Prince George's Community College Joins Maryland Education Alliance to Open Statewide Pathways for Student Success

Collective boosts opportunities for seamless transfer of specialized academic programs

By COURTNEY DAVIS

Prince George's Community College

LARGO, Md. (April 13, 2021)—Prince George's Community College (PGCC) announced today that it has joined five other Maryland community colleges to form the Maryland Education Alliance (MEA), an innovative collaboration designed to boost opportunities for students to earn associate degrees and certificates statewide.

The MEA creates seamless pathways for community colleges to share resources and expertise, meet growing needs of the community, and generate cost savings, which grants students increased access to affordable programs in some of the fastest-growing career fields. The alliance eliminates the need for highly specialized, costly, and sometimes low-enrolled programs at multiple locations.

In addition to Prince George's Community College, the MEA includes Anne Arundel Community College, Cecil College, Chesapeake College, College of Southern Maryland, and Harford Community College. Together, the six community colleges serve nine counties of eastern, southern, and central Maryland.

"Prince George's Community College is

excited to join the initial cohort of the Maryland Education Alliance," said Dr. Clayton Railey, executive vice president and provost of Teaching, Learning, and Student Success at the College. "Opportunities for our students to gain increased access to relevant programs that put them on a direct path to their career of choice have the potential to improve significantly student outcomes. This partnership is a prime example of collaborating to achieve a common goal."

Through the MEA agreement, students complete initial coursework at their home institution, such as general studies, before transferring to the receiving community college for specialized discipline coursework. For health care programs, the home college will develop agreements for students to complete their clinical requirements at a local health care facility.

For instance, Prince George's Community College's Radiography and Respiratory Therapy program offers an opportunity for College of Southern Maryland (CSM) students to transfer and pay PGCC's in-county tuition rate. The agreement builds on a 30-year model that provides exchange opportunities for community college students. Recently, the two colleges finalized an agreement for PGCC's

Nuclear Medicine Technology program.

The MEA will expand partnerships like these statewide. Students can also take advantage of articulation agreements between MEA community colleges and four-year institutions. Participating community colleges, which serve as the MEA governing body, will meet annually to discuss concerns, maintain smooth transitions, and facilitate communication. As the MEA expands academic program opportunities, other Maryland community colleges can join the alliance to benefit their students, as individual institutions choose which programs to offer.

With the creation of an umbrella agreement providing the collaboration parameters, each academic program shared under the MEA is considered a specific articulation agreement between the institutions. These new collaborations will have a signed addendum by participating institutions, allowing flexibility related to each program's curriculum requirements.

The resource-sharing of the MEA's "students first" alliance builds clear pathways to rapidly expand opportunities for residents in Maryland and across the region to further their education to fill the jobs of today and tomorrow.

Biden Administration Takes Aim at Improving Black Maternal Health Care

By JOY SAHA

Capital News Service
Washington Bureau

Marking Black Maternal Health Week, the Biden administration is moving to put more federal resources behind improving Black maternal health care.

"Make no mistake. Black women in our country are facing a maternal health crisis," Vice President Kamala Harris said at a virtual roundtable she hosted in Washington Tuesday. "Black women are two to three times more likely to die in connection with childbirth than other women."

And Black women are also more likely to lose healthcare coverage during their pregnancy, she said.

The United States currently has the highest maternal mortality rates among developed countries—17.2 deaths per 100,000 live births, according to the American Journal of Managed Care.

These rates are even higher among Black women in the United States, regardless of their income and education levels: 37.1 deaths per 100,000 live births, according to the Commonwealth Fund.

"We know the primary reasons why: systemic racial inequities and implicit bias," Harris said. "And the consequences of both are very real."

Inequities in housing, transportation and nutrition all work together to negatively affect Black maternal health, the vice president said.

The Biden administration is asking Congress to approve spending \$200 million to implement implicit bias training for healthcare providers and strengthen current programs focused on maternal care, including Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

The administration also is requesting a 24 percent hike for the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights and a 19 percent increase for the federal family planning program to advance health equity and access to health services.

The administration also is proposing to spend \$6 billion to support low-income women and children under the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

In addition, the Health Resources and Services Administration is going to make available \$12 million for maternal health care in rural communities.

Lastly, the Department of Health and Human Services approved a waiver for Illinois to allow the state to extend postpartum coverage to all pregnant women under Medicaid beyond 60 days and up to 12 months. It is the first of what are expected to be many such waivers.

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Mechanicsville, said in a statement that systemic health inequities have been made even worse by the coronavirus pandemic.

A founding member of the Black Maternal Health Caucus, Hoyer praised the White House's efforts to address the issue.

"We must build on these efforts to root out bias in medical services, improve access to key reproductive and preventative health services for all women, and expand access to quality health care in hard-to-reach communities," the Maryland lawmaker said.

Black mothers at the roundtable shared personal experiences with life-threatening pregnancies, bereavement and apathetic care from physicians. A common sentiment that the mothers shared throughout their pregnancies were feelings of being dismissed and not being listened to or heard by their health care

providers.

Heather Wilson was diagnosed with preeclampsia during her pregnancy, a condition that worsened towards the end of her term. She lost her first child, Kennedy.

"In the aftermath, we struggled to pick up the pieces without direction, support and resources," Wilson said. "I felt so alone."

Wilson is the executive director and founder of Kennedy's Angel Gowns, a non-profit based in Virginia Beach, Virginia, created in memory of her lost baby. The organization provides families with handcrafted burial gowns for their babies, "angel gowns," which are sewn from pieces of donated wedding gowns.

Wilson said that each week, her organization helps up to 10 families bury their babies, a striking number that she called "unreal."

Through her work at the organization and as a bereavement doula, Wilson helps raise awareness about pregnancy loss and provides families with the support and resources to assist them through the grieving process.

Erica McAfee suffered two pregnancy losses. She was diagnosed with preeclampsia during her first pregnancy and experienced cervical insufficiency during her second pregnancy. Her third pregnancy was successful, despite having to undergo eight blood transfusions and a partial hysterectomy at the age of 28.

"I knew that there were other Black women who experienced the traumatic birth or pregnancy complications like me and I wanted to hear their stories—I wanted to amplify their voices through podcasts," McAfee said.

McAfee is the founder and CEO of Sisters in Loss, a digital media platform providing comfort to grieving Black mothers by replacing their "silence with storytelling."

"For every maternal death, over 100 women experience a severe complication re-

See **MATERNAL** Page A5

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

When Can I Get Benefits From My Ex-spouse?

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

Dear Rusty: I know that I am able to get Social Security from my ex-husband. We were married for 16 years and I have not remarried. I will be 60 soon and he is 63. I do not know if he is retired yet, as we do not speak. Please advise when I can collect and how to go about the process. **Signed: Divorced Lady**

Dear Divorced Lady: Since you were married to your ex for more than 10 years and haven't remarried, you may be able to collect a spousal benefit from your ex-husband when you are 62 years old. Your eligibility will depend upon the amount of your own personal Social Security (SS) benefit compared to your ex's benefit amount, but you cannot collect an ex-spouse benefit before age 62. To be eligible for a benefit from your ex-spouse, you must also claim your personal SS (from your own lifetime

work record), and when you claim your own benefit an ex-spouse benefit will be given, if you are entitled to one.

To be eligible for a benefit from your ex-spouse, your personal Social Security retirement benefit at your own full retirement age (FRA) must be less than 50% of the benefit your ex-husband would get at his FRA (note that FRA amounts are used for this determination, regardless of the age at which either of you claim SS). If your FRA benefit amount is less than half of his FRA benefit amount, then you will be entitled to a "spousal boost" to bring your total payment up to your spousal entitlement. But taken at age 62, both of those amounts will be reduced.

Your full retirement age is 67, and if you claim any SS benefit before that it will be reduced. At 62, your personal SS retirement benefit will be cut by 30% and your spousal boost will also be re-

duced. So, at age 62, the total amount of benefit you could get (your own benefit plus your spousal boost) would be about 32.5% of your ex-husband's FRA benefit amount. Nonetheless, if you are comfortable with these benefit reductions, you can claim at age 62 (or any age thereafter) by contacting Social Security or, when the time comes, apply online at www.ssa.gov/applyforbenefits. You will need to provide SS with a copy of your marriage certificate and your final divorce decree, and you will need to know your ex-husband's Social Security number (SSN). If you do not know his SSN, you'll need to provide his parents' names and his date and place of birth.

If you wish to find out in advance whether you're entitled to an ex-spouse benefit and how much it is estimated to be, you can contact Social Security at 1.800-772-1213, or call your local SS

office (find the local office number at www.ssa.gov/locator). Please note that all Social Security offices are temporarily closed to public access due to the pandemic, so calling them is your best current option to get an estimate of your spousal benefit.

One final caution: if you claim SS before your full retirement age and you are working, you'll be subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much you can earn before they take back some of your benefits.

The 2.3 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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COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Black Business Leaders Are Energizing Corporate America on Voting Rights

In the long arc of the nation's history of racially-motivated voter suppression, 2021 will stand as a clear and distinct moment that changed everything that came after.

Whether it will symbolize the demise of such suppression—or its shameful entrenchment—remains to be seen.

Certainly, racially-motivated voter suppression is nothing new. The right of Black men to vote wasn't even constitutionally-protected for the first 94 years of the nation's existence, and the terrorist regime of Jim Crow blocked most Black citizens in the South from voting for the next 95 years.

But the surge of restrictive voting laws that began after the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act with its 2013 decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* became a tsunami in the backlash to the historic Black voter turnout in 2020.

The long-overdue moment for corporate America to take a stand is upon us. And it has been brought about by its most influential Black members.

Led by Kenneth Chenault, the former CEO of American Express; Kenneth Frazier, CEO of Merck & Co.; former Xerox Holdings Corp. CEO Ursula Burns, and William M. Lewis Jr., chairman of investment banking at Lazard, hundreds of corporate executives signed an open letter opposing voting limits that ran as a two-page advertisement in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal and other publications Wednesday.

The powerful—and deeply patriotic—statement reads, very simply:

A government of the people, by the people.

A beautifully American ideal, but a reality denied to many for much of this nation's history.

As Americans, we know that in our democracy, we should not expect to agree on everything. However, regardless of our political affiliations, we believe the very foundation of our electoral process rests upon the ability of each of us to cast our ballots for the candidates of our choice.

For American democracy to work for any of us, we must ensure the right to vote for all of us.

We all should feel a responsibility to defend the right to vote and to oppose any discriminatory legislation or measures that restrict or prevent any eligible voter from having an equal and fair opportunity to cast a ballot.

Voting is the lifeblood of democracy and we call upon all Americans to join us in taking a nonpartisan stand for this most basic and fundamental right of all Americans.

The CEOs and other top executives of 300 companies, along with law firms, nonprofit leaders, academics and celebrities, signed their names to the letter.

"These are not political issues," Kenneth Frazier told the New York Times "These are the issues that we were taught in civics."

The statement does not address specific states' election legislation. Since the election, state legislators in 47 have introduced a shocking 361 voter suppression bills. The total represents an increase of 108, or 43 percent, just in the last month. As appalling as the proposals to restrict voting are, even more alarming are the proposals to that seek to disregard the results of elections entirely. A bill pending in Arizona would al-

low the state legislature to overturn the results of a presidential election, even after the count is formally certified by the governor and secretary of state—and even after Congress counts the state's electors.

Kenneth Chenault, Kenneth Frazier, Ursula Burns and William M. Lewis Jr.—all trailblazers in their industries—are longtime advocates for corporate social responsibility and civic engagement. In a prelude to Wednesday's statement, they organized a full-page advertisement in the New York Times on March 31, headlined "Memo to Corporate America: The Fierce Urgency is Now," that was signed by 72 Black executives.

"We think now that corporate America, Black Americans for sure, but anyone who has values in their corporation that talk about diversity, equity and inclusion, any company that has a values statement about valuing their employees has to stand with our statement," Ursula Burns told CBS News. "Because their employees—Black, White, Hispanic, women—literally are going to be affected by this type of suppression."

Kenneth Chenault told CNN, "What we're calling on corporations to do is not just say they believe strongly in the right to vote. It's to publicly and directly oppose any discriminatory legislation and all measures designed to limit any individual's ability to vote."

In a historic act of solidarity, hundreds of corporations did just that. Whether states will heed their call isn't clear. But it will be remembered as a moment when standing on the sidelines was—at long last—no longer an option.

Researchers Test Ways to Encourage Healthier Lifestyle in African-American Men

By JOY FRANKLIN
For Men's Health Network

African Americans could expect to live 14.6 fewer years than white Americans in 1900 but the gap between the lifespan of African American men and white men was slightly smaller at 14.1 years. By 2015, the gap for both sexes had shrunk to 3.4 years, based on Centers for Disease Control statistics, though the gap between the life expectancies for African American and white men in 2015 was greater at 4.4 years, indicating that progress in closing the gap has been less for African American men than women.

COVID-19, which has disproportionately affected Black and other minority communities, appears to have reversed the slow progress. CDC projections for 2020 show a gap of 6 years for both sexes, with African Americans' life expectancy at 72 years compared to 78 years for white Americans. However, the life expectancy gap between African American and white men is projected to be 7.2 years. While there's been some progress in closing the gap, much more needs to be done to address the systemic causes in society and in the health care system.

Poverty, environmental threats and racism, along with inadequate and unequal access to health care all contribute to health disparities that result in earlier mortality among African Americans. These systemic problems also contribute to individual factors, such as higher rates of obesity and hypertension, that lead to higher rates of heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes. The good news is that these individual factors can be modified by behavioral changes.

In 2014, the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) funded a study designed to determine if a program called Active and Healthy Brotherhood (AHB) would help Black men increase their daily exercise

in an effort to reduce their risk of chronic disease. The research team also looked at how AHB affected other healthy behaviors and signs of health problems, such as high blood pressure and blood sugar.

Poor diet and lack of exercise that result in obesity and/or hypertension contribute to a daunting list of health destroyers that undermine quality of life. In addition to type 2 diabetes, heart disease and stroke, these include gallbladder disease, many types of cancer, osteoarthritis, sleep apnea and mental disorders such as depression and anxiety. Obesity also puts people at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, according to the CDC. In fact, those who are obese, compared to those with a healthy weight, are at increased risk of dying from all causes of mortality.

For the PCORI-funded study, conducted by Winston-Salem, N.C.-based Gramercy Research Group, researchers had hoped to recruit 400 African American men, but were only able to enroll 333 from four North Carolina counties. Those recruited, who had an average age of 51, didn't exercise often or eat enough fruits and vegetables, or they had diabetes, high blood pressure, or heart disease. They were divided into two groups.

The AHB group received a basic education session followed by 16 weekly sessions which focused on being active, eating healthy, and managing stress. The sessions included small-group activities that allowed the men to discuss health goals and support each other. After AHB ended, the men received three phone calls to talk about goals and ways to achieve them. A second group received the basic education session and information about improving healthy behaviors, but did not participate in follow-up sessions.

Study participants wore fitness trackers which measured daily exercise and completed surveys about healthy behaviors at

the start of the study and at follow-up visits 6 and 12 months later.

Researchers found improved nutrition-related behaviors in the AHB group compared to the control group, but no improvements in daily physical activity. While the study's findings were limited both because of under-recruitment and because only 218 of the 333 completed the final survey, there is an obvious need to continue this type of research.

Men's Health Network reported that a recent survey found that men want to take control of their health. In the survey, 85 percent said they wanted to take charge of their fitness and 84 said they wanted to take charge of their diet and nutrition. The results were not broken out by race. But the survey indicates that this is an area where men want to be empowered.

One conclusion of the study was that because African American men have historically been a relatively understudied group, little is known about effective strategies for engaging them in research and improving health-related behaviors. This study contributes to that knowledge.

Hopefully, it will provide useful insight to support further research into ways to empower African Americans to lead healthier lives and continue to reduce the life expectancy gap.

Men's Health Network (MHN) is an international non-profit organization whose mission is to reach men, boys, and their families where they live, work, play, and pray with health awareness messages and tools, screening programs, educational materials, advocacy opportunities, and patient navigation. Learn more about MHN at www.menshealthnetwork.org and follow them on Twitter @MensHlthNetwork and Facebook at www.facebook.com/menshealthnetwork. Consider donating to MHN at www.menshealthnetwork.org/donate.

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Thank You, Sister Simone Campbell!

In March Sister Simone Campbell stepped down as Executive Director of NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, the organization she led for 16 years that educates, organizes, and lobbies for economic and social transformation. Many people got to know her work during the debate over the Affordable Care Act when she drafted the "nuns' letter" to Congress supporting the bill that was signed by 59 leaders of Catholic Sisters. The support played a key role in getting the Affordable Care Act passed, and President Obama invited her to the signing ceremony. She then became widely known as "A Nun on the Bus," organizing campaigns around the country speaking out on social justice, and her creative, strategic, joyful leadership is a source of inspiration.

Sister Simone grew up in California and received degrees from Mount St. Mary's College and the University of California-Davis School of Law. In 1978 she founded the Community Law Center in Oakland and served for almost 20 years as its lead attorney, a cornerstone in her lifelong commitment to service and work that puts flesh on faith. Before coming to NETWORK she also served as the Ex-

ecutive Director of JERICHO, a California interfaith public policy organization that protects the interests of people living in poverty, and as the general director of her religious community, the Sisters of Social Service. NETWORK says its "Spirit-filled network of justice-seekers shapes federal policies to be consistent with the values they hold: a just society includes all and values people over the accumulation of profits," "a just society ensures that all people the 100% have what they need to live dignified lives," and "a just society recognizes that we live in an interconnected world." These values were all on full display in Sister Simone's leadership.

The famous "nuns' letter" said in part: "As the heads of major Catholic women's religious order in the United States, we represent 59,000 Catholic Sisters in the United States who respond to needs of people in many ways. Among our other ministries we are responsible for running many of our nation's hospital systems as well as free clinics throughout the country. We have witnessed firsthand the impact of our national health care crisis, particularly its impact on women, children and people who are poor. We see the toll on families who have delayed seeking

care due to a lack of health insurance coverage or lack of funds with which to pay high deductibles and co-pays. We have counseled and prayed with men, women and children who have been denied health care coverage by insurance companies. We have witnessed early and avoidable deaths because of delayed medical treatment . . . For us, this health care reform is a faith mandate for life and dignity of all of our people." Two years later she organized the first "Nuns on the Bus" tour, traveling across nine states to oppose the 2012 "Ryan Budget" slashing social programs. Since then she has led six more trips, stopping everywhere from small towns to the 2016 Republican and Democratic National Conventions to former President Trump's Mar-A-Lago estate and speaking out on economic justice, tax reform, comprehensive immigration reform, voter turnout, and mending the gaps in wealth and access in our nation.

Through it all she has displayed her fierce, fiery faith for all the world to see. Sister Simone also has been a friend to the Children's Defense Fund and participated in our annual Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry. We join many others who have worked with her over the years in our deep appreciation of her grounded, modest, accessible leadership; her incredibly creative approach to popular education, including an especially memorable "human bar graph" she created on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial to illustrate income inequality; and her sense of humor and quick laughter.

In a recent message announcing her retirement from NETWORK, Sister Simone shared her determination to keep moving forward: "I am also so excited to look ahead to the coming work to be done together. We have the possibility of finally passing legislation to protect our voting rights. We can in fact fix our broken immigration system for the 21st Century. We can fund common good programs by getting the wealthiest and corporations to pay their fair share. We can invest in our economy so that all work pays a living wage and families can flourish. All of this and more are opportunities within reach if we stay faithful. We must build anew." Thank you, Sister Simone Campbell, for all you have faithfully done and will continue to do to build a just nation and world for everyone.

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Facility from A1

Prince George's County. "We are here to serve the residents of Prince George's County, and behavioral health care is one of the major needs," said Deneen Richmond, president of LHDCMC. "In the last year, we have seen an incredible rise in the need for mental health services. I believe we all know that particularly during the pandemic, and even prior to COVID, there are a number of people suffering with mental health conditions and are unable to get the care and treatment they need and deserve."

The two-story 31,200 square foot facility is made possible thanks to a \$20 million grant from Prince George's County. "We understand the strength of this partnership and look forward to growing the program with the County as we continue to meet this community's behavioral health needs," said Richmond. "These programs bring us one step closer to eliminating health disparities in Prince George's County."

The project has two phases. The first phase, which is slated to be completed by Winter 2021, will include first floor ambulatory services:

- Walk-in/urgent care behavioral health services
- Outpatient transitional behavioral health clinic
- Substance use disorder intensive outpatient treatment program
- Mental health partial hospitalization programs for adults and adolescents
- 8-bed residential crisis program

The second phase is a 16-bed adult inpatient psychiatric unit. A Certificate of Need was recently submitted to the Maryland Health Care Commission for approval for the second floor unit.

Designation from A1

forward to implement our strategic Sustainable Communities Action Plan," the Mayor added. "That plan is an important tool in enabling the Town to achieve its long-term goal of making Upper Marlboro a destination location in Prince George's County for tourism, business growth and economic development, and affordable housing."

Penoyer said some of the projects the Town's Sustainable Communities Work Group is addressing includes assessing residents and business owner's needs, organizing a downtown business group, continuing implementation of the Facade Improvement Program, improving Town signage and developing new Town branding, as well as improving sidewalks, pedestrian trails, and roads throughout Town.

The Town first received its DHCD Sustainable Communities designation in 2015. DHCD's Sustainable Communities Program is a "place-based" designation, offering a comprehensive package of resources that support holistic strategies for community development, revitalization and sustainability.

"Sustainable Communities has provided local governments with a framework for promoting environmentally, economically, and socially responsible growth and development in existing older communities," according to the DHCD's website.

Persons interested in learning more about the Town of Upper Marlboro's Sustainable Communities Work Group can go to the Town's website: www.uppermarlboromd.gov.

Maternal from A3

lated to pregnancy and childbirth—something we call severe maternal morbidity," said Dr. Elizabeth A. Howell, head of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at the Perelman School of Medicine.

Severe maternal morbidity affects 50,000 women in the United States, according to Howell. And 60% of maternal deaths are preventable, she added.

Harris said she had heard many stories over the years of poor treatment of Black women by the health care system.

"Black women deserve to be heard," the vice president said. "Their voices deserve to be respected. And like all people, they must be treated with dignity."

STATIONARY ENGINEER APPRENTICESHIP

Applications for the IUOE Local 99 Apprenticeship Program will be accepted during the period of May 3-7, 2021 inclusive. Applications must be completed in person by the applicant at Engineer Center, 9315 Largo Drive West, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **All Social distancing precautions will be observed. Applicants MUST wear a mask at all times, submit to a temperature check upon entry, follow all directional signage and staff direction while moving in the facility.** \$35 application fee includes drug screen.

For additional information go to www.iuoeocal99.org.

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