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PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY PSI EPSILON OMEGA CHAPTER

Front: Benita A. Swindell, Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter of AKA and Pearl Elegance Foundation joins Oaklands Elementary School Principal Jewel Preston and chapter members as they unpack more than 25,000 PPE items donated by the sorority.

Prince George's County Sorority Chapter Donates Thousands of Personal Protective Equipment Items to Laurel Elementary School

By RACINE TUCKER-HAMILTON
Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter (PEO)

LAUREL, Md. (April 29, 2021)—Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter (PEO), Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority, Incorporated® donated more than 25,000 items of personal protective equipment during an event held on April 25, 2021. The chapter provided masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer, among other items, to Oaklands Elementary School in Laurel, Md.

"This donation means everything to us because we haven't had to spend our school funds on things like wipes, gloves, or masks that are a necessity for students who are returning back to the building and staff as well," said Jewel Preston, Oaklands Elementary School Principal.

Oaklands Elementary has a total student population of 375, about 125 of whom returned to the classroom earlier this month on April 8. PEO and the Pearl Elegance Foundation, Inc. have partnered in providing essentials to the Oaklands school community since 2019.

"The fact that Psi Epsilon Omega and Pearl Elegance Foundation partners with Oaklands Elementary School mean a lot to us because they've provided not only financial support, but they've helped to stock our 'Comfort Closet' with clothes, personal items for parents and students," Preston added. "I don't know what we would do without PEO."

"We are thrilled to support our adopt-a-school Oaklands Elementary with nec-

essary PPE supplies like masks, hand sanitizers, gloves, and cleaning products," said Benita A. Swindell, Psi Epsilon Omega President. "PEO recognizes the importance of keeping students, teachers, faculty, and staff safe as they return back to the classroom."

Donations continue to be tabulated and will be collected until the end of the school year.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated®, Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter was chartered in 2007. Since its founding, the chapter has been aggressively implementing its programs of service in the communities of Laurel, Bowie, and Greenbelt, Maryland.

PGCPS Leads State in Green School Certifications

By OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
Prince George's County Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (April 26, 2021)—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) continues to lead the state with the highest number of Maryland Green Schools certifications. This year, three schools earned new certification and 23 schools were recertified, raising the total number of Green Schools to 141—nearly 70 percent of all schools systemwide and more than 20 percent of the 672 active Maryland Green Schools.

"Green School programs empower our students to be hands-on in understanding their local environment and to become responsible stewards of our Earth's resources," said Dr. Monica Goldson, Chief Executive Officer. "We are proud to lead the state in Green School certifications and offer exposure for more students."

This year, Margaret Brent Regional School, Potomac High School and William Paca Elementary School earned first-time certification, while Laurel Elementary School achieved "sustainable" status for having three consecutive recertifications. To maintain Green School status, schools must recertify every four years.

Schools earning 2021 recertification include:

High schools: Dr. Henry A.

Wise, Jr., Fairmont Heights, Gwynn Park, Largo, Laurel,

K-8/Middle schools: Accokeek Academy, Judith P. Hoyer Montessori, Oxon Hill

Elementary schools: Allenwood, Catherine T. Reed, Dodge Park, Edward M. Felegy, Flintstone, Green Valley Academy, Hyattsville, James H. Harrison, Marlton, Maya Angelou French Immersion, Montpelier, Princeton, Deerfield Run, Lewsidale

The Maryland Green Schools program, sponsored by The Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE), is one of the most rigorous and comprehensive Green School certification programs in the nation. It encourages educational opportunities, increases environmental awareness and promotes environmental stewardship practices for students at all grade levels. Through a non-competitive application process, schools must demonstrate their green activities and culture in eight criteria areas.

MAEOE and the Maryland Green School community will celebrate virtually in May and June to recognize awardees.

For more information about the Green Schools Program, visit the MAEOE website.

Maryland Department of Health Secretary Dennis R. Schrader Visits Vaccination Sites Serving Hispanics and Seniors in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties and Baltimore City

By PRESS OFFICERS
Maryland Department of Health

BALTIMORE (April 28, 2021)—On Tues., [April 27] Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Secretary Dennis R. Schrader visited a pop-up vaccination clinic for the Hispanic communities at Casa de Maryland in Adelphi, Maryland, a clinic vaccinating seniors and staff at the Layhill Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, and a ceremony recognizing healthcare workers on the one-year anniversary of the opening of the Baltimore Convention Center Field Hospital.

"Our No Arm Left Behind initiative entails working closely with trusted community partners like Casa de Maryland, Layhill

Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, and the Baltimore Convention Center Field Hospital to ensure that every Marylander who wants a vaccine can get access to one as quickly as possible," said Secretary Dennis R. Schrader. "We are applying lessons learned, best practices, and other strategies to reach out to Marylanders facing challenges to getting vaccinated. The Baltimore Convention Center Field Hospital remains a tremendous asset in our fight against COVID-19 and recognizing leadership and staff for all the hard work that happens there every day was an honor."

The Maryland Department of Health is dedicated to protecting and improving the health and safety of all Marylanders through

disease prevention, access to care, quality management and community engagement.

Follow us on Twitter @MDHealthDept and at Facebook.com/MDHealthDept.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

(At right, from L - R) George Escobar, Chief of Programs and Services, Casa de Maryland, Maryland State Senator Malcolm L. Augustine, Secretary Schrader, and Dr. Michelle LaRue, Director of Health and Human Services, Casa de Maryland at vaccination clinic that administered 150 vaccinations to Hispanic community members, Adelphi, Maryland.



Governor Hogan Proclaims May and June 2021 Maryland Magicicada Months

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (April 30, 2021)—Governor Larry Hogan today issued a proclamation declaring May and June 2021 as Maryland Magicicada Months to recognize the return of the 17-year periodical cicada and to generate public awareness about these fascinating insects. Brood X periodical cicadas are only found in the eastern United States and emerge once every 17 years. In Maryland, they will begin to emerge in early May and will die off by the end of June.

"I encourage all Marylanders to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about these re-

markable, harmless creatures," said Governor Hogan. "For a few short weeks this spring, many across the state will have a front-row seat to witness a natural phenomenon that happens nowhere else on the planet."

The Brood X cicada emergence is the largest of all broods, with possibly many billions emerging at the same time. Numbers will vary from place to place. Based on the 2004 Brood X emergence in Maryland, cicadas will likely appear in the following counties: Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil, Frederick, eastern Garrett, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, and Washington. If you live in one

of these areas and are surrounded by older trees, chances are their populations will be higher.

Brood X periodical cicadas made their last debut in spring 2004. Since then, cicada nymphs have been living underground, a couple of feet below the surface, feeding on sap from tree roots for the past 17 years. Now in spring 2021, Brood X adults are preparing to emerge when soil temperatures reach approximately 64 degrees Fahrenheit.

Once above ground, these insects live for just a few weeks. During this short adult lifespan, they shed their nymphal exoskeletons, grow wings, fly, sing, mate, lay eggs in trees, and then die. In late July to early August,

their eggs hatch. The tiny white nymphs will fall from trees and immediately begin to burrow underground where they will live until 2038.

Cicadas do not chew, bite, or sting, so they are not a threat to humans, pets, animals, or most plants. If your pet or animal consumes a few cicadas, they should be fine, though over-indulging may upset their stomach.

For those living in areas with Brood X populations, here is what to expect during their life cycle:

They will appear over a few weeks. Brood X cicadas synchronously emerge in large numbers as part of a predator satiation strategy. By coordinating

their emergence, the sheer number of cicadas will allow for many to be eaten by predators while some of the population survives to procreate. Cicada predators include some birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, and other insects.

They will be loud. Once they are fully grown, male cicadas "sing" their mating call to attract females, making a loud chorus that can reach a volume as high as 105 decibels. This is comparable to a lawn mower, leaf blower, or chainsaw. These sounds will usually last from late May to late June and will be loudest in the afternoon.

They are lousy flyers. Brood X cicadas are lousy flyers so

they will likely run into windows, cars, buildings, and people. If one lands on you, simply brush it off.

There will be a ton of cicada carcasses. Once the Brood X cicadas die in later June, there will be billions of carcasses decomposing on the ground and they may give off an unpleasant odor.

To prepare, find out if your area is expected to see Brood X cicadas. Do not use pesticides or insecticides to try to kill them—doing so will not be helpful in controlling populations and only poses a threat of harming other helpful, beneficial insects. The best way to dispose of them is by adding their carcasses to a compost pile. For more information and additional resources, visit the Maryland Department of Agriculture's cicada webpage.

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39 BIPOC-Owned Small Businesses in Prince George's County to Receive a Technology Makeover or Marketing Services From Comcast RISE

Comcast RISE was formed in late 2020 to give BIPOC-owned small businesses, from bakeries and barber shops to childcare centers and cleaning services, the tools needed to not just survive, but thrive.

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To Be Equal:

At Biden-Harris 100-Day Mark, America Is on the Move Again But the Road Ahead Is Long

The 100-day mark is something of an arbitrary and artificial deadline, but it has become part of our national political tradition since the administration of Franklin Roosevelt. It is an opportunity for the nation to engage in a substantive discussion about the direction of the presidency and the nation.

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

Morningside Chief retiring after 41 years in law enforcement

Chief Amos Damron is stepping down after 12 years heading the Morningside Police Department. Currently he heads the department with eight police officers, a code enforcement officer, a police clerk and (according to the 2019 Census) 1,246 Morningsiders.

I went by the Town Hall to talk to him about his career and what he plans for his retirement years.

He has had 41 years in law enforcement, mostly as chief. Included are police departments in Haymarket, Va.; Capon Bridge, W. Va.; and Edmonson, Md. He was also a U.S. Marshal in D.C. and with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

He has been an inspiration for his children: Nicholas Damron is a cop with the Metropolitan Police Department, Christopher Damron is a certified instructor with the NRA, and daughter Heather Harmer is a social worker in Winchester, Va.

I asked the Chief what he would be doing in retirement. He told me he's moving to Front Royal, Va., to be near family and to enjoy the Shenandoah Valley.

But, he admits, he'll miss Morningside.

Neighbors & other good people

Anthony Puzzilla is writing a book to commemorate the devastating La Plata tornado on April 28, 2002, which cut a half-mile-wide swath through the city and killed five people. He refers to his book as a "combination of history and stories of hope and resilience." If you have a story to tell about that tornado, send it to him at 9160 Preference Drive, La Plata, MD 20646.

Carolyn Broomfield is seeking information about Pamela McKenzie who lived in Morningside in the late 1950s. She would have been a child at the time. Carolyn doesn't know when the family moved. If you have information, email me and I'll forward to her.

Longtime Morningsider Ruth Sanford now lives at Charlotte's Home in Boonsboro and still reads this column. Two of her great-great-grandchildren had birthdays last month: Weston Shives turned 3 on April 24 and his sister Stella turned 5 on April 29. They have two siblings, Sofia, 7, and Wren, 6 months old.

Former principal Sister Kateri, and Sister Shaun Kathleen have been participating in Zoom planning meetings and will attend La Reine High School's Last Chance Dance on June 12, along with other faculty. The school building will be demolished several weeks later.

Remembering the day a plane crashed in Morningside

Seventy years ago this spring, on April 8, 1951, a B-25 took off from Andrews and developed landing problems. After four hours trying to remedy the problem, and on instructions from Andrews, the pilot aimed the plane at the Chesapeake Bay and parachuted to safety. Instead the plane flew low over the I.C.E. Club (now VFW), crossed Suitland Road, and plowed into the home of Samuel and Dorothea Snyder at 302 Lombardy (now, Poplar) Road.

The Snyders' two daughters, 6-year-old Kay and 8-week-old Rene, died in the fire, along with their uncle, Irvin Guyer, visiting from Cranford, N.J. to see the cherry blossoms and meet his new niece.

Morningsiders held angry meetings. The house was rebuilt. The Snyders moved away. They never had more children. On April 13, 1951, a County grand jury indicted the pilot for manslaughter. I've never heard the outcome.

Changing landscape

The Census figures are out. The Post reports that, since 2010, Washington's population has grown 14.6%, from about 602,000 to 689,545. This makes D.C. larger—in population—than two States, Vermont and Wyoming.

The Air & Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Va., reopened May 5, celebrating the 60th anniversary of Alan Shepard's becoming the First American in Space.

The National Museum of African American History, the National Portrait Gallery and the Smithsonian American Art Museum will open May 14, followed a week later by the National Museum of American History, the National Museum of the American Indian, and the National Zoo.

In other words, the Washington's museums are slowly getting back to normal.

The new Frederick Douglass Bridge has become more interesting now that the three tall arches are up. Care has been taken to integrate both ends of the new bridge into landscaped traffic ovals, which will eventually become sites for memorials. The bridge—which will replace the 1950 span—is due to open later this year.

They're coming! They're coming! As soon as soil temperatures reach about 64 degrees.

Mary's COVID report: 21 Marylanders died on April 28

Maryland had 1,002 new cases on April 28 for a total of 445,493. As for Maryland

deaths: there have been 8,709, with 21 the last day.

Chincoteague Island's annual Wild Pony Swim has been cancelled because of the virus.

From "John Kelly's Washington": Amy Isaacs of Chevy Chase reported that, after son Stanley got his first dose of the vaccine, he said he was "halfcinated."

Requiescat in pace

- Diane (Scott) Hatley, 73, of Harwood, Md., formerly of District Heights and a 1965 graduate of La Reine HS, died April 15. After La Reine, she attended Washington School for Secretaries and worked at NASA. In 1968 she wed Bruce Hatley and they settled in District Heights. Later, at Holy Family Church in Davidsonville, she was a Eucharistic minister and involved in leading Scripture study. She was a talented painter. Survivors include her husband, five children, six grandchildren and four siblings.

- William Ellis Hutt, 87, formerly of Oxon Hill, longtime coach for the Silver Hill Boys Club, died April 13. A native Washingtonian, Bill attended Eastern HS, served in the Air Force, and worked at PEPCO for 38 years. He was active with the Lions Club. He moved to Lake of the Woods, played golf and pool with the Fun Bunch. Survivors include Gloria, his wife of 67 years, three children, eight grandchildren, and 12½ great-grands. Burial will be at Quantico.

- Margie Green, 82, of Clinton, an administrative assistant at Howard University Hospital for more than 30 years, died March 24. Her husband of 41 years, Sylvester, died in 2000. Survivors include three sons, and grandchildren. Margie was an usher at Mt. Ennon Baptist Church, in Clinton.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Brandi Jeter and Buddy Ramsey, May 9; Gladys Locks, Shirley Eppard and Elijah Thomas, May 10; Carolyn Flaherty Fogle, May 11; Kyle Dameron, May 12; Henrietta Bookhart, Ted Harris and Micheal White, May 13; John Smith, May 14; my granddaughter Naomi Gallegos and Helen Fadness, May 15; Fr. Charles McCann, Kenneth Darcey, Tim Cordero and Kitty Marshall, May 16. Happy anniversary to Donna & Wayne Anderson on May 14.

Happy Mother's Day to our moms and our grandmothers!

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

VIRTUAL SCHOLARSHIP DONOR APPRECIATION

Bowie State University held their Virtual Scholarship Donor Appreciation April 8, 2021. The University recognized Scholarship Recipients and the Supporters who made #BowieBOLD Dreams Possible.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

We are excited to announce voting rights torchbearer Stacey Abrams as the Keynote speaker for #Bowie State's Spring 21 Commencement. Join us in honoring our graduates on May 21 and witness a part of BSU history virtually. Visit bowiestate.edu/commencement.

A voting rights champion, political leader and best-selling author, Stacey Abrams is an outspoken advocate in the fight to expand voting access and is the New York Times-best-selling author of "Our Time Is Now" and "Lead from the Outside."

She is widely credited with increasing voter turnout in Georgia in the 2020 presidential election, as well as in the state's 2020-21 U.S. Senate election and special election. She was nominated for a 2021 Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts. She made history in 2019 as the first African American woman to deliver a response to the State of the Union address.

She was the nation's first African American female major-party gubernatorial nominee when she ran as the Democratic candidate in the 2018 Georgia governor's race, winning more votes, at the time, than any Democrat in state history. Before her gubernatorial run, she served as Democratic Leader of the Georgia House of Representatives for seven years.

Abrams has launched several organizations to address inequities in government. She started Fair Fight Action to ensure every American has a voice in our election system, Fair Count to ensure accuracy in the 2020 Census and the Southern Economic Advancement Project, a public policy initiative to broaden economic power and build equity in the South.

Abrams holds a Juris Doctor degree from Yale Law School, a Master of Public Affairs degree from University of Texas at Austin and a bachelor's degree from Spellman College. Contact: Webmaster@bowiestate.edu.

CONGRATULATIONS DR. AMINTA BREAU

Congratulations to Bowie State University President Aminta H. Breaux on earning a 2021 Catalyst Award for being an inspi-

rational and dynamic woman from Prince George's County JJOA Moms and Senior Teens! We appreciate your Bowie BOLD commitment and enthusiasm in encouraging others to aspire excellent.

POET JOAN HAYES

My close friend sent me one of her old poems that she wrote for children and gave me permission to submit it in my Newspaper Article. The title of the poem is titled: Animal Barn Yard Harvest-Guests of Honor-Rooster, Cow, Pig and Horse by Joan Evelyn Hayes dedicated to my Grandson Leo McKinley Hayes.

All the farm animals had turned out for the main event. The fruits of all the harvest had been plowed and laid. The rooster started the occasion. He was always the first to lead the precession and crowd. For he knew that the other animals were shy would follow and line up in a row.

The cow was the first to speak. "I have given the farmer dairy products and milk to ensure. He would get a good start each day. I contributed to making him healthy and his bones strong."

The pig gave the speech right after the cow. "I am the terminator of garbage. I eat all the slop that humans can not touch. I am the best recycle container from dawn to dusk. Although you view me as a lazy pig. I hope that after today you will look at me differently. That even a small accomplishment can help the farmer big."

The sheep who was quiet began to baa and whisper. "In the winter he uses my fur for blankets and clothes to get warm. You might say that I am a seasonal commodity in waiting. That my usefulness serves as an outside protective shield to his world. Keeping warm is just important as breakfast, lunch and dinner."

The last to speak was the horse. "Finally, I can rest. I have pulled him around as he plowed the field. I am his steady supporter. Most of the time I do not feel the weight because I know that we are a team and the bond that we share is unspoken for I am helping him to continue the dream. So, all the animals celebrated the end of the harvest at the closed ball. Everyone had a good time and the party lasted until nightfall."

MAKE YOUR SUMMER COUNT

Wherever you are, wherever you want to go, make your summer count with summer sessions at CSM (College of Southern Maryland). Get started today at www.csmd.edu/Summer.

Around the County

Local Student Expected to Graduate From Pitt-Bradford

BRADFORD, Pa. (April 28, 2021)—The University of Pittsburgh at Bradford will graduate 263 students at its Commencement exercises at noon on Sunday, May 2.

This year's Commencement will feature a live, in-person drive-through ceremony in order to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.

It will be available for livestream viewing at www.upb.pitt.edu/commencement, on the university's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/PittBradford, and YouTube channel, uPittBradford.

Local student expected to graduate is:

Upper Marlboro, Md.: **Shaelyn Snipes**, Bachelor of Science, biology

The University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, founded in 1963, is a safe, friendly institution for students who want to earn a world-renowned degree in a personalized environment. For more information, visit www.upb.pitt.edu.

—*Kimberly Marcott Weinberg, University of Pittsburgh at Bradford*

Marietta House Virtual Presentation: "Hollywood Cinema Representations of Slave Cabins"

Thursday, May 13, 2021, 6:30–7:30 p.m., Slave Cabins through a Hollywood lens

Please join Dr. Julie Rose, Historic Museum Manager, for an illustrated presentation on the depiction of slave dwellings in Hollywood films from the 20th and 21st centuries. She will discuss how movies can influence audience's perceptions of American slavery.

Since Hollywood's earliest films, rare cinematic depictions of slave dwellings have provided an image of slave quarters for many Americans. Dr. Rose will examine images of slave dwellings from popular culture in film. From Edwin Porter's 1903 silent film portrayal of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" through director Steve McQueen's 2013 academy award winning film "12 Years a Slave" and the more recent film "Harriet Tubman" (2019).

Dr. Rose will be joined by Stephanie Sperling, senior archaeologist with M-NCPPC, and who will share some of her findings at Mt. Calvert. Together they will examine the archaeological evidence and depictions of slave quarters to consider how recollections of slave life are reflected today.

\$5/person, ages 13 and older. Please register on Parks Direct using this direct link: <https://tinyurl.com/j3dn5srk>

Questions about registration? Please email stacey.hawkins@parks.com or call 301-262-0532.

Marietta House Museum is a property of Maryland National-Capital Park and Planning Commission and is located at 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD 20769.

—*Stacey Hawkins, Marietta House Museum*

Locations Announced for Summer Programs for Grieving Children and Teens

PASADENA, Md. (April 28, 2021)—Chesapeake Life Center has announced the remaining two locations for its summer grief programs for children ages 6 to 11.

Summer Grief Art Workshop is a creative program designed to help younger children use art to gain support, express their feelings, and make their grief visible through arts and crafts. It will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 26 at Artsy Partsy, Suite 302 in the Patriot Plaza at 8055 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, Maryland.

Rhythm and Grieve will be held from 10 to 4 p.m. July 17 at Watkins Park, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

Like other forms of art, music allows children to express their grief constructively in non-verbal ways. In this workshop kids will make their own instruments to honor their loved ones, creatively express their emotions, and connect with others in the process. Get ready for grief out loud!

The organization had previously announced that Adventures in Grief will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 15 at Terrapin Adventures at Historic Savage Mill at 8600 Foundry St., in Savage, Maryland. Grief for kids can be a wild journey, sometimes feeling like a safari or climbing up a mountain. Come and explore this grief adventure, how it looks and feels different for everyone, in a very physical way. Space may still be available for this event.

Just pick the one that suits your child's needs best. As these will be held in person, space is limited which means a child can only attend one of the programs. The Chesapeake Life Center team is confident it can offer a safe experience for all participants, and will take all the necessary precautions, following guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control.

The cost for each program is \$40, and includes snacks, meals, activities and a T-Shirt. Scholarships are available; inquire upon registering. Call 888-501-7077 or email griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org. Also, visit www.chesapeakelifecenter.org for ongoing children's programs.

Chesapeake Life Center, a program service of Hospice of the Chesapeake, serves hospice family members and the community with bereavement services and activities aimed at enhancing the quality of life for those grieving the loss of a loved one. For details, visit www.chesapeakelifecenter.org.

—*Elyzabeth Marcussen, Hospice of the Chesapeake*

NARFE Virtual Fair Announcement

Chapter 1747, the Bowie Crofton chapter of NARFE (National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association) is planning to hold a virtual NARFE Fair on Saturday, June 5 from 10 a.m. to noon. The purpose of the Fair is to recruit active Federal employees and retirees for NARFE and Chapter 1747. Congressman Anthony Brown will speak at the Fair on contributions of Federal employees to the nation and Maryland. Other speakers will talk on how NARFE protects your rights and benefits in Congress and how you can get answers to your Federal benefit questions through NARFE. We hope that you can join us at the Fair to learn more about NARFE. Please register for the Fair by sending an E-mail to fllee0716@verizon.net with your name and phone number or by calling 410-672-5065. We hope to see you at the Fair.

—*Frank Lee, NARFE*

COMMUNITY

39 BIPOC-Owned Small Businesses in Prince George's County to Receive A Technology Makeover or Marketing Services From Comcast RISE

Comcast RISE to support 13,000 Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC)-owned small businesses—including Hispanic- and Asian American-owned businesses among others—by 2022.

New partnership with Ureeka, an online platform for entrepreneurs, will provide business coaching and an online networking community with access to curated content and additional educational resources.

By SANDY ARNETTE
Comcast

BOWIE, Md. (April 27, 2021)—Comcast today announced it will award technology and marketing resources to 39 Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC)-owned small businesses—including Hispanic- and Asian American-owned businesses among others—in Prince George's County, Md. These recipients are part of nearly 2,500 entrepreneurs nationwide who have been selected as Comcast RISE awardees since November.

Through Comcast RISE, the company also announced it will support 13,000 BIPOC-owned small businesses by 2022 with a TV campaign, production of a TV commercial or consulting services from Effectv or computer equipment, internet, voice or cybersecurity from Comcast Business.

Current Comcast RISE recipients in Prince George's County include:

- Beltsville: Dicky Smalls Auto
- Bowie: Barkley Williams Consulting, LLC; Code Super Powers; Defined by Design Events; Go Green Properties LLC; Jackson Entertainment Management Services; Overdue Recognition Art Gallery; TLC Pediatrics; Tree of Life Early

- Learning Center
- Camp Springs: Miki Clayton Talent
- Capital Heights: JMILCO, LLC
- Clinton: Concentric Educational Solutions, Inc.; Growing to Lead, LLC; Inari Beauty Studio
- College Park: Champion Home Improvements, LLC
- Forestville—MTM Enterprises
- Fort Washington: 360 Media Management Group, LLC; Eight Royale LLC
- Glenn Dale: The Poet Life
- Greenbelt: Capital City Limousine; PJ Industries
- Hyattsville: Edwards Security Consultants LLC; JuneGem Technologies, Inc.
- Lanham: The One World Center for Autism, Inc.
- Largo: CN Accounting & Management Consulting; Mending Minds Wellness Center
- Laurel: Aramide Inc.; Naturally London
- Mount Rainier: Mindful Techie LLC; MindBloom Preschool
- Oxon Hill: Maria Amadeus LLC
- Suitland: Bres Beauty Bar
- Temple Hills: Autumn's Eye Photography, LLC; Paula Brown Performing Arts Center
- Upper Marlboro: Aligned Benefits Group, Inc.; Corporate

Wheels; Gina S Duncan Insurance Agency; J.D. Clark Professional Services, LLC; Jivana-LIFE-Yoga & Wellness dba Spiritual Essence Yoga

Berdia Monk, Owner of Autumn's Eye Photography, LLC in Temple Hills, said, "This time has been extremely challenging as I've had to deal with cancellations, loss of studio space, becoming a home-based business, finding more clients, being able to afford day-to-day needs and maintenance of equipment and social media marketing. Clients have been uncomfortable having their photographs taken in my home studio and other locations deemed 'open' and safe. Comcast RISE will help me increase awareness in my community that there are young talented female photographers willing and able to adapt in this creative world and in the corporate environment."

In addition, Comcast RISE invests in ongoing mentorship and resources to help businesses succeed over the long term. The program has partnered with Ureeka, an online platform for entrepreneurs, to provide grant recipients with business coaching to help build skills focusing on company foundation, growing customers and financial stability. All Comcast RISE recipients also will have

a specialized online networking community within Ureeka with access to educational resources, sources of capital, and vetted experts such as U.S. Black Chambers, National Asian Pacific Islander Chamber of Commerce & Entrepreneurship, U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Association for Enterprise Opportunity, Walker's Legacy and Operation Hope.

"Comcast RISE represents a holistic program that can help advance BIPOC entrepreneurs. The commitment to coaching, capital and connections is critical for historically overlooked communities in achieving economic prosperity," said Melissa Bradley, Co-founder of Ureeka. "We are humbled and excited to partner on this program."

Comcast RISE was formed in late 2020 to give BIPOC-owned small businesses, from bakeries and barber shops to childcare centers and cleaning services, the tools needed to not just survive, but thrive. The 2,500 recipients are from 422 cities across 34 states.

"As we've gone through the selection process, it's been so powerful to hear these business owners' stories and see the tangible ways that Comcast RISE is helping to grow their businesses

and impact their communities," said Dan Carr, Vice President, Comcast Business. "We now have seen firsthand how the program's marketing and technology resources are benefiting these business owners who are working hard to rise above 2020. I could not be more pleased to have opened this program to the entire BIPOC community and look forward to the continued positive momentum."

Comcast RISE, which stands for "Representation, Investment, Strength and Empowerment," is part of an expanded Diversity, Equity and Inclusion commitment that Comcast announced last summer, as well as a coordinated cross-company effort to address digital inequities through sustainable programming and investments such as Internet Essentials and Lift Zones. Eligible businesses can apply for the following:

- Marketing Services: The following services from Effectv, the advertising sales division of Comcast Cable, and its creative agency, Mnemonic, are designed to help recipients with their marketing and media campaigns, including:
 - Media: A linear TV media campaign to run over a 90-day period.

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A key part of Comcast RISE is ensuring business sustainability. As such, Comcast already has invested more than \$2 million in more than 20 community-based organizations and diverse chambers of commerce to provide additional support to BIPOC-owned small businesses.

All small business owners can visit the Comcast RISE destination on Xfinity X1, which features aggregated small business news,

See MAKEOVER Page A5



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COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

At Biden-Harris 100-Day Mark, America Is on the Move Again But the Road Ahead Is Long

"My fellow Americans, look, we have to come together to heal the soul of this nation ... We have the giant opportunity to bend the arc of the moral universe toward justice, real justice ... We have a real chance to root out systematic racism that plagues America and American lives in other ways. A chance to deliver real equity: good jobs, good schools, affordable housing, clean air, clean water, the ability to generate wealth and pass it down to generations because you have an access to purchase a house. Real opportunities in the lives of more Americans—Black, white, Latino, Asian-Americans, Native Americans."

—President Joe Biden, address to a joint session of Congress, April 28, 2021

One hundred days into their administration, President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris have made surprisingly bold inroads in confronting racial injustice and the COVID-19 pandemic, but significant challenges remain.

President Biden and Vice President Harris entered the White House at a moment of unprecedented multiple crises, and they have risen to confront those

crises with remarkable speed and effectiveness. With the help of Senator Schumer and Speaker Pelosi, they have illuminated the systemic racial inequality that hinders our nation's progress and set a course for healing.

Whether the nation can stay that course remains to be seen.

President Biden has been purposeful and intentional about including racial justice components in every policy he has undertaken in the first 100 days. He has used his moral voice to create a distinction between the poisonous philosophy of white supremacy and the idea of an America for everyone, an America of opportunity and pathways to progress for all people.

Importantly, he has changed the tone of governing, adopting a tone of inclusiveness that stands in stark contrast to the reality-show, finger-pointing, disparaging tone of the recent past.

The 100-day mark is something of an arbitrary and artificial deadline, but it has become part of our national political tradition since the administration of Franklin Roosevelt. It is an opportunity for the nation to engage in a substantive discussion about

the direction of the presidency and the nation.

In a letter sent shortly after the election, I charged President Biden and Vice President Harris to produce an immediate and extensive COVID relief package. They responded with the American Rescue Plan, one of the largest anti-poverty measures in a generation. It has helped slash daily coronavirus infections by more than 70 percent while quadrupling the daily number of vaccinations.

President Biden has made it possible for Americans whose lives were upended by the pandemic at last to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

The letter established a set of fundamental principles on racial justice and equity to guide Biden and Harris in the first 100 days and beyond.

I asked them to assemble an administration that reflects the diversity of America. They nominated and fought for confirmation of the most racially-diverse Cabinet in U.S. history.

I asked that they commit to fundamentally transforming the criminal justice system. They have restored the meaningful use of federal pattern or practice investigations, lifted restrictions on the use of consent decrees to hold police departments accountable for abuse, and ended federal contracts with private prisons.

I asked them to protect and defend voting rights. They have put the entire federal government to work in promoting and expanding access to voter registration and participation.

I asked them to work toward economic parity for African Americans. The day they were sworn into office, the very first executive order President Biden signed declared "... it is the policy of my Administration that the federal government should pursue a comprehensive approach to advancing equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality."

I asked them to advance equity in educational opportunities for all American children. The admin-

istration's unprecedented investment in Title I schools and higher education will help students recover from the learning loss experienced during the pandemic. Investment in free broadband and devices is expanding students' access to digital learning in their homes.

I asked them to promote a healthier nation by prioritizing access to health care, including testing, treatments, and cures for COVID-19 in communities of color. More than 200 million Americans have been vaccinated, more than double the initial goal, including underserved communities. Tens of thousands more Americans have health insurance through the Affordable Care Act, and their premiums are lower.

As productive as the first 100 days have been, a tremendous amount of work remains to be done. President Biden and Vice President Harris must make good on their promise to invest in America, to build a middle-class, and to restore faith in our democracy. The American people need tangible results."

Among the most pressing items remaining on the administration's to-do list are:

- Passage of robust infrastructure proposals, the American Jobs Plan and the American Families Plan, which includes long overdue investments in physical and human infrastructure, creating family-sustaining, middle-class jobs and securing the nation's recovery from the pandemic.
- Police reform, beginning with enactment of a meaningful George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.
- Protection of voting rights, beginning with enactment of the For the People Act and restoration of the full Voting Rights Act.
- Closing the gender pay gap beginning with enactment of the Paycheck Fairness Act.
- A \$15 per hour minimum wage for all workers and elimination of the discriminatory tipped minimum wage.

The National Urban League's full progress report on the Biden-Harris administration's first 100 days can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3aJQ8Wr>

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Hope for Millions of Children On the Horizon

President Biden's April 28th address to a joint Congress called for an overdue investment in families and children with his American Families Plan. He listed many critical ways his previous American Rescue Plan has provided help already to millions of families. President Biden said the most important of all might be putting our nation on track to cut child poverty in half this year. The Children's Defense Fund's long cries in the wilderness to end child poverty are finally being heard! I hope all children have a chance to realize their God-given potential in a more just United States. President Biden's plan will provide a huge step forward.

CDF has prepared an analysis of the American Families Plan which includes extensions of recent Child Tax Credit (CTC), Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), and Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC) expansions; universal pre-kindergarten; access to two years of community college; more adequate investments in child care; an expansion of community eligibility for free meals to more children; and other critical supports families and workers need. President Biden would pay for these investments by eliminating some tax cuts for the rich, including raising the tax rate for the top one percent and ending capital income tax breaks and other tax loopholes.

The American Families Plan and the American Jobs Plan would lay the foundation for a stronger and more prosperous nation and I hope Congress will build on them to truly end child poverty and leave no child behind. Congress must make the full CTC expansion permanent and make additional investments in child care, housing, nutrition, and more. Addressing our nation, President Biden said: "America is rising anew, choosing hope over fear, truth over lies, and light over darkness." Our nation's millions of poor children desperately need that hope and light far too long denied. I thank President Biden for his leadership.

Cardin Seeks to Extend Relief Payments To Farmers, Ranchers and Self-employed

By LOGAN ARNESON
Capital News Service
Washington Bureau

Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Maryland, and a half dozen Democratic and Republican colleagues have proposed legislation that would allow farmers, ranchers and sole proprietors of businesses to apply retroactively for increased coronavirus relief payments.

The original Paycheck Protection Program signed into law on April 24, 2020, allocated \$484 billion for forgivable loans to businesses to offset lost revenue during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program was extended late last year and the Small Business Administration is offering loans through May 31.

Many small businesses were not able to take full advantage of previous PPP loans because the calculations were based on their net income, decreasing their benefits. The changes Cardin and his fellow senators are proposing would allow a recalculation of loans based on gross income, retroactive to March 27, 2020.

"The Biden administration has

taken steps to make PPP more useful to farmers, ranchers, and sole proprietors, so making the changes retroactive is a matter of basic fairness," Cardin said in a statement. "Congress must pass this bill as quickly as possible so eligible small businesses have time to secure the aid they need before PPP closes on May 31."

Many of the senators co-sponsoring the bill represent states where farming is a major segment of their economies. Farmers and ranchers also stepped up during the pandemic to ensure food supplies were not interrupted, the lawmakers noted.

Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wisconsin, said in a statement that "it's important that we continue our work across party lines and pass this legislation now so our hard working farmers and small businesses have the support they need to get past this economic crisis and move forward."

Sen. Roger Marshall, R-Kansas, said that many farm and ranch partnerships were not eligible to receive the benefits that came from changes the SBA made in December.

"When it comes to PPP, we must ensure no farmers or ranchers are left behind, and I am pleased to join my colleagues on this important legislation," Marshall said.

Other co-sponsors include Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, Sen. James Lankford, R-Oklahoma, Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, and Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio.

Rep. Nydia Velázquez, D-New York, and chairwoman of the House Small Business Committee, has introduced a similar bill in the House.

The American Farm Bureau Federation, the nation's largest agriculture organization, has been pressing for changes to the PPP. Before Cardin and the other senators proposed their bill, the Farm Bureau's congressional relations director, Emily Buckman, said in March that the SBA "has been denying loans to self-employed farmers and ranchers who operate in a partnership, or as sole-owner LLCs."

"In many ways, this denial has caused picking winners and losers among those who are self-employed," Buckman said.

Lydia Pope

President-Elect, National Association of Real Estate Brokers



Statement by President-Elect Lydia Pope On the Release of 1st Quarter 2021 Black Homeownership Rate

WASHINGTON (April 28, 2021)—The National Association of Black Real Estate Brokers (NAREB) cautiously accepted the 1% increase of the Black homeownership rate as issued by the U.S. Census Bureau in its first-quarter 2021 report. The 45% rate, up from the fourth quarter 2020 rate of 44.1% comes at a time when Blacks were more impacted by the neg-

ative health and economic consequences of the pandemic.

From a historic vantage point, Black homeownership continues to lag nearly 30 percentage points behind the first quarter 2021 non-Hispanic White homeownership rate of 73.8%, reflecting decades-old disparities serving to repress the expansion of Black homeownership and wealth creation.

While relieved that the measured homeownership rate did not retreat, I am mindful of continued high unemployment rates among Black Americans, skyrocketing home prices, low housing stock inventories, uneven lending practices, and the ever-present student debt burden as factors that adversely affect the growth of Black homeownership. There are variations in

real estate markets at a local level and therefore some may be experiencing brisk activity despite the continuing national economic downturn.

NAREB remains committed to expanding opportunities for Black Americans to purchase a home of their choice. The association's multi-pronged approach includes a focused advocacy strategy designed to support legislative measures like the American Dream Down Payment Act along with initiatives that reduce burdensome student debt preventing GenX-ers and Millennials from becoming homeowners. In addition, NAREB continues to help Black consumers learn about the wealth-building aspects of homeownership and the importance of financial preparedness even in the face of these uncertain economic times.

For more information visit: www.nareb.com

The Prince George's Post

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Around the County from A2

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County Announces 2021 Summer Programs

RIVERDALE, Md. (April 28, 2021)—The M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County looks forward to welcoming children back to a summer of safe, fun programming. We offer assorted summer programming that fit the imagination of children and their parents' needs. Safety is our priority and we are committed to implementing guidelines set forth by our County health officials. The Department offers structured, full-day and half-day programs for children and teens ages 3 through 17. Learn more at <http://www.pgprks.com/629/Day-Camps-Summer-Playgrounds>.

"This summer the Department worked diligently to provide something for everyone!" begins Director Bill Tyler of the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation. "Something for every interest and every personality and ability, both in-person and virtually. We are taking every precaution to prioritize safety—maximizing fun, imagination, activity, and learning this summer. We want parents to feel secure and youth to enjoy," Tyler concludes.

Most sessions are two weeks long and operate Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. After Care is available at many Summer Day Camp locations. Children must be signed in and out by authorized parents or guardians. Registration is simple and flexible. Register your child for as many summer day camp sessions as you wish, while still planning summer vacations. Before registering for summer programs, you must first create or establish a free ParksDirect account.

Face coverings are required at all times. If your child feels sick, please keep them at home. Temperature checks will be required upon entry to facilities. Campers must stay six feet apart. Wash hands frequently or use hand sanitizer. In-person programs have limited capacity.

—Angel Waldron, Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

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