

# The Prince George's Post



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## Historic Ribbon-Cutting Celebration for UM Capital Region Medical Center in Largo

By PRESS OFFICER  
UM Capital Communications

LARGO, Md. (June 8, 2021)—In a celebratory milestone decades in the making, elected officials, medical, civic and business leaders and community stakeholders gathered in Largo to celebrate the opening of the new University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center, which officially opens its doors June 12.

The state-of-the-art Medical Center, part of the University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS), is the first brand-new hospital in the region in more than 30 years.

Special guests at the ribbon-cutting celebration included:

- Gov. Larry J. Hogan

- Sen. Ben Cardin, U.S. Senate
- Rep. Anthony G. Brown, Maryland's 4th Congressional District
- County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, Prince George's County
- Derrick L. Davis, District 6, Prince George's County Council
- Adrienne Jones, Speaker, Maryland House of Delegates
- Bill Ferguson, President, Maryland Senate

In September 2017, UMMS assumed ownership of the former Dimensions Healthcare System, creating University of Maryland Capital Region Health, serving residents of Prince George's County and southern Maryland. The new UM Capital Region Medical Center will replace the existing University of Maryland

Prince George's Hospital Center (UM PGHC) in Cheverly that dates back more than 70 years.

"Today is a momentous occasion for Prince George's County and the surrounding area," said Mohan Suntha, MD, MBA, President & Chief Executive Officer, University of Maryland Medical System. "We made a commitment to this community and this new hospital represents a promise reached and a promise extended. It's a promise to patients; healthcare providers; and it's a promise to bolster economic development in the region. I am proud of what this hospital represents and there is much more to come—the future is bright."

Located on a 26-acre site adjacent to the Arena Drive exit off Interstate 495,

UM Capital Region Medical Center represents a \$543 million, nearly 600,000 square-foot investment and offers the community:

- 11 levels
- Two rooftop helipads
- 205 private inpatient rooms
- 24/7 emergency care, including a 41-bay Emergency Department area for trauma care modeled after the Trauma Resuscitation Unit at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore and designated separate waiting areas for sick patients. Also equipped with dedicated imaging for emergency department patients.
- 32-bed intensive care unit
- Two endoscopy suites
- Two catheterization labs

- Eight operating rooms, including dedicated cardiac and trauma ORs and a specially equipped 'hybrid' OR that provides in-room imaging for real time diagnostics

- 15-bed specialty pediatric hospital operated by Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital

The project is also slated to include an ambulatory care center.

The new state-of-the-art Medical Center features:

- Heart & Vascular Institute with a dedicated 16-bed cardiac intensive care unit
- Dedicated floor for Women and Infants

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PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

Governor Larry Hogan, County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, and county and state leaders participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new state-of-the-art University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center.

## Governor Hogan Celebrates Ribbon Cutting of New University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL  
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (June 8, 2021)—Governor Larry Hogan [last week] participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new state-of-the-art University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center in Prince George's County.

The governor was joined by members of Maryland's congressional delegation, the presiding officers of the Maryland General Assembly, County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, and leaders of the University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS).

"For decades, the citizens of Prince George's County have not had the level of high quality patient

care that they deserve," said Governor Hogan. "As a lifelong Marylander who spent the greater part of my life growing up, living, and working right here in Prince George's County, addressing this need has been important and personal to me. That's why I am proud to have been a strong supporter of this project since day one."

The Hogan administration committed more than \$200 million toward the project, which was jointly funded by the state, the county, and UMMS.

The new University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center is expected to provide care to more than 1 million people in Prince George's County and Southern Maryland.

## Congressman Anthony Brown Visits Local Residential Care Center, Emphasizes Need to Invest in the Care Economy

"Our seniors and most vulnerable residents deserve dignity and quality care, no matter their zip code"

By CHRISTIAN UNKENHOLZ  
Congressman Anthony Brown's Office

WASHINGTON (June 11, 2021)—Congressman Anthony G. Brown (MD-04) visited the FutureCare Capital Region Senior Care Facility in Landover, Maryland to highlight the importance of the "Care Economy" as Maryland and the rest of the country continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of the American Jobs and Families Plans, President Biden has called for historic investments in caregiving, for children, seniors, and our most vulnerable neighbors. Investing in caregiving is critical to getting our economy moving again. Parents and caregivers cannot go back to work, grow our economy, and build better lives for their fam-

ilies unless they know their children, parents and loved ones are safe and cared for.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated workforce issues in senior care. A recent labor report revealed a drop of 19,500 nursing and residential care facility jobs. With a rapidly-growing elderly population and an expected increase in demand for long-term care services, urgent action is needed.

"Residential facilities and the dedicated professionals providing care and support for our loved ones were on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. They put in long hours and many sleepless nights to keep residents safe and connected. Our seniors and most vulnerable residents deserve dignity and quality care, no matter their zip code, and their families deserve the peace of mind that their

loved ones are being looked after," said Congressman Brown. "Supporting caregivers is essential to showing our thanks and building an economy that works for working families."

"Nursing homes and assisted living communities have long faced workforce challenges and the pandemic has only made these challenges worse," said Joseph DeMattos, President and CEO of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland. "The long-term and post-acute sector looks forward to our continued work with Congressman Brown and other leaders to support and strengthen the workforce to ensure Marylanders in need continue to receive the highest level of quality care."



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY CONGRESSMAN ANTHONY BROWN'S OFFICE

Congressman Anthony G. Brown (MD-04), fourth from left, visited the FutureCare Capital Region Senior Care Facility in Landover, Maryland.

## MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center to Hold Vaccine Event at Maple Springs Baptist Church

Pfizer vaccine available free of charge for adults, children 12 years old and over; walk-ins welcome

By CHERYL RICHARDSON  
MedStar Health

CLINTON, Md. (June 14, 2021)—MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center will hold a free vaccine event from 10 a.m.

to 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 19, 2021, at Maple Springs Baptist Church in Capitol Heights. The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine will be available for adults of any age and children who are 12 or older. Minors under the age

of 18, however, must be accompanied by an adult. Insurance is not required and walk-ins are welcome.

COVID-19 vaccines like Pfizer work with your body's natural defenses so you will be ready

to fight the virus upon exposure. They are very effective at preventing the virus, which helps to keep you and your family members from getting seriously ill even if COVID-19 is contracted. Other vaccination options that are cur-

rently offered in the United States include the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine and the viral vectored vaccine, Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine which is only authorized for adults 18 and older.

Both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are made using messenger RNA, or mRNA, which teaches the immune system to recognize a spike protein as foreign and de-

velop antibodies, along with other immunity weapons to help fight it. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention has reassured all eligible citizens that these vaccines are safe and effective.

Maple Springs Baptist Church is located at 4131 Belt Road, Capitol Heights, MD, 20743. To register in advance, please call MedStar Southern Maryland's vaccine clinic at 202-235-6492.

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#### To Be Equal:

Juneteenth Is an Opportunity to Confront the Nation's "Hard History"

Unfortunately, stories like Anna's are rarely taught in American schools. Slavery is treated "like a dot on a timeline," according to Maureen Costello, director of the Southern Poverty Law Center's Teaching Tolerance program.

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# TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

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

### Mike Fowler, who loved fishing with Austin and Ryan, dies at 40

Michael Ray Fowler, Jr., best known as Mike or Mikey, grew up in Morningside, the son of Sharon and Michael Ray Fowler, Sr. He was only 40 when he died suddenly of a stroke on May 30.

During idyllic Morningside years, surrounded by family and friends, Mike loved taking part in Haunted Hayrides and other fun things the Morningside Recreation Council dreamed up.

In 1998 Mike graduated from Gwynn Park High School. His first job was at the Tucker Road Ice Rink. He loved hockey and played on the ice whenever he wasn't working. He moved on to a 15-year career as a Backhoe Operator at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Suitland and at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton. At Resurrection, he had just received a promotion to Journeyman.

In 2006, Mike Fowler and Amy Schlor welcomed their first son Austin Michael and then they were blessed with Ryan David in 2009.

In 2017 friends introduced Mike to Shannon. A whirlwind romance began and in 2019 they married and bought a home. They enjoyed road trips, concerts and fishing trips with the boys. Mike loved his yearly golf trips with Dad and summer pool parties with Mom in their backyard.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents Barbara and William Lynn and Joan and Robert Fowler. Survivors include his wife Shannon, sons Austin and Ryan, parents Sharon and Michael Fowler, and brothers Daniel and Billy Fowler. Services were at Lee's with burial at Cedar Hill Cemetery.

Mike was a huge Washington Redskins fan. But when it was hockey season, you couldn't pull him away from a Caps game.

### Town of Morningside: want to march in the Parade?

Fourth of July is coming up in Morningside. That means fireworks at dusk—the best fireworks for miles around.

But Morningside starts celebrating earlier in the day with their annual Morningside Independence Day Parade. If you have a group, a vintage vehicle, a clown, a band, Scouts, or politician, call the Town at 301-736-2300 for information on how

to participate in the Parade. I'll be under the Baptist Church tree to wave.

### Neighbors & other good people

Condolences to Rita Beall, of Morningside, on the death of her sister Estella Carreon McCullugh, of El Paso. She died May 29, just two days before she'd have turned 90.

Pearline Mitchell (Jackson) Smith, 95, Valedictorian of the Class of 1941 at Frederick Douglass High School, died at her home in Silver Spring on May 28. She was predeceased by two siblings, a daughter, a grandson, and husbands Ignatius Mitchell and James L. Smith, Esq. Survivors include six children, grand- and great-grandchildren. Services were at Lee's.

Peg Richardson posted photos of her in her 1930 Ford in Morningside's 1972 Independence Day Parade. She says she sold the car in 1974 when the family was getting ready to move. Too bad, she could have ridden it in the 2021 Parade.

I am delighted to have daughter Kathleen Shearer in town from West Chester, Ohio, for La Reine's "Last Chance Dance" on June 12. She was a graduate of the Class of 1969. We will be joined by my daughters Elaine Seidman (Class of '77) and Sheila Mudd (Class of '79). More about La Reine next week.

### Community outreach at Suitland Road Baptist Church

Pastor Kevin McCune extends an invitation to the community to journey with him on Friday mornings, 10:30 to 11:30, through the Book of 2nd Thessalonians. You can dial the Bible class on 617-769-8377.

Pastor McCune hopes to soon resume in-person services. For more information, you can call him at 301-219-2296.

### Covid report: 9 more Marylanders have died

Maryland had 121 more cases as of June 10, 5 p.m., and nine more deaths reported.

The majority of hospitals in Maryland and D.C. will start requiring all employees to be vaccinated.

Prince George's County Public Schools open in the fall with in-person learning

five days a week.

### Remembering 1958 when we moved to Skyline Drive

Sixty-three years ago this month we saw our house for the first time. We had driven our Chevy stationwagon from Mill Valley, Calif., dropped off three of our children at my folks' home in Saginaw, Mich., arrived at Uncle Paul & Aunt Fran Mudd's home in Oxon Hill, and began the search with a succession of realtors, for a new home. We had our two youngest, John (3) and Brian (10 months), to help us search.

And then we found it, a beautiful brick house in a place called Skyline. It had everything we wanted—four bedrooms, two bathrooms, a living room with a fireplace, a screened side porch, a big basement and a yard filled with trees. We bought it for \$21,000.

Until our furniture arrived, we slept on the floor. When everything was delivered and set in place, my sister Johanna drove from Saginaw with the three we'd left behind. I remember how excited they were to run around in their new digs.

We shopped for groceries at G.I. Market in Morningside and Safeway in Suitland, registered Kathleen at Morningside School and Mike at Morningside Kindergarten (with Mrs. Irene Smith).

Jack began catching the bus at the corner of Suitland & Randolph roads every morning. The bus dropped him off at the Justice Department on Pennsylvania Avenue.

We had arrived. And I'm still here.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Stephanie Phipps, June 19; Christian Nichols, June 20; my grandson Conor McHale, Aletheia Fadness, Mark Witherow Sr. and Antonio Jackson, June 21; Gary Fadness, June 22; Edson Cook, June 23; Gloria R. Johnson, June 24; Michael Taylor and Larry Frostbutter, June 25.

Happy anniversary to Calvin & Debbie Brown, their 28th on June 20; Tim & Becki Cordero, their 20th on, June 23; and Mary & Mike Dawes, their 48th on June 23.

*Happy Father's Day to all our fathers!*

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

### SCHOOL LIBRARIES AND MATERIAL CENTER

The School Library is a service agency that provides materials for individual students, groups, and classes. Books available cover a wide range of subjects and interests. The school library is also a teaching agency. In addition to the work in the classroom, children can gain further training in reading research and library skills.

The school librarian is trained in library skills and gives special expertise to the school curriculum. Librarians are trained in techniques to teaching and in human relations. American Library Association standards are observed in all secondary schools. During 1959-60, circulation records reported ten books circulated for every pupil in the high school program.

At the elementary level, all schools have organized libraries. These make possible the use of all materials by the entire school personnel and provide a source of varied materials for classroom libraries. During this period, audio-visual materials were introduced in the library including films, film strips, slides, recordings, video, etc., which enhanced the library program. Workshops were initiated by the librarian for the staff and school personnel so that the equipment was utilized. The Media Center and library programs were supervised by Mrs. Louise Bennett. Information received from Prince George's County Retired Teachers Association.

### HOW A SCHOOL WAS NAMED

J. Enos Ray and his family were leaders in the community for half a century before his death at the age of 60 in 1934. He was born on the Ray Farm which extended from Sligo Mill Road to Riggs Road and lived all his life on the family estate. He was graduated from the University of Maryland in 1893 and was chosen President of the Alumni Association shortly before his death. In 1896 he received his law degree from Georgetown University.

Mr. Ray was a progressive resident of the County, lending his influence on the development of good schools, roads, and other improvements. He was Collector of Internal Revenue for the Metropolitan Washington area, Chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee of Maryland for thirty years. President of the Prince George's Bank and Trust Company of Hyattsville, a director of the Lincoln National Bank of Washington, and senior member for the law firm of Ray and Keefer. He was elected to the General Assembly from Prince George's County in 1904 and later became Speaker of the House of Delegates of the Maryland Assembly. Mr. Ray was appointed State Auditor and subsequently Chairman of the State Tax Commission.

Portraits of Mr. Ray hang in the Board Room of the New Hampshire Avenue headquarters building of the Suburban Trust Company, the State House at Annapolis, and the entrance hall of the school bearing his name. By Evelyn G. Hall (retired in 1983 after 23 years of service). Information received from Prince George's County Retired Teachers Association.

## Around the County

### Community Town Hall—Meet Police Chief Malik Aziz, June 21, 2021

RESCHEDULED: The community conversation with County Executive Alsobrooks and Acting Police Chief Malik Aziz has been rescheduled to Monday, June 21, from 6 to 8 p.m. Join them in person at Suitland High School or virtually via YouTube. Residents can ask questions at the town hall or submit questions in advance here: <http://bit.ly/PGCTownHallJune21>

—Prince George's County Council District 8 Update

### PGCPS Summer Meals Program

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (June 10, 2021)—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) will end the hybrid learning meal distribution program on Tuesday, June 15, the last day of school for students. The annual Summer Food Service Program will operate Wednesday, June 16 through Wednesday, Aug. 18.

Grab and Go breakfast and lunch meal packages will be available on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 62 schools. Students attending in-school summer programs will receive breakfast and lunch.

Additionally, select Prince George's County Memorial Library locations will offer free lunch to children under the age of 18 from June 21 through August 20, Monday through Fridays from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Visit the PGCPS website for a complete list of school and library meal sites or find a nearby meal distribution site by visiting [MDsummerMeals.org](http://MDsummerMeals.org).

Updates to services and sites will be provided as information becomes available.

—Office of Communications, PGCPS

### Community in the Courthouse June 29

Please join Prince George's County State's Attorney Aisha N. Braveboy and #TeamPGSAO for the next Community in the Courthouse on June 29.

This will be a virtual event via Zoom and streamed live on Facebook. If you would like to attend, please register via eventbrite.

WHEN: June 29, 2021, 6-7:30 p.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Brenda Raysor, [baraysor@co.pg.md.us](mailto:baraysor@co.pg.md.us).

—Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office

### M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County Announces Reopening of Additional Facilities

RIVERDALE, Md. (June 11, 2021)—The Department of Parks and Recreation, part of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, announces the reopening of more amenities, including its remaining community centers, arts facilities, and historic venues, starting June 14, 2021, at limited capacity.

Facilities reopening are:

**Community Centers:** Rollingcrest-Chillum, Huntington, Berwyn Heights, Lake Arbor, Largo-Kettering-Perrywood, Westphalia, Peppermill, John E. Howard, South Bowie, Oakcrest, Baden, Glassmanor, Potomac Landing. (Harmony Hall Community Center and Indian Queen Recreation Center are temporarily closed for renovations.)

**Arts:** Publick Playhouse (art exhibitions only)

**Historic Venues:** Oxon Hill Manor, Billingsley House, Mount Calvert, Ridgely Rosenwald School, Abraham Hall, Dorsey Chapel (all by appointment only).

With the reopening of the remaining community centers, the Department invites patrons to drop in and enjoy the gymnasium and fitness rooms for free. Patrons who sign up for a one-year fitness membership between June 14-27 will be eligible to win a prize. Three winners will be chosen. Starting June 28, fees and memberships for fitness rooms will be reinstated.

The Department will also start accepting rentals for ShowPlace Arena, its community centers and historic venues starting August 1, 2021. Patrons will be able to visit [pgparksdirect.com](http://pgparksdirect.com) to make reservations.

### COVID-19 Protocols

Face coverings are required for all indoor venues and crowded outdoor venues including concerts, festivals and ticketed sporting events. Face coverings are no longer required outdoors in the parks.

Patrons will be required to sign a waiver when visiting Department's fitness centers and gymnasiums. The form is available at [pgparks.com/covidwaiver](http://pgparks.com/covidwaiver).

—Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

### Clarion University of Pennsylvania Spring Dean's List

CLARION, Pa. (June 11, 2021)—The following students earned at least a 3.5 GPA to be named to the dean's list for the spring 2021 semester at Clarion University of Pennsylvania:

Laurel, MD: **Virginia Mooney**

—Tina Horner, Clarion University of Pennsylvania

### Local Resident Graduates From William & Mary

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (June 10, 2021)—**Michael Jackson** from Bowie, MD, recently graduated from the College of William & Mary with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Founded by royal charter in 1693, William & Mary is the second oldest educational institution in the nation. During the past 300 years, the college has educated three U.S. Presidents—Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe and John Tyler—numerous senators and members of congress and other national and international leaders. William & Mary is currently ranked among the nation's top 10 public universities and has been designated a "Public Ivy."

—Claudette Brooks, College of William & Mary

## Brandywine-Aquasco

### WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Wesley Theological Seminary is excited to announce that Class of 2021 graduate Shemaiah Strickland, M.Div. '21, is the recipient of the By Faith Magazine's 2021 Harry Hosier Spirit Award. By Faith Magazine's mission is to communicate "the shared life and stories and the gifts of the Black United Methodist Churches to make disciples for Jesus for the transformation of underserved communities and the world."

From the magazine's description of the award: The Harry Hosier Spirit Award celebrates the life and legacy of Harry Hosier, who was considered one of the greatest preachers in early American Methodism, in the opinion of Bishop Francis Asbury, with whom many believe that Harry was the "smoke in the tire" that set Methodism ablaze on the new American frontier."

"This award is given to a graduating Black Student from each of the 13 United Methodist seminaries who best exemplifies the spirit of Harry Hosier, expressed in what is described as his elocution of faith, I preach by faith, pray by faith, and do everything by faith."

Shemaiah has been appointed by Bishop LaTrelle Easterling to the Nottingham-Myers/Christ UMC Cooperative Parish in Brandywine, Maryland. She recently passed her Board of Ordained Ministry exams for ordination and is recommended to be made a commissioned elder this October at the Baltimore-Washington Conference to The United Methodist Church's Annual Conference.

By Faith Magazine will run a feature on Shemaiah and the other winners in its July-August 2021 edition. Congratulations, Shemaiah! #UMC #HarryHosierAward #ByFaithMagazine #WTSGraduates.

### PGCPS PROUD

STEM Educators of the year, Erin Lukomska-Schlauch and Karen Shelton, both teachers at Charles Herbert Flowers High School were awarded the Maryland Tech Council's (MTC) STEM Educator of the Year award in recognition of their commitment to STEM Educator and the extraordinary dedication demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic. Information from PGCPS Express Newsletter.

### PGCPS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

We are proud to introduce 2021-2022 Teacher of the Year, DuVal High School 10th grade English Arts teacher Adrin Leak a 12-year PGCPS educator, Mrs. Leak's mission to close the educational gap for all students. During her tenure at DuVal, Leak is described as "radiating a passion and zest for learning, building a sense of community, and serving as a stellar example of a master teacher to colleagues."

Congratulations to runner-up, Capitol Heights Elementary School second grade Talented and Gifted teacher Bridget McCoy and second place winner Dr. Mable Smith, eighth grade Reading & English Language Arts Teacher at Samuel Ogle Middle School. Information from PGCPS Express Newsletter.

# COMMUNITY

## Maryland State Police Announces 2021 Youth Leadership & Law Enforcement Seminar

By OFFICE OF MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS  
Maryland State Police

PIKESVILLE, Md. (June 3, 2021)—The Maryland State Police announces the second annual 2021 Youth Leadership and Law Enforcement Seminar, a free event held to train, develop and teach future generations of young men and women about the benefits of a law enforcement career will take place in August.

The two-day, action packed, conference is free and will be held from 2 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 13 to noon on Sunday, Aug. 15, 2021 at the Maryland State Police Training Academy in Sykesville. High school and college students interested in starting a career in law enforcement are invited to learn about 'Maryland's Finest' from troopers who specialize in a wide range of expertise.

Attendees will learn about Maryland law, military drill and ceremony, fitness, defensive tactics and explore the many facets of a career in law enforcement. They will learn how to protect themselves and take part in a variety of training workshops geared toward a greater understanding of leadership, character development and life skills.

Troopers and civilian employees from various specialized units will be on hand to share their experiences about life as a state trooper or as a civilian employee in a law enforcement career. Along with this exciting opportunity, food and lodging will be provided on the campus of the Maryland State Police Academy. Each barrack commander will select one applicant to represent their respective county, including Baltimore City.

To qualify for enrollment, applicants must submit either a two-minute self-taped video or a written essay to explain why they are interested in a career in law enforcement. The deadline for applications is midnight (EST) on July 1, 2021. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. For more application guidelines, please visit, [mdsp.maryland.gov/Careers](http://mdsp.maryland.gov/Careers). Questions about the seminar and the application process can be emailed to [msp.youth-programs@maryland.gov](mailto:msp.youth-programs@maryland.gov).

CONTACT: For applicants, your local Maryland State Police barrack representative.

## Good Trouble Think-Tank Launches Podcast to Honor the Late Congressman John Lewis

By RENEE CLARKE  
Good Trouble

LARGO, Md. (June 14, 2021)—Renee Clarke, former NFL Washington Redskins Cheerleader now called The Washington Football Team and Maryland resident launches a Good Trouble Think-Tank podcast to honor the life of late

Congressman John Lewis. The podcast will educate listeners on the legislative process, interview local politicians, hear from members of the community, and inspire all who listen to get involved in the community.

The Good Trouble Think-Tank podcast is ideal for listeners to connect, engage and be inspired by the Good Trouble Think-Tank and

“Get Into Good Trouble.” The podcast offers 20–30-minute engaging episode which are perfect for daily commutes or busy every day routines.

Good Trouble serves as a grassroots answer to Congressman Lewis’s call to action to organize and seek change, justice, and equality for all.

## Daycare Worker Claims \$40,000 VaxCash Prize

Excited winner plans to invest prize money

By SETH ELKIN  
Maryland Lottery and Gaming

BALTIMORE (June 11, 2021)—A little bit of rain didn't stop Marnobia Alegria Juarez from claiming her \$2 Million VaxCash Promotion prize. Alegria Juarez was the \$40,000 winner in the June 1 drawing. The excited winner and her mother made the trip to Lottery headquarters in Baltimore on June 11.

When asked if she had told friends and family about her VaxCash prize, the 27-year-old said she hadn't told many people yet, because she wanted to make sure it was real.

The Silver Spring resident, who works at a daycare center, was vaccinated in February while living in Prince George's County.

“Even if I didn't work in a daycare setting, I still would have gotten the vaccine,” she said. “I believe in vaccines.”

Alegria Juarez said she would like to invest some of her prize money.

The VaxCash Promotion, announced by Governor Larry Hogan on May 20, is a collaboration of the Maryland Lottery and the Maryland Department of Health, aimed at incentivizing Marylanders who have not yet received their COVID-19 vaccinations while rewarding those who have. All Maryland residents 18 and older who have received a COVID-19 shot at a non-Federal facility in Maryland at any time are automatically entered into daily drawings being held from May 25 through July 4.

Each day through July 3, one winner will receive a \$40,000 prize, and the promotion culminates on the Fourth of July when one winner will receive a \$400,000 prize.

Since its inception in 1973, Maryland Lottery and Gaming has



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND LOTTERY AND GAMING

Daycare worker Marnobia Alegria Juarez visited Lottery headquarters on June 11 to claim her \$40,000 prize in the \$2 Million VaxCash Promotion.

awarded more than \$28.2 billion in prizes to Lottery players and more than \$17.3 billion in Lottery revenue to the State of Maryland. One of Maryland's largest revenue sources, the Lottery supports important state programs and services including education, public safety and health, human resources and the environment. Visit [mdlottery.com](http://mdlottery.com). Please remember to play responsibly and within your budget. For confidential help or information about gambling problems, visit [mdgamblinghelp.org](http://mdgamblinghelp.org) or call 1-800-426-2537.



## Our new hospital is about to **changeUP** everything.

Amazing health care can do so much more than help you feel better. It can lift up an entire community. Our new, state-of-the-art hospital in Largo is now open - which means this entire community is about to rise. Here, you'll have access to more top specialists, a comprehensive Heart & Vascular Institute, a beautiful new maternity center with the latest advances for moms and babies, and so much more. As part of University of Maryland Medical System, we're stepping up the strength of all that we offer ... because when we stand strong, so do you.

See how we are changing up health care for you at [UMcapitalregion.org/changeUP](http://UMcapitalregion.org/changeUP).



# COMMENTARY

## Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



### To Be Equal:

## Juneteenth Is an Opportunity to Confront the Nation's "Hard History"

*"Slavery is hard history. It is hard to comprehend the inhumanity that defined it. It is hard to teach the ideology of white supremacy that justified it. And it is hard to learn about those who abided it. We the people have a deep-seated aversion to hard history because we are uncomfortable with the implications it raises about the past as well as the present ... We enjoy thinking about Thomas Jefferson proclaiming, 'All men are created equal.' But we are deeply troubled by the prospect of the enslaved woman Sally Hemings, who bore him six children, declaring, 'Me too.'"*

—Hasan Kwame Jeffries

When I was a senior at the University of Pennsylvania, I accompanied my parents on a trip to

the West African Nation of Senegal. As part of our journey, we took a ferry to Gorée, a tiny island about a mile from Dakar's main harbor.

The haunting images of the slave trade we encountered there left a lifetime impression.

"Soon, we came upon a large stone structure," My mother, Sybil Haydel Morial, wrote in her memoir, *Witness to Change*. "The remains of what appeared to be shackles were embedded in the floor. For nearly three centuries, men, women and children were brought forcibly to this island and sold to European and American slave traders. The tour guide explained that the slaves were corralled and held until the next slave ship arrives. On the far side of the building, was a large opening onto the Atlantic. The slaves were taken along a short gangplank into the hold of the ship. The guide

called it 'the Door of No Return,' as those African people would never see their homeland again."

As the nation prepares to observe Juneteenth, the celebration of the emancipation of those who had been enslaved in the United States, we are engaged in a bitter battle over the teaching of history, particularly the acknowledgment of white supremacy's role in shaping our laws and institutions.

My great-great-grandparents, Victor Theophile Haydel and Marie Celeste Becnel, were born on the Whitney Plantation, 50 miles east of New Orleans. Victor's mother, Anna, arrived on the plantation sometime between 1820 and 1853. She was "purchased to be the 'pet' of her infertile owner," journalist Daja Henry wrote in the *New Orleans Tribune*. "After she got too big to play with, she was tossed among the other enslaved; and like many other enslaved women, she was raped by white men. In Anna's case, it was the plantation owner's brother, Antoine Haydel."

Marie Celeste's mother, Francoise, also had been raped by a member of the owner's family, Florestan Becnel.

When the last Haydel family member to own the plantation died in 1860, Anna and Victor were listed as part of an inventory of her estate. Victor was valued at 800 piastres—the Cajun word for dollars—and Anna at 100 piastres.

As Juneteenth approaches, I am reminded of the words of Dr. Ibrahim Seck, a Senegalese historian who traced the Haydel family's history: "The best way to honor the memories of Anna,

Victor and Celeste, is to let the world know the hardship they went through and the injustice of being considered chattel for many years with a price imposed on each of them. In doing so, much respect would also be paid to those who sacrificed their lives in the defense of freedom and civil rights in this country and beyond."

Unfortunately, stories like Anna's are rarely taught in American schools. Slavery is treated "like a dot on a timeline," according to Maureen Costello, director of the Southern Poverty Law Center's Teaching Tolerance program. An investigation by the SPLC, *Teaching Hard History*, revealed an alarming ignorance among high school seniors. Only 8 percent could identify slavery as the central cause of the Civil War. Two-thirds didn't know that it took a constitutional amendment to formally end slavery. Fewer than one in four could correctly identify how provisions in the Constitution gave advantages to slaveholders.

This is no way to honor the memories of Anna, Victor and Celeste, or the millions who were kidnapped, enslaved, brutalized and oppressed. We cannot build a stable home on a broken foundation.

As the SPLC study's authors concluded, "Teaching about slavery is hard. It requires often-difficult conversations about race and a deep understanding of American history. Learning about slavery is essential if we are ever to come to grips with the racial differences that continue to divide our nation."

## Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita, Children's Defense Fund



### ChildWatch:

## Connecting Through Children's Books

*"When we think about what it is to be connected, we think about memory. We think about history. We think about storytelling. All of these words that we hear—'literacy,' 'inclusion,' 'diversity'—those are all words for connection. . . . When I say to people 'why do we need to have diverse books?,' it's not because necessarily everybody needs to see themselves reflected in every book, but because we need that sense of connection. We need to live in a global sense."*

—Christopher Myers

What kinds of books were on your childhood summer reading lists? As summer gets into full swing, students across the country will be reading an extraordinary selection of diverse books in the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom Schools®

program. The CDF Freedom Schools reading curriculum has long been centered on excellent books reflecting a wide variety of cultures, races, and experiences. As award-winning children's book author and illustrator Christopher Myers says, this matters in order to give all children a deeper sense of connection to the books they're reading and to each other, and prepare them to live in a rapidly globalizing, multicultural, multiracial, and multi-faith nation and world. For some children it's the first time they've seen books with characters who look like them and share some of the struggles in their lives. Our goal is to help children fall in love with reading, and they respond. As one scholar said: "I see myself and the books give me hope."

It's hard to be what you can't see. Children of color need to be able to see themselves in the books

they read. Just as importantly, all children need to be exposed to a wide range of books that reflect the true diversity of our nation and world as they really are. Several years ago Christopher Myers joined other leading children's book authors in a roundtable at the annual National Training for college-aged servant leaders preparing to teach in CDF Freedom Schools summer programs. At that roundtable Tonya Bolden, who has written many powerful nonfiction books for young readers, said engaging history books—especially on her history—were largely absent when she was a child: "When it came to Black history, I remember there was Crispus Attucks and Phyllis Wheatley. And I think there was a part of me that said, okay, one was free, and he got shot; the other one was brilliant, but she was enslaved. . . . What kind of options are those?" Now she strives to make history come alive in ways that allow children to recognize their ties to people who came before them. Myers said books like Bolden's are another example of the way being able to make connections between their lives and the books they read affects how children see themselves: "All of a sudden, you realize that the timeline of your life did not start when you were born. That timeline may have started 400 years ago on a ship, or before that. That is the kind of connection we're talking about. And without . . . that understanding of that timeline, it is really hard to imagine ourselves in the future."

Writer Janet Wong talked about another kind of connection when she read her poem "Noise" from

the book *Good Luck Gold*. The poem's protagonist is being teased by a group of children—"Ching chong Chinaman"—for her hair, nose, skin, and the shape of her eyes:

It's only noise [...]  
I won't let it in.  
I promise myself  
I won't let them  
Win.

Wong explained that even when the context is completely different, a poem like this describes a common feeling of racism and discrimination that lets many children recognize this experience and see themselves. It also allows other children to make their own connections with how this child is feeling, including those who have never been teased about their heritage and those who have done the teasing.

All children need these kinds of experiences. Award-winning Mexican American writer Pat Mora is the founder of *El día de los niños/El día de los libros* (Children's Day, Book Day), commonly known as *Día*, an annual celebration of creative literacy for children. She told the children's book roundtable she invented a word to describe what she wants to see in all readers: "bookjoy." Parents, grandparents, librarians, and educators must demand and support beautiful high-quality books that will allow all children to experience bookjoy as they see themselves and everything they have in common with others in a multiracial, multicultural, democratic society.

### Celebration from A1

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"Today we reach one milestone in our journey to improve the health care of residents in Prince George's County," said the Honorable Alexander Williams, Jr., chair of the UM Capital Region Health Board of Directors. "This is a day that I have long awaited and I am proud to see a vision and promise realized."

UM Capital Region Health is focused on several strategic priorities, including:

- Expanding access for primary/community care, specialty care, and other health care services to the region to reduce health care disparities and improve health status
- Facilitating investment in outpatient practices and health education programs to manage chronic diseases
- Broadening access to discovery-based medicine
- Attracting residents of Prince George's County and Southern Maryland region who now receive care from hospitals outside the County

"While we celebrate a historic and pinnacle moment for this organization, I am focused on the work that lies ahead," said Nathaniel Richardson, Jr. President & CEO, UM Capital Region Health. "We have an unprecedented opportunity to changeUP health care and to improve the health and well-being of residents in this region. I take this day and the work that lies ahead seriously. It will be through ongoing partnerships that we reach our fullest potential.

Today is only the beginning."

Today's ribbon cutting marks 10 years since partners including Prince George's County, the state of Maryland, the University System of Maryland and the University of Maryland Medical System signed a Memorandum of Understanding (July 20, 2011) for the new hospital to be built in Largo.

For more information about the new University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center, visit [umcapitalregion.org/medicalcenter](http://umcapitalregion.org/medicalcenter).

For information on how to support UM Capital Region Health with philanthropic giving, visit [umcapitalregionfoundation.org](http://umcapitalregionfoundation.org).

The University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS) is a university-based regional health care system focused on serving the health care needs of Maryland, bringing innovation, discovery and research to the care we provide and educating the state's future physician and health care professionals through our partnership with the University of Maryland School of Medicine and University of Maryland, Baltimore professional schools (Nursing, Pharmacy, Social Work and Dentistry) in Baltimore. As one of the largest private employers in the State, the health system's more than 29,500 employees and 4,000 affiliated physicians provide primary and specialty care in more than 150 locations, including 13 hospitals and 9 University of Maryland Urgent Care centers. Our acute care and specialty rehabilitation hospitals serve urban, suburban and rural communities and are located in 13 counties across the State. For more information, visit [www.umms.org](http://www.umms.org).

Providing primary and specialty health care services to Prince George's County and the neighboring area, University of Maryland Capital Region Health was established in September 2017 upon formal affiliation with the University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS), and is committed to improving health outcomes in the communities it serves. Visit [www.umcapitalregion.org](http://www.umcapitalregion.org).

## Hoyer Advocates for \$20 Million in Federal Funding to Meet Transportation and Connectivity Needs at Greenbelt Metro Station

WASHINGTON (June 10, 2021)—Today, Congressman Steny Hoyer (MD-05) praised the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's markup and passage of the INVEST in America Act. The legislation includes Congressman Hoyer's community project funding request of \$20 million for the Beltway interchange at the Greenbelt Metro Station:

"Marylanders deserve modern infrastructure systems that create good-paying jobs, meet the challenges of a changing climate, and ensure our communities are better connected," said Congressman Hoyer. "The INVEST in America Act, which passed out of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee early this morning, will do just that."

"I'm pleased that my community project funding request for \$20 million in new funding for the Greenbelt Metro Station-Beltway interchange was included in the legislation. This project will enhance connectivity for commuters in Prince George's County, and rebuild an aging infrastructure system," continued Congressman Hoyer. "I join in thanking the Committee for including this project in the final legislation and I look forward to working closely with my colleagues to ensure passage of the INVEST in America Act through the House."

The Beltway interchange project would add northbound entry and southbound exit to the Greenbelt Metro Station making it a more accessible site from the Beltway, and is a priority for Prince George's County and the city of a Greenbelt. The Greenbelt Metro site was previously under consideration for the new consolidated FBI

headquarters project. The INVEST in America Act is an important precursor to President Biden's American Jobs Plan, a critical infrastructure package aimed at repairing our nation's infrastructure and transit systems.

This legislation will be brought to the House Floor during the June work period. Following House passage, it will be sent to the Senate for consideration before going to the President's desk.

## The Prince George's Post

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## Monarch Preschool College Park Now Open in College Park

By PRESS OFFICER  
Monarch Preschool College Park

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (June 8, 2021)—Monarch Preschool College Park, a program of The Children's Guild Alliance, is now open in College Park serving children ages 3 to 5. Located in an 11,400-square-foot fully renovated space in College Park United Methodist Church at 9601 Rhode Island Ave., Monarch Preschool will be open year-round with a full-day program to include before- and after-school care. The preschool will serve up to 120 children.

Kristin B. Taylor is director of Monarch Preschool College Park. She brings an extensive background and certifications in early education.

"The Monarch Preschool is part of a larger effort to make College Park a top university community and was open in response to a need for additional high-quality pre-K learning opportunities," said Jenny Livelli, president and CEO of The Children's Guild Alliance. "Monarch Preschool College Park will be a hub for the area, and its leadership and advisory board includes members of the city and university-related groups."

The Children's Guild is a nonprofit organization founded in 1953 and dedicated to pioneering educational services for children and families.

Monarch Preschool College Park has implemented a project-based curriculum that actively engages children in investigating the world around them as well as developing pathways for early childhood education teacher training, internships, research and partnerships.

"I am very excited to see the Monarch Preschool opening in College Park. The Monarch Preschool will be a great addition to College Park, bringing project-

based quality child care to the local community," said Fazul Kabir, Prince George's County Council member, District 1.

Monarch Preschool's advisory board is chaired by Fran Favretto, retired director of the University of Maryland Center for Young Children. Other advisory board members are Carolyn Bernache, chair of the College Park Education Advisory Committee, board member of College Park Academy and member of the College Park City-University Partnership Education Committee; Cat Peretti, a parent in College Park and executive director of My School DC; Denise Mitchell, College Park District 4 council member and founding board member of College Park Academy; and Valerie Woodall, senior program associate of College Park City-University Partnership.

"This is a great opportunity for parents in the College Park area to send their children to a preschool based on project-based learning, where children can play, explore and learn, giving them a strong foundation for when they move on to public or private school. I was pleased to be on the committee that helped to bring this needed resource to our community," Bernache said.

For more information and to enroll in Monarch Preschool College Park, visit [MonarchPreschool.com](http://MonarchPreschool.com) or email [engage@monarchpreschool.com](mailto:engage@monarchpreschool.com).

Monarch Preschool College Park, a program of The Children's Guild Alliance, a nonprofit organization serving children, families and child-serving organizations, will be a year-round full-day preschool program serving up to 120 children ages 3 to 5. ([monarch-preschool.com](http://monarch-preschool.com))

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