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University of Maryland Medical System Announces \$1.2 Million Commitment To Address Food Insecurity

UM Capital Region Health working to address food insecurity issues in Prince George's County

By JANIA MATTHEWS
University of Maryland
Capital Region Health

LARGO, Md. (August 2, 2021)—The University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS) today announced a \$1.2 million commitment to address food insecurity issues in the communities across the state which are served by the organization's 13 hospitals.

UMMS is working with the Maryland Food Bank, the Capital Area Food Bank, Moveable Feast and Meals on Wheels to provide directed grants and other resources to the most vulnerable individuals in targeted areas and help those who are hungry in our communities by supplying food and prepared meals. In most cases, the grants will be an extension of work that is already occurring in local communities.

This initiative falls under the System's Corporate Social & Economic Justice workstream, which operates within the growing Diversion, Equity

and Inclusion effort, and is one of several that the System will be focusing on to address social determinants of health. In addition to the financial commitment, members of the System's workforce of more than 29,000 individuals will also have opportunities to volunteer, such as helping pack and/or distribute food in local communities.

"As anchor institutions in the communities we serve, we have a moral obligation to help people not only directly with their physical health needs, but helping them put food in their pantries and on their tables," said Mohan Suntha, MD, MBA, President and CEO of UMMS. "Being secure with food is at the heart of, and one of the driving forces behind, an individual's overall health."

Prior to COVID-19, nearly 11 percent of Marylanders were food insecure, according to the organization Feed America, impacting approximately 380,000 individuals across the UMMS footprint,

and the issue was exacerbated as a result of the pandemic.

"We are working with these organizations because they are focused on feeding the hungry now and also on developing broader long-term solutions to food insecurity challenges," Dr. Suntha said. "Partnering with them will help ensure that our resources are used for the most measurable and innovative solutions possible."

UMMS member organizations, including University of Maryland Capital Region Health (UM Capital) in Prince George's County, have been working to address food insecurity issues in local communities and this aligns with those efforts on a system-wide scale.

More than 66,000 Prince Georgians are food insecure, in excess of seven percent of the county's population, and more than 94,000—higher than 10 percent of the county's residents—live in a food desert, defined as a low income area where urban resi-

dents are more than one mile away from a supermarket, or suburban residents are more than 10 miles away. The 2019 Prince George's County Community Needs Assessment identified that many residents had food access challenges related to the quality of local stores. Respondents felt that the lack of affordable and quality foods contribute to the increased rates of obesity and other chronic diseases experienced by residents in the county.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, UM Capital donated \$32,000 to support the purchase of food for two local food banks, which supported the purchase of 40,000 pounds of food, serving 10,000 families. UM Capital is also a member of the Prince George's County Food Security Task Force, formed in 2020 to address issues related to the demand and supply of healthy food, food health con-

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Town of Upper Marlboro Appoints John Hoatson as Its New Town Clerk

"I have always felt the Town of Upper Marlboro sets itself apart from the other municipalities in Prince George's County and is a true hidden gem."

By RAY FELDMANN
Town of Upper Marlboro

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (July 26, 2021)—John Hoatson, a result-driven professional with more than 20 years' experience in a wide range of diverse positions, has been appointed Town Clerk for the Town of Upper Marlboro in Prince George's County. Hoatson was formally sworn in by Town Mayor Linda Pennoyer during the regular July 13 meeting of the Town's Board of Commissioners, following unanimous approval by the three-member policy-making body.

Hoatson succeeds David Williams, who retired on June 30 following 14 years of dedicated service as Town Clerk. Hoatson was most recently City Clerk in the City of Mount Rainier, a position he held for approximately two-and-a-half years.

"We are very lucky to have John as our new Town Clerk," Mayor Pennoyer said in making the announcement. "When I talked with people whose opinions I respect about who we were considering hiring, I heard nothing but positive feedback. Besides his experience with handling administrative matters, John is also a history buff, which also makes him a perfect fit in our town."

Hoatson graduated Virginia Wesleyan College with a Bachelor



PHOTO COURTESY TOWN OF UPPER MARLBORO

John Hoatson, new Town Clerk for the Town of Upper Marlboro.

of Arts in History in 1996. He said he is eager to roll up his sleeves and get started in his new role.

"I am excited and honored," Hoatson said following his swearing-in. "When I first heard about the position being open, I felt it provided tremendous opportunity for advancement and growth. I love the fact that Upper Marlboro is a small town with lots of green space."

"I have always felt the Town of Upper Marlboro sets itself apart

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White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges And Universities Announces 2021 HBCU Scholars

By PRESS OFFICER
U.S. Department of Education

The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (Initiative) today announced its eighth cohort of HBCU Scholars. This program recognizes 86 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students for their accomplishments in academics, leadership, civic engagement and much more.

Currently enrolled at 54 of our nation's HBCUs, the scholars were selected from an applicant pool of over 200 students who submitted completed applications that included a transcript, resume, essay, and letter of recommendation. Applications also required the signature of their university president, adding a level of prestige to this application process.

"The HBCU Scholars announced [August 3] all have demonstrated remarkable dedication to their learning and exemplify the talent that our nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities have nurtured for generations," said U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "The students who hold this honor are committed to creating a more just and equitable society through their civic engagement. They are leaders and change-makers in their communities, and I cannot wait to learn from them as they serve as ambassadors both for the White House Initiative and their institutions of higher education."

"As President of the State of Florida's first Historically Black College or University I am exceedingly pleased to support the tremendous work of the Initiative in its most recent selection and recognition of the nation's highest achieving scholar students from across our 105 historic institutions," said Edward Waters University President & CEO, Dr. A. Zachary Faison,

Jr. "The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities Scholars Program's longstanding commitment and emphasis upon platforming the very best and brightest amongst our students and showcasing their exceptional high scholarship and demonstrable leadership on a national stage speaks directly not only to the continuing contemporaneous relevance of HBCUs but equally underscores the uncontroverted depth of extraordinary talent that our institutions continue to produce and possess."

Over the course of an academic school year, the HBCU Scholars selected through this program will serve as ambassadors of the Initiative and their respected institution. The Initiative will provide scholars with information about the value of education as well as networking opportunities. Scholars can also share these resources with their fellow students.

Through their relationships with community-based organizations, and public and private partners, all of which are gained through this recognition, scholars will also share promising and proven practices that support opportunities for all young people to achieve their educational and career potential.

This cohort of HBCU Scholars will also participate in national and regional events and monthly classes with Elyse Jones, HBCU Scholar Program Coordinator, Initiative staff and other professionals from a wide range of disciplines. All HBCU Scholar events are designed to connect HBCU students with non-profit, business, and federal leaders to discuss professional development while identifying challenges and providing equitable solutions to barriers that HBCU students face when preparing and entering the 21st century workforce.

"Supporting the next generation of stu-

dent leaders who will continue their education and graduate from HBCUs has been the highlight and joy of my career with the Initiative" says Elyse Jones, HBCU Scholar Program Coordinator. "It is my honor to announce these 86 students who will continue to make meaningful contributions to our country. Each student selected into this program has demonstrated their commitment to their academic achievements and improving their communities. I look forward to working with them as partners I can't wait to see what they will do as leaders."

Selected HBCU Scholars will be invited to the 2021 HBCU Week National Annual Conference, which will take place September 7-10, 2021. This year's conference theme is "Exploring Equity." During their time at the conference, they will participate in sessions about entrepreneurship, innovation, and personal and professional development. Most importantly, they will also have opportunities to engage with one another and showcase their individual and collective talent across the HBCU community.

More information about the HBCU Scholars' activities will be provided in the coming months as they serve as ambassadors of the White House Initiative on Historically Black colleges and Universities.

MARYLAND

Bowie: **Paige Blake**—attends Bowie State University, Bowie, MD
Bowie: **Janine Jackson**—attends Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD
Ellicott City: **Lauren Brown**—attends Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD
Hyattsville: **Michael McGee**—attends Bowie State University, Bowie MD
Silver Spring: **Fottmatta Tunkara**—attends Howard University, Washington, D.C.

Non-Profit Organization Seeking Local Families for Hosting High School Exchange Students

By PRESS OFFICER
ASSE International Student Exchange Programs

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs (ASSE), in cooperation with your community high school, is looking for local families to host boys and girls ages 15-18 for the next academic year. Students from all over the world—places like Germany, Spain, Italy, Japan, and Ukraine, to name a few—are excited to study in the USA; all they need now is you!

Loving and caring host families are the cornerstone of our program and vital to its mission of bridging the gap between people, cultures, and nations. During this time of social distancing, we need to look forward to and celebrate opportunities to bring humanity back together. By generously opening your home to a young person from overseas, you and your family help us continue our global commitment to increasing international peace, understanding, and unity.

Preparations are well underway for the 2021-22 program year and the arrival of our new future leaders this Autumn. ASSE students come with an enthusiasm to practice their English and experience American culture—food, sports, shopping, and more. They also love to share their own culture with their host families—who welcome them not

as guests, but as family members—giving both the students and families a rich cultural experience.

In addition, ASSE students have pocket money for personal expenses, along with health, accident, and liability insurance. ASSE students are selected for participation based on academics and good citizenship. Host families can choose their students from a wide variety of backgrounds, countries, and personal interests.

ASSE's top concern is the health of our host families, host communities, and exchange students. Even as the U.S. and many other countries continue to live under temporary stay-at-home orders, we would like to reassure you that these students will not travel unless it is considered safe to do so by the U.S. and foreign governmental agencies entrusted with public health and safety.

To become a host family, or to find out how to become involved with ASSE in your community, please call us at the ASSE Eastern Regional Office, 1-800-677-2773 or go to www.host.asse.com to begin your host family application. There are many students to choose from, so begin the process of welcoming your new son or daughter into your family today!

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

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

Joan Williams, violinist and my piano teacher, dies

Joan Williams, longtime resident of Summer Road in Suitland and my long-suffering piano teacher, died July 16. She lived in her Summer Road house for many years and told me, in detail, how her husband Carl built it. I believe he even dug the well.

Music was a big part of Joan's life. I came to know her when I tried to find an old piano to buy. (I grew up with a piano. I'll bet many of you did. That was before TV.) Joan called and said her son had one to sell. I bought it. And then I suggested she give me piano lessons.

I enjoyed Joan's lessons. She came weekly, often with a new music book for me. I appreciated her instruction. What I did find, however, was that I didn't practice enough. I took lessons from her for about two years. It was fun and she became a good friend. I did not become a good pianist.

Joan and Carl were faithful parishioners at St. Philip's where Joan played the violin with John Whipple at the 9 o'clock Mass on Sunday mornings. Also, she gave piano lessons after school hours for St. Philip's schoolkids. Among her students were my great-grandkids, Mary and Wesley.

Joan's husband Carl died Aug. 3, 2010. Surviving are their children, Carlene (Chuck) Musser, Nancy (James) Lynch, David Williams, Joan (Frank) Hewitt, Daniel Williams and Elizabeth (Michael) Blakesley; 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Philip's, followed by burial, with Carl, at Resurrection Cemetery. Contributions may be made in her memory to the Grotto of Lourdes in Emmitsburg.

Dear Joan, I think of you every time I sit down to play the piano. Which, sadly, isn't often enough.

Neighbors and other good people

Dr. Zito Alba, periodontist with offices in Temple Hills for many years, died July 26. Mass of Christian Burial will be offered on Saturday, Aug. 7, 10:30 a.m. at Saint Columba Catholic Church in Oxon Hill. Next week I'll pay tribute to this excellent dentist—who taught me everything I need to know, about the Philip-pines.

Taylor Nicole Woods, of Upper Marlboro, has graduated from the University of Connecticut.

Father Joseph Sileo, of the Washington Archdiocese, recently celebrated his 50

years as a priest. Back in 1987–89, he was associate pastor at St. Philip's Church in Camp Springs. In recent years he has been a member of the Kennedy Institute and Carroll Manor Nursing Home and a professor at Catholic University.

Elaine McHale Seidman, founder and teacher at Turning Pointe Dance Academy, in Hanover, Md., reports that her dancers placed 1st Overall at the Starpower National Competition in Ocean City July 18–22. Elaine, by the way, has been able to keep the studio open throughout Covid, with dancers all wearing masks and staying 6' apart.

Town of Morningside

The Search for a new Morningside Chief of Police continues. Applicants are required to submit a resume, cover letter, and three professional references, to the attention of Mayor Bennard Cann (mayor@morningsidemd.gov). Subject line should read "Town of Morningside Chief." Please, no phone calls.

The Town Council voted at the July meeting to not hold meetings during the month of August. They will, however, have two more "Movies Under the Stars" nights: Friday, August 13 and Friday, August 27. Movies to be announced closer to show dates.

I'm sorry I didn't alert you (no one reminded me) that Morningside celebrated National Night Out on August 3 with food, music, raffles and police demonstrations. Maybe next year I'll remember—National Night Out is always on the first Tuesday of August.

17 Prince George's Libraries are open

The open libraries in our greater area include Spauldings in District Heights, Oxon Hill and Hillcrest Heights. They are open for full browsing with computer use, free Wi-Fi, study rooms open, printing, scanning, and curbside service (by appointment). Masks required. Hours vary.

Books and other donations are not accepted, though bins are available at Oxon Hill.

Meanwhile, stay tuned for the Grand Opening of the newly designed and restored Surratts-Clinton Library. It's expected to be within the next few months.

American Legion Yard Sale

American Legion Post 277 plans a Yard Sale/Flea Market on Saturday Aug. 28 at the Post, Cherry Tree Crossing Road in Brandywine. Rain or shine, 8 a.m. to 2

p.m. \$10 per table or space. Food and drinks available for sale by Post members only. Stop by the Post or call to reserve a table, 301-782-7150.

Prince George's County Fair Sept. 9–12

Did you know that Prince George's is Maryland's oldest running Fair. It was first held in 1842.

The 2021 Fair will be held at the Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro.

Volunteers are needed. Typical volunteer activities include setting up displays, monitoring displays, caring for livestock, setting up for outdoor events, answering phones in the office, gate duty, etc.

There's great coverage online, including prices (\$5 to age 13; \$6 for 14 & up), ride prices, and lots more. Check it out online. Also, you can call 301-404-5566 or email princegeorgescountyfair@gmail.com.

And if you have a Beautiful Baby, he or she might like to compete.

Mary's Covid report: five more have died

There were 505 new cases in Maryland as of Thursday, July 29, 5 p.m., bringing the overall total to 467,435. Five more deaths were reported, with a total of 9,818 deaths.

Think about it: 9,818 Marylanders have died of the virus over the past year-and-a-half!

I thought we were out of the woods. Not so. At St. Philip's Church, everyone is still masked. Maybe it's the same at other local churches. The same goes for local shopping.

And, although kids will be back in school soon, they'll all be masked. Teachers, and custodians, too. "Normal" seems a long way off.

If you haven't gotten your shot, you are among the Unvaccinated. You are helping to keep the virus spreading.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Dave Williams, Aug. 3; Miss Bailey Sparks, GeGe Feeny and my granddaughter Rose Seidman, Aug. 5; Markeyce Herring and Connie Kimbles, Aug. 6; Mary Dean, Aug. 7; Maxmilian "Max" Howard, Ruth Sanford (her 96th!) and William Billy Stewart, Aug. 8; Savannah Foster, Aug. 11; Mary Berkley and Brittany Short, Aug. 13.

Happy anniversary to Denis & Donna Wood on Aug. 7, and to Sharon and Mike Fowler, their 42nd on Aug. 11.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

CRESTVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

"I saw my school become a Police Station. In July 1965 I had the opportunity to transfer to a new school Crestview which was located off Brandywine Road on Groveton Drive in Clinton. So, my husband and I rode there and saw only a hole in the ground. This land had a corn field and was now surrounded by houses".

"This was a challenge. Should I leave Baden, a small old enrollment school for Crestview and the promise of a building by September? Rapidly the building progressed, and my office was available, furnished with one old table and a few chairs. The telephone was in a construction trailer beside the building".

"Larry Hervey, my supervisor, helped select the curriculum materials and finally the faculty appeared, all total strangers except Maud Robinson from the Brandywine School. The first year Benny Wolford was the only male on the faculty".

"September came with about 350 children and 400 folding chairs, telephone in the building and office furniture. Student desks appeared after several days and we tried to settle down to business of teaching with workmen still completing cabinets in each room".

"By October, 12 rooms were completed but construction continued an additional 8 hours. The P.T.A. was organized and became a highly active group in obtaining needed things for the school; for example, air-conditioning for faculty room and carpeting for the library".

"School enrollments continue to increase and in 1969–1970 we had 729 children and needed two temporaries to house the pupils. Waldon Woods Elementary was opened and this helped the over-crowding".

"Crestview School closed in 1982 and stayed vacant until 1986 except for one year when Charles County rented the building for Malcolm School children while their school was renovated".

"In August of 1986 I attended the rededication of Crestview School as a Police Center. Things were changed: classrooms became holding stations; offices were exercise rooms; and every door was monitored from the front office. What a change!! Once again Crestview is a useful community Center".

"Faculty Antics at Crestview: 1. I was presented a beautiful cake at a family picnic from the men on the faculty. All gathered around to see the cutting of the "cement cake". 2. On a hectic rainy day sometimes one of the men would ride the kindergarten tricycle by the primary rooms for diversion. 3. Faculty had a winning volleyball team. They played P.T.A., other neighboring faculties. The name of the team was "Perrie Pirates". Of course I was

present with a sweatshirt as a member of the team. 4. The first day I wore a slack suit to school, I was presented a large silver star. Information submitted by Charlotta E. Perrie retired in 1974 after 31 years of service (Prince George's County Retired Teachers Association)".

SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTERS

Reopening Prince George's Senior Activity Centers. We are excited to announce the reopening of 5 of our senior activity centers. Each center will also host various classes, including Zumba and dance, art, music, theatre, and more. The Centers are Camp Springs, Evelyn Cole, Gwendolyn Britt, John E. Howard, Langley Park, Laurel-Beltsville. See amenities and eligibility requirements at ppparks.com.

ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH, BADEN PARISH

145TH Homecoming Anniversary, 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613-8426. To ALL St. Philip's Church Families and Friends. Patron Listing and Souvenir Journal Cost. Please have your information and memorable items to be published in the 145th Homecoming Anniversary Souvenir Book to Vivian G. Rich or Shirley A. Cleaves by Tuesday, August 31, 2021. This booklet is scheduled to be printed and collated by Sunday, September 5, 2021.

Colored pictures and inserts should be provided in 75 copies. Black and white copies can be provided in one copy. Cost: Full Page \$20.00, Half Page (1/2) \$15.00, Fourth Page (1/4) \$10.00, Business Cards \$7.50, Patrons \$4.00 (Single), Patrons (Mr. & Mrs.) \$6.00.

For questions or concerns please call Mrs. Vivian G. Rich (804-301-9530) or Shirley A. Cleaves (302-690-4260). "The Lord Has Done Great Things for Us" (Psalm 126:3) Thanks in advance for your support. 145th Homecoming Anniversary Committee.

TOGETHER WE CAN HELP

We have a unique outreach opportunity to partner with a community organization in Prince George's County that develops immediate solutions to assist people experiencing homelessness and other crisis.

If you are interested in finding out how you can help those in need contact us by emailing visitors@Westphaliaum.org or call the church office at 301-735-9373 and leave your name and number. A council member will return your call. Westphalia 9363 D'Arcy Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774. Rev. Dr. Timothy West, Senior Pastor.

Around the County

Help Us Stuff the Bus

The 2021–2022 school year will begin for thousands of students on Monday, September 8, 2021, and we would like to help families prepare by collecting school supplies to distribute to students throughout Prince George's County. The Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) will be accepting school supply donations during our annual Stuff the Bus School Supply Drive **until Monday, August 16, 2021** at 9400 Peppercorn Pl., Largo, Maryland 20774, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Your donations are important as we continue to support one another through the challenging COVID-19 pandemic and look towards a brighter future. For more information, please contact Paulette L. Jones at pljones@co.pg.md.us or Tiffany Minor at taminor1@co.pg.md.us.

—The Dispatch Monthly Newsletter - July 2021

Local Students Selected to University of Minnesota Twin Cities Dean's List

Students honored for academic success during the 2021 spring semester

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL, Minn. (July 30, 2021)—The following students have been named to the 2021 spring semester Dean's List at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, the university announced today.

Brandywine, MD: **Mackenzie Hemming**, Senior, Col of Educ/Human Development

Mount Rainier, MD: **Roslyn Brehl**, Senior, College of Liberal Arts

To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must complete 12 or more letter-graded credits while attaining a 3.66 grade point average.

—University Public Relations

Hyattsville Resident Inducted Into National Society of Leadership and Success

MANCHESTER, N.H. (August 2, 2021)—Saint Anselm College student **Beatriz Huerta** of Hyattsville, MD, a marketing major in the class of 2023, has been accepted into Sigma Alpha Pi, a national society of leadership and success, for the 2020–2021 academic year.

Membership in Sigma Alpha Pi is by invitation based on criteria determined by local chapter leaders. Students are selected by their college based on their academic standing and/or leadership potential. Candidacy is a nationally recognized achievement of honorable distinction providing students with an opportunity to build their leadership skills, network with other successful students, and stand out as valued candidates to graduate schools and employers.

Sigma Alpha Pi was founded with the sole purpose of creating lasting positive change by encouraging community action, volunteerism and strong leadership. It is the largest collegiate leadership honor society in the United States with 722 chapters and more than 1.3 million members nationwide. The Saint Anselm College Society Chapter was established in 2016.

Founded in 1889, Saint Anselm College is a nationally-ranked four-year liberal arts college providing a 21st century education in the Catholic, Benedictine tradition. Located in the greater Boston region in southern New Hampshire, Saint Anselm is well known for its strong liberal arts curriculum, the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, commitment to inclusiveness, a highly successful nursing program, and a legacy of community service.

—Paul Pronovost, Saint Anselm College

Prince George's County Earns GIS Special Achievement Award Recognized for its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer GIS Enterprise System

LARGO, Md. (July 26, 2021)—The Department of Environment (DoE) Stormwater Management Division (SMD) received a 2021 Special Achievement Award in Geographic Information System (GIS) from the Environmental Systems Research Institute (Esri) during its Annual Virtual User Conference held in early July.

DoE was awarded the prestigious award in GIS (a system that creates, manages, analyzes, and maps all types of data) for its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Stormwater GIS Enterprise System. The system maintains information (in a workflow system) that streamlines data collection and reports generation from multiple agencies and various regulatory and non-regulatory programs. In addition, the system was created to enhance the Maryland Department of Environment's (MDE) geodatabase and build applications to create the MS4 report and to meet other County needs.

"We are thrilled to receive a Special Recognition Award for our efforts in GIS," said DoE Acting Director Andrea L. Crooms. "SMD continues to be a leader in efforts to effectively develop and implement programs that improve the water quality in our County."

The award recognizes County employees Charles Braese and Patrick Callahan for their innovative efforts in GIS. Braese, a GIS Project Lead in SMD, is responsible for creating and submitting data for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) report, designing web mapping applications, providing support to SMD, and managing the County's Enterprise Stormwater Management Geodatabase.

Callahan is a GIS Manager in the Office of Information Technology (OIT) and has more than 30 years working in GIS, with the past 18 years as the GIS Manager for (OIT). He is the Project lead for all multi-agency GIS County initiatives, and his office supports all GIS activities.

Esri is an international supplier of GIS software and a leader in web GIS and geodatabase management applications. The Esri User Conference is one of the largest of its kind. It recognizes organizations and government agencies throughout the world for groundbreaking and cutting-edge applications of GIS systems.

—Judith Hall, Department of the Environment

COMMUNITY

Around the County

Amerigroup Partners With M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County to Grant Summer Scholarships to Local Families

RIVERDALE, Md. (July 30, 2021)—The Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County, part of the M-NCPPC, wishes to commend Amerigroup for its commitment to serving the residents of Prince George's County. Amerigroup is funding a scholarship program to provide summer program access to local families.

The New Beginnings Camp Scholarship benefits eligible Prince George's County residents and provides opportunities and access to Summer Day Camps, Playtimes, and Virtual Clubhouses. The scholarship provides campers with up to \$150 to be used towards M-NCPPC, Prince George's County summer sessions. Awarded funds must be used during summer 2021. M-NCPPC will link funds to scholarship winner's PARKS DIRECT accounts with pre-approved day camp registration.

"Recreation is an integral part of building and sustaining healthy lifestyles. Amerigroup is thrilled to provide opportunities for Prince George's County families who would not otherwise be able to attend summer camp and participate in the Department's summer activities, said Lori Hammond, Director of Marketing, Amerigroup Maryland.

Terms and Conditions—Funds cannot be used to pay for past programs, outstanding debt, or before/aftercare. The scholarship does not provide or cover items for personal use such as cash, gift cards, presents, gas for vehicles, transportation, etc. All finalists will be reviewed based on eligibility criteria, completed application, and essay. If deemed eligible and selected, the award will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Eligibility Requirements — Camper must be a Prince George's County resident, between the ages of 4 and 21 years old. Must be a first-time camper with Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Interested persons can apply at <https://pgparks.com/629/Summer-Programs>.

Amerigroup, Maryland, has provided health care coverage since 1999. Statewide, it serves approximately 288,000 members in the Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs. Amerigroup Maryland is the state's second-largest Managed Care Organization (MCO). It is the second-largest MCO in both Baltimore City and Anne Arundel County, and one of the largest MCOs in the counties of Baltimore, Montgomery, and Prince George's. Employees share genuine pride in making a difference in the lives of people who might need a little extra help.

The M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation delivers an award-winning park system through progressive, innovative leadership and a commitment to the community and the environment in Prince George's County. For more on the Department of Parks and Recreation, visit www.pgparks.com and stay connected on Facebook, Twitter, PhotoShelter, and Instagram. The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities in all programs and services. Register at least a minimum of two weeks in advance of the program start date to request and receive a disability accommodation.

Grief Support Programs Offered and Lecture Presented by Hospice of the Chesapeake

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

Adult Grief Support Programs Meeting This Fall

PASADENA, Md. (July 29, 2021)—Chesapeake Life Center will offer a variety of grief support groups for adults that will be meeting in person and virtually through the end of the year. The following in-person support groups will be held on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus at 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena:

Six-Week General Grief In-Person Support Group is a facilitated group offering attendees an opportunity to explore grief themes and share strategies for navigating grief in a community of trust. A six-week commitment is required. The group will meet from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 16 to Oct. 21.

Exploring Grief through Art—A picture is worth a thousand words. No artistic ability or previous experience is required for this monthly group where participants gather in a safe, creative and supportive space to use a wide range of art materials to express where each is on their grief journey. It will meet from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4 and Dec. 2.

Loss of Life Partner/Spouse Monthly Evening Group is for individuals grieving the death of a spouse or life partner. It will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15.

Traumatic Loss Eight-Week Group will be led by clinicians with expertise in traumatic loss and will focus on how to heal from death losses that involve trauma. This is a safe space for participants to learn skills of grounding, containing overwhelming feelings, releasing trauma from the body, and safely expressing the loss and its circumstances. An eight-week commitment is required. It will meet from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 26 to Dec. 14.

Per Center for Disease Control and Anne Arundel County guidelines, the number of people allowed to participate in programs in person is limited to allow for physical distancing. Face masks must be worn at all times. Childcare is not provided, and children are not permitted in any of these groups.

The following groups will be *meeting virtually via Zoom for Healthcare*:

Six-Week General Virtual Grief Support Group is a facilitated six-week support group offering attendees an opportunity to explore grief themes and share strategies for navigating loss in a community of trust. It will meet from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 14 to Oct. 19. A six-week commitment is required.

Loss of Life Partner/Spouse Monthly

Morning Group is for individuals grieving the death of a spouse or life partner. It will meet from 10:30 a.m. to noon on the third Wednesday of the month, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15.

Parent/Parental-Figure Loss Monthly Support Group is a monthly drop-in group that is open to adults grieving the death of a parent or parental figure. It will meet from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month, Sept. 22, Oct. 27, Nov. 24 and Dec. 22.

Acknowledging that not everyone has access to this technology or may not be comfortable with it, the center suggests people call or email the office and grief professionals will work with individuals to help them find other appropriate resources if needed. Two groups will be meeting both in-person and virtually:

Child Loss Support Group will meet both in-person and virtually. This group is for parents who have experienced the death of a child of any age or circumstance. The group will meet on our Pasadena campus as well as via Zoom for Healthcare from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month, Sept. 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 3 and Dec. 1.

SoulCollage Grief Support Group has participants create a series of collages to commemorate lost loved ones and to visually journal the grief process. The group will meet from 5 to 8 p.m. Mondays, Sept. 13, Oct. 4, Nov. 1 and Dec. 6 at the nonprofit's office at **9500 Medical Center Drive, Suite 250, in Largo, Maryland, as well as via Zoom**.

Registration is required for all groups and can be completed by calling 888-501-7077 or emailing griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org. Visit www.hospicechesapeake.org/events for a complete listing of in-person and virtual groups and workshops for adults and children.

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.

Emily Schindler Lecture Addresses Social Inequity In the Grief Journey

PASADENA, Md. (August 2, 2021)—Chesapeake Life Center invites the community to the 15th Annual Emily Schindler Memorial Lecture, "Supporting Bereavement Among Marginalized Youth," presented by Dr. Tashel Bordere, Assistant Professor at the University of Missouri, Columbia. The lecture will be held from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. **Wednesday, Sept. 29**, at the Owen Brown Interfaith Center, 7246

Cradlerock Way, Columbia, Maryland.

Dr. Bordere's presentation will address historical and contemporary ways in which youth and families from various marginalized social locations such as race, ethnicity, sex, socioeconomic status, and others, are faced with inequities and suffocated grief in their journey of healing while coping with loss. Drawing from research and case studies and from the perspective of the COVID-19 pandemic and social unrest, Bordere will describe socially just and culturally conscientious practices that facilitate the disruption of systemic factors that complicate grief, mourning, and coping processes for children and teens.

This annual lecture was created in 2005 through a gift to the Schindler family from the Saint Agnes Cancer Center. Emily Schindler was an 18-year-old freshman at Frostburg State University and a member of the SPY swim team in Severna Park, Maryland, when she was tragically killed in a car accident in 2004.

Chesapeake Life Center is authorized by the Board of Social Work Examiners in Maryland to sponsor social work continuing education learning activities and maintains full responsibility for this program. This training qualifies for 3.0 Category 1 continuing education units. An application has been sent for approval to the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists so that this program can be certified as meeting the criteria for 3.0 credit hours of Category A continuing education for counselors and therapists in Maryland.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and a light breakfast will be provided. The cost is \$40. To register, visit <https://education.hospicechesapeake.org/item/supporting-bereavement-marginalized-youth>. For details, call 667-210-9189 or email info@hospicechesapeake.org.

About Tashel C. Bordere, PhD, CT:

Dr. Tashel Bordere is an assistant professor of Human Development and Family Science and State Specialist at the University of Missouri-Columbia. She serves on the Board of the Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC), Board of the National Alliance for Grieving Children (NAGC), and Advisory Council of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS). Dr. Bordere is a former Forward Promise Fellow (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) and received the Ronald K. Barrett National Award (ADEC) for her research on bereaved Black youth. Her research, publications, and trainings focus on cultural trauma, Black youth and family bereavement, suffocated grief (a term she coined), and coping. She has co-edited/co-written the book "Handbook of Social Justice in Loss and Grief" (Routledge).

Bible & Leadership Institute—2021 Fall Semester

BIBLE & LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE —2021 Fall Semester
Classes will be held online, via Zoom
DATE: Saturdays, beginning Saturday, September 18, 2021 to November 6, 2021
VENUE: Accokeek First Church of God online, via Zoom
301-283-2116 / www.accokeekchog.org
Rose Armstrong, Admin. Assistant
rosesblackus48@aol.com
301-885-8124 (cell)
DESCRIPTION: The Fall semester of our Bible & Leadership Institute is offering the following classes:

- You and Your Bible (Bible and Theology): 9-10:15 a.m.
- New Testament Survey (Bible and Theology): 9-10:15 a.m.

- The Truth About World Views (Evangelism and Outreach): 10:30-11:45 a.m.
- Registrations are open now up to September 18, 2021. To register and learn more about our entire course offerings and benefits, go to: <https://accokeekchog.org/bible-leadership-institute>
Or send an email to: adminasst@accokeekchog.org. Or call or text Rose Armstrong at 301-885-8124.
Our certified instructors are: Pastor Paula Collins, Minister Lisa Kirby and Minister Ben Snyder
DURATION: Eight (8) week semester
Fees for all classes: \$45.00 (includes tuition and textbook)
All are welcome!

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Founded in 1976
ASSE International Student Exchange Program is a Public Benefit, Non-Profit Organization.
For privacy reasons, photos above are not photos of actual students.



Victoria from Australia, 17 yrs. Enjoys spending time with her family and younger siblings. Victoria plays volleyball and is excited to learn new sports while in America.



Giorgio from Italy, 16 yrs. Loves to play baseball and spend time with his dogs. Giorgio also plays the guitar, and his dream is to join a drama club at his American high school.

Free Entrepreneur Training for Veterans

Is Entrepreneurship the right choice for you?
Do you have a business idea but not sure where to start?
Do you have a business and want to take it to the next level?

Want to know more, register for the Project Opportunity Prince George's Fall 2021 Orientation Session which will be held on Thursday, August 26, 2021 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at The American Job Center National Harbor, 6800 Oxon Hill Road, Suite 208, National Harbor Maryland 20745 www.project-opportunity.com/class/registration

Attendance at the Orientation Session is a vital step in our application process. If you are interested in this class but unable

to attend you must contact Program Director Joe Giordano, joe.giordano@project-opportunity.com

Classes Begins Thursday, September 16, 2021. Project Opportunity is an intensive curriculum based 10-week cohort program. The Fall 2021 program will meet every Thursday, September 16–November 11, 2021 from 6:30–9:30 p.m. at The American Job Center 6800 Oxon Hill Road in National Harbor Through grants and community business support this program is

free to all veterans. The curriculum and material are facilitated by small business professionals and subject matter experts. The program concludes with a formal business pitch and Graduation Ceremony on Wednesday November 17, 2021.

- Training Includes:
- Assessing Your Business Idea
 - Marketing Analysis
 - Financing and Financial Management
 - Business Structure and Taxes
 - Development of a Business Plan



Insecurity from A1

nctions, school meals, and overall food security in Prince George's County. The group is tasked with identifying challenges and opportunities and providing recommendations for creating a healthy, equitable, and sustainable food system that ensures every Prince Georgian has access to nutritious, affordable, sustainably grown, safe and culturally appropriate food.

"As a community partner, we strive to improve the health of our community with a holistic approach and this initiative will support our efforts," said Nathaniel Richardson, Jr., President & CEO, UM Capital Region Health.

Radha Muthiah, President and CEO of the Capital Area Food Bank, said, "The extraordinary level of economic turmoil brought about by the pandemic has also caused unprecedented need for food assistance in our region. The critical support provided by UMMS is enabling us to provide more of the nutritious food that our neighbors need, and to distribute it in ways that make it easy to access. This partnership will allow hundreds of families to get the meals that help them thrive both today and into the future as our community rebuilds together."

COMMENTARY

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Remembering Bob Moses

On July 25 we lost the quiet and brilliant educator, scholar, and civil rights hero Bob Moses, a great man and a dear friend. For me and my generation of young civil rights workers, Bob was, after Dr. King, the most influential person in our movement lives. We all looked up to him although he was just a few years older. I and all of us would do anything for Bob and follow anywhere he led because we knew he would do anything for us and sacrifice all to win justice for the poor disenfranchised people of Mississippi.

A Harlem-born graduate of Hamilton College who had studied philosophy at Harvard, Bob Moses left a job teaching mathematics at the Horace Mann School in New York City in 1960 to work for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). He set up a voter registration project in Mississippi, which had the lowest Black voter registration of any southern state. I first met him while I was a student at Yale Law School. Bob would occasionally come north to recruit students for SNCC and to raise money, and listening to his stories of white intimidation and violence directed against Black adults attempting to register to vote did not change my mind about getting myself to Mississippi as soon as my legal training was finished.

His unshakable calm, quiet leadership style, unquestionable integrity, and incredible courage and perseverance in the face of grave dangers inspired us again and again. He encouraged us to tap wellsprings of inner strength and possibility we did not know we had and helped us be so much better and braver than we realized we could be. He led by example and was prepared to give absolutely everything he had to the freedom struggle, including his life.

I was not afraid when I was with Bob in Mississippi even when forced to crouch on the floorboard of a car's backseat to avoid snipers while traveling to then notorious Amite County. Bob did not let a split-open head wound keep him from walking on into the registrar's office in McComb, Mississippi with his scared fellow citizens, determined to show local officials and his white assailants that violence would not turn him or the movement around. He knew he had to break the paralysis of fear among would-be voters and let Mississippi and the world know he would not turn back until Black citizens could vote.

As patient as Job and determined to keep hope alive among his fractious and often unpaid band of SNCC workers, his quiet but steely will kept them and me carrying on and pushing on the heavy

door to open Mississippi's closed society. He knew how hard and how important it was and how much time it would take to build the trust of local citizens who too seldom had seen leaders who stuck by them when times got rough.

He devised the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer and helped recruit hundreds of idealistic white college students to come into the state to bring visibility to the constant denial of human and civil rights of Mississippi's Black citizens. Sadly, often only when middle-class and privileged whites feel threatened does a movement reach critical mass and attract enough media attention to mobilize public opinion. I saw and shared his wrenching soul-searching at Western College for Women in Oxford, Ohio when the horrible news of James Chaney's, Andrew Goodman's, and Mickey Schwerner's disappearance swept through training sessions designed to prepare the white college students for Mississippi's realities. I saw this leader shoulder the burden of life and death consequences not just for himself but, at that moment, for so many others. I felt him struggle to determine what price others could be asked to pay to uphold one's ideals.

Bob Moses led us through the very difficult Mississippi Freedom Summer and through a mock election in which 80,000 Black citizens showed they wanted the right to vote denied them by Mississippi's Jim Crow Democratic Party. He led us to Atlantic City where the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) unsuccessfully sought to persuade the Credentials Committee at the Democratic National Convention to unseat the racist Mississippi Party regulars. Eventually, Bob, human and not saint after all, was worn out from the cumulative struggles to register Black voters and the white violence it provoked, from the MFDP defeat in Atlantic City, and by the willingness of civil rights allies to compromise on

what he, Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, and the majority of the MFDP delegation thought was a matter of principle and right. I watched with profound sadness this wonderful man leave Mississippi burnt out and temporarily disillusioned about interracial coalition building. Soon afterwards, my deeply loved and admired friend went off to Tanzania via Canada to regroup, renew, and wait out the Vietnam War.

When he came back to the United States, he resumed his philosophy studies at Harvard and then returned to his calling as a teacher when he founded the Algebra Project to help Black and poor children get onto the college track. As Bob explained in his book *Radical Equations: Math Literacy and Civil Rights*, he believed the struggle for math literacy is connected to the struggle for voting rights and math literacy for all children is a key step in the ongoing fight for equal citizenship. The Algebra Project's ongoing mission is to use math literacy as an organizing tool to guarantee quality public school education for all children in the United States of America. Our own CDF Freedom Schools® program is also rooted in the model of empowerment on which he helped organize the 1960s Freedom Schools during Freedom Summer and are still driven by that same understanding that education and civic participation must function hand-in-hand. The Algebra Project's success in hundreds of classrooms over nearly forty years is now Bob's living legacy.

I bristle when I hear careless know-nothing media and political pundits and self-righteous ideologues excoriate the 1960s as a time of undisciplined behavior. Not my Sixties. Not Bob Moses' Sixties. Bob Moses was a principled, fiercely committed, and deeply disciplined leader and role model whose quiet and determined strength inspired everyone around him. He will be dearly missed.

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Vernon Jordan on Whitney M. Young, Jr.: One Visionary Warrior Pays Tribute to Another

Saturday, July 31, we remember and celebrate Whitney Moore Young, Jr., on the centennial of his birth. Young served at the helm of the National Urban League during the turbulent decade from 1961 to 1971, overseeing the greatest expansion of scope and mission our organization has seen in more than a century. As the activism of the Civil Rights Movement expanded from the courts to mass-action non-violent demonstrations in the streets of both southern and northern communities, Young forcefully and publicly projected the League's tenets of social work and civil rights as never before.

During our Equal Opportunity Dinner in November of 2019, the National Urban League honored three other former leaders—Vernon Jordan, John Jacob and Hugh Price—with the "Visionary Warriors" award for their years of unwavering leadership. Vernon Jordan, due to illness, was unable to attend, but shared prepared remarks in which he paid tribute to Whitney Young. We lost Jordan in March of this year. In honor of these giants of civil rights, we commemorate Young's centennial year by sharing Jordan's tribute.

Good evening. It is an honor to be here, to be alongside two great leaders of the Urban League, my successor John Jacob, and his successor, Hugh Price.

Of course, I, too, was a successor. And so tonight I'd like to thank my predecessor, the

great Whitney Young, for this award—and dedicate it to him.

You see, I would not be here without Whitney. He was my mentor and guardian, my inspiration and dear friend. And for about as long as I knew him, he was trying to recruit me for the Urban League. I remember many years ago, in 1966, he gave me a ride from LaGuardia Airport and asked me to come work for him. But I was not ready to leave the South.

A few years later, in 1969, he asked me about becoming his deputy—and then rescinded the offer! He said I was more suited to a different job — one he was not ready to vacate anytime soon.

And not long after that, when I was offered the job as the Executive Director of the United Negro College Fund, I sought out his wise counsel. And he encouraged me to accept. So I moved to Manhattan, into the office just below his, and soon he became my greatest advisor and ally in this city, showing me the way forward as only he could. I learned so much from him.

His loss was tragic, and his impact was tremendous.

Of course, his impact was not limited to me alone. In his near decade of leadership, he transformed the Urban League and had a profound impact. He was the original "Visionary" for this institution—imagining what it would be and could become for Black people in this country. And he pushed that vision closer to reality.

He also was an original

"Warrior," a soldier in the army for civil rights ... alongside so many whom we still celebrate and others we have nearly forgotten. And he set the standard for what it means to combine the two—to be a "voice for the voiceless," and to fight tirelessly towards a vision of equality.

Indeed, 48 years ago, almost to the day, at my first Equal Opportunity Day Dinner, as the designated Executive Director, I reflected on the incredible impact of Whitney Young. And I will say tonight what I said then, because it remains true, almost half a century later: "Whitney has left us the instrumentality for change, an agency with a proven record of effectiveness, a vehicle with the blueprint for getting the job done. Thus, we have a charge to keep, a constituency to serve, a people to lead."

I am grateful to John and Hugh and Marc for being such stewards of the Urban League of this living legacy of Whitney Young. And today, its work would not be more vital — for families and communities across the country. We still have our charge to keep, our constituency to serve, our people to lead.

And we must continue to live by Whitney's example.

So, before I go, perhaps even more than this award, I want to thank Whitney for the honor of a lifetime — the best job I've ever had. It has been an honor to be a soldier in Whitney's army, a warrior for a vision we must all keep fighting for.

Thank you.

—July 30, 2021

Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin, Van Hollen, Raskin, Trone Announce Nearly \$2 Million in American Rescue Plan Funding to Support Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment Services

WASHINGTON (August 2, 2021)—U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen and Congressmen Jamie Raskin and David Trone (all D-Md.) today announced \$1,915,270 in American Rescue Plan funding to increase access to mental and behavioral health and substance use rehabilitation services in Montgomery County. The funding comes from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration within the U.S. Department of Health and

Human Services.

"The pandemic has taken an undeniable toll on the mental health of many Americans. As experts warn that mental health effects from the pandemic will continue to emerge over the coming months, these continued funds from the American Rescue Plan will help support key mental health treatment initiatives. This investment will build on previous and ongoing funding in our mental health infrastructure to ensure Marylanders have ac-

cess to the support they need, when they need it," the lawmakers said. "We will continue working to secure additional funding to strengthen community-based mental and behavioral health services."

The lawmakers previously announced \$55.4 million in American Rescue Plan funding to expand access to mental health services and substance use disorder treatment programs across the state.

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ENVIRONMENT

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County Awarded Prestigious LEED Green Building Certification at Southern Area Aquatic and Recreation Complex

By ANGEL WALDRON
Prince George's County
Department of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (July 30, 2021)—The Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County announced today that its Southern Area Aquatics and Recreation Complex (SAARC) has been awarded LEED Silver certification. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), is the most widely used green building rating system in the world and an international symbol of excellence. Through design, construction and operations practices that improve environmental and human health, LEED-certified buildings are helping to make the world more sustainable.

"LEED certification demonstrates tremendous green building leadership," said Mahesh Ramanujam, president and CEO, USGBC. "LEED was created to revolutionize our buildings and communities

by providing everyone with access to healthy, green and high performing buildings. SAARC is a prime example of how the innovative work of project teams can create local solutions that contribute to making a global difference."

SAARC achieved LEED certification for implementing practical and measurable strategies and solutions in areas including sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality. Green buildings allow companies to operate more sustainably and give the people inside them a healthier, more comfortable space to work. Learn more about LEED certification here.

"SAARC receiving LEED certification meets our goals for implementing practical and measurable strategies and solutions in areas including water savings, energy efficiency, and indoor environmental quality," says Bridget Stesney, Chief of Park Planning and Development Division. "As we continue to expand our recreational offerings in Prince George's County, we commit to providing

spaces that promote a sustainable, healthier living for patrons and staff."

The M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation delivers an award-winning park system through progressive, innovative leadership and a commitment to the community and the environment in Prince George's County. For more on the Department of Parks and Recreation, visit www.pgprarks.com and stay connected on Facebook, Twitter, PhotoShelter, and Instagram. The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities in all programs and services. Register at least a minimum of two weeks in advance of the program start date to request and receive a disability accommodation.

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is committed to a healthy, resilient and equitable future for all through the development of green buildings, cities and communities. For more than 20 years, USGBC has been advancing green building practices through the development of LEED, the world's most widely used green building program. With the support of thousands of members, volunteers and partners, USGBC provides robust green building education courses, a rigorous professional credentialing program, and advocates for effective public policies. It convenes an international network of green building and sustainability leaders through the annual Greenbuild International Conference & Expo, and forward-thinking programs, including the Center for Green Schools. For more information, visit usgbc.org and connect on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.

Earth TALK™ Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Conservation: It's a Green New World

Dear EarthTalk:
How is Artificial Intelligence being used for conservation?

—Katy P., Chevy Chase, MD

You would never think that computers and Artificial Intelligence (AI) could help humans save nature, but in fact these tools may be key to whether or not we can halt global warming in time let alone solve many other vexing environmental problems. For many underfunded conservation groups, hiring enough staff can become too costly. Humans are also prone to making more sloppy errors and inaccuracies in calculations. AI can serve as a more efficient, reliable and affordable way to capture and an-

alyze information for conservation purposes.

AI tools are extremely precise in the more statistical and analytical elements of conservation, whether it's detecting complex patterns or making mathematical calculations. For example, interactions between predators and prey can be modeled using game theory with AI tools. Analytics—with the help of machines—can then calculate where predators are most likely to strike and predict where prey will roam.

Certain problems also require real-time results that people cannot produce in a timely manner, such as tracking the locations of illegal wildlife traffickers to protect endangered wildlife. AI tools can produce results effectively without distraction and not experience any performance de-

terioration due to fatigue.

While some may be concerned that AI requires advanced software engineers to manage, it is actually now more accessible than ever. As long as the AI software to conduct conservation research tasks is set up correctly, researchers believe that anyone can easily utilize it with point-and-click tools.

Of course, AI is not a simple solution. Researchers predict that the training data required for AI machines to generate results can range up to hundreds of thousands of examples and details. Though AI can process data at much higher rates than humans, humans still have to monitor it to ensure accuracy.

For example, AI software processing images or audio recordings can produce false

positives that will require trained analysts to remove manually. In spite of this disadvantage, scientists do not believe that the AI program always has to be perfectly accurate. "We just have to know exactly how accurate it is," says conservation biologist Marc Travers.

Although the future of AI in environmental conservation appears promising, it cannot completely replace humans. The modern climate crisis is truly a crisis of lifestyle, with which mankind has turned nature into its very own factory. To heal that split and mold a harmonic, mutually beneficial balance between nature and mankind, humans need to be in the thick of it. Like Peter Ersts, a software developer at the American Museum of Natural History's Center for Biodi-



CREDIT: SARAH WINSTEAD, PEXELS.COM.

Environmentalists are increasingly turning to Artificial Intelligence (AI) to help collect & analyze data that would otherwise overwhelm us.

versity and Conservation, says, "We can't fully replace people yet, and nor should we."

CONTACTS: AI for Conservation, teamcore.seas.harvard.edu/ai-conservation; AI empowers conservation biology, nature.com/articles/d41586-019-00746-1.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://www.earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Disability vs. Survivor Benefit

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

Dear Rusty: I have a question regarding Social Security. I'm 54 and applying for disability. I've had rheumatoid arthritis since I was 19. My son, 16 years old, receives survivor benefits from my deceased ex-husband. We were married for 20 years. I was told by Social Security that my monthly payments, if they found me eligible for disability, would be \$1418 a month. When would I be eligible to collect my ex-husband's Social Security benefit? He made considerably more income over the years and his benefit will be a good deal more than my projected \$1418.
Signed: Disabled Widow

Dear Disabled Widow: Your Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefit is based upon your own lifetime work record up to the point you became disabled. If awarded, the \$1418 amount would be equal to the benefit you would have been entitled to on your own at your full retirement age (FRA) of 67. At your FRA, your SSDI benefit will automatically convert to your SS retirement benefit at the same amount. However, if your SSDI is awarded you will be also eligible to apply for your survivor benefit at any time.

Normally, age 60 is the earliest a survivor benefit can be claimed, but those who are disabled can apply for survivor benefits as early as age 50. Whether to apply for your survivor benefit from your ex-husband this early is a question you should carefully consider, because the amount of your survivor benefit will be reduced by 28.5% if you claim it now. And to be clear, if you have remarried and remain married you are not eligible for a survivor benefit from your deceased ex-husband (even though your minor son is).

Your survivor benefit from your ex-husband will not reach maximum until you have reached your full retirement age. At your FRA you would be entitled to 100% of the benefit your ex-husband was receiving (or entitled to receive) when he died but taken at any

age earlier than your FRA your survivor benefit will be permanently reduced. The reduction is 4.75% for each full year earlier than your FRA that the survivor benefit is claimed to a maximum reduction of 28.5%.

So, if your SSDI is awarded you will have a choice—to take your smaller SSDI benefit and allow your survivor benefit to continue to grow, or to take your survivor benefit early and accept the permanent 28.5% reduction to that survivor benefit. You will need to compare those two benefit amounts to decide which course to take. For clarity, you can switch to your higher survivor benefit at any later time, but you shouldn't wait beyond your FRA (when the survivor benefit reaches maximum) to claim it.

The 2.3 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] www.amac.us is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation's capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country. And the AMAC Foundation (www.AmacFoundation.org) is the Association's non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting and educating America's Seniors. Together, we act and speak on the Association members' behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at www.amac.us/join-amac.

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

LEAD Maryland Fellowship Program Seeking Applicants for Two-Year Leadership Development Experience

By LAURA WORMUTH
University of Maryland
Extension

QUEENSTOWN, Md. (July 30, 2021)—Applications are now being accepted for the LEAD Maryland Fellowship Program Class XII (2022–23), a collaborative effort between the LEAD Maryland Foundation, numerous partners, and the University of Maryland Extension (UME). This UME Signature Program is a leadership development experience designed for people committed to serving agriculture, natural resources, and rural communities.

Two-year fellowships are awarded to selected participants, creating classes of up to 25 emerging leaders. The curriculum of the statewide program, which began in 1999, includes local and international experiences in civic discourse, skills building, public issues education, and networking with other professionals in the agriculture industry, natural resources and rural communities, to

expand leadership development, communication skills, and personal growth.

"LEAD Maryland is an excellent program for skills building designed for those in our agriculture, natural resources and rural communities who have an established career path and are looking to hone their abilities in order to better serve their communities," said Emily Wilson, president of the LEAD Maryland Foundation, and alumna of the program. "The commitment to the program will pay off, and is well worth the effort."

For over 20 years, and more than ten graduating classes, LEAD Maryland has been working to identify the needs of the rural sector and provide professional development for emerging leaders working or serving in those areas to help identify resources, engage and educate others, solve problems, and shape public policy.

Applications for the 2022–23 Class XII are due by Oct. 1, 2021. More information about the program and the application

forms can be found at www.leadmaryland.org.

The LEAD Maryland Foundation, through support of the Rural Maryland Foundation and individual donors, also has a scholarship program for those seeking assistance with the LEAD Fellowship Program tuition. "Most Fellows receive tuition support from employers, industry associations, or community organizations. The scholarship helps to meet gaps for those needing more help in paying the tuition, which is set at \$4,600, and payable over the 2-year program," said Susan Harrison, executive director of the LEAD Maryland Foundation.

The LEAD Maryland Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, working collaboratively with the University of Maryland Extension and many funding partners to provide the Fellowship Program. For more information regarding the Fellowship application, or making a donations, please contact Susan R. Harrison at 410-827-8056 or leadmd@umd.edu.

OUT on the TOWN

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

Negro League Legends Hall of Fame Baseball Game And Auto Show

Saturday, August 7 at Prince George's Stadium

By ANGEL WALDRON
Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (July 27, 2021)—The Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County, part of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, is proud to support the Negro League Legends Hall of Fame (NLLHOF) Annual East/West Vintage Baseball game and auto show. This historic game is being played in observance of NLLHOF week, saluting the 88th anniversary of the game and the 100th anniversary of the Negro National League, founded a year later by Andrew "Rube" Foster—"Father of Black Baseball" in 1920. Some remaining players from the league will be in attendance. The game will be played by former Major/Minor League players, local leagues and collegiate players dressed in vintage attire.

"Our Hall of Fame Legends were pioneers in a league of some of the greatest players to play the game of baseball," states

Organizer Dwayne Sims. "We look forward to welcoming local fans to a historic game at Prince George's Stadium, and continuing to educate the young and old about these players' contribution to American baseball history."

The event will take place Saturday, August 7 at Prince George's Stadium—home of the Bowie Baysox. Enjoy a free auto show at 10:00 am. Gates open at 1 pm for the NLLHOF East/ West Vintage game at the ballpark. Tickets are available here.

The vision of the Negro League Legends Hall of Fame (NLLHOF) is to be an authority and educational entity for young and old on the contributions of the Colored Professional League and the Negro League legendary players, while exploring the rich history of American Baseball. They were pioneers in more ways than just proving to be extraordinary athletes. Founded in 2003 by Dwayne Renal Sims to share the Colored Professional League and the Negro League contributions to America's game of baseball,

but also the players participated in fundraisers for Historical Black Colleges including serving in the United States Armed Forces and giving back to their communities. The organization is volunteer oriented - hosting events, exhibitions, and experiences to youth and seasoned citizens. Learn more at negroleaguelegendshalloffame.org.

The M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation delivers an award-winning park system through progressive, innovative leadership and a commitment to the community and the environment in Prince George's County. For more on the Department of Parks and Recreation, visit www.pgpc.com and stay connected on Facebook, Twitter, PhotoShelter, and Instagram. The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities in all programs and services. Register at least a minimum of two weeks in advance of the program start date to request and receive a disability accommodation.

MGM National Harbor Highlights New Shows With Alicia Keys, Bill Maher, Mike Tyson and More

The Theater at MGM National Harbor marks return of live entertainment with an all-star lineup of upcoming shows.

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. (July 22, 2021)—The Theater at MGM National Harbor welcomes the return of live entertainment tonight for the first time since March 2020 with a performance by Billboard's "Comedian of the Year," Sebastian Maniscalco. To celebrate the momentous occasion, the entertainment destination showcases an all-star lineup of upcoming shows in The Theater including Alicia Keys, Bill Maher, Erykah Badu, Mike Tyson and Gladys Knight.

"Live entertainment is such an important part of our DNA here, and I cannot wait for tonight to feel the energy of The Theater coming back to life," said Jorge Perez, President & Chief Operating Officer of MGM National Harbor. "We are dedicated to attracting the top performers in the world to the DMV, giving our guests a

truly memorable experience they cannot find anywhere else."

The Theater at MGM National Harbor offers guests an intimate setting with 3,000 seats providing a unique opportunity to experience some of the biggest names in music, comedy and sports up close and personal.

Tickets for upcoming events can be purchased online at mgmnationalharbor.com or ticketmaster.com.

M life Rewards members will receive access to pre-sale tickets. To join the M life Rewards program, or for more information, visit mlife.com.

For additional show information, please visit mgmnationalharbor.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MARYLAND ZOO IN BALTIMORE

ZooBop attendees at a past ZooBop event.

Party Like an Animal at ZooBop, Presented by Chase!

Tickets on sale now!

By JANE BALLENTINE
The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore

BALTIMORE (Jul 19, 2021)—Hop like a frog, swing like monkey and prance like a gazelle at the family-friendly ZooBop concert event at The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore on Saturday, September 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Geared toward the young cubs in your life, families can dance, sing and enjoy live-performances by Baltimore's own Baby Beats! with Max and Root, and Grammy-nominated Milkshake. There will also be arts and crafts, Animal Ambassadors, food trucks, and Zoo educators who will showcase fun conservation activities!

At 10:30, Baby Beats! with Max and Root will perform a live music and movement program for the kids. Max Bent and Jamaal "Black Root" Collier are both human beat-boxers trained in the field of arts integration. After participating in training for early education offered by Wolf Trap,

Max and Root began applying their musical abilities to writing content geared towards the curious and active minds of the younger crowd. Baby Beats! was born at Remington's Single Carrot Theatre in Baltimore.

At Noon, Bop 'til you drop with Milkshake! Milkshake is a band on a mission: to create great rock music for kids. Led by singer Lisa Mathews and guitarist Mikel Gehl, whose songs for grown-ups have been featured in movies and prime-time television, and whose indie rock group Love Riot garnered critical praise during its 10-year run, Milkshake has won over preschoolers without compromising songcraft, stagecraft or their authentic rock & roll spirit. Their 2009 album "Great Day" received a Grammy nomination for "Best Musical Recording for Children".

There will also be additional performances by local children's book author, musician, and puppeteer Kevin Sherry and the Baltimore Gamer Orchestra, which will per-

form orchestral arrangements of video game music.

ZooBop tickets range in price from \$12 for members to \$34 for non-members. Children under 2 are always free. All tickets include admission to the Zoo on show day, kid-friendly activities and vendors. Tickets are on sale now at www.marylandzoo.org.

Founded in 1876, The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore is the third oldest zoo in the United States and is internationally known for its contributions in conservation and research. More than 1,500 animals are represented in the Zoo's varied natural habitat exhibits in areas such as the award-winning Penguin Coast, Polar Bear Watch, the Maryland Wilderness, African Journey and the Children's Zoo. Situated in Druid Hill Park near downtown Baltimore, the Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums. For more information, visit www.marylandzoo.org.

Calendar Spotlight

A VIRTUAL Wine & Jazz at Marietta Presentation

Please join us on August 19, 6:30–8 p.m. for our Virtual Wine & Jazz at Marietta. Welcome to Marietta's annual wine and jazz event that will be a virtual encounter featuring the owners of our local Maryland wineries of Romano's Winery and Vineyard, and Thanksgiving Farm Winery. Presentations will include wine selection tips and food pairings with cheese and chocolate! The discussion will include types of wines and why they grow well in our region.

A fun list of recipes for food and wine punches will be included.

Enjoy music performed by popular jazz musicians AJQ Plus 1 immediately following the Q & A with our wine experts. \$5/person. Ages 21 & up. Please register on Parks Direct using this direct link: <https://tinyurl.com/djcvz4y9> or email stacey.hawkins@pgpc.com.

The presentation will be held virtually on Microsoft Teams. For assistance or for more information please contact Stacey.Hawkins@pgpc.com or 301-262-0532.

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

—Stacey Hawkins, Marietta House

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County Announces Reopening of Venue Rentals

By ANGEL WALDRON
Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (July 29, 2021)—The Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County, part of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, is pleased to restart its venue rentals for private events, at limited capacity. Whether for a wedding, retirement party, family reunion or birthday party—patrons have the choice of a variety of facilities that serve as ideal locations for events. Rental reservations reopening August 2, 2021 include:

Community Centers—Multipurpose rooms, gymnasiums, entire facilities

Historic Sites—Oxon Hill Manor, Billingsley House, Newton White Mansion, Prince George's Ballroom, Snow Hill Manor, The Great Room at Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center

Park buildings—Adelphi Manor, Ardmore, Birchwood, Bradbury, Brooke Road, Fort Foote, Jesse Warr, Lane Manor, Lincoln Vista, Lynnalan, Millwood, Oakcrest, Parklawn, T. Howard Duckett, Vansville, West Lanham Hills, Woodlawn, Suitland Water Tank

Other—Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex, Show Place Arena, Bandwagon stage, community garden plots, field permits

In order to reserve any facility, the renter must first become a verified PARKS DIRECT customer and provide valid proof of residency, age, and identification. Patrons can contact the individual facility to inquire about availability, capacity and fees. Learn more at pgpc.com/539/Rentals.

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 pgpc.com/covid-waiver.

Maryland Department of Health Announces GoVAX Summer Tour August Dates

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Department of Health

BALTIMORE (July 30, 2021)—The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) today announced the continuation of the GoVAX Summer Tour with dates in August. The events continue to bring free mobile vaccine clinics and vaccine outreach to cultural and community events and popular destinations across Maryland.

"It is now easier than ever to get vaccinated throughout the state and what a better time to do so than when at an event with friends and family," said MDH Secretary Dennis R. Schrader. "These fairs, festivals, National Night Out, and Educators and Cultivators events are wonderful opportunities to support your community and get vaccinated—it will keep you, your family, friends, and countless Marylanders safe from COVID-19 and highly contagious variants."

The tour continues with the following events in August:

Educators and Cultivators Event at FedEx Field: On Aug. 17, a clinic will be located at 1600 FedEx Way in Greater Landover from 11 a.m.–2 p.m. Vaccines will be available on the 300 club level for individuals ages 12 and older. This community event is designed to prepare young Marylanders to return to school. No appointment is required.

Maryland Renaissance Festival: Beginning Aug. 28, a clinic will be located outside the main gate at 1821 Crownsville Road in Annapolis on Saturdays and Sundays (and Labor Day) from 9 a.m.–5 p.m. through Oct. 24. Vaccines will be available for individuals ages 18 and older. No appointment is required.

Follow @GoVAXMaryland on Twitter to learn about upcoming events and visit <https://governor.maryland.gov/govaxmobile/> for updates and additional tour dates.

For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, visit covidLINK.maryland.gov.

