

The Prince George's Post



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PHOTO COURTESY OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Lieutenant Governor Boyd K. Rutherford speaks with Maryland National Guard Brigadier General Janeen Birkhead at the Back-to-School event.

Lt. Governor Rutherford Encourages Students and Community Members to Get Vaccinated During Back-to-School Event at FedExField

By ROBYNE MCCULLOUGH
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (August 17, 2021)— Lieutenant Governor Boyd K. Rutherford today celebrated the start of the 2021–2022 school year with students, families, and community members during the Educators and Cultivators Back to School Summit and Vaccination Clinic at FedExField in Prince George's County.

Lt. Governor Rutherford was joined by Maryland National Guard Brigadier General Janeen Birkhead, head of the Vaccine Equity Task Force; Maryland Higher Education Commission Secretary James Fielder; Maryland State Superintendent of Schools Mohammed Choudhury; Prince George's County Public Schools CEO Dr. Monica Goldson; and Prince George's County Health Officer Dr. Ernest L. Carter.

Lt. Governor Rutherford and fellow leaders urged Marylanders ages 12 and older to get the COVID-19 vaccine to prevent them from becoming seriously ill.

"Marylanders have been willing to roll up their sleeves to get vaccinated and educate others about the safety and

efficacy of vaccines. This has made a difference in our state," said Lt. Governor Rutherford. "Keeping this sense of normalcy, and keeping everyone around us healthy, depends on getting as many people as we can vaccinated. Do it to protect yourselves, your family, and your neighbors as children return to school and we continue to recover from the pandemic."

According to the Maryland Department of Health, 79% of adults age 18 and older have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Of eligible Marylanders between the ages of 12 and 17, 62% have received the Pfizer vaccine, which is approved for people under the age of 18.

During the back-to-school event, more than 100 people received COVID-19 vaccinations. Students preparing for the new school year and their families were able to receive free COVID-19 testing and free school supplies, as well as engage with community organizations providing additional resources and support.

Schedule your COVID-19 vaccination appointment by visiting covidvax.maryland.gov or by calling 1-855-MD-GOVAX (1-855-634-6829).

Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Wally Adeyemo Visits Prince George's County for Dialogue With DHCD, Community Partners, Landlords and Tenants On the Emergency Rental Assistance Program

By ALEXIS REVIS YEOMAN
Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development

LARGO, Md. (August 19, 2021)—[On August 18], Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Treasury Wally Adeyemo participated in a roundtable discussion hosted by the Housing Initiative Partnership (HIP) in Hyattsville, Maryland, where he heard from administrators at the Prince George's County Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD), the County agency implementing the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). He also heard from tenants, landlords, and community partners about the effectiveness of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP).

"We were Prince George's Proud to welcome the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Treasury to Prince George's County to discuss our Emergency Rental Assistance Program," said Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "We were excited to showcase the successes of our program, and we look forward to continued collaboration with the Biden-Harris Administration as we work to recover from this pandemic and provide for our residents."

DHCD was one of the first jurisdictions in the State to stand up a rental assistance program and has already distributed 83% of its direct allotment of ERA 1 funds to more than 3,300 Prince George's County tenants and landlords. The agency is actively working on efforts to quickly process existing applications and to solicit new applicants for the program as it seeks to maintain stable and safe housing for residents experiencing COVID-related challenges.

"Success is achieved when landlords and tenants work together to complete applications for funding," said Aspasia Xypolia, Director of DHCD. "The program covers rent and utility delinquencies only for occupied units and presents a win-win proposition for tenants and landlords. We are able to cover accumulated debt payments to landlords and keep residents safely housed when everyone works together. The partnerships and exemplary efforts of our community partners who work closely with tenants as they navigate the application process is crucial to the success of this program."



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

U.S. Treasury Deputy Secretary Wally Adeyemo, center, head table. To his right, Angie Rodgers, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer - Economic Development, Prince George's County; to his left, Maryann Dillon, Executive Director-Housing Initiative Partnership. Facing the camera, left - Aspasia Xypolia, Director, Prince George's County Department of Housing & Community Development; right - Rhea Harris, Director, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of the County Executive - Prince George's County.

DHCD also adopted the Treasury's May guidance to begin distributing assistance directly to tenants in cases where landlords were not willing to initiate the application process. DHCD prioritizes applications where the tenant is facing eviction and has developed relationships with legal aid services, District Court judges, and the Office of the Sheriff. All eviction notices now include information about applying to the ERAP. DHCD will soon launch a mobile clinic to increase awareness of the program, permitting signups for tenants and landlords at apartment complexes and community organizations across the County.

Residents and others in need of assistance should visit hcd.mypgc.us for additional information.

Prince George's County Exercises Its Right of First Refusal to Preserve Affordable Rental Housing In Hyattsville

County Supports Washington Housing Conservancy and NHT Communities Efforts to Acquire Affordable Housing Community

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County MD

LARGO, Md. (August 16, 2021)—The Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) exercised its Right of First Refusal on Hamilton Manor, a 245-unit multi-family apartment building, located at 3342 Lancer Drive in Hyattsville, Maryland. According to County Resolution CR-51-2015, the County can exercise its Right of First Refusal where the owner of a multi-family rental facility of 20 units or more intends to sell the apartment building. DHCD has the authority to purchase the property in an effort to stabilize, preserve and expand housing opportunities for low and moderate income households and increase the availability of quality affordable rental housing in designated areas of the County.

"The Hamilton Manor project exemplifies the County's commitment to equitable economic growth," said Prince George's County Executive Angela D. Alsobrooks. "Exercising our ROFR program is helping us to preserve, protect and expand quality, safe homes that residents of all incomes can afford and plays a key role in contributing to the creation of healthy and inclusive communities where access to opportunity is increased."

The development team for Hamilton Manor is a joint venture of Washington Housing Conservancy and NHT Communities. The \$39.5 million purchase agreement for Hamilton Manor provides for rents that are stabilized over a 15-year period, with 75 percent of the units remaining affordable for households earning less than 80% AML. This acquisition furthers the mission of DHCD and both organizations to preserve or create affordable homes, prevent displacement, advance racial and housing equity, and open greater opportunity for individuals, families, and communities.

Prince George's County will provide a DHCD loan totaling \$1 million to secure affordability in this popular "close-in" county neighborhood that has seen market rate housing skyrocket in recent years.

Under a joint-venture single purpose entity, WHC and NHTC secured ownership of Hamilton Manor through low-income loans provided by Berkadia Commercial Mortgage and the Washington Housing Initiative's Impact Pool, a new private investment vehicle that reduces the cost of capital for affordable housing acquisitions.

INSIDE

- Health Department to Offer Third Doses of Vaccines to Immunocompromised Residents
- Monica Vera-Jackson Awarded Doctor of Chiropractic degree
- Health Department Implements Electronic Health Records System

Around the County, Page A2

MSP, Allied Agencies Conduct Latest Initiative to Address Excessive Speeding
With the onset of the pandemic, traffic volume decreased significantly in 2020. However, the speed of the vehicles increased dramatically...

Community, Page A3

To Be Equal: On August 28, March On For Voting Rights
Marches will take place on August 28 in five flagship cities—Atlanta, Miami, Houston, Phoenix and Washington, D.C.

Commentary, Page A4

Larry Webb Named District Director of SBA Washington Metropolitan Area District Office

Williams Joins Bowie State as Assistant Athletic Director for Media Relations

Business and Finance, Page A5

- Reduce Your Energy Bills This Fall
- Is Your HVAC System Ready for Cool Weather?
- Tips to Attract Hummingbirds to Your Yard
- Tips for a Budget-Friendly DIY Home Upgrade

Home and Garden, Page A6

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

New Frederick Douglass Bridge Opens—ahead of time!—on Sept. 6

I usually call it the South Capitol Street Bridge. It was built in 1950 and that's how it was known until 1965 when it was officially named the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge in honor of the famous abolitionist who once lived at 1411 W Street, only about 15 miles away, in the Anacostia neighborhood of Southeast Washington.

Now it is being replaced with the new and iconic Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge, scheduled to open the week of September 6, a full month ahead of schedule.

The design of the new bridge—located 20 feet away from the original span—includes three handsome above-deck arches. It has six lanes. And it's designed not only for driving, but also for walking and biking. There are overlooks along the bridge, places to sit and enjoy the scenery.

New traffic ovals will be at either end of the bridge. (I don't know if they are complete.) The west end will connect South Capitol Street, Potomac Avenue and Q Street SW. The new oval east of the river will connect South Capitol Street, Suitland Parkway and Howard Road SE. Suitland Parkway/Interstate 295 will be reconstructed.

The opening ceremonies will feature a community celebration at the bridge on Labor Day, Sept. 6. It'll open to traffic a few days later. A 5K race is being planned around the bridge to celebrate its opening.

"This is a \$441 million initiative," D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser said. "It is the largest construction project in the history of the District of Columbia."

In the coming weeks, the old bridge will be deconstructed piece by piece.

Town of Morningside: movie night

Morningside is hosting another Movie Under the Stars night on Friday, August 27, and a "last hurrah" event before school starts. Check the website (morningsidemd.gov) or call (301-736-2300) for updates or name of the movie.

Neighbors, good people (and animals)

Billie B. Shaddix, 90, of Ft. Washington, who served 22 years in the U.S. Navy as a photographer, died Aug. 11. He had the honor of serving seven Presidents as Director of White House Photographic Services. He's survived by his wife of 67 years, Lucy. Their daughter Jeannean died of leukemia in 1958. Billie's funeral service was at Kalas

with burial later at Arlington.

Dorothy "Dottie" Carroll, for years my good neighbor on Skyline Drive, died eight years ago on Aug. 22, 2013. This weekend I received a strange email reminding me of her death anniversary. The notice included an obit, which reminded me of all she was involved with: Bells Church, Camp Springs Elks Lodge, the Moose Lodge and the American Legion. She loved bowling, traveling, dancing and fishing—and caught a 5-foot marlin off the NC coast. Wayne Carroll, a "very special stepson," survived her. I wonder where he is today.

Xiao Qi Ji celebrated his first birthday on Aug. 21 and the National Zoo held celebratory weeklong activities. On the 21st he was presented with an ice birthday cake. He is considered a "miracle cub" because his mother, Mei Xiang, at age 22, was the oldest giant panda to give birth in the U.S.

Julie Koch-Michael and Wayne Neale reminded me to announce again that Suitland High's Class of 1965 is planning a multi-year reunion for November 6 in Annapolis. You can find everything you need to know at shs.myevent.com. Spread the word!

Changing landscape

The Washington Monument is closed as I write, because it was struck by lightning last weekend; it may be open by the time you read this. All visitors must have a ticket reservation (recreation.gov), and wear a mask despite vaccination status. No tickets are sold at the door.

Signs are up at Allentown Andrews Gateway Center announcing Wawa is taking applications for workers. The station is not open, still under construction. The Center is at 6009 Allentown Road near its intersection with Route 5 (Branch Avenue).

A home at 4510 Allies Road, was recently bought for \$325,000.

Remembering Sept. 11, 20 years later

Washington Cardinal Wilton Gregory will be the main celebrant of a 9/11 20th Anniversary Memorial Mass on Saturday, Sept. 11, 12:10 p.m. at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 619 Tenth Street NW.

Mary's Covid report: 1,012 new cases

Metro will require all employees to be vaccinated against the coronavirus or submit to weekly tests beginning Sept. 7.

Gov. Larry Hogan has announced that all nursing home and hospital employees in

Maryland would be required to get vaccinated or submit to regular testing. The order will affect 227 nursing homes that operate in Maryland and all the hospital systems that have not already imposed a vaccine mandate. Workers will be required to receive their first dose of a vaccine by Sept. 1.

In Maryland, more than a thousand new cases were reported, bringing the total to 482,581. Eight more Marylanders died.

Dr. Zito Alba dies at 89

Dr. Zito Celis "Jet" Alba, a periodontist with offices in Temple Hills, and my very favorite dentist, died at Fort Washington Hospital on July 25.

He was born in the Philippines, raised in Dumaquete City, Negros Oriental, one of 13 children of Alejo and Victoria Alba—nine boys and four girls. During WWII, his family was driven into the mountains where Zito spent time hunting, fishing and farming with his siblings and cousins to survive. They became proficient in making hand-made tools and toys out of what nature provided.

After the War, he attended Negros Oriental Provincial H.S. and Manila Central University where he was president of the student body his senior year. After receiving his Doctor of Dental Surgery, he took the Philippine national dentistry board exam and in 1959 came to the U.S. as an Eastman Dental Scholar at the University of Rochester. In 1962 he earned his M.S. in Periodontics while a student instructor at Georgetown. He took the Dental Board for Maryland and opened his practice.

He maintained his sole practice in Temple Hills until Covid cut it short in early 2020.

In 1970 he married Aurora and enjoyed family life and eating Maryland blue crabs. He loved to fish and was an avid golfer. He made frequent trips, especially in the winter, to play golf in the Philippines.

He is survived by his wife Aurora, sons Glenn and Arthur Alba, daughter-in-law Jo Ahn, granddaughter Amber, cousin Virgilia Codimos and four siblings. Viewing was at Kalas, Mass of Christian Burial at St. Columba in Oxon Hill, and burial at Resurrection Cemetery.

Milestones

Happy birthday to my daughter-in-law

See MORNINGSIDE Page A7

Around the County

Prince George's County Health Department to Offer Third Doses of Pfizer, Moderna COVID-19 Vaccines to Immunocompromised Residents

LARGO, Md. (August 19, 2021)—Third doses of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines will be available to immunocompromised residents (those who have weakened immune systems) starting Friday, August 20th at the Sports and Learning Complex (8001 Sheriff Rd, Landover, MD 20785).

Vaccinations are free and appointments are not necessary. Visit mypgc.us/COVIDvaccine for clinic schedules and information about other vaccine clinics across the County. Third doses for immunocompromised individuals are also available at local pharmacies, urgent care facilities, retail stores, and via other health care providers.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) approved the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) amendment of the emergency use authorizations for the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines to allow individuals with moderately to severely compromised immune systems receive a third vaccine dose. A full list of medical conditions and additional third-dose guidance can be found on the CDC's website.

The County Health Department encourages residents to consult their doctor to determine if they need an additional dose. The County will not require proof or a doctor's note from individuals to receive a third dose. Individuals will be asked to self-attest that they meet CDC eligibility recommendations.

Eligible individuals seeking third doses DO NOT have to receive them at the same clinic where they received their first and second doses.

The CDC has not recommended additional doses for any other populations at this time. The FDA has yet to authorize an additional dose for people who are immunocompromised and received the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.

—George Lettis, Prince George's County Health Department

Monica Vera-Jackson Awarded Doctor of Chiropractic degree from National University of Health Sciences

LOMBARD, Ill. (August 19, 2021)—Monica Vera-Jackson of Bowie recently received their Doctor of Chiropractic degree from National University of Health Sciences.

"We are very proud of Monica, as National University's Doctor of Chiropractic degree program is one of the most demanding of its kind," says President Joseph Stiefel of National University.

National University of Health Sciences, a not-for-profit educational institution with locations in Illinois and Florida, offers a wide range of degrees in health sciences, including degrees in chiropractic and naturopathic medicine, acupuncture, oriental medicine, massage therapy, and biomedical sciences.

—Elizabeth Toth, National University of Health Sciences

County Health Department Implements Electronic Health Records System for Clients, Providers

New Online Portal Streamlines Health Data Access and Care Coordination for Clients who Receive Clinical, Dental, Behavioral, or Wellness Services from the Health Department

LARGO, Md. (August 18, 2021)—The Prince George's County Health Department has launched EPIC, an online electronic health records management system for health care providers and for individuals who receive health care services from the department. The new system helps providers and clients more effectively manage their health care needs, information, and coordination to improve the Health Department's ability to provide quality, timely, and individualized care.

EPIC has one comprehensive electronic medical record for each Health Department client, bills for services out of one system, produces comprehensive and customized reports and data, and improves care coordination by securely exchanging data between providers within its network as well as out-of-network hospitals and health systems.

"The Health Department is taking health care to the next level for its clients and providers," said Prince George's County Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Health, Human Services, and Education Dr. George L. Askew. "A critical component of quality health care is the ability of multiple providers to communicate with each other more efficiently to ensure each client receives the safest and most appropriate care. That empowers clients and providers with the knowledge to make better-informed health care decisions together."

One of the features of EPIC is a platform called MyChart. Clients can quickly and securely access their personal health information to help keep track and take charge of their health.

With EPIC, clients can:

- Access and review test results. No more waiting for a phone call or letter.
- Request appointments with direct scheduling or make their own appointments through a smartphone app.
- Receive automated reminders for important health screenings.
- Keep track of allergies, immunizations, and medications.
- Request prescription renewals.
- Send a secure email to your provider's office at any time.
- View details of upcoming or past appointments.
- Pay bills online.

"The Health Department's mission is to protect the health and well-being of every Prince Georgian, and that includes access to quality health care services," said Prince George's County Health Officer Dr. Ernest Carter. "We are excited to work with EPIC to harness the latest health care management innovations to give clients a greater connection to their health care needs, goals, and accomplishments, thereby improving the chances of better health outcomes in our communities."

To learn more about EPIC and the MyChart application, visit www.epic.com/about. To learn more about Health Department services and programs, please visit health.mypgc.us.

—George Lettis, Prince George's County Health Department

Brandywine-Aquasco

HARRY HOSIER AWARD SUNDAY

Harry Hosier Award Sunday honoring Ernest Francis Johnson, Robert Owen Johnson, Sr., and James O'Connell Waters was held on Sunday, November 1983 at Metropolitan United Methodist Church, Lanvale Street and Carrollton Avenue, Dr. Irvin C. Lockman, Pastor. The program was sponsored by Black United Methodist Preachers, Dr. Charles A. Johnson, II, President.

ROBERT OWEN JOHNSON, SR.

Reverend Robert Owen Johnson, Sr. served congregations of the United Methodist Church in Maryland and Virginia with outstanding devotion and concern. He began his ministry by serving the Fairfax-Langley United Methodist Church in Virginia from 1946-1951. The Historic St. Paul United Methodist Church in Oxon Hill, Maryland from 1951-1962, the Brandywine Charge: Asbury, Gibbons and Zion Wesley United Methodist Churches from 1962 until the present time. He planned to retire at the end of the Conference Year-1984 from the Asbury and Gibbons Churches which now constitutes the Brandywine Charge-Washington East District.

Reverend Johnson is a native of Prince George's County, Maryland. He was trained as a minister of the Gospel in the Methodist Pastor's School of Religion held in Morristown, Tennessee and Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.

He served on the Conference Board of Missions and the Conference Nominating Committee. Also, he served the Washington East District as Chairperson of the Council on Ministries and Evangelism and a member of Church and Society.

Reverend Johnson produced a praiseworthy record of community services. He served on the Board of Directors of Social Service of Prince George's County, Maryland as a member before being elected chairman for a three-year term. He was the first black male to hold that office in the county. Served as vice president of United Way now Family Service and a member of the Mental Health Advisory Committee. At the present time serving on the foster Care Review Board No. 3 of Prince George's County, Chapter of National Conference of Christians, and Jews on February 19, 1981, for distinguished contributions on improving human relations.

During his ministry on the Brandywine Charge many members have been added and two young men have gone into the ordained ministry namely, Reverend Norval I. Brown serving in Illinois Conference and Reverend Norman A. Handy serving in our Baltimore Conference. Other achievements: Completed and consecrated Zion Wesley Church, Waldorf, Maryland, March 1956, erected and consecrated new church at Gibbons, June 1968, erected and consecrated at Asbury, February 1975, and a parsonage at Gibbons erected and consecrated October 1975. Also, while serv-

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

ing St. Paul a new education building was erected and sanctuary renovated.

Rev. Johnson and his wife, Beatrice have one daughter, Gwendolyn V. Deville and two sons Robert Owen, Jr., and Bradley L. Johnson. Three grandchildren, Stephen A. Deville, Stephanie A. Deville, and Robert Owen Johnson, III. One daughter-in-law, Audrey C. Johnson and one son-in-law, Francis E. Deville.

REV. JAMES O. WATERS

Rev. James O. Waters, Native Eastern Shoreman-descendant, of a long line of Educators and Ministries. Graduate of Bowie State College and Howard University School of Religion, also attended, Morgan State College, The University of Maryland, and Howard School of Social Work. Careers: School Teacher, Principal, Instructor at Boy's Village, Chaplain for many years in the Maryland Correctional System and the National Training School for boys. Retired after 24 years of pastoral service in the Baltimore Annual Conference. Also, served on many Conferences and District Boards. Former Pastor of the Zion Wesley United Methodist Church, Waldorf Charge-Waldorf Maryland.

Civil Rights Activist and respected lecturer on Black Religious Experience. Served as a member of the Charles County Board of Education, and Trustee of the Charles County community college. Was appointed to a special panel by the State Board of Education for curriculum studies. Co-authored "Studies of Contemporary Issues," for the State of Maryland Public School System K-12. He is an excellent poet, and a worthwhile composer of musical lyrics. He and his wife Elizabeth are the parents of 9 children.

Information about Reverend Ernest F. Johnson was submitted in a previous article. "I wanted to write about these United Methodist Ministers because all three of played a very important role in my life and were respected role models in their communities."

ADOPT A HIGHWAY CLEANUP

Kappa Brothers of the Upper Marlboro/Waldorf Chapter participated in a Charles County (MD) wide clean-up on May 22, 2021. They cleaned up trash along the Kappa League's adopted road near Westlake High School in Waldorf, Maryland. Thanks to Charles Twitty, Coordinator, James Pender, George Parson, Marcelino Lake, and Alfinie Bullock for their participation.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Wedding Anniversary to Elton and Janet Smalling, Wayne and Beverly Baker, John and Pamela Stahl, Cameron and Betty Rivers, Umaru and Mariama Davies, William and Judy Terry who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating Wedding Anniversaries in August.

COMMUNITY

Calendar of Events

Prince George's State's Attorney's Office PGSAO Expungement Fair in Hyattsville

The Office of the State's Attorney is partnering with the City of Hyattsville for an expungement fair on Saturday August 28 at 10 a.m. Community Legal Services will also be providing attorneys to assist with petitions for expungement.

Registration is not required but strongly encouraged. If you would like to attend, please register through Eventbrite.

WHEN: **August 28, 2021**, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

LOCATION: First United Methodist | 6201 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, MD 20782

Let's Get Back to Basics

Please join Prince George's County State's Attorney Aisha N. Braveboy as we get "Back to Basics" on August 31, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. This Back to School event will provide students ages 12–19 with crime prevention tips and tools, resources and information for a successful school year.

If you would like to attend, please register through Eventbrite.

WHEN: **August 31, 2021**, 5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Suitland Community Center | 5600 Regency Lane, Forestville, MD 20747

Echoes of the Enslaved 2021: The Pursuit of Liberty Panel Discussion, Conversation Circles, and Optional Overnight Camping

Marietta House Museum, 5626 Bell Station Rd., Glenn Dale, MD 20769, was once a site where enslaved families lived and labored. Through archeology, we are preserving their stories through what they have left behind. We invite you to join us **September 10–September 11** for our annual event, Echoes of the Enslaved. Let's honor the stories of those who once spent their lives here and share our own.

Participate with us virtually or in-person as we partner with The Slave Dwelling Project to engage in these timely conversations about the legacies of slavery, the endless pursuit of civil rights, and the landscapes that are perpetually changing around us.

6 p.m.: In-person & Live-Streamed Panel Discussion featuring Joe McGill, founder, and director of The Slave Dwelling Project
7:30 p.m.: In-person Conversation Circles and Optional Overnight Campout Experience: We invite you to bring your outdoor gear and spend the night under the same sky where many ancestors once did.

Accessing the Event: Pre-Registration is Mandatory. Register for in-person event via Parks Direct! Watch the live-streamed panel discussion online via our Facebook or Youtube pages.

Banneker-Douglass Museum Grand Re-opening Block Party

Saturday, September 18, 1–5 p.m.

84 Franklin Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

We are back! Come join us on **Saturday, September 18** for a Grand Re-Opening Block Party! BDM has been closed since March of 2020 and we are re-opening with a brand new exhibit; Freedom Bound: Runaways of the Chesapeake, which explores resistance and freedom from the past, present, and future.

Enjoy music, food, shop local Black-owned businesses and much more! This event is FREE to the public. Register at <https://bdmuseum.maryland.gov/>

In following the CDC guidelines and the State of Maryland regulations, guests will be required to wear a mask when entering the museum. Though the Block Party activities will be outdoors, we encourage visitors to wear face masks. A maximum of 100 guests will be allowed into the museum at one time. Sanitation stations will be available throughout the museum.

Hospice of the Chesapeake Events

Free monthly support group for caregivers offered via Zoom
PASADENA, Md. (August 16, 2021)—Chesapeake Life Center will offer a free support group specifically for caregivers that will meet online beginning in October. The Caregivers Monthly Support Group is designed for those actively caring for a loved one with a chronic illness. This group will provide attendees with an opportunity to connect with other caregivers and learn about resources, coping strategies and more, all in a safe, therapeutic space. The group will meet virtually via Zoom for Healthcare from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. **Wednesday, Oct. 6, Nov. 3 and Dec. 1.**

Registration is required 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.

Put your loss into words with 'Writing Through Your Grief'

WALDORF, Md. (August 16, 2021)—You don't have to be skilled at writing to use it as a way to help you cope with loss. All you need is something to write with and write on. A little guidance from the grief professionals with Chesapeake Life Center at Hospice of Charles County, a Hospice of the Chesapeake affiliate, can help, too. "Writing through Your Grief," provides the perfect opportunity. The workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to noon **Saturday, Oct. 9** in the nonprofit's bereavement center at 2505 Davis Road in Waldorf, Maryland.

This healing exercise will allow participants to explore their grief in a safe and supportive environment. By writing our grief stories and sharing them, we no longer feel so alone. This workshop provides the opportunity to use therapeutic writing prompts to process and get to know yourself in grief.

Per Center for Disease Control 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. Child-care is not provided, and children are not permitted in any of these groups. The cost is \$10. Registration is required 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.

MSP, Allied Agencies Conduct Latest Initiative to Address Excessive Speeding in Prince George's, Montgomery Counties

By OFFICE OF MEDIA COMMUNICATION
Maryland State Police

PIKESVILLE, Md. (August 18, 2021)—The Maryland State Police, along with allied law enforcement partners, conducted on Tuesday [August 17] the final of six traffic enforcement initiatives aimed at targeting excessive speeding, aggressive and impaired driving, with a goal of reducing vehicle-related fatalities in Prince George's and Montgomery counties.

The traffic enforcement detail concentrated on I-495 (Capital Beltway) and included law enforcement personnel representing troopers from the Maryland State Police Washington Metro Troop (College Park, Forestville and Rockville barracks). Other agencies that have assisted in this effort over the past six months include the Montgomery County Police Department, the Prince George's County Police Department and Virginia State Police.

As part of Tuesday's initiative, law enforcement personnel issued 149 citations, 155 warnings and 34 safety equipment repair orders. This effort also led to one criminal arrest, three warrant arrests and 12 people being cited for Move Over law violations. The six-month initiative included work by 137 troopers and yielded the following results:

- 875 citations
- 803 warnings
- 6 Move Over citations
- 41 Move Over warnings
- 43 safety equipment repair orders
- 8 warrant arrests
- 11 CDS arrests

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Announces Launch of Emergency Rental Assistance Data Dashboard

More Than \$90 Million in Payments For Tenants and Landlords Affected By COVID-19 Pandemic Distribution In July More Than April, May, and June Combined Programs Open and Available in All Maryland Jurisdictions

By SARA LUELL, EMILY ALLEN LUCHT

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

NEW CARROLLTON, Md. (August 17, 2021)—The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development today announced the launch of the Emergency Rental Assistance Data Dashboard to track the progress local jurisdictions are making in distributing relief funds for tenants and landlords affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The dashboard focuses on the first round of funding through the federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program, which launched statewide in Maryland in mid-May 2021. Statewide, more than \$58 million has been provided through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program to nearly 10,000 renters, and an additional \$34 million in payments are in process as of July 31, 2021.

The distribution of assistance has rapidly accelerated—statewide, assistance distributed in July was more than April, May, and June combined. Some counties—including Cecil, Wicomico, Carroll and Prince George's—have utilized close to 50 percent of their allocated resources to help tenants and landlords.

The Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration's Highway Safety Office provided grant funding for the operation. According to Automated Crash Reporting System data provided by the MDOT MVA's Highway Safety Office, more than 17, 100 crashes were reported in Prince George's County and more than 9,700 crashes were reported in Montgomery County in 2020.

Between 2018 and 2020, the Forestville Barrack responded to 7,645 crashes while the College Park and Rockville barracks responded to 5,365 and 4,791 crashes, respectively. Over that time, the Washington Metro Troop has conducted dozens of initiatives, with the goal of reducing traffic crashes in the area. This is especially true around the Capital Beltway, which has represented about 50 percent of those reported crashes. These targeted and direct enforcement efforts have yielded significant results in reducing the number of reported crashes.

This includes the following breakdown of crashes within the Washington Metro Troop:

- Forestville Barrack – 2,764 (2018), 2,585 (2019), 2,293 (2020)
- College Park Barrack – 1,916 (2018), 1,827 (2019), 1,622 (2020)
- Rockville Barrack – 1,921 (2018), 1,749 (2019), 1,121 (2020)

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, traffic volume decreased significantly in 2020. However, the speed of the vehicles increased dramatically, leading to concerns of "super speeders" in the region. Troopers have conducted multiple initiatives over the past year to address the issue.

Maryland State Police in the Washington Metro Troop will continue to conduct traffic safety initiatives throughout the coming months. These initiatives are data-driven and will be focused in areas where crash data indicates they are most needed.

Viewers of the dashboard can select information on specific county programs, see demographic information and get data on department marketing and outreach efforts. To access the information, visit rentrelief.maryland.gov and click on "Data Dashboard." The dashboard will be updated on a monthly basis to show progress.

In 2020, prior to the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, more than \$113 million in state, local and federal funds were allocated to rental assistance statewide to assist approximately 30,000 renters. Maryland will also receive an additional \$352 million through a second phase of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and plans for distribution are under development.

How to Apply: Tenants and landlords should visit rentrelief.maryland.gov or call 877-546-5595 to get connected to rental assistance programs. All jurisdictions in Maryland are currently accepting applications. In addition to local programs, tenants in eligible properties may qualify for DHCD's Assisted Housing Relief Program, which serves rental units in multifamily projects financed by the department's Community Development Administration using state funds or federal resources. Tenants in those properties should contact their property management company for application information.

Governor Hogan Announces New Vaccination Protocols for Maryland Nursing Home and Hospital Workers

Nursing Home and Hospital Staff to Show Proof of Vaccination or Adhere to Ongoing Screening and Testing Increases Fines, Civil Penalties for Nursing Homes That Fail to Comply with Protocols, Report Vaccination Data Presses Federal Administration To Make Booster Shots Available Immediately for Seniors and Vulnerable Populations Pushes For Full FDA Approval of Vaccines, Expedited Approval for 5- to 11-Year-Olds Launches Statewide Antibody Testing Program for Nursing Home Residents

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (August 18, 2021)—As the State of Maryland continues to prioritize reducing COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths among the most vulnerable residents, Governor Larry Hogan today announced new vaccination protocols for all nursing home and hospital staff.

Effective immediately, all employees of the state's 227 nursing homes and all employees of Maryland hospitals will be required to show proof of vaccination, or adhere to ongoing COVID-19 screening and testing.

"We are concerned that the Delta variant surge has led to an increase in infections among nursing home staff, which has been a consistent source of the outbreaks in these facilities," said Governor Hogan. "Our main focus has always been, and continues to be, reducing hospitalizations and deaths, particularly among our most vulnerable Marylanders."

Nursing Homes. Employees of Maryland nursing homes will need to receive their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by September 1. Nursing homes that fail to comply with the new vaccination protocols or to report their vaccination data will be subject to increased fines, civil penalties, and enforcement actions.

Hospitals. Employees of hospitals statewide will also need to receive their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by September

1. Many of the state's largest hospital systems, including the University of Maryland Medical System, Johns Hopkins Medicine, MedStar, and GBMC Healthcare, have already mandated vaccines for staff.

Booster Shots for Immunocompromised Marylanders. Following authorization by the FDA and CDC, state health officials have partnered with providers across the state to ensure that booster shots are immediately available for immunocompromised Marylanders. No prescription or doctor's order is needed to acquire a third vaccine dose.

Governor Hogan Calls On Federal Administration To Take The Following Actions:

- **Make Booster Shots Available Immediately For Seniors And Vulnerable Populations.** Following this morning's announcement by federal health officials that boosters will not be made more widely available until late September, Governor Hogan called on the federal government to make booster shots available immediately for seniors and other vulnerable populations.
- **Advance Full FDA Approval Of Vaccines.** Governor Hogan pressed for full FDA approval of the COVID-19 vaccines, which remains the most significant hurdle to reaching those who are still hesitant about getting vaccinated. Full approval would be a significant boost to the state's vaccine distribution operation.
- **Expedite Approval of Vaccines For 5-**

To 11-Year-Olds. With more and more children heading back to school, the governor also urged federal officials to expedite approval for 5- to 11-year-olds to begin receiving COVID-19 vaccines. Governors have been told that approval is currently months away.

"Governors across the country have become increasingly frustrated with the confusing messaging and conflicting guidance from the White House and federal government agencies regarding booster shots for the wider population," said Governor Hogan. "This is one of a number of areas where we are pressing the Biden administration for action."

Antibody Testing Program. In preparation for booster shots being made more widely available, Governor Hogan announced the launch of a new statewide antibody testing program for nursing home residents to ascertain their levels of immunity. The pilot program will begin with 500 residents across the state and will provide critical data regarding the need for booster shots.

Monoclonal Antibody Therapy. State health officials are strongly recommending monoclonal antibodies—which have proven to be effective against the Delta variant—for patients with mild to moderate symptoms of COVID-19. Thousands of Marylanders have already been given monoclonal antibody therapy at dozens of hospitals and facilities across the state, and it has helped prevent hundreds of hospitalizations and deaths.

COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

On August 28, March On For Voting Rights

National Urban League Partners with Rev. Al Sharpton, Martin Luther King, III, to Demand Free and Fair Access to the Ballot for Every American

"We are tired. We are tired of being beaten by policemen. We are tired of seeing our people locked up in jail over and over again. And then you holler, 'Be patient.' How long can we be patient? We want our freedom, and we want it now."

—John Lewis, March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, August 28, 1963

At the time of the 1963 March on Washington, where 23-year-old John Lewis was the youngest speaker, fewer than 20 percent of the Black citizens of his home state of Alabama were registered to vote.

County registration offices were open as seldom as two days a month, usually during the workday. The rare white employer who gave a Black employee time off to register risked economic retaliation from the local White Citizens Council.

Those who managed to make it to stand in the long, slow-moving registration lines faced harassment, intimidation, and the possibility of arrest on

false charges. The information entered on the application form would be shared with the Citizens Council and Ku Klux Klan.

Under the "voucher system," applicants needed a registered voter to swear under penalty of perjury that the applicant met the qualifications to vote. In some counties, the few registered Black voters were permitted to vouch for only two or three applicants per year. Other counties had not a single registered Black voter who could vouch for applicants.

A Black citizen who successfully completed the application and the arduous and nonsensical literacy test, still could be rejected arbitrarily by the all-white Board of Registrars.

So it was throughout the South, until the Voting Rights Act of 1965 outlawed these racist tactics, and Black voter participation steadily grew until the U.S. Supreme Court gutted the Act in 2013.

Shelby v. Holder, the Court's worst decision in a civil rights case since 1896's *Plessy v. Ferguson* ushered in the era of Jim Crow, cleared the way for an onslaught of racially-motivated voter sup-

pression laws that threaten to return the nation to those dark days.

That is why, on August 28—58 years to the day after the historic March on Washington, I'm proud to be joining Martin Luther King II, the Rev. Al Sharpton and other civil rights leaders to help to lead Americans on another march to demand federal voting rights protection.

March On For Voting Rights, is a nonviolent, nonpartisan mass mobilization to demand that elected officials protect democracy, denounce voter suppression and ensure fair, easy access to the vote for all through the passage of comprehensive federal legislation.

Marches will take place on August 28 in five flagship cities—Atlanta, Miami, Houston, Phoenix and Washington, D.C.—as well as in towns and cities across America where individuals and organizations launch and host them. I'll be speaking at the Washington, D.C., march, along with Mr. King and Rev. Sharpton.

Shelby v. Holder may have opened the floodgates for racially-motivated voter suppression laws—within 24 hours of the ruling, Texas announced a strict photo ID law, and Mississippi and Alabama began enforcing laws that previously had been struck down. But historically-high Black voter turnout in the 2020 Presidential election and 2021 U.S. Senate runoff election in Georgia accelerated and intensified the deluge. Just this year, anti-democracy legislators in 48 states have introduced nearly 400 proposals that would make it harder for Americans to vote, and 18 states have enacted 30 of them.

These laws limit or outright ban the voting methods that led to high turnout: ballot drop boxes and mail-in voting, early voting days and hours,

even criminalizing the distribution of water to voters waiting in the long, slow-moving lines that recall the days of John Lewis' youth.

Most of these laws would have been struck down under the preclearance provision of the Voting Rights Act that *Shelby v. Holder* eliminated. The John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, introduced in the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives earlier this week, reinstates that provision.

The For the People Act, which passed the House in March and remains stalled in the Senate, creates a standard of federal voting rights, such as modernizing voter registration processes, as well as ending gerrymandering and enforcing campaign finance laws. It also facilitates information sharing between federal and state governments about threats to state election systems.

Speaking at the 1963 March, National Urban League Executive Director Whitney M. Young, Jr., said, "How serious our national leaders are will be measured not by words but by the speed and sincerity with which they pass necessary legislation with which they admit to the tragic injustice that has been done our country and its Negro citizens by historic discrimination and rejection."

The John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the For the People Act are the "necessary legislation" of which he spoke, and on August 28, we will march to demand them.

Find out more at marchonforvotingrights.org and follow the conversation on social media using the hashtag #VotingRightsMarch

As John Lewis urged in 1963, "Get in and stay in the streets of every city, every village and hamlet of this nation until true freedom comes, until the revolution of 1776 is complete."

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

The Child Tax Credit: Making the Right Choice

"Groceries. I am pregnant, and I eat like a teenage boy. We needed more food. So it—it worked out perfectly."

That's what Endia Villar, a working parent in Texas who is expecting her second child, told a reporter what she did with her recent Child Tax Credit (CTC) payment—and she wasn't alone. Families across the country began receiving their second round of CTC payments on August 13. The American Rescue Plan signed into law in March included a significant, one-year expansion of the CTC to provide additional assistance to families with children and reach

the poorest families previously left out. It also made the credit available in advance monthly payments beginning in July so families do not have to wait until they file taxes at the end of the year to receive much-needed support. As a result, nearly 90 percent of families with children are eligible to receive up to \$300 per child in monthly CTC payments this year. Two months in, the expanded CTC is already boosting and stabilizing family income and is projected to cut child poverty in half. Congress must make this critical expansion permanent!

The Automatic Benefit for Children (ABC) Coalition, which is co-chaired by the Children's Defense

Fund, puts it this way: "A permanently expanded and fully inclusive CTC that reaches all children who need it, including immigrant children, will help families meet their children's basic needs, weather unexpected expenses, and plan for the future. It will also help prevent involvement in intervening systems like child protective services, promote children's healthy development and well-being, increase educational attainment, boost future earnings, and ensure all children across the income spectrum have the opportunity to pursue their goals. Not only that, a permanently expanded and fully inclusive CTC will boost our local economies and advance racial equity: families will spend the monthly credits on goods and services, and Black, Latinx and Hispanic, and Indigenous families and communities historically forced to the economic margins will be more economically secure." Surveys are showing that most families who spend their CTC payments right away are using them for necessities like rent, utilities, child care, school supplies, and groceries. The Census Bureau just reported the results from their latest Household Pulse Survey taken before and after families received their first round of checks, and not surprisingly, it found households with children were less likely to experience food insufficiency and had less difficulty paying household expenses after the checks were distributed. Nearly half of respondents spent some or all of their CTC payments on food.

The CTC's poverty-fighting promise underscores

a truth the Children's Defense Fund has been repeating for years: Child poverty is not an act of God. Child poverty is a choice. As a result of the combined effects of the CTC and other supports put into place or boosted during the pandemic, including stimulus payments, unemployment benefits, and increases to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the U.S. is currently projected to have the lowest poverty rate on record in 2021, even despite the pandemic's continued economic fallout. We are seeing proof in real time that we know how to end child poverty and we can do it when we find the political will. A recent Vox article summarizing current research on the anti-poverty policies implemented during the pandemic and the resulting drop in poverty rates concluded: "The point is that poverty is a policy choice. The federal government can literally make the poverty rate whatever it likes. It could continue reducing poverty year after year, even after Covid-19 is over. It just needs to make that choice."

Will we make the right choice? In his last Sunday sermon before he was assassinated, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "There is nothing new about poverty. What is new is that we now have the techniques and the resources to get rid of poverty. The real question is whether we have the will." The pandemic finally pushed our nation to harness some of its powerful tools and resources to fight poverty for now. Let's build on what is working, seize this moment, and choose to end it for good.

Rep. Anthony Brown Named Democracy Awards Winner

Congressional Management Foundation Recognizes Rep. Brown for Outstanding Achievement

WASHINGTON (August 16, 2021)—The Congressional Management Foundation (CMF) today announced that Rep. Anthony Brown is a winner of a Democracy Award, CMF's honor recognizing non-legislative achievement and performance in congressional offices. Rep. Brown was selected for outstanding achievement for the category of Transparency and Accountability. The Transparency and Accountability category recognizes offices that provide clear and relevant information on their work and publicly acknowledge metrics for that performance.

"As a Democracy Award winner, Rep. Brown's office is clearly one of the best in Congress," said Bradford Fitch, President and CEO of the Congressional Management Foundation. "This designation demonstrates that Rep. Brown has made a significant commitment to being the best public servant for his constituents in Maryland. Rep. Brown and his staff are to be congratulated for not only being a model for his colleagues in Congress, but for helping to restore trust and faith that our democratic institutions can work," he said.

Eight House and Senate offices were honored

as winners in four categories: Constituent Service; Innovation and Modernization; Transparency and Accountability; and "Life in Congress"-Workplace Environment. Representative and Senate personal offices nominated themselves using an online questionnaire for the four office categories. CMF followed up with offices as necessary to gather documentation and assess the office's adherence to the established criteria. The winners were selected by a selection committee primarily comprised of former Members of Congress and congressional staff. The winners will be honored at a ceremony to be held in Washington, D.C. in the fall.

Details on the process and the history of the Democracy Awards can be found here: <https://www.congressfoundation.org/projects/democracy-awards>

CMF included the following reasons for selecting Rep. Brown for an award:

"Since Rep. Anthony Brown (D-MD) took office in 2017, his office has hosted almost 100 town hall meetings, and averages two a month, all around the district. Pre-pandemic, the Congressman would make it a

practice to stay and talk to constituents until the last person leaves, even if the town hall ended up being two to three hours long as a result. Rep. Brown's office has a "no wrong door" policy in their office, meaning that constituents can reach out to them about issues they may not directly be able to assist with, but will work to identify and connect them to an appropriate resource. This allows them to build and maintain relationships with other core constituency groups so they can work in true partnership to serve residents in their district."

In addition to the eight offices selected for the 2021 awards, CMF this year is giving out a Special Democracy Award to the non-partisan floor staff of the US House and Senate for their courage and service to the Congress and the nation on January 6. "These men and women were the stewards of democracy when we needed them most," Fitch said. "Most Americans never even notice their work. And yet, on January 6, 2021 they played crucial roles well beyond what was expected of them, displaying professional-

ism, resolution, and patriotism to help maintain our system of government," he said.

Founded in 1977, the Congressional Management Foundation (CMF) is a 501(c)(3) nonpartisan nonprofit whose mission is to build trust and effectiveness in Congress. It advances its mission by enhancing the performance of the institution, legislators and their staffs through research-based education and training, and by strengthening the bridge and understanding between Congress and the People it serves.

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Maryland Small Business Development Center Webinars

Ready, Set, Go!

September 8, 2021 • 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. • Cost: Free
County/Sponsor: MD SBDC

Register: <https://mdsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/16769>

Contact Information: Catherine Raley at crraley@salisbury.edu

Are you someone who thinks you have a great business idea, but aren't sure if you are ready to start your own business? This class provides a basic overview of what you need to know in order to decide whether business ownership is right for you. Topics include feasibility, financial and loan possibilities, pitfalls to avoid, starting a business plan, and additional training and resources you will need to ensure your business is successful!

Time-Saving Strategies For Work-Life Balance As You Run Your Business

September 8, 2021 • 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. • Cost: Free
County/Sponsor: Maryland SBDC

Register: <https://mdsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/16753>

As a busy entrepreneur, you're an expert in your particular craft, but managing the day-to-day marketing of the business can leave you exhausted and unmotivated. Join speaker and strategist, Melody Belotte to learn simple, practical and sanity-saving strategies to spend less time on marketing and more time on what matters.

Business Plan Basics

September 13, 2021 • 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. • Cost: Free
County/Sponsor: MD SBDC

Contact Information: Catherine Raley at crraley@salisbury.edu
Register: <https://mdsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/16770>

Learn the basic elements of a business plan and how to structure writing an effective plan to maximize your loan potential! Whether you have an existing plan already and need to make adjustments or are looking to start fresh, we can offer tips for organizing your business model for the changing world in the midst of a pandemic.

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

If I Apply Now, When Will I Get My First Social Security Payment?

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

Dear Rusty: If I were to apply for my Social Security retirement (I'm 68 on August 1, 2021), when could I realistically expect to receive my first check? **Signed: Ready to Claim**

Dear Ready: Social Security suggests applying for benefits 2–3 months before you wish them to begin, to allow time for processing your application. When you apply, you will specify the month you wish your benefits to start, and that is when your benefits will officially begin. But Social Security pays benefits in the month following the month they are earned. So, if, for example, you applied and specified September as your benefit start month, your benefit for that month wouldn't be received until October. The payment date for you will be on the 2nd Wednesday (because you were born between the 1st and 10th of the month), and your payment won't be by check but rather by direct deposit into your bank account. Here are a few other things you should be aware of:

- Since you were born on the 1st of the month, your benefit is computed using the previous month as your eligibility date. If your year of birth was 1953, your full retirement age (FRA) was 66, which means that you actually reached your FRA in July 2019.
- Since you reached your FRA of 66, you have been earning Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) at the rate of .67% per month (8% additional benefit per year). You can earn DRCs up to age 70, at which point your SS benefit would be 32% more than it would have been at your FRA.
- If you will be 68 on August 1st, you have already earned 16% additional benefit through DRCs. That means your benefit, if claimed to start in July will be 16% more than it would have been at age 66. You will specify the month you wish your benefit to start when you apply.
- Social Security applies DRCs in January of each year, so if you apply mid-year 2021, your DRCs earned in 2021 won't be applied to your benefit payment until January of 2022.
- You can claim up to 6 months retroactive benefits, which would be paid in a lump sum. If you choose to take retroactive benefits your "benefit-start-month" will be backdated by 6 months, your benefit amount will be reduced accordingly (by 4%), and you'll get that reduced benefit for the rest of your life (except for Cost of Living Adjustments annually awarded).

So, this may be more detail than you expected for your simple question, but claiming SS is a serious decision and it's important you have complete information before you apply.

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

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Larry Webb Named District Director of SBA Washington Metropolitan Area District Office

By JACK SPIRAKES, MPA
U.S. Small Business Administration

WASHINGTON (August 16, 2021)—Larry Webb has been selected by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to serve as District Director for the Washington Metropolitan Area District Office (WMADO). Beginning Monday, August 16, 2021, he will lead a team that serves small businesses throughout the District of Columbia, Northern Virginia and Suburban Maryland. Among the SBA's 68 district offices, WMADO manages the agency's largest portfolio of participating firms in the 8(a) Business Development Program.

Webb joined the SBA as Senior Legal Counsel in 2011. In this role with the SBA's Office of General Counsel, he chaired the Fraud, Waste and Abuse Task Force and implemented public-facing enforcement reporting. Webb was also appointed to the Executive Steering Council, which oversaw the modernization of the agency's loan management and accounting system. In addition, he served as a labor and employment attorney for the SBA, where he was the designated SBA representative before a variety of administrative bodies, including the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB). Among Webb's responsibilities was training and advising SBA management on em-

ployment, labor, performance and disciplinary matters. His most recent position was lead attorney for SBA's Outreach and Marketing Team, during which he oversaw public-private partnerships, gifts to the SBA, memoranda of understanding, branding, social media and marketing. He also provided advice to the SBA on the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and delivered government-wide training sessions through the General Services Administration (GSA).

Prior to joining the SBA, Larry Webb served as Assistant Director of Law for the City of Cleveland, where he worked primarily as a civil litigator for the City's self-sustaining business enterprises. During his tenure, he helped the Office of Equal Opportunity streamline and bolster its enforcement procedures, which ultimately led to the City collecting the largest fine ever levied against a prime contractor. Additionally, Webb served as Vice President of the Norman S. Minor Bar Association (NSMBA), founded in 1980 as Cleveland's first full-fledged African American bar association. His earlier roles include being a criminal defense attorney, an executive director of a nonprofit organization and a business analyst.

"It is a great honor to lead the Washington Metropolitan Area District Office of the SBA, as we continue delivering vital business development programs and



PHOTO COURTESY SBA

Larry Webb, District Director, SBA Washington Metropolitan Area District Office

economic assistance to local small business owners," said Webb. "I look forward to leveraging the breadth of my professional background and SBA experience to advocate for our region's entrepreneurs and partner organizations that support their success."

Larry Webb holds a Juris Doctorate from Case Western Reserve University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and political science from Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Missouri. He and his husband currently reside in Prince George's County, Maryland.

Williams Joins Bowie State as Assistant Athletic Director for Media Relations

By PRESS OFFICER
Bowie State University

BOWIE, Md. (August 18, 2021)—Bowie State University Vice President of Athletics and Recreation Clyde Doughty, Jr. has announced the addition of Jolisa Williams as the Assistant Athletic Director for Media Relations [last] Wednesday afternoon.

Williams takes over the Media Relations area at BSU after long-time Sports Information Director and legend Gregory Goings, retired serving in the departments capacity for nearly 18 years. She will serve as the contact for all of Bowie State's 13 sport teams and as the departments spokesperson.

"BSU athletics is truly excited to have Jolisa Williams join our team," said Doughty, Jr. "Jolisa is an experienced CIAA veteran having been a student-athlete at St. Augustine's University and serving as an administrator at Shaw University."

Williams arrived at Bowie State University after spending six years (2015–2021) at Shaw University as the Assistant Athletic Director for Media Relations.

"As she takes control of our media relations department, I am extremely confident that Jolisa will elevate the image and brand of our growing athletic department to reflect the pillars of our great university; academic excellence, student success, and supporting the long term viability of Bowie State University," added Doughty, Jr.

During her tenure at Shaw, Williams re-branded and set new heights for the media relations area that included a redesign of the athletic website, enhancing the social media platforms—which was ranked amongst the top 30 amongst DII and first in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Conference (2017). Furthermore, she introduced the "Shaw Report" a weekly pod-

cast that featured coaching interviews, recaps and previews of athletic events.

Williams led the departments streaming platform also known as "The Shaw Bears Sports Network" in which the department streamed football, men's and women's basketball, women's volleyball, men's and women's soccer and softball all in one season for the first time ever in the departments history.

Over the years, Williams has had a great deal of experience covering championship caliber programs at Shaw. Williams handled the publicity for the 2016 women's volleyball team, which captured their first CIAA championship in 21 years and advanced to the NCAA tournament for the first time in school history. Additionally, she also managed the 2018 CIAA championship run for the Lady Bears women's volleyball team and second appearance in the NCAA tournament. As for the women's tennis team, Williams also had the pleasure of covering the Lady Bears three-peat (2017, 2018, 2019) CIAA Championship success and several NCAA tournament appearances.

Williams was named the CIAA John Holley Sports Information Director of the Year in 2018-19 and again following the 2016-17 year—which at the time was just her second year at Shaw.

Since 2017, Williams serves as a member of the CIAA Management Council. She was appointed to her management council seat after being elected president of the CIAA Sports Information Directors Association (CIAA-SIDA).

Previously, Williams spent time as the Director of Sports Information & Marketing at Richard Bland College in 2014. During her time there, she was the main contact for all nine-sport teams including the men's basketball program that captured the

2015 Region 10 Conference title and NJCAA National Championship for DII basketball. She was also responsible for the 2015 Region 10 regular-season champion softball team and five track and field national qualifiers.

Prior to Richard Bland, Williams interned at Virginia State University where she aided the athletic department in various areas. Along with assisting with publicity for basketball, football and baseball, she served as the primary contact for women's basketball, volleyball, women's tennis and softball. Williams also played a role in growing VSU athletics social media platforms as a graduate student.

A 2012 Magna Cum Laude graduate of Saint Augustine's University, Williams earned her Bachelor of Science in Sport Management. As a four-year letter winner for the Lady Falcons women's basketball team, Williams served as the starting point guard and contributed to the CIAA Western Division title in 2009–10 as well as three CIAA Team Highest GPA Awards for women's basketball during her tenure.

Williams earned a Master's degree from Virginia State in 2014.

A native of Charles City, Va., Williams was All-District First Team recipient for four years at Charles City High School, where she ranks second on the all-time scoring list and current leader assist leader. She averaged 21.1 points, 4.2 assist, and 7.3 rebounds per game.

Williams is a member of College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) and Black College Sports Information Directors Association (BC-SIDA).

For the most up-to-date information on Bowie State University Athletics and its 13 varsity sports teams, please visit www.bsbulldogs.com.



IMAGE COURTESY BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

HOME *and* GARDEN

HOME

Reduce Your Energy Bills This Fall With These Tips

(Statepoint) The updates you make in fall can prepare your home for the long winter months ahead, helping you stay more comfortable all season while reducing your energy bills and other expenditures. Here are some home improvements to consider, as well as tips and insights for making the most of these upgrades:

• **Select insulated siding:** Did you know that most wall insulation is placed only between the studs? Since wall studs represent up to 25% of the wall surface of an average home, that's like having one side of your home with no insulation at all! Check out siding that provides continuous insulation, such as CedarMAX insulated vinyl siding from ProVia, which is not

only one of the most energy-efficient exterior claddings on the market, but offers enhanced curb appeal and durability.

• **Improve windows and sliding glass doors:** New windows can make a substantial impact on your overall energy efficiency, if you select wisely. To identify the most energy-efficient windows for your home, refer to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) climate zone map, which divides the country into four regions. For each region, the agency provides recommended values for the two major characteristics that affect the energy efficiency of vinyl windows: the U-Factor (which measures the window's insulating value) and the Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (which represents the amount of heat from the sun that

passes through the glass). Learn the specs of any windows you're interested in before making a purchase to ensure they're a good fit for your region.

Wherever you live, make sure the windows and sliding patio doors have been independently tested to meet strict EPA energy efficiency standards, and check to see that the windows are ENERGY STAR Certified. The ecoLite, Aspect, Endure and Aeris lines from ProVia all offer comfort and energy efficiency, as well as optional upgrades that can help make an additional dent in your energy bill or add aesthetic appeal. Some lines come standard with ComforTech Warm Edge Glazing, a high-tech glass package that measurably improves thermal performance

for less heat loss, warmer glass temperatures and reduced interior condensation. Finally, be sure any new products are delivering their full value with a proper installation that eliminates drafts.

• **Seek further savings:** Did you know that by installing energy efficient products, you may be eligible to receive an energy tax credit? When purchasing products for your home, consider shopping with companies that are clear about the status of their products, as well as provide needed documentation certifying your eligibility.

• **Pass it on:** Environmental stewardship is a valuable lesson to impart to the next generation. While you make energy-saving updates to your home, consider



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checking out free resources that can help your children understand why this matters. For example, the "Sammy the Star" ENERGY STAR Educational Program, found at provia.com/energy-star, teaches

children about the importance of saving energy.

Energy savings and environmental protection go hand-in-hand. This fall, consider home upgrades that prioritize both.

Is Your HVAC System Ready for Cool Weather?

(StatePoint) As you enjoy mild autumn weather, take time to ensure your home is equipped to handle the chilly months ahead. Following these steps will mean a more comfortable, energy-efficient winter:

• **Clean your air filters monthly.** Dirty filters make HVAC equipment work harder and cause more wear and tear on your system. They also increase your energy bill and reduce indoor air quality.

• **Compare the Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency of your heating system with newer models.** If it's below 13, you may want to consider a new, more efficient system. Remember, the higher the rating, the less wasted energy for a reduced carbon footprint. Be sure to choose equipment bearing the ENERGY STAR logo. High-efficiency systems reduce your impact on the environment and can also save you money. You may also be eligible for a Federal Tax Credit if you select a qualifying model.

• **Use a humidifier during colder months.** It not only adds moisture to your home, it can actually make it feel warmer. In turn, you'll be more apt to lower your thermostat, saving money and consuming less energy.

• **Check and maintain your insulation.** Improperly insulated walls, floors, attics, basements and crawlspaces drain away heat and can also lead to moisture imbalance. Adding weather stripping and

caulk around windows and doors can also go a long way to improving your home's insulation.

• **Turn down your thermostat.** Keeping your thermostat five degrees cooler can lower your heating bills without affecting your home's comfort. Install a programmable thermostat to regulate temperatures.

• **Clean the furnace area.** Don't keep chemicals or cleaning products near your heater, and don't store anything next to it that could impede ventilation. Keep vents and returns free of obstructions. Don't lay carpet over vents, place furniture over or in front of them, or obstruct the flow of air.

• **Have a technician give your HVAC system a pre-season tune-up so that everything is running efficiently before temperatures plummet.** Even the most efficient system can suffer if it's not properly maintained. Just be sure your HVAC equipment is installed and serviced by a North American Technician Excel-

lence (NATE)-certified HVAC technician, as they have demonstrated their knowledge of today's increasingly sophisticated heating and cooling systems by passing a nationally recognized test developed and supported by all segments of the industry. Working with a NATE-certified technician translates to a longer life for your HVAC equipment, increased energy efficiency and fewer callbacks and warranty returns. To find a NATE-certified contractor in your area and for more HVAC tips and insights, visit <https://www.natex.org>.

With a few simple considerations in fall, you can reduce your home energy bill and improve your home's comfort all winter.



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Tips for a Budget-Friendly DIY Home Upgrade

(StatePoint) As a homeowner, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by necessary renovations and all the things you'd like to accomplish around your property. If your list of updates is long, but your time and budget are strapped, remember, even small changes can make a big impact.

Here are simple, affordable ways—inspired by FrogTape brand painter's tape's annual Paintover Challenge Room Makeover Contest—to make your space feel like new.

• **Use Bright and Bold Colors.** It's common to keep interiors neutral with trendy grays and off-whites, occasionally adding in pops of color with accessories or accent walls. If you're looking to take a unique approach to rejuvenating a room, consider adding bright and bold hues to your walls. Take inspiration from the outdoors, fruity drinks or blue skies to evoke emotions of joy with vivid greens, pinks or blues.

Each year, celebrity designer Taniya Nayak teams up with FrogTape brand to share design trends. In 2021, Nayak suggests

using the bright and bold colors of the "play hard" design trend, which is all about designating a place for fun and happy activities.

• **Embrace Patterns in Unexpected Places.** You may think of patterns for playrooms or children's bedrooms, but have you ever considered using them to create a focal point in your kitchen, dining room or even your patio?

With just a few tools, including paint, brushes and tape, you can add striped or checkered designs to walls, tables and floors. Creating a pattern doesn't have to mean splurging on a variety of paint colors. You can create subtle variety by alternating high gloss and matte finish paints, or by adding varying amounts of white paint to create multiple shades of the same base color.

However you create the pattern, having the right tape will be critical to avoid paint bleed from stripe to stripe. FrogTape Multi-Surface Painter's Tape is made with Paint-Block Technology, which forms a barrier that seals the edges of the tape, to ensure sharp paint lines and professional-looking results every time.

• **Create Calming Spaces.** While old homes have unique character, outdated features can make the task of modernizing interiors feel like a major undertaking.

For bathrooms, it's simple and affordable to sand

down what you have and refresh it with a coat of paint. Consider giving boring, outdated square tiles a contemporary look with different tones of gray. You can take it a step further by updating the vanity with deep green paint and gold accents.

When you're finished, you'll have a sanctuary from your daily stresses created efficiently and affordably.

• **Add Personal Pops of Style.** Think about the spaces where you spend a lot of time doing things you may not always enjoy—like the office or laundry room. Give these spaces a little TLC. Add fresh color to the walls, organize and hang photos of your favorite places to balance energy, encourage productivity and make everyday tasks feel less like chores.

• **Dedicate Areas for Happy Moments.** Do you have that one spot that you're not sure what to do with? It could be a nook or the basement. Use these areas as places to live well and embrace the calming, happy moments in life, like relaxing with family, reading a good book or playing a board game.

Add comfy, cozy textures of knit throw blankets, worn leather sofas or knobby rugs. Consider comforting, familiar shades like navy, light blues and grays, and cognac. These colors and textures work well on fireplaces, bookshelves or walls.

To see more of Taniya Nayak's 2021 Design Trends for FrogTape brand and check out the 2021 Paintover Challenge projects for inspiration, visit <https://www.frogtape.com/paintoverchallenge>.

With creativity and the right tools, making impactful interior updates can be simple and affordable.

GARDEN



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Tips to Attract Hummingbirds to Your Yard

(StatePoint) Do hummingbirds frequently visit your yard? Would you like them to? There are some important things to know in order to protect the safety and promote the health of these beautiful, vibrant visitors.

Migration

After their breeding season, hummingbirds migrate south for the winter. This autumn journey is long and potentially perilous, requiring considerable amounts of energy to complete. Taking steps to make your property a safe haven will give hummingbirds an important opportunity to rest and refuel.

Birdfeeders

One way you can help hummingbirds thrive is by stocking your garden with small native species of flowers to give wildlife needed nourishment, as well as cover from predators. You may want to supplement this nourishment source with a birdfeeder too, as hummingbirds need to eat often and in large amounts relative to their size. You can make a homemade nectar with just a few ingredients, according to the Audubon Society, or purchase a ready-made version from the store. When making a selection, keep in mind that experts warn that you should stay away from hummingbird food that contains red food coloring or dye, as it could be potentially hazardous to their health. Another important thing to know is that nectar does go bad, so be sure to regularly empty your feeder of unconsumed nectar and clean it completely before refilling it.

Safer Windows

When birds are feeding, they are easily frightened and are apt to take wild, evasive flight. To avoid this from happening, position birdfeeders closer than three feet or farther than 30 feet from windows. Surprisingly, the safest placement is attached to the window itself.

Whether you have birdfeeders or not however, you should also be sure to apply special decals that reflect ultraviolet sunlight in order to make your windows visible to birds of all kinds. This is because millions of birds are killed annually in the United States when colliding with windows. Those from WindowAlert have the appearance of frosted glass, but glow like a spotlight for birds, so you don't have to compromise your own view out your window. The brand also makes a high-tech liquid called WindowAlert UV Liquid, which should be applied between decals for even greater visibility. To learn more about window decals for birds, visit windowalert.com.

"Hummingbirds are not only beautiful, they are important pollinators vital to the ecosystem," says Spencer Schock, founder of WindowAlert. "With a few simple steps, you can make your yard a safe haven for these wonderful migratory creatures."

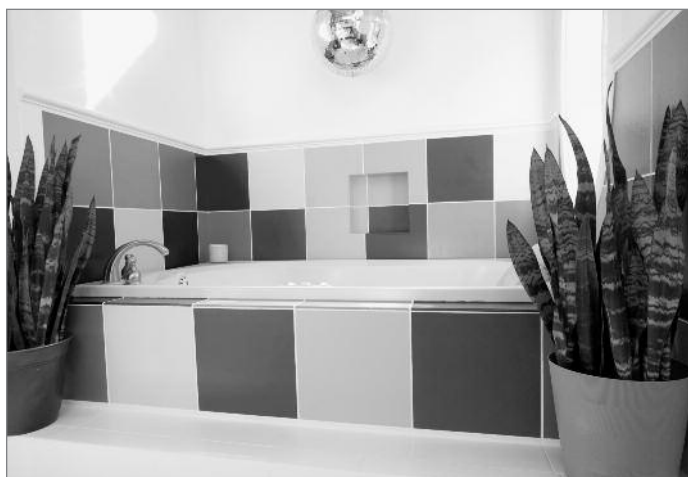


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