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Governor Hogan Joins Governor Northam, Mayor Bowser for Transfer of 55 Historic African American Headstones to National Harmony Memorial Park

Headstones To Be Reunited With Remains in Prince George's County Maryland National Guard to Assist with Recovery of Additional Headstones This Fall

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (August 23, 2021)—Governor Larry Hogan joined Virginia Governor Ralph Northam and Washington, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser for the official transfer of 55 historic African American headstones to National Harmony Memorial Park in Prince George's County.

The headstones, which had been used as erosion-control and scattered along the Virginia shores of the Potomac River, will be reunited with remains previously relocated from the former site of D.C.'s historic Columbian Harmony Cemetery. The ceremony was held at Caledon State Park in King George, Va.

"As soon as we learned of the massive undertaking to recover these headstones, we offered the full support of our entire Maryland team," said Governor Hogan. "We have no greater responsibility as leaders in democracy than preserving for future generations the importance of clearly differentiating between right and wrong."

The State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the District of Columbia entered into an unprecedented agreement to recover and move the headstones to their rightful place. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Historical Trust are partnering with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and the History, Arts, and Science Action Network (HASAN) on the project.

"It's our duty to make sure these headstones are returned to the graves they were intended to mark and honor," said Governor Northam. "As we reckon with the many impacts of systemic racism, we must tell the full and true story of our shared history, including indignities inflicted on people of color even after death."

Today the first 55 headstones were officially transferred to their final resting place at National Harmony Memorial Park. This fall, members of the Maryland National Guard will join the Virginia National Guard to recover additional headstones along a two-mile stretch of the Potomac River where the first artifacts were found.

"We know that the 37,000 people who were laid to rest at Columbian Harmony Cemetery were the men, women, and families who helped build Washington, D.C. into the city we are today," said Mayor Bowser. "They were talented soldiers, civil rights leaders, dressmakers, and so much more—they were moms and dads, grandmothers and grandfathers, friends and neighbors. They made and continue to make our families, our city, and our nation proud, and today we honor their lives."



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

The first 55 headstones were officially transferred to their final resting place at National Harmony Memorial Park on August 23.

More than 37,000 African American residents of Washington, D.C. were buried at the former site of Columbian Harmony Cemetery. In the 1960s, after the cemetery was sold to make way for new development, many of the graves were relocated to the Prince George's County site, but the headstones were either sold or given away.

Some of the prominent individuals buried at Columbian Harmony Cemetery include: **Elizabeth Keckly**, a former slave who became a seamstress and trusted confidante of First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln; **Osborne Perry Anderson**, the only African American survivor of John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry; **Mary Ann Shadd Cary**, America's first African American female newspaper editor; and **Philip Reid**, a foundryman who assisted with the building of the Statue of Freedom at the U.S. Capitol.

"It is important we remember each and every one of them," said Governor Hogan. "They are mothers and fathers, and sons and daughters who were loved in life and mourned in death. We owe it to every one of those 37,000 souls to do everything in our power to reclaim their history, their legacy, to bring at least some measure of comfort to their loved ones, and to restore their God-given right to eternal rest."

All County Offices Closed September 6, 2021.
In honor of Labor Day, county services are suspended. For a full listing of postponed or closed services, visit <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/>

2020 Census Data Shows Prince George's County Is More Racially and Ethnically Diverse

County population grew by over 100,000 persons

By ANIKA B. JACKSON
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (August 25, 2021)—According to the new 2020 Census data released by the U.S. Census Bureau, Prince George's County, Maryland is more racially and ethnically diverse compared to the 2010 Census. The U.S. Bureau of the Census released its first round of data for the year 2020 on August 12, 2021. The data covers general demographic data at the national, state, county, and sub-county level.

The Census data also shows the total 2020 population for Prince George's County is 967,201, which is an increase of 103,781 persons and represents the largest absolute growth of any county in Maryland. While many other county populations in the state have declined, new data shows Prince George's County's population increased by 12% placing the County at the 4th highest rate of growth behind Frederick County (16.4%), Howard County (15.8%), and Charles County (13.7%).

The change of total population by race in Prince George's County reflects the following below:

Multiracial population increased by 45,265 (165.6%),

Black or African American only population increased by 22,083 persons (4%),

Hispanic population increased by 76,491 persons (59.3%),

Asian only population increased by 6,703 persons (19.1%),

American Indian only population increased by 4,677 persons (109.8%),

Persons identifying as other increased by 66,244 (90.2%); and

White only population decreased by -41,196 persons (-24.8%).

In addition to the population gains there was an overall gain of approximately 31,775 housing units since 2010 as well. This increase in the Prince George's County's population will have a significant and positive impact on the amount of federal funds the County is eligible to receive.

For more information on the census visit, [Census.Maryland.Gov](https://www.Census.Maryland.Gov). Copies of new census data can be found here at <https://planning.maryland.gov/MSDC/Pages/census/Census2020/2020-pop-hu-summary.aspx>

The Prince George's County Planning Department of *The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)* is responsible for preserving, protecting, and managing the county's resources through high-quality planning services and growth management guidance. The Planning Department played a vital role in creating a complete count committee, developing partnerships and providing valuable census resources to County residents. Visit our website, www.pg-planning.org to learn how you can become engaged in shaping the future of your community.

Tale of Survival Continues for Chesapeake's Famous Manatee

By JEREMY COX
Bay Journal News Service

Florida wildlife officials on Feb. 5 rescued an 1,100-pound male manatee in Florida after he was spotted swimming sideways, a signal of distress. Suffering from malnutrition and severe pneumonia, he was taken to SeaWorld Orlando for rehabilitation.

A record number of manatees has perished in Florida this year in what experts are calling an unprecedented die-off. Marine scientists say most of the 890 deaths, as tabulated through July 30, were likely caused by a massive decline in seagrass on the state's East Coast that has robbed the gentle mammals of their primary food source.

But in this case, rescuers soon realized they had just saved an icon. A decade after his last confirmed sighting anywhere, Chessie the manatee—famous for his northerly treks to the Chesapeake Bay—was still alive.

The distinctive scars on his back betrayed his identity as the manatee that stunned the scientific world in 1994 with his first foray into the Chesapeake, for which he was named. At the time, he was the first documented manatee to be spotted in Maryland.

His renown was heightened by two more confirmed sightings in the Bay in 2001 and 2011.

Was this to be the end of Chessie's far-wandering ways? Not quite. In fact, as soon as he was released into the wild again in mid-May, the manatee, who is believed to be at least 35 years old, showed he has quite a bit of life left in him. In less than two weeks he had made his way hundreds of miles up the coast, nearly to Georgia.

"He very quickly made tracks north," said Monica Ross, a senior research scientist at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, which had attached a satellite tag to the manatee to track his whereabouts. The public could also follow his movements on a website operated by the aquarium.

"To me, Chessie is the rock star of manatees," Ross added. Before his inaugural Chesapeake appearance, "most people had no idea that manatees went farther north. As researchers, we did. But he was the first one to get a track farther north and to get a track on the way back."

Typically, manatees are found in the warm waters of Florida and the Caribbean Sea. When water temperatures drop below 62 degrees, they start showing signs of

cold stress, a potentially fatal condition.

But during the summer, some manatees venture northward. Ross' long-running tracking study, for example, has counted at least 14 individuals that show up each year off the coast of Charleston, SC.

"Manatees are exploratory animals," Ross said. "If they find a habitat they like, they will come back to it."

Over the past two decades, other manatees have paid occasional summertime visits to the Chesapeake Bay. But Chessie was the first.

After he was spotted the first time in the Maryland portion of the Bay, officials grew worried he wouldn't make it back to Florida in time to beat the winter weather. So, after a brief stay at the National Aquarium in Baltimore, they booked him a flight home aboard a military transport plane.

Curious whether he would try the trip again, researchers outfitted Chessie with telemetry gear upon his release. Sure enough, he was back to his old tricks in 1995. This time, he journeyed as far north as Rhode Island, marking the first time a manatee had been confirmed north of the Chesapeake Bay.

Chessie's exploits transformed him into a media darling and the subject of at least two children's books. But after the sightings in 2001 in Virginia and 2011 in Maryland, all was radio silence.

Between then and Chessie's reemergence this year, much had changed for the species.

In 2017, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service downlisted the manatee from endangered to threatened. But wildlife biologists and others remained concerned about a rising death toll from boat collisions. Then, last winter, manatees began dying by the hundreds. The suspected cause: a vast loss of seagrass due to polluted waters off Florida's coast.

More than 10% of the state's population of manatees, as calculated by the federal Fish and Wildlife agency, is believed to have been wiped out during the "unusual mortality event." The deaths and rescues have slackened in recent months as warmer temperatures have allowed the lumbering creatures to travel more widely to graze on seagrass elsewhere, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

But Ross and others worry that this winter will bring another widespread die-off.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Staff with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission use a grease marker to highlight a scar pattern on Chessie, a manatee known for his forays into the Chesapeake Bay. The agency photographs scar patterns to help track individual manatees over time and examine life history traits of the population.

"Seagrass is not going to grow back for years," she said. "This is going to be a longstanding issue. Manatees are the canary in the coal mine. They're letting us know how bad it is out there."

Ross said that the crisis demonstrates the urgency of her work tracking manatee habitat usage outside Florida. She hoped Chessie's long-haul habits would provide a vital datapoint. But nature had other plans.

Chessie, now tipping the scales at 1,500 pounds, was released May 12 just north of West Palm Beach, FL. By May 23, he had

trekked to the mouth of the St. Johns River near Jacksonville, nearly 250 miles up the coast. Over the next month, the satellite tracker showed him swimming several miles up the river as well as farther north along the coast to within a few hundred yards of the Florida-Georgia state line.

But after the tag sent up a signal near Blount Island in the St. Johns on June 27, there were no more pings. The tag was connected to a float ring that towed

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Dr. Bordere will present, "Supporting Bereavement Among Marginalized Youth".

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Motorists Urged to Follow School Bus Safety Laws As Students Head Back to Class

Troopers are reminding motorists to be on alert for school buses and not to ignore the red flashing lights when a bus is stopped.

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TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

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

Wedding bells for daughter of former Morningside Councilwoman

After a year's postponement due to Covid-19, Maria Anne DeGraba and Tyler Gibson Walsh were wed at St. Raphael Catholic Church in Rockville on Friday, July 23.

Carol DeGraba, mother of the bride, grew up in Morningside, the daughter of Martha and Gerald Kline who lived on Marianne Drive. Carol's career was nursing and for a time she worked at Southern Maryland Hospital. But from 1983 to 1988 she also served as a very active member of the Morningside Town Council.

In time, Carol married Dr. Thomas DeGraba and they made their home in Rockville. Now they have seen their daughter Maria marry Tyler, son of Mark and Kristy Walsh. And what a beautiful wedding it was!

About 170 attended. Fr. Daniel Gallagher was celebrant; a Monsignor and three other priests were concelebrants. Maria's maid of honor was her friend Maggie McIntyre; there were a lot more bridesmaids and a flower girl. Tyler's brother Zach Walsh was best man; with brothers of the bride, Nicholas and Thomas DeGraba, other groomsmen and a ring bearer.

Cocktail hour, reception and dinner were at the Manor Country Club in Rockville, after which they danced the evening away. At the end there was a send-off with 3-foot sparklers, to bid farewell to the newlyweds. Early Sunday the newlyweds left on a "minnie moon" in Nashville. A longer honeymoon, in Hawaii, is planned for next year.

As I read of Maria's wedding, I felt sad that Martha—who was my good friend—was not there to see her beautiful granddaughter marry Tyler Walsh. Martha Kline died in 2015 at the age of 90.

Town of Morningside: federal award of 1.2 million

Mayor Cann spoke with the principals of the two schools in the Town—Benjamin Foulois Creative and Performing Arts Academy and Imagine Foundations at

Morningside Public Charter School—to see if the Town could be of service. Their request is to have individuals with professional experience (bankers, entrepreneurs, trainers, etc.) who could help the students. If you are interested, contact the Town.

Morningside has been awarded 1.2 million through the ARPA (Federal COVID) Grant. They are working with a company to ensure they are spending this money according to grant stipulations.

The search continues for a new Morningside Chief of Police. Once the position is filled, the Mayor says, there will be a formal introduction to the Town.

Upcoming September meetings: Work Session, Sept. 14; Town Meeting, Sept. 21. Both at the Town Hall, both beginning at 7 p.m. For information, call 301-736-2300 or email generalmailbox@morningsidemd.gov.

Changing landscape

Clinton Hardware is running a Week of Raffles. You could win a Milwaukee Drill Kit or a Black & Decker Gift Pack or a Birdseed Prize Pack or Weber Charcoal Grill & Accessories. Drop by the store at 9005 Woodyard Road and buy tickets (\$1 each or 6 for \$5), cash only. All proceeds go to local charities. Next week I'll pay tribute to Clinton Hardware on its 75th anniversary.

Ground was broken recently and construction of The La Reine Science and Innovation Center is underway at Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville. I'll be writing more about this over the next year or so, but you might go to BMHS for excellent slideshows on the history of McNamara and La Reine, and for a tour of the beautiful Science Center.

Prince George's County is the first jurisdiction in the State of Maryland and second in the National Capital Region to implement a Next Generation 9-1-1 network. Charlynn Flaherty, Deputy Director of Public Safety Communications, announced, "This new advanced technology will provide greater accuracy in 9-1-1 call routing."

Wawa will be opening soon at Allentown Andrews Gateway Center on Allentown Road, near Branch Ave. Signs are up: Wawa is accepting job applications.

Last week I reported that a lightning strike had closed the Washington Monument. It's still closed while the National Park Service waits on a part for the electrical system.

In my August 19 column I reported that birds in the D.C. area were going blind and dying. Now they believe the problem had to do with cicadas. Once the cicadas were gone, the problem has apparently been solved. So, you can put your birdfeeders back out, though it is recommended that you first wash them good.

A home at 6015 Elmendorf Drive in Skyline sold for \$350,000.

Do you remember August 23, 2011, 1:51 p.m.?

That was the exact time a 5.8-magnitude earthquake jolted us.

I thought it was a bomb. I rushed outside only to see all of my neighbors out in front of their homes. Then I remembered the dozens of quakes—both small and devastating—during my seven years in California. This new quake felt like that.

On Aug. 23, I had no damage. Nor did my neighbors. But it closed the Washington Monument, other buildings, and especially Washington National Cathedral. Ten years later, the Cathedral still faces years of repairs.

The epicenter was in Mineral, Va., and it was the strongest to hit the region in modern records. The shaking lasted less than a minute but it was felt in every state on the East Coast, as well into the Midwest and parts of Canada.

Mary's Covid report: 11 more died

Through 5 p.m. August 25, 1,190 more cases were reported in Maryland, bringing the total to 489,930. Eleven deaths brought the total to 9,967 Marylanders who have died of the virus.

See MORNINGSIDE Page A7

Calendar of Events

Echoes of the Enslaved: In Pursuit of Liberty

Please join us at Marietta House Museum for the presentation of "Echoes of the Enslaved: In Pursuit of Liberty". The event will begin at 6 p.m. on **Friday, September 10** with a Panel Discussion led by Slave Dwelling Project founder Joe McGill and panelists historian Will Thomas and Mayor Dennis Smith. This presentation will be livestreamed.

Following the panel at 7:30 p.m., panelists will facilitate Conversation Circles to be held around fire pits on Marietta's grounds. Weather permitting, guests are invited to spend the night camping on the grounds.

Saturday, September 11, from 10:30–11:30 a.m., please join us for a live performance of the Washington Revels Jubilee Voices as we remember those we lost to acts of terrorism, including the institution of terror that was slavery.

Guided tours of Marietta House Museum are included from 11:30 a.m. –1 p.m.

Saturday, September 11, from 1–3 p.m., join us for a Public Archaeology Experience when participants are invited to process real artifacts from Marietta House Museum excavations, play games, and see displays of the archaeological findings.

All ages are welcome. This is a Free event. Please register on Parks Direct using these direct links:

Panel Discussion - <https://web1.myvscloud.com/wbws/mdpgparks.wt.wsc/search.html?module=PST&fmid=129085578>

Public Archaeology Experience - <https://web1.myvscloud.com/wbws/mdpgparks.wt.wsc/search.html?module=PST&fmid=129092249>

Washington Revels Jubilee Voices - <https://web1.myvscloud.com/wbws/mdpgparks.wt.wsc/search.html?module=PST&fmid=129090588>

For more information please email stacey.hawkins@pgparks.com. 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 Museum

Virtual HBCU tour & fair

On Saturday, **September 18, 2021**, from 12 Noon–2 p.m., the Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc in partnership with The Pearl Elegance Foundation will host a virtual HBCU Fair and Tour. During this event students and parents will hear from 10 HBCUs representatives on what their respective schools offer, along with a financial aid + financial advisor panel and hear from current college students about their experiences pre and during COVID-19.

Other activities include an HBCU student panel, interactive games, and prizes. Registration is open now, you can register using the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/PEOHBCUs>.

—Racine Tucker-Hamilton, PEO Publicity Committee

Fall grief programs for adults include cooking, walking, yoga and more

PASADENA, Md. (August 25, 2021)—Chesapeake Life Center has planned programs through the fall to help adult grievers in the community work through their loss in ways that best meet their needs.

The Anne Arundel County Walking Group for Grievors will meet from 10 a.m. to noon **Saturday, Sept. 25**, at Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis, Maryland. It will begin with an easy walk suitable for most fitness levels. After, all will pause to share their experience and talk about ways to use the outdoors as a means of healing. The cost to participate is \$10 to help with pavilion rental.

The Prince George's County Walking Group for Grievors affords another opportunity for a peaceful autumn walk around beautiful Lake Artemesia in Berwyn Heights in Prince George's County, Maryland. Join one of the center's bereavement counselors from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **Monday, Sept. 27**, for this free and easy walk and reflect on this season of change and nature's capacity to provide healing in times of grief.

Someone once said that another part of grief is learning to cook for oneself. **Cooking While Grieving** is an opportunity to share a meal and conversation about what it's like to cook and dine after a loss. In partnership with Whole Foods Market in the Annapolis Town Center, join a small group of other grievers for a chef-prepared dinner in the market's Culinary and Community Center from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Sept. 29**. The cost is \$25. Space is limited.

Writing through Your Grief is a workshop that will be held from 10 a.m. to noon **Saturday, Oct. 9** in the nonprofit's bereavement center at Hospice of Charles County, 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. The cost is \$10.

Living with Suicide Loss is a workshop designed for adults grieving a loved one due to suicide. Living with loss after a suicide death brings an intense range of emotions along with many questions that may be impossible to answer. Because this loss is sudden and often unexpected, coming to terms with it may be made even more difficult by the challenges it presents to the griever's basic beliefs about how life should unfold. Share in a safe space and explore together what helps and what remains after a loss like no other. It will take place in person from 6 to 8 p.m. **Wednesday, Oct. 13** on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, Maryland. The cost is \$10. Light refreshments will be served.

Grief Yoga Monthly Support Group is a virtual offering for past participants of the four-week yoga workshop who are looking for continued support for mind and body during their grief journey. Only those who have participated in the Nurturing the Grieving Heart through Yoga program can enroll. It will meet from 6 to 7:30 p.m. **Thursdays, Oct. 14, Nov. 11 and Dec. 9**, via Zoom for Healthcare.

The center's free **Quarterly Book Group** is for bereaved adults to share in conversations about where grief meets life in literature. This quarter's book choice is "The 4 Facets of Grief: Heal Your Heart, Rebuild Your World, and Find New Pathways to Joy," by Ruth E. Field, LCSW. It will meet from 10:30 a.m. to noon, **Wednesday, Nov. 3**, both in person at the center's **Prince George's County office**, 9500 Medical Center Road, Suite 250, Largo, Maryland, and virtually, via Zoom for Healthcare.

Nurturing the Grieving Heart through Yoga returns for adult grievers. This four-week program that will meet online from 6 to 7:30 p.m. **Wednesdays, Nov. 3, 10 and 17, and Dec. 1**. Facilitated by Cathy Rees, a registered

See CALENDAR Page A7

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

THE INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Industrial Education Program in Prince George's County is dedicated to the purpose of assisting youth in preparing for the task of living in an evolving culture.

Three programs of Industrial Education are offered in the secondary schools of Prince George's County: Industrial Arts, Vocational Arts, Vocational Trades and Industry courses, and vocational Agriculture and Horticulture.

Industrial Arts is a part of general education, offered in grades seven through twelve. The program of instruction in Industrial Arts includes a variety of media and industrial experiences in woodworking, metal working, drafting, electronics and graphic arts.

Vocational Trades and Industry courses are offered in grades ten through twelve in several senior high schools. The program is essentially directed toward the preparation of youth to enter the labor market with some salable skill. Graduates find employment easier to obtain and advance more rapidly on the job because of their vocational training.

Vocational Agriculture and Horticulture is offered in grades ten through twelve in several high schools. The program has been broadened to assist youth in entering the newer areas that have emerged in the field of agriculture. Graduates of the program find employment in the field of general farming, agricultural sales, farm mechanics, agricultural research, landscaping, greenhouse work and agri-business. Information received from Prince George's County Retired Teachers Association Booklet (Public Schools of Prince George's County 1950–1980).

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

An expanding program of school construction has been necessary because of the continuing rise in pupil enrollment. Between 1945 and June 1966, \$182,121,015 has been spent or obligated for school construction, purchase of school sites, and the equipping of schools. Construction costs are not reflected in the operating budget of the Board of Education as the funds are obtained through County bond issues and Federal and State aid. Information received from Prince George's County Retired Teachers Association Booklet (+Public Schools of Prince George's County 1950–1980).

HBCU DATA SCIENCE SEPTEMBER SALON SERIES

The HBCU-Data Science Consortium works in alignment with the South Big Data Innovation Hub program's goals of promoting collaboration and supporting the cross-pollination of tools, data, and ideas across disciplines and sectors. Monthly virtual data science-focused working groups. The HBCU Data Science Consortium September Salon will focus on the inclusivity and diversity pillar of the consortium. Theme: Why Inclusivity and Diversity are Vital Pillars to Data Science. Location: Virtual September 17, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. Contact: Dr. Velma Latson Email: vlatson@bowiestate.edu, website: <http://hbcu-dsc.org/>, categories are academics, Blockchain, Lecture/Discussion. Contact: webmaster@bowiestate.edu.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to Dr. Patricia Mitchell, Catherine Brown, Tyrone Campbell, Todd Johnson, Melody Makle, Jasmine Pinkney, Corbin Toombs, Pamela Toombs, James Wilkerson, Elsie Dent, Ricky Hawkins, Gerald Pinkney, and Lillie Skinner who are New Hope Fellowship Parish members celebrating their birthdays in September.

BACK TO SCHOOL 2021

Ready to reconnect. Back to school. Prince George's County Public School is excited to welcome students back to school on Wednesday September 8, 2021.

NOTTINGHAM MYERS CHURCH

Sunday, August 22, 2021, Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church members and Pastor Strickland did a drive-by birthday celebration for another one of their divas, Mrs. Berline Brooks.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday to Jane Perry, Osayi Omoregbe, Chidinma Mbakwe, Nancy Curtis, Mariama Davies, Ronald Jones, Pam Stahl, Donna Cain, Norman Noel, Alexis Proctor, Elijah P. Knight, Kirk Samuel, Beonie Pearson, Idena Thomas, Karen Taylor, Curt Falby, Annie Cokes, James Dorsett, IV, Kizzy Savoy, Umaru Davies, Rebecca Mosley, and Paul Jeffrey Kerrick who are Clinton United Methodist Church Members celebrating Birthdays in September.

SEPTEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to Kevin and Jazzmyn Simmons, Franklin and Joyce Isaac, Jose and Daphne Rojas, Wade and Gloria Garrett, Ted and Rebecca Mosley, Norville and Deserae Pratt Hughes, Joe and Patrice Perkins, Ronald and Evangeline Crawford, Owen and Audrey Johnson, Adrian and Shellie Sims who are Clinton United Methodist Church Members celebrating wedding anniversaries in September.

BOWIE STATE BULLDOGS

Bowie State University Vice President of Athletics and Recreation Clyde Doughty, Jr. has announced the addition of Jolisa Williams as the Assistant Athletic Director of Media Relations. Williams takes over the Media Relations area at Bowie State University after long-time Sports Information Director and legend Gregory Goings retired serving in the department capacity for nearly 18 years.

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. More information to follow in my next article on Jolisa Williams.

COMMUNITY

Shortage of School Bus Drivers Casting a Pall Over Start of New School Year, and School Transportation Safety

Back-To-School Safety Paramount As Area Schools Grapple With Bus Driver Shortage

By PRESS OFFICER
AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON (August 23, 2021)—As the new school year dawns, school districts across the Washington metro area are grappling with a school bus driver shortage. It is stressing out students and their parents, who are forming carpools to get their children to school on time. It is raising alarms about overcrowded school buses jammed with pupils, students stranded at school bus stops for hours, bus transportation delays, bus delivery times to schools or bus stops, and safety at school bus stops.

The scarcity of school bus drivers is nationwide in scope. The pandemic exacerbated it. It is making the classifieds and the headlines.

The uptick in COVID-19 Delta variant cases is casting a pall on the beginning of the new 2021–2022 academic year and school bus transportation contingencies. Even before the advent of the coronavirus pandemic, nearly 25 percent of school bus drivers admitted “to leaving their current job for a higher paying job,” explains American Bus Sales. “Now, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, shortages have been even more of an issue than ever before.”

Back-to-school transportation affects not only school districts, students, and parents, but also other motorists on the roads, warns AAA.

“Prior to the onset of the pandemic, an estimated 21 percent of the total morning traffic was generated by parents driving their kids to school. With schools back in session, with in-person classes, in yet another school year like no other, that number will greatly increase in the wake of the dearth of school bus drivers nationally and regionally,” said John B. Townsend II, AAA Mid-Atlantic’s Manager of Public and Government Affairs.

“Consider this, ‘school buses save American families about 62 billion miles of driving each year,’ estimates the American School Bus Council. If school

buses weren’t rolling, it would be equivalent to adding another ‘17 million cars’ to rush hour traffic during the morning and afternoon commutes.”

The lack of enough school bus drivers has triggered what some around the country are calling a “transportation logistics nightmare.”

The school bus driver shortage will put extra traffic on the road and around elementary and middle schools, especially during drop-off and pick-up times. **Whether in a school zone or residential neighborhood, drivers should keep their speed low and be prepared to stop quickly for increased vehicle or pedestrian traffic.**

All of this “school traffic congestion,” plus “changes in school transportation modes” will likely “impact students, parent drivers and other commuters, as well as school staff, and residents living in and around schools.”

The school bus driver shortage couldn’t come at a worse time.

The ring of “inner suburbs” in the Metropolitan Washington region is the locus of three local school districts ranked in the top 20 largest school districts in the nation: Fairfax County, Montgomery County, and Prince George’s County. Together, they have a combined enrollment of 500,000 students, tabulates AAA Mid-Atlantic, and a combined school bus fleet that deploys an armada of 4,000 school buses on area roads each school day.

With parents forming car pools to ferry their kids and neighborhood kids to area schools, AAA stresses the importance of safety and responsibility while traveling, encouraging not only drivers, but also pedestrians and bicyclists to stay alert and be safe while en route to their destinations.

The lack of enough school bus drivers, which preexisted the pandemic, spells more traffic and the need for more precaution and patience, as many area schools resume five days a week of in-person instruction for the first time in months.

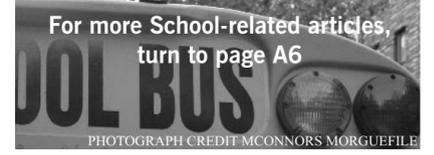
“Some school buses are doing double duty runs to get students to school on time in area schools. As school bus trips take longer, and as school bus delays mount, drivers must exercise caution near school bus stops and amid students walking or biking to school. It behooves drivers to practice patience,” said Townsend.

“Be aware of the time of day you are on the road and how that coincides with the school day. More school-age pedestrians are killed from 7 to 8 a.m. and from 3 to 4 p.m. than any other hours of the day. In the light of a school bus driver shortfall, it is imperative for parents to ensure that their children board the correct bus. As the school bus driver shortage worsens, it is also important for parents to make sure their kids know the safest way to the exact location where the bus will stop, and the correct bus route number and school name.”

Prince George’s County has 207 public school houses, and 136,000 students, and it has 1,240 school buses in its school bus fleet, and it boasts the 19th largest school district in the nation. Of that tally, 86,000 students in the county ride the school bus. Each school day, 1,047 school buses are routed along 5,542 school bus routes. At least six out of ten students—63.2 percent—ride the school bus to school each school day.

In contrast, it is estimated that “roughly three-quarters of school-aged children are taken to school by car” in the United States. Area school bus fleets also transport students, teachers and chaperones during field trips and extracurricular activities, as well as student-athletes and coaches to sports activities. Stay alert and exercise extra care when driving in areas with school children present.

Congestion-related travel delays could possibly soar due to the paucity of school bus drivers, and as even more parents drive their children to school or escort them to the bus stop, especially in the event of school bus delays.



“More importantly, traffic congestion can be a source of traffic crashes and child pedestrian injuries and deaths.”

As area schools open in waves from now until the day after Labor Day, it is incumbent upon drivers, students, and parents to follow AAA’s back-to-school transportation safety rules, such as:

- **Expect delays** affecting school bus routes across the region, as a result of the school bus driver shortfall.
- **Anticipate “overcrowded buses,** longer school routes, longer school bus trip times, more stops, more delays for students, and more traffic in school zones.”
- **Look out for more carpooling** to and from and around area schools with grades prekindergarten through 12.
- **Stop if the bus stops.** As the driver shortage causes drivers to double up on routes, some drivers fear they will end up with “insufficient time to get from stop to stop, leaving drivers feeling like they have to rush.”
- **Be mindful of the evolving school bus driver shortage,** and its possible safety consequences. “Pre-pandemic, 87% of USA school transportation professionals reported the bus driver shortage was a major problem.”
- **Drive safely.** As the school bus driver shortage worsens, parents must avoid unsafe drop-off or pick-up behavior when driving their children to and from school.
- Staggered schedules and social distancing could mean **fewer buses and more carpools** transporting students.
- **Expect an uptick in congestion near schools.** More parents may opt to transport their children to and from school, avoiding the school bus ride,

See **SHORTAGE** Page A7

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COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

As COVID Threatens to Disrupt Yet Another Academic Year, Leaders Make Matters Worse By Playing Politics With Students' Health and Education

"We cannot return to the classroom and do things the same as they have always been done and expect to see a different outcome. Instead, we must use this critical moment in education to radically rethink how programs, policies, and opportunities are designed and fiercely commit to prioritizing the communities most impacted by the pandemic and distributing resources accordingly."

—NWEA Center for School and Student Progress

Across the country, students are embarking on what is certain to be a third consecutive academic

year that is compromised or disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. While this is unfortunate for all students, it's especially dire for students of color and low-income students, who experienced the steepest setbacks as a result of interrupted instruction.

To make matters worse, students are being used as pawns by politicians more concerned with signifying partisan loyalty than with the health and education of public-school children. Twenty states have prohibited proof-of-vaccination requirements. At least eight states—Florida, Texas, Arizona, Oklahoma, Iowa, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Utah—have imposed bans on school districts requiring

masks. Florida and Arizona have gone so far as to threaten to withhold funding from districts that impose mask mandates.

As U.S. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona has pointed out, these policies represent discrimination against students who cannot attend school because of the risk to their health. The Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights is preparing to launch investigations in states block mask mandates—a move the National Urban League emphatically supports.

It's appropriate that Secretary Cardona recognizes pandemic-related educational disruption as a civil rights issue. As I testified earlier this year to the House Education and Labor Committee's Subcommittee on Early Childhood Elementary and Secondary Education, Black children are more likely than their White counterparts to lack the internet access and the devices necessary to receive adequate remote instruction. This "homework gap" affects one in three Black, Latino, and American Indian Alaska Native students.

The effects on inequality have been stark. Research released last month showed students in majority Black or Hispanic schools ended the school year six months behind where they normally would have been in math, compared with four months for white students. Students in low-income schools were seven months behind.

"Put simply, the students who could least afford to lose ground relative to other students are those

who were the most impacted," wrote the authors of a similar report that reached the same conclusions.

The educational research organization NWEA, which produced the report, offered several policy recommendations to support students' health and well-being while at the same time expanding access to excellent educational opportunities. These include:

- Re-engage for all students, with a focus on historically underserved students.
- Continue to support access to remote learning technology for students and families.
- Attend to physical, social, and mental health needs of students and families.
- Measure student progress, rethink assessment systems, and use data to support recovery.
- Support and train teachers and leaders.
- Move from restarting to reimagining accountability and school improvement.

None of these goals are served by endangering the health and safety of students and their families with anti-mask and anti-vaccine policies, or by inviting even more learning interruption by withholding school funding. These misguided, politically-motivated and racially-discriminatory policies can only serve to widen the already-alarming racial achievement gaps. The National Urban League and our network of 91 affiliates across the country stand ready to work with states and school districts on policies that uplift all students and expand educational opportunities for everyone.

Steny H. Hoyer

Maryland Congressional District 5



Prince George's County Congressional Delegation Announce Nearly \$3 Million in Funding for Prince George's County Community Health Workers

WASHINGTON (August 26, 2021)—Today, Congressman Steny H. Hoyer, Senators Ben Cardin (MD) and Chris Van Hollen (MD), and Congressman Anthony Brown (MD-04) announced \$2,999,862 to the Prince George's County Health Department to increase resources and services for Community Health Workers (CHWs) to better respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and combat health care inequities.

"Community Health Workers provide indispensable services to Prince George's County residents. That's why we fought to include funding in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Congress passed last year to support Community Health Workers on the frontlines of this pandemic and their crucial efforts—from serving as reliable messengers on the efficacy of vaccines, to providing on-the-ground support services in mental health, to helping families facing food insecurity. We are pleased that the Prince George's County Health Department has been awarded nearly \$3 million in funding to scale up resources for Community Health Workers so they can continue providing critical care to Marylanders," said the lawmakers.

"This investment will strengthen the tools our Community Health Workers have to respond in ar-

reas disproportionately impacted by this pandemic which have battled with health disparities for too long. We applaud their commitment to improving the health of Prince Georgians and their families, and we will keep advocating for them and the services they provide," the lawmakers continued.

"Community health workers are a crucial component of the Health Department's mission to protect and promote the health and wellness of every Prince Georgian," said Prince George's County Health Officer Dr. Ernest Carter. "They are a familiar face and a trusted source for patient care and support. I want to thank Congressman Hoyer and the County's congressional delegation for this opportunity to strengthen our ability to provide quality health care services to residents, especially during this historic time in public health."

Community Health Workers are health care personnel who work to reduce health inequities in communities. CHWs have played a critical role in areas that have had severe COVID-19 outbreaks by helping connect residents to essential services and help with the COVID-19 response. This funding announced today is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Community Health Workers for Covid Response and Resilient Communities program.

Prince George's County Office of Human Rights And Department of Family Services Launch New Youth Leadership Academy

By KYLA HANINGTON

Office of Human Rights Prince George's County

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (August 30, 2021)—The Prince George's County Office of Human Rights (OHR) and the Department of Family Services' Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking Division have announced their new Youth Leadership Academy (YLA) through the Office of Human Rights. Youth ages 12 to 22 are encouraged to apply.

"Our youth are our most valuable gift," said Office of Human Rights Executive Director, Renée Battle-Brooks. "Engaging minds for a changed tomorrow is our commitment to ensuring a better future."

The YLA promotes peer-to-peer education on civil and human rights issues while developing

human rights social influencers who are passionate and knowledgeable, and seeks to develop youth led ideas, programming, and execution across a wide range of areas. OHR will work with all students of the YLA through program development, ideas, and implementation. GPA and other academic standards are not pre-requisites to entrance into the Academy as the Office of Human Rights recognizes the value of inclusion.

OHR encourages all youth who are interested in civil and human rights, as well as social justice issues, to apply to the Academy. The deadline for applications to the inaugural class of the Youth Leadership Academy is September 3, 2021.

For more information on the Office of Human Rights and to apply to the Youth Leadership Academy, visit civilrights.mypgc.us.

Chessie from A1

behind the large, gray animal. Because the signal was lost in the early evening near a shoreline, Ross said she is "100% convinced" the tag was mistaken for food by an alligator.

"It's something in the water column and they're looking for food, so they will bite our tags," she said.

Where and when Chessie will pop up again is

anyone's guess now. Ross urged anyone who spots a belt-wearing manatee to report the sighting to their state's wildlife agency.

It might lead to a new chapter in Chessie's story.

Jeremy Cox is a Bay Journal staff writer based in Maryland. This article was first published on BayJournal.com and in the September 2021 issue of the Bay Journal. It was distributed by the Bay Journal News Service.

Anthony Brown

Maryland Congressional District 4



Congressman Brown: No American Should be Denied Their Right to Vote

"The goal of voter suppression is clear: limit the number of people voting in our elections in order to hold onto power."

WASHINGTON (August 24, 2021)—Congressman Anthony G. Brown (MD-04), a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, released the following statement on the House passage of the John Lewis Voting Rights Act:

"Republicans around the country are making it harder for Americans to vote and hold their elected leaders accountable. The goal of voter suppression is clear: limit the number of people voting in our elections in order to hold onto power. That's un-

acceptable and runs contrary to our values as Americans. Regardless of race, political party, or background, no American should be denied their fundamental right to vote. Today, with the House passage of the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, we took an important step forward to protecting the cornerstone of our democracy.

"We need to respond to anti-democratic and disenfranchisement efforts with pro-democracy reforms and expansion of voting. We need to step up enforcement

against discriminatory measures aimed at limiting the vote and targeting specific groups. That's what John Lewis fought every day of his career for, and that's exactly what this legislation will achieve. I urge the Senate to act in order to defend our democracy."

State lawmakers have introduced over 400 voter suppression bills in 49 states in the 2021 legislative session alone. And at least 18 states enacted 30 laws that restrict access to the ballot, with many more on the way.

Governor Hogan Appoints Delegate Ronald Watson To Maryland Senate

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (August 27, 2021)—Governor Larry Hogan today announced the appointment of Delegate Ronald L. Watson, Jr., Ph.D., to the Maryland Senate, representing Legislative District 23. He was nominated by the Prince George's County Democratic Central Committee.

"I am confident that Delegate Watson will continue to represent his constituency admirably in his new role as senator," said Governor Hogan. "I

offer him my sincere congratulations and look forward to working with him in the upcoming legislative session."

Dr. Watson has served in the House of Delegates since 2019. He is currently a member of the Judiciary Committee and the Joint Committee on Cybersecurity, IT, and Biotechnology. He is also the president and senior program manager for Watson Management Corporation in Upper Marlboro. He served in the U.S. Army for 15 years, and left with the rank of major.

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Linda Donfack Feudjio Graduates from Rochester Community and Technical College

Rochester Community and Technical College is pleased to announce its Summer Semester 2021 graduates.

ROCHESTER, Minn. (August 25, 2021)—Linda Donfack Feudjio of Bowie, recently graduated from Rochester Community and Technical College (RCTC) at the end of Summer Semester 2021. Linda received a Certificate for Cancer Registry Management with Honors.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the College's 105th Commencement Ceremony was replaced this year with three separate virtual Commencement ceremonies at the end of Spring Semester. Fall 2020 graduates participated, along with Spring and Summer 2021 candidates.

Established in 1915, RCTC is the largest higher education provider in the fastest-growing city in Minnesota, serving more than 8,000 students a year in credit courses and nearly 3,700 in non-credit continuing and workforce education programs. RCTC combines the best in liberal arts, technical, and life-long learning with more than 70 credit-based programs and over 100 credential options. RCTC's expansive 518-acre campus includes university partnerships, a diverse student body, and a vibrant student life program. RCTC provides a unique learning environment that offers the feel of a four-year university campus with the commitment to access and opportunity of a two-year college.

The Minnesota State system consists of 37 colleges and universities with over 16,000 employees offering nearly 4,000 educational programs to nearly 400,000 students. It is the fifth-largest higher education system in the United States.

—Nate Stoltman, Rochester Community and Technical College

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Does Paying SS Tax Now Increase My Benefit?

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

Dear Rusty: I started drawing my benefits at age 62 due to being laid off from my job at age 60. I have continued working part time and been paying Social Security and Medicare taxes ever since. I am now 66. I have been told that even though I continue to pay these taxes, it will not help increase my monthly social security benefit. Is that true?
Signed: Working Beneficiary

Dear Working Beneficiary: Paying into Social Security and Medicare through "FICA" taxes withheld from your paycheck doesn't change your Social Security (SS) benefit amount. Those taxes aren't held in a separate personal account for you; rather they are used to pay benefits to all those who currently collect SS benefits, and to help offset healthcare costs for current Medicare enrollees.

From its inception decades ago, Social Security has been a "pay as you go" system where all those working help pay for all those currently collecting benefits. And if you happen to work even after you start collecting Social Security benefits, the FICA tax you pay still goes to help pay benefits for you and for millions of others also collecting Social Security.

Of the 7.65% FICA tax you pay, 6.2% goes to Social Security and 1.45% helps fund Medicare (your employer pays the same amounts). The 6.2% SS tax you pay to Social Security isn't deposited into a personal account which determines your benefit payment. Instead, your benefit is determined using your earnings record for the 35 years over your lifetime in which you earned the most (with early years adjusted for inflation). Your average earnings in those 35 years are what determines your benefit amount, not how much you paid in FICA tax.

Thus, continuing to pay FICA taxes because you are still working won't affect your Social Security benefit amount. And because of the way the program is structured, you don't need to worry about how much you contributed to Social Security in taxes; you will continue to receive Social Security for as long as there are people working and contributing to the program (for the rest of your life) - those now working pay for Social Security benefits now being paid.

What could, however, affect your personal SS benefit amount now is your earnings level while working. Even after you start collecting Social Security benefits, if your current earnings from work are more than any of those in the 35 inflation-adjusted years used to originally compute your benefit, that benefit will be recomputed and increased as appropriate. And just in case you're wondering, studies have shown that, on average, SS beneficiaries usually recover everything they paid into the system within about 5 years. Said another way, over your lifetime you'll almost certainly get back much more in benefits than you paid in FICA SS taxes. The pay-back time is more for those who are self-employed (because they must pay both employee and employer portions of FICA), but Social Security is, nevertheless, a pretty good deal which pays a guaranteed retirement benefit for as long as you live after benefits start.

So, what you were told is correct. Paying FICA taxes now won't help increase your monthly benefit amount. But high earnings now, which are more than any in those 35 inflation-adjusted years used to compute your SS benefit, will.

The 2.4 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 ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Emily Schindler Lecture Goes Virtual and Now More Professionals Can Earn CEUs

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (August 25, 2021)—For the first time in its 15-year history, the annual Emily Schindler Memorial Lecture will be held virtually. The live, interactive webcast is sponsored by Chesapeake Life Center and 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.**

Dr. Bordere's presentation, "Supporting Bereavement Among Marginalized Youth," 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.

With the uncertainty of the status of the COVID-19 pandemic, the nonprofit wants to still be able to provide this much-respected opportunity for quality professional education while ensuring the safety of the community. In addition, by switching from being an in-person event to something people can attend from wherever they are, more professionals and other interested community members can take part. Participants will still be able to interact and learn from opportunities for reflective activities and questions throughout the time together. It also makes the continuing education units more

affordable for Maryland social workers, therapists and counselors to earn, as the price was reduced from \$40 to \$25.

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. The Maryland Board of Professional Counselors & Therapists certifies that this program meets the criteria for 3.0 credit hours of Category A continuing education for counselors and therapists in Maryland.

Participants must register and will need to create an account to complete their registration via <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, Board of the National Alliance for Grieving Children, and Advisory Council of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors. Dr. Bordere is a former Forward Promise Fellow (Robert Wood



PHOTO COURTESY HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE

Dr. Tashel Bordere

Johnson Foundation) and received the Ronald K. Barrett National Award 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 and co-written the book, "Handbook of Social Justice in Loss and Grief" (Routledge).

Chesapeake Life Center, a program service of Hospice of the Chesapeake, serves hospice family members and the community with bereavement services and activities designed to enhance the quality of life for those grieving the loss of a loved one. For details, visit chesapeakelifecenter.org or call 888-501-7077.

Governor Hogan Announces \$3.7 Million for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (August 26, 2021)—Governor Larry Hogan today announced that \$3.7 million in electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure is being awarded to 37 sites using funds from Maryland's settlement with Volkswagen (VW) for air pollution violations.

"For more than six years now, Maryland has been setting an example for the nation of strong environmental leadership," said Governor Hogan. "This is another important step forward to expanding access to electric vehicle charging across the state and encouraging more Marylanders to purchase and use electric vehicles."

The state is funding 36 new public fast chargers at 13 locations and 145 workplace charging ports at 24 business locations. The public fast chargers are five to 10 times quicker than the workplace charger ports.

"Zero emission vehicles and clean transportation infrastructure are key drivers to achieving Maryland's ambitious climate plans, which are among the most detailed and aggressive in the nation," said Secretary Ben Grumbles of the Maryland Department

of the Environment. "Our smart investments in charging infrastructure will accelerate the electric vehicle revolution and grow sustainable public-private partnerships throughout the state."

Maryland received \$75.7 million as part of a \$2.7 billion national settlement with VW. A total of \$11.3 million of Maryland's money was directed toward deployment of zero emission vehicle infrastructure to facilitate the state's adoption of battery, electric, and plug-in hybrid vehicles.

"Expanding access to electric vehicle charging infrastructure is critical to achieving both our emissions reduction and EV deployment goals, while serving the needs of Marylanders and visitors alike," said Maryland Energy Administration Director Dr. Mary Beth Tung. "These charging stations will help advance Maryland's status as a national leader in transportation electrification."

The Maryland Department of General Services (DGS) has taken the lead among state agencies in installing EV chargers and arranging for other agencies on state-owned property to install them. A number of the workplace grants were facilitated by DGS.

There are currently more than 36,000 electric vehicles in the state, according to

the Maryland Department of Transportation. Maryland will begin the second round of VW funding by the end of the year.

The public fast charging stations will be located in:

- Annapolis at Exxon, 161 Defense Highway
- Cumberland at Queen City Armory, 112 Wineow Street
- Elkton at Dunkin Donuts, 264 Belle Hill Road
- Hagerstown at Valley Park Commons, 1520 Wesel Road
- Halethorpe at Wawa #8504, 3716 Washington Boulevard
- Hyattsville at Sunoco, 7620 Landover Road
- Lexington Park at Ashley Homestore, 21716 Great Mills Road
- Myersville at Sunoco, 9630 Myersville Road
- Ocean City at 100th Street Municipal Parking Lot, 10005 Coastal Highway
- Oxon Hill at Safeway #4872, 6235 Oxon Hill Road
- Parkton at Exxon Tiger Mart, 300 Mount Carmel Road
- Silver Spring at Safeway #4817, 116 University Boulevard
- Towson at Towson Place, 1200-1238 Putty Hill Lane

Additional details regarding the fast charging and workplace EV chargers can be found at <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Air/MobileSources/Documents/Combined%20VW%20EVSE%20Awards.pdf>

Prince George's County's 911 Call Center Transitions to Next Generation 9-1-1

The Next Generation 9-1-1 system is now live; County's call center is first jurisdiction in the State and second in the region to implement new system

By TAYLOR BROWN
Prince George's County
Office of Homeland Security

BOWIE, Md. (August 23, 2021)—The Office of Homeland Security/Public Safety Communications has officially launched the new Next Generation 9-1-1 system. Next Generation 9-1-1 is a nationwide emergency communications infrastructure that will allow first responders and 9-1-1 professionals to utilize advanced caller location information, faster and more accurate 9-1-1 call routing, and more reliable voice and text delivery capabilities to better respond to calls for emergency assistance. The completion of the multi-

phased implementation process occurred last month.

"The 9-1-1 call center's transition to Next Generation 9-1-1 is a huge accomplishment for public safety in Prince George's County," says Interim Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Public Safety and Homeland Security, Barry L. Stanton. "This system not only enhances the services that we are able to provide our residents when they call us for assistance, but also greatly assists all of our public safety personnel as they work to keep our communities safe and healthy."

Prince George's County is the first jurisdiction in the State of Maryland and second in the National Capital Region to

implement a Next Generation 9-1-1 network. This transition is a part of a multi-year partnership with Motorola Solutions that began with the implementation of an advanced radio communication system, a new Next Generation ready 9-1-1 call center, and a public safety complex.

"Prince George's County's 9-1-1 call center is pleased to take a leadership role in Maryland's implementation of Next Generation 9-1-1. This new advanced technology will provide greater accuracy in 9-1-1 call routing and help us provide the best services to Prince George's County's residents, visitors and public safety responders," says Charlynn Flaherty, Deputy Director of Public Safety Communications.

SCHOOL SUCCESS

School starts September 8 in Prince George's County

Motorists Urged to Follow School Bus Safety Laws As Students Head Back to Class

By OFFICE OF MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS
Maryland State Police

PIKESVILLE, Md. (August 23, 2021)—With students beginning to head back to school—many for the first time in more than a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic—Maryland State Police and the Maryland Center For School Safety are stressing school bus safety for motorists.

In a typical school year, more than 600,000 Maryland students ride school buses in Maryland. Troopers are reminding motorists to be on alert for school buses and not to ignore the red flashing lights when a bus is stopped. Those caught breaking the law by police can cost a driver a \$570 fine and a three-point penalty on their driver's license.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), from 2009 to 2018, there were 249 school-age children killed nationally in school transportation-related crashes: 52 were occupants of school transportation vehicles, 92 were occupants of other vehicles, 100 were pedestrians, four were pedal-cyclists and one was another non-occupant. Also, more school-age pedestrians were killed from 6 to 8 a.m. and from 3 to 4 p.m. than any other hour of the day, according to the NHTSA.

Overall, 1,207 people of all ages were killed between 2009 and 2018 in school transportation-related crashes. Of those, 208 were pedestrians, according to the NHTSA.

To stay on top of your school bus safety game, the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) encourages Marylanders to:

- **Always pay attention when driving, especially in school zones and during school bus stops;**
- **Always stop when a bus stops;** it is illegal to pass a school bus with its red lights flashing and stop-arm extended when it has stopped to load or unload students;
- **Always ensure that any mask or face shield that you wear out in public does not prevent you from maintaining a clear line of sight when operating a motor vehicle or walking near moving vehicles;** and
- Always remember that children's brains are still developing—don't expect them to behave as you would when entering, exiting, or in a school bus; therefore, **maintain a safe distance from school buses at all times.**

Maryland schools are back in session. Remember what to do when a school bus stops for passengers!

Two Lane: Vehicles traveling in both directions MUST STOP.

Two Lane with Center Turn Lane: Vehicles traveling in both directions MUST STOP.

Multi-Lane: Vehicles traveling in both directions MUST STOP.

Divided Highway: Vehicles behind bus MUST STOP. Vehicles traveling in the opposite direction USE CAUTION.

MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

Sweet Ideas for Easy Back-to-School Breakfasts

(Family Features) A healthy breakfast can give your student a boost that lasts all day long. Mornings tend to be rushed, but it's still possible to prepare easy breakfasts that power little learners throughout the school day.

Fresh fruit is a breakfast staple,



Watermelon Oat Flour Waffles

and a nutritious option like watermelon is a sweet way to satisfy hunger (and thirst). As a refreshing ingredient or standalone treat, watermelon includes just 80 calories and no fat. It's an excellent source of vitamin C (25%) and because it's made of 92% water, it's a flavorful way to encourage kids to start a busy day well hydrated.

A bowl of watermelon cut into cubes, balls or fun shapes is a winning idea, but you can also think outside the rind with these ways to give watermelon a place at your breakfast table:

- Top a grain-based cereal like corn flakes or oatmeal with bite-size bits.
- Make Watermelon Donuts for a grab-and-go delight, perfect on hectic mornings.
- Freeze cubes overnight and use them in place of ice with your favorite smoothie ingredients.
- Put a twist on a breakfast favorite with these Watermelon Oat Flour Waffles.
- Add a layer of oat crumble to a bowl of watermelon balls for a savory, satisfying treat.

Get in a school morning groove with more easy breakfast ideas at watermelon.org.

Kid-Friendly Cuts

It's no secret that kids gravitate toward fun foods. Watermelon is a versatile fruit that offers plenty of serving options that let kids get hands-on and creative.

Slices

A classic watermelon slice may be basic, but it does have a few tricks up its sleeve. With the rind on, it's an instant finger food with a built-in "handle." Add a wooden stick for watermelon you can eat like a sucker or pop it in the freezer for a cool way to start the day.

Cubes

Simple and versatile cubes are a solution for banishing breakfast boredom. You can cube a melon and use them differently every day of the week by eating them on their own, mixing in a fruit salad, layering with other ingredients, blending in a smoothie and more.

Sticks

There's nothing like a dipper to get kids' attention. A watermelon stick offers a bit of rind to hold onto and a juicy strip of sweet melon that's perfect for dunking in a cup of yogurt or fruit dip.

Cutouts

Cut watermelon into thin slices and use cookie cutters to create a treat that shows off creativity.

Watermelon Oat Flour Waffles

Yield: 8 waffles

Waffles:

- 1 cup old-fashioned or regular oats
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup watermelon juice
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 4 egg whites
- nonstick cooking spray
- Garnish:**
- 2 cups plain Greek yogurt
- 3 cups watermelon, diced 1/2 inch

fresh mint leaves
powdered sugar (optional)
honey (optional)

Preheat Belgian or regular waffle iron.

In blender, process oat flakes into flour.

In bowl, mix oat flour, all-purpose flour, baking powder and salt. Mix in watermelon juice and oil.

Whip egg whites into stiff peaks and fold into batter.

Spray hot waffle iron with nonstick cooking spray. Pour batter into waffle iron and bake 3-4 minutes, or according to waffle iron instructions. Repeat with remaining batter.

Garnish waffles with yogurt; watermelon cubes; mint sprigs; powdered sugar, if desired; and honey, if desired.

Watermelon Donuts

Servings: 1

- 2 slices seedless watermelon, 1 1/2 inches thick
- 2 tablespoons nonfat plain Greek yogurt
- 1 pinch sugar
- vanilla, to taste
- 9 slivered almonds



Watermelon Donuts

Cut out donut shapes from watermelon slices.

Sweeten Greek yogurt with sugar and vanilla, to taste, to create frosting.

Frost half of watermelon donuts with half of frosting. Add layer of remaining watermelon donuts and top with remaining frosting.

Sprinkle toasted almonds over top and serve.

Source: National Watermelon Promotion Board



A Weeknight Meal Solution

(Family Features) During the hustle and bustle of the school year, it can be difficult to find time to sit down for dinner together as a family. However, on weeknights filled with extracurricular activities, homework, meetings and more, it's still important to put delicious and nutritious meals on the table that can be served whenever your family members can find a few minutes to grab a plate.

Dairy foods like milk, yogurt and cheese are on hand in many kitchens and provide nutrients people of all ages need to grow and maintain strong bodies and minds. These Slow Cooker Chicken Burrito Bowls combine dairy with chicken, beans, corn and rice plus colorful garnishes for a meal you can set in the slow cooker at the beginning of the day and serve whenever hunger strikes that evening.

Find more weeknight meal ideas at milkmeansmore.org.

Slow Cooker Chicken Burrito Bowls

Recipe courtesy of Lori Yates of Foxes Love Lemons on behalf of Milk Means More

Prep time: 20 minutes

Cook time: 4-8 hours

Servings: 6

- 1 jar (16 ounces) chunky salsa
 - 1 pound boneless, skinless chicken thighs
 - 2 1/2 cups low-sodium chicken broth
 - 2 teaspoons chili powder
 - 1 can (15 1/2 ounces) black beans, rinsed and drained
 - 2 cups instant brown rice
 - 1 cup corn kernels, fresh or frozen
 - chopped avocado, for garnish
 - chopped cilantro, for garnish
 - chopped red onion, for garnish
 - chopped tomatoes, for garnish
 - lime wedges, for garnish
 - sour cream or Greek yogurt, for garnish
 - shredded colby jack cheese, for garnish
- In slow cooker, stir together salsa, chicken, broth and chili powder. Cook 3 1/2 hours on high or 7 1/2 hours on low.

Transfer chicken to cutting board and coarsely shred; return to slow cooker. Stir in beans, rice and corn. Cook 30 minutes on high, or until rice is cooked through.

Serve garnished with avocado, cilantro, onion, tomatoes, limes, sour cream and cheese.

How Parents Can Help Children Build Social Skills

(Family Features) While adults may joke about needing to relearn how to be around others in a post-pandemic world, children can also benefit from a refresh of certain soft skills - especially young children who may not remember pre-pandemic life.

Building on these skills can also help children prepare for a successful return to school. In fact, data from Mintel shows parents' top learning priorities for their children prior to entering grade school are how to play well with others (67%) and good manners (66%).

"Summertime is a great time for families to help their children focus on social skills that may not have gotten much attention this past year, particularly if families were social distancing or in quarantine," said Taunya Banta, inclusion services manager for KinderCare Learning Centers. "Parents can set their children up for success when school starts again in the fall by helping them work on these soft skills in relaxed settings like family gatherings and on the neighborhood playground."

Consider these ways parents can help their children build social skills.

Name emotions: Naming emotions is an important part of learning how to regulate them. If your children don't understand what emotions they're experiencing, they may be confused or upset by how they feel and that could amplify the feelings and make it more difficult to regulate the emotions.

Talk with your children about your own feelings, or the feelings of characters in books, to help them learn to identify emotions and appropriate ways to address those feelings. For example, "I'm sad, but I know a hug will help me feel better," or "I'm mad and that's OK. It's not OK to hit, but I can punch a pillow or stomp my feet to get the feelings out of my body." As a family, try practicing some simple emotion regulation strategies like deep breathing. To help younger children breathe deep, hold up two fingers and ask them to smell the flower as they inhale (one finger) and blow out the candle as they exhale (the other).

Play with other children: Play gives children an

opportunity to freely express their emotions and thoughts, work out feelings and explore relationships in a safe, lighthearted way. If you feel comfortable and can follow health and safety guidelines, visit a playground or set up play dates with other children of similar ages then take a step back to let the children play together. If your children aren't ready to play with others, allow them to stay close to you until they feel ready to join the other children.

Once the children are playing together, observe their interactions and talk with your children (in the moment or later) about how they felt. If they had fun, ask what they enjoyed. If disagreements or awkward moments came up, help your children problem-solve ways they could address those situations next time.

"Most importantly, remember children of all ages have an incredible capacity for resiliency," Banta said. "Just knowing they have a steady base to return to, a safe place where they're loved and appreciated for who they are, can give children the courage they need to face the challenge of a new or uncertain social situation with self-confidence and courage."

For more tips to help your children build or improve their social skills, visit kindercare.com.

Source: KinderCare



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