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PGCPS Proud: International High School at Langley Park Educator Awarded 2021 Global Teacher Prize

English teacher Keishia Thorpe was selected from over 8,000 nominations and applications worldwide for \$1 million award.

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County
Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Nov. 12, 2021)—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) teacher Keishia Thorpe has won the 2021 Global Teacher Prize awarded by the Varkey Foundation in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

for her work to expand college access among low-income, first-generation immigrant and refugee students. Thorpe was selected for the \$1 million prize from over 8,000 nominations and applications from 121 countries around the world.

"Educators like Keishia Thorpe are at the heart of our mission of welcoming, educating and elevating scholars," said Dr. Monica Goldson, Chief Executive Officer. "We are so

proud of this well-earned recognition by the international community for her outstanding contributions to equity in education."

A 16-year educator and immigrant from Jamaica, Thorpe served as an English teacher at Walker Mill Middle School from 2004 to 2011. She returned to PGCPS in 2018 to teach 12th-grade English at International High School at Langley Park, where all students are English

language learners and most identify as low-income.

In awarding her the Global Teacher Prize, the Varkey Foundation credited her work in redesigning the 12th-grade English curriculum to be culturally relevant for first-generation students, immigrants and refugees from Africa, the Middle East, the Caribbean and South and

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Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation Recognizes Physical and Sports Rehab as Honored Business



PHOTO CREDIT PHYSICAL AND SPORTS REHAB

Physical and Sports Rehab team is presented with the Certificate of Recognition by Alexis Allen-Shorter of the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation.

By PRESS OFFICER
Physical and Sports Rehab

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Nov. 5, 2021)—Physical and Sports Rehab has received recognition as an Honored Business by Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation.

The State of Maryland celebrated Economic Development Week from October 25 to October 29, 2021. Economic Development Week emphasizes to the general public the importance of economic development for the State of Maryland. The week is designed to increase an understanding of economic development's contribution to the State's business

climate, job retention and growth, the tax base and the overall quality of life in Maryland. In Honor of Economic Development Week, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation has chosen to formally recognize Physical and Sports Rehab as an Honored Business.

Alexis Allen-Shorter, Health and Life Science Business Development Manager at the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation, stopped by the clinic to deliver a Certificate of Recognition, signed by Angela Alsobrooks, County Executive.

The certificate reads, "The Office of the County Executive appreciates your company for its longstanding commitment to Prince

George's County. Your company plays an important role in our community, providing jobs and revenue that help improve the quality of life for our residents and businesses. On behalf of the citizens and residents of Prince George's County, thank you for your partnership, dedication and commitment to making this County a great place for growth and opportunity. We wish you continued success for years to come."

Physical and Sports Rehab is a community focused physical therapy clinic offering orthopedic and manual physical therapy and sports performance training in the greater Upper Marlboro, Maryland area.

County Council Enacts Legislation Supporting Expansion of Speed Monitoring Systems in Residential Districts

By ANGELA J. ROUSON
County Council Media

The Prince George's County Council, during session on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, enacted CB-073-2021, legislation pertaining to speed monitoring systems in residential districts.

Council Bill CB-073-2021, sponsored by Council Members Derrick Leon Davis (District 6) and Tom Dernoga (District 1), implements authority granted to

Prince George's County by the Maryland General Assembly in its 2021 Session to place speed cameras on roads in residential districts with a maximum posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour. CB-073 also provides that prior to the installation of the first residential district speed monitoring system, the County Council will hold at least one public hearing.

Council Member Davis, following his vote, expressed appreciation for the collaborative ef-

forts to support the measure.

"I thank Mr. Dernoga for working on this project, and all of the people in the State Legislature that worked to give us the authority to move in this direction after so many years of effort. Most of all, I thank Fairwood Community because there were two tragic incidents that occurred in that community that compelled the effort to make this happen over the last five years. We look forward to making our streets

safer for pedestrians and bicyclists using the tools we've been given."

Council Member Dernoga noted the residents of Briggs Chaney Road for pushing this at the state level for the north end of the County.

State law was enacted during the 2021 Session of the Maryland General Assembly which expanded the eligible locations for placement of speed cameras to residential roads.

Candidates Declare for 2022 Statewide Races in Maryland

By ALLISON MOLLENKAMP
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Nov. 9, 2021)—With less than a year to go before the 2022 election, candidates from both major parties have declared their candidacy in the races for governor, attorney general and comptroller.

Candidates will first need to win their parties' nominations in the June primary election.

Democratic Gubernatorial Primary

In the Democratic gubernatorial primary, familiar names from state and federal politics are joined by candidates from the worlds of business and philanthropy.

Comptroller Peter Franchot (<https://www.franchot.com/>) will seek the nomination alongside running mate Monique Anderson-Walker, a former member of the Prince George's county council.

The Prince George's County Board of Ethics concluded in a hearing earlier this year that Anderson-Walker committed three ethics violations, including voting on resolutions related to a foundation for which she has been a broker.

Former chair of the Democratic National Committee and former U.S. Secretary of Labor Tom Perez (<https://tomperez.com/>) announced his candidacy in June.

Perez also previously served as Maryland's secretary of labor, licensing and regulation.

Doug Gansler (<https://dougansler.com/meet-doug/>) served as Maryland's attorney general from 2007 to 2015 and previously worked as a prosecutor in Montgomery County.

Wes Moore (<https://wesmoore.com/>), founder of educational business BridgeEdU and former CEO of anti-poverty organization the Robin Hood Foundation, launched his campaign for the Democratic nomination in June.

Former Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker announced his campaign for governor; Nancy Navarro, a member of the Montgomery County Council, is Baker's running mate.

John B. King Jr. (<https://johnkingforgovernor.com/>), former U.S. Secretary of Education, is seeking the nomination; he also founded progressive policy organization Strong Future Maryland.

Ashwani Jain (<https://www.jainforgovernor.com/>), program director for the Washington office of the National Kidney Foundation, is running for governor and emphasizes his work with then-Vice President Joe Biden on a cancer project on his campaign website.

Jon Baron (<https://jonbaron.com/>) is a former vice president of evidence-based policy at Arnold Ventures, a family foundation with a goal to "minimize injustice," according to its website.

Baron's LinkedIn profile also

lists a variety of policy work, including on trade and small business technology with the federal government.

Mike Rosenbaum (<https://mikerosenbaum.com/meet-mike/>) founded Catalyte and Arena, companies related to hiring and the technology sector, before he announced his candidacy in May; Rosenbaum also worked as an economist for President Bill Clinton's administration, according to Rosenbaum's website.

Republican Gubernatorial Primary

On the Republican side, Maryland's Secretary of Commerce Kelly Schulz (<https://www.kellyschulz.forgovernor.com/>) is seeking her party's nomination.

Del. Dan Cox (<https://coxfordelate.com/>), R-Carroll and Frederick, a frequent opponent of coronavirus restrictions, is running for the Republican nomination.

Cox's running mate, Gordana Schifanelli, is an attorney in Eastern Maryland.

Joe Werner (<https://wernerformaryland.com/>), whose LinkedIn page indicates he is an attorney, is running in the 2022 gubernatorial primary after previously losing races for the House of Delegates and Congress.

In previous races, Werner ran as a Democrat.

The state board of elections website lists Minh Thanh Luong as Werner's running mate.

Robin Ficker (<https://cutmd.salestax2cents.com/>), who according to the state archives formerly served as a delegate from Montgomery County, is running on a platform of lowering the state sales tax by 2 cents.

Other Gubernatorial Candidates

The Libertarian Party of Maryland nominated David Lashar as its candidate for governor, alongside running mate Christiana Logansmith.

Lashar's LinkedIn page lists him as a partner for an information technology company, while Logansmith's LinkedIn profile indicates she owns ServiceMaster Chesapeake.

Kyle Sefcik (<https://kylesefcik.com/>), owner of a martial arts gym in Damascus, is running an unaffiliated campaign for governor with Katie Lee as his running mate.

Attorney General Candidates

In the race for Attorney General, Rep. Anthony Brown (<https://www.anthonymbrown.com/>), D-Mitchellville, former Maryland lieutenant governor, will seek the Democratic nomination.

Former Montgomery County Board of Elections president Jim Shalleck (<https://www.jimshalleck.com/>) is running on the Republican side.

According to the state Board

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TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

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

District 8 County Council Member quitting to be running mate for gubernatorial candidate

Monique Anderson-Walker, County Council Member for District 8, has stepped down to campaign as Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot's running mate in the 2022 Governor's race. (I live in County Council District 8.)

Edward Burroughs III, County School Board member for District 8, has announced plans to run for the County Council seat Anderson-Walker is vacating.

Meanwhile.

Governor Larry Hogan is term-limited and cannot run again. Peter Franchot is one of the nine Democrats and three Republicans currently running for Governor.

Buckle your seatbelt—lots of campaigning coming up between now and November 8, 2022.

Neighbors & other good people

John S. Sharper, a member of the Sharper Florist Family, died Oct. 30. He survived by his sister Marian Hollidge, brother Frank "Butch" and Carolyn Sharper, and brother-in-law Fred Long. Private services were held Nov. 5 at Kalas.

In Joe Burgess' recent obit, I mentioned he worked at Curtis Brothers. Wayne Gordon emailed that Joe only worked there for two or three years, but in that time, he met most of the Curtis Brothers (of which there were about five), and one of them occasionally flew his helicopter to work.

Wayne also mentioned that Joe Burgess's father Abner Burgess was Captain of the District Heights Volunteer Fire Department and a fireman for DCFD.

Robert Santos has been confirmed as director of the Census Bureau, headquartered in Suitland. He's a native of San Antonio. He'll start the job Jan. 1 and his term will run through the end of 2026. That means he'll oversee the run-up to the 2030 census.

Stan Holmes, Skyline President, remembers Helen Cordero—who died October 27—as a great mentor. He wrote, she "introduced me to every District 4 Commander and every Chief of Police and appointed me to the District 4 Citizens Advisory Council and Chief's Advisory Council."

Katie Blade, former Morningside Council Member and longtime Morningsider is moving to Cheltenham. She'll be missed.

Regina and Terry Foster are enjoying their beautiful new grandkids. Jordan and Jessica welcomed daughter Jazmin on Aug. 26. TJ and Priscilla now have two sons, Jonathan, 3, and Joseph who was born July 21, on the birthday of his great-uncle Leon Abbot.

Changing landscape

The National Gallery of Art Ice Rink opens Nov. 19. You can book a rink session and order such warming drinks as hot cider, mulled wine and pumpkin spice lattes from the adjacent Pavilion Café. Hours: Sunday to Thursday, 11a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday & Saturday, 11a.m.–11p.m. Skating fees, \$9–\$10; skate rental, \$5.

Washington Post readers will especially appreciate the new 2-ounce postage stamp featuring the paper's former publisher, Katharine Graham, who took over as chairman and chief executive of The Post after her husband's death in 1963. She led the paper through the 1971 publishing of the Pentagon Papers and won a Pulitzer Prize for her memoir "Personal History." (A great read, by the way.)

Looks like Wawa is now open at the Allentown Andrews Town Center, on Allentown Road near Branch Avenue. Check it out.

Metro officials are seeking feedback from the public on possible new names for the Largo Town Center station in Prince George's County. Among the options so far: Largo, Downtown Largo and Downtown PGC.

A home at 4303 Maple Rd., Morningside, recently sold for \$350,000.

Morningside Memories: 1981

The Morningside Senior Citizens Club began the fall-winter season 40 years ago with a big birthday party honoring members who'd had a birthday during the summer months. Included were Harold Benden, 71, Bernice Burdette, Marion Butler, Charlotte Edwards, Blanche McCormick, Catherine Purdy, Louise Rousseaux, Eunice Walker, 78, Helen Jurney, Pauline Valentine, 79, and Henrietta Zdobysz.

Deborah K. Breuer was editor of the newsletter where I found this story. Other

staff: Assistant Editor Phyllis Kordek, Jane Doane, Alvina Beardmore, Police Chief Frank Holmes, Carol Kline, Troy A. Coppi and Roaming Reporters Jane Cowan, Everett Gatta and Barbara A. Brewer.

Mary's COVID report: Vax

The OED (Oxford English Dictionary) has named the Word of the Year for 2021: Vax. It's defined as "a colloquialism meaning either vaccine or vaccination as a noun and vaccinate as a verb."

If you haven't gotten your Vax yet, it's time to do so. There were 555 more Covid cases this week, bringing the Maryland total to 566,637. And 14 Marylanders died this week. The total of Maryland deaths: 10,988.

Tom Stakem, loved NASCAR

Thomas Allan Stakem, 54, who grew up in Suitland, died suddenly Oct. 31 at home in North Beach. He was the son of Joan and the late John Patrick Stakem. He attended Suitland High and on Sept. 9, 1995, married his highschool sweetheart, Denise Minnick.

He was an avid skateboarder from an early age. In recent years his passions were playing guitar, making music, maintaining his extensive album collection, playing chess, watching football and old westerns and NASCAR. He attended art school and created beautiful stained-glass windows for family and friends.

He worked as a courier before starting his career in the car-wash industry. As a consultant in the field, he worked for Billy's Car Wash in Bladensburg and Billy's Auto Laundry in Fort Washington.

Survivors include his wife Denise, mother Joan, and siblings John Patrick, Christopher, Mary, Kathy, Tim and Stephen, in-laws, nieces and nephews. Services were at Rausch Funeral Home in Owings with burial at Resurrection Cemetery.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Arthur Rose on Nov. 27 and Thomas Shipman, Sr., Nov. 28.

Happy anniversary to Gary and Ivy Kline on Nov. 28.

A blessed Thanksgiving to all my Readers!

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

2021 WATERSHED CHAMPION AWARD

Bowie State University Professor wins the 2021 Watershed Champion Award. The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay recognized Dr. Alan Anderson Associate Professor for his work in environmental conversation and his commitment to facilitating opportunities to help Bowie State University students develop an understanding of water quality issues. The award was presented at the Alliance's Virtual Celebration held September 23, 2021.

As part of Bowie's State's commitment to enhancing sustainability awareness, Dr Anderson and several BSU students established a student-led water monitoring program at the university in partnership with the Alliance. The program included water monitoring training, attending the annual Watershed Forum, and monthly water monitoring of two streams off the Chesapeake Bay utilizing equipment and training provided by the Alliance.

"It feels good to represent excellent with the environmental conservation issue as Bowie State has always worked to improve the environment on campus," said Dr. Anderson. "The students feel empowered because they're helping to solve the environmental issues that many are so concerned about. They are able to get hands on experience in solving a problem and experience shared monitoring by using the tools and training from environmental experts."

Dr. Anderson served as chair of the 2021 Earth Week Committee and helped conduct several community-wide events along with members of the BSU Climate Commitment Coordinating Committee, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and several staff from the Prince George's County Department of the Environment. He has mentored more than twenty-five undergraduate researchers who have continued to pursue graduate and professional careers. Information received from email sent to me Media Contact: Cassandra Robinson, crobison@bowiestate.edu.

GLIMPSES OF PROGRESS BY DECADES (SCHOOLS OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY)

During the war years a great many of the teachers of the county left teaching and went into war work in Washington, D.C. As an attempt to meet the emergency several of the high schools set up post-graduate courses which were designed as short-term training periods for prospective teachers. The Superintendent was granted permission to hold a two-week institute for teacher-training (1915). The first summer school fees were ordered paid to teachers. The first "Grade Supervisor for Elementary Schools" was appointed. (May 2, 1916) he resigned, however, without having served. Miss Blanche Ogle was then appointed "Primary Grade Supervisor" as of August 1, 1916,

and granted leave to take special training for the new assignment. Miss Maude A. Gibbs was selected to substitute for her during her absence. In 1918 the Superintendent was authorized to designate one-fourth of the white teachers to attend summer school for additional training. All colored designated by the Superintendent to attend summer school were allowed \$20.00 toward their expenses "upon evidence of such attendance". Teachers were granted a bonus (1918) in an effort to hold them in the profession. A large delegation appeared before the Board (February 4, 1919, on behalf of better salaries for teachers. As a result, a new salary schedule was adopted for the school year 1919-20.) This raised the top salary for teachers with first grade certificates and with more than eight years' experience of \$750.00 a year.

BRANDYWINE NORTH KEYS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

A planned hangar for some phase of Air Force One may be constructed at Route 301 and Dyson Road according to Councilman Harrison. Strittman won the RFP to build the hangar for the New Air Force One.

Councilman Harrison provided contact numbers for Angela Jones who works in his office. Her email address is arjones2@co.pg.md.us. The office number is 301-982-3820.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

The Festival of Lights will be held from Friday, November 26, 2021, thru Sunday, January 2, 2022, nightly from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. FREE ADMISSION November 29 & Sunday, December 25 in appreciation to the residents of Prince George's County for their year-round support of the Department of Parks and recreation. Make a difference this season! Please bring canned goods for donation to local Food Banks. More information to follow in my next article.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS ON HORSEBACK

Join us on Friday, November 26, 2021–December 24, 2021, at Foxfire Farm from 5–6 p.m. for Holiday Lights on Horseback located at 15512 Baden Naylor Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613-8678. Tickets: foxfirefarmsbooking.as.me/schedule.php

Public: Anyone on or off Facebook. Celebrate the holiday season in magical style with a scenic horseback ride through their farm and sparkling lights display. Our sweet and well-trained horses will take you on a wondrous 20–30-minute experience. Afterwards, sit by our bonfire with your family, friends, or special someone, and enjoy a warm cup of cheer from our hot cocoa bar. We are opening the experience up to our riders ages ten and up. No experience is necessary.



Holiday Happenings

All County Offices Will Close Next Thursday and Friday

Without our wonderful residents, businesses, and visitors, Prince George's County would not be where it is today. We are thankful and #PrinceGeorgesProud to be able to serve you.

In observance of Thanksgiving, all County offices will close next Thursday through the weekend. Several services will also be suspended. This excludes public safety agencies and emergency services.

For a list of when these services will resume, please visit https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/Calendar.aspx?EID=3872&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

—Prince George's County

Do You Believe? THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride Returns!

Tickets Now Available for a Magical Experience at B&O Railroad Museum

BALTIMORE (Nov. 3, 2021)—With the holidays quickly approaching, the B&O Railroad Museum is celebrating the return of THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride in Baltimore beginning November 19 and continuing through December 12! This immersive family-oriented experience hosted over 1.4 million riders at 54 locations in the US, Canada, and the UK in 2019. New for this year, the Museum will offer for the first-time evening Polar Express excursions as well as rides well into December. Tickets are on sale now at www.BORail.Events/PEX and guests are encouraged to book soon as this beloved holiday tradition will sell out.

The season's most exciting holiday adventure comes to life when the train departs for a round-trip journey to the North Pole led by a cast of talented actors. Set to the sounds of the motion picture soundtrack, passengers will relive the magic of the classic story as they are whisked away on THE POLAR EXPRESS™ for a trip to meet Santa. Once on board, the conductor will work his way through the coach and punch each passenger's golden ticket. Then, passengers will read along with the classic children's book, *The Polar Express*, by Chris Van Allsburg. Santa and his helpers board the train to greet travelers, and each guest receives the first gift of Christmas—a silver sleigh bell that always rings for those who believe. During the journey to the North Pole, characters on each car lead fantastic onboard entertainment—just like in the film! Each guest will take home a keepsake sleigh bell, souvenir golden ticket, hot chocolate kit, a delicious cookie to be enjoyed at home, and best of all, the memories made on this magical trip. Just like the kids in the book, families are encouraged to wear their pajamas for the ride!

Exact dates, times, and fares are available by visiting www.BORail.Events/PEX. Ticket prices range from \$47 to \$90, depending on the date and class level selected. Please note the B&O Railroad Museum requires masks indoors including on the train for visitors and staff in compliance with Baltimore City guidelines.

Official THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Rides are licensed by Rail Events Inc. on behalf of Warner Bros. Consumer Products, Inc. Since 2007, Rail Events Inc. has held exclusive license to operate THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Rides in the US, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

THE POLAR EXPRESS film is based on Chris Van Allsburg's classic Christmas picture book, which tells the story of a boy who takes a magical Christmas Eve train ride to the North Pole to receive a special gift from Santa. First published by the Houghton Mifflin Company in 1985, *The Polar Express* became an instant family favorite and has sold more than 12 million copies worldwide. In 1986 it won the prestigious Caldecott Medal for Illustration.

Warner Bros. Consumer Products (WBCP), a Warner Bros. Entertainment Company, extends the Studio's powerful portfolio of entertainment brands and franchises into the lives of fans around the world. WBCP partners with best-in-class licensees globally on an award-winning range of toys, fashion, home décor, and publishing inspired by franchises and properties such as DC, the Wizarding World, Looney Tunes, and Hanna-Barbera. The division's successful global themed entertainment business includes groundbreaking experiences such as *The Wizarding World of Harry Potter* and Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi. With innovative global licensing and merchandising programs, retail initiatives, promotional partnerships and themed experiences, WBCP is one of the leading licensing and retail merchandising organizations in the world.

Rail Events Inc. is the industry leader in rail-related special events management. In 2019, the company licensed events that hosted over 1.4 million guests at 54 partner railroads in the US, Canada, and the UK. Rail Events Inc. and Rail Events Productions are wholly owned subsidiaries of American Heritage Railways, which is the premier operator of heritage railroads in the United States.

The B&O Railroad Museum™, a full affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of American railroading and its impact on American society, culture, and economy. The Museum is home to the oldest, most comprehensive collection of railroad artifacts in the Western Hemisphere including an unparalleled roster of 19th and 20th century railroad equipment. The 40-acre historic site is regarded as the birthplace of American Railroading and includes the 1851 Mt. Clare Station, the 1884 Baldwin Roundhouse and first mile of commercial railroad track in America. In 2019, the Museum welcomed guests from all 50 states and 40 countries. For further information on the B&O Railroad Museum, please call 410-752-2490 or visit www.BORail.org.

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—Dana Goldstein, B&O Railroad Museum

COMMUNITY

Two New Members Join Maryland Humanities Board of Directors

Mastercard Public Policy VP and Interim Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at UMBC Join the Statewide Organization

By SARAH WEISSMAN
Maryland Humanities

BALTIMORE (Nov. 5, 2021)—Maryland Humanities is pleased to welcome two new members to the organization's Board of Directors, Kendra Brown and Kimberly R. Moffitt, who reside in Prince George's County and Baltimore County, respectively. The Board of Directors has also appointed a Chair Elect, Alicia Jones McLeod (Baltimore County), who will succeed current Chair Mary Hastler (Harford County) in October 2022. Carmel Roques of Howard County was also elected Secretary.

In addition to the new members and officers already mentioned, the Board of Directors includes: Keith Stone (Vice Chair), Baltimore City; James (Jim) Comelsen (Treasurer), Charles County; Julia (Julie) Madden (Government Liaison), Howard County; Mary Callis, Garrett County; Chanel Compton, Baltimore City; Mark Irwin, Montgomery County; The Honorable Ronald (Pete) Leshner, Jr., Talbot County; Tiffany McGhee, Baltimore County; Heather Mitchell, Howard County; Dr. Ronald (Ron) H. Nowaczyk, Allegany County; Dr. Randy Ontiveros, Prince George's County; Soo Park, Baltimore County; Dr. Maarten Pereboom, Wicomico County; Jeanne Pirtle, St. Mary's County; Cynthia Raposo, Montgomery County; Thomas (Tom) Rifford, Washington County; Dr. Nancy Rogers, Mont-

gomery County; Jennifer Shea, Montgomery County; Saima Sitwat, Baltimore City; Guffrie Smith, Calvert County; Sharon Whitney, Anne Arundel County; and Allyson Black Woodson, Anne Arundel County.

KENDRA BROWN currently holds the role of Vice President of Public Policy, Federal Affairs for Mastercard. She is also the Chair of the Maryland State Advisory Committee of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. Previously, she was the Chief of Staff for Representative G. K. Butterfield (NC-01) in the United States Congress and Senior Director for Diversity, Inclusion, and Affinity for the Washington College of Law at American University where she led the law school's diversity and inclusion initiatives. Brown is a Former National Chair of the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA). During her term as National Chair, NBLSA was active in election protection, leadership training and development, academic planning, career development, and extensive advocacy efforts. Brown received her law degree from Vermont Law School and attended the George Washington University School of Law for her Master of Laws. She completed her Master of Divinity at Howard University Divinity School, and her undergraduate studies at Hampton University. (Prince George's County)

DR. KIMBERLY R. MOFFITT is currently serving as Interim Dean of the College of Arts, Human-

ities, and Social Sciences at University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). Before assuming this role, she was Director of the Language, Literacy, and Culture Doctoral Program and a professor of Communication/Media Studies—as well as affiliate Professor of Africana Studies—at UMBC. A media critic whose research focuses on mediated representations of marginalized groups as well as the politicized nature of Black hair and the body, Moffitt has published several articles and book chapters, as well as five co-edited volumes, including *Michelle Obama and the FLOTUS Effect: Platform, Presence, and Agency* (Lexington Books, 2019). Along with Tunisia Lumpkin, Moffitt also maintains the www.blackhairsyllabus.com. She writes op-ed articles for The Baltimore Sun and is a frequent guest on local public radio, television, and Internet broadcasting programs. Moffitt is the Vice President of the Board of the National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE). (Baltimore County)

Anyone interested in discussing board service should review the opportunity online and submit their information through the inquiry form.

Maryland Humanities is a statewide nonprofit organization that creates and supports educational experiences in the humanities that inspire all Marylanders to embrace lifelong learning, exchange ideas openly, and enrich their communities. For more information,



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND HUMANITIES

Kendra Brown

visit www.mdhumanities.org. Maryland Humanities is generously supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities; the State of Maryland; the Citizens of Baltimore County; private foundations; corporations; small businesses; and individual donors. Connect with Maryland Humanities on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.



PHOTO COURTESY PGCMLS

Surratts-Clinton Branch Library Pop-up Location Opened November 16

By DONNA SCOTT-MARTIN
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (Nov. 8, 2021)—As part of its ongoing phased reopening efforts, the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) announces the reopening of the Surratts-Clinton Branch Library pop-up location at the Davies Unitarian Universalist Congregation on Tuesday, November 16. The pop-up location hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Services offered at this pop-up library include

public laptop computers, browsing, returns, reference/material requests, and WiFi.

As with all PGCMLS locations of operation, face masks, and physical distancing are required until further notice, regardless of vaccination status. Safety measures include plexiglass shields, hand sanitizer dispensers, and single use keyboard and mouse covers.

"We're excited about the opening of the pop-up location to serve this community during the extended closure

of the Surratts-Clinton Branch Library for major renovation," said Area Manager Melanie Townsend Diggs. "A special thanks to Davies UUC for the use of its facilities for the Surratts-Clinton Library pop-up location."

Construction of the new Surratts-Clinton Branch will continue into the calendar year 2022. Customers can follow progress on the project and learn about the planned features of the 25,682 square foot building at PGCMLS Builds.

Maryland, Nation Brace for Thanksgiving Travel Surge

By ALEX ARGIRIS
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Nov. 9, 2021)—About 53.4 million people nationwide are expected to travel for Thanksgiving this year, a 13% rise from last year and the highest single-year increase since 2005, according to estimates from AAA.

"This Thanksgiving, travel will look a lot different than last year," said Ragina C. Ali, Public and Government Affairs manager at AAA Mid-Atlantic. "Now that the borders are open and new health and safety guidelines are in place, travel is once again high on the list for Americans who are ready to reunite with their loved ones for the holiday."

The United States recently reopened its borders to many vaccinated international travelers.

Health experts advised against traveling for the holidays in 2020 during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2020, 90% of Marylanders opted not to travel for Thanksgiving, according to a AAA survey.

But with the majority of eligible Americans fully vaccinated and the Delta wave beginning to recede, travelers appear more eager to reconnect with family and friends.

As of Nov. 8, the 7-day average of new daily COVID-19 cases was

73,312, down from an average of over 164,000 on Sept. 1, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data.

Maryland on Nov. 8 reported a 7-day average of 687 daily cases, down from an average of 1,210 on Sept. 1, according to the CDC.

Air travel is expected to nearly double, as AAA is forecasting about 4.2 million airplane passengers, compared to the 2.3 million people who flew over Thanksgiving in 2020.

Despite the increase in flying, driving will account for the overwhelming majority of travel this holiday season, with a projected 48.3 million people opting for a road trip.

"While airline seat capacity here at BWI Marshall Airport for the holiday time is down between 15 and 20 percent compared with the Thanksgiving period in 2019, we do expect to see strong passenger traffic," Jonathan Dean, a spokesperson for Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport, told Capital News Service.

Dean advised that travelers give themselves plenty of time for parking, airline ticketing, and the TSA security screening process.

Even with soaring gas prices, AAA does not expect it to deter people from traveling. Gas prices nationally are up over \$1.30 from last year.

In Maryland, gas prices are at an average of \$3.38 a gallon, compared to \$2.19 last year.

"It would stand to reason that those who missed the annual Thanksgiving gathering last year may be even more motivated than usual to make the trip, despite the additional expense of filling up," said Ali. "That said, gas prices are a factor that AAA will continue to monitor closely as the holiday approaches."

Bus, train and cruise travel is expected to see a massive jump as well, with about 1 million passengers, compared to 281,000 in 2020, according to AAA.

Greyhound bus company conducted a survey of 4,000 of its customers and found that only 3% of respondents were not planning on traveling because of COVID-19 concerns, according to a company spokesperson.

The CDC is advising against Americans traveling for Thanksgiving until they are fully vaccinated and urging all eligible people to receive their booster shot as well.

Families with unvaccinated children are encouraged to drive or choose direct flights to limit the number of stops in crowded settings. Trips that include crowded indoor settings are also discouraged, according to the agency.

The Maryland Department of Transportation did not respond to a request for comment on the anticipated Thanksgiving travel surge as of Tuesday afternoon (Nov. 9).

Academy Award-Winning Actress Halle Berry to Serve as 2021 National Race Captain for GirlTrek's Black Family 5K

By PRESS OFFICER
GirlTrek

WASHINGTON (Nov. 8, 2021)—Back for the fifth year, GirlTrek's Black Family 5K encourages families—blood or chosen—to get out in nature and take a Thanksgiving walk or hike. The Black Family 5K is a hallmark end-of-year celebration in the GirlTrek movement celebrating fitness, family and fun. This year, Academy Award-winning actress Halle Berry will serve as the Black Family 5K National Race Captain.

Watch Halle Berry's video announcement at https://www.facebook.com/HalleBerry/videos/424934445708236/?extid=NS-UNK-UNK-UNK-IOS_GK0T-GK1C.

"GirlTrek is honored to have Halle Berry join the Black Family 5K. As one of the fittest celebrities in Hollywood, she constantly raises the bar for Black women's health and wellness," said jewel bush, GirlTrek's Vice President of Communications and Public Relations. "She's proof that Black women

can unapologetically practice self-care, healing and that taking care of our bodies is an obtainable lifestyle. We grew up being motivated by Halle Berry's inner and outer beauty. She models our very mission to create a revolution centered on self-love by mobilizing Black women everywhere to put ourselves first by practicing radical self-care through the moving of our bodies and spending transformative time in the outdoors."

With a career spanning three decades (DIE ANOTHER DAY, JUNGLE FEVER, LOSING ISAIAH, BULWORTH, SWORDFISH), Berry continues to break down barriers acting in a multitude of critically acclaimed, diverse roles and most recently adding the title of director to her already impressive filmography. She is set to make her highly anticipated directorial debut in her new film, BRUISED, in which she also stars. The plot follows a disgraced MMA fighter who must fight a rising

MMA star, while journeying to become the mother her child deserves. The

film first debuted at the 2020 Toronto Film Festival and was acquired by Netflix and is set to release on the streaming platform on November 24, 2021.

Berry has garnered praise not only for her roles on-screen, but for her philanthropic work with a range of organizations focusing on women and children and underserved communities. She is an active supporter and chair member of the Jenesse Center in Los Angeles. The Jenesse Center was founded in 1980 and assists victims of domestic violence and aims to change the pattern of abuse in the lives of women and children. She previously partnered with Michael Kors' Watch Hunger Stop campaign and the United Nations World Food Programme to raise awareness for building a world with zero hunger. Berry has supported a vast amount of charities and organizations such as, Revlon Run/Walk, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Afghanistan Relief Organization, Stand Up to Cancer, Love Our Children USA and Clothes Off Our Back and Black Lives Matter.

In 2020, Berry founded rē•spin

which is a platform created to provide broader access to health and wellness content and products through inclusivity and conversation. Rooted in discovery and learning, the heart of rē•spin is its global community connected around the core belief of a holistic mind, body, and soul approach to wellness.

WHO: With 1.5 million members and growing every day, GirlTrek is the largest public health movement and nonprofit for Black women and girls in the United States. GirlTrek inspires and supports Black women to live their healthiest, most fulfilled lives through radical self-care and daily walking.

WHAT: Academy Award-winning actress Halle Berry will serve as GirlTrek's Black Family 5K National Race Captain.

WHEN: Thanksgiving weekend: Most walks will happen on Thursday, Thanksgiving Day and others on Friday and Saturday morning.

HOW: Register at blackfamily5k.com. The Black Family 5K is supported by Release the Pressure, a diverse coalition of health care organizations and heart health experts including the American Medical Association (AMA), AMA Foundation, American Heart Association, Association of Black Cardiologists, National Medical Association and Minority Health Institute who are dedicated to partnering with

the Black community to improve heart health.

Hosting a Black Family 5K walk is simple and free. Register at blackfamily5k.com to create an official race kit for your family complete with official T-shirts, customizable race bibs, victory medals and more. Don't let distance stop you. If your family doesn't live near you, you can still participate by planning a virtual Black Family 5K. Hop on a phone call, FaceTime or send pictures to the group chat while everyone goes for a walk.

What started out as a 10-week walking challenge, 10 years ago, by 2 friends (Vanessa Garrison and T. Morgan Dixon), is now GirlTrek, the largest health movement and nonprofit for Black women and girls in the United States. Far more than a walking group, GirlTrek is a life-saving sisterhood. GirlTrek is a campaign to heal intergenerational trauma, fight systemic racism and transform Black lives. As women organize walking teams, they also mobilize community members to support advocacy efforts and lead a Civil Rights-inspired health movement. Today, GirlTrek has 1,521,776 members, representing 9% of the total population of African American women. GirlTrek is free to join and starts with taking the pledge at GirlTrek.org.

COMMENTARY

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Investing in Our Other Infrastructure

Last week Congress passed a bipartisan infrastructure bill, providing long-awaited vital investments in buildings, roads, bridges, utilities, broadband, climate change mitigation, and more. These investments will be a key foundation for our nation's future economic growth. But in order to build a strong foundation for our economy, we also must invest in a strong foundation for all our children to be able to succeed in school and life and contribute to our nation's long-term success. Congress must follow the

successful passage of the bipartisan infrastructure bill by advancing the Build Back Better Act and investing in our human infrastructure—our children and families.

Investing in our children is essential and must start at the very beginning, because we know whether or not children will have a strong foundation is in large part determined by the social and physical environments in which they grow up. The first five years of a child's life are the time of greatest brain

development. If young children's basic needs are met by consistent, nurturing interactions with loving adults, they are far more likely to meet their full potential. Parents must be able to go to work feeling secure in the knowledge that their children are in safe, nurturing environments that support their development. But the United States has never made the essential investments to support young children and families after the seismic shift from families with one full-time caregiver to the current reality of many two parent working families and single working parents with young children.

Our early childhood infrastructure is in dire need of repair. Providing a high-quality continuum of early childhood development and learning opportunities is not only the right thing to do but the smart thing to do. Provisions in the latest Build Back Better Act will help build the sound foundation young children need, including investments in universal Pre-K, expansion of quality and affordable child care, and new parental supports. When more than 80 percent of two child families pay more for child care than rent, help with high-quality child care and early childhood

education will lead to stronger outcomes for children in need.

The Build Back Better Act currently includes other generational investments to boost families' economic stability and reduce racial inequities in income, housing, education, and health care that disproportionately impact Black, Latino, and Indigenous children. They include a temporary one-year extension of the improved Child Tax Credit (CTC) and permanent refundability to ensure families with little or no income remain eligible; more funding for rental assistance, school meals, and summer grocery benefits; and permanent funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). All these investments will give significantly more children a healthy start, a head start, a fair start, and a safe start in life.

Our nation must give all children what they need to survive and thrive. Congress must continue to pursue every option to ensure children and families' economic security, health, and well-being. Investing in children is not a national luxury or a choice but a national necessity.

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

First-Ever Civil Rights Scorecard Grades Senators on Performance Defending Voting Rights

"Partisan sabotage bills ... are a new and dangerous twist on the same legislative agenda. Each is driven by the Big Lie that there is widespread voter fraud. And each is part of a broader ongoing partisan project to thwart democratic elections and rig electoral outcomes, especially by undermining or canceling the votes of people of color. Each is antidemocratic and toxic to a free and fair society. And each demands urgent intervention by Congress to prevent irreparable corruption of our electoral system..."

—The Brennan Center,
The Election Sabotage Scheme and
How Congress Can Stop It

How much do your senators care about voter suppression? How committed are they to our most sacred constitutional right? What have they done, and what are they willing to do, to defend it?

The Civil Rights Scorecard answers those questions.

Released this week by National Urban League, along with the NAACP, National Action Network, National Coalition of Black Civic Participation, Fighting for Our Vote Initiative, and National Council of Negro Women, the Scorecard provides civil rights advocates and their supporters with clear insights into the voting patterns of their Senate delegations.

There is no greater crisis facing our nation at this moment than the preservation of democracy. History will judge every member of the Senate on their commitment to democratic principles. The Civil Rights Scorecard is not just a measure of each Senator's voting record. It is a measure of their character, their integrity, and their patriotism.

The grades are based on senators' votes on the American Rescue Plan Act, the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, and the For the People Act, along with each senator's stance on the filibuster—a once-rare procedure has been

weaponized to block major legislation, including voting rights protection bills.

As the Scorecard notes, "the divide between the 51st and 60th vote in the Senate is unbridgeable with the Senate split along partisan lines."

Senators were awarded one point for each "yes" vote on the three bills, and zero points for a "no" vote, abstention or not voting.

Their stance on the filibuster, which comprised 50 percent of their overall score—was worth three points for abolishing the filibuster, two for reforming it, one for willingness to change it and zero for retaining the filibuster as it currently exists.

Senators with a score of 2.1 to 3 earned an "A" grade; those with a score of 1 to 2 earned an "I" for "incomplete," and those with a score of 0.9 or lower earned an "F."

The Scorecard focused on voting rights because every other right stems directly from it. Without the right to vote we have no say. No voice. No seat at the table to determine public policy on policing, education, or economic equity.

"A law is unjust if it is inflicted on a minority that, as a result of being denied the right to vote, had no part in enacting or devising the law," Martin Luther King, Jr., wrote in Letter from a Birmingham Jail. Stacey Abrams expounded on this reality in Our Time Is Now: Power, Purpose, and the Fight for a Fair America: "As millions are stripped of their rights, we live out the policy consequences, from lethal pollution running through poor communities to kindergartners practicing active shooter drills taught with nursery rhymes."

Our democracy is cracking at the seams. It is crumbling before our eyes. The Scorecard is a clanging alarm, alerting every member of the United States Senate that we expect them honor their Constitutional duty and to do everything in their power to protect democracy, including abolishing or reforming the filibuster.

providing support for immigrant students and their families.

Thorpe received a bachelor's degree in English and political science from Howard University. She earned a master's degree in educational leadership from Strayer University, and is currently pursuing a second master's degree in social emotional learning.

The Varkey Foundation was founded in 2014 to improve educational standards and enhance the capacity of teachers worldwide. Often described as the Nobel Prize for educators, the Global Teacher Prize is presented to highlight the importance of educators who deserve to be recognized and honored.

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), the nation's 20th largest school district, has 208 schools and centers, more than 131,000 students and 22,000 employees. Under the leadership of CEO Dr. Monica Goldson, the school system serves a diverse student population from urban, suburban and rural communities located in the Washington, DC suburbs. PGCPS is nationally recognized for college and career-readiness programs that provide students with unique learning opportunities, including dual enrollment and language immersion.

Prize from A1

Central America, noting that students have since shown significant improvement in reading and English language proficiency scores for English language learners.

"Ms. Thorpe exemplifies the qualities necessary for working with our diverse student community," said Dr. Eunice Perez-Humphrey, International High School at Langley Park principal. "Every day she goes above and beyond to address students' needs in and outside the classroom."

The Global Teacher Prize is just the latest of Thorpe's many achievements.

In July, she received the Maryland Medal of Excellence from Gov. Larry Hogan for her work influencing equitable policies in education. During the 2018-19 school year, she was named National Lifechanger of the Year, an award recognizing teachers who inspire students and "go above and beyond."

Thorpe co-founded the nonprofit U.S. Elite International Track and Field Inc., which helps "at risk" student-athletes pursue college scholarships. She also founded the Hope Beyond Distance Foundation and Food4Change, a program

Chris Van Hollen

United States Senator for Maryland



Van Hollen Secures Key Maryland Priorities in Infrastructure Modernization Bill Signed Into Law

WASHINGTON (Nov. 15, 2021)—Today, U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) released the following statement regarding the President's signing into law of the infrastructure modernization bill, which includes over \$7 billion in funding for Maryland:

"Marylanders rely on our infrastructure every day. For many, it begins with a drive to school in the morning or ends with their commute home from work at night. But it's also so much more than that—it's the water our children drink, the internet our businesses rely on, and the services that keep our communities running. Today marks a historic, once-in-a-generation investment bringing over \$7 billion in funding to Maryland to fix our roads and bridges, improve public transit, connect every person in our state with high-speed internet, create jobs, and so much more. It will also ensure access to clean water, bring more resources directly to our efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay, and support our efforts to combat the climate crisis. I've been proud to work alongside the White House and my colleagues in Congress to secure key wins for Maryland in this bill, and I was proud to join President Biden as he signed it into law today. This is a big win for our

state, our economy, and our workers."

In addition to working on the wide range of measures that will bring federal resources to Maryland as part of federal transportation formula funds, Senator Van Hollen worked to secure the following Maryland-specific and other provisions of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill:

- Provisions of his, Senator Cardin, and Senator Carper's Reconnecting Communities Act to remove harmful infrastructure projects of the past in order to reunite neighborhoods. The legislation was based on a pilot program Senator Van Hollen authored in 2019 aimed at addressing the Highway to Nowhere in West Baltimore.
- \$238 million in funding for the EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay and meet the pollution reduction targets of the Bay Agreement.
- Provisions of his Transit Worker and Pedestrian Protection Act to help improve safety for frontline transit workers and commuters.
- \$42.250 billion to expand broadband to get more Americans across the country online and \$14.2 billion to make broadband more affordable for low-income Americans.

- Reauthorization of WMATA at \$150 million annually and provisions to strengthen the WMATA Inspector General's authority in order to improve oversight and safety. This funding continues the investment the federal government authorized in 2008 via then-Congressman Van Hollen's bipartisan amendment to the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act.
- \$8 billion for Capital Investment Grants, the Federal Transit Administration program that supports the Purple Line and had previously supported the Red Line project in Baltimore City and language to ensure consideration of projects previously in the program, such as the Red Line.
- \$17 billion for ports across the country. The Port of Baltimore is a key asset to our state and powerful economic driver for Baltimore and the region.
- Provisions of the Senator's Promoting Infrastructure by Protecting Our Subcontractors and Taxpayers Act of 2021 to ensure sound financial footing of public-private partnership projects using Federal Transportation Infrastructure Finance Innovation Act (TIFIA) financing.

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

City of Greenbelt Announces New Public Information & Communication Coordinator

Seasoned, Local Communications Professional Selected to Serve Maryland Municipality

By PRESS OFFICER
City of Greenbelt

GREENBELT, Md. (Nov. 11, 2021)—The City of Greenbelt is pleased to announce that Chondria Andrews has been hired to serve as the municipality's new public information and communication coordinator. The position was recently vacant after a long-time city public information officer retired.

Greenbelt City Manager, Nicole Ard commented, "Chondria comes to the City of Greenbelt after years of working in various communications roles where she has managed brand reputations, developed timely communication strategies and delivered critical information to the public. We are quite confident in her ability to immediately step in and effectively serve the City of Greenbelt by communicating the latest public information."

Most recently, Andrews was a communications specialist at Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center in Lanham, Maryland where she oversaw multiple communication channels for employees, physicians, patients, and medical staff. Previously, Andrews was a communications compliance coordinator in the athletics department at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

"I'm thrilled to be working in the City's public information office to promote and manage all the city's communications for programs, issues and events," said Chondria Andrews. "My goal is to keep our residents, businesses and visitors informed, and the community moving forward."

Andrews holds an M.A. in Mass Communications and Media Studies, and a B.A. in Public Relations with a minor in Business Administration from Howard University. She has been professionally active within the Washington metropolitan area for more than twenty years.

For more information about the City of Greenbelt visit www.greenbeltmd.gov or call 301-474-8000.



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT
Chondria Andrews

Tiffany Harvey Appointed to Comcast Government and Regulatory Affairs for Maryland and Delaware

By SANDRA ARNETTE
Comcast Corporation

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Nov. 5, 2021)—Comcast has announced the appointment of as Vice President, Government & Regulatory Affairs. In her role, Harvey will lead Comcast's government advocacy programs in Maryland and Delaware and represent the company's interests in front of the state legislatures along with respective executive branch agencies and Attorney General offices.

A Maryland resident since 1990 with extensive legislative and legal affairs experience, Harvey previously was Director of State and Government Affairs for Verizon, handling legislative matters before the Maryland General Assembly. Prior to that, she served as Chief Counsel for Legislative Affairs in the Office of the County Executive for Prince George's County in Largo, Maryland, and the Office of the Attorney General in Baltimore.

"Tiffany has a deep understanding of our industry and the local municipalities we serve," said Robert Omberg, Vice President of Government & Regulatory Affairs for Comcast's Northeast Division. "We are thrilled to have her representing

Comcast in Annapolis and Dover, promoting our high-value products and services and the substantial investments we make in the communities where we live and work."

Harvey will continue her community engagement and involvement with youth development, drawing on a rich history of local volunteerism in support of the Montgomery County Street Law Program, mentoring Baltimore area high school students and managing diversity initiatives like the Thurgood Marshall Clerkship Program for the State of Maryland's Office of the Attorney General. In concert with her advocacy work and relationship-building with policy makers, she will continue to raise awareness of Comcast's longstanding commitments to close the digital divide for residents and businesses in need through programs including Internet Essentials, Lift Zones and Comcast RISE.

"Comcast provides a wonderful opportunity to blend my experiences in government, law and community service with a world class innovation platform that connects people with technology that matters most and plays an important role in the lives of our customers, employees and communities," said Harvey. "I am thrilled



PHOTO COURTESY COMCAST

Tiffany Harvey

to continue this exciting work in supporting our impactful initiatives in Maryland and Delaware."

Harvey earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Maryland and a Bachelor's in Political Science from the University of Richmond. She resides in Columbia, Maryland.

Local Resident Opens PrimoHoagie in National Harbor



Franchise owner Keyon Young (left) is pictured with PrimoHoagies COO Eric Bonner (right), surrounded by PrimoHoagies National Harbor staff.

Young has worked in various sectors throughout his career—from educator to nonprofit director to supply chain executive. What remains consistent throughout each undertaking is his passion. Replicating PrimoHoagies' family business roots, Young, his wife, and children will operate the National Harbor PrimoHoagies. Young grew up visiting the area as a child and recently moved to Prince George's County with his family.

The franchise is located at 150 American Way, Oxon Hill, Md. 20745. A grand opening ceremony was held on Nov. 2.

This location will be open 10 a.m.–9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.–10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 10 a.m.–8 p.m. Sunday. For more information about PrimoHoagies, visit: <https://www.primohoagies.com>.

PHOTO COURTESY PRIMOHOGIES

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Why Is My Medicare Part B Premium So High?

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

Dear Rusty: Social Security is deducting \$297 per month for my Medicare Part B coverage. I have what's called a "Windfall Elimination Provision" because I receive a pension from my former State employer. Prior to my 65th Birthday in July of this year, Social Security was paying me \$764 per month, but when I turned 65 they reduced my amount to \$467 per month. I read that the Part B premiums for 2021 are \$148.50, so I wonder why I'm paying double that amount? Could it be that I never enrolled in Medicare Part B and they just automatically started deducting that amount? Some sort of penalty? If so, it seems kind of high. Can you explain why I'm paying so much for Medicare Part B? **Signed: Curious About Medicare**

Dear Curious: Your Part B premium of \$297/month has nothing to do with the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). WEP affects (reduces) your Social Security retirement benefit amount but doesn't affect your Medicare premium. Your Medicare Part B premium is \$297/month because of a different Medicare rule known as "IRMAA," which is the "Income Related Medicare Adjustment Amount." Here's how IRMAA works:

Medicare determines your Part B premium amount each year using your combined income (from all sources) from 2 years prior, so your 2021 Part B premium is based upon your 2019 income. The income amount used to set your Part B premium is called your Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI), which is your normal Adjusted Gross Income on your tax return plus any other non-taxable income you may have had (including half of your SS benefits, non-taxable interest, etc.). If your MAGI is over a certain threshold, your Part B premium is more than the standard \$148.50.

The IRMAA thresholds at which you pay a higher Part B premium depend upon your tax filing status. A married couple filing jointly with MAGI under \$176,001 pays the standard premium (\$148.50 for 2021), and a single tax filer whose MAGI is under \$88,001 also pays the standard Part B premium, but income exceeding those thresholds means a higher Part B premium. How much higher depends upon how much your MAGI exceeds the base amounts above. The Part B IRMAA premium increases on a scale relative to how much your MAGI exceeds the base threshold and, from what you've shared, it appears that your 2019 MAGI resulted in a 2021 Part B premium of \$297/month.

Since you were already collecting Social Security when you turned

Maryland Humanities Awards \$910,000 to Cultural Organizations Through "Sharp" COVID-19 Relief Grant Program

By SARAH WEISSMAN
Maryland Humanities

BALTIMORE (Nov. 5, 2021)—Maryland Humanities announces a total of \$910,000 in funding for 91 Maryland nonprofit organizations (\$10,000 per organization) through its Sustaining Humanities through the American Rescue Plan (SHARP) Recovery Grants Fund. Recipients of the general operating grants include museums, historic sites, preservation & historical societies, and community & cultural organizations. They are located in nineteen Maryland counties, as well as Baltimore City. Combined with the 2020 CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act Emergency Relief Grants Fund, Maryland Humanities has now awarded \$1.425 million in COVID-19 relief funding to organizations in every Maryland county and Baltimore City.

The SHARP Recovery Grants Fund's goal is to ensure that organizations can continue to provide opportunities for Maryland's diverse communities to access and engage with public history, cultural heritage, and civic learning. All SHARP recipients in Maryland have an annual budget of \$300,000 or less, and have been adversely impacted by the ongoing impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

These grants are funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 appropriated by the U.S. Congress.

Keith Stone, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors and Grants Committee Chair at Maryland Humanities, says, "We're thrilled to help ensure access to public humanities programming for all Marylanders through 91 grants to wonderful organizations across the state thanks to the generous support of the SHARP Act."

"Maryland Humanities is proud to provide this next round support for organizations across the state of Maryland. Their work brings the humanities across our state," says Lindsey

Baker, Executive Director at Maryland Humanities. "Thank you to our elected officials in Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities for entrusting us with this significant responsibility and opportunity to be a leader for the field."

Grantees are listed below. Learn more about our SHARP Recovery Grants at <https://www.mdhumanities.org/grants/sharp/>

Prince George's — SHARP Recovery Grant Awards

Organization Name	City
National Capital Radio and Television Museum	Bowie
EducArte	College Park
Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts	Fort Washington
National Museum of Language	Greenbelt
Laurel Historical Society	Laurel
Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center	North Brentwood
Bold Beautiful Brilliant Girls Youth Empowerment Group	Upper Marlboro
Prince George's County Historical Society	Upper Marlboro

Maryland Humanities is a statewide nonprofit organization that creates and supports educational experiences in the humanities that inspire all Marylanders to embrace lifelong learning, exchange ideas openly, and enrich their communities. For more information, visit www.mdhumanities.org. Maryland Humanities is generously supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities; the State of Maryland; the Citizens of Baltimore County; private foundations; corporations; small businesses; and individual donors. Connect with Maryland Humanities on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram.

ENVIRONMENT

Prince George's County Fall 2021 'Growing Green With Pride' Cleanup Attracts a Record Number of Participants

By PAULETTE L. JONES
Department of Public Works and
Transportation

LARGO, Md. (Nov. 10, 2021)—Prince George's County held its bi-annual countywide Fall 'Growing Green with Pride' cleanup on Saturday, October 30,

2021. The cleanup effort was a huge success that included thousands of volunteers, resulting in several plantings and the removal of litter and debris throughout the County. Thank you to all who participated in this important bi-annual cleanup event.

"We are Prince George's Proud of

the record number of 'Growing Green with Pride' participants that included residents, schools, and businesses who partnered with the Prince George's County Government, the Neighborhood Design Center, Prince George's County Public Schools, Keep Prince George's County Beautiful, and the Maryland-

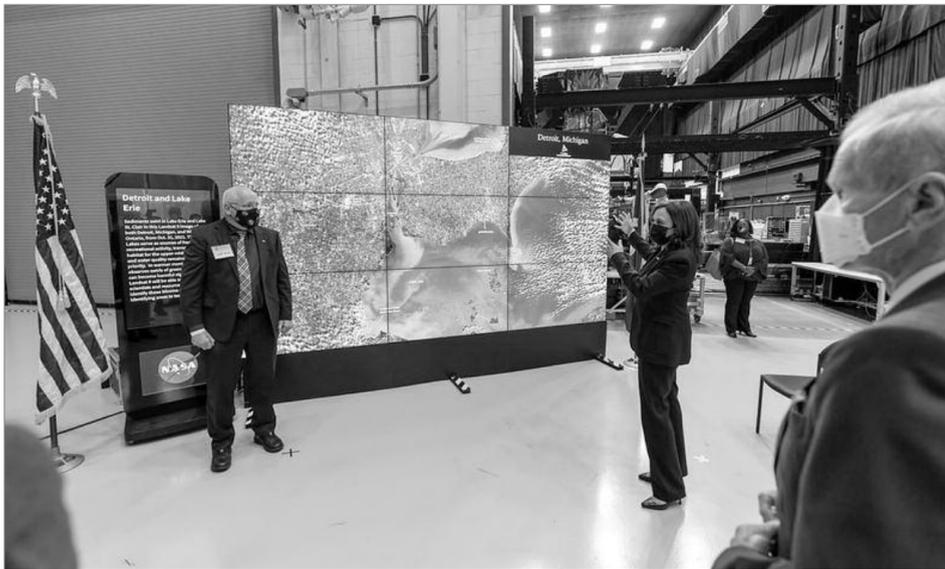
National Capital Park and Planning Commission for a day of cleaning, weeding, planting, mulching and litter removal," said County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "It is exciting that so many Prince Georgians come together to keep our County clean and beautiful."

The Fall 2021 'Growing Green with Pride' event resulted in 119 cleanup sites, 2,964 volunteers, 1,720 plants installed, the planting of 217 trees, 273 shrubs installed, 1,230 flowering perennials and ornamental grasses installed, 10,000 daffodil flowering bulbs installed, and 1,554 bags of mulch installed. There were also

24.4 tons, or 48,800 pounds, of litter and debris collected. As we continue our beautification and cleanup efforts in the County, we are looking forward to the Spring 2022 'Growing Green with Pride' event and appreciate the continued partnerships.

For more information and updates contact Paulette Jones at 240-712-0298.

Additionally, find more information on our website at <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1002/Public-Works-Transportation> or follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/PGCountyDPWT>.



Vice President Kamala Harris shares her enthusiasm, alongside Goddard Center Director Dennis Andrucyk and NASA Administrator Bill Nelson, for the results of current satellite missions using Goddard's Hyperwall on Nov. 5, 2021, at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. The Hyperwall visualizes Earth Science data for better understanding.

PHOTO CREDITS:
NASA/TAYLOR MICKAL

Vice President Harris Visits NASA To See Vital Climate Science Work

By JACKIE MCGUINNESS
NASA Headquarters, Washington

The urgency of Earth science and climate studies took the spotlight Friday as Vice President Kamala Harris visited NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. The vice president received a firsthand look at how the nation's space program studies climate change and provides crucial information to understand our planet's changes and their impacts on our lives.

During the visit, NASA Administrator Bill Nelson unveiled the first images from Landsat 9, a joint mission of NASA and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) launched in late September. The images show Detroit with neighboring Lake St. Clair, a changing Florida coastline, and areas of Navajo Country in Arizona. They will add to the wealth of data helping us monitor crop health and water used for irrigation, manage vital natural resources, and track the impacts of climate change.

The new images, all acquired Oct. 31, also provide data about the changing landscapes of the Himalayas and Australia, adding to Landsat's unparalleled data record that spans nearly 50 years of space-based Earth observation.

"I truly believe space activity is climate action. Space activity is education. Space activity is also economic growth. It is also innovation and inspiration. And it is about our security and our strength," the vice president said. "When it comes to our space activity, there is limitless potential. ... So, as we go forth from here, let us continue to seize the opportunity of space."

Harris and Nelson also discussed NASA's announcement of a new Earth Venture Mis-

sion-3 (EVM-3). Investigation of Convective Updrafts (INCUS) will study how tropical storms and thunderstorms develop and intensify, which will help improve weather and climate models.

"Our NASA experts today provided us a sweeping look at the many ways we need to understand our planet better, from drought and urban heat, to our oceans and the many landscapes we can see changing from the heavens," said Nelson. "The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to making real progress on the climate crisis to benefit the next generation, and NASA is at the heart of that work."

NASA, along with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and USGS, is among the federal agencies that conduct climate research and provide climate data critical for agencies and organizations worldwide. Extreme weather and climate events—including droughts, floods, and wildfires—are becoming regular occurrences. Insights from space help us study our planet as a unified system to understand these phenomena and benefit people where they live.

The vice president met with scientists and engineers to discuss how NASA's broad portfolio of Earth science missions helps address the climate challenges facing our world.

NASA's wide-ranging Earth science activities include satellites operated in partnership with other agencies. Those include NOAA and USGS, which also had representatives on hand to meet with Harris.

"Now in its sixth decade, the NOAA-NASA partnership puts the world's best technology in space to improve the nation's ability to monitor and predict Earth's climate and weather," said NOAA Administrator Rick

Spinrad, Ph.D. "Teams of NOAA and NASA experts co-located at NASA Goddard are advancing our nation's next-generation of geostationary satellites, called GOES-R, which produce essential data for accurate and timely forecasts that save lives and help people adapt to climate change."

"Landsat 9's compelling images and underlying scientific data will help Interior to better manage our nation's lands and resources, preserve our cultural heritage, honor our trust responsibilities with Native Americans and indigenous peoples, and address the climate crisis," said Tanya Trujillo, the Department of the Interior's assistant secretary for water and science. "Every day, the nearly 50-year Landsat data archive managed and freely shared by USGS is providing new insights and decision-support for government officials, educators, and businesses to better understand and sustainably manage our changing landscapes."

During her visit, Harris operated a robotic arm undergoing testing for a future in-orbit refueling mission of the Landsat 7 satellite. That satellite currently is studying Earth as part of the Landsat fleet.

Harris also visited the Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem (PACE) mission, which involves an instrument currently under construction at Goddard for a 2022 launch. PACE will advance assessment capabilities for ocean health by measuring the distribution of phytoplankton—tiny plants and algae that sustain the marine food web. The GOES-R program, whose GOES-T satellite is scheduled to launch for NOAA in February 2022 to improve weather forecasts, was also showcased.

Learn more about NASA's Earth science work at: <https://www.nasa.gov/Earth>

Keep Prince George's County Beautiful Seeks Nominations for 2021 Virtual Waste Diversion and Recycling Awards

Forms are due by November 23, 2021

By JUDITH HALL
Department of the Environment

LARGO, Md. (Nov. 9, 2021)—In honor of America Recycles Day on November 15, 2021, Keep Prince George's County Beautiful (KPGCB) and the Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) today released nomination forms for the 2021 Virtual Waste Diversion and Recycling Virtual Awards Ceremony to be held on **Wednesday, December 8, 2021**. The ceremony recognizes Prince George's County commercial businesses, schools, and other entities who have demonstrated exceptional achievements in recycling and waste diversion to advance the mission of KPGCB and DoE.

"We are excited to host this virtual ceremony once again to honor the winners in recycling and waste diversion," said DoE Director Andrea L. Crooms. "It is an amazing opportunity to recognize and showcase our community businesses and schools committed to finding innovated ways to educate, as well as promote and activate recycling and waste management programs in Prince George's County."

A 2021 nomination form must be submitted on behalf of the nominee, including all relevant and supporting documentation, by midnight on **Tuesday, November 23, 2021**. Send your completed nomination form and all supporting documentation via email to htregister@co.pg.md.us or by mail to:

KPGCB Attn: Helen Register
Awards Ceremony
9200 Basil Court, Suite 300
Largo, MD 20774

DoE works for a healthy, beautiful, and sustainable County through programs providing clean water, flood control, recycling and waste management, litter prevention, sustainable animal management, and pet adoption in partnership with Prince George's County's residents and stakeholders.

KPGCB is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization empowering individuals to take greater action and responsibility to create healthier, safer, and more livable communities. KPGCB partners with the Prince George's County community to create a beautiful, litter-free environment and promote best waste management practices, including recycling and source reduction.

To access the nomination forms visit: <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/529/Keep-Prince-Georges-Beautiful>.

Earth TALK™ Are Environmentalists Happy With Biden So Far?

Dear EarthTalk:
Are environmental advocates happy with the Biden administration so far?

—B.C., Philadelphia, PA

Overall, environmental advocates are much happier with Joe Biden in the White House than Donald Trump, given his administration's interest in pursuing sustainability and climate goals. Indeed, on Day One Biden wasted no time making good on several environmentally related campaign promises. He signed executive orders rejoining the Paris climate accord (Trump had pulled us out in 2017), revoking the permit for the controversial Keystone XL pipeline (green-lighted by Trump in 2017), and halting construction of Trump's infamous border wall that among other things restricted the habitat range of wildlife already struggling to hang on in the drought-stricken, warming-addled Southwest.

While Biden couldn't get everything done in a day, his administration has kept its eye on the conservation ball ever since. In early September, Biden's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it was restoring protections for Alaska's Bristol Bay. The Trump administration had blocked those protections in a shortsighted effort to

pave the way for construction of a massive gold mine threatening the world's largest sockeye salmon run as well as ecosystems for hundreds of miles around. The Biden administration has also proposed cancelling controversial Trump-era petroleum drilling leases in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, but it's unclear whether this provision will remain in the larger Congressional budget reconciliation bill it's currently tied to given potential Republican backlash.

Another big move lauded by greens just weeks ago was Biden's executive order restoring Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments in Utah to their original boundaries; Trump had reduced them by 80 and 50 percent respectively. Eco-advocates also cheered Biden's move to restore federal rules designed to guide environmental reviews of major infrastructure projects that the Trump administration had scaled back in order to "fast-track" construction permit approvals. Additionally, Biden has pledged to overturn Trump-era rollbacks of endangered species protections so as to preserve the ability of the federal government to designate lands as critical wildlife habitat regardless of their development potential.

While many are pleased with Biden's actions so far, others worry they are too little too late. Activists from the grassroots Build Back

Fossil Free campaign, which includes Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace and the Center for Biological Diversity, among others, decry the Biden White House for not already using executive orders to stop fossil fuel project approvals and declare a climate emergency. According to a recent analysis by the research and advocacy organization Oil Change International, Biden could stop at least 24 major fossil fuel development projects with the stroke of a pen (including the controversial Line 3 and Dakota Access pipelines) and save upwards of 1.6 gigatons of greenhouse gas emissions—the equivalent of taking all the cars and trucks off U.S. roads for a year.

"We are out of time for the president to take his executive powers off the shelf," says Jean Su, energy justice director at the Center for Biological Diversity. "Anything less is leaving a scorched future for people and our planet."

CONTACTS: White House moves to restore key environmental review rules, <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/white-house-moves-restore-key-environmental-review-rules-2021-10-06/>; Build Back Fossil Free, buildbackfossilfree.org; Oil Change International, oilchangeinternational.org; Center for Biological Diversity, biologicaldiversity.org

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Candidates from A1

of Elections, Catherine Curran O'Malley, a recently retired associate judge, established a candidate committee; she is reported to be considering a run for attorney general.

Curran O'Malley's husband, Martin O'Malley, formerly served as governor of Maryland.

Comptroller Candidates

Maryland state Del. Brooke Lierman (<https://www.brookelieman.com/>), D-Baltimore, is running as a Democrat in the race for comptroller.

Tim Adams (<https://timadams.org/>) is also seeking the Democratic nomination for comptroller; he serves as mayor of Bowie.

Barry Glassman (<https://www.barryglassman.com/>) is county executive in Harford and is running on the Republican side for comptroller.

More candidates may file for any of the statewide elections. The candidate filing deadline for Democrats and Republicans is Feb. 22, 2022.

Filing deadlines for other candidates are in July and August and can be found on the Maryland Board of Elections site (<https://elections.maryland.gov/candidacy/index.html>).

The 2022 election is scheduled for Nov. 8.

Social Security Matters from A5

65, you were automatically enrolled in Medicare Part A (which is free) and Medicare Part B (for which you pay a premium), which is why your Medicare premium increased at that time. If you also have "creditable" healthcare from either you or your wife's employer ("creditable" is a group plan with at least 20 participants), you can dis-enroll from Medicare Part B by filing form CMS-1763 and having an interview with Social Security. That way you could save that \$297 monthly Part B premium for as long as you have other "creditable" employer coverage, and then re-enroll in Part B during the Special Enrollment Period which starts when your employer coverage ends (or shortly before to avoid a gap in healthcare coverage).

If you have retired from working and your combined income in 2020 was much lower than in 2019, Social Security will automatically adjust your 2022 Medicare Part B premium as appropriate for your combined income reported to the IRS on your 2020 tax return. If you retired in 2020, you might also wish to submit form SSA-44 (www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-44-ext.pdf) to claim a "life changing event," which may result in a smaller Part B premium for 2021 as well.

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.

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