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Library Launches "Immigrant Proud" Initiative

By NICHOLAS A. BROWN
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (Jan. 11, 2021)— Supporting the 200,000+ immigrants and refugees who live and work in Prince George's County has long been a priority of the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS). Whether through adult English classes, cultural heritage programs, legal aid clinics, or expanding the Library's multilingual collection, PGCMLS offers the newest Prince Georgians with welcoming physical and virtual environments where they can access resources and services to advance their personal and family goals. This winter, the Library launches "Immigrant Proud," a campaign to highlight the rich resources available to immigrants in Prince George's County. This initiative is inspired by the PGCMLS Strategic Framework 2021–2024 focus areas of inclusion, literacy and learning, and personal achievement.

"Immigrant Proud" showcases curated collections of books and online resources to support language learning and legal needs, free citizenship bundles to support preparation for citizenship exams, as well as programs like English classes for English Language Learners, Kids Achieve Club virtual tutoring for students in grades 1–4, Leamos literacy classes for Spanish speakers, citizenship study groups, and language conversation clubs for informal practice. An overview of resources is available at the Library's new "Immigrant Proud" webpage (pgcmls.info/immigrantproud) and on displays in branch libraries. Programs are posted to the Library's event calendar (pgcmls.info/events) up to 2 months in advance.

Free Citizenship Bundles Now Available

A limited number of free citizenship bundles are available for customers at all PGCMLS branch libraries while supplies last. Customers may request a bundle at information desks (one per customer). Study materials in the bundles may also be accessed online through uscis.gov/citizenship using any of the library computers. Bundles include the following resources:

- "Welcome to the United States: A Guide for New Immigrants"
- "Preparing for the Naturalization Test: A Pocket Study Guide"
- Vocabulary Flash Cards for the Naturalization Test
- Erasable Marker

Featured Resources (Available with a PGCMLS Library Card)

- **Library Collection:** NOLO Citizenship and Immigration Books
 - **Learning Express Library** - Practice tests and exam preparation for U.S. citizenship. Includes a guide to getting a Green Card.
 - **Mango Languages** - Online English language courses for speakers of 15 different languages.
 - **Transparent Language** - Language learning resources for 100+ languages.
 - **Brainfuse HelpNow** - Live tutors to help with citizenship preparation (English and Spanish).
 - **Passport Services**
 - **Borrowable Technology** (including internet-enabled laptops), Public Computers, and WiFi
 - **Print, Copy, Scan, and Fax Services**
- While many immigrants may access resources

to advance their citizenship applications, the Library provides support to all immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers regardless of immigration status.

The Library welcomes opportunities to collaborate with other local organizations serving the immigrant population. Contact Lance Lambert, Bilingual Program and Outreach Associate, at pr@pgcmls.info for more information.

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) helps customers discover and define opportunities that shape their lives. The Library serves the 967,000+ residents of Prince George's County, Maryland through 19 branch libraries, a 24/7 online library, and pop-up services throughout the community. PGCMLS is a responsive and trusted community-driven organization. Programs, services, and outreach activities serve booklovers, immigrants and refugees, job seekers, children, young professionals, seniors, and families alike. Learn more at pgcmls.info/about-us.

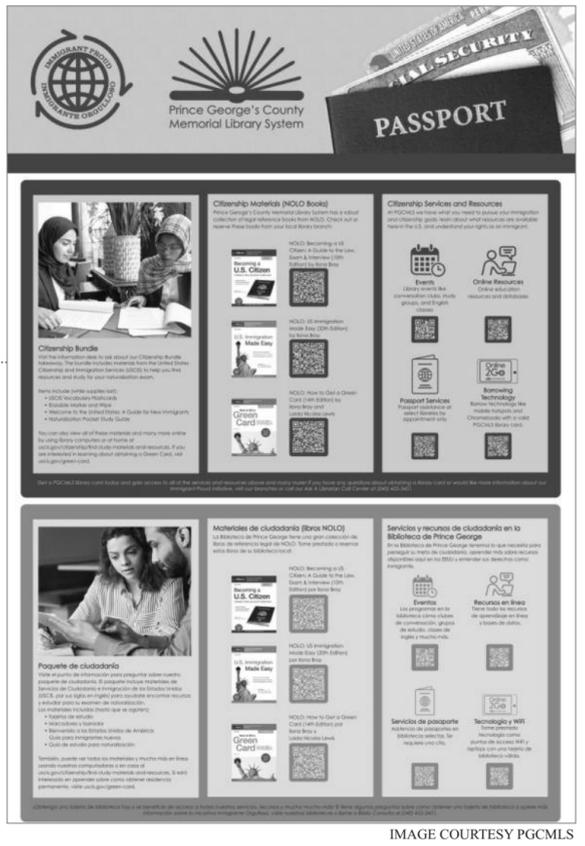


IMAGE COURTESY PGCMLS



IMAGE COURTESY BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

Bowie State's Gordon, Singleton Among Candidates For the 2021–22 Lowe's CIAA Senior CLASS Award

By JOLISA WILLIAMS
Bowie State Athletics

BOWIE, Md. (Jan. 11, 2022)— Shanya Gordon (Elkridge, MD) and Tevin Singleton (District Heights, MD) of Bowie State University are among 24 candidates for the 2021–22 Lowe's Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Senior CLASS Award. The candidates were announced in December and fan voting is now open.

Fans are encouraged to visit www.lowesciaasca.com to vote for their favorites among the 24 candidates from now through February 10, 2022. At the end of the voting period, fan votes will be combined with those of CIAA coaches and media to determine award winners.

Gordon is a four-year starter on the Bulldogs softball team. She has a 3.5 cumulative grade point average (GPA) and is on schedule to graduate in May with a degree in graphic design.

Singleton was a defensive back on a historic Bulldogs football team this year. He boasted a 3.66 GPA and is currently pursuing a master's degree in organizational communications. The 3-time CIAA champion earned a bachelor's in business marketing from Bowie State last year.

The Lowe's CIAA Senior CLASS Award®, which focuses on men's and women's student-athletes from the CIAA, is a division of the National Senior CLASS Award program that recognizes student-athletes in 10 NCAA Division I sports. Last

month, 24 CIAA men's and women's student-athletes who excel both on and off the court were selected as candidates for the award.

An acronym for Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School®, the Lowe's CIAA Senior CLASS Award focuses on the total student-athlete and encourages players to use their platform in athletics to make a positive impact as leaders in their communities. To be eligible for the award, a student-athlete must be classified as a senior and have notable achievements in four areas of excellence: community, classroom, character and competition.

The Lowe's CIAA Senior CLASS Award candidates were nominated by their respective

universities. Of the 24 student-athletes, all are in excellent academic standing at their universities and volunteer his or her time with charitable organizations and causes while upholding a reputation for positive character on campus and in the community.

Following the voting period, the male and female winner will be announced during the CIAA Tournament in Baltimore, Maryland and presented with the prestigious Senior CLASS Award trophy at the championship games on Saturday, February 26.

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

JANUARY 20 VIRTUAL EVENT

Alzheimer's Association To Host Film Screening And Virtual Community Forum

Screening of award-winning short film and discussion about dementia, resources and caregiving through the power of music

By CINDY SCHELHORN
Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter will host a free screening of the film *Bewildered*, followed by a virtual community forum on **Thursday, Jan. 20** from 5:30–7 p.m.

Bewildered, directed by Gregor Wilson and starring Keith David and Maria Howell, depicts the journey of world-famous, husband and wife jazz vocalists—Joseph and Sara Honoré—from the peak of their career and marriage, into the turmoil and anxiety brought on by Joseph's fall into dementia. Befriended by a young caregiver and gifted musician, Joseph is helped to recall deeply held musical memories, which provide a desperately needed connection with his beloved wife.

"*Bewildered* is a powerful short film about how music can create connections for those living with dementia and their family members," said Ben Donnelly, Volunteer and Programs & Services Manager with the Alzheimer's Association, National Capital Area Chapter. "It's an important message of hope. And we hope this

virtual screening and community forum will allow for some positive discussions and further awareness around this disease and all those that are affected."

A community forum to discuss dementia and caregiving through the power of music will follow the film. Participants will hear from and engage with experts on caregiving associated with Alzheimer's, dementia, aging, and other related caregiving areas as they discuss resources provided by several organizations and local Departments of Aging available throughout the community.

The Alzheimer's Association believes no individual, caregiver or family should navigate the challenges of Alzheimer's disease and dementia alone. The Association's community forums are bringing together those affected by the disease with staff and volunteers to open conversation in an effort to bolster resources, programs and services in their communities.

Registration for the screening and virtual meeting is required. To learn more and to register, call the Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline at 800.272.3900 or visit alz.org/nca.

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TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Morningside's Mike Johnson helps keep Prince George's beautiful

By doing battle with cigarette butts, Mike Johnson, who heads Morningside's Public Works Department, was presented the Keep Prince George's Beautiful award by the Keep Prince George's County Beautiful Recycling Section, Department of the Environment, on Dec. 8.

Mike regularly cleans the Municipal Center parking lot of cigarette butts, regularly strewn all over the lot. He knows that cigarette butts take years to decompose in the environment and are hazardous to the wildlife that ingest them. As the Town's newsletter says, Mike has made the lot "not only safer but more esthetically pleasing."

He has been director of Morningside's Public Works since June 21, 2010, and he drives a big Public Works truck. I encountered him one day on Woodland Road where he was collecting junk that had been thrown into Henson Creek. He was also emptying one of Morningside's doggie cleanup stations and installing a new bag.

Mike wears many hats, handling street and road matters, snow removal and much more. If a dead squirrel is in the road, a Morningsider can call Public Works and Mike will collect the squirrel and give it a proper burial.

He is also liaison with the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and M-NCPPC and attends relevant meetings.

As the Morningside newsletter says, "Way to go Mike!" And congratulations on the award.

Town of Morningside

The Town has an election coming up May 2, to fill three seats, Mayor and two Council Members. Candidates must turn in a petition—signed by ten registered voters—by March 7. For information call 301-736-2300.

Suitland Road Baptist Church holds wellness event

The Annual Health and Wellness event of Suitland Road Baptist Church will be held Jan. 29 via zoom. Topics will be COVID-19 updates, and health and wellness from a Biblical standpoint.

Join virtually via zoom on

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86189657122>. Guest speakers will be Minister Dr. Gayle Jones, ND, RN and Dr. Yolandra Hancock. With questions, call 301-219-2296.

The race is on, for Governor of Maryland

Laura Newman, former Republican Anne Arundel County executive, has announced plans to run for Governor as a Democrat.

She joins nine other Democrats in the running: Rushern L. Baker III (former Prince George's County exec), John B. King, Jr., Tom Perez, Wes Moore, Peter Franchot, Ashwani Jain, Douglas F. Gansler, Jan Baron and Jerome Segal. Also Republicans: Kelly M. Schulz, Robin Ficker and Del. Daniel L. Cox. Stay tuned.

Remembering June Hall

June Hall once lived at the end of Clayton Lane Drive in Skyline. I knew her well and loved her. But I didn't expect to receive this message from Legacy: "On the anniversary of June's passing, share another memory or condolence and help others hold June a little closer in their hearts." "Being remembered matters."

June died eight years ago, on Jan. 3, 2014, at Southlake Nursing Home in Jacksonville, Fla., survived by daughters Barbara Drayson and Amanda Hall, and grandchildren. Husband Edwin Hall predeceased her. As a dear friend, I do remember June's "love for Jesus Christ" and her "passion for volunteering with the Laubach Literacy Council."

But is this Legacy message something new?

Changing landscape

The Washington Football Team is set to announce a new name on the Today Show on February 2. What's your guess?

Hundreds of residents flocked to the National Mall for the annual snowball battle held during the first snow of 2022.

Purple Line construction is expected to resume in a few months. Construction on the line started in mid-2017, then stopped in October 2020. That Line, when completed—and who knows when that will be?—will extend from New Carrollton Metro to Bethesda Metro. It'll be the first direct suburb-to-suburb rail

line in the Washington region.

New luxury townhomes are under construction in Parkside at Westphalia, near Andrews. Prices start at \$454,990.

A home at 6713 Poplar Road in Morningside has recently sold for \$375,000.

Morningside Memories: January 1995

January was obviously the time to install new officers.

The Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW installed new officers at the Morningside Fire House: Jeanne West, president; Jean Glaubitz, vice-president; Marie Hicks, recording secretary; Becky Howard, treasurer; Claire Richardson, corresponding secretary; Audrey Holmes, membership chairman. Gwen Morgan was welcomed as a new member.

The Morningside Boys Club installed new officers at the monthly meeting, Jan. 12: Robert Levesque, president; William Long, vice president; Joseph Curcio, secretary; and Jim Heflin, treasurer.

Brownie Troop 565 elected officers at their first January meeting: Bonnie Williams, president; Ann Tickell, treasurer; and Melissa Gregory, secretary.

Morningside Elementary School announced patrol officers: Frances Stewart, captain; Dennis West, 1st lieutenant; Wayne Carroll, 2nd lieutenant; Patricia Tuttle, sergeant; and Edward Patterson, corporal.

Mary's COVID-19 report: 87 (!) more Marylanders have died

Through 5 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 12, there have been 861,349 cases of the virus, including 11,033 the last day. As for deaths, 87 have died making a total of 12,415 Marylanders who have died.

Hospitals are at critical levels and have drained staff and resources across the Washington region. More than 1 in 4 Maryland hospitals are working under crisis standards of care.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Jason Shearer, Jan. 22; Mark Foland, Jan. 23; Claire Kennedy, Jan. 24; Kenneth Brown and Michelle Willis, Jan. 25; Father Thomas LaHood and San' Tori Dixon, Jan. 28; Sister Zion, Jan. 29; and David Call, Jan. 30.

Around the County

National Harbor Hosts its Annual Fooduary Event from January 21–30

A 10-day food and entertainment celebration at one of the DMV's hottest destinations

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. (Jan. 14, 2022)—National Harbor and its restaurant partners are kicking off 2022 with a celebration of food and entertainment including specially-priced prix fixe menus, cooking and cocktail demonstrations from chefs and bartenders at National Harbor, ask the chef Facebook live segments and specials for The Capital Wheel and Bobby McKey's Dueling Piano Bar. Fooduary kicks off on January 21 and will run through January 30 with more than 10 participating locations.

Restaurants will offer pre fixe menus including Succotash, Bond 45, Fiorella Italian Kitchen & Pizzeria, Rosa Mexicano, Grace's Mandarin, and Mason's Famous Lobster Roll. MGM National Harbor's restaurants Voltaggio brothers, Diablo Cantina and TAP Sports Bar. Visitors are invited to enjoy options via dine-in, carryout or delivery. Some restaurants offer outdoor heated patios.

Bobby McKey's Dueling Piano Bar is offering free general admission for evening shows with proof of Restaurant Week receipt. The Capital Wheel, National Harbor's iconic 180-foot observation wheel, will offer a \$10 ticket (does not include tax) when presenting a Fooduary restaurant receipt at the ticket booth. The offer is valid for up to four general admission tickets. Visitors at George Washington's Mount Vernon can receive 20% off a grounds pass with promotional code "Fooduary," for up to six tickets. All promotions are valid during Fooduary (Jan. 21–30) and may not be combined with other offers.

While visiting National Harbor, guests can experience the venue from 180 feet above in the warmth of The Capital Wheel's heated gondolas while enjoying spectacular views.

A "thank your server" campaign will also take place with an opportunity for customers to post on Instagram their favorite server's name and restaurant tagged with #ThankYourServerNH. Servers will be entered in a drawing for a variety of prizes throughout National Harbor.

For more information visit www.nationalharbor.com/fooduary/.

Local Students Honored

Local Student(s) named to Bucknell University Dean's list

LEWISBURG, Pa. (Jan. 13, 2022)—Bucknell University has released the dean's list for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2021–22 academic year. A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean's list recognition.

Hometown, State; Name. Grad Year (If Listed), Major (If Listed)

Bowie, MD:

Damien Mahanama, 2024, Biomedical Engineering

Raquel Rowell, 2023, Neuroscience

Brandon Vessels, 2022, Markets, Innovation & Design

Upper Marlboro, MD:

Caleb Wooten, 2023, Education

—Mike Ferlazzo, Bucknell University

Clarke Announces Fall 2021 Dean's List

DUBUQUE, Iowa (Jan. 12, 2022)—The following students were named to the Dean's List at Clarke University for the Fall 2021 semester. The list recognizes full-time Clarke students who have earned a 3.65 grade-point average or above, on a 4.0 scale, with a minimum of 12 graded hours. Congratulations to these students for their hard work.

Bowie, MD: **Mannix Amos**

For more information, contact the Clarke University Marketing and Communication Office at marketing@clarke.edu.

—Gayle Langel, Clarke University

Kirkwood Community College Announces Dean's List honors

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (Jan. 11, 2022)—Kirkwood Community College has released its Dean's List for the fall 2021 semester. These students have achieved a 3.3 grade point average or higher after completing 12 or more credit hours at the college.

Kirkwood students from the area earning this distinction are listed below.

Lanham, MD: **Tolu Telli**

—Jo Ellen Page, Kirkwood Community College

MidAmerica Nazarene University Announces Fall 2021 Honor Roll

OLATHE, Kan. (Jan. 10, 2022)—MidAmerica Nazarene University recently announced its President's, Dean's List and Honor Roll for the fall 2021 semester. A total of 351 students qualified for one of the honors.

All students in traditional programs carrying 12 semester hours or more with a term GPA from 3.2 to 4.0 may qualify for one of these academic honors. Neutral credit hours are excluded from the calculation and reduce the course load used to figure the honor. The President's List is a 4.0 grade point average for the semester; Dean's List ranges from 3.5 to 3.99; and the Honor Roll is 3.2 to 3.49.

Following are MNU students named to the President's List, Dean's List and Honor Roll.

Bowie, MD: **Benjamin Ballah**, Honor Roll

—Carol Best, MidAmerica Nazarene University

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

RIVERDALE, Md. (Jan. 14, 2022)—The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County announced today that most facilities, park maintenance operations and public events and programs will remain closed through January 31, 2022. Reopening on January 18 will be pre-registered pre-school, Before Care, After Care, and Therapeutic Recreation Programs. All parks and trails will remain open. Previously scheduled rentals at select venues will be honored. The Department will reassess the status prior to reopening.

Department officials, staff, residents, partners, and vendors were informed of the decision earlier today. As COVID-19 prevalence becomes more significant in the County, the Department is taking these steps in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19.

For programs and events either cancelled or modified due to the closure, refunds will be applied to the household account. Please contact your local community center for any questions. The Department will continue to concentrate on preventive measures as indicated by public health agencies. Outdoor areas will remain open to the public from sunrise to sunset. For updated information and a list of facilities, visit pgparks.com.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

MIRACLES

Images of after-life from my mother, aunts, and uncles by Joan Evelyn Hayes. I never miss my mother. She is always with me and with our grand-daughter, Evelyn who passed. She is near me because the clock time always mirrors the dates of her passing or her house address. I remember she once told me that Death is not final but a transition of change. The power of conversion towards heaven or hell is the story that God will be upheld.

I have had three incidents that were miracles shown to me. One day my daughter and I just missed an accident with another car. I felt both cars were slowed by time but there was no damage or collision. I knew this was a miracle that it was not our time but a powerful vision.

When I got my promotion, I was working all kinds of long hours. I did take off one day to see my son in a play at his school. Before the play started, I saw all my sisters-in-law, aunts and uncles who died in front of the stage. My sisters-in-law and my aunts and uncles put up their hands to make a stop sign.

I knew that I had to slow down, and it was a message for me to take it easy. Warning for caution to get more rest. After this incident, I restructured my hours and delegated to others. Bringing more knowledge to our participants composed of serene wisdom. Cognizant and sensible plans with the help of my selected work group. A wise decision and we had a feather in our cap and success.

A year ago, I was in the hospital having tests to determine if I had cancer or an irregular thyroid issue. While I was waiting, I stared at a beautiful green tree outside. All my family living, and dead appeared as leaves on the green tree.

Whatever was going to happen, I was comforted by this sight until they disappeared. Then the doctors told me that I did not have cancer but needed a removal of my thyroid gland. For I have learned that eternity is con-

version. God is always in charge. Be courageous and the best that you can be. Look and let your God handle your plan.

SAVE THE DATE

Will we see you in Baltimore February 21–February 26, 2022, at the CIAA Tournament? The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA), the nation's oldest historically black athletic conference invites you to the 2022 tournament in Baltimore, Maryland. The highly anticipated week-long celebration will be the annual celebration of HBCU championship basketball, sports, and culture. Bowie State is excited to be the host institution, so we are encouraging our fans to show their Bulldog Pride throughout tournament week. To get more information and updates, please visit: bowiestate.edu/ciaa-tournament.org.

BSU DOES BROADWAY

Join the Prince George's Arts & Humanities Council and Bowie State to see MJ The Musical, starring BSU Student Myles Frost on Sunday, March 27, 2022. Neil Simon Theater, New York City. Bus departure 8 a.m. from BSU Campus. Matinee Performance at 3 p.m. Limited availability; reserve your seat now. COVID Protocol: Vaccinations and masks required VIP Coach and Cultural Experience Package cost \$500 (Breakfast, Luxury Travel, Meet the Cast & Experience NYC) Proceeds to benefit the Department of Fine and Performing Arts.

BSU LOVE STORIES

Celebrate Bulldog Love. Who stole your heart? The Office of Alumni Engagement is celebrating Bulldog Love the entire month of February, if you met your spouse while attending Bowie State, or some years later, we want to highlight you. Share and submit your love story no later than January 26, 2022. All entries will be showcased on our social media platforms and couples will be entered into a drawing to win a special gift.

COMMUNITY

EXHIBITION: Exploring Deaf Geographies

Curated by Tabitha Jacques | Featuring Laural Hartman, Youmee Lee, Melissa Malzkuhn, Aaron Swindle, and Yiqiao Wang

By KATE TAYLOR DAVIS
Pyramid Atlantic Art Center

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (Jan. 14, 2022)—Deaf geographies are at once both physical and abstract spaces, ranging from Deaf community hubs such as Washington, DC, and Rochester, NY, to conversations, impressions, and memories shared by Deaf people expressing their identities. Works by five Deaf artists are featured in this exhibition that features prints, papercutting, collage, paintings, and papermaking.

Exploring Deaf Geographies opens Saturday, January 21 online and in person. The exhibition runs through February 27. Due to the spike in Covid cases in the area, Pyramid's precautions include requesting timed RSVPs for the opening weekend (Jan 21–22) to ensure the ability to socially distance, and it has moved the artist reception to February 25. Masks are required in the gallery. Admission is free and gallery hours are Wed–Thu, 10–8 p.m.; Fri–Sat, 10–6 p.m.; and Sunday 12–5 p.m. Pyramid is located at 4318 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville Maryland 20781. More info at pyramidatlantic.org or 301-608-9101.

Exploring Deaf Geographies is presented in partnership with the Dyer Arts Center, part of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at the Rochester Institute of Technology. It is curated by Tabitha Jacques who is the Director of the Dyer Arts Center and splits her time between Rochester and DC.

The artists represented in the show are current residents of either the greater Rochester or DC areas. Laural Hartman is a Los Angeles-born artist and printer based in Rochester. Laural currently divides her time as a faculty at NTID where she teaches Drawing and Design courses and as a printer for dirtybeardpress, a boutique studio she founded in San Francisco. Youmee Lee, a Korean American woman artist, explores materials and weaves narrative illustrations into her art. She studied visual arts in New York City, Seoul, and Amsterdam. She is currently pursuing an MFA in Film and Animation.

Melissa Malzkuhn is a Maryland-based academic, artist, and advocate with a love for language play, interactive experiences, and community-based change. She founded and leads creative research and development at Motion Light Lab, at Gallaudet University and can frequently be seen printing in Pyramid's studios. Aaron Swindle hails from Camarillo, California and is currently based in Rochester NY. He has a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and an MFA from New York Studio School. Yiqiao Wang is a Chinese-born artist and illustrator who came from Beijing to study at Gallaudet and currently lives in Virginia. She has a BA in Digital Media from Gallaudet and an MFA from Savannah College of Art and Design. Her work includes illustrating storybook apps as well as creating mural designs many of which can be seen in the DC area.

This exhibition is made possible in part through the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County.

Prince George's County Is Changing Bulky Trash Collection

Starting February 14, residents can place up to two (2) bulky items at the curb with regular trash

By LINDA LOWE

Prince George's County Department of the Environment

LARGO, Md. (Jan. 12, 2022)—Starting February 14, Prince George's County will roll out a faster and improved curbside bulky trash collection pickup that will allow residents to set out two (2) bulky items or two (2) trash bags with small household items per week with their regular trash for pickup from their County-provided trash hauler. This enhanced service allows residents to dispose of unwanted items in a timelier manner, cut down on wait times, and eliminate the temptation to dump illegally.

All items need to be too large to fit in a County-issued or regular trash cart and need to be placed NEXT to the trash cart for collection. Bulky items placed in other areas at the curb will not be collected.

Since the mid-'80s, Prince George's County has offered residents a separate bulky item collection to provide an opportunity to dispose of large items, such as furniture, carpet, and mattresses not collected by weekly trash pickup. However, due to the high demand for bulky trash services, the County is improving the process for collection by making this available to the over 175,000 County households served by County trash haulers weekly.

Residents who reside in a municipality and do not receive bulky services from the County directly will not experience a change in services and will continue to follow their municipal guidelines. Those residents who only pay for bulky trash removal will still need to schedule bulky trash collections through PGC311.

White good items, including appliances and scrap tires, will still need to be scheduled by contacting PGC311 or online at <http://bulkytrash.princegeorgescountymd.gov/>.

A complete description of acceptable bulky items, as well as a list of frequently asked questions, is available at mypgc.us/clearthecurb.

To better prepare for the change, the County will stop scheduling its current bulky trash collection process on Friday, January 21. All scheduled appointments made by PGC311 or online will be collected until that date.



COURTESY PYRAMID ATLANTIC ART CENTER

Pictured "My Summer Memory" by Yiqiao Wang.

Prince George's County Recognizes January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month

By V'HESSPA GLENN
Human Trafficking Task Force
Prince George's County

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Jan. 11, 2022)—In 2010, President Barack Obama declared January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month to bring attention and awareness to human trafficking and modern-day slavery. The Prince George's County Human Trafficking Task Force, through the Office of Human Rights and in partnership with many of its partners, is hosting a myriad of human trafficking awareness activities to highlight our efforts to end human trafficking by identifying and providing service to victims, identifying

and enacting quality prosecutions against traffickers, and educating the community.

"Human trafficking occurs everywhere," explained Renée Battle-Brooks, Executive Director of the Prince George's County Office of Human Rights and Chair of the Human Trafficking Task Force. "Finding resources to assist in anti-trafficking efforts is a critical component to assisting those trafficked in their journey to restoration."

In partnership with the County's Department of Family Services, and in recognition of human trafficking awareness, the Capital Wheel at the National Harbor will be illuminated blue on January 8, 11, 15, 22, and 29. On January

20, the Task Force, in partnership with the University of Maryland SAFE Center, the Prince George's County Memorial Library System, and other partners, will be hosting a virtual two-panel program to gain insights on the recent developments in the U.S. and international anti-trafficking policies and programs. On January 27, the Task Force and the Department of Family Services are co-hosting a Faith Moves Mountains interfaith symposium addressing human trafficking and the necessity of support and partnership in the faith-based community.

For more information on Task Force events, please visit civilrights.mypgc.us or familyservices.mypgc.us.

Prince George's Group Releases Election Platform To Build a Shared, Sustainable Prosperity

By PRESS OFFICER
Coalition for Smarter Growth

MARYLAND (Jan. 13, 2022)—Today RISE Prince George's released its 2022 election platform to Prince George's candidates. RISE Prince George's is a group of county residents and allies advocating for policies and practices that build shared, sustainable prosperity in Prince George's County by creating safe, walkable, inclusive and transit-oriented communities. Leading members of the group offered their reasons for supporting the platform:

"This election presents the community with the opportunity to select leaders dedicated to delivering on a shared vision of a future that is more prosperous, equitable, and sustainable in Prince George's County" said Kyle Reeder, community activist and Capitol Heights resident.

"By transforming our transit-rich County into a more walkable, interconnected place, we create the conditions to improve quality of life and expand economic mobility for all Prince Georgians," Reeder said.

The group plans to share its vision and policy recommendations with all candidates running for Prince George's County Council and other races, focusing on four key goals:

- Great places around transit
- Housing for all
- Safer streets for walking and bicycling
- Better bus service

"Prince George's is a great place to live, but many families struggle to afford a de-

cent home. We are urging the county to continue to make housing affordability a priority. Ensuring we have affordable homes to live in will take increased funding paired with smart strategies to preserve and build the housing options our families need" explained DeeDee George, a resident of Upper Marlboro.

The group recognizes that the county has adopted several key strategies in the last several years to address critical challenges facing residents including a new economic development vision focused on transit-oriented development, a Housing for All strategy, modernized zoning, urban street design standards and TheBus improvement plans. The county also launched a Vision Zero program to make our streets safe for everyone, with the goal of eliminating all traffic deaths by 2040.

"Safe walking and bicycling is essential for how Prince Georgians get around. Whether walking to a store, school or bus stop, we need to have safer access. Given our lagging safety record, it's urgent the county redesign our streets to be safe for all users—including those walking and bicycling," said Halima Ali, a Largo resident who is making an effort to live car-light and bicycle for as many trips as safely possible.

As the county recovers from the health and economic crisis brought on by Coronavirus, the group also advocates for better bus service to be a priority for residents and workers.

"Many county residents have no choice but to endure long waits to ride the bus to

reach jobs, education, and healthcare. In 2022, we need our elected officials to commit to fast, frequent and reliable bus service to help people get to where they need to go," said R.W. Rowlands, a resident of New Carrollton who is a frequent transit rider and advocate.

Better buses, mixed-income housing, walkable, and connected, transit-oriented communities build a stronger, more racially and economically equitable Prince George's that also protects our climate.

The group's full platform and two page summary is available at <https://smartergrowth.net/resources/rise-prince-georges-platform-2022/>.

Rise Prince George's is a group of county residents and allies advocating for policies and practices that build shared, sustainable prosperity in Prince George's County by creating safe, walkable, inclusive and transit-oriented communities. RISE Prince George's does not endorse or work on behalf of candidates, or express any view for or against any candidate. <https://smartergrowth.net/rise-prince-georges/> RISE Prince George's is a collaboration with the Coalition for Smarter Growth (CSG). CSG is the leading organization in the Washington DC region dedicated to making the case for smart growth. CSG's mission is to advocate for walkable, bikeable, inclusive, and transit-oriented communities as the most sustainable and equitable way for the Washington, DC region to grow and provide opportunities for all.

National Harbor Celebrates Cherry Blossoms, March 17 to April 17 With the Region's Earliest Blooming Cherry Tree Waterfront Display

By PRESS OFFICER
National Harbor

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. (Jan. 12, 2022)—National Harbor has become known for its spring display of hundreds of cherry trees lining the waterfront. The trees bloom each year in March and are some of the earliest blooms in the D.C. region.

To celebrate the spectacular display, National Harbor is hosting a Cherry Blossom Celebration beginning March 17 through April 17. The month long celebration will be filled with entertainment, hotel room packages, food and drink specials, classes and more.

"We are delighted to have become a destination for viewing cherry blossoms," said Jackie Saunders AVP Marketing at National Harbor. "Because our trees bloom early, we provide visitors with an extended opportunity to view and celebrate cherry blossoms in the Washington, D.C. region."

National Harbor's more than 200 trees are Okame cherry trees—recognizable by their masses of striking pink flowers. They are more tolerant to cold than most other types of cherry trees and are early bloomers with flowers lasting up to three weeks. They also grow about two feet a year and are very desirable for areas that want quick, hardy, spectacular color. In a

region that is known for its cherry blossom displays and celebrations, the trees at National Harbor have quickly become a large draw.

While National Harbor is again an official participant of the National Cherry Blossom Festival, the property has expanded its offerings and created a month celebration including its popular Sakura Sunday event taking place on Sunday, April 3. Sakura Sunday will feature free cultural activities including Japanese inspired art, music and dance, culinary delights and much more! Art in Bloom artist Josue Martinez who has a gallery at National Harbor will update his chair in time for the festival.

During the same timeframe, National Harbor will light up every night as The Capital Wheel and lights throughout the property turn pink in honor of the celebration.

Hotels and shops at National Harbor will have a variety of specials and displays.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL HARBOR

Performers at National Harbor Cherry Blossom Festival.

MGM National Harbor will have its beautiful conservatory installation that includes cherry blossoms. In the Waterfront District, shop windows will be creatively decorated to celebrate the cherry blossoms and retailers will feature a wide array of cherry blossom promotions. Some of the classes that will take place during the celebration include origami, cherry blossom painting, flower making, Japanese gardens and more.

For more information, go to <https://www.nationalharbor.com/cherryblossom/>. Events and activities will be added to the schedule in the coming weeks.

COMMENTARY

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Honoring Dr. King Through the Right to Vote

In January 1967, fifty-five years ago this month, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. took a very rare sabbatical at an isolated house in Jamaica far away from telephones and the constant pressures of his life as a civil rights leader to write what would become his last book: *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?* He opened Chapter One in the middle of a joyous scene a year and a half earlier:

"On August 9, 1965, the President's Room of the Capitol could scarcely hold the multitude of white and Negro leaders crowding it. President Lyndon Johnson's high spirits were marked as he circulated among the many guests whom he had invited to witness an event he confidently felt to be historic, the signing of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. The leg-

islation was designed to put the ballot effectively into Negro hands in the South after a century of denial by terror and evasion... In signing the measure, the President announced that "Today is a triumph for freedom as huge as any victory that's ever been won on any battlefield... today we strike away the last major shackle of... fierce and ancient bonds."

But as Dr. King already knew, those shackles had not really been destroyed. He went on to describe how much of the promise of that historic day already seemed to have disappeared one year later. Riots had erupted in Northern and Western cities. Civil rights workers were murdered in the South. Groups who had been united in the fight for voting rights in Selma were bitterly divided over what should happen

next. And in politics, Dr. King noted, "the white backlash had become an emotional electoral issue in California, Maryland and elsewhere. In several Southern states men long regarded as political clowns had become governors or only narrowly missed election, their magic achieved with a 'witches' brew of bigotry, prejudice, half-truths and whole lies." He would surely recognize the parallels in our nation today.

Dr. King argued then that the Voting Rights Act had ended one phase of development in the civil rights revolution, the fight to treat Black Americans with "a degree of decency," but had opened a new phase: the fight for equality. More than a half century later we are still in that fight. And just as the battle for equality continues, the long struggle for voting rights is not over yet either.

As protections in the Voting Rights Act have been dismantled following the 2013 Supreme Court decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, voter suppression efforts targeting Black, Brown, and young voters are once again on the rise. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, 19 states have enacted 34 new laws making it harder to vote in the wake of the 2020 election, "justifying these measures with falsehoods steeped in racism about election irregularities and breaches of election security." We still need to "make good on the promise of the 15th Amendment—that no citizen be denied the right to vote based on race."

This King Holiday, let's honor Dr. King not with

words or statues but actions and policies to protect the fundamental right to vote. Urge your members of Congress to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act now. And if you are eligible to vote, recommit to exercising your right this year and every year, no matter what new Jim Crow obstacles others are trying to put in our way.

We must fight back against any and all efforts to suppress our votes and take every necessary step to cast a vote in every election, every race, every time. As King Center CEO Bernice King said, "This is critical, because as important as it is that voting rights legislation is passed—and I can't overemphasize how important that is—it is equally important though that we mobilize people to vote and ensure that the masses are educated on how to leverage our votes toward creating a just, humane, equitable and peaceful nation and world." She is urging others to "educate, advocate and activate."

Through his words and his example, Dr. King reminded us to keep moving forward and taking action. He said: "Structures of evil do not crumble by passive waiting. If history teaches anything, it is that evil is recalcitrant and determined, and never voluntarily relinquishes its hold short of an almost fanatical resistance. Evil must be attacked by a countering persistence, by the day-to-day assault of the battering rams of justice." Let's listen to his voice this King Holiday and heed his daughter's call to educate, advocate and activate!

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Sidney Poitier Fought for Racial Justice, Both Onscreen and Off

"These men were Hollywood stars and yet here they were risking their lives for freedom, democracy and the least of their people in the lynchingest state in the nation. This is what I am thinking of today as we mark Sidney Poitier's passing. This is legacy."

—Nikole Hannah-Jones

The year was 1964, and Mississippi was a cauldron of white supremacist terrorism. A year earlier, civil rights activist Medgar Evers had been shot and killed outside his own home by White Citizens Council member Byron De La Beckwith. The FBI had just discovered the battered bodies of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schw-

erner, six weeks after they disappeared. The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee desperately needed funds to continue the 1964 Mississippi Summer Project, better known as Freedom Summer.

Within two days, singer and activist Harry Belafonte had raised \$70,000. The problem was how to get it to Mississippi. "I couldn't just wire it and have a black civil rights activist go to the local Western Union office to ask for his \$50,000, please. He'd be dead before he drove a mile away," Belafonte wrote in his memoir. He turned to his close friend and fellow activist, Sidney Poitier, who died [Jan. 6] at the age of 94. "It'll be harder for them to knock off two black stars than one,"

Belafonte told Poitier. "Strength in numbers, man."

They landed in at the tiny airstrip in Greenwood, Mississippi, with \$70,000 in small bills stuffed into a black doctor's bag and slid into a car driven by a young SNCC volunteer named Willie Blue. As they pulled away from the airstrip, a fleet of pickup trucks followed close behind. They urged Blue to drive faster, but the young activist knew better.

"That's exactly what they want us to do," Blue told them. "They got a state trooper up there waiting in his car with the headlights off, ready to arrest us for speeding. He takes us to the station, lets us out in an hour, and even more of the Klan be waiting for us. That's how they work. That's how those boys [Chaney, Goodman, and Schwerner] got killed."

The lead pickup began ramming the back of the car, but Blue kept the car in the center of the road, veering left each time the pickup tried to pull alongside. As a convoy of cars carrying SNCC volunteers drew near on the road ahead, the pickup trucks retreated, and gunfire rang out. Shaken and exhausted but unhurt, Poitier and Belafonte arrived at an Elks hall where they were met with the "screams of joy" of hundreds of volunteers.

"I am thirty-seven years old," Poitier told the crowd. "I have been a lonely man all my life... because I have not found love... but this room is overflowing with it."

That extraordinary journey was hardly Poitier's

first encounter with the Ku Klux Klan. In fact, a confrontation with the Klan altered his path in life and launched his legendary acting career. At 15, he moved to Miami from in the Bahamas, where he had lived almost entirely among Black people.

"Never in my early years was I told, 'Be careful how you walk down the street,'" he told Oprah Winfrey. "I never had to be conscious of stepping off the sidewalk to let someone pass. So I've got to tell you, I had no idea what was waiting for me in Florida."

Asked to deliver a package to a stately home, he simply knocked on the front door instead of going around to the back. For this offense, local Klansman threatened his life. His terrified older brother put him on a bus bound for New York City, where he eventually answered a newspaper ad for actors placed by the American Negro Theater.

As an actor, he was determined not to be defined by his race, but he pointedly refused roles that perpetuated negative stereotypes. His charm and grace, both onscreen and off, helped to open hearts and minds as the nation challenged segregation and discrimination.

As the first Black man to win the Academy Award for acting, he blazed a trail for an entire generation of artists and set a standard for excellence that elevated the medium as a whole.

The National Urban League join his many friends and millions of fans around the world in grieving his passing.

Legislators, Advocates and Business Owners Call for Passage of Paid Family and Medical Leave Legislation

88% of Marylanders support a paid family and medical leave program to help workers care for loved ones and deal with the pandemic

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 13, 2022)—Legislators, advocates, business owners and workers called on the General Assembly today to pass a strong and equitable paid family and medical leave policy for Maryland workers.

The Time to Care Act will establish a statewide paid family and medical leave program that allows workers to take paid time off to care for new babies, loved ones with serious health conditions such as COVID-19 or disabilities, or themselves. With their income partially replaced from an insurance fund into which they've paid, families are also better able to care for an aging parent, or deal with a military deployment.

"The vast majority of Maryland workers are not covered by a paid family and medical leave program, meaning they must take time off from work without pay to care for a sick loved one, welcome a new child or deal with a military deployment," said Sen. Antonio Hayes, the lead Senate sponsor. "Our bill creates a program that would provide workers with up to 12 weeks of paid leave, which will allow workers to deal with family issues without sacrificing their paycheck."

With the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbating the need for a paid family and medical leave program, key legislators are supporting the legislation, and House Speaker Adrienne Jones has called the legislation a priority in public forums.

"Our workers have been going through so much during the pandemic the past two years, and many have had to take unpaid time off to take care of family members who are sick—or to quarantine themselves," said Del. Kris Valderrama, the lead House sponsor of House Bill 8. "We need to support workers with a fair and comprehensive paid leave program that allows them to take time off without the risk of losing their jobs."

The bill is supported by The Time to Care Coalition, which has more than 750 individual and organization members statewide, including 1199SEIU, SEIU Local 500, AFSCME Maryland, AARP Maryland, and the Baltimore Metro Council AFL-CIO. Dozens of businesses are also part of the coalition, recognizing the value of providing good benefits to their employees.

"As someone who runs a Maryland business, I know that benefits such as a paid leave program help me attract and retain good employ-

ees," said Andy Shallal, CEO of Busboys and Poets restaurants. "Workers care about pay, but they also care about benefits that allow them to have a good work-life balance. This bill creates a fair program that would be paid for by both workers and employers, and I urge the legislature to act this year."

Paid leave has overwhelming support from Maryland voters. A recent poll by OpinionWorks, a leading Maryland polling firm, found that 88 percent of Maryland voters are in favor of a 12-week paid leave program. Support for a paid leave program remained extremely strong—75 percent—even when voters were informed that the program would require workers to contribute an average of \$3 to \$6 per week. Eighty percent said a new program should require employers to pay as much or more as workers contribute.

Several leading candidates for governor in this year's election—Rushern Baker, Peter Franchot, Doug Gansler, Ashwani Jain, John King, Tom Perez and Wes Moore—have committed to supporting the Time to Care Act program in a questionnaire sent to all candidates by Maryland Rise, a statewide advocacy organization.

Maryland Rise and its partners are planning a major, six-figure media campaign to generate support for the paid leave measure. Marylanders want and need this benefit and legislators can expect to hear from voters in the mail, on radio, on the phones, on social media, and in communities.

"We are aggressively making the case for paid family and medical leave to the public. Maryland workers shouldn't have to choose between the job they need and the family they love, and that's why we need a strong paid family leave program," said Myles Hicks, campaign manager of the Time to Care Coalition. "The paid leave legislation would establish a commonsense and fair plan that allows workers to handle family issues. It will also be a great benefit to employers seeking to attract and retain workers who want good benefits."

A range of workers, employers and advocates have spoken out in favor of the paid leave bill.

"The issue is that when one family member goes through a health crisis, it is not just only a crisis for them but for their family too," said Monika Roberts, a retired school administrative secretary in Montgomery County Public Schools who has had two major health episodes

in the last five years. "This benefit would provide the support and resources at the time when the patient and their family needs it the most."

"At Health Care for the Homeless, we are deeply committed to fairness and equity for our staff. This is why, at our nonprofit agency of 275 employees, we fully support and offer paid leave to our staff," said Kevin Lindamood, president and CEO of Health Care for the Homeless. "Such policies improve staff morale and retention and are good for everyone. We proudly stand behind this bill."

"I had my first child in April of 2020, just as the pandemic hit. At the time, my husband was working several part time jobs. He had flexibility, but no paid time off, so every time he didn't work, we lost money our family needed" said Rebecca Coppola, a family nurse practitioner in Baltimore City. "When our second baby was born, he had two weeks of paid leave, which meant he had time to help me recover and help our new family adjust."

—Time To Care Coalition

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism Opens Nominations for 2022 Black History Month Leadership & Service Awards

Deadline to Submit is Jan. 26

By JOANNA CHEN

Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 12, 2022)—The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism today opened nominations for the 5th Annual Black History Month Leadership & Service Awards.

"Black History Month offers an opportunity to recognize African Americans in Maryland who go above and beyond in the name of service," said Governor Larry Hogan. "I encourage all Marylanders to take time to reflect on the invaluable contributions of African American leaders and citizens to our state and our nation."

The awards ceremony recognizes Maryland-based, African American (or of the African diaspora) individuals or organizations that are founded upon and exemplify exceptional service to Maryland communities. Recipients will be announced during an awards ceremony next month at the Banneker-Douglass Museum in Annapolis.

"This year, we will mark the 200th birthday of abolitionist and former slave Harriet Tubman," said Lieutenant Governor Boyd K. Rutherford. "Her tenacity and spirit of selflessness live on through individuals and groups who dedicate themselves to acts of service and work to uplift and unite our communities. The Black History Month Leadership & Service Awards is a great opportunity to recognize them and highlight how they are making a difference in Maryland."

Selection for the awards is based on nominations from the public reflecting the highest degree of volunteer commitment, service, and transformative impact in the community.

For more information about the Black History Month Leadership & Service Awards and to submit a nomination, visit gov.maryland.gov/blackhistorymonth. The deadline for nominations is January 26, 2022. The event will be held on February 25, 2022.

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

How Do I Get Back Benefits Withheld Due to the Earnings Limit?

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

Dear Rusty: If I work and take Social Security before my full retirement age, how can I find out how I will be paid back the money withheld after I pass the earnings limit? Signed: Returning to Work

Dear Returning: What you're referring to is that Social Security limits how much you can earn while collecting early benefits (before your full retirement age, or "FRA"). The earnings limit for 2022 is \$19,560 and if your earnings exceed that while collecting early SS benefits, you'll be required to pay back some of your benefits.

Except during the year in which you attain your FRA, you'll have to give SS back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit, which can be done either by having your benefits withheld for a time or repaying what is owed in a lump sum. In the year you reach your FRA, the limit goes up by about 2.5 times and the amount you need to pay back is less, and after you reach your full retirement age there is no longer a limit to how much you can earn. But if you have benefits withheld because you exceeded the limit while collecting early benefits, you will get some of that withheld money back after you have reached your full retirement age.

When you reach your FRA, Social Security will automatically adjust (increase) your benefit to reflect the number of months your benefits were withheld. So, for example, if you originally claimed Social Security at age 63 but were still working and, over time, you had benefits withheld for 12 months because you exceeded the earnings limit, they'll recompute your benefit at your FRA as though you applied 12 months later than you actually did. That will happen automatically and will slightly increase your monthly benefit amount starting at your full retirement age. So, you don't get all withheld money back in a lump sum — rather they increase your benefit a bit at your FRA so that eventually, over time, you may recover what was withheld because you exceeded the limit.

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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Governor Hogan Announces Three Judicial Appointments

Fills Vacancies in Montgomery County, Charles County

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 12, 2022)—Governor Larry Hogan today announced that he has appointed Patrick Jeffrey Mays and Michael Ormond Glynn III to the Montgomery County District Court and Magistrate Monise Alexis Brown to Charles County Circuit Court.

"It is my pleasure to appoint these distinguished individuals to serve in our state's judicial system," said Governor Hogan. "I am confident that Mr. Mays, Mr. Glynn, and Magistrate Brown will bring valuable experience and knowledge to the bench and honorably serve the citizens of their respective counties in the years to come."

Patrick Mays has spent his entire career as a prosecutor with the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office. For the

past 17 years, he served as the assistant state's attorney, also serving as the chief of the gang division for the past five years. He received his B.S. from Tulane University and his J.D. from the College of William and Mary Marshall-Wythe School of Law.

Michael Glynn has spent the majority of his career in the Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office. For the past seven years, he has served as the chief of the charging unit providing representation at initial bail hearings. Prior to that position he worked in various other roles and divisions, including the chief and assistant chief for the district court division and the assistant chief for the major crimes division. Glynn also worked as an assistant U.S. attorney in Washington D.C., an assistant staff counsel for GEICO, an associate at McCarthy Bacon & Costello, and

an assistant public defender. He holds a B.A. from Boston College and a J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law.

Magistrate Monise Alexis Brown has been a family law magistrate for the past eight years. Prior to her appointment as magistrate, she served as the executive director of the Maryland Professional Center, Inc., which organizes mandatory courses and programs for state lawyers. She also served as a prosecutor in Charles County, representing the state in paternity establishment and child support cases. Previously, Magistrate Brown worked in private practice for four years, concentrating on family law and the planning and administration of estate and trust matters. She received her B.A. from the University of Maryland, College Park and her J.D. from George Washington University Law School.

New Builder Contract Slates Purple Line to Open Fall 2026

By PRESS OFFICER
Purple Line NOW

SILVER SPRING, Md. (Jan. 13, 2021)—Since the departure of the previous builder, one of the most persistent and critical questions from the public has been when the Purple Line will open. Maryland Transit Administration was not comfortable providing estimates until a new builder was selected as that would be part of the competition and negotiation. In November, we learned that the new builder would be Maryland Transit Solutions, made up of the U.S. subsidiaries Dragados USA, Inc. (Dragados) and OHLA Group, Inc. (OHLA).

[Last week], Maryland announced the new schedule—opening day is to come in late 2026 (Shaver, K. "Purple Line Will Open Late." Washington Post, 12 January 2021.) The new opening timeframe would be the date in which the entire line is set to open. As part of the competitive process for attracting a new builder, Maryland moved away from the plan to open the project in stages.

The cost of construction increases by \$1.4 billion, bringing the total cost, including 30 years of operations, from \$5.6 to \$9.3 billion. The new contract will go to the Board of Public Works at the January 26 meeting for approval by Maryland's governor, treasurer, and comptroller.

Purple Line NOW Board President Ralph Bennett reacted to the news by saying, "The delay that has resulted in pushing the project to 2026 along with the cost increases are a huge disappointment, but one influenced by economy-wide conditions." In their transportation road show late last fall, Secretary Slater reported that pandemic disruptions, including material costs and supply chain challenges, as well as labor pool shortages have contributed to both cost and time increases.

Bennett emphasized that the fundamental strengths of the line remain. "It is filling the missing east-west connection that

brings together four Metro branches and three MARC lines from Bethesda to New Carrollton. Its role as a jobs line, bringing an estimated \$2.2 billion in annual growth to our region can be seen in developments occurring and planned throughout the corridor. The Purple Line will help address the mounting cost of transit-accessible housing, and its environmental benefits in taking 17,000 cars off the road have only grown more urgent. Finally, it will complete the Capital Crescent Trail extension between Bethesda and Silver Spring."

Local officials noted the pain of the delay, but pointed to the criticality of completing the project to attain the benefits and end the disruption. This sentiment was echoed by Purple Line NOW Vice President Greg Sanders, "I think it's safe to say Maryland wants more certainty and they are willing to pay a premium to get it." Addressing the cost increases, Sanders continued, "The numbers are bigger than we'd like and it's later than we'd like, but the key thing is getting to that opening day."

Critically, as Maryland officials explained, key risks and sources of conflict are now behind the project. There were four causes of the delays that the builder raised in the \$850 million dispute with Maryland: the costs added by the lawsuit inflicted delay, the pace of property acquisition, the freight company CSX demanding a separation wall for a portion of the right of way, and environmental permits. MDOT MTA Purple Line Project Manager Matthew Pollack told reporters that the State has resolved the design of the wall, has the permits in hand, and full "legal control" of all the needed properties.

In a recap of the status of the project earlier this week, Mr. Sanders cited the massive task of relocating utilities as another regular source of problems for infrastructure projects. Maryland used the downtime while searching for a new builder to take over the 150 contracts and has made significant progress, according

to the State's year end compilation, utility relocations are now 66 percent complete and design is 95 percent complete. Finally, Sanders notes, "A frivolous lawsuit cost the state precious time and by directly causing nearly a year of delay, managed to seed conflict and cost Maryland leverage in the original agreement. Vivaly, the last of the suits have been dismissed and the higher courts have been consistent in finding them without merit."

Purple Line NOW Treasurer Tina Slater noted one piece of good news that emerged last fall at the Maryland Transportation Roadshow, "As part of this new contract, Maryland is buying additional light rail trains. This was always planned, but with huge progress completed on the initial set of light rail cars, this was an opportunity to reduce headways at rush hour from the initial time of 7.5 minutes. This is one of the most important factors for the quality of transit and a practical demonstration that Maryland was looking for best value when bringing on a new builder. It will have been some 40 years from the initial idea of a trolley on the Georgetown Branch to the complete on the Purple Line, and it could have been completed much more cheaply without a series of unnecessary delays. However, what matters now is ending the disruption and gaining the benefits of the line, and that end is now in sight."

Purple Line NOW, a non-profit organization formed in 2002, advocates for the Purple Line on behalf of citizen, business, environmental, civic, minority and labor organizations. Purple Line NOW's mission is to expand the mobility choices for the residents of the Washington Metropolitan area. The organization has been instrumental moving the project forward by engaging elected officials and defending the project against detractors. More than 100 organizations have gone on record in support of the Purple Line through Purple Line NOW! More information at the Purple Line NOW! website: www.purplelinenow.com.

The Prince George's County Department of Permitting, Inspections And Enforcement (DPIE) Modifies Inspection Procedures Due to COVID-19 Surge

Inspection processes changed to enhance safety of residents and staff

By AVIS THOMAS-LESTER
DPIE

LARGO, Md. (Jan. 12, 2022)—The Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE) has modified some of its inspection processes to enhance the safety of both residents and staff in the wake of the surge in COVID-19 cases across the region and State. The changes include the expanded utilization of virtual inspections for indoor inspections and limiting in-person meetings. Administrators are also closely monitoring staff affected by COVID-19 to ensure coverage of necessary inspections and other functions.

"We are making these changes in an effort to reduce the chance of infection for both the public and DPIE staff," said DPIE

Director Melinda Bolling. "As we modify services to keep everyone healthy and safe, please know that DPIE will not stop providing the high-quality services that our residents and businesses deserve. We will continue to review agency modifications as conditions change and we will be sure to keep the public updated on any additional modifications to DPIE services."

Director Bolling also elaborated about the enhanced technology implemented during the pandemic which has allowed these changes to occur with minimal impact to DPIE services. DPIE will be able to limit agency interaction with the public during the current surge in COVID-19 cases.

Inspection modifications include:

- Suspension of most in-person interior inspections

- The use of virtual inspections for interior projects and select exterior projects
- Investigation of complaints related to apartment complexes will continue with modifications
- Investigation of complaints related to senior housing will continue with modifications
- Inspections of commercial properties will continue with modifications
- Inspections of single-family housing will continue with inspectors abiding by social distancing, mask mandates and limiting the number of people involved in inspections

For more information, visit the DPIE website at dpiemypgc.us.

HOME *and* GARDEN

Five Interior Design Trends to Use in Your Home in 2022

(StatePoint) After learning to live life more remotely in 2020 and 2021, it's time to view 2022 as a fresh start.

To help you adopt a new, balanced way of living, FrogTape brand painter's tape and celebrity interior designer, Taniya Nayak, are sharing five home interior design trends meant to inspire spaces that will welcome guests, while still incorporating the special intimacies that may have been rediscovered from slowing down. Each trend can be utilized for a full home makeover or incorporated into little touches to freshen up a space.

1. Embrace. Embrace everything that is good in your life and create a sense of comfort, warmth and security. Nayak recommends cozy textures and a palette of mellow coral, subtle orange, soft green and creamy shades of white and brown to achieve this look in spaces like bedrooms or family rooms. A simple and stylish way to incorporate this into a room is to add a coat of paint to a textured basket for a pop of color. Then, fill it with plenty of plush blankets to complete the cozy look and feel.

2. Rise. Give a fresh perspective to your existing space with the 'Rise' trend. Inspired by the morning light peeking through the shades, incorporating this trend into your bedroom or bathroom is bound to invigorate and motivate you. For example, add a coat of green paint to your closet door for a nice pop of color to an area where you start your day.

No matter where you're looking to add fresh color, you'll want to achieve clean, sharp paint lines. One of Nayak's go-to tools is a premium painter's tape that produces professional-looking results, like FrogTape brand painter's tape, which is treated with patented Paint-Block Technology, to deliver the sharpest lines possible.

3. Gather. Gathering with friends and family has been long-awaited, so set the mood and ambience just the way you imag-



ined it. Inspired by the depth of conversations with loved ones, the 'Gather' trend embraces rich, dark tones like navy, teal or forest green. Incorporate this trend by painting the focal point of a room, like kitchen cabinets or the living room fireplace. Or, add bold, dark details with furniture and artwork. You can keep it subtle by creating custom centerpieces dipped in paint and wrapped in twine.

4. Revive. Revive your home with soothing and vibrant shades of pink, orange and blue to create a balance of motivated yet satisfied. Consider adding a vibrant paint color to old, worn-down details like a front door, nightstand or kitchen table. It might feel out of context, or out of character, but give it a try.

"This trend can be described as carefree, festive and fun," said Nayak. "Whatever it is that makes you happy... go for it!"

5. Shine. The 'Shine' trend is all about letting your true self shine. Implement this trend in any room throughout your home by embracing every color of the rainbow and visually displaying what's in your heart. Using FrogTape, tape off a custom pattern that is uniquely yours and paint it whatever color you choose.

Visit FrogTape.com/Trends for more trend information and ideas. Creative and easy to achieve, these rising trends for 2022 provide inspiration to refresh your home's interior.

Five Color Trends for a Stylish Home in 2022

(Family Features) A new year brings new opportunities to refresh your living space and add new colors into your life. These five trends are all about incorporating more of yourself and your lifestyle into your home, whether it's answering your need for a serene escape or dialing up the energy with vibrant surroundings.

Bring in Nature

Soothing earthy tones help bring a sense of calm and balance indoors. When designing with nature in mind, use gray-green tones to connect your aesthetic with the serene elements of the outdoors. Incorporate nature's palette with greens in fabrics, accessories and even on the walls. Wood and stone materials naturally complement these shades for a look that's cohesively pleasing and peaceful.

Stylish Sophistication

If you're aiming to infuse some sophistication with an update to a favorite space, opt for a monochromatic look in a dark (almost black) hue. The approach is simultaneously bold and classic, but the secret to this trend is finding a shade that's rich and deep, but not quite black, then complementing it with fabrics and furnishings that let the hint of color shine.

Connect with Your Inner Self

Creating a living space that is uniquely yours requires understanding your inner motivations, traits and talents. One source of personal inspiration may be your zodiac sign, a reflection of the earth's orientation to the sun on your birthday.

The color experts at Valspar partnered with Ophira and Tali Edut of the AstroTwins to make it easy to explore the intersection of your character and style by explaining which 2022 Color of the Year best aligns with each zodiac sign. When you combine your sign with the convenience and advanced one-coat coverage of premium Valspar Reserve Interior Paint + Primer, available at Lowe's, you can create a luxurious space that reflects the

real you.

Aries – Sunset Curtains: A warm and soothing color like this supports a transformational year full of new opportunities.

Taurus – Gilded Linen: This clean, cozy color makes spaces feel open, perfect for celebrating togetherness.

Gemini – Grey Suit: This is a color of warmth and versatility, a signature combination for Geminis.



Cancer – Delightful Moon: A spirited, playful color inspires a year of growth and adventure.

Leo – Mountain River: A dark and dreamy color invites inspiration for a year filled with abundance.

Virgo – Subtle Peach: It's the year of partnerships for Virgos; this harmonious color works well alongside others but can also stand on its own.

Libra – Orchid Ash: A cool and breezy color keeps it simple so Libras can focus on a year of vitality.

Scorpio – Fired Earth: This warm and approachable color is perfect for Scorpios who plan to bring new people into their lives this year.

Sagittarius – Rustic Oak: A relaxing and comforting color that welcomes coziness in the new year.

Capricorn – Blanched Thyme: For Capricorns, this is the year of variety, and this is a refreshing tone to support change.

Aquarius – Country Charm: This hue provides warmth and stability for a year of pro-

ductivity.

Pisces – Lilac Lane: A playful pastel hue that brings softness along with optimism and renewal.

Add Comfort and Warmth

Treating your home like a sanctuary never goes out of style, and one way to create a soothing, inviting space is through the use of cozy neutrals. Whether it's applied to a bedroom retreat or a more bustling space like the living room, a neutral palette can add to the allure of comfort and warmth. Keep the visual interest strong by incorporating subtle patterns, textures and layers of complementary neutral colors.

Go Retro

It may seem counterintuitive, but vibrant retro shades like orange and yellow, and even warmer neutrals, can help establish a calming vibe within your home. The throwback hues can help your mind connect to moments from the past when life may have been filled with less challenges. This trend with colors like Valspar's Delightful Moon, Subtle Peach and Sunset Curtains is less about the actual look and more about the mood it evokes for you personally, so if a retro scene takes you to a happy place, this may be the right choice for your home.

Find more 2022 color trends and design inspiration at Valspar.com.

Brush on the Color

Using quality brushes can provide you with a smooth, professional finish, but depending on the surface you're painting, different sizes and types of brushes can help you achieve the desired look.

Achieving ultra-clean edges and a smooth finish is the goal for DIY painting. Perfect for interior use with latex paints and stains, the Valspar Wall and Trim 3-Brush Multi-Pack is a convenient option that includes flat and angled brushes in multiple sizes. Those hard-to-reach corners may be tricky, but a proper angled brush can make all the difference.

Source: Valspar

GREEN LIVING

Resolve to Make Your Household More Earth-Friendly in the New Year

(StatePoint) Resolving to green up your act in the New Year? Here are just a few tweaks you can make right at home to substantially reduce your environmental footprint.

Make Appliance Upgrades

Home appliances are improving all the time, with many newer models designed specifically with efficiency in mind. If your home appliances, such as your washer, dryer, dishwasher, refrigerator and HVAC system, are on the older side, it may be time to replace one or more of these items. Over time, you'll offset the upfront cost with reduced energy bills. Plus, you'll be helping protect the climate. Look for ENERGY STAR-rated products, which have met strict EPA standards.

Optimize Heating and Cooling

North American Technician Excellence (NATE) offers the following energy-saving tips to help you keep your home comfort system running at peak performance:

- Change your air filters monthly, or as directed by the manufacturer.
- Add weatherstripping and caulk around windows and doors to improve your home's insulation. Improperly insulated walls, floors, attics, basements and crawlspaces waste energy and can also lead to moisture imbalance.
- Install a programmable thermostat to help regulate temperatures.
- Don't keep clutter near your HVAC units, and don't store anything next to them that could impede ventilation. Likewise, keep vents and returns free of obstructions. Don't lay carpet over vents, place furniture over or in front of them, or obstruct airflow.
- Dry air feels cooler than moist air. A simple humidifier may make your home feel five degrees warmer.
- Even the most efficient system can suffer if it's not properly maintained. For optimum comfort and sustainability, make sure all your HVAC installation, maintenance and other work is performed by a NATE-certified technician. NATE-certified technicians have demonstrated their knowledge of today's increasingly sophisticated heating and cooling systems by passing a nationally recognized test developed and supported by all segments of the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning industry. Better installation and service means your equipment will run at peak efficiency. Visit nate.org for additional HVAC energy-savings tips and resources, and to find a NATE-certified technician in your area.

Reduce Food Waste

American food production uses 10% of the nation's total energy budget, 50% of its land, and 80% of its freshwater, according to FoodRescue.net. Unfortunately, up to 40% of all food ends up in landfills. Label food items in your pantry and fridge and organize them by date to help ensure you consume food before it spoils. If you see that you've prepared too much of a certain item, freeze it. Of course, many foods produce unavoidable scraps. Use them to create stock or compost them. Composting will reduce your home's contribution to landfills while enriching your garden. Bonus: it's also a great way to reduce yardwork waste.

Make an Impact Today

Want a quick project you can complete in an afternoon? Swap out incandescent lightbulbs for energy efficient LEDs. According to the EPA, residential LEDs—especially ENERGY STAR-rated products—use at least 75% less energy, and last up to 25 times longer.

This year, consider making Earth-friendly New Year's resolutions. A few tweaks can reduce your household's impact on the planet.



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The homes of the future will be built to use a lot less energy and withstand harsher, more extreme weather events thanks to global warming. PHOTO CREDIT: KARIN S. PEXELS.COM

Earth TALK™ Homes of the Future

Dear EarthTalk:
How will the homes of the future look and feel different as a result of global warming?
—A.G., Silver Spring, MD

No doubt, homes are changing dramatically as the planet warms. Recent data from the

United Nations Environment Programme shows that construction and use of residential buildings accounts for 17 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. As architects and engineers look to reduce their environmental footprint, homes are starting to change in several key ways.

In general, new construction homes are the most likely to be the most resilient to climate change. New forms of concrete that are made from recycled or waste-based material save a large share of carbon emissions associated with the production of virgin concrete. Painting the roof white or another light color

can reduce air conditioning use extensively by reflecting the sun's rays and their heat back toward the sky instead of absorbing them into the building structure. The U.S. Department of Energy reports that painting your roof white or another light color enables it to reflect solar radiation and keep up to 50 degrees colder than a typical roof on a hot day.

