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Local AKAs Celebrate the King Holiday Through Community Service

By RACINE TUCKER-HAMILTON
Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority, Inc.

Members of the Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority, Inc. honored Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr by supporting students and faculty at a Prince George's County elementary school.

On Saturday, Jan. 22, the AKAs hosted a donation drop-off for members of the sorority and the community. Cars continuously drove up and drivers popped their trunks to allow for the contactless removal of donated items, which included hand sanitizers, cleaning wipes, masks, school supplies, and cold-weather clothing to support the children and staff at Lake Arbor Elementary School.

The event was originally scheduled for Jan. 17, the official observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr holiday, but the group had to reschedule due to inclement weather.

"There is no better way to honor Dr. King's legacy than through service to the community," said Benita A. Swindell, president of Psi Epsilon Omega



PHOTO COURTESY PSI EPSILON OMEGA CHAPTER OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA (AKA) SORORITY, INC.
Members of the Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. collect items to support local students and staff in honor of the MLK holiday.

Chapter of AKA. "It's always exciting to partner with the community on our service projects, especially when we can help local students and teachers."

More than 135 chapter members and nearly 100 community members contributed to the donation drive. Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter was chartered in 2007.

Since its founding, the chapter has implemented its service programs in Laurel, Bowie, and Greenbelt, Maryland

Registration Now Open for Maryland Leadership Workshops Summer 2022 Programs

Maryland's premier leadership development program for middle and high school students returns to Chestertown's Washington College this summer for in-person, week-long sessions

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Leadership Workshops

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 24, 2022)—Maryland Leadership Workshops (MLW), a division of Leadership Maryland, announces that registration for its Summer 2022 programs is now open for middle and high school students. The organization also announced that after two years of offering alternative virtual and regional programming due to COVID-19, MLW is returning to its traditional in-person, residential format at Washington College in Chestertown, Md.

This year, Maryland Leadership Workshops is offering two peer-led, week-long

residential programs that empower and inspire middle and high school students to succeed and be more engaged in their schools and communities:

Middle School Experience in Leadership (July 17-23, 2022): Open to students entering grades 6-8 in Fall 2022, this program helps students begin to develop their individual leadership skills and learn how to identify and take advantage of opportunities for leadership in their schools and communities.

Senior High Workshop (July 24-30, 2022): Open to students entering grades 9-12 in Fall 2022, this program helps teens develop the leadership skills they need to succeed in diverse environments and be agents of posi-

itive change in society. Through innovative leadership activities and engaging group challenges, students interact with both peers and staff to develop their own unique leadership styles. Students build strengths and skills they can apply throughout their lives, including in their higher education, future careers, at home, and in their communities.

Both programs bring together a diverse group of students from across the state of Maryland and the country to engage in a supportive and fun environment. MLW students, known as delegates, participate in a mix of

See WORKSHOPS Page A7

Maryland Advocates, Organizations, and Elected Officials Champion Seizure Safe School Legislation

Brynleigh's Act Will Protect 7,900 Children Living With Epilepsy In Maryland

By PRESS OFFICER
The Epilepsy Foundation

BOWIE, Md. (Jan. 18, 2022)—The Epilepsy Foundation today announced the introduction of Brynleigh's Act (HB 136/SB 299) in the Maryland legislature. This bill ensures that all school personnel will be trained to recognize and respond appropriately to students experiencing seizures. To date, 12 states across the country have successfully passed Seizure Safe School legislation, including neighboring state Virginia. The bill, named after 8-year-old Brynleigh Shillinger, will be heard by the House Ways & Means Committee on January 20.

"Speaking as a parent of a child with epilepsy, I can attest to the urgent need for this bill," said Lauren Shillinger, Bryn-

leigh's mother. "This legislation will make a huge difference in the life of not just my child, but all other Maryland families whose lives are impacted by seizures. Our epilepsy warriors fight every day and so we have not stopped advocating for this life-saving legislation. We have listened and worked collaboratively with many stakeholders to get to this point. Our children deserve a safe and inclusive environment at school, and we hope this bill will come to fruition this session."

"I am honored to sponsor this legislation on behalf of the nearly eight thousand children in Maryland living with active epilepsy," said State Senator Ronald Young (District 3, Frederick County), who is sponsoring the proposed legislation. "Brynleigh's Act will raise awareness, improve

care, and implement a practical and uniform standard of care in schools across the state. I personally know several children, in addition to Brynleigh, that suffer from seizures and are at risk every day and night. As I leave the Senate after this year I would really like to know that these children are protected while in school." The bill is also being sponsored by Delegates Ken Kerr (District 3B, Frederick County) and Steve Johnson (District 34A, Harford County).

The creation of a seizure safe nation is a top priority for the Epilepsy Foundation and passing Seizure Safe Schools legislation across the country is an integral component that enables thousands of people to be

See LEGISLATION Page A4

Statement From Town of Upper Marlboro Mayor Sarah Franklin Concerning the Unexpected Passing of Hyattsville Mayor Kevin Ward

By RAY FELDMANN
Town of Upper Marlboro

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Jan. 26, 2022)—Town of Upper Marlboro Mayor Sarah Franklin issued the following statement tonight regarding the unexpected passing of Hyattsville Mayor Kevin Ward:

"We are shocked and saddened to learn today of the unexpected passing of Hyattsville Mayor Kevin Ward. I want to send Upper Marlboro's sincere condolences to Mayor Ward's family, friends, and all the citizens of Hyattsville. We grieve for you and with you. You have not only lost a valued and respected community leader, but

a neighbor, a friend, and a family member.

"We are living in difficult and challenging times, and I urge anyone who may be struggling to reach out and seek support. **County residents in need of mental health support are encouraged to contact Community Crisis Services, Inc.: dial 211 and press 1 or call 800-273-TALK; or the Affiliated Sante Group crisis support line: 301-429-2185. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a hotline for individuals in crisis or for those looking to help someone else. To speak with a certified listener, call 1-800-273-8255.**"

Donate Blood in Memory of Wendi Winters

By ASHLEY HENYAN
American Red Cross
National Capital & Greater Chesapeake Region

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 27, 2022)—On June 28, 2018, five journalists who worked at the Capital Gazette Newspaper in Annapolis were killed in a shooting rampage. Wendi Winters, a "proud Navy mom," church youth adviser, Girl Scout leader and American Red Cross volunteer, was among those taken too soon.

Wendi invested her time helping those in need. She educated the public on the critical need for blood and platelet transfusions for those undergoing cancer treatment, sickle cell treatment and other patient care. She also coordinated regular blood drives as a volunteer blood program leader with the American Red Cross. On February 12, her legacy of service continues. Join us in Wendi Winters' memory to give blood and help save lives at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Annapolis. Schedule your appointment by visiting RedCrossBlood.org and entering the sponsor code ForWendi.

Donate at the 8th Wendi Winters Memorial Blood Drive Saturday, February 12, 2022 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Crowne Plaza Hotel – Arundel Ballroom
173 Jennifer Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Donors who come to give blood Feb. 1-28, 2022, will receive a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card via email, thanks to our partners at Amazon. We hope donors will put it toward something that makes them feel good, because they deserve it. They can treat themselves to a new pair of mittens, a scarf, or a box of chocolates. Those who come to give at the Wendi Winters Memorial Drive will also receive a free long-sleeve T-shirt, while supplies last.

Blood drive safety

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions—including face masks for donors and staff, regardless of vaccination status—have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive.

Save time during donation

Donors can also save up to 15 minutes at the blood drive by completing a RapidPass®. With RapidPass®, donors complete the pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of donation, from a mobile device or computer. To complete a RapidPass®, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

To donate blood, individuals need to bring a blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification that are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also must meet certain height and weight requirements.

Health insights for donors

At a time when health information has never been more important, the Red Cross is screening all blood, platelet and plasma donations from self-identified African American donors for the

See DONATE Page A3

INSIDE

- Bowie State's 2022 Football Schedule Announced
- Quinnipiac University Dean's List
- UW-Madison Announces Fall Dean's List
- Sam Houston State University Announces Fall 2021 Dean's List

Around the County, Page A2

Marietta House Museum Virtual Presentation

Collington Welcomes New Medical Director

Community, Page A3

To Be Equal: Senate Leader McConnell Twists the Facts in Revealing Comment on Black Voting Rates

The implicit racism of McConnell's phrasing aside, his statement was blatantly false.

Commentary, Page A4

Easy Enrollment Program Offers Health Coverage, Financial Help

This innovative program allows Marylanders to check a box on their state tax return to share information with Maryland Health Connection.

Business and Finance, Page A5

A 'Blizzard' of Snow Geese at Pennsylvania's Middle Creek

Earth Talk: Flow Woes: How Powerful Is Your Showerhead?

Earth Is Dimming Due to Climate Change

Environment, Page A6

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

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

Christine Hoehl won Silver and Bronze Medals in Special Olympics competition

Christine Kay Hoehl, 47, of Upper Marlboro, who traveled the world with the Special Olympics sports organization, died January 13. She was born in Silver Spring, daughter of George and Ruth Hoehl, and grew up in Clinton. With Down Syndrome, she attended public schools, and received a certificate from Friendly High School.

But that was just the beginning of her success story. Over the next 45 years, she traveled in Special Olympics competition, flying to Shanghai and to China, participating in bocce, golf and bowling. She won a Silver Metal in 2006 and a Bronze in 2007. In 2005 she traveled to Canada for the Pope's World Youth Event.

During her early years she represented the Girl Scouts' United Way Campaign and, through that Campaign, assisted Senator Robert Dole at his Congressional office. Both of her employers—Marshalls and Giant—presented her with dedicated appreciation awards.

Christine had a firm love of God and was active with SPRED (Special Religious Education) at St. Philip the Apostle Church. She was a member of the Queens of Knights with the Knights of Columbus where she helped set up the hall for social events. She enjoyed hand dancing with the Star Lighters and loved to color intricate geometric patterns.

She was predeceased by her mother, Ruth Lohr Hoehl, sister Joanne Cart and brother Robert Hawes. Survivors include her father George Hoehl, siblings Nancy Palmedo, Patricia Hawes and John Hawes, nieces and nephews. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Fathers Patrick Lewis and Jeffery Samaha at St. Philip's with burial at Cheltenham.

Christine was the first with Down Syndrome to earn the Girl Scouts' Gold Award.

Mayor Hank Arrington dies

Henry T. "Hank" Arrington, Sr., former Mayor of Seat Pleasant, died Jan. 8 at his home. He was the husband of the late June Arrington, father of Henry T. Jr., Michael, Alan and Karen Arrington and Lois Gray Burnett, and grandfather of several. Services were at the First Baptist Church of Glenarden.

Morningside Recreation Committee is back

The Mayor and Council have voted to reactivate the Morningside Recreation Committee which was discontinued a few years ago. Some of the past members are eager to return, including Sharon Fowler, Susan Mullins, Regina Foster. Two student members, Savan-

nah Foster and Kaleena Parks, also look forward to participating. Council Member David Williams will be Town liaison for the Committee.

Gina looks forward to more joining the Recreation Committee. You do not have to be a Morningsider. Interested? Call 301-736-2300.

Morningside Recreation, 50 years ago

On February 14, 1972, the Skyline Citizen Youth & Recreation Committee and the Morningside Youth Council merged to form the Mayhew Recreation Council. The officers were: Marshall Carson, chairman; Joe Fortuna, 1st vice-chairman; Jerry Imm, 2nd vice-chairman; Chuck Stevens, treasurer; Dolores Steinhilber, recording secretary; and Carolyn Williams, corresponding secretary. Meetings were held in the Foulouis Jr. High Faculty Room.

The name "Mayhew" apparently referred to what this area was called many years ago. The later name was the Morningside-Skyline Recreation Council.

I was an enthusiastic, and very active, member of the Rec Council for years.

Town of Morningside

The large meeting room in the town hall can be rented for special occasions. For information, call 301-736-2300 to check availability and pricing.

Morningside's monthly Work Session will be Tuesday, Feb. 8, 7 p.m.; the Town Meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 15, 7 p.m., both at the Municipal Center. Though, due to the surge of positive Covid cases, the meetings may be held virtually.

The Town is seeking volunteers to serve as Election Judges for the upcoming May 2 elections. Call 301-736-2300 for information.

Ice skate 24 hours a day!

That's right! The new Tucker Road Ice Rink is open the year around, 24 hours a day.

It offers an NHL-size rink, a dance room for stretching, a heated seating area, a café and a lounge featuring a fireplace.

Admission & fees for resident and non-resident: Adult (18 & over), \$6, \$8; Child (17 & under), \$5, \$7; Senior \$5, \$7; Super Saver (includes skate rental) \$5, \$7. Group Rate (15 or more) \$7, \$9; Stick and Puck \$10, \$13; Adult Pick-up Hockey \$11, \$14.

Tucker Road Ice Rink, 1770 Tucker Road in Fort Washington. Phone: 301-265-1525.

Changing landscape

The County's bulky trash service has a new, faster, and more efficient system to serve residents. Starting February 14, residents with

County-provided services can place up to two standard bulky items at the curb for collection on their regularly scheduled trash day. As for appliances, residents will still need to schedule pickup via PGC311.

I drove past what was once La Reine High School in Suitland. It is gone, gone, gone—except for the memories of a beautiful school in a different time. The whole campus grounds are now fenced, and construction seems underway.

A home at 6710 Marianne Drive in Morningside just sold for \$350,000.

Knickerbocker Theatre collapse—100 years ago

My father, Richard Dyer "Dick" Mudd, was born and grew up in Washington. He once told me that he was riding a bus through the city the time the roof of the Knickerbocker Theatre, corner of 18th Street and Columbia Road NW, buckled under the weight of snow—98 died. The movie was the silent comedy, "Get-Rich-Quick Wallingford."

It happened 100 years ago this week, on January 28, 1922. Dad would have been 21. He was probably on his way to or from classes at Georgetown. But he never forgot the tragedy.

The Knickerbocker Theatre collapse remains the deadliest disaster in Washington history.

Mary's COVID-19 report

COVID-19 deaths are mounting in Maryland, even as new infections decline.

Eric Toner, a senior scientist at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, said Maryland's peak in deaths could "come and go" as quickly as the omicron surge in cases has, but he urged residents and elected officials to exercise caution. "My advice is not to assume that everything is over just because things are looking better. We've claimed victory too many times against this virus."

Through 5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 26, Maryland had 2,900 new cases in one day for a total of 943,613 cases. There were 47 more deaths for a Maryland total of 13,280 who have died of the virus.

Milestones

Happy Birthday to Adam Cook, Feb. 5; Diane McCrone, Feb. 6; Theo Carter, Rita Beall and J.B. Thomas, Feb. 7; Jesse Ritter and my granddaughter Molly McHale, Feb. 8; Connie Waby and Mary (Stakem) Crane, Feb. 9; Alma Richardson, Feb. 10; Ginny Call, Dawn Withrow and David Chambers, Feb. 11.

On February 2, will the groundhog see his shadow?

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

Brandywine-Aquasco

CELEBRATING 157 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

On January 9, 1865 Bowie State University, Maryland's first HBCU, was founded with the purpose of providing educational opportunities for newly emancipated slaves. Bowie State University is an outgrowth of a school opened in Baltimore, Maryland, by an organization dedicated to offering educational opportunities that the state failed to provide for its black citizens.

From those humble beginnings, Bowie State has become a comprehensive university offering twenty-three undergraduate majors, nineteen master's degree programs, fourteen specialty certificates and two doctoral programs in a broad range of disciplines. Bowie State continues to build on its legacy of providing access to a high-quality education.

FOUNDING # OF THE FIRST SCHOOL

The Baltimore Association for the Moral and Educational Improvement of the Colored People was organized in 1864 by forty-six men, comprised of businessmen, lawyers, clergymen and Quakers, committed to opening schools to educate the state's newly emancipated citizens. One of those men was Joseph M. Cushing, an outspoken champion for the education of the black population.

As chairman of the Educational Committee for Maryland's Constitutional Convention in 1864, Cushing chastised the committee's refusal to fund schools for black people: "There will come a time when this state will be forced by public opinion to provide means for educating our color population. "The association opened its first Baltimore school, School #1, on January 9, 1865, in the African Baptist Church in Crane's Building on the corner of Calvert and Saratoga streets. The school offered courses in the elements of education. Courses to train teachers were added in 1866.

The facility was woefully inadequate. In 1867, with the aid of the Freedmen's Bureau, the Quakers of England and others, the Baltimore Association purchased and renovated the old Friend's Meeting House at the corner of Saratoga and Courtland Streets to house the Baltimore Normal School for Colored Teachers.

MOVE TO BOWIE

After repeated petitions from the Baltimore Normal School trustees, the state legislature authorized the Board of Education to assume control of the school in 1908 and redesignated it as Normal School No. 3, finally fulfilling the dream of Cushing and the Baltimore Association. By 1910, the state decided to relocate the school to Bowie, Maryland, purchasing a 187-acre tract formerly known as Jericho Farm dating to 1716. The school opened at the new location in 1911 with about sixty students and Don Speed Smith Goodloe as the first black man to head the school as principal. In 1914, its name changed to the Maryland

Normal and Industrial School at Bowie.

Under President Leonidas James the school began a two-year professional curriculum in teacher education in 1925, which expanded to a three-year program in 1931. A four-year program to train elementary school teachers was introduced in 1935, and the school was renamed the Maryland Teachers College at Bowie in 1938.

Teacher education continued to expand under the 25-year tenure of President William Henry. The institution established programs to train teachers for junior high school (1951) and secondary education (1961) and advanced toward becoming a liberal arts college.

TRANSITION TO A STATE LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE

The Maryland State Legislature authorized the college to become Bowie State College in 1963, following the establishment of a liberal arts program. New majors in English, history and general social science were added, expanding offerings beyond teacher education.

Under President Samuel Myers, the college established its first graduate degree program offering the Master of Education in 1969. The first director of the graduate division was Dr. J. Alexander Wiseman, a graduate of the Maryland Teachers College at Bowie and the first African American to earn a doctoral degree from the University of Maryland, College Park.

EMERGENCE AS A COMPREHENSIVE UNIVERSITY

In 1988, Bowie State College became Bowie State University under President James Lyons, reflecting significant growth in academic programs, enrollment, and community service. On the same day, the university also became one of the member institutions of the newly formed University System of Maryland.

Bowie State University gained recognition as a leader in the education of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. In 1995, Bowie State won an 11-year, \$27 million award from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration/National Science Foundation, becoming one of only six national Model Institutions for Excellence in STEM.

TODAY'S BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

Bowie State University ranks among the nation's top comprehensive universities, cultivating next-generation leaders by providing opportunities for students to discover their strengths through focused academic experiences and opportunities to tackle real-world problems.

Now more than ever, Bowie State University is committed to preparing students for success in a highly technological, global society. Information about this article is from e-mail sent to me from BSU. Contact: Webmaster @bowiestate.edu

Around the County

Bowie State's 2022 Football Schedule Announced

BOWIE, Md. (Jan. 27, 2022)—The full Bowie State University football schedule for the 2022 season is now official with a five-game Bulldog home slate that features games against New Haven, Livingstone, Virginia Union, Chowan and Lincoln (PA).

In 2022, the Bulldogs will play road games Saginaw Valley State, Shaw, Saint Augustine's, Virginia State and Elizabeth City State.

"We have been able to schedule another very competitive schedule starting with our two non-conference games," said head coach Damon Wilson. "We believe that it's extremely important to play very good programs to prepare us for conference play and a possible playoff opportunity. We look forward to a very tough schedule for the 2022 season."

Bowie State will open the 2022 slate in Bulldog Stadium on Sept. 3 of Labor Day weekend against the Chargers of New Haven. It will be the teams' fifth meeting and second in the last two seasons.

The Bulldogs will travel to Michigan for the first time in program history, for its second ever meeting with the Cardinals of Saginaw Valley State on Sept. 10.

Next, BSU begins an eight-game run against Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) squads, first visiting Shaw on Sept. 17 and Saint Augustine's on Sept. 24 both in Raleigh, N.C.

For homecoming, the Bulldogs will host Livingstone on Oct. 1 from Bulldog Stadium before returning to the road on Oct. 8 when BSU travels to Virginia State.

The next two games against will feature home games against Virginia Union on Oct. 15 and Chowan on Oct. 22. BSU will close out the regular season with traditional rivals, first visiting Elizabeth City State on Oct. 29 and then hosting foe Lincoln (PA) on Nov. 5 for its annual senior day.

The CIAA Football Championship will be on Saturday, Nov. 12, in Salem Stadium in Salem, Va.

Game times with the exception of homecoming will be at 1 p.m. and television plans for the CIAA 2022 slate will be announced at a later date.

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

—Jolisa Williams, Bowie State University Athletics

Area Resident Named to Dean's List for the Fall 2021 Semester at Quinnipiac University

HAMDEN, Conn. (Jan. 26, 2022)—The following area student was named to the dean's list for the Fall 2022 semester at Quinnipiac University:

Fort Washington, MD: **Yadel Negash**

To qualify for the dean's list, students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 with no grade lower than C. Full-time students must complete at least 14 credits in a semester, with at least 12 credits that have been graded on a letter grade basis to be eligible. Part-time students must complete at least six credits during a semester.

—John W. Morgan, Quinnipiac University

UW-Madison Announces Fall Dean's List

MADISON, Wis. (Jan. 25, 2022)—The University of Wisconsin-Madison has recognized students named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2021–2022 academic year.

Students who achieve at a high level academically are recognized by the dean at the close of each semester. To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester. Each university school or college sets its own GPA requirements for students to be eligible to receive the distinction. Most call the honor "dean's list", but some grant the "Dean's Honor List" and "Dean's High Honor List."

To view an online listing, visit http://registrar.wisc.edu/deans_list.htm. For questions or concerns about eligibility, please contact deanslist-registrar@em.wisc.edu

Here are the students from your circulation area who have received this honor.

Bowie, MD: **Madison Norman**, School of Education, Dean's List

—Mike Klein, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Sam Houston State University Announces Fall 2021 Dean's List

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (Jan. 28, 2022)—The students listed on the Dean's List of Academic Honors at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, are undergraduates who have achieved a grade point average of at least 3.5 out of a perfect 4.0 in all work attempted while enrolled in not less than 12 semester hours. The university would like to recognize the following students for earning the honor for the Fall 2021 semester.

Oxon Hill, MD: **Mohammad Hayat**

—Emily Schulze Binetti, Sam Houston State University

COMMUNITY

Marietta House Museum Presents: Wicked Flesh: Black Women, Intimacy, and Freedom in the Atlantic World, a Virtual Presentation

By STACEY HAWKINS
Marietta House Museum

In honor of Black History Month, Marietta House Museum is pleased to welcome historian Dr. Jessica Marie Johnson from Johns Hopkins University History Department who will discuss her new book, *Wicked Flesh: Black Women, Intimacy, and Freedom in the Atlantic World* on Thursday, February 10, 6:30–7:30 p.m., in a virtual presentation.

The story of freedom is shaped by the peculiar oppressions faced by African women and women of African descent. Dr. Johnson explores the nature of the complicated, historical, and intimate relationships these women used to construct freedom in the Atlantic world.

Dr. Johnson is an Assistant Pro-

fessor in the Department of History at Johns Hopkins University. She is a Fellow at the Hutchins Center for African and African American Studies at Harvard University and a historian of Atlantic slavery and the Atlantic African diaspora. She is also the Founding Curator of #ADPHD Projects, bringing social justice and histories of slavery together.

Thank you to the Prince George's County Historical Society for their support of this program.

This will be a virtual presentation on Microsoft Teams. To register email stacey.hawkins@pgparks.com or register on Parks Direct. \$5/person

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

Donate from A1

sickle cell trait. This additional screening will provide Black donors with an additional health insight and help the Red Cross identify compatible blood types more quickly to help patients with sickle cell disease who require trait-negative blood. Blood transfusion is an essential treatment for those with sickle cell disease, and blood donations from individuals of the same race, ethnicity and blood type have a unique ability to help patients fighting sickle cell disease.

Donors can expect to receive sickle cell trait screening results, if applicable, within one to two weeks through the Red Cross Blood Donor App and the online donor portal at [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcross.org).

The American Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. Visit [redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org) or [cruzrojaamericana.org](https://www.cruzrojaamericana.org), or Twitter at @RedCross.

Collington Welcomes New Medical Director

George Taler, MD joins community partnership with MedStar Health Center for Successful Aging

By PRESS OFFICER
Collington

MITCHELLVILLE, Md. (Jan. 25, 2022)—Collington Life Plan Community welcomes Dr. George Taler as its new medical director, ensuring oversight and direction of Collington's continuum of health care and wellness services for residents in Independent Living, Assisted Living, Skilled Nursing and Memory Care in the Creighton Center.

"I am pleased to join the Collington community as medical director. I have spent the bulk of my career serving the health care needs of older adults and am honored to be able to further enhance the holistic, person-centered health care here on campus," said Dr. Taler.

Dr. Taler is a clinical geriatrician who serves as medical director for MedStar Health Home Care. He is one of the founders of the MedStar House Call Program at MedStar Washington Hospital Center and is currently a physician with the House Call Program in Baltimore. After earning his medical degree at University of Maryland School of Medicine, he completed his residency training at the University of Maryland Medical Center and a clinical fellowship in geriatrics at Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation in New Hyde Park, New York. He also serves as a professor of medicine at Georgetown University School of Medicine.

Under his leadership, Collington is partnering with MedStar Health Center for Successful Aging to provide state-of-the-art medical services to older adult residents of Collington.

"We aim to create a continuum of care

for residents so as their health care and wellness needs change, they can continue to access top quality health care resources here at Collington," said Ann Gillespie, CEO of Collington. "Through our expanded partnership with the MedStar Health Center for Successful Aging and with the appointment of Dr. Taler, we will be able to bring a more integrated and seamless health care and wellness experience to campus."

For more information about Collington Life Plan Community, visit collington.kendal.org or call 301-925-7707.

Collington is a not-for-profit, full-service Life Plan Community (also known as a Continuing Care Retirement Community) affiliated with Kendal. The community, which opened in 1988, is situated on 125 acres of gently rolling countryside, featuring a six-acre lake, native trees, walking trails and gardens, in suburban Prince George's County, Maryland. Natural parkland owned by the state of Maryland borders the eastern edge of the campus. The campus is roughly 12 miles east of downtown Washington, D.C., and 22 miles west of Annapolis, Maryland. Collington consists of 330 independent living residences, including cluster-cottages, villas and a three-story apartment building.

Founded on Quaker principles and guided by its Values and Practices, the operating Kendal affiliates provide independent living, assisted living, memory support, skilled nursing and rehabilitation care in eight states.

At MedStar Health, we use the best of our minds and the best of our hearts to serve



Dr. George Taler

our patients, those who care for them, and our communities. Our 30,000 associates and 4,700 affiliated physicians are committed to living this promise through our core SPIRIT values—Service, Patient first, Integrity, Respect, Innovation, and Teamwork—across our more than 300 locations including 10 hospitals, ambulatory, and urgent care centers. As the medical education and clinical partner of Georgetown University, MedStar Health is training future physician leaders to care for the whole person and is advancing care through the MedStar Health Research Institute. From our telemedicine and urgent care services to the region's largest home health agency, we're committed to providing high-quality health care that's also easy and convenient for our patients. At MedStar Health—It's how we treat people. Learn more at [MedStarHealth.org](https://www.MedStarHealth.org).

Countywide Curbside Organics Composting Collection is Here!

Residents who receive County provided services AND opt-in the program will be able to mix their food scraps with their yard trim for the weekly Monday yard trim curbside collection. Food scraps must be placed inside the Organics cart.

Only residents who opted-in and received the appropriate program materials may put food scraps curbside for collection. Plastic bags are not accepted.



If you received a letter from DoE, Opt-In postcards are on the way!

Detailed opt-in instructions are on the postcard.

- Use only one option listed to opt-in:
 1. Scan the QR code on the postcard using a smart phone; **OR**
 2. Call the telephone number and provide the requested information.
 3. Complete the opt-in form online at www.toter.com/princegeorgescounty

Your program materials will be delivered during the Month of April, in celebration of Earth Month.

Households will receive collection materials, including a 32-gallon wheeled cart, a 2-gallon kitchen mini bin, a How-To Guide, a refrigerator magnet, and a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

For additional information about food scraps composting email us at pgccomposts@co.pg.md.us or visit mypygc.us/compost.



COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Senate Leader McConnell Twists the Facts in Revealing Comment on Black Voting Rates

"Granted, this is not the bigotry of torches and hoods. No, this rhetorical decoupling of 'African' and 'American,' of Black people from normal human functions, represents 'only' the bigotry of the implicit assumption, the things some people believe without consciously knowing they do—much less interrogating why they do. For them, white is the default position, the color of generic American-ness and, truth be told, generic human-ness."

—Leonard Pitts, Jr.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell has done everything in his considerable power to enable the wave of racially-motivated voter suppression that has swept through state legislatures since the 2020 election. He has led five filibusters against voting rights legislation this session alone. He continues to deny that voter suppression is a problem. And though there was very little doubt about the reason why it was jarring to hear him admit it so bluntly: Black Americans are not the same as "real" Americans.

"African American voters are voting in just as high a percentage as Americans," McConnell blurted in response to a reporter's question about his obstructionism on voting rights.

More than a century and a half after the 14th Amendment granted Black Americans the full rights of citizenship, many still implicitly—and explicitly—consider "American" synonymous with "white." That's precisely why it's been so easy for states to pass laws that make it harder for Black and Brown people to vote.

It wasn't merely that Donald Trump lost that fueled the rage of the January 6 insurrectionists. It was that Black and Brown votes were a major factor in that loss. Trump won a majority of white votes and for far too many, including some at the highest levels of state and federal government, those are the only votes that should count.

The implicit racism of McConnell's phrasing aside, his statement was blatantly false. Only twice in U.S. history did the Black voting rate meet or exceed the white rate: 2008, and 2012, when President Obama was elected and re-elected. In 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act with its decision in Shelby County v. Holder, opening the floodgate for voter suppression in states and counties previously covered by the preclearance provisions of the Act.

Within 24 hours of the ruling, Texas announced

that it would implement a strict photo ID law. Two other states, Mississippi and Alabama, also began to enforce photo ID laws that had previously been barred because of federal preclearance.

In the 2014 midterm election, the first after Shelby, Black voter turnout lagged white turnout by almost four and a half percentage points.

Historically-high Black and Brown voter turnout in some jurisdictions did help swing the 2020 election, but nationally the Black rate lagged the white rate by seven percentage points.

But even if Black Americans had voted "in just as high a percentage as [white] Americans" in 2020, legislators across the county—including McConnell—are working overtime to make sure that doesn't happen in 2022 and beyond. In 2021, at least 19 states passed 34 laws restricting access to voting, according to the Brennan Center. At least 13 bills restricting access to voting already have been pre-filed for the 2022 legislative session in four states and 152 restrictive voting bills in 18 states will carry over from 2021.

Senator McConnell knows all this. He knows that he holds the power to put a stop to it, and he refuses. We don't need to hear him suggest that Black Americans aren't "real" Americans to know where his loyalty lies.

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Honoring Delta Sigma Theta President Cheryl Hickmon

On January 20 Cheryl Hickmon, the National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., passed away. Delta Sigma Theta is part of the National Pan-Hellenic Council of the "Divine Nine" historically Black Greek letter institutions that for decades have produced a pipeline of community and political leadership. They are often partners in the Children's Defense Fund (CDF)'s mission and work. They were among the first organizations to support the CDF Freedom Schools® initiative known as Chapters Beyond Books, a partnership between CDF and the Divine Nine, churches, community groups, faith-based organizations, and chapters of other prominent organizations that has distributed nearly 50,000 culturally-relevant books to children across the country to help mitigate learning loss during the pandemic. Cheryl Hickmon had just been elected as the Deltas' National President in November 2021, carrying on a long legacy of civic involvement and service.

She was initiated into the sorority as a student at South Carolina State University in 1982 and spent the next four decades as an active member holding elected

and appointed leadership positions at the national, regional, and local levels. She served as National First Vice President, National Secretary, Eastern Regional Director, South Atlantic Regional Representative, Co-Chair of the National Scholarship and Standards Committee, Co-Chair of the National Leadership Academy, Co-Chair of the National Documents Review and Revision Task Force, and Chapter President of the Hartford Alumnae and Alpha Xi Chapters before ultimately being elected National President. She was also a member of the NAACP, the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), the National Brotherhood of Skiers, and St. Monica's Episcopal Church. This was all in addition to her work supervising in vitro fertilization labs for andrology and endocrinology at Montefiore's Institute for Reproductive Medicine and Health in New York, where she spoke about how much joy she received helping people with the gift of children.

Dr. LaKisha Grant-Washington, the sorority's current Hartford Alumnae Chapter president, told a reporter her friend and mentor had "always been a

change maker": "She made friendships and partnerships with state legislators that made sure that when there were issues that needed to be spoken about that represented the Black community, she was that voice, or helped us to be the voice . . . I think we would do her the most justice of continuing her legacy by always making sure that we are serving the community as she would have had us to do." National First Vice President Elsie Cooke-Holmes told another interviewer, "Her legacy will be really wanting to make sure that we go to higher heights, wanting to make sure that we continue and got to our higher heights of impacting the world."

The sorority called Cheryl Hickmon an "ideal Delta," and said she "is remembered not just for being a leader but for being a true sister who embodied integrity, grace, and the noble spirit of fortitude." All of these are wonderful tributes for a leader who spent tireless hours working with her sorors and others to serve her community and lift those around her to "higher heights" so they too could make a difference. She will be deeply missed.

Statement – Council Chair Calvin S. Hawkins, II, Responds to Threats Against Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Including Bowie State University

By KAREN D. CAMPBELL
Prince George's County Council Media

The Prince George's County Council welcomes the news that following the investigation of a bomb threat at Bowie State University, a shelter-in-place order has been lifted and surrounding communities are secure. Sadly, such threats were visited upon

several other Historically Black Colleges and Universities as well, and the Council is encouraged that an investigation is ongoing. We thank Bowie State University President Dr. Aminta Breaux and law enforcement officials for their quick and thorough response to keep the BSU community and our residents safe.

The Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County Announces \$200,000 Available in Community Impact Grants for County Community-based Organizations

By PRESS OFFICER
Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County

LARGO, Md. (Jan. 24, 2022)—The Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County has \$200,000 in Community Impact Grants to award to County civic/neighborhood associations or community-based organizations that are incorporated as 501(c)3 entities. Community Impact Grants provide small capital grants to community-based organizations to help implement innovative projects within the County. Eligible applicants must be located within Prince George's County and be in good standing with the State of Maryland. The application submission deadline is **Monday, February 21, 2022 by 12 p.m.**

"In many instances, a small infusion of capital dollars can take a community project from the planning phase to implementation," says Stephen Paul, Executive Director of the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County. "Community Impact Grants help organizations build their capacity and strengthen their communities."

Grants can only be used for capital expenses related to the implementation of a community-based project and must be used for capital purposes such as the purchase of equipment and materials. Grants cannot be used for operations, program costs, salaries, or personnel. Proposed projects can include:

- Streetscape, street furniture, pedestrian enhancements, and recreational improvements;
- Signage, banners, and way-

finding systems;
• Commercial façade improvements; and more.

Total funding for FY 2022 for this program will not exceed \$200,000 and the maximum grant amount is \$100,000. Successful applicants shall have up to one year from the date of the executed grant agreement to complete the project and expend the grant funds. The Community Impact Grant Program requires a match from non-Prince George's County Government sources, which can include both in-kind and cash contributions.

For more information, contact Andrea Anderson at ADAnderson@co.pg.md.us or visit the Redevelopment Authority website to review the application at: <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/3535/Community-Impact-Grants>

Legislation from A1

trained and make students safer. There are approximately 59,900 people living with epilepsy in Maryland, of which 7,900 are children and teens. Approximately 1 in 10 people will have a seizure in their lifetime; a teacher, student, or even a school nurse could someday benefit from others nearby knowing how to respond. Despite its prevalence, epilepsy is still highly misunderstood by the public.

"Brynleigh's Act will help to ensure that school personnel are equipped with the tools and information they need to support students as well as co-workers or school visitors who may be experiencing a seizure," said Ande Kolp, Executive Director of The Arc Maryland. "The provisions outlined in the bill will create an environment that supports the full inclusion of children with special healthcare needs. We at The Arc Maryland are deeply grateful to the Epilepsy Foundation for their advocacy, Brynleigh's mother, Lauren for her passion, and to the bill sponsors for their championship of this important legislation."

Brynleigh's Act includes several critical components including training school personnel on seizure detection and first aid response on a biennial basis; mandating Seizure Action Plans to be on file for every student diagnosed with epilepsy or a seizure disorder and requiring those plans be available to all personnel responsible for the student; ensuring the administration of medications approved by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration; and a Good Samaritan clause.

To join the Maryland Seizure Safe Schools efforts, please contact publicpolicy@efa.org. To learn more about the national legislative effort, visit <https://epilepsy.com/seizure-safe-schools>.

About Epilepsy: According to the World Health Organization, epilepsy is the most common serious brain disorder worldwide, with no age, racial, social class, national or geographic boundaries. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) estimates that 3.4 million people in the United States are affected by epilepsy, or approximately 1 in 26 people. Epilepsy is the underlying tendency of the brain to produce seizures, which are sudden abnormal bursts of electrical energy that disrupt brain functions. In addition to those diagnosed with epilepsy, one in ten people will have a single seizure in their lifetime.

With a network of partners throughout the United States, the Epilepsy Foundation is leading the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy. The Foundation connects people to treatment, support and resources; leads advocacy efforts; funds innovative research and the training of specialists; and educates the public about epilepsy and seizure first aid. For more than five decades, the Epilepsy Foundation has shone a light on epilepsy to promote awareness and understanding, and to advocate for laws that matter to people with epilepsy, while also funding epilepsy research and supporting epilepsy investigators and specialists in their early careers. In partnership with the CDC, the Epilepsy Foundation has helped to improve access to care for people with epilepsy, expanded its digital reach and online resources in homes across the country, and trained more than 600,000 people in seizure recognition and first aid. The Epilepsy Foundation continues to focus on serving the epilepsy community through advocacy, education, direct services and research for new therapies. To learn more visit epilepsy.com or call 1-800-332-1000. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Maryland Small Business Development Center

What You REALLY Need To Know To Get Your Business Found On Google

February 15, 2022 • 10:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

Location: Online • Cost: Free of Charge-Registration Required:
https://mdsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/17038

You're bombarded with Robocalls pitching SEO. You've read articles. But what information can you trust? And can you actually put together a plan for your organization that won't overwhelm you? Learn what actually matters to Google for keyword rankings and what you can do to drive more demand through your website. Justin Seibert from Direct Online Marketing will share theory, best practices, and actionable steps for you to take to leverage your online presence for more leads and sales.

Basic Business Taxes—What You Need To Know!

February 16, 2022 • 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Location: Online • Cost: Free of Charge-Registration Required:
https://mdsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/17026

Tax mistakes can cost a business owner thousands in wasted tax dollars. We will discuss the tax strategies to keep the most money in your pocket, legally. It all starts with selecting the correct business entity structure. Tax deductions are based on following the IRS rules, one misstep and you can lose your tax break. Knowing what you can deduct is half the battle. Timing and documentation is the other half. Join this seminar to gain an understanding of the tax implications of your entity structure and what things are deductible. Bev Stitely, Tax Strategist, Enrolled Agent (EA) Profit First Professional Owner - Saunders Tax & Accounting

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Will I Have Any Social Security Benefits?

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

Dear Rusty: I'm 60 years of age and wonder if I will have any Social Security retirement benefits. After all, I did purchase them. **Signed: Uncertain**

Dear Uncertain: Your eligibility for Social Security benefits depends upon your lifetime earnings history from work, from which Social Security FICA taxes were withheld. If you have worked, contributed to SS while working, and have earned at least 40 "quarters" of credit, you will be entitled to Social Security benefits. You can earn up to four credits each year by earning a specific amount of money, which means you must have worked for about 10 years contributing to Social Security in order to be eligible for Social Security benefits. For 2022, you will get 4 credits if you earn at least \$6040 (the amount needed per credit varies by year). The amount of benefit you will get depends upon your average monthly earnings (adjusted for inflation) over the highest-earning 35 years of your lifetime. The higher your annual earnings (from which FICA tax was withheld), the more your SS benefit will be. But you must have worked, earned and contributed to SS for at least 35 years to get your maximum benefit. SS always uses 35 years of earnings to compute your benefit and if you have fewer, they will put \$0 earnings in some years to make it 35. They will use the monthly average of those 35 years to determine your primary benefit (known as your "Primary Insurance Amount" or "PIA" which is what you get at your full retirement age (FRA)).

You cannot collect your personal SS retirement benefit until you are at least 62 years old, but if you claim at that age your benefit will be permanently reduced by 30%. You can only get your full SS benefit by waiting until your full retirement age (age 67 for you) to claim your Social Security. Claiming any earlier means a smaller benefit, but you can also delay longer and earn Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) up to age 70, when your maximum benefit would be 24% more than it would be at your FRA. You have an 8 year window to claim your Social Security, and when you claim within that window determines how much of your primary SS benefit you will get.

If you claim before your FRA and you continue to work, Social Security places a limit on how much you can earn before they take away some of your benefits. For example, someone who claims at age 63 in 2022 would have an annual earnings limit of \$19,560, and if that were exceeded SS would take away benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 over the limit (a monthly limit may be imposed if you claim mid-year). The earnings limit applies until FRA is reached, after which there is no longer a limit to how much can be earned.

The easiest way to determine your eligibility for Social Security benefits and how much that benefit would be at different ages is to obtain a Statement of Estimated Benefits from the Social Security Administration. You can request that by calling SS at 1-800-772-1213, but you can also get it yourself by creating your personal "my Social Security" online account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Once you have created your personal online account you can see your lifetime record of earnings and download your Statement of Estimated Benefits to understand whether you are entitled to Social Security benefits and, if so, how much your benefit will be if claimed at various ages.

The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] www.amac.us is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation's capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country. And the AMAC Foundation (www.AmacFoundation.org) is the Association's non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting and educating America's Seniors. Together, we act and speak on the Association members' behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at www.amac.us/join-amac.

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

Easy Enrollment Program Offers Health Coverage, Financial Help to Marylanders Who Check Box on Taxes

After open enrollment, state tax filers will have additional opportunity to enroll through July 15

By PRESS OFFICER

Maryland Health Benefit Exchange

BALTIMORE (Jan. 25, 2022)—For the third year, the Easy Enrollment Program, a partnership between the Office of the Comptroller of Maryland and Maryland Health Connection, will allow uninsured Marylanders to enroll in health insurance through July 15. The date coincides with the extended state income tax filing and payment deadline.

This innovative program allows Marylanders to check a box on their state tax return to share information with Maryland Health Connection. Within a week, the tax filer can expect a letter in the mail. This unlocks a 35-day enrollment window, starting from the date on the letter.

"Protecting yourself and your family by having health coverage is more important than ever. As we head into the tax filing season, we are pleased to offer one more way for Marylanders to get health insurance through the Maryland Easy Enrollment Health Insurance Program. We're grateful to the comptroller and our insurance carriers for extending this enrollment opportunity so individuals and families can get the coverage they need," said Michele Eberle, executive director of Maryland Health Benefit Exchange.

Free help enrolling is available by phone from trained navigators, brokers and the call center for those who file their taxes before July 15 and check the box on their tax form, at: <https://www.marylandhealthconnection.gov/find-help/>

"This pandemic underscores the need to not only protect public health, but also ensure access to affordable health care. The success of the first two years demonstrates this check off is working," said Comptroller Peter Franchot. "The decision to extend both the state income tax filing deadline and the easy enrollment pro-



gram offers additional and much needed support to Maryland residents during this health and financial crisis."

Open enrollment for private health plans will continue through Feb. 28, 2022 on MarylandHealthConnection.gov. Last year, nine out of 10 Marylanders who enrolled through Maryland Health Connection were eligible for free coverage or financial help to lower the cost of their coverage. This special enrollment period is for enrollment in private health plans. Those who qualify for Medicaid may enroll any time of year.

The Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE) is a public corporation and independent unit of the state government. It was established in 2011 in accordance with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA) and is responsible for the administration of Maryland Health Connection.

One of every six Marylanders receive their health coverage through Maryland Health Connection (MHC), the state-based health insurance marketplace. Residents can compare and enroll in health insurance as well as determine eligibility for Medicaid or financial help with private plans.

AAA 'Flat' Out Busy Responding to Tire-Related Emergency Roadside Calls

As Maryland legislators consider spare tire disclosure legislation, 50% of all tire-related tows in 2021 had no suitable spare

By PRESS OFFICER

AAA Mid-Atlantic

BALTIMORE (Jan. 26, 2022)—With the majority of winter still ahead, and an increasing number of calls coming in, AAA Mid-Atlantic is urging motorists to pay special attention to the two tire issues most likely to result in the need for emergency roadside service—improper inflation and tread depth.

"In just the first few weeks of the year we have seen tire-related calls that amount to more than 25% of the total volume for all of last winter – and we still have almost two months to go," says Edward Hickey, Manager for AAA Club Fleet Operations in Baltimore. "Drivers must make sure their tires are properly inflated and that they have sufficient tread to grip wet or snow-covered roads."

In addition to calling attention to tire maintenance, AAA is also advising motorists to ensure they have a spare tire. "More and more motorists calling AAA for roadside assistance in recent years for tire-related issues are discovering that - to their surprise - they don't have a spare tire in their vehicles," says Ragina C. Ali, Public and Government Affairs Manager for AAA Mid-Atlantic.

As automakers strive to reduce weight and improve fuel economy, they continue to eliminate spare tires from new vehicles. According to AAA, nearly one-third (28 percent) of 2017 model year vehicles do not come with a spare tire as standard equipment, creating an unnecessary hassle and expense for drivers.

In 2021, AAA Mid-Atlantic came to the rescue of nearly 89,000 members faced with a tire-related issue in Maryland. Nearly 20,000 of those calls required a tow—more than half because there was no usable spare.

On Jan. 26, in Maryland, lawmakers consider[ed] SB 149—Rental Vehicle Agreements - Disclosures—Spare Tires in the Senate Finance Committee, which AAA Mid-Atlantic supports. The bill's sponsor, Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, District 17, introduced the legislation, which requires car rental companies to disclose whether a rental vehicle is equipped with a spare tire in the rental agreement. "Drivers should not be stranded on the side of the road with no spare tire," states Senator Kagan. "SB149 will provide transparency to consumers before getting behind the wheel."

Tires that have not been properly inflated to adjust for colder temperatures are



IMAGE COURTESY AAA MID-ATLANTIC

more likely to result in a flat or blowout and tires with a worn tread are more likely to result in a crash. The good news, though, is that both of these tire troubles are easy to resolve.

AAA offers these precautionary tips to prevent drivers from being stranded in the event of a flat tire:

Check Tire Pressure

Keeping your vehicle's tires properly inflated to the automaker's recommended pressures is a critical element of tire maintenance. Tires that contain the specified amount of air pressure last longer and contribute to vehicle safety.

- Check tire inflation pressure on all four tires and the spare.
- As the average temperature drops, so will tire pressures—typically by one PSI for every 10 degrees Fahrenheit.
- The proper tire pressure levels can be found in the owner's manual or on a sticker typically located on the driver's side door jamb (Do not use the pressure molded into the tire sidewall).

Check Tire Tread

Adequate tread depth is necessary for a tire to maintain traction on slippery roads. You can measure tread depth with an inexpensive gauge available at any auto parts store or... you can use the traditional quarter-tire test demonstrated in the photo.

Insert a quarter into a tread groove with the top of Washington's head facing down. If the top of his head is not visible, your tires are fine for continued use. If you can see above the top of Washington's head, it is time to start shopping for new tires. Take multiple measurements across the tread to help ensure accurate results.

"According to research by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, winter

storms, bad weather and sloppy road conditions are a factor in nearly half a million crashes and more than 2,000 road deaths every winter," says Ali. AAA urges drivers to check tread depth, replace tires proactively, and increase following distances significantly when roadways are wet or snow-covered.

AAA Car Care

In an effort to encourage basic vehicle maintenance and avoid the need for emergency roadside service, most AAA Car Care, Insurance and Travel Centers are running tire specials through the month of January.

Find your nearest AAA Car Care or AAA Approved Auto Repair location here.

For more tips to ensure the performance and safety of your tires, visit AAA.com/TheExtraMile.

Roadside assistance coverage can offer peace of mind when faced with roadside trouble, including a flat tire. To become a AAA member, visit AAA.com/join.

AAA provides automotive, travel, and insurance services to more than 63,000,000 members nationwide and more than 1,000,000 members in Maryland. AAA advocates for the safety and mobility of its members and has been committed to outstanding road service for more than 100 years. AAA is a non-stock, membership corporation working on behalf of motorists, who can map a route, access a COVID travel restriction map, find local gas prices and electric vehicle charging stations, discover discounts, book a hotel, and track their roadside assistance service with the AAA Mobile app (AAA.com/mobile) for iPhone, iPad and Android. Visit www.AAA.com.

ENVIRONMENT

A 'Blizzard' of Snow Geese at Pennsylvania's Middle Creek

By AD CRABLE
Bay Journal News Service

No one saw it coming. When Pennsylvania built a 6,400-acre waterfowl haven on farmland in a southeastern nook of the state in the early 1970s, the goal was to bolster then-struggling Canada geese populations and give hunters from the populous eastern part of the state a crack at topnotch waterfowl shooting.

Today, though, Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area attracts many more photographers and tourists than hunters. The object of their affection: as many as 150,000 snow geese amassing on any given day over a month or so in February and March. They are on a 3,000-mile migration from wintering grounds in the Chesapeake Bay region back to their Arctic breeding grounds. Joining them at the stopover are smaller numbers of tundra swans and Canada geese.

The "blizzard of white," as local residents affectionately call it, gives the illusion that the fields and 400-acre lake are covered in snow. When the birds take off in unison in large waves, the noise of their excited honks and wings chopping water can seem deafening. A collective takeoff is truly one of nature's stirring sights. A recent witness described it as "like stepping out into the pages of National Geographic." The outburst is invariably followed by dead silence.

The annual spring mass migration of the handsome white birds has made Middle Creek, managed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission, a worldwide destination for nature lovers and shutterbugs.

In recent years, the migration has attracted large numbers of international visitors, especially from China and other Asian countries. At one point, informational signs at Middle Creek were printed in Mandarin, as well as English, Spanish and German.

Many are keen on photography but there are spiritual draws, too, explained Zhen Li from State College, PA. Like 200 others, she had arrived at Middle Creek at 6 a.m. on a Monday in early

March, with temperatures in the low 20s, to view the liftoffs.

"They mate for life. The fidelity and loyalty is really inspiring," said Li, adding that the white birds on blue water made it seem like a cloud had fallen to earth.

Among the others gathered expectantly in the pre-dawn of that morning were four young Amish schoolteachers who wanted to witness what they called "God's creation" and be back at their small school by 8 a.m.

A retired couple from Pennsylvania had driven an hour to see the raucous scene for the second time. "It's such a beautiful thing to see so many snow geese and tundra swans in one place," Vicki Brickner said. "And when they start to burst, you can't even put it into words. It's that amazing."

On this morning, parents had roused their children out of bed and bundled them in blankets. Some sat in chairs, wearing earmuffs, waiting for the big event. A couple stood with camera tripods on top of a picnic table. A man hunched over a long camera lens had come from Alabama after being told on a bird photography trip in Tennessee that the snow goose scene at Middle Creek is a must-see.

Many visitors seek to witness a sunrise explosion of snow geese. But afternoons are popular, too, when skeins of geese, sunlight illuminating their bodies like globes, fly back to the lake in huge flocks after feeding in area fields.

Middle Creek, nestled in a valley of farmland in Lancaster and Lebanon counties, is called a management area, not a refuge, because snow geese, Canada geese and ducks are hunted from controlled blinds before the migration starts.

But because state taxpayer money helped to create the site, public recreation was also part

of the plan. The lake is used for fishing and paddling, and miles of trails go through both forests and fields of the area and surrounding state game lands. A visitor center offers incredible views and exhibits on area waterfowl and wildlife.

The area's diverse habitat makes it a magnet for birders seeking a wide variety of species. The lake has supported pairs of nesting eagles for years. Approximately 33 species of ducks have been sighted, as well as shorebirds. A great blue heron rookery, meadowlarks, bobolinks, short-eared owls and northern harriers are also among the potential sightings.

To provide waterfowl with all that they need for an important rest on their epic migration, land managers constructed the lake as well as shallow ponds and wetlands. Former farm fields were planted with millet, corn and other food that waterfowl forage.

It has worked. Middle Creek opened in 1972 and the numbers of waterfowl stopping by have been increasing ever since.

Tundra swans first appeared on their spring migration in 1976 with about a dozen showing up. Now, you may see about 15,000 in good years and 5,000 in less dynamic years.

The arrival of snow geese started slowly, with only a couple hundred to 1,500 from the late 1970s into the mid-1990s. Then their numbers exploded. Approximately 50,000 were counted in 1995 and 100,000 the next year.

Now, you can expect about 250,000 snow geese to visit Middle Creek from late January into mid-March, when the last stragglers wing north again. The single-day record is 200,000 on Feb. 21, 2018.

Middle Creek has become a vital stop in the migration of waterfowl in the Atlantic Flyway — a major north-south aerial route for migratory birds in North America. Snow geese may have traveled 800 miles before touching down. It's believed that a large percentage of eastern North America's tundra swan population uses Middle Creek as a migratory rest stop.

In 2010, Middle Creek was named a Globally Significant Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society.

As beautiful a sight as it is, seeing so many snow geese at one location also hints at trouble elsewhere: Snow geese had a population boom in the 1980s and 1990s, at one point doubling in size



BAY JOURNAL PHOTO BY DAVE HARP

Hundreds of migrating snow geese pack into the cove of a lake at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area.

every eight years, and their exploding numbers threatened to denude historic Arctic breeding grounds.

One of the main reasons for the surge was that geese adjusted their migratory flight patterns to feed in farm fields. Also, warming winter temperatures caused fewer die-offs. That means healthier birds are reaching breeding grounds and producing more young.

In 1998, snow geese were declared overabundant by game managers in the U.S. and Canada. Since then, liberalized hunting seasons and bag limits have stabilized populations. But the shots that ring from surrounding lands at Middle Creek during snow goose watches often startle and confuse the visitors.

Still, as snow geese find equilibrium with the world around them, their spectacular convergence at Middle Creek is an annual marvel of sight and sound.

Ad Crable is a Bay Journal staff writer based in Pennsylvania. This article was originally published in the January/February 2022 edition of the Bay Journal and was distributed by the Bay Journal News Service.

PLAN AHEAD FOR YOUR VISIT TO MIDDLE CREEK

The Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area is open year-round. Admission is free. The visitors center, located at 100 Museum Road, Stevens, PA, is open from February through the day before Thanksgiving, Tuesday through Sunday. For information, call 717-733-

1512 or visit pgc.pa.gov. (Click on "Education," then "Visit Middle Creek.")

Consider visiting on a weekday or early morning to escape the crowds: The last two waterfowl migration seasons have seen unprecedented numbers of visitors. During the first weekend in March 2021, approximately 10,000 people gridlocked roads.

Geese and tundra swans may start showing up at Middle Creek in late January and may stay until the end of March, depending on the weather. In typical years, the peak migration is between mid-February and mid-March. A good way to keep tabs on the gathering is to watch Middle Creek's year-round live camera trained on the lake. Go to hdontap.com, then enter "PA snow geese" in the search field. The Middle Creek website gives updates on the estimated number of geese and swans at Middle Creek every few days.

There are miles of trails and three picnic areas around the lake. Note that drones are strictly prohibited, and violators have been prosecuted. The most popular spot to view waterfowl is via the Willow Point Trail. The 0.4-mile paved, handicapped-accessible trail leads to a peninsula that juts into the lake. Also popular is the self-guided driving tour that follows a road around the lake, open from March 1 through Sept. 15. The road has seven marked stops, and you can listen to the auto tour at 1620 AM while you drive. Another observation point is at the lake's boat launch at the Red Rock Picnic Area.

Earth TALK™ Flow Woes: How Powerful Is Your Showerhead?

Dear EarthTalk:

What's up with all the debate lately as to the flow allowed in new showerheads?

—Bill G., New York, NY

The shower is a place of rejuvenation and relaxation for many of us, but it is also a big water hog, accounting for roughly 17 percent of the average U.S. household's water usage. Of course, we use a lot less water in our showers nowadays thanks to a Clinton-era law mandating that new showerheads sold in the U.S. could not top a flow rate of 2.5 gallons per minute (GPM). While some showerhead manufacturers attempted to circumvent these new restrictions by utilizing multiple nozzles, the federal government eventually revised the legislation (in 2013) to limit entire fixtures to 2.5 GPM.

During his term in the White House, Donald Trump often complained about his dissatisfaction with the water pressure in his showers. In December 2020 Trump re-

versed the Obama-era amendment; this restored the federal limit of 2.5 GPM to be applied to individual nozzles instead of the entire fixture. This meant that a shower head with three nozzles would be permitted to use 7.5 GPM.

Although Trump's law did not have a significant impact on the market demand for luxury shower heads, the loophole posed detrimental environmental impacts. Americans take about 200 million showers every day. The Alliance of Water Efficiency estimates that under Trump's rule the country's water usage would increase by 161 billion gallons per year. An increase in water usage also results in more energy use to heat that water, which in turn increases greenhouse gas emissions.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), homes that have switched out older less efficient showerheads with newer models have realized savings of some 2,700 gallons of water per year. This equates to a savings of 330 kilowatt hours of electricity annually, which is enough to power an entire house for 11 days. The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) estimates that the average American household stands to save \$500 per year on utility bills after switching to low-flow shower heads. The group estimates that the nationwide transition to lower flow showerheads now underway can generate annual savings of \$2.9 billion in water utili-

ties and \$2.5 billion in energy costs.

Saving water by using a low-flow shower head is a great start, but if you're looking for more ways to maximize your impact, the EPA has a few suggestions. When it comes to appliances, making sure to fix leaks is one easy way to save water. Additionally, whenever you need to run your dishwasher or washing machine, make sure you are optimizing for water- and energy-efficiency by only running it with a full load. Lastly, landscaping is always a talking point when it comes to reducing residential water use. If you have a lawn, it is recommended to save water by replacing it with native plants that don't require additional watering. If you're not ready to part with your lawn, the EPA suggests keeping the grass two to three inches high to ensure the soil retains water, reducing the need for frequent watering.

CONTACTS: Water Conservation Tips for Residents, www3.epa.gov/region1/eco/drinkwater/water_conservation_residents.html; 10 Ways To Save Water At Home, americanrivers.org/rivers/discover-your-river/top-10-ways-for-you-to-save-water-at-home/;

Trump showerhead rule on more water flow goes down the drain, apnews.com/article/trump-showerhead-rule-reversed-biden-6b6dc448e974a948cdcad3d43bfcbe3; DOE Proposes Reversal of Trump-Era Showerhead Rule, nrdc.org/media/2021/210716.

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CREDIT: PEXELS.COM

The Biden administration recently restored a Clinton-era rule mandating all new showerheads sold in the U.S. adhere to "low-flow" standards.

Environmental News and Notes

Earth Is Dimming Due to Climate Change

(NAPSI)—Warming ocean waters have caused a drop in the brightness of the Earth, according to recent research.

Scientists used decades of measurements of earthshine—the light reflected from Earth that illuminates the surface of the Moon—as well as satellite measurements to find that there has been a significant drop in Earth's reflectance, or albedo, over the past two decades.

The Earth is now reflecting about half a watt less light per square meter than it was 20 years ago, with most of the drop occurring in the last three years of earthshine data, according to the new study in the AGU journal Geophysical Research Letters, which publishes high-impact, short-format reports with immediate implications spanning all Earth and space sciences. That's the equivalent of 0.5% decrease in the Earth's reflectance. Earth reflects about 30% of the sunlight that shines on it.

"The albedo drop was such a surprise to us when we analyzed the last three years of data after 17 years of nearly flat albedo," said Philip Goode, a researcher at New Jersey Institute of Technology and the lead author of the new study, referring to earthshine data gathered by the Big Bear Solar Observatory in Southern California. When the latest data were added to the previous years, the dimming trend became clear.

Two things affect the net sunlight reaching the Earth: the Sun's brightness and the planet's reflectivity. The changes in Earth's albedo observed by the researchers did not correlate with periodic changes in the Sun's brightness, so that means changes in Earth's reflectiveness are caused by something on the Earth.

Specifically, there has been a reduction of bright, reflective low-lying clouds over the eastern Pacific Ocean in the most recent years, according to satellite measurements made as part of NASA's Clouds and the Earth's Radiant Energy System (CERES) project.

That's the same area, off the west coasts of North and South America, where increases in sea surface temperatures have been recorded because of the reversal of a climatic condition called the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, with likely connections to global climate change.

The dimming of the Earth can also be seen in terms of how much more solar energy is being captured by Earth's climate system. Once this significant additional solar energy is in Earth's at-

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Workshops from A1

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Dimming from A6

mosphere and oceans, it may contribute to global warming, as the extra sunlight is of the same magnitude as the total anthropogenic climate forcing over the last two decades.

"It's actually quite concerning," said Edward Schwietzman, a planetary scientist at the University of California at Riverside who was not involved in the new study. For some time, many scientists had hoped that a warmer Earth might lead to more clouds and higher albedo, which would then help to moderate warming and balance the climate system, he said. "But this shows the opposite is true."

Learn More

For further facts and stats, you can visit AGU at www.news.agu.org. AGU supports 130,000 enthusiasts to experts worldwide in Earth and space sciences. Through broad and inclusive partnerships, it advances discovery and science that accelerates knowledge and creates solutions that are ethical, unbiased and respectful of communities and their values.

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