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Charles Colbert Elected New Commissioner In the Town of Upper Marlboro

Town Board Had Voted Last Year to Expand from Three to Five Members

By RAY FELDMANN
Town of Upper Marlboro

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Feb. 22, 2022)—For the first time in its 326-year history, the Town of Upper Marlboro will now have five members on its governing Board of Commissioners. In a special election held last week, Town voters elected Prince George's County native Charles Colbert to serve on the board. Colbert was one of three candidates seeking to occupy a vacant seat on the panel.

Upper Marlboro Town Clerk John Hoatson announced the final election results shortly before 9 p.m. tonight.

Charles Colbert: 39
Derrick Brooks: 20
Robert Barber: 5



PHOTO COURTESY TOWN OF UPPER MARLBORO

Charles Colbert

Profiles and photos of the three candidates can be found at this link:

https://www.uppermarlboromd.gov/administration/government/about/departments/town_elections/meet_the_candidates.php

Colbert will join current Commissioners Sarah Franklin (Mayor/President), Janice Duckett, Thomas J. Hanchett, and Karen Lott on the five-member governing body.

Last August, the three-member Board of Commissioners unanimously passed a resolution that increased the composition of the Town's elected body from three to five members, consisting of four Commissioners and one President/Mayor. A special election was scheduled for today after one of the five Commissioners elected last November, former Mayor Linda Pennoyer, chose not to be sworn in, thus creating the board vacancy.



PHOTOS CREDIT JOE RYAN/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Rebecca Coppola, in the backyard of her Baltimore row house with her two daughters, Sage Coppola Becher and Clio Coppola Becher, said she cobbled together disability pay, paid sick leave and paid days off to supplement the 12 weeks she cared for her first newborn in 2020. Still, she said, it was a fraction of what she earns in her job as a family nurse practitioner.

Maryland Lawmakers Resurrect Paid Family, Medical Leave Bill, As Other States Make It Law

By VANESSA G. SÁNCHEZ
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Feb. 23, 2022)—Baltimore nurse practitioner Rebecca Coppola cobbled together disability pay, accrued sick days and five paid days off from her employer in order to spend the 12 weeks at home she felt she needed to adequately care for her first newborn.

Although the money she accumulated was helpful, Coppola said she only received 20% of her regular salary over the 12 weeks she was off.

"It's not enough," she said.

Without her husband's salary as a software consultant, the time off would have been even more financially difficult. Even for her husband, it all came with a cost.

"He wasn't really able to take time to just slow down and focus on bonding as a family," she said.

Some Maryland Democratic lawmakers in the General Assembly say residents who need paid time off for parental leave, care of a sick family member or for their own health should not have to go through a similar process.

So, they are resurrecting paid family and medical leave legislation that has failed in the previous three legislative sessions with hopes to finally turn it into law.

A coalition of Democratic legislators in

the House and Senate introduced bills to give workers up to 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave to care for a family member with a serious health condition or disability. It would also cover families with newborn children and those with a need arising out of a family member's military deployment.

Del. C.T. Wilson, D-Charles, is sponsoring one of the bills, HB496, and Del. Kriselda Valderrama, D-Prince George's, has introduced similar legislation (HB8/SB275) which was cross filed in the Senate by Sen. Antonio Hayes, D-Baltimore. Lawmakers are unclear when and which bills might receive a vote in the House Economic Matters Committee, which Wilson chairs, and then face full consideration on the House floor.

The legislators say a law is needed to protect workers who deal with family challenges so they don't lose all their income or their job. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, fewer than one in four (23%) workers have access to paid family and medical leave.

Workers and their families lose \$22.5 billion in wages each year due to a lack of access to paid leave, and two-thirds of workers who received partial or no pay while on

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Montgomery Parks, Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation and Pepco Partner to Expand Maryland Electric Vehicle Charging Options

Partnership Will Create 94 Charging Spaces Across 26 Maryland Parks.

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

WHEATON, Md. (Feb. 24, 2022)—Montgomery Parks and Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation, part of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and Pepco have joined together to provide more charging opportunities for local, regional and visiting electric vehicle (EV) owners. As part of the partnership, Pepco will install 94 new electric vehicle (EV) chargers in 26 parks across the two Maryland counties over the next two years.

"We are so excited about this collaboration with Pepco, which will allow electric vehicle owners to charge their vehicles while enjoying our parks. Expanding access to electric vehicle charging stations is yet another way the parks department is helping support a more sustainable future," said Mike Riley, director of Montgomery Parks.

"This program will allow the Department to support sustainability efforts in the region and Prince George's County. We are excited to begin charger locations installation in the spring/summer of 2022," stated Bill Tyler, director of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Com-

mission, Department of Parks and Recreation. "This will help meet the future demand of EV users at our facilities."

The installation of these chargers will help further the individual climate goals of both Montgomery and Prince George's counties, and also supports the state of Maryland's broader climate goal of reaching a 50 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 (from 2006 levels). This project is also a part of Pepco's Maryland Climate Commitment, which includes efforts to equitably advance EV and clean energy opportunities for customers, while achieving carbon neutrality for company operations by 2050.

Construction of the first EV charging spaces in Montgomery Parks will begin in March and is expected to take about eight weeks to complete. Initial locations include Argyle Local Park, Olney Manor Recreational Park, Wheaton Forest Local Park, and South Germantown Adventure Playground. Pepco's sister utility, BGE, is also installing four charging stations at Fairland Park.

Construction of the first EV charging stations in Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

See CHARGING Page A5

NAREB Names C. Renee Wilson Executive Director

By PRESS OFFICER
NAREB

WASHINGTON (Feb. 24, 2022)—The National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB), the oldest minority real estate trade association in America, today named C. Renee Wilson, of Cleveland, as its Executive Director. Founded in 1947, NAREB strives to increase Black homeownership. Wilson has served as Interim Executive Director for the past seven months and has been part of the NAREB team since 2005.

After serving as Special Assistant to the President and Special Projects Manager, she was named Executive and Management Consultant in 2007 and then National Relationship Manager in 2009. "NAREB is fortunate to have someone with Renee's qualifications as our Executive Director," said NAREB President Lydia M. Pope, noting Wilson's service as a "REALTIST," the designation for NAREB members. "Her long-standing relationship with

NAREB and wealth of on-the-job experience makes her uniquely qualified to fill this vitally important position." Wilson thanked the NAREB Board of Directors. "Although I have been part of the NAREB family for more than 16 years, I am grateful to the Board for entrusting me with this incredible responsibility, particularly at this time in our nation's history where social justice, wealth creation, and racial equity are high priority issues." Prior to joining NAREB, Wilson was Principal Owner of United International Mortgage Bank.

Wilson, who attended Woodbury University in Burbank, CA, also founded two firms: CTS Consultants Firm, a corporate concierge services firm providing both social and business solutions; and CTS Real Estate Services Brokerage. NAREB's mission is to provide Afro Americans with opportunities to achieve the American Dream of homeownership. Guided by its Five Pillars of Building Black Wealth through Homeownership, the association prioritizes faith-based and civic involvement;

women's initiatives; diversity and inclusion/small business; multi-generational wealth; and government relations and advocacy. Since inception its motto is "Democracy In Housing," which positions NAREB as a strong advocate for fairness and equity in the housing and lending sectors. Annually, NAREB releases the "State of Housing in Black America," a study documenting root causes of disparities in minority homeownership. Wilson plays a critical role in compiling the report.

NAREB [held] its 2022 Mid-Winter Conference from March 1-4 at the San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter, San Antonio, Texas. For more information about both NAREB and the Conference, visit <https://www.nareb.com/>.

NAREB was formed in 1947 to secure the right to equal housing opportunities regardless of race, creed or color. NAREB has advocated for legislation and supported or instigated legal challenges that ensure fair housing, sustainable homeownership, and access to credit for Black Americans. Simultaneously, NAREB advocates for and promotes access to business opportunities for Black real estate professionals in each of the real estate disciplines.

FedChoice Federal Credit Union Is Proud To Announce FedChat

By PRESS OFFICER
FedChoice Federal Credit Union

LANHAM, Md. (Feb. 24, 2022)—FedChoice Federal Credit Union is deepening its commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility with their new FedChat interviews. FedChat is part of the MOSAIC Series. MOSAIC (Making Our Stories Accessible, Inclusive and Connected) is an initiative to showcase voices from the community and learn about their experiences with DEIA and unconscious bias. The first installment of this new series began with an interview with Ms. Brenda Jackson, who was one of the first African American Computer Programmers to work for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). She is also the first African American woman to sit on the Board of Directors at FedChoice.

During the interview, Ms. Jackson shared some of the lessons she's learned since childhood and beyond that have

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

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

Ulyses St. Arnold, of the Ojibwe Tribe in Michigan, dies with COVID-19

Ulyses St. Arnold, 92, of Fort Washington, a Bureau of Indian Affairs retiree, died Dec. 28 at a hospital in Alexandria. Daniel St. Arnold said his father died with complications of COVID and pneumonia.

Ulyses was born in Assinins, Mich., a member of the Ojibwe Tribe of the Keewenaw Bay Indian Community.

He served in the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs for more than 30 years. His work at the Bureau included Native American hunting, fishing and water rights. He retired in 1991 after 30 years of federal service.

Ulyses' birthplace, Assinins, is a small hamlet—now mostly in ruins—in the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The town was founded in 1843 by Bishop Frederic Baraga, who came to the area at the invitation of Chief Edward Assinins. Chief Assinins was the first person to be baptized at the site.

Col. Milton Mathis, Air Force and CIA retiree

Col. Milton H. Mathis, US Army (Retired), of Camp Springs, died Jan. 24. He was 87.

Milton's military career spanned 31 years, including 2d (Warrior) Brigade Commander and two combat tours in Vietnam. He earned several awards, including the Bronze Star and the Air Medal.

After military retirement, he had a second career at the CIA for 21 years, where he was Program Director of recruitment with a focus on Diversified Cover Programs and Special Operations.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 42 years, Gloria Gardner Mathis; brother Lt. Col. Douglas Mathis; and sisters Magalene Mathis and Martha Young. Survivors include his daughter Nicole Mathis, son Milton K. Mathis, and brother CMSgt. Frank Mathis. Visitation was at Marshall-March Funeral Home, Suitland. Interment with full military honors will be later at Arlington Cemetery.

Town of Morningside

Morningside's Work Session is coming up Tuesday, March 8, and the Monthly Town Meeting will be Tuesday, March 15. Both meetings are in the Municipal Center and begin at 7 p.m.

Also on the Town's agenda:

- April 16, Easter Bunny Breakfast Bingo
- May 2, Town Election
- May 5, Mother's Day Madhatter's Tea
- May 14 & 15, Spring Cleanup

Morningside will celebrate July 4 with the annual Independence Day Parade, which will march from the Morningside Firehouse to the VFW. It always attracts a lot of watchers, including me. After the Parade, there'll be family fun activities in or near the town hall, and at dusk, fireworks!

If you have a vintage car, Scouts, school band, majorettes or if you want to be a clown, think about participating in the Parade. The Morningside Recreation Council is already working on it. For information, call 301-736-2300.

Neighbors & other good people

Sister Abrehet recently came from Eritrea, in Eastern Africa, to the convent of the Daughters of St. Anne here in Skyline. She is helping in the Daughters of St. Anne daycare, and has been meeting with me to help improve her English, even though she's very good at it already. She is proficient in Tigrinya (Eritrea), Amharic (Ethiopia) and Italian. She says to all of you, "Selam we senay," which is "peace and goodness" in Tigrinya.

Jody (Bowman) Nyers, who lives in Conway, S.C., but years ago lived in Morningside, emailed after reading my Mike Trimboli obit last week, "Just a quick note on Mike Trimboli. We lived across the street from him and his family. He was already a teenager when we moved in, so we didn't have a relationship with him, but his Mom, Mrs. Phyllis, was the sweetest lady. My cousin Michel (Himes) Brady and I would visit with her, and she was so nice to us." She also remembered the huge weeping willow tree in their front yard.

I'm always delighted to get a response on anything I write. So, thanks, Jody.

Changing landscape

A huge building is going up on the lot which once was the big front yard of La Reine High School. Does anyone know what it is?

Suitland Senior Apartments is going up on 2901 Toles Park Drive in the Towne Square of the Suitland Federal Center, located across from the future public plaza and arts center. The Senior Apartments will feature a rooftop terrace, yoga room,

fitness center, game room and clubroom and will serve individuals aged 62 and over. There'll be 72 units.

David Harrington is the new owner of Banister Ford, formerly known as Sheehy Ford, which has stood along Branch Avenue for 52 years. He acquired it last April. The Grand Opening was celebrated two weeks ago.

A new hospital, slated to rise east of the Anacostia River, takes its name, Cedar Hill, from the nearby estate of abolitionist Frederick Douglass. The hospital will be Cedar Hill Regional Medical Center, GW Health.

Morningside Memories: 30 years ago

Roscoe and Irene Smith, of Poplar Road, attended the Jay Smith Forum for Public Affairs on March 6, 1992, in Garden City, N.Y. This annual forum and its associated scholarship program honor the memory of their oldest son Jay who died at 42 in a 1985 bicycling accident.

Jay Smith grew up in Morningside, graduated from Suitland High in 1960, received a B.A. at Johns Hopkins and a Ph.D. at the University of Pittsburgh. He taught at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and Hofstra University before becoming an associate professor at Adelphi University.

He was involved in the peace movement and once wrote, "I dedicated myself to using my skills as a teacher to help in the cause of social justice and understanding among all peoples." He lived up to those words.

Mary's COVID report:

13 more Marylanders have died

As of Wednesday, Feb. 23, at 5 p.m. there have been 999,229 cases reported in Maryland—341 of them reported the last day. There have been 14,062 Maryland deaths from COVID, 13 the last day.

A 5th grader at a local school has tested positive for COVID.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Roy Derrick, March 6; Jon McKlveen, Shirley Dodgson and my grandson Richard Shearer, March 9; Angelo Meoli, John F. Latimer, Karl Kaufman Jr., Alberta M. Smith and my son-in-law John Mudd, March 10; Karen Cordero, Blake James Shipman and Father Scott Hahn, March 11.

Happy anniversary to Larry and Susan Frostbutter on March 5.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Department of Parks and Recreation Prince George's County. Do you and your kids live near Largo/Kettering/Perrywood Community Center? We are looking for your input to make the new and improved playground the best it can possibly be. Register: <http://pgparks.com/rsvp>. Mel Franklin posted in Advisory Neighborhood Community Initiative by Council Member Mel Franklin.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION ALERT!

Temple Hills Road Bridge Replacement over Pea Hill Branch Project is complete. Temple Hill Road is now open to traffic as of 5:30 p.m. on February 2, 2022. Thank you for your patience. Be safe. Mel Franklin posted in Advisory Neighborhood Community Initiative by Council Member Mel Franklin.

ATIM'S TOP 60 MASTERS FOR 2022

Congratulations to Cleo Turner Mitchel, daughter of the late James and Ruth Turner of Brandywine, Maryland, who has been selected as one of the Art Tour International Magazine's (ATIM) Top 60 Masters for 2022. This award is an opportunity to recognize and honor the world's best and most talented visual artists spotlighting a vast array of artistic forms.

Cleo was also awarded the ARTYA Emerald Awards by the Art International Magazine in 2021 for three of her original paintings. The Art Tour International is a premier multimedia platform for artists worldwide and the leading voice in the art world, with over 2.1 million readers in 205 countries. Two of Cleo's paintings appeared in the November 2021 edition of the Art Tour International magazine. If you are interested in learning more about her paintings, please visit the website for the Art International Magazine:

<https://www.arttourinternational.com/cleo-mitchel-1/>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church was with Rev. Shemaiah Strickland. Wishing our Queen Diva, a HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY. Happy Birthday Ms. Elizabeth Hamilton. One hundred blessed years. Thanking God for His Grace and Mercy. A Drive-By 100th Birthday Celebration for Mrs. Hamilton was held at the church Sunday, February 20, 2022. Her birthday was February 17. In keeping with the social distancing protocol and for her safety, Mrs. Hamilton remained in the car with her Grandson. Thank you for your dedicated service. Hugs and love from your church. Kimberly Montgomery's Post.

WOMEN'S DAY

Nottingham Myers-Christ United Methodist Churches Coop-

erative Parish (Proverbs 31:30-31 (MSG) will celebrate Women's Day March 20, 2022 (The Power of a Praying Woman recognizing women who wear many hats. Speaker is Dr. Johnnie Cogman, District Superintendent, Washington East District, Baltimore Washington Conference.

We invite you to participate in this joint celebration. Show up wearing your most stylish hat. Please consider a love donation of \$100 (women) or \$75. Join us at Christ United Methodist Church, 22919 Christ Church Road, Aquasco, Maryland 20608. Rev. Shemaiah Strickland, Pastor.

AN ALUMNI SOCIAL AFFAIR

Bowie State University National Alumni Association (Prince George's County Chapter are inviting you to join us at our Alumni Social Affair on Sunday, June 26, 2022, from 1-5 p.m. at La-Fontaine Bleue, 714 Ritchie Highway, Glen Burnie, Maryland 21061. There will be food, entertainment, cash bar, and vendors. Donation is \$60 and \$9 Tax Deductible Contribution. For more information contact Addie Martin 301-868-6081 or Rose Coleman 301-518-4861. Proceeds support the Prince George's County Chapter Scholarship Fund.

Souvenir Booklet Ad: Full Page Ads- \$100 ½ Page Ads-\$50 Camera Ready Ads are preferred. Patrons are \$5 (per person) List names to be shown in Souvenir Program. Make checks to: BSUPGCAC.

Important: Full payment due at time of submission. Ads can be emailed to Addie at amartin668@aol.com. Mail checks to Rose Coleman 3703 Ivy Hill Lane, Bowie, Maryland 20715. Name/Organization, Address, City/State, Zip. Ads will provide financial assistance to our scholarship recipients.

CHILD STUDY PROGRAM

Prince George's County continued as a participating member of the Child Study Program. This was a state program which was initiated in 1945. Its purpose was to develop a group of teachers who had as their common purpose the maximum educational advantages of the children.

Prince George's County places high value upon Child Study as a part of in-service training. The program was built upon the basic principle that a teacher must study the pupil to understand and guide them. The whole idea was growing in intensity as evidenced by the continued interest of teachers. Many secondary teachers were enrolling in the program. There were thirteen white and four Negro centers operating in Prince George's County during 1950-1951. Information received from Booklet (Public Schools of Prince George's County 1950-1980/ Prince George's County Retired Teachers Association.

Calendar of Events

VIRTUAL: Underground Railroad Journeys

Date and time: Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 7-8:30 p.m.

Description: Historic Annapolis celebrates the Harriet Tubman Bicentennial Year, marking 200 years since her birth in Dorchester County. Maryland's Eastern Shore was home to two American heroes of the first order in Underground Railroad conductor Harriet Tubman and antislavery activist Frederick Douglass. In this presentation, award-winning writer and storyteller Jim Duffy shares keystone stories from the very different journeys those two took out of bondage and into the history books. Learn, too, about other, lesser known champions of freedom from here in our own backyard. Along the way, Duffy will share a few of the life lessons he learned while researching and writing the book "Tubman Travels: 32 Underground Railroad Journeys on Delmarva." This Virtual Lecture is made possible in part by the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County.

Presented By: Historic Annapolis, Inc. This Virtual Lecture is made possible in part by the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County.

Cost: Free

Register: <https://www.annapolis.org/media-content/virtual-lecture-underground-railroad-journeys>

Contact: 410-267-7619, info@annapolis.org

VIRTUAL: Marietta House Museum's Women's History Month Presentation: "Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All"

Date and time: Thursday, March 10, 2022, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Description: Join Marietta House Museum for a Women's History Month talk with Dr. Martha Jones, history professor from Johns Hopkins University. This virtual presentation on Microsoft Teams features Dr. Jones speaking about her award-winning book "Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All".

In the standard story, the suffrage crusade began in Seneca Falls in 1848 and ended with the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920. But this overwhelmingly white women's movement did not win the vote for most black women. Securing the vote for black women required a movement of their own. Dr. Jones researched the accounts of Black women in America who collaborated, took risks, and defied the odds to give voice to a massive group of silenced people in all the United States. Dr. Jones recounts how they defied both racism and sexism to fight for the right to vote. And in the process, Black women wielded political power to work towards securing the equality and dignity of all persons.

Dr. Jones is a historian, writer, and commentator, based at Johns Hopkins University, who focuses on Black Americans' roles in shaping American democracy. She has received numerous awards and in 2010 was selected as a Distinguished Lecturer with the Organization of American Historians. Thank you to the Prince George's Historical Society for their support for this program.

Cost: \$5/person.

Ages: Ages 10 and older.

Register: To register for this program, please email stacey.hawkins@pgparks.com or visit Parks Direct.

TANGO ARGENTINA

Featuring GD Tango and the Fabrizio Mocata Band

Date and time: Friday, March 11, 2022, 8p.m.

Description: Tango Argentina is a stunning new production with musical direction and original compositions by Fabrizio Mocata, co-directed and choreographed by Guillermo De Fazio and Giovanna Dan. Tango Argentina explores tango through the combination of unique choreography and improvised elements performed by acclaimed dancers and musicians from Argentina. The show takes us through the different decades of Argentine Tango from its origins to the present combining tango music and dance with humor, parodies, and heartfelt performances with a multidisciplinary cast.

Cost: Tickets are \$45.

Location: Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee Street • Rockville, MD 20850

Register: <https://montgomerycollege.universitytickets.com>

Museums Lecture: The Wild Women of Maryland

Date and time: Saturday, March 12, 2022, 2-3 p.m.

Description: Join us as author Lauren Silberman shares her extensive knowledge of the "Wild Women of Maryland". These female figures in Maryland's history have stood the test of time and have proven that they can be the women "they" want to be.

Cost: Free

Location: Belair Mansion, 12207 Tulip Grove Drive, Bowie, MD 20716

Contact: 301-809-3089

Puppet Friends in Storyland

Date and time: Friday, March 25, 2022, 10-10:45 a.m.

Description: Come enjoy nature story and craft time with us! Join puppet friends Olivia Opossum & Sammy Snake in the month of March as they read you a story about their family, and then join them and a naturalist as they led you through a nature-themed craft! You and your students will join us twice each month for an interactive lesson with a hands-on activity. Activity Code: 22103-288A, Register Through PARKS DIRECT!

Cost: \$10/R; \$13/NR

Ages: Ages 2 to 3

Location: Watkins Nature Center, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

VIRTUAL Lecture: Clothing the Enslaved People at Rose Hill Plantation Made and Wore

Date and time: Thursday, March 31, 2022, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Description: Close out Women's History Month with a woman's perspective! Using the diary of Martha Ogle Forman, a contemporary of Riversdale House Museum's Rosalie Stier Calvert, Dr. Ann Wass explores the garments created and worn by the enslaved at Rose Hill Plantation during the early-to-mid 19th century.

Cost: FREE!

Register: Registration required by March 30. To register & for more information, please email riversdale@pgparks.com or call 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544.

Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544, riversdale@pgparks.com

COMMUNITY

Around the County

Council Member Derrick L. Davis Welcomes ALDI to Ritchie Station Marketplace in Capitol Heights

ALDI Grocer is Newest Store in Shopping Center Expansion
UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Feb. 23, 2022) — Prince George's County Council Member Derrick L. Davis (D)-District 6, join[ed] community partners for a grand opening welcoming ALDI to Ritchie Station Marketplace on Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022. The new ALDI is located at 1741 Ritchie Station Court in Capitol Heights.

Council Member Davis says the community is excited to welcome a new grocery option to District 6.

"The new ALDI at Ritchie Station joins a vibrant marketplace just off the Capital Beltway and will serve our County well in our work to reduce the number of food deserts for the community. As the fight to defeat this pandemic continues, I encourage residents to support Ritchie Station, our new ALDI, and all the merchants that serve Prince Georgians!"

The Capitol Heights ALDI join[ed] anchors Dave & Buster's, BJ's Wholesale Club, Olive Garden, Ashley Furniture, Regency Furniture, DSW, Pohanka Honda, and Volkswagen as part of a growing retail, restaurant, and commercial hub of activity located on I-95 South. A new Hobby Lobby store is under construction at the shopping center with a projected opening later this year.

Thursday's ALDI grand opening culminates the ongoing, collaborative efforts of the community, private developers and government to bring a much-needed grocery store to Ritchie Station Marketplace to address food security concerns while providing crucial job and economic development opportunities.

A leader in the grocery retailing industry since 1976, ALDI operates more than 1,800 U.S. stores in 35 states.

Local Student Among 32 Beauty Changes Lives Scholarship Winners

SAN DIEGO (Feb. 22, 2022)—Professional hair, nail and skincare brands across America are opening doors of opportunity for emerging beauty and wellness talent through scholarship sponsorships. Beauty Changes Lives, a non-profit organization that develops scholarship programs for aspiring beauty professionals is administering \$129,750 in tuition scholarships to fund students' cosmetology, barbering, nail and skincare education. Prince George's County recipients of the Fall 2021 Beauty Changes Lives scholarship competition, their respective schools and awards are listed below.

Kathiana Philippe, Topcurl Beauty Academy, Mitchellville, MD (\$3,000 OPI "A Great Opera-Tunity" Nail Scholarship)

Ten years after its inception and two years into a pandemic that has transformed how Americans think about careers, Beauty Changes Lives has awarded more than 700 scholarships. Awardees include students embarking on beauty careers following high school as well as individuals making transformative career pivots.

Thirty percent of Beauty Changes Lives awardees are business owners and entrepreneurs, and 54% of beauty owners are people of color.

Other scholarship recipients have pivoted from more traditional career paths including teaching, accounting and investment banking. Beauty and wellness brands across the nation have united to use the "Great American Quit" moment as an opportunity to highlight the entrepreneurial, creative and financial rewards of a career in beauty. "It is fitting that we announce the scholarship winners Black History Month, as beauty has always been an industry that celebrates diversity and inclusion," said Lynelle Lynch, founder of Beauty Changes Lives.

Learn more at www.beautychangeslives.org or find us on Facebook and Instagram.

Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra Gala Concert Features Award Winning Pianist and Famed Opera Stars

By DANE KRICH
CYSO

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Feb. 23, 2022)—The Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra (CYSO) will hold their gala concert on March 19, 2022, at the Bowie Performing Arts Center at 2 p.m., 6:30 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. 'A Celebration of Expression' gala concert will showcase the 150 student musicians of CYSO and feature award winning pianist and famed opera stars during the evening performance.

The 2 p.m. performance will feature five ensembles: Preparatory Orchestra, String Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Junior Flute Ensemble, and Concert Orchestra. Ranging in ages from 8 to 20, the students in these ensembles have dedicated many hours and worked tirelessly with our conductors to building the foundation of their musical technique.

Doors will open at 1 p.m. for the afternoon concert and 6 p.m. for the evening concert so that everyone may view and bid on the auction items and purchase raffle tickets. At 6 p.m. we will have a cocktail hour for the audience of our evening concert.

At 6:30 p.m. in the lobby of the Performing Arts Center, the CYSO's Jazz Orchestra will serenade the audience with a selection of both jazz and pop standards that are sure to keep your feet tapping. Jazz is one of the great American art forms, which celebrates freedom of expression through the means of improvising.

The 7:30 p.m. performance features CYSO's Senior Flute Ensemble and the Symphony Orchestra, which are the most advanced ensembles. During this performance, student musicians have the opportunity to perform alongside some of the most talented performers and soloists on the international stage.

"These opportunities are

unique and leave our students with a lasting impression that inspires them to push their boundaries and strive to reach even higher," said Julien Benichou, Music Director and Conductor of CYSO's Symphony Orchestra. "All of our ensembles, led by some of the best pedagogues, amaze me with their talent and enthusiasm."

Maestro Julien Benichou has been highly regarded as a champion for the future of classical music, thanks to his commitment to new music and innovative programming. He is widely recognized for his inspiring musicality, incredibly infectious energy, and creatively fostering the next generation of musicians and audiences.

Award winning French pianist, Christie Julien will be performing Beethoven's riveting Piano Concerto No. 3, alongside our Symphony Orchestra. Also gracing the CYSO's Gala stage will be famed opera stars, bass-baritone Kevin Short, and mezzo-soprano Lisa Chavez. Kevin Short, no stranger to the opera stage, has recently appeared as Porgy in the Metropolitan Opera's production of Porgy and Bess, along with a role in Gounod's Faust among others. Mr. Short will be performing selections from Porgy and Bess, Faust, O' Man River and more. The Philadelphia Inquirer has gone on to say "His was the voice that steadied ensembles and centered his own scenes, and his expansive ease in the role brought his scenes to vivid life."

Mezzo-soprano, Lisa Chavez has been described as possessing a "plush storm of a voice", "graceful stage presence", and being "a powerhouse both vocally and emotionally". Ms. Chavez has notably performed the title role of Carmen in New York City Opera Company's production of Carmen and Madalena in Rigoletto performed at



PHOTO COURTESY CYSO

Kevin Short

the Phoenicia Festival of the Voice. Along with the New York City Opera Company, she has been featured in multiple title roles with the Sarasota Opera Company. The Virginia Gazette, in reviewing Ms. Chavez has said "Without doubt, the hands-down standout of this "Carmen" was mezzo-soprano Lisa Chavez in the title role. Chavez embraced both the vocal and dramatic demands of her Carmen, applying her rich, dark, well-projected mezzo to a well-conceived portrayal, the results being seductive, persuasive and powerful. There was never any doubt as to who was in charge in this Seville setting and the tragic romance that ensued."

Tickets for the 2 p.m. performance are \$40 for general admission and \$60 for reserved seating. The 7:30 p.m. evening performance tickets are \$55 for general admission and \$75 for reserved seating. Tickets can be purchased at www.cysomusic.org/gala-tickets. For more information, please email Dane Krich at Execdir@cysomusic.org or call 443-758-3157.

The Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council and the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County.

Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Profiling Revolutionary African American Men Now at Reginald F. Lewis Museum

By PRESS OFFICER
Reginald F. Lewis Museum

BALTIMORE (Feb. 23, 2022)—The Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture (The Lewis Museum) celebrated the opening of Men of Change: Power. Triumph. Truth., an exhibition presenting the narrative of a nation through the profiles of significant African American men who are icons in the country's historical and cultural landscape. Men of Change will be at The Lewis, a Smithsonian Affiliate, through August 14, 2022. The exhibition was created by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) and made possible through the support of Ford Motor Company Fund—the philanthropic arm of Ford.

Men of Change highlights revolutionary men—including Muhammad Ali, James Baldwin, W.E.B. Du Bois, Kendrick Lamar, and Baltimore natives Frederick Douglass and Ta-Nehisi Coates—whose journeys have altered the history and culture of the country through politics, sports, science, entertainment, business, and religion. Each biography is paired with original artwork by a noted artist that accentuates the subjects' individual legacies. The exhibition weaves a collective tapestry of what it is to be an African American man, past and present, and the legacy that only strengthens across generations. Participating

artists include Nina Chanel Abney, Derrick Adams, Robert Pruitt, Tariku Shiferaw and Devan Shimoyama.

"The Reginald F. Lewis Museum is very excited to bring this exhibition to the Baltimore-Washington region," said Executive Director Terri Lee Freeman. "Men of Change highlights the incredible contribution of African American men who are change makers. We think it is apropos to host this exhibit at the museum named for a 20th century business trailblazer, Reginald F. Lewis."

"The Reginald F. Lewis Museum is a beacon in the community and an ideal place for this exhibition that endeavors to present authentic narratives about African American men," said Myriam Springuel, director of SITES and Smithsonian Affiliations. "We hope that by experiencing Men of Change visitors will see a well of inspiration—regardless of gender, race or nationality—that encourages us to become our best selves."

A diverse group of artists, advisors, academics, curators and museum professionals determined the men chosen as Men of Change. From Carter G. Woodson to Ryan Coogler, these men have changed entire fields, fought for justice, revolutionized art and touched millions of lives directly and indirectly. These men serve as metaphor, representing the many more men and the broader community that shaped them into

important change agents. Men of Change: Power. Triumph. Truth. also incorporates the names and language of others—men and women—that signify the power of the African American journey in the American story. For more information about the exhibition, visit menofchange.si.edu.

The Lewis Museum has also developed a robust programming line-up during the months of Men of Change's run. In addition to a virtual fireside chat with Clint Smith who is featured in the exhibition about his New York Times best-seller How the Word was Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America leading up to the exhibition's official opening, events include Daddy's Girl Virtual Panel Talk: A Black Fathers and Daughters Sacred Bond March 17 at 7 p.m. EST and Short Kuts Comedy Show: Living While Black in America on Saturday, March 26th. To learn more about programming, visit the Lewis Museum events calendar at www.lewismuseum.org/events-calendar.

The Men of Change exhibition is sponsored by the Ford Motor Company Fund, which continues its commitment to supporting of America's diverse culture and building on other past exhibitions with SITES that include Freedom's Sisters, American Sabor: Latinos in U.S. Popular Music and Our Journeys, Our Stories: Portraits of Latino Achievement.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

SURPLUS

PARCEL PURCHASE

College Park Metro Station Development

College Ave., Lehigh Rd.,
Corporal Frank Scott Dr. & 52nd Ave.

± 2.6 ac

113,256 SF

Surface Parking Lot (Redevelopment) County Owned

Transit-oriented Development

Near College Park Metro

+UMD's Discovery District/Junior Tennis Champions Center

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

ISSUANCE OF RFP: Feb. 25, 2022

SITE TOUR: Mar. 11, 2022, at 1 P.M.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Apr. 14, 2022

AWARD: Summer 2022

THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

at <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/807/Central-Services>.

Photo: David Wilson

COMMENTARY

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

A Prayer to the God of All Children

O God of the children of Ukraine

Of Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala

Of Syria, Nigeria, Liberia, Sudan and South Africa

Of Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Myanmar, Israel, Iran and Iraq

Of Libya, Yemen, Nepal and Kashmir

Of the Congo, Charleston and Cleveland, of Darfur and Detroit

Of all refugee children without a country to welcome them,

at sea in flimsy boats, struggling across steaming deserts to find safety, or caged in holding pens as they seek asylum,

Help us to love and respect and protect and welcome them all.

O God of Black and Brown and White children and those all mixed together

Of children who are rich and poor and in between

Of children who speak Spanish and English and Swahili and

Mandarin and Arabic and languages and dialects our ears cannot discern,

Help us to love and respect and protect and welcome them all.

O God of the child prodigy and child prostitute, of the child of rapture and the child of rape,

Of runaway and thrown away and sexually trafficked children who struggle every day without a parent or place or friend or future,

Of LGBTQ children struggling to be who they are and children roaming across nations in search of a place called home,

Help us to love and respect and protect and welcome them all.

O God of children who can walk and talk and hear and see and sing and dance and jump and play and of children who wish they could but can't

Of children who are loved and unloved, wanted and unwanted,

Help us to love and respect and protect and welcome them all.

O God of incarcerated, beggar, beaten, abused, neglected, and homeless children

Of AIDS, drug, violence, and hunger ravaged children,

Of children who are emotionally and physically and mentally fragile, and of children who rebel and ridicule, torment and taunt,

Help us to love and respect and protect and welcome them all.

O God of children of destiny and of despair without hope for the future, ravaged by wars of adults

Of disfigured, diseased, and dying children,

Of children without hope and of children with hope to spare and to share,

Help us to love and respect and protect and welcome them all as we affirm the sacredness of every child in our own country and all across our shared world.

Prince George's County State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy's Statement Regarding President Biden's Supreme Court Justice Nominee

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Feb. 25, 2022)—Prince George's County State's Attorney Aisha N. Braveboy released the following statement regarding President Joe Biden's Supreme Court Justice Nominee:

"Congratulations to Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, who currently sits on the federal appellate court for the District of Columbia, on your nomination by President Joe Biden to be the next Supreme Court Justice.

"President Biden's selection for the first Black woman to sit on the highest court in the nation is

a major step forward for our nation and comes during the time of year when Black Americans are most celebrated and recognized for tremendous contributions to this country, and the world. Black women historically have been left out of the equation, yet we have been the strength behind this country and at the forefront of change for every social justice movement. I am confident that with Judge Brown Jackson's background and experience along with her moral courage and ethics, she is ready for the job and will serve our country well."

National Bar Association (NBA) Applauds Biden Administration's Nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to Supreme Court of the United States

WASHINGTON (Feb. 25, 2022)—The signing of the Civil Rights Act. The March on Washington. The Million Man March. Barack Obama winning the 2008 Presidential Election. There are some events in Black History that stand out from the rest. Today is one of those days. Americans, Black Americans in particular, will never forget where they were and what they were doing when they found out a Black woman had been nominated to the Supreme Court of the United States.

The Biden Administration's admirable decision to commit to appointing the first Black woman to the Supreme Court is a necessary step to ensuring that our Nation's Highest Court begins to mirror the colorful tapestry that makes up this country. Judicial diversity is of critical importance as judges are charged with making decisions that not only affect the litigants before them, but can have lasting impacts on our nation's history for decades and even generations forward. Placing a Black woman on the Supreme Court ensures that there is a diverse perspective on the bench that has been absent from SCOTUS deliberations thus far.

"I am elated with President Biden's selection of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson. The NBA Women Lawyers Division celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. Over the Division's 50 year history, we have encountered firsthand the countless Black women lawyers across the nation who consistently excel, operate with the utmost integrity and ethical standards, and exceed expectations. We've known all along that there was a Black woman qualified to sit on our nation's highest court, and as Chair of the NBA Women Lawyers Division, I am delighted that the world has chosen to now recognize that excellence as well," Sharon Bridges, Chair of the NBA Women Lawyers Division.

The Biden Administration could not have made a better choice. Throughout her career, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson has shown the temperament, high ethical standards, and commitment to service that makes the most effective jurist. Fittingly, Jackson is a former judicial law clerk to Justice Breyer

whom she is nominated to replace. Jackson's vast experience includes serving as a federal appellate judge, a federal district court judge, a member of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, an attorney in private practice, and as a federal public defender. Additionally, Jackson has been confirmed by the Senate on a bipartisan basis three times – most recently last year for her current seat. Jackson is exceptionally qualified and an undeniably suitable pick for the vacant SCOTUS seat.

"For the 233 year history of the Supreme Court of the United States, there has been a notable absence in judicial diversity. With this historic appointment, I am encouraged that the deliberations that lead to some of the most critical opinions affecting the American people will now also have a more diverse perspective weighing in. Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson is exceptionally qualified to serve on our nation's highest court, and represents all the tenets of excellence, ethics, and intellect that are needed on the SCOTUS bench," NBA President Carlos Moore.

As the oldest and largest organization of Black lawyers, judges, and law students worldwide, the National Bar Association (NBA) serves as the voice of the Black bar. Due to its unwavering commitment to equal justice and social change, the NBA has been referred to as "America's Legal Conscience." Today, our organization collectively applauds the Biden Administration's nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, and sends our sincerest congratulations to Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on this monumental moment in her legal career.

The National Bar Association was founded in 1925 and is the nation's oldest and largest national network of predominantly African-American attorneys and judges. It represents the interests of more than 65,000 lawyers, judges, law professors and law students. The NBA is organized around 23 substantive law sections, 9 divisions, 12 regions and 84 affiliate chapters throughout the United States and around the world. For more information, visit: www.nationalbar.org.

People For the American Way Celebrates the Nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson to the U.S. Supreme Court

WASHINGTON (Feb. 25, 2022)—Following President Biden's nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to the U.S. Supreme Court, People For the American Way President Ben Jealous released the following statement:

"It is with great joy and excitement that we greet the nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson to the U.S. Supreme Court. Judge Jackson has a deep and demonstrated commitment to civil rights. On the federal bench, she has shown her commitment to upholding laws that protect people with disabilities, workers, immigrants, and freedom of speech. As a former public defender, she brings to the Supreme Court the perspective of someone who has seen the justice system through the eyes of our society's

most vulnerable. Her lived experience as a Black woman enriches her perspective about day-to-day life in the United States and how the legal system affects people's rights and lives, and is greatly needed on our highest court. This is a defining and long overdue moment for our country, and we urge the Senate to move swiftly to confirm this outstanding nominee."

People For the American Way is a progressive advocacy organization founded to fight right-wing extremism and build a democratic society that implements the ideals of freedom, equality, opportunity and justice for all. We encourage civic participation, defend fundamental rights, and fight to dismantle systemic barriers to equitable opportunity. Learn more: <http://www.pfaw.org>

Paid Leave Coalition Applauds Senate Leadership For Supporting Paid Family & Medical Leave Legislation

Measure would provide workers with paid leave to deal with family health issues, the arrival of a newborn and military deployments

The Maryland Time to Care Coalition on Feb. 24 applauded Senate President Bill Ferguson for announcing his support of legislation to enact a state paid family and medical leave program this year.

"Paid family and medical leave is absolutely essential to working Marylanders who need time off to deal with a health issue in their family," said Time to Care Coalition Campaign Manager, Myles Hicks. "We are pleased that President Ferguson announced his support today and we look forward to working with the Senate and House to pass a strong bill that supports workers."

The Time to Care Coalition is made up of more than 1,400 organizations and individuals. The paid leave legislation is a top priority for several statewide organizations, including AARP Maryland, 1199SEIU, SEIU 500, and Jews United for Justice.

"Too many workers don't have paid leave to use when they are

facing a health issue or have to take time off to care for a family member. And many don't have leave to welcome a new child into their family," said Ricarra Jones, political director of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. "Maryland needs to act this year and establish a strong paid leave program. Nobody should have to choose between the family they love and the paycheck they need."

House Speaker Adrienne Jones has also identified passage of a paid family and medical leave bill as a top priority for this session. The public strongly supports instituting a paid leave program; 88 percent of Maryland voters said they support paid family and medical leave in a recent poll conducted by OpinionWorks.

The Coalition has identified five key principles for a paid leave bill:

- Be cost-effective for workers, employers and the government with employers contributing at least as much as

- employees.
- Cover all working people, apply equally to all working people regardless of gender, and reflect an inclusive definition of family.
- Include the well-established reasons people need paid family and medical leave.
- Provide up to 12 weeks of leave and replace a substantial share of workers' usual wages.
- Protect workers against adverse consequences, particularly job loss, for taking leave.

Legislation pending in the General Assembly (HB 8, HB 496, SB 275) would establish a paid family and medical leave program giving workers the ability to earn up to 12 weeks of partially paid time off to deal with family health issues, including caring for themselves or a loved one, welcoming a new child or dealing with a military deployment. The cost of the program would be shared by workers and employers.

Statement—Council Chair Calvin S. Hawkins, II And District 4 Council Member Todd M. Turner Condemn Hate Incident in City of Bowie

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Feb. 22, 2022)—The incident involving the distribution of anti-Semitic materials left in residential driveways in Bowie is shocking and disgusting. Sadly, similar acts of hate were also reported in neighboring counties and in communities across our country.

The Prince George's County Council condemns these acts and sends a clear message to those who would seek to divide us that such conduct will not be tolerated in our communities.

We applaud the response of the Bowie Police Department, which is continuing to investigate

these incidents, and we encourage the continued engagement of our residents. Anyone with information about this incident should contact the Department at 240-544-5700.

The Prince George's County Council appreciates the work and outreach of the ADL, Washington, D.C. Region, regarding this matter. Committed to our County's rich diversity and united against every form of hate and violence, the Council stands in solidarity with our Jewish neighbors in Prince George's County.

The Prince George's Post



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Do you have news or events to share? We'd love to hear from you!

Email the editor at pgpost@gmail.com

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

About Survivor Benefits for Minor Children

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

Dear Rusty: My nephew died suddenly at 50 years of age and left 2 children, ages 17 and 14. He was divorced, but they were married for more than 10 years, and his ex-wife works as a nurse. My nephew worked for more than 10 years during his lifetime. I want to know if the children are eligible for survivor benefits and the amount of benefits they will receive, and if their mother's income will affect their eligibility.

Also, will my nephew's ex-wife be eligible for survivor's benefit as she is taking care of a child younger than 16 years old? She did not remarry. Will her income affect her survivor's benefit? **Signed: Helpful Relative**

Dear Helpful Relative: Our condolences on your nephew's sudden and untimely passing. From what you've shared in your email, your nephew's minor children are eligible for Social Security benefits based on his earnings record (assuming he worked in a job where he paid SS FICA taxes on his earnings). However, because they are divorced, his ex-wife is not eligible for early "child-in-care" spousal benefits. Child-in-care spousal benefits are not available to divorced spouses under age 62.

Your nephew's minor children are eligible for benefits and their mother's income won't affect their survivor benefit from their father. Both minor children currently qualify for a survivor benefit from their father, and the benefit for each could be as much as 75% of the benefit their father had earned up to the month he died. They will remain eligible for this benefit until they reach 18 years of age (or 19 if still in high school). It's possible that Social Security's "Family Maximum" may slightly reduce each child's survivor benefit to a bit less than 75%, but any such reduction for the 14 year old will disappear when the 17 year old turns 18 and becomes ineligible for child survivor benefits).

The children's mother should contact Social Security as soon as possible (at her local SS office or at the national service center number—1-800-772-1213) to apply for survivor benefits for her children. She may need to provide their father's death certificate (although SS may have already received that from the funeral director) as well as the children's birth certificates.

If your nephew's ex-wife doesn't remarry before age 60, at that time she will become eligible to collect a survivor benefit from her deceased ex-husband. But claimed at age 60 that survivor benefit will be reduced by 28.5% from what it would be if she waits until her full retirement age (FRA) to claim it (a survivor benefit reaches maximum at the survivor's FRA but is reduced if claimed earlier). If she claims her survivor benefit prior to reaching her FRA and she is working, Social Security will impose an earnings limit which, if exceeded, could result in the loss of some of her survivor benefits. Earnings limits for future years aren't yet known, but the 2022 earnings limit is \$19,560. The earnings limit will no longer affect her Social Security benefits after she reaches her full retirement age.

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.

Laurel City Administrator Christian L. Pulley Chosen for Leadership Maryland Class of 2022

By PRESS OFFICER
City of Laurel

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Feb. 22, 2022)—Leadership Maryland announced today that Christian L. Pulley, CPM, City Administrator for the City of Laurel, has been chosen to participate in the professional development program as a member of the Class of 2022.

Pulley is one of 52 individuals chosen for Leadership Maryland's 29th class, who will complete the eight-month, hands-on learning program focused on the state's most vital issues. The program will run from April to December, and include five, two-day sessions focused on Maryland's five main geographic regions and the most important issues impacting economic development, education, health and human services, criminal justice, the environment, and multi-culturalism/diversity across the state. More than 100 experts representing Maryland's business, government, education, and non-profit com-

munities will serve as panelists and guest speakers.

Leadership Maryland is open to senior-level executives with significant achievements in either their careers and/or their communities. Ideal Leadership Maryland members have a desire to learn more about Maryland's most critical issues and a personal commitment to be a force for positive change in their organizations, their communities, and their state. For more information about Leadership Maryland, please visit leadershipmd.org, call 410-841-2101 or email info@leadershipmd.org.

Leadership Maryland is a non-profit organization offering professional and youth development programs dedicated to building a better Maryland by harnessing the strength of its current and future leaders. Established in 1992, Leadership Maryland's professional development program selects as many as 52 diverse and accomplished executives from Maryland's public and private sectors



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF LAUREL

Christian L. Pulley, CPM

each year to come together as a class for an eight-month learning program focused on the state's most vital social, economic and environmental issues. Visit leadershipmd.org or mtw.org.

Maryland State Police Warn Residents of 'Grandparent Scam'

By OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
Maryland State Police

CUMBERLAND, Md. (Feb. 23, 2022)—Maryland State Police are investigating multiple thefts from senior citizens who have been scammed into giving away thousands of dollars after being convinced their grandchildren needed money to be bailed out of jail.

The Maryland State Police Cumberland Barrack has received two reports of this scam since Feb. 3. In these cases, the scammers stole \$9,200 and \$15,000, respectively from their victims.

Commonly called the "Grandparent Scam," the cases are similar to many that have been reported in other parts of Maryland and across the country in recent months. In each case, the suspects call a senior citizen and claim to be one of their grandchildren who have been involved in a car crash or some other legal trouble and were arrested. The person on the phone provides the victim with a phone number for an attorney and asks the victim to contact them.

The person posing as a lawyer convinces the victims that their respective grandchildren need a large sum of

money—all in cash—to be bailed out of jail. Once the victims went to the bank to withdraw the funds, the suspect or a co-conspirator physically went to the victims' homes to pick up the money.

In both Cumberland cases, the suspect pretending to be the lawyer called back and told them they needed more money to help their grandchild out of their legal troubles. Both victims realized they were being scammed before turning over any additional money.

Law enforcement and/or judicial personnel will never come to your house in order to collect bail money. According to the Federal Trade Commission, there are several steps you can take to avoid becoming a victim of this scam:

- **Resist the urge to act immediately**—no matter how dramatic the story is.
- **Verify the caller's identity.** Ask questions that a stranger couldn't possibly answer. Call a phone number for your family member or friend that you know to be genuine. Check the story out with someone else in your family or circle of friends, even if you've been told to keep it a secret.

• **Don't send cash, gift cards, or money transfers**—once the scammer gets the money, it's gone! Here are some tips to protect yourself from scams in general:

- Do not give out your personal information to someone you do not know.
- Store personal information in a safe place.
- Do not carry your social security card in your wallet.
- Collect mail every day and put a hold on it during extended travel.
- Use security features on your smartphone and computer.
- Use complex passwords.
- Do not use gift cards to pay the IRS or Social Security, tech support, a family member in trouble, ransom or to avoid arrest or deportation or to prevent your utilities from being turned off.
- Trust your instincts. If you think it might be a scam, it probably is one. Anyone with information on these cases is asked to call the Maryland State Police Cumberland Barrack at 301-729-2101. Callers can remain anonymous. These case remains under investigation.

Denis McDonough, Secretary, U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs, Awards Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs the 2022 Abraham Lincoln Pillars of Excellence Award

Department is recognized for innovative program delivery supporting veterans

By PRESS OFFICER

Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Feb. 21, 2022)—Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary, George Owings, today announced that The Honorable Denis McDonough, Secretary of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) awarded the department the 2022 Abraham Lincoln Pillars of Excellence Award for innovative state program for Maryland's Serving Those Who Served-A Public Library program. The program, a partnership with the Maryland State Library Agency, began as a pilot initiative in 2014 to expand veteran outreach and library personnel education in Maryland.

The VA and National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs worked together to establish the Pillars of Excellence Awards to identify and formally recognize innovative state programs that support or exemplify VA's strategic goals and priorities. Each year, states

submit the work and programs they have developed to compete for an award in a number of categories. Maryland was one of eight states to submit a best practice which improves opportunities and outcomes for veterans.

"The partnership between the Department of Veterans Affairs and Maryland State Library Agency has increased awareness of the many programs offered to support Maryland's veterans and families," said Governor Larry Hogan. "Our administration is excited for the department's recognition and to celebrate receipt of this national award."

"We are honored to receive the 2022 Abraham Lincoln Pillar of Excellence Award, a first for the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, for Innovative State Programming," said Secretary Owings. "I am thankful for Maryland State Library Agency's commitment to expanding its service delivery to service members, veterans, and families."

"The Maryland State Library Agency is thrilled to be recognized as a recipient of the Abraham Lincoln Pillars of Excellence award, along with our partners at the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, honoring this important work to meet the needs of Veterans and their families," said Irene Padilla, State Librarian. "This partnership has allowed those who served and their loved ones to connect to valuable programs and services through their local public libraries."

Maryland submitted for the award this year to recognize its eight-year partnership with the Maryland State Library Agency. Since 2014, Dana Burl, Outreach and Advocacy Program Director for the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs has led the partnership, alongside Carrie Sanders, Youth Services Coordinator for the Maryland State Library Agency, and Joy Ashcraft, Director, Maryland's Commitment to Veterans, a Maryland Department of Health program. More than 10 events have been held to discuss best practices for connecting with veterans and their families. Events have included military/veteran cultural competency training, VA benefits training, book club facilitation, military youth programming, and transitional housing program and Vet Center briefings. Library personnel have been exposed to many organizations serving the military connected community and last year close to 40 completed the VA's S.A.V.E. Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention Training program.

For more information on the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, visit veterans.maryland.gov.

Maryland Small Business Development Center

Make Your Small Business More User Friendly and Accessible

March 15, 2022 • 10-11 a.m. (EDT) • No Fee • Online Meeting (Live)

Registration Deadline: 3/14/22 4 p.m. (EDT)
<https://mddbdc.eccenterdirect.com/events/16967>

Join us for the Grow with Google's partnership course. When businesses build digital communications that allow people with disabilities to perceive, understand, navigate, and interact with products and services, it expands their market. Implementing accessibility best practices can help businesses grow, and improve the experience for all users. In this session you will learn:

- What does accessibility mean, online?
- How to design for accessibility: web pages, email, and tips for physical spaces
- Tips for being more inclusive

Charging from A1

parks began this month and will take about two months to complete. Initial locations include Harmony Hall Regional Center, Kentland Community Center, Lake Arbor Community Center, Peppermill Village Community Center, Prince George's County Plaza Community Center, Tanglewood Community Center, Langley Park Community Center, North Barnaby Splash Park. Residents can follow the installation timeline at pgparks.com.

The charging stations will be available to the public at the following rates: Level 2 chargers - \$0.18 per Kilowatt-hour

(kWh); DC Fast Chargers - \$0.34 per kWh (includes tax). Use of these charging stations will be monitored by the counties to determine the possibility of adding more charging stations in the future.

"We know our customers and communities are becoming increasingly interested in cleaner and more efficient forms of transportation, including electric vehicles," said Donna Cooper, Pepco region president. "We are excited about this partnership with Montgomery and Prince George's Counties and continuing our support in developing a robust and accessible public EV charging network across Maryland, with equity and inclusion being

a priority. We are working hard to advance a reliable energy platform that connects our communities and supports the climate goals of the regions we serve as well as our broader mission to power a cleaner and brighter future."

In addition to this partnership, Pepco has also pledged to install 250 EV charging stations across Maryland. To date, the company has installed 56 charging stations, including both Level 2 and DC Fast chargers. For more information about this work and other EV tools and resources provided by Pepco, customers can visit the company's EVsmart website.

HEALTH *and* WELLNESS

Kaiser Permanente Commits \$655,000 to D.C., Baltimore, Northern Virginia Community Organizations to Advance Health Equity

By PRESS OFFICER
Kaiser Permanente

ROCKVILLE, Md. (Feb. 23, 2022)—Kaiser Permanente has awarded \$655,000 in grants to 13 community organizations and nonprofits throughout the Washington, D.C. region, Northern Virginia and Baltimore to improve community health. The recent grants address access to healthcare as well as social factors that can impact a person's total health, such as access to safe housing, thriving schools, and economic opportunity. Evidence shows that social determinants of health account for approximately 70% of health outcomes and are also contributing factors of health inequities.

The funds will help provide staffing for critical community organizations and social services, as well as facilitate uninterrupted operations during these challenging times when so many safety net organizations are struggling. Additionally, these commitments dovetail with Kaiser Permanente's recent \$5 million investment and creation of a loan fund to support preservation and production of affordable housing along the Purple Line corridor in Prince George's County and Montgomery County, Maryland. Housing Initiative Partnership, National Housing Trust, and Enterprise Community Partners will direct their grants to affordable housing initiatives.

"Kaiser Permanente is honored to support these impactful community organizations that provide vital services to community members throughout the region," said Ruth Williams-Brinkley, regional president of Kaiser Permanente, Mid-Atlantic. "Working together, we can address home-

lessness, we can make our school environments stronger, and we can create economic opportunity that paves the way for thriving communities."

The grants will support the following organizations and initiatives in Prince George's County:

- **Housing Initiative Partnership, Inc.** (Prince George's County, MD): Educate tenants, promote affordable housing, and prevent displacement of residents in low-income and immigrant neighborhoods along the Purple Line in Montgomery County and Prince George's County.
- **Enterprise Community Partners** (Montgomery County & Prince George's County, MD): Equitable support of Faith-Based Development Initiative Purple Line Corridor houses of worship; help create affordable housing for low- to moderate-income families.

"Addressing our metropolitan area's homelessness crisis will require regional collaboration. Individuals experiencing homelessness may sleep in one city or county, but work in another, or seek services in yet another. That's why Washington, D.C. wants to improve our partnership with neighboring cities and counties to exchange data and prioritize housing placement for those most in need," said Elisabeth Young, senior analyst at The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness. "We are so appreciative of the grant from Kaiser Permanente, which will help improve coordination between organizations in Washington, D.C., Montgomery County and Prince George's County to expedite housing placement for single individuals and veterans experiencing homelessness in these areas."

"Partnering with Kaiser Permanente is such a pleasure—the organization's excitement and commitment to helping small business in Baltimore is clearly intentional and sincere," said Bonnie Crockett, director, Small Business Lending at Baltimore Community Lending, Inc. "Our Small Business Loan program is designed to break down barriers to credit and bring equity to small business lending, especially for people of color and women entrepreneurs. Kaiser Permanente's generosity has made that capital more affordable and more accessible."

The recent grants are one way that Kaiser Permanente is working to address important factors that impact health across the region. In 2020, the region's leading health system launched the Mid-Atlantic Community Network, which uses a technology platform to connect social service providers with community members, who may need services such as housing, food or mental health assistance, across the region. To date, the network has 867 community partners and has provided more than 1,671 referrals to services across the region. In addition to the network, in 2021, Kaiser Permanente provided a total of \$169.7 million in grants and community benefit programs across the Mid-Atlantic region to support various social health initiatives.

Kaiser Permanente is committed to helping shape the future of health care. We are recognized as one of America's leading health care providers and not-for-profit health plans. Kaiser Permanente is dedicated to care innovations, clinical research, health education, and the support of community health. For more information, go to about.kp.org.

Medical Leave from A1

leave struggled making ends meet, according to a Center for American Progress 2021 report.

The Time to Care Act of 2019 failed to make it out of committee. In the 2020 legislative session, a paid family and medical leave bill was introduced, but, like many other pieces of legislation, it was discarded as the General Assembly focused on the burgeoning coronavirus pandemic. Last year, the Time to Care Act of 2021 also died in committee.

Supporters say this year there are signs the legislation could become law, despite past failures.

Polls continue to show Americans want it. An October-November 2021 Morning Consult/Politico poll shows that 70% of registered voters strongly (37%) or somewhat (33%) support paid family and medical leave for new parents.

Meanwhile, nine states and the District of Columbia have adopted paid family leave legislation in the last decade. Oregon and Colorado's paid family leave laws are scheduled to go into effect in 2023 and 2024, respectively. Similar legislation is being considered this year by lawmakers in 13 other states, including neighboring Virginia and Delaware.

While some workers, like Coppola, can use savings, a spouse's income, vacation days or personal sick leave to help them through time off, others have no financial cushion, advocates and the bills' sponsors noted.

The federal Family and Medical Leave Act protects employees' jobs for up to 12 weeks when they are out, but it does not supply financial support and only applies to businesses with more than 50 employees and public employers.

Under Wilson's bill, part-time and full-time employees who have worked 680 hours over a 12-month period would be able to receive 12 weeks of pay. They would be eligible for between \$50 and \$1,000 a week, depending on the worker's average weekly salary.

To pay workers, the measure proposes a financial pool named the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Fund where employees and employers would be required to contribute a portion of a worker's wages every week. The contribution cannot exceed 1% of a worker's total wages.

One provision clarifies that businesses with fewer than 15 employees would not have to contribute to the fund, while all employees, regardless of the size of the business, must pay their share of the contribution.

The bill would allow self-employed work-

ers to participate in the program voluntarily.

Hayes and Valderrama's bill proposes a contribution of 0.67% of a worker's wage that may not exceed 0.75% of an employee wage every week. The bill mandates all employees and employers contribute to the fund.

The legislation still faces opposition from some businesses, which opposed it last year.

Representatives for the state's businesses, including the Maryland Chamber of Commerce and the Maryland Retailers Association, said this legislation represents an untenable financial cost for small businesses trying to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This is not a good time for this," Mary D. Kane, president of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, said in an interview with Capital News Service.

Supporters, like Regan Vaughan, advocacy director for Catholic Charities of Baltimore, told lawmakers during hearings that families desperately need help when illness or other issues will not allow them to work, and it would also help small businesses.

"This bill could help the small business owner who feels helpless to financially support an employee who has had to take time during her battle with cancer," Vaughan said at the hearing. "This bill could help a mom who recently had to hide in a storage closet at her place of employment to participate in family therapy with her child, who was hospitalized for psychiatric reasons."

Under the bill sponsored by Hayes and Valderrama, a Maryland worker earning an average weekly wage of around \$1,080 would contribute \$3.62 per week, Hayes said during the hearing in the Senate Finance Committee in early February.

As proposed, the Maryland Department of Labor would collect the money and approve paid leave once an employee submits a claim. Starting the program would cost the state around \$21 million, but Wilson said during his committee's hearing it would not be borne by the state, because the money will be paid back once the fund becomes self-sustaining from the contributions, which would start next year.

The Howard County Chamber of Commerce also opposes the bill as written, spokesperson Christopher Costello said.

Costello said the measure should make it clear that workers cannot take more than 12 weeks of total leave, and that the state insurance would run concurrently with the federal unpaid leave.

Bruce Spencer, the owner of an auto repair shop in Anne Arundel County, also testified against the bill during hearings in the House and Senate committees. Spencer said the biggest issue for him and businesses like his



JOE RYAN/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Matthew Weaver, manager of a Zeke's Coffee shop in Baltimore, told legislators he needs surgery that will mean taking several weeks off to recover this summer. Although the company wants to financially support him while he is out, it will not be able to bear the cost alone, he said.

is not paying a percentage of his employees' salary every week, but finding skilled workers to replace them temporarily.

"We build our labor as a revenue source," Spencer told legislators. "We have four technicians. You take one out, that is 25% less revenue. The thought of a temporary workforce in a very skilled position is almost nonexistent."

Matthew Weaver, 43, of Baltimore, knows what it is like to be out of work for a severe medical condition and not have financial support.

During hearings, Weaver told lawmakers he went into debt and was evicted twice when he was unemployed for long periods following surgery three years ago and recovery for ulcerative colitis, an inflammatory bowel disease.

He is now a manager at a Baltimore Zeke's Coffee shop, a company that supports paid family and medical leave, and he is expecting a second surgery that will require him to take several weeks off to recover this summer.

Although the company wants to support him while he is off work, the owner will not be able to bear the cost alone, he said.

"There's no way that (the owner) could afford to pay me while I'm not working."

Surprise Discovery Suggests New Treatment for Deadly Lung Cancer

Small-Cell Lung Cancer Spreads Fast and Often Resists Treatments

By PRESS OFFICER
UVA Cancer Center

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (Feb. 24, 2022)—An unexpected discovery at UVA Cancer Center has allowed scientists to halt the development of small-cell lung cancer in lab mice, and the surprise finding could open the door to a new treatment approach in people.

The researchers, led by UVA's Kwon-Sik Park, PhD, and John H. Bushweller, PhD, were seeking to understand the role of a mutation in the EP300 gene in the formation of small-cell lung cancer tumors. Their experiments revealed that the gene makes a protein with surprising properties that can both foster or prevent the development of small-cell lung cancer. By preventing the gene from acting as a tumor-promoter, the researchers were able to stop the cancer from forming and spreading. This held true in both cell samples and lab mice.

The protein's essential role in tumor formation makes it an enticing target for researchers seeking to develop new treatments for small-cell lung cancer (SCLC), an exceptionally dangerous form of cancer. Overall five-year survival for patients diagnosed with SCLC is only about 7%.

"The most remarkable aspect of our findings is that we explained the unique vulnerability of EP300 at the molecular level, down to a single amino acid," said Park, of the University of Virginia School of Medicine's Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Cancer Biology. "Given the frequent EP300 mutations found in a wide range of cancer types, I hope that the concept of targeting the EP300 KIX domain will have a more general applicability for cancer therapy."

About Small-Cell Lung Cancer

Small-cell lung cancer is responsible for approximately 13% of lung cancer diagnoses. Patients typically have better outcomes when it is caught early, before it has spread outside the lung, but it is a fast-growing cancer and is often discovered after it has already spread. Smoking is a major risk factor. Current treatment options include surgery, chemotherapy, radiation and immunotherapy, but, for most patients, treatments do not cure the cancer. That means better options are urgently needed.

UVA's new findings point to a potential new approach. Park and his team made their surprise discovery while investigating the role of the EP300 gene in the development of SCLC using genetically engineered mouse models. Remarkably, they found the protein the gene makes could both promote and suppress tumor formation. One component, or "domain," of the protein appeared to foster cancer development, while another appeared to impede it.

The scientists further investigated the tumor-promoting domain, called KIX, and found it was essential for SCLC development. The cancer couldn't exist without it. The cancer, it turned out, had to get its KIX.

That suggests that targeting KIX could offer a way to treat SCLC in patients, the scientists say. In a new scientific paper outlining their findings, they call KIX a "unique vulnerability" in small-cell lung cancer.

To explore this newfound vulnerability, Park immediately turned to UVA's Bushweller and Tim Bender, PhD, who previously had considered targeting the KIX domain. A fruitful collaboration instantly ensued.

"Based on this data, we are quite excited to pursue the development of a drug targeting the KIX domain, as this will likely have multiple applications for cancer treatment, particularly for SCLC and leukemia," said Bushweller, of UVA's Department of Molecular Physiology and Biological Physics.

The researchers were pleased that their collaboration has produced such a promising lead in the effort to develop better therapies for small-cell lung cancer.

"This study was one of the best examples for the interdisciplinary collaborations happening at UVA, spearheaded by talented and hardworking postdocs Kee-Beom Kim and Asish Kabra," Park noted.

Shedding light on the causes of cancer and pioneering better ways to treat it are urgent missions of the UVA Cancer Center, which on Feb. 1 became one of only 52 cancer centers in the country to be designated as a Comprehensive Cancer Center by the National Cancer Institute (NCI). The designation recognizes elite cancer centers with the most outstanding cancer programs in the nation. Comprehensive Cancer Centers must meet rigorous standards for innovative research and leading-edge clinical trials.

UVA Cancer Center is the only Comprehensive Cancer Center in Virginia.

Findings Published

The researchers have published their findings in the scientific journal *Science Advances*. The research team consisted of Kim, Kabra, Dong-Wook Kim, Yongming Xue, Yuanjian Huang, Pei-Chi Hou, Yunpeng Zhou, Leilani Miranda, Jae-II Park, Xiaobing Shi, Timothy P. Bender, Bushweller and Park.

The work was funded by the National Institutes of Health, grants R01CA194461, U01CA224293, R01GM100776, R56AI108767, R01CA204020, P30CA044579 and P30CA008748; a UVA "Three Cavaliers" grant; and an Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma Research Foundation grant.

To keep up with the latest medical research news from UVA, subscribe to the Making of Medicine blog at <http://makingofmedicine.virginia.edu>.

UVA Cancer Center is one of 52 National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated comprehensive cancer centers in the U.S. for its work in cancer research, prevention, detection and treatment.

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FedChat from A1

shaped her way of thinking. Through some difficulties and triumphs, she was able to become a history maker. "I feel honored to be recognized as a role model and a hero. I hope my story inspires and motivates others to pursue their dreams," said Jackson.

"FedChoice is committed to making a positive and sustainable impact in the areas of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility" says FedChoice President/CEO Brett Noll. "One way we're doing that is by having honest and open discussions that increase awareness and understanding. Our goal is to help keep the conversation going." To watch the full interview and learn more, visit fedchoice.org/fedchat.

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