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EVNoire, GWRCCC Met With Biden-Harris Staff on Advancing Racial Equity in Energy, Environment and Transportation

By PRESS OFFICERS
EVNoire / GWRCCC

WASHINGTON (April 22, 2022)—The Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC) a public-private partnership that promotes the use of clean, American transportation fuels, improved air quality and environmental justice and EVNoire, the nation's largest network of diverse electric vehicle (EV) drivers and enthusiasts, united on Thursday, April 21, 2022 at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the grounds of the White House for a meeting and discussion with key staff from the Biden-Harris Administration on "Advancing Racial Equity in Energy, Environment & Transportation. The meeting increased the awareness among Biden-Harris staff and stakeholders about opportunities to advance equitable multimodal electrification, alternative fuels and environmental education and outreach, as well as workforce and economic

development opportunities and advance public health.

Some of the eight point priorities includes: funding for targeted EV education and community outreach; funding to increase diverse businesses in the e-mobility sector; targeted funding for technical assistance and grants for the support of e-mobility workforce & economic inclusion; conducting e-mobility equity forums and listening sessions across the country; and create provisions for diverse businesses, organizations and vendors to obtain federal contracts and funding.

"There's an urgency now to engage and elevate opportunities for vulnerable and frontline communities who have borne the brunt of transportation emissions due to historical and systemic inequities. This may be our only chance to leverage this transformational funding to accelerate multimodal EV adoption and

See RACIAL EQUITY Page A4

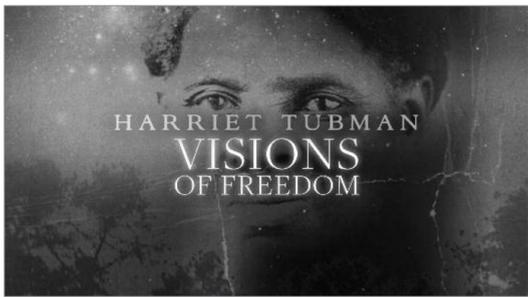
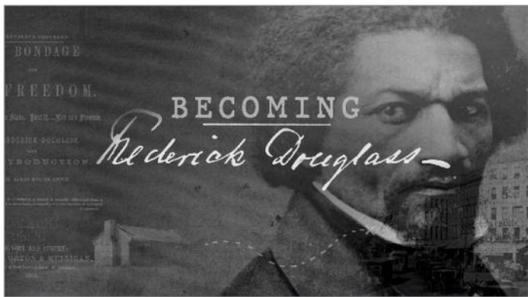
Governor Hogan, Cal Ripken Jr. Cut Ribbon on New Youth Development Park at Prince George's County Police Department



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

Governor Larry Hogan and Cal Ripken, Jr. took part in the ribbon cutting for the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation's new Youth Development Park in Hyattsville—the first of its kind in the nation built on the grounds of a police department.

See YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PARK Page A4



IMAGES COURTESY MPT

Bowie State University has signed on as a premier sponsor for two important original PBS documentaries—Harriet Tubman: Visions of Freedom and Becoming Frederick Douglass—that shed new light on the lives of a pair of iconic Marylanders who were towering figures in the struggle to end slavery.

Bowie State University Becomes First Historically Black University to Sponsor National PBS Documentaries

Harriet Tubman: Visions of Freedom and Becoming Frederick Douglass to premiere in October

By PRESS OFFICERS
MPT / BSU

OWINGS MILLS and BOWIE, Md. (April 21, 2022)—Maryland Public Television (MPT) and Bowie State University today announced that Bowie State has signed on as a premier sponsor for two important original PBS documentaries—Harriet Tubman: Visions of Freedom and Becoming Frederick Douglass—that shed new light on the lives of a pair of iconic Marylanders who were towering figures in the struggle to end slavery. Created by Oscar®-nominated and award-winning filmmaker Stanley Nelson, the two films are co-productions of Firelight Films and MPT with an appropriation from the State of Maryland.

The one-hour documentaries will premiere on MPT and nationally on PBS stations, PBS.org and the PBS Video App in October 2022. Trailers and additional information about both films are available at tubmandouglassfilms.com.

Bowie State University's financial commitment to support the production of these documentaries establishes it as the first historically black university to become a premier sponsor of a national PBS film. This support aligns with the history of the institution as the first Historically Black College and University (HBCU) founded in Maryland in 1865.

"Since the first days of our founding in Baltimore with the mission to begin educating the

newly emancipated citizens of Maryland, Bowie State University has been a trailblazer," said Bowie State University President Aminta H. Breaux. "Building on that legacy, we are proud to boldly step up to partner with Maryland Public Television to help bring forward fresh perspectives on the influence of these two powerful champions of freedom that continue to resonate in today's dialogue on social justice."

As part of the partnership, screenings of each film will be presented at Bowie State to campus and community audiences to draw insights from Douglass and Tubman and to spark discussions on the current crisis of racial and social injustice. Additionally, MPT is preparing a menu of educational

materials based on both films that will be available online to students and educators in grades 4–12.

"It is critically important that we continue to preserve and elevate all aspects of African American history and its rich tapestry woven into every aspect of American history," said Dr. Breaux. "I commend MPT and public broadcasting stations across the country for their commitment to bring these stories to their diverse audiences."

"We're honored to partner with Bowie State University, the oldest HBCU in Maryland, to present important new films about these two American freedom fighters," said Travis Mitchell, MPT senior vice president and chief content officer. "With its legacy of academic excellence and commitment to social justice, Bowie State's distinction as the first HBCU to sponsor national documentary films on PBS is a partnership model for how public broadcasting and HBCUs can help the nation view and un-

See BOWIE STATE Page A4

Hometown Hospice's Gala Returns, Raising More Than Half a Million Dollars

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (April 19, 2022)—After three years of planning, the much awaited Hospice of the Chesapeake gala, An Evening Under the Tuscan Sky, was held April 9 at the Live! Casino & Hotel Maryland in Hanover, Maryland. The event brought in more than \$550,000 that will support the organization's hospice, supportive and grief care programs and services provided to patients and families in Anne Arundel, Charles and Prince George's counties.

Around 350 people enjoyed an evening that included dinner, dancing, live and silent auctions and musical entertainment by The Reagan Years. During the event, guests watched a video featuring Hospice of the Chesapeake's Foundation Chair Terri Hussman. She shared about her experience as someone who personally experienced the nonprofit's grief, hospice and supportive care services and was inspired to join us as a bereavement volunteer and as a generous donor. This video can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/698710117>.

The organization is grateful for the generous support of its many sponsors, includ-

ing Platinum Sponsor, The Wilburn Company; Gold Sponsors, Greenberg Gibbons Commercial Corporation and The Jim & Linda Humphrey Foundation; Silver Sponsors, Kaiser Permanente and The Michael Stanley Foundation Fund; Bronze Sponsors, All Green Management, Pat Taylor; John & Cathy Belcher; Tech USA, Inc., Thomas B. Howell, Sr., Founder; University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center; and University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center; Copper Sponsors, Bay Point Wealth, Bill and Chris Hufnell; Amy Castleberry; Maria Colucciello, DDS; Randy Fisher; HM2 Buck for Hope Foundation; Michael & Tammy Hofmann in honor of Stephen & Challie Samaras; John & Terri Hussman; Maryland Oncology Hematology, Dr. Weng; Mission Escape Rooms, Jason Cherry; Next Day Floors; Purple Cherry Architects; RH Fewster Painting Co. Inc.; Shore United Bank; and Sturbridge Homes.



PHOTO BY JOSHUA MCKERROW

(April 9, 2022) Chief Medical Officer Dr. Eric Bush, back row, center with bowtie, welcomes guests from Kaiser Permanente at the gala held at Live! Casino & Hotel Maryland in Hanover, Md.

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PGCMLS Opens New "Pebble Pop-up Library" at National Harbor

The "Pebble Pop-up Library" opens to the public on Saturday, April 30 at 1 p.m.

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April is National Donate Life Month

ChildWatch: Tax Day Choices Tax Day was an especially sad reminder that the refundable, monthly expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) was short lived.

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Maryland Mortgage Program Announces Launch of New Products

Job Fairs Provide Support to Maryland Hospitality & Tourism Industry Employers

Business and Finance, Page A5

First Solar Canopy Installed at Metro's Anacostia Station

American Humane's "Be Kind to Animals Week®" (May 1–7)

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

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

Jack Sims, Former District Heights Mayor, dies; was honored with a Park

Jack Cornelius Sims, Jr., the first African American Mayor of District Heights, died Feb. 4 at the Hospice of the Chesapeake in Pasadena, Md. He was 71.

He grew up in Coatesville, Pa., son of Jack and Margaret Sims, and graduated in 1968 from Coatesville Area Senior High School where he was in College Prep, Marching Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Band and the Guitar Club.

He played with The Soulistics, a '70s band for which he produced two numbers, "Jones 'N" and "Cotton-Eyed Jo."

Jack worked as a nursing assistant, and later for the Environmental Management Service of the VA Medical Center in Washington.

In 1993 Jack began a career in District Heights, serving two terms as Commissioner and, in 1997, as Mayor of the City of District Heights. He served two terms (2000 and 2016). In 2014 District Heights honored him by naming a new town park The Jack C. Sims Exercise Park & Trail.

Mayor Sims is predeceased by his parents, brothers Sidney and Randy and sister S. Erlean. Survivors include his wife Mary; sons Jack III (Livette) and Justin; brothers Ivan and Mark; sister LaBora Merriett (Derrick); five grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Landover, Rev. Evelio Menjivar, celebrant, and Rev. Benjamin Petty, homilist.

"I believe we did some great things in the past and can do even more great things in the future," Jack Sims (2014).

Town of Morningside

Morningside election will be held at the Municipal Center May 2, for Mayor and two Council Members. Candidates are Mayor Benn Cann (unopposed), Councilmember John Anthony, former Councilmember Sharon Fowler, and Anthony Fontaine Pitts. Polls open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Mad Hatters Tea Party for Mother's Day, May 7, 10 a.m.

Spring Clean-up 2022, Sat., May 14 & Sunday, May 15, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

Neighbors and other good people

John T. "Til" Hazel Jr., 91, a Virginia

lawyer and developer who played a crucial role in building the Capital Beltway, died March 15 at his home in Virginia. Are you old enough to remember time before the Beltway?

Edward Lee Haley, Jr., 76, described in his obit as a "workhorse through life," died April 2. He's survived by his wife of 51 years, Ethel; children James, Dawn and Tony; and four grandchildren. His Celebration of Life was held April 24 at the VFW in Morningside.

Anthony G. Puzzilla's new book "Hope Triumphs over Chaos, The La Plata Tornado of April 28, 2002" is now available. Order on Amazon or drop by Martin's Service Station, 209 Charles Street in La Plata.

Condolences to Rita Beall, of Morningside, on the death of her sister Sara, of El Paso, Texas.

Changing landscape

National Harbor resumes its popular Movies on the Potomac series from May 1 through September 30, Sunday nights at 6 and Thursday nights at 7. Guests are invited to gather in front of the Plaza Screen on the waterfront to watch recent releases and classic films. Bring your own chairs and order take-out from one of the local restaurants. "Sing 2" will be shown Sunday, May 1; "Best in Show" on Thursday, May 5.

College in 3 years? A handful of conventional colleges and universities are adding three-year degrees as students and families increasingly chafe at the more-than-four years it now takes most of those earning bachelor's degrees to finish. And the resulting cost. Good idea?

Michelle (N. Forestville) asks, "Does anyone know what business is going to occupy the new building across from Dave and Buster's? Looks like it will open soon."

The new, yet unopened, winery on Croom Road is part of Robin Hill Farms & Vineyards wine trail on Croom Road. The name is Two Lions Winery, slated to open in June.

A new home at 4101 Skyline Drive recently sold for \$369,000.

A new Suitland coming up!

A \$2.5 million federal funding investment for improvements along Suitland Road, between Silver Hill Road and Towne Park Road, was announced April

14 by County Council Chair Calvin Hawkins, District 7 Council Member Rodney Streeter, County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen.

In addition, The Towne Square at Suitland Federal Center is being redeveloped into a new, mixed-use, transit-oriented neighborhood that will attract new residents and retail and provide new amenities for residents of this community and the employees of the Suitland Federal Center.

The Suitland area continues to be a major redevelopment priority for Prince George's County, with the Suitland Federal Center being home to several federal agencies including the Census Bureau, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Satellite Facility, and the National Maritime Intelligence Center.

Mary's COVID-19 report

This week I got my second booster at Walgreens in Forestville. I got Moderna this time; my other shots were Pfizer. A sore arm, nothing more.

Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) has provided its customers and operators the option to wear face masks on TheBus, PGC Link and Call-A-Bus. Masks will also be optional in transit facilities. The County's decision is made to provide passengers and operators with consistency with WMATA (Metro) and other regional transportation systems mask policies.

Well, in my little corner of Prince George's County, most people are wearing masks. At Safeway—everyone in a mask. At CVS, masks. At St. Philip's Sunday Mass, masks.

However, daughter Therese will be flying from Brownsville, Texas, to Washington next week. She is concerned about flying with a lot of mask-less people.

Milestones

Happy Birthday to Lael McCune and Todd Mullins, April 30; Kathryn Deaver, May 1; Ann Lacey, Ernestine Taylor Wood, Dante Ross Jr. and Janet Booth Kaye, May 2; my daughter Sheila (McHale) Mudd and Lori Williams, May 3; India Goodall and Ruby Haines, May 4; Donald Young and Jim Henderson, May 5; and Gretchen Ennis, May 6.

—Happy May Day—

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

FOUNDERS' DAY CELEBRATION

Wednesday, April 20, 2022, Bowie State University celebrated its 157th Founders' Day. The theme for the event was "Legacy & Honor." The ceremony took place at 10 a.m. in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Communication Arts Center, Myers Auditorium, and included recognition for Deans List students and recent retirees. Alumni and friends were invited to join students, faculty, and staff for the celebration.

The keynote speaker was Luke Lawal Jr. ('11), CEO and founder of L & Company, a minority-based corporation in Los Angeles. Luke's first foray into entrepreneurship began in 2011 during his undergraduate career at Bowie State University when he founded HBCU Buzz, a promotional and progressive brand created to generate awareness of HBCU collegiate culture. The Buzz promotes pride and unity within all HBCU communities in order to enhance the Black college experience and improve the perception of America's historically Black colleges and universities. The media outlet provides trends and breaking news about all Black colleges and universities by strategically utilizing references from schools, organizations, and media outlets. The company is currently the leading source of HBCU news for all historically Black colleges and universities. Luke used his sharp methods with his passion for change, to lead HBCU Buzz to become "The most influential brand in the HBCU community" which also landed him a spot on the "DMV Top 30" list in 2014.

In an effort to cultivate a unique space for men of color, Luke also cofounded Suited Lifestyle along with a colleague from Howard University before he graduated. Suited Lifestyle is designed to create an extensive net worth of young professionals and other progressive, like-minded individuals from various walks of life who all share a commitment to leadership, self-sufficiency, and peer-to-peer engagement through social and cultural events.

Today the young CEO and entrepreneur is focused on his next business venture, Taper, an app designed to change how hairstyles and barbers engage with their consumers. As well as his mental health entity Root Care Health. Luke is also a Master Mason and a proud member of Omega Phi Fraternity Inc. Contact: webmaster@bowiestate.edu.

TWO MARYLAND TRIBES

Two Maryland tribes honored by renaming stretch of Maryland Route 210. After several years of lobbying to have Maryland Route 210's name changed, a 20-mile stretch of road will be renamed Piscataway Highway. Kristin Danley-

Greiner, Patch Upper Marlboro, Maryland Staff.

After Jesse James Swann, chief of the Piscataway Conoy Tribe, wrote a letter to politicians and legislators in Charles and Prince George's counties addressing the derogatory name of "Indian Head Highway," officials in the state legislature took up the issue.

Both the House and Senate approved changing the name of the 20-mile road, also known as Maryland Route 210, to Piscataway Highway, according to WTOP. Gov. Larry Hogan signed the bill into law, allowing the road to be renamed on October 1.

Swann suggested using either Piscataway Highway or Pascattaway Highway as a tribute to one of the state's two Native American tribes. "This is our ancestral land, and this highway was a major thoroughfare used by Piscataway and the surrounding tribes that were under our empire," Swann wrote. "We are the original inhabitants of this land we were very accepting and very giving to those who formed what is now present-day Maryland."

A large celebration is planned for October 1, 2022, with thousands of tribal members, family, friends, and stakeholders. We plan to bring millions of dollars of investments to this area for cultural tourism, and this is the start of it."

Swann worked with Julies Tayac Yates, Matriarch of the Piscataway Indian nation, to come up with the name Piscataway Highway, as it equally represents both Maryland state-recognized tribes, he said, the Piscataway Conoy Tribe and the Piscataway Indian Nation."

"This is an honor to be recognized as most people do not even realize that we are still here. We have more than 3,500 enrolled tribal members. What better way to know that you are on Indian Land than to enter Maryland and see Piscataway Highway?" he said. Swann told Fox 5 "that renaming the highway will bolster their plans for the area."

ST. PHILIP'S DAY

Come celebrate with us on St. Philip's Day. Join us for our worship service at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, May 1, 2022. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Charles Hoffacker. We will have praise dancers. Come and enjoy our service and give praise to the Lord! A light lunch will be served immediately following the worship service. St. Philip's Church Baden, 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613-8426.

Around the County

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

Too often, unused prescription drugs in your home find their way into the wrong hands. That often leads to public health and public safety issues in our communities. National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is an opportunity for Prince Georgians to prevent drug addiction and overdose deaths. On **Saturday, April 30**, residents are encouraged to safely drop off unwanted, unused, or expired medications and electronic smoking devices from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Langley Park Community Center (1500 Merrimac Drive, Hyattsville, MD 20783). For more information or for general inquiries, call 301-883-6121.

—Community Connections Newsletter, April 21, 2022

Shaquan Umar Bagot Expected to Graduate From Pitt-Bradford

BRADFORD, Pa. (April 22, 2022)—Shaquan Umar Bagot of District Heights, Md., is expected to graduate **May 1** from the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford with a degree in psychology.

Commencement exercises will take place at 2 p.m. in the KOA Arena at Pitt-Bradford.

Those unable to attend commencement exercises can view the livestream on the university's website at www.upb.pitt.edu/academics/commencement or YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/upittbradford>. A live feed of the nurses' pinning ceremony at 11 a.m. May 1 will be available in the same locations.

Free Cinco De Mayo Lyft Rides Offered Throughout Greater Washington to Prevent Drunk Driving

More than a third of U.S. Highway deaths during

Cinco De Mayo involve drunk drivers

WASHINGTON (April 20, 2022)—Preparing to combat that time of year when, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, nearly one-third (39%) of U.S. traffic deaths involve drunk drivers, a local nonprofit organization announced today that free safe rides will be offered to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area during next month's Cinco de Mayo celebrations.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the 2022 Cinco de Mayo SoberRide® program will be in operation beginning at 4 p.m. on Thursday, May 5 (Cinco de Mayo) and operate until 4 a.m. on Friday, May 6 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk period.

During this twelve-hour period, area residents age 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download the Lyft app to their phones, then enter the SoberRide® code in the app's "Payment" tab (under the "Add Lyft Pass" option) to receive their no-cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. WRAP's 2022 Cinco de Mayo SoberRide® promo code will be posted at 3 p.m. on Thursday May 5 on www.SoberRide.com

During the 2019 Cinco de Mayo period (COVID-19 prevented the last two year's full offerings), nearly 800 (792) persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used WRAP's SoberRide® program rather than possibly driving home impaired. The charity also offers its SoberRide® program on St. Patrick's Day, Independence Day, Halloween and the winter holidays.

SoberRide® is offered throughout Lyft's Washington D.C. coverage area which includes all or parts of: the District of Columbia; the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince George's and towns therein plus the cities of Bowie, College Park, District Heights, Gaithersburg, Glenarden, Greenbelt, Hyattsville, Laurel, Mount Ranier, New Carrollton, Rockville, Seat Pleasant and Takoma Park; and the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William and towns therein plus the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park.

Since 1991, WRAP's SoberRide® program has provided 82,127 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

Founded in 1982, the nonprofit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is a coalition of diverse interests using effective education, innovative programs and targeted advocacy to end alcohol-impaired driving and underage drinking in the Washington, DC metro area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths historically lower than the national average.

More information about WRAP's SoberRide® initiative can be found at www.SoberRide.com.

—Alexandra Lucchesi, WRAP

Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County, Announces Events for Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month

RIVERDALE, Md. (April 21, 2022)—In celebration of Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month, M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County, Arts and Cultural Heritage Division is hosting events throughout the month of May. These events feature dance and music performances that highlight the diverse traditions of South Asia, China, the Pacific Islands, and more. Journey with us and learn more about the Asian and Pacific Islander culture. Scheduled activities include:

Opening Reception

Friday, May 6, 7–9:30 p.m., Newton White Mansion 2708 Enterprise Road, Mitchellville, MD 20721

Join in the celebration of Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month with a collection of live dance, music and martial arts performances celebrating the diverse heritage and unique contributions of Asian and Pacific Islander communities in the United States. The evening's lineup highlights the diverse traditions of Southeast Asia, China, Korea, India, and the Pacific Islands and features performances by: Washington Samulnori, Teen World Dancers, Somapa Thai Dance Company, Meki's Tamure Polynesian Arts Group, Tai Yim Kung Fu School, and more. Children's hands-on activities presented by Arts on a Roll. All ages, FREE. Please, no strollers allowed. Contact Christel.stevens@pgparks.com.

Heritage Festival

Saturday, May 7, 2–6 pm, Southern Area Aquatics and Recreation Complex, 13601 Missouri Avenue, Brandywine, MD 20613

Join us as we celebrate the history, culture, music, food, and customs of the Pacific Islands and the continent of Asia through activities, music, games, crafts, contests, and demonstrations. Performance by Meki's Tamure Polynesian Arts Group. Contact paulette.dicks@pgparks.com.

For more information on both events, visit <https://arts.pgparks.com/2854/Asian-Pacific-Islander-Heritage-Month>.

COMMUNITY

PGCMLS Opens New “Pebble Pop-up Library” at National Harbor

By NICHOLAS BROWN
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (April 19, 2022)—As part of ongoing efforts to expand access to library resources throughout Prince George's County, the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) will open a new self-service pop-up library at National Harbor in collaboration with the Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council (PGAHC). Located within PGAHC's Arts'tination gallery space (162 Waterfront St, National Harbor, Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745), the “Pebble Pop-up Library” will contain a collection of 400+ books, with a focus on books about fine and performing arts for children, arts entrepreneurship books for adults, and more. The “Pebble Pop-up Library” opens to the public on Saturday, April 30 at 1 p.m. and will be open during regular Arts'tination hours, Wednesday-Sunday, 1–6 p.m.

Beginning in spring 2022, PGCMLS and PGAHC will co-present select pro-

grams for children, teens, and adults at Arts'tination, in addition to PGAHC's cultural programs. Joint programs will be announced in the coming weeks. These events will include book discussions, art workshops, literary events, storytimes, and more.

The Library and PGAHC are long-time partners in service to Prince Georgians, frequently presenting joint programs and also collaborating on Art in Public Places commissions within county library buildings, like the Valerie Theberge and Curtis Woody installations at the new Hyattsville Branch Library.

PGCMLS is proud to support the 967,000+ residents of Prince George's County year round with print and digital information resources, programs, services, and gathering spaces. The Pebble Pop-up Library is an extension of this work in support of the community, providing Prince Georgians with a new point of access to Library resources at the popular National Harbor complex.

Returns may be dropped off at the

Pebble Pop-up Library during operating hours only. Library holds will not be available for pickup at the pop-up location. The nearest branch library with holds pickup is Oxon Hill (6200 Oxon Hill Rd, Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745).

Location Information:

The Pebble Pop-up Library at Arts'tination
162 Waterfront St, National Harbor, Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745

Wednesday–Sunday, 1–6 p.m. (Beginning April 30, 2022)

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



IMAGE COURTESY PGCMLS

seekers, children, young professionals, seniors, and families alike. Learn more at pgcmls.info/about-us.

Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council (PGAHC) seeks to create a world-class cultural environment where diverse high quality arts and humanities programs are available for all Prince George's County residents and visitors. Recognizing the importance of the Arts to a vital and healthy community, Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council is dedicated to promoting

artistic excellence and expanding arts opportunities for all citizens for Prince George's County and beyond through an energetic program of advocacy, education and financial support.

The Arts'tination space was gifted to PGAHC in May of 2021. Beginning as just a window installation, the space has grown to hold over 10 local Resident Artists, all of whom handcraft, create, and run their own stalls. We also feature the artwork of several of our Gallery Artists.

Special Saturday Tours in May at Marietta House Museum

By STACEY HAWKINS
Marietta House Museum

Please join us for special Saturday tours to help launch the museum's new tour on May 7, 14, and 21. Tour times are 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. “Giving Voice: Enslaved Families at Marietta”, is a new guided tour experience. In time for Historic Preservation Month, Marietta House Museum is adding three

additional days to the May tour schedule to help launch the new Giving Voice tour!

The new interactive tour focuses on the lives of the enslaved families who lived, labored, and sought freedom from Marietta in the 19th century. Join us as we launch the brand-new interpretation of Marietta House Museum featuring freedom stories, family stories, and commemorative moments for

those who navigated and challenged the legal and often biased hurdles that shaped their enslavement at Marietta Plantation.

Registration is required. Recommended for ages 8 & up. \$5/person and children 12 and under free. To register please call 301-464-5291 or visit www.pgparksdirect.com

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

Local Red Cross Calls for Hundreds of Volunteers to Help Install Over 1,000 Free Smoke Alarms in May

Save lives by registering at SoundTheAlarm.org

By ASHLEY HENYAN
American Red Cross

WASHINGTON (April 21, 2022) —Volunteers are needed to Sound the Alarm on home fire safety and help install more than 1,000 free smoke alarms for local families in Washington, DC and Brentwood, MD—two communities within a Red Cross region where disaster workers responded to more than 1,300 home fire-related emergencies in 2021.

The Red Cross National Capital & Greater Chesapeake Region is leading a Sound the Alarm

smoke alarm installation and home fire safety event on May 7 with DC Fire & Rescue; and on May 14 with Prince George's County Fire—as part of a national Red Cross initiative in May to install 50,000 free smoke alarms with partners in more than 50 at-risk communities across the country.

“Sound the Alarm is meaningful way to be a part of a larger movement while directly helping local families,” said Wendy Vara, Interim Regional Executive for the Red Cross of the National Capital & Greater Chesapeake Region “In just one day, you

could help save a neighbor's life by installing smoke alarms—which can cut the risk of dying in a home fire by half.”

People can register now at SoundTheAlarm.org to install free smoke alarms and share fire safety information with residents during either or both local Sound the Alarm events. No prior experience is needed. On-site training will be provided before volunteer teams, with members of the Red Cross and local fire departments, visit area homes.

See ALARMS Page A7



**I-495 Southside Express Lanes Study
City of Alexandria, Fairfax County and
Prince George's County, MD**

Virtual Public Information Meeting
Wednesday, May 18, 2022, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. (presentation at 7 p.m.)
<https://www.virginiadot.org/495Southside>

In-person Public Information Meetings
All meeting times are 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Presentation starts at 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 19, 2022
Oxon Hill High School
6701 Leyte Drive, Oxon Hill, MD 20745

Monday, May 23, 2022
John R. Lewis High School
6540 Franconia Road, Springfield, VA 22150

Wednesday, May 25, 2022
Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center
1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Learn about and provide input on the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) proposed 11-mile extension of the I-495 Express Lanes from the Springfield interchange (I-95/I-395/I-495) in Fairfax County, Virginia, across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, to the MD 210 interchange in Prince George's County, Maryland. The goals and objectives of this I-495 Southside Express Lanes Study (495 Southside Study) are to evaluate transportation improvements that extend and provide continuity of the Express Lanes system on I-495 (Capital Beltway), provide additional travel choices, reduce congestion, improve travel reliability, improve safety, and provide consistency with local and regional plans.

VDOT will hold a virtual meeting option, as well as three in-person meeting options. All meetings will include the same information.

The virtual public meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 18, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., with a presentation at 7 p.m., followed by a question-and-answer session. Visit <https://www.virginiadot.org/495Southside> or call 703-259-3752 for information about how to access and participate in the virtual public information meeting.

The in-person public information meetings will be held on Thursday, May 19, at Oxon Hill High School, Monday, May 23 at John R. Lewis High School, and Wednesday, May 25, at Nannie J. Lee Memorial Recreation Center. Each in-person meeting will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m., with a formal presentation beginning at 7 p.m., followed by a question-and-answer session. Meeting display boards will be available to review, and project staff will be present to answer questions. In-person meetings will follow current CDC-recommended health measures and guidelines.

VDOT, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and other federal, state and local agencies in Virginia and Maryland, has initiated an Environmental Assessment in compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR Part 771.

Review study information on the project webpage (<https://www.virginiadot.org/495Southside>), during the virtual and in-person public information meetings, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call ahead at 703-259-3752 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

Provide your input by completing a public opinion survey at <https://www.virginiadot.org/495Southside>, and by providing your written comments at one of the meetings or submitting them by June 6, 2022 to Nick Nies, AICP, VDOT 495 Southside Express Lanes Study Project Manager, 9030 Stony Point Parkway, Suite 220, Richmond, VA 23235, or email 495southsideexpresslanes@vdot.virginia.gov.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT Civil Rights at 703-259-1775.

UPC: 117217

**TOWN OF BLADENSBURG
NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL
PROPERTY TAX INCREASE**

The Mayor and Council of the Town of Bladensburg proposes to increase real property taxes.

- For the tax year beginning July 1, 2022, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 3.1%, from \$530,104,728 to \$546,548,938.
- If the Town of Bladensburg maintains the current tax rate of \$0.74 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 3.1% resulting in \$121,687 of new real property tax revenues.
- In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$0.7177, the constant yield tax rate.
- The Town of Bladensburg is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The Town proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$0.74 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 3.1% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$121,687 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 7:00 PM on May 9, 2022 at Bladensburg Town Hall at 4229 Edmonston Rd., Bladensburg, MD 20710. The meeting will also be streamed live on The Town of Bladensburg's Facebook page, YouTube, and via Zoom.

To join the video conference via Zoom, please access the following link:
<https://zoom.us/j/97463669358?pwd=QkNNKzRDNFJUK3pWL0ZGc0E0NDdGZz09>
Enter the Meeting ID: 974 6366 9358 and Passcode: 930725

To join with audio only, dial +1-301-715-8592 and enter meeting ID number 97463669358#

The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged. Participants who join the video/audio conference will be enabled to speak by the meeting chair. Speakers will be allowed to address the Mayor and Council for three (3) minutes. Public Comment may also be emailed to clerk@bladensburgmd.gov. All electronic comments must be submitted by 5 PM on May 9, 2022. Written comments can also be submitted to The Town of Bladensburg, 4229 Edmonston Rd., Bladensburg, MD 20710 and must be received by 5 PM on May 9, 2022. Comments received will be read into the record during the public comment portion of the meeting. Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call Bladensburg Town Hall at 301-927-7048 for further information.

COMMENTARY



A Beautiful Soul That Lives On

By Gerardo and Rhoda Ramos

Our daughter Michelle Ramos or “Shell” as we fondly called her was mesmerized by life and love. She was a deep thinker who kept a journal to document her thoughts and philosophies on matters close to her heart. Shell loved intensely and was on a journey to better understand herself and the world around her.

Shell grew up in the metro D.C. area and worked in the service industry. She was a daughter, sister, friend and Aunt. On the exterior, she was the life of every party, but she also had a secret side to her where she enjoyed spending time alone reading, writing and being creative. Shell brought people together and shared her wisdom, advice and infamous catchphrases with others. She encouraged people to find joy in the small things, to love each other and most importantly to love themselves.

In November 2020, we got a phone call that changed everything. Shell was in grave condition at the hospital after sustaining a traumatic injury. We rushed to the hospital to be by her side. Doctors did everything they could to save her life but after a few days and a lot of prayers, we lost our baby girl at the young age of 25.

We were heartbroken and devastated. But before we left the hospital to begin making funeral arrangements there was a silver lining. We met with representatives from Washington Regional Transplant Community (WRTC), the local non-profit organ procurement organization (OPO) that facilitates the organ donation process, and we decided to donate Shell’s organs to help other people.

We are so proud Shell saved five lives by donating her kidneys, heart, liver and lungs. One of the most miraculous and beautiful things that happened amidst our grief is one of her kidneys was a match for a woman at our church who desperately needed a transplant. We were able to work with WRTC to do a directed donation, which is incredibly rare. Out of the 154 organ donations facilitated by WRTC in 2021, only five were directed donations. How won-



Michelle Ramos

COURTESY PHOTO

derful that our daughter was able to save the life of someone she knew. When we go to church and see the recipient’s family it is a reminder to us of Shell’s big heart and lasting legacy.

Her soul lives on in the five people she saved and in every one of us who loved her, and it will only grow stronger as we keep her in our thoughts.

April is National Donate Life Month, a time to encourage people to register as organ and tissue donors and to celebrate those who have saved lives through the gift of donation like our Shell. People are dying every day because the organ they need isn’t donated in time. Right now, nearly 2,000 people in the metro D.C. area are waiting for the lifesaving call that an organ is available for them.

One organ and tissue donor could save and heal more than 75 lives. Be part of the miracle and make the legal decision to register to be a donor today at registerme.org and let your loved ones know your wishes.

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children’s Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Tax Day Choices

April 18 was Tax Day in the United States, and this year, the day was an especially sad reminder that the refundable, monthly expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) that ended in December 2021 was short lived. The expanded CTC was a lifeline that benefited 90 percent of our nation’s children and lifted 3 million children above the federal poverty line in a single month by providing families much-needed cash to afford the basics. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities noted 90 percent of families with incomes below \$35,000 spent it on food, utilities, housing, clothing, or education. It was proof in real time that we know how to end child poverty and we can do it when we find the political will. But now we have also seen what happens when that will is not sustained: when Congress let the expanded CTC expire after six months without extending it, within just one month child poverty spiked by more than 40 percent and nearly 3.7 million children, including 662,000 Black children and 1.3 million Latino children, fell below the federal poverty line.

We will not stop fighting. The Children’s Defense Fund is a co-chair of the Automatic Benefit for Children (ABC) Coalition, organizations working to create a permanent child allowance, or a guaranteed income, for children in the U.S. Many of the families who desperately needed the cushion the CTC provided were left right back in the same stressful position just as prices for basics like food and gas were rising sharply, and the ABC Coalition recently sent a letter to Congress demanding they prioritize tax breaks for families and children rather than corporations that reads in part:

“According to a recent report from Moody’s Analytics, inflation is costing the average U.S. family an additional \$296 per month, an amount roughly equivalent to one monthly payment of the expanded CTC for a single child. This pandemic-fueled inflation is compounding a longer-term trend: the cost of raising children has been rising faster than inflation for decades . . . Last year, the expanded CTC helped families deal with pandemic-related spikes in the costs of goods like gas and food and longer-term increases in expenses like child care.

In 2021, a couple with two young children paid on average about \$1,000 more for food and gas than before the pandemic . . . Many of the families who used monthly CTC payments to cover their basic needs do not have the savings to cover the increased costs of living. We are concerned that even as families struggle, efforts to extend the CTC appear to have stalled in the Senate, while discussions about reviving and bolstering tax breaks for corporations have continued in earnest. When inflation hits, corporations can weather the storm and even turn record profits by raising prices beyond the rate of inflation, but families don’t have that luxury.”

Children and families deserve a permanent solution. That’s also why the Children’s Defense Fund is calling on Congress to enact measures like the Babies over Billionaires Act introduced into Congress on April 14 by Rep. Jamaal Bowman (D-NY) and co-leads Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-IL), Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), and Rep. Susan Wild (D-PA) to hold billionaires who have been protected by tax loopholes for far too long accountable. This Act would tax the unrealized capital gains of the top 0.01% of American taxpayers with over \$100 million in assets—about 700 billionaires—and invest that money in programs that support families and children in the Departments of Health and Human Services and Education. As Rep. Bowman said at the bill’s introduction: “Policy reflects our priorities, and for decades, the United States has chosen to invest in the personal wealth of billionaires while failing to invest in the tangible needs of our children and our communities. Working class people are taxed more than billionaires at times and often have their income more harshly scrutinized, all while struggling to keep up with the rising costs of basic needs like food and housing . . . By auditing and taxing the 700 richest people in our country the wealthy will finally pay their fair share.”

Right now Tax Day is still a reminder of our nation’s misguided priorities, but it doesn’t have to stay that way. We must envision and realize an America where every child has enough. God did not make two classes of children and we do so at our peril.

Youth Development Park from A1

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (April 22, 2022)—Governor Larry Hogan and Cal Ripken, Jr. today took part in the ribbon cutting for the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation’s new Youth Development Park in Hyattsville—the first of its kind in the nation built on the grounds of a police department.

“Together, we are providing safe, inclusive, positive environments for young people to play, learn, and grow,” said Governor Hogan. “We have now helped fund seven Ripken Foundation projects across the state, including this Prince George’s County Police Athletic League Park, which furthers the work of the foundation to honor the life and spirit of Cal Ripken, Sr. Congratulations to everyone involved in making this park a reality, and thank you for being part of our continued efforts to change Maryland for the better.”

The Maryland Department of Hous-

ing and Community Development (DHCD) provided \$600,000 to support this project through several revitalization programs. Overall, the department has provided nearly \$2.2 million to support the Ripken Foundation’s work in Maryland. In addition, in one of his supplemental budgets, the governor committed \$2.5 million to help the Ripken Foundation build more fields across the state.

“Green spaces—fields like this—are absolutely part of developing healthy, thriving communities,” said DHCD Secretary Kenneth C. Holt. “This site will provide a safe space for local youth and their families, providing recreation, relaxation, and most importantly, opportunities.”

The Ripken Foundation will host its “Badges for Baseball” program at the field—the 101st Youth Development Park nationwide—featuring youth baseball teams coached by law enforcement officers. Last year, the foundation engaged more than 1.2 million at-risk youth in over 50 cities and 42 states.

Racial Equity from A1

workforce and economic development opportunities while also improving public health,” Dr. Shelley Francis, Co-Founder of EVNoire.

“These recommendations will help provide a real framework, for real solutions to help make real change to foster equity that expands opportunities for underserved communities and populations in energy, environment, transportation, and public health. This is an important moment history, we cannot become merely spectators or just consumers while these significant investments are being made in clean energy, transportation and the environment,” state Antoine M. Thompson, Executive Director of the Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition.

Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC), focused on the Washington, D.C. metro area, one of nearly 80 coalitions in the U.S. that fosters economic, environmental, and energy security by working locally to advance affordable, domestic transportation fuels, energy efficient mobility systems, and other fuel-saving technologies and practices. <https://gwrccc.org>.

EVNoire is the nation’s largest network of diverse electric vehicle (EV) drivers and enthusiasts, working to advance EVs and multimodal e-mobility solutions across the U.S. and ensuring those solutions are inclusive and equitable. EVHybridNoire recently crafted its Public



COURTESY PHOTO

GWRCCC and EVNOIRE at White House 2022

Policy Toolkit intended for diverse policymakers and stakeholders which can be found at <https://evhybridnoire.com/publicpolicytoolkit>. EVHybridNoire also released their Medium/Heavy Duty policy brief intended to provide guidance on best practices for electrifying this sector.

Bowie State from A1

derstand contemporary issues using a historic lens.”

In addition to Bowie State University’s support, the two programs are also made possible by DIRECTV.

Becoming Frederick Douglass is the inspiring story of how a man born into slavery became one of the most prominent statesmen and influential voices for democracy in American history. Born in 1818 on Maryland’s Eastern Shore, he escaped from slavery in 1838 and went on to become the most well-known leader of the abolitionist movement. A gifted writer and powerful, charismatic orator, it is estimated that more Americans heard Douglass speak than any other 19th-century figure—Black or white. The doc-

umentary explores how Douglass controlled his own image and narrative, embracing photography as a tool for social justice, and the role he played in securing the right to freedom and equality for African Americans.

Harriet Tubman: Visions of Freedom is a rich and nuanced portrait of the woman known as a conductor of the Underground Railroad, who repeatedly risked her own freedom and life to liberate others from slavery. Born in Dorchester County, Maryland, 200 years ago—2022 marks her bicentennial—Tubman escaped north to Philadelphia in 1849, covering more than 100 miles alone. Once there, Tubman became involved in the abolitionist movement, and through the Underground Railroad, guided more than 70 enslaved people to free-

dom. The film goes beyond the legend of Tubman to explore what motivated her—including divine inspiration—to become one of the greatest freedom fighters in our nation’s history.

Oscar®-nominated and Emmy® award-winning actor Alfre Woodard is the narrator of Harriet Tubman: Visions of Freedom and acclaimed actor Wendell Pierce is the voice of Frederick Douglass in both films.

Becoming Frederick Douglass and **Harriet Tubman: Visions of Freedom** are executive produced by Firelight founder Stanley Nelson (Attica, Freedom Riders, The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution) and Lynne Robinson. The films are produced and directed by Stanley Nelson and Nicole London. Keith M. Brown and Michael English

are the executives in charge of production. **Becoming Frederick Douglass** was written by Anne Seidlitz. **Harriet Tubman: Visions of Freedom** was written by Paul Taylor, Nicole London, and Marcia Smith.

Bowie State University is Maryland’s oldest historically black university and a University System of Maryland institution committed to providing diverse students with access to a high quality, affordable education. Visit bowiestate.edu. Maryland Public Television (MPT) is a statewide, public-supported TV network and Public Broadcasting Service member offering entertaining, educational, and inspiring content delivered by traditional broadcasting and streaming on TVs, computers, and mobile devices. Visit mpt.org.

The Prince George’s Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Maryland Mortgage Program Announces Launch of New Products

Additional down payment and closing cost assistance options now available for first-time homebuyers

By PRESS OFFICER

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

NEW CARROLLTON, Md. (April 19, 2022)—The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's Maryland Mortgage Program today announced the launch of two new loan products to provide higher levels of down payment and closing cost assistance. The Maryland Mortgage Program has been the state's flagship home-

ownership program for over 40 years, and, for the past three years, has averaged over \$1 billion in home loan reservations, helping more than 5,000 Marylanders get into their dream home each year.

"In this challenging housing climate, when interest rates are increasing and affordable housing inventory is low, resulting in higher purchase prices, homebuyers need more down payment assistance," said Secretary Kenneth C. Holt. "Our Maryland Mortgage Program is nationally-recognized for the diversification of our product line,

and we are constantly evaluating new products that can give Marylanders the best possible options to attain and sustain homeownership."

The new 1st Time Advantage 5% Loan and 1st Time Advantage 4% Loan products offer down payment and closing cost assistance equal to 5% or 4% of the first mortgage, respectively, and are 0% deferred for up to 30 years, meaning new homebuyers will not need to pay back the assistance until selling or refinancing their home.

In addition to the newly launched loan products,

the Maryland Mortgage Program offers a wide variety of mortgage products specifically tailored to make homeownership affordable and sustainable, including flexible financing government and conventional loans that come with various levels and forms of down payment and closing cost assistance and attractive interest rates for both first-time and repeat homebuyers, conventional refinancing and even student debt relief. To learn more and find out which product is right for you, visit mmp.maryland.gov and contact a participating lender.

TOWN OF LANDOVER HILLS NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Landover Hills proposes to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2022, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 4.2%, from \$170,347,746 to \$177,555,943.
2. If the Town of Landover Hills maintains the current tax rate of \$0.52 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 4.2% resulting in \$37,482 of new real property tax revenues.
3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$0.4989, the constant yield tax rate.
4. The Town is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The Town proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$0.52 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 4.2% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$37,482 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 16, 2022 at the Landover Hills Town Hall, 6904 Taylor Street, Landover Hills, Maryland.

The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged.

Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call (301)773-6401 for further information.

Job Fairs Provide Support to Maryland Hospitality & Tourism Industry Employers

By PRESS OFFICER

Visit Annapolis

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (April 21, 2022)—In what is believed to be the first statewide tourism and hospitality job fair in Maryland's history, destination marketing and tourism organizations from across the State and their workforce system counterparts are teaming up to address one of the travel and hospitality industry's biggest challenges—filling thousands of open positions and retaining talent to welcome back visitors for what is expected to be a robust summer travel season. A statewide virtual job fair and a regional in-person job fair to benefit the future of the travel industry in Maryland will take place during National Travel & Tourism Week (NTTW) May 1–7, 2022.

Individuals seeking employment in Maryland's hospitality and tourism industry will have the opportunity to meet virtually with employers from 19 Maryland counties, as well as Annapolis, the City of Baltimore, and Ocean City, on Wednesday, May 4, from 9 a.m. until noon.

Employers and job seekers who prefer the option of an in-person meeting will have the opportunity to meet during a Greater Baltimore and Annapolis Hospitality & Tourism Job Fair sponsored by Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County (VAAAC) and Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation (AAWDC) at the BWI Airport Marriott in Linthicum Heights, Maryland on Monday, May 2, from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

VAAAC Executive Director Kristen Pironis says what began as a conversation about hosting a regional job fair morphed into the creation of the May 4 statewide virtual job fair being presented by Maryland Association of Destination Marketing Organizations, the Maryland Tourism Coalition, and their workforce system partners to assist the hospitality industry statewide.

According to a Tourism Economics report, the pandemic resulted in a net loss of more than 45,600 Maryland jobs that directly interact with visitors in 2020. That is more than 30 percent of all jobs directly supported by visitor activity. Even with those losses, visitor activity in Maryland continued to directly support 104,328 jobs, or 2.9 percent of all jobs in the state.

"For there to be a full economic recovery of the travel and hospitality industry in Maryland, our hotels, restaurants, attractions, and tourist venues need staff to meet the expectations of our visitors," says Pironis. "We want to do what we

can to help ensure that a Maryland vacation or getaway is enjoyable from start to finish and is 100% dependent upon the workforce being in place this summer to create lifelong memories," she adds.

About the Virtual Statewide Job Fair on Wednesday, May 4, 2022:

In addition to Annapolis, Ocean City and Baltimore City, employers from the following counties will be recruiting travel and hospitality talent during the virtual job fair: Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Queen Anne's, Saint Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico, and Worcester.

Employers who are recruiting talent for positions within the 22 participating counties/cities are invited to register at:

<https://pvapi.premiervirtual.com/s/d7aZrW>.

Individuals seeking employment in the participating jurisdictions are invited to register for the virtual job fair at:

<https://pvapi.premiervirtual.com/s/81rNrd>.

About the In-Person Greater Baltimore & Annapolis Job Fair on Monday, May 2, 2022:

VAAAC and AAWDC will kick off NTTW observances in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County with a complimentary in-person Hospitality & Tourism Job Fair at the BWI Airport Marriott, 1743 West Nursery Road, Linthicum, MD 21090, on Monday, May 2, from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

Hospitality and tourism industry employers, including restaurants, tourist attractions, hotels, motels, inns, retail establishments, entertainment venues, and more, will have the opportunity to meet face-to-face with prospective job seekers at the no cost event.

According to a Tourism Economics report, 15,297 individuals were directly employed by the travel and tourism industry in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County in 2020. This was down 30.4% from the 21,974 individuals who were directly employed by the industry in 2019.

Employers who are interested in recruiting talent at the in-person Hospitality & Tourism Job Fair on Monday, May 2, can register at: <https://www.visitannapolis.org/jobfair2022>.

Individuals who would like to attend the in-person Hospitality & Tourism Job Fair on Monday, May 2, can register at: <https://visitannapolis.jobfair.eventbrite.com>.

Prince George's County Hosts Job and Resource Fair for Individuals Reentering Society

More than 50 employers and providers offered formerly incarcerated residents, returning veterans, and transitional-aged youth (18-24) employment, legal, health, and housing resources and assistance

By GEORGE LETTIS

Prince George's County Health Department

LARGO, Md. (April 20, 2022)—The Prince George's County Health Department's Bridge Center at Adam's House joined the County State's Attorney's Office, the U.S. Attorney's Office, Employ Prince George's, County Council, the City of Glenarden, community-based organizations, and local, state and federal agencies to host a National Second Chance Awareness Month Job and Resource Fair on Wednesday, April 20.

Each April, National Second Chance Awareness Month reaffirms the importance of helping formerly incarcerated people, returning veterans, and youth 18 to 24 years old overcome adversity and transition into society successfully.

The fair at the Glenarden Community Center in Glenarden featured more than 50 local and regional employers and community organizations providing residents job training, educational opportunities, clinical and behavioral health services and resources, transitional housing and legal assistance, and other areas of need.

"The Health Department is grateful our government partners, community-based organizations, and local companies came together to give residents who may face employment, health, housing, legal, and other challenges the opportunities and resources

to get a second chance at life," said Prince George's County Health Officer Dr. Ernest Carter. "Having a steady job with stable housing and a strong support system improves overall health and wellbeing, and we are so proud to help residents get started on a better path."

U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland Erik L. Barron, Prince George's County State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy, County Council Chair Calvin Hawkins and Bridge Center Director Ron Garrett and other sponsors gave opening remarks at the fair underscoring the importance of providing reentry resources.

"It can be very difficult for someone to live a healthy, happy, and stable life after being incarcerated, returning from military services, recovering from or dealing with substance abuse, or being a young adult with few support systems," said Garrett. "We are here to help residents facing a variety of obstacles get back on their feet and contribute to society, which promote healthier living and decision making."

Visit the Bridge Center at Adam's House website or call 301-817-1900 for more information about reentry services and upcoming events.

Visit the Bridge Center at Adam's House website (<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/2889/The-Bridge-Center-at-Adams-House>) or call 301-817-1900 for more information about reentry services and upcoming events.

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a conifer community®



ENVIRONMENT

First Solar Canopy Installed at Metro's Anacostia Station

By PRESS OFFICER
Metro News

(April 19, 2022)—Metro has reached a milestone at Anacostia Station, the first of four stations where solar carports are being installed. After breaking ground in the fall, SunPower Corporation completed installation of the first solar canopy atop the Anacostia parking garage, consisting of 240 solar panels. The project will generate clean energy for the



PHOTO COURTESY METRO

The Solar canopy at the Anacostia Metro station.

region and provide new covered parking and security upgrades for Metro customers.

Each of the four stations will consist of multiple solar canopies. At Anacostia, five solar canopies with a combined total of more than 3,000 solar panels are expected to be completed later this summer. When finished, the Anacostia site alone is expected to generate electricity equivalent to the power used by 165 homes annually.

The solar carport project is a joint venture with leading solar technology and energy services provider SunPower and Goldman Sachs Renewable Power LLC (GSRP). SunPower is installing solar carports at Metro stations at no cost to Metro. A subsidiary of GSRP will own the photovoltaic solar panels, generating power for homes and businesses in the region. In return, the 25-year deal will provide a long-term revenue stream for Metro.

"Metro is committed to being a regional partner in making our communities more sustainable, through transportation, green building and innovation," said Metro General Manager/CEO Paul J. Wiedefeld. "Through this partnership, Metro is making it possible to provide local businesses and homeowners with clean energy."

Solar canopies will also be installed at Southern Ave, Chevy and Naylor Rd stations and accommodate an estimated 11 acres of solar panels combined. Collectively, the projects are

among the largest community solar projects in the Mid-Atlantic Region and are expected to provide nearly 10MW of renewable energy to the local grid. The electricity generated by the combined projects is anticipated to be equivalent to the power used by 1,100 homes annually and will be available to local residential and commercial customers.

Metro customers will also benefit from the project with improved parking amenities, including protection from extreme weather, brighter, more efficient LED lighting, new security cameras and emergency call boxes.

In addition, initial construction activities are underway to install solar carports at Southern Ave Station, while work will begin at Naylor Rd and Cheverly stations later this year.

View Metro's Solar Carport Project page for more information and latest updates or go to wmata.com/solarcarport.

The project is part of Metro's sustainability initiatives and Energy Action Plan and will help advance the Clean Energy DC Plan that seeks to cut carbon emissions in half and transition to 100 percent renewable energy by 2032.

Community, Government Partnership Turns Environmental Disaster Into Sanctuary

By JOE RYAN
Capital News Service

BALTIMORE (April 21, 2022)—Fourteen years ago, Masonville Cove, a small stretch of woods and water along the Patapsco River, just north of Interstate 895 and west of a sprawling industrial complex, held 61,000 tons of trash. Today it's a sanctuary.

With deer browsing and meandering along the trails in the early morning, woodchucks popping out of their dens to forage in the late afternoon and geese swimming in what once was a notoriously foul, polluted inlet, the area is a success story.

"Masonville Cove is one of Maryland's great environmental restoration projects," said William P. Doyle, executive director of the Maryland Port Administration, in a statement. "The Maryland Port Administration led a massive cleanup effort of Masonville Cove years ago and worked closely with neighboring communities and our partners to redevelop the site into all that it offers today."

Two of the more visible examples of the cove's success are the pair of bald eagles nesting in its trees and the personalized trash wheel that catches trash before it gets to the river.

Captain Trash Wheel, a large trash collecting mechanism with googly eyes and solar panels that give it the appearance of a hermit crab, was installed in 2018. It has since become the cove's pseudo mascot. It even has its own dedicated social media presence, with nearly 1,900 Instagram followers and 1,600 followers on Twitter.

The mechanism collects heaps of trash each year from storm drain runoff that empties into the cove from city streets. Since its installation in 2018, the wheel has removed almost 30 tons of trash, according to data from the Maryland Environmental Service.

Then there's the eagles.

The cove is home to the first pair of

nesting bald eagles to return to Baltimore city, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"I think it's special, because they were the first documented pair returning back to Baltimore, and I think that's a sign of the actions we've been taking to protect eagles and do a better job of taking care of our waterways," said Ela-Sita Carpenter, an urban wildlife biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Due to pesticides, shooting, trapping and loss of habitat, bald eagles became rare in the lower 48 states during the early 20th Century. They had declined to only 417 breeding pairs in the 1960s and became one of the first animals protected under the Endangered Species Act in 1973.

The birds rebounded dramatically and were removed from the endangered species list in 2007. According to a report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services last year, there were 71,400 nesting pairs in the U.S.

In 2021, the Baltimore pair nested in the cove for the third year in a row after successfully raising four eaglets over the previous two years.

This year the bald eagles returned to the cove but haven't nested, federal wildlife officials said. They said researchers are unsure why.

In 2013, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service designated Masonville Cove as the nation's first Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership. Managed by the Maryland Port Authority, the refuge works with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Maryland Environmental Service, the Living Classrooms Foundation and the National Aquarium.

To Genevieve LaRouche, Chesapeake Bay Field Office Supervisor with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the refuge is a monument to the groups who came together to create it.

"I think it tells a really good story about



JOE RYAN/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Captain Trash Wheel collects trash during major storms when debris from nearby neighborhoods washes through the sewers and into the Patapsco River.

what happens when you let the community have a space like this," LaRouche said. "I think that's really important to people and their mental health and physical health."

In 2008, Masonville Cove was more a headache than a mode of health care.

Back then, it was the Masonville dumping ground, holding over a century of trash that dated as far back as the Great Baltimore Fire of 1904, according to the Maryland Port Authority.

The trash was removed, and in 2009, the Masonville Cove Education Center opened. In 2012, trails in the cove were opened to the public for the first time.

Now, Masonville is home to an array of wildlife.

Carpenter said that since she began tracking animals in the cove in early 2020, a pair of coyotes has been seen roaming the woods, along with deer, raccoons, foxes, opossums and groundhogs.

"Given Masonville's history, it used to be a dumping site and not that much wildlife was really able to safely use it," she said, "and now we have bald eagles and coyotes using this area."

"And I think that's really cool."

Earth TALK™ Climate Change Making Allergies Worse?

Dear EarthTalk:

Could climate change really be making my allergies worse?

—L. Pulaski, New Bern, NC

Pollen may be an unfortunate contributor to poor health in the first place, but there are signs that this nuisance will become worse. Warm weather contributes to an uptick in pollen count, and air pollution can concentrate it. Climate change is now a known contributor to changes not only in the seas and atmosphere but also modifying the life cycles and even biological processes of everyday plants.

In fact, carbon dioxide pollution is especially pernicious in this regard. Not only does it cause the vast majority of global warming in general, but it also has a strong connection with allergens. Plants grow bigger in the presence of more carbon dioxide, a potent greenhouse gas. In the process, they produce more flowers with greater amounts of pollen. Combining larger plants, more flowers and more pollen means longer allergy seasons.

Furthermore, some plants will produce more pollen when they are concentrated in urban "heat islands" which trap and concentrate heat. Examples of

plants affected by this include poison ivy and ragweed. Poison ivy grows in greater abundance and larger sizes. It also produces more irritants such as the chemical urushiol in these conditions. Ragweed produces more pollen when temperatures rise and possibly even produces more irritants than as well.

Another type of irritant we need to worry about is mold, especially in household materials such as walls or insulation materials. Persistent mold exposure can result in infection and other breathing troubles. Carbon dioxide production, fluctuating moisture levels and temperature shifts—all typical of our new climate—enable mold growth even more.

The pernicious grip of allergies on human health has been around for millennia, but it takes little imagination to understand that this budding health cri-

sis will become increasingly insidious. The research clearly shows that pollen seasons are lengthening.

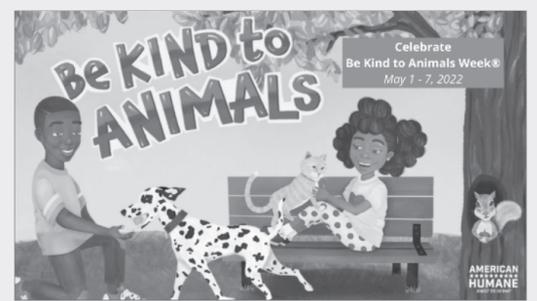
While reducing climate change will take concerted global effort, there are some ways we can reduce the impact of allergens on our own health. For starters, try landscaping with trees that produce less pollen, such as female trees and bushes when landscaping. Ways to support policy and civil society initiatives include donating to asthma and allergy research centers such as the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America to help understand further causes plus mitigation. Understanding what triggers allergen production and how we are affected by it will help everyday people live healthier, happier lives.

Allergies may be worsening, but losing hope over the climate change fight

as a whole would be a wrong turn. Allergy shifts are simply a difficult wakeup call to invest in further climate efforts. Reducing emissions will lessen the production of greenhouse gasses that lead to warming temperatures and pollen production.

CONTACTS: Extreme Allergies and Climate Change, aafa.org/extreme-allergies-and-climate-change/; Anthropogenic climate change is worsening North American pollen seasons, pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2013284118.

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Teach Kids to Be Kind to All Living Creatures by Example and With Free Lessons During American Humane's "Be Kind to Animals Week®" (May 1–7)

Campaign offers free educational activities for children and simple lifestyle changes all of us can make to build a more humane world for animals

By PRESS OFFICER
American Humane

WASHINGTON (April 19, 2022)—Building a better world for both people and animals begins with teaching our children the meaning of kindness. We can best do this by example and by providing them with free, compelling humane education materials. And what better time to start than during American Humane's 107th annual "Be Kind to Animals Week®", which is the oldest commemorative week in U.S. history and takes place in 2022 from May 1–7. American Humane is asking everyone to take an online pledge to do four simple things to improve the world for animals and is making a variety of free humane education materials available online to parents, teachers and children in both English and Spanish. Free downloadable materials include lessons and teaching sheets for pre-K to Grade 5 students, "Be Kind to Animals" posters, and ideas to celebrate and protect Earth's creatures. These are all available at www.americanhumane.org/BeKind.

To lead by example and make a difference in the lives of millions of animals, American Humane is asking animal lovers of all ages to pledge to make kindness a year-round lifestyle choice by doing four simple things:

- Buying humanely raised foods with the American Humane Certified™ seal to support the good treatment of farm animals;
- Adopting from a shelter/rescue, and when choosing small, "nontraditional" animal companions (such as reptiles, small mammals, fish, and amphibians), finding them at an American Humane Certified™ pet provider;
- Choosing movies and television shows that have earned the "No Animals Were Harmed®" end credit verifying the protection of animal actors;
- Visiting American Humane Certified™ zoos, aquariums and conservation centers caring for the many endangered and disappearing species of the world.

American Humane will also share humane messages throughout the week and encourage people to commit to kindness by sharing Be Kind to Animals Week® content using the hashtag #BeKindToAnimalsWeek. For a wealth of ideas, and to show us how you are being kind to animals, follow American Humane on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

In addition, teachers and children can find a historical retrospective featuring history, highlights and unusual facts from 107 years of "Be Kind to Animals Week," as well as a sampling of famous supporters from U.S. Presidents to Clint Eastwood and John Wayne, Betty White, Doris Day and even Porky Pig.

"I hope every American will join us in celebrating 'Be Kind to Animals Week' and making a difference for all the creatures of the Earth," said Dr. Robin Ganzert, president and CEO of American Humane. "By teaching our children the value of our animal friends and adopting a humane lifestyle, we can build a better world—not just during these few days, but all year round."

American Humane is the country's first national humane organization, founded in 1877. Today, this four-star nonprofit saves, shelters, feeds and protects nearly one billion animals worldwide each year. For more information, please visit www.americanhumane.org.

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