

# The Prince George's Post



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## County REALTORS® Award \$10,000 in Scholarships to High School Seniors



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® (PGCAR)

Pictured from left to right: Kenneth Fagan, Oluwatofunmi Oluwabusi, Donald Frederick, James Wallace IV, Lynn Frasier, Linda Simpson, Mekhi Corbin, and Wilfred Mbayu. Since its inception in 2008, the Scholarship Fund has provided over \$115,000 in scholarships to students graduating from Prince George's County High Schools.

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCAR

At a recent ceremony, The Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® (PGCAR) awarded \$10,000 in college scholarships to deserving high school graduates. Through the REALTORS® David and Juanita Maclin Memorial Scholarship Fund, named in memory of PGCAR's 2006 President, David Maclin, and his wife, REALTOR® Juanita Maclin, the fund awarded four \$2,500 college scholarships.

David and Juanita contributed to the economic development of Prince George's County, and they were key contributors to the growth and development of area churches. Their efforts were acknowl-

edged by numerous awards, certifications, and special recognitions.

It is because of their many contributions to the community, that the Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® established the David & Juanita Maclin Memorial Scholarship Fund in 2008. Based on the theme "How I made a difference in my Community," the Scholarship Fund awards college scholarships to Prince George's County High School seniors who are actively engaged in giving back to their communities. "Unlike traditional academic or athletic scholarships, these are given based on the students local community service efforts", said Donald Frederick, Chair of the Scholarship Committee.

This year's recipients served

the needs of Prince George's County communities in providing 2,800 pairs of shoes to those in need, youth mentoring for at risk adolescents, distribution of food and household items for underprivileged families, and teaching financial literacy.

Of the 34 entries, four Prince George's County high school seniors were each awarded \$2,500 college scholarships:

- **Mekhi Corbin** of Oxon Hill High School, planning to attend North Carolina A&T
- **Wilfred Mbayu** of Eleanor Roosevelt High School, planning to attend University of Miami
- **Oluwatofunmi Oluwabusi** of Academy of Health Sciences at Prince George's Community College, planning to attend University of

Maryland

- **James Wallace IV** of Bowie High School, planning to attend Morehouse College

PGCAR is the voice for REALTORS® in Prince George's County, Maryland. Representing more than 3,500 real estate professionals in the national capital area, PGCAR is an affiliate of the Maryland and National Association of REALTORS®. We are proud to serve our members and our community, and work to ensure professionalism in the industry. Our volunteers and staff work to offer services to real estate professionals and to provide avenues for our members to become more successful. We proudly work to promote and protect homeownership and private property rights.

## Marietta House Museum and the Voices of Woodlawn Present: "Walk of Witness: Recalling the Enslaved Community"

By STACEY HAWKINS  
Marietta House Museum

In commemoration of Juneteenth, please join Marietta House Museum and the Voices of Woodlawn for "Walk of Witness: Recalling the Enslaved Community" at Marietta House, on **Saturday, June 11, 1-3 p.m.**

In partnership with The Voices of Woodlawn, this presentation will give voice to the long silenced enslaved community at historic plantations. Maryland Poets Diane Wilbon Parks, Patrick Washington, Sylvia Dianne

"Ladi Di" Beverly and Hiram Lawew confront the sadness, anger, and injustice of the past and its haunting legacy. They are joined by poet and harmonica player, Cliff Bernier, and by Native American poet, Edgar Silex.

Poems will be read as visitors walk the hallowed grounds and stop at various places around the historic house to hear the history of the enslaved and the poems by the Voices of Woodlawn poets. Guests are invited to share their thoughts, write, and journal as they hear the stories and poetry. Paintings by Diane Wilbon Parks will be on display.

This is a FREE event. Light refreshments will be served during a meet-the-poets following the program. For more information and to register, please email [Stacey.Hawkins@pgparks.com](mailto:Stacey.Hawkins@pgparks.com) or call 301-464-5291. Recommended for ages 8 & up. Please leave pets at home.

The L.H. Farmer's Market will also be at Marietta from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

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.

## Juneteenth Festival Announced by M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County

By PRESS OFFICER  
M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County

RIVERDALE, Md. (June 6, 2022)—The Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County, part of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, is pleased to announce its 2022 Festival for Juneteenth: the oldest na-

tionally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Marking the date that the last enslaved people learned of their freedom, the month of June and the nineteenth day were combined to form the word Juneteenth.

As a part of the Department's ongoing mission to provide exciting and unique cultural programming to county residents, the Juneteenth Festival is a must-attend event

for the young and young at heart. The festival takes place **Saturday, June 18** at Watkins Regional Park from 12-5 p.m. and includes:

**Live entertainment**—Kindred the Family Soul, EU featuring Sugar Bear, Coyoba Dance Theater, Prince George's Police De-

See **JUNETEENTH** Page A5

## Prince George's County Congressional Delegation, Alsobrooks Announce Upgraded Clinic for Area Veterans Included in Bipartisan Legislation

By PRESS OFFICER  
Congressman Steny Hoyer's Office

WASHINGTON (May 27, 2022)—On May 27, Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05), Senators Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and Ben Cardin (D-MD), Congressman Anthony Brown (MD-04), and Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks announced that they successfully secured authorization and funding to upgrade the Prince George's County veterans clinic, operated by the Veterans Health Administration, in a bill released by the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act (PACT Act), which is ex-

pected to be considered by the U.S. Senate in the coming weeks, is comprehensive, bipartisan legislation led by the Chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee, Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Ranking Member Jerry Moran (R-Kan.). The bill provides health care benefits for all generations of toxic-exposed veterans for the first time in the nation's history. The Maryland lawmakers fought to include authorization for a new Prince George's County CBOC lease as well as an initial \$32 million in funding for the CBOC. The new facility will expand the outpatient services currently provided at the existing Southern Prince George's County and

See **VETERANS** Page A4

## Prince George's County Announces Winners of the First Vision Zero "Focus on the Road" Traffic Safety Video Contest

By PAULETTE L. JONES  
Prince George's County Dept of Public Works and Transportation

LARGO, Md. (June 2, 2022)—The Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) announced the student winners of the first Vision Zero "Focus on the Road" Traffic Safety Video Contest. This is the latest youth initiative under the Vision Zero Prince George's strategy to eliminate traffic deaths and severe injuries on County roadways by 2040. There are three middle school winners and three high

school winners. All the winners were announced on May 24, 2022.

The Vision Zero "Focus on the Road" Traffic Safety Video Contest challenged Prince George's County Public Schools' middle and high school students to create 30-second videos to encourage people to focus on their surroundings and put away distractions

See **CONTEST** Page A2

## Law Banning the Sale or Purchase of Ghost Guns Goes Into Effect

State's Attorney Braveboy successfully advocated for the Passage of the Law

By DENISE DOUGLAS  
PGSAO

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (June 1, 2022)—State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy was an early leader in Prince George's County and throughout the state pushing for a law to ban "ghost guns", which are firearms that don't have serial numbers and can be assembled from kits purchased online. Without serial numbers the weapons can't be traced to individuals if they are used in the commission of a crime.

The law [went] into effect June 1. Law enforcement officials have seen a steady increase in the use of such firearms over the past several years. Of the 1399 firearms recovered in 2021 in Prince George's County 264 were "ghost guns". From January to April of this year police recovered 540 guns, of which 97 were ghost guns.

Not only will the new statute help law enforcement prevent and solve more crimes, but it will also

keep firearms out of the hands of those who can't lawfully possess them. "This has been a major concern for all of us in law enforcement. The new law prohibits a person from purchasing, receiving, selling, offering to sell, or transferring an "unfinished frame or receiver" or a firearm unless it is serialized," said State's Attorney Braveboy. "This bill gives us the tools needed to effectively prosecute cases involving "ghost guns", hold everyone accountable and ultimately keep our communities safe."

Lawmakers in Annapolis passed the measure during the last legislative session without Governor Larry Hogan's signature. The bill is set to work in two phases. Phase one will outlaw the buying and selling of ghost guns starting June 1. Phase two will completely ban ownership in March of 2023.

Those found to violate the law could face anywhere from a \$10,000 fine to up to five years in prison.

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# TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

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

### Harini Logan, 14, and Vikram Raju, 12, finish 1st & 2nd in the National Spelling Bee

The Scripps National Spelling Bee kicked off last week as 234 spellers descended on National Harbor, in Prince George's County, for the first fully in-person Bee since 2019. Last year's Bee was mostly virtual, and the 2020 Bee was cancelled because of covid.

Harini Logan, an 8th grader from San Antonio, won the Spelling Bee June 2 or 3 (it ran into midnight hours), claiming victory in a blistering, first-of-its-kind spell-off that capped a marathon duel.

She defeated Vikram Raju, a 7th grader from Denver, after they rattled off word after word in a 90-second speed round. Judges went to video to determine the winner—Harini spelled 21 words correctly, Vikram spelled 15. This was the first time the spell-off has been used.

Harini, as champion, will receive a \$52,500 cash prize, commemorative medal, and the Scripps Cup, the official championship trophy of the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Vikram will receive \$25,000.

Actor and literacy advocate LeVar Burton hosted. Last year's champion, Zaila Avant-Garde, returned as an analyst.

The Bee has been held at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center Hotel since 2011. Previously it was held at the Grand Hyatt Washington, 1996 to 2010.

Runner-up Vikram Raju says he'll be back next year.

### Town of Morningside

The Town is hosting the Mad Hatter's Celebration of Parents Dinner on Friday, June 17 at 6 p.m. It is in honor of Mother's Day (May 8) and Father's Day (June 19). An Italian-style meal will be served. Reservations and prepayment are required by June 15 as space is limited. Tickets (\$5 per person) can be purchased at the Town Hall.

Most of Morningside's officials will

be attending the Maryland Municipal League Summer Conference & Expo in Ocean City.

However, they'll be back for the monthly Town meeting on June 21 at 7 p.m. For information, 301-736-2300.

### Neighbors & other good people

District 8 Council Member Edward Burroughs III, joined M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County and Feed the Fridge, for a ribbon-cutting ceremony launching the new Feed the Fridge location at the Glassmanor Community Center in Oxon Hill. Feed the Fridge is an innovative approach to battling food insecurity while helping the local economy.

Mr. Raven Wilkins, Sr. has accepted the interim principal position at St. Philip the Apostle School, in Camp Springs. He was introduced to the parents and students on May 26.

I had a delightful week-long visit from grandson David McHale, his wife Nina, and my great-grandchildren, in town from Denver. Years ago, David and Nina met when both were students at Catholic University in Washington. As for the kids: Jack is a sophomore at the University of Colorado Boulder, Molly is a high school senior, and Riley is a sophomore. It was fun having them.

### Graduations

Justine Wedgewood, musician for St. Philip's Saturday evening Mass, has graduated from Catholic University of America Law School.

My great-grandson Wesley McHale graduated from 8th grade at St. Philip's School on June 4 and will be going on to Bishop McNamara HS.

Here are the Valedictorians and Salutatorians of some of our local high schools:

- Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. HS: Hannah Armstrong and Alexander Morales.
- Suitland HS: Jael Gibson and Jamilah Hargrove.
- Crossland HS: Monica Hartwell-Gilchrist and Madaline Garcia.

- Oxon Hill HS: Melany Benites Alcantara and Jordan King.
- Bishop McNamara HS: Justin Malloy and Tiffany Obina.

Email me (muddmm@aol.com) with your graduates and their plans for the future.

### Changing landscape

Summer is here! And the Prince George's County outdoor pools are officially open for the 2022 Season. Outdoor pools are very popular during this time of the year, so you are encouraged to secure a spot at the pool by making an online reservation through Parks Direct.

The Lincoln Memorial hosted a ceremony marking the 100th anniversary of its dedication, May 30, 1922.

As I go to press, the COVID rate is five times higher than last Memorial Day.

A home at 4513 Reamy Drive, in Skyline, recently went for \$435,000.

### Morningside Remembered

Tom Ferrell emails: "Let's see, there was Jordan's grocery store, Parr's 5 & 10, Johnnie's (Johnson's) barber shop and the Skyline Restaurant (the McCauleys) which my dad, Howard Anderson, and Vinnie Needham frequented... I believe Vinnie's wife Dorothy and possibly Jeanette Anderson worked as servers there for a period of time. It was a big deal for me to go there with my Dad or to eat dinner there."

### CPA Ellsworth White, bike rider and jogger

Ellsworth W. White, 68, of Upper Marlboro, died April 17, from complications of injuries suffered in a bicycle accident.

A native Washingtonian, he graduated from Howard University, earned a master's in Management Information Systems at Bowie State and a Master

See **MORNINGSIDE** Page A7

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

### COMPUGIRLS CYBERWARRIORS SUMMER CAMP 2022

Bowie State University is offering CompuGirls Cyberwarriors Summer Camp 2022 June 27, 28, 29, 30, July 1, 02022, from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. This program is designed to encourage and support individuals in becoming future leaders of cybersecurity an IT! CompuGirls is a culturally responsive technology program for adolescent (grades 8–12) students from both Maryland and Arizona.

Location: Bowie State University 14000 Jericho Park Road, Bowie, Maryland 20715. Contact: Loubna Dali, Email: Idali@bowiestate.edu.

### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday to Buddy King, Stephanie Samuel, Jasmine Taylor, Sandra Miley, Ruth Wilson, Rendell Crawford, Rita Pinkney, June Fauber, Louise Gordon, Sally Fauber Lucas, Yolanda Jackson, Atara Serene Scott-Bourne, Avis Balkcom-Williams, Tawana Lindsay, Jazzmyn Simmons, Carol Bell, Eddie Wilson, Barbara Marsh, Beverly Baker, Adison Falby, Raymond Porchea, Alston Knight, Kendra Neal, Christopher Quarm, Rodney Tyree, Jesci Thomas, Shiloh Bell, Barbara Harris, Rahsaan Silas Thomas who are members of Clinton United Methodist Church in Clinton, Maryland.

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to Joachim and Esther Neckere, Tony, Sr. and Beatrice Chapman, Henry and Idena Thomas, William, III and Quivianna Stroman, Brewer and Pauline Clark, Bob and Sandra Miey, Daniel and Carolyn Glee, Joseph and Nadia Prah who are Clinton United Methodist Church in Clinton, Maryland Celebrating Wedding Anniversaries in June.

### DATA ANALYTICS SUMMER CAMP

Bowie State university will offer a Data Analytics Summer Camp June 27–July 8, 2022, for ages 14 to 18 from 11 a.m.–12 p.m. The camp will feature an immersive two-week program where participants will have a hands-on experience analyzing, making predictions, and presenting using NFL and US Track and Field data.

Included topics are What is Sports Analytics? Talent and Teamwork Make the Dream Work. Can Analytics Predict Game Outcomes? #STATTHAT, Sports Related Brain Injury, Careers in Sports Analytics, Bridging the Gap Between Athletics and Cybersecurity.

Contact: Latanya Brown-Robertson, email: Inbrown@bowiestate.edu. Phone: 301-860-3621. To apply: <https://www.datasteamcamp.org/student-application>

### CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, June 26, 2022, at 3 p.m. Remember Service to honor and celebrate the members of the loved ones of Christ Church will be held. The Guest Speaker will be Rev. Denise

Norfleet-Walker. Benefit: Mission and ministry programs of our church. Church address is 22919 Christ Church Road, Aquasco, Maryland, 20608. Telephone, 301-888-1316. Pastor Shemaiah Strickland.

### BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

Give Back BOLDLY. Thank you to the 120+ Bulldogs who raised more than \$25,000 for the BSU Annual Fund in just 48 hours. BSU Supporter Johnny C. Taylor Jr. will continue to match ALUMNI gifts dollar-for-dollar. BSU Supporter Johnny C. Taylor Jr. will continue to match ALUMNI gifts dollar-for-dollar. Make your gift before the fiscal year ends on June 30.

Johnny C. Taylor Jr. talked about why he is committed on supporting HBCUs and Bowie State University in particular, and the importance of alumni investing in their alma mater with the Office of Alumni Engagement Live at 5.

### PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS RETURN TO SERVICE

After more than two years of careful monitoring, evaluating, adapting, and planning, the Peace Corps is returning Volunteers to service on a rolling basis until all posts have reopened. Serve in the Peace Corps and work alongside community members on locally prioritized projects to make an impact. Contact: 855-855-1961.

Serving in the Peace Corps was one of the most rewarding jobs that I had in my life. It was a culture experience for me to help others and experience living in a different country.

I was assigned along with my husband Owen (OJ) and ventured off to become Peace Corps Volunteers in South America. I served in the Peace Corps from June 1974–June 1976 in South America. I was responsible for the Ministry of Education during my service in Venezuela, South America. I was assigned along with my husband to Calabozo, State of Guárico, State of Zulia after completing nine weeks of intensive training at the Peace Corps Training Center in Los Teques, Venezuela which entailed passing Peace Corps Training which included the official training Spanish and Cross-cultural training courses, and State Department Spanish proficiency test. This was a great challenge for me being the only Peace Corps volunteer in the group that could not speak Spanish. I remember being in a small room with only a small table, two chairs and a Spanish teacher drilling me every day for six weeks speaking only Spanish for four hours. It was hard but the training helped me to learn Spanish so that I could teach and survive where everyone around me spoke Spanish even my husband.

I taught English in a technological school for males ages 16 through 21 years in South America who only spoke Spanish. Second year of my service, I transferred to Maracaibo, state of Zulia in Venezuela, South America, and worked with mental and physically-challenged students (ages 12 through 22). More detail information on my Peace Corps experience in my next article.

## Around the County

### Carson-Newman University Celebrates 2022 Spring Graduates

JEFFERSON CITY, Tenn. (May 27, 2022)—The following student(s) graduated from Carson-Newman University at the conclusion of the institution's sprung semester.

Students are listed below by hometown with the degree they received. Laurel, MD: **Sarah Lauer**, Bachelor of Science, Computer Science Temple Hills, MD: **Melissa Gilbert**, Certificate Program, Family Nurse Practitioner

—Charles Key, Carson-Newman University

### The Lake Arbor Foundation, Inc. Presents Lake Arbor Community Day:

#### A Juneteenth Celebration (June 18, 2022)

Lake Arbor Day is back, paying homage to Juneteenth on **Saturday, June 18, 2022**, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Lake Arbor Fairgrounds, 1399 Golf Course Drive, Mitchellville, Maryland 20721

The Lake Arbor Foundation, Inc. invites the community to be involved to make this celebration a great success. Vendors and volunteers are welcomed and needed. For more information, please email one or more of the following email addresses for your preferred area of interest:

Merchandise Vendors – [merchclad@thelafi.org](mailto:merchclad@thelafi.org)

Food Vendors – [foodclad@thelafi.org](mailto:foodclad@thelafi.org)

Volunteers – Several options available through The Lake Arbor Foundation, Inc.'s volunteer form: <https://forms.gle/H292MMEG4yuH2IX67> OR by email: [volunteercordclad@thelafi.org](mailto:volunteercordclad@thelafi.org).

What a great time for fellowship and to celebrate being together again.

—District 6 Community News

### M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County Announces Sculpture Garden Tours at Oxon Hill Manor

RIVERDALE, Md. (March 30, 2022)—The Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County, part of The M-NCPPC, announces its upcoming tour of the Sculpture Garden at Oxon Hill Manor. Join exhibit curator, Sarah Tanguy, for a guided tour of "Past & Present," an outdoor sculpture exhibit presented by the Washington Sculptors Group and Oxon Hill Manor.

Free of charge and open to all ages, tours will be held on **Thursday, June 23**, 7–8 pm. Participants will learn about the local, national and international sculptors in this exhibition. Light refreshments will be served.

The sculptures are on the grounds of the Historic Oxon Hill Manor at 6901 Oxon Hill Rd, Oxon Hill MD, 20745. To register or learn more, visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/1005161463757911/> or call 301-839-7782. This project is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

Oxon Hill Manor is one of only two early 20th century Classical Revival mansions in Prince George's County. Built in 1929, Oxon Hill Manor is a large, two story neo-Georgian brick mansion, with a hip roof, flanking wings, and fine decorative detail. It was designed by architect Jules Henri de Sibour for career diplomat Sumner Welles and was built near the site of the original 18th century Oxon Hill Manor, which was destroyed by fire in 1895. To learn more, visit <https://www.mncppc.org/3016/Oxon-Hill-Manor>.

### Contest from A1

when driving, cycling and walking. DPW&T received entries from thirty-three students from eighteen different schools in the County.

"We are Prince George's Proud of our County youth for developing creative ways to encourage people to "Focus on the Road" when driving, cycling, and walking," said Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. To achieve zero traffic deaths and severe injuries on our roads, it will take a team effort.

Each participant earned 5 student service-learning hours for creating and submitting their video. All the videos were judged by a panel of 5 judges consisting of representatives from the Prince George's County Office of Community Relations, Health Department, Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, Police Department, and Prince George's County Public Schools. The three videos with the highest total scores in their category were identified as the contest winners.

The video contest conveys the message for young people and others to focus on their surroundings and to put away distractions when walking, biking and driving on roadways. "Peer-to-peer messaging on safe road practices is crucial and these students have started the conversation through this contest," said DPW&T Deputy Director Oluseyi Olugbenle. We hope that participants share the messages with their friends and family.

DPW&T would like to thank all of the contestants for participating and raising awareness on traffic safety as well as the agency partners who helped make this contest possible. We invite everyone to view the Vision Zero Prince George's website where the winning entries and other contest entries will be showcased. Also, be sure to follow us @PGCountyDPWT social media channels for updated Vision Zero Prince George's projects and initiatives, as we raise awareness of traffic safety and strategize to eliminate traffic deaths and severe injuries on County roadways by 2040.

#### 2022 Vision Zero "Focus on the Road" Traffic Safety Video Contest Winners Middle School Category

1st Place – "No Distract and You'll Be Intact" by Armelle Pokam, Nicholas Orem Middle School (96 points)

2nd Place – "Driving Without Distraction" by J. Noel Armwood, Walker Mill Middle School (92 points)

3rd Place – "Don't Text While Driving" by Ewaenoghosa Aifuwa, Benjamin D. Foulois Creative and Performing Arts Academy (78 points)

#### High School Category

1st Place – "Traffic Safety" by Devaria Dunston, Chesapeake Math and IT Academy North High School (92 points)

2nd Place – "Look Ahead" by Christine and Daniel Alawode, Charles Herbert Flowers High School and Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr. High School (91 points)

3rd Place – "STAY FOCUSED" by Kira Scotland, Suitland High School (87 points)

Congratulations to all the winners! Thank you to all the participating students! See the winning entries in the contest announcement video:

[https://www.canva.com/design/DAFBFAV1Mkk/Kr9dTdGudACyD7rjYzmDxg/watch?utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_content=DAFBFAV1Mkk&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.canva.com/design/DAFBFAV1Mkk/Kr9dTdGudACyD7rjYzmDxg/watch?utm_campaign=designshare&utm_content=DAFBFAV1Mkk&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

# COMMUNITY

## Delegate Anne Healey Awards Scholarships to 36 Students in District 22

By PRESS OFFICER  
Delegate Anne Healey's Office

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (May 31, 2022)—Today, Delegate Anne Healey (D - Prince George's) announced she is awarding \$54,000 in total scholarship funds to 36 students from District 22.

"Every year I look forward to the chance we have to help so many well-deserving students in our community by relieving some of the financial burden placed on them," Healey said. "Every one of these aspiring students has worked tirelessly in the classroom and in the community. They've more than earned an opportunity to further their education and I'm so proud of each of them. We're happy to alleviate as much financial stress as we can for them and give them the opportunity to focus on academics."

Delegate Healey's office reviewed applications and selected students based on criteria including academic achievement, academic goals, and the likelihood of completing a college degree or certification in a program, as well as demonstrated commitment to service in the community.

The scholarships are being awarded to the following students from District 22:

**Lanham area:** Akindele Dare, Ijeoma Unamba, Amara Hayling, James Kamara, Nicole Owotoki, Wilber Villeda, Deborah Omotoso, Oreoluwa Alale, Chidera Nweke, Farhana Uddin, Mayly Cisneros

**Greenbelt:** Favour Dimelu, Olivia Guerrieri, Adrian Clements, Alexander Tirador, Nelson Chen, Chukwuebuka Okeke, Arsalan Siddiqui, Athilah Abadir, Muhammad Bah, Margarita Lopez Vega

**Hyattsville area:** Thomas Tirador, Elinore Ross, Sidikat Adeyemi, Hillary Agyemang, Jaqueline Herrera, Vivian Castrillo

**New Carrollton:** George Samu, Cheyenne Parra, Alejandra Perez-Velasquez, Grazelle Giray

**Riverdale Park area:** Emily Morales, Leslie Macal, Bryant Mejia, Michelle Hernandez

**Bowie:** Mahmood Abdulla

## CSL Comalapa Holds Change of Command

*Oxon Hill native takes charge of Navy unit*

By PRESS OFFICER  
U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command / U.S. 4th Fleet

Cmdr. Victor Barba relieved Cmdr. Foster Edwards as commanding officer of the Cooperative Security Location (CSL) Comalapa, El Salvador, May 26, 2022.

During his tenure at CSL, Edwards led the support of full-spectrum military and interagency flight operations, directly supporting the National Drug Control Strategy in the Eastern Pacific and Caribbean Sea. He coordinated U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Coast Guard, Royal Canadian Air Force, and U.S. Customs and Border Patrol air assets to support Joint Interagency Task Force-South's counter narcotics efforts in the region. He oversaw multiple installation projects to improve security, logistical support, and operational success of the CSL.

"I would like to thank everyone here for making this such a successful tour, we accomplished a lot together," said Edwards. "I have enjoyed working closely with the local Salvadoran forces and the unique opportunity I have had here to foster a lasting partnership. This team's efforts to support complex interagency operations, conduct humanitarian missions, and execute critical counter narcotics operations have proven vital to regional security and stability. I'm proud to have had the privilege to lead them."

Edwards is a native of Atlanta and a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and Naval War College. He is a designated naval aviator, qualifying on the MH-60R helicopter.

In previous tours, he served as Mini Boss onboard USS Bataan (LHD-5), as a department head with Helicopter Maritime Strike (HSM) Squadron 74, Chief Flight Instructor at HSM-40, and in the Joint Fires Element at U.S. Strategic Command.

Edwards' next assignment is U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet in Mayport, Fla.

Barba is originally from Oxon Hill, Md. He is a naval aviator, qualified on the MH-60S helicopter. He is a graduate of both the Air Force Institute of Technology and the University of Maryland. This will serve as his first command ashore.

"I am grateful to have this opportunity and look forward to working with such a great team," Barba said. "The foundation in place is strong and I am excited to be able to build upon the relationship with our Salvadoran partners that is already well established to support our mutual interests in the region and keep these waters safe."

Barba has served as a department head at Helicopter Sea Combat (HSC) Squadron 22, as an Advanced Helicopter Instructor Pilot with Helicopter Training Squadron 28, and most recently as MQ-8 introduction team officer in charge at Helicopter Sea Combat Wing, Pacific leading the MQ-8C fleet introduction.

CSL Comalapa is a forward operating location in El Salvador that is overseen by U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet. The CSL provides dedicated logistical, infrastructure, and operational support to air and naval operations in the U.S. Southern Command's area of responsibility. It allows U.S. and partner nation aircraft to use an existing airfield to support the region's multinational efforts to Combat Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC) as well as participating in exercises and humanitarian missions when directed.

## Students Express Superpowers Through Artwork at the Hyattsville Library Branch

By SILVANA QUIROZ  
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (May 31, 2022)—The Prince George's Memorial Public Library (PGCMLS) and the Harbor City Maryland Chapter of The Society, Incorporated are thrilled to announce the student art exhibit "Expressing Your Superpower Through the Arts." Local students, grades 7th through 11th, will showcase their artwork at the Hyattsville Library Branch between June 1 to July 15. The Library and a range of local partners work together throughout the year to encourage Prince George's County residents to develop creative skills through engaging programs and opportunities to display artwork.

"PGCMLS is thrilled to host The Society student art exhibit in our brand new Hyattsville Branch Library, which is the first PGCMLS branch to have a dedicated art room. The Library celebrates the creative endeavors of our community youth and encourages expression through visual media in this incredible display. This collaboration with The Society also serves to strengthen the PGCMLS commitment to championing creatives," stated Rachel Zukowski, program services manager at PGCMLS.



IMAGE COURTESY PGCMLS

The Society has curated an exhibit of eight works to display in the Hyattsville Branch Library's exhibit area. Each student's work reflects a strong representation of self-power inspired by a powerful role model or through nature. The Harbor City Maryland Chapter of The Society, Incorporated has an ongoing A.R.T.S. Mentoring Program, where they work with 7th-11th graders providing arts programming in four creative areas: Literary, performing, visual, and instrumental/vocal

arts. The art pieces were judged by three creative arts subject matter experts using a standard rubric. The public is welcome to appreciate the students' artwork during Library hours. The Hyattsville Branch Library is open Monday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Tuesday-Wednesday 12 p.m.-8 p.m., Thursday-Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday 1-5 p.m. Sunday hours begin Sunday, June 5, 2022.

## Hoyer Announces Winner of the 2022 Fifth District Congressional Art Competition

By PRESS OFFICER  
Congressman Steny Hoyer's Office

WASHINGTON (May 27, 2022)—Today, Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) announced the winner of the 2022 Fifth District Congressional Art Competition. Liliana McGee, a senior at Elizabeth Seton High School, earned first place in this year's competition with her piece titled "Salvation." McGee's artwork will be on display in the Capitol building for one year along with other winning submissions from districts across the country.

"Every year, I enjoy reviewing the talented artwork submitted by Fifth District residents for the annual Congressional Art Competition," said Congressman Hoyer. "I am always impressed by the talent displayed by young people across our district. Today, I congratulate Liliana as the first place winner of this year's competition. Her admirable piece, 'Salvation,' will be viewed by visitors to the Capitol from across the country and represent the gifted talent of students from the Fifth District. I also want to congratulate our second place winner, Mya Joy Lee, and our third place

winner, Eaton Ekarintaragun." continued Congressman Hoyer. "Each piece exhibited great skill and effort and I thank everyone who participated in this year's competition."

Liliana McGee lives in Hyattsville, Maryland. Her artwork, titled "Salvation," was created using oil paint, sculpting compound, wood, and gold leaf on canvas. Mya Joy Lee, a senior at Bishop McNamara High School, received second place for her acrylic painting titled "Amy Sherald Tribute." Eaton Ekarintaragun, a sophomore from Huntington High School, received third place for his acrylic painting titled "Wood Duck."

The Congressional Art Competition provides Members of Congress with the opportunity to showcase the artistic talent of high school students in their districts. Since 1982, the competition has involved hundreds of thousands of students, and the winners have had their pieces hung in the Capitol complex for a year to be seen by the many visitors who come to the Capitol and by Members of Congress every day. Each year, Congressman Hoyer sends letters to all the high schools in the Fifth District an-



COURTESY PHOTO

Liliana McGee's winning piece, "Salvation"

nouncing the Congressional Fifth District High School Arts Competition. After all entries have been submitted, a panel of local judges from the education and business communities participate in a panel to determine the winner.

## University of Maryland Graduate Uses Knowledge to Invest in Younger Workforce, Develop New Technologies

By PRESS OFFICER  
Navy Office of Community Outreach

DAHLGREN, Va. (June 2, 2022)—"We came to America as immigrants in 1975. We left Vietnam on a giant Navy transport plane. I just finished fifth grade, and my younger brother was only eight months old. You've got nothing with you—no luggage, nothing," recalled Huong Pham, the navigation senior systems engineer in the Interoperability and Navigation Engineering Branch at Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division (NSWCDD). "We were the lucky ones."

Pham was only 10 years old when her family immigrated to the United States. After graduation, she attended the University of Maryland at College Park, earning a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. Later, she received a postgraduate degree in computer science from Johns Hopkins University. Her desire to learn continues at NSWCDD.

"Over my career, I had hands-on experience in different areas. I did the work at the lowest levels, going out and doing the requirements, writing documents, chasing down software and code, then testing that code with ship deliveries and analysis," recalled Pham. In her current role, Pham is a key player in two of the branch's programs: the Automated Celestial Navigation System (ACNS) and the reinvention of the Weapons Special Network (WSN-7) as WSN-12. ACNS looks at stars and satellites to find positioning and is now fielded on AEGIS ships within the fleet.

"WSN-7 was created and named in the post-World War II era," said Pham. The 30-year-old technology is getting a modern upgrade in the form of WSN-12. A major part of the technological refresh is the use of Model Based Systems Engineering (MBSE).

"Using MBSE methodology tools, we can teach young engineers in the organization to modernize how we do engineering and how we capture information in that model," said Pham. "That model creates a blueprint that can be provided to contracting companies for them to rebuild and recreate the product, allowing us to install it to the fleet faster."

Not only is Pham a senior systems engineer, leading the team in two state-of-the-art technologies, but she actively mentors those around her.

"When a new engineer comes in, I have a one-on-one session with them to ask what they need, their backgrounds and their goals," said Pham. "I want to build the next generation with many layers—they need to have breadth and need to see the whole process."

In addition to her work with the Dahlgren workforce, Pham volunteers with two organizations: the Boy Scouts of America and the Asian American Government Executive Network (AAGEN). Both organizations are deeply personal for her. "I have a son who recently graduated from the program as an Eagle Scout," she said proudly. "I act as support, making sure the boys have everything they need. During cold campouts, I've got extra wool socks, food, hot water—whatever



PHOTO COURTESY NAVY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Huong Pham

they need."

AAGEN is a non-profit organization with a mission to promote diverse leadership and representation. The organization was formed by six Senior Executive Service (SES) members across the Navy and other Department of Defense agencies. They provide leadership opportunities and host conferences, including a yearly leadership conference. According to Pham, AAGEN is accessible to everyone and provides SES training to government individuals at a fraction of the cost.

"If your vision is the same as ours, we want you," said Pham. "We want to see a diverse group of people at the table."

**The Prince George's Post**

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# COMMENTARY

## PROTECT Week Is a Time to Focus on Elder Fraud

Financial exploitation of vulnerable adults is rarely front-page news. But it happens so often and with such devastating consequences to victims that it is regarded by law enforcement agencies and advocacy organizations as one of the 21st century's most alarming crimes.

Every year, thousands of older Americans fall prey to financial criminals, who are often family members or friends of the victims. The first line of defense in preventing these fraudulent acts is education. That is why I partnered with the Maryland Attorney General's Office, Maryland Department of Aging, AARP, Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Maryland, ELDER Safe and others to establish PROTECT Week to highlight this common, yet often unreported crime.

**PROTECT Week, which this year runs from June 13–17**, is an annual event coinciding with World Elder Abuse Awareness Day to help educate Marylanders about elder financial exploitation and to equip them with the necessary tools to help victims recover. This year, we are excited to return to some in-person events, while retaining several virtual events to accommodate those who remain at greater health risk.

Financial exploitation occurs when a person misuses or takes the assets of a vulnerable adult to benefit themselves, frequently without the explicit knowledge or consent of the victim. According to a 2021 FBI report, nearly 2,100 elder victims in Maryland lost almost \$38 million to fraud. Considering only one in 44 victims file a police report,

it's likely that the actual impact is much higher.

More importantly, victims face severe and lasting financial loss that can't be recouped since many have already retired and live on a fixed income. Consequently, their standard of living declines; their ability to pay for food, medication and other expenses is jeopardized; and their mental and physical well-being is compromised.

Since the start of the pandemic, we've seen a drastic uptick in these crimes, and we must work together to stop these predators. We urge all seniors to keep their elbows up and remember some important tips:

- Don't answer telephone calls from people you don't know;
- Never use gift cards to pay bills;
- Don't click links in emails or text messages;
- Reconcile bank, insurance and medical statements;
- Never sign a check without first having filled in the recipient and proper amount;

- Never share your personal information, Medicare or Social Security numbers by phone or email; and
- If you are concerned about a financial decision, speak to someone you trust before handing over money.

As always, if something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Do your research, consult with knowledgeable people, and don't be pressured into making decisions you don't understand or haven't fully considered.

Together, we can prevent elder financial exploitation by educating seniors, families, and caregivers. I urge everyone to visit [www.protectweek.org](http://www.protectweek.org) to find out how to defend against elder fraud, read about the latest scams and view the full listing of PROTECT Week events. Join us **Monday, June 13** at 10 a.m. for the PROTECT Week press conference or watch live on the AARPM Facebook page.

—Peter Franchot, Comptroller of Maryland

## Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,  
Children's Defense Fund



### ChildWatch:

## Advice for Graduates

This is the traditional season for joyful commencement ceremonies for students across our nation—and this year's high school and college graduates are entering a world where their voices, influence, and vision are desperately needed. As the organizers for the March for Our Lives, who are planning new marches on June 11 in Washington, DC and around the country, say: "As a youth-led movement to end the epidemic of gun violence, we believe a new reality is possible—one where we are free from gun violence in all of its forms, including state-sanctioned violence by police. Among young people, gun violence has become a top cause of death. It has many root causes, including hate, poverty, and despair. . . . Our mission calls for something more bold and transformative than gun control alone. We call for a world re-imagined: a world where oppressive power structures are abandoned and community is embraced. A world where all human needs are met and the love of people is centered."

Young people will lead the way. Despite all the change and challenges in the world today's graduates will inherit, I do believe there is some enduring advice we can all give them. I agree with Archibald MacLeish

that "there is only one thing more powerful than learning from experience and that is not learning from experience." I feel strongly that it is the responsibility of every adult—parent, teacher, preacher and professional—to make sure that young people hear what we have learned from the lessons of life that helped us survive and succeed, for them to hear from us what we think matters, and to know that they are never alone as they go to meet the future.

Here are nine lessons from the letter I wrote my own three sons that I share again for the Class of 2022.

One: Don't feel entitled to anything you don't sweat and struggle for. Take the initiative in creating your own opportunity, and don't wait around for other people to discover you or do you a favor. Don't assume a door is closed; push on it. Don't assume if it was closed yesterday, it's closed today. And don't ever stop learning and improving your mind.

Two: Set thoughtful goals and work quietly and systematically toward them. Resist quick fixes, simplistic answers and easy gains. They often disappear just as quickly as they come.

Three: Assign yourself. My daddy used to ask us

whether the teacher had given us any homework. If we said no, he'd say, "Well, assign yourself." Don't wait around for your boss or your friends or spouse to direct you to do what you are able to figure out and do for yourself. Don't do just as little as you can to get by. Don't be a political bystander and grumbler. Vote. Democracy is not a spectator sport. If you see a need, don't ask, "Why doesn't somebody do something?" ask, "Why don't I do something?" Hard work, initiative, and persistence are still the non-magic carpets to success for most of us.

Four: I hope you'll never work just for money. Money alone won't save your soul or build a decent family or help you sleep at night. Don't confuse wealth or fame with character. Don't tolerate or condone moral corruption, whether it's found in high or low places, whatever its color or class. And don't confuse morality with legality. Dr. King once noted that everything Hitler did in Nazi Germany was legal. Don't give anyone the proxy for your conscience.

Five: Don't be afraid of taking risks or of being criticized. If you don't want to be criticized, don't say anything, do anything, or be anything. Don't be afraid of failing. It's the way you learn to do things right. It doesn't matter how many times you fall down. All that matters is how many times you get up.

Six: Please remember and help America remember that the fellowship of human beings is more important than the fellowship of race and class and gender in a democratic society. Be decent and fair and insist that others be so in your presence. Don't tell, laugh at or tolerate racial, ethnic, religious or gender jokes—or any practices intended to demean rather than enhance another human being. Through daily moral consciousness, counter the proliferating voices of racial and ethnic and religious division that are gaining respectability over the land.

Seven: Don't confuse style for substance, or political charm with decency or sound policy. Words alone will not meet children's or the nation's needs. Political leadership and different budget priorities will. Speak truth to power. And put your own money and leadership behind rhetoric about concern for families and children in your own homes, in your own workplaces, and in whatever areas you pursue. Pay far more attention to what our leaders do than what they say.

Eight: Listen for the genuine within yourself. "Small," Einstein said, "is the number of them that see with their own eyes and feel with their own hearts." Try to be one of them. "There is," the great Black theologian Howard Thurman told Spelman College students, "something in every one of you that waits and listens for the sound of the genuine in yourself. It is the only true guide you will ever have. And if you cannot hear it, you will all of your life spend your days on the ends of strings that somebody else pulls." There are so many noises and competing demands in our lives that many of us never find out who we are. Learn to be quiet enough to hear the sound of the genuine within yourself so that you can hear it in other people.

Nine: Never think life is not worth living or that you cannot make a difference. Never give up—no matter how hard it gets, and it will get very hard sometimes. An old proverb says that when you get to your wit's end, that's where God lives. Harriet Beecher Stowe said when you get into a "tight place and everything goes against you, till it seems as though you could not hang on a minute longer, never give up then, for that is just the place and the time that the tide will turn." The tide will turn—if you dream it, if you believe in it, if you have faith in it, struggle for it, and never give up.

## Beyond Juneteenth: Breaking the Chains to Access Capital and Achieve Real Freedom

By VERCIE LARK

Region 7 Great Plains Administrator and Ted James, Region 6 South Central Administrator, U.S. Small Business Administration

Being black and walking away from a person who legally owned you became reality on June 17, 1865, when Texas became the last state to implement the Emancipation Proclamation. The day, now known as Juneteenth, has become one of celebration for Black Americans.

It was a start. As Black Americans, however, we continually must ask the question: "Are we truly emancipated?"

While important to celebrate a day that freed our ancestors from the physical bondages and the inhumane capacity of slave owners to treat them as less than human beings, we must also look to the day as

a reminder we have yet to successfully free Black community, from the vestiges of restraints, controls and power structures that bond us far beyond the physical realm of being enslaved.

Participating in capitalism through business ownership is one of them. Many people were then, and still remain reluctant to accept our access of all that our country offers. The quest for equity, fairness and impartiality—at least from the federal government—has been attempted through years of court rulings and reforms. Still, equity in America, even after 157 years, is a work in progress.

According to an analysis from the White House Council of Eco-

nomics Advisers, differences in business ownership account for 20 percent of the wealth gap between average white and Black households. The analysis noted that people of color, women, and those from rural areas are underrepresented in their share of total Federal procurement dollars, even relative to their low rates of ownership in the general economy.

Seeing that a whole government corrective action was needed, the Biden/Harris Administration instructed by executive action more than 90 federal agencies to scour their agencies for changes they could make to provide more equity in services and programs to the underserved—a group which includes Black Americans and other communities disproportionately impacted by poverty and inequity over the years. In response, agencies released a combined total of 300 new actions to address barriers to equity in federal services.

The federal government procures 90% of its goods and services in America each year, and is the largest purchaser in the world, so access

See **BEYOND JUNETEENTH** Page A5

### Veterans from A1

Southeast D.C. CBOCs for Maryland veterans.

"Our veterans are our heroes and they deserve quality care," said Congressman Hoyer. "This legislation would strengthen the delivery of health care and provide much-needed upgrades to the current Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Prince George's County. We owe it to our veterans to provide them with the best possible health care services and benefits they have earned. I join in applauding this bipartisan legislation and am hopeful it will be sent to President Biden for his signature and enacted into law."

"We've got to keep our promises to veterans who put themselves at risk to serve our country, and that includes ensuring they have access to high-quality health care. That's why I worked alongside my colleagues from both parties on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee to secure funding for this enhanced Prince George's County outpatient clinic that will help deliver much-needed services to our local veterans. I know from my earliest conversations with County Executive Alsobrooks that a better-equipped clinic has been a top priority for the County, so I'm glad we are able to deliver on it. This is a big win for our community and a critical step forward in improving the network of care for veterans across our state. We'll be fighting to ensure this leg-

islation—which also includes a historic investment in care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxins—is signed into law," said Senator Van Hollen.

"It is critical that our veterans have access to top-notch health care services in a timely and convenient manner. They have served this country on the battlefield and it's our time to repay that debt here at home," said Senator Cardin. "Expanding the capabilities of the Community Based Outpatient Clinic available to veterans in Prince George's County and the region will be a game-changer, bringing an array of state-of-the-art health care services within easier reach. This is an important starting point for our veterans in Northern Prince George's County. Team Maryland will continue to fight for more resources and facilities in this region."

"We make a sacred promise to our service-members when they return home—to provide our veterans with the best health care our country has to offer. Critical to upholding that promise, is a commitment to access in the communities our veterans live in," said Congressman Anthony Brown. "This clinic in Prince George's will help meet our veterans where they are and provide the quality care that they deserve. We'll never stop fighting for the brave men and women who have served and we'll always have their backs."

"I want to thank Senator Van Hollen and

the members of our Federal Delegation for pushing forward this important legislation. Prince George's County is home to more than 60,000 veterans, the highest number in our state, and we must continue to do all we can to ensure that they have access to the quality healthcare they need and deserve. Upgrading our current CBOC will ensure that they can receive that care close to home in a facility with all the resources they need for high quality, comprehensive healthcare," said Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks.

This legislation provides for a lease of an approximately 85,116 square foot outpatient clinic in the vicinity of Prince George's County, including 600 parking spaces. The new facility would enable VA to accommodate the workload that the Southern Prince George's County and Southeast D.C. CBOCs currently service, which has increased since the closure of the Greenbelt CBOC in 2015, and allow more patients to receive care closer to their homes. It will also facilitate the full implementation of the Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) model of care delivery, improving operational efficiencies and the Veteran experience. This CBOC will be a state-of-the-art, energy-efficient health care facility offering primary care, mental health, specialty care, and ancillary services to veterans in the Prince George's County area.

## The Prince George's Post

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# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

### Can My In-laws Get Supplemental Security Income?

By RUSSELL GLOOR,  
National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation,  
the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens

**Dear Rusty:** I am wondering what the income limit is for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligibility. My in-laws are in their 70's, both drawing Social Security, and each has a pension from jobs they retired from. I am wondering if they are eligible to collect SSI. They have income from all sources that is over \$2100 per month, they are on Medicaid, but they have no savings and few assets. I have been told by a random family member that they are eligible for SSI, but with their income I have my doubts. All of my online hunt and peck research has made this as clear as mud. Any insight you can offer would be greatly appreciated. *Signed: Helpful Daughter-in-Law*

**Dear Helpful Daughter-in-Law:** Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a separate (non-Social Security) federal supplemental assistance program for low income seniors over 65 and for disabled or blind people of any age, but there are income limitations to qualify for SSI benefits and restrictions on assets as well. Overall eligibility requirements for SSI are quite complex, especially for those with earnings from working (it's also notable that only legal US residents can get SSI). Although some types of income and assets are not counted, only those with very low countable income and very few countable assets can get SSI assistance. Countable income must be less than the federal SS benefit amounts for federal SSI benefits to be paid. If your in-law's current countable income is over \$2100 per month, that alone may disqualify them for SSI because their countable income is more than the federal SSI benefit of \$841 per individual, or \$1261 per couple.

As mentioned, some types of income aren't countable, but pensions and Social Security benefits do count (after a small \$20 exclusion). So if most or all of your in-law's monthly income is from those two sources, they almost certainly won't be eligible for additional assistance through SSI. Something else to be aware of is that any SSI benefit they might be eligible for would be offset by their Social Security payment, so if each of their individual Social Security payments are more than \$841/month, then there would be no additional benefit from the SSI program. Here is a link at which an explanation of what types of income count, and don't count, toward the SSI income limitation: [www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-income-ussi.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-income-ussi.htm).

From the information you've shared about their current Social Security and individual pension benefits, it does not appear that your in-laws will be able to gain any additional benefit from the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. The income restrictions for Medicaid eligibility are more generous and, since they're in their 70s, your in-laws are obviously both on Medicare as well to help with their healthcare expenses.

*The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] [www.amac.us](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadviser@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadviser@amacfoundation.org).*

## Juneteenth from A1

partment Band, A Tribute to Maze Featuring the BRENCORE Allstars  
**Visual art exhibition**—Stained Glass by Arvid Lee  
**Arts activities**—Arts on a Roll, Words Beats and Life, Taratibu Youth Association Dancers  
**History activities**—Freedom cabin, History scavenger hunt  
**Food and merchandise vendors**  
**Non-profit exhibitors**  
The 2022 Juneteenth festival is a FREE event. To learn more, visit <http://www.pgparcs.com/Juneteenth>.

The M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation delivers an award-winning park system through progressive, innovative leadership and a commitment to the community and the environment in Prince George's County. For more on the Department of Parks and Recreation, visit [www.pgparcs.com](http://www.pgparcs.com) and stay connected on Facebook, Twitter, PhotoShelter, and Instagram. The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities in all programs and services. Register at least a minimum of two weeks in advance of the program start date to request and receive a disability accommodation.

### All County Offices Closed June 20, 2022

On June 19, 1865, the last enslaved people in Texas learned about their freedom. The month and day were combined to make the word "Juneteenth." The observance of Juneteenth started in Galveston, Texas, and has continued to spread across the country. In honor of Juneteenth, all County offices will close, except public safety agencies.  
—Prince George's County MD

## Prince George's County Students Win Stock Market Game™ Financial Literacy Competition

By PRESS OFFICER  
Maryland Council on  
Economic Education

One team of Prince George's County high school students have been named winners of the Stock Market Game™ (SMG), a financial literacy competition and simulation organized by the Maryland Council on Economic Education. The winners were announced at an awards ceremony on Wednesday, May 18, 2022.

The Stock Market Game™ (SMG) is an educational simulation that teaches about the world of investing, the American economic system and the global economy. Students work in teams to invest and manage an imaginary \$100,000 portfolio while developing skills in math, teamwork, research and critical thinking.

The winning students from Prince George's County are Zaniyah Brockington, Antonio Charles, and Kamyra Jennings from Crossland High School in Camp Springs. The team, sponsored by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), were named southern region winners of the spring Stock Market Game™ (SMG). They grew their portfolio from \$100,000 to \$129,217.

These competitions are coordinated by the Maryland Council on Economic Education, the nearly 70 year-old nonprofit that assures that Maryland's school children leave high school equipped with the economic and financial literacy knowledge and decision-making skills they will need to make in-



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND COUNCIL ON ECONOMIC EDUCATION

**Crossland High School students Kamyra Jennings and Antonio Charles accept the award for their team.**

formed decisions as consumers, workers, citizens, savers, investors and participants in the global economy. In addition to student programs, MCEE offers free professional development and financial literacy education training and lesson plans for educators. Based on the campus of Towson University, MCEE supports more than 2,000 teachers each year who reach over 20,000 Maryland

students.

Said Julie Weaver, MCEE Executive Director, "The winning students from Prince George's County should be proud of this statewide honor. They have creatively demonstrated their understanding of financial and economic concepts, as well as the importance for all students to learn about finances and how our economy works."

## Prince George's County Council Adopts \$5 Billion FY 2023 County Budget

Unanimous Council Support for New County Spending Plan

By ANGELA J. ROUSON  
Prince George's County Council Media

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (June 1, 2022)—The Prince George's County Council, convening in a hybrid session on Wednesday, June 1, 2022, unanimously adopted a balanced \$5 billion Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2023. The County's new spending plan takes effect with the new Fiscal Year, which begins July 1, 2022.

Prince George's County Council Chair Council Chair Calvin S. Hawkins, II, during budget adoption remarks, noted the challenges of the past two years, and shared his optimism for the future.

"It's been a tough couple of years. Despite our extraordinary challenges, this new spending plan, which I continue to call 'The People's Budget' gives Prince Georgians more hope for our future than at any time since March 2020. By all indications, this fiscal year will be better," adding, "I want to thank the stout-hearted people of Prince George's County for your extraordinary resilience and partnership with us to keep our communities safe and well. You are making our progress possible."

The Council concurred with the County Executive's proposed \$2.63 billion appropriation for education, reflecting a 12.2 percent increase for the Board of Education. This includes continued support for a unique P3 Alternative Financing Program for school construction projects in the County.

Council enhancements to the approved budget include ongoing investments in public safety, adding one million dollars in FY23 spending to support use of force tracking. The newly-adopted spending plan also provides additional funding to support crime-fighting initiatives including police recruit hiring incentives, enforcement

technology, and personnel in the Police Aviation Unit. An additional one-million dollar investment will support the implementation of the County's Re-Entry Program, giving former offenders opportunities for productive work.

With a \$5-million boost, the Council increased operating expenditures to provide critical assistance to support these businesses with a three-year grant and loan program to promote transformative economic recovery and expansion for small and minority businesses in the County. Additionally, the Council directed federal American Rescue Plan Act funds to support the FSC First Level Up Program, providing small businesses with access to capital, training, and mentorship to elevate opportunity and accelerate post-pandemic recovery.

The Council has ensured that eligible seniors aging in place will receive much-needed support with essential services, including snow removal, tree removal, and basic home repairs, through the establishment of a 'Senior Support Services' program.

Additional Council investments include increased funding for the County's five Youth Services bureaus; cyber security enhancements at County libraries; and funding support to investigate incidents and enforce laws against labor trafficking. For more FY 23 County Budget information, including additional Council-initiated budget enhancements and the Chair's remarks, visit the Council's FY 23 Budget Portal.

In bi-county budget action last month, Prince George's and Montgomery county lawmakers unanimously adopted new FY23 spending plans for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC); the bi-county portion of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC); and the Washington Suburban Transit Commission (WSTC).

## Beyond Juneteenth from A4

to the federal marketplace is an obvious key to economic equity.

The Biden/Harris Administration has set an agency goal of increasing federal spending to small, disadvantaged businesses by 50% by fiscal year 2025. Acting on that goal, the U.S. Small Business Administration made several changes to give disadvantaged small businesses more access to federal contracting dollars.

The SBA worked with federal agencies to set up measures so they could accurately track spending and publicly report progress. That awareness has already raised governmentwide spending with Small Disadvantaged Businesses to 11% this year, from 5% the previous year.

Additionally, the SBA has allocated more funding to resource partners who counsel and train small businesses to enter not only the contracting world but to start and grow their businesses. This funding added 24 new Women's Business Centers in 2021, thus tripling of the number of centers located on the campuses of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and continues the expansion of largest WBC network in the history of the SBA. With these new additions, the complete listing of WBCs housed on the campuses of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) now include:

1. Morgan State University, Baltimore (MD)
2. Benedict College, Columbia (SC)
3. Virginia Union University, Richmond (VA)
4. Jackson State University, Jackson (MS)
5. Alcorn State University, Lorman (MS)
6. Winston-Salem State University, Winston Salem State (NC)
7. Bennett College, Greensboro (NC)
8. Miles College, Fairfield (AL)
9. Bowie State University, Bowie (MD)
10. Savannah State University, Savannah (GA)

In an effort to increase the number of Black Americans participating in the SBA 8(a) contracting program by 12,000 nationwide, the SBA is also increasing its outreach to the National Urban League, special sororities and fraternities for Black Americans, and business students at HBCUs to expand their knowledge about business ownership and federal contracting.

Being realists, we know these reforms will not work overnight to transform areas of poverty into wealthy enclaves or combat the many pockets in our nation where institutional racism or lending disparities still exist.

But if capitalism is to work to sustain our nation's people, our federal government, first, and then our whole country needs reforms. Poverty knows no boundaries. Strug-

gle is struggle — even in a country that boasts the greatest wealth on earth. And the federal government alone cannot change that.

For capitalism to work—all of us must get engaged to individually and collectively provide solid financial and business learning and mentoring experiences to our children and build community ecosystems where the possibility of small businesses, wealth accumulation and a working capitalism can exist.

The SBA and its resource partners are committed to providing training and counseling on creating and sustaining small businesses for every client—whether they live in a poverty pocket, a rural town or are held back because of skin color or gender designation. Visit us at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)

As a start, the federal government is on the right track on this issue. It may bring a higher tide to lift some boats, but we are all going to have to paddle much harder together if we are to achieve equity and all of America's people can truly enjoy the freedoms promised by democracy and capitalism.

Right now, Black Americans are still chained to systems of financial bondage. We must think beyond Juneteenth to continue to find ways to access capital, which brings real freedom.

# HEALTH *and* WELLNESS

## OUR HEALTH

### Combating Sickle Cell Disease

(NAPSI)—If you or someone you care about is among the estimated 100,000 Americans with sickle cell disease, here's information that could be important:

#### One Man's Story

Chris Ruffin Jr. never knows when extreme pain will strike. Since birth, Ruffin's had sickle cell disease, an inherited condition that causes extreme pain when red blood cells become hard, crescent-shaped and have difficulty carrying oxygen to the rest of the body.

"It's like having a charley horse," said Ruffin. "It's just a throbbing pain to the point where you can barely walk. It's like your whole body hurts but you can't do anything about it."

The pain can strike at any time. A sickle cell pain crisis can suddenly occur in the back, knees, legs, arms, chest or stomach and last several hours to several days.

#### What Can Be Done

After suffering a stroke at six years old due to complications of the disease, Ruffin began receiving monthly blood transfusions to prevent further complications. Over the course of 22 years, he has received more than 3,130 units of blood through monthly red cell ex-

changes.

Individuals with sickle cell disease can require frequent blood transfusions throughout their lifetime—needing as many as 100 units of blood each year—to treat complications of the disease. Unfortunately, frequent transfusions can make finding compatible blood types even more difficult if patients develop an immune response against blood from donors that is not closely matched to the blood of the recipient.

That's why on **World Sickle Cell Day, June 19**, the American Red Cross wants to raise awareness about sickle cell disease and the challenges patients face while battling the chronic condition.

Through its Sickle Cell Initiative, the Red Cross has expanded its blood donation testing to include sickle cell trait screening on all donations from self-identified African American donors. This additional screening helps the Red Cross identify compatible blood types more quickly for patients with sickle cell.

Ruffin, an Emmy Award-winning senior news producer, credits a strong support system, good doctors, generous blood donors, and a consistent diet, exercise and rest routine as key factors to him succeeding with sickle cell. "I didn't always know how important blood



**Emmy Award-winning news producer Chris Ruffin requires frequent blood transfusions because of his sickle cell disease.**

was," said Ruffin. "Based on the one hour it takes to donate blood, someone like me can live years longer and live a full life."

#### How You Can Help

Eligible individuals who are feeling well can make an appointment to donate blood by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/OurBlood](https://www.redcrossblood.org/OurBlood), using the Red Cross Blood Donor App or calling 1-800-RED-CROSS.

### Maryland Department of Health Announces First Reported Heat-Related Death of 2022

BALTIMORE (June 1, 2022)—The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) today announced the first reported heat-related death of 2022 in Maryland. The death occurred in Baltimore County; the decedent was a male aged 65.

"As this tragedy shows, heat-related illness, including heat exhaustion and heat stroke, can result in serious ailments and even death," said Deputy Secretary for Public Health Dr. Jinlene Chan. "During hot weather, Marylanders are urged to take precautions to avoid overheating and check on friends and neighbors that may be susceptible to heat-related illness, especially older adults and people with chronic disease."

From May through September, MDH monitors temperature conditions and incidents of heat-related illness and death. Weekly reports may be found online through the Office of Preparedness and Response Extreme Heat webpage. The site also includes the state Heat Emergency Plan, information about heat-related illnesses and tips for staying safe and healthy during hot weather.

Marylanders should never leave children or pets in a car for any time during hot weather, even with the windows cracked, and are encouraged to check on elderly neighbors or relatives to ensure they have a cool place to stay.

#### MDH encourages using the following tips to help cope with hot weather:

- Drink plenty of fluids
- Avoid alcohol, caffeine and overly-sweetened beverages
- Wear loose-fitting, lightweight, and light-colored clothing
- Avoid direct sunlight and wear sunscreen; stay in the shade when possible
- Avoid salt tablets unless advised by a doctor to take them
- Take it easy outside: schedule physical activity in the morning or evening, when it's cooler, and take short breaks if necessary

While anyone can be a victim of heat-related illness, the highest risk groups include people under age 5 or over age 65, people with chronic illnesses, people taking certain medications, and those who are exercising or working outdoors.

Individuals in need of cooling centers are encouraged to reach out to their local health department or call 2-1-1 and provide their county location and ZIP code to get information about cooling center locations, hours of operation and available accommodations.

More resources about staying safe in hot weather are available from the MDH Office of Preparedness and Response at: [https://preparedness.health.maryland.gov/Pages/resources\\_hot.aspx](https://preparedness.health.maryland.gov/Pages/resources_hot.aspx)

### Suspected Suicide Attempts by Poisoning Among U.S. Children Rose 26.7% From 2015–2020, Study Finds

*Data Spotlights Pediatric Mental Health Crisis, UVA Health Researchers Say*

By PRESS OFFICER  
UVA Health News

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (May 31, 2022)—Suspected suicide attempts by poisoning among children ages 6–19 reported to U.S. poison centers increased 26.7% between 2015 and 2020, which UVA Health researchers say highlights the country's growing mental health crisis among kids.

The findings are based on a review of cases reported to the National Poison Data System as "suspected suicides," which encompass

both attempted suicides and deaths by suicide. The total number of suspected suicides by self-poisoning increased from 75,248 in 2015 to 93,532 in 2020, with girls accounting for 77.9% of pediatric self-poisoning cases during these six years. This increase occurred while overall calls to the nations poison centers decreased.

The largest increase in the rate of suspected suicides occurred in children ages 10–12, growing 109.3% between 2015 and 2020, though all pediatric age groups saw increases.

"The impetus for our research team to per-

form this study was that we began to notice an increase in younger aged children attempting suicide by acute overdoses in our clinical practice at UVA Health," said Christopher Holstge, MD, medical director of the Blue Ridge Poison Center and chief of the Division of Medical Toxicology at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. "We were disturbed at our institutional numbers and decided to perform research on the national numbers

See **POISONING** Page A7

# 5 Healthy Habits to Help Reduce Stress

#### FAMILY FEATURES

Between work, family obligations and a constantly changing world, people in the United States are stressed. In fact, U.S. workers are among the most stressed in the world, according to a State of the Global Workplace study. While some stress is unavoidable and can be good for you, constant or chronic stress can have real consequences for your mental and physical health.

Chronic stress can increase your lifetime risk of heart disease and stroke. It can also lead to unhealthy habits like overeating, physical inactivity and smoking while also increasing risk factors, including high blood pressure, depression and anxiety. However, a scientific statement from the American Heart Association shows reducing stress and cultivating a positive mindset can improve health and well-being.

To help people understand the connection between stress and physical health, the American Heart Association offers these science-backed insights to help reduce chronic stress.

#### Stay Active

Exercise is one of the easiest ways to keep your body healthy and release stress. Physical activity is linked to lower risk of diseases, stronger bones and muscles, improved mental health and cognitive function and lower risk of depression. It can also help increase energy and improve quality of sleep. The American Heart Association recommends adults get at least 150 minutes per week of moderate-intensity activity, 75 minutes of vigorous activity or a combination.

#### Meditate

Incorporate meditation and mindfulness practices into your day to give yourself a few minutes to create some distance from daily stress. Some studies show meditation can reduce blood pressure, improve sleep, support the immune system and increase your ability to process information.



#### Stress 101

Understanding stress is an important step in managing and reducing it. Consider these things to know about stress and how it could affect your life:

- Today, 1 in 3 adults in the U.S. report being worried or depressed.
- Higher levels of the stress hormone cortisol are linked to increased risk of high blood pressure and cardiovascular events like heart disease and stroke.
- The top sources of stress are money, work, family responsibilities and health concerns.
- Work-related stress is associated with a 40% increased risk of cardiovascular disease like heart attack and stroke.

Photos courtesy of Getty Images

#### Practice Positivity

A positive mindset can improve overall health. Studies show a positive mindset can help you live longer, and happy individuals tend to sleep better, exercise more, eat better and not smoke. Practice positive self-talk to help you stay calm. Instead of saying, "everything is going wrong," re-frame the situation and remind yourself "I can handle this if I take it one step at a time."

#### Show Gratitude

Gratitude—or thankfulness—is a powerful tool that can reduce levels of depression and anxiety and improve sleep. Start by simply writing down three things you're grateful for each day.

#### Find a Furry Friend

Having a pet may help you get more fit, lower stress, blood pressure, cholesterol and blood

sugar, and boost overall happiness and well-being. When you see, touch, hear or talk to companion animals, you may feel a sense of goodwill, joy, nurturing and happiness. At the same time, stress hormones are suppressed. Dog ownership is also associated with a lower risk of depression, according to research published by the American Heart Association.

Find more stress-management tips at [Heart.org/stress](https://www.heart.org/stress)

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**Morningside from A2**

of Science in Computer Science at Catholic University in 2008. As a CPA, he held numerous jobs in the Accounting Sector of the Federal Government, ending as Supervisory Accountant with the U.S. federal court system.

Ellsworth was an avid bike rider, jogger, hand dancer, reader, historian, investor, CPA and adviser.

He is survived by his daughter Britney Lee, sisters Alma and Angela, brother Anthony. Services were at New Smyrna Missionary Baptist Church, NE. Burial at Lincoln Memorial Cemetery in Suitland.

**Milestones**  
Happy Birthday to Keenus Clark and Shirley Proffit, June 12; Aimee Crawford, Joel McCune and Cameron Nichols, June 13; U.S. Representative Steny Hoyer, June 14; Kara Dameron, Dot Pfeil and June Zaccagnino, June 15; Helen Padgett and Lucia Scott, June 16.

Happy 27th anniversary to my son Mike and Sandy McHale on June 9.  
Email birthdays and anniversaries to [muddmm@gmail.com](mailto:muddmm@gmail.com).

**Poisoning from A6**

which confirmed that this increase was not just a local issue, but a national issue."

The two most common substances involved in suicidal self-poisonings among children were acetaminophen and ibuprofen, both over-the-counter pain relievers and which children have easier access to obtain. The reported self-poisonings included 276 deaths and 14,916 cases of "major effects," which include life-threatening symptoms or long-lasting disability or disfigurement.

"This data demonstrates concerning rises in cases of self-poisoning among all pediatric groups between 6 and 19 years of age, suggesting that the pediatric mental health crisis is worsening and extending into younger populations," the researchers write.

Based on the data, the researchers recommend expanding mental health screenings and interventions for children.

"We need to be vigilant for the warning signs associated with suicide risk in our children," Holstege said. "Our study is one of a number that demonstrates that we are experiencing an unprecedented mental health crisis in younger age groups. As a society, we must commit more resources to the mental health needs of our children."

**Findings Published**

The researchers have published their findings in the scientific journal Clinical Toxicology. The research team included Jennifer A. Ross, Molly H. Woodfin, Saumitra V. Rege and Holstege.

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