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SECU MD Foundation Announces 2022 Scholarship Recipients

\$115,000 in scholarships awarded to 27 students across Maryland, three in Prince George's County

By PRESS OFFICER
State Employees' Credit Union of Maryland/SECU MD Foundation

BALTIMORE (July 6, 2022)—SECU MD Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Maryland's largest state-chartered credit union—SECU, announced today its 2022 Scholarship Recipients. In an effort to further education and provide a brighter future for its members, the SECU MD Foundation Scholarship Program awarded \$115,000 in scholarships to 27 SECU members spanning communities across the state who will be attending a trade or technical school, college or university for the Fall 2022 semester for either undergraduate or post-graduate work.

Of the 27 recipients, four Grand Prize Winners were identified for their outstanding commitment to their communities and passion for making the world a better place. Each Grand Prize Winner received \$5,000 in scholarships in memory of Donald Tynes, Sr., SECU's longest-serving Board member who passed away in March 2022. In honor of his legacy, mentorship and philanthropy, each of the Grand Prize Winners

will also receive a donation on behalf of the SECU MD Foundation that will be gifted to a Maryland nonprofit of their choice.

The SECU MD Foundation recognized this year's winners at an award celebration at SECU's headquarters in Linthicum Heights, Maryland, on Tuesday, June 28. The list of the 2022 SECU MD Foundation Scholarship Program Recipients for Prince George's County is listed below:

Scholarship Recipient and University
Oluwatomilade Akinyelu
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
Zachary Essamuah
Stevenson University
Malachi Proctor
Delaware State University

"The SECU MD Foundation launched its Scholarship Program on the belief that cost should not be a barrier for education and that education could open the door to a brighter future not only for our members

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PHOTOS COURTESY SECU

Oluwatomilade Akinyelu



Zachary Essamuah



Malachi Proctor

1st Charter Day Celebration— Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Incorporated

Zeta Mu Chapter/ Upper Marlboro, MD

By LATRICE BROGSDALE-DAVIS

Zeta Mu Chapter, Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Incorporated

The incredible women of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Incorporated (Zeta Mu chapter), the first Black business and professional women's sorority, invites you to join them for their 1st Charter Day Celebration, **Sunday, July 17, 2022, 2-6 p.m.**, at the Blue Dolphin Restaurant, 1166 MD-3 North, Gambrills, MD 21054. ALL are welcome. Visit <https://linktr.ee/IotaZetamu> to register and pay for the seafood, buffet-style luncheon.

The Zeta Mu chapter has significantly impacted the Prince George's County, MD community over the past year. Accomplishments include, but are not limited to:

- Hosted a public, virtual financial webinar to raise awareness on how to prevent and avoid financial exploitation
- Provided a year-long series of Basic Life Skills, Career Exploration and Positive Parent-

ing workshops and activities to Prince Georgian women experiencing homelessness

- Awarded multiple scholarships to Prince George's County youth
- Donated hundreds of personal hygiene items to Prince Georgians experiencing homelessness
- Donated hundreds of books and school supplies to Prince George's County students

Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Incorporated—We are "Business and Professional Women Building the Foundation of Generational Financial Empowerment."

To learn more about the Zeta Mu chapter of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Incorporated, please contact:

Web Address: iplzetamu.org
| Email: iplzetamu@gmail.com
| Mailing Address: PO Box 2111, Upper Marlboro, MD 20773.

Prince George's County Office of Human Rights Celebrates Fifty Years of Serving the County

By KYLA HANINGTON

Prince George's County Office of Human Rights

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (July 1, 2022)—The Prince George's County Office of Human Rights, formerly the Prince George's County Human Relations Commission, celebrates 50 years today, July 1, 2022. Enacted by Prince George's County Council by County Bill -1-1972, the first bill passed by the new form of Prince George's County government, the Office of Human Rights (OHR) is the County's civil and human rights education and enforcement agency.

"Prince George's County's commitment to human rights, to equity, and to inclusion is evident from the foundation of our office 50 years ago and through the work of this agency since that time," said OHR Executive Director, Renée Battle-Brooks. "OHR is excited about continuing the legacy of those who came before us in breaking down barriers between people and strengthening communities."

Charged with ending discrimination in Prince George's County, OHR combats discrimination wherever people live, work, or play in the County. Additionally, the agency combats human trafficking

and leads the Prince George's County Human Trafficking Task Force, ensures equitable language access to County government services for all residents in the language of their choosing, and combats hate, bias, and violence through a wide-ranging outreach programs.

OHR is proud to celebrate 50 years of service to Prince George's County and is marking this anniversary recognizing Theresa Douglas Banks, who exemplified a life of service and was an ardent and tireless advocate for the formation of this agency. Mrs. Banks succumbed to a heart attack while testifying to the County Council about the urgency of that need and passed away on March 15, 1972. When the County Council passed the bill later that year, they named Mrs. Banks as an honorary Councilmember.

As the Office of Human Rights celebrates 50 years of serving Prince George's County, residents are invited to join OHR in considering the long-reaching impacts that one person can have when they are committed to community and to social change.

Learn more about the Office of Human Rights by visiting civilrights.mypgc.us, by calling 301-883-6170, or by emailing OHRStaff@co.pg.md.us.

Prince George's County Exercises Right of First Refusal Tool to Preserve Affordable Rental Housing in Landover Hills

County Supports Dantes Community Partners', a Division of Dumas Collective, Efforts to Acquire Affordable Housing Community

By ALEXIS REVIS YEOMAN

Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development

LARGO, Md. (July 8, 2022)—The Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) exercised its Right of First Refusal (ROFR) in the purchase of Verona at Landover Hills, a multi-family rental property built in 1963, located just outside the municipal boundary of Landover Hills. The property consists of 25 separate buildings on nearly 30 acres and includes a total of 727 units. The property is within a mile of a proposed station

along the Purple Line (Annapolis Road/Glenridge). The unit mix includes 1 bedroom (236 units), 2 bedroom (412 units) and 3 bedroom (79 units). The property offers common area amenities consisting of a resident lounge, fitness center, playground, swimming pool and dog park. Since the revamping of the Right of First Refusal program early last year, Prince George's County has preserved through ROFR the affordability of 1,213 multi-family units to date.

The Verona at Landover Hills was acquired by a joint venture between Dantes Community Partners, L&M Development

Partners and Goldman Sachs Urban Investment Group. In coordination with the Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development, the partnership committed to 15 years of affordability for 75% of the units at 60% AMI levels, which will preserve affordability for 545 units. The partnership also plans to invest an additional \$20 million to further renovate units and the exterior of the property. The partnership is committed to providing the community with resident services, with the

See HOUSING Page A4

SLOW DOWN, MOVE OVER!

AAA Mourns the Loss of Tow Driver Killed in Prince George's County

By RAGINA ALI
AAA Club Alliance

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (July 6, 2022) —The AAA family is deeply saddened by the death of one of our drivers in Prince George's County late last night. Sixty-nine-year-old Anthony Okozi was helping a member who had run out of fuel on Route 50 in Bowie when he was struck and killed by another vehicle.

"Our hearts go out to Anthony's loved ones as well as his AAA colleagues during this very difficult time. We will be forever grateful to Anthony and all first responders who have given their lives while helping others," said Kevin Micsko, Vice-President, Fleet Operations, AAA Club Alliance.

Anthony joined the AAA Upper Marlboro Fleet in June of last year. Supervisors say he had taken the job in transition to retirement, which he was planning for early next year.

Okozi's death illustrates why Slow Down, Move Over laws are critical to everyone's safety. The best thing drivers can do is move over and away from vehicles and people on the side of the road.

"Whether someone is fixing a tire or working on a tow, all motorists must slow down and move over a lane, if they can do so safely, to create more space for those working at the roadside. Their lives are on your shoulders," Micsko added.

The Maryland State Police continue their investigation into the crash.



PHOTO COURTESY AAA

Anthony Okozi

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ChildWatch: "Is It Good for the Children?"

Barbara Sabol is doing her part to make a difference. I am so grateful for the commitment of long-haul champions for children like her.

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Collington Life Plan Community Welcomes Director of Philanthropy and Community Engagement

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MDA Awards Research Grant for Animal Waste Technology Research

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

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

Ruth Sanford, longtime Morningsider, dies at 96

Ruth Mae Sanford, whose Memorial will be held at Suitland Road Baptist Church in August, died June 25 in Hagerstown, Md.

She was born August 8, 1925, in Burke’s Garden, Va., daughter of Oscar and Beulah Lambert. When she was four, the family moved to Loudoun County, Va. Ruth graduated from Herndon High in 1943 and a year later married James Ferguson. They moved to Morningside in 1947 and had four children: Richard (now, deceased), Linda, Margie and Janet. James Ferguson died in a fiery crash in 1951.

Ruth later married Arthur Sanford who brought two children to the marriage, Ray and Judy. Together they had a son, David (deceased). Arthur died in 1964.

Ruth was a devoted member of Suitland Road Baptist Church (formerly, Morningside Baptist), Pastor Dr. Kelvin McCune. She sang in the choir and volunteered at Bradford Oaks Nursing Home with a group who sang hymns, read Scripture, and gave encouragement to the residents.

Ruth was a housewife and a babysitter for neighbors’ children until she started a career at Amtrak. She retired in the early ‘90s. She enjoyed crocheting, writing poems, gardening, and lunching with friends. Her poems were sometimes read aloud at church services. Ruth liked to talk with her church family on the phone; in closing, she would often say, “I love you.”

For years, Ruth was an Election Judge for Morningside elections. And she was a regular contributor to my column. I miss her calls.

She lived in Morningside, at 503 Allies Road, until May 2017 when she moved to an assisted living home in Boonesboro, Md.

She is survived by her three daughters, Linda Sandoval, Marjorie Crowl and Janet Hemming, stepson Arthur Sanford

Jr., 9 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren. Funeral services were private; burial was at Trinity Memorial Gardens, in Waldorf, on July 5.

However, there will be a Memorial for her Saturday, August 6, 11 a.m., at Suitland Road Baptist Church. The family requests all attendees wear a mask.

Town of Morningside

Jim Reilly reports on the fireworks: “I was the fire inspector for the fireworks again this year. A nice group of ‘shooters’ came down from Lewisburg PA to do this year’s fireworks. Chief Carl McKlveen and the engine, squad and ambulance from the Morningside VFD were there standing by. Mayor Cann was there. Crowd was bigger than last year. Crowd also gathered in the VFW parking lot to watch but a lot of the fireworks don’t go high enough to be seen from there. But still a good show from there as well. Lots of illegal fireworks going off in the town as well. Can still hear them tonight as well.”

Report on the Parade next week.

Neighbors & other good people

I’ve had word that Michael Trimboli, longtime Morgan Road resident, has died. Can someone contact me with information about him?

Regina Barrett, of Upper Marlboro, has been named by TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) as 2021 Maryland Queen; she’d lost 42.6 pounds. Honors were at the Princess Royale Oceanfront Resort in Ocean City. Info: go to the TOPS website or call 800-932-8677.

New principals have been named for three of our area schools: Warren Tweed at Andrew Jackson Academy, District Heights; Cecil Miller at Stephen Decatur Middle School, Clinton; and Ruben Chiza at Maya Angelou French Immersion School, Hillcrest Heights.

Graduations

Dailion V. Harrison, son of Tina and

Chasson Harrison, has graduated from Chopticon High School in St. Mary’s County. He plans to continue his education at a vocational college. Dailion is the grandson of Jean and Jimmy Nichols, and the great-grandson of Lawrence and Mary Nichols who lived for years, with their large family, on Allies Road in Morningside.

Email me your grandson’s graduation at muddmm@gmail.com.

Christa McAuliffe remembered

DuVal High School science teacher Dr. Terri Dove has been chosen as the recipient of the 2022 Christa McAuliffe Outstanding Teacher Award from Prince George’s County Public Schools.

Christa McAuliffe, for whom that award is named, began her career in Morningside, teaching American history at Benjamin D. Foulis Jr. High. She next taught at Thomas Johnson Middle School in Lanham and several schools in New Hampshire before being selected as the First Teacher in Space.

On January 28, 1986, the Challenger, with a crew of seven, including Christa, lifted off at Cape Canaveral. It exploded seconds later. There were no survivors.

Changing landscape

Suitland HS is getting more than a face-lift—it’s getting a brand new campus where the current one sits. County officials were on hand last Thursday to celebrate the groundbreaking of the new facility. In addition to an academic complex, renderings of the new Suitland High show a performing arts theater and an athletics stadium. Suitland was built in 1951; it’s about time!

A home at 5407 Auth Road, in Camp Springs, recently sold for \$375,000.

RIP: Carl Mason

Carl Mason died a year ago. His wife, former Morningsider Susan Mason—

See MORNINGSIDE Page A7

Around the County

Safeway Shoppers in the Washington-Baltimore Region Can Save Money at the Pump This Summer Through the Safeway FreshPass® Program

LANHAM, Md. (July 6, 2022)—Safeway today announced that stores in Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, and the District of Columbia will be offering an exclusive promotion providing valuable fuel savings to FreshPass subscribers this summer. To curb the effects of soaring gas prices, members will receive an exclusive weekly offer for 10 cents off per gallon at participating fuel stations when they shop from July 7 through September 21.

“Whether they’re shopping for groceries or filling up their gas tank this summer, we want to help our local customers save money,” said Jim Perkins, Safeway Mid-Atlantic Division President. “Our FreshPass membership gives our shoppers a chance to enjoy much-needed savings and convenience with our free delivery offering, especially during these challenging times.”

New subscribers of FreshPass can take advantage of the summer gas promotion in addition to a free 30-day trial.

A FreshPass subscription is \$99 annually or \$12.99 a month for the monthly subscription option. To learn more about the program, please visit www.safeway.com/freshpass.

Safeway in the Mid-Atlantic Division is part of Albertsons Companies (NYSE: ACI). Locally great and nationally strong, Albertsons Cos. is a leading food and drug retailer in the United States. The Mid-Atlantic Division operates Safeway stores in Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Delaware. Safeway is committed to helping people across the country live better lives by making a meaningful difference, neighborhood by neighborhood. During 2021, Safeway and Safeway Foundation locally donated nearly \$4 million in food and financial support to help people in the areas of hunger relief, education, cancer research and treatment, programs for people with disabilities, and veterans. For more information, visit www.safeway.com.

Minnesota State Mankato Announces 2022 Spring Semester Dean’s List

MANKATO, Minn. (July 7, 2022)—The Academic High Honor and Honor lists (Dean’s lists) for the past spring semester at Minnesota State University, Mankato were announced by interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Brian Martensen.

Among 3,334 students, a total of 971 students qualified for the High Honor List by achieving a 4.0 straight “A” average, while 2,363 students earned a 3.5 to 3.99 average to qualify for the Honor List.

To qualify for academic honors, undergraduate students must be enrolled for at least 12 credit hours for the semester.

Upper Marlboro, MD: **Ayanna Powell**, Honor List
For additional information, please visit: <https://mankato.mnsu.edu/academics/course-planning-and-registration/registration-and-academic-records/current-students-registration-resources/grades/deans-list/>

Minnesota State Mankato, a comprehensive university with 14,546 students, is part of the Minnesota State system, which includes 30 colleges and seven universities.

—MNSU-Media Relations

Quincy University Hosted Its 159th Commencement Ceremony

QUINCY, Ill. (July 6, 2022)—Quincy University hosted its 159th commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 14, 2022, at QU Football Stadium at 2 p.m. The May 2022 graduating class is comprised of 156 undergraduates and 32 graduate degree recipients, including.

Brandywine, Maryland: **Jamaal David**, Master of Science in Education

The procession was led by University marshal, Robert Mejer, distinguished professor of art, and assistant marshals, Dr. David Kirchhofer and Dr. Scott Luaders, professors of physics and chemistry, respectively. Dr. Brian McGee, QU president, conferred degrees and provided remarks. Dr. Kimberly Hale, assistant vice president for academic affairs, convened the ceremony. Jessica Howell, director of campus ministry, delivered the invocation. Fr. John Doctor, OFM, vice president for mission and ministry, provided the benediction. Choir members Julia Liesen ’24, Crystal Middendorf ’23, Joseph Niemerg ’24 and Colby Schulz ’24 performed the National Anthem and the Quincy University Alma Mater.

Senior representative Ouekie Wright delivered the program’s welcome address and reflection. Wright is a business management major and is a member of the QU Cross Country and Track and Field teams.

Ralph M. Oakley ’80 and William E. “Bill” Taylor ’60 were awarded Honorary Degrees of Doctor of Humane Letters during the ceremony. Oakley also delivered the commencement address.

As commencement speaker, Ralph Oakley challenged students to recall their personal journeys to Quincy University and shared the diverse responses he had received when posing this question to alums from many eras.

Oakley encouraged graduates to infuse their next steps with passion. “Following your passion will more likely make you happy, make you feel content with who you are and what you’re doing, and it will also likely make you a unique contributor in a world that needs your contribution.”

—Quincy University Office of Community Relations

Fairfield University Congratulates Spring 2022 Dean’s List

FAIRFIELD, Conn. (July 1, 2022)—The following Fairfield University student(s) received Dean’s List Honors for the Spring 2022 semester.

In order to be placed on the Dean’s List, students must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours in a semester, have no outstanding or incomplete grades for that semester, and have attained a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better.

Hyattsville, MD: **June R. Dodson**
—Susan Cipollaro, Fairfield University

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

KUDOS TO BSU ALUMNI

Congratulations to Bowie State University Bulldog Luke Lawal, Jr. (’11) on receiving the Walmart Shine a Light Award at the 2022 BET Awards. The HBCU Buzz Founder and CEO talked about his path to entrepreneurship, how his time at BSU shaped his identity, and the core values that guide him, presented by Walmart.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

Bowie State University Office of Alumni Engagement, best of Live at 5 all Summer Long. Our broadcast featuring BSU LEGACY family, the Kings. In the King Family, three generations represent BSU: Larry (’76) and Cleo (’76) have three children and 51 years of marriage after meeting at BSU.

LaChelle (’98), their daughter, has worked in public schools for 24 years after majoring in elementary education at BSU. Gregory (’16), LaChelle’s son, became a professional boxer after getting his bachelor’s in sport management at BSU.

Join the Virtual BSU ALUMNI community: Follow the virtual conversation on all social media platforms: Facebook: @BSUOAE, Twitter: @BSUALUMNIOFFICE, Instagram: @Bowiealum.

GRADUATION DAY

Graduation Day for aviation science major Leul S. Fekadu of Silver Spring is “a big milestone.” Fekadu emigrated as a child from Ethiopia with his parents, whom he said had little understanding of the nuances of how to apply for admission to an American college. “This is a commencement for them,” Fekadu said, “and their hard work.”

Fekadu, a Henson honors program student, has accumulated 300+ hours of flight time as a licensed pilot and will transition to working as a UMES flight instructor which will enable him to build his experience resume to reach his career goal, commercial Airline pilot. Information received from UMES the KEY (A newsletter for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends May 2022).

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Christ United Methodist Church in Aquasco, Maryland will celebrate their 49th Church Anniversary Sunday, July 17, 2022, at 9 a.m. Guest Speaker, Rev. Sandra Smith, Retired Baltimore Washington Conference. Christ Church address is 22919 Christ Church Road, Aquasco, Maryland. Rev. Shemaiah Strickland Pastor.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

Bowie State University ranked No. 2 among best Cybersecurity Schools and programs. The University offers a graduate certificate, bachelor’s, and advanced computer science degrees with a cybersecurity specialization. Students may earn a computer technology bachelor’s degree in alpha and beta testing, cloud computing, and other related specializations. The university is recognized as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education. It is also a historically Black University.

JULY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to Kevin Bland, James Forbes, Steven Bland, Alicia Johnson, Craig Curtis, Wendell Lee, James Curtis, Jr., Sean Montgomery, Kaleb Dorsey, Janice Mozee, Patricia Dotson, Rosalind Pinkney, Domico Eades and William Taylor who are celebrating birthdays in July.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Happy Wedding Anniversary to Frank and Gwen DeVille who are celebrating a Wedding Anniversary in July.

CREDIT FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Makalah Wolfe, a 2020 graduate of Frederick Douglass High School in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, came to University of Maryland Eastern Shore to study criminal justice, but changed majors after considering her options.

“My freshman year was eye-opening,” Wolfe said. “I was exposed to various fields that I had not considered and developed an interest in pre-veterinary sciences. I reminisced (about) my childhood years and how I found companionship with my pets. My passion lies in caring for animals and ensuring they are happy and healthy, since they provide emotional and therapeutic benefits to people.” Information received from UMES the KEY (a newsletter for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends).

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

Clyde Doughty Jr., Vice President of Athletics and Recreation, was recognized during the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) 57th Annual Convention in Las Vegas, NV, on June 28. He received the 2021–22 Division II Cushman & Wakefield Athletics Director of the Year Award.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

SAVE THE DATES: Membership Drive bsunaa.org July 2022–June 30, 2023, Lower Shore Alumni Chapter Annual Cook-Out August 20, 2022, Sports Hall of Fame Alumni Chapter Induction Ceremony September 1, 2022, BMAC Alumni Chapter, BSU Bike Tour ’22, September 10, 2022, Washington DC and Baltimore Alumni Chapters/NYC Trip to see Tina Turner, September 24, 2022, Homecoming Week BSUNAA Scholarship Gala September 26–October 1, 2022, Homecoming & Game Day BSU vs Livingstone at 2 p.m.

NOTTINGHAM MYERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

We are praising our way to 155 years and expanding our connection and service to the community. We ask that you continue to pray with and share the posts with your family and friends to show support for our effort to grow our presence in the community. God Bless.

COMMUNITY

National Park and Recreation Month

Throughout July, “Rise Up for Parks and Recreation” With M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George’s County

By ANGEL WALDRON
Prince George’s County Department of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (July 6, 2022)—This July, join M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George’s County for National Park and Recreation Month, as we celebrate how Prince George’s is stronger, more vibrant, and more resilient because of parks and recreation.

The Department invites the Prince George’s County community to share their experiences, memories, and stories about what parks and recreation means to them. With everything from free outdoor concerts and movies, Senior Line Dance Party, and the Safe Summer program for teens—there are plenty of ways that you can celebrate too.

Events

Arts on the Waterfront—Bladensburg Waterfront Park (4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, MD 20710, Phone: 301-779-0371)

- Sundays, 6 p.m.
- July 17: The Exclusives/ Motown, Dance
- July 24: The Gayle Harrod Band/ Blues, Soul
- July 31: The Brian Cunningham Project/ Jazz, R&B

Movies in the Park—Watkins Regional Park (301 Watkins Park Drive Upper Marlboro, MD 20774, General Information 301-218-6700; TTY 301-699-2544)

- Wednesdays, 7 p.m.
- July 20: Little Giants

Senior Line Dance Party (Martin’s Crosswinds, 7400 Greenway Center Dr, Greenbelt, MD 20770; <https://www.pgparcs.com/2666/Signature-Special-Events>)

- July 22, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.

Participants must register on pgparcsdirect.com

“Parks and recreation is a vital part of our community. We help preserve and protect more than 28,000 acres of parkland, strive to keep our community healthy, and provide quality programs for people of all ages,” said Bill Tyler, Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George’s County. “We’re excited to celebrate our impact in Prince George’s County.”

National Park and Recreation month is an initiative of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). To learn more, visit pgparcs.com.

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 and stay connected on Facebook, Twitter, 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.

Scholarship from A1

but the communities around them,” said Becky Smith, EVP and Chief Strategy & Growth Officer for SECU and President of the SECU MD Foundation. “This year, we’re thrilled to expand upon our program and recognize four Grand Prize Winners in honor of Donald, who served as an inspiring role model for many young professionals and who had an endless passion for giving back to his community. We’re truly honored to continue paying Donald’s kindness forward and helping others in his memory.”

Since the program’s inception in 2007, SECU and the SECU MD Foundation have awarded more than \$930,000 in scholarships to more than 300 SECU members and their families pursuing higher education. It is part of SECU’s ongoing commitment to support the continuous learning and educational needs of those they serve.

Applications for the 2023 SECU MD Foundation Scholarship Program will open by February 2023. For more information, visit www.secumdfoundation.org/programs/scholarship-program or reach out to secumdfoundation@secumdfoundation.com with questions.

About SECU (State Employees’ Credit Union of Maryland): SECU (“see-Q”), Maryland’s largest state-chartered credit union, serves 250,000 members across the state. As a member-owned, not-for-profit, SECU puts its members first and remains responsible solely to its member base. SECU seeks to serve all of its member needs in one place with most Marylanders qualifying for membership. Headquartered in Linthicum, Md., SECU has 25 financial centers and provides access to over 50,000 free ATMs through the CO-OP network. With more than \$5 billion in assets, SECU ranks among the top 60 credit unions nationwide based on total assets in the U.S. Insured by NCUA. For more information, visit www.secumdfoundation.org or follow SECU on LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

The SECU MD Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization funded by the contributions of SECU members, promotes a stronger Maryland by empowering access to education, supporting health and wellness, and serving as a catalyst for community development. For more information, visit www.secumdfoundation.org.

Maryland Youth Benefit From Public Libraries’ Summer Reading Partnerships

Oceans of Possibilities

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland State Library

BALTIMORE (July 1, 2022)—The Maryland State Library Agency is pleased to announce the Summer Reading Program at

Maryland Public Libraries. The theme this year, Oceans of Possibilities, helps youth explore the wonders of oceans, lakes, rivers, waterways, and aquatic wildlife through books, games, projects, STEM programs (science, tech-

nology, engineering, and math), special performances, and more. Summer reading programs are a key element in building children’s vocabulary and lessening summer learning loss. Participation is simple and fun! Children

and teens choose the books they read and enrichment programs or classes to attend. Youth then track their progress through game boards or logs, available free of charge at Maryland public libraries. Each county library sys-

tem tailors the program to their customers, so youth interested in participating should inquire at their local library. Many locations also provide an online reading system. Last summer, over 73,000 youth participated in the Maryland Public Library Summer Reading Program. The program is a collaborative project between the local public libraries and the Maryland State Library Agency, with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library

Services. Maryland is a participating member of the national Collaborative Summer Library Program.

The Maryland State Fair donated Family Passes and bookmarks to all Maryland public libraries as incentives for youth who most fully participate in library summer reading programs throughout the state. During a

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National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

New 988 Mental Health Hotline Launches

Official: Communities of color traditionally resist getting help due to stigma, fear Education is needed to help facilitate change

By PRESS OFFICER
Tonja Myles

BATON ROUGE, La. (July 6, 2022)—Communities of color need to be educated about the benefits of using the new national mental health crisis hotline 988, which launch[ed] July 16 during National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, says a former White House representative and 988 spokeswoman.

“Historically when communities of color are in crisis, we don’t call crisis lines,” says Tonja Myles, 988 spokeswoman, executive director of Set Free Indeed and former White House representative with President George W. Bush’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives and its work on substance abuse. “We need to tell Black people that the crisis line can be trusted—the operators are there to help and treat you as if you are in a crisis, not as if you’re a criminal,” she says.

Myles calls the new number a “game changer” because it will reduce the trauma and stigma surrounding a mental health crisis. Congress designated the 988 dialing code as an answer to the country’s mental health crisis, and it will connect callers to trained counselors who can address their immediate needs. Previously, those in a crisis were only able to dial 911, and police officers who responded were typically only trained to respond to law enforcement issues rather than mental health crises, she says. The hotline’s launch is during National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, a national effort to destigmatize mental illness and enhance public awareness of

health disparities in U.S. minority groups.

Because communities of color commonly distrust and have experienced trauma with the police, they may resist dialing the new hotline because they are concerned about law enforcement involvement, she says. She also believes some will resist dialing the 988 hotline number due to stigma and fear. Due to systemic racism, mental health resources were traditionally seen as a resource for White people only, and communities of color couldn’t afford it, she says.

Myles, a survivor of substance abuse, childhood and adult sexual abuse who also has PTSD, experienced this issue herself when two police officers years ago responded to her own suicide attempt. Although one officer treated her well, she says the other treated her as if she were a criminal rather than a person in crisis. She says people of color can now “know that hope is on the way. A better way is coming.”

988 spokeswoman Tonja Myles (www.TonjaMyles.com) is the co-founder and executive director of the faith-based outpatient center Set Free Indeed and the community support program Set Free Indeed Ministry. She was recognized by President George W. Bush for her work during his 2003 State of the Union, and she served for six years as the public face of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives and its work on substance abuse treatment. Her Congressional testimonies have been used to assist those suffering from mental health and additional crises. She is a survivor of suicide, substance abuse, childhood

and adult sexual abuse and PTSD. She has moved thousands of people to sobriety and a healthy, self-sustainable lifestyle with her work. She has won more than a dozen awards for her service including the Johns Hopkins Substance Abuse Innovators Award 2005 and the Daily Point of Light award 2004. She serves on multiple boards and health advisory councils including the Louisiana Behavioral Health Advisory Council and the Louisiana Department of Health’s Office of Behavioral Health Crisis System Implementation Plan Council. She is an ordained minister, Certified Peer Recovery Specialist, author, community activist and Army National Guard veteran.

988 information:

<https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988>

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month:

<https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/minority-mental-health/>
<https://www.nami.org/Get-Involved/Awareness-Events/Bebe-Moore-Campbell-National-Minority-Mental-Health-Awareness-Month>

988 video (for communities of color):

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/9kn5ghjm3ydwlx4/Tonja%20Myles%20988%20%283%29.mp4?dl=0>

988 video (for anyone):

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/819nasxbx90mb/988%20COMMERCIAL%20%28Differnt%20Races%29.mp4?dl=0>

National Alliance on Mental Illness, NAMI Prince George’s County serves residents across Prince George’s County with free mental health support, online groups, resources and education: <https://namipgc.org/>; NAMI Helpline at 1-800-950-NAMI (6264) M-F, 10 a.m.–10 p.m., ET In a crisis, text “MD” to 741741 for 24/7, confidential, free crisis counseling.

Maryland Department of Health Develops Mental Health Resources for Youth, Others Coping With Violence

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Department of Health

BALTIMORE (July 6, 2022)—The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) [last] week released mental health and crisis resources for coping with violence.

Developed by the MDH Behavioral Health Administration (BHA), this comprehensive resource includes tips, local and nationwide information and fact sheets (in English and Spanish) for parents, educators and behavioral health professionals to help young people.

“Interagency collaboration is key to our success in providing resources for Marylanders in crisis,” said MDH Acting Deputy Secretary for Behavioral Health Dr. Lisa Burgess. “Further, using a coordinated framework to effectively support crisis services in Maryland is critical to providing these needs for our residents.”

According to BHA’s Child, Adolescent & Young Adult Services division, tips for coping with violence include:

- Avoid overexposure to the news and social media. This is especially important for young people.
- Stay aware of your emotional health and how it is impacted by the news you consume, as well as the emotional health of the people around you.
- Attend to your self-care needs: go for walks, listen to music, meditate, exercise. Try to keep a regular routine as much as possible. Get enough sleep and nourishment.
- Maintain ongoing contact with your support systems, such as friends and family.
- Try to recognize when you may need extra support. Don’t be afraid to ask for help or offer help to someone who may also be struggling emotionally.
- Check on the young ones in your life. Help them talk about

- their feelings about the situation to help ease their fears.
- Seek professional counseling or therapy for yourself and loved ones as needed.

BHA is sharing Mental Health and Crisis Resources for Coping with Violence with behavioral health stakeholders and providers across Maryland as well as school partners and other state agencies.

BHA has been working with the Maryland Department of Human Services, Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Juvenile Services and Department of Disabilities in several areas, including the Mobile Response & Stabilization Services, a youth-specific crisis service model that MDH previously announced is expanding across Maryland.

Through this work, programs that were functioning independently are now operating collaboratively. In addition, information and training sessions are rolling out more uniformly to address challenges.

For more information about crisis services in Maryland, review the summary for Mobile Response & Stabilization Services for Children, Youth, Young Adults and Families: <https://health.maryland.gov/bha/Documents/MDH%20MRSS%20Document%20-%20Spring%202022.pdf>.

Access the Mental Health and Crisis Resources for Coping with Violence: <https://health.maryland.gov/bha/Documents/Mental%20Health%20and%20Crisis%20Resources%20for%20%20Coping%20with%20Violence.pdf>.

The Maryland Department of Health is dedicated to protecting and improving the health and safety of all Marylanders through disease prevention, access to care, quality management and community engagement. Follow us at <http://www.twitter.com/MD-HealthDept> and at [Facebook.com/MDHealthDept](https://www.facebook.com/MDHealthDept).

COMMENTARY

Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

“Is It Good for the Children?”

“I have a basic question that I ask related to policy making and leadership, and that basic question is, is it good for the children? Is it good for the children? If it's not good for the children, we ought not be doing it.”

Barbara Sabol has been asking this question her entire life. From her early career as a registered nurse, through her service as Kansas's first Director of Services for Children and Youth, Kansas's Secretary of Health and Environment, executive deputy commissioner in New York City's Department of Social Services, Commissioner of the Human Resources Administration in New York City, program director for the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, and other local, state, federal, and private posts serving children, older adults, and others, she has been a thought-

ful, determined policymaker and advocate, always dedicated to protecting the most vulnerable. She was an inaugural member of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF)'s Black Community Crusade for Children. Now, more than a decade after she “officially” retired, she is spearheading a project converting family land where her father was raised by his grandmother in Leavenworth County, Kansas into a model community with affordable rental housing for young adults aging out of foster care. In her words again: “So we owned some property, my sister and I, and we said, ‘How can we best use this property to make a difference for children?’”

Barbara recently gave an interview for the Kansas Oral History Project describing her life's work. She shared one influential story that took place before

she was born: her maternal grandmother died early, leaving her young family behind, and her dying request to her husband was: “Charlie, keep these children together.” Barbara said that story was passed down through their family, “and I heard it, and it meant something. It got embedded in the DNA.” She was called very early on to that sense of obligation and doing whatever was necessary to make sure children are cared for. Now, she is part of the leadership team for Home Works USA, LLC, building 15 small houses on her family's land along with community food gardens, public nature trails, and other resources to create a nurturing, safe environment available for young people aging out of foster care.

In addition to providing stable, affordable rental housing, the community will provide access to health and mental health services and supports for education, job training, and employment. Home Works USA describes its mission this way: “Emerging adults ‘aging out’ of foster care often struggle to find housing as they transition to adulthood. This can set their lives on a difficult path, leading to unemployment and even homelessness. Affordable housing is a primary factor in avoiding these outcomes . . . This intentional community will support emerging adults who have aged out of foster care as they prepare for adulthood. Our goal is to allow them the opportunity to imagine and realize their dreams in a setting built on the foundation ‘home

works, nature helps, and services matter.’”

This is a deep need for the more than 20,000 young people who age out of foster care every year across our nation, and once again, Barbara Sabol is doing her part to make a difference. I am so grateful for the commitment of long-haul champions for children like her. Rev. Shannon Daley-Harris, another long-haul champion for children who served CDF for more than 30 years, recently shared Barbara's example in a sermon at the Princeton University Chapel. She concluded Barbara's story with these questions: “I wonder, what part of God's grand building project is each of us called to? The answer will be different for each of us, but the question is for all of us. Which of the areas of injustice, of suffering, will you work on to achieve God's vision of justice, peace, and well-being? What tools are within reach, what skills do you bring? Is it advocacy, speaking out for justice? Hands on care? Raising awareness? Organizing? Focusing attention on problems and solutions through art or music, spoken word, op-eds? None of us has to build the whole thing single-handedly, none of us alone has to finish the job, but we do need to get back to work with the belief that we can make things better, that with others and with God the impossible is not so impossible.” This is the reminder we all need as we seek to keep doing our own part to make a difference and do what is good for children.

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

With the Death of Clifford Alexander, Jr., the Nation Has Lost an Unsung Hero of the Civil Rights Movement

“Cliff was an American original—a civil rights trailblazer whose eyes were never shut to injustice but whose heart was always open. He was like a father to me and an inspiration to Barack. We admired the way he fought and learned from the way he led.”

—Michelle Obama

The name of Clifford Alexander, Jr., who died this week at the age of 88, is not as well-known today as some of his contemporaries in the Civil Rights Movement. Perhaps no American, however, has done more to combat segregation and discrimination in private employment and the military or leaves as great a legacy.

I first met him in 1983 during a pickup game on the basketball court at Xavier University in New Orleans. He was then exactly twice my age, with a masterful hook shot, and nearly bested me. I remember being impressed with his stature, both physical—he stood 6'3" tall—and professional. By then, he had been an advisor to four U.S. presidents, hosted his own television talk show, and was then head of his own con-

sulting firm, Alexander & Associates, which advised organizations including Major League Baseball on recruiting candidates of color.

As one of the architects of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as an early chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and as the first Black Secretary of the Army, Alexander transformed not only government policy but social attitudes regarding racial equity.

A graduate of Harvard University and Yale School of Law and veteran of the Army National Guard, Alexander served as Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan and led community-based organizations focused on improving housing conditions and expanding educational and employment opportunities for youth. In 1963, President John F. Kennedy recruited Alexander, then 29, to serve on the National Security Council.

Alexander served President Lyndon B. Johnson in various positions, becoming one of his closest advisors and helping to shepherd the Voting Rights Act of 1965 into law. But there was one moment where he thought

he'd personally doomed the landmark legislation after the Washington Star prematurely published his interview about the upcoming vote.

In an interview with the National Visionary Leadership Project, Clifford described his dressing down by the President:

“President Johnson points to the headline and says, ‘Because of this, we're not going to have a Voting Rights Act. The Congress does not like to see ahead of time what going to be done.’ I'm about 6'3 or 4", and by the time I was finished with this lecture I was about three inches. I was trying to mumble my way through this thing and he was saying ‘This was a great, great thing that you were important in doing, significant to your people, and it's just not going to take place because of what you did.’ I humbly walked out of the room.”

That evening, as Johnson was briefing members of Congress on the legislation, he pointed to Alexander and said, “There's Cliff Alexander; he's one of the great young men of my administration.”

“He treated me like he did the white people,” Clifford said. “He kicked my ass when he thought he should, and he praised me to the skies when he thought he should, and he showed himself in front of me.”

Alexander assumed the chair of the EEOC in 1967, immediately launching investigations of individual companies and labor unions as well as entire industries and airing the findings during public hearings. During hearings in 1968 and 1969, he secured promises from the major TV networks “to increase employment opportunities for Negroes and other minority groups as well as to give them fair and honest representation on the TV screen.” But three decades later, in an essay published in the New York Times, he decried those promises as empty.

Those hearings irked then-Senate Minority Leader Everett M. Dirksen, who demanded that Alexander stop harassing “the work-givers of this nation.” Alexander resigned, Mr. Alexander resigned, citing a

“crippling lack of support” from the Nixon Administration.

As the first Black Secretary of the Army—the first Black senior civilian official of any branch of the U.S. armed services—he assumed office in 1977 at a turbulent moment. The nation had ended the draft just four years earlier, and the all-volunteer armed forces still were considered an experiment. Critics charged that the draft, which ostensibly cut across class and race lines, resulted in a more equitable force and that ending it had resulted in lower recruit quality. These criticisms were tinged with racism, as Black soldiers made up more than 22% of the Army, twice the percentage Black Americans.

“We, just as Whites, are patriotic and so we volunteer,” Alexander told Ebony magazine. “That has been a part of our history. During the Second World War, our people begged to be put into combat units. Of course, there is also the factor of job discrimination in the private sector and the lack of adequate training for the job market. These reasons lead to large numbers of minorities entering the military. Of course, the bottom line concerns the quality of this force, and the consensus is that it's a better army than has been out there before.”

He dismissed the notion that the draft was a fairer method of recruiting: “People who were this or that could get special exemptions. The draft always hit harder on poor people; therefore, it was not equitable.”

During his tenure, Alexander promoted thirty Black officers to general, including future U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell and Hazel Johnson-Brown, the first Black woman general.

With Alexander's death, the nation has lost one of the unsung heroes of the civil rights movement. His dignity and resolve in the face of hatred and bigotry were inspirational. The deepest condolences of the National Urban League are with his wife, Adele; his children; Elizabeth and Mark; his seven grandchildren, and all who knew and loved him.

Housing from A1

objective to facilitate community and a positive living experience.

“With increasing market demand of rental property, exercising our Right of First Refusal program on this multi-family property is critical to preserving naturally occurring affordable housing, which is increasingly becoming a disappearing asset in the region,” said County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. “Ensuring equitable growth and the creation and preservation of quality affordable housing is a cornerstone of the County's economic development platform, and we are excited that we are able to provide even more affordable housing opportunities for Prince Georgians.”

According to County Resolution CR-51-2015, the County may exercise its Right of First Refusal (ROFR) when an owner

of a multi-family rental facility of 20 units or more intends to sell a multi-family property. DHCD has the authority to purchase the property or assign its rights in an effort to stabilize, preserve, and expand housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income households and increase the availability of quality affordable rental housing in designated areas of the County.

“We saw an opportunity to acquire another sizable asset in our core market, whereby we could collaborate with a best-in-class partner, with an aligned mission to deliver real impact: create new affordability in the market, create jobs, offer comprehensive resident and social services, and implement a greening strategy at scale,” said Sharif T. Mitchell, Operating Principal of Dantes Community Partners. “This transaction is aligned with our mission to address America's growing affordability crisis

through the creation and preservation of affordable and workforce housing that is sustainable for residents and generates reliable income for investors.”

Dantes Community Partners is the acquisition division of Dumas Collective. The organization is an investment management firm focused on acquiring existing, cash flowing assets with an emphasis on preserving affordable and workforce housing across the country. The firm actively pursues section 8, expiring LIHTC and naturally affordable properties where fresh capital can be injected to enhance the communities and leverage our operating platform to boost tenant satisfaction. Dantes Community Partners has acquired over 1,894 units in the primary target market of the Mid-Atlantic Region with over \$320M in assets under management. Visit: www.dantespartners.com

Reading from A3

special Reading Ceremony at the Cow Palace on August 27, the 2022 Summer Reading representatives from each public library system will be acknowledged during the Maryland State Fair.

The National Aquarium donated tickets and bookmarks to all Maryland public library sys-

tems. Library staff will disseminate these tickets to families with youth who are actively involved in the summer reading program.

The Maryland Science Center, a valuable partner in public libraries' focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education, donated tickets and bookmarks to all Maryland public library sys-

tems to support summer reading.

The Natural History Society of Maryland offered a free Nature Connections event and free author reading and book signing to support the summer reading theme, along with fossil shark teeth packages, an ocean-themed reading list, and a reading challenge for youth.

Hoyer Statement on President Biden's Executive Order Protecting Reproductive Freedom

WASHINGTON (July 8, 2022)—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) released the following statement today after President Biden signed an executive order that protects access to reproductive health care:

“Today's executive order shows that the American people have a President who takes swift action to protect women's reproductive choice. While this executive order is important and will help women access reproductive health care where they need it and maintain privacy, in truth there is very little that the President can do on his own to address the dangers posed by the Supreme Court's ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson*. It is up to Congress to take meaningful action by enacting laws that guarantee reproductive freedom in all states and territories of our union. That's what the House did when we passed the Women's Health Protection Act last year - and we will do so again next week with an updated version of that bill. I will also bring to the House Floor next week the Ensuring Access to Abortion Act, to make it possible and safe for women needing abortion care to

travel to states where it is accessible. I urge the Senate to act without delay and join the House in taking action to protect

women's reproductive choice in the wake of the extremist and precedent-ignoring *Dobbs v. Jackson* ruling.”

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

EMPLOY Prince George's

Bi-County Business Roundtable Breakfast Meeting

"Are You Prepared to Do Business?"

Monday, July 18, 2022 • 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Location: Homewood Suites by Hilton Largo,
9103 Basil Court, Largo, MD 20774

Cost: \$20 for Members / \$25 for Non-Members

REGISTER: <https://bcroundtable.com/>

Speaker: Larry G. Webb, District Director of the SBA-Washington Metropolitan Area District Office

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

About Working While Collecting Early Benefits

By RUSSELL GLOOR,

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

Dear Rusty: How much would be withheld from my social security benefits? I am 62 and can claim about \$1,900 a month now. I'm still working, making about \$75K per year. How much of my benefits would I get? What would be withheld from me and when would I get it back? And would there be any penalty? **Signed: Eligible but Working**

Dear Eligible: In the scenario you describe, you will not be eligible to collect Social Security retirement benefits at this time because your earnings are too high. Here's how that is determined:

- At age 62, you are subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much you can earn while collecting early benefits. The earnings limit applies until you reach your full retirement age (FRA), which for you is 67.
- Your penalty for exceeding the earnings limit now would be \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. At your current salary of \$75K per year, you will be over the 2022 annual earnings limit of \$19,560 by \$55,440, which means you would owe Social Security \$27,720. Since your age 62 benefit amount is about \$1900 per month (\$22,800/year), your annual SS benefit would be insufficient to offset the penalty for exceeding the earnings limit, thus you would not be entitled to a Social Security benefit because of your current earnings. You will again be eligible to collect SS when your earnings are substantially less, or when you reach your full retirement age, whichever occurs first.

Social Security's earnings test affects everyone who works and earns when collecting benefits before reaching full retirement age. Each year, Social Security sets a limit for how much can be earned before benefits are affected (the 2022 limit is \$19,560; it increases slightly each year). Those who exceed the limit pay a "penalty" of \$1 for every \$2 they are over the limit, which must be paid to SS either in a lump sum, or by having benefits withheld for enough months for SS to recover what is owed. If your Social Security benefit isn't enough to offset the penalty for exceeding the earnings limit, no benefits will be paid.

Those collecting early benefits who earn only slightly more than the annual earnings limit can collect some benefits each year because their penalty is small enough. For example, someone earning \$25,000 per year would exceed the 2022 earnings limit by \$5440 and, thus, incur a penalty of \$2720. That would probably mean about 2 months of withheld benefits, enabling them to get benefits for the remaining 10 months of the year. Social Security will withhold benefits for enough months to recover whatever the beneficiary owes for exceeding the limit.

The rules surrounding Social Security's earning test are somewhat complex. For example, there is a "first year rule" which exempts salary earned prior to claiming SS from counting toward the earnings limit. When someone first claims Social Security mid-year they are, instead, subject to a monthly limit (\$1630 for 2022) for the remaining months of the calendar year. If the monthly limit is exceeded, no benefits are payable for that month. The earnings limit no longer applies when full retirement age is reached but is still in effect in the months of that year prior to attaining FRA. The earnings limit during those months is much higher and the "penalty" for exceeding it is less.

Social Security prefers that those working and collecting early benefits contact them in advance to withhold benefits for as long as needed to offset the expected penalty. Doing so will avoid an Overpayment Notice being issued in the following year when your earnings amount is received from the IRS.

After full retirement age, Social Security will adjust the beneficiary's payment to account for months benefits were withheld and increase the monthly amount accordingly. That will result in some, or perhaps all, of the withheld benefits being recovered over time (depending on longevity).

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

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

Collington Life Plan Community Welcomes Director of Philanthropy and Community Engagement

By PRESS OFFICER

Collington Life Plan Community

MITCHELLVILLE, Md. (July 5, 2022)—Collington Life Plan Community, a Kendal affiliate, announced Paige Mills-Haag has joined the older adult residential community as the new Director of Philanthropy and Community Engagement.

In this role, Paige will lead the Collington Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Collington that works to improve the lives of residents, staff and the wider community. She will work collaboratively with Collington's stakeholders, including the Foundation Board of Directors, leadership, residents, team members and others outside the organization to develop and advance philanthropy and engagement programs in support of Collington's mission.

"I am excited to join Collington and to lead enriching programming that will continue to bring the Kendal community together," said Paige. "Collington values collaborative, meaningful partnerships that foster community and I look forward to building these relationships and engaging with individuals on and off campus to help ensure that Collington is able to continue to support impactful work."

Prior to joining Collington, Paige worked in development for organizations in the field of senior living, as well as other non-profits. She is a seasoned professional

with deep experience in planned giving, capital campaigns, board governance, community engagement and social responsibility programs. She earned her bachelor's degree from Southern Nazarene University.

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

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

Founded on Quaker principles and guided by its Values and Practices, the operating Kendal affiliates provide independent living, assisted living, memory support, skilled nursing and rehabilitation care in eight states. Kendal-affiliated senior living communities are located in Hanover, New



PHOTO COURTESY COLLINGTON LIFE PLAN COMMUNITY

Paige Mills-Haag

Hampshire; Ithaca and Sleepy Hollow, New York; Northampton and Easthampton, Massachusetts; Lexington, Virginia; metro Washington, D.C.; Chicago; Kennett Square, West Chester and Newtown, Pennsylvania; and Oberlin, Ohio. Enso Village, a Zen-inspired Life Plan Community, currently is under development in Healdsburg, California. In Ohio, Kentucky and Massachusetts, Kendal at Home combines the security of a continuing care retirement community with the freedom and independence of living at home.

Governor Hogan Announces Project Restore Now Accepting Additional Applications From New or Expanding Maryland Businesses

Second Round Of Program Will Provide \$25 Million In Incentives More Than 350 Businesses Have Received Project Restore Support

By PRESS OFFICER

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (July 7, 2022)—Governor Larry Hogan today announced the opening of the second application round for Project Restore, an economic recovery initiative that provides financial incentives for small businesses and commercial developers to revitalize vacant retail and commercial space.

Through Project Restore, the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development will administer \$25 million in rental and operational grants to new and expanding Maryland small businesses to assist with startup costs and incentivize commercial investment in vacant spaces. Launched last year by Governor Hogan, Project Restore has already assisted more

than 350 Maryland businesses.

"Project Restore has been a great success and critical to keeping Maryland open for business and contributing to a robust recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic," said Governor Hogan. "This next round of grants will continue to support small businesses, create jobs, and economic growth and revitalize Maryland's main streets and commercial and industrial districts."

Project Restore provides two grant opportunities for businesses, including non-profits, that are expanding, moving to or opening in a property that was previously vacant for at least six months.

The Property Assistance Grant provides up to \$30,000 for one year to support costs associated with rent, mortgage payment or property improvements as applicable.

The Business Operations Grant provides up to \$250,000 per calendar year to

support capital costs like property improvements and equipment, as well as operating costs such as staff salaries, marketing, and inventory.

"In its original application round, demand for Project Restore assistance quickly outpaced supply," said Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Kenneth C. Holt. "This new round of assistance will provide important resources to help Maryland's small businesses grow and thrive."

Applicants can apply for Project Restore assistance beginning Thursday, July 7, 2022. Applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible as applications will be reviewed on a first come, first served basis.

Apply for a Project Restore grant: <https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Pages/ProjectRestore/default.aspx>

MONEY

What Consumers Need to Know About the Future of In-Person Banking

(StatePoint) From digital payments to video banking, the way consumers conduct basic financial transactions has changed substantially throughout the past decade, and the COVID-19 pandemic has only accelerated the trend toward digital banking. However, brick-and-mortar bank branches continue to play an essential role for many consumers when it comes to important financial conversations. Industry experts say more changes are coming down the pike to meet consumers' evolving needs and to provide the right mix of digital tools and experiences, with more personalized human interactions at brick-and-mortar bank locations.

Leading the charge in implementing some of these changes is one of the largest diversified financial services institutions in the United States, PNC, which is embarking on a multi-year conversion of its retail branch network in response to feedback and insights gleaned from its customers. Between May 2022 and the end of 2026, more than 60% of its 2,600 branches nationwide will convert to a new format. Basic financial transactions will begin to be completed using automated or self-service solutions, such as ATMs and video banking, freeing bankers' time to hold more in-depth conversations and truly engage with customers in offering financial



PHOTO COURTESY STATEPOINT

advice, expertise, and solutions to help them meet their financial goals.

"We remain committed to making a positive difference for our customers and communities, and to helping all move forward financially," says Kevin McCann, retail growth and innovation executive for PNC. "We believe the balance we will be striking between physical and digital banking will allow us to meet our customers where they are by providing that sweet spot of convenient digital tools and meaningful side-by-side personal interactions."

Those who are less comfortable with the latest technologies and who may be feeling anxious about these changes can put their concerns aside, according to McCann, who notes that bankers also will be available to spend time helping customers understand the digital tools available to them, within and outside of the branch.

To learn more about the evolution of branch banking, visit www.pnc.com.

At a time when both physical facilities and digital tools are critical to banking customers, a new way forward is emerging.

ENVIRONMENT

MDA Awards Research Grant for Animal Waste Technology Research

University of Maryland to lead project

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Department of Agriculture

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (July 1, 2022)—The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) has awarded a \$714,000 grant to the University of Maryland to evaluate the MDA Animal Waste Technology Fund (AWTF). The project will provide the department with updated data on animal waste generated in Maryland, along with recommendations for the types of projects that the AWTF should support in the future.

"The Animal Waste Technology Fund has funded state-of-the-art projects for several years," said Maryland Agriculture Secretary Joe Bartenfelder. "This year's grant recipient will provide us with important research and recommendations as we move forward to embrace innovative technologies

that support farmers, Chesapeake Bay goals, and other emerging challenges."

The research will be performed by a diverse project team that will deliver recommendations on innovative animal waste technologies to address nitrogen and phosphorus. In addition, the research will address climate change and environmental justice goals while preserving the viability of the agricultural industry by improving animal waste management strategies. The study is expected to be completed in 12 months.

In September 2021, MDA issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for AWTF grants, receiving two submissions by the December 31, 2021 deadline. A technical review subcommittee evaluated each project and presented their recommendations to the full advisory committee for approval.

About the Animal Waste Technology Fund: Maryland and the other Bay watershed jurisdictions are working together to meet nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment targets needed to restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay by 2025. Maryland farmers play a crucial role in helping the state clean up the Bay. To help producers comply with environmental regulations and remain profitable, Maryland invests in innovative technologies that add value to the farm business model. The AWTF provides grants to companies that demonstrate new technologies on farms and provide alternative strategies for managing animal waste. These technologies may generate energy from animal manure, reduce on-farm waste in local streams, and repurpose animal waste by creating marketable fertilizer products and by-products. The Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund provides funding support for the project. For more information, please visit the AWTF website or contact Alisha Mulkey at 410-841-5863 or alisha.mulkey@maryland.gov.



PHOTO COURTESY STATEPOINT

GREEN LIVING

5 Ways to Be More Sustainable This Summer

(StatePoint) You don't have to be a sustainability expert to incorporate elements of eco-friendly living into your everyday routine. This summer, think about the small changes you can make that can add up to make a bigger difference.

- 1 Store Sustainably:** Single-use plastics are difficult to avoid when protecting fragile household items or delicate holiday décor. Cut down on plastic cushioning and packing foam usage by incorporating Flourish Brand Honeycomb Cushion Wrap to cover and safely store your breakable and fragile items. The interlocking structure is easy to stretch and secures to itself without any tape needed.
- 2 Give Green:** It's often difficult to find the perfect presents for housewarming gatherings, family holidays and hostess gifts. Spread some sustainable love by gifting a plant to that hard-to-buy-for friend or neighbor, or even give something green as a surprise for someone special.
- 3 Environmentally Friendly Connection:** Sending a package to a distant loved one is a delightful way to brighten someone's day, but unfortunately many mailers feature excess plastic wrapping or aren't made of earth-friendly materials. Ship sustainably by choosing an eco-friendly option like Flourish Honeycomb Recyclable Mailers. These mailers feature 100% recyclable material packaging and include a die-cut honeycomb layer to create space and cushioning that helps protect items during shipment, without using unnecessary plastic. Additionally, they can easily be tossed into the recycling bin after use.
- 4 Make Small Changes:** Living sustainably can sound intimidating at first. Like any shift in habit though, changing behavior may take a while to stick, but small, consistent adjustments will mean the most over time, especially when it comes to everyday things like reducing your use of single-use plastics, and switching to reusable shopping bags and food containers. Take things one small step at a time. For example, commit to recycling one additional item each day.
- 5 Enjoy the Outside:** Being active is always easier on warm, sunny days. Take advantage of summer weather to reduce your personal carbon footprint and get some healthy exercise! Find ways to do this by walking or biking instead of taking a car to the store. If you need to travel a longer distance, opt for public transport or carpool instead.

Montgomery County Teens Take Top Honors at 2022 Maryland Envirothon

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Department of Agriculture

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (June 29, 2022)—A team of five students from Richard Montgomery High School in Montgomery County won the 2022 Maryland Envirothon. Now in its 31st year, the annual environmental competition was held at the University of Maryland's Central Maryland Research and Education Center in Ellicott City on June 22, 2022. Teams from 13 counties across the state competed in the event.

The winning team members include Lynna Deng, Connor Palansky, Josh Goozman, Katie Yang, and Sienna Burns and team advisor Lissa Vincent. The students will go on to represent Maryland at the National Conservation Foundation (NCF) Envirothon scheduled for July 24-30, at Miami University in Ohio. More than 40 teams from the United States and Canada are expected to compete in the national competition.

"It's great to see the enthusiasm and interest these students show in understanding and protecting Maryland's natural resources," said MDA Secretary Joe Bartenfelder. "Congratulations to all the incredible students who participated in this year's competition. Good luck to the Montgomery County students who will represent our state at the national competition later this summer."

Held once a year, students taking part in the Maryland Envirothon study Maryland's natural resources throughout the school year. Working in teams of five, students are trained and tested in four natural resource areas: soils, aquatics, forestry, and wildlife, plus an environmental issue that changes yearly. This year's special environmental issue was Waste to Resources.

Each team's knowledge is tested under the supervision of foresters, soil scientists, and wildlife specialists. Teamwork, problem-solving, and presentation skills are evaluated as each team presents a panel of judges with an oral presentation containing recommendations for solving an environmental challenge. The team with the highest cumulative total wins the competition and the opportunity to represent Maryland at the international competition.

At this year's competition, the Montgomery County team scored 423 points out of a possible 500. They were followed by teams from Anne Arundel County (389 points) and Harford County (387 points). The full Maryland Envirothon results can be found at <https://mdenvirothon.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/2022-Tally-Sheet.pdf>. Additional information can be found on the website.

Members of the top three teams were awarded wildlife prints and scholarships ranging from \$200 to \$500 from the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board Scholarship Program. The University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources will provide matching scholarships to students on the winning teams that wish to attend their school. The Mid-Atlantic Association of Professional Soil Scientists provided \$50 to each Frederick/Catoctin team member for placing first in the soils category.



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Katie Yang, Connor Palansky, Lynna Deng, Joshua Goozman, Sienna Burns, and advisor Lissa Vincent

In other areas, the Montgomery County team earned awards for achieving the high score in Aquatics, Wildlife, and Waste to Resources. The Anne Arundel team achieved the high score in Forestry.

Established in 1990, the Maryland Envirothon's objectives are twofold—to test students' environmental knowledge and understanding of state resource issues and to instill a desire to learn more about the natural world. Winning teams compete at the local, state, and national levels. The first Envirothon competition was held in 1979 in Pennsylvania. Since then, more than 40 states, Canada, and China have embraced the program and sent teams to the competition.

The Maryland Envirothon is sponsored by the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts and the State Soil Conservation Committee. Contributors and supporters include Rural Maryland Council, Maryland Department of Agriculture, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Department of the Environment, University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board, Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, Garrett College-Natural Resources and Wildlife Technology Program, Maryland Soybean Board, Western Maryland Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc., Mid-Atlantic Association of Professional Soil Scientists, Southern Maryland Resource Conservation & Development Board, Inc., Maryland Delaware Chapter of the Wildlife Society, and University of Maryland Extension.

For quotes, questions, or additional information about the Maryland Envirothon, please contact Barry Burch, chairman of the Maryland Envirothon Committee, at barronb29@aol.com or 240-215-5004. Photos from the event can be found on Flickr.

Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition Hosted Green Jobs Fair

By PRESS OFFICER
GWRCCC

WASHINGTON (July 1, 2022)—The Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC), hosted a Green Jobs Fair, promoting environmentally friendly jobs and companies. The event took place on June 29, 2022, at the Frank D. Reeves Center of Municipal Affairs, 2000 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC. It was open to

the public and had more than 150 attendees. **There are plans for a similar event to take place the first week of November.**

"The Green Jobs Fair will create opportunities for persons of every level of skill and education to have a career centered on the creation of a cleaner and greener city," stated Antoine M. Thompson, Executive Director of the Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition.

Earth TALK™ Emperor Penguins on the Brink

Dear EarthTalk:

Question I hear emperor penguins are on the brink of extinction... How did they get there and what can we do to save this species?

—J.W., Westport, CT

Two words explain the decline of Emperor penguins: climate change. Like many wildlife species across the globe, Emperor penguin populations have been declining for years due to the repercussions of a warming planet, such as melting sea ice and rising oceans. According to a 2021 population survey and assessment in *Global Change Biology*, "If Sea ice declines at the rate projected by climate models under current energy system trends and policies ... almost all [Emperor penguin] colonies would become quasi-extinct by 2100."

"Antarctica is not escaping climate

change at all. It's warming, it's melting, it's contributing to sea-level rise," Tim Naish of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) tells *Newshub*.

Scientists from the British Antarctic Survey and the non-profit Oceanites estimate that approximately 238,000 breeding pairs of Emperors, or 595,000 adult birds, live in Antarctica. Although these numbers have held relatively steady over the past several decades, new studies warn that the penguins' future is tied directly to that of the sea ice on which they depend; as the ice melts, so too do the penguins' chances of survival.

Emperor penguins are not the only Antarctic species with uncertain futures. As a sentinel species of the Southern Ocean—the proverbial canary in the coalmine—declines in Emperor populations indicate larger ecosystem disruptions that affect other wildlife, as well.

Krill, a small shrimplike animal that floods the Southern Ocean, serves as a major food source for baleen whales, seals and fish, as well as penguins. But krill populations have been declining in recent decades and may decline by as much as 30 percent by the year 2100.

One way to save Emperor penguins is to study how they adapt to their changing habitats. "In contrast to what people think, the Emperor penguin is a species very poorly studied," Céline Le Bohec from the Hubert Curien Pluridisciplinary Institute in Strasbourg, France tells *Popular Science*. "...any data, especially from the sea, is exciting and precious."

Scientific research recently got a boost in the form of a yellow data-gathering robot that roams among the Emperor colony. ECHO's data will allow researchers to "define and map marine biological 'hotspots' and Marine Protected



CREDIT: PEXELS.COM.

Emperor penguins in Antarctica have been declining for two decades as climate change melts the sea ice they depend on for survival.

Areas," Le Bohec said. Such information may prove invaluable to informing where and how to implement conservation efforts.

Additionally, any actions that reduce climate change will eventually help the Emperors and all Antarctic wildlife. Reducing our carbon footprint and plastic waste present two immediate opportuni-

ties. Eating less fish and cutting down on krill oil may also help. Many fish farms use krill scooped from Antarctica for fish food. Krill fishing not only reduces the penguins' food source, but can also catch hungry whales, seals and penguins in the fishing nets. Finally, non-profit organizations that protect penguins and their habitats are always in search of additional funding—a small donation can't hurt!

CONTACTS: Penguins International: [How Can You Help Penguins](https://penguinsinternational.org/2020/03/22/how-can-you-help-penguins/), penguinsinternational.org/2020/03/22/how-can-you-help-penguins/; Pew Charitable Trust's Protecting Emperor Penguins, pewtrusts.org/media/assets/2014/10/ccamlr/protecting_emperor_penguins_fact_sheet.pdf.

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Morningside from A2

regular contributor to this column—sent me news of his death, but I missed the email. So, she recently reminded me: "Sadly, my husband Carl died July 26, 2021. The cancer returned and got him in the end."
Carl was originally from New York but spent most of his life in Virginia, where Sue met him. He had a business degree from college, was involved with many fraternities, won awards as an outstanding young volunteer firefighter and outstanding young citizen of Dinwiddie County, Va. He had a successful Professional Tools & Equipment business until retirement.
"He was a great husband and provider, and stepfather to my daughter... and we enjoyed our 36 years together, after a five year courtship." After retiring, they downsized to Florida where Sue still lives. Carl is buried by Sue's daughter Holly in Hopewell, Va., "where I will also go when my times comes. I miss him more all the time."

Milestones
Happy Birthday to Helen Jurney, July 15; Norma Wright and Gary Lewis, Jr., July 16; my granddaughter Claire Mudd, Michael Busky, Former Morningside Police Chief Stephen Armhold, July 17; Allyssa Frederick and former Morningside Councilman Russell Butler, July 18; Mike Fowler Sr. and Eddie Hall, July 19; Donna Buchin, Dorothy Gessner and Tina Nichols, July 20; Mary Hay and Jeff Frederick, July 21; and Ryan Simms and David Cook, July 22.
Happy Golden Anniversary to Percy and Barbara Crawford who wed July 22, 1972. Happy Day also to Steve and Tessie Johnson, their 22nd on July 22; and to my daughter Sheila and John Mudd, their 32nd on July 20.

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