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Liberty Sports Park Opens, the Mid-Atlantic Region's Premier Youth and Adult Field Sports Vacation Destination



Liberty Sports Park, the Mid-Atlantic Region's premier field sports vacation destination, marked its grand opening Oct. 23 as youth and adult soccer, lacrosse and field hockey leagues based in Washington, D.C., Virginia and Maryland, as well as Prince George's County recreational football teams held scrimmages, clinics and practices at the complex.

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (PRWEB) (Oct. 23, 2022)—Liberty Sports Park, the Mid-Atlantic Region's premier field sports vacation destination, marked its grand opening today as youth and adult soccer, lacrosse and field hockey leagues based in Washington, D.C., Virginia and Maryland, as well as Prince George's County recreational football teams held scrimmages and practices at the complex. Located at 220 Prince George's Boulevard in Upper Marlboro, Md., Liberty Sports Park features 10 lit fields—six

turf and four grass—available for youth and adult league, club and other soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, football and rugby programs, as well as Prince George's County Public Schools, Prince George's Community College and the Prince George's County Boys and

Girls Club.

"This is a long-awaited and momentous day," said Douglas J.J. Peters, former Maryland District 23 state senator. "Liberty Sports Park is a big win for

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Governor Hogan Makes Stops in Prince George's County to Highlight ACCESS Initiative, MD THINK

Initiative to Expand STEM Education Has Led to Exponential Increase In Maryland Students Taking Computer Science Classes

By MICHAEL RICCI
Executive Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Oct. 24, 2022)—As a part of his ongoing statewide legacy tour, Governor Larry Hogan Oct. 24 made several stops across Prince George's County to highlight administration initiatives, including expanding STEM education for young women, enhancing preparedness for weather-related disasters, and improving the delivery of government services.

ACCESS Initiative. In Greenbelt, Governor Hogan joined Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and UMBC President Valerie Sheares Ashby at Eleanor Roosevelt High School to meet with faculty and students involved in the administration's ACCESS Initiative and the state's partnership with Girls Who Code. The ACCESS Initiative is a statewide program that has strengthened computer science education for students across the state in order to meet the demands of a 21st century workforce and prepare students for the jobs of the future.

Since Governor Hogan first announced the ACCESS Initiative in November 2017, the amount of students taking a high quality computer science course in Maryland high schools has in-

creased by over 380%, and participation among female students has increased at more than double that rate.

MDTHINK. Governor Hogan began the day at the ISM Conference in National Harbor, where he highlighted the state's MD THINK cloud-based platform, which allows multiple state agencies to share and manage data in one place. During his speech, the governor announced that the state's Department of Human Services is now 100 percent modernized, and that complete modernization is underway to enhance the state's disease surveillance systems, to ensure their resiliency and readiness.

Maryland Mesonet Project. In College Park, Governor Hogan announced a new partnership between the State of Maryland and the University of Maryland to build and operate the Maryland Mesonet, a state-of-the-art network of 75 weather-observing towers that will have the capabilities to provide around the clock situational awareness during rapidly changing weather conditions. This will help protect the state's critical infrastructure, and provide state and local emergency managers with more real-time data and analysis.

PGCEDC and GWHCC Hosted a Hispanic Business Luncheon Featuring Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks



PHOTO COURTESY PGC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

[L-R] David Diaz, GWHCC, Lori Valentine, PGCEDC, Rocio Treminio-Lopez, PGCEDC, County Executive Alsobrooks, Nicole Quiroga, President, GWHCC, Alison Flores, Office of the County Executive, David Iannucci, President, PGCEDC. See article on page A5.

State's Attorney's Office and PGCPs Launch Anti-Truancy Campaign

By DENISE DOUGLAS
Office of the State's Attorney, Prince George's County

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Oct. 26, 2022)—With the school year underway, State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy and Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) Chief Executive Officer Dr. Monica Goldson are putting the spotlight on absenteeism with an anti-truancy campaign. A public service announcement [was] released Wednesday, October 26 as part of a larger community effort to address excessive school absences.

Students who are chronically absent can face numerous academic problems including challenges graduating from high school. In addition, research shows that when a child is not in school they are more likely to engage in delinquent and criminal activities. Nationally, during the pandemic, 10.1 million students were truant, 25 percent more than pre-pandemic stats.

"We can't emphasize enough how important it is for our young people to get an education," said State's Attorney Braveboy. "When they are not in school the chances are great that they are in the community making bad decisions. Let me also say that truancy itself is a crime. We hope this PSA campaign will get the

message across to parents and students."

"Our goal is for every student to attend school every day and on time," said Dr. Goldson. "We want students to be engaged in learning and to stay on track for college and career success. It takes a community approach to meet the needs of our students and families."

Earlier this month, for the second straight year, State's Attorney Braveboy and Dr. Goldson sent a joint letter to parents whose children have five or more days of unexcused absences. The letters advise families they could face legal consequences for failing to ensure their children (between the ages of five and 17) attend school regularly. Still, State's Attorney Braveboy said the ultimate goal is not to penalize the parent, but to get them to comply.

The PSA will run on PGCPs social media platforms, as well as on the Office of the State's Attorney's online platforms including pgsao.org and on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @pgsaonews.

Here is a link to the PSA.
<https://youtu.be/tHTaQ17-lg0>

Maryland State Police Reminds Motorists of Steps to Reduce Vehicle Thefts as Winter Season Approaches

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland State Police

PIKESVILLE, Md. (Oct. 24, 2022)—As we near the winter holiday season, motorists need to remember to take the proper precautions to reduce the chances of their vehicles being stolen.

This is especially true right now for owners of Hyundai and Kia vehicles, which have been stolen at increased rate both in Maryland and nationwide, according to the National Insurance Crime Bureau. (NICB). Nationally, there were a combined 59,991 Hyundai and Kia stolen this year through Aug. 31. This compares to 58,683 for all of 2021.

The Maryland Vehicle Theft Prevention Council recommends that if you have a 2016–2021 Hyundai or 2011–2021 Kia model that is started by a key, consider taking the following preventive measures:

- **Purchase a steering wheel lock.** These are relatively inexpensive and are an excellent visual deterrent to thieves.
- **Purchase a security kit re-**

cently released by Hyundai and Kia. Contact a local dealership for more information.

- **Practice standard vehicle theft safety measures** such as parking in a secured access lot or personal garage if you have one.

According to the Maryland Vehicle Theft Prevention Council, a car is stolen every 49 minutes in Maryland and every 39 seconds in the United States. Overall, 10,683 vehicles were stolen in Maryland in 2020, down from 11,255 in 2019. Of those, 50 percent of vehicles stolen in Maryland had keys inside the vehicle and 60 percent of the vehicles stolen were left unlocked.

Maryland State Police also want to remind motorists that leaving any vehicle running unattended not only increases the chances of it getting stolen, it is also illegal. According to state law, police can issue a ticket with a \$70 fine and one point against your driving record for such a violation. Also, if the vehicle slips

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Teaching all children about our shared history ... are ways of giving children the light they will need to be prepared to plot their own futures.

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Through a multitude of programs, initiatives, close to 800 entrepreneurs found support through various initiatives enacted by the EDC.

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

With Mary McHale, will return soon!

Brandywine-Aquasco

A TRIBUTE TO OUR FATHER

James Garnell Turner was born to the late Clarence Turner and Irene Wright-Turner on October 19, 1921, in Malcolm, Maryland. James was fondly referred to as “Garnell” his entire life. In 1941, Garnell married Ruth Harper, his childhood sweetheart. To their union six children, Audrey, James Jr., Patricia, Brenda, Joyce, and Cleo were born.

Garnell was inducted into the U.S. Army on November 25, 1942. During World War II, he served in Scotland, Northern France Rhineland to 1945. His military awards included the Good Conduct Medal, European African Middle Eastern Theatre Ribbon, and the World War II Victory Ribbon. In December 1945, Garnell received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army.

Garnell worked for the Federal Government and retired from the U.S. Navy Oceanographic Office in December 1977 after 34 years of service. During his tenure in the government, he received numerous awards and citations for his many accomplishments.

Garnell attended St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Baden, Maryland until 1961. Because of his love for his family and commitment to God, Garnell united with John Wesley Church (later to be named Christ United Methodist Church) in Aquasco, Maryland in 1961. During his years of fellowship, he served faithfully as assistance chairman of the Trustee Board and a member of the Staff Parish Relations Committee.

Shortly thereafter after retirement from the Federal Government, Garnell and Ruth began vacationing annually in Florida and Ocean Pines with their traveling friends, the late Eddie Peterson, and his wife Ann. Garnell and Ruth enjoyed going on a cruise every year after their children were grown. Their favorite islands were Bermuda, Nassau, and Bahamas.

During his travels, Garnell loved collecting hats. He had a wide collection, and he wore them well. This was his trademark. He was an expert “Craftsman.” God blessed him with many skills. He would turn a plain design into a beautiful masterpiece worthy for display. Garnell's creativity and artistry was evident in his home, the homes of his children, home of his friends and at Christ United Methodist Church in Aquasco, Maryland. He loved his part time job as a painter in the community.

Garnell was a pillar in his community. His life touched many people's lives, young and old. His memories will always be cherished by his family and the community.

Garnell made sure that God was important in his children's lives. He took them to church every Sunday morning. He worked hard to make sure that all his children were well educated which would enable them to become strong productive

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

citizens and raise good families. He taught them the value of honesty, integrity, respect, and hard work. He will always be remembered for the values he instilled in everyone and the positive lessons in life that he taught his children that will be passed on for generations to come.

THE BLACK OWNED SMALL BUSINESS EXPO

The Black Owned Small Business Expo will be held Saturday, November 26, 2022, from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at The Show Place Arena at Prince George's Equestrian Center. The address is 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20770. Email: showplacearena@pgparks.com.

The Black Owned Small Business Expo was created to give minority-owned businesses, entrepreneurs, small business, resources start-ups, and their supporters a platform to network, collaborate, and build to strengthen our local economies.

Cost: General Admission-Free; VIP Access is \$20.00. Special VIP Access is available also which includes reserved seating for all workshops and guest speaker. Meet and greet with Guest Speaker. Premium Registration Bag with exclusive promotional items, gifts, and giveaways. Lunch-on-us Pass, we will buy your lunch at the event, 35% VIP Coupon to use in BOSB Online Marketplace for all products.

Link to purchase tickets (<https://WWW.UNIVERSE.com/events/the-black-owned-small-business-expo-tickets-W1CD03>)

WORKFORCE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Base Camp is a monthly informational and resource session for all members of the armed forces. This series, a partnership between PGCMLS and the Prince George's County Office of Veterans Affairs, offers participants access to upcoming events, information, initiatives, and resources that can aid veterans and their families. Veterans, active military, ROTC, potential servicemembers, and families are welcome. The last Wednesday of every month at 1 p.m. Virtual Event: pgcmls.info/events.Registration

BOWIE STATE WOMEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY

The Bowie State women's cross-country program competed in the 2022 Penn State Brandywine Invitational Saturday, October 22 in Media, Pa. The meet, hosted by Penn State Brandywine took place at Rose Tree Park with the women's 5k race at 12 noon. Live results are posted on <https://bsubulldogs.com/sports/womens-cross-country>. For the most up-to-date information on Bowie State University Athletics and its thirteen varsity sports teams, please visit www.bsubulldogs.com

Board Candidates Praise School Resource Officers—But There's no Proof They Make Schools Safer

By EMILY R. CONDON AND COLIN MCNAMARA
Capital News Service

Amid nationwide concern about school shootings and other violent incidents, all 24 Maryland school districts have employed school resource officers at some time since the 2016-2017 school year, and all but one retain them still.

But now, at least five years on, the state says it has no proof that resource officers make schools safer.

“In Maryland, we have no data on whether or not actual school resource officers are effective (or) work or don't work,” said Michael Rudinski, regional training and certification specialist for the Maryland Center for School Safety.

Even so, in a recent survey conducted by the Capital News Service, 34 school board candidates across the state cited school resource officers as the key to school safety. All 102 candidates who participated agreed that school safety is a problem that needs to be addressed, and many candidates suggested increased access to mental health services as another possible solution.

The survey also asked the candidates what the most important issue facing their school board is. Ten responded with school safety. The only issues that ranked more often as most important were pandemic-related learning loss, overall academic performance and the teacher shortage.

School resource officers

Rudinski explained that before the state's Safe to Learn Act of 2018, there was no real definition of resource officers. The act defines school resource officers as law enforcement officers who have “a memorandum of understanding between a local law enforcement agency and a local school system” or who belong to the Baltimore City School Police Department.

Under the Safe to Learn Act, Rudinski's office at the State Department of Education had trained all school resource officers across the state by Sept. 1, 2019. The Maryland Center for School Safety trains officers to handle sensitive school situations, but school boards may put their own alternative training in place.

Not long after all that training concluded, though, the COVID-19 pandemic shuttered the schools. Rudinski said that's prevented his office from doing any long-term evaluation of how effective school resource officers really are.

School resource officers remain valuable despite the lack of data about their effectiveness, according to Christopher Fraley, Region 2 director for the National Association of School Resource Officers.

He stressed, though, that resource officers are located in schools to prevent trouble, but not to punish individual students.

“One of the biggest things I think that sometimes comes into confusion is that SROs should not be used for disciplinary reasons,” said Fraley, an Allegany County resident whose wife, Tammy Fraley, serves on Allegany County's Board of Education.

SROs and the candidates

School board candidates from across the state frequently mentioned school resource officers as the best way to keep schools safe. But those school cops do different things in different places, prompting some candidates to express concerns about how those officers are being used.

A Baltimore County District 4 candidate, Samay Kindra, said he was concerned that the county leads the state in arrests by resource officers.

“This highlights the problem of unclear delineation between situations where law enforcement intervention is appropriate and where school-based administrative procedures are appropriate,” Kindra said.

Howard County candidate Linfeng Chen, however, said resource officers play a vital role, especially now with the national concern about school staff shortages.

“School resource officers are important to maintaining a safe environment for students to learn,” Chen said. “It makes sense to have SROs now more than ever if we consider staff shortages and increased school fighting and acting out issues.”

Montgomery County stationed officers in schools beginning in 2002, prompted by the Columbine High School shootings in 1999, but in 2021—amid criticism that students of color were disproportionately subjected to discipline from SROs—the in-house school officer program was ended.

Now Montgomery County has another form of school resource officers called community engagement officers. The engagement officers are not permanently stationed inside schools, but schools can make requests for them to come to schools when needed.

But some Montgomery board candidates suggested that may not be enough. Scott Joftus, an incumbent board member running for re-election in District 3, said more unarmed security officials may be needed in the county's schools. And Joftus' opponent, Julie Yang, also called for changes.

“Recent incidents have exposed the need to improve our

Around the County

Veterans Day Through The Spoken Word

On Friday, November 11, from 2–3 p.m. Marietta House Museum will mark Veterans Day with a special program, “Veterans Day through The Spoken Word”, in partnership with Surratt House Museum, Riversdale House Museum, Sankofa Mobile Museum, and Poet, Visual Artist, and United States Air Force (USAF) Veteran, Diane Wilbon Parks.

This year, the event will share experiences of American veterans and their families through poems from “Wade in the Water” by Tracy K. Smith performed by Diane Wilbon Parks. The spoken word event will open with a video montage of voices from present day Veterans followed by poems by Tracy K. Smith, who was the 2017 U.S. Poet Laureate. Smith currently teaches at Harvard University, where she is a professor of English and of African and African American Studies. Local Poet/Visual Artist Diane Wilbon Parks will perform a selection of Smith's poetry from the book “Wade in the Water” giving voice to African American soldiers who served in the United States Colored Troops during the U.S. Civil War. Then, historian and re-enactor Marvin-Alonzo Greer will discuss the United States Colored Troops as he wears an accurate historical reproduction uniform like those once worn by African American veterans of the U.S. Civil War era. Program audience members will then be invited to a written word challenge, to write a 9-word story or poem reflecting on Veterans Day and veterans. To close the program, all the presenters will take audience questions and engage in conversation. Diane Wilbon Parks, who is a Veteran of the U.S. Air Force, will read an original poem to close the hour.

This is a hybrid event—in-person programming will be located at Marietta House Museum. Those attending in-person are invited to take a guided tour of the historic house that highlights the voices of the Duckett and Jackson families whose sons were in the USCT. This talk is also on MS TEAMS and is recommended for ages 8 years and up. The event is free; however registration is required for both in-person and online. Please register on www.pgparksdirect.com, which includes a dropdown link for in-person or online. Email: mariettahouse@pgparks.com with any questions.

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

—Stacey Hawkins, Marietta House Museum

County Council Announces Recipients of FY 2023 Domestic Violence Grant Awards During Domestic Violence Awareness Month

\$500,000 Total Grants Awarded to 10 Nonprofits Targeting Domestic Violence

The Prince George's County Council, in an initiative combatting domestic violence and related abuse in the County, has announced a list of ten nonprofit recipients of the Council's FY 2023 Domestic Violence Grant Awards.

The Council appropriated \$500,000 in FY 2023, for its seventh consecutive round of grant funding to support prevention activities and programs serving the Housing, Workforce Development, Counseling/Mental Health Services, or Advocacy/Legal Services needs of County residents who are victims of domestic violence and other forms of related abuse. To date, the Council has awarded \$3.5 million in Domestic Violence Grants through this program.

Chair Calvin S. Hawkins, II, says this new round of grant funding is timely and necessary.

“Domestic violence remains a major challenge in the County, so we are incredibly grateful for the work of our nonprofits who provide critical service support to survivors of domestic violence and their families. Through its Domestic Violence Grant Program, the Council reaffirms its commitment to working with nonprofits to strengthen communities, support survivors and their families, and build capacity for organizations assisting residents and their families through additional resources and by encouraging collaboration.”

For a list of the Council's FY 2023 Domestic Violence Grant Awards, visit https://pgccouncil.us/556/Domestic-Violence-Grant-Program?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

—Angela Rouson, Prince George's County Council Media

MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center Receives ANCC Pathway to Excellence Designation

First National Nursing Designation for Prince George's County Hospital

CLINTON, Md. (Oct. 26, 2022)—MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center was awarded the Pathway to Excellence® designation by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), an enterprise of the American Nurses Association, this week.

MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center treats 45,000 in its Emergency Department and 11,000 inpatients annually. It is the first national nursing designation for the hospital and makes MedStar Southern Maryland the only hospital in the Southern Maryland peninsula to be Pathway designated. Additionally, MedStar Southern Maryland is the only hospital in Prince George's County to receive this designation.

The Pathway designation is a global credential that highlights MedStar Southern Maryland's commitment to creating a healthy work environment where nurses feel empowered and valued. Pathway nurses are engaged, resulting in higher job satisfaction, improved safety for both patients and associates, and better patient outcomes. “The national designation of Pathway to Excellence is a career changing experience for nurses,” says Cody Legler, DNP, Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of Nursing for MedStar Southern Maryland. “I am forever grateful to the team of clinical nurses and nurse leaders at MedStar Southern Maryland for their dedication to this work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. A thriving nursing practice environment is essential to healthcare delivery now and into the future.”

The four-year designation also reflects the organization's commitment to excellent patient care. “We are enormously proud of our nurses and this achievement,” says Stephen Michaels, MD, President of MedStar Southern Maryland. “As we continue to grow the exceptional patient care we provide for our community, the sustained excellence in our nursing practice is critical to our success. It is wonderful that our nurses have been recognized for all their efforts.”

—Cheryl Richardson, MedStar Health

COMMUNITY

Disparate Maryland School Board Candidates United on Teacher Shortage Concerns

By MICAELA HANSON and SAM BARRETT
Capital News Service

From Maryland's western panhandle to its Eastern Shore—and from the political right to the left—Maryland's school board candidates agree that the teacher shortage is one of the key issues they will have to confront if elected.

"We need to recruit and, especially, retain teachers and other staff," said Linda Murray, who's running in Washington County. "People are leaving for higher-paying, less stressful jobs."

"The greatest indicator for student success is the presence of a quality teacher in the classroom—this is the greatest challenge facing us in Talbot County," said Emily Jackson, an Eastern Shore candidate.

The nationwide post-pandemic teacher shortage is an issue throughout Maryland for a reason. The Maryland State Department of Education reported that in the 2021–2022 school year, an average of 10% of teachers did not return.

That statistic explains why Maryland school board candidates who replied to a Capital News Service survey largely agreed that they need to do something about the teacher shortage if elected. Many say higher teacher salaries are an obvious solution.

A statewide dilemma

In Maryland and many school districts across the country, job postings for teacher positions are lengthy—and school board candidates said they worry the lists will grow longer still. Many school board candidates say teacher morale is running on empty following the COVID-19 pandemic, and pay often does not serve as motivation.

As of Aug. 15, almost every county reported at least one teacher vacancy. Prince George's County reported the most, at 900 vacancies. Baltimore City reported 240 vacancies.

In the Capital News Service survey, of the 21 Maryland counties plus Baltimore City in which candidates participated, 15 had at least one candidate that cited teacher retention/recruitment as one of the most important issues facing their school board.

April Christina Curley, who's running in Baltimore City, said it is important to hire qualified educators and keep them on staff for the long term because it helps the city's students. If the district has a large number of experienced teachers, "we know that our children will reap the benefits in very tangible, measured ways," she said.

Diane Alvarez, a candidate in Harford County's District F, said that when teachers decide to leave, it creates chaos in the classroom. To foster more stability, she said, the school board needs to improve teacher retention and figure out why teachers are leaving.

"For me, looking for a position on the school board, that's

Board of Education Voter Guide

With schools in Maryland facing issues ranging from pandemic-related learning losses to safety, voters will go to the polls Nov. 8 to vote for their local Board of Education.

For that reason, the Local News Network at the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism sent a questionnaire to all 155 school board candidates to get their views on important issues. The results are compiled in the Capital News Service Board of Education Voter Guide.

Readers may select a county to view candidates and their responses at the following link: <https://cnsmaryland.org/board-of-education-maryland/>

one of the first questions I want to know," Alvarez said in an interview.

Charles County reported 194 teacher vacancies at the end of the 2021–2022 school year, meaning that 10% of teaching positions were vacant. Four of the nine candidates from Charles County who answered the survey said the county needs to focus on teacher retention and increasing teacher salaries.

"We need to make teachers and staff feel respected and motivated to teach and remain in Charles County," said candidate Yonelle Moore Lee.

A variety of solutions

While candidates are united in their belief that teacher retention and recruitment are problems, they offer a variety of ideas for addressing them. Some hope new state legislation will resolve them, but others have different ideas.

The state recently adopted the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, legislation that aims to improve the quality of education in Maryland by increasing funding \$3.8 billion each year for a decade. Each Maryland county is responsible for locally implementing the policy, and the Blueprint's accountability board will oversee this process.

The Blueprint includes a section on teacher salaries that aims to incentivize existing teachers to remain in place. It also aims to make teacher compensation more comparable to other fields with similar education requirements.

By 2024, the Blueprint will initially increase teacher salaries by 10% before a minimum salary of \$60,000 is required by July 1, 2026.

As a result, some board candidates saw the Blueprint as the be-all, end-all solution to the education issues facing the state.

"The most important issue is

See CANDIDATES Page A5

County Executive Alsobrooks' Nominee for Director of Office of Ethics and Accountability Confirmed by Prince George's County Council

By GINA FORD
Office of the County Executive
Prince George's County

LARGO, Md. (Oct. 24, 2022)—County Executive Angela Alsobrooks congratulated Mr. Todd M. Turner, Esq., after he was confirmed by the Prince George's County Council [last week] to serve as the new Director of the County's Office of Ethics and Accountability (OEA). Mr. Turner was nominated by the County Executive to serve as the Director of OEA and has an extensive background in government and law, as well as a proven track record of serving the residents of Prince George's County.

"We are Prince George's Proud to congratulate Mr. Todd Turner who was confirmed as the new Director of the Office of Ethics and Accountability," said Alsobrooks. "Based on his years of service and involvement in Prince George's County, and his qualifications, both academic and during his career, he is a uniquely qualified individual to lead this office. We know that Mr. Turner will help us hold people accountable for fraud, waste, and illegal acts, and to promote public trust in our County Government."

Mr. Turner has represented Prince George's County Council District 4 since 2014. He served as Co-Chair of the County

Council in 2018 and Council Chair in 2019 and 2020. Prior to serving in a leadership capacity on the County Council, Mr. Turner chaired the Transportation, Housing and Environment, and Rules and General Assembly Committees, and served as a Public Safety and Fiscal Management Committee member. He represented the County Council on the Washington Metropolitan Council of Government's Board of Directors and the Washington Suburban Transit Commission. In addition, Mr. Turner has been a member of the Maryland Association of Counties Legislative Committee and Large Counties Coalition.

Prior to his election to the County Council, Mr. Turner served as Director of Constituent Services for the County Council from 2002 through 2006 and went on to serve as a Legislative Officer from 2007 through 2014. He is a former Bowie City Council Member, representing the 3rd Council District from 2005 through 2009. During his tenure as Council Member, Mr. Turner served as Mayor Pro Tem from 2007 to 2009, becoming the first African American to hold the position in the history of the City of Bowie. He was then elected to an At-Large Bowie City Council seat in 2011 and re-elected to that seat in 2013.

Mr. Turner is a graduate of the 2017

Academy of Excellence in Governance at the Institute of Governmental Service of the University of Maryland. He was also a member of the Leadership Greater Washington Class in 2017 and the Leadership Prince George's Class in 2012. In addition, Mr. Turner was the recipient of the Elizabeth and David Scull Metropolitan Public Service Award from the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments in 2014.

"I want to thank County Executive Alsobrooks, those who spoke on my behalf and my former County Council colleagues for their support and confidence in me today in confirming my nomination to be the next Executive Director of the Office of Ethics and Accountability," says Mr. Turner. "I will undertake these important responsibilities, as I have done in all of my professional roles to date, to the best of my abilities in upholding the mission of the office, our County and community."

Mr. Turner earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Government and Law from Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania in 1989 and received his Juris Doctorate from the City University of New York School of Law in Flushing, New York in 1994.

Mr. Turner will start as the OEA Director on December 5, 2022.

Sports from A1

youth and adult sports, area businesses and the entire state of Maryland."

The facility features onsite hotel rooms, restaurants, entertainment and more at South Lake, an adjacent mixed-use community currently under construction.

"Liberty is unlike any other complex in greater Washington and serves as a new anchor for the 301-214 corridor," said Thomas H. Graham, chair of the executive board for Green Branch Foundation, a nonprofit organization that manages the park's day-to-day operations. "The tournaments and events that will take place at Liberty, matched with the attractions the South Lake development will offer, brings new life to the area."

Liberty, through its location, projected attendees and nearby amenities, is expected to bring substantial economic benefits to both Prince George's County and the state of Maryland. The park is expected to generate up to 360 new jobs and between \$28.1 million and \$31.3 million of spending in Prince George's County, as well as up to 180 jobs and \$14.4 million to \$16 million in the state.

Fields are expected to be in use 30 weekends each year, with roughly 344,800 total visits. Already in high demand, fields are fully booked through the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

Resource Officers from A2

schools' intercom system, training for staff on safety protocol procedures, and crisis communication with the community," Yang said.

Other safety measures

Other candidates stressed that school safety doesn't begin and end with school resource officers. Many board hopefuls suggested expanding access to mental health resources in the state's schools, while others suggested combining that with additional security measures.

"We need to make sure our buildings are safe, but we also need to address the mental health crisis within our student population," said Karin Miller, a board candidate in Wicomico County's District 2. "It should not be a question of school resource officers OR social workers; they both have a role to play in creating a safe atmosphere within our schools."

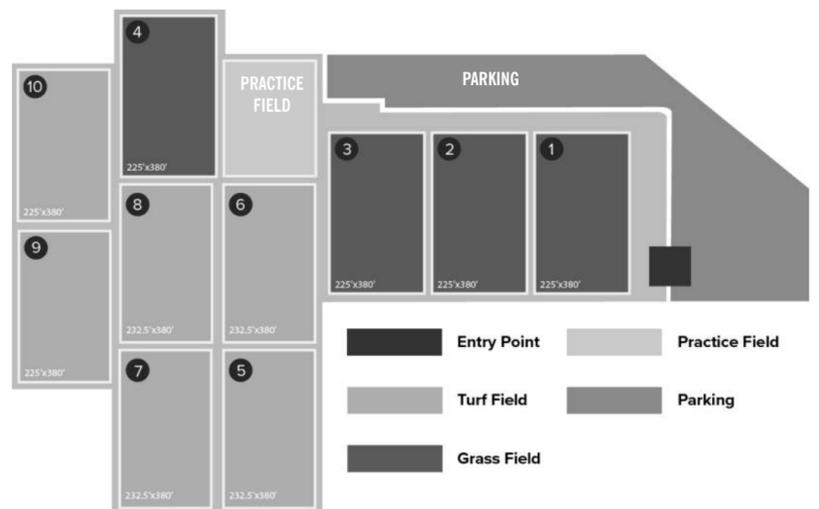


IMAGE COURTESY LIBERTY SPORTS PARK (PRWEB)

Liberty Sports Park Complex illustration

Liberty Sports Park is the result of a unique, years-long public-private partnership. Community partners include the state of Maryland, Prince George's County government, Washington Commanders Charitable Foundation, NAI Michael Cos, South Lake, St. John Properties, Truist Foundation, Buch Construction, Green Branch Foundation and Oak Hill Strategies.

The complex is conveniently located south of Central Avenue on the southbound side of US 301 in Prince George's County, minutes away from Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Annapolis and other popular area attractions.

Photos from the grand opening will be uploaded to the Lib-

erty website for media and public use.

Liberty Sports Park is the Mid-Atlantic Region's premier field sports vacation destination. With onsite dining, hotel and entertainment options just footsteps away from its 10 turf and grass fields, visitors can eat, play and stay in one place. Conveniently located in Prince George's County, Maryland, minutes away from Washington, D.C., Baltimore and other popular area attractions, Liberty Sports Park will be in use 30 weekends each year with more than 344,800 visits annually. To learn more, visit <http://www.libertysportspark.com>.

Green Branch Foundation is a community-based nonprofit charitable 501(c)(3) organization based in Prince George's County. Committed to the education and development of sports programs and competitions for youth, adults, families and communities, the Foundation's mission is to provide youth with greater access and exposure to athletics. Green Branch Foundation believes organized athletics provide a greater opportunity for youth to live healthier lifestyles, allow for personal growth in a positive environment, promote mentorship with community leaders and lead to greater scholarship opportunities for college.

spread through a high vaccine rate; and, support budgets with increased services for bullying prevention and restorative approaches to conflict resolution," said Pamela Boozer-Strother, who is running for re-election in Prince George's County's District 3.

Luc Angelot, a candidate in Wicomico County's District 1, said school safety has been on his mind for half his life.

"I am very concerned about school safety," said Angelot, who's 18 years old. "I was 9 years old when the Sandy Hook shooting took place. My generation grew up fearing a possible shooting happening at any moment."

That being the case, Angelot said, school safety has to be a top priority.

"From my plan to make mental health a priority to continuing to work with local law enforcement, retrofitting our buildings to be well secured, and taking social media threats seriously, we can do things to make sure students feel safe," he said.

Alternative Christmas Market

Davidsonville United Methodist Church, Saturday, Nov 12 & Sunday, Nov 13, 10 AM–2 PM Shoppers may buy unique items from Ten Thousand Villages and help people in less developed countries to earn a living. Ten Thousand Villages buys items at fair market prices, then markets them in the United States. Proceeds will go to a local battered women's shelter, the church and other charitable projects. Items include handmade toys, scarves, scented soaps, stationary sets, various baskets, Christmas ornaments, jewelry and much more.

918 Central Avenue, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035
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COMMENTARY

Marian Wright Edelman
*Founder and President Emerita,
 Children's Defense Fund*



ChildWatch:

“Give Light and People Will Find the Way”

Earlier this year, members of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom Schools® team and other colleagues had opportunity to attend a training session near the plantation on Maryland's Eastern Shore where Harriet Tubman was enslaved and where she returned again and again after her own escape to lead others to freedom. The retreat's theme was “Give Light and People Will Find the Way,” the title indomitable Civil Rights Movement justice warrior Ella Baker used for one of her training workshops at the Highlander Folk School in Tennessee. This message is relevant to the CDF Freedom Schools program's work today teaching young people they can make a difference in themselves, their families, their communities, their country, and their world with

hope, education, and action, and the same message could also describe some of the inspiration the team drew from Harriet Tubman's legacy.

During the retreat they visited the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park in Church Creek, Maryland and sites important in her life, including the plantation where her family was enslaved and the dry goods store where she was assaulted and suffered a traumatic brain injury as a child. She was standing inside that store when an enslaved boy ran in being chased by an overseer who ordered Harriet to help grab the boy. When she stood between the boy and the white man and did not move, the overseer hurled a lead weight at her head, leaving her bloody and unconscious. She suffered

seizures, sleeping spells, and debilitating headaches the rest of her life, but also began experiencing vivid dreams about God and visions and premonitions about escaping slavery. Seeing these places and the land where she had to travel and hide reinforced how difficult her mission was and how much courage and determination she needed to possess in order to survive. Now, through the National Historical Park, a state park and visitor center, the Harriet Tubman Museum and Educational Center, and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Scenic Byway, a 125-mile trail that includes waterways and safe houses she and others used as they fled towards freedom, these sites are preserved as a piece of American history that can teach and inspire young people today.

The importance and inspiration of teaching history was also central in the message the CDF Freedom Schools team heard when acclaimed author Carole Boston Weatherford joined the retreat for a conversation. Her books for children and young adults often revisit key moments and people in African American history, and one of her most loved is the lyrical, beautiful Caldecott Honor and Coretta Scott King Award-winning book *Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom*, illustrated by Kadir Nelson. During the meeting she asked her listeners to consider how Black history is often taught through a lens of enslavement and oppression. She then challenged them to consider this question: “Who

taught us to be free?” She continued, “You can't teach what you don't know, and you don't know what you weren't taught.” She said as she wrote *Moses*, she was inspired by the parallels between Harriet Tubman and the biblical Moses, who both took it upon themselves to free themselves and their people, and she challenged CDF Freedom Schools leaders with a charge to take up that call—teaching the next generation how to be free.

These are crucial lessons. Teaching all children about our shared history by exposing them to books by excellent authors like Carole Boston Weatherford and others who are part of the CDF Freedom Schools curriculum, and by taking them to visit important historical and cultural sites like the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park, are ways of giving children the light they will need to be prepared to plot their own futures. But this midterm election season reminds us yet again that many adults are fighting this idea today, and many are on ballots right now from school boards to statewide offices across the country. Educate yourself about the candidates seeking to represent you and make sure you are prepared with a plan to vote. Once again, we can never take any office or any election for granted. Children cannot vote, but they desperately need parents, teachers, and leaders who will be lanterns, not adults who seek to dim the light.

—October 28, 2022

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

The Ghost of Lee Atwater Haunts the 2022 Midterm Elections

“It is not new to see antisemitism or overt racism in politics. What is new is after years ... in which it was clear that to be credible in public life politicians had to reject prejudice, it's now been normalized in ways that are really quite breathtaking.”

—ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt

Violent crime, which fell during the height of COVID-19 pandemic, has returned to a level last seen in 2016. A majority of the perpetrators of violent crime are white. And undocumented immigrants are far less likely than native-born Americans to commit violent crimes.

Political ads flooding the airwaves, however, paint a starkly different and wildly misleading pic-

ture, “portraying chaos by depicting Black rioters and Hispanic immigrants illegally racing across the border,” the New York Times reports.

These ads aren't really about crime or immigration, however. They're about race.

The effort is especially pronounced in the effort to defeat candidates of color. In Wisconsin, opponents of Mandela Barnes, the lieutenant governor of Wisconsin, distributed a mailer in which the color of Barnes's skin was darkened. Another ad brands Barnes as “different” and “dangerous” while flashing the images of three congress members of color, none of whom has campaigned with him.

In Georgia, images of gubernatorial candidate Stacy Abrams have been darkened by her opponent's campaign.

It's not just the candidates whose images are being darkened: an ad distributed in several House districts in New Mexico shows a barber with darkened hands, and suggests that he is a sex offender.

Research shows that people subconsciously associate darker skin with negative personality traits and crime. This bias is linked to deadly consequences like police shootings and substandard medical care. Responsible public servants should work to counteract it. Instead, far too many are all too happy to exploit it for political gain.

Racism has always been present in American political campaigns, but the “Willie Horton” ads of the 1988 presidential campaign, have gone down in history as a low point. Horton, who was serving a life sentence in Massachusetts for murder, committed a vicious sexual assault in Maryland after he absconded from a weekend furlough. Candidate George H.W. Bush missed no opportunity to link Horton to his opponent, Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis. Bush campaign manager, Lee Atwater, said: “By the time we're finished, they're going to wonder whether Willie Horton is Dukakis's running mate.”

Photos of Dukakis paired with Horton's mug shot flooded airwaves and mailboxes. Yet few in the Dukakis' campaign or the media called out the obvious appeal to racism at the time. And that, in large part, was why it was so successful.

“The most important and underplayed lesson of

the Horton message is that, in a racially divided society that aspires to equality, the injection of race into campaigns poses a great danger to democratic politics—so long as the injection of race takes place under cover,” political scientist Tali Mendelberg wrote in *The Race Card: Campaign Strategy, Implicit Messages, and the Norm of Equality*. “When a society has repudiated racism, yet racial conflict persists, candidates can win by playing the race card only through implicit racial appeals. The implicit nature of these appeals allows them to prime racial stereotypes, fears, and resentments while appearing not to do so. When an implicit appeal is rendered explicit—when other elites bring the racial meaning of the appeal to voters' attention—it appears to violate the norm of racial equality. It then loses its ability to prime white voters' racial predispositions.”

There is no question that many of the ads being used to stoke racial animosity “violate the norm of racial equality.” Politicians like Tommy Tuberville, who explicitly tarred all Black Americans as “criminals” and Marjorie Taylor Green, who invokes “Replacement Theory” conspiracy theory long promoted by white nationalists, seem to have dispensed with the “implicit” aspect of the strategy. By calling out racism, in all its forms, we can deflate the power of these repugnant appeals.

—October 28, 2022

MG Linda L. Singh Readiness Center Renaming & Ribbon Cutting

By CAPT. BEN HUGHES
 Maryland National Guard
 Public Affairs Office

SYKESVILLE, Md. (Oct. 23, 2022)—The Maryland National Guard hosted a renaming and ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Major General Linda L. Singh Readiness Center in Eldersburg, Maryland, on Oct. 22, 2022.

Governor Larry Hogan, who appointed retired Maj. Gen. Singh to the position as adjutant general of Maryland in 2015, spoke at the ceremony.

“I just want to express how proud I am and how proud we all are of each and every one of the men and women of the Maryland National Guard,” said Hogan. “That's especially true today as we

celebrate General Singh and the values that she upheld throughout her entire life: hard work, determination, and character.”

Dr. Linda Singh was the first African American and the first woman to lead the Maryland National Guard as the 29th adjutant general.

“In 1981, when I got the opportunity to put on the uniform, I couldn't have imagined standing here and seeing the building named after me,” said Singh.

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Timothy E. Gowen, the adjutant general of Maryland, spoke of the accomplishments of Singh.

“We're standing here in this beautiful new armory, which has been provided to us through an enormous feat of teamwork through local state

and federal collaboration,” said Gowen. “Without the leadership of General Singh this would have never happened. It's her vision, or tenacity that got us through a lot of difficult challenges to get this armory so it absolutely makes sense for us to name this beautiful armory after her.”

Officials from the state, county, and local governments were in attendance.

The Maryland Army National Guard facility, which began construction in the autumn of 2018, supports the 200th Military Police Company and the 729th Quartermaster Company.

The 200th Military Police Company has a storied history from serving at the Pentagon within hours after terrorist attacks on 9/11 to a recent deployment to the Virgin Islands. The 729th Quartermaster Company returned from a deployment to Poland in 2020.

The 67,000 square-foot state-of-the-art facility is located on

57 acres of state-owned land. The \$30 million readiness center replaces armories in Ellicott City and Catonsville that were constructed in the 1950s.

The LEED certified building was formerly called the Freedom Readiness Center. It is the first National Guard armory in Carroll County and supports the continued mission of the modernization of the MDNG.

The facility consists of two unit admin areas, four classrooms, an assembly hall, two maintenance training bays, two supply rooms with secure storage, a physical fitness room, commercial kitchen and a back-up generator.

VIDEO of the ceremony:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SiDM-pUeULtM&t=3s>

In This Episode of the CNS “Takeover” Podcast: Voting Rights

By HUNTER SAVERY AND KATE SELTZER
 Capital News Service

WASHINGTON (Oct. 27, 2022)—On the third episode of the Capital News Service “Takeover” podcast, titled “The Hatchet,” we discuss the history

of the Voting Rights Act and how the legislation has changed under the Roberts court.

We'll also talk to analysts and experts about the future of

the Voting Rights Act as the Supreme Court moves to decide on the case *Merrill v. Milligan*.
<https://anchor.fm/takeover-cns/embed/episodes/The-Hatchet-e1prv8s>



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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Candidates from A3

the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future," said David Plotts, who is running in Wicomico County's District 4.

Yet for other candidates, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future is not the end of the discussion on teachers' salaries. Some said that increasing salaries is the best way to retain staff, and the Blueprint only begins to address the salary issue.

Curley, the Baltimore candidate, said school boards will have to make big-time investments to keep educators in the classroom.

"Bringing in qualified educators and working to keep them in the classroom will require a drastic and radical commitment from the school board to significantly increase the base salary for teachers with opportunities for achievable performance bonuses, offering a manageable workload with supportive administrators," she said.

Howard County candidate Jacky McCoy said another potential solution is the "grow your own" teacher program, in which schools aim to recruit current students and community members as future teachers.

Alvarez noted that the state, in planning for the Blueprint for Maryland's future, found that many teachers leave the profession after two years—"with no data as to why."

She said school districts need to do research to answer that question and to prevent teachers from leaving.

"Interview each teacher, administrators and staff to determine expectations," she said. "Employ expectation management (a management tool that aims to keep employers and employees in sync in terms of goals) in areas needed and monitor teacher needs in terms of resources and mental health."

The issue of teacher shortages transcends ideological lines. Alvarez worries that critical race theory is being taught in her county schools and that sexually explicit material should be removed from school libraries.

And yet on the teacher recruitment and retention issue, she agrees with Montgomery County Board of Education Vice President Karla Silvestre, who praises the "anti-bias and anti-racist curriculum" in the county schools and who trusts librarians to decide which books should be allowed in school libraries.

"We have to recruit and retain the best talent to work with our students," said Silvestre, who's running for re-election to an at-large board seat. "Great teachers and principals change lives and transform schools."

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Why Don't I Get Annual Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA)?

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 get a NET amount of \$210 from Social Security plus get an alimony check of \$1,400. Other people I know get a COLA increase every year, but I was told I am not eligible? But no reason was given. Why am I not eligible? **Signed: Struggling Senior**

Dear Struggling Senior: Everyone who collects Social Security receives the annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), so whoever told you that you aren't eligible for a COLA increase was incorrect. However, keep in mind that COLA is applied to your gross Social Security payment, not your net payment. One thing which can happen, especially to those whose Social Security payment is small, is that an increase to the Medicare Part B premium may consume your COLA increase. Here's an example of how that might occur:

You say your NET Social Security amount is \$210. Assuming you are enrolled in Medicare, your gross Social Security payment (before the Medicare Part B premium is deducted) is probably about \$380. The COLA increase for 2022 was 5.9%, which would increase your gross Social Security payment from about \$380 to about \$402, an increase of about \$22. However, the 2022 Medicare Part B premium also increased by nearly \$22 and, since your Medicare premium is deducted from your Social Security benefit, your NET Social Security payment wouldn't change. I suspect this is why you didn't see the Cost of Living Adjustment in your Social Security payment—an increase to your Medicare Part B premium most likely offset all of your COLA increase.

I know (and agree) this seems unfair, but inflation has also affected healthcare costs in general and Medicare premiums in particular, and a Medicare premium increase unfortunately offsets at least some of, and sometimes all of, the annual COLA received by all Social Security beneficiaries. I suspect the above, or some variation of it, is why you are not seeing a COLA increase in your net Social Security payment. Rest assured, however, that you ARE receiving an annual COLA increase to your gross Social Security amount—every recipient of Social Security receives each COLA increase granted.

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.

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From Pre-to-Post-Pandemic, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation's Continued Outreach Has Bolstered County Based Businesses to "Emerge Stronger" and Take the Next "Step Forward"

By RHETT BUTLER
PGC Economic Development Corporation

LARGO, Md. (Oct. 24, 2022)—While the economic recovery from COVID was uncertain for many, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) was busy assisting the rebound of small minority and women-owned businesses. Through a multitude of programs, initiatives, and cohorts close to 800 entrepreneurs that call Prince George's County their business home found support through various initiatives enacted by the EDC. Each initiative contributed to turning the tide for many business owners, solidifying the EDC's promise that "Expansion Starts Here."

"The team at PGCEDC focused not just on COVID relief and recovery efforts, but also worked hard to capture heightened entrepreneurial efforts, including fostering new business startups and expanding businesses in the County," said David Iannucci, President and CEO of PGCEDC. "Providing small businesses—the backbone of the American economy—with insights, resources and tools to help them avoid costly mistakes and pitfalls that could impede their growth potential—is one of many ways we support our business community. Our business development team is consistently working with CEOs, developers, and brokers to find, finance and build job-creating businesses here in the County."

The various programs and initiatives have helped support businesses based in Prince George's County while providing

access to resources, mentorship and a host of additional amenities. The programs and initiatives most productive over the last 18 months included:

Pathways to Growth & Expansion

More than 275 businesses participated in this program, which offered a series of English and Spanish language programming covering site selection, mergers and acquisitions, financing expansion, sales, communications tools, lease agreement negotiation, and more.

The C-Suite Accelerator

This program assisted over 90 businesses over five months through a multi-session group and individual business coaching program and intensive and monthly C-suite advising sessions for business owners.

Emerge Stronger

The program provided direct technical assistance, business operations, and financial management tools for over 300 Prince George's County small businesses.

Step Forward Initiative

The cohort consisted of ten minority women entrepreneurs that completed an intensive six-month program featuring workshops with EDC Managers from the Financial Services and Small Business Services departments for financial literacy mentoring and business operations coaching.

"The C-Suite Program was very eye-opening," said Francene Lobban, CEO of

Cene Beauty. "The professionals helped me to understand the fundamentals needed to start and operate a business. We also discussed the importance of a solid business structure, how to scale your business the right way, and understanding your numbers such as: profit margins, income and expenditures. It has made a difference in how I operate my business."

Other entrepreneurs utilized the resources received from the EDC during the COVID pandemic to discover ways to thrive.

"When I started, it was the height of COVID-19, and my mortgage-paying job had me traveling a lot internationally. I didn't realize how much of my time was being taken," said Sherrie Brown, owner of Savvy Scents. "My sister and I started a business on the side and applying the things I learned from the [Step Forward] cohort, I met with a credit union and recently signed contracts to have my products in stores. This really did help me."

For more information about the Step Forward Initiative and other small business services offered by the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation, visit www.pgcedc.com.

The mission of the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (PGCEDC) is to cultivate and promote a strong local economy that supports the growth and prosperity of entrepreneurs and businesses, dedicated to strengthening communities through business development and job creation.

Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation and Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Partner to Salute Hispanic Heritage Month With Local Business Leaders

Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks met with Hispanic business community of Prince George's County for roundtable style luncheon at Casa Dora restaurant

By PRESS OFFICERS
PGC Economic Development Corporation and
Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (Oct. 24, 2022)—Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation saluted National Hispanic Heritage Month with the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, by hosting a Hispanic Business Luncheon at the Casa Dora restaurant in Hyattsville on Wednesday, October 12.

The culturally rich chill and chat featured County Executive Angela Alsobrooks who joined a diverse array of Prince George's County Hispanic Business owners for lunch and spoke to them about her admiration and vision for the Hispanic business community. County Executive Alsobrooks also answered questions from the group regarding concerns about development in the County, procurement opportunities for minority companies, and resources for small businesses to help them grow.

"This Economic Development Corporation has just been so pivotal to us during these times. This month has been so much fun, we have recognized Hispanic Heritage Month and it has been a real joy to celebrate Hispanic culture," said County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "In Prince George's County we pride ourselves on having one of the most diverse communities in the state of Maryland. We are working to make sure that our Hispanic business community is supported and represented throughout."

In addition to celebrating the Prince George's County's Hispanic business community, both County Executive Alsobrooks and PGCEDC President & CEO, David Iannucci discussed the developments along the Blue Line corridor and existing opportunities within Prince George's County government for the Hispanic business community.

"We are delighted to celebrate Hispanic

Heritage Month with County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, Nicole Quiroga and our wonderful partners at the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce," said Iannucci. "We were glad to host a luncheon featuring the County Executive that enriches the Hispanic businesses that are a crucial part of the backbone of Prince George's County."

The event was part of the longstanding Memorandum of Understanding between the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation and the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to support the Hispanic business community of Prince George's County.

"Seeing everyone around the table is really special because I know that you are willing to have these conversations, share in these conversations, and sometimes feel a little vulnerable in these conversations because COVID has really taken a hit on so many of us," said Nicole Quiroga, President of the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. "In order for us to get help and have a voice we have to speak and sometimes admit difficult times. Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to have this partnership with Prince George's County EDC, David and everyone around the table this relationship means the world to us, and we're going to expand our wings and continue to help businesses."

Casa Dora Restaurant owner Dora Escobar, an immigrant from El Salvador, has become a thriving entrepreneur across Prince George's County. She addressed the crowd with a huge smile conveying appreciation for choosing her location to celebrate the Hispanic businesses of Prince George's County.

"I feel proud and happy that you are here at this restaurant that is your home,"

Escobar said.

During the event, the EDC's business development programs, opportunities and resources available to help grow their businesses were discussed. The event expanded the opportunities and raised awareness of programming and initiatives within the EDC while providing opportunities for an informal to meet and greet.

"Today was really important for our Hispanic Business Community," said Rocio Treminio-Lopez, Latino Affairs Liaison for PGCEDC. "This celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month shows that in Prince George's County, representation matters. Hispanic business owners are hardworking and have created thousands of job and career opportunities for people from all walks of life. Members of the community have earned the right to be recognized and celebrated. I'm proud to be a resource for business leaders who want to grow and create more opportunity. I look forward to the Hispanic Business community continuing to expand the economic footprint of Prince George's County."

PGCEDC's mission is to cultivate and promote a strong local economy that supports the growth and prosperity of entrepreneurs and businesses, dedicated to strengthening communities through business development and job creation. For more information about the services the Economic Development Corporation provides to local companies, visit www.pgcedc.com.

GWHCC aims to develop the network and tools in assisting businesses in the D.C area to grow. Every year more than 1500 businesses and organizations participate in our events, many of whom are our members. These members range from the Washington region's largest corporations to one-person companies—and everything in between. For more information, please visit www.GWHCC.org.

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Open Enrollment for 2023 Health Plans Begins

With health insurance, you're protected from the unexpected.

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Health Benefit Exchange

BALTIMORE (Nov. 1, 2022)—Marylanders can now enroll in health plans for 2023 on MarylandHealthConnection.gov, the state's health insurance marketplace.

Open enrollment runs from Nov. 1, 2022, through Jan. 15, 2023. Coverage starts Jan. 1, 2023, for plans selected before Dec. 31, and coverage starts on Feb. 1, 2023, for plans selected the first two weeks of January. This open enrollment period is for private plans only. Those who qualify for Medicaid may enroll any time of year.

The Inflation Reduction Act means that everyone who enrolls through Maryland Health Connection will be eligible for savings. Maryland's average monthly premium was second lowest in the nation last year. For the second year in a row, young adults ages 18-34 will have special dis-

counts—on top of other savings available through Maryland Health Connection.

All plans available through Maryland Health Connection cover important health benefits, including doctor visits, prescriptions, mental health services, and more.

Enroll on the website, MarylandHealthConnection.gov, download the mobile app, Enroll MHC, or get free help from trained experts. Go to MarylandHealthConnection.gov/help to find free help enrolling through virtual support or in person. New this year, Maryland Health Connection offers Broker Connect. Consumers can get a call back from an authorized insurance broker in 30 minutes or less. Best of all, it's free. Or call 1-855-642-8572 for help. Deaf and hard of hearing, use Relay. Help is available in more than 200 languages.

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ENVIRONMENT

Silver Line Extension Could Begin Service Before Thanksgiving Despite Train Shortage, Officials Say

By GRACE YARROW
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON (Oct. 19, 2022)—An extension of the Metro's Silver Line could be ready to service Washington Dulles International Airport in time for Thanksgiving travel, Metro officials said Wednesday.

But Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority executives said there won't be enough railcars to support the extension opening without removing cars from other Metro lines, which are already crowded.

Metro is relying on approval by the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission, which provides safety oversight for Metro's operations, to open and operate the new Silver Line stations. The WMSC has been in conflict with Metro for weeks over a plan to add railcars back into service.

A year ago, Metro sidelined its newest trains, the 7000-series rail cars, after one derailed between the Rosslyn and Arlington Cemetery Metro stations because of wheel issues. An investigation into the derailment has still not identified a cause, WMATA said.

Metro submitted a plan on Sept. 28 to request returning the full fleet, 748 of the 7000-series cars, for service. On Oct. 11, the safety commission rejected this plan, due to a "lack of data," according to WMATA.

After another revision by Metro, the plan was denied again, the commission said Monday, citing "technical objections." Metro's Executive Vice President and Chief Safety Officer Theresa Impastato said she is dismayed by the commission's rejections.

"We have provided all of the available data and analysis we have after safely running 2.7 million miles, however WMSC has provided confusing direction," Impastato said in a WMATA release. "We simply ask for clear guidance on what is required to satisfy them as to the integrity of our process."

Currently, Metro has permission to use up to 20 of the 7000-series trains on the Red, Green and Yellow Lines.

To begin transferring trains to the necessary places, Metro officials need the safety commission's approval this week, WMATA said.

Sharmila Samarasinghe, deputy CEO and chief operating officer of the safety commission, is calling for a revised plan from Metro based on "all available data."

"The WMSC is deeply concerned about Metrorail senior leadership's incorrect statements that a failure to follow procedures in place to control known hazards such as a wheel migration does not lead to unsafe conditions," Samarasinghe said in a letter on Monday.

When the Silver Line extension opens, the Metro will service three new stations in Fairfax County and three stations in Loudoun County, including at Washington Dulles International Airport.

The approval of the railcar introduction plan is needed, WMATA said, for the Silver Line expansion and for increased service frequency across the Metro system.

"Metro recognizes the important role safety oversight plays and we are absolutely committed to compliance," said Brian Dwyer, Metro's executive vice president and chief operating officer. "Respectfully, after a year-long investigation, we would welcome a directive based on a root cause finding. Meanwhile, we have developed an industry-leading inspection process in which we have high confidence."

Governor Hogan Announces Maryland Mesonet Project to Enhance State's Critical Infrastructure and Preparedness

Partnership Between State of Maryland and University of Maryland Will Build World-Class Atmospheric System of Weather-Observing Towers

Will Provide Real-Time Monitoring to Improve Responses to Weather-Related Disasters

State Has Committed \$4 Million to Maryland Mesonet

By MICHAEL RICCI
Executive Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Oct. 24, 2022)—Oct. 24, Governor Larry Hogan announced a groundbreaking partnership between the State of Maryland and the University of Maryland to build and operate the Maryland Mesonet, a state-of-the-art network of 75 weather-observing towers across the state that will provide real-time community-level monitoring and improve situational awareness during rapidly changing weather conditions.

"The Maryland Mesonet partnership we are announcing today, through a new memorandum of understanding between the State of Maryland and the University of Maryland, will build a world-class network of state-of-the-art environmental monitoring stations to provide real-time data 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year," said Governor Hogan. "I am pleased to announce that we have committed \$4 million dollars to this ambitious project, which will give our emergency managers even faster and more accurate satellite data

to make critical decisions about preparedness and deploying resources." The state has committed \$4 million to the Maryland Mesonet, which will provide state and local emergency management officials with data and analysis to enhance public safety, reduce community risk, and apply for disaster relief programs. It will also provide high-resolution meteorological observations to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, helping improve the regional weather forecast and better protect residents and businesses.

"We are proud that the Maryland Mesonet expands the University of Maryland's deep commitment to service for our state," said UMD President Darryll J. Pines. "Weather has been increasingly challenging to predict, and our scientists will play a leading role in providing high-resolution atmospheric data to NOAA to improve regional weather forecasts. We will also work to inform local decision-makers who can better protect Marylanders and their businesses."

The project will also support the development of mesonet-data-based applications

for state and local agencies, the NWS, Maryland school systems, farmers, fishermen, water managers, air-quality monitors, wind and solar energy producers, transportation professionals, and the media.

"This partnership means that Maryland residents and visitors will receive better forecasts and earlier lead time for severe weather warnings, like severe thunderstorm, tornado, and flash flood," said Maryland Department of Emergency Management Secretary Russ Strickland. "Through continued monitoring, threshold alerting, instant verification, and post-event analysis, the Maryland Mesonet will provide more data to our emergency management team to continually improve planning and processes, and will set a roadmap for a more weather-resilient Maryland."

Maryland is one of only five states where emergency management is a department led by a Cabinet-level secretary. Earlier this year, the governor signed legislation that established the Maryland Office of Resilience within the Maryland Department of Emergency Management.

Earth TALK™ Will We All Be Driving EVs By 2035?

Dear EarthTalk:

How will California's recent decision to require all new car sales to be electric vehicles (EVs) beginning in 2035 affect other states' timelines for adopting similarly stringent measures?

—M. Sergis, Tampa, FL

In late August 2022, California governor Gavin Newsom and the California Air Resources Board announced the approval of the Advanced Clean Cars II rule. This act serves as a 15-year plan to put California on the road to have all car sales be for ZEV (zero emissions vehicle) by 2035. ZEVs are considered to be either EVs (electric vehicles), PHEV (plug-in hybrid electric vehicles), or hydrogen fuel cell. Gas vehicle sales will slowly be phased out, with the first checkpoint being that 35 percent of new cars sold must be a ZEV by 2026.

This piece of legislation represents an important step in actively working against the negative impacts of climate change. Reducing the number of gas-powered vehicles on the road will help cut smog producing pollution, therefore reducing the amount of health issues related to vehicle pollution. Air emission improvements will benefit all

residents of the state, particularly low income and minority communities that often live near roadways. The approval of this law will increase the accessibility of ZEV to all California residents as it includes the development of investment programs for low-income residents to be able to purchase ZEVs. Furthermore, consumers will be able to save more money by switching to ZEVs as the pressure to purchase gasoline would be removed.

California is pioneering this movement, but it's likely many other states will soon follow once the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) formally approves California's law. As of now, Washington, Virginia and Massachusetts are expected to be the next three states to adopt similar mandates after approval of the rule in California. Governors in New York, Rhode Island, Oregon, Maryland and New Jersey are also considering similar legislation. These states are among the 17 other states that follow California's greenhouse gas regulations. Car manufacturers have few concerns about their ability to generate ZEVs, but better ZEV infrastructure nationwide (i.e., more vehicle charging stations) is needed.

Under the Clean Air Act, the EPA gave California the ability to enforce more stringent emissions standards than the federal government. Past evidence shows that states have followed California's example when it comes to emission standards, and experts believe that a similar trend will occur with the Advanced Clean Cars Rule. Such a movement will put unprecedented pressure on car makers to generate ZEVs, which will generate a huge and long-awaited shift in the automotive industry.

Non-California residents may be thinking of ways to support this legislation and push for its approval in their own states. Getting in touch with local Congress members, petitioning and being aware of candidates in support of legislation to reduce emissions are some of the best ways to get involved. Once legislation is passed in other states, aiming to buy a ZEV is the best way to reduce emissions while upholding the guidelines outlined in the legislation.

CONTACTS: California Air Resources Board, ww2.arb.ca.gov; Alternative Fuel Data Center, afdc.energy.gov/laws/recent.

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Walktober: Governor Hogan Announces \$35.7 Million to Advance 53 Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects Across Maryland

Grant Funding Supports Projects to Enhance Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety, Access and Connectivity Statewide

By MICHAEL RICCI
Executive Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Oct. 26, 2022)—Governor Larry Hogan announced \$35.7 million in grants for 53 bicycle, pedestrian, and trail projects across Maryland. Supporting projects from trail extensions and maintenance to safety improvements and bridge reconstructions, the Fiscal Year 2023 grants include \$33.1 million in federal funding for 32 projects through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Recreational Trails Program (RTP), plus another \$2.6 million in state funding for 21 projects through the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Kim Lamphier Bikeways Network.

All three grant programs support agency partnerships to improve safety and connectivity across Maryland's multimodal transportation network. A portion

of TAP allotments, for instance, are awarded by metropolitan planning organizations. The announcement of this year's awards comes during the statewide celebration of Walktober, a month-long recognition of the official state exercise—walking—and its profound impact on the lives of Marylanders.

TAP and RTP programs benefit bicycling, walking, and school accessibility

The Transportation Alternatives Program provides funding for on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, environmental mitigation, and projects related to the Safe Routes to School initiative. This year's TAP awards include:

\$2 million for a segment of the West-East Express Trail in Anne Arundel County, from People's Park on Calvert Street in Annapolis to Taylor Avenue near the An-

napolis Police station.

\$4.8 million to construct 1.8 miles of the Frederick and Pennsylvania Line Railroad Trail, an asphalt rail-to-trail project from Monocacy Boulevard to Fountain Rock Nature Center in Frederick County;

\$4.6 million for the Metzertott Road Pedestrian Safety Project in Prince George's County, for improvements on Metzertott Road from MD 650 (New Hampshire Avenue) to Adelphi Road; and

\$2.4 million for the Byron Bridge access project in Washington County, creating a new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant link between Byron Bridge and the C&O Canal Towpath.

Other TAP grants will fund a feasibility study for a shared-use path to connect residents and tourists in West Ocean City to Assateague State Park along MD

611; help upgrade 1.3 miles of Patuxent Branch Trail in Howard County to an ADA compliant surface; design a bike and pedestrian connection from the Nursery Road Light Rail Station to Belle Grove Road in Anne Arundel County; improve intersection and crossing safety at Cecil Elementary School in Baltimore City; and install ADA-accessible intersection improvements for school children in Hagerstown, including countdown pedestrian lights and audible signals.

Grants in the Recreational Trails Program help improve and preserve both land and water trails in Maryland's recreational trail network. Projects in the FY 2023 awards include:

\$3.6 million to repair exterior end walls and the surface of the 955-foot-long Borden Tunnel on the Great Allegheny Passage in Allegany County;

\$2 million to rehabilitate sev-

eral bridges along the Torrey C. Brown Trail in Baltimore County; and

\$5.9 million for ADA compliant improvements to piers and slips at Somers Cove Marina in Somerset County, along with replacement of a boat ramp and two piers.

Other RTP allocations will fund trail improvements in Patuxent Valley State Park in Baltimore County for adaptive mountain biking; interpretive signs in Jefferson Patterson Park in Calvert County; construction of a viewing area and trail maintenance at Adkins Arboretum in Caroline County; and a study to assess trail infrastructure in Historic St. Mary's City.

Bikeway grants carry legacy of Kim Lamphier

The MDOT Kim Lamphier Bikeways Network Program was founded in 2011, and provides state funding for planning, design and construction of infrastructure such as bike lanes and shared-use paths. The program is named for the late Kim Lamphier, a Montgomery County native and long-time Baltimore County resident who advocated for bicycling access throughout Maryland. This

year's grants include:

\$360,000 for design of the Frederick & Pennsylvania rail-with-trail from Fountain Rock Park to Walkersville in Frederick County;

\$240,000 in design funding for the College Creek Connector, a shared-use path along College Creek between King George Street and downtown Annapolis; \$128,000 for design of a shared-use path along Good Hope Road to Spencerville Local Park in

\$121,000 to complete design for the Martin Luther King Boulevard side path in Baltimore City.

Other Kim Lamphier grant awards include feasibility studies for shared-use paths in Gaithersburg, Galena, Laurel, Rockville, and St. Michael's; bicycle counter programs in Baltimore City, Rockville, and Salisbury; studies for bike network improvements in Cambridge and Takoma Park; and funding to construct bicycle parking in Taneytown.

A complete list of grant-funded projects is available on each program's website: MDOT Kim Lamphier Bikeways Network Program, Recreational Trails Program, and Transportation Alternatives Program.

HEALTH *and* WELLNESS

Black Doula Project Launches “Black Parents Deserve” Campaign Highlighting Critical Need for Doula Care for Black Families

Doula Care Key Tool to Address High Maternal Mortality Rates

By PRESS OFFICER
The Black Doula Project

WASHINGTON (Oct. 19, 2022)—On Oct. 18, The Black Doula Project premiered their new docuseries “Black Parents Deserve” during a panel discussion on the critical need for doula care during families’ postpartum journey. The docuseries tells the story of how a doula can be a change agent and advocate in their client’s health care during their pregnancy and postpartum experience. Doula care is a critical lifeline for Black families at a time when research shows that regardless of socioeconomic background Black women are three to four times more likely to die from maternal complications than their white coun-

terparts.

The Black Doula Project recognizes the need to advocate, support, and protect our Black women and works proudly to help care for Black women and families in the DMV area as they transition into the parenthood stage of life by subsidizing the cost of doula care.

“Black women deserve to have the right to birth without fear of not being heard, without feelings of inadequacy, and without judgment due to racial bias that is rooted within the health care delivery system,” said Stephanie Kimou-Hardy, co-founder of Black Doula Project. “That’s why ‘Black Parents Deserve’ campaign is so important. It will raise awareness of a critical need in our community and one of the

solutions to tackle the issues of maternal and infant mortality.”

“For black people, there is a history of harm that contributes to generational trauma and distrust in the medical field,” said Erryn Tanner, co-founder of Black Doula Project. “Doulas are the bridge between the birthing parent and the rest of the birthing team, and they create a support system that improves the delivery of maternal health care provided to Black women during their pregnancy journey. It helps interrupt the medical racism that leads to high Black maternal mortality rates.”

“We are so proud to partner with the Black Doula Project and support the Black Parents Deserve campaign,” said Andrea Miller, president of the Na-

tional Institute for Reproductive Health. “Their critical work in supporting Black birthing families is of paramount importance. The Black infant and maternal mortality rates in this country are abhorrent, and we deeply appreciate and applaud Black Doula Project’s mission and drive to bring greater doula access across communities.”

The Black Doula Project (BDP) began as an online movement to create awareness, provide maternal health education and aid in the support of black women during their maternal journey, but as more and more black women continued to suffer from birthing complications, the BDP needed to do more. <https://www.blackdoula.com>

Maryland Life Expectancy Data Highlights Racial Disparities

By NENE NARH-MENSAH
Capital News Service

National life expectancy has decreased for the second year in a row, according to new data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Maryland’s life expectancy also fell, according to 2020 statistics from the state, which is the latest available data.

In 2021, the national life expectancy in the United States dropped to 76.1 years from 77 years in 2020. This, combined with a decrease from 2019 to 2020 when life expectancy declined by 1.8 years, was the biggest two-year decline in life expectancy since the early 1920s, according to the CDC. The health organization attributed most of the decline to the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 deaths made up nearly 74% of the decline from 2019 to 2020, and half of the decrease from 2020 to 2021, according to the CDC. The next highest cause was death by accident or injury, making up about 16% of the decrease in life expectancy from 2020 to 2021. Drug overdoses made up nearly half of that number.

In Maryland, life expectancy fell from 79.3 years in 2019 to 78.6 in 2020. The leading cause of death in the state was heart disease, followed by malignant neoplasms—also known as tumors—then COVID-19, according to the CDC. Heart disease was the third leading cause of death nationally. The last time life expectancy in Maryland dropped was in 2016, when it fell from 79.5 the year before to 79.1.

The latest available data from the Maryland Department of Health and the Census Bureau show large disparities in life expectancy correlated with race, gender and income inequality across the state.

Life expectancy isn’t distributed evenly across Maryland. There are pockets where life expectancy is higher than the state average of 78.6 years, particularly in Montgomery, Howard, and Frederick counties. Montgomery and Howard counties had the highest life expectancies, 84.2 and 82.7 years respectively. Baltimore City and Cecil

County had the lowest, 71.8 and 75.1 years respectively.

White women in Montgomery County have the highest life expectancy of any demographic group measured in this report, 86.2 years. Black men in Baltimore City have the lowest life expectancy at 63.9. This is 0.8 years fewer than the average retirement age for men in 2021 according to the Center for Retirement Research and represents a difference of 22.3 years in life expectancy for people born in jurisdictions a little more than an hour drive away.

Life expectancy for Black men remains the lowest of the demographic groups measured in Maryland at 71.8 years compared to that of their white male counterparts, 77.1 years.

Only three counties had populations where the life expectancy of white women fell below the state average of 78.6 years (Allegany, Somerset, and Cecil). The life expectancy of Black women was below the state average in 11 counties.

The 2020 edition of the Vital Statistics report from the Maryland Department of Health, which has the most recent data, didn’t include life expectancy statistics for Asian or Pacific Islander, American Indian, or Hispanic populations.

Senior Fellow at The Brookings Institute Andre M. Perry said that the differences in life expectancies can be explained partially by racist historical policy and work by counties to improve quality of life.

The Brookings Institution released the Black Progress Index on Sept. 27, 2022, a model of data from U.S. counties to identify measures “that predict long and healthy lives for Black Americans,” according to an article by the organization.

“We highlight the areas where Black people have been living the longest because it may provide insight into the local civic actions that have produced those outcomes—actions that other places may take,” wrote the creators of the project, Andre M. Perry and Jonathan Rothwell.

The factors that had the most influence

on life expectancy were “wealth, human and social capital (e.g., education, social networks, religion), environmental quality, safety, and family,” according to Perry and Rothwell’s article.

The Black Progress Index score estimates the life expectancy of a Black person based on 13 predictors including median household income, homeownership rate and educational attainment. Each factor either added to or subtracted from the estimated index score.

The Black Progress Index showed that in Baltimore City, gun violence decreased the life expectancy of Black residents by three years.

To Perry, the struggles the city is facing are a reflection of racist historical policies such as redlining.

Data from the Maryland Department of Health and the Census Bureau shows that higher median income often equates to a higher life expectancy for both Black and white people, however the correlation is stronger for white people.

The data about Black residents isn’t all bleak.

Black residents in Montgomery County had a higher life expectancy, 81.9 years, than the state average, according to data from the Maryland Department of Health from 2018 to 2020.

There are multiple counties where the life expectancy for Black people is high, Perry said.

“If there’s a Wakanda, it’s in the DMV,” Perry said.

Montgomery County ranked 17th among the top 20 U.S. counties with the highest Black Progress Index score. Factors that influenced this score included high levels of income, education rate and business ownership.

Perry and Rothwell said the greatest contributor to Montgomery County’s high life expectancy for Black residents is the large share of foreign-born Black adults. This factor surprised Perry during his research and is a topic that needs to be explored further.

“We don’t talk about the positive contributions of black immigrants enough,” the Brookings fellow said. “What I would like to see is more about how black immigrants are interacting with black native-born folks and how that is having a positive impact on the community overall”

ing in the 60–69 year-old age group, according to the dashboard. Especially amongst younger Marylanders, the new bivalent vaccine has not seen much use.

On a national level, the data shows that Maryland is indicative of a greater trend that people are not receiving the second and subsequent boosters. According to the CDC, 111.3 million Americans have received at least one booster, while only 19.4 million have received the new bivalent booster.

Receiving a second booster dose does not necessarily mean that an individual received the bivalent vaccine, as many Americans received multiple doses of the previous (monovalent) booster. The numbers suggest that interest in receiving booster shots for COVID is decreasing.

Montgomery, Talbot and Howard counties lead Maryland with the highest rate of individuals over 50 receiving a second booster, among those who already received a first booster. These numbers also include second doses other than the bivalent booster.

Workshops Will Help Adults, Children and Teens Cope With Grief During the Holidays

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (Oct. 17, 2022)—For many years, Chesapeake Life Center’s popular Living with Loss through the Holidays workshops have helped adults grieving a loss get through a difficult time of the year. This year, children and teens can get that help, too.

The season begins with an adult workshop hosted by Calvert Hospice, an affiliate brand of Hospice of the Chesapeake. It will be held from 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Nov. 19, at the Burnett Calvert Hospice House, 4559 Sixes Road, Prince Frederick, Maryland. Led by grief professionals, participants can join in group activities that help them find a way to honor the memory of their loved ones while still granting themselves permission to grieve.

The adult workshop will be held again for adults on from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 7, at two different locations: On the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, Maryland, and at the Prince George’s County office at 9500 Medical Center Drive, Suite 250, Largo, Maryland. For those who prefer to participate from their own home, the Largo session also will be held via Zoom. Partici-

pants will be able to interact with those in attendance.

There are two opportunities for children ages 6 to 18 to take part in holiday-themed activities that will help them learn about getting through the holidays without their special person. Each will include breakout sessions for various age groups. The first children and teens workshop will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 7, on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena. The second will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 14 at the Calvert Library Prince Frederick, 850 Costley Way.

Other than the Calvert library workshop, which is free, the cost is \$10 per person. Registration is required and can be completed by calling 1-888-501-7077 or emailing griefinfo@chesapeake-lifecenter.org.

Chesapeake Life Center, a program service of Hospice of the Chesapeake, serves hospice family members and the community with bereavement services and activities aimed at enhancing the quality of life for those grieving the loss of a loved one. For more information, visit www.chesapeakelifecenter.org.

‘Glow’ Fashion Event Raises \$230K for Hospice Care in Maryland and South Africa

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

CHEVY CHASE, Md. (Oct. 19, 2022)—On Saturday, October 8, Saks Fifth Avenue Chevy Chase hosted an event in celebration of World Hospice and Palliative Care Day. “Glow: More than a Runway” raised awareness to the burden of grief around the world while also raising \$230,000 for Hospice of the Chesapeake. The evening started with cocktails before guests took their seats along the runway for a fashion show featuring fall looks from top designers including Alexander McQueen, Brunello Cucinelli, Saint Laurent, Michael Kors, Oscar De La Renta and more.

Following the fashion show guests attended a reception where tables were adorned with flowers and gold accents as well as welcomed by South African wines from Rustenberg Wines in the Western Cape.

Hospice of the Chesapeake CEO Mike Brady welcomed and introduced special guests, including Dr. Stephen Connor, Executive Director of the World Hospice and Palliative Care Alliance; Ben Marcantonio, COO and interim CEO of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization; and Nomaindiya C. Mfeketo, Ambassador of The Republic of South Africa. The theme, “Healing Hearts and Communities” spoke to many in attendance. Glow was the only U.S. event honoring World Hospice and Palliative Care Day on Oct. 8 to educate the global community about the importance of palliative, hospice, and grief services, especially considering the great loss due to the COVID-

19 pandemic, conflict, and natural disasters.

“This first of its kind event focuses on community which is the core of everything we do,” Brady said. “That includes tonight’s event, with attendees and participants from many walks of life joining together to bring attention and awareness to the needs around the world of those living with advanced illness and loss.” Brady also announced a portion of the evening’s proceeds would be shared with Hospice of the Chesapeake’s sister hospice in sub-Saharan Africa, Brits Hartbeespoort Hospice.

This glamorous fundraiser came together thanks to the dedication of a committee that includes leaders of fashion, health-care, business, philanthropy, and the diplomatic corps, including honorary co-chairs Dame Karen E. Pierce, Ambassador of The United Kingdom, and Ambassador Mfeketo. “So many of us all over the world have lost a loved one during the pandemic,” Dr. Connor said. “It’s important for patients and families of those suffering from all types of serious illness to know that they are not alone. Glow will showcase that resources to care for you during the times of your life when you are most in need are available.”

Hospice of the Chesapeake has grown and expanded over its 43 years to care for people living with life-limiting illness and their families in Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, and Prince George’s counties. For more information about care provided, visit hospicechesapeake.org.

The New Booster Rollout Has Been Slow Across the US and Maryland Is no Exception

By JONATHAN DONVILLE
Capital News Service

Despite recommendations by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the rollout of the new COVID-19 booster in Maryland remains slow. The new booster has been in circulation for a little more than 50 days, and yet has been administered far less frequently than the original booster was over the same time frame last year.

The new COVID booster is known as the bivalent booster, and was expanded for use to include children aged 5–11 by the CDC on October 12. The booster was originally approved by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) on August 31, 2022, and was recommended by the CDC the next day. In the 50 days since, the bivalent vaccine has been administered 600,560 times in Maryland, ac-

ording to the Maryland Department of Health’s COVID dashboard.

The original booster was approved by the FDA for certain populations on September 22, 2021 and endorsed by the CDC two days later on September 24. In the 50 days following the CDC endorsement, 719,478 Marylanders received the original Covid booster, according to the CDC.

In total, more than 2.6 million Marylanders received a first (monovalent) booster, according to the state dashboard. More than 4.8 million Marylanders completed a primary series of the vaccine, which means either both doses of a two-dose series, or one dose of a single series like the Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

Two-thirds of the bivalent boosters administered have gone to individuals aged 50 and older, with the largest concentration be-