

# The Prince George's Post



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## Happy Thanksgiving

FROM THE STAFF AT

## The Prince George's Post



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## So Close to Speakership, Hoyer to Step Away From Leadership Role, Remain in House

By COURTNEY COHN  
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON (Nov. 17, 2022)—House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer of Maryland, has decided to leave his position as the second-ranking Democrat—a post he has held in the minority and the majority since 2003—but will remain in the House.

Hoyer for years was considered a likely successor to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-California. But as she stepped away from her post Thursday (Nov. 17), so too did Hoyer, part of a smoothly-engineered transition to younger party leadership.

In a letter to his fellow House Democrats on Thursday, Hoyer said: "Like my dear friend, John

Lewis, I believe God's work for us is to create that 'beloved community' for which John worked so consistently and courageously. I believe there is much for me still to do in pursuit of that endeavor. I believe that it is time for me, however, to continue my service in a different role."

"Now is the time for a new generation of leaders, and I am proud to offer my strong endorsement to Hakeem Jeffries for Democratic Leader," said Hoyer, who is 83 years old.

Hakeem Jeffries has represented New York's 8th District since 2013. He serves on the

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EKATERINA PECHENKINA/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON—House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Maryland, leaves the United States Capitol Thursday after telling colleagues in a letter that he would leave leadership but remain in the House.

## M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County Announces 36th Annual Winter Festival of Lights

By ANGEL WALDRON  
M-NCPPC

RIVERDALE, Md. (Nov. 17, 2022)—The Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County announces the 2022 Winter Festival of Lights. Now in its 36th year, the festival is a staple in local holiday traditions. With more lights, displays, and entertainment, it is the biggest of its kind in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area.

Since last year, the entrance of the Festival has been relocated to Route 202/Largo Road, across

the street from the Riverdale Baptist Church, located at 1133 Largo Road, in Upper Marlboro. Please note that the entrance on Route 193 will be closed.

Back by popular demand are our carriage rides! Create unforgettable memories with this unique experience. Sit cozied up with your loved ones as you ride a horse-drawn carriage through the festival. Hats, gloves and blankets are recommended.

"We know it's the holiday sea-

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## Clean Water Partnership Announces Kickoff of Nine Pond Project to Help Mitigate Flooding in Hyattsville

By PRESS OFFICER  
Clean Water Partnership / Corvias

LARGO, Md. (Nov. 16, 2022)—The Clean Water Partnership, a 30-year community-based partnership between Corvias and Prince George's County, MD, today announced the start of grading operations and construction of a new project in Hyattsville which will create a three-acre pond and stormwater management facility to help mitigate the community's recent flooding issues.

The Nine Pond project, located at the intersection of Toledo Road and Adelphi Road in Prince George's County, is set to begin construction following completion of grading operations (i.e., the excavation or moving

of land, dirt and rocks). The CWP has teamed with numerous local businesses in the development and maintenance of this stormwater green infrastructure project, including Bald Eagle Partners, Soltesz, D & F Construction Company, SMI Environmental Site Services, Tina Boyd & Associates and CWP Mentor Protege Program Cohort 2 graduates, Clinton Sewer Experts, Inc. and Arya Civil, LLC.

Once finalized, the project will include a three-acre pond, making this the first combined quality and quantity stormwater project delivered by the CWP on private property. The pond is designed to treat the 103.49 acres of impervious area that will also help to reduce the frequency and severity of flooding experienced

by homeowners located downstream of the site along Wells Run. The stormwater improvement facility will also be integrated into the surrounding neighborhood, as an amenity complete with walking trails, and aesthetically pleasing landscape to support nearby wildlife and the environment.

"The Nine Pond project is an example of a successful and unique public-private partnership that can improve the local green infrastructure and have a positive environmental impact," said Angela Alsobrooks, County Executive of Prince George's County. "Addressing our County's water quality and storm-related flooding challenges is a major priority for our Administration as we work to

combat the impacts of climate change. The dedication and hard work of CWP's many partners have helped to drive our success over the past seven years."

As part of the design and execution of the Nine Pond project, the CWP has worked closely with Prince George's County Councilmembers Deni Taveras and Dannielle M. Glaros, Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE), Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), the US Army Corps of Engineers, Maryland National Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's Sediment Control District, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, the Town of University Park and the City of Hyattsville.



PHOTO COURTESY THE CLEAN WATER PARTNERSHIP

The Clean Water Partnership (CWP) team members start grading operations and construction planning for Nine Pond project in Hyattsville, MD. The CWP leads the efforts behind this stormwater infrastructure project, utilizing local businesses including Bald Eagle Partners, Soltesz, D & F Construction Company, SMI Environmental Site Services, Tina Boyd & Associates and CWP Mentor Protege Program Cohort 2 graduates, Clinton Sewer Experts, Inc. and Arya Civil, LLC.

Since 2015, the CWP has completed nearly 170 individual projects treating more than 4,500 impervious acres of public and private land in Prince George's

County. The CWP has exceeded its contractual goals with the county for stormwater improve-

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## Prince George's County Council Passes the Most Comprehensive Food Truck Legislation

Eliminates Food Truck Hubs and Allows Vendors to Operate in Numerous Locations Within the County

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGC Economic Development Corporation

LARGO, Md. (Nov. 17, 2022)—The Prince George's County Council recently passed the most comprehensive Food Truck legislation in the history of the County. The legislation (CB-053-2022) eliminates food truck hubs and allows vendors to operate in numerous locations within the County, with explicit permission from the property owner or property manager.

The Food Truck Committee was instrumental in escalating the concerns of accessibility for food truck operations in Prince George's County. The committee worked tirelessly with the Economic Development Organization, County agencies, and elected officials to advocate for the legislation that brings more food access to Prince George's County and economic development to our food and beverage service community.

Councilmember Jolene Ivey (Councilmanic District 5) spearheaded the effort, noting that the County's food truck hub system significantly limited operational access for the food truck community.

This initiative took nearly four years, with many meetings and negotiations by the County's Food Truck Hub Oversight Committee, various departments, agencies, and the County Executive's staff.

The new legislation, which takes effect in early December (45 days after passage of the legislation), allows, with permission from the property owner or manager, food trucks to operate in:

- Office and Business Parks
- Industrial and Employment Parks
- Commercial Areas and Retail Shopping Centers
- Properties of Faith-based Organizations, Membership Pools, and Non-Profit Organizations
- Agricultural Facilities such as Wineries, Farms, and Orchards (with adequate running potable water & sewage disposal)
- Food Halls, Farmers Markets, and Other Temporary Food Associated Venues
- Active Construction Sites
- County, State, and Federal Facilities Open to the Public
- Golf Courses and Dog Parks

All food truck vendors are still required to acquire a Mobile

Food Permit and have their vehicles inspected by the Fire and Health Departments prior to vending in the County. Operation of food trucks in any public right-of-way not expressly authorized by the legislation is still strictly prohibited.

To kick off this new legislation, a public event will be held at a later date to welcome back local food truck vendors, many whose sales were dramatically affected by the COVID Pandemic.

"The passage of this historic legislation is great step in supporting the entrepreneurial spirit of our Food Truck community by expanding the vending opportunities in the County," said David Iannucci, President and CEO, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation. Our vendors seek to live, work and play in the County they love, and this legislation provides the pathway to success for our local business. A healthy, thriving food truck community is an integral part of a solid pipeline of commercial development with our food service providers and creates an amenity destination for our county residents."

For more information on licensing your Mobile Food Truck in Prince George's County, please go to Food Service Facility Categories | Prince George's County, MD ([princegeorgescountymd.gov](http://princegeorgescountymd.gov))

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 EDC provides to local companies, visit [www.pgcdec.com](http://www.pgcdec.com).

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# TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

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

### Morningside honors Boy Scout Troop 1237 for beautifying the Town sign

Boy Scout Troop 1237 came to Morningside the evening of Nov. 15 to receive Certificates for their work on the sign in front of the Municipal Center. Each Scout was presented a Certificate. An additional Certificate was given the Troop, to be posted in their Scout meeting room.

The Matthew P. Rosch Municipal Center sign was designed and erected by Morningside Council Member James O. Ealey in May 1998. On Oct. 1, 2022, the Town rededicated the Center to Matt and his wife Virginia. Plaques bearing "In memory of Matthew & Virginia Rosch for their contributions to the Town of Morningside" will be attached to benches near the memorial.

For Brian Doyle's Eagle Project, the Eagle Scouts Troop 1237, of Clinton, took on the task of sprucing up the area. They added mulch, flowers and two benches. The plaques will be added later.

Matthew Rosch is honored for his years in the Town as Councilman, Mayor and Police Chief. He was Chief the night he died suddenly in 1976. Virginia was active, too, especially with Mrs. Smith's Morningside Kindergarten and with the Boy Scouts.

Drive by the town hall, 6901 Ames Street, and admire their handiwork.

### Town of Morningside

Breakfast with Santa is coming up Saturday, Dec. 10, starting at 9 a.m. at the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department. There'll be a pancake breakfast, entertainment, Santa Secret Shop and a visit and gift from Santa himself, all for \$7.00 per person. (Santa Secret Shop is not included in admission, but all its items will be \$2 each.)

Morningside is sponsoring a Food & Toy Drive to support three local families in the area. If you wish to donate a non-perishable food item, new toy or a cash donation, you can bring it to the Town office Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Dec. 21.

Hall rental at the Morningside Municipal Center is booming; if you want to reserve, call soon to the town hall. Their rental contract is being revamped

and they will not be accepting reservations from January through March 2023. For more Morningside information, call 301-736-2300.

### Neighbors & other good people

Clara Cole Drumming, 96, of Suitland, died Nov. 3. Survivors include her daughter Pamela Chesley, six grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren; her sister Izzetta Callahan and brother Steward Cole. Visitation was at Marshall-March Funeral Home with burial at Lincoln Memorial Cemetery, Suitland.

In response to my story on our local VFW, Jody Nyers wrote, "I remember VFW Post 9619 fondly as we marched along Suitland Road when I was a Morningside Majorette oh so many years ago."

I was pleased to hear from Ella Ennis, a good friend from our days when Ella and Bob and Jack and I worked with County Exec Larry Hogan Sr. She told me their daughter Robyn Ennis Riddle is in her 6th year as a District Court Judge in Calvert County. She closed with, "I miss my Bob every day as I am sure you do Jack, but we were all blessed with long and happy marriages and many, many memories." She's right.

My son Mike McHale and his wife Sandy did indeed come to town. You might have seen them taking their daily mile-long walk around Morningside. By the time this column is published, they will have collected their dog Juno at son David's house in Denver and will be back home in El Paso, Texas.

### Places to go and things to do

Hand dancing at VFW 9619, Morningside, is over for this year, but will resume in January, Sundays at 4 p.m.

ICE! is back at the Gaylord National Resort Nov. 25 after a two-year hiatus. This beloved holiday tradition at the Gaylord uses more than 2 million pounds of ice to tell the amusing holiday classic, "A Christmas Story." The event runs through Dec. 31. Fees vary; for information call 1-301-965-4000.

### Changing landscape

Peace Cross was built in 1925 to honor local servicemen who died in

WWI action overseas. It has endured lightning, flooding, and battles over ownership and location. But it still stands in Bladensburg, in the middle of a busy highway median at the intersection of Baltimore Avenue and Bladensburg Road. It has been restored and wrapped with new pink marble, and on Veterans Day it was rededicated, remembering the 49 fallen soldiers from Prince George's County whose names are inscribed.

The Chesapeake Bay may soon join the list of America's most treasured parks and natural landscapes under a measure backed by two members of Congress (Sen. Van Hollen and Rep. Sarbanes). The legislation would ease the way towards federal funding to conserve the body of water, promote tourism and expand public access.

### Animal Report

At the U.S. National Arboretum in NE Washington, Mr. President, Washington's most famous bald eagle, has had a busy love life. But he's getting ready to try fatherhood again after First Lady flew the coop. His new Lotus (or Lady of the United States) has started rebuilding their nest way up a 100-foot tulip popular tree just off New York Avenue. If they're successful, eaglets could hatch in the spring.

If you're interested in those two Cheetah cubs born Oct. 3 to mother Amani at the National Zoo, you can follow their progress on the Zoo's Cheetah Cub Cam.

During November, you can adopt a dog with the special adoption rate of only \$10. View adoptable dogs at [www.princegeorgespet4us.com](http://www.princegeorgespet4us.com) or call 301-780-7200. For dogs that require spay or neuter services, the price is \$125 plus the \$10 pet license fee.

### Remembering movies at the Biograph

Back in the golden days when I was a regular at the small artsy theaters in Washington, my favorite was the Circle Theatre, on Pennsylvania Avenue. Almost as good was the Biograph in Georgetown. I remember seeing Jean

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## Around the County

### M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Board Announces New Web Platform to View Weekly Meetings

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Nov. 15, 2022)—The Prince George's County Planning Board (Planning Board) of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) announced today that the agency will be updating the public web portal that is used to view the Prince George's County Planning Board's weekly meetings and the Prince George's County Planning Department's Subdivision and Development Review Committee bi-weekly meetings. Effective Thursday, December 15, 2022, viewers may visit <https://www.mncppc.org/883/Watch-Meetings> to access the link to the Granicus platform to watch the live stream of meetings, view videos of past meetings, and access or download agendas and supporting documents. The platform update is necessary for continued maximum compatibility, transparency, security, and ADA compliance.

"For more than a decade, M-NCPPC has offered video viewings of the weekly Prince George's County Planning Board meetings to inform County residents and stakeholders on land use cases and development applications," said Peter A. Shapiro, Chair of the Prince George's County Planning Board. "Residents and stakeholders will continue to have easy access to watch the Planning Board's weekly meetings and be able to view or download agendas, staff reports, presentations, and supporting documents via their computer, smartphone, or tablet at any time from their remote locations."

Archived videos of meetings prior to December 15, 2022, will continue to be stored and posted online. To view videos of past meetings, the public may access the link from the agency's website or view on the Planning Department's YouTube page (<https://www.youtube.com/user/PGPlanning>). After December 15, 2022, the former IQM2 platform (<http://mncppc.iqm2.com/Citizens/Default.aspx>) will no longer be the public portal to view live meetings of Prince George's County Planning Board or Subdivision and Development Review Committee.

For more information, call 301-952-3560.

### University of Maryland Capital Region Health Names Joel Sandler Chief Nursing Officer

LARGO, Md. (Nov. 17, 2022)—Joel A. Sandler, MBA, BSN, RN, FACVP, has been named UM Capital Region Health's (UM Capital) new Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer. Sandler, who has been serving in an interim role, will have oversight of all nursing practices for inpatient, ambulatory, perioperative and procedural services, as well as behavioral health and patient engagement.

Sandler brings more than 20 years of leadership experience to the role and most recently served as Senior Director of Heart and Vascular Institute and Critical Care at UM Capital.

"I am honored to serve in this capacity," Sandler said. "I look forward to leading UM Capital's nursing practice and making a positive difference in the care we provide to our Prince George's County community."

Prior to arriving at UM Capital, Sandler served as Division Director of Heart and Vascular at George Washington University Hospital. He's also served as the Administrative Director of Cardiology at Florida Hospital in Orlando and Endovascular Center Administrative Director at The Methodist Hospital in Houston.

"Joel is a consummate professional and a great addition to our senior leadership team," said Nathaniel Richardson, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer of UM Capital. "His commitment to the field of nursing and efforts to improve efficiencies will make UM Capital an even stronger organization."

Sandler earned his Bachelor of Science in both Sports Medicine and in nursing from the University of Delaware and Master of Business Administration from Texas A&M Executive MBA Program. In addition, he is a fellow with the Alliance of Cardiovascular Professionals and currently is a pending Lean Six Sigma Green Belt.

### Bowie Baysox Renew Stadium Lease With M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County

RIVERDALE, Md. (Nov. 16, 2022)—The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's (M-NCPPC) Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County is pleased to announce the renewal of the Bowie Baysox lease at Prince George's Stadium. The new ten-year lease was approved by the Prince George's County Planning Board on October 27, 2022. The lease commences on January 1, 2023 and runs through 2032.

"We are thrilled to enter this agreement with the Baysox to continue providing the beloved sport of baseball to the residents of Prince George's County," stated Peter Shapiro, Chair of the Prince George's County Planning Board. "The ten-year lease will continue to generate support for local businesses and provide a significant impact on the County's economic growth. We look forward to hosting residents and visitors as we root for our home team and enjoy America's favorite pastime for years to come."

The agreement will allow the Department to further develop the future of Prince George's Stadium and enhance economic development opportunities in the County. Priorities include how to best utilize the space for the Baysox, high schools, showcases, and more. Department programs at the stadium have included:

- Doing Something Right
- Relax, Dine, and Un-Wine with Us
- Drive-in movie nights
- Parks and Rec Cares
- Negro League Legends Game

"We are honored to have a new decade-long lease with the M-NCPPC at Prince George's Stadium and look forward to continuing to provide great baseball, affordable family entertainment, and expanding partnerships with Prince George's County and the surrounding communities," said Greg Baroni, CEO and Principal General Partner, Attain Sports & Entertainment and owner of the Baysox. "As a Maryland resident of more than 35 years, I have deep roots in the region and am committed to expanding community engagement, focusing on outstanding customer service, driving innovation, investing in the professional development of our employees, and improving the game-day experience for our fans."

Double-A affiliate of the Baltimore Orioles, the Bowie Baysox have called the M-NCPPC Prince George's Stadium home for 29 years. The 2023 home season begins on Tuesday, April 11 at 7:05 p.m. against the Akron RubberDucks, an affiliate of the Cleveland Guardians. Season and group tickets are now available for the 2023 season. For more information, call 301-805-6000 or visit us online at [www.baysox.com](http://www.baysox.com).

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

### PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN CAMPAIGNED AT BOWIE STATE

President Joe Biden and first Lady Jill Biden came to Bowie State University on the eve of the election Monday evening to support Wes Moore and other Maryland candidates on the ballot in Tuesday's midterm elections. Biden warned the crowd of over 1,700 that democracy was at risk and they must vote for candidates who will protect it.

Moore won his contest and will become Maryland's first African American Governor when he takes the oath of office in January with incoming Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller, the first Indian American to hold office in Maryland. Students who attended the rally were a part of university history.

"It was a totally difference atmosphere," said Darryl Thorpe, president of BSU's NAACP chapter. "Wes Moore has been on campus before, but this was monumental and historic with President Biden visiting Bowie State to support Moore, Senator Chris Van Hollen, Anthony Brown, Angela Alsobrooks, and other candidates on the ballot. The good news is that all the candidates at the rally seeking office won their elections."

The candidates spoke about protecting democracy in the election and consistently made appeals to the students to vote. BSU President Aminta Breaux reinforced the appeal and rallied attendees to vote. "We're voting tomorrow, right?" said Breaux. "Your vote is precious, almost sacred. I feel optimistic about the future of Maryland due to the election results," said Thorpe. "I believe that Wes Moore will stay true to the campaign promises of supporting women's right to choose to have child, increasing education accessibility from kindergarten through 12th grade, and his emphasis on lowering the crime rate in Baltimore City and across Maryland".

Governor-elect Wes Moore is a Rhodes Scholar, Afghan war veteran, a best-selling author and will become the state's 63rd governor.

MEDIA CONTACT: David Thompson, [dthompson@bowiestate.edu](mailto:dthompson@bowiestate.edu), 301-860-4311

### WATKINS REGIONAL PARK FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Festival of Lights at Watkins Regional Park, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774, Friday, November 25, 2022-Sunday January 1, 2023 from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. All ages. Price: \$10 per car/\$15 at gate, \$20 per van/limo. Watkins Regional Park brings a little twinkle to the holidays with a drive-thru event featuring dazzling displays of more than 2.5 million lights throughout the park, culminating in a giant, 54-foot LED musical tree.

The festival is free for Prince George's County residents on Christmas Day. Canned good donations for local food banks

are encouraged. Horse-drawn carriage rides are offered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 5-9 p.m., with two slots per hour.

### LET'S CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS TOGETHER

On Saturday, December 24, 2022 "Christmas Eve" at St. Philip's Episcopal Church Baden, 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland let's celebrate Christmas together with Rev. Tyrone Johnson. It is a community event. "Jesus is the reason for the season."

We will be having Holy Eucharist Service at 10 a.m. You, me, the children, and all. Followed by Brunch with Christmas music, movies, family pictures, games, fun and cheer. RSVP with numbers for eating and for food accountability to 301-888-1536. Come on out and have fun with us.

### FIELD HOUSE

Highlighting the Field House at the Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex is the 200-meter, Mondo SuperX Performance, 6-lane, indoor track. The facility sponsors a number of All-Comers meets throughout the year. One of the few indoor track and field venues in the region, the Field House boasts the highest quality space and equipment for all indoor track and field events.

The Field House is designed to make track meets and practices easy to manage, participate in, and watch. An indoor throwing cage gives participants a chance to refine their techniques, and multiple areas for high jump, long jump, and pole vault allow field events to run quickly.

Spectator seating for 3,000 gives an unobstructed view of the entire venue. The open, indoor area of the 75,000 square-foot Field House lends itself to non-track events. Overhead netting can be dropped down to partition off the infield from the track. The Field House is also a great space for exhibits and trade shows.

The Field House regularly hosts beginner and intermediate track classes that promote skill development. Youth track camps are offered throughout the summer. The Field House is a great location for other events including grappling, cheer-leading and ROTC/ drill competitions.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to my husband Robert Owen Johnson, Jr. for receiving the University of Maryland National Alumni Association Alumni Service Award (2021-2022 Membership Year).

*Happy Thanksgiving Everyone*

# COMMUNITY

## GROUNDBREAKING STUDY SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

### Can Memory Loss Related to Alzheimer's Disease Be Delayed or Prevented?

By DR. THOMAS OBISESAN  
Alzheimer's Therapeutic Research Institute

Millions of people in America 65 and older live with Alzheimer's disease, and the number is rising quickly. According to the Alzheimer's Association, more than 8,900 people in Washington, DC have the disease. For people of color, the incidence of Alzheimer's disease is even higher. Hispanics or Latinos and Black or African Americans are especially at risk, with incidence rates 1.5 to two times higher than whites, respectively.

To help find answers, Howard University College of Medicine researchers are conducting an Alzheimer's research study funded by the National Institutes of Health and Eisai. The AHEAD Study is the first research study that aims to help prevent Alzheimer's disease by enrolling participants as young as 55, who have no memory problems, using a tailored approach to treatment. The study looks at an investigational treatment aimed at delaying memory decline in people up to 20 years before the symptoms of

Alzheimer's disease appear, with the treatment dose based on participants' brain scan results. Discovering a treatment that targets brain changes early means that one day, doctors may be able to prevent memory loss.

This groundbreaking study needs volunteers, ages 55–80, who may be at increased risk of memory loss associated with Alzheimer's disease. Diverse participants are encouraged to join the AHEAD Study so researchers can learn more about why people of color are at higher risk of Alzheimer's disease. In Washington, DC, emphasis is being placed on enrolling participants who have traditionally been underrepresented in research studies.

If interested in learning more about the AHEAD Study, please visit [AHEADStudy.org](http://AHEADStudy.org). For more information about the AHEAD Study enrolling in Washington, DC at Howard University, call Jillian Turner at 202-865-1905 or email [jillian.turner@howard.edu](mailto:jillian.turner@howard.edu).

## Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation Fall 2022 "TheBus" Service Changes

By PAULETTE L. JONES  
DPW&T

LARGO, Md. (Nov. 18, 2022)—The Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) Office of Transportation adjusted six (6) "TheBus" route schedules effective November 14, 2022, to improve overall efficiency in the transit service. The goal of the fall service changes is to improve service reliability while addressing specific areas of gaps and deficiencies throughout TheBus routes in the County.

Prince George's County "TheBus" Fall 2022 Service Changes will allow the DPW&T's Office of Transportation to continue to rebound from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. To date the current ridership levels have recovered to about 50 percent of its pre-pandemic levels and will continue to grow as commuters return to in-person work.

"As DPW&T implements the new fall service changes we hope to eliminate the reoccurring challenges previously faced within TheBus routes," said DPW&T Director Michael D. Johnson. "With the adjusted routes DPW&T will be able to deplete specific challenges in frequency and peak service."

The six (6) routes DPW&T Office of Transportation will be targeting are:

**Route 15X** (Greenbelt Metro to NASA) - Route Reactivation

This route was deactivated due to COVID. With ridership increasing, route 15X is set to reactivate with enhanced options of a 2-vehicle shuttle service operating during peak service hours.

- 40-minute frequency 6–11:05 a.m. and 3–8:05 p.m.
- 2-vehicle shuttle service during peak service hours in the morning and evening

**Route 34** – Midday Service Re-activation

Midday service for Route 34 will also be reinstated. The route will run 6–9 a.m. and 3–6 p.m. at 15-minute intervals. The 9 a.m.–3 p.m. midday service will run at 30-minute intervals due to low ridership at that time.

**Route 51x** – Enhance Service Frequency

This route will be enhanced with

3 dedicated vehicles in an effort to resolve reliability concerns.

- 8-minute frequency between 6 a.m.–6 p.m.
- 3 vehicles all day to maintain frequency at 8 minutes

**Route 18** – Takoma Langley/Addison Road Station Route Adjustment

The schedule adjustment, in the spring, improved on-time performance in the Purple Line Corridor by 6 to 13 percent. DPW&T will be adding additional time to provide improvements to the corridor and improve late arrivals. We anticipate a decrease in late arrivals (currently under 50 percent) within the time-frame of 3 p.m.–6:30 p.m. with these changes.

- Increase run time by 3 minutes between 6 a.m.–3 p.m.
- Increase run time by 8 minutes between 3–6:30 p.m.

**Route 21** – New Carrollton Station/County Courthouse Route Adjustment

DPW&T Transit staff anticipate a decrease in late arrivals (currently at 34% average) within the MD-214 and Brightseat Road corridor and an increase of on-time performance with these changes.

- Increase run time by 3 minutes between 6 a.m.–3 p.m.
- Increase run time by 7 minutes between 3–6:30 p.m.

**South County Circulator pilot – Service Cancellation**

The South County Circulator pilot will be eliminated. DPW&T will provide enhanced PGC Link service in replacement to meet the service needs. Affected communities include Oxon Hill, Fort Washington, and Temple Hills. Senior facilities that will no longer be served include Trinity Terrace Apartments, Mrs. Philipines Apartments, Woodside Village Apartments, Chestnut Oaks Apartments, Fort Washington Manor, and Fort Washington Adventist Apartments. PGC Link will, however, provide expanded access to the Padgett's Corner/Camp Springs area.

To learn more on the fall service changes follow us on social media @PGCountyDPWT on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. You may also visit our website: Public Works & Transportation | Prince George's County, MD ([princegeorgescountymd.gov](http://princegeorgescountymd.gov)) or call us at 301-952-3700.

## Mt. Calvary Adult Church Choir Singing at the Pre-show to the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on the Ellipse of the White House

Who: The adult choir of Mount Calvary Catholic Church in Forestville will sing at the Pre-Show of the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on the White House Ellipse. Choir Director is Gail Ruffin.

When: **Wednesday, November 30, 2022, 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Where: The Ellipse of the White House, 15th and E St NW, Washington, DC 20500

Performance: The Mount Calvary Choir will sing an array of traditional Christmas songs both religious and non-religious. Additionally, Santa will also be there to entertain the crowd. The Mount Calvary adult church choir and Santa Claus will entertain the crowd before the star-studded show of actors and singers including the President and the First Lady.

## NY Times Bestseller & Bowie Resident Rabia Chaudry Headlines 2022–2023 Prince George's County Reads

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (Nov. 18, 2022)—Prince Georgians are invited to participate in a countywide shared reading experience this winter and spring. The second annual Prince George's County Reads initiative, co-presented by the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), Prince George's County Office of Human Rights (PGCOHR), and University of Maryland's Center for Literary and Comparative Studies, is an opportunity for community members to develop a greater understanding for the cultural diversity in the Prince George's County by engaging in discussions and special programs with neighbors. The featured book for 2022/2023 is "Fatty Fatty Boom Boom: A Memoir of Food, Fat, and Family," by New York Times bestselling author, attorney, and Bowie, Maryland resident Rabia Chaudry.

"PGCMLS and its partners are thrilled to celebrate the accomplishments of Bowie-based author and advocate Rabia Chaudry with the selection of her book for Prince George's County Reads," said Nicholas A. Brown, Acting Co-Chief Executive Officer, PGCMLS. "Her memoir provides countless opportunities for local readers to advance their awareness of important issues, including immigrant identity, gender, and body image, that have an impact on daily life in Prince George's County."

Chaudry's new book chronicles her Pakistani immigrant family's journey to the United States, her relationship with her body image, and how food and culture are strongly intertwined. The 2022/2023 Prince George's County Reads series kicks off with an author talk and signing by Rabia Chaudry at the Greenbelt Branch Library on Tuesday, December 6 at 6 pm. She will be in conversation with Renée Battle-Brooks, Executive Director, PGCOHR, and Kyla Hanington, Public Outreach and Engagement Division Manager, PGCOHR. Community members are also invited to participate in virtual book dis-

cussions on January 26, March 30, and May 25 at 7 p.m. ET.

Culinary historian and scholar Michael W. Twitty notes "Rabia Chaudry has given us the next chapter in the story of how food shapes self and how self shapes food. Here is an American, a South Asian woman writing at the intersection of food, tradition, gender, the body and pressures without and the journey within. This is an important and savory work."

"Fatty Fatty Boom Boom" is available for borrowing through PGCMLS in print, eBook, and eAudiobook formats. Copies of the book are available for purchase through Mahogany Books.

### Event Listings

**Rabia Chaudry on "Fatty Fatty Boom Boom" Author Talk & Signing**

2022/2023 Prince George's County Reads Kickoff Event, Tuesday, December 6, 2022, 6–7:30 p.m., Greenbelt Branch Library, 11 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770, Free, registration recommended: [pgcmls.info/events](http://pgcmls.info/events) | Livestream on YouTube. Books available for purchase at the event through the PGCMLS Foundation.

**Prince George's County Reads Countywide Book Discussion Series (Virtual)**

Free, registration recommended, Thursday, January 26, 2023, 7–8 p.m.: Topic: Body Image, Thursday, March 30, 2023, 7–8 p.m.: Topic: Women's Rights, Thursday, May 25, 2023, 7–8 p.m.: Topic: Immigrant Experience

Rabia Chaudry is a Bowie, Maryland-based bestselling author, attorney, and podcast producer/host. She is widely known for her first book, "Adnan's Story," and work as a co-producer and co-host of several investigative podcasts, including *The 45th*, *The Hidden Djinn*, *Nighty Night*, and *Undisclosed*. She is executive producer of HBO's "The Case Against Adnan Syed" and her podcast "Undisclosed" has over 400 million downloads, leading to the exoneration of many wrongfully incarcerated individuals. Her distinguished career as a scholar

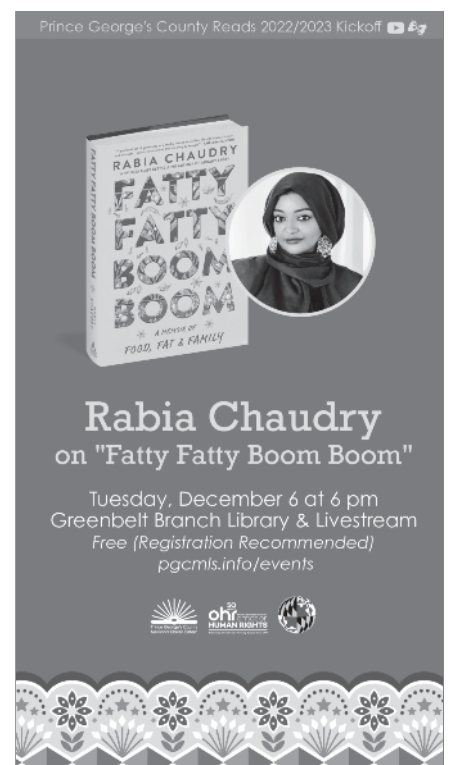


IMAGE COURTESY PGCMLS

and advocate has included roles as an Aspen Institute/Anti-Defamation League Civil Society Fellow, Truman National Security Project Fellow, and U.S. Institute of Peace Fellow. She holds a law degree from George Mason School of Law, which led her to a legal practice in the areas of immigration and civil rights law.

About Prince George's County Reads: Each year, Prince Georgians are invited to participate in a countywide read to learn and discuss historical or contemporary topics that are relevant to everyday life in Prince George's County. By sharing a reading journey, community members can develop new points of connection with each other. Featured books and authors are selected by the Prince George's County Memorial Library System and Prince George's County Office of Human Rights.

2022/2023: "Fatty Fatty Boom Boom: A Memoir of Food, Fat, and Family" by Rabia Chaudry

2021/2022: "A Question of Freedom: The Families Who Challenged Slavery from the Nation's Founding to the Civil War" by William G. Thomas III

## Prince George's Community College Student Helps Launch New Voting App

By COURTNEY DAVIS  
Prince George's Community College

LARGO, Md. (Nov. 16, 2022)—Prince George's Community College (PGCC) announced today that one of its students, Lemoni Conde, helped launch Voting Buddy, a new web app designed to assist voters in their decision-making for elections.

In Voting Buddy, users start by ranking categories of voting issues based on importance, such as foreign policy, healthcare, civil rights, and environmental issues. Voting Buddy then calculates those rankings into a personalized report that identifies the user's political ideology. After entering their state and zip code, users can find like-minded candidates in their electoral district who share the same political beliefs. Voting Buddy currently has over 1,300 politicians in its database, and users in less than 10 minutes can complete its ranking and matching process.

The web app was created by Dwight L. Williams, Ph.D., P.E., a former professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he was ap-

pointed to the Department of Nuclear Science and Engineering and the Department of Political Science. "It is the analytical system that I use to pick candidates," says Dr. Williams, mentioning that the development process took over 10 years. "I just want people to cast informed votes and feel comfortable that they're selecting candidates that are best fits for them."

For Ms. Conde, getting involved in Voting Buddy's launch was an opportunity to explore one of her biggest passions. "I was inspired to become a part of the Voting Buddy team because I love politics," says Ms. Conde, who is majoring in elementary education. "When I took a government class at Prince George's Community College, it reignited my passion for politics and government. I was then able to get an internship related to politics which allowed me to see a new side to elections, and I realized there needed to be a change."

Ms. Conde has played a significant role in launching Voting Buddy. She created and currently manages all of Voting Buddy's social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, and made

an explainer video with narration for new users. Her efforts to spread awareness of the app have been very successful—for the 2022 midterm election cycle, Voting Buddy received over 20,000 page views. The web app has also received visitors from India, the U.K., and the Netherlands, indicating to the team that people abroad are interested in learning more about American politics.

"Lemoni demonstrated her initiative and political savvy by developing the first Voting Buddy explainer video completely on her own," says Dr. Williams. "We have relied on her to communicate all of Voting Buddy's new features as they come online. She has been instrumental in making Voting Buddy what it is today."

As Voting Buddy expands its online presence, Dr. Williams and Ms. Conde remain excited to share this innovative new experience with voters everywhere. "I believe Voting Buddy is the new wave of the future," says Ms. Conde. "When Mr. Dwight told me about the concept and the vision, I knew that this would have a positive impact on the world, and I wanted to get in on the action."

# COMMUNITY

## Council Announces Expansion of Special Partnership Grant With Venture Philanthropy Partners

*Strategic Initiative Enhances Capacity of Youth-Serving Nonprofits in the County*

By ANGELA ROUSON  
Prince George's County Council Media

LARGO, Md. (Nov. 15, 2022)—The Prince George's County Council and Venture Philanthropy Partners (VPP) have announced the continued expansion of the Ready for Work Nonprofit Capacity Building Initiative, an intensive three-year program and investment to strengthen nonprofits to better serve youth across Prince George's County developed to help students become college and career-ready adults. Nearly \$10M has been raised for the Ready for Work initiative in partnership with Prince George's County.

Following a competitive process, three additional nonprofits in the County have been identified as organizations specifically focused on serving children and youth through early childhood development, mid-

dle school, and high school with kindergarten readiness, academic achievement, middle and high school completion, post-secondary preparation, career readiness and healthy behaviors.

FY 2023 nonprofit recipients BCAUSEICAN, Art Works Now, and The L.E.E.P. to College Foundation will join previous recipients Liberty's Promise, Side by Side, Ivy Community Charities, WeTATI, The Training Source, College and Career Pathways, Inc., Community Youth Advance, First Generation College Bound, the Foundation for the Advancement of Music and Education, Inc. (FAME), Joe's Movement Emporium and End Time Harvest Ministries as a part of the Ready for Work Nonprofit Capacity Building Initiative.

Council Chair Calvin S. Hawkins, II, says continued expansion of the Ready for Work Nonprofit Capacity Building Program reaffirms the Council's commitment to support the County's nonprofit community.

"The Council is excited for the opportunity to again partner with VPP in support of nonprofits serving Prince George's County's young people, in a continuing commitment to improve their lives. Especially as our communities continue to address post-pandemic challenges, this critical and timely investment will assist nonprofits and encourage important collaboration in their work to provide the County's youth with the best services and resources. We congratulate the selected participants and look forward to their progress."

Carol Thompson Cole, VPP's President and CEO remarked, "VPP is excited to continue partnering with the Prince George's County Council on this important program, especially as so many children and youth are still experiencing the negative impact of the pandemic on their academic and social-emotional development. These nonprofits are a critical component of the social safety net."

Through the Ready for Work program, nonprofits will be provided the opportunity to strengthen grant writing, management and report writing skills and capacities to become high-performing organizations. Each of the participating nonprofits will compete for mini grants to further enhance select organizational and programmatic capacities. The program will also focus on strengthening the boards of the participating organizations.

## New La Plata Court Help Center Opens in Charles County

By PRESS OFFICER  
Maryland Judiciary

LA PLATA, Md. (Nov. 17, 2022)—On Monday Nov. 14, members of the Maryland Judiciary, representatives from the Charles County Board of County Commissioners, and Maryland Center for Legal Assistance (MCLA), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Maryland Legal Aid, celebrated the grand opening of the new court help center in La Plata. The center officially opened in July and began offering walk-in services to self-represented litigants. This court help center is the second all-civil court help center, after Frederick. Although this center is in the circuit court, litigants with District Court matters can also find assistance at the center.

"Being able to provide high-quality legal help is an important component of ensuring access to justice

for self-represented litigants across the state and now, in southern Maryland," said Chief Judge Matthew J. Fader, Court of Appeals of Maryland. "Within its first four months of operation, the help center has provided more than 670 instances of service, and it is off to a great start. Help centers are an important resource in advancing the Maryland Judiciary's mission to provide fair, efficient, and effective justice for all."

Last year, Maryland court help centers offered more than 180,000 instances of service to self-represented litigants. The new La Plata Court Help Center, which is on the lower level of the Circuit Court for Charles County, is open Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., providing in-person legal assistance to unrepresented litigants.

"This help center is a welcome addition to our community, and we are proud to have given so many

instances of service since opening its doors this summer," said Administrative Judge H. James West, Circuit Court for Charles County. "The success of our court help center is a strong collaboration between the Maryland Judiciary and the Maryland Legal Aid."

Through local court help centers, Maryland residents can get assistance with civil legal matters, including landlord-tenant, family law issues such as divorce, custody, child support, and guardianship, expungement, consumer matters including debt collection, the return of property, domestic violence and peace orders, and foreclosure. Additionally, court help center attorneys may assist with completing court forms, teaching individuals how to file court documents, prepare for court or mediation, and to better understand court documents.

"It really does take a village to have an idea and watch the talented employees from the legal system come together and make the plan come to fruition," said Chief Judge John P. Morrissey, District Court of Maryland. "Last year, over 80 percent of the walk-in visitors were assisted in 30 minutes or less proving that we can deliver these types of services effectively

in a short period of time. We know the La Plata court help center will continue to support those metrics here in southern Maryland."

"We are thankful the Maryland Judiciary has opened a court help center here in Charles County," said Charles County Commissioner President Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq. "We see how important this service is for our residents who do not have representation which provides access to the courts and helps level the playing field."

"Many Marylanders living in poverty are unable to get the legal assistance and representation they need and deserve resulting in a tremendous justice gap. These court help centers help fill that justice gap," said Vicki Schultz, executive director for Maryland Legal Aid. "Maryland court help centers are an innovative way to provide critical help and serve as a national example for providing access to justice."

The Judiciary also runs a statewide center that serves litigants remotely via phone, live chat, and email, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. until 8 p.m. For more information on the Maryland Courts Help Centers, visit: <https://mdcourts.gov/helpcenter>

### Hoyer from A1

Budget Committee and Judiciary Committee.

He is 52 years old, much younger than the current leadership.

Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Mississippi, who is the chairman of the Jan. 6 Select Committee, has worked with Hoyer in the House for almost 30 years and has valued his leadership.

He told Capital News Service that he's relieved that there isn't a "dog fight" as to who will lead the party next and that Democrats are making a smooth transition to younger members in leadership.

"I'm glad that we leave with an understanding that it's time to pass the torch," Thompson said.

Democrats lost control of the House in this election, so Jeffries would be serving

as a minority leader—and the first Black party leader in American history—for the next two years. However, Hoyer thinks that Jeffries will be speaker after the next election cycle.

"He is a skilled and capable leader who will help us win back the majority in 2024 as we strive to continue delivering on our promises to the American people," Hoyer said.

Hoyer will still continue his work in the House serving Maryland's 5th District.

"I do intend to continue my service in Congress and return to the Appropriations Committee as a member to complete work in which I have been involved for many years, including my focus on education, health care, and investing in America's productive manufacturing capacity to create more jobs and opportunities for our people," Hoyer said in his letter.

He said he also thrives fighting for equality, especially focusing on voting rights and civil rights.

"I have been honored to serve alongside Nancy Pelosi, whose tenure as Speaker was both historic and extraordinarily productive," Hoyer said.

Pelosi and Hoyer will still play a significant role in the House, even though they are no longer in leadership, according to Thompson.

"I know the next crop of leaders will weigh heavily on their experience and knowledge," Thompson said.

Hoyer said he looks forward to providing his guidance to the next generation of Democratic leaders.

"I am honored to serve with you, and I look forward to what we will surely accomplish together in the years ahead," Hoyer said.

Bring a little twinkle to your holidays at this spectacular drive-through event. Come celebrate the season with the Department of Parks and Recreation.

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

### Lights from A1

son when the Winter Festival of Lights begins. The festival gets better every year. There's always something new to see," exclaims Bill Tyler, Director of the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation. "This year we are happy to again offer horse-drawn carriage rides which were so popular in 2021. We want to ensure the best possible experience for visitors and their families this holiday," says Tyler.

Drive through three miles of whimsical lights and celebrate the magic of the season from the comfort of your vehicle. This year's spectacular drive-through event features dazzling displays with more than 2.5 million LED lights throughout the park and a giant, 54-foot LED musical tree. Please bring a canned good to donate to local food banks.

WHAT: 36th Annual Winter Festival of Lights

WHEN: Friday, November 25, 2022-Sunday, January 1, 2023, daily from 5-10 p.m.

WHERE: Watkins Regional Park, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774

COST: Admission fees based on vehicle type and method of payment

Online registration is encouraged. Purchase tickets in advance online and pay only \$10 for cars (\$15 standard admission). FREE admission on December 25, in appreciation to the residents of Prince George's County for their year-round support of the Department of Parks and Recreation programs. Preregistration for carriage rides is required, since availability is limited to Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Both are now available through <https://www.pgpc.com/742/Festival-of-Lights>.

### Flooding from A1

ments on school grounds, parks, municipal and private land and homeowner association properties and will maintain these acres over the next 30 years.

The CWP has also helped grow local business capacity by utilizing small, local and minority-owned businesses. Overall, 63 percent of the work being done on these projects is by county residents and 79 percent of projects are being done by local and disadvantaged, minority business enterprise businesses, exceeding the CWP's target goal by more than 30 percent and includes more than \$179 million in subcontracts.

"The Clean Water Partnership has been instrumental in demonstrating how we can effectively improve stormwater infrastructure combining public and private sector

know-how and expertise," said Corvias Managing Director Tim Toohey. "Through our collaborative efforts with our municipal partners and stakeholders, we are continuing to support local businesses across Prince George's County."

.....  
As a privately-owned company headquartered in Warwick, RI, Corvias partners with higher education and government institutions nationwide to solve their most essential systemic problems and create long-term, sustainable value through our unique approach to partnership. Corvias pursues the kinds of partnerships that materially and sustainably improve the quality of life for the people who call our communities home, purposefully choosing to partner with organizations who share our values and whose mission is to serve as the foundational blocks, or pil-

lars, of our nation. To learn more, please visit [Corvias.com](http://Corvias.com).

The Prince George's County and Corvias Community-Based Public-Private Partnership (CBP3), also called the Clean Water Partnership (CWP), is an agreement between County government and the private sector to retrofit over 4,000 acres of impervious surfaces using green stormwater infrastructure. This community-focused program works to address the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay, while simultaneously focusing on the needs of Prince George's County residents and local businesses. The CWP has received national recognition from the White House and EPA, as well as the National Resource Defense Council as a successful and innovative approach to better infrastructure.

## Statements on the Passing of Prince George's County Sheriff Melvin C. High

### Council Chair Calvin S. Hawkins, II Expresses Condolences

The entire Prince George's County Council was shocked and saddened to learn of the passing of Prince George's County Sheriff Melvin C. High. Our thoughts and prayers are for Sheriff High's entire family at this most difficult time, especially his beloved wife Brenda, and their daughter, Tracy.

We also extend condolences to the more than 300 deputies and civilians Sheriff High had responsibility for leading, managing and commanding to protect and serve the citizens of Prince George's County. We have all lost a leader, colleague and dear friend.

Preceding his service as Sheriff, Melvin High served as the appointed Chief of Police for Prince George's County, leading the nation's 32nd largest local Law Enforcement Agency in the delivery of basic law enforcement services to a Metropolitan County of nearly 900,000 residents and serving as a principal advisor on public safety.

A devoted public servant, Sheriff High has been recognized as the consummate law enforcement and criminal justice professional. He served and protected a grateful constituency and while his passing leaves an immense void in the lives of his family, colleagues, friends, and Prince Georgians, the impact of his life's work will endure for generations to come.

### State's Attorney Aisha N. Braveboy's Statement

I am saddened to hear of the sudden passing of our beloved Sheriff and my good friend, Melvin High. I became acquainted with Sheriff High in 2003 when I was tasked with getting him confirmed by the County Council as Chief of Police for Prince George's County. He has had an exemplary career in law enforcement, spanning several decades and various jurisdictions, becoming the elected Sheriff of Prince George's County in 2010. In that role, he successfully led and managed his department and spearheaded numerous crime prevention efforts to keep Prince George's County safe and provide hope for our future. For me, Sheriff High was a supporter, an advisor and a mentor. I will miss him as a colleague in law enforcement, but I know that his body of work and good deeds will live on. —November 17, 2022

## The Prince George's Post

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P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151  
Phone: 301-627-0900 • Legal Fax: 301-627-6260  
Email: [pgpost@gmail.com](mailto:pgpost@gmail.com)  
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<b>Publisher/Senior Editor</b> Legusta Floyd	<b>Editor</b> Lisa Duan
<b>General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager</b> Brenda Boice	<b>Administrative Assistant/ Billing</b> -
<b>Legal Advertising Assistant</b> Robin Boerckel	<b>Web Manager</b> Kylar Quisenberry

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# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## SBA Administrator Guzman Calls on Americans to “Shop Small®” on Small Business Saturday®, November 26, Across America

By JACK SPIRAKES, MPA  
U.S. Small Business Administration

WASHINGTON (Nov. 15, 2022)—Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman, head of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the voice in President Biden’s Cabinet for America’s 33 million small businesses, calls on Americans to “Shop Small” throughout this holiday season and on Small Business Saturday, which falls on November 26.

“As our economy continues to stabilize, it’s more important than ever that consumers shop and dine small during the holiday shopping season,” said Administrator Guzman. “We continue to see positive impacts and opportunities for our small business owners through President Biden’s economic agenda, and Small Business Saturday is another chance for us to further strengthen America’s entrepreneurs with our local and online spending and promotion.”

The Biden-Harris Administration has been aggressive in laying

the foundation for small business growth through the American Rescue Plan and the equitable implementation of SBA economic relief programs. Thanks to President Biden’s economic leadership, we saw a record number of Americans apply to start nearly 8.5 million new businesses—higher than any similar period on record.

Small Business Saturday, founded by American Express, is a day dedicated to supporting the diverse range of local businesses that create jobs, help boost the economy, and enhance neighborhoods around the country. According to American Express, the projected total reported spending among U.S. consumers who shopped at independent retailers and restaurants on Small Business Saturday last year hit a record high with an estimated \$23.3 billion<sup>1</sup>. The SBA has sponsored Small Business Saturday since 2011, and the Agency continues to help entrepreneurs leverage new opportunities with the 13th annual Small Business Saturday.

Small business owners look forward to another strong year, and the SBA is doing its part by expanding and retooling resources to

support all small business owners throughout their entrepreneurial journeys. For more information on SBA’s programs and services and to find an office near you, visit [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).

To learn more about Small Business Saturday, visit [www.sba.gov/saturday](http://www.sba.gov/saturday).

[1] The American Express 2021 Small Business Saturday Consumer Insights Survey was conducted by Teneo on behalf of American Express. The study is a nationally representative sample of 2,426 U.S. adults 18 years of age or older. The sample was collected using an email invitation and an online survey. The study gathered self-reported data and does not reflect actual receipts or sales. It was conducted anonymously on November 28, 2021. The survey has an overall margin of error of +/- 2.0%, at the 95% level of confidence. Projections are based on the current U.S. Census estimates of the U.S. adult population, ages 18 years and over.

### Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

## How Do I Avoid Pitfalls and Get Maximum Social Security?

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 turned 70 in June of this year and want to start receiving benefits. I am currently working full time as well. I want to set things up and get started in the most advantageous way so that my benefit is maximized even when I stop working. What are your recommendations for me to intelligently start the process and avoid any pitfalls? **Signed: Ready to Claim**

**Dear Ready to Claim:** Since you are past 70 years of age, you have already maximized your Social Security benefit based on your current lifetime earnings record—that occurred when you turned 70 in June. However, since you’re still working, Social Security will review your earnings every year (after last year’s income is received from the IRS) to see if your more recent earnings warrant a further increase to your monthly benefit. That you are still working shouldn’t deter you from claiming your Social Security benefit now, and you should ask for benefits to be paid retroactive to June when your current maximum benefit was attained. Doing so will start your benefits at the maximum amount you are entitled to at this time, and you can rest assured that SS will further increase your benefit annually if your current earnings call for it.

After your benefits start, the key to whether your benefit will increase depends on how your more recent earnings compare to the earnings originally used to compute your benefit when you claimed. Your benefit is based on the highest-earning 35 years over your lifetime, and for your current earnings to cause an increase they would need to be higher than one of those 35 years originally used. Be aware, however, that your earnings in past years were adjusted for inflation to compute your benefit, so your current earnings would need to be more than the inflation-adjusted previous earnings to cause a benefit increase. As an example, the inflated value of \$50,000 earned in 1990 is about \$105,000 in today’s dollars, and it is the indexed amount that must be exceeded to cause a benefit increase. In any case, if your current earnings exceed the indexed amount in any of the 35 years used to compute your benefit when you claimed, your benefit will be increased accordingly.

So, how do you start the process and avoid any pitfalls? You should apply for your benefits now and request benefits retroactive to the month you turned 70. Social Security will pay up to six months of retroactive benefits, so the pitfall is that waiting beyond six months past age 70 will result in lost money. If you like, they will pay you for a full six months retroactively now, but if that is earlier than the month you turned 70, doing so would result in payment less than your age 70 amount. To maximize, ask that your benefit-start-month be June 2022 and no earlier.

You can apply for your benefits by calling Social Security (1.800.772.1213) and scheduling an appointment to do so, or you can apply for your benefits online at [www.ssa.gov/retire](http://www.ssa.gov/retire). Applying online is by far the most efficient method, but you will need to first create your personal “my Social Security” online account, which is easy to do at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount).

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

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

## Bowie State’s Dr. Brown Named to 2023 Emerging Leaders Seminar Selection Committee

By DR. JOLISA WILLIAMS  
Bowie State University Athletics

BOWIE, Md. (Nov. 15, 2022)—Bowie State Athletics Academic Enhancement Advisor Dr. Marie Brown has been selected to be on the Emerging Leaders Seminar Participant selection committee announced earlier this month. Dr. Brown previously served as a participant in the Emerging Leaders Seminar in 2016.

“I am honored to serve on the committee to select the next group of emerging leaders and future athletic administrators,” said Dr. Brown. “The wealth of knowledge I gained when I was selected to attend is valuable and set the ground work for success.”

A Bowie State alum, Dr. Brown is in

her fifth year as the Academic Enhancement Advisor at Bowie State. In her role, she works closely and is an advocate for student success through the academic lifecycle of the student-athletes by achieving success with innovative courses, programs, services and student-centered initiatives.

The seminar is a three-day virtual program that educates, develops, and connects the selected participants and equips attending young professionals with the skills necessary to accelerate their career progression in college sports. This professional development event provides leadership, educational and transitional programming for current graduate assistants and interns from NCAA member schools, conference offices, and affiliate organizations. Along

with other committee members, Dr. Brown will help ensure that the participant base is a strong group of individuals that are enthused by the opportunity to develop professionally and personally. Additionally, the committee will assist the participant’s preparation to implement what they learn at the Seminar on their respective campus or at their conference office, as well as eager to return and lead discussions with student-athletes, coaches, and fellow administrators.

This year’s program will take place virtually February 8–10, 2023.

For the most up-to-date information on Bowie State University Athletics and its 13 varsity sports teams, please visit [www.bsbulldogs.com](http://www.bsbulldogs.com).

## Mark J. Smith Appointed Newest WSSC Water Commissioner Representing Prince George’s County

*Experienced Leader in Public Health, Disaster Recovery and Rural Development in Africa*

By LUIS MAYA  
WSSC Water

LAUREL, Md. (Nov. 16, 2022)—WSSC Water Commissioners welcomed Mark J. Smith as the newest member of the Board of Commissioners. A 22-year veteran of the American Red Cross, Smith was appointed to serve as Commissioner by Prince George’s County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and unanimously approved by the Prince George’s County Council on October 24.

Before joining the American Red Cross, Smith worked for Africare, the largest minority-led development organization focused on rural development in Africa. His 10-year tenure took him to 36 sub-Saharan countries, where he led multi-disciplinary teams focused on maternal and child health, food security, HIV/AIDS programming and numer-

ous post-conflict interventions.

“My background in disaster relief and rural development in Africa helped reinforce a deep-rooted appreciation for reliable access to safe, clean water,” said Smith. “I look forward to using my experience to ensure we deliver projects that meet the clean-water needs of our customers. WSSC Water employees have been so welcoming to me, and I look forward to supporting them as we work together to fulfill this vital mission. I thank County Executive Alsobrooks and members of the County Council for appointing me to this position.”

Smith currently serves as the Executive Director for Community Engagement and Partnerships at the Washington, DC-based American Red Cross, where he leads a team dedicated to engaging with national, regional and community partners to prepare, respond

to and recover from disasters. American Red Cross career highlights include serving as Regional Executive for Oklahoma and Mississippi, Senior Director of Field Operations for the Hurricane Katrina Recovery Program and Regional Director for Africa Programs.

Smith earned his undergraduate degree in International Development from historically black Lincoln University in Pennsylvania and an MBA from George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Smith is the third of three Commissioners representing Prince George’s County. Six Commissioners, three from each county, govern WSSC Water. They are appointed by their respective county executives and confirmed by their county councils. More information on WSSC Water Commissioners is on the Governance page: <https://www.wsscwater.com/governance>.

## Longtime Prince George’s County Resident, Logical Technology and Research CEO Receives Presidential Service Award

By PRESS OFFICER  
Logical Technology and Research

WASHINGTON (Nov. 16, 2022)—Todd Rogers, a federal IT executive with a long record of accomplishment, was recently honored with the 2022 Presidential Lifetime Achievement and Voluntary Service Award. Mr. Rogers’ contributions and service were recognized in a gala awards ceremony hosted by The African and Caribbean International Leadership Conference, as part of the Congressional Black Caucus weekend. Mr. Rogers is President and CEO of Logical Technology and Research (LTR), a management consulting firm specializing in IT services and solutions for government customers.

The Presidential award was presented by His Royal Majesty Okatakayie Aaso Boakye III, King of Sanzule Kingdom, Ghana at the African and Caribbean International Awards Gala. His Royal Majesty personally acknowledged Mr. Rogers’ distinguished credentials as a humanitarian supporting a cross-section of civic and professional organizations. The Awardees are selected by a panel within AmeriCorps, under President Biden. Under the Award guidelines, the honor is intended to recognize incredible individuals who are committed to a high level of volunteerism and service. Specifically, the Award honors those “individuals who work tirelessly to help solve some of the toughest

challenges facing their communities, and our nation.” In the spirit of the Award, Mr. Rogers was acknowledged for his many contributions. He has been a longtime supporter of STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) programs to support the next generation of IT leaders. Mr. Rogers has served as a mentor, volunteering in community schools and programs to encourage minority students toward careers in IT, as well as specialized fields such as cybersecurity and geospatial information systems.

Mr. Rogers is the founder, President and CEO of Logical Technology and Research, an IT company based in the Washington DC area. The LTR senior leadership team offers customers a wealth of experience and thought leadership with IT systems in every Federal Agency. Mr. Rogers has applied his skills, network, and corporate resources to champion a broad range of local and national causes. The company also supports staff volunteerism and community service.

Logical Technology and Research (LTR) is a Maryland corporation with its principal office in Washington, DC. LTR offers over a decade of broad industry and government experience, and a senior leadership team with subject matter expertise developing and supporting IT enterprise solutions in every Federal government agency. LTR project teams collaborate with clients to define business objectives, and then logically apply technolo-



PHOTO COURTESY LOGICAL TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH

**His Royal Majesty Okatakayie Aaso Boakye III and Todd Rogers**

gies and research to develop a fully integrated solution to achieve business goals. LTR is committed to combining excellence and experience to our clients, as well as engaging with the professional, civic, and business community. For more information, visit <https://oneLTR.com>

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[www.fbc-cp.org](http://www.fbc-cp.org)

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Wednesday Bible Study 7-8p.m.  
Wednesday Prayer Service 8p.m.

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**Church (301) 627-7389**

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Renoir's "A Day in the Country" (in French), "Fantasia" and "Casablanca" in the days when there were no videos and not many TVs.

The screens were small, the house lights dark, the Deco style trimmings crumbling, but we had an usher. The popcorn was good, and cheap. Those theaters were popular haunts for older and foreign films.

All those movie hours were recalled by the obit in The Washington Post for Alan Rubin, co-founder of the Biograph. He died Nov. 6 at his home in Delaplane, Va., at the age of 85. Mr. Rubin, thanks for the memory.

**Milestones**

Happy Birthday to Julie Koch-Michael and Darryl Moss, Nov. 26; Arthur Rose, Nov. 27; Thomas Shipman, Sr., Nov. 28; Stephanie White and Devin Kane Blade, Nov. 29; Karen Windsor, Alexis R. Paige Ramona Britt, Patricia Branch, Kimberly White, Mary Doyle, Susan McKay and Jon Foster, Dec. 1; John Anthony, Jr., Vonn Branch and Tyonda Simms-Taylor, Dec. 2.

Happy Anniversary to Gary and Ivy Kline on Nov. 28.

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