

The Prince George's Post



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Prince George's Library Awarded \$2.2 Million in FY23 Federal Budget

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (Jan. 5, 2023)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) has been awarded \$2.2 million in the FY23 federal budget to acquire and launch a mobile library vehicle, Rover: Library 2Go. This investment in Prince George's County is part of \$40 million in federal funds secured for Prince George's County and Montgomery County by Maryland's delegation to the 117th Congress. The mobile library will provide internet access, multilingual library services, im-

migrant and refugee support, and job search and career assistance throughout Prince George's County, with a focus on areas that do not have current access (via public transportation and walking) to a permanent neighborhood branch library (see map of current branches at right). These communities include Langley Park, College Park, Suitland, and Brandywine, among others.

"The Library is the ultimate connector in the local community," said Toni A. Smith, President, PGCMLS Board of Library Trustees. "Bringing the Library directly to the people who need serv-

ices and internet access will have a positive, multi-generational impact on families, Prince George's County, and the state."

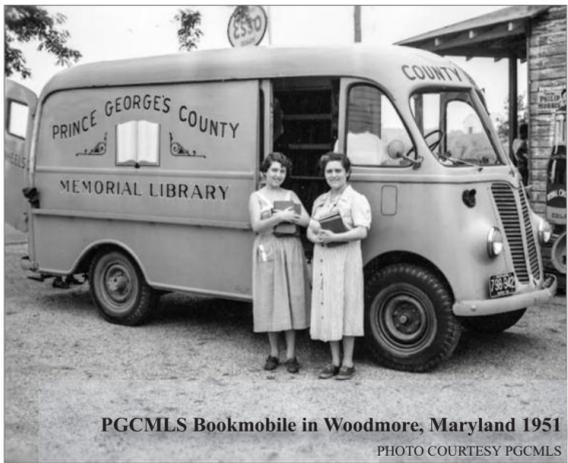
Once launched, Rover: Library 2Go is projected to annually support over 150 outreach events, provide 1,560 service hours, facilitate 10,000+ WiFi sessions, offer over 1,800 career services consultations, and circulate upwards of 1,300 Online 2Go Chromebooks with built-in internet service. The mobile library expands PGCMLS' efforts to bridge the digital divide, which finds over 116,000 Prince Georgians lacking home broadband access (2020 U.S. Census), and reduce unemployment (4% as of October 2022, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics).

"PGCMLS is grateful to Senator Chris Van Hollen and former Representative Anthony Brown for their sponsorship of the Library's proposal through the community projects program," said Nicholas A. Brown, Acting Co-CEO, PGCMLS. "We also extend thanks to Senator Ben Cardin, Representative Steny Hoyer, former County Council Member Dannielle M. Glaros, the PGCMLS Foundation, Friends of the Laurel Library, and Gavin Baker of the American Library Association for their steadfast support of this project and Prince George's County residents."

Bookmobiles have a long tradition of serving customers right in their neighborhood. PGCMLS has a tradition of offering bookmobile services since the early 1950s (see vintage photo at left). These mobile units celebrate literacy and a passion for learning, foster residents' career potential, aid in creating economic opportunities for families.

The Library's significant involvement in employment services, food equity (with mobile food pantry events and summer meals for K-12 students), and COVID-19 testing/vaccine clinics during the pandemic demonstrated how it is able to rapidly deploy community services, in addition to fulfilling its core mission of providing access to information and educational resources. With Rover: Library 2Go, PGCMLS rejoins the ranks of Maryland libraries that offer mobile library services, including Baltimore County Public Library, Charles County Public Library, Enoch Pratt Free Library, and others.

The timeline for launching Rover: Library 2Go will be determined following the receipt of implementation guidelines from the U.S. Department of Labor, which will be issued in the coming months.



PGCMLS Bookmobile in Woodmore, Maryland 1951
PHOTO COURTESY PGCMLS



MAP COURTESY PGCMLS

Chief Executive Officer Announces Retirement at End of 2022–23 School Year

A 32-year veteran PGCPSS educator, Dr. Monica Goldson has led the school system since 2018.

By PRESS OFFICER

Prince George's County Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Jan. 5, 2023)—Today, Chief Executive Officer Dr. Monica Goldson announced her plans to retire from Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) at the end of the 2022–2023 academic year, bringing to an end her 32-year career with the school system.

Dr. Goldson began her career as a Suitland High School mathematics teacher. She steadily moved up the administrative ranks, serving as principal, associate superintendent, deputy superintendent and chief operating officer prior to her appointment as CEO.

Dr. Goldson's statement to families and community members, titled *My Next Journey*, is posted in full below.

"After careful thought, prayer, and discussions with my family, I have decided to move to my next journey in life, retirement, at the end of this school year. Since 1991, I have truly enjoyed serving the

students and families of Prince George's County Public Schools. From a mathematics teacher and cheerleading coach to Chief Executive Officer, my career has taken me to heights I never dreamed possible when I walked across the stage in 1986 as a Potomac High School graduate. The children of this community are among the brightest and most innovative in the country. It has been an absolute honor to lead over 131,000 students in the place I call home.

"When I was appointed into an interim role by former County Executive Rushern Baker and selected as the permanent Chief Executive Officer by County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, I made it clear that my focus would always be, without any hesitation, on students.

"At present, there is a clear divide of philosophical beliefs on the Prince George's County Board of Education about how we should move forward as a school district. To be clear, the current acrimony is not about one Board Chair. It is another example

of the Board's inability to work together in the best interest of our students. The continued political infighting among certain Board Members demonstrates a misalignment in the vision for the children of this county.

"Nevertheless, I am still immensely proud of how the PGCPS community rallied around our students and families during the pandemic. With the County Executive's overall support, there is no doubt that we changed the perception of this county, in the state and region, by leading through the pandemic and garnering national attention for our efforts. If there is a lesson we all can take from the pandemic, it is that PGCPS can make the impossible happen when we focus on what truly matters.

"I am also proud of our progress on seemingly intractable problems:

- We restored the pay for every employee impacted by the 2009 recession and recently provided the most significant pay increase for educators and staff in a generation.

- We executed one of the most critical capital investments in the county's history, yielding a minimum of 10 new schools in four years and saving maintenance costs for the school system over the long term.
- We instituted mental health services to our students through school-based practitioners and our new telehealth program and enhanced our ability to communicate with parents and staff.
- We created a nationally-recognized Climate Change Action Plan that will reduce our carbon footprint, resulting in healthier buildings and transportation, cleaner air, more nutritious food, and less waste.
- We increased early childhood opportunities, making all of our pre-kindergarten programs full-day.
- We extended our award-winning Language Immersion Program to middle schools, and our Career and Technical Education program offers 188 certifications with the support of over 208 business partnerships.

"I believe Prince George's County Public Schools can lead the nation in what academic success looks like if we continue to focus on what students need and provide the support they deserve.

"Again, thank you for 32 incredible years. There is no place better than Prince George's County Public Schools, and I will always be #PGCPS Proud."

Maryland Libraries Host Career Success Month

By PRESS OFFICER

Maryland State Library Agency

BALTIMORE (Jan. 4, 2023)—Libraries across the state are participating in the first-ever Career Success Month, a collaborative effort to enhance Maryland's workforce. Career Success Month, which will run from January 17 through February 17, 2023, will provide customers with a broad spectrum of guidance on business, job advancement, career goals,

and legal considerations. This program is part of Maryland Libraries Together, a statewide initiative sponsored, in part, by the Maryland State Library Agency.

The keynote speaker for this inaugural event will be Kathryn Finney.

Kathryn Finney is a serial entrepreneur and investor. She is the Founder and Managing General Partner of Genius Guild, a Chicago-based venture fund that invests in scalable businesses

led by Black founders using innovation to build and promote healthy communities. A Yale-trained epidemiologist, Kathryn founded digitalundivided after selling her media company, The Budget Fashionista, making her one of the first Black women to successfully exit a startup. Her new book, *Build The Damn Thing: How to Start a Successful Business if You're Not a Rich White Guy*, launched in June 2022 and appeared on the Wall Street Journal's list of best-

selling books in its first week of release.

"Ensuring career success and workforce development is integral to the curriculum of public libraries in Maryland," stated Rohini Gupta, Adult Learning and Innovation Specialist for Howard County Library System. Gupta is spearheading the Career Success Month project. "We realize the importance of navigating legal issues for entrepreneurs, the employed, as well as job seekers. Thus, our goal is to

present actionable and high-value information for our community during Career Success Month."

Career Success Month will be followed by a series of events across the state, including Lawyer in the Library, Trademark Law, Goal Setting for Success, and more. A complete list of events can be found on the Maryland Libraries Together webpage through the Maryland State Library Agency website: www.marylandlibraries.org/.

As the state library agency for Maryland, Maryland State Li-

brary Agency (MSLA) administers state and federal funds to support Maryland libraries in their mission to offer outstanding resources, programs, and excellent customer service. The State Library Resource Center, located in the central branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, serves as Maryland's state library. MSLA has oversight of the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled; Maryland's Public Libraries; the State Library Network including the three regional libraries; the Library Capital Grants Programs; and the Deaf Culture Digital Library.

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A Failure to Prosecute Trump Would Be a Failure of Justice of Historic Proportions

If he is not held accountable for his efforts to subvert democracy through violence and deception, he is almost certain to try it again—and others will follow his example.

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Maryland Department of Health Announces Free Virtual Cottage Food Business Workshop

DHCD Supports Investments From Gilbane and Amazon Housing Equity Fund to Bring Affordable Housing to County

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline

Prince George's Changing landscape: Amazon, Federal Center, Iverson Mall

I think Prince George's is booming. I hope the new, possible, FBI building will be a part of the boom.

Coming up is a 130,000-square-foot facility, Amazon's first station built for itself, from the ground up, in Greater Washington. The company signed the lease this month for the site, 3700 Forestville Road in Forestville. Amazon says it's expected to open in 2023.

The General Services Administration has awarded a \$173 million construction contract to Whiting-Turner Contracting Co. to renovate 4600 Silver Hill Road in the Suitland Federal Center for the Bureau of Labor Statistics to relocate there. The BLS, which is part of the Department of Labor, will join the building's present tenants, including the U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Iverson Mall sold for \$20 million last Tuesday at a foreclosure auction after its prior owner defaulted on a loan it took out. The group is studying various options for the Temple Hills property at Branch Avenue and Silver Hill Road, but it's too soon to discuss specifics.

Some of my kids—Kathleen, Mike and Therese—had jobs at Iverson Mall. As for me, I didn't work there, but I sure did shop there. I loved the music store, the bookstore, the pet shop, the Chinese restaurant, Woodys and Wards.

Email your fond memories about the early days of Iverson Mall—how amazing it was.

Town of Morningside

Morningside's monthly Town Meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m. at the Municipal Building. For information, call 301-736-2300.

Also, I've been told that a man's body was found in the little cemetery up the hill behind the Municipal Building. He apparently died of natural causes. I'll try to learn more about who he was. And why he died there.

Neighbors & other good people

Warren Paul Bussler, 82, of Davidsonville, died April 9 at Anne Arundel Medical Center. He initially attended school at St. Francis Xavier in Washington but finished elementary at Mount Calvary in Forestville and graduated from Suitland High School. He retired as a master electrician after a long career with the

Government Printing Office. Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Julia; daughter Stacy and her husband Patrick Callahan and their five children.

My son John and his wife Michelle, of Columbia, celebrated their 26th Anniversary at Catonsville Gourmet Seafood. Michelle says, "Great service and the food was delicious!"

Donna Young emailed that in last week's obit for her dad, Don Young, I said he died on Dec. 19th, the anniversary of his wife Carmina's death. Instead, it was the 6th anniversary of her death; she died on Dec. 19, 2016.

Speaking of Carmina, I'm reminded of the time she came to my door, bringing a small vial of water from Lourdes (French city where the Blessed Mother appeared) for my husband Jack who was very sick.

Did you know Judy?

Judy Waby lived in Skyline. She was married to Conrad, and they had three sons. But she is best remembered as Skyline's trouble-maker—she was always protesting: the quality of hotdogs in school lunches, the tear-down of trees behind her Ladd Road home, being fired for feeding the squirrels at her job. I learned not to go to hearings with her because she'd be thrown out and I'd have to find a way home. She was regularly asked to leave Skyline Citizens' meetings.

She finally moved to Canada, where she was in trouble almost before she could unpack. In desperation, they put her on a bus, drove her to the border and dropped her off, back in the USA.

I always enjoyed Judy and followed her trail of protests, then lost contact in about 2015.

This week I received an email from her (she'd finally found it). She has been living in a Quality Inn in Bellingham, Wash., since Oct. 1, 2017, because she got "illegally evicted from the Ponderosa in Reno."

Now that I am in touch with her, I'll let you know what happens next. It's bound to be interesting.

Places to go & things to do

Tea & Tour Program: Bring your club or group to Darnall's Chance House Museum, in Upper Marlboro, to learn about the 18th-century women who lived here. Follow your tour with a dainty repast of scones, fruit, and other delectable desserts. Visit the gift shop

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

to peruse their selection of history-themed items. This program is for groups of 14–21 people. \$15/person. Reservations required: 301-952-8010.

For Civil War enthusiasts: The Surratt House is a historic house and house-museum located at 9110 Brandywine Road, Clinton. The house is named for John and Mary Surratt, who built it in 1852. Mary Surratt was hanged in 1865 for being a co-conspirator in the assassination of President Lincoln. The Surratt House has a charming Gift Shop. Hours: Thursday & Friday: tours begin at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, walk-ins welcomed 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed Sunday through Wednesday. Admission: adults, \$5; seniors, \$4; students (5–18), \$2; 4 & under, free. Information: 301-868-1121.

Remembering June Hall

June Hall, my neighbor and friend, died nine years ago this week, and someone emailed and asked me to Remember her. She died Jan. 3, 2014, at a nursing home in Jacksonville, Fla. Her husband Edwin Hall predeceased her. Daughters Barbara and Amanda, grand- and great-grandchildren survive her. June is buried at Cheltenham Veteran's Cemetery.

June was born in Colorado but lived much of her life in Skyline. She was deeply religious, which guided her life. I remember her taking a friend to a women's prison in Washington, to attend a prayer meeting. And even more impressive, driving a friend home in Washington through the riots following the death of Dr. King.

One of her many passions was volunteering with the Laubach Literacy Council.

I remember her well, and maybe you do, too.

Milestones

Happy Birthday to Curtis DeMarco Knowles, Kathleen Giroux, Joanie Mangum, and my son Mike McHale, Jan. 14; Robert Koch, Jan. 15; Dolly Wood (VFW), Jan. 16; Nikial M. Boston, Jan. 17; Dennis Seaman and Linda Cullinan, Jan. 19; June Nicholson, Gina Glagola Hull and my sister Stella Thelen, Jan. 20.

Happy Anniversary to Gary and Melody Barnes, Jan. 14; and to Frank and Sharleen Kelly Cappella, their 68th on Jan. 15.

Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King, on January 16!

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

Brandywine-Aquasco

WATCH NIGHT

Watch night, also called Freedom's Eve. Christmas religious service held on New Year's Eve, in many African American churches, with a celebration and remembrance of the Emancipation Proclamation (enacted January 1, 1863), which freed slaves in the Confederate states during the American Civil War. Many mainline Protestant churches in the United States sponsor a Watch Night service on New Year's Eve.

Church services on Watch Night generally begin sometime between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. and end at midnight. The services tend to be attended by family groups. Many attendees go on to New Year's Eve parties afterward. Information from The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica.

LUTHER RELIVES

"A VALENTINE'S DAY AFFAIR"

Let Bowie State University help you plan your Valentine's weekend 2023! Grab your sweetheart and get ready for a magical night that will feature a delicious 3 course dinner while watching Smooth and the band deliver a level of energy and showmanship to the stage that will have you walking away wanting more.

February 11, 2023, at 8 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$80.00–\$90.00. Location: Student Center, Wiseman Ballroom, 14000 Jericho Park Road, Bowie, Maryland 20715. Contact Annette Wedderburn, email: awedderburn@bowiestate.edu Phone: 301-860-3839. Categories featured, Social, Entertainment, Student Life.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

Bowie State University Spring Convocation which officially kicks off the spring semester and the campus-wide celebration on the Black History Month will be held February 15, 2023 at 10 a.m. Location: Martin Luther King Communication Arts Center, Patio, 14000 Jericho Park Road, Bowie, Maryland 20715.

Categories: Academics, featured. Telephone: 301-860-4000 or 1-877-77-BOWIE. A University System of Maryland Member Institution. Contact: webmaster@bowiestate.edu.

SMART VALUE

Bowie State University provides you with an exceptional education while limiting your debt. Our proximity to major metropolitan areas gives students easy access to internships, cultural experiences, and recreation.

One of the nation's Top 20 HBCUs; top 10 among public HBCUs (U.S. News & World Report 2022–23). Green campus buildings with the prestigious LEED certification. Graduate programs among best in nation. (U.S. News & World Report 2023.) Campus power generated by campus solar panels.

Bowie State University is making bold moves to provide quality affordable higher education to diverse students. A national leader in

graduating minority students, Bowie State is preparing the leaders of today and tomorrow.

Related links are exploring our programs, campus life and our history. Bowie State University (1865) 301-860-4000 or 1-877-77-BOWIE, 14000 Jericho Park Road, Bowie, Maryland 20715-9465. A University System of Maryland Member Institution. Contact webmaster@bowiestate.edu.

BOWIE CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

Outlet Dance Complex presents: Winter Wonderland Recital & Grand Premier January 22, 2023, at Bowie Center for the Performing Arts, 12 p.m. Price: \$10 for the Grand Premier, \$25 for the recital. Address is 15200 Annapolis Road, Bowie, Maryland 20715. Telephone: 301-805-6880.

Outlet Dance Complex is dedicated to bringing growth, independence, and inclusiveness to young dancers in the community while providing an outlet and training to professional dancers within our region.

NATIONAL HARBOR

What kind of pirate are you? Find out during a Family Adventure Cruise with Urban Pirates for a curated adventure that embarks from the Carousel Pier. After securing your treasures, unwind over a great meal and conversation. Feel calm amongst Nature's pink palette at the National Cherry Blossom Festival where travelers arrive from near and far to witness these blossoming trees lining the water's edge. Walk or run for the health and fitness of others in the Walk to End Alzheimer's, Walk to End Lupus, Walk4-Hearing, and other 5K events.

THE BLOOM FASHION SHOW

The Bloom Fashion Show will be held Saturday, February 4, 2023, 7 p.m. at Show Place Arena, Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Museum of Flowers presents Wizzolx and the Family. This show serves as the 5 year and highly anticipated follow up to his first collection "Flowers" in 2017. This fashionable experience fully immerses you into the 2nd collection of his career as Designer and Creative Director of the Wizzolx Brand, with special guest appearances. This show will be recorded live. Lineup-Bloom Fashion.

VIP Package includes: Front row seating, gift bag, exclusive access to Wizzolx pop-up-shop. VIP Admission \$100 each, General Admission \$25.00 each. To better accommodate your needs, Show Place Arena allows ADA patrons to purchase their tickets on Ticketmaster.com. Please click on the ADA icon for select seating.

Telephone Numbers are: Recorded information: 301-952-7900, Live operator: 301-952-7900. Service Hours: Tuesday–Thursday 12 p.m.–4 p.m. for Show Place Arena events only. On event days, box office is open based on established event hours, 10 a.m.–1 hour after show time. The Box Office is closed on non-event Saturdays and Sundays.

Around the County

St. Philip's Little Chapel Food Pantry January 15, 2023

Our Little Chapel Food Pantry will be open this Sunday, January 15, 2023, from 9 a.m. to noon (while supplies last) at the corner of 6th and Prince George Streets, one block off Main Street, behind the church building in Laurel. Produce and frozen items will be available as well. —*St. Philip's Episcopal Church*

Aisha Braveboy Sworn In for Second Term as State's Attorney for Prince George's County

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Jan. 5, 2023)—Today, during her investiture ceremony, Aisha Braveboy was sworn in as the Prince George's County State's Attorney.

Both community members and public officials were present to witness this exciting event and to hear State's Attorney Braveboy's address after she took the oath of office. She began her remarks by expressing her gratitude for being able to serve residents over the past four years.

"I stand before you today, honored for the privilege to serve the people of Prince George's County again, humbled by the trust the community has placed in me, and ready to forge ahead with new energy and determination on the most challenging, most rewarding, and most important work I have ever done: Protecting the people of the county I love as the State's Attorney for Prince George's County," Braveboy said during her address.

Some of Braveboy's top priorities of her first term included strengthening the State's Attorney's Office by retaining, developing and recruiting top talent, while improving office systems and processes. "With the help of our executive team who worked tirelessly to help me move the needle, I am proud to say that we delivered on our commitment to raise salaries throughout the office. We made tough, smart choices that resulted in real-time increases in starting salaries for our Assistant State's Attorneys from \$57,000 to \$80,000," said State's Attorney Braveboy.

Since the onset of the Braveboy Administration, advocating for stronger laws to hold people accountable became a major focus.

"Our greatest tool is the law, and where it falls short, or is too vague, or narrow, it strains our ability to hold people accountable. That's why we took the lead in Annapolis on groundbreaking legislation, first—to write the bill that replaced the narrow and ineffective tool that was the Maryland Hate Crime Statute," Braveboy said. "We also took the lead in urging the state legislature to demand that strangulation be made a first degree felony offense to protect victims and to achieve the justice they so deserve."

Braveboy intends to continue working with the state legislature to make sure the justice system has the tools needed to pursue the path for justice and accountability.

Another priority for the Braveboy Administration included making Prince George's County an international model for youth justice reform. Her work in this area included a much more active and involved diversion effort to turn young people away from criminal involvement.

"It began with my decision to reposition the Juvenile Unit as a dedicated team of experienced professionals more knowledgeable about the specific and unique aspects of the juvenile justice system," said Braveboy. "I believed a more experienced team would imagine more visionary and creative ideas about juvenile diversion, intervention, and restoration. Our vision and their hard work have been borne out and through collaboration and strategic partnerships, we have seen outstanding results."

Braveboy supports resources for the formerly incarcerated, restorative justice, and rehabilitation services for those serving time. She created a Conviction and Sentencing Integrity Unit, the first of its kind in the State, to review claims of actual innocence and unfair sentencing. Additionally, her administration has grown the Back on Track Program to increase participation and create second chance opportunities for those who are eligible. As well, she implemented the Emerging Adult Program that assists those serving time on a path to rehabilitation so that they can be productive when they return to the community.

"I believe that rehabilitation is absolutely part of the solution, and completely in line with our values. For my team and my office, this is what a balanced system of justice is comprised of—and we will continue to serve what we believe is an exemplary model."

Braveboy's accomplishments include strong community engagement and policies that have been at the forefront of criminal justice reform. She launched crime prevention campaigns including 'Our Streets, Our Future' and the Carjacking Taskforce. Other initiatives and policies include 'Operation Protect the Vote for All,' 'Operation Safe Release,' a Multicultural Commission, the first LGBTQ+ Task Force in the State's Attorney's Office and the 'no cash bail' policy.

During her second term, she plans to continue to build on the work she has done in the courthouse, the legislature and in the community. She officially began her first term on January 7, 2019, and was re-elected on November 8, 2022, in the general election.

—Denise Roberts, Office of the State's Attorney, Prince George's County

UW-Madison Announces Fall Dean's List

MADISON, Wisc. (Jan. 5, 2023)—The University of Wisconsin-Madison has recognized students named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2022–2023 academic year.

Students who achieve at a high level academically are recognized by the dean at the close of each semester. To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester. Each university school or college sets its own GPA requirements for students to be eligible to receive the distinction. Most call the honor "dean's list", but some grant the "Dean's Honor List" and "Dean's High Honor List."

To view an online listing, visit <https://registrar.wisc.edu/deanslist/>. Bowie, MD: **Carla Rose**, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List

Brandywine, MD: **Darius Lassiter**, College of Agricultural & Life Sciences, Dean's List

—Mike Klein, University of Wisconsin-Madison

COMMUNITY

Marietta House Presents: “Children’s Hour With Yoruba Language”

By STACEY HAWKINS
Marietta House Museum

Please join us on **Monday, January 16**, 10 a.m.–11 a.m. “Children’s Hour with Yoruba Language”. Dr. Taiye Ayoola-Adedeji is the author of “The Yoruba Sound Book for Children” and will engage children in word activities to learn Yoruba words for colors, numbers, and seasons. Dr. Ayoola-Adedeji is on a quest to ensure that the beautiful African tonal language is passed on from one generation to the next.

Ideal for children ages 4–12 with an accompanying adult. All children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Free event, however, registration is requested at this direct link: <https://tinyurl.com/vm4cz7ar>. For more information, call 301-464-5291 or email mariettahouse@pgparks.com. Snow date is January 22.

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.

The Moore-Miller Inaugural Committee Announces Day of Service Inauguration Event to Commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

In partnership with United Way of Central Maryland, Day of Service projects will cover every region across the state

By PRESS OFFICER
mooremillermd.com/news/

BALTIMORE (Jan. 4, 2023)—Today, the Moore-Miller Inauguration Committee is honored to announce a statewide Day of Service in partnership with United Way of Central Maryland. The day-long event is scheduled for **Monday, January 16, 2023**, in recognition of the inauguration and to commemorate the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

“This inauguration is not about a single person—it is about every person in the state of Maryland as we come together and unite around a mission to leave no one behind,” said Governor-Elect Wes Moore. “That is the spirit with which we lead on this Day of Service. I am grateful to so many of you who have come out to join us in this pursuit. And we are especially pleased to partner with United Way of Central Maryland, whose work and volunteers strengthen lives and communities everyday. Today we honor Dr. King’s legacy not just with words, but with direct action as we strive to build a more inclusive Maryland and lead with service in our hearts.”

“United Way works to realize the dream and ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. every day. As part of the historic inauguration of our new Governor, we’re proud to contribute what we do best: uniting people from across Greater Baltimore in service to Maryland neighbors and neighborhoods,” said President and CEO of United Way of Central Maryland Franklyn Baker. “Helping to coordinate this Day of Service, along with United Ways in Frederick County, the National Capital Area, the Lower Eastern Shore, and other Maryland United Ways, demonstrates our commitment to advancing equity, opportunity, and access for all, and our proven ability to connect people to causes they care about.”

There are many ways to get involved and available volunteer opportunities to address some of the issues that impact Marylanders the most. Volunteer projects range from supporting efforts to ensure everyone has access to healthy meals and can live in clean communities, to assisting families with critical resources, providing school supplies to students, and creating public art.

Interested volunteers can register at www.mooremillerinauguration.com. Other planned inaugural events include an Evening of Faith and Community and The People’s Ball: Celebrating the Inauguration of Wes Moore & Aruna Miller. Visit www.mooremillerinauguration.com.

2023 Black History Month Festival Will Celebrate the Theme of “Black Resistance in the Past, Present and Future”

By PRESS OFFICER
ASALH

WASHINGTON (Jan. 3, 2023)—Join the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) for its Third Annual Black History Month Festival celebrating the 2023 Black History theme, “Black Resistance.” Black Resistance has taken many forms throughout history. As the late Congressman John Lewis advised, “Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble.”

During these uncertain times in which the very nature of the ways in which Black history can be legally taught are in peril, the festival provides an opportunity to explore various aspects of Black life and history. Festival programming will take place “in person” in Washington, D.C. as well as virtually on ASALH-TV (ASALH’s YouTube channel) throughout the month of February. The virtual programming will include panels, discussions, author book talks, a workshop, and the announcement of the winner of the 2023 ASALH Annual Book Prize.

The festival will address “Black Resistance” in the arts, public history, African American music, the Black press, and the Black church, only to name a

few. Highlights of the month include an opening discussion of the aspects of Black resistance on February 1 featuring Professors Martha Biondi and Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, both of Northwestern University, and Charisse Burden-Stelly of Wayne State University. On February 7, there will be a panel highlighting some of the contributors to the book *Black Lives Matter & Music: Protest, Intervention, Reflection*, who will lead a vibrant discussion on the power of Black music in the struggle for freedom and liberation, including John Fleming, past President of ASALH, and Portia Maultsby, noted ethnomusicologist of Indiana University.

The Carter G. Woodson House, owned originally by Dr. Woodson himself, will celebrate its reopening to the public this Black History Month and will feature a special presentation and virtual tour of Woodson’s home study and offices, which have been preserved.

February 22 will offer a virtual marquee event featuring a conversation with the 14th Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Lonnie G. Bunch, III, and acclaimed author of *She Took Justice* Gloria Browne-Marshall, currently in-residence at Harvard University. On February 23 there will be a panel on the “soldiers without swords”—the Black

press—who used the power of the pen to fight racial oppression. It will feature representatives of the many still existing media outlets that have been so vital, including *The Washington Informer*, *The AFRO*, *AllAfrica.com*, and *The Amsterdam News*, for a discussion on the unique role that the Black press has played in the ongoing historical process of Black Resistance.

Lastly, on February 25, the Association is honored to co-sponsor a very special in-person matinee featuring a new critically-praised play, “Campaign 72,” based on the life of Shirley Chisholm, who defied expectations when she became the first Black woman to run a major campaign for President in 1972. The play will take place at the Town Hall Education Arts Recreation Campus (THEARC), to be followed by a dynamic discussion panel on what planners are calling “The Chisholm Effect.” Campaign 72 is produced by the Multi-Media Training Institute, a DC-based non-profit training, and production company for young adults.

The schedule for the full month of programming is now available for public viewing. Registration and information for in-person, as well as virtual events is available at the following address: <https://asalh.org/festival/>.

Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine

Theodore Kuchar, Principal Conductor

By PRESS OFFICER
Montgomery College

Lviv is a medieval city and one of the great cultural centers of Eastern Europe. Music has always occupied the center and spirit of its existence. In the heart of this cultural center on September 27, 1902, the Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine was officially created when they performed their first concert in the Philharmonic Theater of Count Stanislaw Skarbko (presently known as the Ukrainian National Academic Theater of Drama named after Maria Zankovetska). The Principal Conductor of the orchestra was Ludwik Vitezslav Czelianski. Since its creation, the Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine has had some of the most famous conductors in classical music perform with them, including Kirill Kondrashin, Fuat Mansurov, Nathan Rakhlin, Gennady Rozhdestvensky, and Reinhold Gliere. After two seasons as the Orchestra’s Principal Guest Conductor, Theodore Kuchar was appointed the

Principal Conductor of the Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine in 2022.

For tickets and information, call the Box Office at 240-567-5301, Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. and 3–6 p.m. To order tickets online, please visit our Web site at www.montgomerycollege.edu/PAC. Group rates are available. VISA/MasterCard/Discover accepted. The Center is wheelchair accessible and is equipped with infrared sound enhancement for the hearing impaired.

The Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center offers world-class entertainment to the greater Washington, D.C. community. Through the Center, Montgomery College supports and encourages lifelong education and appreciation for the arts. The College serves nearly 60,000 students each year at three campuses in Montgomery County, Maryland.

The Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center is supported by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council, an agency dedicated to cultivating a vibrant cultural community where the arts thrive. An

agency of the Department of Business & Economic Development, the MSAC provides financial support and technical assistance to non-profit organizations, units of government, colleges and universities for arts activities.

Funding for the Maryland State Arts Council is also provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Who: Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center 2022–2023 Guest Artist Series

What: Lviv National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine, Theodore Kuchar, Principal Conductor

When: Friday, January 27, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center • Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee Street • Rockville, MD 20850

Tickets: Tickets are \$25 Regular, \$20 Seniors, and \$5 Students

Discounted tickets must be purchased in person with valid student or staff ID. Reserved Seating

• Box Office: 240-567-5301 • www.montgomerycollege.edu/pac

Earth TALK™ How About A Global Treaty Banning Plastics?

Dear EarthTalk:

Why haven’t the governments of the world come together to ban or limit the production of plastics globally like they’ve done to reduce ozone depleting chemicals in the 1980s and greenhouse gasses more recently?

—Peter B., Wallingford, CT

Plastic, originally hailed for its longevity and hygienic single-use properties, is one of the newest battlegrounds for environmentalists and world governments. Though bans of some forms of plastic exist in more than 60 countries around the world, a global ban has proven to be elusive. In 2019, 170 countries voted to “significantly reduce” their use of plastic by 2030 at the United Nations’ Environmental Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya. This agreement, though, was non-binding, and mostly targeted “throw-aways” such as plastic bags, ignoring other forms of plastic pollution so as to serve more as a band-aid than a cure to this prolific problem.

The global scale of plastic pollution is mind-boggling, but necessary to understanding the importance of a world-wide ban. Microplastics can give a sense of how entrenched plastic has become in the interwoven web that is our global food system. According to the United Nations’ Environment Programme (UNEP), microplastics—pieces of plastic smaller than 5mm—can easily be ingested by animals such as fish, and end up on people’s dinner plates because of the prevalence of pollution in the world’s oceans. Plastic can take 1,000 years to decompose, meaning that every piece of plastic that has ever been created still exists, and only continually gets smaller and smaller. National Geographic reports that even the Mariana Trench, the deepest spot in the world’s oceans, has not been

spared. A plastic bag found down there, far removed from any human activity, shows just how widespread plastic pollution is globally.

The sheer ubiquity of plastic has meant that even well-meaning and well-executed previous bans on plastics on a regional scale have hardly made a dent. The World Economic Forum notes that Canada’s ban on single-use plastic, for example, promises zero plastic waste there by 2030, echoing the non-binding agreement of the United Nations in 2019. However, environmental advocates worry that 2030 is too far away a goal, and that may be part of the reason why, on March 2, 2022, the United Nations Environmental Assembly passed the world’s first international and legally-binding agreement to end plastic pollution fully by 2024. Inger Anderson, Executive Director of UNEP, lauded the deal as “the most significant environmental multilateral deal since the Paris Accord.”

This treaty calls for regulation on the “full life-cycle” of plastic, from production to decomposition, and is the first of its kind to unite 173 nations in combating plastic pollution. “Against the backdrop of geopolitical turmoil, the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) shows multilateral cooperation at its best... pollution has grown into an epidemic,” says Espen Barth Eide, Norway’s minister for climate and environment, and president of UNEA. “With today’s resolution we are officially on track for a cure.”

Coming to a consensus around this agreement represents a unifying moment in world history for stepping towards a greener and healthier Earth. Of course, the treaty will take some time to be adopted widely, so proactive steps like using reusable bags and phasing out single-use plastics are still important when looking at decreasing our global use of plastics.



IMAGE CREDIT: MALI MAEDER, PEXELS.COM.

Only time will tell if a 2019 agreement signed by 170 countries to “significantly reduce” their use of plastic by 2030 will hold water.

CONTACTS: Toward A Global Plastics Treaty, <https://www.undp.org/ghana/publications/towards-global-plastics-treaty-0>; Global Plastics Treaty Now! <https://engage.us.greenpeace.org/onlineactions/l8QA7ZmGwEyiBE9Zxpwlnw2>; Stop Plastic Pollution, <https://www.nrdc.org/issues/stop-plastic-pollution>.

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COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

A Failure to Prosecute Trump Would Be a Failure of Justice of Historic Proportions

“Saving American democracy for the long run requires a clear condemnation of the Trump presidency. That means making clear that no one is above the law ... Presidents also need a clear message, one that will echo through history, that breaking the law in the Oval Office will actually be punished.”

—Boston Globe Editorial Board

As the nation this week marked the second anniversary of one of the darkest days in our history, the January 6 Insurrection, a feeble Republican majority attempted to assume control of the House of Representatives and the House Select Committee to Investigate the Insurrection formally concluded its work.

Now it is up to the Special Counsel Jack Smith and his team of Justice Department prosecutors to act on the committee's recommendation that former President Donald Trump be prosecuted on criminal charges of Obstruction of an Official Pro-

ceeding, Conspiracy to Defraud the United States, Conspiracy to Make a False Statement, Incitement of an Insurrection, and other conspiracy charges.

In addition to the committee's report, which outlines the damning evidence against Trump, Smith's team has received emails, letters and other documents from election officials in battleground states who were subjected to false accusations of fraud and pressure to falsify election results.

A failure to prosecute Trump in the face of this extensive documentation of his misdeeds would be a failure of justice of historic proportions and a catastrophic subversion of the principle of equal treatment under the law.

Criminal prosecutions are intended not only to punish individuals for their offenses, but also to deter them and others from engaging in the same conduct in the future.

The federal prosecution of a former president—particularly by the administration of a political adversary—should not be undertaken lightly. But

the case against Trump is so clear-cut, and the consequences so profound that Smith has no other rational option.

Though Trump has publicly denied it, his decision to run for president a third time is widely perceived as an attempt to avoid prosecution—though one unlikely to succeed.

“It is his intention by announcing that to retard criminal cases,” retired federal prosecutor Thomas Baer told The Daily Beast. “He thinks that if he is running for president this will cause prosecutors to drop their cases or think twice because it could be interpreted as political, a reaction to his running. The answer is: No, they will not hold back.”

According to the evidence gathered by the Jan 6 Committee, Trump knew the Vice President had no unilateral authority to prevent certification of the election. He knew Vice President Pence could not lawfully refuse to count votes under the Electoral Count Act. He knew he had lost more than 60 lawsuits seeking to invalidate election results. He knew his Justice Department, his campaign, and his advisors had concluded that there was insufficient fraud to alter the election's outcome. He knew that no State legislature had taken or attempted any official action that could change a State's electoral college votes.

Nevertheless, Trump recruited tens of thousands of his supporters, most of them angry and some of them armed, to march to the Capitol on January 6 and “fight like hell.” As the deadly violence he incited raged on for hours, he ignored the desperate pleas of his advisors that he make a public statement instructing his supporters to disperse and leave the Capitol.

“Through action and inaction, President Trump

corruptly obstructed, delayed and impeded the vote count,” the committee wrote in support of the charge of Obstruction of an Official Proceeding.

The charge of Conspiracy to Defraud the United States is based upon a likely agreement between Trump, his lawyer, John Eastman, and others to carry out an illegal plan to have legitimate electors from seven states rejected and replaced with fake electors. This plan to submit slates of fake electors to Congress and the National Archives also is the basis for the charge of Conspiracy to Make a False Statement.

As for the charge of Inciting an Insurrection, “President Trump was directly responsible for summoning what became a violent mob to Washington, DC, urging them to march to the Capitol, and then further provoking the already violent and lawless crowd with his 2:24 p.m. tweet about the Vice President,” the committee writes, in reference to Trump's complaint that “Mike Pence didn't have the courage to do what should have been done.” When told that the crowd was chanting “Hang Mike Pence,” Trump responded that perhaps the Vice President deserved to be hanged. He has since promised to pardon those convicted for their involvement in the attack.

It's clear that Trump believes he is above the law. If he is not held accountable for his efforts to subvert democracy through violence and deception, he is almost certain to try it again—and others will follow his example. It's a larger question than whether Trump deserves to be punished—which he most certainly does—but whether democracy will endure in the United States.

—January 5, 2023

Governor Hogan Announces Final Judicial Appointments

Final Appointments Include First Hispanics to Serve on Prince George's County Circuit and District Courts

190 Total Judicial Appointments—Including More Female, Hispanic, and Asian Judges Than Any Other Governor

Governor Calls for Continued Focus on Adding Diversity to the Judiciary

By MICHAEL RICCI
Executive Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 6, 2023)—Governor Larry Hogan today announced the final judicial appointments of his administration:

- **Darren Sebastian Johnson**, the first Hispanic to serve on the Prince George's County Circuit Court
- **Stenise Lanez Rolle**, Prince George's County Circuit Court
- **Llamillet Gutierrez**, the first Hispanic to serve on the Prince George's County District Court

In total, Governor Hogan has made a record 190 judicial appointments—including six of the seven judges on the Supreme Court, and seven of the 15 judges on the Appellate Court. Statewide, the governor has appointed more female, Hispanic, and Asian judges than any previous governor.

“While I am proud of the sheer number of judicial appointments we have made, I am just as proud of our success in ensuring that the composition of our courts better reflects the great diversity of our state,” said Governor Hogan. “I urge the state's leaders, judges, and legal community to continue to build on the work we have done to add diversity to the bench. Lastly, I want to thank the three chief legal counsels during our administration—Bob Scholz, Mike Pedone, and Chris Mincher—who have helped me deliver on these commitments.”

Many of the governor's appointments have been ‘historic’ firsts:

- The first African American chief judge of the Appellate Court and the first openly LGBTQ person to serve as an appellate chief judge
- The first Hispanic and Afro-Latina appellate judge
- The first Asian American appellate judge and the youngest woman appointed to the Appellate Court

- The first Supreme Court chief justice from Carroll County in at least 115 years
- The first Supreme Court justice from Harford County in at least 100 years
- The first Appellate Court chief judge from the Western Maryland appellate district and Howard County
- The first Appellate Court judge and later chief judge from Calvert County
- The first Appellate Court judge from Washington County

For Prince George's County Circuit Court:

Magistrate Darren Sebastian Johnson has served as a Family Division Magistrate at the Prince George's County Circuit Court since February 2018, and presides over the truancy docket. In addition to his family law experience, Mr. Johnson has a civil administrative background and served for seven years as an Appeals Officer and Attorney Advisor at the National Appeals Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Mr. Johnson began his career as a law clerk at the Superior Court for the District of Columbia and served as an associate in private practice from 2005–2007, before joining the law offices of Hoover & Hoover, LLC where he primarily handled juvenile and criminal matters for four years. He left his criminal practice to become an EEO contractor for PCS Enterprises, Inc. In 2011, he joined the National Appeals Division for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Mr. Johnson is the first Hispanic judge to be appointed to the Prince George's County Circuit Court. He received his B.A. from Howard University, and his J.D. from the University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke School of Law.

Magistrate Stenise Lanez Rolle has served as a Foreclosure Magistrate in the Circuit Court for Prince George's County since 2019, and works in conjunction with the Fore-

closure Coordinating Judge to adjudicate the nearly 2,000 residential and commercial foreclosure cases filed in Prince George's County each year. Throughout her legal career, Ms. Rolle has worked as a litigator, an administrator of judicial education, and a magistrate. Her legal career began in 2002 at Parks & Crump, LLC, a boutique law firm in Tallahassee, Florida, until she left in 2006 to form her own solo practice while working as an independent contractor for Gary Roberts and Associates, LLC. In 2010, Ms. Rolle relocated to Washington D.C. and joined the University of Maryland as the Director of Graduate Student Legal Aid in 2013. In 2018, Ms. Rolle joined the Maryland Administrative Office of the Courts as their Manager of Judicial Education where she oversaw, planned, and developed all mandatory educational programming for judges and magistrates. She received her B.S. and M.A.S. from Florida A&M University, and her J.D. from the University of Miami School of Law.

For Prince George's County District Court:

Llamillet Gutierrez has been a prosecutor with the Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office since March 2021, and previously served as the Executive Director of the Amara Legal Center where she managed, hired, and recruited staff and oversaw office operations from 2018–2021. Prior to joining the Amara Legal Center, she served as an Assistant Public Defender in Prince George's County. Ms. Gutierrez served as a Law Clerk to the Honorable Nicholas E. Rattal, Circuit Court for Prince George's County, from 2012–2013. Ms. Gutierrez is the first Hispanic judge to be appointed to the Prince George's County District Court. She received her B.A. from Dickinson College, and her J.D. from Lewis & Clark Law School.

Chris Van Hollen

United States Senator for Maryland



Van Hollen, Markey Secure Inaugural Funding for Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program to Boost Walking and Biking Infrastructure

WASHINGTON (Jan. 5, 2023)—U.S. Senators Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) and Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) secured \$45 million in funding for the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIIP) – first authorized through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act – in the end-of-the-year omnibus legislation. This first-time funding will support the development of walking and biking infrastructure that connects to accessible, affordable, and safe active transportation networks, allowing people to reach destinations within a community and travel between communities.

“Transportation infrastructure should connect us to all modes of transport, including walking and biking paths. These transportation networks reduce air pollution and traffic congestion as they also support healthier and more active communities. That's why I am glad we fought successfully to promote and expand access to these active forms of transportation,” said Senator Van Hollen.

“Investing in green walking and biking infrastructure ensures that people can get to where they're going without ever needing a car,” said Senator Markey. “Increasing accessibility and affordability of transportation is not only a win for our climate, but it also provides low-income and underserved

neighborhoods with the ability to navigate their communities seamlessly, at no cost. I'm proud that we secured this first-time funding, and I'll keep fighting to grow green, affordable, and free transit across Massachusetts and the country.”

“The initial appropriation to launch the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program will be remembered as the point at which America committed to making our communities walkable and bikeable. For the first time any community can compete for dedicated federal investment to connect existing infrastructure into active transportation networks to make it safe and convenient to walk and bike to routine destinations and between communities,” said Kevin Mills, Vice President of Policy at Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. “This leveraged approach

is bound to grow given huge demand and outsized transportation, economic, and environmental benefits.”

In May 2022, Senators Van Hollen and Markey, along with Senator Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska), led nineteen of their colleagues in a letter to the chair and ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development requesting funding for the ATIIIP in the fiscal 2023 Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development appropriations bill. Earlier, in February 2022, Senators Van Hollen and Markey sent a letter to the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requesting full funding for the new Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program.

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Maryland Department of Health Announces Free Virtual Cottage Food Business Workshop

Online training will provide industry guideline updates and tips to start and grow a business

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Department of Health

BALTIMORE (Jan. 3, 2023)—The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) today announced a free virtual Cottage Food workshop, to be held in partnership with the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), on Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

This free, online event will provide an overview of Maryland's cottage food law and regulations. Participants will become familiar with the definition of a cottage food business and the types of products that can be sold, cottage food labeling requirements, how to request a Unique Identification Number (used instead of a business address), and how to sell products at a retail food store. The workshop will also explore

the steps for growing a cottage food business.

Established cottage food businesses, farmers market managers, farm vendors (on-farm stores and stands), retail food stores and anyone who is thinking about starting a home-based food business are encouraged to participate to hear the latest cottage food business guidelines.

Participants will learn from pre-and-post tests of frequently asked questions illustrated with situational examples, and receive information needed to operate a home-based cottage food business in Maryland.

The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) defines a cottage food business as a home-based business that produces or packages food products in a residential kitchen and has annual revenues from the sale of cottage food products in an amount not exceeding \$50,000.



IMAGE CREDIT MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Virtual Cottage Food Workshop, presented by Maryland Department of Health in partnership with SMADC. February 7, 2023, 9-10:30 a.m. Register at EventBrite.

For more information and to register for the workshop visit www.SMADC.com. Workshop presentation materials and links to the latest MDH cottage food guidelines will be available to view and download. Or register at EventBrite.

This workshop is made possible by MDH's Office of Food Protection, in partnership with SMADC, a

division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland. For information about SMADC and the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, visit www.SMADC.com.

For more information about Maryland's cottage food industry, visit MDH's Office of Food Protection.

Department of Housing and Community Development Supports Investments From Gilbane and Amazon Housing Equity Fund to Bring Affordable Housing to County

The Sovren West Hyattsville Metro Set To Open Fall 2024

By ALEXIS REVIS-YEOMAN
PGCDHCD

LARGO, Md. (Jan. 3, 2023)—The Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is supporting Amazon's and Gilbane's investment in bringing affordable housing to the County. Gilbane Development Company will build 293 new apartments in a complex called The Sovren,

which will be adjacent to the West Hyattsville Metro station. Half of the apartments, or 147 units, will be restricted affordable housing and reserved for tenants whose income is 80% of the area medium income (AMI).

"Our efforts to preserve and create affordable housing in our County benefit immensely from projects like this one," said Angie Rodgers, Prince George's County's Deputy Chief Adminis-

trative Officer for Economic Development.

"This transit-oriented development will bring needed affordable housing to the County, centered in a community where residents can enjoy easy access to jobs and amenities," explained Aspasia Xypolia, DHCD Director.

Through the public-private partnership, DHCD and the County Council approved a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)

and \$200,000 from the County's Housing Investment Trust Fund (HITF) for the project in July 2022. The new apartment building is slated for completion in the Fall of 2024 and half of the new apartments will remain affordable for 99 years.

The Sovren will have five stories of apartments, ranging from studios to three-bedroom units, as well as 2,500 square feet of retail and a parking garage, according

to Gilbane Development officials. The site is located on 3.5 acres at 5685 Little Branch Run in West Hyattsville.

Other DHCD Resources

DHCD regularly promotes available resources to organizations in the community development space and families seeking assistance to purchase and maintain homes, including:

- First-time home buyers could

be eligible for up to \$10,000 in down payment and closing costs toward the purchase of their first home through our Pathway to Purchase Program.

- Residents facing eviction due to late rent payments should call the Emergency Rental Assistance Program Hotline on 301-883-6504 and press 9 to inquire about assistance.

Visit dhcd.mypgc.us or call 301-883-5531.

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Will the Family Maximum Limit My Benefits?

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

Dear Rusty: I have a question about the family maximum SS retirement benefit. As I understand it, if the breadwinner is drawing retirement benefits or is deceased, the family maximum is calculated from a formula that yields a figure between 150 percent and 188 percent of the breadwinner's primary insurance amount—his or her monthly benefit if claimed at full retirement age. That age is 66 and 4 months for people born in 1956 and will gradually increase to 67 over the next few years. Is this calculation only applicable at full retirement age (in my case 66 and 4 months) or is it still applicable if I delay taking SS until 68 or 70? My assumption is the "breadwinner" is the spouse with the higher income. **Signed: Planning my Retirement**

Dear Planning: The Family Maximum applies only when more than one dependent is collecting benefits from the record of a worker who is either deceased or collecting Social Security retirement benefits (the "breadwinner"). That might typically be a spouse and a minor child, multiple minor children, or, perhaps, multiple children and a spouse as well.

The Family Maximum doesn't apply, for example, when both a current spouse and an ex-spouse are collecting benefits from that "breadwinner"—only when a current spouse and minor children are collecting too. The Family Maximum also does not apply when only one dependent (e.g., a spouse) is collecting benefits from the "breadwinner," or when no dependents are collecting benefits on the "breadwinner's" record. Neither would the Family Maximum restrict your benefit if you wait until you are age 70 to claim your maximum personal benefit. So, if your concern is that the Family Maximum might limit you, or your wife's benefit if you wait until age 68 or 70 to claim, you can discard that concern.

You are correct that the Family Maximum

formula, when it applies, yields a maximum total limit of 150% to 188% of the worker's "primary insurance amount" or "PIA," which is the amount the worker is due at full retirement age (FRA) and, as you know, your FRA is determined by your year of birth. If the Family Maximum applies because multiple dependents are collecting SS benefits on your record, Social Security will determine your maximum family dollar amount, deduct your PIA (your FRA benefit) from that amount, and the remainder would be available to be shared equally among your multiple dependents. But if no one else, or only your wife, is collecting benefits on your record, the Family Maximum does not apply.

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

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



IMAGE COURTESY ONELIFE FITNESS

Architectural rendering for the Onelife Fitness in Clinton.

Onelife Fitness Preview Center Opens for Clinton, MD for Tours and New Member Rates

By PRESS OFFICER
US Fitness Holdings, LLC

MCLEAN, Va. (Jan. 6, 2023): The Onelife Fitness Preview Center is now open for virtual tours (located in the parking lot) and Founding Member rates at the Landing at Woodyard shopping center. Onelife Fitness will occupy the former Toys "R" Us at 8401 Mike Shapiro Drive. Preview Center Hours are Monday–Wednesday 9 a.m.–7 p.m., Thursday–Saturday 9 a.m.–6 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

US Fitness Holdings, LLC, is opening its 52nd location with a new 55,000-square-foot Onelife Fitness Sports Club in Clinton, Maryland, in the Summer of 2023. Onelife Fitness will join Aldi, Burlington and Ross and will be the fitness anchor and community-hub serving the residents in and around Clinton.

"We are thrilled to expand into Clinton and to provide the community with the best amenities and proven solutions to live a healthier and happier life at an incredibly affordable price. Now more than ever we need to prioritize our physical and mental well-being, and Onelife Fitness

offers unparalleled value by emphasizing community and by providing you a personalized experience to help you reach your goals," said Ori Gorfine, President & COO of US Fitness. "As the largest health and fitness provider in the Washington, DC area, Onelife Fitness is excited to be the premier health and fitness anchor for this incredible community."

This is the first Onelife Fitness in Prince George's County and the 30th in the DC area. The new Onelife Fitness Sports Club will feature luxurious amenities in a modern design its existing members have come to enjoy, including:

- A large indoor saltwater lap pool and whirlpool;
- Over \$1 million in top-of-the-line cardio and strength equipment;
- Three boutique studios featuring Onelife Signature Classes, BodyPump, Zumba, APEX-HIIT, Spark and more;
- Mind/Body Studio featuring Barre, Yoga and Pilates classes;
- State-of-the-art stadium-style spin studio with Coach by Color bikes;

- Signature Strike Boxing Studio;
- Olympics lifting platforms
- Large functional athletic turf training areas;
- Kids Club with interactive games, basketball and theater;
- Recovery Studio with Hydro-Massage and Red Light Therapy;
- Free surface level parking;
- AirPHX air and equipment sanitation system that cleans 24 hours a day; and
- Luxurious spa-inspired locker rooms, sauna and more!

Onelife Fitness is the best value in fitness providing an award-winning design and amenity package at incredibly affordable rates. For more information about the facility, or to become a founding member before the club opens, visit our Preview Center that is now open for "virtual tours."

To learn more about the club, visit www.onelifefitness.com/gyms/clinton or call 240-398-3634.

To learn more about career opportunities at US Fitness, please visit www.usfitnesscareers.com/.

Maryland Small Business Development Center

Webinar: Marketing Tactics You Need To Use In 2023

January 26, 2023 • 1 p.m.–2:15 p.m.

Location: Online Meeting (Live) • Cost: Free of Charge-Registration Required:
<https://mbsbdc.eccenterdirect.com/events/17392>

Get the New Year started off right in this exciting session, you will discover the essential elements that need to go into building a winner marketing strategy to hit your 2022 lead generation goals. We will discuss several of the profitable marketing tactics and the pros and cons of each to help you decide if it should be part of your 2022 strategy. Presenter, Antonio Guerrero; Systematic Business Marketing

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Sunday Worship 11a.m.
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Insurance Policy PFD (GA, PFDGA, NY, PFDNY, OK, PFDOK, TN, PFDTN). Rider kinds: 8438, 8439 (GA, 8418).

Foundation Hosts Human and Sex Trafficking A Community Conversation

By PRESS OFFICER
Your Infinite Paths Foundation, Inc.

WALDORF, Md. (Jan. 3, 2023)—Your Infinite Paths Foundation, Inc. will host the Human and Sex Trafficking Forum: A Community Discussion forum, in honor of National Human Trafficking Awareness Month

The foundation invites local residents to register here, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/483806788127>, to attend this free event. Space is limited and we do hope to stream on our Facebook page as well.

Speakers include Dr. Astril Webb, CEO of Healthy Kinder International, Kathryn Young, CEO of Your Infinite Paths Foundation, Damir Siahkoochi, Staff Attorney at The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, and S. Monique Smith, Survivor, Published Author, Advocate and Business owner.

Date: **January 15** at 3:30 p.m. in the Senior Community room at 3090 Crain Highway, Waldorf, MD 20701

"We have to be aware and well informed to be safest," says the foundation's founder and CEO Kathryn Young. "Your Infinite Paths Foundation wants to change that."

Founded in October 2019 in Prince George's County, Your Infinite Paths Foundation Inc. offers programs and services, based on coaching principles, to empower people, especially those who are economically disadvantaged, to build wealth, health and lasting success.

For more information about how to join by volunteering or making a donation, please contact:

Kathryn Young at
kathryn.young@yourinfinitepathsfoundation.org or
[facebook.com/yourinfinitepathsfoundation/](https://www.facebook.com/yourinfinitepathsfoundation/)

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