

# The Prince George's Post



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## Bowie State Receives \$2.1 Million Grant From the National Science Foundation

Only HBCU to Receive Cybercorps Scholarships for Service Program Funding

By DAVID THOMPSON  
Bowie State University

BOWIE, Md. (Jan. 12, 2023)—Students at Bowie State University now have the opportunity to participate in a new program designed to increase the number and diversity of individuals entering the government cybersecurity workforce by offering two-year scholarships for those majoring in cybersecurity under a \$2.1 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

NSF's Scholarships for Service (SFS) program is providing more than \$29 million in new funding this year to nine universities to support developing students for cybersecurity positions with the Department of Homeland Security, FBI and other federal agencies. Bowie State is the only HBCU that received a grant this year to participate in the program.

The Bulldog Cyber Scholarship for Service (SFS) Program

at Bowie State will recruit, educate, mentor and train three BSU Computer Science majors and two transfers from community colleges each year over five years. In addition, the undergraduate students will be engaged in research while enhancing their technical skills in critical information infrastructure protection.

Specifically, program objectives include recruiting 20 highly talented students to the program and working closely with the National Science Foundation (NSF) and U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to guarantee students are placed in government cybersecurity positions, with at least 70 percent of the scholarship awardees securing job placements in the executive branch of the Federal government.

"This is a phenomenal program that will provide BSU students with scholarships and a stipend while they're enrolled in

the program to learn cybersecurity," said Dr. Rosemary Shumba, chair of the computer science department at Bowie State. "What's really great about this program is that community college students beginning their junior year at BSU can also apply for the scholarship."

Each year scholarship recipients will have all in-state and out-of-state tuition fees covered, receive a \$25,000 stipend and \$6,000 to attend conferences and other professional development activities. During the scholarship period, students must participate in summer internships, conferences, workshops, and seminars aimed at developing a community of practice that will enhance students' individual and collective skills. Each scholarship recipient under the program enters into an agreement that requires the student to work for a period equal to the duration of the scholarship after graduating

from Bowie State.

"Students in the SFS program will be required to earn a Security + certification through the state-sponsored Cyber Warrior Diversity CompTIA security certification program, which will prepare the scholars for executive placement," said Dr. Shumba. "Our bottom line is preparing students for long-term career success and producing professionals who can contribute to the defense of our nation."

To be eligible for consideration for an SFS scholarship, an undergraduate student must be a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States; demonstrate a commitment to a career in cybersecurity; have a demonstrated high level of competency in relevant knowledge, skills, and abilities; and be a full-time student in a program that is focused on cybersecurity. Students must have junior standing in a bachelor's degree.

## Town of Upper Marlboro Announces New Business and Visitor-Friendly Parking Rates for 2023

By RAY FELDMANN  
Town of Upper Marlboro

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Jan. 12, 2023)—Mayor Sarah Franklin and the Board of Commissioners for the Town of Upper Marlboro announced new business visitor-friendly parking rates for on-street parking in downtown Upper Marlboro. These new rates were approved at the Nov. 22, 2022, regular Town Meeting and became effective Monday, Jan. 9, 2023.

These new rates will reduce the hourly rate to park at on-street meters from \$2.50 an hour to just \$1.00 per hour outside of courthouse operating hours. After 10 p.m. Monday–Saturday and all-day Sundays, street parking is free.

These new rates will affect meters on Main Street, Pratt Street, Water Street, Elm Street, and Judges Drive. The Town hopes that reducing these parking rates will help drive visitors to support our local small businesses.

"One of my goals when I ran for Commissioner was to improve the business climate in the downtown business district to

enable our businesses to thrive here, and to attract new businesses to our town," Mayor Franklin said in announcing the new parking rates.

"This new parking rate structure will allow us to create a more business-friendly environment and not hurt our existing businesses, and to sustain revenues that will enable us to continue to have a balanced operating budget," the mayor added.

The Town has also partnered with ParkMobile, a virtual parking application for day-to-day needs, where visitors can quickly pay for on-street parking and get alerts when their parking session is about to expire so they can easily extend time right from their phone.

These new rates were developed from discussions with business owners and residents, and through a comparative analysis of neighboring jurisdiction's rates.

Please feel free to reach out to the Upper Marlboro Town Hall at [Info@UpperMarlboroMD.gov](mailto:Info@UpperMarlboroMD.gov) or call 301-627-6905 with any questions.

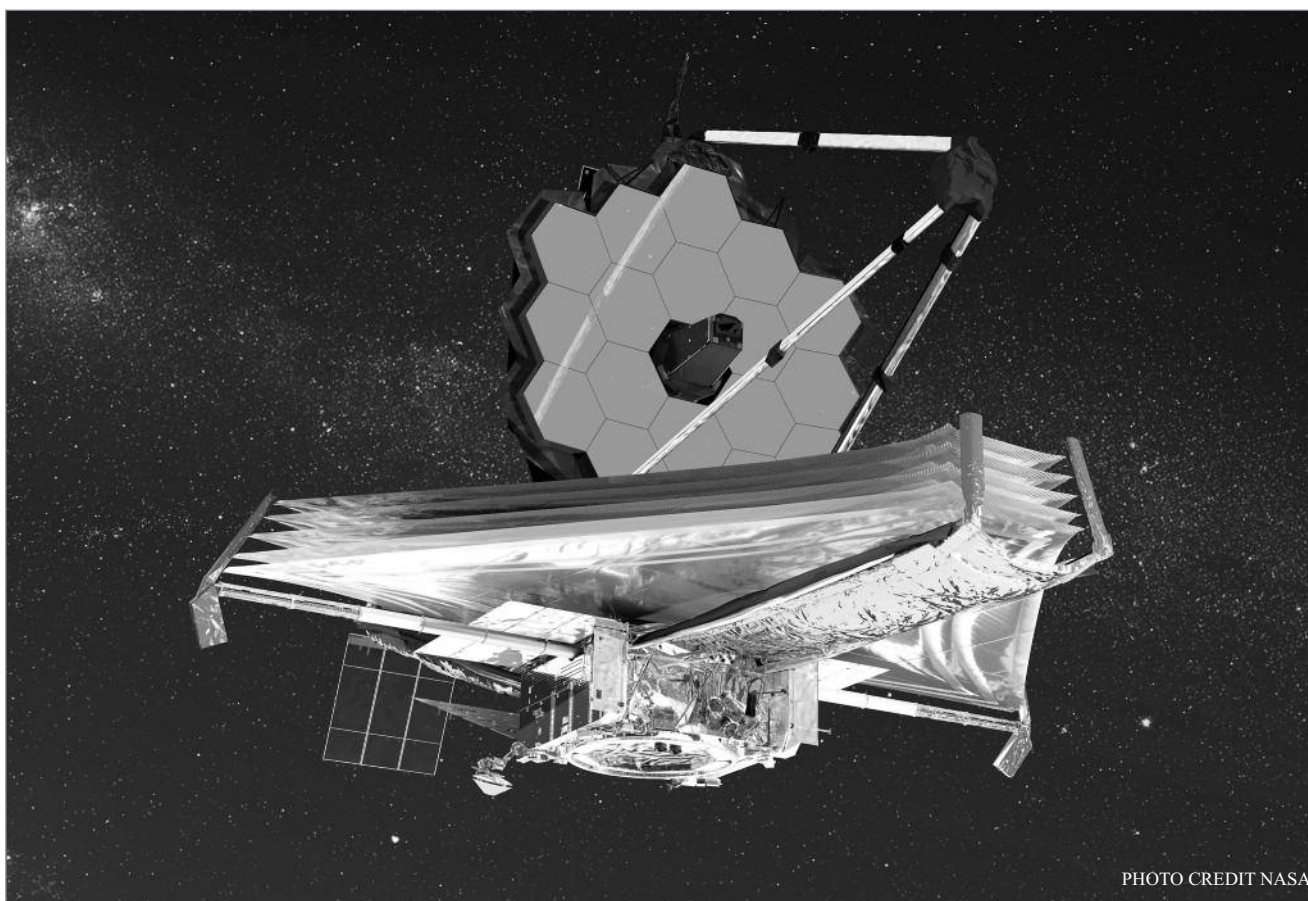


PHOTO CREDIT NASA

## NASA's Webb Telescope Awarded Robert H. Goddard Memorial Trophy

By PRESS OFFICER  
NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

The team behind NASA's James Webb Space Telescope has been selected to receive the 2023 Robert H. Goddard Memorial Trophy, the premier award from the National Space Club and Foundation. This annual award honors an individual, group, or program deemed by the Club to have made the most significant contribution to space activity in the previous year.

The award will be presented at the Club's yearly Dr. Robert H. Goddard Memorial Dinner in Washington on March 10, 2023.

In 2022, the Webb team successfully completed an intricate series of deployments to unfold the observatory into its final configuration in space. They then precisely aligned its mirrors to within nanometers, set up and tested its powerful instruments, and officially began Webb's mission to explore the infrared universe.

With its optics performing nearly twice

as well as the mission required, Webb has already spotted some of the earliest galaxies ever observed, peered through dusty clouds to see stars forming, and provided a more detailed look at the atmospheres of planets outside our solar system than ever before. The Goddard Trophy will recognize the contributions of the team that designed, developed, and now operate Webb, including individuals from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland; Northrop Grumman, Redondo Beach, California; the Space Telescope Science Institute, Baltimore; and Ball Aerospace, Boulder, Colorado. The mission was also made possible by many international contributions from partnerships with ESA (European Space Agency) and CSA (Canadian Space Agency).

"Our team designed the James Webb Space Telescope to see the first lights that illuminated our universe," said Mike Menzel, NASA Mission Systems Engineer for the Webb at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. "This required the

largest 'first of its kind' telescope ever put into space along with 50 of the most complex deployments ever attempted to essentially rebuild it on-orbit. After all these many years and many engineering challenges our team was struck with awe and wonder at the first images, and the satisfaction of knowing that whatever is out there we will see it."

Recent winners of the Goddard Memorial Trophy include the teams behind NASA's Ingenuity Mars Helicopter, New Horizons, and Kepler mission.

Webb, an international mission led by NASA with its partners ESA (European Space Agency) and CSA (Canadian Space Agency), is the world's premier space science observatory. Its design pushed the boundaries of space telescope capabilities to solve mysteries in our solar system, look beyond to distant worlds around other stars, and probe the mysterious structures and origins of our universe and our place in it.

See WEBB Page A4

## Library Hosts Ride and Read Series in Accokeek

By NICHOLAS BROWN  
Prince George's County Memorial Library System

LARGO, Md. (Jan. 10, 2023)—As part of its commitment to advancing the health and wellness of Prince Georgians, the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) launched a new fitness event series called Get Active: Ride and Read at the Accokeek Branch Library on Thursday, January 12 at 3 p.m. Attendees can get some physical activity while enjoying books, music, and streaming media. Adults and teens (with parent/guardian permission) may sign up for an hour ride on one of the Library's new stationary bikes coupled with tablets featuring access to free PGCMLS apps like Libby (eBooks, eAudiobooks, and magazines), Kanopy (streaming movies, tv series, and documentaries), and Freegal (streaming music).

Get Active: Ride and Read is a pilot program made possible by the PGCMLS Foundation, which generously supported the purchase of six stationary bikes and tablets. **The weekly program will take place on Thursday afternoons from 3 to 4 p.m. at the Accokeek Branch Library** (15773 Livingston Road, Accokeek, Maryland, 20607). **The series is currently offered through February 23.** Free, registration required.

"The Library and PGCMLS Foundation are pleased to provide a new opportunity for customers to enjoy some reading and streaming content while getting in some movement and light physical activity," said John Pfeifer, Donor Engagement and Grants Officer. "As community gathering spaces, PGCMLS' branch libraries are a great resource for bringing people together through a shared love of reading and common interests."

Participants are required to sign a liability waiver on-site prior to participating. Parents/guardians must be present to provide permission for minors to ride the stationary bikes.

*The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) helps customers discover and define opportunities that shape their lives. The Library serves the 967,000+ residents of Prince George's County, Maryland through 19 branch libraries, a 24/7 online library, the County Correctional Center Library, and pop-up services throughout the community. Learn more at [pgcmls.info/about-us](http://pgcmls.info/about-us).*

*The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) Foundation provides critical philanthropic support to the Prince George's County Memorial Library System. It strengthens the Library's capacity to innovate, adapt to change, and ensure our libraries remain a vital resource for all in Prince George's County now and in the future. Our libraries are more than a place to find books; they are spaces—both physical and online—to empower individuals, strengthen families, and make our county a better place.*

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**EarthTalk™: Best Apps for Identifying Plants & Wildlife**

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**To Be Equal: The "Bad, Brilliant Brother From Brooklyn," Hakeem Jeffries, Makes History as First Black Leader in Congress**

Jeffries is the highest-ranking non-white member of the most racially and ethnically diverse Congress in history, the seventh Congress to break the record set by the one before it.

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# TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

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

### Larry Bivens, Crossland '66, enjoyed Hand Dancing with Donna

Larry Alan Bivens, 74, who grew up on Morgan Road in Morningside, son of Charles and Kathryn Bivens, died January 7 in Stafford, Va.

After graduating from Crossland High in 1966, he joined the Army, and served in Vietnam 1968-69. He was awarded two Bronze Stars with Valor for Bravery.

In 1971, he began his career as a Fire-fighter with the Fort Belvoir Fire Department, retiring in 2000 as Assistant Chief. He was also a Life Member of the Fal-mouth Fire Department.

On April 4, 1972, Larry married his Morgan Road girlfriend, Donna Bookhultz, at Bradburn Memorial Methodist Church in District Heights. They celebrated their 50th anniversary last year. In retirement, he and Donna enjoyed dancing with the Battlefield Boogie Club and the D.C. Hand Dance Club.

Survivors include his wife Donna; children, Shannon Hudson (Eric) and Tracy Moran (Jimmy); grandchildren Austin and Kiptyn; great-granddaughter Addilyn; and his brother Ronald Bivens. He was predeceased by his oldest brother, Billy Bivens, and his youngest grandson Kellan. Services were in Fredericksburg with burial at Sunset Memorial Gardens.

Thank you to his first cousin, Linda Sandoval, for calling with news about Larry.

### Town of Morningside: Movie Night

Morningside's Movie Night will be Saturday, Feb. 11, at 6 p.m. And it's free! "Matilda the Musical" is the featured film. (It was released in 2022, and substitution is possible.) The movie will be shown at 6901 Ames Street, in Morningside. Concessions (popcorn, candy, hot-dogs, nachos, drinks and more) will be sold. Cash only.

Seating is limited and on first-come, first-serve basis. Reservations are required by Feb. 2. To reserve or for more information, call 301-736-2301 or email Morningsiderec@morningsidemd.gov.

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

### Neighbors & other good people

Kathy Elborne, who moved recently to Odenton from their longtime home at 6716 Boxwood Drive in Morningside, just emailed word that the house next-door at 6714 Boxwood Drive had a serious fire. She added that the residents were fine, arriving home to see smoke. It's good that Kathy can move from Morningside but still send reports.

Darius Lassiter, of Brandywine, has made the Dean's List at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, College of Agricultural & Life Sciences.

### Low-cost shots for your dog or cat, Feb. 5

The Prince George's County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PGSPCA) is holding walk-in, low-cost vaccination clinics for cats and dogs, on Sunday, Feb. 5, from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. at 8210 D'Arcy Road in Forestville. No appointment necessary. The gates open at 1 p.m., and anyone in line by 3 p.m. will be served. All dogs MUST be leashed or in a carrier. All cats MUST be in a carrier.

Charges: Rabies vaccination: \$15; Distemper vaccination: \$15; Microchipping: \$30. Cash or credit card only; no checks. Without documentation of a prior rabies vaccine, your pet's rabies vaccine will expire in one year. Info: www.pgspca.org/clinic/shots.

### Col. Suit's Castle is on the market

The Berkeley Castle, in Berkeley Springs, is up for Auction; it was built as a private residence in 1885 by Samuel Taylor Suit, of Suitland. It has more than 20 rooms, including a 45' x 26' stone great room with two fireplaces and 16' ceilings, 8 bedrooms, 6 full baths, 3 half-baths, wine cellar, commercial grade kitchen, conference room and was fully renovated in 2001. Years ago, Jack and I

took a tour of the Castle.

As for Colonel Suit (an honorary title), he was in the liquor business, served as a Republican member of the Maryland legislature, and lived in Suitland in an English-style mansion on 450 acres. It was there that he entertained such guests as President Ulysses S. Grant and General Rutherford B. Hayes. That "Home Place" was destroyed by fire in 1878 and was not rebuilt.

Col. Suit is said to have built Berkeley Castle as a gift to his wife Rosa, who after his death, lived there with her children. I don't believe the Colonel ever lived there. He died at a home on East Capitol Street at the age of 56 and is buried in the graveyard of St. Barnabas Chapel in Oxon Hill. All that Col. Suit left us is the town of Suitland and Suitland Road.

If you are considering making a bid, the suggested opening bid is \$485,000.

### Changing landscape

The Navy is preparing for a museum to replace the nearly 60-year-old facility in its Naval Gun Factory and an adjacent building at the Washington Navy Yard. I fondly remember taking my kids to the Gun Factory where they found great things to climb on.

Onelife Fitness Sports Club will be opening next summer at 8401 Mike Shapiro Drive, in Clinton, in the space where the defunct Toys R Us is now. It will offer a large indoor saltwater lap pool and whirlpool, over \$1 million in top-of-the-line cardio and strength equipment, three boutique studios featuring classes such as Zumba. The Onelife Fitness Preview Center is now open for virtual tours. Go to www.onelifefitness.com/gyms/clinton or call 240-398-3634.

### Robert Walls, of the Walls Bakery family

Robert Jakob Walls, Sr. 73, of Brandy-

See **MORNINGSIDE** Page A6

## Around the County

### Seeking Sharp Shooters

The Camp Springs Elks Lodge will be conducting a local free-throw shooting competition on **January 22** at 9 a.m. for youth 8-13 in the community at Oxon Hill High School, 6701 Leyte Dr, Oxon Hill, MD 20745 in support of the Elks National Hoop Shoot Competition. This is the 51st anniversary of the competition with winners advancing through several rounds. National finalists earn the right to take their immediate families to the National Finals in Chicago in April. I am pleased to share our lodge sent an 8-year-old girl, Sage Oliver, to the National Finals in 2019. [https://youtube/1GeW\\_UhSq9Y](https://youtube/1GeW_UhSq9Y).

There are three divisions each for children ranging in ages from 8-13 as of April 1, 2023. The competition consists of twenty-five free throws to determine winners and ties broken by an additional five shots. While many think this is a competition of athleticism, this is more an opportunity to develop a skill and a show of concentration as well as determination.

Numerous national winners have gone on to greater success, including former NBA great Chris Mullins and WNBA great Seimone Augustus. Please also view our national website for further insight [www.elks.org/hoopshoot](http://www.elks.org/hoopshoot).

Please contact DeWayne Wilcher the local Hoop Shoot Chairman at 240-882-8785. Additional concerns can also be directed to the Camp Springs Elks Lodge at 301-449-3449.

—DeWayne Wilcher, Camp Springs Elks Lodge

### PGCPS Students Awarded

#### Posse Scholarships

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Jan. 11, 2023)—Twelve Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) high school seniors have been named 2022 Posse Scholars and will receive four-year, full-tuition college scholarships from The Posse Foundation's partnering schools.

"I am so proud of this year's scholarship class who represent the spectrum of excellence across PGCPS community, specialty, charter and International high schools," said Dr. Monica Goldson, Chief Executive Officer. "We wish them continued success as they begin the next chapter of their academic careers and embark on this tremendous opportunity."

Students participating in the Posse program have a 90 percent college graduation rate, and have proven to make a difference on campus and in their professions. Since 2013, more than 60 PGCPS students have received Posse scholarships.

This year's recipients include:

**Marco Assam**, Eleanor Roosevelt High School - University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Jessica Garcia Bolealetti**, International High School at Langley Park - Lewis & Clark College

**Alriana Buller-Jarrett**, Charles H. Flowers High School - University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Hillary De La Cruz**, Charles H. Flowers High School - Bucknell University

**Addyson Powell**, Chesapeake Math & IT Academy - Bucknell University

**Jaheim Johnson**, Suitland High School - Lafayette College

**Mia Mezger**, Friendly High School - Bucknell University

**Ruth Olawumi**, Eleanor Roosevelt High School - University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Trinity Reddick**, Chesapeake Math & IT Academy Sewanee: The University of the South

**Felix Rivera**, International High School at Langley Park - Lewis & Clark College

**Dianara Sagazstizado**, Eleanor Roosevelt High School - Lewis & Clark College

**Tyler Salm**, Chesapeake Math & IT Academy - Lafayette College

For more information, visit [www.posse.foundation.org](http://www.posse.foundation.org).

—Prince George's County Public Schools

### Clarke University Fall Dean's List

DUBUQUE, Iowa (Jan. 12, 2023)—Clarke University is proud to announce that 191 students earned a spot on the Dean's List for the Fall 2022 semester. The list recognizes full-time Clarke students who have earned a 3.65 grade-point average or above, on a 4.0 scale, with a minimum of 12 graded hours. Please join us in congratulating these students on their hard work!

Bowie, MD: **Mannix H. Amos**

—Gayle Langel, Clarke University

### Local Residents Named to Dean's List at

#### Gonzaga University

SPOKANE, Wash. (Jan. 12, 2023)—The following local residents have earned placement on the Gonzaga University Dean's List for fall semester 2022. Students must earn a 3.5 to 3.84 grade-point average to be listed.

Gonzaga University is a humanistic, private Catholic University providing a Jesuit education to more than 7,500 students. Situated along the Spokane River near downtown Spokane, Washington, Gonzaga is routinely recognized among the West's best comprehensive regional universities. Gonzaga offers over 75 fields of study, 24 master's degrees, four doctoral degrees in one college and six schools.

Glenn Dale, MD: **Carissa Victoria Halili**

—Bonnie Harper, Gonzaga University

### MidAmerica Nazarene University Announces Fall 2022 Honor Roll

OLATHE, Kan. (Jan.11, 2023)—MidAmerica Nazarene University recently announced its President's, Dean's List and Honor Roll for the fall 2022 semester. A total of 423 students qualified for one of the honors.

All students in traditional programs carrying 12 semester hours or more with a term GPA from 3.2 to 4.0 may qualify for one of these academic honors. Neutral credit hours are excluded from the calculation.

See **AROUND THE COUNTY** Page A3

## Brandywine-Aquasco

### BEATING DIABETES

Beating Diabetes: Ancient Grain Veggie Bowl & Green Machine Protein Shake Cooking Demonstration will be held Thursday, March 2, 2023, at Harmony Hall Regional Center. All ages welcome. Address is 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744. Email for more Information! [wellness@pgparks.com](mailto:wellness@pgparks.com).

Are you diabetic and looking for new recipes or just looking for more healthy recipes? During this session, you will learn about what types of foods help you prevent and manage diabetes. These recipes will include whole grains, veggies, lean protein, and much more. Registration required. A sign-language interpreter is available with a 2-week advance notice. Cost is free. Link: Register Through PARKS DIRECT!

### AISHA BRAVEBOY

Prince George's County State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy was formally sworn in as the County's top law enforcement officer for a second term in the Sheila R. Tillerson Adams Ceremonial Courtroom at the courthouse in Upper Marlboro, Maryland on Thursday, January 5, 2023. Both community members and public officials came to the courthouse to witness her take the oath of office.

### SOUTHERN MARYLAND

The rolling countryside of Southern Maryland is known for its former tobacco plantations where a large enslaved population labored to support the lavish lifestyles of their owners. Yet some were able to escape oppression. A few fled slavery to join the United States Colored troops during the Civil War. The Southern Maryland peninsulas are surrounded by water, and access to the Chesapeake and its rivers enhanced opportunities for escape. But the risk of capture was great, and some fugitives were caught. Tour former plantations and historic sites that tell these stories. Experience Southern Maryland's Network to Freedom.

### BADEN COMMUNITY CENTER

Baden Community Center is located at 13601 Baden-Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Telephone number is 301-888-1500. Maryland Relay 7-1-1 for customers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability. Programs offered at Baden are licensed before and after school Kids Care Programs, Line Dancing, TKA Karate, Xtreme Teens Programs, Yoga Programs, Zumba Programs and Summer programs.

Baden Center features are Baseball/Softball Diamond, Basketball Court, Gym, Horseshoe Pits, Picnic Areas, Picnic Shelters, Picnic tables, playground, soccer, soccer field, fitness room and Healthy vending.

Annual special events are Baby Bunnies Spring Fling, Breakfast with Santa, Celebrate Baden Day, Trunk or Treat. Contact us at [badenc@pgparks.com](mailto:badenc@pgparks.com). Hours are Monday to Thursday 2-9 p.m., Friday 2-7 p.m., 7-10:00 p.m. (Teens), Saturday 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Sunday closed.

## by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

### SOUTHERN MARYLAND HOSPITALITY

If you are open for inviting bayside communities and waterfront recreation opportunities, then Southern Maryland is the premier resort locale you're looking for. Combine history, culinary delights, and welcoming Marylanders just waiting to show you their towns, and you get unforgettable, undeniable and unbelievable Southern Maryland.

### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday to Ronald Banks, LaYhea Lee, Eliza Cobb, Sharon Robinson, Stephone Contee, Fannie Savoy, Arthur C. Duckett, Jr., Carla Slater, Andrea Holland, Phyllis Slater, Jessica Farmer, Dominic Strickland, Atherine Jackson, Antony B. Taylor, Melvin Jackson, Rosie Wilkerson, Lashae Lee, and Alice Wright who are celebrating birthdays in January.

### CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 50TH ANNIVERSARY KICK OFF

Christ United Methodist Church is a humble structure marked by a serene white exterior and bright red welcoming doors. Adjacent to the church is a lovely, storied bell. While small in size, the church is plentiful in history, and will be joyously celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year.

The theme of the July anniversary is "Growing stronger, growing deeper, reaching higher". (Isaiah 40:31) The countdown starts in January, and over the next several months there will be various events honoring the rich history of the church, personal stories and poignant memories from members will be shared. We encourage your participation as the church looks back on all that has transpired and gives praise for all that is to come. If you have a favorite moment, picture, or story you would like to share please email Joyce Lee at [rejoyce2day@yahoo.com](mailto:rejoyce2day@yahoo.com). More details to come. Information received from Joyce Lee, The Messenger-January 2023.

### KINGDOM KIDS

Beginning February 12, 2023 Nottingham Myers United Methodist Kingdom Kids Children's Church will be every 2nd, 3rd, 4th Sunday. Kids are not too young for us to set an example. Kids must not be underestimated. Set the bar high for them. 1 Timothy 4-12. Rev. Shemaiah Strickland, Nottingham Myers, 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20777, 301-888-2171. [Nottinghammyers@outlook.com](mailto:Nottinghammyers@outlook.com).

### ANNUAL PRE-SUPER BOWL SPAGHETTI SUNDAY

Our annual pre-super bowl spaghetti Sunday, February 5, 2023 will be immediately (10:45 a.m.) following our Worship Service. Dinner cost will be \$5.00 for adults, \$2.00 for children (5-10 years old). Dinners will include Spaghetti, French Bread, and Water.

Pre-orders with prepayments only. Points of contact are Shirley Ann, or Doretha Ann, or Vivian. Call to pre-order at 301-888-1536. Checks to: St. Philips Church. Cash App: \$stphilpsbaden. Benefit St. Philip's Church Baden Parish.

# COMMUNITY

## Around the County from A2

tion and reduce the course load used to figure the honor. The President's List is a 4.0 grade point average for the semester; Dean's List ranges from 3.5 to 3.99; and the Honor Roll is 3.2 to 3.49.

MidAmerica Nazarene University is a private, Christian, liberal arts university of approximately 2,000 students. Offering 50 traditional undergraduate areas of study and 11 pre-professional programs, the university is also known for its accelerated professional and graduate programs. The campus is located on 105 acres in Olathe, Kansas. More information may be found at [www.mnu.edu](http://www.mnu.edu).

Following are MNU students from Prince George's County named to the President's List, Dean's List and Honor Roll.

Bowie, MD: **Benjamin Ballah**, Dean's List

—Carol Best, MidAmerica Nazarene University

## Local PGA Pro Earns Prestigious Middle Atlantic PGA Section Award

STAFFORD, Va. (Jan. 9, 2023)—Gabby Miller, PGA, the Assistant Golf Professional/Junior Golf Coordinator at the University of Maryland Golf Course in College Park, Md., is the recipient of the 2022 Middle Atlantic PGA's (MAPGA) Youth Player Development Award, which recognizes a PGA Professional who is a leader in junior golf, reflects the ideals and qualities that juniors can emulate and provides opportunities for juniors to learn and play golf. Contributions to the MAPGA and PGA junior programs and involvement in the promotion and development of junior golf at the facility and community level are additional criteria considered for this award.



PHOTO COURTESY MAPGA

Gabby Miller

—Middle Atlantic Section of the PGA of America (MAPGA)

## "A Fairway to Help" Golf Tournament

New Horizons Supported Services, Inc., Upper Marlboro, MD  
May 22, 2023  
Registration 7:30 a.m. Shotgun start 8:30 a.m.  
Lake Presidential Golf Club \* 3151 Presidential Golf Dr. \* Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Register now for the 10th Annual "A Fairway to Help" golf tournament. We are also looking for sponsors for this annual event and New Horizons' only fundraiser.

Proceeds benefit over 200 participants with disabilities. Funds raised provide necessary skill development, job training, and employment services to help those we serve lead fulfilling and productive lives.

Register now and take advantage of our early bird special through February 28, 2023.

<https://www.nhssi.org/content/fairway-help-golf-tournament-1>

## Morehead State's Fall 2022 Dean's List Announced

MOREHEAD, Ky. (Jan. 9, 2022)—Morehead State University has ranked among the top public regional universities in the South for 19 consecutive years. In 2022, MSU earned its highest ranking to date, moving up to the "Top 15" as the #15 ranked public school in the South. MSU is also recognized as one of the Best Colleges for Veterans, Best Value Schools, and Top Performers on Social Mobility.

The Fall 2022 Dean's List is now available online. To view the Dean's List, visit [www.moreheadstate.edu/deanslist](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/deanslist). The accomplishments of these students reflect our commitment to academic excellence and student success.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must have completed at least 12 undergraduate credit hours and earned at least a 3.5 GPA for the current semester.

Cheltenham, MD: **Lloyd A Bryan**

—Communications and Marketing, Morehead State University

## County Awards \$7 Million to Bedford-Victoria Station Apartments in First Right of First Refusal Loan

By ALEXIS REVIS YEOMAN  
DHCD

LARGO, Md. (Jan. 10, 2023)—The Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) awarded Jair Lynch Real Estate Partners the first Right of First Refusal (ROFR) Loan from the County's new ROFR Preservation Loan Fund. The affordable housing developer received \$7 million for the Bedford-Victoria Station Apartments in Langley Park to assist with the acquisition costs. In October of 2021, the County Council also approved a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) for Jair Lynch Real Estate Partners to assist in making critical improvements to the property.

"This is a crucial and necessary investment for our County's affordable housing community," said Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "We are proud to support Jair Lynch Real Estate Partners and their plans to make significant property improvements and look forward to the peace of mind residents will have with safe, quality, and affordable housing options. We are excited to continue expanding on our affordable housing work from the first term of our Administration, which allowed us to preserve and create over 3,100 affordable housing units for Prince Georgians."

Bedford-Victoria Station Apartments consists of 587 units. The ROFR Loan and the PILOT will ensure the on-going affordability of 440 of those units (75% of the total) under the terms of a 20-year affordability covenant.

"Prince George's County's investment in Bedford & Victoria Station via the ROFR Preservation Fund loan exemplifies the County's commitment to preserving quality, attainable housing long-term in partnership with our firm," said



PHOTO COURTESY PGC DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Exterior—Bedford and Victoria Station

Phuc Tran, Vice President of Asset Management for Jair Lynch Real Estate Partners. "The support of Prince George's County and the ROFR Preservation Loan Fund has enhanced our ability to greatly improve the quality of housing for our residents while maintaining the property's affordability and keeping long-term residents from being displaced. The award of the ROFR Preservation Fund loan will advance our efforts to address deferred maintenance and make significant property improvements including the installation of new windows, lighting, kitchen/bath updates, structural and sustainability updates, and the creation of new outdoor amenities and playground equipment. The funds will also help further our efforts in providing much-needed resident services to all those who call Bedford & Victoria Station home."

In November 2021, County Executive Alsobrooks in partnership with the County Council, committed \$15 million from the American Rescue Plan Act over

a three-year period that allowed DHCD to launch the ROFR Preservation Fund. The fund supports the preservation of existing naturally occurring affordable housing in the County. It is used to strengthen the implementation of the existing ROFR program and assists in preserving the affordability in properties located in Qualified Census Tracts, particularly in transit-oriented areas as well as targeted areas of economic development growth. The fund helps to ensure that low and moderate County renters can maintain residency as the County grows and prospers. Since the County's \$15 million commitment, the State of Maryland has also provided \$10 million to further support the County's ROFR Preservation Loan Fund.

In December 2020, the County launched the ROFR program, and has exercised its right of first refusal on several properties, preserving over 1,200 apartment units throughout the County since that time.

## Over 900 Use Local SoberRide® Program on New Year's

DC area's DUI prevention effort removes potential drunk driver from area roadways every 23-seconds on New Year's Eve

By ALEXANDRA LUCCHESI  
WRAP

WASHINGTON (Jan. 10, 2023)—Over 900 (907) persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used the free safe ride service, SoberRide®, this New Year's (from 10:00 pm on December 31, 2022 through 4:00 am on January 1, 2023) as opposed to possibly driving home drunk.

"For its hours of operation this New Year's alone, this level of ridership translates into SoberRide® removing a potential drunk driver from Greater Washington's roadways every 23-seconds," said Kurt Erickson, President of the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program,

the organization conducting the region's SoberRide® effort.

WRAP's most recent holiday SoberRide® offering concluded on January 1, 2023 after kicking-off and running nightly since December 16, 2022 providing a total of 998 free safe rides to local residents ages 21 and older who otherwise may have attempted to drive home after drinking. The local anti-drunk driving service is offered as a way to keep local roads safe from potentially impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday. During the most recent 16 consecutive evening period, area residents celebrating with alcohol could download Lyft to their phones, then enter WRAP-provided codes (avail-

able at SoberRide.com) in the app's "Payment" tab (under the Add Lyft Pass" option) to receive their no-cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. SoberRide® was available to both new and existing Lyft users.

Lyft provided SoberRide® trips throughout the Washington-metropolitan area to local residents ages 21 and older who otherwise may have attempted to drive home after drinking.

Having commemorated its 40th year in 2022 after being founded in 1982, the nonprofit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is a coalition of diverse interests using effective education, innovative programs and targeted advocacy to end alcohol-impaired driving and underage drinking in the Washington, DC metro area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths historically lower than the national average. Visit [www.wrap.org](http://www.wrap.org)

## Earth TALK™ Best Apps for Identifying Plants & Wildlife

Dear EarthTalk:

What are some of the best apps out there for helping identify plants and/or wildlife?

—J. Moser, Summertown, SC

Not surprisingly in this day and age, you don't need a PhD to identify plants and animals out in the natural world. All you need is a smartphone and an app.

One of the best known and most downloaded of this new breed of ID apps is iNaturalist, a joint initiative of the California Academy of Sciences and National Geographic. You can use it to take a photo of a plant or animal and get a list of possible species based on your location. And if that doesn't work, you can escalate to a community of expert naturalists via the app to help identify more obscure

species.

If footprints are all you have to identify wildlife passing through your area, check out the iTrack Wildlife app. To use it, simply input a few basic descriptors (size of the track, number and shape of toes, claws visible or not, etc.) and then get back a list of likely matches. The app is also searchable offline if you're beyond cell range.

Bird enthusiasts will appreciate Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Merlin Bird ID. You can upload a photo and/or enter information about the bird you saw, such as its size, location, and colors observed, and the app uses artificial intelligence (AI) to give you back a list of possible species.

Meanwhile, the Birdnet app, also from Cornell's ornithologists, utilizes recordings of bird-

song to tell you which avian species are nearby. When you launch Birdnet, it records the noise in your surroundings and can zero in on a specific chirp or call to identify which bird is making it. So far, the app has cataloged more than 1,000 of the most common bird species in North America and Europe.

Want to identify that creepy crawly making its way across the path? Picture Insect uses AI to match the insect you have photographed against its database of insect photos contributed by some three million users to make a match and let you know just what you're dealing with. Likewise, the company behind Picture Insect (Gloryfy) also offers Picture Fish, Picture Bird, Picture Mushroom, Picture Animal and Picture This (for plants), all of which use AI to

help ID different types of living things from your photos.

Meanwhile, the LeafSnap app, developed by the Smithsonian Institution, Columbia University and the University of Maryland, uses visual recognition technology to identify thousands of plants, flowers, fruits and trees from user-submitted photos of leaves. LeafSnap's developers report that the app can recognize 90 percent of all known flora species on the planet. You can download the app to your phone and make use of it even without an Internet connection.

Another app beloved to help identify plants and trees is PlantSnap, which uses machine learning technology and AI to determine the species of the plant, flower or shrub pic you have just snapped. The Colorado-based start-up behind this app has collected upwards of 475 million plant images in its database which it has leveraged to identify more than 650,000



IMAGE CREDIT: RODDY SCHEER

Several apps for iPhone and Android harness the power of machine learning and AI to identify plants and wildlife from photos you upload, such as this tree bark.

plants for users around the world.

plantsnap.com; LeafSnap, leafsnap.app.

CONTACTS: iNaturalist, [inaturalist.org](http://inaturalist.org); iTrack Wildlife, [naturetracking.com/itrack-wildlife/](http://naturetracking.com/itrack-wildlife/); Merlin ID, [merlin.al-labourbirds.org](http://merlin.al-labourbirds.org); BirdNet, [birdnet.cornell.edu](http://birdnet.cornell.edu); Gloryfy, [gloryfy.com](http://gloryfy.com); PlantSnap,

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# COMMENTARY

## Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



### To Be Equal:

## The “Bad, Brilliant Brother From Brooklyn,” Hakeem Jeffries, Makes History as First Black Leader in Congress

*“America needs political leadership that can inspire disparate constituencies and star-crossed communities to coalesce around ideas, issues and goals that transcend party loyalty ... Hakeem Jeffries cannot, of course, be expected to embody this leadership on his own. But it is a testament to the national character, and the grace at times embedded within it, that the voice of the first Black leader of the Democratic minority in Congress will be seated at the head of the table as we deliberate on the future of our ongoing democratic experiment.”*

—Peniel E. Joseph

Of the 15 ballots it took for Kevin McCarthy

finally to be elected Speaker of the House last week, Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries won more votes than McCarthy in 11 of them.

But a speaker must be elected with a majority of votes cast, not just a plurality. With every member of the House voting, the threshold for election was 218. By the 14th vote, McCarthy had persuaded 13 holdouts to shift their votes to him, but it was only after six members agreed to vote “present”—thereby lowering the threshold to 216—that he finally ascended to the speakership.

By contrast, each and every member of the minority party voted for Jeffries on each and every ballot—except for the 12th. On the fourth day of

voting, Rep. David Trone of Maryland missed the first ballot of the day because he was undergoing surgery. By early afternoon, he was back on the House floor to cast his vote for Jeffries in the 13th ballot.

When Jeffries was elected minority leader in November, he became the first Black leader of any caucus in Congress, House or Senate. Last week, he became the first Black nominee for Speaker of the House.

His colleagues recognized the significance as they cast their votes.

“And still I rise, and I proudly cast my vote on behalf of the enslaved people who built this Capitol. I cast my vote for the honorable Hakeem Jeffries,” Rep. Al Green of Texas, declared.

With a nod to her predecessor, the late civil rights icon John Lewis, Rep. Nikema Williams cast her vote for Jeffries “in the spirit of good trouble.”

And fellow New Yorker, Rep. Yvette Clark joyfully cast her vote for “the bad, brilliant brother from Brooklyn.”

Jeffries is the highest-ranking non-white member of the most racially and ethnically diverse Congress in history, the seventh Congress to break the record set by the one before it. At 52, he is the first member of Generation X to lead the House Democratic Caucus.

Jeffries, elected to Congress in 2012, had long been seen as a rising star in his party. He made history as youngest member to serve in leadership

when he became chairman of the Democratic caucus in 2019. His national profile rose in 2020 when the House impeached Donald Trump for a second time and he served as an impeachment manager. Signifying the cultural and generational shift he has come to represent, he concluded his impeachment presentation by quoting fellow Brooklynite and Gen-Xer, Biggie Smalls: “And if you don’t know, now you know.”

Throughout his career in public service, Jeffries has been a tireless advocate for communities of color, committed to eliminating the barriers to equity. The National Urban League was proud to work closely with him to develop and enact sweeping prison reform legislation, the FIRST STEP Act. In 2014, he pushed for a national ban on chokeholds after the death of Eric Garner. He is a co-sponsor of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which passed the House but stalled in the Senate.

His passion for justice is matched by his eloquence, most recently on display in the instantly-viral “ABCs of American Values” speech he delivered just before he handed McCarthy the speaker’s gavel, symbolizing the peaceful transfer of power.

As the new House majority embarks on a divisive agenda of amplifying conspiracy theories, vilifying honorable public servants, eliminating reproductive rights, Jeffries’ steady, thoughtful leadership will provide a much-needed counterpoint.

—January 12, 2023

## CASA Condemns Investment Firm Schweb Partners LLC’s Terror Tactics on Immigrants

*Calls Police on Immigrant Families to Avoid Accountability for Rent Hikes and Poor Living Conditions*

By JOSSIE FLOR SAPUNAR  
CASA

RIVERDALE, Md. (Jan 12, 2023)—[On the evening of January 11], CASA held a meeting with tenants to discuss the living conditions in their Riverdale apartment building. NJ-based investment firm and property owner Schweb Partners LLC immediately called the police in an attempt to shut down the meeting. When police didn’t take away CASA staff, Schweb Partners LLC representatives locked themselves in the office door, leaving tenants, CASA staff, and police officers in the main foyer.

“Tenants are fed up with the poor living conditions and rent hikes that have taken place since Schweb Partners LLC became the new owners of their homes,” said Jorge Benitez Perez, CASA’s lead organizer for Prince George’s County. “Last night, this

nefarious landlord tried to stifle their growing movement by calling the police on their tenant meeting. We remind Schweb that it is illegal to retaliate against tenants for organizing. However, we see now that they will try to punish tenants and are unafraid to call the police on immigrants. These families are changing the balance of power in their favor, rejecting this investment firm scrooge and its money-grubbing ways.”

Tenants have reported living with mold, no heating, no electricity, no gas all while facing rent increases that are hundreds of dollars at a time. The tenants are largely multigenerational families with young children and senior citizens, most of whom have lived in Maryland for years.

“What Schweb forgets is that WE live here. We invited CASA into our homes. Tenants have a right to organize and meet and

fix their housing system,” said Zoila Maria, Riverdale mom who was mad that her landlord refuses to meet with her. “Where I live there are mice, terrible smells, and everything is dirty. A chunk of roof almost fell on my son’s head at 1 p.m. one night. All that and my rent is going up and with it so many fake fines. I’m tired of it. I’m not scared of Schweb.”

Ten-year-old Britney lives at the apartment building. “There are rats and drunk men who are here after night. These drunk men start knocking on doors and doing inappropriate things. We all deserve better. Schweb should come and meet us.”

This is the fourth apartment building complex that has raised dire conditions and rent hikes concerns in Maryland, alongside The Woods at Hillcrest Apartments, Westgate at Laurel, and Quincy Village.

## Bay Foundation Grades Chesapeake’s Health a D-plus, Again

By TIMOTHY B. WHEELER  
Bay Journal News Service

The ecological health of the nation’s largest estuary remains stuck at a low level, according to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

The Annapolis, MD-based environmental group graded the Bay’s overall vitality a D+, the same lackluster mark it got in 2020.

In a note introducing its biennial State of the Bay report, CBF President & CEO Hilary Harp Falk said it “shows there is still a long way to go to create a watershed that works for all of us.”

CBF said that 7 of the 13 pollution, fisheries and habitat indicators it tracks remained unchanged, while three improved and three worsened.

The amount of water-fouling nitrogen and phosphorus flowing into the Bay in 2022 from its major rivers was below the 10-year average, CBF acknowledged. But the past two years saw no real progress in water quality, it said. While phosphorus levels improved a bit, already poor water clarity declined, and nitrogen pollution stayed unchanged.

The nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus feed algae blooms that reduce water clarity and deplete the water of oxygen when they decompose, causing the Bay’s “dead zone.” The federal-state Chesapeake Bay Program has been struggling for decades to restore water quality, but re-

cently acknowledged it was likely to miss a self-imposed 2025 deadline for reaching pollution reduction goals set in 2010.

The group’s assessments are a blend of science and policy, scoring not just the condition of the Bay and its resources but also the federal and state efforts to restore it.

“The state of the Bay is at a precipice,” said Beth McGee, CBF’s director of science and agricultural policy. “We need to accelerate our efforts at reducing farm pollution to ensure the watershed-wide restoration effort is successful.”

Falk noted that much of the water quality gains to date came from upgrading wastewater treatment plants. To make further progress, she said, increased efforts are needed to reduce pollution from farms—especially in Pennsylvania—and to curb urban and suburban stormwater runoff.

In one of the few bits of good news, CBF upgraded the status of the Bay’s oyster population, citing record reproduction in both Maryland and Virginia in 2020 and 2021. But the group still didn’t give the keystone species a passing grade, saying more is needed to end overfishing and restore lost reef habitat.

CBF’s assessment of striped bass ticked up a point, crediting states with tightening catch limits enough to rebuild its population from dangerously low levels seen just a few years ago.

CBF downgraded the status of blue crabs more than any other Bay health indicator, though, citing the 2022 survey estimating the population at its lowest level in 33 years. Fishery managers in Maryland and Virginia tightened catch limits in response.

As for key Bay habitats, CBF rated conditions of underwater grasses, forest buffers and wetlands unchanged from 2020. But it downgraded slightly the status of “resource lands”—forests, natural open areas and farmland. It cited aerial surveys estimating that 95,000 acres of farms and forests had been lost to development across the Bay watershed over a five-year period ending in 2018.

“While we’ve made significant progress,” Falk said, “far too much pollution still reaches our waterways and climate change is making matters worse.”

Still, the CBF president saw reason for optimism.

“The good news is that the Bay is remarkably resilient and there is tremendous energy around the table,” Falk said. “With many new leaders taking charge—EPA administrators, governors, legislators, and within environmental organizations—we have an opportunity to prove that restoring clean water is possible.”

*Tim Wheeler is the Bay Journal’s associate editor and senior writer, based in Maryland. You can reach him at [twheeler@bayjournal.com](mailto:twheeler@bayjournal.com).*

## Hoyer Statement on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

“Whether at the pulpit or on the picket line, speaking before a group of 200 in a congregation or a crowd of more than 200,000 on the National Mall, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. inspired those around him to heal the wounds of hate and injustice that ail our country and world. More than a half century after he was taken from us, his memory continues to motivate new generations of people dedicated to bettering their communities and to building a more equitable society. I join Americans in honoring Dr. King this weekend as we pay tribute to his legacy

on what would have been his ninety-fourth birthday.

“Dr. King pushed our nation to live up to its founding promise to ‘secure the Blessings of Liberty’ for all Americans. His work remains unfinished, however. From voting rights to human rights, social justice to economic justice, I’ve worked alongside my colleagues in the House—including the Congressional Black Caucus—to build upon the progress that Dr. King made on pressing issues that continue to challenge our country. Just recently, for instance, we secured the removal of a

bust of Chief Justice Roger B. Taney, who authored the infamous Dred Scott decision upholding slavery in America, from the Capitol Building. That legislation also commissions a new bust of civil rights icon and Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall for our Capitol. I look forward to continuing to work with Democrats in the House to advance Dr. King’s mission. Indeed, let us never forget, as Dr. King wisely once reminded us, that ‘the time is always ripe to do right.’

### Webb from A1

NASA Headquarters, Washington oversees the Webb telescope mission. NASA Goddard manages Webb for the agency and oversees work on the mission performed by the Space Telescope Science Institute, Northrop Grumman, and other mission partners. In addition to Goddard, several NASA centers contributed to the project, including the agency’s Johnson Space Center in Houston, Jet Propulsion Laboratory in southern California, Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, Ames Research Center in California’s Silicon Valley, and others.

Webb’s accomplishments have also recently been recognized by organizations including Aviation Week, Bloomberg Businessweek, Popular Science, and TIME.

For more information about the Webb mission, visit: <https://www.nasa.gov/webb>

## Statement on Recent Judicial Appointments

By PRESS OFFICER  
Maryland Judiciary

Due to an administrative error, the Judiciary misinformed the governor’s office that no active judge in either the Circuit Court for Prince George’s County or the District Court in Prince George’s County are Hispanic. To supplement the governor’s release on recent judicial appointments, the Judiciary would like to clarify that there are two current sitting judges in Prince George’s County who are Hispanic. Judge Gladys

Weatherspoon of the circuit court who is Afro-Latina-Hispanic and Judge Cheri Simpkins of the district court is Afro-Latina.

The Judiciary has corrected the administrative error to prevent future mistakes and applauds Governor Hogan on his commitment to adding diversity to the benches across the state, including historic firsts.

*Editor’s Note: The press release “Governor Hogan Announces Final Judicial Appointments” was published on page A4 of the January 12, 2023 edition of The Prince George’s Post.*

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# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## KLNB Retail Investment Team Secures \$11 Million Transaction for Marlboro Square Shopping Center

92,649-Square-Foot Property is the Latest in Series of Prominent DMV Retail Sales for KLNB

By PRESS OFFICER  
KLNB

BALTIMORE (Jan. 11, 2023)—KLNB, the Mid-Atlantic region's largest privately held CRE brokerage firm, announced today the \$10,800,000 sale of Marlboro Square at 5715 Crain Highway in Upper Marlboro, Md. The KLNB Retail Investment Sales Group of Vito Lupo, Chris Burnham, Andy Stape and Jake Furnary exclusively represented the seller, Marlboro Investors, LLC in the transaction of the 92,649-square-foot shopping center. Renaud Consulting represented the purchaser.

Anchored by a freestanding 37,981-square-foot Weis supermarket, the 19-unit property is 100% leased with a strong mix of retail tenants that are well suited for the surrounding neighborhood demographics. These tenants include junior anchors Advanced Auto and Dollar Tree, and a variety of brands that encompass fitness, personal healthcare, food and beverage, and eyecare. In addition, there is approximately 10,800-square-feet of

vacant land directly adjacent to Weis providing additional development potential.

Despite a lending environment that continues to present challenges, and Weis' relatively short remaining lease term, KLNB's Retail Investment Sales Group secured seven first-round offers, leading to a competitive bidding environment for the seller.

This is the second transaction KLNB has facilitated for ownership. Partnering with clients on successive transactions is a common occurrence for the KLNB Investment Sales Group and is a testament to the professionalism and unmatched knowledge of the team.

With limited competition in the surrounding market, and only five other grocery stores in a five-mile radius, Marlboro Square serves as a central retail hub for the community. Marlboro Square is in the county seat of Prince George's County and 11 miles from Washington, D.C. The property is positioned along Crain Highway, and with direct access from Pennsylvania Avenue, the property enjoys nearly 100,000 VPD.

## Social Security Matters

### Ask Rusty:

## Will My Work Earnings Affect My Social Security 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 am presently 67 years of age and am still working full time. I am receiving Medicare coverage, but I have not yet applied for monthly Social Security payments. I have been told that I can take SS payments even if I am still working. Is that correct? Is there a limit to how much I can earn each year and still receive SS payments? **Signed: Working but Wondering**

**Dear Working:** Social Security's so-called "earnings test" applies only to those who haven't yet reached their full retirement age. At 67 years of age, you are already past your SS full retirement age (FRA) of 66 years and 2 months, which means there is no longer a limit to how much you can earn from working. Regardless of how much you earn, your monthly Social Security benefits will not be affected, so you can claim your Social Security at any time and not worry about your benefits being affected.

You should also know that because you haven't yet claimed your Social Security, your monthly benefit has been growing since you reached your full retirement age in October of 2021. You've been earning Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) at the rate of .667% more benefit for each month you have delayed claiming, so your benefit now at 67 would be over 8% more than it would have been at your FRA last year. And, if you wish to, you can continue waiting to claim SS and continue to earn those DRCs to get a still higher benefit. But DRCs stop when you reach 70, when you would get your maximum Social Security benefit—about 31% more than your FRA amount—so never wait past age 70 to claim.

To recap: because you've already passed your full retirement age you can claim your SS benefit now (e.g., to start in January) and get a benefit which is 8+% more than you would have gotten if you claimed at your full retirement age, or you can continue to wait and get an even higher amount by claiming even later. Which way to go depends a lot on your current financial needs and your life expectancy. If you don't urgently need the money now and are in good health and expect at least average longevity (about 84 for a man your current age), then waiting longer to claim would be a smart move. But if you need (or want) the money now, then claiming at this time would also be a wise choice. In either case, you don't need to worry about your earnings from work negatively affecting your monthly Social Security benefit—they won't.

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).

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## Free Entrepreneur Training for Veterans

Must Be Prince George's County Resident

By JOE GIORDANO  
Project Opportunity

**Is Entrepreneurship the right choice for you?**

**Do you have a business idea but not sure where to start?**

**Do you have a business and want to take it to the next level?**

Want to know more? Register for the Project Opportunity Prince George's Spring 2023 Orientation Session which will be held on Wednesday March 8, 2023 from 6:30–8:30 p.m. at Prince George's Community College Lanham Hall (Room

203), 301 Largo Road, Largo, Maryland [www.project-opportunity.com/class/registration](http://www.project-opportunity.com/class/registration)

Attendance at the Orientation Session is a vital step in our application process. If you are interested in this class but unable to attend you must contact Program Director Joe Giordano, [joe.giordano@project-opportunity.com](mailto:joe.giordano@project-opportunity.com)

Classes Begins Wednesday March 22 2023. Project Opportunity is an intensive curriculum based 10-week cohort program. The Spring 2023 program will meet every Wednesday March 22–May 24, 2023 from 6:30–9:30 p.m. at Prince George's Com-

munity College, Lanham Hall, Room 203 Through grants and community business support this program is free to all veterans. The curriculum and materials are facilitated by small business professionals and subject matter experts. The program concludes with a formal business pitch and Graduation Ceremony on Wednesday, May 31, 2023.

Training Includes:

- Assessing Your Business Idea
- Marketing Analysis
- Financing and Financial Management
- Business Structure and Taxes
- Development of a Business Plan

## Maryland Launches New Tools to Support Military and Community Compatibility

Departments of Planning and Commerce use U.S. Department of Defense Grant Funding to Promote Compatible Civilian Development in Maryland to Support Long-Term Military Sustainability and Continued Regional Development

By PRESS OFFICER  
Maryland Department of Planning

BALTIMORE (Jan. 9, 2023)—The Maryland Department of Planning (Planning) today launched the Military and Community Compatible Use Website, focused on promoting compatible civilian development in Maryland that supports long-term military sustainability and continued regional community development around the state's military installations.

The new Compatible Use Website and Handbook, alongside the Maryland Department of Commerce's Renewable Energy Compatible Siting Project, are integral implementation measures of the 2019 Maryland Statewide Joint Land Use Study Response Implementation Strategy, all completed in collaboration with our U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) federal partners and funded by a grant received from the DoD's Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation to support military-civilian compatible use.

Maryland's military installations and facilities are of significant value to state and local economies and are interdependent with Maryland's communities. Collaboration and joint planning among military installations, neighboring communities, and various state and local agencies protect

the long-term viability of existing and future military missions and facilitate economic growth and compatible development in the surrounding area.

"Maryland's military community protects and preserves our nation's security through sacrifice, bravery, and dedication," said Governor Larry Hogan. "Our administration's support for the military and their families extends to the many bases, forts, and facilities across the state, as we work to strengthen their economic and physical resilience and promote their vital position in our communities."

Ensuring the success of Maryland's military installations and the communities that support them is a collaborative effort facilitated by compatible land use planning, open communication and information sharing, economic and workforce development, and coordinated access to and implementation of available federal, state, and local resources. This first-of-its-kind Compatible Use Website and Handbook provides tools for state and local leaders, members of the military community, and other interested Marylanders to better understand the unique needs, challenges, and opportunities facing the state's military installations and defense communities in support of the national defense strategy.

The Renewable Energy Compatible Sit-

ing project provides renewable energy developers with resources to support the siting of renewable energy projects, so they are compatible with military operations in the state. This is handled through enhancements to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Power Plant Research Program's Smart DG+ renewable energy screening tool to add military and compatibility mapping layers.

The new map layers on the enhanced tool include military operational areas, military and non-military airspace structures, renewable energy potential, and points of contact for early coordination with the military for siting projects. For more information about this project, visit the Maryland Military & Civilian Compatible Use Project webpage.

Maryland will continue adding tools and resources to the website to communicate these enhancements. To learn more about the website or compatible use, or to provide feedback, please contact Sarah Diehl, AICP, Southern Maryland Regional Planner, at [Sarah.Diehl@maryland.gov](mailto:Sarah.Diehl@maryland.gov). To learn more about the Renewable Energy Compatible Siting project, please contact Jennifer Chiasson, Senior Grant Program Manager, at [Jennifer.Chiasson@maryland.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Chiasson@maryland.gov).

## CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield Community Health Plan Maryland and Live Chair Health Partner on Pilot Program to Increase Access to Healthcare in Maryland Counties

Health plan and startup connect around mission to create better health outcomes by meeting them where they are—in trusted community spaces

By PRESS OFFICERS  
CareFirst / Live Chair Health

BALTIMORE (Jan. 9, 2023)—CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield Community Health Plan Maryland (CareFirst CHPMD) and Live Chair Health (Live Chair) announced they are partnering to bring greater healthcare access to residents in trusted community spaces in Baltimore City and three Maryland counties: Prince George's, Montgomery and Baltimore counties.

Andrew Suggs founded Live Chair following his father's death in 2020. He is on a mission to save lives by reaching underserved community members where they are—first in salons and barbershops and now expanding into other community-based organizations, such as Faith institutions and housing developments, among others. This type of on-the-ground engagement significantly impacts the lives of minority communities by empowering them with the knowledge and resources they need to stay well.

According to CareFirst CHPMD, about forty percent of CareFirst CHPMD's Medicaid recipients have not seen a primary care physician in the last 12 months. Seeking preventive care before experiencing a significant health event can prevent potentially lengthy hospital stays or Emergency Department visits and reduce healthcare costs.

In Prince George's, Montgomery and Baltimore counties, Live Chair will reach out to CareFirst CHPMD members each

month to act as an access point into the healthcare system to help improve health outcomes at a community level: helping members understand their benefits, choose a physician, and schedule their first appointment. One added layer is working with the CareFirst CHPMD care management team to close social determinants of health gaps that are identified.

"CareFirst's responsibility to our communities is not just to pay for care; it's to create coordinated care and increase access and affordability across the healthcare delivery system," said Mike Rapach, President and CEO of CareFirst CHPMD. "Live Chair connects minority populations who are historically underserved and under-resourced to accessible care in a way that makes them feel seen in the healthcare system. This partnership is centered on meeting people where they are, no matter where they are in their healthcare journey."

CareFirst CHPMD was first introduced to Live Chair through 1501 Health, which is the year-long incubation and investment program from CareFirst's innovation and investment arm, Healthworx, and LifeBridge Health. This payer-provider partnership offers early-stage companies with investment, expertise and support. Live Chair was a member of the first cohort.

"It is essential for Live Chair to be involved in this work because it allows us to inch closer to achieving our vision of closing the life expectancy and health equity gap for underserved communities," said Andrew

Suggs, Co-Founder and CEO of Live Chair. "An extended partnership with CareFirst enables us to serve exponentially more members by raising awareness, connecting them to care and ultimately leading to stronger, healthier communities."

Concurrent with this pilot, CareFirst and Live Chair are working together to close the gap in lead-based screenings for children. Recognizing that some families are hesitant about answering phone calls from insurance companies or unknown numbers, Live Chair will run lead-based educational events and leverage community health workers to reach out to residents to talk about the importance of lead-based screenings and assist with scheduling appointments.

In its 85th year of service, CareFirst, an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, is a not-for-profit healthcare company which, through its affiliates and subsidiaries, offers a comprehensive portfolio of health insurance products and administrative services to 3.6 million individuals and employers in Maryland, the District of Columbia and Northern Virginia. Visit [www.carefirst.com](http://www.carefirst.com).

Live Chair Health is a culturally relevant community platform powered by tech-enabled services. Live Chair Health helps health plans and health systems engage and activate their members, especially those whom they have historically struggled to reach, such as minorities and underserved populations.

