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Prince George's Students Place 1st in MD ProStart Student Invitational

By PRESS OFFICER RAMEF

(March 22, 2023)—The Restaurant Association of Maryland Education Foundation (RAMEF) today announced the winners of 2023 Maryland ProStart Student Invitational (MPSI). Duval High School from Prince George's

County took home first place in the Management portion of the competition and the team, made up of students Janessa Perry, Chyler Smith, Tairo Thomas, and Sabastian Hallare, will be moving on to compete at the National ProStart Invitational (NPSI) in Washington, D.C. this May. Earlier this month, eight high

schools from across the state of Maryland traveled to Prince George's Community College to compete at the annual Maryland ProStart Student Invitational. Supported by RAMEF, this is a statewide competition focused on restaurant management and culinary arts to win scholarships, top honors, and awards. The first-

place teams from the Culinary and Management competitions earned scholarships to continue their restaurant or food service education and earned the right to compete at the National ProStart Invitational competition.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND EDUCATION FOUNDATION.

Janessa Perry (left), Tairo Thomas (middle), and Chyler Smith (right) from Duval High School at the 2023 Maryland ProStart Student Invitational.

County Council Approves New Private Security Camera Incentive Program Legislation in Response to Fatal Shooting of 13-Year-Old Jayz Agnew

"Jayz Agnew Law" Receives Unanimous Council Support

By ANGELA ROUSON

Prince George's County Council Media

The Prince George's County Council unanimously passed Council Bill CB-008-2023, also known as the "Jayz Agnew Law," during session on Tuesday, March 21, 2023. The People's Council championed this new law in honor of 13-year-old Jayz Agnew, who was fatally shot in front of his home while raking leaves. To date, no arrests have been made in the case.

Jayz Agnew Law, which establishes a Private Security Camera Incentive Program in the County, encourages businesses and homeowners to increase security surveillance in the surrounding community with the installation of cameras. District 7 Council Member Krystal Oriadha, proposer of the legislation, says the Jayz Agnew Law is yet another tool to keep communities and families safe.

"It has been four months since Jayz Agnew was fatally shot in his front yard while raking leaves and to date, there has

been no arrest in the crime. Security cameras could have led police to finding those responsible for this tragic loss. Juanita Agnew, Jayz mother, has been working with my office to find a solution so this doesn't happen to another family, which is what we hope to accomplish with this bill. I want to thank Ms. Agnew and her family for their perseverance and advocacy around this bill."

Juanita Agnew testified in support of the measure, urging Council passage.

"I stand in support of this piece of legislation. Jayz Agnew was my 13-year-old son that was shot in his front yard while raking leaves. Jayz was shot on November 8—Election Day. On the day of the shooting myself nor my immediate neighbors had surveillance cameras. I do believe that if we [had] cameras,

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Metro and Maryland Leaders Celebrate Opening of Metro Building at New Carrollton, Continuing Transformation of Multi-Modal Transit Hub

By PRESS OFFICER WMATA

(March 21, 2023)—Metro's General Manager and Chief Executive Officer Randy Clarke was joined today by Maryland Governor Wes Moore, U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen, Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, and other state and local leaders to celebrate the opening of the Metro Building at New Carrollton.

The ribbon cutting ceremony marks the continued transformation of New Carrollton as a transit-accessible hub for office space, housing, and retail. Metro's newest office building brings together Metro's call centers for customer service, MetroAccess, and parking under one roof, and serves as the headquarters for Metro Transit Police. The 324,000 square foot building is LEED Gold certified and is currently occupied by approximately 1,200 employees.

The opening of the Metro Building at New Carrollton follows the opening of Metro's Headquarters Building at L'Enfant Plaza last year, and will be followed by the opening of the Metro Building at Eisenhower Avenue later this year. The three office buildings represent Metro's commitment to the jurisdictions served by the transit system, and are consolidating Metro's workforce into fewer buildings to promote efficiency and responsible financial stewardship.

Several other projects at New Carrollton are underway, including a project to improve and expand the transit hub funded by a federal RAISE Grant awarded last year. The project will support the construction of a new train hall, prepare the site for the arrival of the

Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Maryland Transit Administration's (MTA) Purple Line, and create new trails and walkways to improve pedestrian and bike access to the station.

Construction at New Carrollton is also underway on The Margaux, a mixed-use joint development partnership between Metro and Urban Atlantic that will soon offer 291 housing which will be affordable thanks to low-rate financing provided by Amazon's Housing Equity Fund. The Margaux will join the already-completed Kaiser-Permanente office building and The Stella, a 382-unit apartment building.

Between The Margaux and the Metro Building at New Carrollton stands Dawn and Dusk Resurgent, an artwork created by local artist Heidi Lipmann and composed of elements salvaged from a large glass and stone mosaic the artist created in 1998 for the New Carrollton station former parking garage. This project was commissioned by Metro's Art in Transit Program in partnership with the Prince George's County Arts and Humanities Council. Additional funding was provided through a Conservation Implementation Grant from the Maryland State Arts Council.

"Metro is excited to welcome our employees to this state-of-the-art building that serves as an anchor for all of the amazing economic development happening at New Carrollton," said Metro General Manager and Chief Executive Officer Randy Clarke. "This building represents Metro stepping further into a sustainable future, and we thank all of the leaders here today for their partnership in bringing new life to this uniquely transit-accessible corner of Prince George's County."



PHOTO COURTESY WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

State and local leaders celebrate the opening of the Metro Building at New Carrollton on March 21, 2023.

"I am so excited to be with WMATA for today's important step forward to creating a more connected state," said Governor Wes Moore. "This new facility and the jobs it provides are going to be a crucial part of our state's infrastructure and the New Carrollton community. We are dedicated to making transportation in Maryland more affordable and accessible, and this facility is a perfect example of how we are going to accomplish that."

"Metro has such an important presence in Maryland and throughout the National Capital Region. It's why Team Maryland has worked so hard with our

regional partners to deliver necessary federal resources," said Senator Ben Cardin. "As we look toward the future, we welcome Metro's presence in New Carrollton, a vital multi-modal hub for our passengers and their communities, and we recognize the efforts underway at Metro to meet our evolving transit needs and to establish a culture of safety throughout its organization. We look forward to this important work continuing here in Maryland."

"As the New Carrollton station grows and expands—including with the construction of the new train hall and up-

graded multi-modal access—it's clear big things are in store for the surrounding community. Today's office opening is another example of the continued investments we're bringing to Prince George's and of how quality public transit is a foundation for economic growth," said Senator Chris Van Hollen.

"We are proud to be the new home of Metro in Maryland, a sign of our growing partnership on transit-oriented development at Metro stations across the

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To Be Equal: No One, Not Even a Former President, Is Above the Law

James has accused Trump in a civil case of defrauding lenders and insurers by overvaluing his assets by billions of dollars.

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PGCEDC and M&T Bank Launch Latino-Owned Business Accelerator Program

Nearly 20 percent of Prince George's population is Hispanic, and the county has the second-largest number of Hispanic-owned businesses in Maryland, according to U.S. Census data.

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Grief Support Programs

Lt. Gov. Miller, Maryland Elected Officials and Advocates Call for a New Round of Clean Car Standards to Drive Investments in Clean Cars and Protect Public Health

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TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline

Morningside Mayor Cann is now an Andrews' Honorary Commander

Joint Base Andrews held an induction ceremony and luncheon at The Club at Andrews on March 2 to welcome 16 community and civic leaders into the 2023 Honorary Commanders Program.

Bennard J. Cann, Mayor of Morningside, is among them.

Honorary Commanders are invited to attend events on base and in the surrounding communities that the Airmen and Sailors from Andrews support. In turn, Honorary Commanders can invite the units they are paired with to participate in events in the local community.

During the luncheon, each inductee was presented a certificate of induction and an honorary commander lapel pin. Each recited the Commanders' Oath:

"I (name) accept the responsibilities of my Honorary Commander position. I will support the men and women of Joint Base Andrews. I will serve as a good ambassador for America's Airfield and my community.

"I will partner with my unit commander to create an alliance that will benefit my organization, the local community, the State of Maryland, and America's Airfield."

I met with the Mayor regarding his new position as Honorary Commander. He is proud to represent Morningside and has plans to present several issues. And I am proud of our Mayor.

Stolen car crashes into G. I. Liquors, in Morningside

G. I. Liquors is boarded up, shut down until repairs can be made. An employee is recovering from serious injuries after a stolen Audi went airborne from Suitland Road, crashing into the front of the store the evening of March 17.

King Shen became the owner of the store just three months ago; before then, he worked there. Mr. Shen told reporters he was "Very, very angry. My employee right now is in the hospital. Everything is all damaged, the windows, the doors."

The three occupants fled the vehicle after the crash and are being sought by police.

Investigators are working to determine the circumstances behind the crash and are asking for any witnesses to come forward. They are also reviewing security footage in hopes of identifying the men involved.

At the March 21 Morningside Town Meeting, a man mentioned he had been at the store minutes before. And, earlier in the day my daughter Therese had dropped by to

pick up a St. Patrick's Day six-pack of Guinness for a family gathering.

G.I. Liquors and the once adjoining G.I. Market are as old as Morningside. A 1965 Morningside Directory ad reads: "Groceries, Wine, Liquor, Beer, choice meats, fine groceries. A. B. White, Proprietor."

Town of Morningside:

Yard Sale, Easter Bunny Bingo update

Morningside's Yard Sale is coming up Saturday, April 15, at the Morningside Fire Department, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. To participate, it's \$15 for the first table or space, \$10 for each additional table/space. Cash only—must be prepaid, no refunds. To reserve your table/space, call 301-736-2301 no later than Wednesday, April 12, 4 p.m. Space is limited, so reserve now. Rain date, April 22.

The Easter Bunny Bingo Bunny Breakfast is sold out. Hoped to attend? Maybe next year.

Neighbors & other good people

Shirley (Tull) Smith emailed that her family moved to Morningside in the early 1950s. They first lived at 6112 (later, 6522) and 6110 (6520) Suitland Road. The family included mom and dad, grandparents, two uncles and five kids (including Shirley). At some point they moved away, only to move back, also to Suitland Road. Shirley attended Suitland Junior High, then newly-opened Crossland. She graduated in 1968, worked for the Justice Dept. and then Census. Her husband died in 2016. She now lives in Virginia with her sister and has two sons, grand and great-grandchildren.

Julie Koch-Michael read my report on the Suitland Bog and remembered that she once lived in an apartment on Regency Parkway. She remembered, "I went out back steps with my bike and peddled past Nilsstuen's forested house and then up the hill most of the way to the Census Bureau." She adds that she must have lived near the bog though she didn't know it at the time.

McNamara opens La Reine Science Center

Bishop McNamara High School celebrated the Grand Opening of their new La Reine Science & Innovation Center on March 18 with a program featuring a Welcome by McNamara's President and CEO Dr. John Barnhardt.

Speakers included State Treasurer Dereck Davis and his daughter Nyla, class of '23; Sen. Melony Griffith, District 25; Robert N.

Summers '86, Board Chair; and County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. Cardinal Wilton Gregory blessed the new building.

And then the Center was open for tours. I was awed to see the big, beautiful labs with the latest of science technology for fields such as forensics and cybercrime. BMHS hopes to prepare students for careers that don't even exist today.

The new building, which is on Marlboro Pike, honors La Reine High School that closed in the 1990s. The spire atop the center is from La Reine. Inside, there is space for other items once in the closed school, and a history of La Reine.

One Maryland One Book, "There There"

Tommy Orange's "There There," has been selected as the 2023 One Maryland One Book. It tells the interconnected stories of twelve Native characters from across generational lines as they converse towards the Big Oakland Powwow. Copies of the book will be dropped off in public spaces in counties across Maryland as part of Wandering Books. If you happen on the book, read it and drop it off in another public space. Or you can head for the library.

Places to go and things to do

The Cherry Blossom Festival at National Harbor continues through April 16, during which they are hosting classes and events. On April 8 Katsuo Entertainment will provide authentic Japanese tabletop experience (Riichi Mahjong, Karuta card game, & more). Also on April 8, the Embassy of Japan will host film day. Info: <https://nationalharbor.com/cherryblossom>.

You might want to check out Chadwick Boseman's "Black Panther" costume at the Smithsonian's new "Afrofuturism" exhibit at the National Museum of American History, on the Mall.

Milestones

Happy Birthday to Wayne Booth, Susan Frostbutter, Douglas Mangum and James Whipple, April 1; Shawn Michael Cook, April 2; Melissa Lytton, Sophia Cordero and Bernie Saylor, April 3; Earlene Erhardt Righter, Jimmy Shipman and Kaitlin Woods, April 5; Jonathan Charters, April 6; Amber Lee (Cook) Rye, April 7; and Debbie Callison, April 8.

Happy anniversary to Walter and Fannie Dimes who were wed April 1, 1989, in Frederick, Md.

Happy April Fool's Day!

Metro from A1

County," said Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "With the new Metro headquarters, new affordable housing, a new train hall on the way, and more, New Carrollton is quickly becoming a vibrant downtown area and the premier transit hub on the eastern seaboard. We look forward to continued partnership with Metro as we grow our local economy in a smart way and bring new amenities for Prince Georgians."

Prince George's County Councilmember Eric Olson said, "We welcome Metro's new Maryland Headquarters, and its 1,200 employees, to New Carrollton! With this move, Metro joins a growing transit-oriented community of jobs and residences at this dynamic location."

"Metro's beautiful new facility, and its employees, will serve as an anchor for the thriving transit-oriented development around the New Carrollton Metro Station," said Maryland Department of Transportation Secretary Paul J. Wiedefeld. "It's a prime example of how Maryland's multi-modal transportation system can support growth, connect our communities and create opportunity for all Marylanders."

"Today marks another major milestone in Metro's Office Consolidation strategy approved by the Board in 2018, saving the transit agency over \$100 million over the coming two decades," said Metro Board Chair Paul C. Smedberg. "These new, transit-accessible and environmentally friendly buildings are already benefitting our workforce, making Metro an even more attractive place to work. The new buildings also provide better transparency and access for the public with state-of-the-art technology that facilitates hybrid Board and other public meetings."

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Widow Stung by Social Security's "Claw Back" Rule

By RUSSELL GLOOR,

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

Dear Rusty: My husband of 48 years died on December 30, and he received a Social Security direct deposit for December's benefits in early January, but Social Security demanded the bank return his December payment. I used part of his December benefits to pay for household expenses, so his bank account was overdrawn after his bank paid back his Social Security for the December benefit. My questions are:

1. Is it legal for Social Security to demand a return of his benefits because he died one day prior to 1/1/2023? That just seems so wrong to me!
2. Am I legally responsible for the overdraw amount his bank repaid to Social Security? I was not notified by Social Security or his bank before "the deed was done".
3. Aren't there Social Security spousal benefits available for the surviving spouse, and how do I apply for them? (Form #, please)

My husband medically retired early, and his Social Security benefits were always lower than mine, but I fear that my benefits may be affected by his death. Is that true? **Signed: Grieving Widow, Feeling Wronged**

Dear Grieving Widow: Please accept our sincere condolences on your husband's passing. Unfortunately, I don't have good news for you about his December benefit payment. Social Security pays benefits in the month following the month they are earned, and the recipient must live the entire month to be eligible for that month's benefit. Even though your husband lived until almost the end of the month, Social Security's rule says that he must live the entire month to be eligible for December benefits; thus, they took back (often referred to as "Clawed Back") the December benefits paid in January.

So, is all of this legal? Yes, I'm afraid it is. From what you've shared Social Security took back the money they are legally entitled to, so you have no further obligation to Social Security. The bank had no choice but to return your husband's December Social Security payment—they were legally obligated to do so. Thus, your obligation to resolve your husband's overdrawn bank account resulting from the bank fulfilling its legal obligation to Social Security still remains.

As for any spousal or survivor benefits you might be entitled to—you say your husband's Social Security payment was less than yours, which means you weren't getting a spousal benefit and cannot get a surviving spouse benefit as a widow (you can only get your benefit or his, whichever is higher). You will, however, be eligible for a one-time lump sum death benefit of \$255. I know it's not much, but you're entitled to it and should claim it. And, from what you've described—that your monthly Social Security amount is more than your husband's—your own benefit will not be negatively affected by any of this.

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 ssadviser@amac-foundation.org.

Brandywine-Aquasco

PROUD ALUMNA

DC native and proud alumna of Bowie State University, Trina Quirindongo ('14), has a desire to impact the world by igniting small yet powerful conversations with anyone she comes in contact with. She leads through compassion and commitment, which is why during her matriculation at Bowie State, she served as campus tour guide, residential assistant and the senior class president.

The Office of Alumni Engagement and Stewardship is celebrating the tremendous and extraordinary accomplishment of our phenomenal alumnae for Women's History Month. Join the conversation on social media and use the hashtag #BSUWinningWomen throughout the month of March.

KUDOS TO BSU ALUMNI

Shout out to Hadiya Williams ('00), founder and artist at Black Paper Paperie, who returned to campus to give BSU graphic design students insights into her success as an artist and creative entrepreneur. That is what #BSU4LIFE is all about.

AUTHOR OF SILENT FAITH

In honor of Women's History Month, Wade Woolfolk ('95 & '00), author of Silent Faith, gave a shout out to the women of Bowie State University. "Many times, it is faith of women that helps to hold the family together, to move the world of business, and to speak out for their community. Shout out to the women of Bowie State University everywhere. In honor of Women's History Month, thank you for never silencing your faith." To purchase Silent Faith, and to learn more about Wade Woolfolk, visit wadewoolfolk.com/books.

MIGHTY WONDERS OF AQUASCO

The Mighty Wonders of Aquasco, Maryland is featured at the Smithsonian Institute of African American History and Culture. The group originated from Aquasco, Maryland.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, celebrated one of their Season Saint's birthday Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton. We love you Mrs. Hamilton. May God continue to bless you.

WOMEN DAY

New Hope Fellowship Paris Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church and Christ United Methodist Church celebrated Women Day Sunday, March 19, 2023. Their Women Day speaker was Rev. Dr. Rachel Livingston (I Am Fearless Because He Is Faithful).

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

Women of the Year honored were Catherine Watkins who is a member of Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church in Upper Marlboro, Maryland and Vonnie McCants who is a member of Christ United Methodist Church in Aquasco, Maryland.

CONCERT

Harold Melvin and The Blue Notes will perform at Harmony Hall Arts Center 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland Saturday, April 8, 2023, at 8 p.m. Harold Melvin and The Blue Notes was one of the most popular Philadelphia soul groups of the 1970s. The group is the most noted for several hits on Gamble and Huff's Philadelphia International label between 1972 and 1976. The group scored several major R&B and pop hits including million selling singles and albums. Among the Blue Notes most important and successful recordings are love songs such as "If You Don't Know Me By Now" (#1 Billboard R&B), their breakout single, "I Miss You", "The Love I Lost" (#1 Billboard R&B), and socially-conscious songs such as "Wake Up Everybody" (#1 Billboard R&B), and "Bad Luck".

Come see a performance by one of Philadelphia's finest. All ages. Tickets: \$40/adult, \$35 seniors & students. Purchase tickets through PARKS DIRECT.

THE BSU LEGACY

The Bowie State University legacy family has a loyalty to the institution and takes pride in their connection to BSU. To all of you, we thank you. We are grateful and excited to profile and celebrate the BSU legacy of your family on our platforms the entire month of April. Share your BSU Legacy Family Story. Deadline for submissions is March 31.

VIRTUAL BSU ALUMNI COMMUNITY

Join the Virtual Bowie State University Alumni Community. Bowie State university Office of Alumni Engagement. Facebook: @BSUOAE, Twitter: @BSUALumniOffice, Instagram: @BowieAlum. Questions? Email alumni@bowiestate.edu.

BEST HORSE SHOW SERIES

Home of the Black—Eyed Susan Horse Show Series. The BEST Hunter Jumper Horse Shows in Maryland for spectators April 15, 2023- April 16, 2023, from 8:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m. Location: The Prince George's Equestrian Center-Show & Covered Rings. Address: 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. No cost for spectators. Link: (<https://www.besthorseshow.com/2022-showdates>) for more information.

COMMUNITY

Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter Wins Numerous Awards at Regional Conference

By RACINE TUCKER-HAMILTON

Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. (March 20, 2023)—Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter (PEO) of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® (AKA) received six prestigious awards at the 92nd North Atlantic Regional Conference (NARC) held in Philadelphia, PA, on March 9–12, 2023.

The chapter won the following awards:

- **Chapter of the Year Large Chapter award (3rd place):** This award signifies that PEO was judged among the “best of the best” in Chapter Management, Programs of Service, Sisterly Relations, and Chapter Growth for a large chapter in the North Atlantic Region.
- **Spotlight: Public Relations award:** PEO won this highly competitive award for effective and outstanding use of traditional and social media to spotlight Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

- **Constance R. Pizarro P.R.O.M.I.S.E award:** This award is for outstanding accomplishments in the following areas: P –Programs of service
R –Retention of members (over 90%)
O –Operations
M –Mentoring chapter members
I –Innovations in ‘going green’
S –Sisterly relations amongst chapter members and
E –financial support of the AKA Educational Advancement Foundation.
- **Mary Bentley LaMar Leading with a High Note award:** PEO won this award for outstanding and creative efforts in incorporating music in meetings, events, and community programs.
- **Erma W. Barron Making a Difference award:** The focus of this award is political and social activism. PEO was recognized as the top chapter in the North Atlantic Region for our

ongoing efforts to impact social issues relevant to the residents of the communities we serve.

- **Advocate for Social Justice Impact award:** PEO was recognized for exceptional efforts in voter education, voter registration, and getting out the vote.

“PEO’s award-winning tradition continues. Every year, for more than a decade PEO has been an award-winning chapter,” said Benita A. Swindell, PEO president. “These awards are highly competitive and confirm our stellar delivery of service to the communities of Laurel, Bowie, and Greenbelt and beyond while nurturing our beloved sisterhood.”

PEO also will celebrate its 16-year anniversary in April. The chapter was chartered as the 69th graduate chapter in AKA’s North Atlantic Region. It began with 27 members who were committed to a common goal of serving the cities of Laurel, Bowie, and Greenbelt, Md. PEO’s membership has grown to over 600 active members.



PHOTO COURTESY PSI EPSILON OMEGA CHAPTER (PEO)

L to R: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® North Atlantic Regional Director Elicia Pegues Spearman, Esq., Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter President Benita A. Swindell, and former North Atlantic Regional Director Mary Bentley LaMar.

CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Mayor and City Council of Seat Pleasant propose to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2023, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 4.8% from \$347,092,973 to \$363,839,966.
2. If the City of Seat Pleasant maintains the current tax rate of \$.58 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 4.8% resulting in \$97,133 of new real property tax revenues.
3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$.5533, the constant yield rate.
4. The City is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The City proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$.58 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 4.8 % higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$97,133 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 7:00 pm on Monday April 10, 2023, via Zoom meeting link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89170063652?pwd=SGY0SzNQZGRvamFZYmtCdjQ0aUJsQT09>

Participants who join the video/audio conference will be enabled to speak by the meeting chair. Speakers will be allowed to address the Council for five (5) minutes. Public Comment may be submitted in writing to CitizenComment.PublicSession@seatpleasantmd.gov. All electronic comments must be submitted by 5:00PM on April 10, 2023. Comments received will be read by City Clerk during the public comment portion of the meeting.

The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged. Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call the City Manager or City Clerk at (301) 336-2600 for further information.

2023 Prince George's County Carson Scholars Announced

By PRESS OFFICER
Carson Scholars Fund, Inc.

TOWSON, Md. (March 20, 2023)—The Carson Scholars Fund (CSF) is pleased to announce that 482 new students were named as 2023 Carson Scholars this year. Throughout April and May, Carson Scholars Awards Banquets will be held throughout the country to honor all 2023 new and recognized scholars. Maryland is one of six states to hold a regional banquet.

Each year, the CSF recognizes a select group of high achieving students in grades 4–11 who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement (at least a 3.75 GPA) and humanitarian qualities. This year, 2 students from Prince George’s County received the coveted honor of being named a Carson Scholar. These students will be awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship. In addition, 823 students have renewed their Carson Scholar status, and 5 of them are from Prince George’s County. These previous scholarship recipients have maintained high academic standards and a strong commitment to their communities.

Every year, new scholarship winners receive special recognition from the Carson Scholars Fund including a certificate of achievement, a medal and an invitation to a regional awards banquet. Prince George’s County scholars will be celebrated on April 30, 2023 at Martin’s West.

Each scholarship awarded brings the organization one step closer to co-founders Dr. and Mrs. Ben Carson’s dream of naming a Carson Scholar at every school in the country. You can find the

2023 Carson Scholars

Scholar, Grade, School, City
Bayleigh Galie, 8, Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School, Beltsville
Aashi Moola, 8, Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School, Beltsville

2023 Recognized Carson Scholars

Scholar, Grade, School, City
Ureana Acholonu, 11, Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Greenbelt
Anvi Moola, 7, Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School, Beltsville
Ruhama Negussie, 10, Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Greenbelt
Anna Newman, 9, Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Greenbelt
Princess-Nicole Thomas, 12, Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Greenbelt

complete list of 2023 new and recognized Carson Scholars at <https://carsonsscholars.org/>.

The Carson Scholars Fund, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity that was founded in 1994 by retired Johns Hopkins pediatric neurosurgeon, Dr. Benjamin Carson and his wife, Candy. The Carson Scholars Fund recognizes and rewards students in grades 4–11 who strive for academic excellence (3.75 GPA or higher) and demonstrate a strong commitment to their communities.

District 7 Council Member Krystal Oriada Proposes Legislation Creating Guaranteed Basic Income Pilot Program

Measure to Help Fight Poverty and Increase Equity in Prince George's County

By ANGELA ROUSON
Prince George's County
Council Media

Prince George’s County Council Member Krystal Oriada (District 7), during Council session on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, introduced CR-018-2023, legislation creating a Guaranteed Basic Income Pilot Program modeled after the Stockton Economic Empowerment Demonstration (SEED) program in Stockton, California.

Under the measure, low-income families would be given direct cash benefits to support their

basic needs, such as food and utilities. 200 families would be chosen to participate in the program to receive monthly cash stipends for 24 months. This financial assistance, provided with no strings attached, will ensure the financial security of families, reduce debt, and increase financial equity. The Guaranteed Basic Income Pilot Program would be tailored to the needs and resources in the County, with aid from the Greater Washington Community Foundation.

Council Member Oriada says the legislation will increase equity and lift residents out of

poverty.

“With this resolution, we hope to bring the Guaranteed Basic Income Program to Prince George’s County. This is something being done in many jurisdictions around the country, including our neighboring jurisdictions, and I believe that bringing it to Prince George’s will be beneficial for our families. It will help us in fighting poverty and increase equity across the county.”

CR-018-2023 has been referred to the Health, Human Services, and Public Safety (HH-SPS) committee for legislative review.

Camera from A1

we would have been able to, by now, have some leads. At this time, four months later, there are no arrests or leads in the case. I appreciate Council Member Oriada—when I reached out to her to talk about my concerns, she listened. There is definitely a need, and I would really appreciate it, as a resident, if you could consider it. Think about the impact.”

CB-008-2023 requires the County to establish

the new Private Security Camera Program under a partnership between the Office of Community Relations and the Prince George’s County Police Department. Eligible residents and businesses will receive a camera, rebate or voucher to have cameras properly installed and operating at their properties. The maximum amount of a rebate or voucher under the program is \$200 for cameras purchased and \$100 for subscription costs.

The measure will take effect 45 calendar days after it is signed into law.

COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

No One, Not Even a Former President, Is Above the Law

"An indictment of the former president, followed by orderly due process, would show that no one is immune to following the law simply because he is famous, wealthy, politically powerful, willing to threaten the justice system, or possessed of intemperate and powerful followers such as Representative Andy Biggs. Biggs has accidentally stumbled on the secret of rule of law, in which no one is above accountability."

—David A. Graham

It's meant to be a dire warning—a call to arms for the MAGA army:

"Remember, if they can do this to me, they can do it to anyone!" Donald Trump howls.

Trump's lieutenants, like Rep. Biggs—an election denier who refused to denounce white supremacy—dutifully parrot this line.

They are of course, absolutely correct, although they got it somewhat backward. If "they"—meaning duly-elected or appointed prosecutors follow-

ing the law—can do it to anyone, "they" can do it to Trump.

It must be said, however, that Trump clearly means something different when he says "they."

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, Fulton County, Georgia, District Attorney Fani Willis, and New York State Attorney General Letitia James are Black. Trump never misses an opportunity to stoke the flame of the racial resentment at the heart of his political appeal.

"One of the impacts of this rhetoric of anti-white racism is that it invites everyday Americans to see themselves as victims of a Black takeover," Tayo Bero wrote in The Guardian. "This isn't just absurd, it also lends credence to the far-right 'white replacement theory' that underpins Trump's political strategy."

Deplorable though his appeals to racism may be, they are an undeniably effective tactic in a broader strategy to divert attention from the crimes alleged in the myriad of cases against him. They

are historic in their scope and gravity: Inciting an insurrection. Conspiracy to defraud the United States. Obstructing Congress. Racketeering. Falsifying documents. Violating the Espionage Act. Obstruction of justice. Removing and concealing federal records.

Altogether, Trump stands credibly suspected of at least nine state and federal crimes that carry a total maximum penalty of nearly 70 years in prison.

Bragg, whose case is receiving the most attention this week, is investigating whether Trump falsified business records with the intent to conceal a violation of election law when he bribed a porn star to keep silent about their alleged affair.

James has accused Trump in a civil case of defrauding lenders and insurers by overvaluing his assets by billions of dollars.

Willis is weighing criminal charges in connection with Trump's attempted coercion of Georgia's Secretary of State to falsify election results, as well as false claims of election fraud to state lawmakers, a scheme to submit fake pro-Trump electors to Congress, efforts by unauthorized individuals to access voting machines in one Georgia county and threats and harassment against election workers.

In an unprecedented moment in American history, the House committee that investigated the Jan. 6 insurrection unanimously referred Trump to the U.S. Department of Justice for criminal prosecution on charges of insurrection, obstructing Congress, making false statements to the federal government, and conspiracy to defraud the United States. Attorney General Merrick Garland has ap-

pointed a special counsel to investigate Trump's efforts to overturn the election.

The special counsel also is conducting a criminal investigation of Trump's handling of sensitive documents after he left office.

These are crimes, not political differences. We, the people, are the victims. Impartial administration of justice is a universal principle of the rule of law.

In his reckless rant against the lawful pursuit of justice, Trump sycophant Rep. Biggs declared, "This type of stuff only occurs in third world authoritarian nations." Setting aside the outdated and disrespectful reference to economically developing countries, the impartial administration of justice is precisely what does not occur under authoritarian rule.

What Trump and his henchmen are advocating is textbook autocracy: the concentration of supreme political power in the hands one person who is exempt from legal restraints and the will of the people.

Trump isn't whipping up his MAGA army to take to the streets against his looming indictments because he believes he's innocent. He's not doing it because he believes the prosecutors are politically motivated. He's doing it because he believes he's above the law.

Until and unless we abandon the bedrock constitutional principles that define us as a nation, he is not.

—March 23, 2023

Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita, Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Praise for Wonderful Dr. Fauci

When a guest at the white-tie Gridiron Club Dinner earlier this month in Washington, D.C. collapsed, hit her head on a table, and fell motionless to the ground, many of the people around her were not sure what to do next. But then a familiar fellow guest quickly came through the crowd to help: Dr. Anthony Fauci. In retrospect it feels like little surprise that Dr. Fauci, who is also the subject of a just-released PBS documentary, was in the right place at the right time to provide aid when it was needed. As a physician and immunologist who has been an advisor to

every president since Ronald Reagan and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, by President George W. Bush, Dr. Fauci has spent his entire professional life serving and helping others.

Dr. Fauci's distinguished service to our nation's public health began decades ago when he joined the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in 1968, just a few years after graduating first in his class from Cornell University Medical College (now Weill Cornell Medicine). He became Director of NIH's National

Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) in 1984, and served in that position until December. As Director of NIAID Dr. Fauci guided our nation's research and work on HIV/AIDS, SARS, swine flu, MERS, and Ebola. During President George W. Bush's administration he oversaw the development of the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), a global response to the HIV/AIDS crisis that has saved millions of lives. When President Bush awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2008, the citation read: "As a physician, medical researcher, author, and public servant, Dr. Anthony Fauci has dedicated his life to expanding the horizons of human knowledge and making progress toward groundbreaking cures for diseases. His efforts to advance our understanding and treatment of HIV/AIDS have brought hope and healing to tens of millions in both developed and developing nations. The United States honors Anthony Fauci for his commitment to enabling men, women, and children to live longer, healthier lives."

That lifelong commitment faced an enormous test against the fear and deadly unknowns of the COVID-19 pandemic, and Dr. Fauci was up for the fight. Dr. Fauci became a nationally familiar face and voice

while leading NIAID's response to the pandemic. He also became the focus of suspicion and hatred for every critic of public health measures to address COVID-19 and every denier arguing that the pandemic was a political ploy and not a genuine threat at all. Dr. Fauci remained determined to follow the research; as he said, "Attacks on me, quite frankly, are attacks on science." But defending research and science against opponents seemingly uninterested in either one meant those attacks quickly turned into vicious calls for his imprisonment and death threats against him and his family. Even as these violent threats on his own life continue, Dr. Fauci has kept his commitment to saving others.

How dangerous it is that many of the same elected officials who are loudly defending former President Trump's alleged criminal behavior are amplifying calls today to criminalize and investigate Dr. Fauci for his role in the government during the pandemic. We are living in a moment when many of our leaders seem unable to show they know right from wrong. What a horrifying example some politicians are setting for our children. What a contrast to the example of a serious and dedicated lifelong public servant like Dr. Anthony Fauci.

—March 24, 2023

Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation and M&T Bank Launch Latino-Owned Business Accelerator Program

Seven-week program will be offered in Spanish to provide \$5,000 to pitch competition winner

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCEDC

LARGO, Md. (March 21, 2023)—Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (PGCEDC) and M&T Bank are looking for as many as 25 Latino-owned businesses to participate in a new business accelerator program designed to provide entrepreneurs with the guidance and skills needed to build strong companies, spur economic growth in Prince George's County and help build generational wealth for their families.

The seven-week Latino Business Accelerator Program, a partnership between M&T and Prince George's EDC, will focus on business planning, establishing credit, managing bank accounts, marketing, branding and licensing. Sessions will be led by representatives of M&T and Prince George's EDC and held entirely in Spanish—the first such program M&T has offered in a language other than English.

The Latino Business Accelerator Program launches April 20, with courses held Thursdays, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at Prince George's EDC, 1801 McCormick Drive, Largo. It will conclude June 8 with a graduation and award ceremony for the winner of a \$5,000 pitch competition, funded by M&T.

Latino entrepreneurs interested in participating in the program must complete an online application by April 14, be based in Prince George's County and be in good standing.

Qualified applicants will be enrolled in the free program on a first-come, first-served basis.

"M&T Bank looks forward to partnering with Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation for the Latino Business Accelerator and offering this program for entrepreneurs whose preferred language is Spanish," said Julio Roque, manager of M&T's College Park branch and an accelerator program instructor. "By offering this program entirely in Spanish, we hope to break down an important obstacle for Latino business owners and provide them with information and resources they need to start and grow successful businesses in Prince George's County."

Nearly 20 percent of Prince George's population is Hispanic, and the county has the second-largest number of Hispanic-owned businesses in Maryland, according to U.S. Census data.

"Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation is proud to take the lead in promoting the Latino Business Accelerator program to provide support and resources to the Latino business community," said Rocio Treminio-Lopez, Latino Business Liaison for Prince George's County EDC. "Our mission is to help companies identify their capabilities, potential growth opportunities and diagnose the administrative, financial, technological, and market barriers, because expansion starts here."

In Maryland, M&T has partnered with Baltimore City and Montgomery, Howard

and Frederick counties to offer similar English-language business accelerator programs to minority-owned businesses in those locations. The bank and Prince George's EDC also are planning an English-language version of the business accelerator program to be offered to minority entrepreneurs this year.

To apply for the Prince George's Latino Business Accelerator Program, visit www.pgcedc.com.

M&T Bank Corporation is a financial holding company headquartered in Buffalo, New York. M&T's principal banking subsidiary, M&T Bank, provides banking products and services in 12 states across the northeastern U.S. from Maine to Virginia and Washington, D.C. Trust-related services are provided in select markets in the U.S. and abroad by M&T's Wilmington Trust-affiliated companies and by M&T Bank. For more information about M&T Bank, visit www.mtb.com. Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (PGCEDC)'s mission is to cultivate and promote a strong local economy that supports the growth and prosperity of entrepreneurs and businesses, dedicated to strengthening communities through business development and job creation. For more information about the services the Economic Development Corporation provides to local companies, visit www.pgcedc.com.

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ENVIRONMENT / HEALTH

Grief Support Programs

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

Adult grief support programs meeting this spring

PASADENA, Md. (March 16, 2023)—Chesapeake Life Center will offer a variety of grief support groups for adults that will be meeting in person and virtually through June.

The following grief support groups will meet in person:

- **Drop-In Grief Support Groups** are open to anyone grieving. Groups offer participants an opportunity to share their feelings and obtain support from others who are experiencing loss. There is no fee. These groups will meet as follows:
 - **North Beach Senior Center**, 9010 Chesapeake Ave., North Beach, Maryland, from 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesdays, April 5, May 3 and June 7.
 - **Southern Pines Senior Center**, 20 Appeal Lane, Lusby, Maryland, from 2 to 3 p.m. Tuesdays, April 11, May 9 and June 13.
 - **Calvert Pines Senior Center**, 450 W. Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick, Maryland, from 1 to 2 p.m. Tuesdays, April 18, May 16 and June 20.

- **Loss of Life Partner/Spouse Monthly Evening Group** is a group for individuals grieving the death of a spouse or life partner. It will meet on the center's campus at 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, Maryland, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month, April 12, May 10 and June 14.

- **Grief and Movement**—Movement has long been used to help those who are grieving cope with the impact of the loss. Aspects of yoga including gentle stretching, breathwork and mindful walking techniques will be used. This quarterly offering will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 10, 9500 Medical Center Drive, Suite 250, in Largo, Maryland. The cost is \$10.

One group will meet both in-person and virtually:

- **SoulCollage Grief Support Group** has participants create a series of collages to commemorate lost loved ones and to visually journal the grief process. The group will meet from 5 to 8 p.m. Mondays, April 3, May 1 and June 5 at the center's office at 9500 Medical Center Drive, Suite 250, in Largo, Maryland, as well as via Zoom.

Attendance restrictions and requirements will be updated using the most recent Centers for Disease Control guidelines and organizational policies prior to each event. Childcare is not provided, and children are not permitted in any of these groups.

The following groups will meet virtually via Zoom for Healthcare:

- **Loss of Life Partner/Spouse Monthly Morning Group** is for individuals grieving the death of a spouse or life partner. It will meet from 10:30 a.m. to noon on the second Wednesday of the month, April 12, May 10 and June 14.

- **Quarterly Child Loss Support Workshop** is for parents grieving the death of a child, regardless of age or circumstance. It will meet from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 5 via Zoom. The cost is \$10.

Acknowledging that not everyone has access to this technology or may not be comfortable with it, the center suggests people call or email the office and grief professionals will work with individuals to help them find other appropriate resources if needed. Registration is required for all groups and can be completed by calling 888-501-7077 or emailing griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org. Visit www.hospicechesapeake.org/events for a complete listing of in-person and virtual groups and workshops for adults and children.

Chesapeake Life Center hits the road for summer and spring youth grief programs

PASADENA, Md. (March 16, 2023)—Chesapeake Life Center has a couple field trips and a weekend long camping adventure planned for grieving children and teens this spring and summer.

- **Maryland Therapeutic Riding Workshop: Family Edition**—Families are welcome to explore their grief in collaboration with Maryland Therapeutic Riding and their equine friends. Minimum age for children is 8. All activities will take place with feet on the ground, as there will be no riding of horses. No experience with horses necessary. It will take place from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 29 at MTR's equestrian center, 1141 Sunrise Beach Road, Crownsville, Maryland. The cost is \$25 per person, with a maximum of \$50 max per family.

- **A Phoenix Rising Workshop** for children ages 6 to 18 is headed to the Calvert Marine Museum for a unique experience touring the museum and learning about the story of the Chesapeake Bay. There are opportunities to look at live animals and fossils and enjoy interactive exhibits. Groups will be divided by age and grade level based on enrollment. Understanding that grief has no timeline, this quarterly program is open to everyone, no matter when your loss took place. The museum trip will provide kids and teens an opportunity to socialize with peers who also experience grief, connecting through this shared experience. Following the programming provided at the museum, participants will be provided lunch and there will be a grief small talk where we gather and check-in on how we are coping with our grief. The participants also will be given the opportunity to share memories of their loved ones who have died. It will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 10 at the museum at 14200 Solomons Island Road in Solomons, Maryland. The cost is \$10.

- **Camp Nabi Overnight Camp**—This camp experience will bring together children ages 6 to 18 from across our service area to participate in activities focused on memorializing loved ones who have passed away, learning coping skills in small groups, and utilizing integrative arts for expression. Traditional camp activities like swimming and ropes course will be included. Transportation will be available from Anne Arundel, Prince George's, Calvert, and Charles counties. It will be held from Aug. 4 to 6 at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, 975 Indian Landing Road, Millersville, Maryland. The cost is \$100, with scholarships available. A consult with a counselor is required before final approval can be given for attendance, so interested families should call Chesapeake Life Center to begin the process.

Attendance restrictions and requirements will be updated using the most recent Centers for Disease Control guidelines and organizational policies prior to each event.

Registration is required and can be completed by calling 888-501-7077 or emailing griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org. Visit www.hospicechesapeake.org/events for a complete listing of in-person and virtual groups and workshops for adults and children.

Lt. Gov. Miller, Maryland Elected Officials and Advocates Call for a New Round of Clean Car Standards to Drive Investments in Clean Cars and Protect Public Health

By PRESS OFFICER
Greater Washington Region
Clean Cities Coalition

BALTIMORE (March 22, 2023)—[Last week], Maryland Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller, State Comptroller Brooke Lierman, Delegate Robbyn Lewis (MD-46), Antoine Thompson with the Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition, and Meredith Chaiken with the Greater Baybrook Alliance, held a press conference to call on the Biden Administration to support a new round of stronger federal clean car standards from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Speakers said the new rule will make good on promises from President Biden and his administration to put in place the strongest possible standards for model years 2027 and beyond and drive investments in clean cars and zero pollution electric vehicles as well as reduce air pollution and help address the climate crisis.

"The climate crisis impacts every single one of us—and the solution must involve all of us. From adopting Clean Cars II last week, to championing progressive legislation on climate, the Moore-Miller administration has made Maryland a leader on reducing harmful greenhouse emissions from cars. Our federal partners have been critical to our success, and we are excited about the Biden Administration's commitment to electrify the transportation sector, which is why we look forward to their introducing the strongest possible clean car standards."

Maryland Comptroller Brooke Lierman lauded Governor Moore's recent announcement that Maryland adopt the Clean Cars II safeguards that enforce even higher pollution protections than the federal standards while outlining further action to reduce tailpipe pollution from nearby states. "Our state has ambitious Greenhouse Gas Emission reduction goals and other climate resilience-related policies on our books, but pollution from elsewhere does not stop at the Maryland state line," Comptroller Lierman said. "We need federal safeguards that apply to other states, and I urge the Biden



CREDIT: KHUNKORN LAOWISIT, PEXELS

"Tailpipe pollution is especially dangerous and even deadly for communities of color, and those with less resources."—Antoine Thompson, Executive Director of Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition

Administration and the EPA to take the next step to protect the health and the environment for all Marylanders.

Maryland State Delegate Robbyn Lewis talked about how the new standards would better protect public health. "We've got to reduce vehicle pollution in Maryland. It's the fastest way to clean the air and lower rates of respiratory disease. Remember: African American children have the highest rates of childhood asthma because their historically segregated communities have the most polluted air. We encourage the EPA and the Biden Administration to be bold and tackle vehicle pollution, the biggest source of dirty air"

All the speakers outlined the need for a new round of clean cars standards and urged the EPA to move quickly to enact new strong tailpipe pollution limits for model years 2027 and beyond to limit carbon pollution and spur the clean energy economy. They said the Biden Administration and EPA need to urgently address the problem of tailpipe pollution from cars and light duty trucks that endanger the health of Baltimore and other Maryland communities, particularly those most vulnerable who have already suffered disproportionately from pollution impacts and can ill afford it.

Antoine Thompson, Executive Director of Greater Washington Region Clean Cities

Coalition added, "Tailpipe pollution is especially dangerous and even deadly for communities of color, and those with less resources. We have a chance to strengthen the federal clean car standards, and undo generations of environmental injustice."

Meredith Chaiken said, "There are too many Baltimore families suffer from the effects of tailpipe pollution. Many neighborhoods are focusing on improved green space and walkable main streets, and clean air and lower asthma rates must be part of our efforts."

Event speakers encouraged the Biden Administration and EPA to introduce the new standards in the next few weeks so they can build on previous clean car standards by setting even stronger safeguards for post 2026 model year cars and light duty trucks. They emphasized the goal of fighting for these longer-term standards is to protect families, children and seniors' health.

The transportation sector is the leading source of the carbon pollution driving climate change. Making cars cleaner can dramatically cut pollution damaging the health of Maryland residents as well as reduce pollution driving climate change, avert the most catastrophic impacts of the climate crisis, and address longstanding environmental and economic injustice.

Earth TALK™ Gas Appliances = Bad Indoor Air Quality

Dear EarthTalk:

Dear EarthTalk: I've heard that gas stoves are bad for indoor air quality, but what about gas furnaces and other gas-powered appliances typically found in homes?

—L.J., Ronkonkoma, NY

Natural gas is almost as ubiquitous an energy source in American households as electricity. Indeed, 48 percent of U.S. homes stay warm with gas-powered furnaces while 38 percent do their cooking with gas. But recent revelations about the negative effect cooking with gas can have on indoor air pollution has given rise to new concerns about other types of gas-powered appliances inside our homes as well.

Gas cooktops may be the biggest offender given how much pollution they throw off when we use them, but gas-powered ovens, water heaters, clothes dryers and fireplaces are also worthy of concern. Gas-powered appliances emit carbon monoxide (CO), a colorless, odorless gas that, when inhaled, can cause headaches, dizziness, nausea—even death in high concentrations. Modern furnaces and appliances have safety features to prevent dangerous levels from building up, but they can still emit small amounts of CO.

Another concern with gas-powered appliances is the emission of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). NO₂ is a reddish-brown gas that can irritate the eyes, nose and throat. It can also exacerbate respiratory conditions such as asthma and bronchitis. Gas stoves are the primary source of indoor NO₂, but gas furnaces and other gas-powered appliances can also produce it. Gas-powered appliances also emit particulate matter (PM), another type of indoor air pollution. PM is a mixture of tiny particles that can be inhaled deep into the lungs. Exposure to PM can cause respiratory and cardiovascular problems, particularly in vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly and those with pre-existing health conditions.

To minimize the negative effects of gas-powered appliances on indoor air quality, it is important to properly maintain and ventilate them. Regular maintenance, such as cleaning and replacing filters, can help ensure that appliances are running efficiently and emitting fewer pollutants. Additionally, proper ventilation can help remove pollutants from the air. Ventilation can be achieved by opening windows or using exhaust fans that vent to the outside.

Another option for reducing indoor air pollution from gas-powered appliances is to switch to electric varieties instead. Electric stoves and furnaces do not produce CO or NO₂, and they emit far less PM than gas appliances. While electric appli-



CREDIT: PEXELS.

Recent revelations about the negative effect cooking with gas can have on indoor air quality have given rise to new concerns about other gas-powered appliances.

ances may have higher upfront costs, they can be more cost-effective over time due to lower operating costs and reduced maintenance needs.

If you are designing a new home from scratch, it's a no-brainer these days to choose appliances powered by electricity not gas. But most of us don't have that luxury, and it's not easy to decide if it's worth the expense and hassle of switching out an old gas-powered appliance with a shiny new electric one. The bottom line is "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" as swapping out an old one for a new one generates more pollution overall thanks to the lifecycle costs of manufacturing. But if your old appliance has reached the end of its useful life anyway, changing to an electric one may well be the best move.

CONTACTS: Gas stoves can generate unsafe levels of indoor air pollution, <https://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/2020/5/7/21247602/gas-stove-cooking-indoor-air-pollution-health-risks>; Gas stoves pose health risks. Are gas furnaces and other appliances safe to use? <https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2023/03/gas-stoves-pose-health-risks-are-gas-furnaces-and-other-appliances-safe-to-use/>

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