

# The Prince George's Post



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## Largo Resident Celebrates 100th Birthday With Party and Proclamation From the Maryland General Assembly

By PRESS OFFICER  
Fellowship Square

(April 5, 2023)—Upper Marlboro, Md. resident Gladys Spencer was treated to a birthday party with balloons, cake, friends, and a proclamation from the Maryland General Assembly recognizing her 100th birthday on April 2, 2023.

Born in 1923 in Croom, Md. in Prince George's County, Ms. Spencer grew up in a family of nine. She attended St. Mary School in Upper Marlboro and later graduated from Frederick Douglas High School. She then went on to work at her St. Mary School alma mater, where she was employed for 39 years performing a variety of roles including cooking, cleaning, and caring for the church school. Born under the presidency of Calvin Coolidge, she's lived under 17 different U.S. presidents and through a century of social, technological, and political changes that have shaped every facet of the world we live in today.

The proclamation, signed by Delegate Darryl Barnes, states: "In recognition of your 100 years of life. The longevity of life is a blessing for an individual and for a community, that benefits from the knowledge, creativity, and experience you bring to all. May your latter years be your best years."

About 1,800 Maryland residents are 100 or older, according to the Maryland Centenarians Committee, which tracks that population using Social Security data. This newly minted centenarian is

a resident of Fellowship Square's Largo Landing Fellowship House, a community in Upper Marlboro that provides housing for older adults living on extremely limited fixed incomes. Fellowship Square is one of the leading local providers of affordable housing and services to low-income seniors. Through HUD funding and vouchers, residents of Fellowship Houses—many who live on Social Security or Supplemental Security Income alone, with an average annual fixed-income of \$10,000/year—pay no more than 30 percent of their income toward their housing costs, including rent and a utility allowance.

Ms. Spencer has resided at Largo Landing for the past 23 years, when, after her four children had grown up and established their families and careers, she recalls that she said to herself, "Gladys, now that you see what they are doing with their lives and getting their things done and getting themselves settled, it's about time to look out for yourself for a while." She's been an active member of the Largo Landing Fellowship House community ever since. Gladys likes to participate in bingo, casino, and the many other social events offered to residents. She also enjoys going on outings with her grown children, loves poetry, and has even published a poem. Her advice to the younger generation is to "always do the right thing, be wise enough to do so, and show respect and patience for others."

Fellowship Square ensures that residents have the support they need to live independent and ful-



PHOTO COURTESY FELLOWSHIP SQUARE

Upper Marlboro resident Gladys Spencer celebrated her 100th birthday on April 2 at Fellowship Square's Largo Landing Fellowship House with balloons, cake, friends and a proclamation from the Maryland General Assembly recognizing her century of life.

filling lives even in the face of serious obstacles, such as the high costs of housing in the greater Washington DC area. For more information on Fellowship Square

housing options, volunteer opportunities or donations, visit [fellowshipsquare.org](http://fellowshipsquare.org), call 703.860.2536 or email [info@fellowshipsquare.org](mailto:info@fellowshipsquare.org).

## U.S. Department of Education Awards Bowie State \$5 Million Grant to Diversify Pipeline of School Counselors

Congressman Steny Hoyer Discusses Mental Health Counseling in Schools with BSU Students

By DAVID THOMPSON  
Bowie State University

BOWIE, Md. (April 5, 2023)—Congressman Steny Hoyer hosted a round table discussion with students and faculty members at Bowie State today to discuss mental health issues plaguing public schools, and the five-year \$5 million grant recently awarded to the university by the Department of Education (DoE) to combat the crisis.

The grant is funded through the DoE's Mental Health Service Professionals Demonstration program which aims to train more school counselors, psychologists, and other mental health practitioners to serve in low-income elementary, middle and high schools across the country.

"Our public schools are in the midst of a mental health emergency," said Congressman Hoyer. "This grant will enable Bowie State to partner with local school districts to help increase the number of highly qualified school counselors who can provide mental health services in high-need schools while increasing the number of underrepresented counselors."

Bowie State's Department of Counseling will partner with the Anne Arundel County, Montgomery County and Prince George's County Public School Districts to

train BSU graduate students in the counseling program and current school counselors to increase the number of state-certified counselors to work with diverse students.

"Fourteen of our graduate students will be placed at 14 high-need schools that have been identified by our partners," said Dr. Nikki Ham, assistant professor of counseling and president of the Maryland School Counselor Association. "Our goal is to create a pipeline of culturally sensitive mental health professionals to serve emotionally distressed students who suffer from depression, anxiety, trauma-related disorders and other mental health conditions."

Approximately 7,000 students are expected to be served by the grant project each year.

Bowie State University (BSU) is an important higher education access portal for qualified persons from diverse academic and socioeconomic backgrounds, seeking a high-quality and affordable public comprehensive university. The university places special emphasis on the science, technology, cybersecurity, teacher education, business and nursing disciplines within the context of a liberal arts education. For more information about BSU, visit [bowiestate.edu](http://bowiestate.edu)

## Governor Moore Announces New Partnership Between Maryland Department of Environment and University of Maryland Center for Global Sustainability to Model Maryland's Climate Goals Pathway

By PRESS OFFICER  
Maryland Governor News

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (April 3, 2023)—Governor Wes Moore today announced a new partnership between the Maryland Department of the Environment and The Center for Global Sustainability at the University of Maryland to model Maryland's pathway toward ambitious climate goals. The announcement came during a roundtable discussion at the State House with climate goal stakeholders including representatives from the Maryland Department of the Environment, University of Maryland, League of Conservation Voters, Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities, and Blink Charging.

"We face an historic challenge—and we will tackle it with an all-of-government, an all-of-community, and an all-of-state approach," said Governor Moore. "We cannot win this fight alone. It will take partnership, it will take collaboration, it will take teamwork; that includes this partnership with the University of Maryland and all of the stakeholders today."

Maryland's Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 calls for 60% in emissions reductions by 2031—the most ambitious target in the country. The act requires the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by setting more aggressive state goals; requires electric companies to increase gross energy savings; develops energy efficiency and emissions

reduction requirements for certain buildings; establishes zero-emission vehicle requirements in the state fleet; and establishes an electric school bus pilot program.

The act also set Maryland's first-ever net-zero emissions goal. By 2045, annual statewide greenhouse gas emissions must be balanced with removals of greenhouse gasses from the atmosphere, such as from carbon sequestration in trees and soils.

"These ambitious plans must not only include solutions to achieve our goals but must also lay a foundation for just and equitable implementation," said Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Serena McIlwain. "Marylanders' voices are critical in helping the plan deliver emissions reductions and realize economic benefits across the state."

The analysis and framework will outline the emissions reductions potential from multiple sectors and cover all harmful greenhouse gas emissions—including methane and hydrofluorocarbons. Critically, the framework will set the stage for actors at all levels to engage in thoughtful climate leadership to improve Maryland's air and environment and help transition the most vulnerable communities to clean energy.

"Our experts will work directly with our state partners and other stakeholders to understand the current climate trajectory based on state and local policies, federal action, and market forces," said



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

The new partnership announcement came during a roundtable discussion at the State House with climate goal stakeholders.

Director of the Center for Global Sustainability Nate Hultman. "Our analysis will identify new and feasible state policies to help reduce the necessary emissions while improving economic, public, and environmental health for all."

The Maryland Department of the Environment

is currently seeking public input on climate change strategies for Maryland. The report and framework will then be open for public comment this summer. Following the open comment period, a final policy framework and plan will be delivered at the end of 2023.

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# TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

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

### Suitland Bowl lives! In fact, Suitland Bowl is thriving

Recently I drove down the driveway to its parking lot at 4811 Silver Hill Road; it looked abandoned. I was wrong. It's still open. In fact, it's going great.

Last week former residents Johnny Thompson and his wife Linda visited me and, at some point, talked about bowling in Suitland and how they are regulars. That sent me to the Internet for the whole story:

Founded in 1953, "It's an Authentic Duckpin Experience." "Great place to bring the whole family for a fun night out." "Great food at a good price."

Also: Party Packages, Leagues, Classes, Shopping (new products coming up in 2023). KidsBowlFree (with conditions).

"Suitland Bowl, Suitland, Maryland. 2242 likes, 121 talking about this, 1262 were here. We are a 24 lane duckpin bowling center. Great for parties..."

"We feature videos of current and past Duckpin Bowling tournaments, events, interviews, and highlights."

According to the website: it's open Sun., 12 noon–7 p.m.; Tues., 4 p.m.–10 p.m.; Wed., 8 a.m.–2 p.m.; Thurs–Fri., 4 p.m.–10 p.m.; Sat., 12 noon–10 p.m. However, Johnny and Linda advise calling 301-893-4160 to verify hours.

Have I whet your appetite? Email me a review the next time you go to Suitland for duckpins.

### Town of Morningside

G I Liquors is still boarded up since three guys crashed a stolen car into the store on March 17. No arrests that I've heard of.

Morningside's Yard Sale is coming up Saturday, April 15, at the Morningside Fire House, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. It's probably too late to put up a table, but you might want to check out what's for sale. If, by any chance it rains on the 15th, you can still drop by on Rain Date, April 22.

The monthly Town Meeting is Tuesday, April 18, 7 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Info: 301-736-2301.

### Curtis Dalpra, who worked for the Potomac River

Curtis Mark Dalpra, 66, who championed good stewardship of the Potomac River, died March 5. He was the son of Constance and the late Col. Clarence Dalpra, brother of Chris Dalpra, Gina Dalpra-Berman and the late David Dalpra. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Upper Marlboro with burial at Resurrection Cemetery.

From his obit: "Since joining ICPRB (Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin) in 1981, Curtis has faithfully sent the Potomac News Reservoir newsletter, first in paper form, then in electronic form. But today we pause. We pause the newsletter, but we also pause to take a moment in honor of Curtis. We invite you to pause with us. Maybe take a walk by the river, stop to take a good photo, and throw a ball for your dog."

I send a special goodbye and thank-you to Curtis who was my invaluable assistant editor when I did the 25th anniversary book for St. Philip the Apostle Parish in 1982.

### Neighbors & other good people

Dave Williams sent me sad word that three men, who were once our neighbors, have died in recent months. I didn't know them well, but all the names are so familiar. If you have memories of Larry Bevins, Stanley Edwards or Vernon Johnson, email muddmm@gmail.com.

Daughter Kathleen Shearer sent word that she has a new grandbaby, Deshawn Paul Garcia Jr., born April 6, weighing in at 7 pounds, 6 ounces. He is named Deshawn Paul Garcia Jr., for his dad—they will call him DJ, for Deshawn Jr. Deshawn and Kathryn live in Blythe, Calif. Baby DJ has four siblings, Jason, Brayden, Isaiah and Jazzlynn.

Correction: Last week I ran a tribute

to Dr. Kaufman. It had been sent me by Carol Kline De Graba rather than—as I wrongfully wrote—by Julie Koch-Michael. As a nurse, Carol worked with Dr. Kaufman back in her Prince George's days and knew him well. Sorry for my mistake.

### Crash aftermath, continued

"I remember my father calling my mother to come outside to see the pilots ejecting from the plane. I remember my mother's screams as we ran into a neighbor's yard. The plane crashed into a house. Mrs. Morgan turned my head so I wouldn't see it, but it was too late, I'll never forget that black smoke. I also remember my dad and other men running into the house to save people. My dad said, 'The man on the couch was pinned in by a wing of the plane and he told us to get out before the whole house exploded.' "Donna (Glagola) Gentile, who sent this report, lived on Suitland Road back in 1951 when that plane from Andrews crashed into a Morningside house about a block from her home.

That man on the couch may have been Irvin Guyer who died in the fire.

About ten years ago, I had a call from New Jersey, from a woman who said she was Irvin Guyer's daughter (or granddaughter). She talked about the tragedy and how it changed her life.

It's a story that doesn't go away.

### Changing Landscape

The Sky Bridge at Town Center, Upper Marlboro, is now open for age 55+, with independent living, assisted living and memory care. It offers a spa and salon, clubrooms and theater, Watermark University Classes, putting green, state-of-the-art fitness center. Info: 240-509-3912.

A home at 4414 Morgan Road, in Morningside, has sold for \$310,000.

See **MORNINGSIDE** Page A6

## Around the County

### Growing Green With Pride

Help beautify our county by joining neighbors in your community for a day of cleaning, weed removal and mulching.

Saturday, April 22, 2023

8 a.m.–12 p.m.

Rain or shine!

Registration is required for participation. Register by April 14, 2023 at [mypgc.us/growinggreen](http://mypgc.us/growinggreen).

Students may earn service learning hours! For more information, contact Tonya Hairston at [GrowingGreenWithPride@co.pg.md.us](mailto:GrowingGreenWithPride@co.pg.md.us).

—The DoE Sprout, March 30, 2023

### Prince George's County Leads the State in Recycling and Waste Diversion

*Ranks No. 1 in recycling and diverting trash from the Landfill*

LARGO, Md. (April 4, 2023)—Prince George's County is once again the leader in Maryland for keeping trash from the landfill and recycling right. The County recently adopted new initiatives to reduce waste to help the County reclaim the top spot. One such initiative includes expanding its curbside composting program, PGC Composts, to 85,000 households, with plans for all residents receiving County trash and recycling services to receive a green-wheeled cart by the end of the year.

"We are Prince George's Proud to reclaim the #1 recycling and waste diversion spot in the State, showing that Prince George's County is developing innovative practices that lead by example in Maryland and even the nation," said County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "We continue to adopt smart waste technologies that increase efficiency, lower collection costs, and divert more trash away from our landfill. With the support of our residents, we will continue to build an even more environmentally friendly and sustainable County."

"We are excited to show that Prince Georgians continue to create sustainable habits in their daily lives to protect and preserve our environment," said Andrea Crooms, Director of the Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE). "With improvements to several of our waste collection services, we not only divert valuable resources from being trashed but reduce our greenhouse gases, improve our soil health, and conserve our water."

According to the latest figures released by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for 2021, the County's waste diversion stands at 65.71 percent and recycling at 61.71 percent, surpassing those from the calendar year 2020 of 46.34 and 41.34, respectively.

The recycling tonnage is divided by the total waste number (tonnage) to obtain the recycling rate. MDE calculates the rate by adding the disposed trash tonnage and the recycling tonnage to provide a total waste number. The County also received a Source Reduction Credit from MDE for engaging and educating residents on reducing waste at its source. Examples of source reduction practices include leaving grass trimmings on your lawn to add nutrients back into the soil, using reusable shopping bags and water bottles, and selecting products that contain the least amount of packaging.

The County has instituted several regulations to assist in diverting waste from the landfill, including requiring all businesses to provide recycling and trash receptacles in and outside their business. This regulation also extends to multi-family residences/apartments. In addition, the County has a Styrofoam and plastic straw ban, and beginning June 1, whether you go into a restaurant for takeout, go through the drive-through, or order from an app, food service ware will be provided upon request only. This includes foodware accessories like ketchup, straws, napkins, and cutlery. Another waste-reducing strategy involves installing solar-powered, sensor-equipped trash and recycling compactors in high-traffic areas.

View a full copy of the MDE Report go to [https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/land/RMP/Documents/MSWMArDR%20%2722.pdf?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/land/RMP/Documents/MSWMArDR%20%2722.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). For information on the County's Business Recycling Program, source reduction, or other waste management programs, call 301-883-3635. For all additional information, contact PGC311 or dial 3-1-1.

—Brittani Garner, Department of the Environment

### County Council Presents Emergency Legislation Addressing Landlord Retaliation for Rent Stabilization

*Proposed Measure Protects Tenants from Unlawful and Retaliatory Rent Increases and Eviction as Rent Stabilization Act of 2023 Takes Effect*

The Prince George's County Council, during session on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, presented Emergency Legislation concerning Landlord Retaliation for Rent Stabilization. CB-051-2023 declares certain actions by landlords as retaliation, including the termination of a lease to force a pre-existing tenant into a new lease, to avoid rent increase limitations established by the Rent Stabilization Act of 2023, which takes effect on April 17, 2023.

CB-051-2023 prevents landlords from increasing rents over 3% for existing tenants (those with a valid lease prior to April 17th), including landlords of senior housing properties subject to the Rent Stabilization Act of 2023. The measure also prohibits the harassment, intimidation, and/or threat of tenants' exercise of their legal rights.

Council Member Krystal Oriadha, author of CB-051-2023 and the Rent Stabilization Act of 2023, says The People's Council is committed to protecting renters from the actions of unprincipled landlords.

"Since the Rent Stabilization Act of 2023 passed, our office, and several other Council offices have been inundated with calls from renters whose landlords are using various methods to increase rents by hundreds of dollars. From residents living in senior facilities, to families who are being asked to sign renewal contracts months ahead, these actions are predatory and validate our concerns that a permanent solution is needed to stop bad actors from taking advantage of Prince Georgians. We hope this bill will help us close some of the loopholes while we continue to work towards a permanent solution."

On February 28, the County Council voted to support CB-007-2023, legislation establishing the Rent Stabilization Act of 2023. The measure, which becomes law on April 17, 2023, temporarily amends the Landlord-Tenant Code to limit landlords' ability to increase rent for tenants above 3% over a 12-month period. Under the legislation, a landlord cannot increase rent above 3% for any tenant and cannot issue a notice of rent increase over 3% during the twelve months of the Rent Stabilization Act.

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

### SPRING FLING BRUNCH

Christ United Methodist Church Hospitality Ministry Aquasco, Maryland 20608. Pastor, Rev. Shemaiah Strickland. The church will sponsor a Spring Fling Brunch (Silent Auction and Floor prizes April 15, 2023, from 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

The Brunch will be at St. Phillip's Church Hall 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Contact: Tracy Pinkney (240) 882-7703, Deborah "Dee" Proctor (301) 275-2544, Phyllis Slater (301) 653-7345, Beverly Cole (240) 419-7258.

### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to Alvin Pinkett, Maudie Goodrum, Glenda Graves, Cosmos Samuel, Barron Neal, Elisa Magdelene Prah, Samuel Bell, Lindsay Joiner, Zilpha Pinkney, Claudette Oghogho, Nadia Long, Eric Knight, Charmaine Grant, Sarita George's, William Stroman, III, Jerre Kauffman, Zora Oghogho, Mmachi Helen Mbakwe and William Stroman, IV, Audrey Johnson who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating birthdays in April.

### FOUNDER'S DAY

In celebration of Bowie State University Founder's Day, Professor Brandon Felder steps into uncharted territory by converging diverse musical genres (such as Gospel, Jazz, Classical, and Pop) into a unique listening experience that you won't soon forget.

Professor Felder continues to make his artistic introduction to the BSU community at large, and this piano/keyboard recital presents a sound offering of true trinity of spirit, soul, and artistry. It is on April 18, 2023, 12–1 p.m. and open to one and all. Reception to follow. Cost: Free.

Location: Fine & Performing Arts Center, Recital Hall 14000 Jericho Park Road Bowie, Maryland 20715. Contact: Brandon Felder, email: [bfelder@bowiestate.edu](mailto:bfelder@bowiestate.edu). Categories: Academics, Fine and Performing Arts, Performance/Exhibit, Social/Entertainment, Student Life.

### THE URBAN GUERRILLA ORCHESTRA

The Urban Guerilla Orchestra will be in Concert Saturday, April 22, 2023, 8 p.m. at Harmony Hall Art Center. The address is 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744.

The Urban Guerilla Orchestra, affectionately known as UGO, hails from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Under the leadership of trumpeter Henri McMillian, UGO is comprised of instrumentalists and vocalists who have worked with artists such as Michael Jackson, Quincy Jones, Aretha Franklin, Boyz II Men, Gladys Knight, and countless others.

They are undoubtedly one of the best bands performing throughout the United States today. They have traveled all over the world and are widely recognized for being the official band of The Soul Train Cruise. The UGO is comprised of consummate professionals with decades of experience and world-class musicians who record and tour with major national acts. They will deliver an energy-packed musical experience that will rock

you every second of the performance. All ages. Tickets: \$40/adult; \$35 seniors and students. Purchase tickets through PARKSDIRECT!

### AN ALUMNI SOCIAL AFFAIR BRUNCH

Join Bowie State University National Alumni Association Prince George's County Chapter Annual Benefit an Alumni Social Affair Brunch featuring "THE SKY SHOW," Sunday, June 25, 2023 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Martin's Crosswinds, 7400 Greenway Center Drive, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770.

Donation is \$60.00 \*\$4.75 Tax Deduction contribution. Make checks payable to: Prince George's County Chapter/BSUNAA. Mail to Rose Coleman 3703 Ivy Hill Lane, Bowie, Maryland 20715. For more information: Addie Martin 301-868-6081 or Rose Coleman 301-518-4861. Proceeds support Prince George's County Chapter Scholarship Fund.

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to Ron and Beth Davis, Lloyd and Shirley Brown, Trevor and Denise Reid Bourne, Norman and Jean Noel, Clarence and Dorothy Glasgow Reid, Eddie and Ruth Wilson, George and Karen Taylor, Cosmos and Stephnie Samuel who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating Wedding Anniversaries in April.

### DIONNE WARWICK EXHIBIT

An art exhibition inspired by music and in tribute to the life, music, and career of Dionne Warwick on display March 27 through April 12, 2023, in the Bowie State University Gallery of Art in the Fine and Performing Arts Center.

Gallery hours are Monday and Wednesday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Tuesday, 1–6 p.m., Thursday, 11 a.m.–12 p.m. and 2–6 p.m., Friday, 11–6 p.m., Saturday, 11:30–5 p.m. Phone (301) 860-5712 or (301) 860-3752 for more information.

Location: Address is 14000 Jericho Park Road, Bowie, Maryland, 20715. Contact Tewodross Melchishua Williams, email [mwilliams@bowiestate.edu](mailto:mwilliams@bowiestate.edu). Categories: Fine and Performing Arts.

### AFTERNOON TEA

Damon Foreman Trio will appear at Harmony Hall Art Center Wednesday, May 17, 2023, 2 p.m. A charismatic performer, Damon, along with his musicians, brings eclectic artistry to a variety of music genres. He can soothe your soul with his Jazz, wake your Spirit with his Soul, jumpstart your heart with his Funk, and light your fire with his rock.

Damon has toured throughout the world playing many styles of music with major artists such as Ashford and Simpson, Gladys Night, Sista Monica, Mary Wells, and Parliament Funkadelic. Damon loves to perform and leaves listeners with the knowledge that they have experienced something different and extraordinary. In other words, He rocks! All ages: tickets are \$20 per person. Address is Harmony Hall Art Center 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744. Telephone: 301-203-6040.



# COMMENTARY

## Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita,  
Children's Defense Fund



### ChildWatch:

## A Ripe Time

This special holy season this year, as many people are observing Ramadan, Passover, and Easter during the same week, is also fifty-five years to the week after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination. It is as useful as ever right now to return to his last Sunday sermon, delivered at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., on March 31, 1968. Dr. King said its title, "Remaining Awake Through a Great Revolution," was based on the old story of Rip Van Winkle, who fell asleep for twenty years and slept right through the American Revolution—and he warned us that during upheaval in our own times we must not do the same.

As Dr. King spoke about the freedom revolution

he saw happening around the world and the urgent need for America to finally end racial injustice, he addressed "the myth of time." This was the idea that only the passage of time would ultimately solve this, and Black people and their allies simply needed to be patient. Dr. King said there is an answer to this myth: "It is that time is neutral. It can be used whether constructively or destructively. And I am sorry to say this morning that I am absolutely convinced that the forces of ill will in our nation, the extreme rightists of our nation—the people on the wrong side—have used time much more effectively than the forces of goodwill."

He continued: "It may well be that we will have to repent in this generation, not merely for the vitriolic words and the violent actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence and indifference of the good people who sit around and say, 'Wait on time.' Some-

where we must come to see that human progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and the persistent work of dedicated individuals who are willing to be co-workers with God. And without this hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the primitive forces of social stagnation. So we must help time and realize that the time is always ripe to do right."

A few minutes later Dr. King shared the parable of the rich man Dives, who went to hell, and the poor, sick man Lazarus, who laid outside Dives' gate hoping for crumbs from his table. Dr. King said Dives didn't go to hell because he was rich, but instead of realizing that his wealth was his opportunity to bridge the gulf between them, Dives walked by Lazarus every day and never really saw him: "He went to hell because he allowed his brother to become invisible ... And this can happen to America, the richest nation in the world."

Calling for the Poor People's Campaign that would soon come to Washington, Dr. King added: "This is America's opportunity to help bridge the gulf between the haves and the have-nots. The question is whether America will do it. There is nothing new about poverty. What is new is that we now have the techniques and the resources to get rid of poverty. The real question is whether we have the will ... Ul-

timately a great nation is a compassionate nation. America has not met its obligations and its responsibilities to the poor. One day we will have to stand before the God of history and we will talk in terms of things we've done. Yes, we will be able to say we built gargantuan bridges to span the seas, we built gigantic buildings to kiss the skies. Yes, we made our submarines to penetrate oceanic depths. We brought into being many other things with our scientific and technological power. It seems that I can hear the God of history saying, 'That was not enough! But I was hungry, and ye fed me not. I was naked, and ye clothed me not. I was devoid of a decent sanitary house to live in, and ye provided no shelter for me. And consequently, you cannot enter the kingdom of greatness. If ye do it unto the least of these, my brethren, ye do it unto me.' That's the question facing America today."

Dr. King did not live to see how our nation would answer the question. On the day he was assassinated he called his mother to tell her the title for his next Sunday sermon: "Why America May Go to Hell." Fifty-five years later, we are still waiting. But the time is still ripe to choose the right answer. This holy season of renewal is also a ripe time for all of us to recommit to being the tireless, persistent, dedicated co-workers with God who will help.—April 7, 2023

## Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



### To Be Equal:

## Vice President Harris' Historic Trip to Africa Promotes Global Peace, Economic Prosperity

"It is your spark, your creativity, and your determination that will drive the future. And with that then, African ideas and innovations will shape the future of the world. And so we must invest in the African ingenuity and creativity, which will unlock incredible economic growth and opportunities, not only for the people of the 54 countries that make up this diverse continent, but for the American people and people around the world."

—Vice President Kamala Harris, address to Ghanaian youth

Africa is home to more than 1.4 billion people, whose median age is 19.

By 2050, one in four people on Earth will be on the continent. Peace and stability in Africa are vital to peace and stability in the rest of the world.

That's why I was honored to serve among the delegation that traveled to Ghana as part of Vice President Harris' historic trip to promote democracy and economic prosperity.

It was a far different Ghana than I experienced in 1980, when as a college student I accompanied

my father, Ernest "Dutch" Morial—then Mayor of New Orleans—on a trade mission. Since the presidency of the great pan-African leader Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana had been ruled by series of alternating military and civilian governments, beset by economic instabilities.

Ghana now is one of the continent's most stable democracies, and the United States' most important partner on a range of issues in West Africa, including conflict prevention, inclusive economic growth, and climate resilience.

The trip was both a source of great pride and great opportunity for Vice President Harris and for the United States, as we engaged with young creatives, tech entrepreneurs, and other young people to highlight the dynamism on the continent and how African innovations have benefitted the entire world.

As the first Black Vice President, she represents an authentic cultural link with Africa. That link was reflected in the warm reception she received, with Ghana's President Nana Akufo-Addo welcoming her "home," and addressing her as "Abena, the Akan name for all Tuesday born females."

The visit to Cape Coast Castle, Ghana's former

slave-trading post, was deeply personal to the Vice President.

"The horror of what happened here must always be remembered," she said. It cannot be denied. It must be taught. History must be learned."

The trip was a great opportunity for me, as well, as I was able to meet privately with President Nana Akufo-Addo to discuss the National Urban League's potential role in promoting inclusive economic empowerment in Ghana.

I also was deeply moved to visit the gravesite and memorial to the great civil rights pioneer W.E.B. Du Bois, who spent his final years in Ghana, and Black Star Square - also known as Independence Square or Liberation Square - built to celebrate Ghana's independence from British colonial rule.

I was inspired and exhilarated by the energy and spirit of the industrious, hardworking, and forward-thinking Ghanaian people. African ideas and innovations will shape the future of world, and I am grateful and to have been part of such a historic moment.

—April 6, 2023

## NASA Administrator Names New Goddard Center Director

By JACKIE MCGUINNESS and MICHELLE R. JONES  
Headquarters, Washington /  
Goddard Space Flight Center, Maryland

NASA Administrator Bill Nelson has named Dr. Makenzie Lystrup director of the agency's Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland, effective immediately. She will make history as the first female center director at Goddard.

Lystrup succeeds Dave Mitchell, who has served as Goddard's acting center director since January 2023, and now resumes his duties as the agency's chief program management officer at NASA Headquarters in Washington.

"Makenzie is a natural leader, bringing to Goddard a scientist's drive for discovery along with a wealth of industry experience and knowledge. As center director, she

will lead a world-renowned team of scientists, engineers, and technologists focused on Earth and space science. Under her leadership, the Goddard workforce will continue to inspire, innovate, and explore the unknown for the benefit of all," said Nelson. "I'd also like to thank Dave Mitchell for serving as acting center director since January and ensuring a seamless transition. We look forward to Dave resuming his role at headquarters."

Goddard Space Flight Center is one of NASA's largest field centers. Its sites include the primary campus in Greenbelt, Maryland, as well as Wallops Flight Facility

in Virginia, the Katherine Johnson Independent Verification & Validation Facility in West Virginia, the Goddard Institute for Space Studies in New York, the White Sands Complex in New Mexico, and the Columbia Scientific Balloon Facility in Texas. Goddard is responsible for the oversight and execution of a \$4 billion portfolio and is home to the nation's largest concentration of scientists, engineers and technologists dedicated to Earth and space science. Its workforce consists of more than 10,000 employees, both civil servants and contractors.

"Goddard is an incredible center and true national asset with the best and brightest minds in science and engineering—I'm humbled and honored to lead such an



CREDITS: NASA/KEEGAN BARBER

NASA Administrator Bill Nelson, left, swears in Dr. Makenzie Lystrup as director of Goddard Space Flight Center, as NASA Deputy Administrator Pam Melroy looks on Thursday, April 6, 2023, at the Mary W. Jackson NASA Headquarters building in Washington.

amazing and diverse world-renowned team," said Lystrup. "To build upon our legacy, I'm keenly focused on growing the next generation of innovators

along with ensuring our team has the resources and tools to advance technologies and make new discoveries that boost the space economy and benefit us all."

Prior to joining NASA, Lystrup was vice president and general manager of civil space at Ball Aerospace, where she was responsible for the company's portfolio of civil space systems that span across all science fields, operational weather and Earth observation, as well as advanced technologies development objectives. In this role, she led Ball's contributions to several missions, such as NASA's James Webb Space Telescope, Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE), Landsat 9, and the Roman Space Telescope.

Lystrup has also served as senior director for Ball's Civil Space Advanced Systems and Business Development, where she managed new business activities for NASA, NOAA, and other civilian U.S. government agencies as well as for academia and other science organizations.

For more information on Lystrup, see her biography online: <https://go.nasa.gov/43cQOgn>

## Hoyer Meets With Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce to Discuss Regional Leadership Council

By PRESS OFFICER  
Congressman Steny Hoyer's Office

LANHAM, Md. (April 6, 2023)—[On April 5], Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) met with members of the Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce—including its new president and CEO, Alexander Austin—to discuss his work as Chairman of the Regional Leadership Council and how the legislation passed and enacted during the 117th Congress is creating good paying jobs and economic opportunity for Marylanders.

In January 2023, Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries created the Regional Leadership Council to coordinate with the Biden-Harris Administration to ensure that Americans throughout the country know and feel the positive effects of the historic laws that Democrats secured in the 117th Congress. Leader Jeffries appointed

Congressman Hoyer to serve as the RLC Chairman and to lead its mission to identify, implement, and inform.

"In the 117th Congress, Democrats secured once-in-a-generation investments in everything from infrastructure to manufacturing, public safety to public health, workforce development to research and development," Congressman Hoyer said after his visit. "Now it's time to make sure that we're laying down roads, raising up bridges and factories, lowering costs, creating jobs, and delivering on the other promises these laws represent in communities in every corner of the country—including right here in Prince George's County. I look forward to helping lead that effort as Chairman of the RLC and to working with community partners like the Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce to make progress on that crucial mission."

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P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151  
Phone: 301-627-0900 • Legal Fax: 301-627-6260  
Email: [pgpost@gmail.com](mailto:pgpost@gmail.com)  
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# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation Launches Creando Exitos' 2023 Season on April 13

New 8-episode season provides informational programming geared toward the Latino Business Community returns

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCEDC

LARGO, Md. (April 5, 2023)—Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (PGCEDC) announces the launch of the 2023 season of Creando Exitos or "Creating Success" on April 13, 2023. Now entering its fifth season of production, the Spanish language Creando Exitos is an informational program for the Latino Business Community designed to promote the services offered by PGCEDC and highlight other business resources available in Prince George's County to support and grow their companies.

"We are excited to return with a new season of Creando Exitos to our emerging Latino business community of Prince George's County," said David Iannucci, President & CEO of Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation. "The program provides a platform for Latino businesses to learn more about the County's Economic Development Incentive Fund, FSC First, Department of Permitting, Inspection and Enforce-



IMAGE COURTESY PGCEDC

ment (DPIE), banking services, and other programs to help them create success and showcase why Expansion Starts Here."

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.

"We are excited to bring a new season of Creando Exitos where we interview successful Latino entrepreneurs who have found opportunity and create a business right here in Prince George's County," said host Rocio Treminio-Lopez, Latino Business Liaison of PGCEDC.

The program will air weekly on Thursdays on the PGCEDC YouTube channel with topics for the Spanish language community that include:

- Financing/Access to Capital
- Properties/Permits
- Business registration
- Purple Line Project
- Tax Incentives
- Work Services

The first episode will feature Karla Bermudez, Assistant Vice President of M&T Bank. Bermudez along with Rocio Treminio-Lopez manage the Latino Business Accelerator Program. The seven-week Latino Business Accelerator Program, a partnership between M&T and PGCEDC, will focus on business planning, establishing credit, managing bank accounts, marketing, branding and licensing.

Sessions will be led by representatives of M&T and PGCEDC and held entirely in Spanish—the first such program M&T has offered in a language other than English.

Additional Creando Exitos guests include Jessica Rios, Board member of the newly created Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Prince George's County promoting the sustainability of Hispanic commercial activity in Prince George's County and many more.

View previous seasons here: <https://youtube.com/@pgcedc>

Creando Exitos is an informational program for the Latino business community promoting the services offered by PGCEDC while informing about available business resources in Prince George's County, MD. This is a platform for the Latino businesses to learn more about the EDI Fund, FSC First, DPIE, and more.

Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation'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](http://www.pgcedc.com). Join the conversation: #CreandoExitos

## REALTORS® Recognize Excellence in Sales Production

By ANIYAH WASHINGTON  
PGCAR

LANDOVER, Md. (April 4, 2023)—On Thursday, March 30, 2023, the Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® (PGCAR) recognized its "Top Producer" REALTOR® members for their 2022 sales production. The winners were honored at a gala event held at Martins Crosswinds in Greenbelt Maryland.

The 2023 Awards Showcase is the Association's premier recognition of outstanding agent performance for the calendar year 2022. The event was preceded by red carpet interviews of attendees which aired on Facebook Live - <https://fb.watch/jlaDR23xul/>

Approximately 200 County REALTORS® received awards recognizing their "personal best" in sales production.

Taking home the top prize of the evening, First Place Platinum Individual General Brokerage, was Hazel Shakur of REDFIN, with \$66.4 million in sales activity. Placing first in the Platinum Team Competition was The Franklin-Anderson Group of Long and Foster Real Estate with \$41 million in team sales production.

Jaye Johnson of Compass was named 2022 ROOKIE OF THE YEAR for Highest Number of Transactions at six. Terika McDuffey of Keller



Williams Preferred Properties was named the 2022 ROOKIE OF THE YEAR for Highest Sales Volume at \$1.9 million.

The 2022 REALTOR OF THE YEAR title was awarded to Melanie Gamble, of 212 Degrees Realty, LLC, for her significant business-accomplishments, faithfulness to the REALTOR® Code of Ethics, leadership, civic and community involvement, as well as local, state and National Association activity.

In recognition of her dedicated long-standing service and tireless dedication to PGCAR and the real estate industry, REALTOR® Shameeka Price with Capital Structures Real Estate LLC, was awarded the prestigious 2022 Distinguished Service Award.

The Distinguished Sales Associate

of the Year went to Christian Jackson with Keller Williams Preferred Properties for his unselfish professional knowledge, business accomplishments, and for his contribution to PGCAR, the Maryland REALTORS and the National Association of REALTORS.

Ryan Paquin with First Home Mortgage was named Affiliate of the Year in recognition of his many contributions to PGCAR in 2022.

Billy Okoye, Matene Okoye, Rahkiya Reid, and Arlanica Williams were recognized for their First Time Sterling "R", \$1,000 RPAC contributions. Association Treasurer, Carlos Lancaster, of Exit Right Realty was entered into PGCAR's RPAC Hall of Fame for his accumulative \$7500 in RPAC giving over the years.

Host of the event, Leisel Taylor, Chairwoman of the Awards Committee was excited. "Even with 2022 being a challenging year, REALTORS persevered, happily served their clients, and achieved their goals. I applaud them all", said Taylor.

Thank you to our numerous sponsors who helped make the evening a resounding success.

**Top Winners Included:**  
**Individual General Brokerage—Platinum (Over \$12 million):**

- #1. Hazel Shakur - \$66.4 Million



PHOTO COURTESY PGCAR

**Winner Hazel Shakur, Individual General Brokerage—Platinum (Over \$12 million)**

- #2. Wemmy Collins - \$35.8 Million
- #3. Nwabueze EZ Okwodu - \$29.2 Million

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**Team General Brokerage—Platinum (Over \$15 million):**

- #1. The Franklin-Anderson Group - \$41 Million
- #2. The DAPO Group - \$27 Million
- #3. Synergy Properties Group - \$23.7 Million

**Individual Commercial**

- #1. Arlanica Williams - \$8.1 Million
- #2. Damian Howard - \$3.8 Million

To view photos of the "Top Producers" from the Awards Gala visit: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/4hn38>

PGCAR is the voice for REALTORS® in Prince George's County, Maryland. Representing more than 3,500 real estate professionals in the national capital area, PGCAR is an affiliate of the Maryland and National Association of REALTORS®. We are proud to serve our members and our community, and work to ensure professionalism in the industry. Our volunteers and staff work to offer services to real estate professionals and to provide avenues for our members to become more successful. We proudly work to promote and protect homeownership and private property rights.

### CITY OF HYATTSVILLE NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The City Council of the City of Hyattsville, Maryland proposes to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2023, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 4.9%, from \$2,593,256,479 to \$2,719,789,984.
2. If the City of Hyattsville maintains the current tax rate of \$0.63 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 4.9% resulting in \$797,161 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 \$0.6007, the constant yield tax 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 \$0.63 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 4.9% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$797,161 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 6:30 p.m., on May 1, 2023. The meeting will be held remotely via video teleconference. Register in advance for this webinar:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_\\_IuTFERfQ8yKTzflJjvtfw](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN__IuTFERfQ8yKTzflJjvtfw). Meeting log in details including a phone number for audio only access will be provided upon registration. The meeting will also be broadcast on the City's cable television channel (Comcast 71, Verizon 12).

The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged. 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 two (2) minutes. Public Comment may also be made using the e-comment feature at [hyattsville.org/meetings](http://hyattsville.org/meetings) or emailing [cityclerk@hyattsville.org](mailto:cityclerk@hyattsville.org). All electronic comments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on May 1, 2023. Comments received will be read by City staff during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call 301-985-5009 for further information.

## County Council Adopts 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

The Prince George's County Council, during session on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, adopted CR-018-2023, legislation proposed by Council Member Krystal Oriadha (District 7), creating a Guaranteed Basic Income Pilot Program tailored to the needs and resources in the County in conjunction with aid from The Greater Washington Community Foundation. The Basic Income Pilot Program will be modeled after the Stockton Economic Empowerment Demonstration (SEED) program in Stockton, California.

Under the measure, low-income families would be given direct cash assistance to support their basic needs, such as food and utilities, without strings attached or repayment requirements. Residents selected to participate in the program will receive monthly cash stipends for 24 months to ensure the financial security of families, reduce debt, and increase financial equity.

Council Member Oriadha says the Guaranteed Basic Income Pilot Program will help ad-

dress generational poverty, build economic stability, and broaden the scope of public safety services for residents.

"Quite simply, there are vulnerable populations within Prince George's County who will benefit from this type of support, and The People's Council is committed to providing them with resources to ease their economic instability. This is something being done in many jurisdictions around the country, including our neighboring jurisdictions, and I believe it will be beneficial for us in many ways. I also hope that our support of this measure provides a segue for policy change at the federal level."

A committee comprised of Prince George's County Council Members, and representatives from the County's Department of Social Services, the Guaranteed Basic Income Coalition of Prince George's County and the Greater Washington Community Foundation, will create and manage the Guaranteed Basic Income Pilot Program and provide the County Council with annual reports on the program's progress.

CR-018-2023 became effective Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

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### Morningside from A2

**Mae Mack**  
Kathryn Ann "Mae" (Henderson) Mack, 73, of York Springs, Pa., a Crossland '68 grad, died March 23. She grew up in Oxon Hill and attended Frostburg State College. She formerly was a member of St. John the Evangelist, in Clinton, where she taught CCD (catechism). As the Army wife of Kenneth Mack, she moved 22 times. Survivors include her husband, three children and four grandkids. Services were private; burial will be at Resurrection.

**Mike McManus**  
Michael John McManus, 61, who grew up on Clayton Lane in Skyline, died May 20, 2022. He lived in Wilson, N.C. Years ago, he attended St. Philip's School and was a good friend of my kids. He was predeceased by his parents, Lt. Col. Edward and Rosemarie McManus and his beloved son, Hunter Michael McManus. Survivors include his daughter and son-in-law Tessa Rose and Travis Newcombe and his brothers Ed and Bruce McManus. A Memorial Service was held, and a Memorial Tree planted for him.

**Milestones**  
Happy Birthday to Edna Ducote, April 16; Eloise Carnes, Ruby Cunningham and Veronica Frostbutter, April 17; Cameron Trexler, April 19; Devaughn Branham, April 20; Jill Gilmartin Booth and Tiffany Jackson, April 21; and Taylor Foster, April 22.  
Happy Anniversary to Jim and Pat Conlon, their 49th on April 20; John and Ruth Anthony, Jr., their 45th on April 22; Lewis and Trisha (Pitts) Woods, their 34th on April 22; Edward and Jane (Martin) Talbert, their 74th (!) on April 16; and Larry and Jody (Bowman) Nyers who were wed April 18, 1980.  
*Happy Income Tax Day 2023*

### General from A3

Deputy Commanding General of Reserve Affairs for the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.  
Brig. Gen. Birkhead was appointed as the Governor's lead for the statewide COVID-19 Maryland Equity Task Force. She was able to pivot effectively at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic to bring a force of more than 1,500 soldiers on duty in the early days of COVID. In the second phase of COVID-19, she developed and integrated a planning team with the Maryland Department of Health for vaccine distribution. Her leadership enabled the MDARNG to establish Mobile Vaccination Support Teams (MVST), delivering nearly 5,000 shots per week within the first two weeks of January 2021. Brigadier General Birkhead's leadership helped underserved communities throughout Maryland gain access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Her leadership of MDARNG also established more than 11 mass vaccination sites. Her work on the Maryland Equity Task Force was the subject of an article in the New England Journal of Medicine.  
In addition, Brig. Gen. Birkhead oversaw the successful deployment of the 58th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Brigade to Afghanistan, ensuring her soldiers passed the most rigorous training standards.  
Brig. Gen. Birkhead earned a B.A. in Political Science (Summa cum laude) from Hampton University on an Army ROTC scholarship. She holds two master's degrees—Masters of General Administration from the University of Maryland University College and a Masters in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

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