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Council Presents Legislation Requiring Security Surveillance at High Occupancy Dwellings and Senior Housing Residences

Legislation Proposed by Vice Chair Wala Blegay, Esq. Includes Camera Surveillance as a Public Safety Tool

By ANGELA ROUSON / REENAL DOSHI
Council Communications / Office of Council Vice Chair Wala Blegay

The Prince George's County Council, during session on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, presented Council Bill-066-2023, legislation proposed by Council Member Wala Blegay, Esq. (District 6) requiring security surveillance at high occupancy dwellings and security guards at age-restricted senior housing residences.

Under the measure, Prince George's County Government would require high occupancy apartment buildings, or groups of buildings, comprised of more than 100 units to have security cameras located at each building with a 180-degree field of view, and at each aperture designated for ingress and egress, and each parking lot, parking garage, car park, and parking facility. The landlord must retain the camera footage for at least 30 days.

For age-restricted senior housing dwellings, the bill would require at least one 12-hour security guard

on duty each day of the week. Additionally, the Council bill has provisions requiring landlords to repair defective or malfunctioning equipment within 14 business days.

Council Vice Chair Blegay says more security cameras in the County offer yet another tool to help keep residents safe, including the County's vulnerable senior community.

"We want our residents to feel safe. There has been an increase in crime in apartments and age-restricted senior housing dwellings and this bill is one

step toward preventing break-ins and other types of crime in Prince George's County."

District 7 Council Member Krystal Oriadha and District 8 Council Member Edward Burroughs III are also sponsors of CB-66-2023, which has been referred to the Planning, Housing, and Economic Development (PHED) committee for legislative review.

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Glenn Dale Native Serves With Joint Strike Fighter Squadron From U.S. Navy's Largest Master Jet Base

By LT. GARRETT RICHARDS
Navy Office of Community Outreach

LEMOORE, Calif. (June 14, 2023)—Lt. j. g. Gahazi Nazzal, a native of Glenn Dale, Maryland, serves the U.S. Navy assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron 125. The command is a joint strike fighter squadron located aboard the U.S. Navy's largest master jet base.

Nazzal joined the Navy four years ago. Today, Nazzal serves as a supply officer.

"As an immigrant from Sierra Leone, I wanted to give back to a country that gave me so much," said Nazzal.

Growing up in Glenn Dale, Nazzal attended Bowie High School, graduating in 2014. Today, Nazzal relies upon skills and values similar to those found in Glenn Dale to succeed in the military.

"Growing up, I learned the value of creating meaningful relationships," said Nazzal. "Additionally, I grew to understand the value of working hard and putting in the hours."

These lessons have helped Nazzal while serving with the Navy.

Members of VFA-125 fly and maintain the F-35C Lightning II, a combat-ready fifth-generation fighter.

According to Navy officials, the F-35C is designed with the entire battlespace in mind, bringing transformational capability to the United States and its allies. Missions traditionally performed by specialized aircraft (air-to-air combat, air-to-ground strikes, electronic attack, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) can now be executed by a squadron of F-35s.

For the first time in U.S. naval aviation history, radar-evading stealth capability comes to the aircraft carrier deck. The F-35C carrier variant sets



PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS VANESSA WHITE

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Lt. j. g. Gahazi Nazzal

Prince George's County Health Department Urges Residents to Re-Enroll and Maintain Medicaid Coverage

By LAUREN MOSES
Office of the Health Officer

LARGO, Md. (June 23, 2023)—The Prince George's County Health Department is urging residents who have Medicaid to take immediate action and update their information for renewal. In April 2023, the State of Maryland began making Medicaid eligibility reviews again which means that Medicaid renewals will not be automatic, and individuals who are enrolled in Medicaid or the Maryland Children's Health Program must apply for renewal.

"We understand the potential challenges that the recent changes regarding Medicaid renewals may pose for some residents, and we want to ensure that everyone has access to comprehensive information," says Acting Health Officer Sanmi Areola. "My team and I are dedicated to providing Prince Georgians with the necessary resources to navigate the updated policy in Maryland. We strongly encourage all residents to take proactive steps by promptly updating their contact information. By doing so, they will receive timely notices to renew their Medicaid eligibility, ensuring continued access to vital healthcare services."

As a vital lifeline for low-income individuals and families, Medicaid provides essential health insurance funded by federal and

state dollars. In the past, Medicaid participants were required to re-enroll annually to redetermine their eligibility. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government temporarily paused this policy and prohibited states from rolling people off the program. With the pandemic declaration now ended, it is crucial for Medicaid recipients to proactively update their contact information with the Maryland Health Connection to receive a renewal notice and maintain their coverage.

Failure to complete the renewal process or provide accurate information may result in the termination of Medicaid coverage, leaving individuals without access to necessary medical care. The Health Department recognizes the potential challenges posed by these recent changes and is committed to ensuring that residents are well-informed about the updated policy in Maryland. To assist with the renewal process, the Health Department will leverage various communication channels, including social media, to reach out to Prince Georgians and encourage them to update their contact information promptly. Furthermore, the Health Department will continue to promote this critical information throughout the year, as Medicaid

See MEDICAID Page A2

Governor Moore Reinforces Commitment to Promoting Social Equity and Restorative Justice as Adult Recreational Use Cannabis Market Set to Go Live July 1

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Governor News

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (June 26, 2023)—Governor Wes Moore today addressed the Cannabis Regulators Association's annual conference in Annapolis, where he reinforced the state's commitment to promoting social equity and restorative justice in advance of the new adult recreational use cannabis market set to go live on July 1. The conference included 200 state regulators, advocacy organizations, and industry stakeholders.

"In the past, cannabis policy has been used as a cudgel to oppress, jail, and discriminate against our fellow citizens, especially people of color; and the war on drugs didn't just fail, it made us weaker as a nation," said Gov. Moore. "But now, we are writing a new chapter in the story of cannabis in America—a chapter focused on equity and economic growth. It's time we moved away from this false

choice that says we must pick an economy that is equitable or an economy that is growing—we can, and we will, do both."

During the 2023 legislative session, the Maryland General Assembly passed the Cannabis Reform Act, which legalized adult-use cannabis use effective July 1. On May 3, Governor Moore signed the act into law, which also established the Office of Social Equity. The Office of Social Equity will promote inclusion, accountability, and fairness for businesses to enter, compete, and succeed in the adult-use cannabis market.

Equity is central to the Cannabis Reform Act and is a key pillar of the Moore-Miller administration's efforts in cannabis legalization. To support implementation, the legislature also created the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund, which directs funding to communities most harmed by the war on drugs. The first round of licensing will be available exclusively to social equity applicants. The legislature also created the Cannabis Business

Assistance Fund, which will assist social equity applicants and licensees.

The Cannabis Regulators Association fosters collaboration and coordination to identify and share best practices that safeguard public health and consumer safety, promote equity, and create regulatory certainty for industry participants. All states in the United States—with the exception of Idaho, Wyoming, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Indiana, Louisiana, Tennessee, and South Carolina—are association members.

On July 1, Maryland will become the 25th state or U.S. territory in the country to legalize adult-use cannabis use.

For more information about adult recreational cannabis use, visit mmcc.maryland.gov.

For more information about responsible adult recreational cannabis use, visit mmcc.maryland.gov/Pages/Cannabis_Legalization.aspx.

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To Be Equal: Reports on Police Misconduct Show Kristen Clarke Is Leading the U.S. Justice Department Into a New Age on Civil Rights

... she is living up to her promise to make the Justice Department an engine of reform so the doors of justice remain open to all.

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Richard AmRhein Named Interim Chief Executive Officer at the Prince George's County Memorial Library System

During his time in the interim position, the board will renew its efforts and search for a permanent Chief Executive Officer.

Business and Finance, Page A5

TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

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

On July 4th, come to the Morningside Parade, followed by family fun at 2 and Fireworks at dusk!

Morningside's Independence Day Parade, on July 4th, shoves off at 11:30 a.m. from the Morningside Firehouse on Suitland Road. It marches up Suitland Road hill, passes by the Suitland Road Baptist Church, and ends at Veterans of Foreign Wars. I expect to be under the tree at the Church, waving my flag. Get your flag and join me.

Following the Parade, at 2 p.m., Family Fun Day begins at Patterson Park and continues until 4. There'll be free food and games.

And, as always, great Fireworks at dusk.

Chris Diffell, Central High Class of '77

Christopher John "Chris" Diffell, 63, died June 14, the day which would have been his mother's 99th birthday. He was the 7th child of Clifford and Dorothy Diffell.

The Diffell family lived at 318 Larkspur Road, Morningside, in the 1950s. Then, they moved to a newly-built, and larger, house on Skyline Drive, down the hill from me.

Chris was born in Washington, attended St. Philip's, Morningside Elementary, and Benjamin D. Foulouis Junior High. He graduated from Central High School in 1977, continued his education at Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany, and received his diploma from the University of the District of Columbia.

While in school, he had a number of jobs, one of which was with the Red Cross. He later worked for the District of Columbia as an interpreter and parole officer, later still with the Federal Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency.

He was an avid reader of books and newspapers and loved gardening. He had a great interest in languages and was proficient in Spanish.

Chris is survived by three brothers, Mark, Jerome and James, and three sisters, Katherine, Patricia and Mary Ellen; a number of nieces and nephews; and a dear friend, Juergen Tooren. Mass of Christian Burial was at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Wash-

ington with burial at St. Paul's Rock Creek Cemetery.

Chris was predeceased by his parents, his mom Dorothy—the first in the family to die—and his dad Clifford in July 2004. By then they had moved from Morningside. They were a remarkable family, and I knew them well.

One other thing: the Diffells and the McHales had the distinction of being the only families on Skyline Drive with 7 kids.

Morningside Volunteer Fire Department

The Morningside Volunteer Fire Department with its 100% Volunteer Staff saves millions in taxpayer dollars and serves on the front line of the public health response. Here are their 2022 accomplishments:

- Man-hours protecting the community, 53,287
- Medical call responses, 3,278
- Car accident incident responses, 862
- Fire call responses, 929
- Average seconds to be on scene, 558

Last year—with your support—they were able to renovate the firehouse and purchase a second ambulance. This year, support funds will go directly to the purchase of a new, volunteer-owned and staffed fire engine that will be responding to calls in our community.

Donations to this remarkable volunteer fire department can be sent to Morningside VFD Inc. by going online at www.morningsidevfd27.com/donate/ or mailing to 6200 Suitland Road, Morningside, Md., 20746-3425.

They invite you to stop by the station and see what they've been able to accomplish with your continued support.

Neighbors & other good people

Donna Gentile who grew up in Morningside, daughter of George and Mae Glagola, emailed great photos of three generations of police officers, taken June 14, the day her grandson, Marshall Teletchea, became an Anne Arundel County police officer. Pinning on his badge is his dad, John Teletchea, who became a Prince George's officer exactly 27 years before. With them is Donna's husband Bruce Gentile, who was a Prince George's Police Officer when Jack McHale was Chief.

Julie Koch-Michael emailed, "Read-

ing your column while I'm up here in Islesboro, Maine, with my brother Bobby and his wife, Diana. Recently, before our drive up here, I met Linda Ferguson Sandoval and her son, Kevin, for lunch in Frederick, Md. I also met with 14 Class of 1966 Suitland High graduates the day before at the Nautilus Diner in Crofton."

Sixty-five years ago this week, Jack and I and five of our children, moved from Mill Valley, Calif., to 5904 (renamed 4304) Skyline Drive. I'm still here, in the same house. It's been a remarkable 65 years.

Academia

Former Morningside Councilwoman Carol (Kline) de Graba emailed news that their son Thomas graduated from the Institute of World Politics where he received his Master of Arts in Statecraft and National Security. In July he will begin work with the Defense Intelligence Agency in Reston as an intelligence analyst for the space program.

Molly McHale, my great-granddaughter, has graduated from Arapahoe High School in Centennial, Colorado, and will attend the University of Colorado Boulder School of Arts & Sciences, with plans to major in Psychology. She is the daughter of my grandson David and Nina McHale and granddaughter of Mike and Sandy McHale, of El Paso.

Email me (muddmm@gmail.com) your child's, grandchild's, great-grandchild's graduation announcement. Tell the world how proud you are.

All Things Animal

Voting has ended and the new-born gorilla at the National Zoo finally has a name, Zahra, which means "beautiful flower" in Swahili, an African language.

For the first time in 16 years, three meerkats were born at the Zoo on May 10. Visitors can view them at the Small Mammal House.

I wrote recently about Elmer, a rabbit that befriended us. We gave him a dish of water and coleslaw and he loved them both and he hung out behind the

See **MORNINGSIDE** Page A6

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

FATHER DAY TRIBUTES

So, who is farmer Frank? This man is 81 years old, father of two and Grandfather of four. Farmer Frank is a man of word, a man who would give you the shirt off his back, run himself into exhaustion to ensure that his customers, friends, and family got the things they needed to be successful.

You know, a child watches the good and bad in everything we do and quite often is molded in the image. As a child, I watched my dad bring fish to his grandmother because he so loved the lady. I watched my dad support his mother and father in whatever capacity he could until their dying day. My Dad couldn't always be home as his occupation put him on the road at least four days a week between Florida and New York City. But when he was home, he became a big presence in my life.

The road trips where I excelled at map reading, catching that one fish off the Potomac, and releasing it in Mattaponi Creek on Croom Road are binding memories.

I want you to pray for Dad Frank DeVille (Farmer Frank). I ask that you pray for him every day that he's here on this earth because he is truly a blessing. Everyday he is going to bless someone with a kind word and/or act or deed. Use that same energy to bless someone else because we all need a kind word and/or act or deed in this cruel world that we live in. Be like Farmer Frank and remember, the only judge is the Most High. Today, on this Father's Day, KiAnna, Dominique, Vanessa and I salute you (Farmer Frank), my dad. Love Stephan DeVille.

PRE-TEEN AND TEEN PROGRAMS

Pre-Teens and Teens programs push the boundaries of traditional recreation. These programs strive to reduce idleness among teenagers and pre-teens and prepare them for the future. These programs aim to increase the readiness of young people through high quality, and community-supported events, programs, and services.

Most importantly, M-NCPPC provides programs and other activities that invest in the future of teenagers and pre-teens, ages 10 to 17. Check us out to learn more about our programs and all the exciting recreational adventures that await you.

There's only one way to get total access to all the great opportunities Xtreme Teens has to offer—with a free M-NCPPC Youth ID card. Youth ID cards are available free to residents ages 6 to 17. Get yours, and you'll have access to: Community center drop-in activities and amenities at centers throughout the county (classes not included). The Xtreme Teens Weekend Program is on Fridays and/or Saturdays from

7 to 10 p.m. at recreation facilities throughout the county (times may vary by site). Use of community center fitness/weight rooms for teens ages 13 to 17 (if you're 13 to 15, you'll need supervision by an adult with a valid fitness pass), trips, performances and sports, community service-learning projects, leadership, and employment opportunities.

To get your free M-NCPPC Youth ID card, come into any M-NCPPC community center in Prince George's County with your parent or guardian (who is over the age of 18) and bring proof of your age (ages 6–17) and proof of residency in Prince George's County or Montgomery County. For more information, call 301-699-2255: MD Relay 711.

EDNA'S LOVE

Edna's Love (Every Daughter Needs Supportive) Love. Sowing seeds of compassion to transform lives through service. Join us for the Inaugural Blood Cancer and Sickle Cell 5K September 8, 2023, at National Harbor, 165 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, Maryland 20745. Start time 5–9 p.m. Join now and join the fun. Thirty dollars includes walk shirt. For vending, partnership opportunities or other questions, contact info@ednaslove.org. Registration: Use link or scan the QR code www.ednaslove.org/5k. Special thanks to our sponsors.

ALUMNI SENIOR OPEN SWIM

Bowie State University Aquatics Facility is hosting open swim for Bowie State University alumni and seniors on Mondays and Wednesday. Contact the pool office for details, 301-860-4739. Cost: Free. Location: Leonidas S. James Physical Education Complex, 14000 Jericho Park Road, Bowie, Maryland 20715. Contact Wascavage. Email: mwascavage@bowiestate.edu. Phone: 301-860-4739.

SAVE THE DATE

Bowie State University will hold their 12th Annual Bulldog Golf Classic Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at the Country Club at Woodmore. The Bulldog Golf Classic is a sold-out event every year. More details will be coming soon.

WHAT IS BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY FAMOUS FOR?

Founded in 1865, Bowie State University is the oldest historically Black College/University in Maryland and one of the ten oldest in the country. It is also a diverse university whose students, along with faculty and staff, represent many ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Diversity, Inclusive Education & Neurodiversity Take Center Stage: The Children's Guild Graduates 400 Students From Nine Schools

By PRESS OFFICER
The Children's Guild

WASHINGTON (June 21, 2023)—In a world that often focuses on conformity, recognizing and celebrating diversity is essential. The Children's Guild, a leading Mid-Atlantic nonprofit human-services and education organization, is dedicated to recognizing and celebrating diversity supporting children and young adults. The organization recently held several momentous graduation ceremonies, honoring the achievements of 400 remarkable students from its nine education programs. These ceremonies not only mark a milestone for the graduates but also serve as a testament to the power of meeting the whole child and embracing inclusive education and the potential within every individual.

"At The Children's Guild, we are celebrating our 70th year as an organization meeting the needs of diverse student populations. We take pride in promoting inclusive education and embracing and supporting all learners across our diverse school locations. Our commitment extends to meeting the whole child in our inclusive environments, and to our neurodivergent students at various levels, from those who are extremely gifted to those with unique challenges," said Jenny Livelli, President and CEO of The Children's Guild. "With a dedicated senior leadership team, staff, and faculty, we strive to provide a supportive and nurturing environment for all students. Witnessing these students graduate is a culmination of years of dedicated efforts by all involved, and most importantly, the students themselves."

During the months of May and June, the Children's Guild programs celebrated the achievements of students across its various schools, including:

- **The Children's Guild School**—Prince George's Campus, serving students from K–12 with emotional and behavioral disabilities and/or on the autism spectrum had four 12th graders graduate and five 8th graders move on to high school.
- **The Children's Guild—Transformation Academy**, a 12-month, non-public separate day school for students ages 5–21, whose primary diagnosis is autism, held their first graduation ceremony for the school that opened in November 2021 with four students completing the program.
- **The Children's Guild DC Public Charter School** is a K–8 school that provides students with real-life learning experiences, fostering character development, and ensuring their success in a global 21st century world. This school had 25 8th grade and 12 kindergarten graduates.
- **The Monarch Academies** support the whole child with an engaging curriculum, strong school culture, and innovative learning environment for students. These three schools collectively had 271 graduates, with 67 8th graders moving to high school from MA Glen Burnie and 97 8th graders graduating from MA Global-Laurel. In addition, 107 5th graders are graduating from Monarch Annapolis.
- **The TranZed Academy for Working Students (TAWS)** program saw 51 students graduate. TAWS is an innovative workforce development

program that provides a variety of career readiness/employee enrichment resources and offers high school students that require a flexible academic schedule a pathway to graduation, while maximizing their work potential. In 2022, the TAWS program was featured in the Maryland State Department of Education's landmark piece, as the MSDE Blueprint for Maryland's Future: Career and College Readiness.

- **Monarch Preschool College Park**, a high-quality, project-based learning pre-kindergarten for children aged 3–5, had 18 young graduates well-prepared socially and educationally for kindergarten.

Recognizing the unique challenges faced by diverse student populations, The Children's Guild provides a comprehensive support system to help students overcome obstacles and develop the necessary skills for success. Specialized therapies, social-emotional learning programs, and vocational training equip graduates with the tools they need to thrive in various aspects of their lives. Each of their school programs offers varied educational approaches ranging from specialized academic focuses in their charter schools to non-public schools who meet the needs of neurodivergent and special-education students.

"While academic achievement is undoubtedly important, we understand the significance of nurturing the overall well-being of our students. We celebrate not only academic accomplishments but also personal growth, character development, and resilience," added Livelli. "By doing so, we send a powerful message to society: Every individual, regardless of their differences, deserves equal opportunities, respect, and acceptance. Our 400 graduating students showcase the immense potential within every student and emphasize the importance of fostering inclusive communities that value diversity."

The Children's Guild was founded in 1953 by Dr. Leo Kanner, father of child psychiatry and pioneer of childhood autism; Dr. Matthew Debuskey, pediatrician; and Sadie Dashew Ginsberg, prominent child advocate. Celebrating its 70th anniversary, The Children's Guild has become a leading Mid-Atlantic nonprofit organization serving children, families, and child serving organizations dedicated to helping children and families thrive. Today, the organization is focused on helping students and families find success socially, emotionally, educationally, and developmentally through special education and charter schools, school-based mental health services, treatment foster care, autism services, family mental and behavioral health services, and workforce development programs.

Schools and programs of The Children's Guild include Monarch Academy Annapolis, Monarch Academy Glen Burnie, Monarch Global Academy Laurel, Monarch Preschool College Park, The Children's Guild DC PCS, The Children's Guild School of Baltimore, The Children's Guild School - Prince George's Campus, The Children's Guild: Transformation Academy, The Janet & Frank Kelly Autism Center, TranZed Academy for Working Students, TranZed Apprenticeships, and Outpatient Mental Health Clinic. For more information, visit <https://childrensguild.org/>.

Medicaid from A1

recipients will have different renewal periods that span over 12 months.

When it's time for a participant to renew their Medicaid coverage, residents will receive a notice in the mail or through their online account containing instructions on how to proceed with the renewal process. Participants will have 45 days to complete the renewal process, ensuring uninterrupted access to healthcare benefits.

For more information, visit the County Health Department's website at: <https://health.maryland.gov/mhcp/Pages/MedicaidCheckIn-Providers.aspx>

COMMUNITY

Free Independence Day Lyft Rides Offered Throughout Greater Washington to Prevent Drunk Driving

Over a third of U.S. traffic deaths on Independence Day involve drunk drivers

By ALEXANDRA LUCCHESI
Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP)

TYSONS, Va. (June 20, 2023)—Preparing to combat that time of year when, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, over a third (39%, 2021) of U.S. traffic deaths involve drunk drivers,* a local nonprofit organization announced today that free safe rides will be offered to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area during next month's Independence Day holiday.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the 2023 Independence Day SoberRide® program will be in operation beginning at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, July 4 (Independence Day) and operate until 4 a.m. on Wednesday, July 5 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk period.

During this twelve-hour period, area residents ages 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download the Lyft app to their phones then enter the SoberRide® code in the app's 'Payment' tab (under the 'Add Lyft Pass' option) to receive their no-cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. WRAP's 2023 Independence Day SoberRide® promo code will be posted at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, July 4 on www.SoberRide.com.

"Nearly 40-percent of U.S. traffic fatalities during the Independence Day holiday involve drunk drivers according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration," said Kurt Erickson, WRAP's President. "And July 4th's nighttime hours are of particular concern as 82% of fatal drunk driving crashes in the U.S. during the Independence Day holiday occur at night."

During the 2022 Independence Day campaign, over 400 (435) persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used WRAP's SoberRide® program rather than possibly driving home impaired. The charity also offers its SoberRide® program on St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Halloween and the winter holidays through and including New Year's.

"Lyft is dedicated to providing access to reliable and responsible rides, and we're proud to partner with programs like WRAP to offer Lyft as an alternative to impaired driving," said Kamillah Wood, Director of Public Policy for Community Safety at Lyft. "Through our Roadway Safety Program and our partnerships with the public, we hope to empower our community with the tools to protect themselves and those around them this holiday season."

SoberRide® is offered throughout Lyft's Washington D.C. coverage area which includes all or parts of: the District of Columbia; the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince George's and towns therein plus the cities of Bowie, College Park, District Heights, Gaithersburg, Glenarden, Greenbelt, Hyattsville, Laurel, Mount Ranier, New Carrollton, Rockville, Seat Pleasant and Takoma Park; and the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William and towns therein plus the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park.

Sponsors of WRAP's 2023 Independence Day SoberRide® campaign include the 395 Express Lanes, Amazon, Anheuser-Busch, Beer Institute, Brown-Forman, Constellation Brands, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, Giant Food, Glory Days Grill, Lyft, Molson Coors Beverage Company, New Belgium Brewing, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association. WRAP's 2023 Public Partner SoberRide® Sponsors include the District of Columbia Department of Transportation's Highway Safety Office, Maryland Highway Safety Office/Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration and Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

Since 1991, WRAP's SoberRide® program has provided 86,358 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

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

More information about WRAP's SoberRide® initiative can be found at www.SoberRide.com.

* National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA): https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/sites/tsm.gov/files/2023-05/15805Bb-July4_DSOGPO_Fact%20Sheet_042523v5-tag.docx

ARS/Rescue Rooter Celebrates National HVAC Tech Day in Maryland

By PRESS OFFICER
ARS/Rescue Rooter

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (June 22, 2023)—Laurel Mayor Craig A. Moe has issued a proclamation marking June 22 as National HVAC Tech Day to recognize the hard work, skill, and resourcefulness of local HVAC professionals.

"We are proud to work with Laurel to recognize the HVAC techs who work in extreme conditions, braving sweltering heat and numbing cold to restore our comfort at the hottest and coldest times of the year," said Jim McDonough, the general manager of ARS/Rescue Rooter Laurel.

National HVAC Tech Day was started in 2016 by ARS/Rescue Rooter, the nation's largest provider of residential heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC), and plumbing services. ARS Laurel provides HVAC and plumbing services in Maryland's Western Shore, including the counties of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Saint Mary's, and Washington counties and the state's Eastern Shore counties of Talbot and Kent.

"This is a perfect time to celebrate the hard-working people who dedicate long hours to keep us cool in the summer," said Scott Boose, CEO, ARS/Rescue Rooter. "HVAC systems not only provide comfort, but also keep people and their loved ones safe and healthy."



COURTESY PHOTO

James MacMannis, operations manager of ARS/Rescue Rooter Laurel on the left and Keith Dodge, operations manager on the right, hold a proclamation from the City of Laurel.

About American Residential Services (ARS/Rescue Rooter): Based in Memphis, Tenn., privately-owned ARS is one of the nation's largest providers of air conditioning, heating, electrical, energy-efficient, and plumbing services. Providing exceptional service, the ARS® Network serves both residential and light commercial customers by offering heating, cooling, indoor air quality, plumbing, drain cleaning, sewer line, radiant barrier, in-

sulation, and ventilation services. Each location has a knowledgeable team of trained specialists who undergo rigorous training and background checks. Further, ARS/Rescue Rooter has longstanding strategic partnerships with industry-leading suppliers and retailers to efficiently service consumers. For more information and a complete list of our locations nationwide, visit ars.com.

WSSC Water and Montgomery County Partner to Turn Poop to Power

Methane Gas Captured During Wastewater Treatment Process Upgraded to Renewable Natural Gas to Power County's Ride On Bus Fleet

By LUIS MAYA
WSSC Water

LAUREL, Md. (June 21, 2023)—WSSC Water and Montgomery County recently entered into a five-year agreement that will literally turn poop into power. Thanks to the construction of the innovative Piscataway Bioenergy Facility, methane gas captured during the wastewater treatment process will be upgraded to Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) and sold to the county to power their Ride On buses. During today's monthly meeting, WSSC Water Commissioners were briefed on the agreement to generate an estimated \$700,000 per year in revenue for WSSC Water while reducing the utility's greenhouse gas emissions.

"The Montgomery County government is always seeking innovative and sustainable practices in order to reduce carbon emissions," said County Executive Marc Elrich. "This agreement to turn methane gas into fuel for our buses is a win-win-win for our constituents, commuters and, most importantly, our environment. I appreciate the efforts of WSSC Water to work with us to create this agreement. Increasing the efficiency and reliability of our Ride-On bus system is critical toward the County's goal of a 100% carbon emission reduction by 2035. This agreement, along with our new electric buses and microgrids are important improvements within our fleet of Ride-On vehicles."

The Piscataway Bioenergy facility will transform how WSSC Water handles biosolids, the nutrient-rich organic material resulting from wastewater treatment. Maryland's largest water utility currently produces about 8,000 tons of biosolids monthly. Once construction of the bioenergy facility is complete in the fall of 2024, all biosolids from WSSC Water's five other plants will be delivered to the new facility. Through innovative technology, the amount of biosolids left over from the new treatment process will be significantly reduced and cleaner (Class A). A state-of-the-art digestion process creating these Class-A biosolids will generate methane gas, which will be captured and upgraded on site to RNG.

"Reclaiming valuable natural resources from the wastewater treatment process not only benefits our environment but also makes fiscal sense," said WSSC Water Commission Vice Chair T. Eloise Foster. "I thank County Executive Elrich and Montgomery County leadership for signing this historic agreement and helping WSSC Water generate revenue while creating green jobs and reducing greenhouse gas emissions."

To facilitate the sale of RNG, WSSC Water received a license from the Maryland Public Service Commission to sell natural gas (NG) in Washington Gas and Baltimore Gas and Electric territories in Maryland. With this license, WSSC Water will also sell NG to Montgomery County

to power Ride On buses and some county facilities. Additionally, selling RNG will generate Renewable Fuel Credits, which can be sold for additional revenue. WSSC Water estimates it will generate an additional \$3.2 million per year from the sale of renewable energy credits.

"Utilities are looking for any way to reduce costs and diversify revenues to take the pressure off customer rates," said WSSC Water General Manager and CEO Kishia L. Powell. "The Piscataway Bioenergy project will generate revenue and save our customers more than \$3.4 million annually by reducing operating costs. Completing this innovative project will also help reduce WSSC Water's greenhouse emissions by 13 percent, complementing existing strategies to reduce our carbon footprint. I thank the leadership of both Montgomery and Prince George's counties for approving funding to advance this crucial infrastructure project."

Construction of the \$271 million facility in Accokeek, Maryland, began in the spring of 2019 and is expected to be substantially complete by November 2024.

WSSC Water is the proud provider of safe, seamless and satisfying water services, making the essential possible every day for our neighbors in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. We work to deliver our best because it's what our customers expect and deserve.

No Kid Hungry Maryland Connects Kids to Free Summer Meals Across the State

By PRESS OFFICER
Share Our Strength

BALTIMORE (June 26, 2023)—School is finally out for summer break, and the next couple of months stretch out before kids and families across Maryland. For many children, though, the long summer months are the hungriest time of year. No Kid Hungry is working with schools and community organizations across the state to connect kids with the free summer meals they need to grow and thrive. Parents, grandparents and caregivers can find sites serving free meals for their kids and teens this summer at www.MDSummerMeals.org.

Twelve percent of Maryland's children face hunger. That's 1 in every 8 children in the state who struggles with getting the proper nutrition needed to grow up healthy and strong.

During the school year, free and reduced-price school meals ensure that children have reliable access to nutritious food. However, when school is out for the summer those meals disappear. The added food costs of making up for those lost meals amid rising prices puts an increased financial burden on families who are already struggling with tight household budgets.

"Kids shouldn't have to spend the summer worrying about where their next meal is going to come from," said Maryland No Kid Hungry Senior Manager Kara Panowitz. "Ensuring our children get nutritionally balanced meals throughout the summer months is critical to making sure they return to school in the fall healthy and ready to learn."

Each summer, local school districts and community organizations provide daily meals

to kids at schools and community sites like parks, pools and libraries across Maryland. These healthy and balanced meals are provided free of charge to all children and teens 18 and under—no registration or proof of residency or citizenship needed—to ensure they get the nutrition they need to thrive, even when school is not in session.

To find the nearest or most convenient meal site, parents and caregivers can visit www.MDSummerMeals.org, text the word "FOOD" (or "COMIDA") to 304-304 or visit NoKidHungry.org/WhatsApp.

No child should go hungry in America. But millions of kids could face hunger this year. No Kid Hungry is working to end childhood hunger by helping launch and improve programs that give all kids the healthy food they need to thrive.

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COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Reports on Police Misconduct Show Kristen Clarke Is Leading the U.S. Justice Department Into a New Age on Civil Rights

"I want to ensure that the doors of justice remain open so all the people can feel that they are seen and heard, especially when we are talking about the most vulnerable among us. I am very hopeful that we will see the Justice Department truly be an engine of reform when it comes to enforcement of our nation's federal civil rights laws."

—Kristen Clarke, United States Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights

The National Urban League advocated passionately and emphatically for Kristen Clarke's nomination and confirmation to head the U.S. Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. The Department's first reports on policing show exactly why.

Weeks before her confirmation in 2021, we unveiled 21 Pillars for Redefining Public Safety and Restoring Community Trust, a comprehensive framework for criminal justice advocacy that takes a holistic approach to public safety, the restoration

of trust between communities and law enforcement, and a path forward for meaningful change.

Last week's Justice Department report on Minneapolis policing, like its report on policing in Louisville issued in March, reaffirms the themes of 21 Pillars: collaborating with communities to build a restorative system, holding law enforcement personnel and agencies accountable for their actions, reforming divisive policies, requiring transparency, reporting, and data collection, and improving hiring standards and training. In fact, most of the recommendations in the reports correspond directly to one of our pillars.

The racism, violent abuse, and habitual misconduct that pervades the Minneapolis and Louisville police departments, as outlined in the reports, were not a revelation. People of color across the country, in communities large and small, have borne this brutality for generations.

What the reports did reveal is an enlightened approach by the Justice Department to achieving police reform and racial justice.

The Justice Department's recommendation that the Louisville Police "improve community engagement in violent crime reduction" reflects a growing trend toward community-led violence intervention systems that the National Urban League documented in the recently-released *Toward a New Age of Community Safety*, a framework for violence prevention that we unveiled as part of

the Safe & Just Communities Summit we convened with John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

The investigations of the Minneapolis and Louisville police were two of eight investigations into law enforcement agencies opened during the Biden Administration by the Civil Rights Division. The Department also has ongoing investigations into the Phoenix Police Department; the Mount Vernon Police Department; the Louisiana State Police; the New York City Police Department's Special Victims Division; the Worcester Police Department; and the Oklahoma City Police Department.

Speaking in Minneapolis last week, Clarke noted that the protests that unfolded there and around the country after George Floyd's murder in 2020 were "a call for constitutional, fair and non-discriminatory policing and respect for people's civil rights."

President Biden took the first of several steps toward answering that call when he nominated Clarke to head what he called the "moral center" of the Justice Department. She was confirmed by the Senate as first woman to hold the position on the one-year anniversary of Floyd's murder.

As her work to enforce the principles of the 21 Pillars demonstrates, she is living up to her promise to make the Justice Department an engine of reform so the doors of justice remain open to all.

—June 22, 2023

Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita, Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Listening Again to Loving

Sixty years ago in June 1963, a young wife and mother drafted a neatly handwritten letter about a "problem" her family was facing:

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you concerning a problem we have.

5 yrs. ago my husband and I were married here in the District. We then returned to Va. to live. My husband is White, I am part negro, and part indian.

At the time we did not know there was a law in Va. against mixed marriages.

Therefore we were jailed and tried in a little town of Bowling Green.

We were to leave the state to make our home.

The problem is we are not allowed to visit our families. The judge said that if we enter the state in the next [25] yrs., that we will have to spend 1 yr. in jail.

We know we can't live there, but we would like to go back once and awhile to visit our families and friends.

We have 3 children and cannot afford an attorney.

We wrote to the Attorney General, he suggested that we get in touch with you for advice.

Please help us if you can. Hope to hear from you real soon.

Yours truly,

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Loving

Mrs. Mildred Loving, the letter's author, had chosen to reach out to U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, who suggested she and her husband contact the ACLU for help. Over the next several years dedicated ACLU lawyers took their case through the court system, and the Lovings eventually made history when their struggle to have their marriage recognized in their native Virginia led to the landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Loving v. Virginia*. On June 12, 1967, the justices ruled 9-0 that Virginia's law banning interracial marriage and all others like it were unconstitutional and that the freedom to marry was "a basic civil right."

The Lovings, who shunned the spotlight, made it clear they never set out to be social revolutionaries. It was simple: they loved each other, wanted to marry, and beyond that, as Mrs. Loving said, "It was God's work." The two first met in the early 1950s in Central Point, Virginia, the small community where they both grew up. They became young sweethearts, and in 1958, when Mildred became pregnant they decided to get married. They drove to Washington, D.C., for their marriage license, and Mrs. Loving later said she initially believed they were doing that because less paperwork was required there. But Richard may have understood something she didn't: Getting a marriage license as a mixed-race couple would have been illegal and impossible in Virginia.

Mr. Loving may not have known how the state

would treat legal interracial marriages that had been performed elsewhere, but five weeks after their wedding they received a very literal rude awakening: acting on a "tip," sheriff's deputies surrounded their bed with flashlights at two in the morning demanding to know why they were there together. Their reply that they were husband and wife made no difference. The Lovings were arrested, and Mr. Loving was held in jail overnight while the pregnant Mrs. Loving was forced to stay for several days. Both were charged with violating Virginia's Racial Integrity Act. Under a plea bargain, in order to avoid a year-long jail sentence they were forced to leave the state and were prohibited from returning together for 25 years. They settled in Washington, D.C., but missed the small town where they had spent their entire lives. These were the conditions that led the Lovings, inspired by the growing Civil Rights Movement, to reach out to Attorney General Robert Kennedy asking for change.

After the landmark 1967 victory Mr. and Mrs. Loving returned to their hometown with their three children. Sadly their own happiness ended in tragedy in 1975 when Mr. Loving was killed and Mrs. Loving lost the sight in one eye in a car accident caused by a drunk driver. But the Lovings had paved the way for thousands of other couples like themselves who were marrying the people they loved. Thanks to God's work and the Lovings' love, my husband Peter and I were the very first interracial couple to be married in Virginia after the U.S. Supreme Court decision.

Mrs. Loving never remarried and lived quietly at her home in rural Caroline County, Virginia until she passed away in 2008. But a year before her death, the widow, grandmother, and great-grandmother sent another groundbreaking letter. This time, it was a public statement submitted just before the Massachusetts Legislature's historic vote reaffirming marriage equality, and read aloud at a 40th anniversary celebration of the *Loving v. Virginia* decision:

"When my late husband, Richard, and I got married in Washington, DC in 1958, it wasn't to make a

political statement or start a fight. We were in love, and we wanted to be married . . . My generation was bitterly divided over something that should have been so clear and right. The majority believed that what the judge said, that it was God's plan to keep people apart, and that government should discriminate against people in love. But I have lived long enough now to see big changes. The older generation's fears and prejudices have given way, and today's young people realize that if someone loves someone they have a right to marry.

"Surrounded as I am now by wonderful children and grandchildren, not a day goes by that I don't think of Richard and our love, our right to marry, and how much it meant to me to have that freedom to marry the person precious to me, even if others thought he was the 'wrong kind of person' for me to marry. I believe all Americans, no matter their race, no matter their sex, no matter their sexual orientation, should have that same freedom to marry. Government has no business imposing some people's religious beliefs over others. Especially if it denies people's civil rights.

"I am still not a political person, but I am proud that Richard's and my name is on a court case that can help reinforce the love, the commitment, the fairness, and the family that so many people, black or white, young or old, gay or straight seek in life. I support the freedom to marry for all. That's what Loving, and loving, are all about."

In June 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court would issue another landmark decision guaranteeing full marriage equality. But this June, during a Pride Month when bigotry, intolerance, and threats of violence against LGBTQ+ Americans are on a sharp and dangerous rise, it is critical to listen again to Mrs. Loving's words. Mildred Loving and the lawyers and judges who affirmed her convictions were on the right side of history. Ugly voices shouting for less equality and less freedom will not carry the day now.

—June 23, 2023

Serves from A1

new standards in weapon system integration, lethality, maintainability, combat radius and payload that bring true multi-mission power projection capability from the sea, according to Navy officials.

This year commemorates 50 years of women flying in the U.S. Navy. In 1973, the first eight women began flight school in Pensacola; one year later six of them, known as "The First Six," earned their "Wings of Gold." Over the past 50 years, the Navy has expanded its roles for women to lead and serve globally and today our women aviators project power from the sea in every type of Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard aircraft. Our Nation and our Navy is stronger because of their service.

With 90 percent of global commerce traveling by sea and access to the internet relying on the security of under-sea fiber optic cables, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity of the United States is directly linked to trained sailors and a strong Navy.

"Our mission remains timeless—to provide our fellow citizens with nothing less than the very best Navy: fully combat ready at all times, focused on warfighting excellence, and committed to superior leadership at every single level," said Adm. Mike Gilday, Chief of Naval Operations. "This is our calling. And I cannot imagine a calling

more worthy."

As a member of the Navy, Nazzal is part of a world-class organization focused on maintaining maritime dominance, strengthening partnerships, increasing competitive warfighting capabilities and sustaining combat-ready forces in support of the National Defense Strategy.

"The Navy is one of the reasons that the United States is as secure as it is," said Nazzal. "We are critical to building important relationships with our allied partners."

Nazzal and the sailors they serve with have many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during their military service.

"I am proud to lead and work for some of the finest sailors and Marines," said Nazzal. "I am privileged to learn from people of all walks of life."

As Nazzal and other sailors continue to train and perform missions, they take pride in serving their country in the United States Navy.

"Serving in the Navy means being part of something bigger than myself," said Nazzal. "It means serving those I work alongside, as well as their families."

Nazzal is grateful to others for helping make a Navy career possible.

"I would like to thank my parents, my uncle, Michael, and my wife, Marta, for supporting me unconditionally," added Nazzal. "They have been there through the highs and lows and have always been my rock."

Maryland Congressional Delegation Announces More Than \$267 Million for Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment in Maryland

WASHINGTON (June 26, 2023)—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05), U.S. Senators Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Congressmen Dutch Ruppersberger (MD-02), John Sarbanes (MD-03), Kweisi Mfume (MD-07), Jamie B. Raskin (MD-08), David Trone (MD-06), and Glenn Ivey (MD-04) today announced \$267,738,400 in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding for the state of Maryland to expand access to affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband. This new federal investment is part of the Biden-Harris administration's Internet for All initiative and it will ensure that Marylanders have the skills, devices, and access they need to utilize affordable, high-speed reliable internet.

The funding comes through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, which was created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The BEAD Program is the largest of the NTIA's six broadband programs, and provides funding for projects that support broadband infrastructure deployment and adoption. The program prioritizes unserved locations, underserved locations, and community anchor institutions. The award will be used to support broadband planning and related capacity efforts, from mapping, staffing state broadband offices, to outreach and coordination with local communities.

The lawmakers supported the passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, monumental legislation that is investing billions in America's infrastructure—including over \$7 billion directly in Maryland over five

years—to combat climate change, deploy clean energy, and expand access to broadband for communities across America.

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Security from AI

In other action on Tuesday, Council Bill 067-2023 was also presented. The legislation, also proposed by Vice Chair Blegay, would require County agencies to publish annual procurement forecasts on their websites to inform the public of the County's procurement selections.

Council Member Blegay said the measure is in keeping with the People's Council's core tenet of Ensuring Transparency in Government.

"We must ensure that the County is held accountable in setting policies to increase small and minority business owners' participation in the County's procurement process. This bill will allow residents to see whether the County is meeting its goal of increasing the participation of small and minority business owners in the County's procurement process," said Vice Chair Blegay.

CB-067-2023 has been referred to the Council's Government, Operations, and Fiscal Policy (GOFP) Committee for legislative review.

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Working Widow Seeks to Maximize Social Security Benefits

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

Dear Rusty: I was widowed years ago and, when I approached age 60, I looked into Social Security survivor benefits based on my late husband's record. He started receiving Social Security shortly before he died at \$1,200 per month. My income at age 60 was \$42,000 and, since Social Security would keep \$1 for every \$2 above the limit (around \$15,000 at that time), I did not apply. Next year I will reach my full retirement age of 66½, but I plan to work until I am 70. Will I be able to receive full survivor benefits next year if I continue to work? I plan to switch to my own Social Security benefit at age 70, which will be higher than my husband received. Since I am waiting to apply for survivor benefits, will there be an increase in the amount I receive? I am a municipal employee and when I retire, I will collect from the state retirement system. I paid into the state retirement system and also paid Social Security taxes, so will my state pension have any impact on my Social Security? **Signed: Still Working**

Dear Still Working: Congratulations on having an excellent strategy for maximizing your survivor benefit as well as your personal SS retirement benefit. Once you reach your full retirement age (FRA) next year, you are no longer subject to Social Security's "earnings test" and can collect Social Security benefits without those benefits being affected by your work earnings.

Your surviving spouse benefit will be more because you are waiting until your full retirement age to claim it. At your FRA you can claim your full survivor benefit from your deceased husband (without reduction) and collect only that while still allowing your personal SS retirement benefit to grow to maximum when you are 70. Then, at age 70, you can switch from your smaller survivor benefit to your maximum SS retirement benefit and collect that higher amount for the rest of your life. Essentially, your survivor benefit reaches maximum at your FRA and your personal SS retirement benefit reaches maximum at age 70.

Note that you should apply for your benefits a couple of months before you wish them to start. For example, if you reach your FRA in May of next year you can apply for your survivor benefit in February or March, specifying that you wish your survivor benefit to begin in May 2024 at your full retirement age. Just be sure to emphasize that you are applying only for your survivor benefit and wish your personal SS retirement benefit to continue to grow by earning Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) until you are 70.

You cannot apply for your survivor benefit online, so you will need to call Social Security, at either the national number (1.800.772.1213) or your local Social Security office, to make an appointment to apply for your benefit as your husband's widow.

And to answer your last question, your state pension won't affect your monthly Social Security payments because you paid Social Security FICA payroll taxes from your municipal earnings.

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.

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Richard AmRhein Named Interim Chief Executive Officer at the Prince George's County Memorial Library System

By NESTOR A. DIAZ
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (June 20, 2023)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) has hired Richard AmRhein as the Interim Chief Executive Officer. He comes into the system to oversee the day-to-day operations and assess the organization's current structure and future sustainability. Rick AmRhein has worked in library administration for more than thirty years. He has brought innovative thinking and vision to integrating information services and technology into services and functions across multiple units. In 1999, Valparaiso University hired him as Dean of Library Services, and he served for eleven years until he was appointed Chief Information Officer and Chief of Staff for the Office of the President in 2010.

AmRhein excels at assessing functions and services from the user's point of view, determining the most efficient and convenient way for them to embrace opportunities and achieve goals. Understanding social and technological change is inevitable and often necessary, he works to build flexibility into all designs so adaptation over time does not require constant renovation and reevaluation of spaces and structures, but rather a reimagining of how to use them.

"I am very glad to be here and look forward to working closely with PGCMLS staff. Since 2021, I've worked with the Board of Library Trustees to help them review PGCMLS' organizational structure and help plan for the future. In this interim role, I'm honored to now take an active part in providing momentum to cement those plans to the benefit of the citizens of Prince George's County," said Interim Chief Executive Officer, Richard AmRhein.

Last week, Richard AmRhein began his interim term leading PGCMLS. The appointment by the Board of Library Trustees follows the closing of the initial

Chief Executive Officer search, which began in January 2023, and was conducted by the search firm Bradbury Miller Associates. During his time in the interim position, the board will renew its efforts and search for a permanent Chief Executive Officer.

"We are pleased to have Rick on board to guide our library system over the next several months, allowing our executive leadership to focus on their roles and prepare for the opening of three branches in Prince George's County, and the Board to fulfill its commitment to hire a permanent CEO," shared Board of Library Trustees President, Angela Smith.

About Richard AmRhein

Richard AmRhein has worked in library administration for more than thirty years. He was heavily involved in the vision, planning, construction, and fundraising for Valparaiso University's award-winning Christopher Center for Library and Information Resources, which was dedicated in 2004. Richard has also played a pivotal role in the logistical development of Valparaiso University's Strategic Plan, constructed on a continuously evolving 5-year horizon connected to unit strategic plans throughout the institution.

Richard has consulted on program reviews and visioning for the effective use of library space/function and information technology at Elon University (NC), Duquesne University (PA), Calumet College of St. Joseph (IN), the University of Redlands (CA), the Culver Academies (IN), and the Sage Colleges (NY). Rick holds graduate degrees from Baylor University (TX), Eastern Illinois University, and Rutgers University (NJ), as well as a Juris Doctor degree from Valparaiso University. He has worked at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, Rutgers University (NJ), and Valparaiso University (IN). Richard has served as chair of the Editorial Board of Choice Magazine and published articles in American Libraries, College and



PHOTO COURTESY PGCMLS

Richard AmRhein

Research Libraries News, Reference Librarian, and Computers in Libraries, among others. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Opportunity Enterprises, a service agency for individuals with disabilities. Previously he served as chair of the Board of Directors of the Discovery Alliance, a non-profit corporation dedicated to increasing literacy and education in Northwest Indiana.

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) helps customers discover and define opportunities that shape their lives. The Library serves the 967,000+ residents of Prince George's County, Maryland through 19 branch libraries, a 24/7 online library, the County Correctional Center Library, and pop-up services throughout the community. PGCMLS is a responsive and trusted community-driven organization. Programs, services, and outreach activities serve book lovers, immigrants and refugees, job seekers, children, young professionals, seniors, and families alike. PGCMLS is the recipient of two Top Innovator Awards from the Urban Libraries Council (2023 - Democracy; 2021 - Workforce and Economic Development). Learn more at pgcmls.info/about-us.

Hospice of the Chesapeake Announces Dr. Marny Fetzer as new Chief Medical Officer

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (June 23, 2023)—Hospice of the Chesapeake announced today that Dr. Marny Fetzer has been appointed as Hospice of the Chesapeake's Chief Medical Officer and will join the executive leadership team in July 2023.

Fetzer is currently the System Medical Director for Palliative Care and Hospice Services at Ascension Health in Mount Prospect, Illinois, and has been in the palliative and hospice care field since 2012. Fetzer is certified in hospice and palliative medicine and as a hospice medical director and physician executive. Fetzer completed her hospice and palliative care fellowship at Northwestern Memorial. Over the last 20 years, Fetzer has presented and published extensively on supportive care—also known as palliative care, hospice care, end of life and acute and post-acute care.

In the Chief Medical Officer role, Fetzer will provide strategic and leadership direction to the medical staff which includes physicians and nurse practitioners. As a member of the executive leadership team, she will also share in the responsibility of implementing strategic direction and effecting cultural change within the Hospice of the Chesapeake team.

CEO and President Michael Brady said Fetzer's experience in communicating the importance of community-based advanced illness and end-of-life care was a key factor in bringing her into the Chief Medical Officer role. She is also known for recruiting and building strong clinical teams, particularly physicians and advanced practice nurses.

"We are honored that Dr. Fetzer will be joining us," Brady said. "We wholeheartedly believe she will bring a tremendous amount of knowledge, compassion and medical expertise to our executive leadership team as we focus on the future of Hospice of the Chesapeake."

Fetzer earned her bachelor's degree in communications from Loyola University Chicago and her medical degree from Loyola University Medical Center's Stritch School of Medicine. She is currently pursuing a Master of Business Administration from University of Massachusetts Amherst.

"I am excited to join the executive team at Hospice of the Chesapeake and support future growth of the organization as well as continue to ensure the delivery of the highest-quality supportive and hospice care to the community," Fetzer said.

Hospice of the Chesapeake is Maryland's largest independent, not-for-profit



PHOTO COURTESY HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE

Marny Fetzer, MD, CPE, HMDC, ABIM-HPM, FACEP

hospice caring for patients and families in Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, and Prince George's counties.

Caring for life throughout the journey with illness and loss is the mission of the Hospice of the Chesapeake family. For more information, please visit www.hospicechesapeake.org.

Regina Y. Speed-Bost Elected New WSSC Water Commission Chair for Fiscal Year 2024

T. Eloise Foster Elected Vice Chair

By PRESS OFFICER
WSSC Water

LAUREL, Md. (June 21, 2023)—Regina Y. Speed-Bost was unanimously elected WSSC Water Commission Chair at today's monthly Commission meeting.

Speed-Bost has represented Prince George's County as a Commissioner since March 2022.

A Prince George's County resident for over 40 years, she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Dartmouth College and Juris Doctor from the Georgetown

University Law Center. She began her legal career at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and has represented various entities on federal and state energy regulatory matters for more than 30 years.

"I want to thank County Executive

Angela Alsobrooks and my esteemed colleagues for the trust they have placed in me to serve as Chair of an organization dedicated to public health and environmental protection," said Speed-Bost. "As Chair, I look forward to working with management to maintain our strong financial position as we invest in the reliability and resilience of our critical infrastructure. I also pledge to support our hardworking employees, Team H2O, as we fulfill our clean-water mission for our 1.9 million customers."

Commissioners also unanimously

voted T. Eloise Foster as Vice Chair. She represents Montgomery County and has been on the Board of Commissioners since June 2016, serving as Chair once and Vice Chair twice.

Foster has more than three decades of experience in the public sector, where she developed fiscal policy and management expertise. She was appointed as the Secretary of Budget & Management in 2000 and became the first African-American

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5018 Lakeland Road
College Park, MD 20740
301-474-3995
www.fbc-cp.org

Sunday School 9:30a.m.
Sunday Worship 11a.m.
Holy Communion 1st Sunday
Wednesday Bible Study 7-8p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service 8p.m.

UNITED METHODIST

Union
United Methodist Church

14418 Old Marlboro Pike,
Upper Marlboro, MD

Church (301) 627-7389

Sunday School (Children/Adults) - 8:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Reverend Twanda E. King,
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Office (301) 839-1166
Fax (301) 839-1721
E-mail: FHBC@verizon.net
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Chair from A5

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