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Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center Hosts Annual Pink Ribbon Rally as Breast Cancer Rises Among Younger Americans

Prince George's County has one of the highest mortality rates of Breast Cancer in Maryland

By PRESS OFFICER
Luminis Health

LANHAM, Md. (Sept. 27, 2023) —It's time to paint the town pink! Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center is hosting its annual Pink Ribbon Rally to raise awareness about breast cancer and the critical importance of early detection through mammograms. The event, taking place **October 6** on our Lanham campus, will feature no cost mammograms and clinical breast screenings, as well as life-saving information about the signs, symptoms, and early detection of breast cancer.

"The Pink Ribbon Rally is not just an event; it's a movement to empower our community with the knowledge and support in the fight against breast cancer," said Deneen Richmond, president of Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center. "Since Luminis Health's mission is to enhance the health of the people and communities we serve, our goal is raise awareness, provide support, and encourage all women to prioritize their breast health."



PHOTO COURTESY LUMINIS HEALTH
Pink Ribbon Rally attendees at last year's event.

A recent study shows an alarming trend of cancer impacting younger Americans, particularly women, with gastrointestinal, endocrine and breast cancers climbing at the fastest rates, especially among age 30 to 39.

"African American and women of color are especially at risk because we tend to get breast cancer at younger ages and a more aggressive form called triple negative breast cancer," said Dr. Regina Hampton, chief

of breast surgery at Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center. "With breast cancer being one of the leading causes of death among women in Prince George's County, I can't stress enough the importance of getting a mammogram. Early detection is the key to survival."

The hospital received a \$1.3M state grant to provide breast cancer screenings to women in Prince George's County over a

three year period. In the first year, Luminis Health administered 1,038 no cost breast cancer screenings for women in the County.

In addition to mammograms, the Pink Ribbon Rally will offer resources and guidance from local organizations, support groups, and healthcare professionals. There will also be inspirational stories from breast cancer survivors, bra fittings, live music, food, and games.

Event Details:

Date: Friday, October 6, 2023

Time: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Location: Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center; top level of the Emergency Department garage

Address: 8118 Good Luck Road, Lanham

Admission: Free and open to the public

Wag Your Tails and Meet Your New Best Friend at The Hotel at The University of Maryland With Aero, the College Park Airport Dog

The AAA Four-Diamond Hotel is Hosting a Dog Adoption on Sunday, October 8

By PRESS OFFICER
Hotel at the University of Maryland / K-9 Lifesavers

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (Sept. 26, 2023)—The Hotel at the University of Maryland (7777 Baltimore Ave., College Park) is helping people and pets make a match at a dog adoption event on Oct. 8 in partnership with K-9 Lifesavers, a nonprofit dog-rescue organization dedicated to saving the lives of homeless and abandoned dogs from high-kill shelters. Aero, the College Park Airport Dog, will serve as the keynote barker. "We love dogs, and we are



PHOTO COURTESY K-9 LIFESAVERS
ALICE was adopted through K-9 Lifesavers.

excited to host this event to help our four-legged friends find new, loving families to care for them," said Linda Westgate, complex general manager with The Hotel. "The Hotel at the University of Maryland is a dog-friendly hotel, and we love our canine guests."

The Hotel's inaugural Dog Adoption Day takes place from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. K-9 Lifesavers will have a variety of dogs to meet and will adopt dogs on-site. K-9 Lifesavers encourages potential adopters to bring pictures of and information about their homes so they can be preapproved to adopt. If

a potential adopter already has a pet, bring updated veterinary records for your current pet.

K-9 Lifesavers expects to bring approximately 15 dogs to the event. Adoption fees are \$475 for puppies up to 7 months old and include the pet's spay or neuter. The adoption fee for dogs 7 months or older is \$375 and senior dogs (8 years or older) is \$300. Dogs who have overcome heartworm disease are \$400. All dogs 7 months and older are spayed or neutered and up to date on vac-

See **BEST FRIEND** Page A2



The new logo, in shades of green, cream, orange, brown, and blue, depicts several positive aspects of Upper Marlboro life today, including an egret standing a body of water symbolizing Schoolhouse Pond, the Prince George's County Courthouse on Main Street, the Crain Highway Monument, and a majestic horse that reflects the town's equestrian roots.

Town of Upper Marlboro Unveils a Colorful Modern Logo

That Reflects Its Equestrian Roots and Proximity to Chesapeake Bay Watershed

By RAY FELDMANN
Town of Upper Marlboro

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Sept. 27, 2023)—One of Maryland's most historic towns today unveiled a contemporary new logo design that reflects the municipality's equestrian roots and natural resources. Town of Upper Marlboro Mayor Sarah Franklin said the new logo was approved by the board of commissioners following a lengthy public involvement process and will officially be implemented beginning today.

The new logo is far more than merely symbolic and visually attractive, Mayor Franklin noted.

"A logo represents a community," Mayor Franklin said. "It is aspirational and communicates to others how the community sees itself. We believe the logo the Town of Upper Marlboro has been using for more than 50 years is out-of-step, outdated, and no longer reflects our town's values, residents, and our direction for the future.

"Our new logo design is one in which we can all take pride," she added, "it shows us a direction to use our shared history and bring it into a new future that we can all participate in."

The Town's previous logo, which had been in place since

1971, depicts a dried tobacco leaf covered by a crest that was inspired by the coat of arms for the house of the Duke of Marlborough, an English duke with a long military career.

Franklin said the use of a tobacco leaf in the old logo sent the wrong message for a variety of health, economic, and social reasons.

"Tobacco admittedly has a complicated history in Upper Marlboro and Prince George's County," Franklin pointed out. "It was first used by native peoples and was considered a sacred plant. When Europeans colonized the Americas, they domesticated the tobacco plant, and it was the main crop grown primarily on plantations.

"Special licenses were granted that allowed the tobacco plant to be shipped from specific locations, thus creating port towns," she added. "These port towns shipped tobacco and human beings, and were critical to the economic development of areas while also being centers for the trade in enslaved human beings. This is not an appropriate foundation on which to build our Town's future and it does not reflect our present.

"We must never forget the

See **LOGO** Page A2

Raskin Leads Effort to Recognize Banned Books Week

By JOSIE JACK
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON (Sept. 28, 2023)—Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Maryland, and Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, introduced a bill Wednesday calling for the national recognition of Banned Books Week, which is Oct. 1-7, and the condemnation of banning books in school libraries.

The bill recommends that local governments and schools "protect the rights of students to learn and the ability of educators and librarians to teach" and calls for upholding the First Amendment but does

not include a unified national protocol for dealing with book bans.

"You know, the proper response to hating a book in a free society is you don't read the book," Raskin said at a Capitol Hill press conference Wednesday.

The bill, which has 40 co-sponsors in the House and 15 in the Senate, echoes bills the lawmakers introduced in the last session of Congress but neither measure passed.

Instances of book banning increased by 33% from the 2021-2022 school year to the 2022-2023 school year, according to the nonprofit PEN America.

Books such as "The Bluest Eye" by Toni Morrison and "Gender Queer: A Memoir" by Maia Kobabe repeatedly have been targeted by critics. Many titles that receive so-called requests for review involve themes of race, sexuality and sexual abuse.

Between July 1, 2022 and June 30, there were 3,362 instances of book banning in public libraries and in schools, according to PEN America.

Florida accounted for 40% of the book bans. Top states where book bans were instituted were Texas, Utah, Missouri and Pennsylvania.

The Senate Judiciary Committee earlier this month held a hearing on book bans, where senators and five witnesses discussed balancing the freedom of speech of parents and taxpayers with those of students, teachers and librarians. The hearing also examined book ban policies at the state and local level.

The debate did not include the introduction of federal policies on book bans nor a tangible, federal solution. Sen. John Kennedy, R-Louisiana, asked witnesses

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PHOTO JOSIE JACK/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE
WASHINGTON—The Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing earlier this month examining book bans.

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Some of the men and women in Congress right now are failing this test. This is not the leadership we or our children deserve.

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Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation Celebrates the Grand Opening of QLab

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

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

Time to visit Miller Farms for hayrides and corn maze

Miller Farms has been owned by the Miller family since 1879 and is billed as the largest vegetable grower in Prince George's County. And the place to visit when October comes.

The Millers have opened their fields and barns to the community on weekends for Fall Family Fun, with hayride tours of the fields, a corn maze, jumping pads and slides, games and meet-and-greets with farm animals.

And, according to the Washington Post's review, "Beyond the hayrides and piglets, the day isn't complete without a taste of Miller Farms' signature apple cider doughnuts, available glazed or covered in cinnamon."

Miller Farms is at 10140 Piscataway Road in Clinton, about eight miles from the Beltway. Its Fall Family Fun is open Saturdays and Sundays, September 30 through October 29. Fee: \$14.95, and \$16.95 on select "peak" Saturdays; free for children younger than 2. Info: millerfarmsclinton.com.

Town of Morningside

Stephen A. Armhold, Morningside's Chief of Police for about 10 years, has died. He was living in Houston, Tex., with his son. His wife Shawn died around the start of Covid; at that time, the couple lived in Florida. If anyone has an obituary of the Chief, I'd like a copy to give him a proper obit of my own.

Morningside's Halloween Trunk-or-Treat will be Saturday, Oct. 28. If you want to participate by decorating your car or have the trunk open with Halloween treats, call the Town at 301-736-2301 to make a reservation. Also, there'll be a movie, games, food for sale and a Halloween costume contest for all ages.

Morningside's October meetings: Work Session on Tuesday, October 10, and the Town Meeting, Tuesday, October 17. Both beginning at 7 p.m.

Neighbors & other good people

Angelo Meoli, longtime resident of Auth Village, died Sept. 27. Funeral Mass at St. Philip's, Oct. 4, with visitation 10 to 11 a.m.; Mass at 11. I hope to have a full obit in a future column.

Karen Rooker is proud to announce that she has a new niece, Ansley Mae, daughter of Sarah and Kevin Ichard, born September 26 in Florida.

John and Stacie Smith, of Skyline Drive, had a huge celebration of their 20th anniversary at their home. And then they went to Niagara Falls!

Lisa Ann Walter, currently starring in TV's Abbott Elementary, performed Sept. 17 at the Bethesda Theater. Applauding her in the audience was her good friend, my daughter Elaine Seidman, who graduated from Catholic University with her.

Father Christopher Wyvill, 92, a Benedictine monk of St. Anselm's Abbey in Washington, died Feb. 20 at Sibley Hospital. Born in Upper Marlboro, he attended St. Mary's School, Marlboro High School, Strayer College and, at 18, joined the Navy. After three service years, he won an NROTC scholarship to Cornell University where he majored in chemistry and spent three years active duty as an ensign. Then he began to discern a religious vocation. He visited St. Anselm's and was accepted. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1965 and spent years teaching, serving as cantor, a kitchen master, receptionist, gardener, offering Mass at Seton High School, and hearing confessions at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Changing landscape

The approximately 130,000-square-foot facility at 3700 Forestville Road in Forestville, may soon be ready to open. It will be Amazon's first delivery station, in Greater Washington, built for Amazon from the ground up. It was expected to open this year.

The shining new bathrooms at BWI are finalists in the 2023 America's Best

Restroom contest, sponsored by Cintas Corp.

A recent survey shows that the overwhelming majority of those surveyed support extending Metrorail to National Harbor.

The Prince George's Police Department plans to upgrade their history, "Journey Through Times: A Pictorial History of the Prince George's Police Department," by Lt. Dennis Campbell. Also, the Department has purchased a building which will become the Police Department museum. Recently, I was delighted to have two officers come by to interview me for the history and material for the museum. I had a lot to share with them. I loved reliving those four years, 1979 to 1983, when Jack McHale was Chief of Police.

A home at 9012 Allentown Rd., in Fort Washington, just sold for \$398,000.

Electronics & Hazardous Waste disposal

Electronics Recycling & Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Disposal Day will be held Saturday, Oct. 28, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Friendly High School, 1000 Allentown Rd., Ft. Washington. View a list of acceptable electronics and HHW items online at bit.ly/pgcwastefacilities.

Panda Padooza continues at the Zoo

Mei Xiang and Tian Tian, both 25, and their 3-year-old son Xiao Qi Ji will be returned to China by December 7 after being on loan to the U.S. Crowds are turning out to say farewell. Their exit leaves the Zoo facing the next months (years?) of having no pandas, which have been a great draw. The giant panda has become a symbol of Washington, along with the White House and the Capitol. No word on when we'll get another panda.

See MORNINGSIDE Page A3

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Register for the 4th Annual Purple Bike Ride

The Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office is gearing up for their annual Purple Bike Ride. The event is meant to bring awareness to the issue of domestic violence and raise money to assist survivors. So come and ride for a good cause. There will also be other activities for you to enjoy throughout the day.

Saturday, October 7, 2023, 8 a.m.

Register: www.bikereg.com/pgsao-4th-annual-purple-bike-ride-2023
Fairwood Community Park, 12390 Fairwood Pkwy, Bowie, MD 20720

College Park Day

This is the City of College Park's signature event and features a wide array of activities, entertainment, and fun to celebrate the community. The event is open to the public and free to attend.

Saturday, October 7, 2023, 12 to 6 p.m.

College Park Aviation Museum & Airport, 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Dr, College Park, MD 20740

Largo Landing Fellowship Open House

"A Home Built on Hope: Strengthening Community Ties"

Come to Largo Landing Fellowship House's "open house" evening with tours, refreshments, and an opportunity to learn about ways YOU can help seniors with very limited resources in our community. Connect with residents and staff, enjoy a performance by the Largo Landing choir, and learn about volunteer opportunities and ways to support vulnerable older adults living in Prince George's County.

Tuesday, October 17, 2023, from 6-8 p.m.

Largo Landing Fellowship House, 1077 Largo Rd, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

More information: <https://www.fellowshipsquare.org/get-involved/events/>

Contact & RSVP: Brenda Martinez, bmartinez@fellowshipsquare.org

Logo from A1

evils in our past, or that these evils often were extremely profitable for a small group of families," she added.

The new logo depicts several positive aspects of Upper Marlboro life today, including an egret standing a body of water symbolizing Schoolhouse Pond, the Prince George's County Courthouse on Main Street, the Crain Highway Monument, and a majestic horse that reflects the town's equestrian roots.

"In 2023, it is vitally important for us to move forward with a logo that truly represents our community," Franklin said. "The community chose this logo, they suggested changes to it, and then chose it again after the changes were made.

"We know this new logo represents our community in a way that the tobacco leaf logo does not," she emphasized. "We can change our logo and move forward, without forgetting or erasing our town's past."

Best Friend from A1

inations. K-9 Lifesavers will also take donations of food, crates and other pet supplies.

"We are looking forward to working with The Hotel at the University of Maryland to meet a new group of potential adopters from in and around Washington, D.C., Baltimore and Annapolis," said Barb Rowe, foster coordinator for K-9 Lifesavers. "As an all-volunteer organization, we do not have a shelter, and rely on foster homes and boarding partners to help us save the lives of dogs at risk of euthanasia. We also hope to meet some potential new fosters who can help us continue our mission and save more dogs."

More information about the adoption event is available at thehotelumd.com/dogadoptionday. The adoption event will be in front of Bagels 'n Grinds, a New York-style bagel house serving breakfast throughout the day, sandwiches and soups. Parking fees will be waived for attendees of the adoption event.

Opened in 2017, The Hotel at the University of Maryland, an independent hotel offering business and leisure visitors modern accommodations, world-class service and amenities, serves as the gateway to College Park's Discovery District. Located directly across the street from the main entrance to the University of Maryland, College Park, the AAA Four-Diamond hotel is convenient to Washington, D.C., and Virginia. Connecting the local, business and University of Maryland communities, The Hotel allows guests to feel truly connected to all College Park has to offer, providing for a positive and unique guest experience. LEED Gold certified, The Hotel is committed to sustainability and wellness for guests and the planet, and its thoughtful design and fine interior finishes make guests feel like they've stepped into a luxurious residence. For more information about The Hotel at the University of Maryland, visit thehotelumd.com or follow The Hotel on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn. The Hotel is owned and managed by Southern Management Companies (southernmanagement.com).

K-9 Lifesavers is an all-volunteer, approved 501(c)(3) private non-profit rescue group dedicated to saving the lives of homeless and abandoned dogs from high-kill shelters and other high-risk situations. We rescue dogs and puppies from high-kill shelters and high-risk situations in Southern Virginia, Georgia, North and South Carolina, and Tennessee where dogs are only held anywhere from three to seven days before euthanasia. For more information about K-9 Lifesavers, visit k-9lifesavers.org.

Books from A1

Cameron Samuels, a student at Brandeis University and co-founder of Students Engaged in Advancing Texas, and Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias to provide a clear solution; neither did.

"The discussion we've been having... for me, it's a little too conceptual, or I don't know, metaphysical," Kennedy said.

The federal government has not passed legislation to create a unified procedure on book bans. Book ban and review policies and decisions are currently made at the local government level.

On June 12, Illinois passed a law that makes libraries that ban books ineligible for state-funded grants. It is the first state in the country to take such action and could pave the way for future federal legislation.

"It's my hope that other states, that others may look toward Illinois and see the value in adopting our legislation as a model to stop banning books in its tracks and to protect the right to read freely without fear of retribution," Giannoulias said at the legislation's signing.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Mark your calendars. Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church's upcoming Harvest Festival, October 28, 2023, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. will be a day of fun. There will be moon bounce, face painting, games, and trunks for treats for the kids (kids at heart). Food-Chicken, Fish, Fries and more. Shop small businesses for unique gifts for family and friends. Health information and more.

Vendor/Craft Fair space is available, \$50 per space. Email Kas6987@gmail.com if you are interested. Registration forms will be sent. Kim Montgomery, Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church, 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

TRIBUTE TO OUR FATHER

James Garnell Turner entered rest on Friday, November 4, 2005, married to the late Ruth Turner of Brandywine, Maryland. Our father was inducted into the U.S. Army on November 25, 1942. During World War II, he served in Northern France from November 1942 to December 1945. His military awards included the Good Conduct Medal, European African Middle Eastern Theatre Ribbon and the World War II Victory Ribbon. On December 15, 1945, he received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army.

When James Garnell returned home from the war, he went to work for the United States Federal Government. He retired from the United States Navy Oceanographic Office in December 1977 after 34 years of service. During his tenure in the government, he received numerous awards and citations for many accomplishments.

Our father left a great impact on everyone's lives that he touched in his family and in his community. He will always be remembered for the wonderful memories that he left, and the values that he instilled in us. He always advised us on every aspect of life. The positive lessons that he taught us will be passed on for generations to come. He was a pillar in his community with good moral high standards and integrity. He loved us unconditionally and was a man of strong principles. He brought an abundance of love and kindness to the entire world. Our father will always be admired for his strength, endurance, and legacy. Thanks, Dad. You were our hero. Love from your daughters, Audrey Johnson, Dr. Patricia Mitchell, Joyce Sampson, Cleo Mitchell.

SPARK

"On October 29, SPARK will hold their next 5th Sunday service. We would like to add the element of dance to this worship service. We are looking for any youth and children who would like to participate in a dance for the fifth Sunday service. This opportunity is open to girls and boys ages 4-17. Please reach out to Catherine Watkins at bam4cat@gmail.com if your child is interested in partici-

pating. Rehearsal time and date are forthcoming. Thank you for your interest". Catherine M. Watkins.

COZY CONCERT SERIES

Join Vohn "Mr. Higgz" Higginbotham and Antone "Chooky" Caldwell for an intimate musical experience. These biological brothers have made their individual marks musically across the globe and are coming together in concert for The Cozy Concert Series. It is a show you don't want to miss. The location is at Party Headquarters powered by Rockstar Lifestyles on October 19, 2023. General admission \$20.00. Tickets are available on Eventbrite. Doors open at 6 p.m.-Showtime 7 p.m. Party Headquarters address is 15606 Emerald Way, Bowie, Maryland 20716.

HARBOR HALLOWEEN 2023

Mark your calendars for the annual Harbor Halloween celebration on Sunday, October 22, 2023 from 12 Noon-3 p.m. Trick or treating. Get your candy stash started with trick or treating around National Harbor. Check back later for participating locations.

2023 SENIOR VETERANS' CELEBRATION

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County is honoring our Prince George's County senior veterans (ages 60 & older) with a special luncheon celebration Friday, November 3, 2023, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Martin's Crosswinds Greenbelt, 7400 Greenway Center Drive, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770.

Please note: This event is only for veterans (ages 60 & Better) who reside in Prince George's County. To accommodate as many veterans as possible, this event is only for veterans. No guests will be permitted. To register, visit pgparksdirect.com and register for Ticket Code: SPD-SPEC-GA-20231103. Please bring your printed ticket for admission to the event. Deadline for registration is Friday, October 20, 2023. If you have any questions, please call 301-446-3400; Maryland Relay 7-1-1 or email Seniors@pgparks.com. M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County is not affiliated with the department of Defense or any military service.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA CLAUS

Come out and have breakfast with Santa Claus and his reindeer. Participants will get the chance to take a picture with Santa Claus on Saturday, December 16, 2023, from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Food and drinks are provided as well as a scavenger hunt in the community center. Residents: \$7; Non-Residents \$10. Age: 2-10. Registration is required. Prince George's Plaza Community Center (301) 864-1611, princegeorgesplazacc@pgparks.com. Contact: Dwight Godwin Jr. 301-864-1611 dwight.godwin@pgparks.com.

COMMUNITY

Legislation Establishing Task Force to Address Hospital Emergency Room Wait Times Introduced

By ANGELA ROUSON

Prince George's County Council Media

Prince George's County Council Vice Chair Wala Blegay, Esq. (District 6), introduced legislation during session on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, establishing a Task Force to address Emergency Room Wait Times. The measure, Council Resolution-082-2023, charges the proposed 11-member task force with evaluating best practices and making recommendations for reducing emergency department wait times in the County.

As Chair of the Council's Board of Health and in light of resident complaints about excessively long emergency room wait times, Vice Chair Blegay convened a briefing to discuss the matter with hospital executives in July. The discussion spurred Vice Chair Blegay to establish the task force as a vehicle for identifying the root causes of the problem and effective solutions to provide appropriate emergency room wait times.

"We have heard from our residents and hospital executives. It is now time to address how wait times will be reduced for our residents, which are untenable and can lead to dangerous consequences," said Blegay. "The Task Force will provide a report to the Council and policy recommendations for implementation to ensure our residents are safe and receive efficient care in our County's emergency rooms."

Under the proposed legislation, in addition to identifying the root causes of long wait times in emergency rooms, the task force will also study the regulatory environment, access, and availability of healthcare services and in-patient bed availability in neighboring jurisdictions.

The task force would be comprised of a Board of Health Chair or designee; a State Delegate or Senator; an emergency room physician and nurse; one member each representing a hospital, nonprofit, Fire/EMS, Department of Health's Healthcare Action Coalition, and SEIU Local 1199; a Legislative Branch employee; and a Prince George's County resident.

CR-082-2023 has been referred to the Council's Health, Human Services, and Public Safety Committee (HHSPS) for consideration.

Morningside from A2

Alice Stokes, Maryland Park High School grad

Alice Elinor Stokes, 94, died September 16 at her home in Camp Springs. She was born in Capital Heights, daughter of William and Alice Noel.

After graduating from Maryland Park HS, Alice took art classes. She worked for G. C. Murphy dime store, IRS, and the Tax Court in Washington for six years before settling down to be a homemaker.

She and William T. Stokes were married December 1, 1950. They lived in District Heights before moving to Camp Springs in 1976. Alice was a talented seamstress, and enjoyed gardening, crochet and other crafts. She loved planning vacations, stays at the beach, camping up and down the east coast.

She is survived by her husband of 72 years, William; daughters Susan Wilhelm, Ruth Stokes and Joanne Aikman, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; sister Jane Williams. Contact www.raymondwood.com.

Milestones

Happy Birthday to Greta Chambers, Oct. 9; Mary Deans, Oct. 11; and Tj Foster, Oct. 12.

This is a very short list. Apparently not many of our local people & their kin were born Oct. 9 through 15.

Email me (muddmm@gmail.com) with birthdays and anniversaries, including your own.

Prince George's County Hosts Fall 2023 'Growing Green With Pride' Cleanup Event

By PAULETTE L. JONES

Department of Public Works and Transportation

LARGO, Md. (Sept. 29, 2023)—Prince George's County will hold its bi-annual Fall 2023 'Growing Green with Pride' cleanup on Saturday, October 21, 2023, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. This event is part of the County's effort to reduce litter, clean up our environment and to beautify areas throughout the community. This event will take place rain or shine.

"Our Growing Green with Pride event provides an opportunity for residents to beautify their neighborhoods by coming together for a day of cleaning, weeding, planting, mulching and litter removal," said County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "This event brings together communities, residents, schools, and businesses to partner with Prince George's County Government, the Neighborhood Design Center, Prince George's County Public Schools, Keep Prince George's County Beautiful, and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, showing that we all have a part to play in keeping Prince George's County clean and beautiful."

For registered participants, the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) will provide plastic gloves, trash bags, safety vests, and a maximum of 6 bags of mulch and litter grabbers for the event. **The registration for 'Growing Green with Pride' closes Friday, October 13, 2023.**

"We are Prince George's Proud to be able to host an event where residents, schools, local businesses, and community organizations can unify to help preserve and beautify our wonderful county," said Director Michael Johnson. "We hope that you will join us for this very important cleanup event."

Students participating in 'Growing Green with Pride' will receive community service credits. Verification forms for community service are available at the schools. Register for this event at <http://MyPGC.us/GrowingGreen>. For additional information, please contact DPW&T's Office of Highway Maintenance at (301) 499-8641 or e-mail Tonya Hairston at GrowingGreenwithPride@co.pg.md.us.

WHAT:

Growing Green with Pride – Fall 2023

WHEN:

Saturday, October 21, 2023

WHERE:

Countywide in Prince George's County

WHO:

Community Organizations

Schools

Businesses

Volunteers

Celebrating Relief Prints of Epic and Modest Proportions

Big and Little Inks Opens October 13

By KATE TAYLOR DAVIS

Pyramid Atlantic

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (Sept. 29, 2023)—Pyramid's gallery will be filled with extremes during Big and Little Inks. Thirteen large-scale relief prints selected from past BIG INK events across the country will be paired with nearly 100 "little inks" curated from an open call for small relief prints. The largest print will be 96"x40" and the smallest 1"x2".

The opening for Big and Little Inks will take place on Friday, October 13th from 6 p.m.–8 p.m. (free, RSVP required). The exhibition runs through November 26, 2023 in Pyramid's Helen C. Frederick Gallery. Gallery hours are Wed–Thu, 10–8 p.m. and Fri–Sun, 10–6 p.m. Pyramid is located at 4318 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville Maryland 20781.

On October 14 and 15, the public can see large-scale relief printing in action as BIG INK returns to Pyramid for a 2-day print extravaganza. BIG INK will be working with selected artists to create brand works. RSVPs are requested to ensure the artists have enough workspace around the press.

For more information and RSVP

links, visit pyramidatlantic.org or call 301-608-9101.

The group of work was selected by a panel of jurors—Jenny Freestone, James Quigley, and Sharon Robinson—who had the task of narrowing down the selection from 250 little ink submissions and 400 big ink options. The big inks are all woodblocks printed on The Big Tuna, a giant mobile printmaking press run by BIG INK that tours around the country. All big inks exhibited use only black ink, which is striking out against the white of the paper. The little inks vary in relief medium and technique. Some are colorful and some are one color prints. Prices vary as well, with many little inks under \$50.

Like the fish, The Big Tuna mobile press is large and powerful. It can print a wood carving up to 40 by 96 inches. Most equipment its size weighs several tons, but this model is custom designed for travel. Since 2012, BIG INK has organized workshop demonstrations in partnership with museums, universities, art centers, and galleries nationwide. bigink.org. 2023 participating artists: Pamela Lawton, Sara Cottingham, Rebecca Perez, Gretchen Schermerhorn,

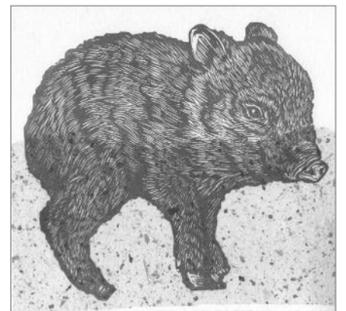


PHOTO COURTESY PYRAMID ATLANTIC

"Baby Javelina" by Daniella Napolitano 6"x5.74".

Eli Woodbridge, Jared Davis, Holly Porter, Mygenet Harris, Sarah Harnish, Neil Chat-terjee, Stacie Balkaran, Carolee Jakes, Jessica Jack, Steven Stichter, Kimberly King, Stacy Allen, Sarah Evans, Deborah Grayson, and Shante Bullock.

Founded in 1981, Pyramid Atlantic is a nonprofit contemporary art center fostering the creative disciplines of papermaking, printmaking, and book arts within a collaborative community. We equip, educate, and exhibit in our historic Hyattsville home. Our vision is to create an artistic hub in Hyattsville that inspires and enables local, national, and international artists to create and innovate in our core disciplines; elevates the local arts and small business scene; and enhances the quality of life for artists and neighbors.

Heartbroken Parents Warn of the Dangers of Subway Surfing, an Online Trend

By BRIDGET BYRNE and

RYAN MERCADO

Capital News Service

WASHINGTON (Sept. 27, 2023)—In late June, the body of 15-year-old Jay Thirunaryanapuram, a student and artist at Albert Einstein High School in Montgomery County, Maryland, was discovered near the Rhode Island Avenue-Brentwood Metro Station.

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority investigators informed his parents that he fell from a moving train while filming himself attempting a dangerous activity known as subway surfing.

Named for a popular video game, subway surfing is the act of riding on top or in between rapid transit cars. The dangerous practice is part of a more significant social media trend known as "urban exploration" or #urbex.

On sites like Instagram or TikTok, users document themselves exploring abandoned properties and off-limits areas such as roofs and subways. The urban exploration trend first appeared online in 2007 and grew into a loose-knit community of people.

Thirunaryanapuram was one of them.

"He would like to use Instagram all the time, and it is through Instagram that he actually started following the dangerous trend of urban exploration which eventually ended in so much tragedy for us and for him," Jay's mother, Vaishali Honawar told Capital News Service in a telephone interview.

"Initially, he joined a site where peo-

ple posted going to elicit abandoned buildings. Ultimately, he kind of graduated from all that into train surfing," Jay's father, Desikan Thirunaryanapuram, told CNS.

Young people are particularly susceptible to dangerous internet trends, according to an advisory report issued in May by U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy. The report warned that "extreme, inappropriate, and harmful content" is widely accessible to children and teens and that repeated exposure to this content can normalize risky behavior.

Both TikTok and Meta's terms of service do not allow showing or promoting dangerous activities such as urban exploration, but a cursory search on TikTok and Instagram shows thousands of posts related to urban exploring.

After his death, Honawar and Thirunaryanapuram gained access to Jay's Instagram account and discovered that their son was active in the urban exploration community.

"When he posted his train surfing photos, he would get more likes than he normally did. So I think that certainly was a rush of people liking his scary adventures," his mother said.

Jay's parents also discovered that their son was in constant contact with other young people, some as far away as New York City, discussing and encouraging urban exploration and subway surfing.

"They would say to him, 'You're a legend.' And gave him these great compliments. So there's that sort of valida-



PHOTO COURTESY OF VAISHALI HONAWAR AND DESIKAN THIRUNARYANAPURAM

WASHINGTON — Jay Thirunaryanapuram, 15, was killed while subway surfing.

tion, a lot of it coming from the social media community," his mother said.

In exchanges with fellow urban explorers, his parents discovered, their son and his contacts knew the risks they were taking. Some had tragically lost their lives during such activities.

However, the prevailing sentiment among the risk-takers was that the thrill was worth the danger, the parents said. In the event of a death, the urban exploring group believed it was to honor the memory of a person by continuing the exploration journey, the parents added.

Unfortunately for Jay, his journey ended with his death. His parents, of

course, are heartbroken.

For them, Jay's memory lives on in the artwork he created, which hangs in their Silver Spring home, and in the people he touched, such as the teachers at his school.

"He would stay after school and help them in their classrooms putting things away, he would chat with them," Honawar said.

Jay's parents said they had no idea their son was riding on top of trains and wanted to bring awareness to other parents about the dangers exposed to their children on social media. Their efforts have reached the halls of Congress.

Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Maryland, called on Meta and TikTok to be more proactive in enforcing their guidelines on promoting and showing dangerous activities.

"Ultimately, the government will have to act to deal with this if the social media companies do not, but they've got the power right now, as well as the obligation to act," Raskin told CNS.

WMATA has recorded five incidents of subway surfing on roofs of cars, with one resulting in Jay's death and two resulting in injuries.

The tally does not include incidents of people riding between cars, which is extremely dangerous, and activity under the urban exploration-related hashtags on TikTok shows young people regularly riding between cars.

This year, incidents of subway surfing have been reported in Philadelphia, Chicago, Boston and New York City, where four young people died from in-

juries suffered while riding on top of subway cars. There were just five subway surfing deaths in New York City in the previous four years.

Raskin also sent a letter on Sept. 8 to WMATA urging additional steps to prevent urban exploration and to alert the community to the dangers of such activities with more significant public awareness efforts.

"I am fearful that incidents of people riding on tops of Metro trains may be underreported," the congressman said in the letter.

WMATA said in a statement to CNS that it shares concerns with Raskin and has been working with New York City Transit, where subway surfing is more common, as well as safety advocate groups, to discourage the trend.

"While Metro has fortunately not seen many of these incidents, we strongly condemn any form of this dangerous behavior," WMATA said.

However, for Jay's parents, his interactions with other young people participating in urban exploration indicates it is very much an issue in the Washington region.

"It is absolutely present in the DC area. There are lots of people doing it," Jay's mother said.

Honawar and Thirunaryanapuram are continuing their efforts to bring attention to subway surfing so that their tragedy doesn't impact another family.

"I really hope Metro will be a good member of the community and do something to stop people riding on trains," Jay's mother said.

COMMENTARY

Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

A Measure of Leadership

As some members of Congress showed they were willing to bring the federal government to the brink of a shutdown, with demands that include deep cuts to services children and families rely on, once again some people have accused them of acting like children. Yet even five-year-olds understand that quitting the game and taking the ball home if the other players won't give you your way is wrong. Refusing to fund the federal government is far from a political game, but a real threat that harms real workers, families, and citizens across the country.

In "Our God Is Marching On!," his speech on the steps of the Alabama State Capitol at the

end of the Selma to Montgomery marches for voting rights, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. urged us to "march on ballot boxes until we send to our city councils, state legislatures, and the United States Congress men who will not fear to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God." Some of the men and women in Congress right now are failing this test. This is not the leadership we or our children deserve.

How I wish some political leaders did not treat children as just another special interest group who must get in line to make their case for why their health, safety, and education needs should be met. Is this the best we have to pass

on to our children and grandchildren? Dr. King also urged us to march on ballot boxes until God's children are able to walk the earth in decency and honor. For that to happen, as he taught us, we need a revolution in values. Fifty-five years ago, another political leader, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, said this to students at the University of Kansas about the need to rethink how we measure American success:

"Too much and too long, we seem to have surrendered community excellence and community values in the mere accumulation of material things. Our gross national product . . . if we should judge America by that—counts air pollution and cigarette advertising, and ambulances to clear our highways of carnage. It counts special locks for our doors and the jails for those who break them. It counts the destruction of our redwoods and the loss of our natural wonder in chaotic sprawl. It counts napalm and the cost of a nuclear warhead, and armored cars for police who fight riots in our streets. It counts Whitman's rifle and Speck's knife, and the television programs which glorify violence in order to sell toys to our children."

Senator Kennedy continued: "Yet the gross national product does not allow for the health of

our children, the quality of their education, or the joy of their play. It does not include the beauty of our poetry or the strength of our marriages; the intelligence of our public debate or the integrity of our public officials. It measures neither our wit nor our courage; neither our wisdom nor our learning; neither our compassion nor our devotion to our country; it measures everything, in short, except that which makes life worthwhile. And it tells us everything about America except why we are proud that we are Americans."

At the end of that speech, Senator Kennedy paraphrased George Bernard Shaw with words that became synonymous with his Presidential campaign and his vision for leadership: "Some people see things as they are and say, 'why?' I dream things that never were and say, 'why not?'" Senator Kennedy's own political leadership was cut far too short. But the dream of a nation that measures its success in the health of our children, the quality of their education, and the joy of their play is still here. So is the need for leaders who share it.

—September 29, 2023

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Political Posturing Over Funding the Government Overshadows Potentially Devastating Human Cost

"A government shutdown means that people who are doing critical work that is about upholding the structures of our government and all that we rely on in terms of those services could shut down. So let's start there. It would be completely irresponsible. Second, people are playing politics. They're playing political games. There's a lot of showmanship that you're seeing. And if those people put those same levels of effort and talent into actually something that was productive, I don't think we'd be in this place of talking about a government shutdown."

—Vice President Kamala Harris

Based upon most of the punditry around the looming federal government shutdown, one might assume the only person with anything to lose is Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy.

Indeed, he and his cohort in the House are behaving as if McCarthy's speakership, which he may have to defend if he doesn't pander to extremists' every whim, is the highest stake in their playground antics.

Largely missing from the public discussion—and completely absent from the House extremists' debate—is the potentially devastating human cost of a shutdown.

Nearly seven million pregnant women, new mothers, and young children—including more than half of all newborns in the United States—who rely on Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children will lose access to a source of healthy foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education.

Another 42 million Americans risk losing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.

At least 10,000 preschool children will be denied the education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services of Head Start and risk falling even further behind in school readiness.

Small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs will lose a vital source of funding as the Small Business Administration is blocked from accepting, reviewing, or approving new business loans. American small businesses would lose out on more than \$100 Million in critical financing every day of the shutdown. Furthermore, a shutdown would delay the issuing of licenses and certifications that small businesses need to operate.

Infrastructure projects that provide employment, stimulate local economies, and rectify historical and structural inequities would grind to a halt.

The last three government shutdowns cost taxpayers at least \$3.7 billion in back pay to furloughed federal workers, and at least \$338 mil-

lion in other costs associated with the shutdowns, including extra administrative work, lost revenue, and late fees on interest payments.

The 2018–2019 shutdown precipitated by then-President Trump's thin-skinned response to criticism from television commentators slowed the nation's economic growth, reducing real GDP by \$11 billion over the fourth quarter of 2018 and the first quarter of 2019.

Meanwhile, the only major credit rating agency that still assigns the United States a top grade has warned that a shutdown "would underscore the weakness of US institutional and governance strength relative to other Aaa-rated sovereigns." A downgrade to the US credit rating would drive up interest rates for all Americans.

Either the extremists in Congress who are driving the nation toward pointless chaos and hardship don't understand the consequences of their actions, or they do understand and don't care. Either case is horrifying.

Even more horrifying, there is no coherent public policy agenda behind their reckless behavior. Antagonizing their political adversaries and fanning the flames of partisan hostility is their only aim.

If Speaker McCarthy cannot use his leadership position to steer the nation away from an avoidable disaster, there is no point in his clinging to it.

—September 29, 2023

Judge Blocks Parts of New Maryland Gun Law That Went Into Effect October 1

By TOMMY TUCKER
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Sept. 29, 2023)—A federal court judge Friday blocked parts of a new Maryland law that limits areas where gun owners in Maryland are allowed to carry concealed or open-wear firearms just as it was set to go into effect on Sunday, Oct. 1.

The Maryland Gun Safety Act of 2023 prevents gun owners from taking firearms into schools, hospitals, government buildings, businesses selling alcohol or cannabis, stadiums, museums, racetracks and video lottery facilities.

However, in a lawsuit opposing the legislation filed in U.S. District Court for Maryland, Judge George Levi Russell III issued a preliminary injunction blocking enforcement of the provisions pertaining to where alcohol is sold, near public demonstrations and in private establishments without the owner's consent. The suit was filed by Susannah Kipke of Pasadena, the wife of Del. Nicholas Kipke, R-Anne Arundel, and the Maryland Rifle and Pistol Association.

The ruling means that gun owners may continue to carry their weapons in bars, restaurants, demonstrations and on private property without the

owners' consent as the lawsuit progresses.

"Today's injunction is a win for public safety in Maryland," said Senate Minority Leader Steve Hershey, R-Kent, Queen Anne's, Caroline and Cecil. "Maryland Democrats continue to pass unconstitutional laws to strip away the rights of law-abiding citizens while trying to pass it off as public safety legislation."

The portion of the law that was blocked requires business owners to give express permission or a clear and conspicuous sign indicating that firearms are allowed on the property. The injunction reverts back to the previous law, in which businesses would have to state if they ban firearms.

"There needs to be a clear line where guns are and are not allowed in public," said Sen. Jeff Waldstreicher, D-Montgomery, who sponsored the law, which began as the bill SB1. "Senate Bill One (The Maryland Gun Safety Act) clearly delineates between the places where firearms are allowed and where firearms are not allowed."

Waldstreicher referred reporters to the state Attorney General's Office for comments on the judge's ruling.

"We are pleased that the court upheld many of SB 1's common-sense provisions

aimed at keeping Marylanders safe from the scourge of gun violence. The Office of the Attorney General will continue to vigorously defend all provisions of SB 1," said Jennifer Donelan, a spokesperson for the Maryland Attorney General's Office.

The remainder of the bill will go into effect as planned on Sunday. Certain individuals are exempt from the law, including law enforcement, members of the U.S. Armed Forces, an employee of an armored car company or a person who has retired as a law enforcement official in good standing from a law enforcement agency.

The bill was prompted by The U.S. Supreme Court's decision in New York State Rifle & Pistol Association Inc. v. Bruen. That ruling rendered Maryland's previous concealed carry law unconstitutional.

The court's 6-3 decision in Bruen overturned a New York gun law requiring "proper cause" to obtain a license to carry concealed weapons in public places, declaring it unconstitutional.

Waldstreicher's bill was written to fit the restraints outlined in the Bruen decision and is a part of Gov. Wes Moore's "all-of-the-above" approach to public safety, he said.

"The Supreme Court's decision in Bruen really weakened

what was a strong concealed-carry permitting law in Maryland," said Ellen Ginsberg, a volunteer state legislative lead for the Moms Demand Action Maryland. "This is a really important step to make sure that Marylanders and families in Maryland have places where they can meet and gather without the risk of a firearm changing their lives forever."

Opponents consistently questioned the constitutionality of the law, saying it fails to meet the standards in the Bruen decision.

"The bill will do little to curb the rate of violent crime in Maryland," said House Republicans in a letter to Moore. "The members of our Caucus are willing partners in making Maryland safer. Senate Bill 1 is not the way."

Opponents of SB1 often cite the proliferation of illegal guns as an argument against The Maryland Gun Safety Act, arguing that it only makes it harder for legal gun owners to defend themselves.

"In my humble opinion, I just think that when we were thinking about illegal guns on the streets, I'm not sure that this was the best posture to move in," said Sen. Cory V. McCray, D-Baltimore City, one of three Senate Democrats who voted against the bill.

Gun ownership is a heavily

regulated space, and legal gun owners with a significant amount of training are not the immediate problem, according to McCray.

Waldstreicher responded that tackling the issue of illegal guns is not hindered by the Maryland Gun Safety Act.

"We can walk and chew gum at the same time," said Waldstreicher. "We can both respond to Bruen in a constitutional and responsible way, as well as pass legislation and policies to get illegal guns off our streets."

From 2011 to 2020 the rate of gun deaths increased by 46%

in Maryland, compared to 33% nationwide, according to Everytown For Gun Safety.

Waldstreicher said he's not done tinkering with the state's gun laws, given the tragic statistics and he is already looking toward the next legislative session in January.

"There are a series of next steps that involve earlier youth intervention, cracking down on illegal weapons entering our community from other states," said Waldstreicher, "enforcing against ghost guns as well as gun manufacturer liability."

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

About Federal Taxation of 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: Why are my Social Security benefits being taxed at all? The Social Security FICA payroll taxes taken out of my paycheck while I was working were paid with taxable income.
Signed: Disgruntled Taxpayer

Dear Disgruntled Taxpayer: Many Americans share your belief that federal taxation of Social Security benefits is unfair because we pay into the program through payroll taxes on our taxable earnings. Unfortunately, Congress took a different view in 1983 when taxation of Social Security benefits was first enacted at a time Social Security was having financial issues. Congressional logic back then was that a beneficiary only personally pays 50% of the Social Security contributions made (the other half is paid by the employer) so, since your Social Security entitlement was only half paid for by you and the other half by your employer, the portion of your benefit attributable to your employer's contributions should be taxable. So, it's that other half—the portion of your benefit which resulted from employer contributions—which the 1983 Congress decided should be taxed. So, starting in 1984, if a beneficiary's overall annual income from all sources exceeded \$25,000 for a single filer or \$32,000 for those filing married-jointly, half of that person's Social Security benefits became part of their income taxable by the IRS.

That was how it worked until 1993 when a new and different Congress added another threshold which, if exceeded, resulted in up to 85% of Social Security benefits received during the tax year becoming taxable. The logic used for the 1993 law was that beneficiaries, on average, would only personally pay for about 15% of the lifetime benefits they would eventually receive, leading that Congress to conclude that if your combined income from all sources exceeded the higher threshold (\$34,000 for single filers and \$44,000 for those filing married/jointly), up to 85% of your benefits should be taxable. Please understand that I'm not defending nor endorsing those historical Congressional views, but I have researched why Social Security benefits are taxable at all, and the above is what I've learned from that research.

For information, the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC), has long advocated for eliminating federal taxation of Social Security benefits or, at the very least, raising the thresholds at which benefits become taxable. The income thresholds for taxing Social Security benefits were established in 1983 and 1993, but those thresholds have never been adjusted for inflation. When taxation of Social Security started in 1984, less than 10% of beneficiaries paid income tax on their benefits, whereas today that percentage is over 50% and growing. If you want to add your voice to those who oppose federal taxation of Social Security benefits, you may wish to contact your Congressional Representative to do so. And it is worth noting that eleven U.S. states, to varying degrees, also levy income tax on Social Security benefits.

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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Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation Celebrates the Grand Opening of QLab

QLab offers researchers, students, and professionals direct access to cutting-edge quantum computers

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCEDC

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (Sept. 26, 2023)—Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation congratulates The University of Maryland (UMD) for the grand opening of the National Quantum Laboratory (QLab), a groundbreaking quantum research center developed in partnership with IonQ (NYSE: IONQ), a leader in the quantum computing industry.

PGCEDC President & CEO David Iannucci and PGCEDC Business Development Director, IT & Cybersecurity Mayank Kapur attended the ribbon cutting. The opening of QLab furthers Prince George's County as the Capital of Quantum.

"The opening of QLab is another great milestone for Prince George's County," said Mayank Kapur, Business Development Director, IT & Cybersecurity. "This National Quantum Laboratory adds another great asset to Prince George's County's quantum ecosystem."

The QLab enables people from across the nation and around the world to develop and design quantum technologies on one of the world's most powerful quantum computers while working alongside leading experts in the field in an effort to address the most complex challenges of our time.

Located inside UMD's Discovery District, this unique, cutting-edge workspace aims to build the next generation of quantum talent and innovations and further establish the region as the Capital of Quantum. Thanks to the nearly \$20 million investment that fueled this facility's opening, researchers, students, industry leaders, entrepreneurs and others are already taking advantage of this collaboration to explore how quantum computers can help improve machine learning and AI, materials discovery, supply chain logistics, climate modeling, cybersecurity and more.

As a node in the Mid-Atlantic Regional



PHOTO COURTESY PGCEDC

Pictured l-r: Dr. Darryll J. Pines, President, University of Maryland, David Iannucci, President & CEO, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation, Mayank Kapur, PGCEDC Director of Business Development IT, Cyber Security, Data Center

Quantum Internet (MARQI), the QLab is also accelerating the development of quantum networking capabilities critical for realizing the full potential of quantum computers, sensors and communications systems. QLab actively supports the growth of a skilled quantum workforce and has hosted more than 300 participants in virtual and in-person workshops and bootcamps.

UMD is one of the world's leading institutions of quantum science and engineering, working in close partnership with the National Institute of Standards and Technology as well as other federal agencies and labs. The university boasts more than 200 quantum researchers, eight quantum-focused centers and a comprehensive suite of quantum education offerings.

This first-of-its-kind QLab builds upon the university's \$300 million investment in quantum science and more than 30-year track record of driving advances in quantum physics and technology. It additionally marks the latest extension of the univer-

sity's partnership with IonQ, a company partially founded on research conducted at UMD.

The QLab builds on and reinforces the strong, impact-focused regional collaborations enabled by the Mid-Atlantic Quantum Alliance (MQA) and its 38 members from academia, industry, and government.

IonQ will also be sharing new developments in quantum computing at the Quantum World Congress, which [took] place September 27–28. PGCEDC will also be in attendance.

For more information about PGCEDC's IT & Cybersecurity Services visit: <https://www.pgcercd.com/datacenter>

Celebrating 40 years, the mission of the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (PGCEDC) 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.

Governor Moore Delivers Remarks at Maryland Business Opportunities and Entrepreneurial Training Summit

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Governor News

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Sept. 26, 2023)—Governor Wes Moore this morning delivered remarks before hundreds of representatives of small, minority, and veteran businesses during the Maryland Business Opportunities and Entrepreneurial Training Summit. The governor was joined by University System of Maryland Chancellor Jay Perman, Maryland Department of Transportation Secretary Paul Wiedefeld, Maryland Department of General Services Secretary Atif Chaudhry, and Governor's Office of Small, Minority and Women Business Affairs Special Secretary Yolanda "Maria" Martinez in a show of support and solidarity for Maryland's minority and disadvantaged business enterprise program participants.

"I want to thank the business leaders for being the risk takers and visionaries,"

said Gov. Moore. "We must use all of the tools at our disposal to deliver the supports our minority, small and veteran owned businesses need to thrive. We don't have to choose between an economy that is competitive and an economy that is equitable. We can, and we will, do both."

Together, the Maryland Department of Transportation, Maryland Department of General Services, and University System of Maryland have an unprecedented number of projects across the state, with more than \$6.5 billion dollars in procurement opportunities. The summit helps encourage and equip businesses to get their fair share of available contracts.

The Moore-Miller administration is working diligently to ensure that qualified minority businesses are actively utilized and accounted for in state government procurement and contracting opportunities. As one of his first acts in office, Governor Moore signed an executive order to un-

derscore the administration's commitment to strengthening participation, compliance, and accountability for Maryland's Minority Business Enterprise program. And in May, the governor announced a \$15 million commitment to minority-led small business lender Lendistry to provide relief to Maryland small businesses.

The administration also advanced regulations through the Board of Public Works that would provide contractual safeguards and protections for Minority Business Enterprise program sub-contractors. State agencies are also now required to submit marketing and outreach plans to the Governor's Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs that include proactive outreach to Minority Business Enterprises to promote procurement opportunities.

To learn more about Maryland's Minority Business Enterprise program, visit gomdsmallbiz.maryland.gov.

NASA Goddard Collaborates With Intel Corporation to Offer AI Learning

By SAMANTHA KILGORE
NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center,
Greenbelt, Md.

NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, in collaboration with Intel Corporation, is working to inspire innovation and develop entrepreneurial education to prepare the next generation of scientists and engineers to tackle future Artificial Intelligence (AI) technological challenges.

Through this unique academic program, Goddard and Intel will provide STEM learning sessions for students, including "Meet the Innovator and Expert" series and foundational AI content. The science, technology, engineering and curriculum fosters a community of shared learning between industry leaders, technologists, and the next generation of high school student makers, contributing to the application of AI for industry innovation.

This program aims to achieve the following goals:

- Promote the value of STEM to educational and public audiences

- Increase student interest and participation in STEM
- Expose and inspire young people to explore STEM careers

"We are excited to work in collaboration with Intel with STEM engagement activities," said Samantha Kilgore, Goddard agreement manager. "Inspiring young minds and providing that window into the amazing world of STEM is so important for our future."

This unique collaboration combines Goddard's goal of providing STEM education opportunities and materials for students with Intel's focus of establishing and promoting STEM programs specifically related to AI.

"Together with the expertise of Goddard, we are pleased to offer exciting and engaging STEM educational programming, from AI to robotics and beyond, to further students' educational pursuits," said Stacey Shulman, Vice President of Network and Edge, General Manager of Health, Education, and Consumer Industries Division, at Intel Corporation. "We hope to create new learning opportunities for next-generation makers and inspire students' passion by introducing them to industry innovators."



PHOTO CREDITS: FIRST GLOBAL/INTEL CORPORATION

FIRST Global student team from Morocco working on their project for 2023.

