

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SINCE 1932

Vol. 91, No. 45 November 9 — November 15, 2023 Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents

Celebrate Native American and Indigenous Heritage With PGCMLS

By ANDREA CASTILLO
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (Nov. 2, 2023)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is hosting a variety of events to mark Native American and Indigenous Peoples Heritage this November, including programs featuring Indigenous storytelling, music, and dance for children, a Rock Banned Book Club discussion about Sherman Alexie's debut YA novel "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian," a discussion for adults about connecting to and with local Native ancestry, and more.

"PGCMLS celebrates Native American and Indigenous cultures and voices through a variety of exciting events featuring local experts, tribe members, engaging stories, and fun activities for all ages," said Rachel Zukowski, the Library's program services manager. "Our dedicated team of library staff meet regularly to ensure that programs and resources are informative, accurate, and culturally relevant."

Featured programs and descriptions for November 2023 include:

Indigenous Children's Stories:

An Interactive Exploration and Discussion for Kids

The University of Maryland's Native American and Indigenous Student Union the Laurel Branch Library on Tuesday, November 14, at 6 p.m., to present, "Indigenous Children's Stories: An Interactive Exploration and Discussion for Kids," aimed at school-aged children.

Rock Banned Book Club: "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" by Sherman Alexie

This month, join the Rock Banned Book Club's discussion of Sherman Alexie's "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian," a YA novel that centers on Junior, a teen who lives on the Spokane Indian Reservation and wants to draw cartoons, decides to enroll at an all-white



IMAGE COURTESY PGCMLS

high school to seek new opportunities. The discussion takes place on Wednesday, November 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Accokeek Branch Library.

Exploring Native Ancestry: Navigating the Path to Reconnection

Troi Madison Newman, a Black-Indigenous enrolled citizen of the Piscataway Conoy Tribe, discusses ways to connect with Native ancestry through approaches such as conducting genealogical research, connecting with local Indigenous communities, and more, as well as providing historical context about Indigenous communities in the Mid-Atlantic region, at the South Bowie Branch Library on Tuesday, November 21 at 6 p.m.

See HERITAGE Page A2

M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Board and Planning Department to Relocate to Largo Headquarters in November 2023

Creating a Centralized Location for Key M-NCPPC Services Within Prince George's County

By CALISTA BLACK
Prince George's County Planning Board Office

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Nov. 1, 2023)—The Prince George's County Planning Board and the Prince George's County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission announced that their offices will move in November 2023 to the new Largo Headquarters (Largo HQ) located at 1616 McCormick Drive, Largo, MD 20774. Due to the relocation occurring November 9–20, 2023, in-person appointments with the Planning Information Counter and the Permit Review Section will be unavailable, as well as certain online applications and systems. These platforms include, but are not limited to, the Development Activity Monitoring System (DAMS), On-Line Permits Tracking Systems, Person of Record Registration, Registered Associations, all dashboards, ArcGIS online applications and more. However, the GIS mapping application (PGAtlas) will be available. As a result, although the Planning Department will be able to accept applications, the department will not be able to process or review permits or development applications during the move. The Planning Department expects to be able to resume

full operation by Monday, November 20, 2023, which will enable staff to resume reviewing/processing permits and development applications. During the transition, residents and stakeholders are encouraged to contact Planning Board and Planning Department staff via phone and email.

Beginning Friday, December 1, 2023, the new address for U.S. Mail correspondence and deliveries for the Planning Board and Planning Department will be 1616 McCormick Drive, Largo, MD 20774. In addition, the Planning Information Counter will reopen for in-person appointments during normal business hours Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Aligned with the unified vision outlined in Prince George's Plan 2035—the County's approved general plan—LargoHQ will create a centralized location for key M-NCPPC services and provide most residents and stakeholders easier access to meetings and public forums. For more details on the new headquarters, visit LargoHQ.com. For up-to-date information before and during the transition, visit pgplanningboard.org and pgplanning.org.

Nine New Members Join Maryland Humanities Board of Directors

Two new members represent Prince George's County

By SARAH WEISSMAN
Maryland Humanities

BALTIMORE (Nov. 1, 2023)—Maryland Humanities is pleased to welcome nine new members to the organization's Board of Directors. They join nineteen other volunteers in service. The new Board Members are: Rahne Alexander, Baltimore City; Alejandra Balcázar, Baltimore County; Dr. Brian Casemore, Montgomery County; Jill Ferris, Talbot County; Dr. Kara French, Wicomico County; **Veronica Gallardo, Prince George's County**; Ruth Kim, Montgomery County; **Christian L. Pulley, Prince George's County**; and Dr. Tamar Sarnoff, Baltimore City.

In addition to the new members, the Board of Directors includes: Alicia Jones McLeod (Chair), Baltimore County; Chanel Compton (Vice Chair), Baltimore City; Carmel Roques (Secretary), Howard County; Dr. Ronald (Ron) H.

Nowaczyk (Treasurer and Chair-Elect), Allegany County; Julia (Julie) Madden (Government Liaison), Howard County; Mary Hastler (Immediate Past Chair), Harford County; Kendra Brown, Prince George's County; Mollie Caplis, Baltimore County; Tahira Christmon, Howard County; Rachael Gibson, Montgomery County; Dr. Shauna Knox, Montgomery County; Soo Koo, Montgomery County; Kimberly R. Moffitt, Baltimore County; Jeanne Pirtle, St. Mary's County; Jennifer Shea, Talbot County; Saima Sitwat, Baltimore City; Guffrie M. Smith, Calvert County; Marshall F. Stevenson, Somerset County; and Allyson Black Woodson, Anne Arundel County.

VERONICA GALLARDO (she/her) is the director of the Surratt House Museum in Clinton, Maryland. Over her sixteen-year career, she strives to grow the cultural relevance of historic sites. Having served at many cultural institutions, she is passionate about telling complete his-

tories, and expanding diversity in museums. She is a member of the American Association for State and Local History. Gallardo has her M.A. dual degree in History and Public History from New Mexico State University. (Prince George's County)

Gallardo says: "As a museum director in Maryland, I believe in supporting a cause and/or organization that cares about and makes a difference in the community."

CHRISTIAN L. PULLEY (she/her) is the City Administrator for the City of Laurel. She has received both the City of Laurel's Kristie M. Mills Leadership Award and its Meritorious Service Award for Professional Employee. Pulley is a graduate of Leadership Maryland. She serves on the Maryland Municipal League's Conference Planning Committee and International City/County Management Association Conference Evaluation Committee. Pulley has a certificate from The Senior Executives in State & Local Gov-



COURTESY MARYLAND HUMANITIES

Veronica Gallardo

ernment Program from Harvard University. She received her Master of City and Regional Planning from Morgan State University. (Prince George's County)

Pulley says: "I am ecstatic to join the board of an organization with such a rich history. Maryland Humanities embodies a powerful commitment to promoting education and promoting diverse perspectives, as well as enriching communities throughout the state. Through this opportunity, I look forward to forging connections and contributing to the transformative impact of humanities in our great state."



COURTESY MARYLAND HUMANITIES

Christian L. Pulley

Maryland Humanities creates and supports bold experiences that explore and elevate our shared stories to connect people, enhance lives, and enrich communities. For more information, visit www.mdhumanities.org. Maryland Humanities is generously supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities; the State of Maryland; the Citizens of Baltimore County; private foundations; corporations; small businesses; and individual donors. Connect with Maryland Humanities on Facebook, Threads, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

Tractor Supply Company Awards Prince George's County Farmer With Grant for Small Business

In partnership with American Farmland Trust, the rural lifestyle retailer supports local farmer with a \$10,000 grant

By PRESS OFFICER
Tractor Supply Company

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. (Nov. 2, 2023)—Tractor Supply Company (NASDAQ: TSCO), the largest rural lifestyle retailer in the United States, and American Farmland Trust (AFT) have awarded Rue Policastro in Prince George's County \$10,000 for their business, Owl's Nest Farm.

Rue's business specializes in growing diversified vegetables for farmers' markets and wholesale. They

plan to put these funds toward the legal and technical costs involved with formally transitioning the farm from individual ownership to a worker-owned cooperative.

This award is part of a nationwide campaign where, in honor of the company's 85th anniversary, Tractor Supply donated \$850,000 to AFT's Brighter Future Fund, which was created in 2020 to help farmers across the country start, grow and sustain farms in the face of myriad challenges, including COVID-19, severe weather and shifting markets.

Launched with initial underwriting from Tillamook County Creamery Association, the program seeks to uplift, support and amplify the work of a wide range of farmers. This year, 85 of the 110 Brighter Future Fund grants were made possible through Tractor Supply's contribution.

AFT received 1,522 applicants from 48 states during the application period, an all-time high and nearly double the prior year's applications. Priority was given to applicants who are starting their agricultural pursuits, veterans, socially disadvantaged,

women or have limited resources. Funding was allocated for both professional services and equipment or infrastructure costs, with focus areas including improving farm viability, accessing farmland and adopting regenerative agricultural practices.

"Tractor Supply's 85th anniversary donation to AFT is demonstration of our ongoing commitment to agriculture across the nation," said Mary Winn Pilkington, president of the Tractor Supply Company Foundation. "Farmers and farm families are the backbone of our country and the communities we serve. These 85 grant recipients fill us with tremendous optimism about the future of Life Out Here, and we are excited to see how these grants move their farms forward."

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

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

Councilman Burroughs, Suitland High grad, honored by PGCPS

County Councilman Edward Burroughs III was inducted into the 2023 PGCPS (Prince George's County Public Schools) Hall of Fame as a Distinguished Young Leader, in ceremonies at MGM National Harbor on October 27.

This organization pays tribute to County Schools alumni worldwide through a Hall of Fame induction ceremony and raises critical funds to support student programs.

Councilman Burroughs is currently serving his first term on the Prince George's County Council for District 8 and is a graduate of Suitland High School. He previously served 14 years on the County Board of Education, first as the 2008 elected Student Board Member, and in 2010 as a member of the School Board.

When the Skyline Citizens Association was fighting to keep Skyline School, Mr. Burroughs sat in on some of our meetings and that's how I first knew him. When he was running for the Council, he knocked on my door, introduced himself and asked for my vote. He was running for District 8 and in Skyline, I am in District 8. (Morningside is in District 7.)

Councilman Edward Burroughs is the youngest ever to serve on the County Council.

Town of Morningside

The Morningside newsletter announced that the Town's Public Works team is inspecting equipment and preparing for winter. Also, reminding residents that, when it snows, all street parking will be on the odd side of the street. And residents are responsible for shoveling their sidewalks within 24 hours after a "snow event."

The Washington Post "expert forecasters" say we'll have "significantly" more snow this year than last, when we only had 0.4". So, Morningsiders, lo-

cate your shovel and find your boots and gloves.

Morningside's Senior Residents will have a Thanksgiving Feast Luncheon followed by Bingo on Thursday, Nov. 16, 11:30 a.m. Seniors, reserve your spot no later than Friday, Nov. 13, by calling 301-736-2301.

Morningside's meetings this month will be the Work Session on the 14th and the Town Meeting on the 21st, both beginning at 7. Morningside information: 301-736-2300.

Power outage

On Saturday morning, August 28, I woke to a dark house.

I only learned later that there had been a power outage throughout Skyline. The outage began when a car struck a pole in the 6300 block of Suitland Road just after 2:30 a.m. The power came back on at around 8 a.m. No word on injuries.

Neighbors & other good people

Bobby Pell sent a large photo of Forestville boys, many holding awards, in a ceremony at the ICE, taken about 1960. The photo features about 30 boys and, behind them, men, who are most likely their fathers. Those were great days. And ICE was mysterious. What did it mean? When we moved here we thought it had ice-skating. Do you know the meaning?

I'm looking forward to having my son Mike and his wife Sandy fly in today from El Paso, Texas, to stay with me for a couple of weeks. Both are retired, Mike from Delphi, and Sandy from El Paso Community College.

Veterans Day, Nov. 11

VFW 9619, Morningside, will celebrate Veterans Day on Saturday, Nov. 11, with a service indoors at 11 a.m. Lunch will follow. Veterans are free. Others, \$12.

I'll remember my family Veterans: my father-in-law John (WWI, Navy),

husband Jack (WWII, Navy and Air Force), brothers Richard, Joe, and Tom (all Air Force), nephews and nieces. What family Veterans will you remember on November 11?

Fish Fry, Nov. 18

All are welcome to a Fish Fry at the VFW in Morningside, on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2 to 6 p.m. Tickets, \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Information, 301-735-5290.

Changing landscape

I received word that "one wheeled green cart and kitchen pail" will be delivered to my house. (I imagine many of you already have these accessories.) There is a list of the items that can go in that one-wheeled cart: yard trimmings, newspapers, spoiled food, paper plates and napkins, coffee grounds and filters, pizza boxes, eggshells, tea bags, dairy products, tree limbs, leftovers. Hard to imagine what will be left to go in our trash cart.

There was ribbon-cutting Nov. 1 to open the new Bladensburg Branch Library at 4820 Annapolis Road. However, it won't be open to the public yet. I don't know why. And I really want to know when the ribbon will be cut for the new Surratts-Clinton Library? Last I checked it'll open in 2022. (It didn't.)

Onelife Fitness has opened as a Sports Club on the site of the former Toys R Us in Clinton. It offers a large indoor saltwater lap pool and whirlpool, BodyPump, Zumba, Yoga, Pilates and much, much more. Call 240-398-3634 for more information.

For you comic page readers, you can welcome Flash Gordon who is returning to The Washington Post after 20 years. It will return with a new look and a new artist and will be available online and in print.

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Heritage from A1

Native American Heritage: Past, Present, and Future

In this program, presented by John Scott-Richardson, an enrolled member of the Haliwa-Saponi Nation of North Carolina, elementary-aged children will explore themes of history, resilience, and the future through drumming, dance, and storytelling. Watch the show on Tuesday, November 28 at Accokeek Branch Library or Wednesday, November 29 at Spauldings Branch Library. Both events begin at 6 p.m.

Additional Resources

Be sure to visit PGCMLS' Native American and Indigenous Heritage Hub for a full list of events for children, teens, and adults, as well as information about Native American and Indigenous communities, relevant library resources, booklists and more.

Library customers can also use the Guide to Indigenous Maryland website to explore a map of 21 natural and historic landmarks significant to state Native American and Indigenous history. The project, overseen by the Maryland State Library Agency, PGCMLS, and Maryland's public libraries, was curated by Dr. Elizabeth Rule, assistant professor of Critical Race, Gender, and Culture Studies at American University in Washington, DC, and an enrolled citizen of the Chickasaw Nation.

Area Church Hosts International Gospel Singer, Samsong, for 13th Annual Dominion Conference

By PRESS OFFICER

Christ Restoration Ministries'

ANNAPOLIS JUNCTION, Md. (Oct. 27, 2023)—All roads lead to Christ Restoration Ministries International Nov. 9–12 to celebrate its 13th annual Dominion Conference.

This year's theme is titled "King of Kings" which was a prophecy revealed to Christ Restoration Ministries and Christ Restoration University's visionary and presiding Bishop, Dr. George Agbonson.

"Despite the many challenges that people experience each day, God is working for their good," said Dr. Agbonson. "So, we hold this conference every year to empower those who want to learn more about their purpose and calling."

Starting at 7 p.m. each night, at 10810 Guilford Rd Ste. 105, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701, guests will enjoy powerful messages ministered to them by speakers from Maryland, New York, Canada, and Nigeria, with special performances from CRM's dance and drama team, and from international gospel singer, Samsong.

With hit songs like Turn Me Around, Las Las God Will Always Win, and Victory Chant, Min. Samsong will be there to worship God in the beauty of His holiness.

There will also be a separate space and activities for young children and teens so that parents can enjoy each service.

Furthermore, guests will be fed, both spiritually and physically, as they experience God like never before.

Your Infinite Paths Foundation to Celebrate Four Years of "Transforming Lives"

The foundation will mark the milestone with Murder Mystery Dinner "A Dance with Death"

By PRESS OFFICER

Your Infinite Paths Foundation

WALDORF, Md. (Oct. 26, 2023)—Your Infinite Paths Foundation, a local non-profit dedicated to creating opportunities and transforming lives, will celebrate their fourth anniversary of service to the community with a special Murder Mystery Dinner event titled "A Dance with Death" **Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023**. The event, which will take place at Waldorf Jaycees, 3090 Crain Highway, promises to offer an extraordinary combination of thrilling entertainment, delectable cuisine, and fundraising for the foundation's work. Guests can reserve a spot or learn more about sponsorship opportunities at <https://adancewithdeath.eventbrite.com>.

"A Dance with Death" transports guests to a world of glamor and suspense, where they will step into the shoes of a detective and work together to solve a captivating murder mystery. Highlights include an immersive 50's Prom-themed Murder Mystery experience, featuring professional actors and an engaging storyline, and a de-

lectable buffet including vegetarian and non-vegetarian options. A raffle offers fabulous items donated by local businesses and supporters. There will also be a 50/50 raffle, a virtual photo booth and more.

"We are delighted to invite the community to join us in celebrating four years of making a positive impact in the lives of those who need it most," said YIP Board President and CEO Kathryn Young. "Murder Mystery Dinner is a unique way to engage with our cause while enjoying an evening of mystery and fine dining. The funds raised from this anniversary dinner and fundraiser will directly support our various programs, including our November holiday Harvest Meal program," Young added.

Your Infinite Paths Foundation believes that everyone deserves a chance to pursue their dreams and reach their full potential. Through a range of educational, and community development programs, we aim to uplift individuals and communities in need. For information, contact Kathryn Young at kathryn.young@yourinfinitepaths.foundation.org

Christ Restoration University, an accredited Christian school that offers a range of programs through hybrid learning and provides educational training beyond mind knowledge to spiritual empowerment for Kingdom advancement.

Prophetic Sunday morning services where people experience God through the teachings of the Word, impartation, deliverance, and prayer.

Monthly crusades that shed light in areas where people experience darkness and equip them with the knowledge to understand their purpose in life and their kingdom assignment.

"God has given us the status to be kings and priests, therefore no believer should live a defeated life," said Dr. Agbonson.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

VETERANS DAY

"Veterans Day is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11, for honoring military Veterans of the United States Armed Forces" (Wikipedia). Come join the festivities as we commemorate Spirit Parks' first anniversary with an exciting weekend packed with events and activities. Spirit Park officially opened on Veterans Day November 11, 2022. The park is a patriotic tribute to the American Flag, designed to honor the history of our country and all those who represent it: veterans, first responders, public servants, and citizens from all corners of the United States.

National Harbor and the Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce are hosting a free series, Empowering Veterans to inspire, educate, and network those serving, and those who have served our nation. This series will take place in the Capital CANOPY, second and fourth Fridays, 11 a.m. You need to register: <https://www.nationalharbor.com/blog/speakerseries/>. The address is 900 National Harbor Blvd., Fort Washington, Maryland.

TITANIC: THE EXHIBITION

Titanic: The Exhibition at National Harbor, 254 Mariner Passage, Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745 is far more than a display of historic items: it is a unique narrative experience, a tale of the people aboard history's most legendary ship on its maiden and final journey. Travel back to 1912 through photographs, handwritten letters, wayward keepsakes, and other personal belongings telling countless stories about fates and heroic deeds on board.

As you listen to survivor testimonies on your audio guide you will have a chance to observe recreated interiors of natural size, witnessing the stark contrast between a lavish first-class suite and a humble third-class cabin. Past and present come together in this emotional journey, a trip through time that brings us closer to the myths, stories, and glamor of the historic Titanic. Tickets are selling fast.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI

Congratulations to Chamell Ferguson ('18), Director of Constituent Services for the Office of At-Large Councilmember Mel Franklin. She received the 2023 Emerging Leader of the Year Award at the Greater Washington Foundation Civic Leadership Awards.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI

Dr. Mark King ('13), a career public school educator and leader, has joined Arts for Learning Maryland (A4L) as the nonprofit's first Chief Education Officer. Most recently, Dr. King was the instructional Lead Education Director with Baltimore City Public Schools. This new position and Dr. King's selection underscores A4L's commitment to and expansion of evidence-based arts integration programs.

COUNCIL WELCOMES BAY EZRA

"Welcome Baby Ezra. We are sending love and support to District 7 Council member Krystal Oriadha who delivered a healthy baby boy. Just a day after giving birth, Council Member Oriadha virtually participated in Council proceedings from the hospital. We are so excited to welcome a new addition to our Council family."

FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

Prince George's County Family Justice Center is an initiative of the Circuit Court. "Seeking Justice, Restoring Hope." Denise C. McCain, Director, Prince George's County Family Justice Center, 14757 Main Street Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Hours of Operation are Monday–Friday 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. (301) 780-8008.

The Prince George's County Family Justice Center (PGCFJC) is a "one stop shop," multi-disciplinary service center coordinated by the Family Division of the Circuit Court. The PGCFJC provides a full array of collocated services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, elderly abuse, and teen relationship violence.

These services are provided in a beautifully designed secure center where clients and their children will feel safe and comfortable while receiving necessary services. No appointments are necessary. Clients are welcome to return to the Center for additional services as often as needed. There are no fees for these services.

The goals of the Prince George's County Family Center are to stop abuse and create a safer community. To provide coordinated, easily accessible help and resources to children and adults exposed to abuse. To provide legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, elder abuse, and teen relationship violence. To provide safety planning, resources, and services in an environment where clients feel safe, comfortable, cared for, and respected. To foster a countywide culture of dignity and respect for all. To foster a countywide awareness of violence prevention.

Some of the Hotline Phone Numbers are Police (24 hours) Emergency 911, Family Crisis Center, Inc. (301) 731-1203, MD Network Against Domestic Violence (800) 634-3577, Prince George's County Child Protective Services (301) 909-2450, The Sexual Assault Center, Prince George's Hospital (301) 618-3154.

THE GENERAL STORE

The General Store in Clinton was a popular hangout for residents c. 1914. This building stood at the intersection of modern-day Brandywine and Piscataway Roads, across from the historic Surratt House. It remained in existence through the 1950s. (Submitted by Joan L. Chaconas, program assistant for the Surratt House Museum.)

Thanks, Veterans

THANKS TO ALL THE VETERANS WHO HAVE SERVED OUR NATION.

COMMUNITY

Veterans Day Events

University Park Veterans

Honoring All Who Serve

University Park remembers and honors almost 200 residents who have served our country over the last 80+ years. We have established a Veterans Memorial Park at the intersections of Wells Parkway, Claggett Road and Eversfield Drive and is dedicated to honor all who served.

Veterans Day Observance

- Date: November 11, 2023
- Time: 11 a.m.
- Location: Veterans Memorial Park (at the intersections of Wells Parkway, Claggett Road and Eversfield Drive)

The Town welcomes you to attend a celebration in honor of our Veterans at the Veterans Memorial Park. This year's event will have speakers, and a bag-piper. If you would like to support the event as a speaker or a volunteer in any capacity, please contact Mayor Joel Biermann at mayorbiermann@upmd.org.

—www.upmd.org

Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery Ceremony

Saturday, November 11, 2023 11 a.m.

Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery—11301 Crain Highway, Cheltenham, MD 20623

—<https://veterans.maryland.gov/mdva-veterans-day-events>

Maryland State Police, Vehicle Theft Prevention Council Remind Motorists About Tips to Reduce Vehicle Thefts

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland State Police

PIKESVILLE, Md. (Nov 2, 2023)—As the weather begins to get colder, and as the holiday season approaches, it is more important than ever that motorists take proper precautions to reduce the chances of becoming a victim of vehicle theft.

This warning from the Maryland State Police and the Maryland Vehicle Theft Prevention Council comes at a time when vehicle thefts are on the rise nationwide. According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau, nearly 500,000 vehicles were reported stolen nationwide in the first half of 2023, which represents an increase of more than 2 percent compared to the same period in 2022.

Consider the following:

- Every 47 minutes, a vehicle is stolen in Maryland, while in the United States, on average, a vehicle is stolen every 32 seconds.
- In most cases, vehicles are stolen for the resale or distribution of parts, transportation purposes, and for the commission of other crimes or exportation.

According to the Maryland Vehicle Theft Prevention Council, 52 percent of vehicles are never recovered. In 2021, there were 11,143 vehicles stolen in Maryland while 937,936 vehicles were stolen in the United States, costing vehicle owners more than \$8 billion. Of the vehicles stolen in Maryland, 50% had the keys still inside, 60% were left unlocked and 95% of the vehicles stolen had no anti-theft device.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that vehicle thefts nationally have increased by more than 25 percent between 2019 and 2022. Much of this can be attributed to a surge in thefts of Hyundai and Kia cars, many of which lack an immobilizer. The manufacturers have since offered a free security software update.

The software upgrades were announced following a viral TikTok social media challenge that showed viewers how to hotwire the vehicles. About 3.8 million Hyundai and 4.5 million Kia vehicles are eligible for the update, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

To see if your vehicle is eligible for the free updates, contact Hyundai online at <https://www.hyundaiantheft.com/> or call 1-800-633-5151. For Kia, go to <https://ksupport.kiausa.com/consumeraffairs/swld> online or call 1-800-333-4542.

The Maryland Vehicle Theft Prevention Council is committed to work to address this recent spike in vehicle thefts. For Fiscal Year 2024, the Council awarded more than \$3 million in grants to law enforcement agencies, state's attorney offices and other groups across the state to combat vehicle theft, carjackings and related crimes. The Council also works year-round on various public awareness campaigns to educate the public on how they can help reduce vehicle thefts statewide.

Here are simple steps everyone can take to help prevent motor vehicle theft:

- Utilize an anti-theft device.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Close and lock all windows and doors when you park.
- Put away your valuables.
- Do not leave your keys in your vehicle.
- Do not leave the area while your vehicle is running.

The Maryland General Assembly created the Vehicle Theft Prevention Council in 1994 as a statewide planning and dedicated funding resource. The Council embraces a statewide strategy directed at public awareness, vehicle theft by juveniles, law enforcement, and prosecution through a grant award process. Efforts by the Vehicle Theft Prevention Council have led to a more than 71 percent reduction in vehicle thefts in Maryland between 1994 and 2021. Those efforts have saved Maryland motorists close to \$240 million over that span.

Marietta House Museum's Winter Open House With Special Appearance by Papa Noël

By STACEY HAWKINS
Marietta House Museum

On Saturday, Dec. 9, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. come to Marietta House Museum's Winter Open House with a special appearance by Papa Noël. The annual in-person tour includes a lovely walk through the beautifully decorated historic house. This year the museum is hosting a special visit with the French inspired character, Papa Noël. Celtic harpist, Chris Van Dyke, will perform throughout the evening while the fragrant aroma of

mulled cider and sweets flow throughout the house.

Visitors will travel through the historic house meeting trained staff who will share stories about the historic kitchen, parlor, dining room, and more. Because Duvall family roots go back to France, the museum has arranged for Papa Noël to meet with children between only 4pm and 6pm. He will send the children on a seek-and-find throughout the historic house to find little gifts and treats along the way.

House tours for everyone 4 p.m.—8 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

Celtic harp music is provided by Chris Van Dyke.

All ages. \$5 per person, ages 12 and under Free. Please register at this direct link: <https://tinyurl.com/4dam2xjj> or call 301-464-5291 or email mariettahouse@pgparks.com.

Marietta House Museum is located at 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD. 20769, and is a property of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Children and Families in Prince George's County to Benefit from Transformative Community-Wide Trauma-Informed Care Intervention

Child and family-serving agencies in the county invited to participate in the initiative

By PRESS OFFICER
Paths for Families

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. (Oct. 30, 2023)—A community-wide intervention is bringing increased awareness and responsiveness to trauma and its impact on children and families in Prince George's County. Already underway, the project is poised to provide critical training to 1,600 child and family-serving professionals in the county between now and fall of 2024.

'Transforming Prince George's County Through Trauma-Informed Care' is a year-long program led by Calverton-based adoption and family well-being organization, Paths for Families (formerly Adoptions Together). It is designed to create systemic change in care through comprehensive training and coaching to deepen the understanding of primary and secondary traumatic experiences for clients, professionals and the organizations that serve them.

The project is made possible through earmarked federal funding secured by Maryland Attorney General Anthony Brown during his tenure as the U.S. representative for Maryland's 4th Congressional District, with instrumental support from Sens. Chris Van Hollen and Ben Cardin.

"I was honored to have contributed to securing the essential funding for this project, not only in my former capacity as a Member of Congress, but also as an adoptive parent," said Attorney General Brown. "Watching my child grow into adulthood, I've witnessed firsthand the transformative power of a robust support network."

"Maryland has committed to becoming

a trauma-informed state, and we are honored to receive this funding to deliver critical education as part of that process," said Paths for Families' Chief Executive Officer Janice Goldwater.

"Supporting front-line professionals with this specific, holistic training will not only allow them to better meet the needs of those who have experienced trauma, but also help to reduce the impacts of secondary trauma and make employment more sustainable," added Paths for Families' Chief Program Officer and lead on the project, Lisa Dominguez.

Training cohorts will consist of professionals committed to becoming more trauma-informed, trauma-responsive, and resilience building in their practice, and include three primary areas of focus: Introduction to Trauma-Informed Care, Trauma and the Organization, and Trauma and a Trusting Relationship. The program will consist of:

- Three 3-hour training sessions delivered to cohorts no larger than 40 participants each.
- Coaching phase for each cohort including three 2-hour sessions to deepen knowledge and integrate the information into their own daily practice.
- Trauma-Informed Care Conference slated for July 31, 2024, which will bring together local and national experts, and highlight the promising practices and strategies for creating and sustaining a trauma-informed and trauma-responsive network of care in Prince George's County.

The initiative also includes an evaluation and measurement of effectiveness facilitated by Bowie State University.

The Prince George's County Department of Social Services, members of the

Prince George's County Homeless Service Partnership, the Local Behavioral Health Authority have already signed on to provide training to their staff supporting service delivery, along with workforce recruitment and retention.

Paths for Families is inviting other child and family serving agencies in Prince George's County who may be interested in participating to learn more at: <https://pathsforfamilies.org/transforming-pg-county-training-partnerships/>.

Paths for Families is an adoption and family wellbeing organization that partners with individuals and communities dedicated to the lifelong work of building and sustaining families. For more than 30 years, we've been here for expectant parents exploring adoption, birth parents, prospective and current adoptive families, children in need of adoption, people who were adopted, and professionals in the community. With the understanding that every path is unique, we enhance and support the wellbeing of children and families through placement services, counseling, and training. With a focus on nurturing positive and restorative experiences, we bring dedicated, technical expertise and trauma-informed, evidence-based practices to the communities we serve. On a systemic level, we share our training with professionals in child welfare and the broader community to build more trauma-responsive systems of care. We treat everyone with the understanding, kindness, and respect we believe all humans deserve. This is the compass that guides us in our work, putting human dignity and ethical practices at the forefront of everything we do for children, families, and their communities so they can genuinely feel they are not alone on this journey.

All Aboard! The Polar Express Returns to the B&O Railroad Museum for a Magical Holiday Journey

By PRESS OFFICER
B&O Railroad Museum

BALTIMORE (Nov. 1, 2023)—Get ready to experience the enchantment of the holiday season as the B&O Railroad Museum proudly announces the return of "The Polar Express." A beloved family tradition, this magical journey takes you on a whimsical ride to the North Pole, and this year, it's coming back to the B&O Museum with more excitement and wonder than ever before.

"The Polar Express" at the B&O Railroad Museum is set to bring holiday joy to families, friends, and train enthusiasts once again. This incredible event will run from November 24 to December 19, 2023, offering visitors the opportunity to step into the pages of the classic children's book by Chris Van Allsburg and relive the heartwarming adventure on board a real-life steam locomotive.

Ticket Booking: Book your tickets online at www.BORail.org/polar-express

This year's "Polar Express" event promises to deliver an unforgettable experience. Passengers of all ages will enjoy a host of activities, including:

A Magical Train Ride: Climb aboard the first mile of the American Railroad, where you'll be transported to the enchanting North Pole, complete with holi-

day lights and decorations.

Hot Cocoa and Cookies: Sip on hot cocoa and savor delicious cookies, just like in the story, served by our friendly onboard dancing chefs.

Meet Santa: Have your wish list ready as Santa Claus himself will make a special appearance to greet and gift all the good boys and girls who believe.

Festive Entertainment: Enjoy dancing, sing-alongs, and storytelling that will bring the story of "The Polar Express" to life.

North Pole: See the Roundhouse transformed into the North Pole!

Souvenir Gift Shop: Commemorate your magical journey with a visit to our souvenir shop, featuring an array of Polar Express-themed treasures.

Don't miss the opportunity to take part in this extraordinary holiday tradition at the B&O Railroad Museum. Make your reservations early, as the best prices of the season are available from November 24 to 26, 2023. Tickets are expected to sell out quickly, so book your seats in advance to secure your preferred date and time.

Kris Hoellen, Executive Director of the B&O Railroad Museum, expressed her enthusiasm, saying, "We are thrilled to bring 'The Polar Express' back to the B&O Railroad Museum this holiday sea-

son. We love seeing the joy on the children's faces as special memories are made at this event that has become a family tradition for so many!"

For more information and to book your tickets, please visit www.BORail.org/polar-express. Don't wait too long; the best prices of the season are available from November 24 to 26, 2023. Create lasting memories with your loved ones on "The Polar Express" at the B&O Railroad Museum.

About The B&O Railroad Museum The B&O Railroad Museum, the birthplace of American railroading, located in Baltimore, Maryland is a full affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, and a National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Site. It is dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of American railroading and its impact on American society, culture, and economy. The museum is home to the oldest, most comprehensive collection of railroad artifacts in the Western Hemisphere including an unparalleled roster of 19th and 20th century railroad equipment, the 1851 Mt. Clare Station, the 1884 Baldwin Roundhouse and first mile of commercial railroad track in America. For further information on the B&O Railroad Museum, please call 410-752-2490 or visit www.borail.org

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COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Richard Roundtree's Career Helped Reshape Perceptions of Black Americans With Roles in Projects Like Shaft and Roots

"I was acutely aware of when I would go into department stores and feel the shadow of being followed. And then I'd be recognized, and all of a sudden it would turn. I thought, 'Oh man, there it is.' I was acutely aware of that turn. If I were not the actor who played John Shaft, I would be trailed to the dressing room, monitored, or stripped. That's the truth of the matter."

—Richard Roundtree

A 1972 profile of Richard Roundtree, a year after the release of Shaft rocketed him to fame, called him "a 29-year-old former football player turned fashion model-turned actor."

Roundtree, who passed away last week at the age of 81, had intended to make football his career. A standout high school football player in his hometown of New Rochelle, New York, he won a scholarship to play at Southern Illinois University. On the field, he said, he became addicted to applause.

A concussion on the field, however, prompted him to consider other ways to feed his habit.

So he was quick to accept when Eunice Johnson, the wife of EBONY magazine founder John H. Johnson, offered him the opportunity to model for the magazine's Fashion Fair series. As the model for Duke hair care products, his face—if not his name—soon became familiar in Black

households who knew him as "The Duke Man."

His success as a model gave him entrée to the newly-launched Negro Ensemble Company, where he starred as a fictionalized version of the boxer Jack Johnson in an early production of The Great White Hope.

When he arrived at his audition for Shaft director Gordon Parks, Parks showed him a tearsheet of an ad depicting the look he wanted for the title character. The model in the ad was Roundtree.

While Shaft is among the best-known and most enduring example of the genre that became known as "Blaxploitation," Roundtree himself rejected the term.

"I've always viewed that as a negative. Exploitation. Who's being exploited?" he said in 2019. "But it gave a lot of people work. It gave a lot of people entry into the business, including a lot of our present-day producers and directors. So, in the big picture, I view it as a positive."

The character of John Shaft—described in the film's theme song as "the cat that won't cop out when there's danger all about" and "a sex machine to all the chicks"—marked a turning point in the depiction of Black men on the silver screen. As Roundtree said, "the image kids see of him on the screen is of black man who is for once a winner."

Roundtree also took part in the 1977 landmark television miniseries Roots, which drew the third-largest audience in television history and sparked

a national conversation about race and history. "You got a sense of white Americans saying, 'Damn, that really happened,'" Roundtree said in television special to mark the miniseries' 25th anniversary.

In the late 1990s, Roundtree embarked on a campaign to raise awareness and erase the stigma surrounding breast cancer in men, having felt pressured to keep his own diagnosis and mastectomy a secret for fear of losing work.

"The industry doesn't like sick people," he wrote in Essence. "My mastectomy left me with a permanent scar that runs from where my left nipple used to be to way back underneath my armpit, and it ain't pretty ... I did a lot of tap dancing to hide my illness."

He later called his diagnosis "a backhanded blessing" after fans credited his candor with saving lives.

Roundtree's proudest work was the 1996 film Once Upon a Time ... When We Were Colored, about a Black Mississippi family confronting inequality in the south. It was the first of Roundtree's films that his father, a Pentecostal minister, could be persuaded to watch.

"And at the end, he looked at Richard, and he said, 'Well done, my son,'" director Tim Reid told NPR. "And that's the only time that his father had ever praised him for anything that he had ever done in his life." —November 2, 2023

Maryland's O'Malley, Biden's Nominee to Head Social Security, Gets Friendly Senate Reception

By RYAN MERCADO
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON (Nov. 2, 2023)—Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley told senators Thursday that if he is confirmed as the new commissioner of the Social Security Administration, he would focus on improving service and boosting the morale of the sprawling agency.

"We can and we must do better as a nation, and as an agency. I believe President (Joe) Biden nominated me for this position because I have the leadership skills, the management skills, and the experience—needed at this moment—to lead this organization forward," O'Malley told the Senate Finance Committee.

The commissioner is the highest-ranking official of the Social Security Administration, which has been plagued in recent years by crashing phone services, short-staffed offices and low staff morale.

"Governor O'Malley knows how to work within budgetary lines, master technology using data metrics and so on to point the right resources to the right people to do the job," former Maryland Sen. Barbara Mikulski said of her fellow Democrat in introducing him to the Senate panel.

O'Malley, who briefly ran for president in 2016, served as governor from 2006 to 2015 and before that was the mayor of Baltimore, received a generally friendly reception from senators.

Sen. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tennessee, asked him what he thought his most relevant experience was that would transfer into running the agency.

"I believe the most relevant piece is my ability to apply principles

of performance management in ways that improve customer service and also build up employee morale," O'Malley said. "So it's truly about my experience as a manager, and in particular performance management applied to large organizations."

O'Malley acknowledged the ongoing problems at the Social Security Administration.

"What excites me about this challenge is that it's all about operations," he said. "It's all about improving customer service...After being a mayor and being a governor, the one piece of it that I really truly miss is pulling people together, around the data, the information, seeing if what we're doing is actually working to improve customer service."

Sen. Steve Daines, R-Montana, noted that Social Security is forecast to be insolvent in 10 years and suffers from a lack of public trust.

O'Malley responded that he would focus on restoring trust by shortening holding times on the phone and reducing delays in sending out benefits. He also emphasized it was Congress's duty to act to avoid insolvency and pledged to support bipartisan efforts to do so.

The Social Security Administration has had a long presence in Maryland over its 88-year history. First headquartered at the Candler Building in Baltimore's Inner Harbor in 1936, the agency since 1960 has been based in Woodlawn, Maryland, in Baltimore County. Social Security employs nearly 12,000 people across Maryland, making it the third-largest non-state employer.

Dr. Kilolo Kijakazi, a former policy analyst, has been serving as acting Social Security commissioner since 2021, when Biden fired



JOSIE JACK/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON—Former Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Maryland, introduces former Gov. Martin O'Malley to the Senate Finance Committee. O'Malley has been nominated by President Joe Biden to head the Social Security Administration.

then-Commissioner Andrew Saul, a holdover from the Trump administration.

Normally, the commissioner serves a six-year term and does not change with new presidential administrations. But Saul's past involvement with the Manhattan Institute, a conservative think tank that calls for cuts to Social Security, alienated Democrats. Biden removed Saul after his refusal to resign and nominated O'Malley in July to fill the remainder of the term that ends in January 2025.

Maryland Delegation Members Announce Over \$5 Million to Strengthen Maternal Health Care Across Maryland

By PRESS OFFICERS
Press (Van Hollen)

WASHINGTON (Nov. 2, 2023)—Today, U.S. Senators Chris Van Hollen and Ben Cardin and Congressmen Steny H. Hoyer, Dutch Ruppersberger, John Sarbanes, Kweisi Mfume, Jamie Raskin, David Trone and Glenn Ivey (all D-Md.) announced \$5,230,218 to support better access to maternal health care across Maryland. This federal funding, provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Maternal Health Awards, will provide five maternal health programs with additional resources to combat maternal mortality and improve maternal and infant health outcomes, especially in underserved communities across the state.

"Our nation's unacceptable maternal mortality rate has left far too many children to grow up without their mothers. Our health care system is failing pregnant women, especially Black and Latina women, who experience higher rates of pregnancy-related complications and death. As we continue our work in Congress to address the systemic drivers of maternal mortality, these investments to improve health care for women before, during and after pregnancy will help tackle health disparities, save moms' lives and ensure more women can deliver healthy babies," said the lawmakers.

Hoyer Leads Maryland Congressional Colleagues in Sending Letter to the Department of the Interior Urging an Increase in the Budget for Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park

WASHINGTON (Nov. 3, 2023)—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05), U.S. Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), and Congressman Glenn Ivey (MD-04) sent a letter to the Secretary of the Interior urging the Department to submit an increase in the budget for the Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park for Fiscal Year 2025.

Since 2005, the annual budget allocation

for the Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park has remained at \$750,000 despite the nearly \$1 million increase in operation and maintenance costs. This letter respectfully requests that the Department of the Interior increase the Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park line in their budget so the park can adequately operate and meet the needs of park visitors.

"These funds are essential to the park's everyday operation. The budget request for the Foundation, however, has not increased since 2005. These funds have not been adjusted to keep pace with inflation, and administrative cuts have further reduced the actual amounts received by the Foundation," the lawmakers wrote.

The lawmakers have long-supported efforts to strengthen maternal health care and reduce maternal mortality. They supported the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act, which included 12 bills to comprehensively address the drivers of the maternal health crisis and make critical investments in addressing the social determinants of health, funding community-based organizations, growing and diversifying the perinatal workforce and improving data collection processes. The legislation passed the House in 2021 as part of the Build Back Better Act but never made it to the President's desk for signature. The lawmakers have continued to support strengthening maternal care through the annual appropriations process, including by securing \$1.17 billion for the core Maternal and Child Health programs in the fiscal year 2023 appropriations package.

HRSA, located in North Bethesda, Maryland, is the primary federal agency for improving access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated or medically vulnerable.

The Prince George's Post

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Contents © 2023, The Prince George's Post

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Legal Advertising Assistant Robin Boerckel	Web Manager Kyler Quesenberry

Prince George's County, Md. Member National Newspaper Publishers Association, and the Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia Press Association.
The Prince George's Post (ISSN 10532226) is published every Thursday by the New Prince George's Post Inc., 15207 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151.
Subscription rate: 25 cents per single copy; \$15 per year; \$7.50 senior citizens and students; out of county add \$1; out of state add \$2.
Periodical postage paid at Southern Md. 20790.
Postmaster, send address changes to Prince George's Post, P.O. Box 1001, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20773.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Farmer from A1

“As the Brighter Future Fund continues to develop and evolve year to year, the level of support and recognition this work receives is remarkable,” said Ashley Brucker, Deputy Director of Agriculture Conservation Innovations at American Farmland Trust. “This year’s record-breaking numbers were made possible not only by the generous contributions of Tractor Supply and other donors, but most importantly by the farmers and landowners who take valuable time to share the stories of their land, their background and their vision for the future. We aim to grow our outreach as long as needed for farmers to continue developing through innovation and commitment to agriculture.”

To learn more about Tractor Supply’s partnership with AFT and other agricultural organizations, visit TractorSupply.com/community.

For 85 years, Tractor Supply Company (NASDAQ: TSCO) has been passionate about serving the needs of recreational farmers, ranchers, homeowners, gardeners, pet enthusiasts and all those who enjoy living Life Out Here. Tractor Supply is the largest rural lifestyle retailer in the U.S., ranking 291 on the Fortune 500. For more information on Tractor Supply, visit www.tractorsupply.com.

American Farmland Trust is the only national organization that takes a holistic approach to agriculture, focusing on the land itself, the agricultural practices used on that land, and the farmers and ranchers who do the work. AFT launched the conservation agriculture movement and continues to raise public awareness through our No Farms, No Food message.

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

When Should I Retire and Claim My Social Security Benefits?

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

Dear Rusty: I am 64 years old and having difficulty working due to my arthritis, but I can continue part time as a podiatrist. I do not know the best way to determine when to retire. What is the formula or a way to determine which is a better choice? **Signed: Undecided**

Dear Undecided: There is a difference between deciding when to retire from working and deciding when to claim your Social Security benefits. For the former, you should consult with a certified financial advisor, but I’ll provide you with how Social Security fits into your personal circumstances. In deciding when to claim Social Security, you should look at your financial needs, your life expectancy, your work status, and your marital status. There is no one formula right for everyone because everyone’s circumstances are different, but here are some things to help decide what is right for you:

- Social Security has an “earnings test” which applies to anyone who collects Social Security before reaching their full retirement age (FRA). Your FRA is 66 years and 8 months, and that is the point at which you get 100% of the SS benefit earned from a lifetime of working. If you collect SS before your FRA and continue to work, there is a limit to how much you can earn without jeopardizing your benefits. For example, the earnings limit for 2023 is \$21,240 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. They “take away” benefits by withholding future payments until they recover the penalty for exceeding the limit. If your earnings are substantially over the limit, you will be ineligible to collect Social Security until either your earnings are less, or you reach your FRA.
- If you claim SS before your FRA your benefit amount will be permanently reduced. If, for example, you claim SS to start at age 65 your monthly benefit will be about 89% of what it would be at your FRA. That reduced benefit would not change thereafter except for Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) usually granted annually.
- If Social Security will be a major part of your retirement income, then waiting to get a higher monthly benefit may be a prudent strategy for you. The longer you wait to claim the more your benefit will be. Your SS benefit will continue to grow until you are 70 years old, and at 70 your monthly benefit will be about 27% more than it would be at your FRA. Your maximum SS benefit will be attained at age 70 but waiting until age 70 to claim is only prudent if you anticipate a long life expectancy.
- Life expectancy is a very important factor in deciding when to claim SS. If you claim at age 70 instead of at your FRA, you will need to live until you are about 83 to breakeven moneywise. If you live even longer than that, then waiting until 70 will yield the highest monthly amount and the most in cumulative lifetime benefits. But if your anticipated life expectancy is less, claiming earlier may be a better choice.
- If you are married and expect your wife to survive you, consider that the benefit your wife can get as your widow will be based on your SS benefit when you die, thus the longer you wait to claim the more your wife’s benefit as your widow may be. If you predecease your wife, her benefit will be based on the amount you were receiving at your death if that is more than her personally earned SS benefit.

So, as you can see, deciding when to claim Social Security is a decision to be made after carefully evaluating your personal circumstances as described above. I hope this provides what you need to make an informed decision, but if you have further questions, please contact us at SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org, or at 1 (888) 750-2622.

The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] www.amac.us is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation’s capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country. And the AMAC Foundation (www.AmacFoundation.org) is the Association’s non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting and educating America’s Seniors. Together, we act and speak on the Association members’ behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at www.amac.us/join-amac.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Legislation Increasing Transparency in Prince George’s County’s Construction Contracts Passes Unanimously

By ANGELA J. ROUSON
Prince George’s County Council Media

The Prince George’s County Council, during session on Tuesday, October 31, unanimously enacted CB-071-2023, legislation proposed by District 8 Council Member Edward Burroughs III to increase transparency in the County’s construction contracts.

CB-071-2023 requires the Office of Central Services (OCS) to maintain the employment metrics of contractors and subcontractors that have been awarded County construction contracts of \$1 million or more.

Council Member Burroughs says heightened transparency ensures that residents, local businesses, and MBEs (Minority Business Enterprises) benefit from the wealth generated by these projects.

“Right now we provide millions of dollars in public con-

struction contracts, but we don’t know who exactly is working those jobs and who is benefiting. We need to know who these contracts are going to, if they are employing County residents, and if contractors and subcontractors are being paid fairly,” said Burroughs. “Leveraging our tax dollars to uplift people who live in the County should be the priority, and this legislation will provide the data to determine if that is taking place.”

Among the metrics to be maintained by OCS are the number of local workers on a project, wages paid, and benefits provided. Additionally, the total number of County-based MBEs utilized on the contract, total amount paid, and percentage of the overall contract value paid to MBEs will also be included. The Director of OCS will be required to submit an annual report to the County Executive and County Council each year by July 1st to aid in assessing the contractors’ MBE participation.

CB-071-2023 will go into effect 45 days after it becomes law.

Maryland Health Connection’s Open Enrollment For 2024 Health Plans Started November 1

Compare 2024 health plans and prices on MarylandHealthConnection.gov

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Health Benefit Exchange

BALTIMORE (Nov. 1, 2023)—Marylanders can now enroll in health plans for 2024 on MarylandHealthConnection.gov, the state’s health insurance marketplace.

Open enrollment runs from Nov. 1, 2023, through Jan. 15, 2024. Coverage starts Jan. 1, 2024, for plans selected before Dec. 31, and coverage starts on Feb. 1, 2024, for plans selected the first two weeks of January. This open enrollment period is for private plans only. Those who qualify for Medicaid may enroll any time of year.

“Life can feel unpredictable—be it losing a job, losing Medicaid coverage following the end of the public health emergency, moving to Maryland, turning 26 and aging out of your parent’s plan, or deciding to be your own boss,” said Michele Eberle, executive director of the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange. “Maryland Health Connection has free or low-cost plans to give you peace of mind.”

All plans available through Maryland Health Connection cover many health services at no cost. For example, vaccines, screenings for diabetes, high blood pressure, and many cancers are included. From mental health services to prescription medicines are covered.

Maryland Health Connection will help those with Medicaid or MCHP keep their coverage. If you are no longer eligible for Medicaid or MCHP, we will help you enroll in a private plan. Financial help is available for private plans through Maryland Health Connection.

What’s new this year?

This year, Maryland Health Connection welcomed Aetna as a new health insurance company in addition to CareFirst, Kaiser Permanente, and UnitedHealthcare. No matter where you live in Maryland, you will have a choice of plans from multiple insurance companies.

Maryland Health Connection also expanded the savings available for young adults. Now, Marylanders ages 18-37 can get special discounts for 2024 health plans—on top of other savings available.

Value Plans are designed to have lower out-of-pocket costs when you use health care. For 2024, we revamped Value Plans to make the costs for common health care services clearer and more consistent across insurance companies. All insurance companies on Maryland Health Connection offer Value Plans.

Value Plans use simple copays for most services, and cover many services without requiring you to meet your deductible. Value Plans are a particularly good fit for people with high prescription

costs, because they have lower caps on the amount you have to pay out of pocket for prescriptions. They also cover routine services for people with diabetes at no cost, including insulin, primary care visits, and certain labs.

If you need help enrolling, we’ve got you covered. Trained experts are available to help you sign up for a health plan. Go to MarylandHealthConnection.gov/help to find free assistance near you. Get free help enrolling by phone, through virtual support, or in person. Again this year, Maryland Health Connection offers Broker Connect. You can talk to an authorized insurance broker in 30 minutes or less. A broker will call you to discuss your private health plan options. Best of all, it’s free.

Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE), a public corporation and independent unit of state government established in 2011, administers Maryland Health Connection.

Maryland Health Connection (MHC) is the state-based marketplace for Marylanders to shop and enroll in health insurance, as well as determine eligibility for Medicaid and other assistance programs. It is the only place where Marylanders can access financial help such as tax credits to make coverage more affordable.

MedStar Health Welcomes Hematologist/Oncologist Rumaisa Hameed, MD, to the MedStar Georgetown Cancer Institute at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center

By CHERYL RICHARDSON
MedStar Health

The MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center recently welcomed board-certified hematologist/oncologist, Rumaisa Hameed, MD, to the MedStar Georgetown Cancer Institute at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center.

Dr. Hameed is passionate about caring for the whole patient at every stage of their cancer journey. Her focus is on benign and malignant blood disorders and the diagnosis and treatment of all types of cancers including breast, gastrointestinal, liver, lung, genitourinary, and gynecologic cancers as well as melanoma and sarcoma. She provides cancer treatments including chemotherapy, targeted therapy, and immunotherapy, and works with patients on survivorship after cancer.

“I am a firm believer in a multi-disciplinary approach to care and evidence-based medicine. I provide comprehensive care to my patients by focusing on their condition and overall wellbeing, delivering personalized care, and collaborating with other referring physicians for the best treatment outcomes. As a part of the MedStar Health system, I am dedicated to providing advanced cancer care to the community and to support patients and their families,” she said.

Dr. Hameed received her Bachelor of

Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from Shifa College of Medicine in Islamabad, Pakistan where she later served as Medical Officer at the Shifa International Hospital Islamabad. She completed an externship at Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center in New York, served as a research associate at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, DC, and successfully completed her internal medicine residency at Advent Health Orlando in Orlando, FL.

After residency, Dr. Hameed began her medical career at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center as a hospitalist and then at Inova Fairfax Hospital Department of Medicine. She then went on to complete her fellowship training in hematology/oncology at MedStar Health – Georgetown / Washington Hospital Center. She also served as an attending physician in oncology/hematology at the University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Medical Center after completion of her fellowship training. Dr. Hameed is board-certified in hematology and medical oncology and internal medicine.

Dr. Hameed sees patients at the MedStar Georgetown Cancer Institute at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center in Clinton, MD. To make an appointment, call 301-877-4673.

MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital



PHOTO COURTESY MEDSTAR HEALTH

Dr. Rumaisa Hameed

Center, located in Clinton, Maryland, is a 182-bed acute care hospital serving the Washington, D.C., metro and Southern Maryland area. The hospital is focused on caring for patients and their loved ones utilizing advanced technology under the guidance of expert clinicians. Quality, Safety, Wellness, and Patient Satisfaction are achieved through a spirit of patient centered services that connect us to the community we serve. For more information, visit MedStarHealth.org.

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20785 (301) 773-6655

Sunday Biblical Institute:
9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship:
7:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m.

Saturday Worship:
6:30 p.m.

'WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS WITH JESUS':
12 noon (The Power Hour) and 6:45 pm

"A Time of Prayer, Praise, Worship, & The Word"

Dr. Henry P. Davis III, Pastor
www.fbhp.org

BAPTIST

First Baptist Church of College Park

Welcomes You Where Jesus Christ Is Lord and King

Stephen L. Wright, Sr., Pastor

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,
Pastor
www.uumchurch.com

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Matthew 28:19-20

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.

Soulful Thursdays
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

BAPTIST

Forest Heights Baptist Church

We exist to strengthen your relationship with God.

6371 Oxon Hill Road
Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745

Sunday School (Adults & Children) - 9:30 A.M.
Worship Service - 11:00 A.M.
Wed. Prayer Service & Bible Study - 7:00 P.M.
Office (301) 839-1166
Fax (301) 839-1721
E-mail: FHBC@verizon.net
Pastor: Rev. Waymond B. Duke

COMMUNITY CHURCH

WORD OF GOD COMMUNITY CHURCH

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4109 Edmonston Road Bladensburg, MD
(301) 864-3437

Intercessory Prayer: Sundays - 8:30 a.m.
Church School: - 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship Celebration - 10:30 a.m.
Wed. Night Bible Study - 7:45 p.m.
Elder Willie W. Duvall, Pastor

Morningside from A2

A home at 5012 Braymer Avenue in Auth Village, just sold for \$245,000.

Morningside memories, 1977

Newsletter for the Town of Morningside, November 1977, lists the recreation activities for the residents:

TUFF: Teen activities at Foullois, Tuesday & Thursday nights, 6-10 p.m., including basketball, Ping-Pong & more.

Boxing: Foullois, Monday through Thursday.

Bookmobile: Thursdays, Randolph & Maple Road, 3 to 3:40.

Morningside Kedettes: Drum majors, pom-poms, majorettes, color guard

Roller skating: Saturdays at Skyline School.

Barbershop Quartet: Marylandaires Chorus meets at Skyline School.

Senior citizens: Meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at the Firehouse.

Boy Scouts: Irene and Roscoe Smith.

Milestones

Happy Birthday to Cindy Lewis, Nov. 12; Robin Brown, Nov. 13; Tyrell Boxley, Nov. 14; Michael Spenard, Ty Poe, Bob Davis and Carolyn Holland Bennett, Nov. 15; Kendra MacLean and Katie Frostbutter, Nov. 18.

Happy 23rd anniversary to Kareem & Robin Stroman on November 18.

Happy Charter Day to VFW Post 9619 Auxiliary which received its charter on Nov. 13, 1948.

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