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Maryland Officials Okay More Purple Line Money, but not Gladly

By SAPNA BANSIL
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (March 13, 2024)—Gov. Wes Moore and the state's chief financial officers approved nearly half a billion dollars in extra funds for the Purple Line on Wednesday, even as they condemned the embattled project's mounting delays and escalating costs.

Nearly seven years after construction began, transit authorities returned to the Board of Public Works yet again this month, this time seeking an additional \$425 million for the light-rail project. It was the fourth such request since 2016 to supplement the Purple Line's original \$5.6 billion budget.

Following the three-member board's unanimous but reluctant approval, the total cost of the Purple Rail is now approaching \$10 billion.

"Not anyone in our administration is happy that we find ourselves, once again, in a po-

sition to have to increase the cost of this project," Moore said.

"Competence is a basic ask of the people of this state," he added, "and we are still cleaning up this mess from years of mismanagement on this project."

The 16-mile east-west line, designed to run between New Carrollton and Bethesda, is being built through a public-private agreement with the Purple Line Transit Partners. The group is responsible for constructing, operating and maintaining the system until 2057.

The administration of Moore's predecessor, former Republican governor Larry Hogan, brought in private companies to work with the state on the project. The public-private partnership, known as a P3, was part of an effort to mitigate the cost burden on taxpayers. But the project has endured a number of issues, including significant construction delays and disputes with contractors.



CAROLINE KOUTSOS/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Construction of the Purple Line runs along Campus Drive on the campus of the University of Maryland on March 12, 2024.

A spokesperson for Hogan offered a different critique after Wednesday's meeting.

"The Purple Line doesn't need to be 'fixed,' it needs to be finished—and for the good of the region, that should be the sole focus of everyone involved in the project," said Mike Ricci, a spokesperson for Hogan, cur-

rently a candidate in the Republican primary for U.S. Senate.

"We recognize Maryland Democrats are in full panic mode about Governor Hogan's campaign, but turning a procurement meeting into a politi-

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Maryland Legal Aid's Tenants' Right to Counsel Project to Partner With the Prince George's County Memorial Library System to Host Legal Aid Clinics

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Legal Aid

BALTIMORE (March 12, 2024)—Maryland Legal Aid (MLA) is partnering with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System to host Tenants' Rights & Housing Clinics from April through August, occurring on the first Wednesday of each month. The purpose of these clinics is to assist individuals in understanding and maneuvering through the legal landscape. Participants will be able to receive advice and begin the legal intake process with lawyers, aiding them in resolving their housing concerns.

While the primary focus of these walk-in sessions will be on issues related to housing, evictions, and tenants' rights, Maryland Legal Aid will also be prepared to assist with a range of other civil legal concerns. This

includes criminal record expungement, family law, health, consumer rights, and employment issues, offering advice and legal support to those in need.

Tenants' Rights & Housing Clinics

- Glenarden Branch Library, Wednesday, April 3, 2024, 12-3:30 p.m.
- Oxon Hill Branch Library, Wednesday, May 1, 2024, 1-4:30 p.m.
- Laurel Branch Library, Wednesday, June 5, 2024, 1-4:30 p.m.
- Hyattsville Branch Library, Wednesday, July 3, 2024, 1-4:30 p.m.
- Fairmount Heights Branch Library, Wednesday, August 7, 2024, 1-4:30 p.m.

For general information about the Tenants' Rights & Housing Clinics, visit <https://www.mdlab.org/free-legal-clinics/>.

Blink Charging Opens Global Headquarters in Prince George's County

Electric vehicle charging station manufacturer expands its capacity by constructing a new LEED Gold-certified 30,000-square-foot production facility in Bowie

By RHETT BUTLER
PGCEDC

BOWIE, Md. (March 12, 2024)—Blink Charging Co., a leading global electric vehicle charging equipment provider, cut the ribbon to ceremonially open its global headquarters at a 15,000-square-foot facility in Bowie, MD, in Prince George's County on Monday (March 11). Maryland Governor Wes Moore, Maryland Congressman Steny Hoyer, Congressman Glenn Ivey, Biden-Harris Administration's Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy, David M. Turk and members of Prince George's County leadership were all on hand for

the transformative moment.

Blink is expanding its manufacturing capacity by constructing a new LEED Gold-certified 30,000-square-foot production facility in Bowie. The Company's headquarters and its new production facility at 5081 Howerton Way are contained within Melford Town Center a mixed-use business community developed by St. John Properties, Inc.

"Blink's decision to expand its operations in Prince George's County makes us a leader in green, sustainable manufacturing. We are proud of Blink's

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PHOTO COURTESY PGC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

March 11, 2024—Local leaders gather to cut the ribbon to ceremonially open Blink Charging Co. global headquarters at a 15,000-square-foot facility in Bowie.

Senators Hear the Case for Cutting Americans' Work Week to 32 Hours

By TORRENCE BANKS
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON (March 14, 2024)—In 1955, Walter Reuther, head of what was then known as the United Automobile Workers (UAW), told a Senate hearing that coming technological advancements would make a four-day workweek possible.

That was the last Senate hearing on the subject for nearly 70 years. The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee finally ended the draught Thursday as lawmakers debated legislation, sponsored by Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vermont, that would reduce the standard workweek to 32 hours without cutting employees' pay.

"...Despite an explosion in technology and a massive increase in worker productivity, nothing has changed,"



PHOTO CREDIT TORRENCE BANKS/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON—Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vermont, gestures during a Thursday hearing on the 32-hour workweek by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. Sanders chairs the panel and Sen. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana (left) is the ranking Republican.

Sanders said. "Think about that, huge transitions we have seen in the economy. But in terms of the workweek, nothing has changed."

Sanders said that the goal of his bill was to ensure that working-class citizens benefit from the revolutionary changes in the workplace over the past seven decades.

Introducing his measure Wednesday, Sanders said that U.S. workers had become over 400% more productive since the 1940s. Even so, people now are working longer hours at lower wages, he said.

UAW President Shawn Fain said that automation now allows a single worker to do what used to require 12 workers. Companies' obsession with ensuring productivity every second of the day has come at the cost of workers, he said.

"When people reach the end of their lives they never say I wish I'd make more money," Fain told senators. "What they wish for is they wish they had more time. There was a time when

this phenomenon was supposed to lead to workers getting our time back, getting some of their lives back."

Forty percent of Americans work at least 50 hours a week, and 18% of today's workforce works more than 60 hours a week, according to research cited in Sanders' statement.

A 2019 study published by the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health found that working more than 60 hours a week led to a decline in workers' mental health compared to those who worked standard hours.

"It causes an increase in cortisol levels, which lead to heart disease, cancers, strokes," Fain said about working extended hours during the week. "But given all those facts as someone is lucky enough to get to retire, typically when they weren't willing to work themselves to death their entire life, they face knee replace-

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Free PGCC tuition for District 8 residents

To date, \$2 million dollars has been allocated to the Local Impact Grant/Scholarship Funding at Prince George's Community College just for District 8 residents. And help is needed to spread the word to District 8 neighbors! (By the way, Skyline, my home, is in District 8.)

When MGM Casino was built, a portion of the gaming and tax revenue was dedicated to the surrounding community through the MGM Local Impact Grant Fund. District 8 Council Member Edward Burroughs III has announced a new program that uses MGM Casino revenue to provide free tuition at Prince George's County Community College.

The program is available to those living in the six-mile radius surrounding the casino in District 8 and some border areas of District 7 (Skyline). While the program was initially funded at \$1 million, the Prince George's County Council allocated another \$1 million to serve more residents and keep the program going beyond the upcoming semester.

For information, go online to the Free PGCC announcement.

Neighbors & other good people

President Joe Biden visited the house across from my Saginaw, Michigan, home last Thursday. My brother, Tom Mudd, who still lives in our Victorian home (circa 1848), called—very excited—to report that Secret Service had stopped by to advise him to stay indoors.

William Joseph Lyons, 80, who worked at Census for 38 years, as Branch Section Chief, died February 6. Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Ruth, daughter Christy, son John, and grandchildren. From his obit: "He is in a better place where golf rounds are free, the coffee is always ready, and your favorite crime shows run all day."

VFD Post 9619 is hosting an All Black Attire Grown-Folks Party on Saturday, April 27, from 8 p.m. to midnight. The only thing—you have to wear black and be 35 or older. Purchase tickets in advance at the VFW or by calling 301-735-5290. The Post is at 6527 Suitland Road in Morningside.

Thank you to all who wished me a Happy Birthday on my 95th, March 12th. I enjoyed celebrating it with my family. I enjoyed, too, dinner out with them at Mama Stella's.

Changing landscape

Trees were toppled and tourist attractions closed as that windstorm moved through here last week. It was the worst wind I ever remember.

WSSC has sent notice that they will be working in my area "about March 4, 2024, and be complete by March 2026." The project is to construct or repair water sewer mains, weather permitting. Also, "restoration of sidewalks, roadways and landscaping will take place within 90 days of construction completion." So far, I've seen no sign of the work, but am glad to be notified.

Dollar Tree and Family Dollar plan to close nearly 1,000 stores. I don't know if this involves our local stores.

A home at 4400 Ridgecrest Drive, in Skyline, recently sold for \$415,000.

Places to go & things to do

The National Park Service is seeking volunteers to help clean up the shoreline of Oxon Cove Park, 10 a.m. to noon every fourth Saturday of every month. This sounds like a great idea for kids that need volunteer hours—a chance to work in a beautiful area (near the Children's Farm). Call 301-839-1176 for more information.

Go to National Harbor on Sunday, March 24, for a wide array of free cultural activities including an artisanal Japanese marketplace, cultural performances, culinary delights, a sake and beer garden, and more!

Also on March 24: The 9th annual Oxon Run Pinknic & Kite Fly. There'll be kite programming, free food, entertainment and a Ward 8 vendor market. Hours: noon to 3 p.m.

Town of Morningside history, continued

In my March 7 column, I gave the history of how Morningside came to be. I received several emails about the name, Morningside, and where it came from.

According to Charles J. Kiker's history,

The Town of Morningside, Maryland, 50th Anniversary, "The area had already been named Morningside by an unknown person who had said to have rationalized its name by the location on the East Side of the Capitol and the morning side of Washington, D.C."

December 1941: World War II began for the U.S. House-building ended.

July 1942: The first Morningside Directory was published. At the time, Morningside had 109 families.

1944: The military highway, Suitland Parkway, was completed.

1945: The Morningside Volunteer Fire Department and its Ladies' Auxiliary were organized. An attempt was made to incorporate the town.

March 31, 1945: Camp Springs Army Air Field as it was officially known, changed its name to Andrews Air Force Base in honor of General Frank M. Andrews, who died in a B-24 crash in Iceland in 1943.

1946: The War ended. Post-war house construction began. A gas station opened in Morningside. Skyline subdivision began.

1947: Town Hall was built at the corner of Woodland Road & Forest Drive. (It's now a home.)

1949: The town was incorporated, and the first election held—Mayor June T. Stocklinski, Councilmen Thomas S. Austin, Duncan Fleming, C.W. Mueller and R. C. Stevenson.

June 1949: The new officials took office and immediately created a Volunteer Police Department: Charles Kiker (later became the first Chief of Police), Gerald Glaubitz (became longest-serving mayor in Maryland), and Donald Michelson.

April 9, 1951: A pilotless WWII vintage B-25 crashed into a house on Lombardy Road, killing two baby girls and their uncle visiting from out-of-town. Fighting the fire was made more difficult by the lack of a main water system. Support began almost immediately to have Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) build a water and sewer system to replace the town's three wells.

See MORNINGSIDE Page A3

Around the County

Upcoming Exhibitions at Brentwood Arts Exchange Announced by Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County

RIVERDALE, Md. (March 11, 2024)—The Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County, part of the M-NCPPC, is pleased to announce its upcoming exhibitions at Brentwood Arts Exchange.

Anna U Davis: Road to Recovery

Exhibition Dates: March 25–May 18, 2024

Opening Reception: Saturday, April 6, 5–8 p.m.

Artist Talk: Saturday, April 27, 2–4 p.m.

Renowned Washington, D.C. artist—by way of Lund, Sweden, Anna U Davis will exhibit an important body of work that delves into a powerful personal visual journey of living life with breast cancer. Road to Recovery is a collection of mixed media paintings exploring her journey from diagnosis, through treatment and into recovery.

Davis is a two-time recipient of the Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant and has received multiple fellowships from the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities. In 2020, Davis was featured on the cover of the journal Feminist Studies, Issue 46.1. Recent solo shows include the Swedish American Museum (Chicago), Galerie Myrtis (Baltimore), the Embassy of Sweden (Washington, D.C.), and Davis Gallery (Copenhagen). Her work has been shown in additional solo and group exhibitions in the United States, Europe, Cuba (13th Havana Biennial) and Qatar and is held in public and private collections throughout the United States and Europe. In 2023 Davis was invited to speak about art and female empowerment during the State of the Arts Night at the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C. To learn more about this exhibit, visit pgparks.com/event_list/road-to-recovery.

The Genesis Project: Volume 4 featuring Kay Lee and Becky McFall

Exhibition Dates: March 25–May 18, 2024

Opening Reception: April 6, 5–8 p.m.

Artist Talk: April 27, 2–4 p.m.

The Genesis Project is an ambitious, year-long collaborative wall exhibition, featuring a group of 10 artists selected by visual art stakeholders in the Gateway Arts District. During each "Volume", selected artists will come together to create an immersive wall piece. Each Volume will allow artists to use previous work as inspiration to work over or alongside the original piece.

Fueled by an unwavering passion, Kay Lee creates mesmerizing pieces that captivate and evoke emotions. Her art leaves an indelible mark on anyone who beholds it, whether it's joy, sadness, anger, or calmness. She's a master of acrylic paints, palette knife paintings, and an array of other artistic ventures like murals, logos, digital illustrations, stationery, and clay creations. Becky McFall specializes in portraiture, mixed-media, mobiles, and biology-inspired art. Her work often uses natural and recycled materials. She uses her experience as a former art teacher to inform her work, having used a wide variety of artmaking techniques, from batik to repoussage, from ceramics to oils. She experiments with combining materials as well as exploring three-dimensional space.

To learn more about this exhibit, visit pgparks.com/event_list/the-genesis-project-volume-4.

The Brentwood Arts Exchange serves as an anchor for the arts-based community development of the Prince George's County Gateway Arts District. It supports artist and community development by welcoming diverse audiences to experience high-quality visual art exhibitions, concerts, affordable arts classes for all ages, and a local artisans craft store. For more information, visit www.pgparks.com/facilities/brentwood-arts-exchange.

Register now for "The Woods in Your Backyard" Online Course Monday, April 8 to June 17, 2024

Registration is now open for the spring 2024 session of "The Woods in Your Backyard" online course. Our self-directed, non-credit course runs 10 weeks from April 8 to June 17, 2024. The course will help landowners convert lawn to natural areas and enhance stewardship of existing natural areas. The course provides strategies to landowners of small parcels of land (1–10 acres) that improve the stewardship of their property for personal enjoyment and environmental quality. It uses a hands-on learning approach to help participants develop and implement a plan for their property. Activities include how to map habitat areas, understand basic ecological principles about woodland and wildlife, choose and implement a few habitat management projects, and how to set a timetable and record your progress. Online discussion groups will allow participants to interact with others taking the course. A certificate of completion is awarded when all assignments are completed.

The course costs \$95.00 per person, which includes the 108-page "Woods in Your Backyard" guide, workbook, and a tree identification guide. The course is limited to 25 participants, so sign up now! Registration closes April 8 or when filled. Registration is through Eventbrite; go to <https://WYB-Spring2024.eventbrite.com>.

For more information, go to <https://go.umd.edu/3nmoVmc>, or contact course coordinator Andrew Kling, University of Maryland Extension, akling1@umd.edu, 301-226-7564.

The University of Maryland Extension programs are open to any person and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, genetic information, political affiliation, and gender identity or expression.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

BSU DANCE CONCERT

Join us for an unforgettable experience at the 2024 Bowie State University Dance Concert April 19TH AND 20TH, 2024, starting at 7:30 p.m. The vibrant showcase will unfold at the Performing Arts Center, Dionne Warwick Theatre. Cost: \$10 General, \$5 Students, faculty, and Staff.

Location: Bowie State University Fine & Performing Arts Center, Dionne Warwick Theater 14000 Jericho Park Road Bowie, Maryland, 20715. Contact: Jennifer Dorsey, Email: jdorsey@bowiestate.edu Phone: 443-802-7050.

MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECOGNITION

Brother McKinley Hayes was recognized during their 2024 KAPPAs in Annapolis. After high school, Brother Hayes enrolled in the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. During his junior year he became a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Brother Hayes served in many leadership roles during this time. He was also selected as the outstanding undergraduate in the Eastern Province. He was selected for the President's Club and listed in Who's Who American Colleges and Universities. He has been inspired by Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. for over fifty years.

Brother Hayes is a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, and he has received the Grand Polemarches' Distinguished Service Award and the Pill of the Province Award. Brother Hayes has the District Honor of having helped established five Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Chapters in the state of Maryland. Brother McKinley Hayes stands a shining example of excellence across diverse domains, embodying the spirit of achievement in every field of human endeavor. Thank you to all the brothers who joined us on this special evening.

ENCHANTMENT

Enchantment's music is soulful, smooth, romantic, and melodious with loving lyrics, and understanding. The golden sound of Enchantment was formed in 1967 at Pershing High School in Detroit. In 1976, the charismatic showmen received national acclaim with the release of their second single Gloria. Written and arranged by dynamic lead singer E.J. Johnson, Gloria became a smash hit. They followed it with another smash hit, Sunshine, from the same album. They recorded their second album in 1977 and produced their third consecutive number-one single, it is You That I Need, which reigned at #1 for four weeks. They continued their hit making ways with top ten singles If You are Ready (Here It Comes), Where Do We Go From Here, Forever More, Enchanted Lady, and many more. Enchantment's longevity is attributed to their vitality and the dedication they have for their craft. The group continues to impressively demonstrate their quality golden sound at concerts and events around the country.

The Enchantments will be performed Saturday, May 25, 2024, from 8–10 p.m. at Harmony Hall Arts Center. The address is

10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744. The telephone number is (301) 203-6070. Ticket Price is \$45. This event is for all ages. Event Category: Arts Performances. Event Programs & Series: Harmony Hall Arts Center. For more information visit harmonyhallarts@pgparks.com.

ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH BADEN TRIP

Come and fellowship with us to Sight and Sound (Millennium Theatre) Lancaster, Pennsylvania to see The New Biblical Epic "DANIEL," Saturday, October 5, 2024. The trip includes Deluxe Motor Coach Transportation, snack bag provided, ticket to see the Biblical Epic "DANIEL," lunch at Miller's Smorgasbord, Ronks, PA.

Cost: \$179.00 per adult (standard seating-raised seats with some steps), \$160.00 children under 12, \$189.00 per adult (floor seating and some raised seats with few steps.) \$170 children under twelve. Suggested payment plan is a deposit of \$30.00 due by March 24, 2024. Payment plan can be made at your choice. Final payment is due by August 25, 2024.

The trip includes Deluxe Motor Coach Transportation, snack bag provided, ticket to the Biblical Epic "DANIEL" at 11, lunch at Miller's Smorgasbord, Ronks, PA.

First pick up is at Clinton Park & Ride, 9030 Stuart Lane, Clinton, Maryland at 7:00 a.m. Second pick up is at St. Philip's Church 13801 Baden Westwood Road Brandywine, Maryland 20613 at 7:30 a.m. Please make payment by check, money order payable to St. Philip's Church, 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Md. 20613 Cash and App is accepted@stphilips-baden.

For additional information contact Vivian Rich 804-301-9530, Beverly Smith 301-456-1357, Kathy Davis 240-210-5642. Reserve your seat today. No seats are assigned until payment is made in full.

THANK YOU BULLDOG NATION

The BSU community showed up and showed out for the 2024 CIAA Basketball Tournament. From supporting our men's and women's basketball teams, to stopping by the BSU hospitality suite, and attending the various CIAA events, Bowie State University the host institution, was well represented! #Bowie BOLD.

SALSA DANCING

Ready to learn some new moves or dust off your dance skills? Join us for a Latin Dance workshop, led by choreographer and dance instructor Carolina Hernandez. She will take you through salsa, bachata, and merengue moves that will get your heart pumping. No experience needed.

Salsa dancing is presented by Harmony Hall Arts Center May 22, 2024, at Harmony Hall Arts Center from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Ticket Price: FREE: All Ages. The address is 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744.

COMMUNITY

Marietta House Museum Presents Family Folklore Stories & Campfire With Storyteller Shemika Renée

By STACEY HAWKINS
Marietta House Museum

Please join us on **Saturday, April 6**, from 1–3 p.m. for “Family Folklore Stories & Campfire” with storyteller Shemika Renée. Hear the origin of stories from Africa, including the Anansi stories.

The presentation will be followed by a campfire and S’mores. Ages 5–10. \$5/person. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Please register at this direct link:

<https://tinyurl.com/bdfdbzy6>
For more information, please 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.



PHOTO SAPNA BANSIL/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

From left, State Treasurer Dereck Davis, Gov. Wes Moore and Comptroller Brooke Lierman listen to a speaker at a meeting of the Board of Public Works on March 13, 2024.

Purple Line from A1

cal war room reeks of desperation,” Ricci said in an email to Capital News Service.

During Wednesday’s discussion about whether to increase funding, board member Brooke Lierman, the state’s comptroller, took aim at public-private partnerships, saying that the Purple Line demonstrates “the folly of relying on P3 models for complex, long-term transportation projects.”

“Everyone in the state of Maryland is bearing the burden of the errors made by the past administration today,” Lierman said. “I don’t enjoy voting yes on this, but we have to be committed to ensuring that we meet our obligations to the riders in the state of Maryland.”

At Wednesday’s meeting, Holly Arnold, administrator of the Maryland Transit Administration, said the Purple Line is more than 65% complete, with construction underway at 13 of 21 planned stations and 17,000 linear feet of rail installed. The expected completion of the much-delayed project has been pushed back to winter 2027.

Arnold added that the \$425 million would be paid out to Purple Line Transit Partners over several years and is contingent upon achieving certain milestones, an accountability measure aimed at encouraging progress with the project.

Still, board member Dereck Davis, the state’s treasurer, lamented the project’s problems. “I just want to raise hell,” he said. He added that he’d been considering casting a “no” vote on additional funds but ultimately decided the project is too far along to abandon.

“We’re literally approaching 100% [cost increase,]” Davis said, “with no real guarantee that that’s the end.”

Morningside from A2

September 1951: The Women’s Civic Group was formed.
1953: Morningside homes sold for \$10,000 to \$12,000.
November 24, 1958: Morningside Elementary School opened.

Milestones

Happy Birthday to Ruth Anthony, my great-grandson Jack McHale and Hudson Murphy Glaubitz, March 23; Lewis Woods, March 24; Ken Kyser and Jay Rollins, March 25; Gina Foster, March 26; Walter Dimes, March 27; Robert Hay, Jr. and David Righter, March 28; Ben Surratt and Kimberly Smith, March 29; and Akwete Bedewi, March 30.

Happy Anniversary to Terry and Gina (Abbott) Foster, their 37th on March 26, and Antoinette and Charles Mattison on March 29.

A Blessed Easter to my readers!

Talented Youth (Grades 8–12) Showcased Talent and Competed for Scholarships in Visual, Literary, Performing and Instrumental Arts on March 17, 2024

By PRESS OFFICER
The Society, Incorporated, Supporting the Arts, Harbor City Maryland Chapter

On Sunday, March 17, 2024, The Society, Incorporated, Supporting the Arts, Harbor City Maryland Chapter (HCMC) hosted its biannual Youth Showcase at the Harmony Hall Regional Center, Concert Hall, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, MD from 4–7 p.m. Professional Saxophonist Brian Lanier, Soprano Alexandria Crichlow and News4 Anchor Molette Green, as mistress of ceremony, participated as special guest performers.

Skylar Mason, senior from Laurel Springs High school won the \$3,500 achievement scholarship for her dance performance. The scholarship was awarded in honor of the late Dr. David C. Driskell, a former resident of Prince Georges County and a highly recognized visual artist, curator, and Honorary Friend of The Society, Incorporated. Dior Brown, 9th grader at St. Stephens Agnes School, won first place for her dance performance in the showcase and Saniya Pearson, Prince George’s County Youth Poet

Laureate and 10th grader at Central High School won the \$500 second place showcase award for her original literary performance.

Fifteen students in grades 8 through 12 showcased their talents in four categories of competition instrumental/voice, performing arts (dance, theater/stage), literary arts

(poetry, essays, and other writing), and visual arts (photography, painting, etc.).

The Society, Incorporated, Supporting the Arts, Harbor City Maryland Chapter, is a 501(c)(3) organization located in Prince George’s County with a mission to showcase and expose youth to the arts. It is one of 34 chapters in the county and was chartered in 2017. President Dr. Debra Mahone commented that while the showcase was a

biannual event, the David C. Driskell Achievement Scholarship was awarded annually to a deserving senior as “the chapter strives to add ARTS to the academic and athletic priorities in all schools in the Washington Metropolitan area. To learn more about Harbor City Society and donate to the mission to support youth in the arts visit <https://www.harborcitymdsociety.org/>



PHOTO COURTESY THE SOCIETY, INCORPORATED, SUPPORTING THE ARTS, HARBOR CITY MARYLAND CHAPTER

At the Artistic Future: The Showcase, held at the Harmony Hall Regional Center on March 17, students showcased talent and competed for scholarships.

Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Incorporated Partners With the Sickle Cell Coalition of Maryland

By ALEXIA MARTINEZ
Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Incorporated (Zeta Mu Chapter/Upper Marlboro, MD)

The ladies of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Incorporated (Zeta Mu Chapter/Upper Marlboro, MD), the first Black business and professional women’s sorority, embraces the phrase “Working and NOT Shirking.” And that is exactly what the sisters of the Zeta Mu Chapter did by partnering with the chief executive officer and executive team of the Sickle Cell Coalition of Maryland to host a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service project for sickle cell disease (SCD) warriors.

The ladies of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority worked around the clock to assemble 100 infusion kits and 150 care packages for sickle cell patients (ages 4 through early 20’s) at the Capital Regional Medical Center and Children’s National Medical Center in Prince George’s County, MD. The infusion kits included “distraction items” such as stress balls, brain teasers, pens and word searches. The care packages included a plethora of hygienic items such as shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes and hair care products. Since sickle cell warriors must endure being hospitalized for weeks at a time due to pain crises, blood transfusions, and more, we hope our donations will uplift their



PHOTO COURTESY IOTA PHI LAMBDA SORORITY, INCORPORATED (ZETA MU CHAPTER/UPPER MARLBORO, MD)

The ladies of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority assembled 100 infusion kits and 150 care packages for sickle cell patients.

spirits. Joining in Iota’s service initiative was the Lambda Phi Chapter of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc. (national nursing sorority) and the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. of Prince George’s County. The ladies of Iota continue their active role in the Prince George’s County, MD community, and were honored to serve the sickle cell families, paying homage to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Incorporated—“Professional Business Women Propelled by Ingenuity: Intentional Purpose”

Learn more about the Zeta Mu Chapter of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Incorporated: <https://linktr.ee/IotaZetamu> | Web Address: iplzetamu.org | Email: iplzetamu@gmail.com | Mailing Address: PO Box 2111, Upper Marlboro, MD 20773

Events/Activities: <https://linktr.ee/IotaZetamu> | Web Address: iplzetamu.org | Email: iplzetamu@gmail.com | Mailing Address: PO Box 2111, Upper Marlboro, MD 20773

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Calendar of Events

36th Annual Potomac Cleanup & Open House

Date and time: Saturday, April 6, 2024 from 9 a.m.–2 p.m.
Description: Join us at our flagship cleanup at Piscataway Park in Accokeek, MD to help clean up trash along our gorgeous Potomac riverbanks while enjoying the scenic view of Mt. Vernon! You are also welcome to visit our Open House nearby where you’ll also have the chance to see our uniquely sustainable, net-zero Living Building, learn more about our STEM-focused environmental education programs for kids, and touch a few animal artifacts such as skulls, turtle shells, and snakeskins! Students are eligible to earn service learning hours for their participation.
Register: <https://www.fergusonfoundation.org>
Location: 2201 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek, MD 20607
Contact: 301-292-5665

2024 NAMIWalks Maryland

Date and time: Saturday, June 1, 2024 from 7–11 a.m.

Description: Step forward with NAMIWalks and leave your footprint on the local landscape of mental health. NAMIWalks is the nation’s largest grassroots event series dedicated to supporting individuals and loved ones coping with mental health conditions, and now is the ideal time to add your individual momentum to this rapidly growing movement! Plus, NAMIWalks Maryland is one of the top ten NAMIWalks events in the country, bringing together hundreds of people together to support Mental Health for All right here in our state.

When you participate in NAMIWalks, you are:

- Promoting public awareness of mental health to reduce stigma by reaching millions of people through personal networks;
- Raising funds for NAMI’s free, top-rated mental health programs and supporting our mission of recovery-focused support, education, and advocacy for individuals and loved ones affected by mental health conditions;
- Building community and using NAMIWalks as a positive plat-

form for discussion around openly talking about mental health conditions, letting people know they are not alone.

There are many ways you can make a difference through NAMIWalks: as a sponsor, team captain or team member, virtual walker, or an individual participant. However you decide to participate in NAMIWalks Maryland, you’ll be joining a national movement of people who care.

Cost: Registration for NAMIWalks is 100% free
Register: www.namiwalks.org/Maryland
Location: Hunt Valley Towne Centre, 118 Shawan Rd, Cockeysville, MD 21030

Contact: NAMI Maryland, 10632 Little Patuxent Parkway, Suite 454, Columbia, MD 21044. Danielle Fletcher, 410-884-8691, dfletcher@namimd.org, #RocktheWalk2024

COMMUNITY

Spring Grief Workshops and Summer Grief Camp Presented by Hospice of the Chesapeake

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

Several new grief workshops include a focus on the community's diverse population

PASADENA, Md. (March 12, 2024)—This spring, Chesapeake Life Center offers creative and diverse programs for adults, teens, children and families to find a path to healing from loss.

- **Grief Group for LGBTQAI+ Community Members**—This group provides grieving LGBTQAI+ adults ages 18 and older the opportunity to come together to feel supported in their grief. Participants will have an opportunity to share their feelings, obtain support from a licensed counselor, and participate in activities designed to help with the grief process. It will meet for six weeks from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, April 2 to May 7, on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, Maryland. The cost for the series is \$60.

- **Grief & Poetry Workshop**—This reading and writing workshop will explore the nuanced layers of loss through poetry. Poetry serves as a cathartic tool, offering solace and a unique outlet for navigating the complexities of grief. This workshop provides a supportive space to channel emotions, share and connect with others on similar journeys. It will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 6, at the Burnett Center for Hope & Healing, 4559 Sixes Road, Prince Frederick, Maryland. The cost is \$10.

- **Soles of Grief: Walk a Mile in These Shoes**—Chesapeake Life Center will be working in partnership with Soles of Imagination to offer this unique event. In this family workshop, adults and children ages 6 and older can artfully adorn sneakers to illustrate and express their grief experiences and honor special persons they have lost. The cost is \$35 and includes sneakers, all supplies needed to decorate the shoes and light fare. Register early, as space is limited. Sign up at least one week in advance of the date to ensure supplies are ready for you and your family. It will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, at the Prince George's County office, 9500 Medical Center Drive, Suite 250, Largo, Maryland.

- **Grief and Movement with Adaptive Yoga Instructor Cathy Rees**—Movement has long been used to help those who are grieving cope with the impact of the loss. Adaptive Yoga Instructor Cathy Rees will share ways to manage grief using aspects of yoga including gentle stretching, breathwork and mindful walking. It will take place from 10 a.m. to noon Sat-

urday, April 20, on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena. The cost is \$10.

- **Nature Informed Therapy Workshop for Children and Teens**—Kids and teens: Be ready to spend time outside and get dirty! This is an opportunity for children ages 6 to 18 years to connect with each other and the natural world to find support in their grief process. It will take place from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 27, on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena. The cost is \$10.

- **Remembering Our Mothers**—Just in time for Mother's Day, this workshop is for adult children who have lost their mom or someone who was like their mom. Participants will get together to connect, share memories of their mother or maternal figure, and personalize a picture frame, using a 5" x 7" picture they provide. It will take place from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, May 2, at the Prince George's County office, 9500 Medical Center Drive, Suite 250, Largo. The cost is \$20.

- **Parenting While Grieving**—This four-week group is offered at the same time as Stepping Stones, the center's children's grief program, which is noted below. It is open to any parent who is grieving a loss. Join fellow parents for fellowship and support around the challenges of parenting while grieving a loss. It will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, May 7 to 28, on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena. The cost is \$10 each week but free for those whose children are participating in the Stepping Stones program.

- **Stepping Stones 4-Week Group**—This group is for newly bereaved children and teens ages 6 to 18 who have experienced a loss within the last 12 months. The group will focus on normalizing grief reactions, teaching coping skills and providing opportunities to remember the loved ones who have died. Groups will be divided by age and grade level based on enrollment. It will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, May 7 to 28, on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena. The cost is \$40 for the series.

- **Nature Informed Therapy 4-Week Workshop**—Nature has a great power to heal us emotionally, and research backs this up. Time spent in natural settings can lower stress hormones, reduce feelings of anxiety and depression, and offer many other benefits. This four-week support group series will include immersive walks in nature, time spent focusing on the cycle of the seasons, and working

with natural objects to both contain and express the grief experience. It will meet from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Thursdays, May 30, June 6, June 13 and June 27 at a location yet to be determined in Prince George's County. The cost for the series is \$40.

- **Good Grief and Game Night**—Come for an evening of family fun and healing through games and shared camaraderie for adults and children of all ages. This event aims to help in the grief journey, inspire laughter, share memories and provide a few hours of respite. It will take place from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 6 on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena. The cost is \$10.

- **Bereavement Workshop for Spanish-Speakers**—This workshop is tailored to Spanish-speaking grievers open to all who have experienced a loss due to death and use Spanish as their primary language. Group members will gather to share grief experiences and coping strategies, while honoring lost loved ones through small acts of remembrance. The workshop will meet from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, June 17 at the center's offices at 9500 Medical Center Drive, Suite 250, Largo, Maryland. The cost is free.

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

Adult grief support programs meeting this spring

PASADENA, Md. (March 12, 2024)—Chesapeake Life Center will offer a variety of grief support groups for adults that will be meeting this spring. Groups will meet in person at locations in Anne Arundel, Calvert and Prince George's counties as well as virtually.

The following grief support groups will meet in person:

- **Drop-In Grief Support Groups** are open to anyone grieving. Groups offer participants an opportunity to share their feelings and obtain support from others who are experiencing loss. There is no fee. These groups will meet in Anne Arundel and Calvert counties as follows:

- North Beach Senior Center, 9010 Chesapeake Ave., North Beach, Maryland, from 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesdays April 3, May 1, and June 5.

- Southern Pines Senior Center, 20 Appeal Lane, Lusby, Maryland, from 2 to 3 p.m. Tuesdays, April 9, May 14 and June 11.



PHOTO BY ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN, HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE

(Aug. 4, 2023) Campers and counselors take part in a trust activity at Chesapeake Life Center's Camp Nabi held at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center in Millersville, Maryland.

- Chesapeake Life Center, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, Maryland, from 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 10; Tuesday, May 14; and Wednesday, June 12.

- Calvert Pines Senior Center, 450 W. Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick, Maryland, from 1 to 2 p.m. Tuesdays. April 16, May 21 and June 18.

- Loss of Life Partner/Spouse Evening Group is a weekly group for individuals grieving the death of a spouse or life partner. The cost is \$10 per session. It will meet on the center's campus at 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 10; Tuesday, May 14; and Wednesday, June 12.

- SoulCollage Studio marks the return of in-person collage-making. Grievers already familiar with the SoulCollage process as well as those new to it are invited to join in. No artistic experience is required and all supplies will be provided. It will meet from 2 to 5 p.m. Monday April 1 at the Chesapeake Life Center office, 9500 Medical Center Drive, Suite 250, Largo, Maryland, and from 2 to 5 p.m. Monday, June 24, on the center's campus at 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena.

Childcare is not provided and children are not permitted in any of these groups.

The following groups will meet virtually via Zoom for Healthcare:

- **Loss of Life Partner/Spouse Morning Group** is for individuals grieving the death of a spouse or life partner. It will meet from 10:30 a.m. to noon Tuesdays, April 9, May 14 and June 11.

- **SoulCollage Support for Loss Transition** has participants create a series of collages to commemorate lost loved ones and to visually journal the grief process. The group will meet from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday June 3 via Zoom.

Except for drop-in groups, registration is required and can be completed by calling 888-501-7077 or emailing griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org.

Visit www.hospicechesapeake.org/events for a complete listing of in-person and virtual groups and workshops for adults and children.

Register now for Chesapeake Life Center's summer grief camp for kids and teens

PASADENA, Md. (March 12, 2024)—For more than 30 years, the Chesapeake Life Center has invited grieving children in the community to a variety of summer grief programs. Its most beloved is Camp Nabi, a full weekend overnight camp experience, returns Aug. 9 to 11 to Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center in Millersville, Maryland.

Registration is open for any child ages 6 to 18 who has experienced the death of a loved one. With a full team of counselors and trained volunteers, campers will participate in activities focused on memorializing their loved ones, learning coping skills in small groups, and using integrative arts to help kids express their grief. Of course, this also will include fun camp activities, like swimming, field games, ropes course and more.

Since the camp's beginnings in 1991, the area served by the center has expanded to include four counties. To make this experience possible for grieving children living with its entire service area, free transportation will be available from one location in each of the counties: Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, and Prince George's.

The cost is \$100 per camper. Thanks to community donations, there are a limited number of scholarships for families in need.

To register, or for details, call 1-888-501-7077 or email griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org.

Chesapeake Life Center, a program service of Hospice of the Chesapeake, serves hospice family members and the community with bereavement services and activities aimed at enhancing the quality of life for those grieving the loss of a loved one. Visit www.chesapeakelifecenter.org.

CareFirst Community Health Plan of Maryland Partners with Fabric Health to Provide Care Coordination in Laundromats

Innovative Community Partnership Expands Where and When CareFirst Members Receive Care Coordination Services

By PRESS OFFICER
CareFirst

BALTIMORE (March 11, 2024)—Today, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield (CareFirst), one of the largest not-for-profit healthcare organizations in the country, announced a partnership with Fabric Health to embed English and Spanish-speaking care coordinators in community laundromats. Fabric Health will be at laundromats to connect CareFirst Community Health Plan Maryland (CHPMD) members and non-members to high-quality benefits and services according to their needs and preferences.

"The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted people's ability to seek preventive care," said Mike Rapach, President & CEO of CareFirst CHPMD. "By meeting people where they are, in the time they have, Fabric Health is able to support the health and wellbeing of the Medicaid population."

The partnership will start at laundromats in Prince George's County and Montgomery County, prioritizing zip codes with the largest health disparities. "By meeting families at laundromats where they already are, we turn a weekly chore into meaningful time to get, understand and use CareFirst CHPMD benefits," said Allister Chang, Co-Founder of Fabric Health.

"Through this pilot, CareFirst members will gain new access points to learn about benefits and services available to them, in-

cluding help scheduling yearly check-ups with primary care providers and enrolling in maternal health programs," said Sheila Yahyazadeh, Chief External Operations Officer, CareFirst CHPMD.

In addition to providing care coordination services, Fabric Health will be at laundromats to help families submit their redetermination for Medicaid coverage before the next due date. The partnership launches during the "unwinding" of the continuous enrollment condition authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), during which over 234,000 Marylanders have been disenrolled from their coverage, mostly for procedural reasons. More information about the end of continuous coverage and Medicaid renewals can be found at <https://dhs.maryland.gov/medicaid-unwinding/>.

In partnering laundromats, Fabric Health will also conduct social drivers of health (SDOH) screeners and connect families to relevant SDOH-related resources, including help applying for public benefits, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

In its 86th year of service, CareFirst, an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, is a not-for-profit healthcare company which, through its affiliates and subsidiaries, offers a comprehensive portfolio of health insurance products and administrative services to 3.5 million individuals and employers in Maryland, the

District of Columbia and Northern Virginia. Visit www.carefirst.com.

Fabric Health is a benefit corporation providing trusted, last-mile engagement in laundromats while families wait every week. For more information, visit www.fabrichealth.org.

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

How Do Survivor Benefits Work for a Married Couple?

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

Dear Rusty: How does Social Security handle the death of one spouse? Say, for example, the husband receives \$2,000 per month in Social Security and his wife receives \$1,000 per month. How is the death of either spouse handled? **Signed: Concerned spouse**

Dear Concerned: Benefits to a deceased beneficiary stop as soon as Social Security (SS) is notified of the death (notification usually done by the funeral director who handles arrangements). Benefits are not paid for the month of death, only for the preceding month when the beneficiary was alive for the entire month.

A surviving spouse is entitled to the higher of two benefits—their own personally earned SS retirement benefit, or an amount based on the deceased spouse's benefit at death. In the example you cite, and assuming the surviving spouse has reached full retirement age (FRA): if the husband dies first the wife will receive the husband's \$2,000 monthly benefit instead of her previous \$1,000 amount. But if the wife died first, the husband would continue receiving only his \$2,000 monthly amount because that is more than his deceased wife was receiving. Note in either case, the surviving spouse would be entitled to a one-time lump sum "death benefit" of \$255.

The surviving spouse would need to contact Social Security to claim the "death benefit" and—unless the surviving spouse was previously receiving only a spousal benefit—also to claim the higher monthly amount, if eligible. If the surviving spouse was previously receiving only a spousal benefit from the deceased (and not entitled to SS retirement benefits on their own), then Social Security would automatically award their higher survivor amount when notified of the death.

If a surviving spouse has reached full retirement age (somewhere between 66 and 67 depending on year of birth) and is eligible for a survivor benefit, the amount of the survivor benefit will be 100% of the deceased spouse's benefit. But if the survivor claims the benefit before reaching FRA, the amount of the survivor benefit will be reduced (by 4.75% for each full year earlier). The survivor's benefit reaches maximum at the survivor's full retirement age.

If a surviving spouse has not yet reached their FRA, and if they are entitled to (not necessarily collecting) their own Social Security retirement benefit, the surviving spouse has the option to delay claiming the survivor benefit until it reaches maximum at their full retirement age. And if the survivor's personal SS retirement benefit will ever be more than their maximum survivor benefit, the surviving spouse also has the option to claim only the smaller survivor benefit first and allow their personal SS retirement benefit to grow (to maximum at age 70 if desired).

With Social Security there is hardly ever a simple answer to a question but, in the example you use, if both are over their SS full retirement age:

- If the husband dies first, the wife will get 100% of the amount (\$2000) the husband was receiving, instead of the small amount (\$1000) she was previously receiving.
- If the wife dies first, the husband's monthly benefit will remain at \$2000, and he will get no increase in his monthly amount.
- In either case, the surviving spouse will be entitled to a one-time lump sum death benefit of \$255.

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.

Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County Announces Summer Job Fair Series

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (March 8, 2024)—The M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County is pleased to announce its job fair series to hire for a multitude of Summer 2024 positions. Interested applicants are invited to sign up here: <https://mncppc.attract.neogov.com/job-fair-recruitment/p/general-job-fair?fbclid=IwAR0tZWQsW76S-hcWLR1vx-ZOucO8A686eF2e1f05x5soLCPXfpRwyT4iEG0>.

"We are looking for talented and dedicated people to work in a variety of sea-

sonal and part-time positions", states Brenda Miller, Principal Human Relations Operations Specialist at the Department. "We encourage applicants to come prepared to meet our hiring managers and interview for immediate job opportunities in Parks and Recreation."

Current job fairs scheduled for this Spring are:

- **March 30**, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Southern Regional Technology and Recreational Complex

- **April 20**, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex

Browse all of the Department's openings in advance, and find the right fit for you this summer at www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mncppc.

With over 28,000 acres of parkland, trails, athletic fields, playgrounds and more—M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County provides an award-winning park system through progressive, quality, innovative leadership and a commitment to its community and environment. The Department delivers first-class recreational activities and programs for people of all ages and ability levels. It strives to improve the quality of life for residents in Prince George's County and the communities in which they live, work, and raise families. The Department's facilities and programming continue to evolve and expand to keep pace with the needs of its vibrant community. Visit www.pgpc.com.

Four Prince George's County-based Leaders and Businesses Top New Washington Business Journal Lists

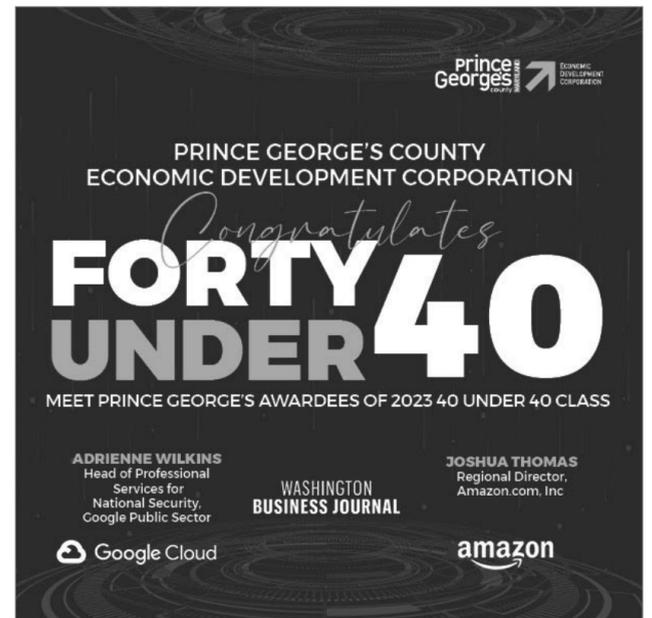
By PRESS OFFICER
PGCEDC

LARGO, Md. (March 12, 2024)—PGCEDC is proud to recognize two Prince George's County-based leaders and two businesses that were honored last month by the Washington Business Journal with top awards in key regional categories. In the publication's most recent "Lists" compilation, two Prince George's County businesses and two young leaders were listed at the top for social media strides in the 40 Under 40 category and Office Moving Companies.

In the Washington Business Journal's 40 Under 40: A New Social Network list (February 23–29 edition), two Prince George's County-based young executives joined the list of local leaders. Joshua

Thomas, Regional Director, Amazon.com, Inc., and Adrienne Wilkins, Head of Professional Services for National Security, Google Public Sector, are among the list of the region's 40 young leaders to win the 40 Under 40 award. Thomas and Wilkins were chosen from hundreds of nominations WBJ received and recognized leaders who built their careers against the backdrop of social media.

In the same edition, two Prince George's County-based businesses made the Office Moving Companies list: Hilldrip Cos. Inc. and Office Movers Express, which ranked the 2023 revenue from metro area non-residential moving companies. The two companies landed in the Top Five at three and five spots, respectively.



Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (PGCEDC)'s mission is to cultivate and promote a strong local economy that supports the growth

and prosperity of entrepreneurs and businesses, dedicated to strengthening communities through business development and job creation. For more information about

the services the Economic Development Corporation provides to local companies, visit www.pgcdec.com.

Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County's College Park Aviation Museum Wins Grant From Maryland Center for History and Culture

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (March 15, 2024)—The Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County, part of M-NCPPC, is proud to announce its College Park Aviation Museum (CPAM) has been awarded a \$20k Maryland Center for History and Culture (MCHC) Miller History Fund grant. The award will aid the museum in continuing intensive cataloging and digitizing of its collections.

The Miller History Fund is made possible by an annually recurring allocation from the State's Preservation of Cultural Arts Fund, proposed by late Senate President Emeritus Thomas V. "Mike" Miller Jr., for which the fund was renamed in 2021. Over five years, the grant program

has invested a total of \$1,000,000 to 53 historical organizations throughout Maryland.

"As we approach the 250th anniversary of our nation's independence in 2026, now is the time to invest in our historical collections and empower organizations to tell all the diverse stories that make Maryland unique. This commemoration is an opportunity to explore our state and country's expansive and complex history in forward-thinking and inclusive ways. The breadth and depth of Maryland's story is so apparent in this round of grantees," said Katie Caljean, MCHC President and CEO.

Upon receipt of the award, The Field of Firsts Foundation, Inc., the 501(c)3 non-profit arm of the museum, will hire a part-time cataloguer to assist the CPAM curator. This stewardship project has al-

ready unveiled a forgotten story of the first female Airmail Office employee who was married to the first Airmail pilot, in 1918. With a collection spanning the entire history of powered flight, there are many similar impactful stories to tell. Duties of the new hire will include cataloging, digitization, database record creation, rehousing objects, updating locations, and completing condition reports.

"By performing this inventory, the collection will be more accessible to staff to craft relevant exhibits catered to our diverse, local community", states CPAM Curator of Collections Luke Perez. "We will also be able to begin putting our collections online for public use and research. We are grateful to MCHC for this significant award."

Headquarters from A1

confidence that the skilled workforce needed for these high-tech environment protecting jobs will be found in our County," said David Iannucci, President & CEO, Prince George's County Economic Development.

Blink Charging's expansion and relocation project in Prince George's County was made possible in part through the assistance provided by PGCEDC and funding assistance, which will be provided by the County's Economic Development Incentive Fund (EDIF). The EDI Fund aided Blink Charging in expanding its current manufacturing facility and relocating its headquarters from Florida to Maryland.

"We are grateful for Blink's confidence in the Prince George's County business climate, in our quality workforce, and in their ability to capitalize on the many advantages that their Bowie site

brings," said Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "Blink's decision to locate its corporate headquarters and expanded production of environmentally-friendly electric vehicle charging stations here sends a strong message about their confidence in the economic growth throughout the county."

The production facility is expected to produce more than 50,000 charging units annually to meet the rising demand for electric vehicles. With the relocation and planned manufacturing expansion, Blink hopes to increase environmentally friendly employment opportunities in the county by creating more than 60 new positions within the first year.

"Blink Charging is proud and excited to be establishing our global headquarters and production facility in Maryland, marking a pivotal moment in our journey toward a greener future," said Blink President and Chief Executive Officer Brendan

Jones. "We are committed to implementing innovative technology and manufacturing processes to enhance efficiency, capability, and output speed while maintaining quality standards and are excited to be doing it here. We thank the state of Maryland for welcoming us."

The Maryland expansion will also support Blink's growth by adding another production line, streamlining operations, and meeting the increasing demand for electric vehicles. This manufacturing facility will continue to adhere to U.S. "Buy American" requirements, helping the Company increase domestic manufacturing and production of its products.

Blink's primary products and services include the Blink EV charging network, which uses proprietary, cloud-based software to operate, maintain, and track the EV charging stations connected to the network and the associated charging data. The final assembly of Series 6, Series 7, and Series 8

of L2 chargers occurs in Bowie, MD.

Blink Charging is a leading owner, operator, and provider of electric vehicle ("EV") charging equipment and networked EV charging services. Our principal line of products and services is our Blink EV charging network (the "Blink Network"), a proprietary cloud-based software that operates, maintains, and tracks all the Blink EV charging stations and the associated charging data; EV charging equipment; and EV related services.

PGCEDC's mission is to cultivate and promote a strong local economy that supports the growth and prosperity of entrepreneurs and businesses, dedicated to strengthening communities through business development and job creation. For more information about the services the Economic Development Corporation provides to local companies, visit www.pgcdec.com.

