

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SINCE 1932

Vol. 92, No. 18 May 2 — May 8, 2024

Prince George's County, Maryland

Newspaper of Record

Phone: 301-627-0900

25 cents

Activist Mom Turns Son's Life Into Hopeful Legacy

By STEPH QUINN
Capital News Service

CAPITOL HEIGHTS, Md. (April 25, 2024)—Ja'Ka McKnight dances as she prepares to lead a procession to the street being named, on this April morning, after her late son, King Douglas. The crowd's shouts rise in a gray morning that is slowly turning to spring sunshine.

"Long live King!" they sing out. "Long live King!"

It has been three years since her son's murder and McKnight, 36, is trying to make those words true—to turn her child's life into a hopeful legacy that will help others suffering the aftermath of

gun violence in their Prince George's County community.

The worst thing that can happen, she says, is for people to put it out of their minds, to try and live with the pain by suppressing it.

"People sweep it under the rug," she says, "and so it affects them later on down the line. By that time, it's too late."

On this morning, she is turning the official street-naming ceremony into a celebration of King's life. Every other day of the week, she is becoming a full-time community advocate, looking for every small way she can to help others confront the suffering.

She invites more than a dozen kids over for movie nights, home-cooked meals and sleepovers. She helps them search for jobs and figure out what they want to do in life. McKnight said she's like the "cool mom slash big sister." She's there for them to confide in, or when they want help doing the right thing.

She's also become a sister to other moms who have lost sons.

"It's just like a support group, where we're supporting each other and just trying to just be there for one another," she said. "It brings comfort to us to know that we're not in it alone and that somebody just really understands us."

This month marks the three-year anniversary of King's death at 13, when he was fatally shot in a Prince George's County parking lot near an arcade where McKnight had dropped him off to hang out with friends.

A 12-year-old boy confessed to shooting King during a fight with King's friend over a girl. A judge ordered supervised probation for the boy, who said he didn't mean to shoot King when his friend handed him a gun in that parking lot. But the sentence and the explanation provided no solace to McKnight.

In the years since King's death, McKnight has had more encounters with the justice system than she'd ever imagined possible. She has talked with police, applied for victims' compensation and sat in court hearings—for the boy who shot King and for children in foster care,



PHOTO CREDIT: STEPH QUINN/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Ja'Ka McKnight looks up at a sign renaming a street for her son, King Douglas, at a celebration of his life in Capitol Heights, Md., on April 20, 2024.

whom she represents as a court appointed special advocate.

She has testified about her experience in committee hearings of the Maryland General Assem-

bly. When lawmakers voted this month to expand the list of

See LEGACY Page A4

New Exhibit Honors USDA Chief Scientist as STEM Trailblazer at the National Agricultural Library

By PRESS OFFICER
U.S. Department of Agriculture

WASHINGTON (April 23, 2024)—The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today celebrated the unveiling of a statue and new exhibit at the National Agricultural Library (NAL) in Beltsville, Maryland, in honor of Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young, USDA's Chief Scientist and Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics (REE).

"NAL's collections tell the stories of USDA's rich history of innovation in food and agriculture," said Paul Wester, NAL Director. "Dr. Jacobs-Young is USDA's leading ambassador for scientific research and 21st century innovation. We are honored to be the new home of this important exhibit documenting her achievements and contributions and know that her journey will inspire future generations of young girls and women."

This new exhibit at the National Agricultural Library will showcase Dr. Jacobs-Young's trailblazing career in STEM and exceptional leadership in public service. A



PHOTO CREDIT
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young, USDA's Chief Scientist and Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics (REE)

three-time graduate of North Carolina State University, Dr. Jacobs-Young is the first African American in the country to receive

a Ph.D. in Wood and Paper Science. She later became the first African American faculty member of the College of Forest Resources at the University of Washington.

She continued to shatter glass ceilings for women in science by being the first African American woman to be named USDA Chief Scientist, the first African American woman to be named REE Under Secretary, and the first woman and first person of color to hold the position of Administrator of USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

"Dr. Jacobs-Young's contributions to agriculture and STEM are remarkable," said Dr. Simon Liu, Administrator of USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS). "Under her leadership, ARS and USDA's science agencies have pushed the boundaries to solve some of the greatest agricultural challenges and make innovative breakthroughs for the nation and the world."

"Statistics show that close to 83 percent

See TRAILBLAZER Page A5

County Launches Free Security Camera Program Named in Honor of Jayz Agnew

Program established under Council Bill championed by Council Member Krystal Oriadha

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County Council Media

Prince George's County has launched the Private Security Camera Incentive Program, established under Council Bill CB-008-2023, also known as the "Jayz Agnew Law." The bill, passed unanimously by Council in March of last year, was sponsored by Council Member Krystal Oriadha (District 7) in honor of 13-year-old Jayz Agnew. Jayz was fatally shot in front of his home while raking leaves, and to date, no arrests have been made, and there is no known surveillance footage of the shooter.

Applications are now open for the program to residents in the communities of Langley Park, Glassmanor, and Walker

Mill. The program will provide eligible residents and businesses a camera, rebate or voucher to have cameras installed and operating at their properties. The maximum amount of a rebate or voucher under the program is \$200 for cameras purchased and \$100 for subscription costs. Cameras must be registered with the Prince George's County Police Department. Residents can visit <https://heyzine.com/flip-book/4f0846d222.html> for applications and eligibility requirements.

Council Member Krystal Ori-

See SECURITY Page A3

Cardin, Van Hollen, Ivey Celebrate Earth Day With \$3.4 Million Federal Investment in Prince George's County Water Infrastructure

Submitted By
Town of Cheverly

WASHINGTON (April 25, 2024)—U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen and Congressman Glenn Ivey (all D-Md.) highlighted \$3,423,000 in direct federal investments to improve the health of the Anacostia River, upgrade stormwater infrastructure and mitigate flooding across three communities in Prince George's County.

"Water is our most valuable commodity and should be clean and safe for everyone. For too many areas in Prince George's County old, aging infrastructure has caused unsafe drinking water and damaging floods that put communities at risk," said Senator Cardin. "Prince George's County municipalities are leading projects to protect our water and communities, and Team Maryland is supporting that effort. This investment will help build on the progress that we've made for cleaner, safer water and demonstrates the continued partnership

with federal and local governments to support our communities."

"Protecting water quality and improving flood resilience are critical to the health and safety of our communities. These direct investments will strengthen local stormwater infrastructure in our Port Towns and historic neighborhoods in Prince George's County to mitigate flooding risks, upgrade local water systems, and safeguard wildlife habitats. We're excited to see our local partners put these federal funds to work for the good of Marylanders," said Senator Van Hollen.

"Climate change is real. It impacts communities from Cottage City to Cheverly to Ocean City Maryland and all across our state and world. These community funding projects address water quality and water safety mitigation. I thank Senators Cardin and Van Hollen for their leadership in helping residents in Prince George's County to have a healthier Anacostia watershed and safer storm drainage controls for homeowners and businesses," said Con-

gressman Glenn Ivey, (Md-04).

The federal lawmakers secured \$225,000 for the Anacostia Water Society's ongoing work to improve water quality in the Anacostia River and boost the health of its fish and vegetation. Over 2 billion gallons of raw sewage and storm water are dumped directly into the river each year and runs through areas of Washington, D.C., Prince George's and Montgomery Counties. The lawmakers also provided \$670,000 for Cottage City, an Anacostia River port town, to support its efforts to address stormwater drainage issues that impact nearly half the town's families.

"Today marks a momentous occasion for the Town of Bladensburg as we celebrate two significant awards for federally funded appropriations in the Port Towns. This achievement underscores the dedication and hard work of our esteemed United States Senators representing the great state of Maryland. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Senator Ben Cardin and Senator Chris Van



COURTESY PHOTO

The lawmakers provided \$670,000 for Cottage City, an Anacostia River port town, to support its efforts to address stormwater drainage issues that impact nearly half the town's families.

Hollen for their tireless efforts in securing federal resources that bolster the vital work and services within our local communities. Their unwavering commitment ensures the Port Towns and our residents continue to thrive and prosper," said Bladensburg Mayor Takisha James.

The Town of Cheverly received \$1,688,000 to upgrade its storm drain systems and develop a flood mitigation

plan to prevent damage to homes and businesses in wake of the unprecedented flooding in September of 2020.

"In the ripple of every drop managed, we sow the seeds of a sustainable tomorrow. We appreciate being united in purpose and have such gratitude for the collaborative efforts that strengthen

See INVESTMENT Page A3

INSIDE

- PGCPs to Host Inaugural Pride Summit, a Milestone Event Celebrating LGBTQIA+ Community
 - \$1.5 Million Invested for Improvements to the Oxon Cove Hiker-Biker Trail
 - Movies on the Potomac Return to National Harbor May 2
- Around the County, Page A2

Marietta House Museum presents:
"Children's Victorian Fairy Tale Program"

The Sky Bridge at Town Center's Fashion Show Transformed Residents Into Models

Community, Page A3

Gov. Moore Confident in Maryland's Play to Keep Commanders

The FedChoice Charitable Foundation Celebrates One Year of Community Impact

Community, Page A4

The FedChoice Charitable Foundation (FCF) and the National Organization of Blacks In Government, Inc. (BIG) Launch a Collaborative Educational Scholarship Program

Business and Finance, Page A5

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline

Council Members Fowler and Anthony up for reelection

Morningsiders will be voting on Monday, May 6, to reelect two Town Council Members. I might add, they both really deserve the vote!

John Anthony has a long history with Morningside. His grandparents lived in Morningside and raised his father there. John, himself, has lived in the Town for more than 50 years. He has been married to Ruth Anthony for 46 years and they have three children, two of whom live in the Town as well as do four granddaughters and a great-granddaughter. Six generations! John has also served as Vice Mayor and former Council Member. He is now retired and able to donate more time to the Town.

Sharon Fowler is also seeking another term on the Town Council and has done so previously. She has more than 30 years' experience and is prepared to work on any issues pertaining to residents and local businesses while maintaining a budget that benefits everyone. Sharon works on issues pertaining to residents and local businesses, while maintaining a budget that benefits everyone.

Polls are open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., May 6, at the Town Hall.

As Mayor Cann says, "We are glad that there are individuals who have a love and appreciation for the Town of Morningside to step in and collectively work together to build a municipality we can all be proud of."

Town of Morningside: Spring Clean-Up

It's Spring and Morningside has its annual Clean-Up on May 18 and 19, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sunday, May 19, there will be a Low-cost Dog & Cat Shot Clinic.

Council Swearing-in, 7 p.m., May 20. Town Hall Meeting, May 21, 7 p.m. Skate Van & Ice-Cream Social, June 22. July 4th Parade, Family Fun, and Fireworks (volunteers needed). More recreation information, 301-736-2301.

The Town Hall meeting room is available for rent. It's a very nice, large room with an attached kitchen. Great for receptions, birthday parties, and they've even had a wedding. Would be a good place to celebrate a graduation. Call 301-736-2300 to reserve.

I was invited to join the Morningside

Seniors for a 75th Anniversary Luncheon April 23 at Topolino Restaurant. Great food, fun conversation. The Town's new Circuit Rider, Clayton Anderson, was also there to meet the town's oldest citizens. All in all, a delightful—and delicious—time. Thank you, Morningside!

Morningside VFD

The Morningside Volunteer Fire Department will be receiving a new engine from the manufacturer this summer.

Also, the Department is looking forward to continuing their great partnership with the Town of Morningside and attending upcoming events including the July 4th Parade, the fireworks, and National Night Out.

Neighbors & other good people

Dr. Heather McHale will assume leadership as the next director of the Institute of Applied Agriculture (IAA) at the University of Maryland. Her appointment began on April 22 after serving as interim director since June 2022. Heather has been teaching at UMD since 2002, joining the IAA from the Department of English where she earned her PhD and MA in English Language & Literature. Heather, I'm proud to say, is married to my grandson Conor McHale.

Graduations are coming up. Email me (muddmm@gmail.com) with graduate's name and school.

Changing landscape

Spiced Black restaurant has recently opened at 10420 Campus Way S in Upper Marlboro. It features soul food, salad, and Caribbean. Open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Among the popular dishes: BBQ Southern Bowl and Bean Sofrito Bowl. Info: (240) 563-1939.

A home at 4503 Maple Road has recently sold for \$300,000.

Places to go & things to do

"Unapologetic," featuring the works of renowned African American artist Marcel Taylor, is running through Saturday, June 8, at Harmony Hall Arts Center, in Fort Washington. The artist depicts liberated African Americans through diverse narratives. Harmony Hall is at 10701 Livingston Rd. For more information: (301) 203-6040.

The Preakness is coming up May 17–18 at Pimlico in Baltimore. After

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

which, the racetrack will be rebuilt "to create a permanent home worthy of the Preakness." I don't know much about horse racing, but I watch the Preakness every year.

More than half of Prince George's County public schools will shift their starting and ending times by up to 15 minutes in the next school year. Bus stops may also change.

Dr. Leroy Owens, pediatrician

Dr. Leroy Anthony Owens, 85, who practiced Pediatrics for 40 years in Washington and Prince George's County, until he retired in 2014, died April 11. He was a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Dr. Owens formerly resided in Fort Washington.

He was predeceased by his wife of 58 years, Jessie M. Owens. Survivors include his sons Dr. Anthony Owens (Annette) and Mark David Owens, granddaughter April Ruth Owens, sister Geneva Owens Powe, brother John Owens. Mass of Christian Burial was at Holy Family Church, Hilcrest Heights on April 25. The family requests a donation be made to DC Safe Babies Safe Moms.

Washington Post Obits

Starting May 1, The Washington Post Paid Death Notices Department utilizes a self-service-only system on Sundays and federal holidays. There will not be any team members available to speak with on these days. As always, team members will be available during regular, non-holiday business hours Monday–Saturday.

The deadline to place a death notice will remain 4 p.m. on Sunday for a Monday insertion. The photo deadline for a Monday insertion is 1 p.m. on Saturday. On federal holidays, the deadline for next-day insertion will be 3 p.m. (photo deadline, 1 p.m.).

Milestones

Happy Birthday to Jim Henderson, May 5; Gretchen Ennis, May 6; Dwight Holloway Jr., May 7; Brandi Jeter and Buddy Ramsey, May 9; Gladys Locks, Shirley Eppard and Elijah Thomas, May 10; and Carolyn Flaherty Fogle, May 11.

Happy 52nd Anniversary to Ben & Debbie Rose on May 6.

Around the County

PGCPS to Host Inaugural Pride Summit, a Milestone Event Celebrating LGBTQIA+ Community

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (April 30, 2024)—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) is set to host its first Pride summit on Saturday, May 4.

More than 250 students, staff and community members are registered to attend the summit featuring a diverse range of sessions for students, staff, allies and families, including workshops on topics such as resources to support LGBTQIA+ youth, strategies for empowerment and advocacy, and fostering inclusivity and allyship within the PGCPS community.

"Every member of our community deserves to feel seen, valued, respected and safe, and this summit represents a milestone in our ongoing work to foster a culture of acceptance and equity across the district," said Superintendent Millard House II.

The inaugural summit is part of ongoing district wide efforts to create an inclusive and equitable educational environment for all—and that it will set the groundwork for a continued celebration throughout June for Pride Month.

Office of Student Engagement and School Support leader Richard Moody, one of the summit organizers, highlighted the integral role of students in the event's planning.

"Students have been instrumental in the planning of this event, and their voices and advocacy have driven us forward," Moody said. "This summit is something they have passionately called for, and it's an honor to see it come to life as a testament to their vision and leadership."

Summit workshops for students will include practical guidance on starting Gender Sexuality Alliances (GSAs) at their schools, understanding their rights, accessing local resources and services, mental health and more.

For staff and families, sessions will focus on providing support to LGBTQIA+ children, highlighting PGCPS-specific resources for LGBTQIA+ students, and learning about programs aimed at promoting inclusivity within educational environments.

The PRIDE in PGCPS virtual summit will take place from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 4. Registration is open through Thursday, May 2.

\$1.5 Million Invested for Improvements to the Oxon Cove Hiker-Biker Trail at Oxon Cove Park & Oxon Hill Farm

Bicyclists should plan alternate routes starting April 22

WASHINGTON (April 19, 2024)—The National Park Service (NPS) will invest more than \$1.5 million for improvements to the Oxon Cove Hiker-Biker Trail at Oxon Cove Park & Oxon Hill Farm in Prince George's County, Md. The project will resurface and rehabilitate the trail and replace a washed-out pedestrian bridge, reconnecting the Forest Heights community with Oxon Cove Park for the first time in years. Work [began] April 22, weather depending, and is expected to be completed by early fall 2024.

Once completed, this project will restore a vital commuter link to create a safer, more durable trail, and a more enjoyable experience for pedestrians and cyclists. The trail and bridge improvement work will:

- Replace a washed-out pedestrian-only bridge with a 70-foot-long bridge for use by pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Repair uneven and cracked asphalt surfaces, creating a smoother trail.
- Replace nine culverts, preventing future runoff and flooding issues.
- Install or replace trash cans and benches.
- Remove encroaching vegetation.
- Plant native tree species.

Beginning April 22, bicyclists and pedestrians can expect a full closure of the Oxon Cove Hiker-Biker Trail, stretching from the start of the trail along the park loop trail to DC Village Lane SW. Commuters will not be able to access the trail for the duration of the project. Plan alternative routes.

This project is funded through President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration Transportation Alternatives Program.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, is a \$1 trillion investment in America's infrastructure. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is the single largest investment in road and bridge repair and reconstruction since the interstate highway system was built. The law allows the NPS to make strategic and significant investments to repair critical infrastructure as well as enhance conservation and recreation opportunities.

Movies on the Potomac Return to National Harbor May 2

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. (April 25, 2024)—National Harbor brings back its popular free Movies on the Potomac series from May 2 through September 29. Every Thursday ("date night") at 7 p.m. and Sunday ("family night") at 6 p.m. guests are invited to gather in front of the Plaza Screen on the waterfront (150 National Plaza, National Harbor) to watch recent blockbuster releases and classic films. Movie goers are encouraged to dine in one of 30+ restaurants before the movie or order take-out from one of the many restaurants.

"We are so excited about our movie lineup this year," said Jackie Saunders, AVP of marketing at National Harbor. "We have some really big blockbusters along with popular classics. Movies on the Potomac has become the perfect destination for families on Sundays and date night or friend gatherings on Thursdays. We recommend attendees bring a blanket and carry out food from one of our many restaurants."

The event is held outdoors on the big, waterfront screen at National Harbor. Movie times and dates may be changed or cancelled due to weather. National Harbor will announce any updates via Facebook or Instagram. For additional information, please visit www.nationalharbor.com/movies-on-the-potomac/.

Brandywine-Aquasco

A TRIBUTE OF HONOR & LOVE

A beautiful tribute to a Phenomenal, virtuous, beautiful, loving and caring woman Anne Pinkney Peterson. Her grandchildren and great grandchildren had their own special place in her heart. She was very compassionate, loving and kind.

Annie loved her family and was quick to give advice and offer advice. A very proud and independent woman who loved the Lord. She touched so many lives in the community. Her beautiful legacy will always be remembered.

Anne Pinkney Peterson was born in Croom, Maryland on November 13, 1924, to the late Wesley and Ruth Pinkney. She was the eldest of four children, who preceded her in death: Charles Pinkney, Francine Pinkney, and Elaine Marshall.

Anne was married to an Army service member, Eddie Frank Peterson, and from this union, she was blessed with six children, Cynthia Ann, Eddie Frank, Joyce Marie, Faye Camille, Charles Michael, and Denise Eunice.

As a military spouse, Anne traveled; living in South Carolina, Virginia, Texas, and Germany. While living in South Carolina, Anne grew close to her in-laws and was welcomed with open arms. Her mother-law taught her the "trick" to making infamous fried chicken. During this time, she established a special bond with her sister-law, Ireesa Peterson Thompson.

Throughout Anne's life she was a public servant. After returning to Maryland, the family moved to Fairmount Heights, Maryland. She became a faithful member of Grace United Methodist Church. In 1966 they moved to Lanham where she and her family joined Ebenezer United Methodist Church. Anne served as a Communion Stewart, a member of the United Methodist Women, the Hospitality Committee, Building Committee and in numerous other capacities until she was no longer able.

For over 40 years, Anne volunteered as an election poll worker and election judge. She took extraordinary pride in this work, understanding its importance. She was also an active member of the Democratic Club and Whitfield Woods Association. Later in life she joined the Laurel Friendship Club and the Red Hatters.

Anne retired from the Prince George's County School System after 25 years. She was the favorite school nurse among many students at Fairmont Heights, Central, and Eleanor Roosevelt High Schools. After retirement she began substituting in Prince George's County schools from time to time and sometimes, she even substituted at her grandchildren's schools. She developed long lasting friendships.

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

Anne enjoyed traveling. She and her late husband would often travel with family and friends. Later in life she enjoyed opportunities to accompany her daughter Faye on work-related trips to places such as Aspen, Colorado, and Providence, Rhode Island.

"Mom you were such a great role model for me. I even married a service man. I wanted to live like you. You showed us what family love was. Harry and I will always cherish your monthly visits. Heaven will be filled with your favorite jelly-beans and chocolates. We will always remember the enjoyment they brought you. Our love always, Joyce and Harry."

"Mom thank you for being the most amazing Mom. Your unconditioned love, the sacrifices you have made from the time we were babies until we became adults. Your prayers and Godly wisdom will forever be embedded in our hearts. We love you endlessly, and we are blessed to have the most amazing memories of you. Rest in Paradise." Love, Eddie & Alisa.

"Mom thank you for all the things you taught us without saying a word. We just watched and learned so much. All those lessons are tucked away in our hearts. We love you and we will miss you. Rest now." Denise & Michael.

"Mom, I am going to miss you so much, however you left me with an abundance of memories, memories, memories." Thank you, Love, Faye.

"Grandma we have so many beautiful memories at Grandma's house because of the person you were. Your love, support, and unforgettable hugs will always have a special place in our hearts. You fed our souls with not only a good meal, but with your words of wisdom, funny stories, and genuine laughter. We will wholeheartedly miss you Grandma, but we know you are resting in the presence of God. We love you." Your Grandchildren.

Grandma, I am going to miss you so much. From the fried chicken to the tight hand squeezes, to the encouraging words and advice, to our checker games in Ocean Pines. I love you and will miss you dearly." Love Anthony.

Anne lived a life that was full of love, excitement and joy. We will all miss her pleasant personality, hearty hugs, and her smile that would light up a room. A hello would often lead to an engaging conversation that would turn into a lasting friendship. She was an impressive woman that loved the Lord, and everyone loved her. Her greatest gift was to encourage everyone to love the Lord.

COMMUNITY

Calendar of Events

Electronic Recycling & Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Date and time: Saturday, May 4, 2024, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 Description: Residents will be able to drive-thru or drop off accepted household hazardous waste (HHW) and electronic items. Rain or Shine. Open to County residents ONLY (ID may be required). Commercial vehicles and commercially generated items NOT permitted. Multiple trips are not allowed for individuals or vehicles. View the list of acceptable electronics and HHW items online at bit.ly/pgcwastefacilities
 Location: Surrattsville High School, 6101 Garden Drive, Clinton, MD 20735
 Contact: environment.mypgc.us; PGC311

Riversdale Dairy Preservation Month Program

Date and time: Saturday, May 4, 2024, from 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
 Description: Join the Riversdale House Museum as we host an educational hands-on dairy program in honor of Historic Preservation Month. Learn about the history of the Riversdale dairy through this interactive program featuring Foodways Historian, Joyce White. Participants will listen to an informative lecture, join in a special tour of the Riversdale Dairy and Dependency building to learn about our Historic Preservation efforts, participate in a hands-on dairy demonstration, and close with a sampling of Maryland cheeses.
 Cost: \$5.00 registration fee, register on PARKS DIRECT
 Ages: Ages 10 and up.
 Location: Riversdale House Museum | 4811 Riverdale Road | Riverdale Park, MD 20737

PGSPCA Low-Cost Shot Clinic

Date and time: Sunday, May 5, 2024, 1–3 p.m.
 Description: The Prince George's County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PGSPCA) is holding walk-in, low-cost vaccination clinics for cats and dogs on the first Sunday of the month, from 1–3 p.m. at 8210 D'Arcy Road in Forestville, Maryland. No appointment is needed. The gates open at 1 p.m., and anyone in line by 3 p.m. will be served. All dogs MUST be leashed or in a carrier. All cats MUST be in a carrier. Cash or credit card only; no checks. Without documentation of a prior rabies vaccine, your pet's rabies vaccine will expire in one year. For more information, visit www.pgspca.org/clinic/shots.
 Location: 8210 D'Arcy Road in Forestville, Maryland.

Gateway Open Studios Tour 2024

Date and time: Saturday, May 11 2024, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.
 Description: Visit the largest Open Studios event in the DMV. The Gateway Arts District - Mount Rainier, Brentwood, North Brentwood and Hyattsville, MD. Four towns, one community. Over 250 participating artists along the Rt. 1 corridor. One great community art day + more events all week. *VIEW TOUR MAP: tinyurl.com/GatewayOST24. Made possible by a community of artists and generous support from the Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council @pgahc
 Stop in at these art center hubs for more information:
 @gatewaymediaartslab, @joesmovement, @brentwoodarts, @otisstreetarts, @portico3807, @pyramidatlantic, @red_dirt_studio, @washingtonglassschool, @artworksnw, @mixtfoodhall
 Cost: Free and open to the public
 Location: Gateway Media Arts Lab, 3724 34th St, Mt Rainier, MD 20712-2148



Silk Soul (pictured above)

Date and time: Saturday, May 11, 2024, 8–10 p.m.
 Description: The talented R&B group Silk Soul will be performing live for one night only. Silk Soul is a local sensation making waves in the DMV music scene for over 25 years. The group consists of four native Washingtonians: Janet Perry, Joseph Tatum, Tyrone Crayton, and Shedrick Reamer. They have a unique style of singing that blends harmonies and melodies to create a captivating sound. Whether you are a fan of classic R&B or modern soul, you will love Silk Soul's repertoire of songs. They cover hits from legends like Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin, and Stevie Wonder, as well as original compositions that showcase their creativity and passion.
 Cost: Senior and Student Rate (Standard Fee): \$25.00
 Primary Fee - Resident (Standard Fee): \$30.00
 Location: Harmony Hall Arts Center, 10701 Livingston Rd, Fort Washington, MD, 20744
 Contact: harmonyhallarts@pgparks.com

Mother's Day Brunch

Date and time: Sunday, May 12, 2024, 10–11:30 a.m.
 Description: Mother's Day is around the corner, so treat Mom to an unforgettable experience at Robin Hill Farm & Vineyards! Imagine this: a picture-perfect day filled with delicious food, stunning views, and award-winning wines. Indulge in our extensive Mother's Day brunch menu, featuring everything from fluffy pancakes & eggs benedict to Carved Beef Brisket. But wait, there's more! Your ticket will include one of our signature mimosas made with our very own award-winning wines. It's the perfect way to clink glasses with Mom and create memories that will last a lifetime.
 Cost: Tickets \$65. Tickets are transferrable but not refundable. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mothers-day-brunch-tickets-885948073537?aff=ebdssbdstsearch>
 Location: Robin Hill Farm and Vineyards, 15800 Croom Road Brandywine, MD 20613

Marietta House Museum Presents: "Children's Victorian Fairy Tale Program"

By STACEY HAWKINS
Marietta House Museum

Please join us on **Saturday, May 4, 11 a.m.–noon** for a delightful "Children's Victorian Fairy Tale Program".
 May is National Share-a-Story Month dedicated to celebrating and creating stories. Join us for an hour of imagination and creation with our fairytale storytelling program! Children will learn what

makes a Victorian fairytale unique and have the chance to participate in a collective storytelling experience guided by Marietta's educator, Karen Holl.
 Complete with fun craft activities to enhance the creation of the children's original fairytales. The children will let their imaginations take flight with storytelling!
 Recommended for ages 5 through 10 (children must be accompanied by an

adult). \$5/person; please register at this direct link: <http://tinyurl.com/d2dnf2w4>
 Please call 301-464-5291 or email mariettahouse@pgparks.com for more information.
 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.



The Sky Bridge at Town Center's Fashion Show Transformed Residents Into Models

The Spring Fashion Fever show featured residents, associates, and their families walking in the latest fashion and accessories from a local boutique

By PRESS OFFICER
The Sky Bridge at Town Center, a Watermark Retirement Community

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (April 26, 2024)—When life-long Washingtonian Dorothy Johnson moved two years ago to The Sky Bridge at Town Center, she never expected to become a fashion model. But that is exactly what happened on April 23 when she and other residents of the Watermark retirement community celebrated spring with a shopping spree and red-carpet fashion show.
 Located just outside Washington D.C., The Sky Bridge at Town Center includes two luxurious senior communities in Largo Town Center. With spring in the air and cherry blossoms blooming, residents, associates, and their families shopped the latest spring styles from Alfred Dunner, Ruby Rd., Southern Lady, and more, as well as jewelry and accessories, from local boutique TaylorMarie's. Some residents

also glammed up at the community's own spa and salon before the show began.
 They then gathered in The Central area of The Parc for the inaugural fashion show. They strolled the red carpet, posed for pho-

tos with a professional photographer, and sipped mocktails and ate hors d'oeuvres. Many of the models were escorted down the runway by fellow residents. The beautiful event was enjoyed by all!



Clockwise from top: Residents turned fashion models; Ms. Thelma with her escort on the red carpet; The escorts; Residents enjoy the show; Ms. Joyce and daughter on the red carpet.
 All Photos courtesy The Sky Bridge at Town Center, a Watermark Retirement Community



Security from A1

adha says the Jayz Agnew Law is another tool to keep communities and families safe.
 "Jayz's mother asked me to do this for her to keep her son's memory alive and bring positive change to our community in his honor," said Council Member Oriadha. "We've been waiting for this program to launch, and I'm so glad to see it's finally available to residents."

"Justice can come in different forms," said Juanita Agnew, Jayz's mother. "So while there are still no arrests, and still no suspects in my son's case, the fact that we have initiatives in his honor is justice in a way. It's amazing, motivating, and inspiring to me that his memory will live."
 Council Member Oriadha also spearheaded a program for District 7 in partnership with Community on the Frontlines to provide free security cameras with an option to assist with installation

and funds towards a one-year subscription fee. For more information, visit <https://heyzine.com/flip-book/4f0846d222.html>. A district-specific free camera program is available for District 6 residents as well. Contact District 6 Council Member Wala Blegay's office at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdG7Dwb1GX-B9U6Uem-JMNb6GFyHHuFP1r5VLQhUn2cs3qaA/viewform>.

Investment from A1

our community," said Cheverly Mayor Kayce Munyeneh. "A heartfelt thank you to Senator Ben Cardin, Senator Chris Van Hollen, Congressman Glenn Ivey and Team Maryland for their unwavering support. We are committed to building a greener, more resilient future for all. The event on April 22, 2024,

Earth Day, fortifies Cheverly's ability to address stormwater management in town, marking a pivotal step towards environmental stewardship and community resilience."
 The City of Bowie received \$840,000 to replace the aging lift pump assembly that their current water supply relies on and ensure a safe and reliable water supply for residents.

"We are very grateful to Senators Cardin and Van Hollen for their many and persistent efforts to bring funding to the City of Bowie to make much needed improvements to our aging water plant. They are a great team and are always investing in the lives of their residents. Their hard work does not go unnoticed," said Bowie Mayor Tim Adams.

COMMUNITY

Gov. Moore Confident in Maryland's Play to Keep Commanders

By SAPNA BANSIL
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (April 24, 2024)—Amid a jurisdictional tug-of-war over the future home of the Washington Commanders, Maryland Gov. Wes Moore on Wednesday struck an assured posture on his state's ability to keep the team in Prince George's County.

"I'm very confident we're going to put together the most attractive offer for them," Moore said in an interview with Capital News Service. "I wish I could predict what they'll do. But I can tell you the thing I do know is no one is going to put together a better package than the state of Maryland."

Moore did not mention any rival locales by name, but he did allude to the political divisions that tanked other recent stadium deals in the region.

"We're unified," Moore said. "There is no daylight between the state leadership, local leadership, federal delegation, et cetera—no daylight. I don't know if there's any other jurisdiction that can make that same claim. And I think that that does and should matter to [the Commanders.]"

The Commanders, for their part, are also in active discussion with two other locations—D.C. and Virginia—about potential stadium opportunities there, a



ANNAPOLIS, Md.—Gov. Wes Moore talks to CNS reporters in his office on April 24, 2024.

team spokesperson told CNS this week. The team is seeking a replacement for its dilapidated home in Landover, regarded as one of the worst venues in the NFL. The Commanders are bound by a covenant to play there through September 2027.

In Maryland, state and local officials have made financial commitments to entice the Commanders to stay. The state has already committed \$400 million to turn underdeveloped land around

four Metrorail stations in Prince George's County into a mixed-use entertainment district.

"The amenities that we're building are certainly community oriented, but I think it also helps the case of creating an active stadium district for the Commanders to stay in," said Angie Rodgers, the county's deputy chief administrative officer for economic development.

In addition to the money from the

state, the project has received an additional \$100 million in public funds and attracted \$2 billion in private investment, according to Rodgers.

"We're making it really hard for the Commanders to say no to us," Rodgers said.

Still, many fans would like to see the franchise return to D.C., where it played before relocating to suburban Maryland in 1997. Fans associate the District and the organization's former home at Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium with the team's Super Bowl-winning glory years of the 1980s and 1990s.

D.C.'s bid comes with complications. Its proposal is currently tied up in the U.S. Congress, where a bill that would give the city authority to redevelop RFK Stadium is awaiting action in the Senate.

Another factor is the \$515 million D.C. committed to renovating the downtown arena that hosts the Washington Capitals and Washington Wizards, following a failed bid by the teams' owners, Monumental Sports & Entertainment, to relocate the franchises to northern Virginia. The deal raises questions as to how much money might be left over for a Commanders stadium, though the team says it will continue pursuing its options.

"The Commanders remain equally engaged with all three jurisdictions on a new stadium," team spokesperson Jean Medina said. "The District has made clear retaining the Capitals and

Wizards does not affect their approach, nor does it affect ours."

As for Virginia, it's not yet clear what the fallout might be from its foiled effort to bring in the Capitals and Wizards. In December, Gov. Glenn Youngkin announced an agreement with Monumental Sports on a new arena for the teams, but the deal died a few months later in the state legislature.

One Maryland lawmaker believes his state's position on the Commanders is now stronger in the wake of that failure.

"I think that the decision in Virginia to not bring the Monumental Sports team over there sends a signal that Virginia has other plans for their economic development," said Del. Jazz Lewis, D-Prince George's, whose district includes the current Commanders stadium.

The offices of Youngkin and D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser did not respond to requests for comment.

In a sweeping interview with CNS in his office conference room, Moore reflected on the recent developments regarding the Capitals and Wizards and said they "didn't impact my confidence or desire" to retain the Commanders.

"I'm a fan of the Commanders being in Prince George's County," he said. "And I think we have a real vision as to what that can be and what that looks like."

Steven Jacobs Jr. contributed reporting to this story.

Legacy from A1

crimes that automatically send kids as young as 10 to the court system, McKnight agreed.

But that change wouldn't have made much difference in the court hearing of her son's killer, since violent crimes were already included on that list. And it wouldn't have made it any easier for McKnight or King's friends to find resources to work through what happened.

"It will help the next child, though," McKnight said.

The street naming turned into a party to celebrate King's life. There was a DJ onstage behind a giant photo of King surrounded by balloons. Facing the stage was a semicircle of tables, offering resources on kids' mental health, job openings with the local fire department and information from a local crime victim's advocacy organization.

McKnight has created her own support program—or other parents and children whose lives have been rocked by gun violence, and for her own healing—that is driven by a conviction that tragedy need not beget more tragedy.

"I'm dealing with the emotional trauma that they go through," McKnight said. "Mental health awareness—it needs to be discussed more, and it's not."

McKnight started her mentoring outreach with King's best

friend, who was present the night of King's killing and lost his father that same year.

Not all the kids touched by King's death got therapy, even though parents wanted to get them help, so McKnight stepped in—"just talking to them, mentoring them, letting them know situations of what I've been around and what I went through as a child."

"To see your friend get shot and killed laying on the ground at the age of 13 is traumatizing for any child," McKnight said. "So if you don't get them the proper help, then they're going to act out in whichever way they know how to act out, to be able to let loose of the anger that they're holding inside."

Some of the kids McKnight mentors have been involved in robberies or carjacking and want to get on a better path.

"They're trying to do right with their lives, but they are in situations where the home life is not well, or they're around the wrong type of friends," McKnight said.

And McKnight has bonded with a group of women who understood what she was going through.

"We feel like the world doesn't know actually how we feel, how we function and how we're making it on a day-to-day basis after losing our child," said Tiffani Evans, 36, of Capitol

Heights, who lost her son in August 2021.

Crystal McNeal, 39, of Washington, D.C., met McKnight at an event where they both shared memories of their children.

"We just keep on trying to motivate each other and keep on pushing," said McNeal, who lost her son to gun violence in July 2020.

Tyeisha Lucas, 36, of Washington, D.C., said that after the death of her son in October 2022, the group of moms has helped her to be strong for her four other kids.

"I'm only at one year and six months in. They're like two or three years in. So they keep me strong," Lucas said.

When Lucas's son was shot dead on a family member's porch, victim's compensation from the D.C. government covered the burial, but Lucas funded other needs, like plates for food, by calling around for donations. She wanted to move from the apartment where she was raising her son, but the assistance she received didn't cover those expenses. And she waited seven months for her first therapy appointment to process her grief.

"I don't wish this on nobody," Lucas said.

The women are creating the support they and others need in the community.

"We don't go looking for the support," Evans said. "We just



A crowd gathers at the street naming ceremony celebrating the life of King Douglas on April 20, 2024.

put the information out there so people know what we're going through. Either they support it or they don't. But at the end of the day, we know we've got the almighty power of God to get us through the tough times."

Now that the Under King We Stand Foundation is registered as a nonprofit, McKnight plans to lease a mentoring center for kids, and where moms can do

healing circles "and just release and find resources." She wants to expand her work to help kids in Washington, D.C., too.

And she wants grieving families and kids—including those who have committed crimes—to have a place in lawmakers' conversations about youth crime.

"In their eyes, from experiencing what I've experienced since King has passed, it (seems

as if it) really doesn't matter about my child or the next child that passes away because they no longer have life and a second chance," McKnight said. "However, they can give a second chance to the person who committed these crimes."

"We need resources," she said. "We need help."

The FedChoice Charitable Foundation Celebrates One Year of Community Impact

By PRESS OFFICER
FedChoice Charitable Foundation

LANHAM, Md. (April 26, 2024)—On April 23, the FedChoice Charitable Foundation (FCF) and the FedChoice Credit Union team visited Cora L. Rice Elementary School (CLRES) to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the Foundation's re-launch. Last year, FCF re-focused its efforts on bringing the power of financial literacy to local underserved communities. Brett Noll, FedChoice FCU President and CEO, and Foundation Board Chair, thanked CLRES Principal Kia Payne and the school team for the fruitful partnership, which has resulted in numerous successful events promoting financial literacy

held at the school throughout this past year. Michael Martin, FedChoice FCU Internal Auditor, reminded the students about the importance of staying safe online.

Thanks to the generous support from VISA, the Foundation provided 78 fourth-grade students with a copy of Black Panther, The Guardians of Galaxy, and Avengers comic books. These aren't just any comic books—they were created by Marvel in conjunction with VISA specifically to include a financial education component.



Andrey Gidaspov, Executive Director of FedChoice Charitable Foundation speaks with a young Super Hero during the celebration.

See IMPACT Page A6

The Prince George's Post

The Prince George's Post
P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151
Phone: 301-627-0900 • Legal Fax: 301-627-6260
Email: pgpost@gmail.com
Contents © 2023, The Prince George's Post

| | |
|---|---|
| Publisher/Senior Editor Legusta Floyd | Editor Lisa Duan |
| General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager Brenda Boice | Administrative Assistant/ Billing Julie Volosin |
| 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

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Minister Wants to Maximize Social Security Benefit

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 want to apply for Social Security, but I want to make sure I get all the benefits I have earned. I am a veteran with a 10% disability rating (not sure if that matters). I am 68 years old. I am a minister and have been exempt from Social Security taxes for most of my income since I was about 30, but I still have the 40 quarters needed. I have also worked off and on in the secular workplace and continued paying Social Security taxes.

One hears a great deal about those who want to “help” us apply for Social Security, but which turn out to be a scam or want a fee. How do I apply and maximize my benefits with my unique situation?
Signed: Seeking Answers

Dear Seeking: Don't worry about fees here at the AMAC Foundation—there is never a fee for the services we provide (we are non-profit). And I want to thank you for your military service—you may find the “For Veterans” section at our AMAC Foundation website interesting—www.amacfoundation.org.

To your question: Your VA disability rating does not affect your Social Security benefit. At 68 years old, your Social Security benefit payment has been earning Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) since you reached your full retirement age (FRA) of 66 years and 4 months in July 2022. That means that your benefit, if you claim now, will be about 13% more than it would have been had you claimed at your FRA. FYI, if you continue to delay, your SS benefit will continue to grow (by 8% per additional year you delay), up to the month you turn 70. At that time, your SS benefit will be 29% higher than it would have been at your FRA. Nevertheless, if you wish to claim a smaller amount now, you can do so in a couple of ways:

- You can call Social Security (at 1.800.772.1213, or your local SS office) to request an appointment to apply. They will most likely set a date/time to call you to take your application over the phone (they discourage office visits these days). Once you have applied, it typically takes a month or two to process your application, but they will pay your benefits effective with the month you say you want them to begin. Note, they will likely also offer you six months of retroactive benefits but be aware that if you accept that offer your monthly payment will be permanently reduced by 4%.
- You can apply for your SS retirement benefit online at www.ssa.gov/apply. Applying online is, by far, the most efficient method, as shown in this short video: www.ssa.gov/hlp/video/iclaim_r01.htm. However, to apply online you will need to first create your personal “my Social Security” online account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Once you have your personal online account set up, you will be able to see what your SS retirement benefit will be now, and at future ages should you plan to wait longer to claim. Your SS retirement benefit will be based on your lifetime record of earnings from which Social Security FICA taxes were withheld (or self-employment earnings on which SS payroll taxes were levied). In any case, your SS benefit will be based on your lifetime earnings record contributing to Social Security, as well as your age when you claim. You'll get your maximum benefit based on those factors.

Although your situation is somewhat uncommon, it is not exceptionally unique. Your VA disability rating does not affect your Social Security benefit and, because you are a member of the clergy, you are not subject to Social Security's Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) — a rule which reduces SS benefits for those with a pension earned while not contributing to Social Security. In other words, your SS benefit will be based entirely on your lifetime record of earnings from which Social Security payroll taxes were withheld, and your age when your benefit starts.

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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

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.

The FedChoice Charitable Foundation (FCF) and the National Organization of Blacks In Government, Inc. (BIG) Launch a Collaborative Educational Scholarship Program

By PRESS OFFICER
FedChoice Charitable Foundation

LANHAM, Md. (April 24, 2024)—The FedChoice Charitable Foundation is thrilled to announce that it is expanding its partnership with the Blacks in Government, Inc. (BIG) by launching the Guy Fleming Scholarship, a Collaborative Educational Scholarship Program.

This scholarship was initiated by Ms. Sarah Fleming, a long-time member of FedChoice Federal Credit Union. The Guy Fleming Educational Scholarship celebrates the legacy of Mr. Guy Fleming and underscores the vital role of financial education for young individuals. Mr. Guy Fleming was a loyal FedChoice FCU member and a dedicated public servant working in the US Department of Treasury and IRS. Ms. Fleming passionately believes in the transformative power of education and aims to create more opportunities for deserving students from underserved communities. The FedChoice Charitable Foundation (FCF) is partnering with Blacks In Government (BIG) to promote this scholarship program nationwide.

- Scholarship Program Highlights include:
- Ten college-bound or trade school-bound high school seniors from Title I Schools will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.
 - Scholarship recipients will be announced at the Blacks In Government National Training Institute in August 2024.

The FedChoice Charitable Foundation has been actively expanding its collaboration with Blacks In Government (BIG) and Future Leaders of America's Government (FLAG) over the past year, supporting numerous school and local community events and participating in the BIG National Training Institute and other joint activities. The new initiative will help young people from low-income communities across our nation to support their future professional career development.

The Honorable Shirley Jones, Esq., National President, Blacks In Government, stated: “Blacks In Government was born for advocacy. I believe our best form of advocacy is providing the career development tools our members and their family members need to be fully successful. Through our training programs and scholarships from

generous corporate sponsors like FedChoice, we are able to deliver much needed resources.”

Brett Noll, FedChoice Charitable Foundation Chair, added: “We are delighted to partner with BIG to provide scholarship opportunities to students in underserved communities. FedChoice is very proud of the efforts we have taken to level the playing field and with the support of incredible federal employee organizations like Blacks In Government, we look forward to making an even greater impact.”

Blacks In Government, Inc. is an advocate of equal opportunity and professional development for Black government employees at the Local, State and Federal government levels and others dedicated to justice for all. Learn more about BIG at: www.bignet.org

Founded in 2017, The FedChoice Charitable Foundation offers financial well-being and positively impacts local communities while being a resource, advocate, and champion for the Federal Community. Learn more about the Guy Fleming Scholarship at: www.fedchoicegives.org/GF-BIGscholarship

MEDA Announces 2024 Economic Development Marketing Award Winner: PGCEDC Latin Business Show “Creando Exitos

PGCEDC Original Programming's Spanish-language informational show for the Latino business community wins on eve of sixth production season

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCEDC

LARGO, Md. (April 24, 2024)—Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (PGCEDC) celebrates winning the 2024 Economic Development Marketing Award for Creando Exitos at the 2024 Maryland Economic Development Association (MEDA) Annual Conference on Monday, April 22, 2024 in Cambridge, Maryland.

The Spanish-language Creando Exitos, or “Creating Success,” is an informational program for the Latino Business Community designed to promote the services offered by PGCEDC and highlight other business resources available in Prince George's County to support and grow their companies. Just last year, around April 13, Creando Exitos entered its fifth production season.

“We are excited to be recognized by MEDA for our marketing efforts regarding our PGCEDC Original Programming: Creando Exitos,” said Lori Valentine, PGCEDC VP of Policy and Public Relations. “We are on the eve of production for our sixth season of the Program, and this is truly a full-circle moment for PGCEDC and our Latin Business division.”

“We are excited to be recognized by MEDA for the original programming we have to support our emerging Latino business community of Prince George's County,” said David Iannucci, President & CEO of Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation. “The program provides a platform for Latino businesses to learn more about the County's Economic Development Incentive Fund, FSC First, Department of Permitting, Inspection and Enforcement (DPIE), banking services, and other programs to help them create success and showcase why Expansion Starts Here.”

Late last month, PGCEDC and M&T Bank launched their second annual 0-100 Business Accelerator Program. The Program gives Spanish-speaking entrepreneurs the guidance and skills to build strong companies, spur economic growth in Prince George's County, and help build generational wealth. In past episodes, Creando Exitos has featured partners for the Program.



PHOTO CREDIT: JUSTIN GIBBS / PGCEDC

Up front from left to right: David Iannucci, PGCEDC President & CEO, Lori Valentine, PGCEDC VP of Policy & Public Relations, Rocio Treminio-Lopez, PGCEDC Latin Business Manager, Ebony Stocks, PGCEDC EVP

“This honor from MEDA is an example of when outreach to the Latino business community is done right,” said host Rocio Treminio-Lopez, Latino Business Manager of PGCEDC. “Creando Exitos showcases interviews with successful Latino entrepreneurs who have found opportunity and created a business right here in Prince George's County!”

According to U.S. Census data, nearly 20 percent of Prince George's population is Hispanic, and the county has the second-largest number of Hispanic-owned businesses in Maryland.

PGCEDC has posted past episodes of the Program on the PGCEDC YouTube channel. The Program covers topics for the Spanish-language community, including Financing/Access to Capital, Properties/Permits, Business registration, the Purple Line Project, Tax Incentives, Work Services, and more.

PGCEDC's Original programming lineup includes TakeOut Tuesday, hosted by Nicole Hall, Business Spotlight by Larry Hentz, and the upcoming podcast Expansion

Starts Here. Each Program amplifies the business community of Prince George's County by industry sector and is hosted by the PGCEDC Business Development Director overseeing that industry.

The Maryland Economic Development Association (MEDA) enhances the knowledge and skills of its members, encourages partnerships and networking among people committed to bringing jobs and capital to Maryland, and promotes economic development as an investment in Maryland. MEDA is a nonprofit organization of economic development professionals.

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.pgcedc.com.

Trailblazer from A1

of girls and women think it is important to see women in STEM roles, but only 37 percent of STEM character portrayals are female,” said Dr. Jacobs-Young. “The #IfThenSheCan exhibit initiates a culture shift in STEM. I personally know how inspiring it is when you are young to see a scientist, an engineer or an inventor that looks like you. It opens doors and shows you what's possible in the STEM fields for you.”

In 2022, Dr. Jacobs-Young was selected as an If/Then® Ambassador and featured in the #IfThenSheCan – The Exhibit. The monumental #IfThenSheCan exhibit is comprised of more than 120 stat-

ues that celebrate contemporary women in STEM, and stands to improve diversity, gender equality and representation of women by increasing public visibility. This exhibit featured the most statues of women ever assembled in one location, at one time. As part of the exhibit, Dr. Jacobs-Young's 3D-printed statue has been displayed at the Smithsonian in Washington, DC, and at locations in Massachusetts and Texas. Her life-sized statue now has a permanent home and exhibit at USDA's National Agricultural Library.

Dr. Jacobs-Young is a native of Georgia. She is a graduate of American University's Key Executive Leadership in Public Policy Implementation Program, and a proud fellow of both the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the National Acad-

emy of Public Administration.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.

