

# The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SINCE 1932

Vol. 92, No. 22 May 30 — June 5, 2024

Prince George's County, Maryland

Newspaper of Record

Phone: 301-627-0900

25 cents

## Prince George's County Council Adopts \$5.46 Billion FY 2025 Budget

By PRESS OFFICER  
Prince George's County Council Media

The Prince George's County Council, convening Thursday, May 23, 2024, adopted a balanced \$5.46 billion Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 which begins July 1, 2024.

The budget shortfall this year is \$171 million due to factors including higher interest rates that have hurt home sales and reduced tax income; the ending of federal pandemic funds; rising inflation; the increasing impacts of climate change; and increasing state requirements for education funding.

"The budget, this year and over the next few years, is going to be the biggest challenge facing our County," said Council Chair Jolene Ivey (District 5). "We've been committed, in

collaboration with County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and her team, to finding responsible solutions that will address the shortfall while minimizing impacts on our citizens. The spending plan adopted today reflects our County's priorities and does not compromise on public safety and education."

Council enhancements to the budget include an additional \$200,000 to assist the Prince George's Police Department in filling vacancies. The County Executive's budget already provided funds for 100 new recruits each for police and fire, and Council has negotiated with the Executive Branch to create an additional 50 firefighter positions.

Council provided an additional \$3 million to help fund County nonprofits

through grants; \$100,000 for Animal Services in the Department of the Environment; and \$250,000 to fund a sickle cell machine and operational needs at UM Capital Region Medical Center.

An additional \$400,000 will go to Child Resource Connect, specifically for the "Family Connects" program for new parents that provides home visits from a registered nurse to all new families in the County to help them identify and access resources.

The adopted General Fund budget totals \$4.57 billion with \$2.8 billion (62%) directly supporting the Board of Education for Prince George's County Public Schools, \$910 million (20%) supporting public safety, and the remaining 18% supporting the rest of County Government operations.

## Bowie High School NJROTC Cadets Have a Positive Influence on the Community

By PRESS OFFICER  
Bowie High School

### Bowie NJROTC Cadets Participate in Prince George's County Special Olympics Spring Games

The Bowie Bulldogs NJROTC cadets, driven by their commitment to service and inclusivity, actively participated in the Prince George's County Special Olympics Spring Games on Friday, May 10, 2024.

Selected as "Buddies" for their interest and willingness to work with individuals with disabilities, the cadets played a crucial role in supporting and assisting the Bowie High athletes throughout the competition. Their actions contributed to the games' success and fostered a sense of camaraderie and encouragement among all participants. By guiding and cheering on the athletes, the cadets showcased their leadership skills and exemplified compassion and respect for individuals of diverse abilities. This experience undoubtedly provided invaluable lessons in empathy and teamwork, reinforcing the core values of the NJROTC program and inspiring us all with their selflessness.



PHOTO COURTESY BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL NJROTC

Cadets Samantha Adofo, Dalen Jordan, and Sofia Rivera with their Buddies.

Furthermore, the Bowie Bulldogs NJROTC cadets' participation in the Special Olympics Spring Games exemplified their dedication to community engagement and meaningful service. Through their involvement, the cadets embodied the spirit of inclusivity and demonstrated the importance of supporting and uplifting others. This event offered the cadets a unique opportunity to interact with athletes and volunteers from diverse backgrounds, fostering mutual understanding and appreciation. By volunteering their time and energy, the cadets not only positively impacted the lives of the athletes but also gained valuable insights into the power of empathy and solidarity. The Special Olympics experience likely left a lasting impression on the cadets, inspiring them to continue serving their community with compassion and integrity.

### Bowie High School NJROTC Attends the Sunset Parade

The Bowie Bulldogs NJROTC cadets were honored to attend the Sunset Parade at the historic Marine Barracks located at 8th and I in Washington, D.C., on Friday, May 10, 2024. This prestigious event offered the cadets a firsthand experience of the Marine Corps' renowned precision and tradition set against the backdrop of a site steeped in military history. As they gathered at this iconic location, the cadets were immersed in an atmosphere that epitomized discipline, professionalism, and the values emblematic of the Marine Corps.

Observing the Sunset Parade was a deeply meaningful and educational experience for the Bowie Bulldogs NJROTC cadets. They observed the meticulously executed drill performances and ceremonial displays with awe, gaining valuable insights into the Marine Corps' unwavering commitment to excellence and honor. The cadets felt a profound sense of pride and admiration as they witnessed the dedication and skill of the Marines on display, which served as inspiring examples of service and leadership. This field trip not only broadened their understanding of military traditions but also instilled in them a heightened sense of duty, respect, and appreciation for the sacrifices made by those who serve in uniform.

## Dr. Williams Promoted to Associate Athletic Director for External Operations and Strategic Engagement

By PRESS OFFICER  
Bowie State University Athletics

BOWIE, Md. (May 21, 2024)—Bowie State University Vice President of Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation Clyde Doughty, Jr. announced the promotion of Dr. Jolisa Williams to the post of Associate Athletic Director for External Operations and Strategic Engagement on Tuesday, May 21.

Dr. Williams will serve as the number two within the department and will manage all strategic Athletic Department

projects and initiatives; and assist in coordinating Athletic Department functions and events including donor events, game-day marketing and promotions, university team functions, and CIAA Conference and NCAA activities and tournaments. Additionally, Dr. Williams will assist, coordinate, and lead special projects including sport-specific marketing and brand enhancement plans, targeted external events, and donor engagement and cultivation activities while overseeing athletic communications for all 13 varsity sport teams.

"First and foremost, I'd like to thank VP Doughty, Jr. for entrusting me with this amazing opportunity to spearhead the external area here at BSU," said Williams. "I am truly thankful to be apart of the Bulldog family and want to see this department grow to new heights as it pertains to visibility, marketing, and philanthropy. I am ready to get things going and continue our mission to achieve more and dream big in

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PHOTO COURTESY OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY, PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
Panelists at the Untold Stories of Justice-Involved Women & Girls Conference held May 17 at Zion Church in Greenbelt.

## 'Untold Stories' Conference Brings Emotional Perspectives of Currently and Previously Incarcerated Women to the Forefront

"This is a movement," said State's Attorney Braveboy

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the State's Attorney,  
Prince George's County

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (May 17, 2024)—The much anticipated Untold Stories of Justice-Involved Women & Girls Conference drew hundreds of people from around the area to hear the emotional stories of currently and previously incarcerated women, their challenges and current resources that are available to them.

The event was held at Zion Church in Greenbelt [on May 17]. During State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy's remarks, she stated that this is just the beginning of a larger conversation about women and the criminal justice system. "We are coming together to

push this movement forward," she said. "So, my charge here is that we continue to talk to each other about these issues event after we leave here."

State's Attorney Braveboy promised to create a legislative agenda at the local, state and federal level to address issues of women in the criminal justice system.

The conference started with a pre-recorded video of women who are currently incarcerated at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women. They told emotional stories of how addiction, domestic violence, mental health and other challenges were at the root of their struggles and played a ma-

See CONFERENCE Page A4

## Maryland Legal Aid's Tenant 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 (May 23, 2024)—Maryland Legal Aid (MLA) is partnering with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System to host Tenants' Rights & Housing Clinics from May 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.

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

Maryland Legal Aid (MLA) is a statewide private, nonprofit law firm that provides

### Tenants' Rights & Housing Clinics

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.

free, civil legal services to low-income and vulnerable people to address their most fundamental legal problems. From its 12 offices around the state and through its many community-based clinics, we help our clients preserve and access safe and affordable housing, maintain custody of their children, and be safe from domestic violence. MLA increases our clients' economic security by defending against consumer debt, including foreclosures and tax sales, removing barriers to employment, and accessing critical income supports such as unemployment, food stamps and other vital public benefits. Through special projects, we represent seniors, nursing home residents, children in alleged abuse and neglect cases, migrant farmworkers, and those in mental health institutions. In its advocacy, MLA seeks systemic change through impact litigation, policy advocacy, and storytelling.

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To Be Equal: Armed With New Technology and Tactics, Russian Trolls Are Back to Disrupt U.S. Elections

Key to Russia's disruptive plan is the promotion of racial strife and the suppression of Black votes.

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District Heights, Maryland Upgrades to the Cloud With OpenGov ERP to Modernize the City's Financial Technology

"... District Heights is raising the bar for public accounting and budgeting for the state of Maryland," said Zac Bookman, co-founder and CEO of OpenGov."

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# TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

## In & Around Morningside-Skyline

### Phil Eppard, Navy Hydrographic retiree, and a R.O.M.E.O

Philip Fenton Eppard, longtime resident of Auth Village, died May 4 at his home in Ocean Pines. He was born at home in Washington, to Dr. George and Louise Hiller Eppard. He weighed only 2 ½ pounds at birth.

He grew up in a big family, with nine siblings, in NE Washington, attended Benning Elementary, Elliot Jr. High, and Anacostia HS. He joined the Air National Guard; the day after he graduated, the Korean War started. He served two years of active duty and four years of reserves.

After returning to civilian life in 1952, Phil landed a job in the photo lab with the U.S. Navy Hydrographic Office in Suitland, retiring as a Branch Chief in 1987, with 35 years of government service.

On November 30, 1957, Phil married Shirley Mae Ammann. They moved to Auth Village where they raised six daughters, Lynn, Pamela, Robin, Michele, Nancy Leah and Diana. There are now 16 grandchildren, four great-sons, and one great-great-granddaughter.

Phil joined the Lions Club International in 1977 and was an active member of the Silver Hill Lions for more than 50 years, holding just about every office, some more than once. He was active in the Auth Village Civic Association and Christmas in April.

He was a regular blood donor for more than 50 years.

Phil and Shirley were on several duck-pin bowling teams. He had season tickets for the Washington Redskins, loved baseball and trips to the Senators (Nationals), with kids in tow. He also loved hockey and more sports and was an avid golfer.

The Eppards were active members of St. Philip the Apostle, Camp Springs, where he had been a lector and headed a Youth group. In recent years, they were active at St. John Neumann, in Berlin,

where his funeral was held.

Phi is survived by his wife Shirley, sisters Virginia and Jan, a large and loving family, his golf and R.O.M.E.O (Retired Old Men Eating Out) buddies.

### "Pillars of Our Community," Prince George's centenarians

The 27th Annual Centenarian Celebration was held Friday, May 17 at the Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center, with Vanecia Davis, Master of Ceremonies.

Wanda Ramos, Deputy Director of M-NCPPC (Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission) gave the official Welcome. Remarks, by Peter A Shapiro, Chair of the M-NCPPC Planning Board.

Lunch was followed by a roster of Centenarians, The Pillars of Our Community:

106 years: Velma Long and Irene Blade,

105 years: Clementine Ruffin,

103 years: Theresa Graves and Willie J. Covington,

102 years: Norma Proctor-Dorsey, Mamie Ellis, and Vivian Taylor,

101 years: Mildred Taylor, Evelyn Poole, Rachel Mertz, Lawrence Freeman, Ruth Jones, and Margaret Miller,

100 years: Margaret McNeal, Bernadette Marlow, Ralph Nardone, Cassandra Egloff, Catherine Hall, Cleotilde Charczenko, and Lena Henderson,

99 years: Martha Price and Marjorie Anderson.

I wonder if any of those centenarians mentioned above might be from Morningside or Suitland, Camp Springs or District Heights. Let me know (muddmm@gmail.com).

### Town of Morningside

Congratulations to all our centenarians! Even though they make my 95 seem insignificant.

Morningside will kick off Summer

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

with an Ice-Cream Social and Roller Skating on Saturday, June 22, 5:30-8:30 p.m. with an Ice Cream Social & Roller Skating. Enjoy a Hot Dog Dinner and Ice Cream Bar. There'll also be a Giveaway and Raffle Tickets for Sale. Admission free.

The annual Morningside Fourth of July Parade is coming up on Thursday, July 4. Following the parade, there'll be a Family Fun Day, and at dusk, fireworks. Volunteers are needed; call 301-736-2301 to volunteer.

GI Liquors has installed about ten cement posts in front of the store. I'm sure this is to prevent another car from plowing through their front windows. The ads on the posts are clever.

I've talked to several locals who've gotten tickets for speeding on Suitland Road, caught red-handed by the two recently-installed speed cameras. Slow down!

### Neighbors & other good people

Larry and Jody Nyers of Conway, South Carolina (formerly of Morningside) became first-time grandparents on May 9, 2024, with the birth of Eleanor Rose Gonzales to their daughter Kerri and her husband Junior. "Lennie," as the baby is called, is tiny but mighty and getting stronger every day. Jody says, "We are blessed to the heavens for our little miracle."

Ms. Kathy Russell has been named the 2024 Prince George's County Teacher of the Year! She has been with PGCPSS for 26 years and is a Language Arts teacher at Rose Valley Elementary School in Fort Washington.

### Graduates

Email me (muddmm@gmail.com) with information about your graduate.

See **MORNINGSIDE** Page A6

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

### NATIONAL MILITARY MONTH

"National Military Appreciation Month, also known as Military Appreciation Month, is a month-long observance in the United States, dedicated to people who are currently serving in the United States military. The observance runs from May 1 to May 31". Wikipedia.

### WATER LANTERN FESTIVAL

The Water Lantern Festival is filled with fun, happiness, hope, and great memories that you will cherish for a lifetime. This is a family-friendly event that can be shared by everyone. Friends, families, neighbors, and lots of people that you have not met can come together to create a peaceful, memorable experience. Families will be dazzled as they witness the beauty of thousands of lanterns floating on the water in National Harbor. The event includes one floating lantern kit, a marker, a drawing bag, and a scavenger-hunt giveaway entry. Free tickets for kids 0-7 without lantern kit.

Gates open at 5:30 p.m., enjoy food trucks/music 5:30-9:30 p.m., design your lantern 8:30-9:30 p.m., event ends 9:30 p.m.

The Water Lantern Festival August 3-4, 2024, at National Harbor South Point, 701 National Harbor Blvd., Oxon Hill, Maryland, 20745. Adult Pricing: Price until 7/26/24 Regular \$35.99, Price until 8/2/24 Late \$45.99, Price Day of Event 8/3/24 is \$55.99.

### FREE YOUTH EXHIBITION PUBLIC RECEPTION

Saturday, June 29, 2024, from 2-4 p.m. teleport into a whimsical and colorful 3D fantasy where cute and curious imaginary creatures roam and climb the walls. The imaginary creatures that you will meet are called Imji and they are kind, caring, and friendly creatures that have a power they use for good. Imji: Creatures of imagination is artist Kelsey Joyce's introduction of the Imji she creates and the stories each Imji has. Come take a break, relax, and join the fantasy in the Main Gallery of Harmony Hall Arts Center.

Kelsey Joyce is a Maryland-based artist who takes inspiration from daydreams to create her own imaginary creatures called Imji. Joyce specializes in creating sculptures using an array of mixed-media techniques and materials. In Joyce's work, she creates sculptures using papier mâché, wallpaper paste, paint, welding, and clay. Joyce enjoys creating stories, installations, and public artworks that are based on fantastical subjects and environments. Joyce's work is inspired by her active imagination, alebrijes from Mexico, optimism, color, and animal hybrids. Her goal with art is to transport the viewer into her fantasy, lighten their mood, and ignite their imaginations.

When she is not creating works of art, she is an arts educator and expresses herself through dance, fashion, and music. The event is free and for all ages. Harmony Hall Arts Center, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland. (301) 203-6070, harmonyhallarts@pgparks.com

### UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

Congratulations to all University of Maryland Eastern Shore Graduates from this area who walked across the stage to receive their degrees at the 137th Spring Commencement Friday, May 17, 2024.

Doctor of Education in Education Leadership Degree Nzinga

Cardwell, Bowie, MD, Arun Mathew Puracken, Bowie, MD, Nicholas Amari Waugh, Waldorf, MD, Doctor of Education Degree. Master of Science in Applied Computer Science Degree, Aviance Goldenbrown, White Plains, MD, Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling. Brittney Henry, Bowie, MD, Nicole Nwandu, Laurel, MD, Mercedes Stone Johnson, Waldorf, MD, Anna Stacia Electra Joseph, Temple Hills, MD, Doctor of Pharmacy.

Bachelor of Science in Biology Degree Justin Stephan Ajayi, Bowie, MD, Eliza Jessica Kaldjeb Among, Accokeek, MD, Raynice L. Caudle, Beltsville, MD, Ugochukwu C. Egwuatu, Glenn Dale, MD, Rhuné Kerlyn Liverpool, Laurel, MD, Naomi Oyindamola Rufai, Upper Marlboro, MD.

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science Degree Nina Marie Clovis, District Heights, MD. Bachelor of Science in General Agriculture Degree Jemia Renae Butler, Waldorf, MD, Rachel Edith Mensah, Accokeek, MD, Kamarie A. Mills, Hyattsville, MD, Diamond L. Nimmons, Upper Marlboro, MD, Camryn L. Rhames, Upper Marlboro, MD, Makalah Wolfe, Upper Marlboro, MD, Mariam M. Yagboyaju, Fort Washington, MD.

Bachelor of Science in Human Ecology Degree Tania R. Frederick-Allen, La Plata, MD, Jazmin C. Locke, Lanham, MD, Sadani Iman Percy-Byrd, Largo, MD, Jonesha Latrice Stribling, Capitol Heights, MD.

Bachelor of Science in Accounting Degree Chancelle Gokon Diago, Waldorf, MD, Alexis Michelle Lancaster, Laurel, MD, Bryce Tarver, Brandywine, MD.

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Degree Alex Rodrigues Hines, Bryans Road, MD. Bachelor of Science in Computer Science Degree, Daniel Ayomide Adewetan, Mitchellville, MD, Devante Ashton Flemmings, Indian Head, MD, Tyreek Deshaun Robinson, Indian Head, MD.

Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology Degree Solomon Grant, Upper Marlboro, MD. Degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management Darryll J. Moss, Upper Marlboro, MD, Marley Owino Omole, Fort Washington, MD. Bachelor of Science in Marketing Marieme Ndir, Bowie, MD. Bachelor of Arts in English Degree Evan McKenzie, Clinton, MD. Bachelor of Arts in Sociology Degree Zainab Enny Lawal, Upper Marlboro, Md.

Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, Jeffery A. Asamoah, Laurel, MD, Raenna Nikelle Lovas, Bel Air, MD, Adina D. Robinson, La Plata, MD, Amariah D. Upshaw, Upper Marlboro, MD, Jazmin Andrea-Danean Wilson, Laurel, MD, Jordan Michaela Wilson, Glenn Dale, MD. Bachelor of Science in Mathematics Dawn Regine Carter, Upper Marlboro, MD.

Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science Michael A. Adebayo, Upper Marlboro, MD, Jalin Maurice Hill, Swan Point, MD, Morgan Ruston, Upper Marlboro, MD, Brianna Nichole Smith, Hagerstown, MD.

Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Psychology, TeAndra Evans, Upper Marlboro, MD. Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Services Taylor Alexis Cooper, Upper Marlboro, MD. Bachelor of Science in Sports Management, Najaah Kumari Lawrence, Fort Washington, MD.

## Calendar of Events

### Caribbean American Heritage Month Festival

Date and time: Saturday, June 1, 2024, 12-7 p.m.

Description: Come join us and the Prince George's County Caribbean Council as we kickoff Caribbean American Heritage Month. Bring the whole family out for this decade-long, fan-favorite event. Headlined by Image Band and Flambé, this year's festival will feature food/craft vendors and newly added attractions like the Sankofa Mobile Museum, GetFit mobile, Skate mobile, table/lawn games, hula hoops, scooters, soccer activity, park police horse/motorcycle, and more! Bring your bike out early and join a guided ride of the Anacostia River Trail.

Location: Bladensburg Waterfront Park, 4601 Annapolis Rd., Bladensburg, MD 20710

Contact: (301) 779-0371; Maryland Relay 7-1-1

### Town of Edmonston Centennial Celebration

Date and time: Saturday, June 1, 2024, 3-9 p.m.

Description: The Town of Edmonston is commemorating its 100th anniversary, and we invite you to join us in celebrating this significant milestone at our Centennial Celebration on June 1, 2024! The festivities will commence with a vibrant parade, featuring a procession through the town showcasing our elected officials, mayor, and council members, accompanied by live DJ performances and entertainment acts. Following the parade, our festival will kick off, culminating in a spectacular fireworks display. With an array of activities planned, there's something for everyone to enjoy. From delectable offerings at food trucks to live entertainment, games, pony rides, a foam party, and special recognition ceremonies for our graduates and local businesses, it promises to be a day filled with joy and community spirit.

Location: Parade: Line up for the parade starts at 2 p.m. at Lafayette and Ingraham Street. Festival: Edmonston Recreation Center Field

Contact: RSVP: <https://edmonstonmd.gov/event/edmonstons-centennial-celebration-100-years-of-being-a-bridging-community/>

### Trolley Trail Day 2024

Date and time: Saturday, June 8, 2024, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Description: Join the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Hyattsville CDC, College Park City-University Partnership, and communities along the Rhode Island Avenue Trolley Trail for a full-day celebration! There will be a full range of things to do for all ages from College Park to Riverdale Park to Hyattsville, including: live local music, kid activities, arts, history, exercise and wellness, specials on food and beverages, and much more! Trolley Trail Day is an event with 8 hubs of activity, Fun Runs, Bicycle Rides, Local Music, Art, Food, Drink and more to celebrate the 3.8mi Trolley Trail and its connection to three Baltimore Avenue communities and the DC regional trail network.

Location: Rhode Island Avenue Trolley Trail, 41st and Charles Armentrout Drive, Hyattsville, MD 20781

Contact: [trolleytrailday.org](http://trolleytrailday.org), (845) 649-2477

### Juneteenth 2024

Date and time: Saturday, June 15, 2024, 12-5 p.m.

Description: Join us at Watkins Regional Park for a day filled with creativity and inspiration. Explore a variety of artworks from talented local artists, ranging from paintings to jewelry, photographs, and everything in between. Immerse yourself in the vibrant art market while enjoying live music. Grab tasty food and treats, some beer and wine, while connecting with your community! Whether you're an art enthusiast or just looking for a fun day out, this festival has something for everyone.

Location: Watkins Regional Park, 301 Watkins Park Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Contact: [https://www.pgiparks.com/event\\_list/juneteenth2024](https://www.pgiparks.com/event_list/juneteenth2024)

### Scotland Juneteenth Heritage Festival

Date and time: June 15-19, 2024

Description: The Scotland Juneteenth Heritage Festival will kick off once again with an Opening Night Celebration on Saturday, June 15, at the Bethesda Theater headlined by the legendary Chuck Brown Band, as well as Daryl Davis with Jenny Langer, and teen sensation Kelvin Dukes. On Sunday, June 16 at 10 a.m. the Festival will bring together faith leaders from the region for its Interfaith Breakfast at the Bethesda Marriott on Pooks Hill Road.

Cost: Tickets for some events: [www.juneteenthscotland.org](http://www.juneteenthscotland.org).

Most other events are free, although donations are encouraged.

Location: Various locations in Bethesda and Potomac, MD

### Juneteenth Celebration at Six Flags America

Date and time: Wednesday, June 19, 2024

Description: Join Six Flags America as we celebrate Juneteenth with live performances, limited time food offerings and a fireworks spectacular! Location: 13710 Central Avenue, Bowie, MD 20721

### Juneteenth Parade

Date and time: Saturday, June 22, 2024, 12 p.m.

Description: Join the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture as we proudly march in the 2024 Annapolis Juneteenth parade. As the commissioners and museum staff march alongside community members, we invite our friends to join as we display vibrant banners and signs showcasing the state's rich African American history and culture.

Location: Main Street, West Street & Amos Garrett Blvd, Annapolis, MD 21401

Contact: <https://www.theannapolisjuneteenth.org/>

### SAVE the DATE: Rhythm & Hues: BDM Summer Block Party

Date and time: Saturday, June 29, 2024, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Description: Get ready to groove and celebrate at the Block Party hosted by the Banneker-Douglass Museum and Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture with headliner Black Alley! Join us for Civil Rights exhibitions, vendors, yoga and mindfulness activities, outdoor sip and paints, and live performances by talented local artists. You'll find yourself swaying to the rhythm, feeling the energy of the crowd, and being moved by the powerful messages conveyed through art. More information coming soon!

Location: Banneker-Douglass Museum, 84 Franklin St, Annapolis, MD 21401



# COMMUNITY

## Around the County

### Jordan Gray Named to Spring Dean's List at Pitt-Bradford

BRADFORD, Pa. (May 17, 2024)—The University of Pittsburgh at Bradford has named more than 300 students to its spring 2024 Dean's list.

Dean's list status is awarded to students who have earned a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Among those named to the Dean's list was **Jordan Gray**, a senior business management student from Suitland, Md.

### D&E College Releases President's and Dean's Academic List for Spring 2024

ELKINS, W.Va. (May 15, 2024)—Davis & Elkins College has released the president's list and dean's list for the spring 2024 semester. The president's list includes all full-time students who earned a 4.0 grade point average for the semester and the dean's list includes all full-time students with a semester GPA of 3.6 to less than 4.0.

Those earning honors are:  
Accokeek, MD: **Kaylee Milburn**, Dean's List

## Local Scholarship Fund Preparing for Annual Summer Golf Tournament Fundraiser

By PRESS OFFICER  
**Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.,  
Gamma Pi Chapter**

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. (May 20, 2024)—Area golfers looking for a good, local, friendly one-day tournament to compete in can fill that need and help send deserving students to college simultaneously by signing up to play in the upcoming Phillip Ferguson Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament on **Friday, June 14**, at the Enterprise Golf Course in Bowie, Md. Sponsored by the Charles Drew Memorial Scholarship Fund, the tournament has raised tens of thousands of dollars annually for scholarships for high school students from Prince George's County.

More than \$30,000 was raised for college scholarships during last summer's

tournament, which sold out of all available slots. This year the scholarship fund is looking to raise even more, said Brett Blake, chairman of the fund: "Our tournament is always popular, and it is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy this great game and lend a financial helping hand to a promising student at the same time. It serves a community purpose."

Online registration is open on the Charles Drew website (<https://www.charlesdrewmsf.org>) and on a special tournament web site that has been set up at [www.charlesdrewgolf.org](http://www.charlesdrewgolf.org). The tournament is set up in a four-person best-ball format and will feature individual as well as team prizes for participating golfers.

The Charles Drew Memorial Scholarship Fund is a 501(c)3 charitable organization created by the Gamma Pi

Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., which is headquartered in Prince George's County.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. is a 110-year-old fraternity founded at Howard University in 1911. The local chapter in Prince George's County is called Gamma Pi and was founded in 1973.

The chapter has a broadcast community affairs television show, Community UPLIFT, which airs weekly on PGCTV (Prince George's County TV) on Fridays at 8 p.m. and Saturdays at 4 p.m.

WHAT: Phillip Ferguson Memorial Golf Tournament (scholarship fundraiser)

DATE: Friday, June 14, 2024

TIME: 8–8:45 a.m. registration/9 a.m. shotgun start

PLACE: Enterprise Golf Course, 2802 Enterprise Rd, Mitchellville, MD 20721

## Third Baptist Church Invites Community to Celebrate Its 166th Anniversary and New Beginnings in Forest Heights

By PRESS OFFICER  
**Third Baptist Church**

FOREST HEIGHTS, Md. (May 23, 2024)—Celebrating 166 years of faith and community service, the Third Baptist Church is proud to announce its relocation to Forest Heights, Maryland, with a series of events to welcome the community to its new home at 5701 Livingston Road.

Anniversary and Relocation Celebration Events:

- **Community Day: Saturday, June 15, 2024, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.** Enjoy free food, music, and activities for all ages in a day full of joy and community spirit.

- **Grand Opening and 166th Anniversary Services: Sunday, June 23, 2024, at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.** The church will host two special services to celebrate the anniversary and to officially inaugurate its new facility as a home for worship and community gathering.

### A Journey of Resilience and Renewal:

The Third Baptist Church was founded in Washington DC in 1858 and moved to the corner

of 5th and Que in 1893. The building, designed by the first African American architect in Washington DC, Calvin T.S. Brent, was later named a historic site by the DC Preservation League. In recent decades, the church has faced significant challenges. The congregation witnessed dramatic demographic shifts in its neighborhood, exacerbated by gentrification, which transformed the community's fabric from the late 1990s onward. This change, while bringing new development, also strained the church's ability to serve its traditional community.

The situation became more acute with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Efforts to maintain connection with the congregation through online streaming services were commendable, yet the physical separation took a toll.

Facing these adversities, the church leadership, under Pastor Paige Harris, embarked on a thoughtful journey to find a new location that would offer both continuity and a fresh start. The decision to relocate was not made lightly but emerged as a necessary step to preserve the church's legacy and adapt to new realities.

In Forest Heights, the Third

Baptist Church sees not just a new address but an opportunity to rejuvenate its mission. The church is committed to becoming a beacon of hope and support in its new community, extending its legacy of faith, resilience, and service.

As it lays down roots in Forest Heights, the church reflects on its past history with a sense of achievement over the obstacles it has overcome. This move symbolizes a rebirth, promising a future where the Third Baptist Church continues to serve as a sanctuary of hope and a hub of community support.

The Third Baptist Church warmly invites everyone to join in celebrating this new chapter. Through fellowship and shared purpose, it looks forward to building meaningful connections and continuing its journey of faith together.

For more information, visit [www.thirdbaptistchurchdc.org](http://www.thirdbaptistchurchdc.org) or call (202) 332-8610.

*Founded in 1858, the Third Baptist Church worshiped for over a century at its historic D.C. home before relocating to Forest Heights in 2024. The church aims to continue its enduring values of faith, fellowship, and community engagement in its new Forest Heights community.*

## Students & Stars: Local Students Perform With International Soloists and the Rockville Brass Band, June 16

By PRESS OFFICER  
**Rockville Brass Band**

(May 16, 2024)—Student musicians from Maryland, Virginia, and Washington DC high schools and colleges will perform with international soloists in a concert led by the Rockville Brass Band. The concert takes place at the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College, in Rockville at 2 p.m. on **Sunday, June 16**. The concert is free to the public.

At the concert, the Rockville Brass Band will announce scholarship awards to as many as four of the students, who submitted solo recordings for review. First place performers from a high school and a college will each win \$1,000; second place soloists win \$500.

The Rockville Brass Band—Maryland's oldest British-style Brass Band, now in its 49th year—leads the concert performance on June 16, funds the scholarship, and hosts a music clinic held on June 15. The public can observe the clinic by registering at <https://www.rockvillebrassband.org/> outreach.

The students are outstanding brass instrumentalists from local high schools and colleges. Registrants from local high schools hail from **DuVal High School**, James Hubert Blake High School, James Madison High School, Montgomery Blair High School, **Parkdale High School**, Thomas S. Wootton High School, and Winston Churchill High School. Registrants from local universities attend the University of Maryland, Howard University, James Madison University, and Shenandoah University.

Two world-renowned soloists, Vince DiMartino and Hiram Diaz will perform at the concert, and lead music workshops for the students the preceding day.

"This annual concert brings the broadest array of brass musicians to the stage," said Rachel Zephir, Music Director of the Rockville Brass Band. "We have the next generation of brass players from local high schools and colleges. We have



IMAGE COURTESY ROCKVILLE BRASS BAND

two astounding soloists: DiMartino and Diaz. And we have the Band's complement of current and retired brass instrumentalists and music educators."

The concert on June 16 will present ensemble works such as the Ecstatic Fanfare, Connotations, and Vienna Philharmonic Fanfare. It will also feature solos and duets, as well as the band's principal euphonium player and Assistant Director, Jermaine B. Fryer.

The Rockville Brass Band is supported by the Maryland State Arts Council, the Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County, member dues, and donations from the public.

For further information concerning this event, the student and solo performers, and the Rockville Brass Band, contact Jared Freeman, [pr@rockvillebrassband.org](mailto:pr@rockvillebrassband.org).

## M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County Confirms Germaine Haywood as New Chief of Park Police

By PRESS OFFICER  
**M-NCPPC**

RIVERDALE, Md. (May 24, 2024)—The M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County is pleased to announce the confirmation of Germaine Haywood as its new Chief of Park Police. With an illustrious career spanning 19 years with the Department and a proven track record of leadership, Chief Haywood brings a wealth of experience and expertise to this vital role.

Department Director Bill Tyler expressed confidence in Haywood's ability to lead the Park Police into a new era of effectiveness and accountability. "I am delighted to confirm Germaine Haywood as our new Chief of Park Police," stated



PHOTO COURTESY M-NCPPC

### Chief of Park Police Germaine Haywood

Tyler. "His passion for serving the community, coupled with extensive experience, make him the ideal candidate to lead our park police force."

Having served in various capacities within the Park Police,

Haywood has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to public safety and community engagement. Since his arrival in 2005, he was assigned to various specialty units to include Investigations, Tactical Services, Rapid Deployment Team, Potomac River Waterfront, and Motors. In 2013, Chief Haywood was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. In that role, he was assigned to Patrol Services, Southern Area, Potomac River Waterfront Unit, the Rapid Deployment Team, and the Motors Unit.

In 2016, Chief Haywood was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. In that role, he managed all aspects of the Police Department including Patrol Services,

See **PARK POLICE** Page A4

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# COMMENTARY

## Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



### To Be Equal:

## Armed With New Technology and Tactics, Russian Trolls Are Back to Disrupt U.S. Elections

*“Russia remains the most active foreign threat to our elections. The Russian government’s goals in such influence operations tend to include eroding trust in U.S. democratic institutions, exacerbating sociopolitical divisions in the United States, and degrading western support to Ukraine. Russia relies on a vast multimedia influence apparatus, which consists of its intelligence services, cyber actors, state media, proxies, and social media*

*trolls. Moscow most likely views such operations as a means to tear down the United States as its perceived primary adversary, enabling Russia to promote itself as a great power.”*

—U.S. Director of National Intelligence

In the spring of 2019, the National Urban League’s State of Black America report was the first to highlight the extent of Russian efforts to

deceive, manipulate and exploit Black voters in the 2016 presidential election. Five months later, a Senate Intelligence Committee report confirmed our findings: Russian trolls targeted Black Americans more than any other group to dissuade them from voting.

Now, as the 2024 presidential election approaches, the Russians are at it again, armed with new technology and new techniques. Videos, spewing disinformation, with voices and images manipulated by artificial intelligence, are the medium of choice for Russian operatives. Falsely represented as the work of independent journalists or whistle-blowers, the videos are considered more likely than simple blog or social media posts to enter the mainstream discourse.

Though the tactics are new, the goal remains the same: the election of Donald Trump and the implementation of Trump’s pro-Russia policies. Trump has said he would encourage Russia to do “whatever the hell they want” to our NATO allies who don’t meet defense spending guidelines. He would end U.S. support for Ukraine in its fight against Russia’s invasion.

Key to Russia’s disruptive plan is the promotion of racial strife and the suppression of Black votes. “By far, race and related issues were the pre-

ferred target of the information warfare campaign designed to divide the country in 2016.” the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee concluded. Of Russian operatives’ top 10 Instagram accounts, five were focused on African-American issues and audiences. Their Twitter content was “heavily focused on hot-button issues with racial undertones such as the NFL kneeling protests.” And 96 percent of their YouTube content was targeted at racial issues and police brutality. “Some of the videos featured expressly voter suppressive content intended to dissuade African-American voters from participating in the 2016 presidential election,” the committee found.

Russia continued to target Black Americans through the 2020 presidential election.

Our best defense against disinformation, national security experts say, is identifying and publicizing the propaganda push.

“The great antidote to all of this is being able to shine a light on it,” former NSA director Gen. Paul M. Nakasone told the Senate Intelligence Committee. “If they are trying to influence or interfere in our elections, we should make it as hard as possible for them.”

—May 23, 2024

## Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita, Children’s Defense Fund



### ChildWatch:

## Happy Birthday to Brown

May 17 mark[ed] the 70th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision. Like so many Black families, mine spent the spring of 1954 waiting anxiously for news of the Supreme Court’s ruling in the case. My father and I talked about it and what it would mean for my future and the future of millions of other Black children who were attending segregated but unequal Black schools. Every morning, he would say, “Maybe it’s going to be today!” He died the week before Brown was decided, without seeing the headlines blaring in large type in newspapers across the country the following day:

SCHOOL SEGREGATION IS UPSET BY SUPREME COURT 9-0 RULING.

SEGREGATION DECLARED UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

TEXT OF OPINION: SEGREGATION IS ‘INHERENTLY UNEQUAL.’

The transforming decision holding that the doctrine of “separate but equal” in public education was unconstitutional set into motion a cascade of other challenges to Jim Crow laws that changed America. The NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF) were the towering architects of the Brown case, with a brilliant team led by LDF Founder Thurgood Marshall that included Jack Greenberg, Constance Baker Motley, Robert Carter, Oliver Hill, Spottswood Robinson III, Louis Redding, Charles and John Scott, Harold Boulware, James Nabrit Jr., and George E. C. Hayes. LDF says today: “The legal victory in Brown did not transform the country overnight, and much work remains. But striking down segregation in the nation’s public

schools provided a major catalyst for the civil rights movement, making possible advances in desegregating housing, public accommodations, and institutions of higher education. The decision gave hope to millions of Americans by permanently discrediting the legal rationale underpinning the racial caste system that had been endorsed or accepted by governments at all levels since the end of the nineteenth century. And its impact has been felt by every American.”

As they honor this year’s anniversary with a series of special events, LDF also says: “Brown v. Board was a defining moment for our country and its future. Now, at 70 years past, we celebrate Brown’s incalculable legacy and continue the transformative work to make education accessible and equitable for all . . . Reigniting and realizing Brown’s promise requires continued action. As we face threats to truthful, inclusive education, attacks on diversity, and the dismantling of race-conscious admissions programs, we must act diligently to carry forth Brown’s true intent to advance equal educational opportunities. Brown gave way to opportunity and promise. Brown was just the beginning.”

Seventy years after the ruling, even school segregation itself has never left the headlines. Earlier this month Stanford University’s Educational Opportunity Project launched the Segregation Explorer, an interactive website providing data on segregation trends across the United States. Its release coincided with a new report from researchers at Stanford and the Uni-

versity of Southern California showing the steady rise in racial and economic segregation among schools in large school districts over the past 30 years. The report analyzed data from U.S. public schools going back to 1967, and found segregation between White and Black students has increased by 64 percent since 1988 in the 100 largest districts, and segregation by economic status has increased by about 50 percent since 1991—much of that in the last 15 years. The researchers also reemphasize that school segregation “is strongly associated with achievement gaps between racial and ethnic groups, especially the rate at which achievement gaps widen during school.” As the faculty director of the Educational Opportunity Project, Dr. Sean Reardon, summed up the research: “School segregation levels are high, troubling, and rising in large districts. These findings should sound an alarm for educators and policymakers.”

LDF also notes that more than 200 school desegregation cases remain open on federal court dockets. On many fronts, Brown was indeed just the beginning. But once again, this is a time to stay vigilant and double down on urgently needed next steps even as it is also a time to celebrate the start of transforming change. As Thurgood Marshall, who would go on to become the first Black U.S. Supreme Court Justice, said: “Where you see wrong or inequality or injustice, speak out, because this is your country. This is your democracy. Make it. Protect it. Pass it on.”

—May 21, 2024

### Promoted from A1

providing the best possible experience for our student-athletes.”

Dr. Williams joined the BSU Athletic Department in August 2021 as the department’s Assistant Athletic Director for Media Relations. During her time in Bowie, Dr. Williams has been instrumental in revamping the brand of the Bulldog athletics, spearheading the social media presence, Bowie State Athletics has several platforms to promote all 13 varsity sport teams offered with adequate promotions and support. To date, Instagram has over 3,000 followers (did not exist before she came), Twitter (X) has almost 9,000 followers (before she took over it was 5,497 followers). Facebook had 508 likes and 531 followers when she arrived and now has over 1.1k followers and 851 likes.

Additionally, Williams has been the catalyst for the Bulldog Sports Network alongside the support of BSU TV, Bowie State has one of the top broadcasts in the CIAA. Williams also has played a vital role in the athletic philanthropy side.

“It has been a profound pleasure, both professionally and personally, to work alongside of Dr. Jolisa Williams,” said Doughty, Jr. “In her very short time at Bowie State University, she has greatly assisted with moving the athletic department forward with major initiatives that have benefited our overall level of success. Dr. Jolisa Williams is passionate about athletics and deeply cares for enhancing the student-athlete experience. BSU is blessed to be Racing to Excellence with Dr. Jolisa Williams.”

Prior to Bowie State, Williams spent the previous six years at Shaw Univer-

sity in Raleigh, N.C. serving the last three years as the Assistant Athletic Director for Media Relations. During her time at Shaw, Dr. Williams helped propel the Bears to new heights, wiled the department streaming platform also known as “The Shaw Bears Sports Network” in which the department streamed football, men’s and women’s basketball, women’s volleyball, men’s and women’s soccer and softball all in one season for the first time in the department’s history. Over the years, Dr. Williams has had a great deal of experience covering championship-caliber programs at Shaw. Williams handled the publicity for the 2016 women’s volleyball team, which captured their first CIAA championship in 21 years and advanced to the NCAA tournament for the first time in school history. Additionally, she also managed the 2018 CIAA cham-

pionship run for the Lady Bears women’s volleyball team and second appearance in the NCAA tournament. As for the women’s tennis team, Dr. Williams also had the pleasure of covering the Lady Bears three-peat (2017, 2018, 2019) CIAA Championship success and several NCAA tournament appearances.

Dr. Williams was named the CIAA John Holley Sports Information Director of the Year this year (2023–24), marking her third time receiving the award, 2018–19 and again following the 2016–17 year—which at the time was just her second year at Shaw.

A 2012 Magna Cum Laude graduate of Saint Augustine’s University, Dr. Williams earned her Bachelor of Science in Sport Management. As a four-year letterwinner for the Lady Falcons women’s basketball team, Williams

served as the starting point guard and contributed to the CIAA Western Division title in 2009–10 as well as three CIAA Team Highest GPA Awards for women’s basketball during her tenure. Dr. Williams earned a master’s degree in Sport Management from Virginia State University in 2014 and a doctorate in Athletic Administration from Northcentral University in 2022.

Dr. Williams holds memberships with Women Leaders, College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) and Black College Sports Information Directors Association (BCSIDA) and most recently became a graduate of the prestigious Dr. Charles Whitcomb NCAA Leadership Institute in 2023.

For the most up-to-date information on Bowie State Athletics and its 13 varsity sport teams, visit [bsubulldogs.com](http://bsubulldogs.com).

### Conference from A1

major role in causing them to be incarcerated. In addition, as they spend time behind bars there are challenges specific to being a woman that they face, including being separated from their children and having to go through menopause. Their desire is for more services to address these issues.

A number of other panels followed. Seven women including Delegate Tiffany Alston, who represents District 24 in Prince George’s County, spoke about her involve-

ment with the justice system and her road to redemption. She shared encouragement and words of inspiration with the crowd. “There is light at the end of the tunnel,” she said “You are not defined by your worse experience. Everything you have been through, you have been through so you can help someone else.” On another panel Dr. Topeka Sam, a well-known and highly regarded criminal justice reform advocate was profound in addressing the issue of transitional housing, which is often an obstacle for formerly incarcerated women.

She has opened a home in Mt. Rainier to help Prince George’s County women who are returning citizens.

The event also featured a room full of resource tables, including Employ Prince George’s, the Denny House and Bowie State University. This event was a partnership with the State’s Attorney’s Office and the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Damascus House, Reid Temple, Mettle Works, Solid Foundation, Men in the Gap and a number of community advocates.

tion, transparency, and innovation in law enforcement. “It is an honor to serve as Chief of Park Police for the Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George’s County,” said Haywood. “I am dedicated to working closely with our officers, county officials, and community members to ensure the safety and well-being of all residents.”

The Department looks forward to Haywood’s leadership and is confident in his ability to uphold the highest standards of professionalism and integrity in law enforcement. His dedication to fostering positive relationships between law enforcement and the community aligns seamlessly with the Park Police motto ‘Because We Care’.

### Park Police from A3

Canine Unit, Investigative Services, Staff Services, Technology Services, Property, Records Management, and Communications. In 2020, Chief Haywood was promoted to Assistant Chief/Captain as the Director of Field operations. During the onset of the global Covid-19 Pandemic, he flourished while managing Field Operations, Mounted Unit, Canine Unit, and the Potomac River Waterfront Unit.

Chief Haywood has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and is a proud member of Phi Beta Sigma Fra-

ternity, Inc. He is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). He has numerous professional training certifications from various law enforcement leadership programs, including IACP’s Leadership in Police Organizations and the Greater Chesapeake Law Enforcement Executive certificates.

Chief Haywood is a proud husband and father of two. When not in uniform, he spends his time coaching multiple sports and being active in various boys’ and girls’ clubs where he mentors youth to make positive impacts in their lives and community.

In accepting the appointment, Haywood emphasized his commitment to collabora-

## The Prince George’s Post

The Prince George’s Post  
P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151  
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Email: [pgpost@gmail.com](mailto:pgpost@gmail.com)  
Contents © 2023, The Prince George’s Post

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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:

### Shocked Because Medicare Increase Results in Loss of Social Security Benefits

By RUSSELL GLOOR,

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

**Dear Rusty:** My wife and I have taken a Social Security “Cut”—no 3.2% raise for us, due to something called “IRMAA,” based on our income. We actually took, together, a \$400 a month cut. As far as I can tell from what they told me, we are means tested and were too successful, so our Medicare premiums were much higher, which resulted in our reduced Social Security for 2024. Have you sorted this out? And, if so, can I appeal this disgusting situation? **Signed: Baffled Senior**

**Dear Baffled:** We’re very familiar with the “Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount”—not so affectionately called “IRMAA.” IRMAA catches many Social Security beneficiaries by surprise, not only higher earners such as you, but also those who make large withdrawals from a tax-deferred account, who sell property, or who have any other kind of sudden large bump in their taxable income. Essentially, if your income is over certain thresholds for your IRS filing status, you pay a higher “IRMAA” premium for your Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient services) and your Part D (prescription drug coverage). And since your Medicare premium is automatically deducted from your Social Security payment, your net monthly Social Security payment goes down.

Any COLA added to your Social Security benefit is often consumed by an IRMAA increase to your Medicare premiums. And, to further complicate matters, your Medicare premium for the current year is determined by your income from two years prior, which means your 2024 Medicare premiums were determined by your 2022 income.

The IRMAA thresholds are different depending on your income tax filing status, but assuming you file your taxes as “married/jointly,” your combined 2022 income had to be more than \$206,000 to cause IRMAA to apply in 2024. With income between \$206,000 and \$258,000, each of your Part B premiums would be \$244.60 (instead of the standard \$174.70), and your Part D premium (if you have Part D) would incur another \$12.90 on top of your regular Part D premium amount. IRMAA premiums further increase on a sliding scale, and those with income of \$750,000 or more would pay a maximum Medicare Part B premium of \$584/month and would incur another \$81 per month added to their normal Part D premium. Thus, as you have noted, Medicare premiums are, indeed, “means-tested.”

Can you appeal “this disgusting situation?” Well, you can always appeal any Social Security determination, but appealing IRMAA will only be successful if you can prove that the income they used to determine your 2024 Medicare premium was incorrect, or if you can convince them to use a more recent year with a lower income to calculate your Medicare premium. If you believe you can be successful, you should call Social Security (1.800.772.1213) to formally appeal the IRMAA premium, or you can submit form SSA-44 to appeal based on a “life-changing event.”

I know that understanding how IRMAA works won’t soften your dismay, but I can only explain the rules and how they work. Your 3.2% COLA increase for 2024 was used to offset some of the IRMAA Medicare premium increase caused by your higher income, and it is IRMAA which caused your net Social Security payment to go down. FYI, your Medicare premiums are recalculated each year, so if your income goes down to below the IRMAA threshold for your tax filing status, then your Medicare premium will revert to the standard amount for each year.

I hope this clarifies why your Social Security payments went down and why you didn’t see your COLA increase, but the AMAC Foundation is always available to answer any questions you may have about Social Security.

*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 ssadvisior@amacfoundation.org.*

The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] [www.amac.us](http://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](http://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](http://www.amac.us/join-amac).

## Maryland Small Business Development Center

**Reignite Your Marketing for the Second Half of 2024!**

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2024 is already halfway finished! Can you believe it? Are you hitting your marketing goals and generating the right amount of leads? If not, this is the session for you. We will focus on strategy and the quick wins you can take advantage of to finish the year strong. Antonio Guerrero, Systematic Business Marketing

## District Heights, Maryland Upgrades to the Cloud With OpenGov ERP to Modernize the City’s Financial Technology

*Partnership signals a broader effort to revolutionize the organization, meet resident expectations, and drive employee efficiency*

By PRESS OFFICER  
**OpenGov**

SAN FRANCISCO (May 29, 2024)—Shortly after the City of District Heights, Md. adopted its fiscal year 2025 budget, the City also announced that it is making an investment to modernize and upgrade its accounting software. The City is switching from small business accounting program QuickBooks to OpenGov Financials, the leading cloud enterprise resource planning (ERP) for local government. This makes District Heights the first city in Maryland to move to a modern cloud ERP purpose-built for government.

The City of District Heights is replacing paper records and antiquated processes with modern financial practices and cloud software. Facing more requests for financial transparency from residents as well as a greater need for team collaboration within the Finance Department, District Heights needed a single budgeting and financial solution with web-based public reporting functionality that would also give departments the autonomy to make funding decisions and set priorities on their own.

“District Heights is going through a major transformation to modernize our entire organization from systems that just don’t match the size, needs, and sophistication of our community,” said David Street, City Manager of District Heights, Md. “I’m most excited for OpenGov’s public reporting portal—how easy it will be for our residents to understand the City’s budget will significantly improve our communications. In addition, our de-

partment leaders having the ability to make project priorities and decisions based on budget within a single platform will help us operate more efficiently.”

By upgrading to OpenGov ERP, the District Heights Finance team now will be able to:

- Operate efficiently and collaboratively within a single web-based platform, which eliminates challenges with version control and siloed departments.
- Adapt to change by giving budget autonomy to department leaders, who can make in-the-moment decisions and prioritize capital projects through the platform’s intuitive user interface.
- Strengthen public trust by publishing the budget book on the web in a consumable format for residents to understand how their tax dollars are spent.

The challenges facing Maryland echo what’s happening in local governments across the country, such as Pennsylvania, Texas, and West Virginia. Municipalities using outdated systems can’t meet community expectations, face greater cybersecurity risks, experience a wider talent gap, and lower morale among public servants. Leaders like the City of District Heights have partnered with OpenGov to update systems with transparency natively built into every step of the process—and award-winning customer service, including six 2024 Stevie Awards for Customer Service.

District Heights is not the only city prioritizing digital transformation and cross-department collaboration projects this year. According to the State of Local Govern-

ment Survey 2024, adopting process changes to and new technology to improve collaboration are among the top priorities for public servants.

“Our mission at OpenGov is to power more effective and accountable government. We aim to solve common pain points that plague mission-critical workflows with modern, easy-to-use, cloud software,” said Zac Bookman, co-founder and CEO of OpenGov. “As a native Marylander myself, I’m especially pleased to introduce the state to the OpenGov ERP. District Heights is raising the bar for public accounting and budgeting for the state of Maryland.”

District Heights joins more than 1,900 state, county, and local governments using OpenGov to operate efficiently, adapt to change, and strengthen public trust. Learn more about OpenGov Financials. (<https://opengov.com/products/financials/>)

*OpenGov is the leader in modern cloud software for cities, counties, state agencies, and special districts. With a mission to power a more effective and accountable government, OpenGov serves more than 1,900 public sector leaders and their organizations. OpenGov is built exclusively for the unique budgeting and planning, accounting, permitting and licensing, procurement, asset management, and tax and revenue needs of the public sector. The OpenGov Cloud empowers organizations to operate more efficiently, adapt to change, and strengthen trust with the communities they serve. Learn more or request a demo at [opengov.com](http://opengov.com).*

## Hospice of the Chesapeake Celebrates 45 Years at Event, Raising \$500K

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN  
**Hospice of the Chesapeake**

PASADENA, Md. (May 23, 2024)—Around 300 guests mixed and mingled at the Fluegel Alumni Center to celebrate Hospice of the Chesapeake’s history of caring for life at its 45th Anniversary Celebration on May 11. The event raised \$500,000 to support the organization’s hospice, supportive and grief care programs and services provided to patients and families in Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles and Prince George’s counties.

Guests gathered inside and outdoors of the venue on College Creek in Annapolis while enjoying cocktails and food by Main & Market, silent auctions and volunteers sharing the many different programs the organization provides the community. A highlight of the evening came when Jeanne Morris and Bridget Stockdale shared the story of their husband and father, respectively, obstetrician E. Joseph “Dr. Joe” Morris, MD. The audience was visibly moved as they talked about how grateful their family was for the compassionate and tender supportive and hospice care they experienced from the care teams. Read more at <https://bit.ly/3V311e1>.

Hospice of the Chesapeake is the largest independent not-for-profit hospice provider in the state of Maryland. It is grateful for the generous support of the event’s many sponsors, including Diamond Sponsors: The Jim and Linda Humphrey Foundation; The Michael Stanley Foundation; and The Wilburn Company; Gold Sponsors: John and Cathy Belcher; Silver Sponsors: #makingadifference Fund; Maria Colucciello, DDS; John and Terri Hussman; Lehmann Family in memory of John C. Lehmann; Maryland Oncology Hematology; Nancy Smit and Julien Hecht; and University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center; and Bronze Sponsors: Davies Family Foundation; The Geaton and JoAnn DeCesaris Cancer Foundation; Tammy & Michael Hofmann; Idea Solutions; Janis Kramer; Bill and Rose Lovelace; M&T Bank; Peggy McKelly; Shore United Bank; University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center; What’s Up? Media; and Zachary’s Jewelers.

*For 45 years, Hospice of the Chesapeake has been caring for life throughout the journey with illness and loss. For more information, visit [www.hospicechesapeake.org](http://www.hospicechesapeake.org).*



PHOTO BY ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN

**From left, Markian Melnyk, Hospice of the Chesapeake President and CEO Becky Miller and Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk at the 45th Anniversary Celebration held at the Fluegel Alumni Center, Annapolis, Maryland on May 11, 2024.**

## The Children’s Guild Achieves Prestigious National Commission for Accreditation of Special Education Services (NCASES)

By PRESS OFFICER  
**The Children’s Guild**

WASHINGTON (May 21, 2024)—The Children’s Guild (TCG) three non-public schools—The Children’s Guild School of Baltimore, **The Children’s Guild School of Prince George’s County**, and The Children’s Guild – Transformation Academy—earned a four-year accreditation from the National Commission for Accreditation of Special Education Services (NCASES), a part of the National Association of Private Special Education Centers (NAPSEC). This prestigious recognition underscores TCG’s commitment to the highest standards of care and service and is a direct result of the unwavering dedication, expertise, and passion of TCG’s

incredible staff.

“The NCASES accreditation is a mark of excellence, representing rigorous standards in the delivery of special education services. It reflects our dedication to fostering an inclusive, supportive, and effective learning environment that meets the highest professional standards. We want to extend our gratitude and congratulations to every member of our team. Their tireless efforts and commitment to excellence have made this accreditation possible and we thank them for their dedication and outstanding work,” said Elizabeth Garcia, LCSW-C, MSSA, MNO, Chief People Officer, The Children’s Guild.

“We are thrilled to receive this accreditation, which recognizes that our programs have met 50 national standards of

best practices in special education. This is beyond regulations, it demonstrates excellence, so we are very proud of our four-year stamp of approval, showing everyone what we are capable of,” added Rae Menses, Managing Director, Compliance, The Children’s Guild.

The NCASES accreditation process is based on a study of compliance to fifty standards covering process, procedures, and practices critical to the functioning of a special education setting. It also includes a comprehensive site review performed by a team of special education experts. By adhering to the rigorous NCASES standards, The Children’s Guild education



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**Morningside from A2**

**Changing landscape**  
Red Lobster has filed for bankruptcy and is shutting down across the country. Apparently their "endless shrimp" deal was among its death blows. However, the company plans to "focus on retaining employees and streamlining its menu." Red Lobster was founded in Florida in 1968. We still have our Red Lobster at 5051 Auth Way, in Camp Springs. Others are listed in Lanham and Alexandria.

Target, according to The Washington Post, "is slashing prices on thousands of everyday basics," including bread, milk, meat, fruit, and diapers.

A home at 6313 Suitland Road has sold for \$374,000.

**Rumor of the week**

Has anybody heard the word that, next year, some of the students from Suitland High School will be transferring to Wise, and some will be attending Forestville High? Let me know what you know.

**Milestones**  
Happy Birthday to Paul Elborne and Jacob Cook, June 2; Darius Nalley-Stoddard, June 3; Rich Landon, June 5; Fay Norton-Cummings and Malik Reed, June 6; Trisha Reamy, June 7; Ryan Fowler and John Nichols, June 8.

Happy Anniversary to former Morningside Councilwoman Carol (Kline) and Tom DeGraba, their 30th on June 4; Bucky and Debbie Tretler, their 48th on June 5.

**Accreditation from A5**

team has demonstrated exceptional quality, integrity, and a commitment to continuous improvement. This accreditation not only validates TCG's staff's hard work but also assures that students, families, and stakeholders are receiving the best possible special education services.

NCASES was established in 1992 by the National Association of Private Special Education Centers (NAPSEC) in response to a need for an accreditation process that uniquely addresses private special education programs and the populations they serve. A subsidiary of NAPSEC, NCASES is overseen by a Board of Directors and managed by a Commission composed of experts in the field. All NCASES Board Members, Commissioners, and Site Reviewers serve on a voluntary basis.

The Children's Guild (TCG), founded in 1953, is a leading Mid-Atlantic nonprofit organization focused on helping students and families find success socially, emotionally, educationally, and developmentally through special education, school-based mental health services, treatment foster care, autism services, family mental and behavioral health services, and workforce development programs.

Affiliates of The Children's Guild include The Children's Guild School of Baltimore, The Children's Guild DC Public Charter School, The Children's Guild School of Prince George's County, Monarch Academy Glen Burnie, Monarch Global Academy Laurel, Monarch Academy Annapolis, Monarch Preschool College Park, The Children's Guild - Transformation Academy, The Outpatient Mental Health Clinic (OMHC), Treatment Foster Care, and TranZed Apprenticeships. For more information, visit <https://childrensguild.org/>.

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