

# The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SINCE 1932

Vol. 92, No. 24 June 13 — June 19, 2024

Prince George's County, Maryland

Newspaper of Record

Phone: 301-627-0900

25 cents

## 2024 Juneteenth Festival Announced by M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County

By PRESS OFFICER  
M-NCPPC

RIVERDALE, Md. (June 5, 2024)—The Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County, part of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, is pleased to announce its 2024 Festival for Juneteenth: the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Marking the date that the last enslaved people learned of their freedom, the month of June and the nineteenth day were combined to form the word Juneteenth.

As a part of the Department's ongoing mission to provide exciting and unique cultural programming to county residents, the Juneteenth Festival is a must-attend annual event for the young and young at heart. The festival takes place Saturday, June 15 at Watkins Regional



IMAGE COURTESY M-NCPPC

Park from 12–5 p.m. and includes:

- Live entertainment – Chuck Brown Band, Trouble Funk, Luther Relives Tribute, Bren-core All Stars
- Visual art exhibition- Jeffrey Felten-Green
- Art Activities – Arts on a Roll

- History Activity – Sankofa Mobile Museum
  - Food and merchandise vendors
  - Non-profit exhibitors
- The 2024 Juneteenth festival is a FREE event. To learn more, visit [pgparks.com/event\\_list/juneteenth2024](http://pgparks.com/event_list/juneteenth2024).

With over 28,000 acres of parkland, trails, athletic fields, playgrounds and more, the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County provides an award-winning park system through progressive, quality, innovative leadership and a commitment to its community and environment. The Department delivers first-class recreational activities and programs for people of all ages and ability levels. It strives to improve the quality of life for residents in Prince George's County and the communities in which they live, work, and raise families. The Department's Formula 2040 Plan establishes a framework that will assure the Department can meet future parks and recreation programmatic and facility needs, fulfilling its mission to determine the combination of land, facilities and programs that will provide appropriate experiences for Prince Georgians in the future.



PHOTO COURTESY BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL CLUB

## Bowie High School Walkout

Bowie High School Students Walked Out to urge the BoE and County Council to call for a ceasefire

By PRESS OFFICER

Bowie High School International Club

BOWIE, Md. (June 11, 2024)—On Friday, June 7 from 1:15–1:44 p.m., Bowie High School Students walked out for 29 minutes in recognition of International Solidarity with Palestine Day (Nov 29). The goal was to urge the BoE and County Council to call for a ceasefire and pass a resolution bill.

The event was organized by Olaoluwa "Roxy" Adeleke-Wales. Bowie High School students including Daniella Kepsu, Alexis Campbell, and Kamille Somerville spoke. Past Board of Education Member, Raaheela Ahmed spoke.

## The FedChoice Charitable Foundation Receives Vizo Financial Empowerment Grant

By PRESS OFFICER  
FedChoice Charitable Foundation

LANHAM, Md. (June 5, 2024)—The FedChoice Charitable Foundation (FCF) is committed to making a positive impact in local underserved communities in the Maryland, Washington, DC, and Virginia area. The Foundation is pleased to announce that it has received a \$5,000 Financial Empowerment Grant from the Credit Union Foundation of Maryland and DC (CUFMD|DC) in support of FCF's community-centric financial education and financial wellness programs. Funded by a \$50,000 grant from Vizo Financial Corporate Credit Union, CUFMD|DC offers grants up to \$5,000 per credit union for programs that help their members attain financial stability, with a focus on removing barriers to economic and social advancement.

Brett Noll, FCF Board Chair, said, "We could not be more thrilled to be one of the first recipients of this wonderful grant opportunity made possible

through the generosity of Vizo Financial Corporate Credit Union and the Credit Union Foundation of Maryland and DC. These funds will be put to use immediately to improve the lives of people in our community." "At the very core of the credit union movement is the idea of financial well-being for all, and it was with that mission in mind that Vizo Financial created the Empowerment Grants program that the Credit Union Foundation of Maryland and DC has embraced with open arms," said Fred Eisel, President/CEO of Vizo Financial. "Because of the Foundation's dedication to this idea of financial freedom for everyone, the FedChoice Charitable Foundation can now receive all the tools they need to provide accessible financial literacy programs to their members. It's incredible to see our people helping people philosophy and the cooperative spirit in action, as these grants can make real change possible in the local communities."

"Addressing barriers to financial well-being is fundamental to our mis-

sion at the Foundation," said Leigh Philibosian, Director, CU Foundation MD|DC. "The Vizo Financial Empowerment Grant program has allowed us to offer meaningful support to the work credit unions are doing to help their members achieve a better quality of life. We are very pleased to support the important work the FedChoice Charitable Foundation is doing through these programs and the impact they will have in starting young students on the road to understanding how to manage their finances to achieve their goals."

The new grant will fund the following programs:

**Educational Support:** FCF Educational Scholarships empower local high school graduates, paving the way for their future career growth and financial success. Last year, three students from Maryland and Virginia received educational scholarships. This year, the Foundation launched the Guy Fleming Scholarship that will support ten more students from local underserved com-



PHOTO COURTESY FEDCHOICE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

FedChoice Charitable Foundation's volunteer team presents a check in support of Fairmont Heights Annual Community Day to FHHS Principal Lonice Priester and her community development team.

munities nationwide. The new grant will help support the Foundation's scholarship fund.

**Small Educators' Grants:** FCF Teachers' Aid Program (TAP) directly supports K–12 teachers, enabling them to enhance classroom experiences and

provide valuable learning opportunities for their students. Over 25 teachers from six K–12 schools received TAP grants for various classroom projects during

See GRANT Page A3

## City of New Carrollton Police Department Launches Automated Enforcement Citation Amnesty Program

By PRESS OFFICER  
City of New Carrollton

NEW CARROLLTON, Md. (June 6, 2024)—The City of New Carrollton Police Department has launched an Automated Enforcement Citation Amnesty Program, a new initiative aimed at providing relief to individuals burdened by fines and penalties from automated speed enforcement citations. The program offers eligible individuals the opportunity to resolve outstanding fines and penalties associated with automated speed and red light enforcement citations issued in the past. By participating in this program, individuals can receive amnesty from certain fines, late fees and penalties, facilitating the resolution of their obligations.

"This program reflects our commitment to fairness, equity and community well-being," said Colonel David G. Rice, Chief of Police. "We recognize that individuals may face financial challenges in meeting their obligations and we want to provide a pathway for

them to address their outstanding citations and move forward with peace of mind."

Key components of the City of New Carrollton Police Department Automated Enforcement Citation Amnesty Program include:

- Reduced lump-sum payments, to accommodate participants' financial circumstances.
- Transparency and accountability measures to maintain clear communication and provide support to participants throughout the process.

To pay your tickets and citations, below are the payment portals for citation and parking.

- Citation Payment Portal: (<https://www.onlinecitationpayment.com/auth/login.do>)
- Parking Citation Payment Portal: <https://newcarrolltonmd.rmpay.com/>

"We encourage all eligible individuals to take advantage of this opportunity," said Colonel Rice. "Our goal is to promote compliance

with traffic laws and promote safer roadways for our community."

Residents are encouraged to visit [www.newcarrolltonpd.com](http://www.newcarrolltonpd.com) for more information about the Amnesty Program, including criteria and instructions. Assistance is also available by contacting the police department 301-459-0142 between 9 a.m.–4 p.m., Monday–Friday.

The City of New Carrollton Police Department remains committed to supporting our community members in resolving their outstanding citations and promoting road safety for all.

**Note:** While paying this debt to the City of New Carrollton Police Department we will remove the Police Department's administrative flagging fee. However, we do not have the authority to order Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration to remove the flagging fee placed on your vehicle.

The City of New Carrollton celebrates 71 years of service to the community. Known for its rich history, diverse community and thriving economy, New Carrollton, is an award-winning sustainable City situated outside of Washington, DC, offering residents and visitors alike a blend of urban convenience and suburban charm. To learn more about New Carrollton, visit [www.NewCarrolltonMD.gov](http://www.NewCarrolltonMD.gov).

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# COMMUNITY

## Hoyer Announces Appointments to the U.S. Service Academies

By PRESS OFFICER  
Congressman Steny Hoyer's Office

WASHINGTON (June 4, 2024)—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) hosted his Annual Academy Tea at the Library of Congress where he announced the names of 21 Fifth District students appointed to the United States Service Academies. The students have accepted offers to the Air Force Academy, the Merchant Marine Academy, the Military Academy at West Point, the Naval Academy, and the Coast Guard Academy. All of the service academies require a nomination from an authorized nominating source.

"I am proud to announce a record 21 students from Maryland's Fifth District received appointments to the United States Service Academies this year," said Congressman Hoyer. "These 21 students stood out among many well-qualified candidates because they best captured the sense of duty, moral character, and conviction we expect from our men and women in uniform. I was pleased to see many siblings of previous appointees received appointments, and I am delighted that two siblings from Calvert County both received Service Academy Nominations this year. Their families—and the families of all the appointees—should be proud to have raised such smart, motivated, and principled children. I join in thanking these 21 students for their service to our nation and wish them the best of luck in their future military careers."

The following Fifth District students received appointments:

- U.S. Air Force Academy**  
Tanah Gorman, Calvert County  
Peter Imhof, St. Mary's County  
Anthony Pessia, Anne Arundel County

- U.S. Merchant Marine Academy**  
Carolae Barton, Charles County  
Timothy Barton, Charles County  
Andrea Diokno, Montgomery County  
Ernest McClanahan, Calvert County  
Lara Nielsen, Anne Arundel County

- U.S. Military Academy (West Point)**  
Karl Kraske, Prince George's County  
Andrew Righi, Prince George's County

- U.S. Naval Academy**  
Elizabeth Christie, Anne Arundel County  
Aspen Gallaudet, Calvert County  
Arnia Goode, Anne Arundel County  
Tiana Griffin, Anne Arundel County  
Ezra Kennedy, Anne Arundel County  
Emmett Kloss, Anne Arundel County  
Andrew Lambert, Prince George's County  
Nathan Mehls, Calvert County  
Julienne Wakefield, Prince George's County

- U.S. Coast Guard Academy**  
Calvert Burkholder, Calvert County  
Brent Phillips, Anne Arundel County



PHOTO COURTESY CONGRESSMAN STENY HOYER'S OFFICE  
Some of the Fifth District students who were appointed to the United States Service Academies pose with Congressman Steny Hoyer.

## 'Adventure Begins at Your Library!' With Summer Prince George's 2024

By ANDREA CASTILLO  
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (June 10, 2024)—This summer, the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is the place to find your new favorite book or reread an old favorite, watch a magic show, sign up for a skating lesson, jump like your favorite animal, celebrate Juneteenth and Pride Month, and more.

Summer Prince George's 2024 is the Library's annual all-ages summer reading and learning program presented with the Washington Nationals. This year's theme is "Adventure Begins At Your Library!" Now through August 15, participants are encouraged to complete tasks such as reading for 30 minutes, attending library programs, and borrowing items from the Library's collection of books, DVDs, and online resources to earn prizes including baseball game tickets.

"We are excited to introduce 'Summer Prince George's 2024: Adventure Begins at Your Library!' in partnership with the Washington Nationals," said PGCMLS Program Services Manager Rachel Zukowski. "The program is not just a fun way to beat the heat, but an important way to bolster skills and prevent summer slide. Libraries are beacons of creativity, curiosity, and community, providing a safe and welcoming space for customers of all ages to explore new worlds, challenge themselves, and grow as readers and individuals."

Participants can register for Summer Prince George's in person at any PGCMLS branch library or online through Beanstack to log points and receive the following prizes:

- Registration prize: tote bag, available starting June 15

See ADVENTURE BEGINS Page A4

## Camp Springs Elks Lodge News

By DEWAYNE WILCHER  
Camp Springs Elks Lodge

### Affordable Overnight Summer Camp

The Camp Springs Elks Lodge is a proud sponsor of the Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia State Association project Elks Camp Barrett located in Davidsonville, Md. The cost is only \$200 for a weekly overnight session. Parents may apply and review the

camp endeavors at [www.elkscampbarrett.org](http://www.elkscampbarrett.org).

Over the past eight years, the Camp Springs Elks Lodge have shared this special time with more than 300 youth from our community. Upcoming sessions began 23 June and the last session ends Thursday 25 July.

### JROTC Most Outstanding Cadet Awardees

During the month of May, the Camp Springs Elks Lodge

awarded the most outstanding cadet award to Airforce Cadet Major Jay Arias of Potomac HS, Airforce Cadet Mueez Peleowo of Oxon Hill HS, and Navy Cadet Seaman Emily Villacorta of Friendly HS. This award reflects their success in maintaining the highest levels of leadership and Americanism in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) and reflects highly upon the schools they represent.



PHOTO COURTESY DEWAYNE WILCHER  
Trustee Dewayne Wilcher and Cadet Jay Arias



PHOTO COURTESY DEWAYNE WILCHER  
Left to right: Exalted Ruler Pat McInnis, Cadet Mueez Peleowo and Trustee Dewayne Wilcher

## PJ's Coffee to Open Its Doors in Camp Springs: A Story of Dedication, Military Service, and Community

By PRESS OFFICER  
PJ's Coffee: Camp Springs

CAMP SPRINGS, Md. (June 3, 2024)—The aroma of freshly brewed coffee will soon grace the streets of Camp Springs as James and Anita, a dynamic couple deeply rooted in service and community engagement, prepare to unveil the grand opening of their newest venture, PJ's Coffee.

James and Anita, residents of Southern Maryland, bring with them a wealth of experience and a shared passion for fostering community connections. With two teenage sons, one attending the University of Maryland and the other proudly serving in the United States Air Force, the couple embodies a commitment to family, service, and excellence.

Anita's distinguished career of nearly 28 years with the Social Security Administration (SSA) speaks volumes about her dedication and leadership. Rising through the ranks from a teleservice representative to senior staff positions across various regions and headquarters, Anita's journey is marked by her unwavering work ethic and commitment to diversity and inclusion. Her accolades include prestigious awards such as the Commissioner's Citation Award and the Nextgov Award, showcasing her exceptional contribu-

tions to SSA's mission.

Complementing Anita's stellar career is James's remarkable service as a retired, disabled military veteran with 22 years in the United States Air Force. Stationed across diverse locations globally and serving multiple deployments in support of the Global War on Terrorism, James's commitment to duty and excellence is evident. Transitioning from military service to a civilian role as an Information Technology Specialist, James continued to excel, earning accolades like the Joint Service Commendation Medal and the Air Force Achievement Medal.

Their decision to open PJ's Coffee in Camp Springs is rooted in their desire to not only offer premium coffee but also to become integral members of the local community. "Camp Springs holds a special place in our hearts," says Anita. "We see it as more than just a location for our coffee shop; it's a vibrant community with boundless potential."

With a vision to enrich the Camp Springs community, James and Anita are committed to incorporating various initiatives, including hosting and attending charity events, volunteering for community service, and initiating an employee engagement program to foster

team cohesion and personal growth. Additionally, they plan to host local competitions, partner with organizations to support social causes, participate in fundraisers, mentor aspiring entrepreneurs, and offer discounts to nonprofits, military personnel, teachers, and public servants.

"We envision PJ's Coffee as not just a place to grab your morning cup of joe, but as a hub for connection, support, and positive change in Camp Springs," says James. "We're excited to embark on this journey and look forward to serving and empowering our community."

PJ's Coffee's grand opening in Camp Springs is slated for a Summer opening, and the entire community is invited to join in the celebration.

Since its inception in 1978, PJ's Coffee has set out to show that its coffee is the best in the business. Founded by Phyllis Jordan, a pioneer in the coffee industry, and owned and operated by New Orleans natives and brothers Paul, Steven, and Scott Ballard since 2008, the company has stuck true to that mission and its New Orleans roots. For more information, visit [pjscoffee.com](http://pjscoffee.com) or follow PJ's Coffee on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

### Grant from AI

this past year. The new grant will enable the Foundation to expand its reach to more educators in the Greater Washington DC area.

**Community Financial Wellness:** The Foundation is committed to the financial health of local underserved communities. The grant will directly support the Annual Community Day at Fairmont Heights High School, which brings together the whole community. The school will also use these funds to provide school uniforms and other school supplies to low-income community members. Hundreds of people from surrounding areas participate in this event every year, and our foundation hopes to make a difference this year. In addition, the grant will also fund the provision of food supplies for Oaklands Elementary School in Laurel, MD, as well as essential hygiene supplies for youth hygiene drives at Cora L. Rice Elementary School and G. James Gholson Middle School in Landover, MD.

Our strategy leverages the combined expertise

and resources of FedChoice Federal Credit Union and the FedChoice Charitable Foundation. Rooted in the 'People Helping People' philosophy of the credit union movement, we address the unique financial literacy challenges faced by the federal community. Together, we empower individuals, promote community engagement, and build a brighter financial future for all.

The FedChoice Charitable Foundation was founded in 2017 and offers financial well-being programs in local communities while being a resource, advocate, and champion for the Federal Community.

The CU Foundation of MD/DC is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving lives by helping credit unions better serve their members and communities with an emphasis on financial literacy, emerging credit union support, workforce development, professional development and education, and leadership development. Visit [www.cufound.org](http://www.cufound.org) for more information.

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# COMMUNITY

## Prince George's County Encourages Residents to "Be Flood Smart" During Flood Awareness Month

Residents and businesses are encouraged to make a flood plan

By PRESS OFFICER  
Prince George's County  
Department of the Environment

LARGO, Md. (June 7, 2024)—June marks the beginning of hurricane season, and severe weather conditions can cause flooding, threaten lives, and damage property. The Department of the Environment (DoE) wants to help County residents and business owners protect their homes, buildings, and personal belongings if flooding occurs and to be flood-ready, flood-smart, and flood-safe.

The best time to make a flood plan is now. DoE offers flood prevention tips and information, as well as a Flood Awareness poster that provides information on what causes flooding and how to prevent and protect homes and businesses in the case of a flood. View a copy of the proclamation issued by County Executive Angela Alsobrooks recognizing June as Flood Awareness Month.

DoE, in partnership with the Prince George's Office of Homeland Security and Mary-

land Insurance Administration, is hosting "Be Flood Smart: Flood Educational Virtual Sessions" every Thursday in June. This flood education series will equip residents with information and resources to improve their understanding of how and where floods occur, share techniques and practical measures for flood risk reduction, and prepare for disaster response and recovery. Register for the sessions at [bit.ly/befloodsmart](https://bit.ly/befloodsmart).

Other flood management resources are available on the U.S. Department of Homeland

Security website to help residents prepare and provide guidance on making a flood plan. It also includes information on flood insurance premiums, which County residents can save up to 25 percent. Another resource, Alert Prince George's, is a text message notification service that advises subscribers in the event of significant flooding.

Residents can implement grassroots solutions to prevent and alleviate flooding and should follow these safety tips when encountering flooding:

- Avoid walking or driving through floodwaters.
- If flash flooding is possible, move immediately to higher ground.
- If floodwaters rise around your car, but the water is not moving, abandon the car and walk to higher ground. Do not leave the vehicle if you enter moving water.
- Avoid camping or parking along streams, rivers, and creeks during heavy rainfall. These areas can flood quickly and with little warning.

Having flood insurance is one way to prepare for flooding, as coverage helps pay for damage to your home's structure and/or contents. For information on insurance rates and tips, visit the Federal Emergency Management Agency's

(FEMA) Flood Risks and Costs webpage.

The County also participates in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) Program. CRS stresses the importance of informing residents of flood hazards and reducing flood risks. The County recently updated its Hazard Mitigation Plan, which FEMA approved in November 2023. This Plan covers the Prince George's County and the City of Laurel jurisdictions and provides current flood risk information and measures to mitigate the risk.

Visit DoE's Flood Management page (<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/departments-offices/environment/sustainability/flood-management>) or contact PGC311 for more information.

## Summer Programs at Marietta House Museum

By STACEY HAWKINS  
Marietta House Museum

### Summer Writer's Workshops at Marietta House Museum

This summer two Writer's Workshops are offered by The Write Women Bookfest partnering with Marietta House Museum and the Prince George's County Historical Society. The workshops at Marietta House Museum will put you on the path to becoming a published author!

**Sunday, June 30**, 11 a.m.–4 p.m., Heather Brooks will present "A Day Retreat for Women Writers: Manifesting an Author's Life" Participants will learn how to work past imposter syndrome, find your writing tribe, and live a writerly life.

**Sunday, July 21**, 11 a.m.–4 p.m., Heather Brooks and Cardyn Brooks will present "Make Your Idea into a Manuscript: A Workshop for First Time Authors". Participants will learn how to turn their book ideas into book manuscripts. Heather and Cardyn will lead participants through the first steps of creating a manuscript for publication and including traditional and self-publishing pathways.

Heather Brooks is an author and founder of The Write Women Book Fest and founder of The Write Women Network. Cardyn Brooks is an award-winning author and outreach coordinator for The Write Women Book Fest, and a book reviewer.

For each presentation, please bring a notebook or laptop, and a packed lunch. Light snacks will be provided. \$20/person. Ages 18 and up. Please register at this direct link: <https://tinyurl.com/mrx99sr7>

For more information, please call 301-464-5291 or email [mariettahouse@pgparks.com](mailto:mariettahouse@pgparks.com). Marietta House Museum is located at 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD, 20769 and is a property of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

### WINE & JAZZ AT MARIETTA

Celebrate the 11th Annual "Wine & Jazz at Marietta" on **Saturday, August 3**, 2–7pm. (Rain date Aug. 10)

Please join us for a leisurely day on the grounds of Marietta House Museum! Bring your lawn chairs and blankets. Listen to local popular artists AJQ Plus 1 Jazz Ensemble, and The Lovejoy Group. Local vendors will be onsite with food trucks, artwork, and

crafts.

This year, romance authors will be featured! The attending authors are: K.M. Bishop, Cardyn Brooks, Heather Brooks, Erin P. T. Canning, B. K. Lockamy, Calliope Parrish, Maria Secoy, and Mary K. Tilghman. Visit their booths and purchase a signed copy of their books!

Artists to visit at the event include members of the local spinning and knitting guilds, woodcarver Bill Walmsley, and painter Cheryl Kennedy. Stroll through the booths of local Maryland wineries and sample their delicious wines: Cove Point Winery, Misfit Winery, and more. Tours of the historic house will be available at posted times throughout the day.

Free parking on-site. Ages 21 and up. \$10 per person. Please register in advance at this direct link: <https://tinyurl.com/mry4h2fa> Cash only at the door.

For more information, please call 301-464-5291 or email [mariettahouse@pgparks.com](mailto:mariettahouse@pgparks.com). Marietta House Museum is located at 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD, 20769 and is a property of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

## M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County Announces

### Shakespeare in the Parks:

### A Midsummer Night's Dream at Local Parks

By PRESS OFFICER  
M-NCPPC

RIVERDALE, Md. (June 7, 2024)—Join the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County this summer as Shakespeare in the Parks tours a professional and family-friendly production across Prince George's and Montgomery counties, making the joy of theater accessible to all. The Department is proud to announce the Summer 2024 tour of A Midsummer Night's Dream, directed by newly appointed Artistic Director Randy Snight.

The 90-minute production is a delightful comedy weaving together the stories of four young lovers, amateur actresses, and mischievous fairies. Set in an enchanted forest near the fictional town of Athens, Maryland, the play explores themes of love, illusion, and the unpredictable nature of desire. Bring your lawn chair, a picnic, and enjoy the Bard under the stars.

**Sunday, June 23–Sunday, July 14, 2024.** FREE for all ages. For full schedule list, visit [pgparks.com/event\\_list/shakespeare-in-the-parks](https://pgparks.com/event_list/shakespeare-in-the-parks). This program is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council ([www.msac.org](http://www.msac.org)).

*With over 28,000 acres of parkland, trails, athletic fields, playgrounds and more, the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County provides an award-winning park system through progressive, quality, innovative leadership and a commitment to its community and environment. The Department delivers first-class recreational activities and programs for people of all ages and ability levels. It strives to improve the quality of life for residents in Prince George's County and the communities in which they live, work, and raise families. The Department's Formula 2040 Plan establishes a framework that will assure the Department can meet future parks and recreation programmatic and facility needs, fulfilling its mission to determine the combination of land, facilities and programs that will provide appropriate experiences for Prince Georgians in the future. Visit [www.pgparks.com](http://www.pgparks.com).*

## New Grief Workshops Reach Out to Spanish-Speakers and Black Women

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN  
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (June 10, 2024)—Chesapeake Life Center offers creative workshops that appeal to our communities' diverse population to help adults to find a path to healing from loss. Here are the workshops that are planned through September.

• **Bereavement Workshop for Spanish-Speakers**—This workshop is tailored to Spanish-speaking grievers. It is open to all who have experienced a loss due to death and use Spanish as their primary language. Group members will gather to share grief experiences and coping strategies, while honoring lost loved ones through small acts of remembrance. The

workshop will meet from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, June 17, at the center's offices at 9500 Medical Center Drive, Suite 250, Largo, Maryland. The cost is free.

• **Sistas in Solace: The Journey of Healing for Black Women**—Grief can be a challenging and isolating experience, especially for Black women who often navigate unique cultural, familial, and societal expectations. Join this safe and welcoming workshop to learn about the grief process, share stories about your loved ones, find comfort, and connect over the healing journey. The workshop will meet from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, July 20, at the center's offices in Largo. The cost is \$15.

• **Loss of Parent or Parental Figure Group**—This workshop provides space for those grieving the loss of a parent or parental figure to come together to feel supported in their grief. Groups offer participants an opportunity to share their feelings, obtain support from their peers and a licensed counselor, and participate in activities designed to aid with the grief process. The workshop will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 12, on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, Maryland. The cost is free.

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

### Adventure Begins from A3

- 10 points: T-shirt, available starting July 8
- 20 points: two Washington Nationals game tickets and a free book, available starting July 29
- Grand prize drawing for those who complete the challenge: gift cards and more

### Program Highlights

#### Kickoff Summer Prince George's

Visit your neighborhood PGCMLS branch library for program kickoff events through Thursday, June 20 to register for Summer Prince George's and participate in activities to welcome the season. The Library's kickoff events include a Field Day program, scavenger hunts, skating, a celebration of Black Music Month, and a screening of "Inside Out"!

#### Pride Month

PGCMLS will host Pride Month programming in June, including Pride-themed trivia events, a virtual discussion with romance author TJ Alexander, storytimes, craft activities, its third annual all-ages Rainbow Festival, and more.

#### Juneteenth

PGCMLS is hosting a variety of Juneteenth programs for all ages through Monday, June 24, including events with storyteller and historical interpreter Shemika Renee, a walking tour in Fairmount Heights, screenwriting sessions on how to integrate Black culture and heritage into your script, Bingo for kids, teens, and adults, STEM activities for families, storytimes, and more.

#### Skating

PGCMLS and PG Parks are collaborating to present 'Skate into Summer,' offering opportunities to skate during Surratts-Clinton Branch Library's Kickoff Summer Prince George's event on Thursday, June 20 at 2 p.m. Need some lessons to get started or level up your moves? Join Skate Instruction LLC for beginner lessons at the Spauldings Branch Library on Monday, July 8 at 2 p.m., Upper Marlboro Branch Library on Tuesday, July 23 at 4 p.m., and at the Fairmount Heights Branch Library on Monday, August 19 at 4 p.m. For a class on intermediate skating footwork, visit the Spauldings Branch Library on Tuesday, July 9 at 2 p.m. or the Glenarden Branch Library on Tuesday, August 20 at 4 p.m. Skating will also be part of Oxon Hill Branch Library's

"Family Fun in the Sun" program on Thursday, July 25 at 1 p.m.

#### Book Crawl

For adults, the Library goes after hours and into local businesses throughout Prince George's County! With the ongoing Book Crawl series from Tuesday, June 18 to Wednesday, August 7, gather your friends and take part in activities such as Trivia Night, Sip and Paint, Name That Tune, and Bingo!

#### Summer Meals

From Monday, June 24 through Friday, August 9, ten library branches will offer free summer meals to children up to 18 years old, while supplies last: Beltsville, Bladensburg, Fairmount Heights, Glenarden, Hillcrest Heights, Hyattsville, New Carrollton, Oxon Hill, Spauldings, and Surratts-Clinton. Visit our events calendar for the full list of available dates, times, and locations.

#### Reading is A Magical Adventure! with the 'Wizard of Washington' Eric Henning

Eric Henning, the "Wizard of Washington," presents a magic show that showcases

See ADVENTURE BEGINS Page A6

## The Prince George's Post

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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.

# ENVIRONMENT



PHOTO COURTESY EARTHTALK®

The ICARUS project—AKA the Internet of Animals—uses GPS tracking chips & satellites to track wildlife numbers & movements globally.

## EarthTalk® Q&A

### The Internet of Animals: Global Wildlife Tracking Now A Reality

By TIM WEIGHART JUNE 5, 2024

Dear EarthTalk:

What is the so-called "Internet of Animals" project all about and how does it aim to help the conservation cause?

—Beatrice U., Rampa, ID

In the early 2000s, animal behavior specialist Martin Wikelski was reflecting on the value of monitoring wildlife, which had already been the bulk of his work for decades. Be it through putting GPS chips on birds to understand their migration patterns, or placing radio collars on coyotes to follow their movements through urban areas, it was undeniable that using technology to monitor the movements and physiology of wildlife species was the best way to learn more about their behaviors and habitats.

However, Wikelski knew from experience that monitoring animals had limitations. Only the largest mammals and birds could be monitored due to the large size of GPS technology, and the energy needed to complete monitoring projects was monumental. In an effort to make monitoring more viable on larger scales, Wikelski came up with the idea for an "Internet of Animals": A satellite system that would continuously receive monitoring data from GPS chips placed on animals around the world.

Wikelski soon founded the International Cooperation for Animal Research Using Space (ICARUS) program to bolster his efforts in monitoring smaller creatures. The idea was to develop a chip that was small enough to be placed on more than half of the mammalian species living on Earth, around 40 percent of all birds, and hundreds of reptilian species. These chips would collect temperature, location and accelerometer data and promptly send the data up to a network of low orbit satellites in Earth's atmosphere called "CubeSats", which would in turn send the signals to "Movebank", an online public database. (Accelerometers are used to measure sedentary time, physical activity, physical activity energy expenditure, and sleep-related behaviors.) After decades of development and design, the technology has now been testing the project on smaller scales for more than half a decade.

If ICARUS succeeds in launching a sustainable, broad-scale version of the "internet of animals", the benefits the project would bring to environmental research are nearly infinite. For starters, getting more consistent insight into animals' behaviors and biology could help scientists understand the main threats to wildlife and their habitats to better conserve them.

Additionally, information on meteorology and climate could be provided by creatures that are especially sensitive to inclement weather and temperature changes; for example, elephant seals already provide more than 80 percent of our sea surface temperature data. And that's to say nothing of the potential discoveries that could be made in biology and zoology to further inform our understanding of the climate crisis and conservation.

There are still many challenges that must be overcome before the internet of animals goes online. The GPS chips need to be reliable enough to give accurate data for months or years without malfunctioning, or else the project will not be physically or financially sustainable. That's a lot of pressure to put on a device the size of a nickel. However, with the project already in testing, and financial backing being provided by NASA and several national governments, it may not be long before Wikelski's dream becomes a reality.

**CONTACTS:** ICARUS: Global Monitoring with Animals, <https://www.icarus.mpg.de/en>.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: [question@earthtalk.org](mailto:question@earthtalk.org)

## Save the Date – 2024 Green Summit

Join your Department of the Environment as we commemorate ten years of the Prince George's County Green Summit!

When: **Saturday, October 19, 2024, from 11 a.m.–4 p.m.**

Where: David C. Driskell Community Park, 3911 Hamilton Street, Hyattsville, MD 20781

This free, one-day event will feature green exhibitors, pet adoptions, eco-friendly vendors, sustainable tips, giveaways, food trucks, music, kid-friendly activities, and fun for the whole family! Registration is preferred, though not required.

Engage, promote, and empower action to tackle various environmental and health issues in our County.

For more information on exhibitor and vendor opportunities or to register, visit [mypgc.us/greensummit](https://mypgc.us/greensummit). —DOE Sprout, June 6, 2024

## Prince George's County Announces New Clear the Curb Waste Collection Services Beginning July 1

Introduces new curbside scrap metal and electronics recycling pickup and increases collection of curbside bulky items

By PRESS OFFICER  
Department of the Environment

LARGO, Md. (June 4, 2024)—Beginning the week of July 1, 2024, Prince George's County is expanding its Clear the Curb waste collection services for residents receiving County-contracted trash and recycling pickup. The new services will increase the number of acceptable curbside bulky trash items from two (2) to four (4) and introduce monthly curbside scrap metal and electronics recycling appointments. These enhanced services will continue modernizing and streamlining our current residential collection services.

"We are excited to introduce these new Clear the Curb collection services demonstrating our continued commitment to providing value-added services to residents receiving County-contracted trash and recycling collection," says Department of

the Environment Director Andrea Crooms. "These long-term investments help reduce waste, increase recycling, protect our environment, and maintain a cleaner and greener County."

In 2022, the County introduced a faster and improved curbside bulky trash pickup, allowing residents to place two (2) bulky items or two (2) tightly secured bags with small household items next to their trash can. Starting in July, residents can place four (4) items or four (4) tightly secured bags for pickup.

The new curbside scrap metal and electronics recycling collection will be offered by appointment only on the third Monday of each month. The first day of service begins July 15 and can be scheduled online or by contacting PGC311. Scrap tires, white goods, and other appliances will continue to be scheduled for pickup through PGC311.

To implement these new curbside collection services, some residents will experience a change in their current trash and recycling collection day. Residents impacted will receive a door hanger from their waste collection hauler, a postcard mailer, and other communication available on social media and the Department of the Environment's website at [mypgc.us/clearthecurb](https://mypgc.us/clearthecurb).

Residents may verify their waste collection day at [bit.ly/PGCCollectiondaylookup](https://bit.ly/PGCCollectiondaylookup) by entering their household address in the search bar and reviewing the list in the white pop-up box. If a new collection day has been assigned, it will be noted along with the day of other waste collection services.

For more information on these services, visit [mypgc.us/clearthecurb](https://mypgc.us/clearthecurb) or contact PGC311.

## Governor Moore Signs Executive Order to Advance Maryland's Pollution Reduction Plan

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (June 4, 2024)—Governor Wes Moore today signed an executive order to advance Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan. The order—one of the most comprehensive on climate change issued by a Maryland governor—directs a whole-of-government approach to address climate change, including requiring agencies to submit a Climate Implementation Plan by Nov. 1, action to propose new emissions standards, and the creation of the Governor's Subcabinet on Climate.

"Climate action is about more than avoiding disaster. It's about growing opportunity, and that's what today is about," said Gov. Moore. "The climate crisis didn't start overnight. It will take time and decisive action for us to tackle it. But we can—and we will—win this moment. We will win because we work together, we will win because we tackle our goals with action, and we will win because we leave no one behind."

In December 2023, the Maryland Department of the Environment released Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan to support the goals of the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, which requires Maryland to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60 percent below 2006 levels by 2031 and reach net zero emissions by 2045. The Climate Pollution Reduction Plan estimates that the implementation of new climate policies will generate up to \$1.2 billion in public health benefits, a \$2.5 billion increase in personal income for Marylanders, and a net gain of 27,400 jobs between now and 2031.

In accordance with the order, all State agencies are required to consult the Maryland Department of the Environment to submit a Climate Implementation Plan to the governor by November 1. The report must include steps and a timeline for implementation for all required actions within each agency's purview. Agencies are also required to consider Justice40 goals, initiatives, and funding to more comprehensively advance environmental justice.

The executive order also directs the Maryland Department of the Environment to take immediate action on climate change by proposing a zero-emission heating equipment standard regulation and a clean heat standard regulation, in addition to working with Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative states to establish a new regional cap for carbon dioxide emissions from power plants that align with Maryland and partner states' 100% clean energy goals.

"It's no secret that we face significant challenges from climate change," said Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Serena McIlwain. "Hotter summers, severe weather, flooding, increased asthma cases—especially among children in disadvantaged communities—all underscore the urgent need for action. This Executive Order is not just a call for action, but a vision for a brighter tomorrow."

The order also calls for the Maryland Energy Administration to establish a framework for a clean energy standard to achieve 100% clean energy by 2035 and directs the Maryland Department of Transportation to undertake several measures to promote clean transportation.

The Governor's Subcabinet on Climate will be chaired by Secretary McIlwain and

vice-chaired by Chief Sustainability Officer Meghan Conklin. The subcabinet will drive a unified approach within state government to implement Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan and will be required to report on Maryland's progress by December 1 this year and annually thereafter.

Governor Moore signed the executive order this afternoon following participation in a student climate change discussion panel at Henderson-Hopkins School in Baltimore, which participates in the Maryland Community Solar program Solar4Us. Through solar panels on the school's roof, the program will provide an estimated 150 families in the community with discounted electricity bills, amounting to a minimum of \$1.1 million saved over the lifetime of the system.

"This Executive Order is the most comprehensive EO on climate change ever issued by a Maryland governor," said Maryland League of Conservation Voters Executive Director Kim Coble. "Maryland LCV applauds the Moore Administration for leading through actions and prioritizing equity as Maryland tackles the impacts of climate change."

"It is so fitting that Governor Moore is signing his executive order at Henderson Hopkins. We have students who have participated in a climate summit, deeply care about these issues, and just advised the governor on what matters most to them" said Henderson-Hopkins School Principal Peter Kannam. "Additionally, Henderson Hopkins has partnered with Climate Access Fund to have our roof dedicated to solar power for the community."

## How the Brands You Shop With May Be Practicing Sustainable, Responsible Retail

(StatePoint) As more consumers passionately embrace social causes, they're looking to spend their dollars with brands committed to responsible, sustainable retail.

According to a Sensormatic Solutions U.S. Consumer Sustainability Survey, 70% of consumers would change their shopping habits after learning a brand isn't operating sustainably. Of Gen Z shoppers, over 60% prefer to buy from sustainable brands, and 73% are willing to pay more for sustainable products. With shoppers of all ages prioritizing environmental, social and governance commitments when making purchasing decisions, retailers that want to maintain customer loyalty while also doing their part to protect the environment are shifting their practices to align with consumer sentiments. According to Deloitte's 2023 CXO Sustainability Report, 73% of chief experience officers from the consumer industry have increased their investments in sustainability over the past year.

"Consumers have been very clear about the importance of sustainable retail practices to their purchasing decisions—and the tactics retailers use to heed the call often happen across their supply chain before a product even hits the sales floor," says Christa Anz, head of marketing at Sensormatic Solutions,

a leading global retail solutions provider. "Retailers are relying on emerging technologies to streamline their operations, to reduce waste, and to make sustainability part of their business models, from who they choose as vendors, to what materials they use, and how it's shipped to store."

If shopping sustainably is important to you, you can show retailers you value their commitment and learn more about the meaningful work they are doing in order to practice what they preach. Here are a few of the operational changes you might see, and others that may be happening behind the scenes:

- Reducing or eliminating plastic use in packaging, or using recyclable materials in packaging.
- Utilizing loss prevention options, like AM labels made from plastic-free and/or renewable materials to reduce environmental impact while protecting high-risk items.
- Refining inventory management programs to reduce waste.
- Implementing in-store technology with built-in power saving modes for less energy consumption.
- Leveraging connected, cloud-based technologies for remote servicing, which

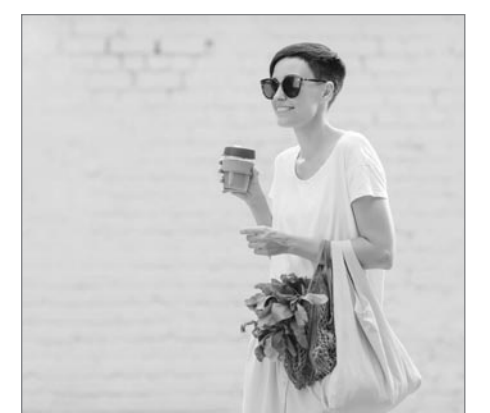


PHOTO SOURCE: © IGISHEVAMARIA / ADOBESTOCK

- means less wheels on the ground.
- Expanding in-store recycling programs or resale services.
- Using eco-friendly fabrics, materials and manufacturers.
- Engaging in ethical labor practices.

To learn more about how new technologies are improving the way retailers do business, visit [sensormatic.com](https://sensormatic.com).

"You can rest assured that while many aspects of the shopper experience might feel the same as before, retailers are actually listening to your desires and are integrating eco-friendly initiatives into their daily practices from the warehouse to the store."

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[www.fbc-cp.org](http://www.fbc-cp.org)

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Sunday Worship 11a.m.  
Holy Communion 1st Sunday  
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Wednesday Prayer Service 8p.m.

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14418 Old Marlboro Pike,  
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**Church (301) 627-7389**

Sunday School (Children/Adults) - 8:30 a.m.  
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## Adventure Begins from A4

the adventures that are possible through reading on Monday, June 24 at Oxon Hill Branch Library at 1 p.m. and the Fairmount Heights Branch Library at 3:30 p.m., as well as Thursday, June 26 at the Bladensburg Branch Library at 1 p.m. and the Beltsville Branch Library at 3:30 p.m.

### The Science Guys of Baltimore

The Science Guys of Baltimore will present two chemistry and physics-related programs for children and teens this summer:

- Fizz, Pop, Boom!:** Put some bang into your summer with this program, which features presentations about the states of matter through bubbling potions, chemical reactions, and explosions, geared toward children 3 and up, on Monday, July 1 at the South Bowie Branch Library at 1 p.m. and the Bowie Branch Library at 4 p.m., as well as on Thursday, July 18 at the Baden Branch Library at 1 p.m. and the Upper Marlboro Branch Library at 4 p.m.
- Waves: Exploring Light and Sound:** Geared toward first-graders and up, children and teens will receive lessons about waves, light, sound, and color with live demonstrations that include popping balloons with lasers and capturing shadows with chemiluminescent flashes on Saturday, July 27 at the Surratts-Clinton Branch Library at 11 a.m. and the Spauldings Branch Library at 1:30 p.m.

### Echoes of Nature

Echoes of Nature will be presenting three animal-themed programs for children at PGMLS branches this summer:

- Animal Olympics:** Learn about the animals that are the fastest, the highest jumpers, and most agile in the animal kingdom, and then test your skills at events like the high jump and the broad jump on Tuesday, July 23 at Joe's Movement Emporium in Mount Rainier at 1 p.m., at Laurel Branch Library at 3:30 p.m., and Greenbelt Branch Library at 6 p.m.
- Safari Walk:** Don your best safari gear and get ready to explore a variety of animal habitats, from deserts to forests and everything in between on Thursday, August 1 at the Largo-Kettering Branch Library at 11 a.m., the Hyattsville Branch Library at 1:30 p.m., and the Glenarden Branch Library at 4 p.m.
- Superhero Animals!:** Discover the ways animals are superheroes in our imaginations—as seen in movies, cartoons, and books—as well as their super abilities in real life on Tuesday, August 6 at the Hillcrest Heights Branch Library at 1 p.m., the New Carrollton Branch Library at 3:30 p.m., and the Accokeek Branch Library at 6 p.m.

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