

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SINCE 1932

Vol. 92, No. 29 July 18 — July 24, 2024

Prince George's County, Maryland

Newspaper of Record

Phone: 301-627-0900

25 cents

Maryland Transit Administration Unveils First Purple Line Light Rail Vehicle

LRV Arrival Marks Another Major 2024 Project Milestone

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Transit Administration

RIVERDALE, Md. (July 11, 2024)—The Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration and the Purple Line project team today celebrated the arrival of the first Purple Line light rail vehicle. Each Purple Line light rail vehicle is 142-foot long, currently the longest of its kind in the United States. The vehicles are assembled in Elmira, New York and then transported to Maryland by flat-bed trucks.

"Celebrating the arrival of the Purple Line's first light rail vehicle is the latest significant milestone in getting this much-needed new transit line up and running," said Maryland Transportation Secretary Paul J. Wiedefeld. "This new light rail vehicle embodies the many benefits transit provides from connecting communities to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The progress being made is because of the commitment and effort over the past year and a half to expedite work along the alignment."

The unveiling, held at the Operations and Maintenance Facility in Glenridge,



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration and the Purple Line project team today celebrated the arrival of the first Purple Line light rail vehicle.

Maryland, was attended by Secretary Wiedefeld, Maryland Transit Administrator Holly Arnold, Federal Transit Re-

gional Administrator Terry Garcia Crews and Purple Line Transit Partners CEO Doran Bosso, in addition to state

and local officials from Prince George's and Montgomery counties.

The vehicles are being built by CAF, a Spain-based rail car manufacturer. Each vehicle has capacity for 430 passengers, with seating for 80, can accommodate up to eight wheelchairs and features 8 bike racks to encourage passengers to take their bicycle or scooter onboard. The electric-powered vehicles have been designed to reduce noise as they travel through communities.

"Today marks a major milestone for the Purple Line and a major step forward for Maryland's public transit future," said Maryland Transit Administrator Holly Arnold. "With thousands of feet of rail track installed and 16 of 21 stations currently under construction, we are happy to announce that the project is now more than 65% complete."

Once delivered to Maryland, the light rail vehicles will undergo an extensive commission and testing process, followed by static track testing that is scheduled to begin later this year. CAF is expected to deliver the entire fleet of 28 light rail vehicles by the end of 2025. "Over the past several years, the Pur-

ple Line project partnership has steadfastly worked toward today's milestone," said Purple Line Transit Partners CEO Doran Bosso. "We're heartened by our accelerating progress, and we'll continue to rely on our strong partnership with the State of Maryland and the communities we are connecting."

For more information about the vehicles and the Purple Line project, as well as the latest construction updates, road closures and detours, visit purplelinemd.com.

The Maryland Transit Administration is one of the largest multi-modal transit systems in the United States. The Purple Line is a 16-mile, 21-station light rail line connecting communities from New Carrollton in Prince George's County to Bethesda in Montgomery County. The Purple Line will directly connect to the Metrorail's Red, Green and Orange Lines at Bethesda, Silver Spring, College Park and New Carrollton. The Purple Line will also connect to MARC, Amtrak, and local bus services. To learn more, visit purplelinemd.com and follow the project's progress on Facebook, Instagram and X.

Part 3: Child Care: Missing in Maryland?

Maryland's Pre-K Expansion Plan Proves to be Unpopular With Child Care Providers

By AUDREY KEEFE and
MIRA BEINART
Capital News Service

Maryland is counting on private child care providers to take part as the state expands its pre-K program—but many providers don't plan on becoming involved.

In a spring survey of the state's child care providers conducted by the Local News Network, only 12.9% of respondents said they plan to or were already involved in the pre-K program created under the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, the state's expansive education reform plan.

More than a third of the 256 respondents said they were unsure whether they will participate in the pre-K expansion—but nearly 40% said they would not participate.

The pre-K expansion plan under the 10-year Blueprint for Maryland's Future aims to expand pre-K enrollment to all 4-year-olds and all lower-income 3-

year-olds through a "mixed delivery system" involving both public schools and private child care operations.

But many child care providers who responded to the survey said they are reluctant to take part in the program. Some said they would have trouble finding staff for a pre-K operation. Others said they didn't want to get the additional education required to qualify for the program. And others said they didn't want the Maryland State Department of Education to be more involved in their business than it already is.

Patti Smith, the director of Greenway Learning Center in Greenbelt, said she's also concerned developmental differences between 3- and 4-year-olds would make managing a pre-K program difficult.

Asked if she would take part in the pre-K expansion, Smith said: "It's more 'no' than 'maybe,' just for the first year because I want to see what other providers do. And I don't have faith in MSDE. You know, I don't think they

have all the answers—so I'm not ready to be that guinea pig."

The mixed delivery system

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future, which the General Assembly passed in 2021, calls for widespread changes throughout the state's public schools.

And one of the most wide-ranging changes is a vast expansion of early childhood education. The plan calls for state-funded pre-K to be available to all low-income 4-year-olds by the 2025–26 fiscal year. Pre-K will be free to all 3- and 4-year-olds from families that earn up to 300% of the federal poverty level. A sliding scale will determine what families with incomes between 300% and 600% of the federal poverty level will pay for pre-K, while higher-income families will pay for it in full.

"This is another step in the right direction to ensure pre-kindergarten programs continue to grow and create more opportunities for our children and families, especially those who have been



PHOTO CREDIT MIRA BEINART/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Patti Smith, director of the Greenway Learning Center in Greenbelt, with some of the children under her care this spring. Smith is reluctant to join the state's pre-K program.

historically underserved," Maryland State Board of Education President Clarence Crawford said in 2023.

While 40% of the state's eligible youngsters were enrolled in pre-K in the 2022–23 school year, the Blueprint aims to double that percentage in a decade. Given that 30,718 young Marylanders were enrolled in pre-K in 2022–23, the change means tens of

thousands of additional children will be enrolled in pre-K in the coming years.

State officials have set a goal of having private providers fill half the state's pre-K slots by the 2026–27 school year.

"And part of the reason for that is ... there is not enough space in the pub-

See CHILD CARE Page A3

NAREB's Message to Black Consumers in the Wake of Major Procedural Changes Looming in Real Estate Transactions

By PRESS OFFICER
NAREB

In the near future, the home buying process will undergo significant change, particularly in the dynamics between homebuyers, sellers, and the real estate agents facilitating the transactions. These changes, stemming from a potential court case settlement, will redefine how home sellers compensate agents for the buyers of their home. The National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB) wants to assure Black families and individuals that our Realtists, who often represent buyers, will continue to offer exceptional advice and service. These changes could potentially affect the affordability and

accessibility of homeownership for Black families, and NAREB is committed to mitigating these impacts.

Since 1947, NAREB has been at the forefront, training real estate professionals to provide Black consumers with sound advice on home sales and purchases. Our consistent and unwavering advocacy for policies and practices that promote Black homeownership is a testament to our commitment. We have launched the Building Black Wealth Tour, which in less than a year has already hosted over 100 events in communities nationwide, equipping Black consumers with the knowledge, counseling, and guidance they need to become homeowners and start building intergenerational wealth that will strengthen our



families and communities.

It is important to note that, despite the whirlwind of conflicting voices from consumer groups to industry representatives, the proposed settlement allows home sellers to continue choosing to offer compensation to the buyer agents/brokers. It must be done outside

the MLS system and can no longer be mandated. Compensation offers can help make the homeownership process smoother and more efficient. Further, it can make the benefits of professional representation, like that received from Realtists, more accessible to buyers, including first-time home buyers. More importantly, savvy counsel can increase homeownership opportunities for Black families and other historically underserved groups and benefit sellers by expanding the potential buyer pool.

Amidst the chatter about proposed changes in seller and buyer agreement forms, it's crucial to focus on the trusted advisers, NAREB Realtists. These real estate professionals, who often represent buyers, are your best bet in achieving

the American Dream of owning a home. With their wealth of data and information, they will guide you through the changes and ensure you make informed decisions. We can't allow the changes dictated by the courts to become new barriers in our quest to increase Black homeownership and build Black wealth.

The National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB) was formed in 1947 to secure equal housing opportunities regardless of race, creed, or color. NAREB has advocated for legislation and supported or instigated legal challenges that ensure fair housing, sustainable homeownership, and access to credit for Black Americans. For more information, visit <https://www.nareb.com/>

INSIDE

Brandywine-Aquasco

Cheverly Historic District Listed on National Register of Historic Places

DESTINOS: Prints and Zines from Mexico

Towns and Neighbors, Page A2

M&T Bank and PGCEDC Launch Spanish-Language 0-100 Business Accelerator Program

The Accelerator Program provides Spanish-speaking entrepreneurs the guidance and skills to grow and sustain their businesses to help enable a legacy for their families and the Prince George's community. **Community**, Page A3

To Be Equal: Impeachment Resolution Against Supreme Court Justices Is a Tragic Milestone in the Crisis Threatening American Democracy

What is clear is that Thomas and his equally unethical colleague, Justice Samuel Alito, are not fit to serve on the Supreme Court. **Commentary**, Page A4

Prince George's County Receives \$25 Million in Grant Funds

The award will initiate Phase II of "Proud to Charge," which includes the construction of a microgrid charging and energy management system, and the acquisition of additional electric buses. **Environment**, Page A5

TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

With Mary McHale, will return soon!

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

CASTING CALL

Conversations in Faith casting call for a stage play coming fall 2024. Based on the stage play "Conversations in Faith" by Jocelyn B.D. Moore. Talk show hosts interview Cain, Jonah, Queen Jezebel and other Godly and ungodly notable figures from the Bible. Calling men and women ages 21–74. Amateurs, professionals, singers, and musicians are welcome. Audition is cold reading.

Audition dates and times are flexible. Auditions have been extended to Saturday, July 27, 2024. Call 240-755-9008 to schedule. Please email headshot and resume to jocelyn@jmentertainment.info. Audition location: Educational Wing of Providence-Fort Washington United Methodist Church, 10610 Old Fort Road, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

A portion of the Bowie State Symphony of Soul Drumline, "Perfect Storm," were invited to perform for Vice President Kamala Harris at the University of Maryland, College Park. Vice President Harris is no stranger to the BSU Drumline as they performed at her home just a few months ago for the VP's House Party event. BowieBOLD.

CONCERTS AT WATKINS PARK

Concerts in the Park at Watkins Regional Park for all ages. Thursday July 25, 2024, The Tribe Band (R&B) 7–8:30 p.m. Thursday August 8, 2024, Justin Taylor Band (Country) 7–8:30 p.m. Contact: 301-218-6700/6757 wsoinfo@pgparks.com. Watkins Regional Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

KIDS DAY ON THE PLAZA

Join us for a morning of fun at National Harbor's Kid's Day brought to you by M-NCPPC. Grab the Kiddos and head to National Harbor for Kids Day every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. Enjoy the summer sunshine and a rotation of family-friendly activities on the plaza. July 23: Kids programming with WHUT. Full steam ahead with a little bit of science, a little bit of math and a whole lot of fun. Let us work our way through some fun activities from some of our favorite PBS Kids series. July 30: Alice in Wonderland Teen Ensemble performance by M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Recreation.

2024 PAN AFRICAN CITY EXPOSITION

2024 Pan African City Exposition began at Bowie State University. Bowie State University President Aminta Breaux welcomed hundreds of visitors from around the world to the university to attend the 2024 Pan African City Exposition on June 26, 2024, that was held to exchange ideas and develop partnerships to address the crisis in housing, human settlements, real estate development, sustainability and equity issues that are plaguing nations around the globe.

"We're honored to host such an important conference with dignitaries from a variety of nations and Maryland state officials participating," said Breaux. "Housing, sustainability and equity issues are fundamental to the well-being of all people. Leaders coming together to devise solutions to help mitigate these dilemmas is imperative, particularly since climate change is altering where many people can live in the world."

The four-day conference was held at Bowie State University and included Adrienne Todman, Acting Secretary of State; Jacob R. "Jake" Day, Maryland Secretary of Housing and Community Development; Jonathan Daniels, Executive Director, Maryland Port Administration; and Elizabeth Glenn, chair of the US Africa Collaborative which hosted the event, and many more speakers. "The global housing crisis is growing dramatically punctuated by 150 million people around the world who are homeless," said Glenn. There are almost 600,000 homeless people in the United States with 6,000 of them living in Maryland. "With climate change and food insecurity on the rise, it is imperative that local, national and international leaders come together to develop strategies to reduce the housing shortage." Glenn said "participants travelled from Ethiopia, Germany, South Africa, the United Kingdom and other nations to attend the conference."

The four-day conference was held at Bowie State University and included Adrienne Todman, Acting Secretary of State; Jacob R. "Jake" Day, Maryland Secretary of Housing and Community Development; Jonathan Daniels, Executive Director, Maryland Port Administration; and Elizabeth Glenn, chair of the US Africa Collaborative which hosted the event, and many more speakers. "The global housing crisis is growing dramatically punctuated by 150 million people around the world who are homeless," said Glenn. There are almost 600,000 homeless people in the United States with 6,000 of them living in Maryland. "With climate change and food insecurity on the rise, it is imperative that local, national and international leaders come together to develop strategies to reduce the housing shortage." Glenn said "participants travelled from Ethiopia, Germany, South Africa, the United Kingdom and other nations to attend the conference."

JULY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday to Timothy Edwards, Robert Miley, Ezra Prah, Barbara Burdette, Elizabeth King, Desrae Hughes, Alma Pinkney, Trevor Bourne, Franklin Issac, Khari Dee, Princess Mitchell, Prince Iheanyi Mbakwe, Ayden Anthony Jones, Osama Omoregbe, Wayne Baker, Mamou Mbakwe, Shirley Young, Sally Davies, Amina Hughes, Etinosa Omoregbe who are Clinton United Methodist church members celebrating birthdays in July.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Larry and Patricia Mitchell on their wedding anniversary. May you enjoy many more years together. Patricia is the daughter of the late James Garnell and Ruth Turner of Brandywine, Maryland.

CELEBRATING 51 YEARS

Christ United Methodist Church in Aquasco, Maryland located at 22919 Christ Church Road, Aquasco, MD 20608 will be celebrating 51 years on July 21, 2024, at 11 a.m. Let's rejoice and be restored in Hope (Philippians 4:4–8). Guest Speaker will be Rev. Dr. Kwame O. Abayomi (Rev. Handy) retired Elder, Baltimore Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Cheverly Historic District Listed on National Register of Historic Places

By PRESS OFFICER
Town of Cheverly

CHEVERLY, Md. (July 11, 2024)—The Town of Cheverly is proud to announce that the Cheverly Historic District has been officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Effective July 5, 2024, this designation recognizes this unique community's historical and architectural significance.

The National Register of Historic Places has defined the Cheverly Historic District by the first 11 platted sections of the town. The district is roughly bounded by Lan-dover Road to the north, 63rd and 64th Av-

enues to the east, Reed Street to the south, and Crest and Tremont Avenues to the west, including houses on both sides. This area represents a significant part of Cheverly's rich history and architectural heritage.

This process was initiated in 2019. A spokesperson for the Town of Cheverly said, "We are thrilled to receive this recognition. The listing of the Cheverly Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places is a testament to the efforts of our community to preserve and celebrate our town's history."

The designation of the Cheverly Historic District (SG100010470) not only honors the town's past but also provides access

to future opportunities. These include preservation incentives and grants that will help maintain and enhance the area's historic character, ensuring that our rich history is remembered and preserved for future generations.

We are pleased to share the link from the National Park Service, which confirms that the Cheverly National Register Historic District was listed on July 5, 2024. Please note the listings are alphabetical by state. You can view the listing at <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/weekly-list-2024-07-05.htm>.

Morales / OMG Press; Rock & Amistad Riso Press; Ricos Jugos, Gibrán Turón, S A R A — Sociedad Anónima Reproducción Autogestiva; RABIA; and Nico Peor.

Reyes is a multimedia artist and educator based in the Baltimore and Washington D.C. area. His work invites viewers to think about the people, places, and connections they carry with them. Many of his projects are autobiographical and a reflection of his personal journey as an undocumented youth in the United States. His practice explores how the blending of Indigenous and European traditions is an ongoing process of conquest and resistance.



IMAGE COURTESY PYRAMID ATLANTIC ART CENTER

Image: Recuérdame by Franco Uno / Screenprinted by Concordia

and collaborating artists for Destinos. "The featured prints and zines serve as a powerful testament to the enduring traditions of Mexican art. From personal narratives to social commentary, the exhibition delves into themes of identity, history, and the ever-changing social fabric of Mexico," remarks Reyes.

Destinos features work from: Nando Murio / Concordia; Abraham Mascorro

DESTINOS

Prints and Zines from Mexico

By KATE TAYLOR DAVIS
Pyramid Atlantic Art Center

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (July 10, 2024)—Through a selected group of risograph prints and screenprints, Destinos offers a glimpse into the contemporary printmaking scene in Mexico, showcasing prints and zines created and distributed by Mexican studios and shops.

Destinos opens Friday, July 19, 7–9 p.m. (free, RSVP requested). The exhibition runs through August 18, 2024 in Pyramid's Helen C. Frederick Gallery. Gallery hours are Wed & Thu, 10–8 p.m. and Fri–Sun, 10–6 p.m. Pyramid is located at 4318 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville, Maryland 20781. For more information and an RSVP link, visit pyramidatlantic.org or call 301-608-9101.

Destinos curator Edgar Reyes, a Mexican-born artist whose own work reflects on the complexities of migration and resettlement, has brought together work from a range of established and emerging voices. Traveling through Mexico, he sourced a compelling array of works from print shops

Over 700 Use Local SoberRide® Program on Independence Day

DC area's DUI prevention effort removes potential drunk driver from area roadways every single minute during July 4th

By ALEXANDRA LUCCHESI
Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP)

TYSONS, Va. (July 10, 2024)—Over 700 (738) persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used the free safe ride service, SoberRide® on Independence Day (July 4th) as opposed to possibly driving home drunk.

"For its hours of operation this Independence Day, this level of ridership translates into SoberRide removing a potential drunk driver from Greater Washington's roadways every single minute (58 seconds)," said Kurt Erickson, President of the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the organization conducting the region's SoberRide® effort.

WRAP's 2024 Independence Day SoberRide® campaign began at 4 p.m. on Thursday, July 4, 2024, and continued until 4 a.m. on Friday, July 5, 2024 as a way to keep local roads safe from potentially impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday. During this twelve-hour period, area residents celebrating with alcohol could download the Lyft app to their phones, then enter the code "SAFEJULY4TH24" in the app's 'Promo' section to receive their no-cost safe ride home. SoberRide® was available to new and existing Lyft users.

Lyft provided SoberRide® trips throughout the Washington-metropolitan area to local residents ages 21 and older who otherwise may have attempted to drive home after drinking.

Comparably, 447 persons used WRAP's Independence Day SoberRide® program last year.

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

We Want to Claim SS at 62. When Should we Apply?

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 are going to be taking Social Security at 62. She will be 62 on April 15, 2025. I will be 62 August 7, 2025. When should we apply for Social Security? **Signed: Ready to file**

Dear Ready: Social Security recommends you apply for benefits about 2–3 months prior to when you want your benefits to start (to get them time to process your application). You will specify on your application when you wish your benefit to start, so applying early isn't a problem. Just a few things to keep in mind:

- Your first month of eligibility will be the first month you are 62 for the entire month. In your wife's case, her first month of eligibility will be May 2025, and in your case your first month of eligibility will be September 2025. Your wife's benefits will be paid on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, and your benefits will be received on the 2nd Wednesday of every month (payment dates depend on when your birthday falls).
- Social Security has an earnings test for those collecting early benefits (before your full retirement age). If you are working and exceed the earnings limit, SS will take away some of your benefits. The earning limit for 2024 is \$22,320 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away \$1 in benefit for every \$2 you are over the limit (the limit changes annually, so the 2025 limit will be more). Thus, if you plan to work after collecting, you must stay aware of the earning test. If you earn substantially more than the earnings limit, you even may be temporarily ineligible to collect benefits (until you either earn less or reach your full retirement age (FRA) when the earning test no longer applies).
- By claiming at 62, you will incur a cut in benefits of about 30% from the amount you would get by waiting until your FRA to claim. And, except for annual cost of living adjustments, that is a permanent reduction. FYI, your benefit will continue to grow if you wait longer to claim.

Deciding when to claim Social Security should take into account your financial needs, your life expectancy, and your goals as a couple. Claiming at 62 is the right choice for many, but waiting longer, if feasible, will result in a higher monthly amount, which could be beneficial if your life expectancy is long. Of course, we are here for you if you have any additional questions, so please don't hesitate to contact us again if needed.

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

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

COMMUNITY

M&T Bank and Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation Launch Spanish-Language 0-100 Business Accelerator Program

M&T's 0-100 Business Accelerator Program Highlights Spanish Leaders in Diverse Industries

By PRESS OFFICER
M&T Bank / PGEDC

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (July 12, 2024)—A women-owned construction company, a government contractor, and a property management company were announced as the winners of M&T Bank's (NYSE:MTB) second Multicultural Small Business Lab pitch competition in Maryland, in partnership with Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (PGEDC).

The winners, who were awarded a total of \$8,000, were determined following a pitch competition held at the College Park Aviation Museum. The winners were selected by a panel of judges including representatives from M&T and PGEDC, and include:

- **Will Avila, Clean Decisions, LLC (First Prize, \$4,500)**—A government contractor dedicated to providing employment and resources to formerly incarcerated individuals.
- **Maria Kery Phipps, Phipps Construction, LLC (Second Prize, \$2,500)**—A women-owned and environmentally friendly construction company.
- **Arianne Desiree Munoz, Lunita's Properties (Third Prize, \$1,000)**—A property management company.

"The mission of the Multicultural Small Business Lab is to create a more resilient community and this competition is an example of how M&T shows up to help communities where we live and work," said Vickie Mejia, Retail Sales Manager, and co-developer of the program in Prince George's County, MD. "At M&T, we are committed to the sustainability of our diverse small businesses, and we are excited to see these winners spur economic activity and create generational wealth."

"The impact of the Business Accelerator Program and pitch competition is immeasurable as it

transcends traditional business lines into authentic cultural ones," said Rocio Treminio-Lopez, Latin Business Development Manager of Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation. "This year's program was specialized, providing more growth while strengthening business opportunities. With the assistance of PGEDC's Grow Prince George's umbrella of programs, participants benefited from one-on-one mentoring sessions and much more."

The Accelerator Program provides Spanish-speaking entrepreneurs the guidance and skills to grow and sustain their businesses to help enable a legacy for their families and the Prince George's community.

"I am grateful to M&T and PGEDC for conducting this competition, as this was such an invaluable experience," said Will Avila Watson, Owner, Clean Decisions and first prize winner. "I feel energized, and so ready to take my business to the next level."

The seven-week program, which began on April 25, featured courses on business planning, establishing credit, managing bank accounts, marketing, branding, and licensing. Sessions were collaboratively led by M&T Program Lead Karla Bermudez, Bilingual Sr. Branch Manager, Marcelo Lored, Bilingual Branch Manager, and Prince George's County officials. All workshops were held entirely in Spanish.

Participants had to complete an online application, be fluent in Spanish, be based in Prince George's County, and be in good standing. Qualified applicants were enrolled in the free program on a first-come, first-served basis.

To learn more about M&T Bank's Accelerator Program, please visit Accelerator Program | M&T Bank (mtb.com), and M&T's efforts to support small business diversity, visit: M&T Multicultural Banking. To learn about Grow Prince George's,



PHOTO CREDIT PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Will Avila, of Clean Decisions, LLC is first place winner of M&T Bank's second Multicultural Small Business Lab in partnership with Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (PGEDC).

visit <https://www.pgcedc.com/grow-prince-georges>.

by M&T Bank. For more information about M&T Bank, visit www.mtb.com.

M&T Bank Corporation is a financial holding company headquartered in Buffalo, New York. M&T's principal banking subsidiary, M&T Bank, provides banking products and services in 12 states across the northeastern U.S. from Maine to Virginia and Washington, D.C. Trust-related services are provided in select markets in the U.S. and abroad by M&T's Wilmington Trust-affiliated companies and

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

Maryland Commission on Civil Rights Commemorates the 60th Anniversary of the Passage of Civil Rights Act

By PRESS OFFICER
State of Maryland Commission on Civil Rights

Maryland Commission on Civil Rights is proud to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Passage of Civil Rights Act. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is a historic civil rights and labor law that outlawed discrimination based on color, national origin, race, religion, or sex.

"This transformative legislation has stood as a pillar of our Democracy, helping move our nation closer to our founding promise of liberty and justice for all," said Acting Executive Director Cleveland L Horton.

Acting Director Horton also stated the United States and the State of Maryland still have much more work to do before we reach that dream of total equality. "While we celebrate

these significant gains, we also recognize the need for diligence and the ongoing commitment to maintain civil rights protections already won," he said.

"Over recent years, we have seen a continuing effort to chip away at civil rights protections nationally. From the Supreme Court gutting of key provisions in the Voting Rights Act to the overt attack against Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, we must continue to remain vigilant in our fight for Civil Rights."

To commemorate this historic moment, the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights, will host a luncheon honoring this historic legislation on October 22 at the Doubletree by the Hilton in Linthicum Heights. For more information, visit

<https://mccr.maryland.gov/Pages/Events.aspx>

Governor Moore Announces Initiative to Promote Student Success and Economic Mobility Through Support for Community Colleges

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (July 8, 2024)—Governor Wes Moore today announced that the Maryland Higher Education Commission launched a new initiative to reduce inequities in college completion. Called Expanding SUCCESS, the initiative will provide coaching, financial support, and other community resources to bolster access to higher education and to build a more educated workforce.

"Our administration is committed to supporting all Marylanders, no matter their path and no matter their background," said Gov. Moore. "By moving in partnership with leaders inside and outside of government, we will help ensure that students who choose to pursue a college degree have the tools they need to succeed. Together, we are building a Maryland where everyone has the opportunity to thrive and achieve."

Developed in partnership with MDRC, Expanding SUCCESS will increase the number of students in Maryland who are earning a postsecondary degree or credential at a Maryland community college. Three higher education institutions will take part in the pilot program, including Baltimore City Community College, Prince George's Community College, and Wor-Wic Community College. Each institution will receive \$125,000 in funding.

"The Maryland Higher Education Commission is excited about this opportunity to support Maryland students through evidence-based advising models," said Maryland Higher Education Commission Secretary Dr. Sanjay Rai. "Having access to regular, targeted advising can help provide the support students need to successfully complete their program of study. As MHEC considers

new post-2025 college completion goals for Maryland, advising initiatives like the SUCCESS model will be imperative to meet those goals."

MDRC's Scaling Up College Completion Efforts for Student Success (SUCCESS) program comprises comprehensive student supports that are designed to help improve college completion and economic mobility rates for students of color and students from low-income families. Participating institutions were identified based on student population composition and the commission's commitment to serving community colleges statewide.

Both the Maryland Higher Education Commission and MDRC will provide support and training to the participating colleges to launch the initiative, including

See SUCCESS Page A6

Child Care from A1

lic schools to actually provide all those slots for pre-K," Rachel Hise, the executive director of the Blueprint's Accountability and Implementation Board, said at a conference of school principals late last year.

Hise acknowledged, though, that the mixed-delivery effort faces some major challenges, including one that haunts the state's entire child care system.

"The pandemic really drove a number of child care providers out of business," she said.

A widespread reluctance

On top of a statewide shortage of child care providers—which the Local News Network at the University of Maryland documented earlier in this series—education officials face another significant challenge in creating that mixed delivery system. The Local News Network survey this spring found many remaining child care providers are either reluctant to participate in the pre-K expansion or are refusing to take part.

Several child care providers said joining the pre-K program would make a hard job even more difficult.

"I'm overwhelmed with the day-to-

day operational issues," such as staff turnover and increased operating costs, said Dana Miller of Little Smiling Faces Childcare in Mitchellville, in Prince George's County. "Having to find a qualified teacher (for pre-K) would just add more issues."

Under the Blueprint, by the 2025–26 school year, pre-K teachers will have to be state-certified in early childhood education, or have a bachelor's degree and be taking part in an alternative educators training program. Pre-K teaching assistants will be required to have an associate's degree, whereas now they only need a high school diploma.

Those requirements automatically block some child care providers from offering pre-K.

"It's my understanding that you have to have a bachelor's to participate, and I do not," said Danielle Zulauf, owner of Tiny Trailblazers Daycare in Preston, in Caroline County.

Michele Stritch, owner and operator of Michele Stritch Family Child Care in Dundalk, said in response to the survey that she is reluctant to participate in the pre-K because she doesn't know what it entails. She also noted her center faces financial challenges and concerns about state regulations.

"I am inclined to not participate because I do not want the state being even more involved in how I run my business," Stritch said.

On top of all those issues, state education planners face one more challenge. The results of the LNN survey showed the percentage of child care providers who want to take part in the pre-K program—12.9%—is exactly the same as the percentage of those who had never heard of it.

"I would love to participate but have never heard of the program," said Charnetta Bailey, owner and operator of Children Learning Wonders in Ellicott City.

A publicity push?

Told about the survey results, a spokeswoman for the State Department of Education, Raven Hill, indicated better publicity is the key to making sure more child care providers decide to offer pre-K.

"MSDE continues to invite private providers to participate in PUSH to Pre-K webinars to increase awareness of publicly funded Pre-K and provide accurate information and support regarding Pre-K grant opportunities and requirements," Hill said in a written

response to questions submitted by the Local News Network. "MSDE will continue to encourage local education agencies to engage private providers in their areas about pre-K opportunities and the pre-K grant program benefits to children and families."

In addition, the state is tweaking its grant awards program to make more child care facilities eligible for pre-K funding, Hill said.

Tiffany Jones, owner of Precious Moments Family Childcare in Rockville, said she plans on participating in the expansion program. However, she said it's difficult for many child care providers to understand the state's pre-K effort.

"The requirements to participate in pre-K expansion are very challenging for the average family child care provider," she said. "So while pre-K is a wonderful program, they need the spaces in family child care for the system to really work—but there are a ton of requirements for providers (that are) very difficult."

Even so, some child care providers said they plan on taking part in the pre-K expansion because doing so is important for the survival of their business. After all, if they lose 3- and 4-year-olds

to either public schools offering pre-K or to other providers, that means fewer enrollees and lower revenue.

"I feel the school is taking all of the 4-year-olds and some of the 3-year-olds," said Laurie Arnold, owner of Laurie Arnold Home Daycare in Frederick, who plans to take part in the pre-K program. "In order to keep my numbers up, I have to adjust."

In time, despite the fact that she said she doesn't want to be a "guinea pig," Patti Smith of the Greenway Learning Center may end up adjusting, too.

She said she's taking a wait-and-see attitude toward joining the pre-K expansion and may join it eventually. But she said she's afraid those providers who decided to take part starting this year may have a difficult confrontation with reality when the next school year starts.

"Come September, they're gonna go: 'Oh, we don't have enough room. We don't have enough teachers,'" Smith said. "I do think they've bitten off more than they can chew."

Local News Network director Jerry Zremski contributed to this report.

COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Impeachment Resolution Against Supreme Court Justices Is a Tragic Milestone in the Crisis Threatening American Democracy

“The Supreme Court is the highest court in the land but has the lowest ethical standards, which means pay-to-play billionaires, right-wing dark money groups and carbon-emitting special interests have freedom to purchase the best justice money can buy. Congress can’t stand idly by as this emboldened and imperious Court pursues a lawless right-wing agenda and strips our citizens of their Constitutional rights.”

—U.S. Rep. Jamie Raskin

Several paragraphs into a media account of the many undisclosed and unethical gifts Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas has accepted—including a yacht trip to Russia and a helicopter flight to Yusupov Palace in St. Petersburg—is a simple, but chilling phrase:

“It’s unclear whether Thomas met with Putin.”

Did a member of the nation’s highest court, entrusted to ensure fair and free elections, meet with the corrupt tyrant who directed the most elaborate

election sabotage operation in American history? It’s unclear.

It’s an extraordinary commentary on the depths to which the integrity of the Supreme Court has sunk.

What is clear is that Thomas and his equally unethical colleague, Justice Samuel Alito, are not fit to serve on the Supreme Court. The effort to remove them from the bench, formally launched in Congress this week, is unlikely to succeed in a House of Representatives in thrall to its most extreme right-wing members. But that does not negate the responsibility of Congress to safeguard the integrity of the court.

The resolution on Thomas includes three articles of impeachment:

- Failure to disclose financial income, gifts and reimbursements, property interests, liabilities, and transactions, among other information.
 - Refusal to recuse from matters concerning his spouse’s legal interest in cases before the court.
 - Refusal to recuse from matters involving his spouse’s financial interest in cases before the court.
- The resolution on Alito includes two articles of impeachment:
- Refusal to recuse from cases in which he had a personal bias or prejudice concerning a party in cases before the court.
 - Failure to disclose financial income, gifts and

reimbursements, property interests, liabilities, and transactions, among other information.

The misdeeds of Alito and Thomas have been well-documented by investigative journalists and examined by a House Oversight panel and the Senate Finance Committee. Senators this week asked U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland to appoint a special counsel to investigate two of Thomas’ ethical breaches specifically.

“The unchecked corruption crisis on the Supreme Court has now spiraled into a constitutional crisis threatening American democracy writ large,” Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who introduced the impeachment resolutions, said. She has been joined by 18 co-sponsors.

Sadly, it has been clear for some time that the Supreme Court has no intention of enforcing such standards when it comes to its own members. The so-called Code of Conduct it issued last year was more a justification of corruption than a prohibition against it.

It is regrettable when any public official runs afoul of the standards of decency and integrity that should guide their actions. It is exponentially so when the official is one who is entrusted with enforcing standards of decency and integrity.

—July 12, 2024

Ben Jealous

Executive Director, Sierra Club



Dispatch From a World on Fire

The smoke pollution from Canadian wildfires last summer killed more than 100 people in Michigan—about two dozen in Detroit alone, according to a Cornell University study.

Other Detroiters, like June Mack, saw their medical conditions worsen dramatically. Mack, a retiree living in Northwest Detroit who has asthma, was confined to her home and still could not escape the smoke’s impact. She suffered vertigo and double vision that required her to wear an eyepatch and give up driving for months. And it left her worrying about the effectiveness and cost of her asthma inhaler. Mack told Planet Detroit, “I’m concerned that if the air quality is still bad... will [it] work? Or do I have to go to something else more expensive?”

Wildfire smoke and its impacts have long been an issue for many in the western United States. But the fires there are getting worse there too. They are getting worse everywhere. It is climate change in action.

According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, as of July 6, 150,082 acres had burned so far this year in wildland fires in

the state. That is nearly four-and-a-half times the five-year average (34,257 acres) for the same time interval.

“The world is on fire” is no longer a metaphor. In the United States, that means almost 16,000 deaths per year from wildfire smoke. That number could nearly double by mid-century, according to an April analysis by the National Bureau of Economic Research. Another study this year out of Yale found that we could already be near 30,000 deaths per year, when factoring in all the additional harm to heart, lung, kidney, and mental health in the aftermath of smoke exposure.

The destruction does not end with the fires and smoke. There are the floods that follow the fires. And all the injuries and illness also carry both extreme human and financial costs. A study published last month found that in California, between 2008 and 2018, there were 52,480 premature deaths associated with exposure to the fine particulate matter in wildfire smoke. And the health care costs from that exposure exceeded \$432 billion.

Climate change creates the conditions for these

fires and ignites them. But, part of a vicious cycle, the fires themselves also help fuel climate change.

Our North American forests have an especially big role in cleansing our air. They are among the forests sometimes referred to as “the Earth’s lungs.” These forests are particularly carbon-dense, because of all the carbon their trees pull out of the atmosphere. Therefore when these forests burn, the fires release significant amounts of carbon dioxide, which in turn creates more warming. And that in turn creates more fires.

Moreover, while the underlying conditions for longer fire seasons and more intense blazes are supercharged by global warming, new research shows that hotter temperatures are themselves likely causing fires to start. We have known that fires continue to smolder under the snowpack in our Arctic forests as so-called “zombie fires.” Then, when the weather warms, if there is ample vegetation for those fires to consume, they can essentially rise from the ashes of last year’s fire with new life. But new research indicates it could be the heat itself that is lighting the new fires and increasing the prevalence of zombie fires.

The soils of North America’s Arctic and boreal forests are rich in peat. Rapid increases in temperature above ground can cause peat-rich soils to heat up to smoldering temperatures underground, without any other spark or ignition. Add forest fires started by spontaneous combustion to the list of the impacts of climate change.

So, what can we do? For one, we need to break our fossil fuel addiction immediately. The cycle of wildfires, carbon release, and atmospheric warming described above can only be broken if we stop pushing the problem along by continuing to burn fossil fuels.

The other thing we can do is protect our trees and plant more of them. Old growth forests are especially important because they are more fire resistant and absorb and store more carbon than their younger counterparts. And those forests have a well-developed understory—the layer of vegetation between the ground and the upper forest canopy. Many understory plants are perennials that come back after a fire.

That means the initiatives from the Biden-Harris administration to protect old growth forests and to plant trees in American cities are critical. The most obvious start is preserving mature and old-growth forests and trees on federal lands from being cut. And the \$1.5 billion investment in urban forestry by this administration is another great step. Expanding urban tree canopies directly benefits communities with the addition of much-needed shade and green space. And with 84% of Americans living in or just outside cities, that is important. We should be planting trees in every community.

As we work to slow the warming and increase protections for trees and forests, if you live in a place with fires or fire smoke, take care, and stay inside when needed. If you live somewhere with an acute risk of fire or post-fire flooding, consider taking precautions like having an emergency plan and packing a go-bag.

This is our new normal, but we do not need to just accept it. The solutions are right in front of us. We just need to find the will to reach for them.

—July 8, 2024

Ben Jealous is the Executive Director of the Sierra Club and a Professor of Practice at the University of Pennsylvania.

M-NCPPC Prince George’s County Planning Department Announces Opening of Fall Application Process for the Neighborhood Planning Academy

By PRESS OFFICER
M-NCPPC

LARGO, Md. (July 15, 2024)—The Prince George’s County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) announces that applications for the next Neighborhood Planning Academy are now open. The program offers a unique opportunity for community-minded individuals to learn about urban planning and actively shape the future of Prince George’s County. The curriculum covers essential topics in urban planning, community engagement, and sustainable development. The program also aims to empower residents to actively engage in planning and decision-making processes in their communities.

The free, seven-week course offered by the M-NCPPC Prince George’s County Planning Department supports residents, municipalities, non-profit organizations, and the business community in understanding how the development process works, how to better engage, and how to advocate for community goals and visions.

Applicants will be selected from each councilmanic district for ge-

ographic diversity. The fall session runs on Wednesdays from October 9, 2024–November 20, 2024, from 6:30–8:30 p.m. The first six sessions will be conducted virtually via Microsoft Teams. The final session includes an in-person graduation with capstone project presentations that highlight newly acquired skills and planning knowledge. The application deadline is August 16, 2024.

Since the launch of the program in the fall of 2023, the Neighborhood Planning Academy has received more than 500 applications from interested Prince George’s County residents and stakeholders. Spaces are limited! To apply and learn more about the NPA program visit <http://academy.pgplanning.com>. For any questions, please email PGCNPA@ppd.mncppc.org.

The Prince George’s County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) is responsible for preserving, protecting, and managing the county’s resources through high-quality planning services and growth management guidance. Our mission is to promote economic vitality, environmental sustainability, design excellence, and quality development that promotes

healthy lifestyles in Prince George’s County. Visit our website, www.pg-planning.org, to learn how you can become engaged in shaping the future of your community.

Assistance

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission encourages the participation of persons with disabilities in all its programs and services. To receive a disability accommodation call the Public Affairs Office at 301-952-3038, email PublicAffairs@ppd.mncppc.org, or complete the online form.

The Prince George’s Post

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

Publisher/Senior Editor
Legusta Floyd

Editor
Lisa Duan

**General Manager/
Legal Advertising Manager**
Brenda Boice

**Administrative Assistant/
Billing**
Julie Volosin

Legal Advertising Assistant
Robin Boerckel

Web Manager
Kyler Quesenberry

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

Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center Recognized as a High Performing Hospital by U.S. News & World Report

By PRESS OFFICER
Luminis Health

LANHAM, Md. (July 16, 2024)—Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center (LHDCMC), a cornerstone of healthcare in Prince George’s County for nearly 50 years, proudly announces its recognition by U.S. News & World Report as a 2024–2025 High Performing hospital. LHDCMC has achieved this prestigious distinction for excelling in four critical procedures and conditions: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Heart Failure, Pneumonia, and Stroke. This is the highest distinction a hospital can earn for

the U.S. News’ Best Hospitals Procedures & Conditions ratings.

U.S. News evaluated nearly 5,000 hospitals across 15 specialties and 20 procedures and conditions. Hospitals awarded “Best” designation excelled at factors such as clinical outcomes, level of nursing care and patient experience.

The annual Best Hospital rankings and ratings, now in its 35th year, are designed to assist patients and their doctors in making informed decision about where to receive quality care for challenging health conditions or elective procedures.

To calculate the Best Hospitals rankings, U.S. News evaluated each hospital’s performance on objective measures such as risk-ad-

justed mortality rates, preventable complications and level of nursing care. The Best Hospitals Specialty rankings methodology and Procedures & Conditions ratings methodology measure patient outcomes using data from millions of records provided by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

This year, among other methodology refinements, U.S. News incorporated new data on care provided to patients with Medicare Advantage insurance and on care provided to outpatients, nearly doubling the number of patients included in its annual data analysis. The Procedures & Conditions ratings are based entirely on objective quality measures.

ENVIRONMENT



CREDIT: PEXELS.COM.

Environmentalists are keeping their fingers crossed for an international treaty to ban single-use plastics.

EarthTalk® Q&A

Is There Any Hope of an International Plastics Treaty?

By RODDY SCHEER AND DOUG MOSS JULY 5, 2024

Dear EarthTalk:

Is there any hope of an international treaty to ban or cut back significantly on plastic waste?

—W. Smith, Los Angeles, CA

The global plastic waste crisis has reached alarming proportions, prompting widespread calls for global action. Some 300 million tons of plastic are produced worldwide each year, with a significant portion ending up in oceans and waterways, devastating marine life and ecosystems. The need for coordinated action is evident, as plastic pollution transcends national borders and requires a unified approach.

Efforts towards an international treaty to regulate plastic waste have gained momentum through platforms like the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the Basel Convention. These forums have provided avenues for countries to discuss and negotiate agreements on plastic waste management. Key proposals include limiting the export of plastic waste to countries ill-equipped to handle it, promoting sustainable alternatives to single-use plastics, and establishing all-inclusive recycling and waste management systems.

The Basel Convention, in particular, made significant strides in 2019 by amending its regulations to include plastic waste in its framework for controlling transboundary movements of hazardous waste. This amendment requires countries to obtain prior informed consent before shipping plastic waste across borders, thus curbing the careless disposal of plastics in developing countries. Moreover, several countries and regions have taken proactive steps independently. The European Union, for one, has adopted ambitious plans to ban single-use plastics and promote an economy where plastic waste is minimized, reused and recycled. Such regional initiatives serve as models for broader international cooperation.

Public awareness and advocacy have played crucial roles in driving political will for a global treaty. Environmental organizations, grassroots movements and concerned citizens have mobilized campaigns highlighting the detrimental impacts of plastic pollution and demanding policy action at all levels.

Challenges remain, though, mainly due to economic interests and differing national priorities. Plastic production is deeply intertwined with industries and economies worldwide, making significant reductions or bans controversial. Developing countries, despite being excessively affected by plastic pollution, often lack the resources and infrastructure to manage waste effectively. Nevertheless, the momentum for change is building. International agreements on environmental issues historically start with incremental steps and gradually evolve into more comprehensive treaties. The emergence of coalitions of like-minded countries committed to tackling plastic waste provides optimism for a collective approach.

A 2022 United Nations resolution saw 175 countries endorse a historic resolution to end plastic pollution and create an international legally binding agreement by the end of 2024. The resolution calls for the establishment of an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) tasked with creating a draft legally binding agreement by the end of 2024. Environmentalists are keeping their fingers crossed that this draft resolution can become a legally binding instrument to significantly reduce plastic pollution.

CONTACTS: UN lays out blueprint to reduce plastic waste 80% by 2040, www.reuters.com/business/environment/un-lays-out-blueprint-reduce-plastic-waste-80-by-2040-2023-05-16/. Nations sign up to end global scourge of plastic pollution, news.un.org/en/story/2022/03/1113142.

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

Waste Collection Times Have Changed Pickup to Start at 5 a.m.

With temperatures rising and expected to remain high throughout the coming weeks, the Prince George's County Department of the Environment has adjusted its waste collection hours.

Beginning Monday, July 15, through Monday, September 30, residents are asked to place their trash and recycling carts at the curb by 5 a.m. on their regular collection day.

This time adjustment is for workers' safety to avoid waste collection during the hottest times of the day. Residents should note that services may be delayed throughout the day while workers navigate the high temperatures.

Prince George's County Receives \$25 Million in Grant Funds to Advance the "Proud to Charge" Zero Emissions Transportation Sustainability Initiative

By PRESS OFFICER
Department of Public Works and Transportation

LARGO, Md. (July 9, 2024)—The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has awarded \$25.5 million in grant funding to advance the "Proud to Charge" Zero Emissions and Sustainable Transportation Program in Prince George's County. The Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) is a recipient of the FTA's FY24 Low and No Emission Vehicle Program grant. The award will initiate Phase II of "Proud to Charge," which includes the construction of a microgrid charging and energy management system, and the acquisition of additional electric buses.

"I want to thank the Federal Transit Administration for this \$25.5 million dollar grant to advance the Prince George's County 'Proud to Charge' program," said County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "These funds will be used to put more electric buses on the road, get more charging infrastructure installed, and bring Prince Georgians closer to the promise of a clean energy future."

The FTA's Low-and No-Emission program makes funding available to help transit agencies buy or lease U.S.-built low- or no-

emission vehicles, make facility and station upgrades to accommodate low- or no-emission vehicles, and buy supporting equipment. Today's announcement is part of approximately \$1.5 billion in funding to support 117 projects that will improve public transportation in 47 states. This funding continues the Biden-Harris Administration's historic federal investment in the nation's bus systems and transit workforce.

"Unprecedented storms, heatwaves and other severe weather events are becoming more frequent and are directly caused by climate change. Collective action is one of the best ways to address our climate crisis. This federal investment in transitioning Prince George's County's buses to a zero-emission fleet will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, achieve our climate goals and create more environmental equity in a community that needs it most," said Senator Ben Cardin. "This is a substantial investment in our climate future that will have a significant impact for decades to come."

"Upgrading our public transit with new, more efficient buses and vans not only benefits our environment—it also benefits the thousands of Marylanders who ride on Prince George's County transit every day. These types of investments are exactly why we fought to pass the infrastructure

modernization law, so across our state and our country we can bring our transportation systems into the 21st century, improve Americans' commutes, and boost our economy," said Senator Chris Van Hollen.

The Low and No Grant award will support DPW&T's Prince George's County Transit Transformation initiative, which encompasses four key initiatives: Zero Emissions Bus Transition, Transit Forward, Service Changes, and the Transit Vision Plan. In addition to microgrid construction, funding will enable the purchase of 15 new electric buses, 5 new battery electric vans for demand response transit services, and new level 4 electric chargers. These key investments support the County's transition to an all-EV bus fleet.

"We are excited to receive additional grant funding from the Federal Transit Administration to advance our efforts towards a sustainable and environmentally friendly transportation system," said DPW&T Director Michael Johnson. "This grant is a significant step in our commitment to reducing emissions and improving the quality of life in our communities for generations to come."

For additional information or updates on the "Proud to Charge" program initiative, follow DPW&T on social media (@PGCountyDPWT).

DPW&T Launches Residential Street Sweeping Awareness Campaign to Inform and Engage Residents

Virtual Townhall Meetings and Outreach Activities Precede Residential Street Sweeping Program Scheduled to Begin September 2024

By PRESS OFFICER
DPW&T

LARGO, Md. (July 10, 2024)—The Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) announces the launch of a public outreach campaign to raise awareness for the County's new street sweeping program, which begins in September. The campaign includes a virtual town hall series, digital and social marketing and direct outreach through homeowners and civic associations.

The initiative is designed to inform and engage residents regarding the Residential Street Sweeping Program set to begin September 3, immediately following Labor Day Weekend. The town hall meetings aim to provide valuable information, answer questions, and gather feedback to ensure the program's successful implementation.

"We are excited to roll out yet another new program that will help us continue moving forward in our efforts to keep our County clean and beautiful," said County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "This street sweeping program is designed to reduce

the amount of litter on our roadways and help us create a cleaner and healthier environment for our residents. We remain committed to enhancing the quality of life here in our County and encourage our residents to stay engaged with us as we continue our beautification efforts."

About the Street Sweeping Program:

The County is committed to reducing litter in an effort to improve the health of the environment and aesthetics of the County, a Proud Priority of the Alsobrooks Administration. Regular street sweeping of curb lines and gutters helps prevent litter buildup, mitigates pollutants in our ecosystem, and enhances the overall appearance of residential communities. This program will be implemented in two phases and cover all Prince George's County maintained residential streets.

Virtual Town Hall Schedule:

To ensure all residents have an opportunity to learn about the program, provide comments, and ask questions, DPW&T has scheduled a series of virtual town hall meetings:

- Wednesday, July 17
- Wednesday, August 7
- Thursday, August 22

Each town hall meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and include a presentation, followed by a Q&A segment where participants can submit questions and provide critical input. Details related to operation schedules and what residents should expect when street sweeping begins will also be provided. To register for a virtual town hall, visit mypgc.us/sweep.

"The DPW&T town hall meetings are more than informational sessions; they are a platform for engagement and collaboration," said DPW&T Director, Michael Johnson. "I encourage residents to participate and contribute to the street sweeping program's success and our neighborhood cleanliness."

For more information on the Residential Street Sweeping Program, please visit mypgc.us/sweep or call the Department of Public Works and Transportation at (301) 883-5600. Residents may also email streetsweeping@co.pg.md.us with questions or concerns.

5 Ways to Be Environmentally Conscious at Home

(Family Features) Being environmentally conscious doesn't have to be complicated or expensive. In fact, by making simple changes to your daily routine, you can make a positive impact on the planet while also saving money and living a more sustainable lifestyle.

Consider these practical ways to reduce your carbon footprint and protect the planet for future generations right from the comforts of your own home.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: This classic mantra is still relevant today. By reducing the amount of waste you produce, reusing items whenever possible and recycling materials like paper, plastic and glass, you can help minimize the amount of trash that ends up in landfills and oceans. Composting food scraps and avoiding single-use plastic items like water bottles and shopping bags can also help reduce your impact on the environment.

Conserve Energy: One of the biggest contributors to climate change is the burning of fossil fuels for energy. Simple steps like turning off lights when you leave a room, unplugging electronics when they're not in use, adjusting your thermostat to save on heating and cooling costs and using energy-efficient lightbulbs and appliances can help reduce your carbon footprint and save you money in the long run.

Save Water: Water is a precious resource, and it's important to use it wisely. Simple actions like fixing leaky faucets, taking shorter showers, using the dishwasher or washing machine only when full and watering your garden in the early morning or late evening can help conserve water and protect the water supply. You can also install low-flow showerheads and toilets to further reduce water usage.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

Choose Sustainable Products: When shopping for household items, look for products made from sustainable materials that are biodegradable or recyclable. Choosing products with minimal packaging or opting for eco-friendly alternatives can help reduce waste.

Grow Your Own Food: If you have the space, consider starting a small garden at home. Growing your own fruits, vegetables and herbs allows you to enjoy fresh, organic produce while also reducing the carbon footprint of your food by cutting out the transportation and packaging involved in store-bought produce.

Find more tips for going green at home at eLivingtoday.com.

Source: eLivingtoday.com

COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

UNITED METHODIST

WESTPHALIA Christian Community Church

"A CHURCH ON THE REACH FOR GOD"

9363 D'Arcy Road
Upper Marlboro, MD

Worship Service:
9 a.m.

(301) 735-9373
Fax: (301) 735-1844

Rev. Dr. Timothy West,
Pastor

ALL ARE WELCOME

Web Site:
www.westphaliaum.org

BAPTIST

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HIGHLAND PARK

'A Bible Based, Christ Centered & Spirit Led Congregation'

6801 Sheriff Road Landover, MD
20785 (301) 773-6655

Sunday Biblical Institute:
9:30 a.m.

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

Saturday Worship:
6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

BAPTIST

First Baptist Church of College Park

Welcomes You Where Jesus Christ Is Lord and King
Stephen L. Wright, Sr., Pastor

5018 Lakeland Road
College Park, MD 20740
301-474-3995
www.fbc-cp.org

Sunday School 9:30a.m.
Sunday Worship 11a.m.
Holy Communion 1st Sunday
Wednesday Bible Study 7-8p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service 8p.m.

UNITED METHODIST

Union United Methodist Church

14418 Old Marlboro Pike,
Upper Marlboro, MD

Church (301) 627-7389

Sunday School (Children/Adults) - 8:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Reverend Twanda E. King,
Pastor
www.uumchurch.com

S. G. Spottswood A.M.E. Zion Church

419 Hill Road, Landover, MD
20785 • 301-490-2625

Rev. Ranesa Mayo, Pastor

"We are training disciples to experience victory in every area of their lives"

Matthew 28:19-20

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

Soulful Thursdays
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

BAPTIST

Forest Heights Baptist Church

We exist to strengthen your relationship with God.
6371 Oxon Hill Road
Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745

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

COMMUNITY CHURCH

WORD OF GOD COMMUNITY CHURCH

"The Church Where Everybody is Somebody and Jesus is Lord"

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

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

Have a Safe Weekend

Church Directory Advertisements are paid ads.

Call the Prince George's Post today and have your Church information published in our Directory.

Call Today!
301-627-0900

Success from A3

data analytics to track student retention and degree completion. The institutions will also gather and use data to continuously improve the program and support student success.

"One of the most important public policy challenges of our time is to make the promise of postsecondary education real by supporting students to complete their degrees," said MDRC President Virginia Knox. "We are thrilled to partner with Maryland to implement a promising student support program to help students achieve their potential."

Program eligibility requirements will vary by college. For more information, contact:

Baltimore City Community College: Donna Thomas, Interim Vice President, Student Affairs, dthomas2@bccc.edu

Prince George's Community College: Crystal Smith, Dean of Student Success and Advisement, smithcm@pgcc.edu

Wor-Wic Community College: Paul Fields, Director of Advising and Title III, pfields@worwic.edu

DONATE YOUR CAR, TRUCK, RV

Your donation helps provide food, clothing, hope.

LUTHERAN MISSION SOCIETY OF MD
Compassion Place
MINISTRIES

Tax deductible.
MVA licensed #1044

410-228-8437
www.CompassionPlace.org

WESLEY FINANCIAL GROUP

You CAN Cancel Your Timeshare

We have helped over 30,000 American families save over \$450,000,000 in timeshare debt and maintenance fees. We can help you too.

Get your free information kit and see if you qualify:

Call 1.888.984.2917

CLASSIFIEDS

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Let the Multimedia Specialists of MDDC Ad Services help you in growing your business and increasing your customer base. CALL TODAY at 855-721-MDDC, Ext. 4 and start seeing results NOW!

FOR SALE

Get Boost Infinite! Unlimited Talk, Text and Data For Just \$25/mo! The Power Of 3 5G Networks, One Low Price! Call Today and Get The Latest iPhone Every Year On Us! 855-977-5719

SERVICES—MISCELLANEOUS

wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-337-5228 [#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/MDDC)

VEHICLES WANTED

DONATE YOUR CAR/TRUCK/RV - Lutheran Mission Society of MD Compassion Place ministries help local families with food, clothing, counseling. Tax deductible. MVA licensed #W1044. 410-228-8437 www.CompassionPlace.org

BUSINESS SERVICES

Increase the digital presence of your business! Contact MDDC Ad Services to receive a FREE Digital Footprint Consultation for your business from a TOP PERFORMING advertising agency! Call 855-721-MDDC, Ext. 4, www.mddcadservices.com.

FOR SALE

Prepare for power outages today with a GENERAC Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-993-0969 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

SERVICES—MISCELLANEOUS

Save loads of money with your advertising budgets! CONNECT with the Multimedia Specialists of MDDC Ad Services. Expand your brand's reach in our Bulk Advertising Network - CALL TODAY! With one call, one placement, one bill, you'll reach over 1,000,000 readers in the entire Mid-Atlantic region. Call 855-721-MDDC, Ext. 4 or email kberrier@mddcpress.com.

THIS COULD BE YOUR AD!

Call today for a quote.
301-627-0900

FOR SALE

Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-855-407-6870

SERVICES—MISCELLANEOUS

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not

NO HIDDEN FEES. NO HIDDEN ANYTHING.

Plans start at just \$20/month.

Consumer Cellular **866-337-1676**

DENTAL Insurance
Great coverage for retirees.

Get your **FREE** Information Kit from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company.

Call **1-855-337-5228**
Dental50Plus.com/MDDC

LET THE PROS HANDLE IT! LeafFilter GUTTER PROTECTION

20% OFF + 10% OFF
Your Entire Purchase* Seniors + Military

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE INSPECTION! **1-844-566-3227**

MARYLAND | DELAWARE | DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MDDC PRESS FOUNDATION

HELP FUND THE FUTURE OF JOURNALISM

mddcpress.com/foundation

Be prepared before the next power outage.

It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase* - valued at \$535.

Call 855-993-0969 to schedule your free quote!

GENERAC

The Prince George's Post

Your Newspaper of Legal Record

Call (301) 627-0900
Fax (301) 627-6260

Subscribe Today!

Serving Prince George's County Since 1932

Custom Pull-Out Shelves for your existing cabinets and pantry.

Call for Your **FREE** Design Consultation **ShellGenie**

(844) 538-5547