

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SINCE 1932

Vol. 92, No. 30 July 25 — July 31, 2024

Prince George's County, Maryland

Newspaper of Record

Phone: 301-627-0900

25 cents

Rachel Sherman Honored With Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award for Volunteerism

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (July 19, 2024)—Rachel Sherman, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, ACHPN, was honored with the 2024 Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award at the Juneteenth Celebration of Black Excellence Networking and Awards Event at the Overdue Recognition Art Gallery in Bowie, Maryland.

The award recognizes volunteerism and is sponsored by AmeriCorps and the Office of the President of the United States. Sherman completed more than 4,000 hours of volunteer work in her lifetime. "That is quite the feat, but we aren't surprised given her tireless work advocating for patients and families in our communities," Hospice of the Chesapeake President and CEO Becky Miller said. "She is tenacious and fearless in promoting health equity and access to hospice and palliative care for all. Dr. Sherman's role and daily focus adjusted recently at Hospice of the Chesapeake to Director

of Advocacy and Legislative Affairs."

She is an advanced care nurse practitioner, an Army veteran, community activist, educator, and entrepreneur with a passion for addressing issues of discrimination, equity and social justice. Sherman is the co-founder of We the People of Prince George's County and is a member of the National Association Against Police Brutality, The NAACP—Prince George's County Branch, The Maryland Academy of Advanced Practice Clinicians and the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association. In 2023, she was appointed by Gov. Wes Moore to the Maryland Board of Nursing.

"We are very proud of the work Dr. Sherman does day to day to support those living with illness and loss," Miller said.

At Hospice of the Chesapeake, we create meaningful experiences for those in the

See AWARD Page A2



PHOTO COURTESY HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE
Rachel Sherman holds her Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award she received June 19 at Black Excellence Networking and Awards Event in Bowie, Maryland.

City of District Heights Appoints Gyasi Gomez as Vice Mayor

By PRESS OFFICER
City of District Heights

DISTRICT HEIGHTS, Md. (July 18, 2024)—The City of District Heights is proud to announce the appointment of Gyasi Gomez as Vice Mayor, serving in this role for fiscal year 2025. Gomez, who brings a wealth of experience and a fresh perspective to her new role, has served as the Commissioner for Ward 2 since May 2022.

Born and raised in Prince George's County, Gomez has been a resident of District Heights since 2019. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Loyola University New Orleans, and a Master of Science in International Social Welfare and Health Policy from Oslo Metropolitan University.

As a community leader, Gomez has initiated several impactful projects, including the establishment of District Height's Sustainability Committee, and the development of an

annual Roads and Sidewalk Paving Plan with earmarked funds to improve and maintain District Heights imperious surfaces. Gomez also serves on the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) Committee for the Prince George's County Public School (PGCPS) Board, which offers recommendations to the Board on operationalizing the PGCPS' CCAP.

In January 2024, Gomez served as a delegate to the Local Government 2030 Initiative in Phoenix, Arizona. As the only delegate from Maryland, she worked alongside other elected officials and talented local government professionals to implement solutions for the challenges facing local governments nationwide.

Mayor Cynthia Miller expressed her confidence in Gomez's ability to excel in her new role: "Commissioner Gyasi

See APPOINTS Page A2

State and Prince George's County Leaders Will Gather to Remember Lives Lost on MD 210, Renew the Call for Escalated Electronic Speed Monitoring Fines

Horror aggravated by frustration over unabated 155 mph-plus speeding inspires collaborative effort among government, road safety advocacy organizations and victims of road violence to honor those killed by MD 210 road violence and demand legislation to deter speeding

By PRESS OFFICER
MD 210 Traffic Safety Committee

WHO:

- The 210 Traffic Safety Committee (Reverend Dr. Robert L. Screen, Ron Weiss, Reverend Tierney Screen, Pastor Stephanie Bynum, Tamara Davis Brown, Sandra Hall, and Herb Jones)
- Maryland Congressman Glenn Ivey
- District 26 Delegate Jamila Woods
- Prince George's County Executive Office: Floyd E. Holt, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
- Prince George's County Council: The Honorables Jolene Ivey, Chair (D-5)

and Calvin Hawkins (At-Large), Wanika B. Fisher, Esq. (D-2) Representative, Debra F. Carter, Chief of Staff

- Charles County Commissioner: Reuben B. Collins II, Esq., President
- Maryland Coalition for Roadway Safety: John Seng, Chair
- Prince George's County NAACP Office: Linda Thornton, President
- Former AAA Mid-Atlantic Representative, John Townsend
- The Families of MD 210 Victims
- Community organizations, concerned citizens, and residents

INVITED

Congressman Steny Hoyer
Senator Chris Van Hollen
Governor Wes Moore
Prince George's County Council: Edward Burroughs (D-8) and Tom Dernoga (D-1)

WHERE:

Harmony Hall Regional Center (Auditorium): 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744

WHEN:

Saturday, July 27, 2024 at 11 a.m.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 974 did not pass the Environment and Transportation Hearing in the 2024 Maryland General Assembly. The Bill was introduced by District 26 Delegate Kris Valderrama to significantly increase civil penalties for violations recorded by speed monitoring systems on Maryland 210 (Indian Head Highway) in Prince George's County for exceeding the maximum speed limit above the 11 MPH legal buffer, or by becoming a "Repeat Offender" by habitually exceeding the maximum speed monitoring systems on Maryland 210 in Prince George's County. State and Local representatives

will share the imperative and importance of the Bill and how the community can build support for its passage during the 2025 General Assembly.

The MD 210 Traffic Safety Committee will present a memorial sign to honor the victims of MD 210 crashes. If approved, the signage will be placed on MD 210 to demonstrate that these people have not died in vain. Remembering them will encourage the living to take action to save lives on MD 210.

Representatives from JENOPIK Smart Mobility Solutions, LLC, the vendor for the new speed cameras, and Prince George's County 311 will be onsite.

Part 4: Child Care: Missing in Maryland?

On Child Care, a Search for Local Solutions to a National Problem

By MAX SCHAEFFER and CAROLINE PECORA
Capital News Service

Transylvania County, North Carolina, tried to solve its child care shortage by spurring the development of small in-home day care facilities—but the effort ended up creating only two of them.

Meanwhile in the mountains of western Colorado, Mesa County's attempt to create 8,000 child care slots stalled at the 5,000 mark.

And in Iowa, the state has crafted a program for publicly funded, privately operated day care centers, a system that has alleviated—but not ended—the child care shortage in the state.

Such are the piecemeal efforts that localities and states have undertaken to address America's child care shortage, which extends far beyond Maryland. Despite those endeavors, the overall condition of child care in the U.S. is a "dumpster fire," according to family policy expert and author Elliot Haspel.

"The U.S. treats child care like a private market good, much more like a restaurant or a gym, than it does like a social or public piece of infrastructure, like a library or a school," said Haspel, author of "Crawling Behind: America's Childcare Crisis and How to Fix It."

The U.S. spends \$500 per child annually on early childhood care, according to 2021 data from the Organization for Economic Co-op-

eration and Development. The average annual spending for the 38 member countries in the organization is \$14,436.

The result? The international development group said that in America in 2022, an average-income family with two children in day care spent nearly a third of their income paying for it. In several other developed countries, families devoted less than half as much of their income to child care.

The reason? Other countries have implemented nationwide efforts such as one in Canada that aims to reduce the cost of child care in most places to less than \$10 a day.

Absent such a nationwide program in the U.S., localities, states and nonprofits are finding they can only partially address a child care shortage that, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, has forced more than 100,000 American parents to stay home from work on occasion.

A rural struggle

Rural America has been hit particularly hard by the child care shortage. According to research conducted by the Bipartisan Policy Center, only 26% of rural parents were able to access child care within 5 miles. That compares to 39% for suburban parents.

In addition, "rural areas feel the child care workforce shortages more acutely than urban areas, making it even harder to sustain pro-

grams and maintain quality," the Bipartisan Policy Center said in its 2023 report on the issue.

Transylvania County, a mountainous swath of North Carolina with a population estimated at 33,549 last year, is one of the rural areas where parents struggle to find child care. For that reason, the county has made addressing child care shortages a priority for almost a decade, County Executive Jaime Laughter said.

Laughter contributed to a 2015 report called "State of the Young Child in Transylvania County," which detailed the issues and challenges that faced the county's youngest citizens. The report emphasized the lack of both availability and affordability of child care in the county.

Searching for solutions, Transylvania County and Smart Start, a private partnership funded by North Carolina's state government, established a program that aimed to help local residents establish more small in-home child care centers. People who want to start in-home care facilities receive coaching and help with the licensing process.

While the initiative has helped create two new small home-based options in the community, Laughter said that a few years into the effort, quality, affordable child care is even more difficult to come by in Transylvania County.

"Today, the numbers are even worse," Laughter said. "We have fewer child care slots than we had before, roughly the same amount of children (age) 0-5 in our community. But now, the market rate in our county for monthly child care is about \$1,100 a month."

This would set the annual cost over a calendar year at \$13,200. A

See CHILD CARE Page A4

INSIDE

Save the Date: September 21, 2024
Save the Date for Walk With Me!

Save the Date—2024 Green Summit

UW-Madison Announces
2024 Spring Graduates
Around the County, Page A2

The FedChoice Charitable Foundation
Announces Winners of 2024 Educational
Scholarship Program

Local Student Represents Maryland at
American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation

Community, Page A3

Hospice of the Chesapeake Selected to Test
Medicare Dementia Care Model

Prince George's County Department of
Family Services Partners With George
Washington University to Conduct County-
Wide Aging Needs Assessment
Community, Page A4

City of District Heights Welcomes
New Directors of Communications and
Senior Services

Governor Moore Announces Appointment
to Prince George's County District Court

Business and Finance, Page A5

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline

Father McCann, an Irishman who left us a message

Very Rev. Charles McCann, who served as Pastor or Vicar for a number of local parishes, died July 7 in Lissan, Northern Ireland. He was 85.

I consider him a special friend because he talked me into joining his tour of Ireland, and later of Italy. Both tours were remarkable, and I'll forever thank him for introducing me to Europe.

Father Charlie (as many knew him) was born in Lissan on May 16, 1939. He attended St. Patrick's College, taught in a primary school in Manchester and worked in insurance for Lloyd's of London before ordination on June 8, 1969, in Ireland, but for the Archdiocese of Washington.

In the U.S., he served as Parochial Vicar (assistant pastor) for Blessed Sacrament, Washington; St. Bernadette, Silver Spring; St. Stephen Martyr, Washington; Sacred Heart, Bowie; and St. Jerome, Hyattsville. Then he was named Pastor at St. Peter Claver, St Inigoes; St. Philip the Apostle, Camp Springs; and St. Peter's Capitol Hill, before retiring to Jesus, The Divine Word, in Huntingtown. I believe, in retirement, he lived at St. John's in Clinton for a while, before returning to his native Lissan, Ireland.

Father Charlie is buried in the cemetery at St Michael's, Lissan. He's survived by his brothers Malachy, Desmond, Brendan and family circle.

He left a letter for his parish of Lissan in County Tyrone, where he had both begun and ended his faith-filled Journey. Included in the letter were these words, which can be for all of us: "My prayer is that you continue to grow in love and faith. May you always find comfort and strength in one another and in the presence of God."

Town of Morningside

Morningside has lost its oldest person, Lorenza Arcia, who would have turned 102 in August. I interviewed her and her daughter a few months ago. I'll find my notes and tell you about her in next week's column.

Night Out Against Crime is coming up August 6, 5:30-8:30 p.m. The Morningside Website invites, "Lock your doors and spend the evening outside with your neighbors! Effective Crime Prevention begins with strong neighborhood and community relationships. Join us as we celebrate our community and police partnerships."

There'll be no Work Session or Town

Meeting in August. For information, call 301-736-2300.

Neighbors & other good people

Air Force Col. Jun S. Oh, the new 316th Wing Commander, was installed at Andrews on July 9. Col. Oh previously served as the 374th Operations Group commander at Yokota Air Base, Japan. Outgoing Wing Commander, Col. Todd E. Randolph, will next serve as the Air Force fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Miss Anna Martin, voted in as the 87th Queen Nicotina, is the recipient of the 2023 \$1,000 Scholarship Award, donated by PNC Bank of La Plata. She's a graduate of Lackey H.S.

Taraji P. Henson, graduate of Oxon Hill H.S., has been named an Icon and one of Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World. You may have seen her in "The Color Purple," "Benjamin Button," or my favorite, "Hidden Figures."

Happy Birthday!

To Alexandria, Virginia, on turning 275! They celebrated the occasion with an overflowing guest list, 3,000 cupcakes, fireworks, and musical performances, including from the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra.

Happy 100th birthday to the Charles County Fair

Charles County is celebrating its 100th Anniversary with a Big County Fair, September 12-15 at the Fair Grounds, even though a recent fire caused massive damage and destroyed several barns!

Plan to come for the judging of sheep, goats, horses, mules, poultry, rabbits, crops, tobacco, pumpkins, dairy products, quilting, fine arts, and more.

Come for rides. On Thursday, Sept. 12, you can ride all evening for one price, \$20 wristband. And on the 13th, "Kids Day" all rides reduced. Come for the Kris Kringle Christmas Market. Among other things, the Fair has a museum and the historic McConchie one-room schoolhouse.

Admission: Ages 11 & over, \$5; 10 & under, free; 4-day pass \$25. Free shuttle bus. Hours: Thursday, 4-9:30 p.m.; Friday & Saturday, 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Information, 301-932-1300 or www.charlescountyfair.com.

Changing landscape

A \$1 billion gift to Johns Hopkins Uni-

versity from billionaire Mike Bloomberg will make medical school free for most students! It will also increase financial aid for those enrolled in nursing, public health and other graduate programs.

Penn Forest Shopping Center, in Forestville, was sold to Alexandria-based Woodmont Properties for \$7.4 million on June 20.

The Prince George's County Council passed a resolution on July 16 that will allow several new County schools to be built through a public-private partnership.

The Washington Post announced that "corporate greed is gone!" To prove it, fast-food chains have been slashing prices. First came the Burger King \$5 Your Way Meal and McDonald's \$5 Meal Deal. Taco Bell joined the fray with its \$7 Luxe Cravings Box. (Does anyone cook anymore?)

A home at 6004 Elmendorf Drive, in Skyline, has been sold for \$386,000.

Milestones

This list is long because I didn't have a column last week. But that's okay. Make it even longer by sending your birth date to muddmm@gmail.com.

Happy Birthday to Chrissy Bennett, Bea Desmarais and Marie Golihew, July 6; Father Kevin Cusick, Charles "Tony" Haley, Sue Richards and Suitland Road Baptist Church Pastor Rev. Dr. Kelvin McCune, July 7; Jimmy Gromen and Anthony Curcio-Bobbitt, July 8; Karlyn Davis, John Anthony III and my grandson Zachary Seidman, July 9; my daughter Elaine (McHale) Seidman, July 10; Kevin Kline, Nicole Wade, Dee (Curcio) Brown and Dave Williams Jr., July 11; Carolyn Pruitt, July 12.

Kenard Simms, July 13; Laverne Peggy Simms, Krista Lanehart and Laura Thompson Hoffmann, July 14; Helen Journey, July 15; Norma Wright and Gary Lewis, Jr., July 16; my granddaughter Claire Mudd and Michael Busky, July 17; Allyssa Frederick and former Morningside Council Member Russell Butler, July 18; Mike Fowler Sr. and Eddie Hall, July 19; Donna Buchin, Dorothy Gessner and Tina Nichols, July 20; Mary Hay and Jeff Frederick, July 21; Ryan Simms and David Cook, July 22; Angela Surratt, July 24; Bill Curcio and Thomas DeGraba, July 25.

Happy Anniversary to Dave and Carolyn Williams, their 49th on July 11; my daughter Sheila and John Mudd, their 34th on July 20; Percy and Barbara Crawford, their 52nd on July 22; and Steve and Tessie Johnson, their 24th on July 22.

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

Brandywine-Aquasco

BRANDYWINE SAARC

Southern Area Aquatics and Recreation Complex center in Brandywine, Maryland is located at 13601 Missouri Avenue, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Telephone (301)-782-1442. The Recreation Complex (SAARC) is the first multi-generational recreation complex in Prince George's County. This simply means that SAARC was designed with every member of the family in mind from the preschoolers to the grandparents. It is a place where all members of the family can participate in activities together. SAARC also provides a space for fitness and health goals to happen.

The Guardians by Judy Sutton Moore. Judy Sutton Moore is the artist who created "The Guardians", an imposing 22-foot steel sculpture posted at the entry to SAARC. The inspiration for this outdoor work is the majestic 150-year-old willow oak tree that resides on the SAARC site. Using an actual leaf that had fallen from the tree, the artist fashioned the design concept which developed into "The Guardians."

Waters Promise by Heidi Lippman greets you as you pass through the doors' entering SAARC. It is a 12-foot high and 20-foot-wide wall displaying an explosion of color comprising many thousands of pieces of cut glass of varying sizes and luminosities. Maryland artist Heidi Lippman designed this master mosaic work titled "Waters Promise." According to Heidi, the inspiration for "Waters Promise" is drawn from the ancient willow oak tree that is now protected on the site of SAARC.

Family Tree/Community Circle by Martha Jackson Jarvis. For inspiration, Martha was struck by how the architect for SAARC used the basic structure of a "Y" shape to represent the 150-year-old willow oak tree in design elements throughout the building. In addition, Martha states, "Family Tree/Community Circle" celebrates the family tree as the essential structural building block of a community."

ADULT DAY SERVICES

The Arc Prince George's County's Adult Day Services provide a variety of recreational, enrichment, vocational, community, and therapeutic experiences, ensuring that the people we support enjoy a meaningful day. The Arc has three day centers providing services for the Northern, Central, and Southern areas of Prince George's County. These facilities are in Laurel, Temple Hills, and Largo.

The goal of Arc's Day Services is to support community integration and provide exciting experiences for all participants in the programs. Supported by an Arts, Personal Development, and a Fitness Coordinator, the specialists and staff at each center offer a wide range of activities and excursions related to the arts, movement and dance, fitness, music, personal development skills and enhancements, technology.

Through community partnerships with arts and cultural organiza-

tions, fitness and recreation facilities, the Maryland-National Capitol Parks and Planning Commission, local business and civic organizations, participants are provided an exciting range of outings and enrichment opportunities. Community links is a pilot program launched in 2015 that works to further integrate clients into the community with skills-based learning and volunteering opportunities. Participants are collected into small groups on geography and interests. This intentional small grouping has succeeded in creating a "new Community" among participants.

All applicants must be approved to receive services from the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). Please call each individual office regarding specific office hours. Services this program provides are exercise and fitness, daytime care, adult daycare, recreation, daily life skills, transportation. The population this program serves are adults, young adults, teens, seniors, developmental disability, intellectual disability, caregivers.

For information call 240-532-6001 to get more information. Website: Program's Website, Facebook: Program's Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/thearcpgc/), Twitter: Program's Twitter (https://www.twitter.com/https://twitter.com/thearcpgc). Eligibility: Must be approved to receive services from the Developmental Disabilities Administration. Languages: English. Cost is free.

This program covers residents of Prince George's County, Maryland. Temple Hills Day Program, 6001 Southgate Drive, Temple Hills, Maryland 20748. Phone: 301-894-2915, Fax: 301-894-2919. Please call for office hours. The Arc Building, 1401 McCormick Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774. Phone: 301-925-7050, Fax: 301-925-4384. Please call for office hours. Largo Day Program & Transportation Services, 9700 Martin Luther King Junior Highway Suite G, Lanham, Maryland 20706. Phone: 301-925-2730, Fax: 301-925-8935. Please call for office hours. Saturdays and Sundays closed.

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. Please call 240-755-9008 to schedule. Please email your 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.

Award from A1

communities we serve who are experiencing serious advanced illness and loss. We believe truly meaningful experiences come from a partnership between highly skilled and compassionate professionals, our healthcare partners and the patient and family with a primary focus on fully living each day. We develop care plans to minimize symptoms, articulate what matters most, and remember that each moment matters for patients and families in Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, and Prince George's counties. We are your Hometown Hospice! Over the last 45 years, our team has cared for more than 59,000 hospice patients and hundreds of thousands of family members. Caring for life throughout the journey with illness and loss is the mission of Hospice of the Chesapeake. For more information, please visit www.hospicechesapeake.org.

Appoints from A1

Gomez has demonstrated remarkable dedication and vision in her service to our community. Her leadership will undoubtedly contribute to the continued growth and improvement of District Heights."

"I am eager to take on my new responsibilities as Vice Mayor," says Gomez. "I look forward to working closely with Mayor Miller, the City Commission, and the residents of District Heights to create a safer, more inclusive, and vibrant community."

The City of District Heights is a vibrant community located in Prince George's County, Maryland. Known for its rich history and diverse population, District Heights is committed to providing exceptional services and fostering a safe, inclusive, and thriving environment for all its residents.

Around the County

Save the Date: September 21, 2024

Save the Date for Walk With Me!

Join Easterseals DC MD VA at the National Harbor Waterfront Plaza!

September 21, 2024
Check-in: 9 a.m. | Start: 10 a.m. (staggered start)
Registration: \$35 (includes t-shirt and parking) | Under 12: Free

Register: <https://www.easterseals.com/DCMDVA/get-involved/walk-with-me/>

Walk With Me welcomes walkers, riders, dogs (leashed), and anyone who believes in inclusion, access, and high-quality care for children and adults, people with disabilities, and military families.

Choose a 1- or 3-mile course option, or just have fun! We'll have refreshments, entertainment, and lots of fun for your whole family, including activities for kids, vaccine clinic and health screenings.

Come see what Easterseals has been doing! Including Individuals. Empowering Families. Strengthening Communities.™

Easterseals DC MD VA is leading the way to full equity, inclusion, and access through direct and life-changing disability and community services.

Since 1945, Easterseals has worked tirelessly to enhance quality of life and expand access to healthcare, education, and employment. We serve thousands of children and adults in the DC area no matter their disability, military status, income, race, age, or gender.

Learn more about our programs in Child Development, Respite, Adult Day, Employment, and Mental Health Services at eseal.org!

—Easterseals DC MD VA

Save the Date—2024 Green Summit

Saturday, October 19, 2024

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

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.

When: Saturday, October 19, 2024, from 11 a.m.–4 p.m.
Where: David C. Driskell Community Park, 3911 Hamilton Street, Hyattsville, MD 20781

For more information on exhibitor and vendor opportunities or to register, visit mypgc.us/greensummit.

—Department of the Environment,
Prince George's County

UW-Madison Announces 2024 Spring Graduates

MADISON, Wis. (July 16, 2024) —A total of 8,586 students received degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison on May 10–11, including students from your area.

Bowie, MD: **Madison Norman**, School of Education, Bachelor of Science-Health Promotion and Health Equity, Health Promotion and Health Equity

Brandywine, MD: **Darius Lassiter**, Col of Agricultural & Life Sci, Bachelor of Science, Global Health

Cheverly, MD: **Steve Browne-Pike**, College of Engineering, Master of Science-Electrical & Computer Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering

COMMUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Judah Temple A.M.E. Zion Church Community Resource Expo 2024

By PRESS OFFICER
Judah Temple AME Zion Church

Judah Temple A.M.E. Zion Church is hosting a "Community Resource Expo 2024" on **Saturday, August 3, 2024**, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The theme for the Expo is "Connecting the Community and Resource Providers Together." The church is located at 14500 Mt. Oak Road, Mitchellville, MD 20721.

We have collaborated with the Prince George's County Office of Community Relations to provide resource providers from the Department of Health, Police Department, Fire Department, Parks and Recreation, and the 311 On-the-Go mobile van. Resource providers from the Prince George's Community Financial Empowerment Center, Prince George's Public Schools, University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center (Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center), Senior Helpers, and the Prince George's Senior Provider Network will also be available to discuss the services their organizations can provide to the community.

Voter Registration staff will be available to assist first-time voters in completing a Voter Registration Application so they will be eligible to vote in the Presidential General Election on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

Come out and join us to get valuable information and resources, meet other members of the community, and enjoy music from the Praise 104.1 van!! A fire engine will be on-site for the children to enjoy, backpacks will be given to children who are present at the Expo (while supplies last), and light refreshments will be served.

For more information, please email: congregationalcare@judahtemple.net.

Marietta House Museum Presents "Discovering Together: Our Bowie Ancestry and Common Roots"

By STACEY HAWKINS
Marietta House Museum

Join the Bowie Ancestry Network for a lively discussion on **Wednesday, August 7**, noon-1:30 p.m. at Marietta House Museum for "Discovering Together: Our Bowie Ancestry and Common Roots". This will be a free hybrid program.

Karen Pearson, Collette (Spriggs) Harris, Ed Spriggs, Jordan Moore Jackson, and Denise Barton, and other Prince George's County family descendants have joined research forces!

The Bowie Ancestry Network's quest is to investigate family connections within the African American community with surnames including Spriggs, Stewart, Barton, Diggs, Weldon, Johnson, Duckett, Clark, Queen, and Norris. Their research takes them to White Marsh and Sacred Heart Church and communities throughout Prince George's County. The Bowie Ancestry Network is relying on archives, newspapers, maps, birth, death, and marriage certificates, land deeds, remembrances, and oral re-tellings that are slowly revealing what might have been their families' realities.

You are encouraged to share information you may have.

Recommended for ages 12 & up. Registration is required for the TEAMS link online. In-person registration is recommended but not required. Walk-ins are welcome and visitors are welcome to bring a bag lunch. Register at this direct link: <https://tinyurl.com/46kye6ed>

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

Mannheim Steamroller 2024 Christmas Tour to Make a Stop at MGM National Harbor

Best Selling Christmas Artist of all Time Announces 2024 Tour

By PRESS OFFICER
MGM National Harbor

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. (July 22, 2024)—Music ensemble Mannheim Steamroller will commemorate nearly four decades of their whimsical Christmas concert tour, including a stop at The Theater at MGM National Harbor on **Saturday, December 7, 2024**.

Tickets are on sale to the public on **Friday, July 26** at 10 a.m. EST. Chip Davis, the founder and creator of Mannheim Steamroller, celebrates nearly 40 years of his annual Christmas performances with two traveling ensembles.

"I remember when I came out with my first Christmas album in 1984 followed by our first tour. Back then, many in the music industry said focusing on Christmas just wouldn't work," said Davis.

"Now, over 35 years later, we are still going strong. I want to thank our fans for making us part of their holiday tradition. Today, we often see multi-generational families join us during the holidays each year."

Davis founded his own record label, American Gramophone, which went on to become one of the industry's largest independent record labels. A GRAMMY Award winner, Mannheim Steamroller has sold more than 41 million albums, with over 31.5 million in the Christmas genre. Their holiday CD's have become synonymous with Christmas and occupy top positions on Billboard's seasonal chart every year.



IMAGE COURTESY FEDCHOICE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

The FedChoice Charitable Foundation is pleased to announce the winners of our 2024 Educational Scholarship Program.

The FedChoice Charitable Foundation Announces Winners of 2024 Educational Scholarship Program

By ANDREY GIDASPOV
FedChoice Charitable Foundation

LANHAM, Md. (July 18, 2024)—The FedChoice Charitable Foundation is pleased to announce the winners of our 2024 Educational Scholarship Program.

The program aims to support college-bound and trade school-bound high school students from our community in their academic endeavors. This year's scholarship winners are:

- Hasan Alwan, Parkdale High School
- Natalie Portillo, Parkdale High School
- Gabriel Roque, Bowie High School
- Alina Smith, Parkdale High School

Each winner will receive \$1,000 toward their education. Hasan plans to use his scholarship funds to pay for parking fees and college materials at University of Maryland College Park. Natalie is headed to Montgomery College to major in health sciences. Gabriel will be attending Prince George's Community College, while Alina will be attending Bowie State University.

As part of their winning applications, each wrote an essay on the following topic: "Discover Your E3: How Credit Unions help Embrace, Educate and Elevate local communities."

The applicants provided their unique perspectives on how Credit Unions:

- **Embrace** our communities by providing financial services tailored to their needs,
- **Educate** members about financial literacy and empowerment, and
- **Elevate** our communities by fostering economic growth and stability.

"Many credit unions embrace their communities. They become a staple within the community and become a part of the culture. You can see this in any neighborhood, the credit union has a lot of that respective communities' culture and ambiance," said Gabriel.

Hasan reflected that "credit unions actively put their commitment to educating and empowering members with robust financial literacy and money management skills into practice. Many provide free workshops, one-on-one counseling, online resources, and more to help

individuals enhance their knowledge about budgeting, saving, borrowing, and investing for the future."

Natalie shared that "the long-term effects of financial education on the youth are transformative. Youth who receive financial literacy education are more likely to achieve higher levels of education and pursue rewarding careers because of their preparedness in real life situations or problems."

Brett Noll, President/CEO of FedChoice Federal Credit Union and FedChoice Charitable Foundation Board President, said, "We were very impressed with our scholarship winners' understanding of the importance of financial literacy and the positive impact of credit unions. We wish each of them tremendous success in college and life!"

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

Local Student Represents Maryland at American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation

By PRESS OFFICER
American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters

WASHINGTON (July 18, 2024)—Olaoluwa "Roxy" Adeleke-Wales, Cheverly, is one of 100 high school seniors selected to attend American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Girls Nation July 20-27 in Washington, D.C. The week-long program, founded in 1947, has provided exceptional civic education to thousands of students, teaching them about how the federal government works.

Adeleke-Wales is one of two participants who will represent Maryland as a "senator" at ALA Girls Nation. Two delegates from each ALA Girls State program are chosen to represent their state after participating in an ALA state-level program held across the country. At ALA Girls Nation, senators will participate in mock Senate sessions complete with caucuses and debating bills that range from personal to political interests.

Other activities on the agenda include a visit to Arlington National Cemetery where they will place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a visit to Capitol Hill to meet with real-life U.S. senators from their state, and a tour of D.C. monuments.

Adeleke-Wales, a rising senior at Bowie High School, was active in many ways during her week at ALA Maryland Girls State. She also participates in many activities in her school and community, including Model United Nations, Debate, Ladies With Class, International Club, and Tri-M Music



PHOTO COURTESY AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Olaoluwa "Roxy" Adeleke-Wale, of Cheverly, is one of two participants who will represent Maryland as a "senator" at ALA Girls Nation.

Honor Society. She is also an Angela Alsobrooks Fellow and involved in Prince George's Regional Association of Student Governments.

ALA Girls Nation is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our nation's future leaders to learn about the inner workings of the federal government before they are of voting age. Students leave the program with increased confidence and leadership skills for college and in their future career paths. Some participants of the program go on to have careers in public service at the local, state, and national levels. No matter what their future holds, all leave with a better understanding of civic responsibilities. After attending ALA Girls Nation, the participants return home ready to be engaged citizens at all levels of government.

You can learn more about ALA Girls Nation online and on Facebook and Instagram.

The American Legion Auxiliary, founded in 1919, is a community of volunteers serving veterans, military, and their families. ALA members assist veterans in hospitals, advocate for veteran issues, support therapeutic creative arts festivals, distribute poppies for remembrance, and much more. In addition to serving the military community, the American Legion Auxiliary hosts ALA Girls Nation and the ALA Girls State programs that teach future leaders about government and civic responsibility. Learn more at www.ALAforVeterans.org and @ALAforVeterans on Instagram and Facebook.

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COMMUNITY

Hospice of the Chesapeake Selected by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to Test Medicare Dementia Care Model

Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) Model Aims to Increase Care Coordination, Support for Caregivers

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (July 15, 2024)—Today, Hospice of the Chesapeake announced they have been selected by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to participate in a new Medicare alternative payment model designed to support people living with dementia and their caregivers. Under CMS's Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) Model, Hospice of the Chesapeake will be one of almost 400 participants building Dementia Care Programs (DCPs) across the country, working to increase care coordination and improve access to services and supports, including respite care, for people living with dementia and their caregivers.

"CMS is excited to partner with Hospice of the Chesapeake under the GUIDE Model," said CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure. "GUIDE is a new approach to how Medicare will pay for the care of people living with dementia. The GUIDE participants are envisioning new ways to support not only people living with dementia, but also to reduce strain on the people who care for them, so that more Americans can remain in their homes and communities, rather than in institutions."

Launched on July 1, 2024, the GUIDE Model will test a new payment approach for key supportive services furnished to people living with dementia, including comprehensive, person-centered assess-

ments and care plans; care coordination; 24/7 access to an interdisciplinary care team member or help line; and certain respite services to support caregivers. People with dementia and their caregivers will have the assistance and support of a Care Navigator to help them access clinical and non-clinical services such as meals and transportation through community-based organizations.

Maryland Department of Health estimates that by next year, 130,000 of the state's residents ages 65 and older will be living with dementia. "That represents an 18 percent increase since 2022," Hospice of the Chesapeake's Chief Operating Officer Brian Berger said. "As Maryland's largest independent not-for-profit hospice organization, we are a leader in hospice and supportive care. It's imperative to participate with the GUIDE Model so that we are better able to care for these patients and their caregivers."

Hospice of the Chesapeake's participation in the GUIDE Model, set to launch July 2025 for residents of Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties, will help people living with dementia and their caregivers have access to education and support, such as training programs on best practices for caring for a loved one living with dementia. The GUIDE Model also provides respite services for certain people, enabling caregivers to take temporary breaks from their caregiving responsibilities. Respite is being tested under the GUIDE Model to assess its effect on helping caregivers continue

to care for their loved ones at home, preventing or delaying the need for facility care.

GUIDE Participants represent a wide range of health care providers, including large academic medical centers, small group practices, community-based organizations, health systems, hospice agencies, and other practices.

This model delivers on a promise in the Biden Administration's Executive Order on Increasing Access to High-Quality Care and Supporting Caregivers and aligns with the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease. For more information on CMS' GUIDE Model, please visit:

<https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/guide>.

At Hospice of the Chesapeake, we create meaningful experiences for those in the communities we serve who are experiencing serious advanced illness and loss. We believe truly meaningful experiences come from a partnership between highly skilled and compassionate professionals, our healthcare partners and the patient and family with a primary focus on fully living each day. We develop care plans to minimize symptoms, articulate what matters most, and remember that each moment matters for patients and families in Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, and Prince George's counties. Caring for life throughout the journey with illness and loss is the mission of Hospice of the Chesapeake. For more information, please visit www.hospicechesapeake.org.

Prince George's County Department of Family Services Partners With George Washington University to Conduct County-Wide Aging Needs Assessment

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County Department of Family Services

CAMP SPRINGS, Md. (July 19, 2024)—The Prince George's County Department of Family Services, Aging and Disabilities Services Division is pleased to announce a groundbreaking partnership with George Washington University to conduct a comprehensive countywide Aging Needs Assessment. This assessment aims to identify the diverse needs of older residents in Prince George's County, and to develop strategic solutions to better serve this vital population.

"As we continue our mission to enhance the quality of life for our senior community, we understand and acknowledge the importance of conducting a comprehensive countywide needs assessment," said Elana Belon-Butler, Director of the Department of Family Services. "These evaluations provide us with a clear picture of our population's health, well-being, and fundamental needs, laying the foundation for targeted and focused planning. This comprehensive assessment will ensure our older adults receive the respectful and effective services they deserve, empowering them to thrive in their golden years."

Led by the Aging and Disabilities Services Division, the initiative will leverage the expertise and resources of George Washington University to gather critical data and insights on the evolving needs of older adults in the County. The assessment will cover a wide range of factors including healthcare access, housing, transportation, social services, and more, with a focus on promoting independence, health, and well-being among aging residents.

"We are excited to embark on this important initiative in partnership with George Washington University," said Karen Sylvester, Associate Director of the Aging

and Disabilities Services Division. "By conducting this countywide assessment, we aim to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our aging population, and ultimately enhance the services and support we provide to meet their unique needs."

The assessment will involve a combination of surveys, focus groups, interviews, and data analysis to gather a comprehensive view of the current landscape of aging in Prince George's County. The findings and recommendations from the assessment will inform the development of targeted programs and initiatives to address the identified needs and enhance the quality of life for older adults in the community.

"We are honored to collaborate with the Prince George's County Department of Family Services on this important initiative," said Dr. Leslie Davidson, Associate Professor at George Washington University. "Our university is committed to leveraging our research capabilities and academic expertise to support the well-being of communities, and we look forward to contributing to the success of this Aging Needs Assessment."

The Aging and Disabilities Services Division of the Prince George's County Department of Family Services is dedicated to supporting older adults and individuals with disabilities in the community through a range of services and programs aimed at promoting independence, dignity, and quality of life.

George Washington University is a renowned research university located in Washington, D.C., committed to advancing knowledge and educating future leaders. The university's research initiatives span a wide range of disciplines, with a focus on addressing pressing societal challenges and improving the well-being of communities.

Child Care from A1

year of in-state tuition at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, for the 2024-25 school year without any additional aid is \$7,020.

Another part of the problem has been the regulations that make it difficult to become a licensed child care provider. Laughter said many potential applicants for home-based care centers lose enthusiasm when they become aware of the regulations surrounding it.

"Don't get me wrong, you always want children to be in a safe environment and have standards," Laughter said. "But I think it did help us to see how hard it is to get through that process."

Laughter said she does not see the issue seriously improving until there is a dramatic change in public funding.

"This same conversation happened many, many years ago around education, that you know, you could only access it if you had the funds, and it became, 'Well this is a public good, this is good for us as a society and as a country,'" Laughter said.

A partial solution

Mesa County lies on the western slope of the Rocky Mountains, a geographic feature that restricts the area from many resources. The rural Colorado county is considered a child care desert—an area that lacks child care options or has a child-to-provider ratio greater than 3-to-1, according to the Center for American Progress.

Curtis Englehart, executive director at Grand Junction Economic Partnership, learned firsthand about the area's child care shortage. The father of two young girls said it was hard to find care while he and his wife worked during the day.

"When they say Mesa County was a child care desert, I can attest to that," he said.

Child Care 8,000, named for the number of child care spots local officials sought to create, was conceived in 2018 to address this problem. Although the effort doesn't exist in name anymore—community organizers shortly discovered 8,000 was too lofty a goal—the mission still lives on.

Mesa County's Partnership for Children and Families, the parent program of the Early Childhood Council, offers workforce development, funding opportunities for would-be child care providers, and a resource and referral database that connects families with nearby care. Stephanie Bivins, director of Mesa County's Early Childhood Council, said the effort has created over 5,000 child care slots.

"I know the goal was 8,000. That's going to take a long time," Bivins said. "But we are seeing an increase in availability, and we're also seeing an increase in quality, so that tells me the systems we're putting into place are working."

Grace Luchavez operates a Mesa County child care business from her home. Because of the program's incentives, she earned \$5,000 for taking licensing classes and receiving her license. She encourages other community members to get involved with the program if they are interested in child care, because, although the problem is improving, there is still a need for more providers.

"Last week, I got four calls from parents (asking) if I still had spots," Luchavez said in an interview in April. "It's already filled in. And last week, I also received a call, but it's already full. And just today, I also received a call ... and I'm already full."

Progress in Iowa

As Mesa County works toward a solution, Iowa has been addressing the child care shortage on a statewide basis.

In fall 2020, Gov. Kim Reynolds created a task force to brainstorm solutions. The group's work resulted in a program that provides grants for private businesses that agree to build their own child care centers. The state also provides other assistance that promotes local access to child care.

As a result, 6,740 new child care slots were created in Iowa as of late 2023.

"Child care is the catalyst that drives economic growth," Reynolds, a Republican, said in announcing the last of a round of stipends the state made available to child care providers. "At a time when most parents work outside the home, access to reliable, safe and affordable child care allows parents to pursue their careers and contribute to the productivity and growth of our economy."

Deann Cook, president and CEO of Iowa Women's Foundation, said her group has been elevating the child care issue for about seven years. Post-pandemic, she said, the state became more involved with the issue and partnered with the foundation.

"The thing I think that has made Iowa really excel at this work as a whole state is the partnerships and collaborations, the public-private investment and that we keep it pretty local," Cook said.

But the state's efforts haven't completely solved the child care shortage in Iowa. The 2023 Iowa Child Care Workforce Study, conducted by the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children, suggests low wages have led to a shortage of people who want to work in child care.

"There is no child care without child care workers," a brief of the study said.

Despite the workforce issue, the state's grant programs have improved child care availability in the state, said Jillian Herink, executive director of the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children.

"I believe that, exponentially, we would have lost more child care centers and more people in the workforce if the grant programs had not been implemented," she said.

A solution in Canada?

Some child care experts argue for America's child care system to be fixed, sweeping changes would have to be made on the federal level.

"The specifics almost matter less than the idea of putting permanent, robust amounts of public money into a system that is in desperate need of more public support," said Haspel, the author who has written extensively about the child care shortage. "And that is what Canada has been doing."

The United States' northern neighbor—which had child care costs nearly as high as America's in 2022—has set an overall goal to make child care cost an average of \$10 per day in most of the country by March 2026.

To achieve this, the Canadian government rolled out a \$27 billion investment over the course of five years that began in 2021. The money goes to provincial governments, which distribute it directly to child care centers to reduce costs for families.

"More than 300,000 Ontario families are already saving thousands of dollars annually because of the Canadian government effort," said Jenna Suds, Canada's minister of families, children and social development. "Affordable, high-quality child

care has provided families with financial relief and is giving thousands of children the best possible start in life."

Canada's effort has already made significant progress, with six provinces and two territories already having met the \$10 a day goal and some exceeding it, according to Morna Ballantyne, executive director of the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada.

"Family-based child care providers and the child care centers receive more than 50% of their funding from government," Ballantyne said, "and the private revenue from parent fees has gone down dramatically."

Canada still faces plenty of difficulties in the implementation of its new system, though.

"Canada is undergoing massive change and we're in transition, and so there are some very

good things that are happening and there's some major, major challenges," Ballantyne said.

The challenges include expanding access and improving the quality of child care. Improving quality has been difficult due to the lack of early childhood educators. Like in the U.S., the low pay child care workers receive contributes to that shortage.

"I would say compensation is still a huge issue," Ballantyne said.

Ballantyne said she doesn't see any way around the U.S. fixing its child care shortage without a large increase in government funding, although having the funds is just part of the battle.

"Public funding without a really good policy framework can end up putting you in a worse position," Ballantyne said.

This is the final part of this series.

The Prince George's Post

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

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Should I Retire at 65 or 67? And What About Earnings & Taxes?

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

Dear Rusty: I'm just trying to figure out how to determine whether to retire at 65 or 67 and, if I retire, approximately how much could I make outside of my Social Security without being overly taxed. **Signed: Thinking About Retiring**

Dear Thinking: Deciding when to retire is serious business, because it affects your future and what your retirement income will be going forward. Thus, it's good you are taking the time to fully understand your options, and we're happy to assist you with that. Here are some things which should help you decide whether to retire at 65 or 67:

- Social Security benefits are subject to income tax (by the IRS) if your combined income from all sources (which includes your Adjusted Gross Income on your tax return, plus half of the SS benefits you received during the tax year) exceeds certain thresholds for your income tax filing status. If you file your income tax as "married/jointly" and your combined income from all sources is more than \$32,000, then 50% of your received SS benefits are subject to income tax (at your normal IRS tax rate). But if your combined income as a married couple is more than \$44,000, then 85% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes part of your taxable income. FYI, the taxation thresholds are lower for those who file taxes as an individual (\$25,000 and \$34,000 respectively).
- Born in 1960 or later, your full retirement age (FRA) for Social Security's purposes is 67. If you claim SS benefits before your FRA, not only will your monthly amount be permanently reduced but you'll also be subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much you can earn before they take away some of your benefits. The earnings limit changes annually, but for 2024 it is \$22,320 (future year's limits will be a bit higher each year). If your work earnings exceed the annual limit, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. They take away by withholding future benefits for as many months as necessary for them to recover what you owe for exceeding the annual limit. FYI, the limit goes up during the year you attain FRA, and the earnings test no longer applies after you reach your full retirement age.
- If you claim SS before your FRA, your monthly amount will be permanently reduced. If you claim at age 65, you will get about 87% of the amount you would get by waiting until age 67 to claim. If you claim at age 66, your monthly amount would be about 93% of your FRA entitlement and, by claiming at 67 you'll get 100% of the benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working. The reductions for early claiming are permanent reductions, except for the annual cost of living adjustments (COLA). Note that you can also delay longer than your FRA to get an even larger benefit amount (you can delay up to age 70 when your maximum benefit is reached). Just remember, the earnings test (as described above) will apply if you claim SS before your FRA and you are still working.

If your plan is to continue to work full time, be aware that if you claim early SS and significantly exceed the annual earnings limit, you may even be temporarily ineligible to collect SS benefits. If your work income is high enough that the penalty for exceeding the earnings limit is more than SS can recover through withheld benefits in one year, they will tell you that you're unable to collect benefits at this time (until you either earn less or reach your FRA).

So, deciding whether to claim Social Security at 65 or 67 is your personal choice and, hopefully, the above provides the information you need to make an informed decision.

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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.

City of District Heights Welcomes New Directors of Communications and Senior Services

By PRESS OFFICER
City of District Heights

DISTRICT HEIGHTS, Md. (July 17, 2024)—The City of District Heights is proud to announce the newest additions to its leadership team: Kellye Beathea as the Director of Communications and Tomiko Thomas as the Director of Senior Services. Both bring extensive experience and a strong commitment to serving the residents of District Heights.

Director of Communications: Kellye Beathea, J.D.

Kellye Beathea joins the City of District Heights with over 10 years of experience in strategic communications and public relations. A proud native of the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, Beathea has a distinguished career marked by her work with prominent organizations and governmental agencies. She is a graduate of both Bowie State University (B.S. in Broadcast Journalism) and University of Baltimore School of Law (Juris Doctorate).

Her previous experience includes Communications Strategist roles with Prince George's County Social Services, Windsor

Group, LLC, AARP, and E*TRADE, and several other political campaigns, corporations, and non-profit organizations where she was instrumental in developing and implementing comprehensive communication strategies.

As District Heights' first ever Director of Communications, Beathea will oversee all aspects of public relations, media relations, and community engagement for the City of District Heights. She aims to foster transparent and effective communication between the city administration and its residents. City Manager David Street states, "I am very excited to add Ms. Beathea to the team; her wealth of experience will allow the City of District Heights to continue to make its government more accessible to its residents."

Director of Senior Services: Tomiko Thomas

Tomiko Thomas brings over 20 years of dedicated service in social work and senior care management to his new role as the Director of Senior Services. A graduate of Morgan State University (B.S. in Social Work) and Howard University (M.S. in Social Work), Thomas has held several key positions in the D.C. and Maryland governments. His

extensive background includes roles with the D.C. Office of Child and Family Services, the D.C. Office on Aging, and most recently, as the Director of School-Based Programs for a non-profit in Washington, D.C.

Thomas is passionate about creating programs that enrich the lives of senior citizens. He plans to lead the Senior Services department under the theme of "Fun with a Purpose," focusing on intergenerational activities, digital inclusion, health and wellness education, arts and crafts, and recreational trips.

"Mr. Thomas is joining the City of District Heights during a critical time and is fulfilling a critical need: providing comprehensive services to our senior community," said Street. "I believe his experience will help us achieve our goals as the City prepares to open the doors to its new senior center."

The City of District Heights is a vibrant community located in Prince George's County, Maryland. Known for its rich history and diverse population, District Heights is committed to providing exceptional services and fostering a safe, inclusive, and thriving environment for all its residents.

Governor Moore Announces Appointment to Prince George's County District Court

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (July 17, 2024)—Governor Wes Moore today announced the appointment of Kimberly Vicena Lewis to the Prince George's County District Court.

"Kimberly Lewis has dedicated her life and career to public service. Whenever our state has called on her to serve, she has always answered with a resounding 'yes'—and I am grateful that she has raised her hand once again," said Gov. Moore. "There is no doubt in my mind that Ms. Lewis will continue to

honor the rule of law through her new role on the District Court bench."

Kimberly Vicena Lewis currently serves in the Maryland Attorney General's Office as Special Counsel in the Child Support Division of Department of Human Services, a position she has held since 2018. In this role, she obtains financial support for children and disabled adults.

Prior to her service in the Office of the Attorney General, Lewis spent 21 years as an attorney with the Office of the Public Defender in Prince George's County, where she managed juvenile cases, drug court cases, in addition

to district and circuit court cases. She was also an adjunct professor at Prince George's Community College where she taught courses in legal writing, research and analysis.

Lewis received her B.S. from The College of William and Mary and her J.D. from the Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law. Following graduation from law school, Lewis clerked for several judges including the Honorable E. Allen Shepherd and the Honorable Arthur M. Ahalt in Prince George's County Circuit Court and the Honorable Susan Winfield in the Superior Court for the District of Columbia.

Grow Prince George's Initiative Celebrates Success With Completion of ARPA-funded Programming

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCEDC

LARGO, Md. (July 16, 2024)—Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (PGCEDC) proudly announces the successful completion of its Grow Prince George's initiative, marking a significant milestone in fostering economic growth and inclusivity within the county. Funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), this initiative has empowered local businesses through tailored programs designed to propel their growth and competitiveness.

Over the past year and a half, Grow Prince George's has positively impacted over 1050 businesses and facilitated the creation of an estimated 115 jobs across diverse sectors of the country's economy. This initiative has been pivotal in supporting BIPOC and women entrepreneurs, ensuring equitable access to essential skills and growth opportunities.

David Iannucci, President and CEO of PGCEDC, emphasized the initiative's impact: "Grow Prince George's has not only strengthened our local economy but has also created a pathway for businesses to thrive amid evolving challenges. The success stories we've heard from our participants highlight the transformative power of economic development."



Under the Grow Prince George's umbrella, several flagship programs have driven notable outcomes:

A.I. for Small Business with the R.H. Smith School of UMD: This program provided hands-on training in leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance business operations and customer engagement, impacting 50 businesses with strategies for AI-driven growth.

CertifyPG & Prosper Certification Training Program: Over 80 businesses gained expertise in navigating government contracting, underscoring the importance of procurement in fostering local business growth.

0 to 100 Accelerator Program (Latino Small Business Development Program): In partnership with M&T Bank, this program delivered essential training entirely in Spanish, benefiting 15 businesses and creating an estimated ten new jobs within the Latino community. This initiative aims to build strong companies, spur economic growth in Prince George's County, and help create generational wealth.

Participants have shared their success stories, illustrating the impact of Grow Prince George's.

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

As PGCEDC looks toward the future, plans are underway to expand the initiative's reach and offerings. Future cohorts and enhanced partnerships with educational institutions and industry leaders will continue to drive innovation and competitiveness in Prince George's County.

Visit www.PGCEDC.com for more information on how your business can benefit from future programming like Grow Prince George's.

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

Hospice of the Chesapeake Announces New Board Members

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (July 18, 2024)—Several prominent members of the community recently were appointed to the boards of directors of Hospice of the Chesapeake and its foundation.

Joyce Phillip was elected to the Hospice of the Chesapeake Inc., Board.

Phillip is a human resources

professional, coach, trainer and consultant who is president of Dynamic Dimensions Unlimited, LLC. She is returning to the board, having served from 2014 to 2023.

Brandon Temple, Mark Frazer and Scott Douglas were elected to the Hospice of the Chesapeake Foundation Board.

Temple is a transitioning Air Force Special Warfare Officer serving as an Air Force Liaison to the U.S. Congress and is the

Chairman of the Calvert County Veterans Affairs Commission. Frazer has a successful family dental practice that has been in Calvert County since 1969 and has served as an elected official in several local and county capacities. Douglas is the principal of Douglas Commercial, a commercial real estate company he founded in 2007, and a community volunteer.

Members who were elected as officers of the Inc., Board in-

clude Nancy Smit, Chair; Richard Wilder, Vice-Chair; Albert Zanger, Treasurer; Tricia Lehmann, Secretary; and David Weng, Member-at-Large.

Members elected as officers of the Foundation Board include Mary Frances Isakov, Chair; Elizabeth Freedlander, Vice-Chair; Amy Castleberry, Treasurer; and Peggy McKelly, Secretary.

Additionally, two longtime board members were unanimously honored with emeritus status. Brian Gibbons was

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www.fbhp.org

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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
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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

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WORD OF GOD COMMUNITY CHURCH
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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

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