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Dunkin's Third Annual Scholarship Program Awards \$125,000 to Students in the DMV

Dunkin' awards 50 high school seniors and college students with \$2,500 in academic scholarships to the institution of their choice
Two Prince George's County students are recipients

By PRESS OFFICER
Dunkin'

BALTIMORE (July 23, 2024)—Dunkin' and its DMV franchisees today announced its full list of recipients receiving Dunkin' Regional Scholarships, which awards \$125,000 in academic scholarships to high school and college students throughout the DMV. The program helps local students in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Northern Virginia pursue a part-time or full-time undergraduate degree at the institution of their choice.

In partnership with Scholarship America, 50 students throughout the DMV region each received a \$2,500 academic scholarship to an accredited two or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school for Fall 2024. The recipients were selected based on their academic record, demonstrated leadership skills, and overall commitment to their school and the local community.

The goal of the regional scholarship is to recognize hardworking students in the DMV and to help ease the financial burden of pursuing higher education. To date, the Dunkin' DMV Regional Scholarship Program has awarded \$350,000 in scholarships to 140 students in the DMV.

"The Dunkin' Regional Scholarship is part of our ongoing commitment to empowering young adults and giving them an opportunity to achieve their goals in life," said Jamie Struwe, Dunkin' Field Marketing Manager. "We are proud to continue the tradition of furthering students' educational



Jadon Walker



Gabriella Patrick

goals in our community and help lead them to a bright future."

A recognition ceremony to award each student recipient their scholarship [was] held at Nationals Park on Thursday, July 25.

The 2024 Prince George's County DMV Dunkin' Scholarship recipients are as follows:

Bowie

Recipient: Jadon Walker
Hometown: Bowie
High School: Bowie High School
University: University of Maryland – College Park

Bio: Jadon is involved in the Black Student Union, Choir, Scholars Peer Mentor program, and In Da Shop, an all-men's discussion group. He also works as an NIH intern. He received the Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Education Academic Excellence Award. His interests include music, fitness, binge-watching TV, charity work, and mentoring. Jadon aims to work in the international relations field, potentially with the United Nations, the U.S. State Department or embassies, or USAID.

Laurel

Recipient: Gabriella Patrick
Hometown: Laurel
High School: Eleanor Roosevelt High School

See AWARDS Page A2

Maryland Legal Aid's Tenant Right to Counsel Project to Partner With the Prince George's County Memorial Library System to Host Legal Aid Clinics

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Legal Aid

BALTIMORE (July 23, 2024)—Maryland Legal Aid (MLA) is partnering with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System to host two upcoming Tenants' Rights & Housing Clinics. The purpose of these clinics is to assist individuals in understanding and maneuvering through the legal landscape. Participants will be able to receive advice and begin the legal intake process with lawyers, aiding them in resolving their housing concerns.

While the primary focus of these walk-in sessions will be on issues related to housing, evictions, and tenants' rights, Maryland Legal Aid will also be prepared to assist with a range of other civil legal concerns. This includes criminal record expungement, family law, health, consumer rights, and employment issues, offering advice and legal support to those in need.

Fairmount Heights Branch Library is hosting attorneys and paralegals from Maryland Legal Aid on August 7 to assist

county residents who are eligible for the organization's services as part of a reoccurring series of legal clinics in PGC libraries on the first Wednesday of every month.

Maryland Legal Aid and Councilmember Oriadha are partnering with Spauldings Branch Library in District Heights, MD for the District 7 Tenants' Rights & Housing Clinic on August 14. There will be free legal services for housing issues, a presentation about tenants' rights, and free resources from partner organizations such as PG Change Makers and Prince George's County Public Schools.

Fairmount Heights Lawyer in the Library Clinic

When: Wednesday, August 7, 2024, 1–4:30 p.m.

Where: Fairmount Heights Branch Library, 5904 Kolb St, Fairmount Heights, MD 20743

District 7 Tenants' Rights & Housing Clinic

When: Wednesday, August 14, 2024, 1–4 p.m.

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Melwood Hosts Congressional Visit Commemorating Anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act

Melwood welcomes U.S. Representative Steny Hoyer to celebrate the 34th anniversary of the American with Disabilities Act

By PRESS OFFICER
Melwood

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (July 26, 2024)—Congressman Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) joined Melwood leaders and employees on Thursday, July 25, to commemorate the 34th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Signed into law on July 26, 1990, by President George H.W. Bush, the ADA prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities as it relates to employment, transportation, public accommodations, telecommunications, commercial facilities and state and local government services.

Congressmen Hoyer met with Melwood employees who

work at the George Washington Carver Center through Melwood's contract with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Melwood employees help support the mission of the USDA by providing total facilities management services, including operations and maintenance, groundskeeping, and custodial services.

"The Americans with Disabilities Act has helped pave the way for people with disabilities to fully included—including in the workplace, an epicenter of culture, community, and economic independence—but it is only a start," said Larysa Kautz, President and CEO of Melwood.

"Together we must continue to break down barriers and make

advancements that create more employment opportunities and expand services and resources for people with disabilities."

"When we give people with disabilities the equal treatment and opportunities that they deserve, not only they, but our entire community and country benefit," Congressman Hoyer said. "That's why I championed the Americans with Disabilities Act thirty-four years ago and why I helped secure \$500,000 in federal funding for Melwood's Neurodivergent Workforce Initiative through our FY 2023 appropriations. I appreciate the work that Melwood does in our community and for our federal agencies, providing Marylanders with disabilities the opportunity

to start and grow their careers. I look forward to continuing to work to ensure that people with disabilities can participate fully in every part of American life, including addressing barriers to employment."

Melwood is a long-time partner to the federal government through the U.S. AbilityOne Program, which uses federal procurement to provide employment opportunities to people with disabilities through federal contracts. The federal government receives essential services and in return, people with disabilities maintain access to living wages, good benefits, career development opportunities and more. For more information, visit www.Melwood.org.

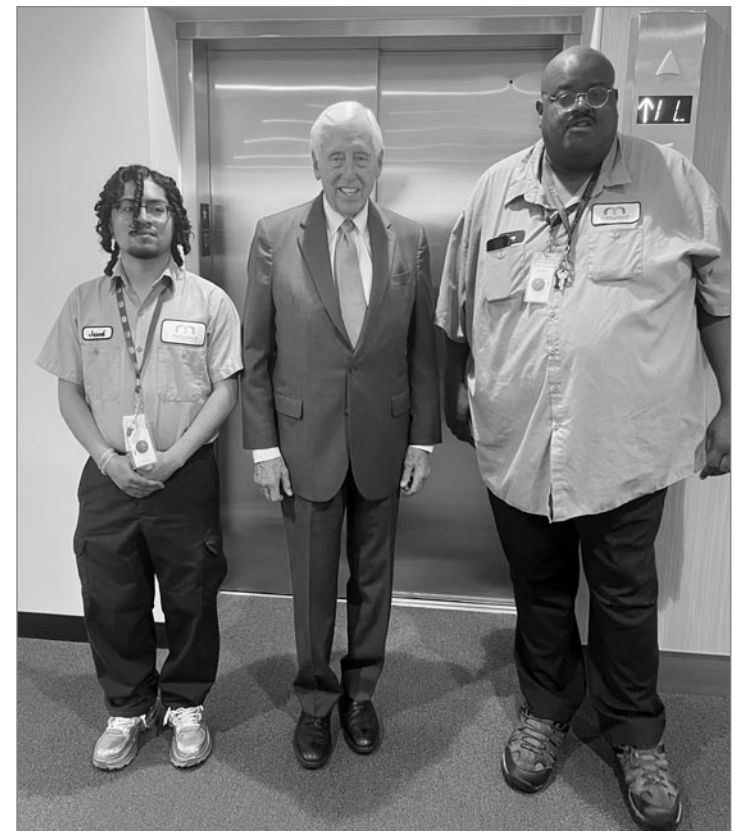


PHOTO COURTESY CONGRESSMAN STENY HOYER'S OFFICE

Congressman Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) joined Melwood leaders and employees on Thursday, July 25, to commemorate the 34th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Governor Moore Signs Executive Order Creating Maryland Plain Language Initiative

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (July 23, 2024)—Governor Wes Moore today signed an executive order creating the Maryland Plain Language Initiative. The initiative will establish standards to enhance communication between the State of Maryland and Maryland residents to ensure that all Marylanders have equal opportunities to engage with government-based communications, services, and supports in ways that are clear, understandable, and easy to use.

"This Executive Order is based on a simple idea: It shouldn't have to be so difficult for Marylanders to access the programs and services they need,"

said Gov. Moore. "Our administration's Plain Language Initiative will help ensure that every piece of writing that comes out of our administration—in print and online—is simple, accessible, and easy to read. This is what it looks like to leave no one behind."

The order begins the process to ensure any writing from the State of Maryland is accessible to all Marylanders—whether in print or online—across every State agency through a partnership between the Maryland Department of Information Technology's Maryland Digital Service; the Maryland Department of Disabilities; and the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives. The agencies will work together to assess the State's capacity, needs, and

resources to implement best practices in plain language standards and create the Maryland Plain Language Plan. They will also leverage ongoing community-based content reviews and testing to ensure the standards are effective.

"Plain language makes state government more accessible for all Marylanders, including those with disabilities, allowing them to participate in meaningful ways," said Maryland Department of Disabilities Secretary Carol A. Beatty. "Technical terms and government jargon don't help people get needed services. Plain language does."

While many written communications are already translated into other languages, the use of plain language will make it easier for all Marylanders to ac-

cess government services.

"We owe Maryland residents a straightforward approach to find and access critical information and services they need to live safely, efficiently, and productively," said Maryland Department of Information Technology Secretary Katie Savage. "In partnership with the Department of Disabilities and the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, our Maryland Digital Service team will implement this executive order and remove barriers to a people-centered digital experience."

Progress toward achieving the goals of the Maryland Plain Language Initiative will be assessed and reported to the Governor annually by December 31.

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Did you know we have an Election coming up Aug. 6?

If you live in Prince George's County, you should be aware that we have a Special Primary Election on August 6? We are voting to fill a vacancy on the County Council.

It's a vote-by-mail election, which means that every eligible voter, registered in Prince George's, is receiving a mail-in ballot. The At-Large County Council seat is the only contest on this Primary ballot.

It is not for the 2024 Presidential Election!

There are nine running for the office: Timothy J. Adams, Angela M. Angel, Tamara Davis Brown, Leo Bachi Eyombo, Marvin E. Holmes, Jr., Jolene Ivey, Kiesha D. Lewis, Judy Mickens-Murray and Gabriel Njinimbot.

To know more about the candidates, go to their websites (which is what I did). Or to vote.md.gov/2024SpecialCandidateStatements.

If you live in Prince George's, and are a registered voter, you have probably received the mail-in ballot. Read the instructions. Follow the rules. Then drop your vote in a Drop Box or stick it in the postage-paid envelop and mail it in plenty of time, so it's postmarked by Election Day, August 6.

It's easy. And it's important.

Town of Morningside: come for the dunk tank?

National Night Out 2024 is coming up Tuesday, August 6, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Come and meet your neighbors, enjoy free food and games, and the dunk tank. There'll be plenty of shade and chairs. And I know the Morningside Police will have something interesting on the docket.

By the way, there will be no Work Session or Town Meeting during August.

To reserve the meeting room for a special event or for Morningside information, call 301-736-2300.

Changing Landscape

Portum is now open at 6400 Oxon Hill Road, and is "Serving Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner with Weekend Brunch and all week Happy Hour from 3–6p.m." You are invited to come by and try their Signature Wagyu Portum Burger or Crab Cake. Or Faroe Island Smoked Salmon and Bagel for \$16.00.

A home at 4307 Allies Road, in Morningside, has sold for \$276,579.

Where are John and Mary?

The 10 most popular boy's names now are: Liam, Noah, Oliver, James, Elijah, Mateo, Theodore, Henry, Lucas and William.

Most popular girl's names: Olivia, Emma, Charlotte, Amelia, Sophia, Mia, Isabella, Ava, Evelyn and Luna.

Animal Shelter over capacity: please adopt or foster!

The Prince George's County Animal Shelter is at full capacity and in urgent need of finding loving, "fur-ever" homes for dogs now at the facility—especially the large and senior dogs.

Without immediate help, the Shelter faces the heart-wrenching possibility of finding alternative solutions for healthy, adoptable dogs awaiting their best friend.

The Shelter is open to the public, Tuesday thru Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 3750 Brown Station Road, Upper Marlboro. They'll be ready to help you find or adopt.

For more information and to see pets ready to be adopted, call 301-780-7200 or visit www.princegeorgespets4us.com/#AdoptDontShop.

Neighbors & other good people

Deacon Darryl Kelley, at St. Philip the Apostle Parish, has been transferred to St. John the Evangelist in Clinton after 16 years. In a farewell note, he wrote, "My

time here as a deacon has been a blessing." I'll miss him.

The Dr. Samuel A. Mudd House has held their annual election: President, Clyde Hartshorn; Vice-President, Susan Gardiner; Treasurer, Marilyn Jumalon; Secretary, Bob Bowser. They are holding their Annual Membership Meeting on Sept. 14, 4 p.m. If you've never visited the House, you're missing something special—a real mid-19th century experience. For hours or other information, call 301-645-6870.

3 Henry Wise football graduates die in crash

High School students in Morningside and Skyline attend Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School in Upper Marlboro. They are mourning the deaths of three graduates who helped the Wise football team win 43 straight games and three state titles from 2015 to 2018.

On July 6, three graduates—Anthony Lytton Jr., Isaiah Hazel and Khyree Jackson—were killed in a crash on northbound Route 4 near Presidential Parkway, about 3:15 a.m., when a speeding driver, possibly alcohol-impaired, struck their car. The investigation continues.

All three played for Coach DaLawn Parrish at Wise. Jackson finished his college career at the University of Oregon and was drafted in the fourth round by Minnesota in April. Lytton played for Florida State and Penn State. Hazel played for the University of Maryland and the University of North Carolina.

Milestones

Happy Birthday to Jennifer Booth, July 26; Floyd Shields, Connie Robbins and Patricia Rosetta, July 27; Matthew Gryskewicz, Kenny Hunt and Jason Nichols, July 28; Gary Barnes, July 29; Helen Rawlett, July 30; Blanche McCormick, Paula Boxley, Howard C. Booth and Annie Desmarais, July 31.

Awards from A1

University: Oxford College of Emory University

Bio: Gabriella was involved in the CFAR (Center for AIDS Research) Program and was named a CFAR Scholar who interned at GW University. She received recognition for completing her Research Practicum Biology course and earned the Science and Technology Program Diploma, as well as being an AP Capstone Completion Recipient. Gabriella was a member of the National Honor Society, and she served as the president of both the Science National Honor Society and the Math Honor Society. Additionally, she received the Presidential Volunteer Award from Luv Michael.

Dunkin', founded in 1950, is the largest coffee and donuts brand in the United States, with more than 13,200 restaurants in nearly 40 global markets. Dunkin' is part of the Inspire Brands family of restaurants. For more information, visit DunkinDonuts.com and InspireBrands.com.

Scholarship America is a non-profit organization that helps students fulfill their college dreams. Since 1958, Scholarship America has distributed over \$4.5 billion to more than 2.8 million students. The organization works with partners to lower barriers to a college education and give students the support needed to succeed. Learn more at scholarshipamerica.org.

Clinics from A1

Where: Spauldings Branch Library, 5811 Old Silver Hill Rd, District Heights, MD 20747

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

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

Around the County

Council Member At-Large

Calvin Hawkins Hosts Peace Walk

Council Member At-Large Calvin S. Hawkins II will host a Community Peace Walk in Suitland on **August 10** at 10 a.m. to promote a safer, stronger and more connected community. The walk follows a community meeting hosted by the Council Member earlier this month in response to a deadly shooting at the Village at Town Square that took the life of a teenager.

The walk is in collaboration with Making a Difference and Tre5Magic, who were in attendance at the July 3rd meeting. It will start at 4047 Silver Hill Rd, Suitland-Silver Hill, MD 20746 and end at 5600 Regency Lane, Forestville, MD 20747. There will be music, food, and community organizations to share resources.

"I heard neighbors' frustrations and concerns at the meeting I held, and I want citizens to know that I stand with them and will do everything in my power to ensure their community is safe," said Council Member Hawkins.

United Against Gun Violence: Collaboration Is Key

Joint Statement from the District Heights Community Coalition

The greater District Heights community stands together as one voice to address the urgent issue of gun violence affecting our community.

Last week, members of the District Heights Community Coalition—local leaders in politics, education, law enforcement, business development, and faith-based institutions, all committed to establishing a safer, stronger District Heights community—had a very productive meeting with the leadership and stakeholders of the Woodland Springs apartment complex. We recognize that no single entity can tackle this layered, complex problem alone; it requires a concerted effort from all sectors of our society.

As a Coalition, we thank Woodland Springs for agreeing to meet and committing to collaborating on actionable solutions to the senseless gun violence in our community; which we condemn in the strongest terms.

As a unified leadership, we commit to exploring the following:

- Spiritual and emotional healing via partnering with District Heights' faith-based community;
- Enhanced community policing and safety measures;
- Enhanced stakeholder collaboration and communication;
- Fortifying infrastructure around Woodland Springs (i.e. more speed bumps, redesigning entry/exit points, etc.); as well as
- Collaborative legislative and legal action aimed at developing comprehensive strategies for violence prevention.

Our commitment is unwavering, and our message is clear: collaboration is key, and we will do our part to create a safer, more resilient District Heights.

We will establish community forums and task forces, including representatives from all sectors, to ensure that every voice is heard, and every concern addressed.

We urge every resident of District Heights to join us in this vital mission—we aim to ensure that no one gets left behind. Together, we can overcome the challenges posed by gun violence and build a community where everyone feels safe and valued.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

148TH HOMECOMING ANNIVERSARY

St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Baden Parish, 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613-8426 will be celebrating their 148th Homecoming Anniversary on Sunday, September 15, 2024. Worship Service-Holy Eucharist will be held at 10 a.m. Theme "Walking in Love as Christ Loves Us."

We are honored to have The Rev. Dr. Bernard Winchester, Jr., Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church of Fairmount Heights, Maryland as our Speaker of the Hour. Please plan to attend and hear the spiritual message. Lunch will be served immediately following the service.

ST. PHILIP'S CHRONOLOGY HISTORY

Walter Fowler and Adam Craig requested through the Chapel of St. Mary's Aquasco and the Reverend John Tennent that the Colored Communicants have a place about the Chapel to bury their deed August 1876. April 22, 1879, subscriptions were started to collect funds for the new Chapel. On August 1, 1979 Reverend Perry paid Eliza Hall \$137.45 for the land she agreed to sell. May 1879 a colored deacon by the name of the Reverend Joseph G. Bryant became an assistant at St. Paul's. He worked diligently with the Colored Communicants and was later rewarded for his efforts by being appointed the first Rector of St. Philip's. Between April 1879 and July 1880 actual construction of the Church building took place. The cost for erecting the Chapel was \$1,200.00. On Sunday, July 11, 1880, the Reverend William Pinkney confirmed 41 colored candidates at St. Philip's Chapel with Reverend Bryant in charge.

St. Philip's was included within the bounds of the Diocese of Maryland until 1896, when church boundaries were redefined, it became part of the Diocese of Washington. St. Paul's continued to record baptisms, burials and marriages that took place in St. Philip's until 1907. 1946 the chapel became a mission of the Diocese of Washington. September 21, 1952, first Homecoming celebrated and was started by The Reverend Millard Newman. Homecoming has continued annually on the third Sunday in September ever since. It is a highlight event in the life of the parish. Early 1960s brought architectural change to the small frame Chapel. The congregation worked together to improve the building. Two rooms were added to increase classroom space. November 22, 1976: The beautiful Chapel was destroyed by fire on Thanksgiving Eve.

Reverend Dr. Pauli Murray, then a seminarian later became St. Philip's first African American Episcopal Priest spoke of the fire in her book "Song in a Weary Throat." Reverend John T. Walker, Suffragan Bishop of Washington expressed his sentiments about the fire in a letter to St. Philip's.

In 1980, the Diocese of Washington purchased the former

social hall property from a nearby Roman Catholic Church to serve as a temporary home for St. Philip's. The cemetery at the previous Chapel location would be maintained, this site is now a historic landmark. The renovation of the newly acquired property began in earnest and was transformed into a multi-purpose Chapel. The space was used for worship, classes, meetings, and fundraising activities. The renovation to create a multi-purpose center, providing worship space that could be easily changed to accommodate meetings, classes, or a church social began immediately and was completed in 2003. January 2004 the One Hundred Ninth Washington Diocesan Convention recognized and admitted St. Philip's as a parish in the Diocese of Washington.

The Late Reverend Melvin Turner St. Philip's Aquasco: 1977–1980 St. Philip's Baden: 1980–1990. The Reverend E. Kent 1990–1999. The Reverend Dr. Hugh E. Brown 1999–2003. Rectors at St. Philip's Baden. The Late Reverend Velma Brock: 2004–2007. The Late Reverend Vaughn Booker 2007–2013 and Rev. Christopher Wilkins 2016–2020. <https://stphilipsbaden.org/history/>

BILL PICKETT RODEO INVITATIONAL RODEO

Bill Pickett Rodeo will be at Prince George's Equestrian Center and Show Place Arena, 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, Maryland, showplacearena@pgparks.com Friday, September 20, 2024 from 7:30–10 p.m., Saturday, September 21, 2024 from 1–4 p.m. Ticket Price: \$33 Children/Seniors; \$43 Adults + Fees. Age: All. Event Category: Sports. Contact: 301-952-7900; MD Relay 7-1-1.

BOWIE STATE ATHLETICS

Bowie State Athletics mourns loss of Anthony "AJ" Lytton, Jr. IN MEMORY OF ANTHONY "AJ" LYTTON, JR. 2000–2024. Bowie State University Women's Volleyball hosts successful Clinic in the Bahamas.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Golf Tournament Friday September 27, 2024, at Oak Creek Golf Course, 600 Bowieville Manor Lane, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Queens on the Greens Foundation, Inc. is hosting its 3rd Annual Golf Tournament. Proceeds will support youth educational programs in Maryland. Register on Eventbrite.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING

Save the date and get ready to join us for Bowie State University Homecoming Game vs. Bluefield State Saturday, October 19, 2024, for an action-packed showdown as the Bowie State Bulldogs face Bluefield State at 1 p.m. in Bulldog Stadium.

The Prince George's Post

Subscribe Today! Call 301-627-0900 or email bboice@pgpost.com

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@judah temple.net.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT Tuesday, August 6, 2024

The Prince George's County Office of Human Rights will be at a National Night Out event near you from 6–8 p.m.! Find our table at one of the below locations, and learn more about your rights in Prince George's County, how to spot trafficking, how to access government materials in a language of your choice, and more! civilrights.mypgc.us

- Accokeek
- Greenbelt
- Bladensburg
- Hyattsville
- Bowie
- New Carrollton
- Colmar Manor
- Upper Marlboro

The District Heights Police Department is excited to announce our annual National Night Out event, taking place on Tuesday, August 6 from 5–8 p.m.! Municipal Building, 2000 Marbury Drive, District Heights, MD. Free Entry, Free Food, Free Exhibits. 301-336-1400.

National Night Out is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen community spirit and foster partnerships between our police and residents. Let's come together for a night filled with fun, food, and activities!

Enjoy live entertainment, meet your neighbors, and show support for our community's safety and unity. See you there!

National Night Out Concert Tuesday, August 6, 6–8 p.m.

Ticket Price: Free
Age: All
Event Category: Summer Arts in the Park Summer Concert Series Outdoor Performances Senior Youth Free Youth
Hillcrest Heights Community Center
(301) 505-0896 hillcrestheightsccc@pgparks.com
2300 Oxon Run Drive, Oxon Hill, MD

An evening of explosive music with Top5 DC. All ages welcome to attend this unforgettable night of live entertainment with, food trucks, games, vendors and more!

—https://www.pgparks.com/event_list/national-night-out-concert

Laurel National Night Out Tuesday, August 6, 2024, 6–9 p.m.

Join the Laurel Police Department for National Night Out! Safety demos, live music, K9 demo, Police Demos, Rescue Squad Vehicle Extract, food, games and more!

Location: Granville Gude Park & Lakehouse, 8300 Mulberry Street Laurel, MD 20707
Cost: Free

National Night Out in Brandywine

Please join the District 9 Community for National Night Out, hosted by the Prince George's County Police Department Division V! This free event will take place on **Tuesday, August 6, 2024**, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Baden Volunteer Fire Department, located at 16608 Brandywine Road, Brandywine, MD 20613. Enjoy games, door prizes, music, and food while connecting with your neighbors and local law enforcement to promote safer and more caring communities. Bring your family, friends, neighbors, lawn chairs, and blankets for a night of fun. Please note that pets are loved but only service animals are allowed. Don't miss this opportunity to build community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie!

National Night Out in City of Glenarden Tuesday, August 6 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Glenarden Municipal Center
8600 Glenarden Parkway, Glenarden, MD 20706
Free Food, Music and Fun!
Police-Community Partnerships

Residents in neighborhoods throughout the City of Glenarden and across the nation are asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights and spend the evening outside with our neighbors and police!

Fitness, Family and Fun

Veteran and wife team to host GRAND OPENING for Bowie 24-hour infrared fitness studio on Aug 3.

By PRESS OFFICER

HOTWORX Bowie (Highbridge)

BOWIE, Md. (July 15, 2024)—Eric Watson worked to save lives serving 20 years in the U.S. Marine Corps. Now the decorated retired major and his wife Tammie are working to save the health and lives of their neighbors with the GRAND OPENING of HOTWORX Bowie (Highbridge) on August 3.

HOTWORX Bowie (Highbridge) will host a GRAND OPENING celebration with fitness, family and fun activities for the community on August 3 from 1–4 p.m. The fitness facility offers a variety of workout programs inside infrared saunas, including hot yoga, hot pilates and high intensity interval training (HIIT).

HOTWORX is a virtually instructed exercise program created for users to experience the many benefits of infrared

heat absorption, while completing a 30-minute isometric session or 15-minute HIIT session. As the infrared heat penetrates your body causing you to sweat, the isometric postures further accelerate detoxification by physically removing the toxins from your organs through muscle contraction.

HOTWORX Bowie (Highbridge) studio owners and 10-year Bowie residents Eric and Tammie Watson are devoted to overall fitness. This husband & wife team makes wellness a way of life.

Retired U.S. Marine officer and helicopter pilot Eric Watson jumped into fitness, as he puts it, "...to simply live a longer life." He and his wife, Tammie, a former NCAA Division I basketball player, have been devoted to wellness coaching and health education for over a decade. Today they are excited to bring this studio to local residents.

"This is our community. We felt like we would get the most support where we feed the community, the community feeds us, and we can work together," Eric Watson said.

"The infrared heat provides a variety of health benefits, including improving circulation. Whether you want to enhance your physical strength, improve flexibility, or just unwind and detox, HOTWORX Bowie (Highbridge) supports your wellness journey," Tammie Watson added.

The HOTWORX Bowie (Highbridge) August 3 GRAND OPENING is just the beginning. The Watsons are offering guests an opportunity to join the studio and unlock the power of infrared workouts tailored to fit individual lifestyles. HOTWORX Bowie (Highbridge) is offering new member enrollments for as low as \$1 and guests will receive 20% savings on fitness gear and apparel.

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County Celebrates 50 Years of Commitment to Disability Services

By PRESS OFFICER

M-NCPPC

RIVERDALE, Md. (July 22, 2024)—2024 marks a significant milestone for the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County as it celebrates 50 years of dedicated service to people with disabilities. Since 1974, it has been at the forefront of providing inclusive programs, and unwavering support to empower those with disabilities to live fulfilling lives.

The Department has grown into a leading organization offering disability services, serving individuals across Prince George's County. Throughout the decades, its aim has remained steadfast: to provide and promote full and equal access to programs and services of choice, to support independence, inclusion, and to enhance the overall quality of life for every patron it serves.

To commemorate its 50th anniversary of disability services, The Department hosted an event on Friday, July 19 at the Bowie Baysox game. The festivities included food, drinks, fireworks, and a presentation of commendations from Governor

Wes Moore, County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, and Senator Michael Jackson. The event not only celebrated achievements but also raised awareness and support for the Department's ongoing mission.

"It is an honor to be part of an organization dedicated to providing quality services and parks and recreation programs that are inclusive and accessible to all patrons", states Mary Bowie, CTRS, Disability Services Manager. "I stand on broad shoulders of those who have come before me as we celebrate five decades of innovative excellence."

"This 50th Anniversary is not just a celebration of our history but a testament to the resilience and strength of the individuals and families we serve," said Bill Tyler, Director of The M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County. "We are incredibly proud of the impact we've made over the years and are committed to continuing and advancing this work with the same dedication and passion."

As it looks to the future, the Department remains focused on advancing its offerings of disability services. It is dedicated to fostering partnerships and following policies

that enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities. For more information about the Department's Disability Services, visit pgparks.com/activities-events/disability-services.

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

College Park Aviation Museum Awarded \$50k Grant to Curate Black Aviation Exhibition

By PRESS OFFICER

M-NCPPC

RIVERDALE, Md. (July 25, 2024)—The College Park Aviation Museum (CPAM), part of the M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County, is pleased to announce it has been awarded a prestigious grant from the Maryland Historic Areas Authority (MHAA) to fund its upcoming Columbia Air Center exhibition. This significant grant of \$50,000 will enable the museum to create an innovative and engaging experience for visitors.

The exhibition promises to be a groundbreaking exploration of the first Black-owned and operated airport in the United States, blending historical artifacts with cutting-edge interactive displays. The air center was in Croom, Prince George's County, MD, operating from 1940–1962. Its overlooked history belongs alongside the Tuskegee Airmen, Chicago and other recognized centers of early Black aviation. The exhibition will contain projected holograms of actors depicting historic members of the air center. With scripted questions, holograms will engage visitors and bring this history to life.

"Telling the story of Columbia Air Center is integral to our vision of creating more inclusive interpretation and preserving the aviation history of Prince George's County," said CPAM Director Dr. Nadine Boksmati-Fattouh. "This grant will allow us to be the first museum to showcase the largely unrecognized history of the first Black owned and operated airport, and the African American aviators who were determined to fly in defiance of oppressive



PHOTO COURTESY M-NCPPC

The Columbia Air Center was in Croom, Prince George's County, MD, operating from 1940–1962.

racial segregation. We are honored to have housed the growing Columbia Air Center collection since the 1990s. This exhibition will be the culmination of years of research and community work."

"We are grateful to have received this grant to help fund the digital and interactive elements of the upcoming Columbia Air Center exhibition," said CPAM Curator of Collections Luke Perez. "We are honored to be working with the descendant community of the Columbia Air Center to share this significant but overlooked history. With this grant, we will be able to combine traditional exhibition design with innovative, cutting-edge elements to make a modern and engaging exhibition that this history deserves."

The Columbia Air Centre exhibition will provide an immersive experience

that appeals to both residents and visitors from afar. Through it, CPAM aims to inspire curiosity, encourage dialogue, and foster a deeper appreciation for early Black aviation. The support from MHAA underscores its commitment to fostering cultural enrichment and educational outreach in Prince George's County. By partnering with CPAM and its Field of Firsts Foundation, MHAA reaffirms its dedication to supporting innovative projects that resonate with diverse audiences.

For more information about this and other CPAM exhibits, visit pgparks.com/facilities/college-park-aviation-museum. Admission details, special events, and educational programs related to the exhibition will be announced in Summer 2025.

COMMUNITY

Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission Celebrates Ribbon-cutting for the Dyer Crisis Center in Prince George's County

The Crisis Center is part of a broader set of behavioral health initiatives funded through HSCRC's Regional Partnership Catalyst Program

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission

CLINTON, Md. (July 29, 2024)—On Monday, July 29, RI International and Totally Linking Care held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Dyer Care Center, a new crisis stabilization center in Prince George's County. The Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission ("Commission") celebrates Totally Linking Care's accomplishment in opening this Center.

The Dyer Care Center is the first-ever facility in Prince George's County to provide short-term personalized emergency crisis services to adults experiencing a mental health and/or substance use crisis. The new 24/7/365 Crisis Center will improve the quality of care and outcomes for individuals experiencing behavioral health crises and alleviate pressure on hospital emergency departments, law enforcement, and EMS by redirecting patients experiencing a behavioral health crisis to a safer, more appropriate environment than hospital emergency departments.

"Growing behavioral health services and creating alternate settings of care outside of hospitals is more important than ever. The Dyer Center will provide crucial, much-needed care for residents in crisis in Prince George's County," said Maryland Health Secretary Laura Herrera Scott.

The Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission ("Commission") provided financial support for this crisis stabilization center through the Commission's Regional Partnership Catalyst Program. The Regional Partnership Catalyst Program supports Maryland's statewide population health goals under Maryland's Total Cost of Care Model (or "Maryland Model"). "A key benefit of our unique Maryland Model is the ability to invest in partnerships and interventions that improve the health of our communities. Expanding access to behavioral health services is crucial, and we are proud that our Model can enable important partnerships like this," said HSCRC Chairman Joshua Sharfstein.

Through the Regional Partnership Program, the Commission awarded \$79.1

million in funding for a 5-year period (2021–2025) to three hospital/community partnerships to implement behavioral health crisis services. Totally Linking Care Maryland was awarded \$22.9 million under this Program. Totally Linking Care is a nonprofit coalition of six hospitals serving Southern Maryland. The other partnerships that received funding are TRIBE (located on the Eastern Shore) and Greater Baltimore Regional Integrated Crisis System. These partnerships are focused on implementing one or more elements of the evidence-based CRISIS Now Model, such as crisis call centers that coordinate across the system of care in real time, 24/7 mobile crisis, or crisis stabilization programs.

The Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission's vision is to enhance the quality of health care and patient experience, improve population health and health outcomes, and reduce the total cost of care for Marylanders.

FAME (Foundation for the Advancement of Music & Education) Hosts 20th Anniversary Gala & Awards Celebration

By PRESS OFFICER
FAME

FAME (Foundation for the Advancement of Music & Education) recently hosted its 20th Year Anniversary with a Gala and Awards Celebration at the University of Maryland's Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center

Founded in 2004 by A. Toni Lewis, FAME's mission is to give every young musician the best opportunity to succeed by providing music training and academic support. They believe that children, teens, and young adults should have access to quality music and education regardless of social and economic needs. Music is the instrument that FAME uses to capture youths' attention, build their self-confidence, and foster academic success.

Tony Perkins, NBC4 Anchor, served as the MC for the evening, which featured a special performance by The Chelsey Green Project and the FAME Jazz Ensemble. Attendees enjoyed music, awards, and entertainment, celebrating the organization's incredible journey over the past two decades.

Four community leaders were honored for their exemplary contributions.

- **Enid Doggett**, CEO and Founder of INSPR Media—Community & Non-profit Champion Award
- **Colonel James Paige**, Executive Director of CCNA—Outstanding Community Partner Award
- **Dr. Portia Barnes**, Principal of Eleanor Roosevelt High School—Education Leader of the Year Award
- **Benjamin McKnight**, Music Chair of



PHOTO COURTESY FAME

Music is the instrument that FAME uses to capture youths' attention, build their self-confidence, and foster academic success.

The Andrew Jackson Academy—Outstanding Educator Award

"This event showcases the contributions of four notable leaders who have significantly impacted our community," said Greg Wells, FAME board member and event chair. "Our esteemed honorees have done impactful work throughout their stellar careers worth celebrating and emulating."

This year alone, FAME supported 1,200 middle and high school youth in the Greater Washington Region for college and career through its three main programs: Music Is Central Program, Summer Music Program, and the FAME Jazz Band Program. They are strategically located across Prince George's County to

serve all youth: University of Maryland School of Music (north), Dr. Henry Wise High School (central), Harmony Hall Arts Center (south), and The Andrew Jackson Academy (south).

Founded in 2004, FAME's mission is to give every young musician the best opportunity to succeed in life by providing music training and academic support. They believe that children, teens, and young adults, regardless of social and economic needs, should have access to quality music and education. Music is the instrument that FAME uses to capture youths' attention, build their self-confidence, and foster academic success. Persons wanting more information can visit <https://famemusic.org/>.

Governor Moore Appoints Hon. Peter K. Killough to the Supreme Court of Maryland

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (July 25, 2024)—Governor Wes Moore today announced the appointment of the Hon. Peter K. Killough to the Supreme Court of Maryland, Fourth Appellate Judicial Circuit.

"Judge Killough is a public servant in every sense. He has dedicated over a decade of his life to serving the people of Maryland, and we are grateful that he has raised his hand, once again, to make our state better," said Gov. Moore. "Today, the Supreme Court gains a talented, dedicated, and thoughtful leader who will help ensure equal justice under the law

for all Marylanders."

Judge Peter K. Killough currently serves as an Associate Judge on the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, a position he's held since his appointment in 2018.

Prior to his service on the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Judge Killough spent nearly 10 years with the Maryland Office of the Attorney General. He started in 2009 as counsel for the People's Insurance Counsel Division advocating for insurance consumers. He later worked as director of the Maryland Medicaid Fraud Unit, investigating and criminally prosecuting matters involving Medicaid fraud and allegations of abuse and

neglect of vulnerable adults in facilities.

Earlier in his career, Judge Killough served as a senior attorney for the Ford Motor Company's Office of General Counsel and prior to that practiced at Counsel, Carter, Ledyard and Milburn, where he focused on corporate law.

Judge Killough received his B.A. from New York University, during which time he served in the New York National Guard. After graduating, he served three years on active duty for the U.S. Army. While in law school, he served as a member of the U.S. Army Reserves. He received his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law.

The Children's Guild Welcomes New Chief Human Resources Officer and Announces Three New Senior Level Promotions

Ellen Meyer Joins The Children's Guild Board of Directors

By PRESS OFFICER
The Children's Guild

BALTIMORE (July 29, 2024)—The Children's Guild (TCG) a leading Mid-Atlantic nonprofit human-services and education organization is thrilled to announce the appointment of Holly Webb as the new Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO). Holly brings over 20 years of experience in driving organizational success through strategic HR initiatives. As the Chief Human Resources Officer at The Children's Guild, Holly will leverage her expertise to foster high-performance teams, enhance employee engagement, and maximize organizational efficiency.

Throughout her career, Holly has held key HR leadership positions for companies worldwide. Her accomplishments include designing and implementing service-oriented HR functions, creating metrics-driven processes, and leading workforce planning and development efforts that have resulted in significant cost savings and improved organizational performance. Holly holds an MBA from the University of Indianapolis and a Bachelor of Science in Business from Indiana University's Kelley School of Business.

"Holly Webb is a dynamic leader who embodies our core value 'Our People Matter,'" said Jenny Livelli, President and CEO of The Children's Guild. "We are looking forward to working closely with Holly to align HR strategies with organizational goals, promoting a culture of continuous improvement, and ensuring that our people and teams are optimally positioned to support our mission of transforming the lives of children and families."

The Children's Guild is also proud to announce the promotions of the following three prominent staff members:

Mark Rapaport is the new Vice President of Business Development. In his previous role as the Managing Director of Autism Services, Mark was instrumental in opening The Children's Guild School - Transformation Academy located in Baltimore, MD. This facility serves students with autism and related disorders, providing a comprehensive and tailored educational experience. Mark's leadership led to the successful implementation of innovative programs that improved student outcomes and satisfaction. In his new role as Vice President of Business Development, Mark will be working to expand current business lines as well as identify market growth opportunities and new business ventures to enhance The Children's Guild's service offerings.

Ronesha Estep-Franklin is the new Vice President of Program Operations. In her former role as Managing Director of School Operations, Ronesha Estep-Franklin oversaw the daily operations of our charter schools and preschool. Her leadership was pivotal in improving program operations, leading to enhanced educational experiences for students. Ronesha introduced several innovative practices that streamlined operations and boosted program efficiency. As Vice President of Program Operations, Ronesha will now oversee all program operations for The Children's Guild, including nonpublic schools, charter schools, and preschools located in Maryland and Washington, DC, along with treatment foster care and behavioral health services, ensuring high-quality outcomes and program sustainability.

Kelly Schwalbert is the new Vice President Chief of Staff. Having served as the Managing Director of Mission Advancement, Kelly Schwalbert was instrumental in building systems to improve operations across multiple departments. She developed and launched the first centralized grant department and expanded marketing services throughout the organization. Kelly's strategic vision led to the creation and development of new departments, enhancing organizational capacity and efficiency. In her new role as Vice President Chief of Staff, Kelly will continue to support fundraising efforts while working closely with Jenny Livelli, President and CEO, as well as the Board of Directors and key stakeholders, to drive organizational strategy and growth.

In addition to these new staff positions, Ellen Meyer has been appointed to The Children's Guild Board of Directors. Ellen is a Human Resources leader with over 36 years of comprehensive experience. She is a former teacher with a Bachelor of Arts in Child Development, and follows in the footsteps of her late mother, Louise Goldberg, who was also a reading teacher at The Children's Guild and a former Board

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The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

I Was Self-Employed and Don't Have Enough Credits for Social Security

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

Dear Rusty: For a thirty-year period, I was making a living as an independent contractor and freelancer. I was working on behalf of myself. Thus, I was only paying state and federal taxes when applied. Due to changes in the employment landscape, I wish to apply for benefits at age sixty-four, as receiving said SS benefits would serve as supplemental income to what I would be receiving from outside sources.

I recently discovered through the SSA that I do not have enough "points" to apply for Social Security benefits. What would be the method to obtain those required points in order to receive benefits?
Signed: Needing Points

Dear Needing: Social Security is an earned benefit, and eligibility is attained by contributing to SS through FICA payroll taxes, or Self-Employment (SECA) tax on your net earnings from self-employment, over your lifetime. You must have at least 40 "quarters of credit" to be eligible for Social Security benefits—essentially you must work one quarter of each year earning at least a specified amount during that quarter to earn one credit, and you can earn a maximum of 4 credits for each year you work. The amount of earnings per credit varies each year, but for 2024, work earnings of \$1,730 give you one credit (annual work earnings of \$6,920 earn 4 credits). Usually, you must contribute to Social Security for about 10 years to be eligible for benefits. You must have earned at least 40 quarter credits to collect Social Security retirement benefits. If you have less than 40 you are not eligible for SS retirement benefits.

For self-employed individuals, SECA SS tax is paid when you file your federal income tax return—you pay into Social Security when filing your annual Self-Employment income tax return (the self-employed must pay both the employee and the employer portion of Social Security tax). If you did not file an income tax return for each year over your lifetime you were self-employed, you didn't earn any SS credits for that year. You pay SECA tax on your NET earnings from self-employment (after all business expenses are deducted).

If you are just a few credits short of the 40 necessary to be eligible for benefits, you can still earn those extra credits needed by working and paying SS FICA or SECA taxes on your work earnings. For each \$1,730 earned this year, you will earn one SS credit, up to a maximum of 4 per year. But you must contribute to Social Security from those earnings—if you work as a company employee you will have FICA taxes withheld from your earnings, and if you are still self-employed you would need to pay SECA taxes on net earnings over \$6,920 when you file your self-employment income tax return. You would need to do that for as long as it takes for you to attain the minimum 40 quarter credits needed to be eligible for Social Security retirement benefits. (FYI: you cannot "buy" the extra points needed; you need to earn them by working and contributing to Social Security from your earnings).

One final point: whenever SS benefits are claimed before one's full retirement age (FRA) Social Security's "earnings test" applies. The earnings test limits how much you can earn from working before some of your SS benefits are taken away. The earnings test no longer applies after you reach your FRA and, if you turned 64 this year, your FRA is 67. Self-employed individuals are also subject to an hourly limit of 15 to 45 working hours per month in their first year of early retirement.

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.

Promotions from A4

Member. For two generations, the Meyer family has been a huge champion of The Children's Guild. Their unwavering dedication and support have not only shaped the lives of children in need but have also woven a rich tapestry of love, commitment, and community spirit.

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

Schools and programs of The Children's Guild include Monarch Academy Annapolis, Monarch Academy Glen Burnie, Monarch Global Academy Laurel, Monarch Preschool College Park, The Children's Guild DC PCS, The Children's Guild School of Baltimore, The Children's Guild School of Prince George's County, The Children's Guild - Transformation Academy, The Janet & Frank Kelly Autism Center, Treatment Foster Care, and Outpatient Mental Health Clinic (OMHC). For more information, visit <https://childrensguild.org/>.

Four New Members Join Board of Library Trustees

By ANDREA CASTILLO
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (July 24, 2024)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) welcomes four new members to its Board of Library Trustees: Sandra S. Johnson, Rhea L. Marshall, Mark A. Sandoe, and Chanté R. Sedwick.

The appointments of Johnson, Marshall, Sandoe, and Sedwick were confirmed by the Prince George's County Council on June 18, and the new board members were also recognized at a ceremonial public Library Board meeting on July 18. The four join Chair Angela D. Smith, Vice Chair Sylvia Bolivar, and member Robert Fernandez on the PGCMLS Board of Library Trustees.

"This is an exciting milestone for PGCMLS as we welcome four new trustee members to our board," Smith said. "I look forward to collaborating with each of them to bolster and advance our library system, ensuring we continue meeting the diverse needs of our communities."

The Library Board is a seven-member policy-making body that guides the development of library services for PGCMLS. Responsibilities also include setting systemwide priorities, overseeing library resources to make sure they are used effectively toward achieving systemwide goals, serving as representatives for the Library at community events, and advocating for the system to state and county leadership, among other duties.

"We are honored to welcome four new Board of Library Trustees members, who have expressed enthusiasm for volunteering to serve in this capacity, particularly at this time of real opportunity for PGCMLS," said Library CEO Mark Winston, Ph.D.

Sandra S. Johnson

Sandra S. Johnson is a risk management professional with over two decades of experience in the private and nonprofit sectors. Her expertise lies in crisis management, business continuity, and developing effective strategies to ensure operational resilience. In her current leadership role at a financial service holding company, she collaborates with stakeholders at all levels to drive continuous improvement in risk management and organizational preparedness.

Previously, she has headed similar roles at other multinational organizations. As a passionate, lifelong advocate for reading and literacy, Johnson actively promotes the importance of literacy in both personal and professional spheres. She believes that a strong foundation in reading and literacy not only enhances individual growth and knowledge but also plays a crucial role in building resilient communities.

Johnson has a master's in technology management from Georgetown University, a master's in management specializing in homeland security from the University of Maryland Global Campus, and an undergraduate degree from Howard University.



PHOTO BY TONIA SMITH

Sandra S. Johnson, Rhea L. Marshall, Mark A. Sandoe, and Chanté R. Sedwick (l-r) are the newest members of the Prince George's County Memorial Library System Board of Trustees.

She is a Certified Business Continuity Planning Professional (CBCP) recognized by Disaster Recovery Institute International (DRII). Johnson, her husband Wardell and children, reside in Bowie. She replaces Patrice Garnette on the board. Johnson's term ends December 31, 2028.

Rhea L. Marshall

Rhea L. Marshall joined the Board of Library Trustees in June 2024. An avid reader and lifelong public library patron, she believes the library is an important hub for our community where residents should have access to a wide array of resources.

Marshall is a strategic communications professional with more than 20 years of experience at leading organizations in the energy, healthcare, and higher education arenas. Her areas of expertise include reputation building and issues management, change communications and employee engagement. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the College of New Jersey and a master's degree in communication from the University of Pennsylvania. Marshall and her family reside in Upper Marlboro. Marshall replaces Brett Crawford on the board. Her term ends December 31, 2027.

Mark A. Sandoe

Mark A. Sandoe is an experienced human resources leader with over 30 years specializing in compensation, HR information systems, and performance management, having implemented HR systems, compensation programs and expatriate programs globally. For the past 10 years, he has led compensation and performance management programs in the federal government.

Previously, he worked directly with disadvantaged youth in a group-home setting for several years. Along with his advocacy for at-risk youth, he is also passionate about supporting the freedom to read and human rights for immigrants and other marginalized voices who often go unheard.

Sandoe has degrees in business administration and public relations/marketing

from Ball State University and has achieved certification in compensation, global remuneration, and as a global professional of human resources. He resides in Fort Washington. Sandoe replaces Toni A. Smith on the board. His term ends December 31, 2026.

Chanté R. Sedwick

Chanté R. Sedwick is the communications strategy director at a national nonprofit in Washington, DC, where she drives communications strategy and integrated consumer messaging across social, digital, publications, earned, and paid media channels.

Sedwick is a seasoned strategist with over 25 years of marketing and communications experience in membership and healthcare organizations delivering significant contributions towards strategic brand alignment, leading campaigns that build awareness and engagement, support revenue and member growth, and deliver on social mission.

Sedwick is a graduate of Hamilton College and earned a master's degree from Penn State University and an MBA from Kogod School of Business at American University. She resides in Bowie. Sedwick replaces Dr. Arthuree R.M. Wright on the board. Her term ends December 31, 2027.

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) helps customers discover and define opportunities that shape their lives. The Library serves the 967,000+ residents of Prince George's County, Maryland through 19 branch libraries, a 24/7 online library, the County Correctional Center Library, and pop-up services throughout the community. PGCMLS is a responsive and trusted community-driven organization. Programs, services, and outreach activities serve book lovers, immigrants and refugees, job seekers, children, young professionals, seniors, and families alike. PGCMLS is the recipient of two Top Innovator Awards from the Urban Libraries Council (2023—Democracy; 2021—Workforce and Economic Development). Learn more at pgcmls.info/about-us.

Prince George's County Department of Social Services and Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Receive \$2 Million Youth Homelessness System Improvement Grant to Benefit County Youth Experiencing Homelessness

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

LANDOVER, Md. (July 25, 2024)—The Prince George's County Department of Social Services (PGCDSS) and the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (MD-DHCD) announced earlier this week that they are the recipient of a \$2 million Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) grant award from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The groundbreaking grant aims to focus on systemic changes necessary to build a strong, resilient, and equitable youth homelessness response system.

"We are proud to be a recipient of this grant award that will support some of our most vulnerable youth who are unfortu-

nately experiencing homelessness," said Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "Everyone deserves a place to call home, and we recognize the importance of providing the necessary resources and support to ensure that these young people can work to build a brighter future for themselves. Our youth should never have to face challenges such as this, and we are looking forward to collaborating with the State to address this issue in our County."

This initiative represents a collaborative effort to transform the way youth homelessness is addressed, creating a model that can be replicated across the State of Maryland and potentially the nation. The YHSI grant will support communities in better identifying youth with unstable housing through innovative partnerships and enhanced data sharing. It will also improve connections between

youth and available resources through streamlined and efficient entry systems. Additionally, the grant will develop new solutions driven by youth with a lived experience of homelessness and continually assess the effectiveness of these systems.

"The Prince George's County Department of Social Services sees this grant as an opportunity to strengthen its partnership with the state and improve collaboration between the various youth serving systems aiming to solve youth homelessness in our County," said Stephen Liggett-Creel, Acting Director of the Department of Social Services. The YHSI grant award marks a significant milestone in the efforts to address youth homelessness, ensuring that vulnerable young individuals receive the support and resources they need to achieve stability and security while experiencing homelessness.

