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Hyattsville Native Performs With U.S. Navy Band Cruisers in Massachusetts



U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MASTER CHIEF MUSICIAN ADAM GRIMM

WEST TISBURY, Mass. (Aug. 15, 2024) Chief Musician David Smith, from Hyattsville, Maryland, performs with the U.S. Navy Band Cruisers at the Martha's Vineyard Fair held on the fairgrounds of the Agricultural Hall in West Tisbury, Massachusetts. The Navy Band Cruisers performed eight concerts in three states, connecting with audiences who do not interact with members of the Navy on a regular basis.

M&T Bank, FSC First Launch Prince George's County Small Business Accelerator Program

Register for free eight-week program by Sept. 9 for \$10,000 Prize Awards

By PRESS OFFICER
M&T Bank

LARGO, Md. (Aug. 22, 2024)—M&T Bank and FSC First are looking for as many as 30 small business owners to participate in a business accelerator program designed to provide entrepreneurs with the guidance and skills needed to build strong companies, spur economic growth in Prince George's County, and help build generational wealth for their families.

The eight-week business accelerator program—a partnership between M&T Bank and FSC First—will focus on business planning, sourcing capital, managing financial statements, marketing, and branding.

The program launches September 24 with an orientation session and begins full programming on October 1. It includes a hybrid mix of courses held virtually and in person at various locations in the county. The program concludes November 12 with a pitch

competition and opportunity to win grants totaling \$5,000 for first place, \$3,000 for second place and \$2,000 for third place—funded by M&T Bank.

Entrepreneurs interested in participating must complete an application by September 9, be based in Prince George's County, in operation for at least two years, and be in good standing. Qualified applicants will be enrolled in the free program on a first-come, first-served basis.

"In partnership with Prince George's County, M&T Bank is thrilled to offer the Business Accelerator Program, which provides local entrepreneurs with the resources to help their businesses thrive," said Jim Peterson, M&T Bank's VP and Small Business Ambassador. "The program's curriculum is designed to offer small business owners mentorship opportunities, to enhance their

See SMALL BUSINESS Page A5

Residents of The Sky Bridge at Town Center Receive the Presidential Treatment During White House Tour

By PRESS OFFICER
Watermark Retirement Communities

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Aug. 22, 2024)—One of the benefits of living at The Sky Bridge at Town Center is that the president of the United States is almost like your neighbor! Residents of The Sky Bridge at Town Center, a Watermark Retirement Community, took a trip on Aug. 3 to nearby Washington D.C. to tour the White House. This trip was part of Watermark's Extraordinary Outings program, which helps residents explore nearby sights and try new experiences.

Around a dozen residents and associates from the community toured the president's home, from the beautiful gardens to the historically decorated interior. The residents enjoyed viewing portraits of the past presidents and their families as well as exploring the East Wing of the White House.

Pictures of The Sky Bridge at Town Center's visit can be viewed and downloaded here: The Sky Bridge at Town Center - White House Visit <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12KkBREv837dobS0biUNdYVmTd1ZBq3dN>



PHOTO COURTESY WATERMARK RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

Residents and associates of The Sky Bridge at Town Center in the hallways of the White House visitors center.

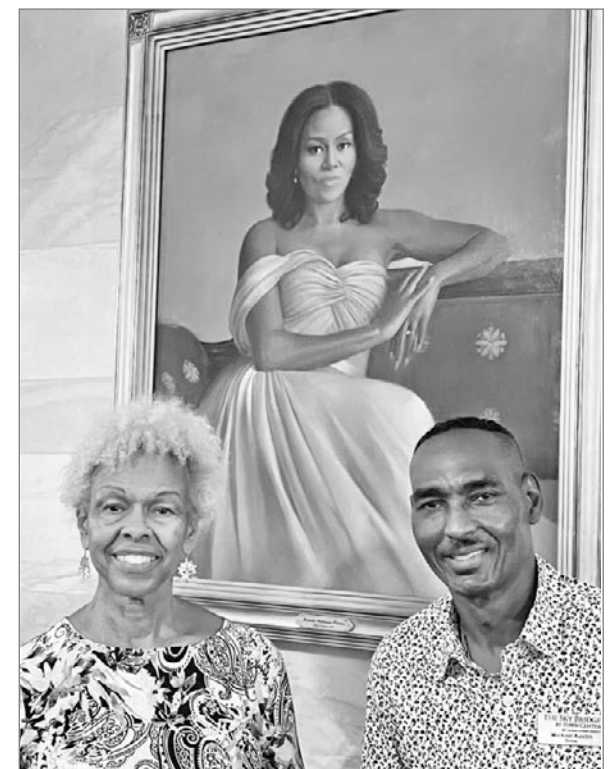


PHOTO COURTESY WATERMARK RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

A resident and associate of Sky Bridge take a picture with the portrait of former First Lady Michelle Obama.

At the Convention, Maryland's Alsobrooks Offers Tribute to Harris as Friend, Mentor, Role Model

By KATHARINE WILSON
Capital News Service

CHICAGO (Aug. 20, 2024)—Maryland Senate candidate and Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks made her debut on the national stage Tuesday (Aug. 20), giving a keynote address to the Democratic National Convention about her mentor Vice President Kamala Harris.

"Ever since Donald Trump rode down that ridiculous elevator, we as a nation have felt trapped," Alsobrooks said. "Every national decision has been made in reaction to this one man and his extremist MAGA movement. We are still frozen by the fear that Donald Trump might once again come to power."

"And it's not just our politics that have been trapped. It's our imagination. And then, Kamala came along," Alsobrooks told the roaring crowd in the United Center. "Kamala has reminded us that we don't need to fear anything. Not the future and certainly not that man."

Alsobrooks, first elected county executive in 2018, is running in a high-profile Senate race against former Republican Gov. Larry Hogan for the seat of retiring Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Maryland. She did not mention Hogan in her address.

The race could help decide the party balance in the Senate, where Democrats currently have a razor-thin majority.

The Senate candidate said she first heard of Harris through a



CALEY FOX SHANNON/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

CHICAGO—Maryland Senate candidate and Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks called Kamala Harris "a friend, a mentor and a role model" in an address Tuesday, Aug. 20 to the Democratic National Convention.

2009 Essence magazine article profiling the then-San Francisco district attorney. Alsobrooks, who was running

for Prince George's County state's attorney at the time, said she was inspired by Harris' "Back on Track" program for rehabilitating some non-violent offenders through job training, GEDs and apprenticeships.

Days after Alsobrooks won her election in 2010—after a campaign in which she talked about Harris "non-stop"—she received a call from Harris congratulating Alsobrooks and asking to help. A mentorship and a friendship was born.

The now-Democratic presidential nominee, Alsobrooks said, helped bring "Back on Track" to Maryland, where crime decreased and the economy improved.

"Getting justice for others isn't a power trip for her—it's a sacred calling," Alsobrooks said. "And hear me—Kamala Harris knows how to keep criminals off the streets. And come November, with your help, she'll keep one

out of the Oval Office."

Alsobrooks recalled her grandmother's determination to get a job in the government, which required a typing test. Without money for a typewriter, her grandmother drew a keyboard on a piece of paper and practiced typing with it taped on her refrigerator door.

"I've always been inspired by women like my grandmother—women who imagine a better future and then have the grit to make it a reality," Alsobrooks said, adding that Harris is one such woman.

Alsobrooks also repeated the now-popular Democratic chant "we're not going back," which the packed crowd echoed multiple times.

Cheering on from the Maryland section were both Maryland senators, Cardin and Chris Van

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ChildWatch: Fannie Lou Hamer's Convention

Her spirit of grit, love, and courage made history then and is still an inspiration for the history being made right now.

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Melwood Welcomes Two New Board Members

Governor Moore Announces \$23 Million in Federal Funding to Expand Registered Apprenticeships and Workforce Development in Maryland Business and Finance, Page A5

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline

Miss Maryland USA 1977, Twyla Littleton, Oxon Hill grad, dies

Twyla Sue Littleton-Shabtai, Oxon Hill High School Graduate, died June 7 at home in Tarzana, Calif., with her husband, Nikko Shabtai by her side.

Born in San Antonio, Texas, she grew up in Prince George's, graduated from Oxon Hill HS and attended Prince George's County Community College. In 1977 She won the Miss Maryland USA Crown, which led to a career in modeling, with the help of nightclub impresario Michael O'Harro. She moved to New York and roomed with good friend Donna Dixon who later married Dan Aykroyd.

Twyla appeared in commercials, ads such as Ovaltine, Nikon, Certs, Mattel and Copertone.

She moved to Los Angeles and appeared in movies: Ruthless People, Death Wish II, The Fall Guy. And TV shows: Matlock, Facts of Life, Three's Company, Knot's Landing and Bosom Buddies which starred her friend Donna and another young actor, Tom Hanks.

Growing weary of the roles she was offered, she tapped into her organizational talents and became office manager for entertainment law firm Arrow, Edelstein & Laird (later, Edelstein, Laird & Soibel) for 30 years. She also managed rock group "Beau Nasty." And she helped launch the Cancer Schmancer Movement so women could secure better gynecological healthcare screening.

In 1955, she married Israeli architect and artist Nikko Shabtai. Nikko remembers, "We had a blessed life together—33 years went by like a lightning bolt, but the beautiful memories will never fade away. Twyla served a lot of roles—sister, wife, daughter, dog mom to Jaxy, step-mom to Alex and Zach, office manager, bookkeeper, beauty queen, model, actor."

Private memorial service will be held at a later date.

Her friend, Joanne Paper Murphy, wrote, "Twyla was one of the sweetest people I have ever known...loving and caring to everyone she met."

Town of Morningside

Candy Bar Bingo will be held at the Town Hall on Sept. 6, from 6 to 9 p.m. Go, and win!

On September 21, the Fall Yard Sale will be at the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department. You can call now to reserve a table or space: \$15 for one table or space, \$25 for two tables or spaces. Call 301-736-2301 for registration or information.

Town Meetings are the Monthly Work Session, Tuesday, Sept. 10, and Town Meeting, Tuesday, Sept. 17. Both start at 7.

A reminder: Morningside has installed two speed cameras on Suitland Road. I've talked to several who've been caught. Slow down!

Neighbors and other good people

Louis Leonard Glickfield, 92, founder of Marlo Furniture, the largest furniture retail chain in the DC-MD-VA region, died August 15. Services were August 20 at Washington Hebrew Congregation, with burial at King David Cemetery, Falls Church.

Condolences to Deacon Darryl Kelley, at St. John's in Clinton, on the death of his brother, Dr. Russell V. Kelley.

My great-granddaughter, Mary McHale, moved August 22 into her room in Bel Air Hall, University of Maryland, to begin college life. She graduated with honors this spring from Bishop McNamara High School and is the daughter of Conor and Heather McHale.

Places to go and things to do

The Maryland Renaissance Festival began its 48th season August 24 and runs Saturdays, Sundays, Labor Day, Monday through October 27th for nine weekends of "thrills, feasting, handmade crafts, entertainment and merriment" in Crownsville, near Annapolis. The 27-acre Village of Revel Grove comes to life with more than 200 professional performers on ten stages, a 3,000-seat arena with armored jousting on magnificent steeds and streets filled with village characters. Check out www.rennfest.com for more.

The 143rd Maryland State Fair continues through September 8, providing food, fun, family entertainment, agriculture education and horse racing. For details, hours and prices, go to <https://marylandstatefair.com/>.

The Charles County Fair is celebrating its 100th Anniversary as they open their annual Charles County Fair September 12–15. For information, go to www.charlescountyfair.com.

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Changing landscape

I've had e-mails asking when that McDonald's at Suitland Road & Allentown will reopen. Well, this week the restaurant itself disappeared. It will no doubt resurface, in time, as a whole different McDonald's. Meanwhile, questioners must seek another McDonald's.

The Dyer Care Center, a new 24-hour mental health facility, has opened on Piscataway Road in Clinton and will help Prince George's lead the way on mental healthcare.

A home at 6705 Pine Grove Drive, in Morningside, just sold for \$386,000.

Elijah Thorne, of Camp Springs

Elijah Wendell Thorne, who lived many years on Darel Street in Auth Village, died August 18. He was 83.

In one of his several obituaries, Craig Pope paid tribute, "I know Mr. Thorne was proud to be the second homeowner of the house my family, Mr. Kermit Pope and my Uncle Pat built in Camp Springs." He added that Elijah was a great and caring neighbor to his grandparents, Elvera and Kermit Pope.

Survivors include his wife, Marilyn Wilder Thorne; daughters, Adriene Thorne, Eva Thorne and Nicole Thorne Jenkins; four grandchildren; and sister, Brenda Lucas. Visitation was at Marshall-March Funeral Home, in Suitland, with Mass of Christian Burial at St. Philip the Apostle Church where he was a longtime parishioner. Interment was at Lincoln Memorial Cemetery in Suitland.

Milestones

Happy Birthday to Bria Barbour-Ray, Denis Wood, Jai McCune, Caitlin Rose Woods and Tom Anderson, Aug. 30; Mary Berkeley and Travis Mullins, Aug. 31; Judy Busky, Earl Simms, Rebecca Capps and my great-granddaughter Mary Adela McHale, Sept. 1; Suzanne Kenney, Sept. 2; Andrelic Howard and Arvilla Atkinson, Sept. 3; and Loretta Carter, Sept. 4.

Happy Anniversary to Charlie and Bobbie Deegan who wed 49 years ago, Sept. 5, 1975. And Happy Belated Anniversary to John and Dorothy Stevenson on Aug. 30.

Email birthdays and anniversaries to me at muddmm@gmail.com.

Commissioner President Collins Grand Marshal for Blue Crab Fun Run 5K

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

WALDORF, Md. (Aug. 22, 2024)—Hospice of the Chesapeake is honored to announce that Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President of the Charles County Board of Commissioners, will be the Grand Marshal for the inaugural Blue Crab Fun Run 5K.

Hospice of the Chesapeake Vice President of Strategic Communications and Advocacy Sandra Dillon said that having Collins at the starting line fits in perfectly with the organization's plans to turn this event into a Charles County annual tradition. Collins is a lifelong resident with more than 30 years of public service to his community. "We envision this event as a new celebration of community for Charles County families, so who better to have than this well-loved community leader cheering on his neighbors, friends and family?" Dillon said.

With the support of esteemed community health partner, the University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center, and Finish Line sponsor Waldorf Toyota, the fundraiser is shaping up to be a "home run" community event. It will take place 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5, at Regency Furniture Stadium, 11765 St. Linus Drive, Waldorf, Maryland.

The family-friendly 5K welcomes participants of all ages, whether you're a competitive or amateur runner, a casual jogger, a walker or part of a team. There also will be a 1K for Kids for children ages 8 and younger accompanied by their adults.

People can register as individuals or as a team: Let your spirit shine and be creative with fun attire. Participants also can register to run in memory of a loved one. Create and wear a shirt in their honor.

When everyone returns to the stadium, there will be plenty of reasons to stick around with the post-race party that includes music, local food trucks and vendors, and fun activities for the kids.

Taking part in all the fun ensures this local not-for-profit can continue to provide supportive, hospice and grief care for all who are experiencing serious illness and loss in Charles County. All proceeds will benefit patients and families in Charles County.

The cost is \$40 per participant in advance or \$55 on the day of the event. Entry fees for both the 5K and the 1K include T-shirt, bib, medal, hydration stations and post-race party.

To register, visit <https://www.hospicechesapeake.org/blue-crab-run/>.

For sponsorship and underwriting opportunities, contact the events team at 443-837-1531 or events@hospicechesapeake.org.

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.

Three Dates for This Year's Fort Dupont Park Summer Event Series

By PRESS OFFICER
National Park Service

WASHINGTON (Aug. 21, 2024)—Mark your calendars for three unforgettable Saturdays filled with live R&B, hip-hop, jazz, go-go music and a DJ! The National Park Service (NPS) is excited to announce the 2024 schedule for the Fort Dupont Park Summer Event Series!

Join us Sept. 7, Sept. 14 and Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. for family-friendly free, live music performances for all ages from well-known artists with past and present hits.

Artists for Saturday, Sept. 7:

- Experience Unlimited (E.U.) featuring Sugar Bear
- The Blackbyrds
- DJ Lance Reynolds

Artists for Sept. 14 and 21 will be announced soon!

The concerts are free and open to the public. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. and all concerts begin at 7 p.m. Concertgoers are invited to bring lawn chairs, blankets and food. Dogs on a leash are also welcome.

Prohibited items:

- Alcoholic beverages or illegal substances
- Coolers larger than 29.5" x 16" x 19"
- Glass bottles
- Grills and open flames
- Umbrellas
- Weapons

Fort Dupont Park's amphitheater is located at 3600 F Street, SE, Washington, D.C., 20019. For more information on what to bring and to stay up to date with musicians as they are announced, visit www.nps.gov/fodu.

The Fort Dupont Park Summer Event Series began in 1972 and is a beloved celebration of music for the DC metro area. This annual event brings together Greater Washington area communities to enjoy incredible music from national, regional and local artists.



PHOTO COURTESY HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President of the Charles County Board of Commissioners

Brandywine-Aquasco

TRIBUTE TO MY SISTER

Brenda Turner Johnson attended Malcolm Elementary School, Pomonkey, and LaPlata Senior High School in LaPlata, Maryland. She became a clarinet player at the elementary level and continued to excel for six years at the high school level. After graduation from high school, she attended the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, Maryland.

Brenda had a very happy childhood. She travelled with her family to church where she and her sisters sang praises to God as the "Turner Sisters Chorus." She was a member of the Youth Choir and the Methodist Youth Fellowship for many years at John Wesley Methodist Church. She also served as Secretary of the former Washington Conference Youth Council of the Methodist Episcopal Church for four years.

Brenda was united in marriage to Ernest F. Johnson, Jr. and out of their bond of love came two precious sons, Ernest F. Johnson, III and James Weldon Johnson. Brenda spent three years with her husband in Springfield, Missouri, while he attended school, and later spent two years in Quantico, Virginia, while Ernest completed his duties in the United States Marine Corps.

Brenda was a devoted wife, mother, daughter, sister-in-law, granddaughter, daughter-in-law, aunt, and was greatly loved by everyone. She was a very organized and loving person who always wore a smile for everyone that she would meet. I will always cherish the beautiful memories of my sister Brenda and all the precious moments that we spent together. Love, Audrey Johnson.

PGSAO 5TH ANNUAL PURPLE BIKE RIDE

Join us for PGSAO 5th Annual Purple Bike Ride Saturday October 12, 2024, at 12 a.m. Location is Kettering, Maryland 3330 Northview Dr., Bowie, Maryland 20716. Email: ckreid@co.pg.md.us. Website: <http://pgsao.org>.

KUDOS TO BSU ALUMNI

Welcome to the Office of Alumni Relations. Congratulations to Dr. Leslie Hall ('12) who recently joined American University as the new Senior Director for Multicultural and Affinity Engagement. In this role, Dr. Hall will provide strategic oversight for AU's alumni affinity programs and will work with a team to manage and support alumni alliances and networks.

"I firmly believe that alumni are crucial to the long-term success and sustainability of all institutions, particularly historically Black colleges and universities, which will continue to be the cornerstone of my scholarship, writing, and advocacy." Dr. Leslie Hall, a Bowie State University Alumni. Join the Virtual BSU Alumni Community. Facebook: @BSUOAE, Instagram: @BowieAlum, X: @BSUAlumniOffice. Questions? Email alumni@bowiestate.edu. Bowie State University, The BOLD BUZZ. What is new and happening at BSU. A weekly publication from the Office of Alumni Engagement and Stewardship.

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

TEA LEAVES FOR LIFE PROGRAM

Shiloh Community UMC cordially invites you to their Tea Leaves for Life Program celebrating cancer survivors, those still fighting and a tribute to those who lost the battle to cancer October 5 at 3 p.m. at Shiloh Community UMC, 12705 Shiloh Church Road, Newburg, Maryland 20664. Pastor Dr. Rev. James Danieli. Refreshments and desserts will be served.

Tea Leaves for Life Contacts are Patricia Queen 301-3643-4624, Wanda Woodland 240-299-9791, Harriette Briscoe 240-586-2009. Tickets: \$20.00 adults, \$10.00 children 12 & under, children 5 & under free.

148TH HOMECOMING ANNIVERSARY

St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Baden Parish, 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613 will be celebrating their 148th Homecoming Anniversary 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 service.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO A SPECIAL AUNT

Happy Birthday to a very special and loving lady. Our Aunt Berline Brooks birthday was August 19, 2024. She is 102 years old. Love, Audrey, Patricia, Joyce, and Cleo.

SEPTEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations and Happy Wedding Anniversary to Kevin and Jazzmyn Simmons, Franklyn and Joyce Isaac, Jose and Daphne Rojas, Norville and Deserae Hughes, Ted and Rebecca Mosley, Joe and Patrice Perkins Pratt, Owen and Audrey Johnson.

FRIDAY HAPPY HOUR

After work and every 4th Friday, is time to let go of stress and have some fun on September 27 with performance by Next Hour Band, music by DJ Lucky. FREE ADMISSION ALL NIGHT. VIP seating is FREE. Happy Hour drink specials from 4–7 p.m. VIP Seating is first come first to be seated. Dress Code: Casual fashionable or work clothing allowed.

Location: Piano Keys Restaurant and Lounge, 7651 Matapeake Business Drive, Suite 101, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Event lasts five hours. Refund Policy: refunds up to 7 days before event. Eventbrite's fee is nonrefundable. For VIP table or RSVP: WWW.PIANOKEYSLOUNGE.COM. More information: (240) 816-2211.

COMMUNITY

County Events

Labor Day Recreation Activities in Greenbelt

Date and time: Friday August 30–Sunday, September 1
Description: Join Greenbelt Recreation this Labor Day weekend for a jam-packed schedule of fun and games! From Friday at 6 p.m. through Sunday at 2 p.m., we'll be hosting exciting activities for all ages at the Youth Center and Braden Fields. Stop by on your way to the Labor Day Festival in Roosevelt Center and make some unforgettable memories with us!
For More Info:
https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/Home/Components/News/News/1258/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Community Celebration

Office of the State's Attorney for Prince George's County, MD
Date and time: Saturday, August 31, 12 p.m.–6 p.m.
Description: Please join us for a Celebration of Community, Culture & Diversity. Come and enjoy food, music, dance, kids corner and more.
Location: Fairwood Park, 12390 Fairwood Park, Bowie, MD
Registration: www.pgsao.org/event
For More Info: 240-508-1349

Harmony Hall Arts Center Presents: "Accumulating the Everyday" by Travis Childers

RIVERDALE, Md. (Aug. 19, 2024)—Harmony Hall Arts Center, part of the M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County, is proud to announce a new exhibition by acclaimed mixed media artist Travis Childers, entitled "Accumulating the Everyday." The exhibition will be on display in the Community Gallery from August 31 through October 5, 2024. A free Opening Reception will take place on Saturday, September 14, from 2 to 4 p.m. and is open to all ages.

Travis Childers, a recipient of several awards and grants, including recognition from the renowned paint manufacturer Liquitex, uses his art to engage viewers in a unique exploration of memory and daily life. This body of work features intricate mixed media collages with elements that focus on whole faces, eyes, and vegetation. Childers' innovative use of tape in his collages highlights the way details can be both preserved and lost over time, intentionally or unintentionally.

Childers' work is rooted in the ordinary, which he elevates through his creative process. As the artist explains, "My creativity does not come from the extraordinary but the everyday and the mundane, and with those I find endless amounts of inspiration." His art challenges viewers to see their daily activities in a new light, making the familiar unfamiliar through his compelling techniques.

Childers holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, Maryland. His work has been exhibited across the United States and United Kingdom, both independently and as part of group shows.

Exhibition Details:

- Exhibition Dates: **August 31–October 5, 2024**
- Opening Reception: **Saturday, September 14, 2024**, 2–4 p.m.
- Location: Community Gallery, Harmony Hall Arts Center, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Harmony Hall Arts Center at (301) 203-6070 or visit pgparks.com/event_list/travis-childers-accumulating-the-everyday-opening-reception.



PHOTO CREDIT MNCPPC, PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY / DARNELL'S CHANCE HOUSE MUSEUM (FROM [HTTPS://WWW.PGPARKS.COM/EVENT_LIST/ECHOES-OF-THE-ENSLAVED-2024](https://www.pgparks.com/event_list/echoes-of-the-enslaved-2024))

Echoes of the Enslaved event

Celebrate International Underground Railroad Month This September

By the Maryland Office of Tourism

Description: Celebrate International Underground Railroad Month this September by taking a guided tour or attending an event to honor the courageous journeys of famous and lesser-known freedom seekers. Discover people who have triumphed in their fight to overcome oppression, and uncover the myriad ways they found freedom and set the seeds for their descendant's ongoing journey toward civil rights.

Plan your journey now for September's International Underground Railroad Month in Maryland. Events, talks and tours fill the calendar, starting with an amazing kick-off event, A Day of Unity and Healing at Historic Sotterley. A full schedule of International Underground Railroad Month events can be found at VisitMaryland.org.

County-specific Events Include:

- Fridays and Sundays, **September 6–29**: Guided Tour of Riverdale House—Meet the People Who Live and Worked here (Riverdale)
- Thursday, **September 12**: Flee North—A Book Talk with Author Scott Shane at Marietta House Museum (Glenn Dale)
- Friday, **September 13**: Highlighting the Underground Railroad at Marietta House Museum (Glenn Dale)
- Saturday, **September 28**: "Echoes of the Enslaved: History in Her Hands" at Darnall's Chance House Museum (Upper Marlboro)

For more details about these events, and others throughout the state of Maryland this September, visit <https://www.visitmaryland.org/international-underground-railroad-events>

The Comeuppance Comes Home to D.C. Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company and The Wilma Theater Co-produce Branden Jacobs-Jenkins' Dark Comedy

This dark comedy is set in Prince George's County, Maryland

By PRESS OFFICER

Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company

Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company presents Branden Jacobs-Jenkins critically acclaimed, dark comedy, *The Comeuppance* in collaboration with The Wilma Theater in Philadelphia. Following its world premiere in 2023 at Off-Broadway's Signature Theatre, it was nominated for five Lucille Lortel Awards, winning Outstanding Play. Directed by Wilma Co-Artistic Director, Morgan Green, and featuring Woolly Mammoth Company members Jon Hudson Odom and Erika Rose, and The Wilma's Hothouse Company members, Taysha Canales, Sarah Gliko, and Jaime Maseda, the production runs from September 8 to October 6, at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company (641 D St NW) before moving to The Wilma from November 19–December 8. Tickets and further information can be found at <https://www.woollymammoth.net/>.

Jacobs-Jenkins' witty and moving dark comedy focuses on five friends in 2023 who reunite twenty years after graduating from a high school in Prince George's County, outside of Washington, D.C. Known as the "Multi-Ethnic Reject Group," they were once bonded by their outsider status and the traumas of their teenage years. Gathered on a porch ahead of their high school reunion, they reminisce about their younger selves and reveal how their lives have unfolded since graduation. As the gathering progresses, they drink, fight, play a truth game, and



PHOTO COURTESY WOOLLY MAMMOTH THEATRE

The Comeuppance runs from September 8 to October 6, at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company (641 D St NW)

lament the disappointments of their adult lives. Throughout the evening, they are haunted by a mysterious otherworldly figure that inhabits each character, forcing them to confront the possibility that their past actions may have sealed their present fates irrevocably.

"What a joy it is to have Branden Jacobs-Jenkins' incredible talent back on the Woolly stage, especially with a show set right here in P.G. County," says Maria Manuela Goyanes, Artistic Director. "The *Comeuppance* features Branden's signature rich, suspenseful, and skillful writing, and never lets the audience off the hook in the most exciting ways. This is

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

The *Comeuppance* runs **September 8 to October 6**. View the full performance schedule at <https://www.woollymammoth.net/productions/the-comeuppance/>.

Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, 641 D Street NW, Washington, DC 20004

Access Performance Schedule

Mask Required: Sunday, September 22 at 2 p.m. AND Wednesday, October 2 at 8 p.m.

Open Caption: Thursday, September 26 at 8 p.m.

Audio Described: Saturday, September 21, 2024 at 3 p.m.

ASL: Sunday, September 29, 2024 at 7 p.m.

our second collaboration with The Wilma, fresh from being the first theatre company in Pennsylvania to be recognized with the Regional Theatre Tony Award."

"This is The Wilma's second co-production with Woolly Mammoth, and we are thrilled to continue this supportive relationship," says The Wilma Theater's Co-Artistic Director, Morgan Green. "In *The Comeuppance*, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins weaves politics into the minutia of our daily lives and into the fiber of our relationships with crisp perception and deliciously dark humor. This play is an X-ray of the millennial soul and a much-needed reflection on the impact of lockdown and our ability to connect with one another."

Washington DC-Area Residents Invited to Free Alzheimer's Educational Conference on September 18 in Arlington Sponsored by the Alzheimer's Foundation of America

By PRESS OFFICER

Alzheimer's Foundation of America

NEW YORK (Aug. 12, 2024)—The Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) will host a free Alzheimer's & Caregiving Educational Conference for residents in the Washington, DC-area on **Wednesday, September 18 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. ET at the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel (900 South Orme Street, Arlington, VA)** as part of its 2024 national Educating America Tour. The free conference is open to everyone and will allow participants to learn from experts in the field of Alzheimer's disease, brain health, caregiving, and self-care. Register by visiting www.alzfdn.org/tour. Advance registration is highly recommended.

"Knowledge is a useful and powerful tool that can help make any situation easier to navigate, especially something as challenging as caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease," said Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr., AFA's President & CEO. "Connecting families with useful, practical information and support that can help them now and be better prepared for the future is what this conference is all about. Whether Alzheimer's is affecting your family, you are a caregiver or just want to learn more about brain health, we invite you to join us on September 18."

Sessions during the AFA conference will include:

The Prevention and Treatment of Memory Decline with Aging—Practicing healthy aging can proactively reduce your chances of developing memory issues, which is why it's never too soon to develop brain-healthy lifestyle choices. Dr. Raymond Scott Turner will offer

healthy aging strategies to help prevent memory loss and cognitive decline, as well as explain the differences between dementia, mild cognitive impairment, and normal aging. Dr. Turner, a Professor of Neurology and Director of the Memory Disorders Program at MedStar Georgetown University Medical Center, will also review various treatment options and research strategies to develop more effective treatments for Alzheimer's disease.

The Chronic Care Model and Prevention of Rehospitalizations—Empowering individuals living with chronic illnesses to take an active role in managing their own health, symptoms, and care leads to better health outcomes, improved quality of life, and reduced healthcare costs. Suzanne Hanas will discuss self-care management and the chronic care model and explain how it involves cooperative goal setting and problem solving by the healthcare team, the patient, and their families. Ms. Hanas is the Founder and CEO of Premier RN Geriatric Care, based in Arlington, which addresses the gaps in services for the senior population where insurance coverage falls short.

Are They Doing That on Purpose?

Understanding Behaviors—Individuals with dementia often use behavior as a form of communication, especially as the disease progresses and their ability to use language diminishes. Understanding these behaviors, which can be both positive and negative, as attempts to express needs, emotions, or concerns is crucial for providing appropriate care and support. Melissa Long, Director of Education and Support for Insight Memory Care Center in Fairfax, will teach strate-

gies for working with and addressing difficult behaviors, including identifying triggers, using a person-centered approach, remaining calm and empathetic, and using simple communication.

Free, confidential memory screenings will be conducted throughout the day.

For more information or to register for the September 18 conference in Arlington, visit www.alzfdn.org/tour. Those who cannot participate in the conference or have immediate questions about Alzheimer's disease can connect with licensed social workers seven days a week through AFA's National Toll-Free Helpline by calling 866-232-8484, texting 646-586-5283, or web chatting at www.alzfdn.org by clicking the blue and white chat icon in the right-hand corner of the page. The web chat and text message features are available in more than 90 languages.

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide support, services and education to individuals, families and caregivers affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias nationwide and to fund research for better treatment and a cure. Its services include a National Toll-Free Helpline (866-232-8484) staffed entirely by licensed social workers, caregiver support groups, educational programs and publications for caregivers, dementia-care training for healthcare professionals, the National Memory Screening Program, and more. For more information about AFA, call 866-232-8484, visit www.alzfdn.org, or connect with us on Facebook, X (Twitter), Instagram, or LinkedIn. AFA holds Charity Navigator's top 4-star rating.

Alsobrooks from A1

Hollen, along with four of the House members from the state—Glenn Ivey, John Sarbanes, Jamie Raskin and Kweisi Mfume.

Van Hollen told Capital News Service afterward that Alsobrooks "had a grand slam, knocked it out of the park."

"People were really paying attention," Van Hollen said.

Cardin called Alsobrooks "one of the rising stars of the Democratic Party."

In the Democratic primary, Alsobrooks beat current Rep. David Trone, D-Maryland, by over 10 percentage points despite being outspent by over \$50 million.

Alsobrooks became the second Maryland politician to address the 2024 convention, following Rep. Jamie Raskin's Monday (Aug. 19) remarks. Gov. Wes Moore, D-Maryland, [spoke on Wednesday (Aug. 21) night]

NOTE: See additional article on Democratic Convention on page 4.

COMMENTARY

Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Fannie Lou Hamer's Convention

As our nation gears up for a political convention where a woman of color will make history, it's another chance to look back at the convention that happened 60 years ago this week in Atlantic City, N.J., during the Civil Rights Movement's landmark Freedom Summer. The extraordinary woman who made history then as the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party unsuccessfully sought to unseat the segregated slate of Mississippi Party regulars was one of our nation's civil rights heroes and one of my own great lanterns and role models from the dog days of struggle in Mississippi: Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer. As Children's Defense Fund continues to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Freedom Summer, we honor that moment and its legacy today.

Mrs. Hamer, the twentieth child born of poor Mississippi sharecroppers, once asked her mother why they weren't White. She internalized and lived her mother's answer: "You must respect yourself as a little child, a little Black child. And as you grow older, respect yourself as a Black woman. Then one day, other people will respect you." And we did respect Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer as a Black woman. And we loved her. I loved her. Mrs. Hamer was 44 and working on a Sunflower County, Mississippi plantation when civil rights workers arrived in the county. She went to hear them when they spoke about voter registration, and when they asked if anyone was will-

ing to try to register to vote, she raised her hand. Her indomitable spirit and self-respect led her to cofound the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) and travel to Atlantic City as vice chair of the MFDP's integrated delegation.

There, Mrs. Hamer testified before the convention's Credentials Committee on the intimidation, arrest, and brutal jailhouse beating she had experienced trying to register to vote in Mississippi. In one exchange, she described the conversation she had with the White man who owned the land where she and her family lived and worked as sharecroppers when he angrily told her he would evict them because she had tried to register to vote: "My husband came, and said the plantation owner was raising Cain because I had tried to register. And before he quit talking the plantation owner came and said, 'Fannie Lou, do you know—did Pap [her husband] tell you what I said?' And I said, 'Yes, sir.' He said, 'Well, I mean that.' Said, 'If you don't go down and withdraw your registration, you will have to leave.' Said, 'Then if you go down and withdraw . . . you still might have to go because we're not ready for that in Mississippi.' And I addressed him and told him and said, 'I didn't try to register for you. I tried to register for myself.'"

She continued her testimony with the brutal, painful details of what happened after she was brought to the county

jail. Her speech was nationally televised, despite President Lyndon Johnson's last minute attempts to push her off the air to avoid alienating White Southern voters. She powerfully concluded: "All of this is on account of we want to register, to become first-class citizens. And if the [Mississippi] Freedom Democratic Party is not seated now, I question America. Is this America, the land of the free and the home of the brave, where we have to sleep with our telephones off of the hooks because our lives be threatened daily, because we want to live as decent human beings, in America?"

The MFDP were only given two at-large seats at that convention, but it was made clear that change was on the way. Eight years later Mrs. Hamer was officially elected as a national party delegate. She never let anything turn her back, although, as she once said, "I'm never sure anymore when I leave home whether I'll get back or not. Sometimes it seems like to tell the truth is to run the risk of being killed. But if I fall, I'll fall five feet four inches forward in the fight for freedom. I'm not backing off." Her spirit of grit, love, and courage made history then and is still an inspiration for the history being made right now. As Vice President Kamala Harris makes another historic leap forward, it extends the legacy of barrier breakers determined to be "the first, but not the last."

—August 16, 2024

Ben Jealous

Executive Director,
Sierra Club



Kamala Harris's Chicago Convention and Illinois' Unique Place in Civil Rights History

The modern civil rights movement hit a new peak last week in Illinois. It marked the movement coming full circle, in a way, back to the state of its birth more than a century ago.

Illinois is the unsung "alpha and omega" of the movement.

It was the 1908 Springfield, IL Race Riot that sparked the creation of the NAACP. That marked the beginning of what would become the modern civil rights movement that evolved through the 1950s and 60s and is still evolving today.

And last week, Illinois hosted the nomination by one of America's major parties of a candidate for president who has broken barriers her entire career . . . who comes from a family of bold civil rights activists . . . who could be our first woman president, our first president of Asian descent, and only our second Black president.

If Springfield was the civil rights movement's "alpha," then this year's Democratic National Convention in Chicago and Kamala Harris's campaign are, to date, its "omega." Barely more than a month ago nobody knew this was going to be Harris's convention. Yet the history of the civil rights movement makes poetry of the fact she accepted her party's nomination in Illinois.

The city of Chicago itself has played a crucial role in this history. In the wake of the Springfield Riot, the anti-lynching crusader and Chicagoan Ida B. Wells-Barnett was a leading national voice against that racial violence and one of the original cofounders, six months later, of the NAACP. And Chicago played host to a key civil rights moment featuring another NAACP cofounder, W.E.B. Du Bois.

In 1929, it was where Du Bois dispatched white supremacist Lothrop Stoddard's toxic eugenics claptrap, arguing for racial equality in what was billed at the time as "one of the greatest debates ever held."

It is the home of Mayor Harold Washington and Jesse Jackson. Reverend Jackson's presidential campaigns offered me one of my own first experiences in political organizing. I was captivated by his campaigns and led my county's arm of Youth for Jackson when I was 14.

Those Black leaders' groundbreaking campaigns helped create a tailwind for Black candidates across the country to make history in the 1980s. Doug Wilder became the first African American elected statewide in Virginia as Lieutenant Governor in 1985. 1989 then saw Wilder become the first ever elected Black governor in the United States and David Dinkins elected the first Black mayor of New York City.

I had this epiphany about Illinois' special place in the civil rights movement right before traveling to Chicago to take part in various events held during this year's Democratic convention. It was at the White House, of all places. I had the privilege of being in the Oval Office for President Biden's dedication of the site of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot as our country's newest national monument. Among the crowd were some of Illinois' top political leaders. And one of them mentioned that Illinois currently does not have a Civil Rights Trail.

I thought about that as I was walking out and a photograph on display in the Oval Office caught my eye. It was President Biden with his mother and then President-Elect

Barack Obama on election night in 2008 in Chicago's Grant Park. I remembered that night and was immediately awash in more memories close to my heart and my sense of patriotism. I was in Springfield, IL when President Obama launched his campaign for president there in 2007. I have always remembered that campaign kickoff vividly because of its historical significance and because of how cold it was. It will be forever even more deeply ingrained in my memory because one of my crew that day who I stood with during the rally was my friend Kamala Harris, then the district attorney of San Francisco.

Springfield was the home of Abraham Lincoln. When the NAACP was formed in 1909, six months after the Springfield Race Riot, it was on what would have been the Great Emancipator's 100th birthday. Then in 2007, nearly 100 years after that, Springfield was where Illinois Senator President Obama chose to begin his presidential journey. Once again, it was that pattern of things continuing coming full circle back to Illinois in our nation's long march towards freedom and justice.

Clearly, Illinois deserves to have several Civil Rights Trail-recognized sites.

Last week's convention was one for the ages. The speeches, the optimism, the energy, and yes, the joy. It was also just the latest of Chicago's and the state of Illinois' immense contributions to America's progress toward the day when the rights and dignity of all people are fully realized.

This week we celebrate Women's Equality Day. It is the anniversary of women gaining the right to vote with the adoption of the 19th Amendment in 1920. As our country sits poised to elect its first woman as president, it is also fitting to remember that Illinois was part of the very first group of states (along with Wisconsin and Michigan on the same day) to ratify that amendment.

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

At Democratic Convention, Maryland's Moore Invokes Key Bridge Recovery as 'Story of America'

By JAMES MATHESON
AND TAYLOR NICHOLS
Capital News Service

CHICAGO (Aug. 22, 2024)—Maryland Gov. Wes Moore used the speedy recovery from the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse in March as an example of the American spirit in an impassioned speech to the Democratic National Convention Wednesday night.

"While many said it could take 11 months to reopen the Port of Baltimore, we got it done in 11 weeks. Because that is the story of America," Moore told delegates and the nation. "We are a nation of patriots who serve when the mission is hard and who serve when the destination is uncertain."

In 2022, Moore was the first Black governor elected in Maryland and the third in United States history. A rising star in the Democratic party, Moore's handling of the bridge collapse and the aftermath brought him national attention.

Moore was cheered by Maryland delegates wearing shirts with the slogan "Maryland Tough, Baltimore Strong," which the governor coined after the bridge collapse, and signs reading "Leave No One Behind," his gubernatorial campaign slogan.

From the section of seating left of the convention stage, the Maryland delegation shouted a chorus of "Wes, Wes, Wes" during key moments of his speech.

One delegate, eyes locked on Moore, neck craned towards the stage, was Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott.

"The governor did a phenomenal job as he always does, reminding people what true leadership is, what true service to your country is," Scott told CNS after the speech. "You see what someone is made of when you have tragedy. As the person who knows that story very well myself, being the person that called the governor about the bridge and received those calls from the president and vice president and (Transportation) Secretary (Pete) Buttigieg, it shows that when you're in a tragedy, in a situation that no one knows or has never been there before, that's where true leadership shows."

The Key Bridge was struck on March 26 by a cargo ship, sending it plunging into the Patapsco River and obstructing the Port of Baltimore, the ninth largest port in the United States for foreign cargo tonnage. The global shipping businesses, cruises and 15,300 Marylanders directly employed by the port were affected by the disaster.

In 78 days, Unified Command removed more than 50,000 tons of debris from the river, fully restoring the channel and opening the port.

"Making America great means saying the ambitions of this country would be incomplete without your help," the governor said. "It's the legacy of those six workers who fixed pot-



PHOTO JOSH DAVIDSBURG/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

CHICAGO—Maryland Gov. Wes Moore addressed Wednesday night's session of the Democratic National Convention, calling the speedy recovery from the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse "the story of America."

holes on a bridge while we slept, who were born in a different country, but who knew that America was big enough for them too."

Moore was a fervent supporter of former President Joe Biden until he ended his reelection campaign. Since then, the 45-year-old governor has transferred his attention to electing the first Black, female president, Kamala Harris.

During the speech, Moore touched on his shared background with Harris, both the children of immigrant parents.

"It's the journey of a man raised by a remarkable immigrant single mom, a man who felt handcuffs on his wrist at 11

years old, who now stands before you as the 63rd governor of Maryland and the first Black governor in the history of our state," Moore said. "It's the story of a prosecutor who defended our freedoms and had Maryland's back when we needed it most, and now MVP, we've got your back as well, right?"

Maryland's delegates chanted "MVP," referring to "Madame Vice President."

Maryland delegates and political figures are basking in the spotlight Moore has drawn. Everywhere they go, they said, when people find out they're from Maryland, the first thing they want to talk about is Moore, a possible future presidential candidate.

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Retiree Asks About His 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: I retired with a (gross) \$4600 per month Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) annuity from the US Postal Service in December 2022. I am 66 and will attain full retirement age in November of this year. I know at that point I will not be subject to the “earnings” test, but I will be affected by the dreaded “government offset.” I HAVE earned enough quarters and will be eligible for a small social security benefit. First question: will my Social Security benefit just be reduced, or will it be eliminated? Second: will it make a difference if I apply in November or when I turn 70? I am currently working part-time and paying Social Security FICA taxes. Third: if my SS is being eliminated, do I even have to apply? Fourth and last: I am married, filing jointly and my wife is currently receiving SS benefits (only). Could I also be affected by the “windfall” provision if my wife predeceased me?

Thank you in advance for your service as a Social Security Advisor.

Signed: *Upset to Offset and Downfall to Windfall*

Dear Upset: You are correct that when you reach your full retirement age (FRA) in November you will no longer be subject to Social Security’s “earnings test,” which limits how much you can earn while collecting early benefits. But if you apply for your Social Security to start in November, your SS benefits will be affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) due to your non-covered CSRS pension (because you didn’t pay into SS while earning your CSRS pension). As you may know, only those federal employees who retired under CSRS (Civil Service Retirement System) are affected by WEP; newer Federal employees who retire under the more recent FERS (Federal Employee Retirement Program) program are not affected.

Because of your CSRS pension, your Social Security benefit will be reduced, but not eliminated. The amount of reduction will be based on the number of years of non-government employment you had (where you paid into Social Security). Usually, those who have spent a lifetime earning a pension without contributing to SS, but who have a separately earned SS pension, will see their SS benefit cut approximately in half.

To answer your second question, your benefit will, indeed, continue to grow if you wait until you are age 70 to claim Social Security. Benefits taken after one’s full retirement age earn “delayed retirement credits” (DRCs), which add to your final benefit amount. Your benefit will still be reduced by WEP, but your final amount will be more because you waited longer to claim.

Re your third question, your SS benefit will only be reduced (not eliminated), so it’s always worthwhile to apply. Otherwise, you are forfeiting Social Security money you are entitled to.

And lastly, if your wife dies before you, your CSRS pension will also cause another provision called the Government Pension Offset (GPO) provision to apply. The GPO will reduce your surviving spouse benefits by 2/3rds of the amount of your government CSRS pension, which will likely eliminate any spousal benefit you are entitled to (except the so-called “death benefit”—which is a one-time lump sum \$255 benefit paid to a surviving spouse).

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.

Maryland Small Business Development Center

100 Survival Tips For Small Businesses

September 12, 2024 • 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Online Meeting (Live) • Cost: No Fee

Registration Required:

<https://mdsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/18031?embedded=0>

This presentation contains tips to help businesses not only survive, but thrive in today’s business world. Topics include disaster planning, social media and online reputation, financial management, and others. Presenter, Ali Paskun, ABIL Solutions

Melwood Welcomes Two New Board Members

Major General Troy E. Dunn and David Egan join Melwood’s Board of Directors

By PRESS OFFICER
Melwood

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Aug. 12, 2024)—Melwood, a leading employer, advocate and service provider for people with disabilities is honored to welcome Maj. Gen. Troy E. Dunn and David Egan to its Board of Directors. Led by Chairman Brad Spencer, Melwood’s Board of Directors plays a vital role in the governance and stewardship of the organization, guiding strategic priorities, investment, and innovation to fuel Melwood’s vision of a world that fully includes people with disabilities.

Maj. Gen. Troy E. Dunn brings a dynamic perspective to the boardroom combining technology expertise, corporate strategy, artificial intelligence, executive leadership, and talent management. As a C-level executive and retired Major General in the Air Force with more than 30 years of leadership experience, he successfully led initiatives in emerging technologies, particularly in the realm of artificial intelligence and talent management.

Previously serving as a Community Relations Specialist at Source America, David Egan was the first person with an intellectual disability to serve as a JP Kennedy Jr. Public Policy Fellow on Capi-

tol Hill. Egan has worked for 25 years, first at Booz Allen Hamilton and then with CBRE as a clerk in the Distribution Center. Born with Down syndrome, David is an eager advocate and leader for people with intellectual disabilities at the local, national, and international level. He is one of the National Down Syndrome Society Ambassadors (NDSS) and represents self-advocates with the National Institutes of Health Down Syndrome Consortium. He is also the author of “More Alike Than Different: My Life with Down Syndrome.” David received various awards and the latest was the prestigious Quincy Jones Award in November 2022 by Global Down Syndrome Foundation. He was first to be elected to serve on the national Down Syndrome Affiliates in Action (DSAIA).

“Technologies like artificial intelligence are the way of the future, and I’m proud to be part of an organization that sees that, embraces it, but goes further to train the workforce of the future,” Dunn said. “With a shared commitment to advancing innovation, inclusion and social good, I’m proud to help advance Melwood’s mission of creating an equitable society where all people, including those with disabilities, can thrive.”

“As a man with Down Syndrome and

a long-time advocate for the disability community, I’m proud to join forces with one of the largest social enterprises in the country dedicated to supporting, empowering, and providing choice-affirming resources to people with disabilities,” Egan said. “In joining the Melwood Board of Directors, I know that I am in good hands to better serve the disability population and I am excited to work with my colleagues to build a bright future for this organization.

For more information about Melwood’s Board of Directors, please visit: <https://melwood.org/about/board-of-directors/>.

Melwood is one of the largest employers of people with disabilities in the country, employing more than 1,600 workers – over 900 of whom are people with disabilities. Melwood offers job placement, job training, life skills for independence, and support services to more than 3,000 people each year in DC, Maryland, and Virginia. Melwood also has an inclusive summer camp program for children and provides additional youth and community recreational services for individuals with disabilities. Visit www.Melwood.org.

Governor Moore Announces \$23 Million in Federal Funding to Expand Registered Apprenticeships and Workforce Development in Maryland

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Aug. 20, 2024)—Governor Wes Moore today announced nearly \$23 million from the U.S. Department of Labor’s Apprenticeship Building America initiative to connect more than 7,000 jobseekers to new apprenticeship opportunities. The funding will help participating organizations recruit underrepresented Marylanders—including women and people of color—fill registered apprenticeship programs in Maryland’s expanding industries, including health care, technology, and transportation.

“In Maryland, we believe in tested programs that deliver results. Registered apprenticeships have helped us train and retain skilled workers for decades—and will help make Maryland more competitive for decades to come,” said Gov. Moore. “The Biden-Harris Administration has been a true partner in our work to connect Marylanders with skills and jobs. By working together, we will build an economy that leaves no one behind.”

Projects supported under the grants will also focus on improving the alignment of educational standards with pre-apprenticeship and registered apprenticeship programs and establishing registered apprenticeship hubs to foster partnership networks. Maryland received the highest number of awards of any state in the na-

tionwide pool of 43 awardees.

“Maryland is a national leader in advancing the apprenticeship model to create more inclusive access to work, wages, and wealth,” said Maryland Department of Labor Secretary Portia Wu. “The new federal investments through the ABA initiative will support more Maryland jobseekers than ever in earning while they learn, and pursuing exciting career pathways that range from traditional trades to healthcare to IT.”

The following Maryland organizations received grants:

The University of Maryland Global Campus received \$3,947,276 to create a nationally scalable model for IT pre-apprenticeships and registered apprenticeships that earn college credits towards a bachelor’s degree.

The Baltimore Alliance for Careers in Healthcare Inc. received \$3,882,946 to establish a registered apprenticeship hub to increase investment in healthcare apprenticeships and improve access to these programs among underrepresented populations and underserved communities.

The Asian American Center of Frederick received \$3,990,486 to establish registered apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships for immigrants—especially minority, LGBTQ, rural and low-income populations and Deaf or disabled persons.

Joe’s Movement Emporium received \$3,117,812 to develop pre-apprenticeship

and registered apprenticeship programs in media and creative technologies that grow sustainable, living wage jobs that cross multiple industry sectors.

Amalgamated Transit Union received \$8,000,000 to create pre-apprenticeships and registered apprenticeships that prepare frontline workers for in-demand occupations in public transit, especially as the industry transitions to clean energy vehicles.

“Our previous EARN grants have given us six years of experience successfully using the apprenticeship model to prepare jobseekers for employment as Community Healthcare Workers,” said Asian American Center of Frederick Executive Director Elizabeth Chung. “This new grant award will allow us to leverage that experience to build an apprenticeship program that prepares jobseekers for in demand certified nursing assistant and geriatric nursing assistant roles. Every graduate from our program has a brighter career path, and Maryland will have a stronger healthcare system as a result.”

The Maryland Department of Labor also recently received an award from the U.S. Department of Labor State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula grant program. The department received \$1,092,175 to support the agency’s capacity for employer engagement, local collaboration, and Registered Apprenticeship program development.

Small Business from A1

chances of success in a competitive business landscape, drive local economic growth, and help build generational wealth.”

This is the second business accelerator program M&T Bank has sponsored in Prince George’s County this year. In June, M&T and Prince George’s County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) completed a seven-week business accelerator program for businesses that was held entirely in Spanish. It was M&T’s first business accelerator program offered in a language other than English.

M&T also offers similar accelerator programs in Montgomery, Howard, and Frederick counties as well as Baltimore City.

“We are excited about the unique part-

nership between M&T and FSC First,” said Dawn Medley, FSC First President & CEO. “The program will equip local entrepreneurs with essential skills and access to valuable mentorship, fostering their increased business success. FSC First is committed to empowering entrepreneurs in underserved communities, and we see this accelerator program and partnership as another way to better serve our community.”

To apply for the Prince George’s Business Accelerator Program: <https://forms.monday.com/forms/f4ee7c17cfa9e24657c8dd1d580aa37?r=use1>.

M&T Bank Corporation is a financial holding company headquartered in Buffalo, New York. M&T’s principal banking subsidiary, M&T Bank, provides banking products and services in 12 states across the northeastern

U.S. from Maine to Virginia and Washington, D.C. Trust-related services are provided in select markets in the U.S. and abroad by M&T’s Wilmington Trust-affiliated companies and by M&T Bank. For more information about M&T Bank, visit www.mtb.com.

Founded in 1978, FSC First provides flexible business financing solutions and technical assistance programs to established and emerging businesses in Prince George’s County and the state of Maryland. FSC First stands apart as a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) designated by the U.S. Treasury Department with a mission to stimulate the growth and development of the local economy. For more information about FSC First, visit www.fscfirst.com.

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COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

EarthTalk® Q&A

The Grass Is Always Greener... Than Kentucky Bluegrass

By Isabella Sollazzo August 14, 2024

Dear EarthTalk:
Are there any grasses for lawns and paths that don't need mowing or that need very little mowing attention?
—Johanna R, Northampton, MA

Most of the grass across the U.S. is a species known as Kentucky Bluegrass, which might not be the best choice where the environment is a concern. While it may have a soothing soft texture and vibrant color, it requires a decent amount of effort to maintain including extensive mowing year-round. Luckily, there are a variety of other options that will keep lawns looking nice and take less effort. Additionally, there has been a recent surge in grass alternative lawns as they require significantly less maintenance.

Grass species grow in two primary categories; warm season thrivers and cool season thrivers (Kentucky Bluegrass is the latter). Some of the warm season grasses that provide a greener alternative to Kentucky Bluegrass include Bermudagrass and Buffalo grass. Bermudagrass grows deep, complex root systems, helping to make it durable in high heat, humidity and drought conditions. It does not need mowing outside of temperatures

65 degrees and above but may need mowing twice a week in peak growing season. Meanwhile, buffalo grass needs sun to grow but is contained in its growth. It will grow in thick clumps reaching 8 inches tall and does not require mowing. If allowed to mature, buffalo grass will flower and attract native wildlife. If the grower aims for a manicured look, this grass can be mowed intermittently.

Greener low maintenance cool season grasses include tall fescue and sheep fescue. Tall fescue is a thin, naturally tall grass that requires almost no maintenance besides mowing in the growing season. Outside of this season, the grass needs no mowing. Sheep fescue is similar, though slower growing. The dense root system protects the area from invasive weeds and requires minimal mowing in the warmer months.

Alternatives to grass lawns include clover lawns, moss lawns or eco-lawns which are a combination of two or more alternatives. Clover lawns are the most popular grass alternative lawns. They can be planted over grass lawns for an easy installation process and are low growing meaning little to no mowing! Clover lawns, attract pollinators, foster healthy biodiversity, and

are a natural weed killer—and they do not require much water. Experts have ranges of mowing recommendations from never to once a month. Mazus is similar to clover as it grows very close to the ground, does not need mowing beyond landscaping purposes, and has some resilience to foot traffic.

CONTACTS: All You Need to Know About Bermudagrass, pennington.com/all-products/grass-seed/resources/all-you-need-to-know-about-bermudagrass/; Buffalo Grass: A Low-Maintenance Lawn Option, thespruce.com/buffalo-grass-7105718; All You Need to Know About tall fescue, pennington.com/all-products/grass-seed/resources/all-you-need-to-know-about-tall-fescue/; Planting and maintaining a fine fescue lawn, extension.umn.edu/lawns-and-landscapes/planting-and-maintaining-fine-fescue-lawn.

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