

# The Prince George's Post



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PHOTOS COURTESY DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES

Young people from Maryland Department of Juvenile Services' facilities across the state gathered at the Cheltenham Youth Detention Center (CYDC) in Prince George's County for their own Olympics-style competition, competing for gold, silver, and bronze medals in a range of events.

## Youth Across Maryland Compete in CHAMPS Olympics at Cheltenham Youth Detention Center

By PRESS OFFICER  
Department of Juvenile Services

Young people from Maryland Department of Juvenile Services' facilities across the state gathered at the Cheltenham Youth Detention Center (CYDC) in Prince George's County for their own Olympics-style competition, competing for gold, silver, and bronze medals in a range of events. Changing Habits And Making Progressive Strides (CHAMPS) is a rewards-based incentive

program for youth who are doing well at their detention or residential facility.

The youth enjoyed a unique opportunity to demonstrate their athleticism in the 400-meter and 100-meter races, relay races, the standing broad jump, and football throw, on a wonderful hot summer day.

DJS staff enthusiastically cheered on the teams. "Never give up and always do your best," said Antonio Jones, who coaches the Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center (BCJJC) team, winning four of the com-

petition's events.

"I encourage the kids to give everything they have for a successful outcome. It's great to see they do that well, especially when some of them are new to these events," said CYDC's Coach Brittany Wiseman.

Qudaisa Sowell, the Western Maryland Children's Center Coach, shared that even though the girls did not have that much time to prepare they still competed. "Showing up was the most important part," added Sowell.

DJS youth are involved in a

variety of activities throughout the year, including art contests, recreational and sporting events, STEM, oratoricals, and many other competitions provided through CHAMPS. These extracurricular activities encourage positive changes in the young people in DJS' care and are part of the Department's year-round programming. This is an opportunity for the youth to learn new skills in a variety of environments and instill healthy habits within the agency's positive youth development framework.

## Prince George's County Animal Services Division to Host Virtual Listening Session

The session will focus on County facility operations, programs and services, and animal codes

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

LARGO, Md. (Sept. 2, 2024)—The Prince George's County Animal Services Facility and Adoption Center (ASFAC) will host a virtual listening session called "People, Pets, & Policy: How We Serve Prince George's County" on Thursday, September 12, 2024, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The session will provide information on facility operations, adoption programs and services, and the County's codes and rules for pet ownership.

"This session allows us to educate and inform County residents about the valuable programs, resources, and services we deliver to pets in our community," says David Fisher, As-

sociate Director of the Department of Environment Animal Services Division. "I encourage everyone to join us to learn more about our facility and how we can work together to find loving homes for our furry friends."

Interested attendees can register for the virtual session at [www.princegeorgespets4us.com](http://www.princegeorgespets4us.com). Once registered, a confirmation email containing information about joining the session will be sent.

Registrants are invited to submit questions in advance to [lmhowe@co.pg.md.us](mailto:lmhowe@co.pg.md.us) no later than Wednesday, September 11.

For more information, visit [www.princegeorgespets4us.com](http://www.princegeorgespets4us.com).



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

Governor Wes Moore and Comptroller Brooke Lierman

## Governor Moore Joins State and Federal Leaders to Announce Maryland Adding IRS Direct File System for 2025 Filing Season

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Sept. 4, 2024)—Governor Wes Moore today announced that Maryland will join the Internal Revenue Service's Direct File online tool for the 2025 filing season, enabling taxpayers to prepare and file their taxes electronically and free of charge. Governor Moore and Comptroller Brooke Lierman were joined by U.S. Treasury Deputy Secretary Wally Adeyemo; U.S. Senator Ben Cardin; U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen; Congressman Steny Hoyer; Congressman John Sarbanes; and local volunteer income tax assistance partners for the announcement in Annapolis.

"Today, we take a big step forward to make tax season easier, simpler, and more affordable for all Marylanders," said Gov. Moore. "I want to thank the

Biden-Harris Administration for their support. Maryland doesn't just talk about partnership, we move in partnership—and this latest win shows what's possible when the state, federal government, and community partners work together."

"Thanks to President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act, more than 700,000 Maryland taxpayers will be able to file their taxes online for free, directly with the IRS this coming filing season. Direct File will save Marylanders time and money and help ensure they receive the tax benefits they are owed," said U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Janet L. Yellen. "After a successful pilot this filing season, we are pleased to expand the program as a permanent offering and welcome Maryland as the latest new

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## M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County Announces Official Programming for Hispanic Heritage Month 2024

By PRESS OFFICER  
M-NCPPC

RIVERDALE, Md. (Sept. 3, 2024)—M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County is pleased to announce an exciting series of events celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month 2024. Starting September 14 through October 15, we invite the community and the media to honor and embrace the rich cultural contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans through interactive activities, live music, traditional dance performances, art exhibitions, and family-friendly festivals.

"We are thrilled to host these events during Hispanic Heritage Month, offering our community a chance to learn, celebrate, and honor the rich contributions of Hispanics and Latino Americans," said Bill Tyler, Director of M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County. "Prince George's County is home to a thriving Latino population, and this year's celebrations reflect the Department's commitment to inclusivity, diversity, and cultural appreciation."

The following are just a few of the programs available. For a complete list of Hispanic Heritage Month offerings please visit [pgparks.com](http://pgparks.com).

### Latinas in Aviation Global Festival

Saturday, September 14, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.  
College Park Aviation Museum  
1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park, 20740

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage

Month M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation's College Park Aviation Museum and Airport is honoring Latina pioneers in aviation and celebrating Hispanic culture. This one-of-a-kind festival allows you to meet and hear from inspiring Latinas and learn about the magic of aviation. Enjoy demos & children's activities, food, community art, bilingual story time, author meet and greets, and giveaways. Cap off the afternoon with a 3 p.m. concert performance.

### Hispanic Festival

Sunday, September 15, 12:30–5:30 p.m.  
Lane Manor Park  
7601 West Park Dr. & University Blvd., Adelphi 20783

The Hispanic Festival is celebrating its 40th anniversary. Kickoff Hispanic Heritage Month with a vibrant celebration. This FREE festival draws over 10,000 people to Lane Manor Park in Adelphi, bringing the community together for an unforgettable day. Enjoy live entertainment, delicious ethnic food, craft vendors, carnival games, exhibitors, and more.

### Festival Del Rio

Saturday, September 21, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.  
Bladensburg Waterfront Park  
4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg 20710

Celebrate the outdoors and the Anacostia River at the 9th annual Festival del Rio Anacostia. This bilingual environmental festival teaches the community about the river and how to become better stewards of the Anacostia and its watersheds. Enjoy

hands-on activities, crafts, entertainment, delicious food, fishing demos, live animals, and free boat rides and giveaways.

### Hispanic Heritage Month Celebración

Sunday, October 13, 2–5 p.m.  
Prince George's Publick Playhouse  
5445 Landover Road, Hyattsville, 20785

Join us for a FREE, family-friendly event celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month! The celebración will include an art exhibit of artists Silvia Martinez (Puerto Rico) and Pepe Piedra (Peru) exhibit: "Icons, Idioms and Myth," live music, dancing, arts & craft activities for children, and light refreshments.

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](http://www.pgparks.com).

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# TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

## In & Around Morningside-Skyline

### St. Ignatius Church, Oxon Hill, marks 175th Anniversary

St. Ignatius Church was founded in 1849 in the quiet countryside of Prince George's County, by Jesuit Father Giuseppe Maria Finotti as a mission of the priests serving across the Potomac River at St. Mary's Church in Alexandria. The church was built in the Queen Anne Victorian style.

It was consecrated in 1891 by Baltimore Cardinal James Gibbons who called it "the prettiest little church in Southern Maryland." In 1947 it was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

In recent years, the church has undergone renovation and has been painted in different shades of white and grey to more closely reflect the original color scheme. The bell tower, steeple and the steeple cross have been restored.

On July 18, Washington Cardinal Wilton Gregory celebrated the 175th anniversary Mass at the church. Father Christopher Woodall, parochial administrator of St. Ignatius Parish, con-celebrated.

Following Mass, the parishioners gathered for an anniversary luncheon in the nearby building which once housed St. Ignatius School.

When I drive Brinkley Road past St. Ignatius, I always think about my Uncle T. Paul Mudd. His funeral was held there.

### Town of Morningside

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

Morningside will hold its monthly Town Meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 17, beginning at 7 p.m.

### Suitland Road Baptist invites you to Health & Wellness Outreach

Dr. Kelvin M. McCune, Pastor, and Suitland Road Baptist Church invite you to their Annual Community Health and Wellness Outreach on Saturday, Sept. 28,

from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Women and Infant Nutrition Program (WIC) will be discussed. Also, there'll be free blood pressure screenings, Community Legal Services of Prince George's County, and the Prince George's County Police Department. There'll be giveaways, and free food.

Minister Dr. Gayle Jones and Dr. Yolandra Hancock MD will be the keynote speakers.

All are welcome to this valuable program. Suitland Road Baptist Church is at 6412 Suitland Road. If you have questions, call 301-219-2296 or 301-512-5527.

### Kids Read

Every Wednesday, 5:30-7 p.m., during September, Spauldings Branch Library in District Heights hosts Kids Read, a program that helps kids 6 to 15 find out about the latest books. They can share their favorites and practice their reading with games and other fun activities. Spauldings Branch is at 5811 Silver Hill Road. Info: 240-455-5451.

### Changing landscape

Healthy Life Cuisine has recently opened at 6577 Coventry Way in Clinton. "We are a healthy alternative. We specialize in foods that are agreeable to the body and mind. Our service is impeccable and our love for life is unmatched. Come dine with us and feel the vibration of peace." For hours, call 919-650-9568.

A home at 6705 Elmendorf Drive, in Skyline, recently sold for \$348,500.

### Places to go & things to do

The Department of Family Services (DFS), in partnership with the M-NCPPC, Dept. of Parks and Recreation, is hosting their annual Senior Fitness Day and Picnic at Six Flags America in Bowie. This year's event will be on Friday, September 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Prince George's County residents 60 years and older are encouraged to participate in this event that will feature dancing, fitness, food, and local vendors. Registration is required to attend.

Bill Pickett Rodeo will be at the Prince

George's Equestrian Center and Show Place Arena, in Upper Marlboro, September 20-21. Info@billpickett rodeo.

### Remembering Claude Pitts

Claude Yates Pitts, Jr., one of Morningside's original residents and sports coach for many area boys, died of heart failure at his Allies Road home 40 years ago, September 16, 1984.

Claude and his wife Dolores came to the Washington area from their native Kansas City after Claude's Army service. They moved to Morningside—which then only had a handful of homes.

Claude was a meat packer for Brown & West Meat Supply for 16 years, leaving that job to run a Texaco station in Oxon Hill, and later the Shell station in Suitland.

Sports were very important in his life—he coached football, basketball, and baseball for the Boys Club, Mount Calvary and St. Philip's.

And he died while sitting in his favorite chair watching the Redskins down the Giants, 30-14.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 48 years, Dolores, and his son Ed, who was killed in an auto accident in 1973. Survivors include three children and their spouses, Bob and Jan Pitts, Cindy and Robert Harnsberger, and Patricia Pitts, Michele Sirna, Theresa and Robert Harnsberger and Tricia Pitts.

### Milestones

Happy Birthday to Justine Poe, Paul M. Locke, Harietta Boo Henson, My granddaughter-in-law Nina McHale and Dan Needham, Sept. 6; Melissa Howell, Sept. 7; Mike Dawes, Sept. 9;

Nan Brown, Sept. 10; twins Robert Andrew and John Dexter Woods and Charlie Deegan, Sept. 10; my cousin Mary Ann Bass, Anthony Thomas and Hank Busky, Sept. 12; Patricia Epperly, Sept. 13; and Kenny Clark, Sept. 14.

Happy Anniversary to Les and Kathy Hedrick, their 55th on Sept. 13; and to Sal and Kathy (Blankenship) Biberaj, their 21st on Sept. 14.

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

## Brandywine-Aquasco

### SCHOLARSHIP MEMORIAL FUND

The Peter A. Gross Sr. Scholarship Memorial Fund, Inc. has selected their 2024-2025 scholarship recipients. There are five outstanding students that will receive scholarships to support their respective college educations. The scholarship recipients are Cheyenne Barbour, Salisbury University; Jadon Carter, Morgan State University; Diego Chapman, Morgan State University; Danita Hillman, Trine University; Camren Tolbert, Wilkes University; and Thomas Wills, George Mason University.

This scholarship program enables local youth to continue their education on the collegiate level. The organization has a long-standing history of service to local communities, and these funds help support those who exhibit the same commitment. Congratulations students for your high achievements and thanks to all who supported the Scholarship fund. There was no award ceremony this year and all checks were mailed to each recipient. P A G Sr. Scholarship/Memorial Inc., 16905 Horsehead Road, Brandywine, MD 20613 Phone: 301-888-1475.

### CONGRATULATIONS MAKAYLA

Makayla Eugene of Brandywine, Maryland, who is in her junior year at North Carolina A&T University has been selected as the 2024-2025 Agriculture Ambassador for the Prince George's County Farm Bureau. In this role, she will be advocating on behalf of the next generation in Agriculture regarding farm and land policies and innovations. Makayla will represent Prince George's County at the PGCFB Annual Meeting, Banquet, Maryland Day in Annapolis and other county and state events. She will also compete at the state level to represent MD at the National Farm Bureau convention. In addition, she has been selected for the second time to receive the PGCFB scholarship.

### TRIBUTE TO OUR FATHER

James Garnell Turner was married to Ruth Turner of Brandywine, Maryland. He was inducted into the United States Army on November 25, 1942. During World War II, he served in Northern France from November 1943 to December 1945. His Military awards included the Good Conduct Medal, European African Middle Eastern Theatre Ribbon and the World War II Victory Ribbon. On December 15, 1945, Garnell received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army.

Because of his love for his family and his commitment to God, Garnell united with John Wesley Church (later to be named Christ United Methodist Church) in 1961. During his years of

fellowship, he served faithfully as assistant chairman of the Trustee Board and a member of the Staff Parish Relations' Committee.

Garnell was also a master "Craftsman." God Blessed him with many skills. He could turn a simple design into a beautiful masterpiece worthy of display. His creativity and artistry were evident in his home, the homes of his children, and at Christ United Methodist Church.

Garnell retired from the U.S. Navy Oceanographic Office in December 1977 after 34 years of service. During his tenure in the government, he received numerous awards and citations for his many accomplishments.

Shortly thereafter, Garnell and Ruth began vacationing annually in Florida with their traveling buddies, the late Eddie and Annie Petterson. They enjoyed visiting family and friends in Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Georgia, Las Vegas and California. During his many travels, he loved collecting hats. He had a wide collection and wore them well. This was his trademark.

Dad you will always be remembered for the wonderful memories that you left, and the values that you instilled in us. You always advised us on every aspect of life. The positive lessons that you taught us will be passed on from generations to come. You worked hard to make sure that we all had a quality education. Thanks for the beautiful legacy that you left for us to continue. Love, Audrey, Patricia, Joyce and Cleo.

### VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

Bowie State University is proud to support Dr. Kendrick Peters, one of their dedicated staff members, as he partners with the Mitchellville Drifters and the PG County League of Women Voters for a Voter Registration Drive on September 16, 2024. Let us make sure our voices are heard, "your vote matters". Cost: \$0.00. Location: Student Center Ballrooms, Multi-room event 14000 Jericho Park Road, Bowie, Maryland, 20715. Contact: Albertina Lane email: alane@bowiestate.edu phone 301-806-4658. Categories: Civic Engagement, Featured.

### COOPERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

We are presently looking for a drummer on each Sunday of the month for our Sunday Worship Service. Services start at 10 a.m. and are typically over no later than 11:30 a.m. Coopers United Methodist Church, 9370 Southern Maryland Blvd., Dunkirk Maryland 20754. Point of contact is Rodney Nelson Rodnel847@gmail.com \$175 per Sunday.

Nicholas Owen of Mount Rainier, MD who is majoring in Finance - BBA.

Dylan Thomas of Bowie, MD who is majoring in Finance - BBA.

Aaliyah Hill of Clinton, MD who is majoring in Political Science - BA.

Dawnyae Washington of Beltsville, MD who is majoring in Theatre - BA.

## Around the County

### St. Philip's Little Chapel Food Pantry Distribution Sunday Sept. 15 9-noon

The next St. Philip's Little Chapel Food Pantry Distribution will be this **Sunday September 15, 2024**, from 9-noon, while supplies last. We will have fresh produce as well as non-perishables. Our supply of frozen items is extremely limited this month. We are located at the corner of 6th and Prince George Street behind the church sanctuary on Main Street, next to the playground.

### Prince George's County Launches Countywide Residential Street Sweeping Program

*Phase I Operations Began Tuesday, September 3*

LARGO, Md. (Aug. 30, 2024)—County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) Director Michael Johnson announced yesterday the launch of Prince George's County's Residential Street Sweeping Program, scheduled to begin Tuesday, September 3, the day after Labor Day. This program will be implemented in two phases and cover all County-maintained residential roadways with curbs and gutters.

"We are excited to announce the launch of our countywide Residential Street Sweeping Program," said County Executive Alsobrooks. "Since the start of my administration, one of our key priorities has been to beautify our County and improve the health of our environment, and this new program helps us make major progress on litter which is a key problem that our residents care about. We recognize that something as simple as street sweeping can have a huge impact on our communities, and the program aligns with our existing efforts to remove litter from our roadways, protect our precious waterways, and work towards a more beautiful Prince George's County."

The Residential Street Sweeping Program aligns with the County's overall litter reduction and beautification efforts, an Alsobrooks Administration Proud Priority. Regular street sweeping of curb lines helps prevent litter buildup, mitigates pollutants in our ecosystem, and enhances the overall appearance of residential neighborhoods.

To support this effort, Prince George's County has acquired state-of-the-art Regenerative Air sweepers, designed to be more effective than broom or vacuum sweepers. These advanced sweepers collect debris and smaller materials including residual roadway salt, nitrogen, and phosphorus, which can contribute to environmental degradation if left untreated. Nitrogen and phosphorus found in curbside litter threaten the County's water integrity and worsen the quality of the Potomac, Chesapeake Bay, and other bodies of water.

"The new street sweeping program is an important initiative that will not only enhance the visual appeal of our communities but play a significant role in protecting our waterways and ensuring a healthier, cleaner environment for everyone," said DPW&T Director Michael Johnson. "Our sweeper operators are ready to go, and we look forward to continued collaboration with all interested stakeholders to ensure the sustainability of this new initiative for years to come."

Street sweeping services are provided on a 5-week rotating schedule. Phase I operations will begin on Tuesday, September 3, and cover 717 curb-miles utilizing three sweeper trucks. Phase II, scheduled to begin in Spring 2025, will utilize 5 sweeper trucks and cover 1,572 curb-miles from March through October (incorporating all of Phase I and the remaining areas of the County). Residents are encouraged to park in their driveways during sweeping operations. Cars along the curbline on street sweeping days will not be ticketed or towed; however, streets occupied by vehicles may not be swept.

For more information on the Residential Street Sweeping Program, please visit mypgc.us/sweep Residents may also email streetsweeping@co.pg.md.us with questions or concerns.

### NPS Invites Public to Meeting About Fort Washington Marina

FORT WASHINGTON, Md. (Sept. 3, 2024)—The National Park Service (NPS) invites the community to join a public meeting on **September 25** at 6 p.m. at the Prince George's County Police Department District VII public meeting room to learn more about the future of the Fort Washington Marina in Piscataway Park. The NPS will share updates about the management of the marina, and there will be an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions.

The NPS previously announced a request for proposals for a long-term lease agreement to manage Fort Washington Marina in June 2023. This request was extended in January 2024 to allow additional negotiations; however, the offeror and the NPS were unable to reach agreement on lease terms because of extensive deferred maintenance issues on the property as well as the need for dredging. The negotiations have ended without selecting a long-term marina operator.

More information will be provided to the community at the public meeting. The public meeting room is located at:

11108 Fort Washington Rd., Fort Washington, MD 20744

### Green Summit Is Celebrating 10 Years! Saturday, October 19, 2024, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Green Summit on **Saturday, October 19** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the David C. Driskell Community Park, 3911 Hamilton Street, Hyattsville, MD.

This free, one-day event will feature green exhibitors, eco-friendly vendors, sustainable tips, giveaways, food trucks, music, kid-friendly activities, and fun for the whole family! The Green Summit will also showcase some pretty special pet friends who are ready for adoption. Don't miss out on this opportunity! For more information on exhibitor and vendor opportunities, visit mypgc.us/greensummit. —The DoE Sprout, September 5

### James Madison University Welcomes Class of 2028

HARRISONBURG, Va. (Sept. 3, 2024)—James Madison University is excited to welcome the class of 2028. The incoming class represents an accomplished, diverse group of individuals who hail from 34 states, the District of Columbia and 20 countries.

Gabriel Pierce of Bowie, MD who is majoring in Computer Info Systems - BBA.

# COMMUNITY

## Publick Playhouse 2024–2025 Season Announced by Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County

By PRESS OFFICER  
Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (Sept. 6, 2024)—The Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County, part of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, is pleased to announce the 2024–2025 Season at Publick Playhouse. The Playhouse is proud to provide affordable, high-quality performances for audiences in Prince George's County and throughout the greater Washington, D.C. area.

The 2024–2025 Season begins in September 2024 and runs through June 2025. Tickets are on sale now. Programs include musical tributes, jazz and acapella concerts, dance performances, film screenings for seniors, family-friendly programs on select Sundays, and educational performances for Pre-K to High School. The Playhouse also offers a wide range of arts workshops and classes, art exhibitions, and a summer musical theater camp. Some of the offerings for the remainder of 2024 include:

**Thursday, September 20, 11 a.m.**  
**Platinum Series: Tribute to Curtis Mayfield**

A live tribute to the music of Curtis Lee Mayfield featuring the Brencore All Stars. This performance is sold out but please call 301-277-1710 to be added to the wait list for an additional performance.

**Friday, September 27, 8 p.m.**  
**Tablao Flamenco**

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by experiencing the magnetic energy of flamenco! Enjoy an evening of dynamic performance, improvisation, and passionate music delivered by a cast of the most sought-after award-winning flamenco artists in the U.S. & Europe. Tablao Flamenco is as authentic as it gets without renewing your passport. For All Ages. Tickets: \$20-\$25/person. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit <https://bit.ly/3WOqkQh>.

**Saturday, October 5, 8 p.m.**  
**Valerie June**

Grammy-nominated Valerie June is a talented singer/songwriter known for her soulful voice and eclectic blend of folk, blues, and country music. With her distinctive sound and heartfelt lyrics, her music resonates with a wide variety of listeners. For All Ages. Tickets: \$43-\$50/person. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit <https://bit.ly/4LN0HL>.

**Sunday, October 13, 2–4 p.m.**  
**Hispanic Heritage Month Celebración**

Join us for a FREE, family-friendly event celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. The celebración will include an art exhibition of artists Silvia Martínez (Puerto Rico) and Pepe Piedra (Perú) exhibit "Icons, Idioms and Myth," live music, dancing, arts & craft activities for children, and light refreshments. For All Ages. FREE; no tickets or reservations required. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/3XbpbJU>.

**Sunday, November 3, 2 p.m.**  
**Family Fun Series: Beatbox Dads**

B is for beatbox! Move, groove, and learn along with Max and Root, a dynamic dad duo. The Beatbox Dad's lively, interactive beatboxing style teaches foundational phonics, counting, and music skills as they engage kids in musical fun! Recommended for Ages 3–12. Tickets: \$6/person (everyone must have a ticket to enter, regardless of age). For more information or to purchase tickets, visit <https://bit.ly/4e1KTzv>.

For information on all upcoming offerings, visit <https://www.pgparcs.com/facilities/prince-georges-publick-playhouse>.

## Imagine Schools Mid-Atlantic Region Ranked Amongst Top 20 Best Charter Elementary Schools in Maryland

By PRESS OFFICER  
Imagine Schools Mid-Atlantic Region

LANHAM, Md. (Sept. 3, 2024)—Imagine Schools Mid-Atlantic Region is proud to announce that it has been ranked by U.S. News & World Report as one of the Top 20 Best Charter Elementary Schools across Maryland. This prestigious ranking highlights the dedication of our educators, the support of our families, and the success of our students.

The Imagine Schools Mid-Atlantic Region operates four tuition-free public charter schools in Maryland—one located on Joint Andrews Air Force Base, and the others in Upper Marlboro, Temple Hills, and Morningside. Since 2010 they have upheld a commitment to providing a high-quality education that empowers scholars to reach their full potential.

"We are honored to be recognized

among the top charter schools in the state," said Shawn Toler, Executive Vice Principal of Imagine Schools Mid-Atlantic Region. "This achievement is a testament to the hard work of our teachers, the engagement of our parents, and the determination of our scholars. We remain committed to fostering an educational environment that nurtures academic excellence, character development, and strong community values."

Charter schools like those within the Imagine Schools network play a vital role in the landscape of public education. By offering diverse educational approaches and empowering parents with the ability to choose the best learning environment for their children, charter schools contribute to a more dynamic and responsive education system.

"Parent choice is at the heart of what makes charter schools so important," added Mr. Toler. "We believe that every

child deserves access to an education that best suits their needs, and we are proud to be a part of a movement that puts families first in the decision-making process."

As Imagine Schools Mid-Atlantic Region celebrates this recognition, they remain focused on their mission to continue developing character, enriching minds, and instilling a lifelong love of education in their scholars.

*Imagine Schools is a national non-profit network of 49 public charter schools educating more than 27,000 students in seven states and the District of Columbia. Imagine Schools partners with parents and guardians to educate their children, providing high quality schools that prepare students for lives of leadership, accomplishment, and exemplary character. Learn more about the Mid-Atlantic Region at [ImagineMidAtlantic.com](https://ImagineMidAtlantic.com).*

## Prince George's County Planning Department Hosts Final Community Interactive Open House for the Port Towns Sector Plan and Sectional Map Amendment

By PRESS OFFICER  
M-NCPPC

LARGO, Md. (Sept 5, 2024)—The Prince George's County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission will host its final community interactive open house for the Port Towns Sector Plan and Sectional Map Amendment (SMA) on Thursday, September 26, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Cottage City Town Hall. This will be the last opportunity for residents and community stakeholders to contribute input before the plan is drafted for public review and comments.

The Port Towns Sector Plan and SMA project re-examines the Port Towns area—which includes Bladensburg, Colmar Manor, Cottage City, and Edmonston—for redevelopment possibilities through the lens of zoning, land use, market conditions, and environmental constraints. During the interactive open house, residents, property owners and stakeholders

will participate in activities and learn about the insights gathered from community engagement since fall of 2023. The project team will also present the final vision and renderings for opportunity sites, based on the feedback received. For more details on the project, visit: <https://pgplan.org/porttowns>.

WHO: Prince George's County Planning Department

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

WHAT: Port Towns Sector Plan and SMA In-Person Final Interactive Open House

WHEN: **Thursday, September 26, 2024, 6–8 p.m.**

WHERE: Cottage City Town Hall  
3820 40th Ave, Cottage City, MD 20722

The Prince George's County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) is responsible for preserv-

ing, protecting, and managing the county's resources through high-quality planning services and growth management guidance. Our mission is to promote economic vitality, environmental sustainability, design excellence, and quality development that promotes healthy lifestyles in Prince George's County. Visit our website, [www.pgplanning.org](http://www.pgplanning.org), to learn how you can become engaged in shaping the future of your community.

### Assistance

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission encourages the participation of persons with disabilities in all its programs and services. Register at least a minimum of two weeks in advance of the program start date to request and receive a disability accommodation. Call the Public Affairs Office at 301-952-3038, email [PublicAffairs@ppd.mncppc.org](mailto:PublicAffairs@ppd.mncppc.org), or complete the online form.

## White House OKs Maryland Wind Energy Project to be Built About 10 Miles off Ocean City

By KATHARINE WILSON  
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON (Sept. 5, 2024)—Offshore wind energy is coming to Maryland, and with it, union jobs.

The Biden administration on Thursday approved Baltimore-based US Wind's project to build offshore wind turbines about 10 miles off the coast of Ocean City, Maryland.

The offshore wind farm could generate over two gigawatts of wind energy and power over 718,000 homes, according to the Department of the Interior.

President Joe Biden said in a statement that the wind energy industry had been "struggling to gain a foothold" in the years before he came into office.

"From manufacturing and shipbuilding to port operations and construction, this industry will support tens of thousands of good-paying and union jobs, provide reliable clean power to homes and businesses, strengthen our power grid against outages, and help reduce pollution—all while protecting biodiversity and marine ecosystems," the president said.

Maryland Energy Administration Director Paul Pinsky called the Biden administration's action "an important step forward in the effort to bring clean, renewable energy production to Maryland's coast."

"Today's announcement underscores the careful, comprehensive and collaborative environmental analysis that has gone into these projects," Pinsky said in a statement.

The Maryland project is the tenth commercial-scale offshore wind energy project approved by the Biden administration. Combined, the projects are projected to generate 15 gigawatts of clean energy, half of Biden's goal of 30 gigawatts of offshore wind-produced energy by 2030.

The Maryland project includes up to 114 wind turbines, four offshore substation platforms and a meteorological tower. There will be three phases to the US Wind project, two of which—called MarWin and Momentum Wind—have already received offshore renewable energy certificates from the state.

Energy is set to start flowing in December 2028 from the first

phase of the project. The final project is expected to be completed in late 2027 or early 2028, according to the plan submitted by US Wind.

The approval is a win for Maryland environmental groups and the state government, which have been working for offshore wind power in the state for around 10 years.

The Maryland legislature passed a series of bills, starting in 2013, to set offshore wind energy projects in motion.

The state set a goal in 2023, through the Promoting Offshore Wind Energy Resources Act, to generate 8.5 gigawatts of power from offshore wind by 2031.

This goal has hit some road bumps along the way, including the withdrawal of Denmark-based Ørsted's planned offshore wind projects in January.

US Wind won the competitive lease sale of the 46,970 acres of federal ocean waters in 2014.

"By moving away from reliance on dirty fossil fuel energy and building renewable energy, Marylanders will be able to breathe cleaner air and benefit from new clean energy jobs," Maryland Sierra Club Chapter Director Josh Tulkin said in a statement Thursday.

Jamie DeMarco, the federal campaigns coordinator for the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, said in an interview with Capital News Service that the Maryland wind farm is a milestone in moving offshore energy generation forward in Maryland.

"This is a huge undertaking to build an entire machine to deploy offshore wind, but once that machine is built, it'll be able to hum and crank out new domestic energy, and clean energy that's going to help us clean the air and meet our climate goals," DeMarco said.

Offshore wind turbines have been coming online across the East Coast, DeMarco said, but this will be the first operational offshore wind facility in Maryland.

Environmental advocates aren't the only celebrating parties. Union officials are touting the jobs set to be created by the wind farm.

Almost 2,680 jobs annually over seven years could be created during the development and construction phase of the wind farm,

according to the Interior Department.

US Wind's planned permanent offshore wind components production facility, called Sparrows Point Steel in Sparrows Point, Baltimore—the former home of Bethlehem Steel—is forecast to generate jobs for steelworkers.

The Baltimore Bethlehem Steel mill, which closed in 2012, was once the largest steel producer in the world. Sparrows Point Steel will bring steelworker jobs back to Maryland, DeMarco said, in a way that hasn't been seen since the closure of Bethlehem.

Jim Strong, the offshore wind sector assistant for the United Steelworkers International Union, told CNS Thursday that the facility is expected to bring in over 500 jobs. The project will help not only steelworkers, Strong said, but other union trades as well.

"It's about addressing our climate crisis, about creating new green energy jobs—these will be high paid union jobs," Strong said.

Strong has served as a liaison between the union and US Wind. He said that the Sparrows Point facility has the opportunity to become a "central hub" for monopile production on the Atlantic Ocean. Monopiles, steel cylinders, are used for wind turbines, bridges and other projects, he said.

US Wind is a subsidiary of Italian company Renexia SpA. The project has some detractors, like Rep. Andy Harris, R-Maryland, who represents the Eastern Shore.

"Offshore wind industrialization comes at a heavy cost to our marine life and environment, and is an incredibly expensive way to generate electricity," Rep. Harris said on X in July. "We should never allow foreign owned companies to control our energy supply—much less harm our environment while doing it."

The federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's director, Elizabeth Klein, said in a statement that the Maryland project "reflects the best available science and invaluable insights from Tribes, government agencies, local communities, industry leaders, ocean users, and environmental groups gathered during our extensive environmental review process."

"As we continue to support the undeniable momentum we see along our coasts, our focus remains on fostering responsible energy development, while protecting marine life and ecosystems," she said.

Democrats in the state, including Gov. Wes Moore, have been supportive of the project. Moore signed a memorandum of understanding with the federal government in June supporting offshore wind production.

# COMMUNITY

CORRECTION: The Healthier Choices Food Distribution Program start time is 4 p.m., not 3 p.m.

## Healthier Choices Food Distribution Launches to Combat Food Insecurity in Greater Riverdale

By PRESS OFFICER  
The Metamorphosis Community Project Inc.

RIVERDALE, Md. (Sept. 9, 2024)—The Metamorphosis Community Project Inc. is pleased to announce the launch of the Healthier Choices Food Distribution, a key part of the Greater Riverdale Healthier Choices Program, starting Monday, September 9, 2024. The weekly food distribution will occur every Monday from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

at Solid Rock Church, 5401 Good Luck Road, Riverdale. This initiative aims to provide nutritious food to community members and help combat food insecurity in the Greater Riverdale area.

Participants must bring their own bags, and pre-registration is recommended but not required. The distribution will operate on a first-come, first-serve basis while supplies last. To pre-register, visit the Metamorphosis Community Project's website at [MetamorphosisCommunity.org](http://MetamorphosisCommunity.org) and

click on the Services tab.

"Our goal is to ensure that our community members have consistent access to nutritious food," said Pastor Michael Dickson, Founding President & Executive Director of Solid Rock Church. "This weekly food distribution is an essential step in supporting those who need it most and promoting healthier choices for our local families."

The Healthier Choices Food Distribution is part of the Greater Riverdale Healthier Choices Program, which also

offers:

- Weekly Physical Activity Classes: Beginner-level activities like yoga and mat pilates.
- Community Health Worker (CHW) Support: Providing guidance on nutrition, physical activity, and chronic disease management.
- Health Education and Outreach: Equipping community members with resources to make healthier choices.

### The Food Insecurity Problem:

Food insecurity is prevalent in Prince George's County, and a 2021 report by the County Council's Food Security Task Force highlighted the impacts of food insecurity, exacerbated

by COVID-19. Newly food-insecure residents are often employed, living in larger households, and less familiar with accessing food aid.

Funding is provided by the Maryland Department of Health Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities.

The Metamorphosis Community Project Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving health outcomes and fostering community development in the Greater Riverdale area. Through education, access to resources, and support, we empower communities to create sustainable, positive change.

## Library Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month With Activities for all Ages

By ANDREA CASTILLO  
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (Sept. 9, 2024)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month from **September 15 to October 15** with activities for all ages, including dance performances from Larimar Folklore Dominicano, bilingual theater performances by Teatro La Bolsa, stories from Latin American authors, performances by singer-songwriter Liah Perez, a loteria game night for teens, a bomba music-themed activity and storytime for children, and other activities showcasing arts and culture from Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, and more.

From CEO Mark Winston, "In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, PGCMLS is very pleased to provide a wide range of programs and library collections, celebrating stories, voices, and images of the breadth of Hispanic and Latino cultures. We encourage you to join us for this celebration and to take advantage of our ever-expanding collections at this important time of year."

### Featured Events

**The Hen and The Corn Tortilla / La gallina y la tortilla de maíz: Presented by Teatro La Bolsa**

Tuesday, September 17 at 6 p.m. | Baden Branch Library | Kids | Free

Wednesday October 9 at 6 p.m. | Surratts-Clinton Branch Library | Kids | Free

Explore themes of friendship, solidarity, and sharing with Gallina Turuleca in this bilingual play from Teatro La Bolsa.

**Mucha Música! An Interac-**

**tive Musical Journey to Latin America**

Tuesday, September 17 at 6 p.m. | Spauldings Branch Library | Kids | Free

Tuesday, October 8 at 6 p.m. | Hyattsville Branch Library | Kids | Free

Bring your family to sing, play percussion, and dance to Latin rhythms like salsa and merengue while exploring the rich cultural heritage of the Caribbean, Central, and South America with Cantaré, a duo who performs songs in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

**Teen Game Night: Loteria**

Wednesday, September 18 at 5 p.m. | Hyattsville Branch Library | Teens | Free

Teens are invited to the library for a fun afternoon playing lotería, a popular game of chance from Mexico.

**Larimar Folklore Dominican Dance Performance**

Wednesday, September 18 at 6 p.m. | Beltsville Branch Library | All Ages | Free

Tuesday, September 24 at 6 pm | Laurel Branch Library | All Ages | Free

Saturday, October 5 at 1 p.m. | New Carrollton Branch Library | All Ages | Free

Tuesday, October 15 at 6 p.m. | Upper Marlboro Branch Library | All Ages | Free

Take in the music, dance, and spirit of traditional Dominican culture during Hispanic Heritage Month with local dance group Larimar Folklore Dominicano.

**Travel Buddies: Dancing Through Latin America! Presented by Teatro La Bolsa**

Saturday, September 21 at 1 p.m. | Bowie Branch Library | Kids | Free

Saturday, October 12 at 1

p.m. | Glenarden Branch Library | Kids | Free

Bring your little ones on an adventure through different countries and explore their cultures, music, and dances in this bilingual play about the journey of Alre and Quines and their magical bag.

**"Tias and Primas: On Knowing and Loving the Women Who Raise Us" by Prisca Dorcas Mojica Rodriguez Hosted by Ofelia Montelongo, Co-presented with the Prince George's County Office of Human Rights**

Tuesday, September 24 at 7 p.m. | Adults | Virtual Event | Free

Author Prisca Dorcas Mojica Rodriguez discusses her book, "Tias and Primas: On Knowing and Loving the Women Who Raise Us" in conversation with Ofelia Montelongo in a virtual program co-presented by the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) and the Prince George's County Office of Human Rights (PGCOHR). In the book, Rodriguez discusses the women in her Nicaraguan family and other Latin families, delving into topics such as intergenerational trauma, colonization, and sexism.

**Music Performance by Liah Perez, Dominican-American Singer and Songwriter**

Wednesday, September 25 at 6 p.m. | South Bowie Branch Library | All Ages | Free

Saturday, September 28 at 2 p.m. | Greenbelt Branch Library | All Ages | Free

Dominican-American singer and songwriter Liah Perez combines pop, Latin rock, and ballads to perform songs that touch on love, loss, the search for home, and the quest for meaning.

**Hispanic Heritage Month Community Conversation with Samantha Howard**

Thursday, Sept. 26 at 4 pm  
Virtual Event | Adults

ohr OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

**Hispanic Heritage Month Community Conversation with Samantha Howard**—Co-presented with the Prince George's County Office of Human Rights

Thursday, September 26 at 4 p.m. | Virtual | Adults | Free

Samantha Howard, the Latino Liaison for the County Executive's Office, shares her experience of nearly two decades working as a community liaison in higher education, getting to know the county's Hispanic and Latino population, and working with community organizations and partners in this event co-presented by the Prince George's County Office of Human Rights (PGCOHR) and the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS).

book, "Sofia and Her Bomba Drum."

**Celebrating Our Stories: A Reading and Panel Discussion Presented by members of the Prince George's County Latino Advisory Board**

Friday, October 4 at 4:30 pm | Bladensburg Branch Library | All Ages | Free

Looking for a new read this Hispanic Heritage Month? Join members of the Prince George's County Latino Advisory Board in a reading and panel discussion, where they will share excerpts from their favorite books, share personal insights, and discuss the cultural significance of their selections.

**Sip and Paint: Birds of Latin America**

Saturday, October 5 at 2 p.m. | Beltsville Branch Library | Teens | Free

Teens are invited to create their own artwork and can earn community service hours too! Paint a picture inspired by birds of Latin America to be hung on the public art display wall in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

**Protect the Planet: A Latina's Fight for Environmental Justice - Augmented Reality**

**Exhibit** Presented by Sankofa Mobile Museum—Held in the Parking Lot

Wednesday, October 9 at 5:30 p.m. | Laurel Branch Library | Teens | Free

Meet Prince George's County-based environmental activist Candida Garcia, and learn how you can make small changes to have a big impact on your community, as well as the unequal effects of environmental pollution on communities of color.

### Online Resources

Visit PGCMLS' Hispanic Heritage Hub for a full list of Hispanic Heritage Month events, as well as videos, resources, book recommendations, and more! With your library card, you can access Kanopy to watch thousands of streaming films, documentaries and more by and about the Hispanic community. Brush up on your language skills with Mango Languages or Transparent Language. Research Latino American history and culture with our database, "Latino American Culture: The American Mosaic," where you'll find primary sources, timelines, maps, and multimedia content, and other materials.

### Filing from A1

state to offer this free option to taxpayers."

"Partnering with the IRS to offer Direct File to eligible Maryland taxpayers in the 2025 tax season is an exciting opportunity and fundamental to our core priority of modernizing our agency to make government work better for all Marylanders," said Comptroller Brooke E. Lierman. "In countries across the globe, residents enjoy much simpler return-free tax systems. While our state and nation are not there yet, with Direct File and our agency's new Maryland Tax Connect system for individuals coming this term, Maryland will have the most transparent, efficient, and modern system in the nation."

During the 2024 filing season, the Direct File system launched in 12 states resulting in more than 140,000 Americans successfully filing and claiming more than \$90 million in refunds and saving an estimated \$5.6 million in tax preparation fees on their federal returns.

For the 2025 filing season, more than 700,000 Marylanders will be eligible to use the Direct File tool. Other states currently using Direct File include Arizona, California, Florida, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, and Wyoming.

"Tax preparation for the average working American can come with high costs and count-

less hours filing returns. Fulfilling tax obligations shouldn't be more difficult than the hours you spend working," said U.S. Senator Ben Cardin. "Direct File was extremely successful in making tax filing more affordable and accessible. Implementing a permanent Direct File program in Maryland will help lift a significant tax burden and benefit thousands of Maryland taxpayers."

"Through the Inflation Reduction Act, we provided new resources for the IRS so it can better serve everyday Americans with initiatives like Direct File," said U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen. "Our state's participation in this proven program will offer hundreds of thousands of Marylanders a convenient and free way to do their taxes next year—meaning less time filling out complicated returns and more money in their pockets." "Americans want—and deserve—a free, easy, accurate, and secure option to file their taxes," said Congressman Steny Hoyer. "As House Majority Leader last Congress, I helped secure funding for Direct File in the Inflation Reduction Act to provide them that opportunity. Direct File is yet another example of Democrats' commitment to lowering costs for Marylanders and all Americans, and I am proud that Maryland will join nineteen other states in participating in the program this next tax filing season. I appreciate the IRS and our partners in the Biden-Harris Administration for making

this option permanent and available for all."

"The Direct File pilot program has proven its ability to ease the burden of tax season by saving taxpayers time, effort and money when filing," said Congressman John Sarbanes. "I appreciate the IRS's work to expand this program across the country and am glad that starting in 2025, Marylanders will be able to use this new tool and experience a smoother, more affordable tax season."

To help taxpayers with the new Direct File system, Maryland will partner with Code for America, a civic technology company that launched the FileYourStateTaxes tool that allows taxpayers to easily file their state returns. Maryland is the second new partnership Code for America has announced for the 2025 filing season.

"Code for America is committed to ensuring taxpayers across Maryland have access to free, easy online state tax filing," said Code for America Chief Executive Officer Amanda Renteria. "Through our FileYourStateTaxes tool, more people will be able to file a return and gain access to tax benefits that help working families. We look forward to applying the mindful use of technology to the tax filing process in Maryland and providing this revolutionary service to the state's people."

For more information about the IRS Direct File tool, visit the U.S. Department of Treasury webpage.

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## The Prince George's Post

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# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

### Husband Upset About His Wife's Survivor Benefit

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

**Dear Rusty:** This is a matter that I find particularly irksome. My wife—a retired teacher—was told that, should I predecease her, she is not eligible to get survivor benefits from my Social Security payments. I'm sure there is some arcane, bureaucratic justification for this, but I think it unconscionable. Is this true and if so, what sort of major miracle would be required to alter that? **Signed: Disgruntled in Texas**

**Dear Disgruntled:** If your wife was a teacher in a school district (which includes all Texas school districts) that exempted her from paying into Social Security, then any Social Security surviving spouse benefit she becomes entitled to from you will be affected by a provision called the Government Pension Offset (GPO). The GPO will reduce her Social Security survivor benefit by two-thirds (67%) of the amount of her (non-covered) teacher's pension, which can (and often does) eliminate her surviving spouse benefit. The GPO affects teachers in about 15 states who have opted not to participate in Social Security.

For information, this is similar to what happens to a spouse who has also earned a Social Security retirement benefit—their survivor benefit is offset by their Social Security retirement benefit, and only the excess (if any) is paid. The GPO is actually a bit more generous, in that your wife's survivor benefit is only offset by 2/3rds of her non-covered teacher's pension, whereas the offset is 100% for other surviving spouses who have earned SS retirement benefits as well. This is a provision that has been law since 1977, affecting all those who have a pension earned without contributing to Social Security. Its premise was to better equalize the way SS benefits are paid to everyone.

How can that be altered? Well, the only way is by Congress changing Social Security law. There have been numerous attempts to change the GPO law over the years, none of which have been successful. Indeed, there is a proposed law—H.R. 82—The Social Security Fairness Act—which was introduced in Congress last year. That proposal, to eliminate the GPO (and a sister provision called the Windfall Elimination Provision), has essentially made little Congressional progress, short of a few committee hearings, and the outlook for passage at this point is about zero.

I'm afraid I can't be optimistic that the GPO will be repealed, as Congress is more keenly focused on resolving Social Security's looming solvency issue, set to come to a head in less than a decade.

*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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).*

The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] [www.amac.us](http://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](http://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](http://www.amac.us/join-amac).

## AAA's Your Driving Costs: The Price of New Car Ownership Continues to Climb

Rising Depreciation and Finance Charges Impact Consumers Interested in Buying New

By PRESS OFFICER  
AAA

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Sept. 5, 2024)—This year's Your Driving Cost (YDC) study reveals that the total cost to own and operate a new vehicle is \$12,297 or \$1,024.71 monthly, an increase of \$115 from 2023. The leading cost culprits for buyers are depreciation and finance charges. With automakers adding more vehicle choices with major redesigns, AAA advises buyers to consider various factors associated with owning and operating a new vehicle to fully understand ownership costs.

"Buying a new car can be exciting," stated Greg Brannon, AAA's Director of Automotive Research. "But consumers should fully understand all the costs of owning and operating a new vehicle from purchase to resale."

Depreciation, the difference between the car's value upon purchase and when sold, is the most significant cost category associated with vehicle ownership in this year's analysis. On average, cars in this year's YDC lose a staggering \$4,680 annually. The popularity of oversized vehicles with cutting-edge features has led to an increase in new car prices, which results in higher depreciation costs.

Other factors driving new ownership costs:

- **Car Prices**—The sales-weighted average manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) for new vehicles in the study is \$38,883, an increase of 0.7% over last year. It's important to note the MSRP may not always reflect the actual purchase price and can vary based on demand. The average MSRP for each vehicle category is weighted based on its share of the total vehicle sales. This means higher-selling categories, such as pick-up trucks, have a larger impact on the average value.
- **Finance Charges**—A higher sticker price directly impacts finance costs, with this year's vehicles incurring an average annual finance charge of \$1,332, a 6% increase from the previous year. *\*Please note: Sticker price increase may be due to vehicles replaced in YDC.*

This year, EVs have the second-highest total ownership costs due to depreciation, purchase prices, and finance charges. Preferences have shifted to more expensive and larger EVs, resulting in growth in these cost categories.

EVs have the lowest fuel cost of any vehicle type, based on a national average electricity price of 15.9 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh). Plus, because of their design and powertrain, EVs have the lowest maintenance costs.

Hybrid vehicles have the second lowest total ownership costs behind small sedans. They benefit from excellent fuel economy and low maintenance costs and rank near the middle in depreciation, financing, and insurance costs. According to this year's EV consumer sentiment survey, one in three U.S. adults (31%) say they would be "very likely" or "likely" to buy a Hybrid.

"Hybrid vehicles are a reasonable, affordable option for those who want to try the benefits of electrification," said Brannon. "Hybrids benefit from excellent fuel economy, low maintenance costs, depreciation, and insurance—making them an affordable option for car buyers."

	Medium Sedan			Compact SUV		
	Electric	Gas	Hybrid	Electric	Gas	Hybrid
cost per year	\$12,527	\$10,557	\$9,476	\$12,581	\$10,656	\$10,215
cost per mile*	\$0.835	\$0.704	\$0.632	\$0.839	\$0.710	\$0.681
	Medium SUV			Pickup Truck		
	Electric	Gas	Hybrid	Electric	Gas	Hybrid
cost per year	\$12,558	\$12,576	\$12,414	\$15,698	\$16,453	\$15,971
cost per mile*	\$0.837	\$0.838	\$0.828	\$1.047	\$1.097	\$1.065

\* Total cost per year ÷ total miles per year.

### NEW—Special Analysis Comparing Cost of EV and Hybrid Ownership to Gas-Powered

This year, AAA expanded YDC by comparing top-selling EVs and Hybrid models in four popular vehicle categories—medium sedan, compact SUV, medium SUV, and pickup truck. Over the past few years, their growth in popularity has been a significant trend, requiring automakers to expand their lineups to include more appealing models. This bonus analysis will give consumers a snapshot of ownership costs for select EV and Hybrid models compared to their gas-powered counterparts.

*\*Please note: Not all categories and models are available for analysis and cannot be directly compared to the average ownership total. Refer to the methodology for additional background.*

### Car Buying Advice

With higher purchase prices impacting other cost categories, it's important to remember these car-buying tips when researching all options:

- Create a monthly or annual budget and factor in ownership and operating costs before purchase.
- Keep each transaction and negotiation separate from the other—the cost of the car, the finance rate, and the trade-in value.
- Obtain pre-approval from a financial institution (e.g., Bank, Credit Union, AAA, etc.) before discussing finance rates with the car dealer to ensure you get the best lending rate available to you.
- There are quite a few options (online and in-store) available to consumers when considering where to buy a used vehicle besides a dealership. Visit your local AAA, which may offer discounts for members.

### Additional AAA Support:

- Your Driving Costs calculator: Customizable digital tool that offers cost analyses for specific vehicles by category, new and used cars (up to five model years back).
- AAA Car Guide: Annual guide that ranks and rates vehicles with the latest automotive technology.
- AAA's Car Buying Program: Comparisons for consumers to use while car shopping and buying.
- EV 101 (Digital Buyer's Guide): Resource and educational guide for consumers to use while electric vehicle shopping and buying.
- Repair Cost Calculator: Repair costs breakdown for parts and labor, including AAA member discounts available when visiting AAA Approved Auto Repair facilities.

### Methodology Overall YDC Analysis

AAA uses a proprietary methodology to calculate the costs of owning and operating a new car in the United States. Data is gathered from various sources, including Vincentic LLC, and incorporates standardized criteria to estimate the costs of using a new vehicle for personal transportation over five years and 75,000 miles of ownership. The use of standardized criteria ensures that AAA estimates are consistent when comparing the driving costs of different vehicle types. Actual driving costs will vary based on driving habits, location, operating conditions and other factors.

AAA evaluated nine categories of vehicles—consisting of 45 models—to determine a new vehicle's average annual operating and ownership costs. AAA selects top-selling, mid-priced models and compares them across six categories: fuel, maintenance/repair/tire costs, insurance, license/registration/taxes, depreciation, and finance charges. The study assumes a five-year ownership period, with the vehicle being driven 15,000 miles/annually (or a total of 75,000 miles).

### EV & Hybrid Cost Comparisons

AAA evaluated four categories of EVs and Hybrids—consisting of 11 total models—compared them across six cost categories: fuel, maintenance/repair/tire costs, insurance, license/registration/taxes, depreciation, and finance charges. The study assumes a five-year ownership period, with the vehicle being driven 15,000 miles/annually (or a total of 75,000 miles).

Due to a limited number of models with significant sales available in many vehicle categories, only four vehicle categories were selected (medium sedans, compact and medium SUVs, and pickup trucks) for analysis and comparison to those corresponding ICE categories. Therefore, overall results from the EV/Hybrid analysis cannot be directly compared to the overall results from the regular YDC study.

*AAA provides automotive, travel, and insurance services to more than 64 million members nationwide, nearly 90,000 members in Washington, D.C. and more than 1,000,000 members in Maryland. AAA advocates for the safety and mobility of its members and has been committed to outstanding road service for more than 100 years. AAA is a non-stock, membership corporation working on behalf of motorists, who can map a route, find local gas prices and electric vehicle charging stations, discover discounts, book a hotel, and track their roadside assistance service with the AAA Mobile app ([AAA.com/mobile](http://AAA.com/mobile)). Visit [www.AAA.com](http://www.AAA.com).*

## Governor Moore Announces Appointments to the Maryland State Board of Education

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Aug. 30, 2024)—Governor Wes Moore today announced three appointments to the Maryland State Board of Education.

"Every Maryland student deserves access to a world-class education that positions them for success—regardless of background, income, or ability," said Gov. Moore. "I look forward to working alongside our new appointees to continue to build the future of K-12 education in Maryland and I thank them for their continued service to the state."

The Maryland State Board of Education sets the educational policy and

standards for pre-kindergarten through high school and vocational rehabilitation services, in addition to passing regulations. The board also reviews and approves three annual budgets—including the Department of Education headquarters budget; the state aid to local education budget; and state-aided institutions budget—before they are passed on to the Governor's Office and Maryland General Assembly.

Governor Moore made the following appointments to the Board:

### Dr. Kimberly Ann Lewis

Dr. Kimberly Ann Lewis is a nationally recognized expert and leader on special education. Dr. Lewis has worked in education for more than 40

years, including with the Maryland Department of Education, the New York State Department of Education, the Louisiana Department of Education, and as an educator in four different Maryland school districts. She has previously served on the boards of the National Education Association as committee chair; Maryland State Teachers Association as committee chair; the Frederick County Teachers Association as president; and on Governor Parris Glendening's education transition team.

Dr. Lewis earned her bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania State University; her M.A. from Hood College; and her Ed.D. from Johns Hopkins University.

### Kenny Clash

Kenny Clash has dedicated his career to empowering students, expanding educational opportunities, and closing the digital divide, currently serving as senior director of finance and operations at Intentional Philanthropy and on the advisory board of the Baltimore Digital Equity Coalition. Most recently, he served as chief operating officer of the Enoch Pratt Free Library and Maryland State Library Resource Center. Clash also served as a student success coach for four years at Coppin State University and Baltimore City Community College, in addition to serving for more than 11 years as an assistant manager at Howard Community College.

Clash earned his associates degree from Valley Forge Military College and his B.A. from the University of Virginia. He is a proud U.S. Army Veteran.

### Xiomara V. Medina

Xiomara V. Medina is an associate director within the Department of Counseling and Psychological Studies at Bowie State University. Medina has served as treasurer of the Maryland School Counseling Association and president of the Professional School Counselors of Howard County. She previously worked in the public school systems of Howard County and Anne Arundel County. She is working to bring higher levels of cultural competency and actionable equity among professional school counselors in Maryland and is passionate about tackling barriers faced by LGBT students, homeless students and English language learners.

Medina earned her M.Ed. from Bowie State University.

For more information about the Maryland State Board of Education, visit [marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard](http://marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard).

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**Have a Safe Weekend**

## EarthTalk® Q&A Riding Into the Future on Greener Bicycles

By Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss August 29, 2024

*Dear EarthTalk:*  
*You hear a lot about e-bikes these days, but what's being done to make regular old human powered bicycles greener?*

—P.L. Milwaukee, WI

As interest in e-bikes grows, it's important to remember that traditional human-powered bicycles are also evolving towards greater sustainability. Various innovations and practices are making these bikes eco-friendlier, focusing on materials, production processes and end-of-life recycling.

One significant development is the use of sustainable materials for bike frames. Traditionally, bike frames have been made from aluminum, steel or carbon fiber. However, each of these materials has environmental impacts. Aluminum requires substantial energy to produce, while carbon fiber involves complex processes and is challenging to recycle. In contrast, sustainable alternatives are gaining traction. Bamboo, for one, is a fast-growing, renewable material with a low environmental footprint. Bamboo bikes are noted for their durability and natural shock absorption, making them a compelling choice.

Innovative companies are

also exploring the potential of recycled materials. A notable example is a bicycle frame made from recycled plastic and produced using renewable energy. This approach not only reduces waste but lessens dependency on virgin materials. Similarly, some brands are repurposing old bicycles or bike parts, extending their life cycle and reducing the need for new resources. The production process itself is another area of focus. Brands are adopting practices that minimize environmental impact: reducing emissions in factories, using renewable energy, and implementing water-saving measures. Additionally, companies are using paints and finishes that avoid harmful chemicals, and are engaging in fair trade practices, ensuring that their supply chains are as ethical as they are sustainable.

A crucial aspect of making bicycles greener is ensuring they are durable and easy to repair. High-quality components and thoughtful design contribute to a longer lifespan, which reduces the frequency of replacements and the associated environmental impact. Brands are also increasingly providing repair services and spare parts, which supports a more sustainable life-cycle for each bicycle.

**CONTACTS:** Can We Make Bicycles Sustainable Again? <https://solar.lowtechmagazine.com/2023/02/can-we-make-bicycles-sustainable-again/>; Which frame material is the most sustainable? <https://bicycles.stackexchange.com/questions/89981/which-frame-material-is-the-most-sustainable>; 10 Brands Making Sustainable Bicycles & Conscious Biking Gear, <https://www.thegoodtrade.com/features/sustainable-bikes-and-biking-gear/>; 9 Environmentally Minded Mountain-Bike Brands Worth Checking Out, <https://www.outsideonline.com/outdoor-gear/bikes-and-biking/9-environmentally-minded-mtb-brands-worth-checking-out/>; Bjorn Bikes, <https://bjornbikes.com/>.

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