

The Prince George's Post



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Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's UPLIFT Program Receives National Honor

DHCD's initiative to close the appraisal gap in Maryland's disinvested communities recognized by the National Council of State Housing Agencies

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland DHCD

NEW CARROLLTON, Md. (Oct. 28, 2024)—The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's UPLIFT program, which is designed to help close the appraisal gap that now blocks essential investments in the state's historically redlined communities, was recently recognized by the National Council of State Housing Agencies at its 2024 annual conference.

Established in 1984, NCSHA's Annual Awards for Program Excellence identify and elevate industry best practices and encourage continued Housing Finance Agency innovation. Member HFAs are eligible to submit initiatives for consideration in seven categories: Communications, Homeownership, Legislative Advocacy, Management Innovation, Rental Housing, Special Achievement, and Special



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's UPLIFT program was recently recognized by the National Council of State Housing Agencies at its 2024 annual conference.

Needs Housing. DHCD's Utilizing Progressive Lending Investments to Finance Transformation (UPLIFT) program took top honors

in NCSHA's Homeownership: Encouraging New Construction category.

NCSHA noted contest jurors recognized Maryland DHCD's

UPLIFT program for its "holistic and innovative" approach:

See HONOR Page A5

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County Announces Choreographer's Showcase at Publick Playhouse

By PRESS OFFICER
M-NCPPC

RIVERDALE, Md. (Oct. 30, 2024)—The 41st Annual Choreographer's Showcase will take place on **Saturday, November 9, 2024**, at 7 p.m. at the Publick Playhouse in Cheverly, MD. Presented by the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County—the Showcase is celebrating over four decades of innovation and creativity, and the work of both emerging and established choreographers from across the DMV.

As one of the longest-running showcases of its kind, the Choreographer's Showcase has become a vital platform for artists to present their unique voices and visions. Each performance is carefully selected by panel, ensuring a dynamic and diverse program that highlights the very best in contemporary dance.

This year's lineup features an exciting array of talent, including Ryan Bailey, Jamie Chen, Madeline Maxine Gorman,

William Nash, Angel Ramirez, Dr. Janaki Rangarajan, Eric Rivera, Malcolm Shute, Connor Voss, and Zoe Cushman Walders. Performances were selected by an esteemed group of adjudicators, including Sara Pearson (University of Maryland), Vincent Thomas (Towson University) and Patrik Widrig (University of Maryland).

The Choreographer's Showcase not only promotes artistic expression but also fosters community engagement and appreciation for the art of dance. Attendees can expect an evening filled with mesmerizing performances that push the boundaries of movement and storytelling.

Tickets for the Choreographer's Showcase can be purchased at pgparks.com. Don't miss this opportunity to witness the creativity and talent that the dance community has to offer. Join us on November 9 at the Publick Playhouse for a night of inspiration and artistic celebration!

Prince George's County Libraries Celebrate Native American and Indigenous Peoples Month This November

By NESTOR A. DIAZ
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (Oct. 31, 2024)—This November, the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is celebrating Native American and Indigenous Peoples Month with a wide range of programming for all ages, including STEM events, book discussions, and craft programs that highlight the rich heritage, diverse cultures, and significant contributions of Native and Indigenous communities.



IMAGE COURTESY PGCMLS

STEM Events (Ages 5–12)

- **Wednesday, November 13** at 6 p.m., STEM for Families: Native American and Indigenous Peoples Heritage Month, New Carrollton Branch Library
- **Tuesday, November 19** at 4:30 p.m., STEM-tastic: Maya Math Games, Greenbelt Branch Library
- **Tuesday, November 19** at 5:30 p.m., STEM for Families: Native American Symbolism – Turtles, Largo-Kettering Branch Library

- **Thursday, November 21** at 4 p.m., STEM for Families: Iroquois Wampum Coding, Beltsville Branch Library

Book Discussions (Adults)

- **Wednesday, November 13** at 6 p.m.: "The Sioux Chef's Indigenous Kitchen" by Beth Dooley and Sean Sherman, Surratts-Clinton Branch Library
- **Wednesday, November 13** at 7 p.m.:

"Never Whistle at Night: an Indigenous Dark Fiction Anthology, edited by Shane Hawk and Theodore Van Alst Jr., Virtual Event

- **Tuesday, November 19** at 6:30 pm: Solidarity Stories: Community Led Book Discussion—"Never Whistle at Night: an Indigenous Dark Fiction Anthology," Mixt Food Hall
- **Tuesday, November 19** at 6:30 p.m.: "Blood Sisters" by Vanessa Lillie, Virtual Event

Craft Programs for Kids

- **Tuesday, November 12** at 4 p.m., Crafternoon: Pinch and Coil Pots, Glenarden Branch Library
- **Wednesday, November 20** at 4 p.m., Crafternoon: Woven Baskets, Hillcrest Heights Branch Library
- **Wednesday, November 20** at 6:30 p.m., Kids Create: Woven Baskets, South Bowie Branch Library
- **Saturday, November 30** at 11 a.m., Ready 2 Read Art: Ages 3–5—Native American and Indigenous Peoples Heritage Month, Bowie Branch Library

Craft Programs for Adults

- **Thursday, November 14** at 1 p.m., Craft and Create: Native American Inspired Sandpainting, Bowie Branch Library
- **Tuesday, November 26** at 5 p.m., Craft and Create: Adult Coloring, Upper Marlboro Branch Library,

PGCMLS is also offering Native American and Indigenous Peoples Heritage Month Ready 2 Read Storytimes for toddlers and preschoolers! Kids will experience engaging stories, lively

songs, and interactive fingerplays. Ready 2 Read storytimes are fun-filled events that foster a love for reading and learning. Search for Ready 2 Read Storytime on www.pgcmlls.info for storytime locations and times.

To see all Native American and Indigenous Peoples Heritage Month events, visit pgcmlls.info/native-american-indigenous-peoples-heritage.

The Library invites community members to visit the Native American and Indigenous Peoples Heritage Hub for access to book lists, a timeline of important dates in Native American and Indigenous Peoples history, a calendar of library events, and viewing recommendations for streaming platforms, such as Kanopy and Hoopla, that are available with your library card.

Learn more by visiting: pgcmlls.info/native-american-indigenous-peoples-heritage.

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) helps customers discover and define opportunities that shape their lives. The Library serves the residents of Prince George's County through 19 branch libraries, a 24/7 online library, the County Correctional Center Library, and pop-up services throughout the community. Learn more at pgcmlls.info/about-us.

TSA Announces Final Rule That Enables the Continued Acceptance of Mobile Driver's Licenses at Airport Security Checkpoints and Federal Buildings

Rule allows for continued use of mobile driver's licenses for identity verification in support of REAL ID enforcement, which starts on May 7, 2025

By PRESS OFFICER
Transportation Security Administration (TSA)

WASHINGTON (Oct. 24, 2024)—Consistent with the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) efforts to enhance the passenger experience, TSA published a final rule in the Federal Register that would allow passengers to continue using mobile driver's licenses (mDL) for identity verification at TSA airport security checkpoints once REAL ID enforcement begins on May 7, 2025.

The final rule, effective November 25, 2024, allows states to apply to TSA for a temporary waiver of certain REAL ID re-

quirements written in the REAL ID regulations. Once approved, those state mDLs will continue to be accepted at TSA airport security checkpoints. TSA will publish on its website a list of states where mDLs are approved for federal acceptance. After emerging industry standards and federal guidelines are finalized, TSA intends to issue a future rulemaking to set more comprehensive requirements for mDLs that will eventually replace the waiver provisions established by this rule.

An mDL is a digital representation of a state-issued physical driver's license that is typically installed through an application on the user's smartphone and stored in a digital wallet, similar to how many users currently store their physical credit cards on

their smartphones. The information from the digital wallet is read after the smartphone is either tapped against an mDL reader or scanned under the reader to establish the validity of the mDL and a person's identity.

TSA currently accepts mDLs issued by 11 states at 27 participating airports and has a goal of accepting mDLs in all airports, by expanding the technology nationwide. These states include Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, New York, Ohio and Utah.

For more information on REAL ID, visit TSA.gov/real-id. For more information about TSA's use of digital identification, visit TSA.gov/digital-id.

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We've Got the Power! WSSC Water Celebrates Grand Opening of its Poop-to-Power Bioenergy Facility

"I look forward to the excellent work this green facility will continue to do for the people of Prince George's and Montgomery Counties and beyond," said Congressman Glenn Ivey, (MD-04).

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ChildWatch: The Most Powerful Tool

"You know, the vote is the most powerful nonviolent tool that we have in a democratic society. It's precious. It's almost sacred. We have to use it. If not, we will lose it."

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PGCEDC Celebrates 5 County-Based Development Projects

Governor Moore Attends 2024 AFSCME Maryland Biennial Convention

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Prince George's is short 200 bus drivers! They're hiring.

Currently, buses are arriving late. Some kids are missing their first period every day.

One mother, whose kids attend Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr. High School (the school for most Morningside/Skyline students), says school starts at 8:30, but her kids are arriving at 9. And it's happening regularly.

It's happening throughout the county and the school district has more than 1,000 bus routes to cover!

Needless to say, Prince George's is currently hiring bus drivers. And for many, it's a good opportunity:

- No Experience Necessary
- Paid/Certified Commercial
- Driver's License (CDL) Training
- Bus Driver Training Hourly Rate - \$18.00
- Health Insurance Benefits
- Retirement Benefits
- Personal and Sick Leave
- Summer Opportunities

For more information about the hiring of school bus drivers, contact hros.transportation@pgcps.org or Nicole Eubanks at Nicole.Eubanks@pgcps.org or call Human Resources at 301-952-6134.

And get those Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. students to school on time!

Town of Morningside

Seniors will be honored with Luncheon in the Town Hall on Thursday, Nov. 21, 11 a.m. To attend, you must register—call 301-736-2300.

Morningside's November meetings include the Work Session, Nov. 12, 6:30 p.m., and the Town Meeting, Nov. 19, 7 p.m.

The Annual Breakfast with Santa is coming up December 14, 9 a.m. at the Firehouse.

A home at 4414 Maple Road, in Morningside, has been sold for \$210,000.

And a reminder: Speed cameras on Suitland Road are doing a good business. Slow down!

Neighbors & other good people

Kay Jackson called me asking about

the possibility that there may be rooms to rent in the area. If you can help in her search, call her at 301-291-1690.

Before our recent trip to my hometown of Saginaw, Michigan, I wanted someone to check out my little Ford. Son John recommended Butch. Turns out Butch Parrett is my neighbor, just down Skyline Drive. I contacted him and he did the rest—got my car trip-ready. He said he did that same thing for me years ago with a different car. (I didn't remember.)

Butch does general repairs and maintenance. He also loves to restore old cars, of which he has several. Anyway, next time your car needs service, keep in mind Butch's Enterprise, an auto shop in Clinton. Butch checked out my car, doing everything it needed to take me, my grandson and daughter up to Michigan and back without a problem. You can visit his shop at 7806 Heflin Dr. #A, Clinton, MD, or call him at (301) 856-2777.

Changing landscape

The McDonald's, at Allentown & Suitland roads, is shaping up. The building itself appears to have arrived in one piece. Check it out as you drive past. Maybe it won't be too long until you order your Big Mac there.

Fuji Mountain Steakhouse, 4237 Branch Avenue, offers sushi and hibachi and the scorpion bowl drink is strong and enjoyable. The hibachi dishes are delicious, with options like chicken livers, fried oysters, and soft shell crabs. You might want to give it a try.

Washington Mayor Muriel E. Bowser is urging the city to purchase Capital One Arena from the owner of the Washington Capitals and Wizards for \$87.5 million in an effort to keep the teams in the city.

A home at 6705 McKeldin Drive, in Skyline, has recently sold for \$470,000.

Morningside Halloween 20 years ago—2004

Sharon Fowler, president of the Morningside Rec Council, reports that they had two very successful hayrides for Halloween. Two Town Council members were a big part of the success. Sheila

Scott was outstanding as storyteller and Ron Chambers and his wife, dressed in costume, helped entertain the children in the school. Billy Fowler chaired the event but couldn't have done it without such old pros as Mike Fowler, Sr., John Anthony Jr. and Wayne Anderson.

Darrell Bush, Purple Heart recipient, dies at 99

Darrell Reed Bush, of Camp Springs, who saw action at the Battle of the Bulge in World War II, died October 22. He was 99.

He was born in Hyndman, Pa., one of 15 children. He moved to Camp Springs when he was young, and it was there he met his wife Dorothy. They married in October 1943, shortly before he reported to Army basic training.

In 1944, he was assigned to Europe, ultimately fighting in Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge where he was wounded while rescuing fellow soldiers. He was awarded the Purple Heart. (The Purple Heart is a military decoration awarded, in the name of the president, to those wounded or killed while serving on or after April 5, 1917, with the U.S. military.)

In 1945 Darrell came home to Maryland, and to Dorothy. He went to work for PEPCO, serving for 37 years.

Darrell is survived by his wife of 81 years, Dorothy Bush, who is now 98; grandson Ben Ryerson and Ben's wife Blythe; great-grandchildren Elena Ryerson and Colin Ryerson. Daughter Linda Ryerson (Bush) preceded him in death May 1988.

Service was at Lee Funeral Home November 1. Donations may be made in his name to Bethany Christian Church, Fort Washington.

Milestones

Happy Birthday to Linda Fortner Jumalon, Nov. 10; Cindy Lewis, Nov. 12; Robin Brown, Nov. 13; Tyrell Boxley, Michael Spenard, Ty Poe, Bob Davis and Carolyn Holland Bennett, Nov. 15.

The VFW Post 9619 Auxiliary was chartered on Nov. 13, 1948.

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

Brandywine-Aquasco

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Christ United Methodist Church located at 22919 Christ Church Road, Aquasco, Maryland 20608, Rev. Shemaiah Strickland, Pastor. Laity Sunday Celebration was held Sunday, October 20, 2024. Theme: Walking in the Light of the Lord 1 John 1:5-7. Guest Speaker was Minister Ruth Bland of Deliverance Church of Christ, Capitol Heights, Maryland. She is a woman of prayer. She has been a dedicated intercessor for over 47 years. Minister Bland has been preaching for years but accepted the call to the ministry and officially started preaching in 2022. Over the years, God has shown himself through prayer as it is a lifestyle that she cannot live without.

Minister Bland began her ministry at Deliverance Church of Christ under the leadership of Bishop Robert J. Patton and then later Bishop Bobby G. Holmes. There she built on her foundation of faith and understanding of the Word of God. She currently serves as one of the board Ministers and she is the Leader of the Outreach and Community Services Ministry. Her favorite scriptures are Philippians 4:6-7 and Psalm 91. She loves her family, her husband Calvin Bland of 60 years, and their five children. She is a grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother.

BRIEF HISTORY OF LAITY SUNDAY

The first recorded observance of "Laymen's Day" was in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South in 1929. The early celebrations focused only on the ministry of men. Laymen's Day was observed annually in February from 1929 to 1972 where in the Book of Discipline, Laymen's Day was renamed the gender-neutral Laity Sunday. Today, Laity Sunday is celebrated annually on the third Sunday of October. Reference: Board of Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church.

THE AFIYA HOWELL SHOW

The Afiya Howell Show: A Live Comedy Sketch Show will be Friday, November 22 from 7:30-9 p.m. EST. Doors open 7 p.m. at Harmony Hall Regional Center, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Md. Be apart of Afiya Howell's live audience for a dynamic blend of pre-recorded sketches and comedic commentary. All performed in front of an enthusiastic studio audience—YOU! Known for its edgy and satirical humor, the show will tackle contemporary social issues combining scripted scenes with improvisational elements, creating an energetic and engaging atmosphere that she hopes you will enjoy. Join her as she celebrates her birthday providing you with laughs, making your experience interactive and thoroughly entertaining. Do not miss the chance to make your event experience truly special. Add on the "Meet and Greet Experience" to your ticket which is per-

fect for dedicated fans and those looking to add an extra layer of excitement to their evening.

Check-in-for Meet and Greet Experience 5:30 p.m. Meet and Greet Experience 6 p.m.-6:45 p.m. Early Theater Seating Access: Meet and Greet ticket Holders, Entry for Theater Seating 7 p.m. Showtime: The Afiya Howell Show 7:30-9 p.m. Important Information: Non-Refundable Tickets: Ensure that you are able to attend before making your purchase as tickets for this event are non-refundable. No On-Site Ticket Sales: Tickets must be purchased in advance. No tickets will be sold at the event. From \$28.52 Eventbrite +ticketfly.

CRAFT FAIR AND FOOD FAIR

Join us for a Craft Fair and Food Festival on Saturday, November 9 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, 100 Village St. in Waldorf, Maryland. Vendors needed! For more information, please contact Maria Lam at (301) 645-7112 or marial@olhoc.org.

PARISH ANNUAL MEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

Parish Annual Men's Day Celebration was held at Christ Church Sunday, October 27, 2024. Guest Speaker was Bro. Dean Brooks, CLS, Asbury U.M. Church, Brandywine, Maryland. Theme: Men of God Committed to the Lord (Proverbs 16:1-3, AMO).

CELEBRATING NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to Sonia Douwana, Markell Dabney, Dieon Jalloh, Owen Johnson, Ugo Mbakwe, Shurrell Bell, Ronald Crawford, Tiffany Knight, Daphne Rojas, Evangeline Crawford, Sheila Holmes, Grace Omoregbe, Pauline Clark, Dorothy Glasgow-Reid, Sinaya Cromartie who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating birthdays in November.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to Brandon & Ashley Holmes, Barron & Kendra Neal who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating wedding anniversaries in November.

CHRIST CHURCH ACCOKEEK

Christ Church Accokeek Ham and Oyster Dinner (99th Annual) November 23, 2024, from 12-6 p.m. Adults \$30, Child (4-10) \$15, under 4 Free. Adult Dinner includes 1 dozen fried oysters and all you can eat ham, turnips, potato salad, green beans, apple sauce and rolls. Dine in or carryout available. Twice New Sale, Bake Sale, Buttercream Candy Sale open at 10 a.m. The church address is 600 Farmington Road, Accokeek, Maryland. For more information 301-292-5633, accokeekchurch.org.

Veteran's Day Events

Veterans Day Tours: Riversdale House Museum Historic Site

Free Tours Sunday, November 10, 2024 at 12 p.m. and 2 p.m.

Join the Riversdale House Museum for a FREE Veterans Day tour as we interpret the history of the people who lived and worked at this former plantation from the house's construction in 1801 through Emancipation in 1864. Visitors engage in facilitated dialogue with Tour Guides while being led through rooms of the historic house and dependency buildings.

This is a one-hour guided tour. We ask that visitors arrive at the Visitor Center 5-10 minutes ahead of time to get registered.

Pre-reservation or walk-ins are welcome. If you would like to confirm availability, call 301-864-0420 or email riversdale@pgparks.org before your arrival. Larger Group Tours are available by request.

Riversdale House Museum Historic Site
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD

—www.pgparks.com

Join the City of District Heights This Veterans Day as we Honor all who Served!

November 11: Veterans Day Ceremony

Date: Monday, November 11, 2024

Time: 10 a.m.

Location: City of District Heights Veterans Park (Kipling Parkway Spur & Marbury Drive, District Heights, MD 20747)

Let's come together to pay tribute to the brave men and women who have served our nation. We look forward to seeing you there as we honor their sacrifices and dedication.

—The City of District Heights

Veterans Day Observances at Department of Veterans and Military Families Locations

To honor Veterans on Veterans Day, the following ceremonies will be held at Maryland Department of Veterans & Military Families locations on **Monday, November 11, 2024:**

10:30 a.m.: Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery—11501 Garrison Forest Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117

11 a.m.: **Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery** - 11301 Crain Highway, Cheltenham, MD 20623; **Crownsville Veterans Cemetery** - 1122 Sunrise Beach Road, Crownsville, MD 21032; **Vietnam Veteran Memorial - Middle Branch Park**, 2825 South Hanover Street, Baltimore, MD 21225; **World War II Memorial - 1920 Ritchie Highway (Rt. 450 at Naval Academy Bridge)**, Annapolis, MD 21401

1:30 p.m.: **Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery** - 6827 East New Market Ellwood Road, Hurlock, Maryland 21643

2 p.m.: **Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery** - 14205 Pleasant Valley Road, NE, Flintstone, MD 21530

Volunteer Opportunity: There is no ceremony scheduled for the Korean War Memorial in Canton, because we do not have a volunteer committee organizing Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies at that location. If you are interested in planning Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies at the Korean War Memorial, please contact: Jessica Mondowney, Memorials Superintendent at jessica.mondowney@maryland.gov

—From 1 November 2024 DVMF News and Announcements

December Events at Marietta House Museum

By STACEY HAWKINS
Marietta House Museum

Marietta House Museum's Lunchtime Lecture: "19th Century Horse Racing in Prince George's County: The Duvalls and Argyle"

Please join us on **Wednesday, December 4**, noon-1 p.m. for Marietta's Lunchtime Lecture: "19th Century Horse Racing in Prince George's County: The Duvalls and Argyle". Join horse racing historian Don Walsh for a lively presentation on Maryland horse racing in the 1800s and its influence on modern horse culture. Walsh will discuss pivotal races in Bowie and Baltimore including the story about Argyle, a winning racehorse foaled at Marietta House, and Black jockeys and enslaved men who cared for the horses.

Free. Ages 8 & up, visitors under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration recommended; bur not required. Walk-ins are welcome. Register at this direct link: <https://tinyurl.com/9cb7ke9m>. Call 301-464-5291 or email mariettahouse@pgparks.com for more information.

Marietta House Museum is located at 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD. 20769 and is a property of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Marietta's Annual Winter Holiday Open House With a Special Appearance by Papa Noël

Join the fun on **Saturday, December 7**, 4-8 p.m. for Marietta's Annual Winter Holiday Open House with a special appearance by Papa Noël. Experience a beautiful evening of tours, decorations, music, sweets and refreshments. Guests always marvel at the unique new designs each year as they walk through the wonderfully decorated historic house meeting trained staff who share stories about the historic kitchen, parlor, dining room, and more.

Because the Duvall family's roots go back to France, the museum makes sure that visiting children can meet Papa Noël (from 4-6 p.m.) who gives them treats and sends the children to seek-and-find little gifts throughout the historic house. Families take photos with Papa Noël. Light refreshments will be served. Celtic harp music is provided by Chris Van Dyke.

All ages, children must be accompanied by an adult. \$5/ person, ages 12 and under Free. Register at this direct link: <https://tinyurl.com/23rpt7yp> Call 301-464-5291 or email mariettahouse@pgparks.com for more information. Marietta House Museum is located at 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD. 20769 and is a property of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

COMMUNITY

We've Got the Power!

WSSC Water Celebrates Grand Opening of its Poop-to-Power Bioenergy Facility

Congressmen Steny Hoyer and Glenn Ivey, Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Serena Mcllwain, Local Elected Officials, County Representatives, WSSC Water Officials, Community Members and Others Open Innovative \$271 Million Facility
State-of-The-Art Project Turns Methane Gas into Renewable Natural Gas to Power Ride On Buses

By PRESS OFFICER
WSSC Water

LAUREL, Md. (Oct. 30, 2024)—WSSC Water Officials today joined U.S. Congressman Steny Hoyer, U.S. Congressman Glenn Ivey, Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Serena Mcllwain, local elected officials, county representatives, community members and others to officially open its \$271 million Piscataway Bioenergy Facility in Accokeek, Maryland. The innovative plant, which was completed on budget and on time, will turn "Poop to Power" by turning methane gas into Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) to power Montgomery County Ride On buses.

Background

WSSC Water's largest and most technically advanced project will transform how Maryland's largest water utility handles biosolids, the nutrient-rich organic material resulting from the wastewater treatment process. Once fully operational in early 2025, all biosolids from WSSC Water's six water resource recovery facilities (WRRFs) will be delivered to the new plant. Currently, the facility is processing biosolids from the Piscataway and Western Branch WRRFs.

Through advanced technology, the amount of biosolids left over from the new treatment process will be significantly reduced and cleaner (Class A). The significantly cleaner biosolids can be sold and distributed as a soil amendment. Additionally, the state-of-the-art digestion process creating these Class-A biosolids will generate methane gas, which will be captured and upgraded on site to RNG.

"The Piscataway Bioenergy Project

Generates: Approximately \$4 Million in Revenue Annually

Creates: Green Energy, Green Jobs and a Green Future

Saves: WSSC Water Customers \$3.4 Million per Year

is the type of cutting-edge innovation that will help us tackle the climate crisis," Congressman Hoyer said. "I was proud to help secure funding for this project and thousands of others like it across the country through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's historic investment in upgrading our community's water infrastructure. As Chair of the Regional Leadership Council, I am committed to ensuring that Americans in every part of Maryland and America know and feel the impact of the groundbreaking investments Democrats made last Congress."

"Bioenergy production is one of the vital ways we can turn waste into useable fuel. WSSC Water is taking a cutting-edge approach to making the most of our area's human waste into clean natural gas for buses among other uses. I commend the leadership and green thinking of WSSC Water. I look forward to the excellent work this green facility will continue to do for the people of Prince George's and Montgomery Counties and beyond," said Congressman Glenn Ivey, (MD-04).

"The nearly \$200 million in financing Maryland has provided for WSSC Water's Piscataway Bioenergy project is a worthwhile investment in clean energy that will reduce costs and help us reach our aggressive climate goals," said Maryland Department of the Envi-

ronment Secretary Serena Mcllwain. "This is a celebration of innovation, made possible when we all work in partnership for healthier communities and a thriving green economy."

"As a former plumber and small business owner, I know what it takes to run a successful business, and we are so proud to have one of the most successful water and wastewater businesses in the nation serving our residents," said Council District 9 representative, Vice Chair Sydney Harrison. "With WSSC Water's track record of excellence, I know this innovative new facility will deliver on the \$271 million investment county residents have made and serve our region for a century to come."

Green Energy

On May 16, 2023, WSSC Water signed a five-year contract with Montgomery County, with the option to renew for five additional one-year terms, to sell the RNG from this facility to power their Ride On buses. The agreement is anticipated to generate \$700,000/year from the sale of RNG and approximately \$3.2 million annually from the sale of renewable fuel credits.

"Turning waste into fuel is the kind of forward-thinking solution we need to tackle both environmental and transportation challenges," said Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich. "This facility allows us to power our Ride On buses with renewable natural gas, cutting emissions while also creating a sustainable energy source. It's a smart use of resources that not only benefits our environment but helps support our public transit system. Our goal of zero carbon emissions by 2035 requires exactly this kind of innovation, and I appreciate WSSC Water for working with us to make it a reality."

"The return on investment was one of the reasons I was proud to join my fellow Commissioners in unanimously approving the budget to advance this project from design through construction," said WSSC Water Chair T. Eloise Foster. "The revenue generated from this innovative project helps take pressure off our rates. As a former Maryland Budget Secretary who served under two governors, I appreciate this green investment for our customers."

Green Jobs

The design and construction of the facility supported hundreds of skilled craft workers. Additionally, 34 Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Small Local Business Enterprise (SLBE) businesses participated in the design and construction phases—supporting nearly 150 MBE/SLBE jobs. Now operational, the facility supports 20 new full-time jobs.

"As an anchor institution, we are committed to fostering economic prosperity in the communities we serve by creating job and contracting opportunities," said WSSC Water General Manager and CEO Kishia L. Powell. "Our capital program serves as a foundation for uplifting communities and transforming the trajectory of diverse businesses. The impact of our \$271 million investment in this facility is significant: for every million dollars invested, we generated 15 to 18 jobs and allocated over \$41 million to small, local and minority enterprises. With the full support of our commissioners, we are united in our mission to eliminate barriers to opportunities for diverse businesses and promote wealth-building opportunities for all."

PC Construction, the firm leading the design-build team, surpassed the

project's 13.32 percent goal for MBE/SLBE participation, achieving 16.72 percent as of October 2024, with \$41.4 million paid to those firms.

"This project is truly groundbreaking," said PC Construction President and CEO Matt Cooke. "I am so grateful for the exceptional team that came together to deliver this innovative project—from our collaborative partnership with WSSC Water and the design-build team who leads the industry in designing and constructing these specialized facilities to the more than 120 subcontractors and vendors and hundreds of skilled craft workers who brought their best work to the site every day."

Green Future

Completing this innovative project will reduce WSSC Water's greenhouse gas emissions by recovering CO2 from the gas that is upgraded and gas from the engine generators and reduced biosolids transportation—complementing existing strategies to reduce the utility's carbon footprint. The cost savings for customers are estimated to be \$3.4 million annually because of the reduction in biosolids hauling and management costs and a decrease in chemical costs attributed to no longer needing lime for biosolids stabilization (achieved via thermal hydrolysis and digestion).

Visit wssewater.com/bioenergy to learn more and watch a video to see how poop turns into power.

WSSC Water is the proud provider of safe, seamless and satisfying water services, making the essential possible every day for our neighbors in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. We work to deliver our best because it's what our customers expect and deserve.

Southern Maryland National Heritage Area Celebrates Television Debut of "Grandma's Hands"

Documentary showcases stories of food, family, and traditions that define Maryland.

By PRESS OFFICER

Southern Maryland National Heritage Area

HUGHESVILLE, Md. (Nov. 1, 2024)—The Southern Maryland National Heritage Area today announced that this month Maryland Public Television (MPT) will air "Grandma's Hands," a unique documentary that brings Maryland's rich history and culture to life through food and family recipes. The film is written and directed by Craig Sewell, filmed by Fog Moving Pictures, and presented by the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area.

Set to air on MPT-HD on **Saturday, Nov. 23**, at 7 p.m., this 30-minute film takes viewers into the kitchens of three Southern Maryland families. Each family shares not only the steps to prepare their beloved recipes but also the stories of their ancestors who originally created these dishes.

"We are thrilled that Maryland Public Television is airing this film, which brings the power of our personal histories together to tell the story of a region and a culture," said Southern Maryland National Heritage Area Executive Director Lucille Walker. "Viewers will gain insights into the region's history, its agricultural and food heritage, and the diverse culinary traditions that transcend time."

While the families featured in "Grandma's Hands" are different, they all share this vital tenet: The kitchen is the heart of the home, and food helps bind families and communities together across time and place.

"As a former chef and a regional agricultural development specialist, this was a passion project for me," said "Grandma's Hands" Writer and Director Craig Sewell. "Visiting each family's home and hearing their stories was a privilege. As they shared their treasured dishes, they wove tales of life, love, joy, and struggle, revealing how our past shapes the tapestry of our present."

The hour-long version of the film will also premiere on mpt.org, pbs.org and the free PBS app starting on Sunday, Nov. 24.

"Grandma's Hands" received support from the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area, the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, the Rural Maryland Council, the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, and the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission.

Learn more about the film and watch the trailer here: <https://destinationsouthernmaryland.com/discover/grandmas-hands/>.

As a newly designated National Heritage Area, the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area represents Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's, and southern Prince George's Counties with a mission to enhance the region through innovative heritage tourism experiences, comprehensive cultural and natural resource conservation, and excellence in educational opportunities. To learn more, visit <https://destinationsouthernmaryland.com/>.

Governor Moore Signs Historic Agreement to Advance Innovative and Equitable Health Care, Lower Health Care Costs for Marylanders

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Nov. 1, 2024)—Governor Wes Moore today hosted Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure; U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen; Maryland Department of Health Secretary Dr. Laura Herrera Scott; and Health Services Cost Review Commission Chair Joshua Sharfstein to sign Maryland's agreement to participate in the federal States Advancing All-Payer Equity Approaches and Development Model.

Known as the "AHEAD Model," Maryland is the first state to sign such an agreement, which will promote health care transformation both by improving population health and lowering costs across all payers—including Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurers.

"Maryland is leading the nation through its participation in the AHEAD Model, paving the way for a brighter, healthier future," said Gov. Moore. "Affordable, accessible, and equitable health care is the foundation on which we build everything else—from safer neighborhoods to more vibrant communities. Together, in coordination with our federal partners, we are honoring our commitment to creating a healthier state and leaving no one behind."

"Maryland's participation in the AHEAD Model is a critical step forward in improving the overall health of its residents, supporting primary care, transforming health care in communities throughout the state, and addressing disparities in the health care system," said Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure. "CMS applauds Maryland's leadership in slowing health care costs while driving innovation and improving health care delivery for Marylanders."



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure and Governor Wes Moore after signing Maryland's agreement to participate in the AHEAD Model.

The AHEAD Model supports the delivery of high-quality care through greater care coordination and focus on health equity and health-related social needs to support underserved patients. The model builds upon the Total Cost of Care Model, which sets a per capita limit on Medicare's total cost of care in Maryland and encompasses Maryland's unique all-payer hospital payment system, which reduces per capita hospital expenditures and supports improved health outcomes as encouraged by the Affordable Care Act.

Implementation of the AHEAD Model will begin January 1, 2026.

"For nearly 50 years, Maryland has worked to champion healthcare innovation, so that every Marylander has access to high quality health care. Through collaboration with state and federal partners, the launch of the AHEAD model provides an opportunity to build on this legacy and continue to deliver for Marylanders. We must continue our commitment to health equity and use this new

system to work towards the elimination of long-standing health disparities," said U.S. Senator Ben Cardin. "Team Maryland must work to ensure that this update to our all-payer model continues to make health care more accessible and equitable while maintaining Maryland's unique system."

"Maryland is the first state to enter into this innovative partnership with the federal government to achieve our triple goal: quality, affordable, equitable health care for every Marylander," said U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen. "We look forward to implementing this AHEAD model to build a healthy future for all."

"Under AHEAD, Maryland has more tools and resources than ever to create a health care delivery system that Marylanders deserve," said Maryland Department of Health Secretary Dr. Laura Herrera Scott. "With a focus on improving access to primary care and addressing

COMMENTARY

Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

The Most Powerful Tool

"On March 7, 1965, a group of us attempted to march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, to dramatize to the nation that people wanted to register to vote. One young African American man had been shot and killed a few days earlier, in an adjoining county called Perry County . . . and because of what happened to him, we made a decision to march. In Selma, Alabama, in 1965, only 2.1 percent of blacks of voting age were registered to vote. The only place you could attempt to register was to go down to the courthouse. You had to pass a so-called literacy test. And they would tell people over and over again that they didn't or couldn't pass the literacy test. On one occasion, a

man was asked to count the number of bubbles on a bar of soap. On another occasion, a man was asked to count the number of jellybeans in a jar. There were African American lawyers, doctors, teachers, housewives, college professors flunking this so-called literacy test. And we had to change that, so we sought to march.

"And we got to the top of the bridge. We saw a sea of blue—Alabama state troopers—and we continued to walk. We came within hearing distance of the state troopers. And a man identified himself and said, 'I'm Major John Cloud of the Alabama state troopers. This is an unlawful march. It will not be allowed to continue. I give you three min-

utes to disperse and return to your church.' And one of the young people walking with me, leading the march, a man by the name of Hosea Williams, who was on the staff of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., said, 'Major, give us a moment to kneel and pray.' And the major said, 'Troopers, advance!' And you saw these guys putting on their gas masks. They came toward us, beating us with nightsticks and bullwhips, trampling us with horses. I was hit in the head by a state trooper with a nightstick. I had a concussion at the bridge. My legs went out from under me. I felt like I was going to die. I thought I saw Death."

As some may have guessed, these are the words of beloved late Congressman John Lewis, describing what became known as the brutal "Bloody Sunday" attack at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, as marchers attempted to peacefully protest for the right to vote. The young man Congressman Lewis mentions as the impetus for the march was 26-year-old Jimmie Lee Jackson, who died after being beaten and shot by state troopers in Marion, Alabama, following another nonviolent protest. He had already tried several times to register to vote, alongside his mother and grandfather, and died without ever being able to exercise that right. In the wake of the Bloody Sunday violence, Rev. James Reeb and Mrs. Viola Li-

uzzo, two White allies and activists who had both immediately traveled to Alabama to support the follow-up marches for voting rights, were murdered by White supremacists. They are among the many martyrs who were jailed, beaten, terrorized, and killed while fighting to ensure Black citizens and all citizens the right to vote.

In the same interview with Congressman Lewis, when he was asked how he had the courage to keep walking towards the armed troopers, he answered: "On that day, we didn't have a choice. I think we had been tracked down by what I call the spirit of history, and we couldn't turn back. We had to go forward. We became like trees planted by the rivers of water. We were anchored. And I thought we would die . . . but somehow, and somehow, you have to keep going." He also added: "That's why it is so important for people to understand, to know that people suffered, struggled, some people bled, and some died, for the right to participate. You know, the vote is the most powerful nonviolent tool that we have in a democratic society. It's precious. It's almost sacred. We have to use it. If not, we will lose it."

This is a final reminder that in this election and every election, the right to vote remains a powerful, precious, hard-won tool. We must use it.

—November 1, 2024

Ben Jealous

Executive Director,
Sierra Club



Three Areas Where Biden Must Now Act to Cement His Legacy on the Environment

Now in its final months, the Biden-Harris administration has a chance to cement its powerful legacy on the environment. Congress returns for its so-called lame duck session on November 12. The administration should pull out all the stops to work with Congress and use the powers of the presidency to get some more big things done.

First, the administration must continue its historic work to address the climate crisis and further push the United States economy away from the burning of fossil fuels. The Inflation Reduction Act, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and the other major policy initiatives championed by this administration are some of the most effective tools we have ever had to combat climate change, create good American jobs, and ensure the US leads in the next economy. The investments in clean energy and manufacturing must continue. But while that happens, we also need to stop bad policies that threaten reckless fossil fuel expansion — the opposite of the direction in which we need to move.

There are two critical actions the federal government can take right now to combat fossil fuel-driven climate change. One is stopping the build-out of massive liquified natural gas (LNG) export terminals like the proposed CP2 facility in Louisiana. Approving more fracked gas infrastructure only will serve to lock us into a fossil fuel future neither country or the world can afford. Increasing fracked gas extraction and processing for export is a bad choice all around. We do not need to be burning more fossil fuels for energy. Virtually every step of the cycle from extraction to export is fraught with risks to public health. From the fracking and the pipelines used to transport the gas to the liquefaction process and the harm to ecosystems from the new terminals and tanker traffic, it all creates dangerous pollution. And it is a raw deal for American consumers as well. According to an analysis by Public Citizen, domestic consumers could face \$14.3 billion in higher annual energy costs due to LNG exports. The Biden

administration should reject LNG expansion and stop the CP2 project.

The other lame duck session action the administration should take against fossil fuel expansion is working to defeat the bad permitting bill by Senators Joe Manchin (I-WV) and John Barrasso (R-WY). Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024 would gut bedrock environmental laws, endanger public health, open up federal lands and waters to further oil and gas leasing, and fast-track the review of proposed LNG export projects. It would be another big step in the wrong direction.

The second area in which the Biden-Harris administration needs to continue its historic leadership is in the protection of public lands. The administration's America the Beautiful initiative aims to protect and preserve at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030. President Biden can go out with a bang by using the Antiquities Act to create several more national monuments. This administration's record in this area is stellar. The administration protected over 12.5 million acres of public lands just in 2023 alone. Now President Biden has a chance to create national monument at Sattitla highlands in Northern California. The monument would protect over 206,000 acres of land that hosts unique ecosystems and has deep cultural importance to Indigenous tribes in the area. He should also create the Chuckwalla National Monument, which would protect roughly 660,000 acres of the California Desert south of Joshua Tree National Park. And, at long last, the president should designate the site of Black Wall Street in Tulsa, Oklahoma a national monument

to recognize the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921, one of our country's most horrific and largest incidents of racial violence.

The other action the administration should take to protect lands is to finalize protections, under the US Forest Service, for America's remaining mature and old growth forests. Mature trees are especially effective at removing carbon from the air and are one of Earth's most important natural defenses against the climate crisis.

Lastly, the Biden-Harris administration should work with Congress to expand access to the outdoors for all Americans. That means doing what it takes to pass the EXPLORE Act and sign it into law. The bipartisan bill is a wide ranging package of policies including the Outdoors for All Act and expansion of the Every Kid Outdoors program to make national parks and public lands accessible to more of America's youth. The EXPLORE Act would help close the nature equity gap and help kids, families, veterans, and millions of others enjoy the gifts of nature.

This president deserves our gratitude for how he has prioritized the climate, fighting pollution, and land conservation. President Biden now has a little under three months to keep doing big things. We should push both his administration and Congress to keep doing big things. These times call for bold action. And the planet, places, and people we love deserve nothing less.

—November 3, 2024

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

Agreement from A3

population health needs of Marylanders, under AHEAD we will expand upon the work initiated by the Total Cost of Care Model."

With the signing of today's agreement, the Maryland Department of Health will begin planning for model implementation with stakeholders. Planning will include establishing targets for cost growth, quality and equity improvements, population

health, and primary care investments as well as identifying regional partnerships to drive AHEAD goals.

"This is an exciting day for health and health care in Maryland," said Health Services Cost Review Commission Chair Dr. Joshua Sharfstein. "Building on our strong legacy of innovation and our track record of national leadership, Maryland is working towards a health care system that provides accessible, affordable, and high quality

clinical care and supports the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities."

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services selected five other states—Vermont, Connecticut, Hawaii, Rhode Island, and regions of New York—for participation in the AHEAD Model.

For more information about the AHEAD Model in Maryland, visit hscc.maryland.gov

Governor Moore Announces Appointments to Montgomery County Circuit Court, Baltimore County Circuit Court and Prince George's County District Court

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Oct. 25, 2024)— Governor Wes Moore today announced the appointments of Katherine Huger McQueen to the Montgomery County Circuit Court; Thomas Richard Tompsett, Jr. to the Baltimore County Circuit Court; and Laura Joy Novello Fuggitti to the Prince George's County District Court.

"I have full confidence that Catherine Huger McQueen, Thomas Richard Tompsett, and Laura Joy Novello Fuggitti will serve on the bench with distinction," said Gov. Moore. "I thank these three Marylanders for their shared commitment to equal justice under law, and I applaud them for continuing to serve."

Katherine Huger McQueen

Katherine Huger McQueen has practiced law for more than 22 years and is currently a principal attorney in the family law practice group at Offit Kurman. McQueen has extensive experience in guardianship and conservatorship cases, serving both children and

adults. She also handles disputes among family members regarding capacity and fiduciary issues related to powers of attorney, trusts, and estates. Before joining Offit Kurman, McQueen was an attorney at Selzer, Gurvitch, Rabin & Obecnay LLC, a Bethesda-based firm, where she practiced civil litigation, family law, and construction litigation.

McQueen holds a bachelor's degree, cum laude, from Clemson University and a J.D. from George Washington University Law School.

Thomas Richard Tompsett, Jr.

Thomas R. Tompsett Jr. has been a senior associate trial attorney and registered lobbyist with the firm Harris Jones & Malone for more than seven years. His practice has primarily focused on the legislative process at both the state and local levels, complemented by a litigation practice that emphasized criminal and administrative law matters. Before joining Harris Jones & Malone, Tompsett spent three years as the director of governmental affairs for the Maryland Multi-Housing Association and served for nine years as an assistant state's attorney for Bal-

timore County, focusing on violent crimes.

Tompsett holds a bachelor's degree, cum laude, from Towson University and a J.D. from the University of Baltimore School of Law.

Laura Joy Novello Fuggitti

Laura Novello has been an associate county attorney in the litigation division of the Prince George's County Office of Law since 2022. Before joining the Office of Law, she served as an attorney with the Maryland Office of the Public Defender in Prince George's County for 12 years, where she served as the District Court supervisor. Before her tenure in Prince George's County, Novello worked as an Assistant State's Attorney in Baltimore City. She served as a law clerk to the Honorable Lawrence Fletcher-Hill and the Honorable John N. Prevas in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.

Novello holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland, College Park and a J.D. from the University of Baltimore School of Law.

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Why Does the Government Raid 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: The Social Security program is funded by employees and their employers. The federal government does not contribute to the program, right? So why does the federal government feel they have the right to raid the fund? All the money sent to Ukraine and other unnecessary programs could have been used to pay back what they owe to Social Security. **Signed: Disgruntled Senior**

Dear Disgruntled Senior: You are correct that the Social Security program is mainly funded by payroll taxes on employee earnings and by employers who match those employee contributions. FYI, some additional SS revenue is received from income tax on Social Security benefits, as well as from interest on the special issue government bonds held in the Social Security Trust Fund. But the assertion that the Federal Government used (raided) the Social Security Trust Fund for any other purpose is a myth. All Social Security revenue received since the program began in 1937 has been accounted for, and all excess funds are contained in a special Trust Fund in the form of interest-bearing government bonds, reserved to pay future benefits. FYI, the interest on those bonds contributed about \$67 billion to the Trust Fund reserves in 2023.

Social Security revenue, today, is not adequate to pay all benefit obligations, and the extra money needed to pay full SS benefits for everyone is obtained by redeeming Trust Fund reserves. Redemption of those Trust Fund bonds is how the federal government “pays back” the cash loaned to it by Social Security. The excess SS money received from contributions was loaned to the Federal Treasury by the SS Trust Funds, interest-bearing bonds were issued by the government in return for the cash received, and the bonds issued are redeemable as needed by Social Security to pay benefits. FYI, the average interest on the 2023 bonds in the Trust Funds was about 4.125%, whereas the average rate of return on all bonds held in reserve was about 2.387%. This transaction is the same as for any other investment vehicle, except the bonds in the Trust Funds are redeemable at any time without penalty. Said another way, all excess money ever received by Social Security is/was invested in special-issue government bonds, and resides in reserve to pay future benefits, as needed.

“Paying back” the money represented by bonds held in the Trust Funds would not be a wise financial move because it would eliminate all future interest earned by those bonds (again, that interest was about \$67 billion in 2023). Federal money spent for other purposes (e.g., Ukraine) is from the general U.S. Treasury and not from the Social Security Trust Fund, which is held totally separate from the U.S. Treasury. Since inception, all money ever contributed to Social Security has been (and is) used for one purpose (and one purpose only)—to pay Social Security benefits to those eligible (which, by the way, does not include “illegal aliens” or anyone else who is not a legal resident of the United States).

For clarity, Social Security does have a future financial issue because annual benefit obligations are now greater than annual Social Security revenue, and money from the SS Trust Fund is now used to make up the difference. Unless the program is reformed soon, the Trust Fund reserves (about \$2.8 trillion as of 2023) will be depleted and benefits for all Social Security recipients will be cut by about 23% starting in 2033 or 2034 (according to the Trustees of Social Security and the Congressional Budget Office).

Congress needs to act soon to enact Social Security reform to restore the program to fiscal solvency. The Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) is steadfastly lobbying Congress to enact the needed Social Security reform as soon as possible.

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.

Honor from AI

utilizing progressive lending investments to increase property values and provide wealth-building homeownership opportunities for targeted households by accelerating the pace of development, construction, and sale of quality affordable housing in low-income census tracts and in designated communities. The program addresses issues including energy, critical repairs, and vacant properties to help close the appraisal gap that occurs in historically redlined areas.

“UPLIFT is an important tool in our efforts to revitalize Maryland's disinvested communities,” said Secretary Jake Day. “We're honored that the program, and the help it provides to the people in our state, was recognized by the National Council of State Housing Agencies.”

UPLIFT was announced by Govern-

nor Wes Moore in 2023 and built on the department's pilot Homeownership Works (HOW) program, which focused on two Maryland communities—Johnston Square in Baltimore and the Pine Street area in Cambridge.

The program focuses on two urgent Maryland priorities: Closing the gap in household wealth across racial categories and flowing capital into historically disinvested, redlined neighborhoods. UPLIFT does both by financing the construction of affordable single family, for-sale construction in clustered areas to elevate property values and thereby boost household wealth among homeowners in less well-off communities.

More information about DHCD's winning entry can be found here: <https://www.ncsha.org/awards-category/homeownership/encouraging-new-construction/>.

Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation Celebrates 5 County-Based Development Projects Highlighted in the 10 Suburban Maryland Major Real Estate Development Report

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCEDC

LARGO, Md. (Oct. 30, 2024)—Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (PGCEDC) proudly congratulates five Prince George's County-based development projects recently spotlighted in a report by the Washington Business Journal for leading transformative real estate projects across suburban Maryland. Prince George's County represented half of the major development projects in the Washington Metropolitan region. This recognition underscores Prince George's commitment to fostering community-driven, innovative developments while establishing itself as a regional growth and investment hub.

Prince George's County-Based Development Projects in Order: Northwest Stadium

Developer: TBD
Location: 1600 Ring Road, Landover

Carillon

Developer: Kite Realty Group Trust
Location: 900 Capital Centre Blvd., Largo
Cost: Nearly \$1 billion

New Carrollton

Developer: Urban Atlantic and joint venture partner Brookfield Properties

Location: Straddling the New Carrollton Metro station, between the tracks and Ellin Road on the north side and bounded by Route 50 on the south side.

Brightseat Tech Park (former Landover Mall)

Developer: An affiliate of Lerner Enterprises and The Tower Cos.
Location: 2101 Brightseat Road, Landover
Cost: \$5 billion in total investment, according to Lerner

Cheverly Hill (former Cheverly Hospital site)

Developer: Urban Atlantic and Hometeam5 (a private group of equity investors)
Location: 3001 Hospital Drive, Cheverly
Cost: \$550 million

Key projects highlighted include the redevelopment of the Northwest Stadium site in Landover and the Carillon Project in Largo. These projects, which represent significant investments and planning, are aimed at creating vibrant, mixed-use communities. The strategic planning behind these projects reassures the audience about the county's future. Also featured is the development at New Carrollton, demonstrating the county's success in utilizing key transit and commercial areas, such as the New Carrollton Metro area, to stimulate growth across housing, retail, healthcare, and office spaces.

The Brightseat Tech Park in Landover will add to the county's growth momentum. It will convert the former Landover Mall into a vast data center campus, emphasizing Prince George's pivot towards technology-driven development.

Also featured is the Cheverly Hill Project, led by Urban Atlantic and Hometeam5, transforming the former

University of Maryland Medical System hospital site. With a projected \$550 million investment, Cheverly Hill will offer 1,400 residential units, including townhomes, 70,000 square feet of office, and 40,000 square feet of retail across 45 acres. The project, overlooking Washington, D.C., stands as a beacon of thoughtful mixed-use development and environmental respect. Plans include preserving the highest building and converting the former helipad area into a restaurant, adding both functional and scenic value to the community.

“These projects not only reflect the ambition of Prince George's County's development landscape but also underscore the potential for sustainable economic and community-focused growth,” said David Ianucci, President of PGCEDC. “Through strategic public-private partnerships, Prince George's County remains a premier destination for businesses looking to invest in Maryland's future.”

The impact of these initiatives reaffirms Prince George's County's standing as a prime destination for transformative development in the greater Washington region.

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

Governor Moore Attends 2024 AFSCME Maryland Biennial Convention

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Oct. 26, 2024)—Governor Wes Moore today attended the 2024 AFSCME Maryland Biennial Convention in College Park. During the convention, the governor delivered remarks and met directly with members to learn more about how the State of Maryland can strengthen ties and support for organized labor in industries across the state.

“In this decade, we will be Maryland Strong because we will be Union Strong,” said Gov. Moore. “Gone are the days where the State House works in constant and aggressive opposition to labor leadership and state employees. This administration is making the active choice to move in partnership with AFSCME—and that is exactly what we will continue to do.”

The American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees—known as AFSCME—represents nearly 45,000 workers in Maryland, including workers in local and state government and workers in education, health care, law enforcement, and corrections. Through collective bargaining, the union negotiates contracts with the state to determine workers' salary, benefits, and health and safety working conditions.

In partnership with AFSCME, the Moore-Miller Administration has made significant progress in defining Maryland as the state that serves. This year, Maryland became the first state to implement a heat stress standard on the East Coast. The governor also signed legislation to extend collective



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

Governor Wes Moore attended the 2024 AFSCME Maryland Biennial Convention in College Park.

bargaining rights to more than 7,000 state supervisors and public library workers, advancing efforts to reduce vacancies in state government positions.

“Every two years, AFSCME local leaders representing 45,000 workers from every jurisdiction across Maryland convene to help shape our future,” said AFSCME Council 3 President Patrick Moran. “We're thrilled that this future includes a partnership with Governor Moore to protect public services, ensure safe and healthy working environments, and expand collective bargaining rights to grow Maryland's middle class.”

The Moore-Miller Administration has long shown commitment to and support for organized labor in Maryland. In addition to AFSCME, Maryland Professional Employees Council

(MPEC), American Federation of Teachers - Maryland (AFT) Teamsters, and the American Federation of Teachers Maryland School for the Deaf represent the state's four major civilian employee labor unions. In March, Governor Moore signed five three-year memoranda of understanding to start a new chapter in the State's commitment to moving in partnership with union leaders.

The event marked the first time in nearly a decade that the state and union partners memorialized and celebrated new contract terms. Milestone negotiations resulted in increased wages and enhanced pay equity; increased military and uniformed service leave; and additional rights and protections including improved employee privacy standards and enhanced workforce development.

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Have a Safe Weekend

EarthTalk® Q&A Is the EV Transition Net Positive for the Economy?

By Isabel Eddy | October 23, 2024

Dear EarthTalk:
Is transitioning to more electric vehicles (EVs) good or bad for the economy overall?
—Richard T., Boise, ID

According to the S&P Global Motility Forecast, EV sales have surged so substantially over the past two decades that about 50 percent of the vehicles on the road by 2040 are projected to be electric. Individuals who can afford the initial cost of an EV substantially reduce their carbon footprint while enjoying an average of \$2,200 annually in fuel and maintenance savings. On a national level, however, experts have debated whether or not the increased electric utility revenue, job creation, and decreased oil dependence associated with EVs outweigh the costs of charging station installation and electrical grid upgrades.

Only 50 percent of the electrical capacity of the U.S. grid is used, so as to accommodate large swings during peak demand. Ninety percent of current EV charging occurs at homes and places of business during off peak hours, thus, the amount used does not yet meet capacity. Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) and Southern California Edison (SCE) have found that EVs in

their service areas contributed \$806 million more in revenue than in associated costs, which drove rates down for all customers. If utility revenue remains higher than utility cost, EVs will lower the rate paid by all ratepayers. Conversely, if utilization approaches capacity, costly grid upgrades amounting to \$3 billion across the U.S. will be required.

The McKinsey Center for Future Mobility estimates that as the number of EVs increases, hardware, planning and installation costs of an expected 1.2 million public and 28 million private chargers will reach more than \$35 billion. Though costly, charger installations create jobs, possibly lowering unemployment. Furthermore, a study by MIT found that charging stations boosted annual spending at nearby businesses.

The largest economic benefit of transitioning to EVs is a decrease in oil reliance. The U.S. relies upon oil for 85 percent of transportation needs, and depends upon foreign providers to meet this demand. Oil price fluctuation is implicated in the majority of recent recessions, including in 2022, and is directly linked to consumer sentiment. Increased reliance on a domestic and diversified electrical grid

will separate the U.S. from more economically volatile nations, positively impacting the U.S. economy.

Installing public chargers and upgrading the electrical grid will undoubtedly pose a large cost to the U.S. Still, job creation, utility company revenue and less oil dependence are projected to make it all worth it. In the long run, transitioning to EVs is projected to positively impact the economy. However, these estimates are based on a model whereby the utility cost of EVs is less than the increased revenue to electric providers. Time will tell whether this model holds true.

CONTACTS:

USC Economics Review, useconreview.com/2022/11/14/the-economic-consequences-of-electric-vehicles/; Science Daily, sciencedaily.com/releases/2024/09/240904141512.htm.

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