

# The Prince George's Post



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## Bowie High School NJROTC Receives Distinguished Visitor

By PRESS OFFICER  
Bowie High School NJROTC Battalion

On Thursday, November 7, 2024, the Bowie High School NJROTC Battalion received a distinguished visitor, Dr. Stacey A. Dixon, Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence (PDDNI). Dr. Dixon was sworn in on August 4, 2021. She took time out of her busy schedule to visit Bowie High School NJROTC and Homeland Security students. Dr. Dixon is the sixth Senate-confirmed PDDNI and the first African American female PDDNI. The event was opened with the presentation of colors by the Bowie High School NJROTC Color Guard Commanded by Cadet/Petty Officer Third Class Madison Wilson, along with the singing of the National Anthem by Cadet/Seaman Kira Mack. Dr. Dixon shared lessons from her experiences while working with the Intelligence Community. Cadets had the opportunity to learn from Dr. Dixon's experience and have fire-side questions and answers. This was truly a historical opportunity for the cadets and the school.



PHOTO COURTESY BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL NJROTC  
From left to right, Cadet/CMC Artist-Brook, Cadet/CDR Ogunbanwo, Cadet/LCDR Kelly, Dr. Stacy A. Dixon, Captain Anderson, USN (Ret.), and GySgt Hinton, USMC (Ret.)

## Prince George's County Council Enacts Senior Property Tax Credit Bill

By PRESS OFFICER  
Prince George's County Council Media

On Tuesday, November 12, the Prince George's County Council enacted a bill that will provide property tax breaks to some senior homeowners in the county. CB-007-2024, proposed by District 8 Council Member Edward Burroughs III, revises the county's existing Senior Property Tax Credit so that any resident over the age of 65 who has been living in the same home, valued at \$500,000 or less, for at least 25 years is eligible for a 20% property tax credit. Eligible homeowners would receive the tax credit for up to five years beginning in 2025.

Council Member Burroughs says the goal of his legislation is to ease the financial burden

on older residents who may be struggling to afford to stay in the county and allow them to age in place with dignity.

"A few months ago, I heard about a 99-year-old former teacher in my district who could no longer afford her property taxes. She and her family were worried about whether she could keep her home," Council Member Burroughs said. "It's our responsibility to support senior citizens who have worked so hard to build this county, and I know this bill will provide some much-needed relief."

Any seniors who were previously eligible for a tax credit un-

See CREDIT Page A2

## Town of Forest Heights Receives First Prestigious Sustainable Maryland Certified Award at Maryland Municipal League Conference

By PRESS OFFICER  
Sustainable Maryland  
University of Maryland - College Park

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (Nov. 11, 2024)—The Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland announced that the Town of Forest Heights was one of 17 Maryland municipalities honored at the Sustainable Maryland Awards Ceremony at the Maryland Municipal League's annual Fall Conference last Thursday (Nov. 7). This was the Town's first certification, and it was certified at the Bronze level.



"The Town of Forest Heights is honored to be recognized as a Sustainable Maryland municipality," said Mayor Troy Barrington Lilly. "We are deeply committed to preserving our natural environment, evidenced by the green roof at our town hall, electric vehicle charging stations around town, and our thriving community garden. This certification is part of a long-term effort to build a more resilient Forest Heights."

"The 17 towns achieving certification this year represent the leading edge of Maryland's sustainability initiatives at the local level," said Mike

Hunninghake, Director of the Sustainable Maryland program. "Their efforts, and those of many towns and cities across the state, collectively move the needle in the right direction as we grapple with making communities climate-resilient, healthy and economically viable places to live for current and future generations. Sustainable Maryland is proud to support their vital work, which serves as a beacon of inspiration for other communities."

For detailed information about Forest Heights's sustainability initiatives, please contact Jamilah McDonald, Council President, [jmcdonald@forestheightsmd.gov](mailto:jmcdonald@forestheightsmd.gov), 301-839-1030

### Town of Fairmount Heights Receives Prestigious Sustainable Maryland Certified Award at Maryland Municipal League Conference

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (Nov. 11, 2024)—The Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland announced that the Town of Fairmount Heights was one of 17 Maryland municipalities honored at the Sustainable Maryland Awards Ceremony at the Maryland Municipal League's annual Fall Conference last Thursday. The Town was certified at the Bronze level.

"I am honored to accept the Sustainable Maryland Certified award," said Fairmount Heights Mayor Akiaba Stewart. "This award is a testament



PHOTO COURTESY SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND  
Representatives from the 17 municipalities with their Sustainable Maryland Certified award at the Maryland Municipal League conference.

to our commitment to building a resilient and sustainable community. Through initiatives like our microgrid project, net-zero homes, and ambitious tree-planting efforts, we are setting a high standard for environmental stewardship. We are proud to lead in implementing green infrastructure and creating opportunities that promote sustainability and enhance the quality of life for our residents. This recognition would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our Green Team, and partners who share our vision for a greener, healthier

future. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to making Fairmount Heights a model of sustainable progress."

For detailed information about Fairmount Heights's sustainability initiatives, please contact Doris Sarumi, Town Manager, [townmanager@fairmountheightsmd.gov](mailto:townmanager@fairmountheightsmd.gov), 301-925-8585

See SUSTAINABLE Page A2

## Maryland Humanities Provides Free Educational Resources on Maryland's Indigenous History

By SARAH WEISSMAN  
Maryland Humanities

BALTIMORE (Nov. 12, 2024)—Maryland Humanities is thrilled to provide a new collection of tools for K-12 students to learn about Maryland's Indigenous history and culture, Indigenous Maryland Inquiry Kits.

Inquiry kits are virtual resources for the classroom that can also serve as a springboard for Maryland History Day projects. The kits allow students to select a research topic, evaluate primary sources, and analyze themes in history. Maryland Humanities, in partnership with the Library of Congress' Teaching with Primary Sources program, has created more than two hundred inquiry kits on a variety of topics.

Each of the new Indigenous Maryland Inquiry Kits offers six sources—drawn from the Maryland State Archives, the Enoch Pratt Free Library, the Library of Congress, universities, and other institutions—to explore a theme. Elementary school inquiry kit topics include craftwork, the fur trade, and living off of nature. For older students, topics range from language to interactions with settlers and enslaved people to tribal recognition. A teacher module is available here: <https://thinkport.org/tps/pdmodules/indigenousMD/>.

The Maryland Humanities team worked directly with local tribal consultants from the Pocomoke Indian Nation and Nause-Waiwash Band of Indians on the Indigenous Maryland

Inquiry Kits.

"We don't know a lot of things about what happened because what we know is from the eyes and the pen of the people conquering," says consultant Cheryl Doughty (Pocomoke Indian Nation). "We have to be careful how we interpret those sketches, paintings, maps, treaties, even. We have to be careful that we look at those pieces of information from a critical point of view."

Chief Donna Abbott—project consultant and the first female chief of the Nause-Waiwash Band of Indians—

...what we know is from the eyes and the pen of the people conquering... We have to be careful that we look at those pieces of information from a critical point of view."

Cheryl Doughty  
(Pocomoke Indian Nation)

"There are so many people that still associate Native American tribes and Indigenous people in a historic way, in an historic view," Abbott continues. "We don't live in longhouses. We have indoor plumbing. We have all those things. We've been to school. So learn both parts of it, the past, present, and what's going to happen in the future."

To explore the Indigenous Maryland Inquiry Kits, visit

<https://thinkport.org/tps/indigenouskits/index.html>. For more information on the Indigenous Maryland Inquiry Kits and how your students and teachers can benefit from them, you can reach out to Lia Atanat Özi-mirli, Maryland History Day Outreach & Professional Development Coordinator, at [latanat@mdhumanities.org](mailto:latanat@mdhumanities.org).

The Indigenous Maryland Inquiry Kits were supported by the Library of Congress, Maryland Public Television, the Maryland State Archives, and the aforementioned consultants from the Pocomoke Indian Nation and Nause-Waiwash Band of Indians.

Maryland Humanities creates and supports bold experiences that explore and elevate our shared stories to connect people, enhance lives, and enrich communities. For more information, visit [www.mhumanities.org](http://www.mhumanities.org).

### INSIDE

In & Around Morningside-Skyline

Brandywine-Aquasco

Towns and Neighbors, Page A2

Hyattsville Joins Seven Prince George's County Municipalities in Calling for a Ceasefire in Gaza

Prince George's County is now tied for the county with the most local ceasefire resolutions across the U.S. ...

Community, Page A3

ChildWatch:

Honoring General Tubman

"...And with each act of courage, Harriet Tubman helped bring us together as a nation and a people. ..."

Commentary, Page A4

David Iannucci Concludes Historic Chapter in Prince George's County Economic Development

Under Iannucci's visionary leadership, Prince George's County has experienced unprecedented economic growth and transformation ...

Business and Finance, Page A5

# TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

## In & Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

### Morningside honors its Seniors with turkey and Bingo

Morningside is celebrating Thanksgiving by hosting its Seniors with a Thanksgiving Luncheon and Bingo! on Nov. 21. It's a little late for this announcement, but if you are a Senior, living in the Town, and are interested in attending, call 301-736-2300.

The Morningside Police Department, and Chief Daniel Franklin, have arranged for Texas Ribs, in Clinton, to put together Thanksgiving meals-to-go which will be delivered to Morningsiders who, because of health or age, are unable to participate.

As for other ways Morningside celebrates the holidays:

Breakfast with Santa will be Dec. 14, 9 a.m., at the Morningside Fire House. More about this traditional breakfast, in next week's column.

And what I think is lovely—a return to something we did in Morningside years ago: we'll go caroling. On Dec. 15, carolers will gather at the Town Hall, then ride through the Town singing carols. After lifting everyone's spirits, they'll end back at the Town Hall.

It would be nice if we had just a little snow.

Thank you to Julie who emailed a tribute to Morningside: "So many fun and interesting things to do in your area. A nice place to live." Love, Julie Koch-Michael

### Remembering Jerry

Gerald Glaubitz, Morningside's "Maryland's Mayor for Life," would have turned 104 this November 23, but he died 19 years ago, on April 26, 2005. However, he had such a significant effect on the Town, that I'm going to spend column time remembering him over the next few weeks.

In 1986, Cynthia R. Benjamins, Prince George's Journal (remember?) columnist wrote a beautiful tribute to him. I'm going to quote it extensively over the upcoming weeks.

Jerry (as I remember him) and his wife Jean moved their two children to a house on Maple Road in Morningside in 1947. Morningside was an unincorporated community in a rural setting. It was a planned bedroom community whose orderly streets were lined with 525 look-alike bungalows. There was no commercial area, no vacant land for future development.

That first year in Morningside, Jerry became a volunteer fire-fighter, a job he kept even when he became mayor. His job was unsalaried, but he got \$50 for expenses. "Making sure the bills are paid on time, keeping the people happy and making sure everything got done, kept him going, he said. (to be continued)

### Another election coming up

Really! This time it's to choose a County Executive to replace Angela Alsobrooks when she heads to Capitol Hill next year. She has not yet announced when she will leave her current job.

Three major candidates—all of them Democrats—have confirmed they plan to seek the job. They are Prince George's County State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy; County Council member Jolene Ivey (District 5), who is the current chair; and at-large council member Calvin Hawkins, a previous chairman. Another possible candidate is former County Exec Rushern Baker. Whoever runs and wins will probably leave behind another office. Which will require yet another election.

### Dog adoptions stopped due to illness

Effective immediately, the County Animals Services Facility and Adoption Center (ASFAC) is stopping dog adoptions and viewings until further notice.

It's due to an undetermined illness at the facility. Shelter staff are initiating protocols to identify the illness, prevent the spread of the disease, and treat dogs who are ill. The disease is not spreading from dogs to other animals in the facility, but testing is ongoing. For more information, visit [www.princegeorgespets4us.com](http://www.princegeorgespets4us.com). *Editor's Note: Effective November 15, dog adoptions have resumed.*

### Places to go and things to do

If you've managed to register for winter activities at the Camp Springs Senior Activity Center, you may now sign up for the Shopping Trip to King of Prussia Mall on December 7. It is the largest shopping mall in Pennsylvania and the third largest in the U.S. and has a diverse mix of more than 400 stores, dining options and attractions.

Enjoy coloring? Head to the Upper Marlboro Branch Library for Craft and Create: Adult coloring, Nov. 26, 5 p.m.

National Harbor—with its two million

lights, holiday movies and fireworks, now offers its new event, National Harbor Christmas Market and Holiday Craft Show Series which will run Saturday and Sundays, from November 30 through December 22. Hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on American Way. For more information, go to [www.NationalHarbor.com/hohoho](http://www.NationalHarbor.com/hohoho).

### Christine Murphy, beloved teacher at La Reine

Christine Sampson Murphy, 76, died October 22, with her husband John by her side, at their home in Cape Coral, Fla. Her funeral Mass will be Nov. 16, 10:30 a.m., in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart at Georgetown Visitation in Washington, D.C.

She was born in Phillipsburg, N.J., daughter of Richard and Geraldine Sampson. She earned her BA and MA from The College of New Jersey in Trenton, became an English teacher, serving first at the former La Reine High School, once located next door to Suitland High. She later taught at Immaculata Preparatory School in Washington and spent the final 22 years of her teaching life at Georgetown Visitation. She loved to cook for family and friends, was an avid reader, and enjoyed water aerobics. She is survived by her husband John; son, Michael P. Murphy (Dana); sister, Jeannine Ensign and in-laws.

From her official obituary: "Mrs. Murphy's commitment to excellence in education and her ability to create authentic relationships with everyone she encountered will be her legacy. During her time at Visitation, she read and proofread over 3,200 college essays.... She was twice voted Teacher of the Year and was a beloved moderator of the senior class."

### Milestones

Happy Birthday to Ben Gryskewicz and Mike Waby, Nov. 24; Ray Call, Avanna Williams and Andrew Gryskewicz, Nov. 25; Julie Koch-Michael and Darryl Moss, Nov. 26;

Arthur Rose, Nov. 27; Thomas Shipman, Sr., Nov. 28; and Devin Kane Blade, Nov. 29.

Happy anniversary to Gary and Ivy Kline, on Nov. 28.

*Have a happy time with your family on Thanksgiving!*

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

### GOSPEL CHOIR WINTER CONCERT

The Bowie State University Gospel Choir will present a free Winter Concert titled "A Gospel Christmas Continues" on Saturday, December 7, 2024, 5–8 p.m. The concert will include the gospel sounds of the world-renowned Bowie State University Gospel Choir, special guest Urban Nation Choir under the direction of Rickey Payton of Washington, DC, and other musical guests.

Location is Fine & Performing Arts Center, Dionne Warwick Theater, 14000 Jericho Park Road, Bowie, Maryland, 20715. Contact person is LaTonya Wrenn email: [Lwrenn@bowiestate.edu](mailto:Lwrenn@bowiestate.edu), telephone number is 202-704-4920.

### OFFICE OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Beatrice O. Pitts-Payne, born on April 16, 1909, was a distinguished alumna of Bowie State University, where she earned her teaching certificate in 1926. She was once known as Bowie State's Oldest Living Alumna, passing away at the age of 106 on August 5, 2015.

Recently, a family member generously donated a significant collection of Beatrice's memorabilia to the University Archives. This collection features Bowie State Memorabilia, correspondence, plaques, BSU Alumni Association materials, photographs, her college degree, and many other artifacts.

In Spring 2025, the Thurgood Marshall Library's Special Collections & Archives Department will honor Beatrice Pitts-Payne's Legacy by exhibiting the "B. Payne Collection" and welcoming her family to campus for a commemorative event. Once a Bulldog Always a Bulldog!

### DADDY-DAUGHTER TURKEY BASKETBALL SHOOT

Calling all "Girl Dads!" Team up with your daughter to win a turkey. Each dad and daughter will attempt ten free throws. The pair with the most baskets wins a turkey! Daughters' ages will be used to sort teams into levels for competition.

This event is presented by M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County November 23, 2024, at Seat Pleasant Activity Center, 5720 Addison Road, Fort Washington, Maryland 20743 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Ticket Price: Residents: \$8, Non-Residents: \$10 (per team) Ages 5–12

### ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH CASINO TRIP

It is time for our Casino Trip & Fun to Hollywood Casino in Perryville, Maryland on Sunday, December 22, 2024. Bus leaves St. Philip's Church, 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland, 20613 at 11 a.m. and Clinton Ride, 9030 Stuart Lane, Clinton, Maryland, 20735 at 11:30 a.m., returns at approximately 7 p.m. Fun package includes transportation, rebate of \$10.00

and other incentives with light refreshments, music, and Oldies but Goodies, 50-50 Raffle. The first 10 full paid tickets will receive \$5.00 for 50/50 Raffle play. Cost \$50.00. Absolutely no refunds or partial payments. Please purchase casino ticket early so you will not be left out. What happens on the bus stays on the bus. Benefit St. Philip's Church Baden. Points of Contacts: Shirley A. Cleaves (302-690-4260), Doretha A. Savoy (301-233-3136), Vivian Rich (804-301-9530).

### CHRISTMAS BRUNCH AND SERVICE

Let Us Celebrate Christmas Together, It is a Community Event "Jesus is the Reason for the Season" on Saturday, December 21, 2024 "Pre-Christmas Event". The event will be held at St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Baden, 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland with Rev. Tyrone Johnson.

We will be having Holy Eucharist Service at 10 a.m. with you, me, the children and all. Followed by brunch with Christmas music, movies, family pictures, games, fun and cheer. RSVP with numbers for eating, for food accountability to 301-888-1536. COME ON OUT AND HAVE FUN WITH US.

### SOUL TRAIN '70s CHRISTMAS PARTY

Welcome aboard the 2nd Annual Soul Train party. Get ready to groove and jive at the most happening holiday event in town. Dust off your bell-bottoms and platform shoes for a night of soul and disco. Let us boogie down to the best hits of the '70s and spread some Christmas cheer. Join us for a night filled with dancing, music, and festive vibes. Dress to impress in your retro best and hit the dance floor like it is Studio 54.

Do not miss out on this groovy celebration Saturday, December 14, 2024, from 7–11 p.m. at old Waldorf School, 3074 Robert S. Crain Highway, Waldorf, Maryland 20601. Eventbrite+ticketfly. Refund Policy: No Refunds. General admission \$60.54. Agenda: Hottest old school new school music.

### ICE IS BACK AT GAYLORD NATIONAL

ICE is back at Gaylord National until December 31, 2024. Step into a wonderland carved by artisans out of two million pounds of ice. Experience the story of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer larger-than-life sculptures, zoom down thrilling frozen slides, and traverse awesome inspiring tunnels. Escape to Gaylord National to enjoy the splendor of the holiday season. Presented by PEPSI. Address is 201 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, MD 20745. Phone: 1-301-965-4000.

*"HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO EVERYONE"*

## Credit from A1

der the prior 10-year requirement will remain eligible for the remaining years of their existing tax credit.

A prior bill passed by Council in 2022 didn't allow many seniors to take advantage of the Senior Property Tax Credit if they also benefited from the Homestead or Maryland Homeowner's property tax credits. This new bill ensures that the Senior Property Tax Credit is separate and distinct from other property tax credits.

## Sustainable from A1

### Town of Cottage City Receives Prestigious Sustainable Maryland Certified Award at Maryland Municipal League Conference

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (Nov. 11, 2024)—The Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland announced that the Town of Cottage City was one of 17 Maryland municipalities honored at the Sustainable Maryland Awards Ceremony at the Maryland Municipal League's annual Fall Conference on Thursday. The Town was certified at the Bronze level.

"The Town of Cottage City is proud and honored to be re-certified in the Sustainable Maryland program," said Commission Chair Wanda Wheatley. "The Cottage City Green Team takes pride in putting together green initiatives that address needs within our community. The Town looks forward to developing more green initiatives in the future."

For detailed information about Cottage City's sustainability initiatives, please contact John Hoatson, Town Manager, [townmanager@cottagecitymd.gov](mailto:townmanager@cottagecitymd.gov), 301-779-2161

### The complete list of 2024 newly certified (denoted by \*) and re-certified communities includes:

Berlin (first certified in 2012, re-certified in 2015, 2021, and 2024)

Bladensburg (first certified in 2013, re-certified in 2016, 2019 and 2024)

Brunswick (first certified in 2015, re-certified in 2021 and 2024)

Cheverly (first certified in 2013, re-certified in 2017, 2021 and 2024)

Cottage City (first certified in 2018, recertified in 2021 and 2024)

Emmitsburg (first certified in 2015, re-certified in 2018, 2021 and 2024)

\*Fairmount Heights (NEW)

\*Forest Heights (NEW)

Glen Echo (first certified in 2021, re-certified in 2024)

Laurel (first certified in 2015, re-certified in 2018, 2021 and 2024)

La Plata (first certified in 2021, re-certified in 2021)

Mount Rainier (first certified in 2012, re-certified in 2015, 2018, 2012 and 2024)

North Beach (first certified in 2017, re-certified in 2021 and 2024)

Poolesville (first certified in 2015, re-certified in 2018, 2021 and 2024)

Rockville (first certified in 2012, re-certified in 2015, 2018, 2021 and 2024)

\*Somerset (NEW)

Takoma Park (first certified in 2014, re-certified in 2017, 2020 and 2024)

**Our 2024 Sustainability Champion:** This year's Sustainability Champion is the City of Takoma Park which amassed an impressive 730 points on their application, more than any other community in 2024.

A full report on each certified community's Actions can be viewed here: <http://sustainablemaryland.com/actions-certification/participating-communities/>

### Sustainable Maryland Certified Municipalities as of 2024 (13th year of the program):

- Total Municipalities Sustainable Maryland Certified: 52 (33% of Maryland's municipalities)
- Total Municipalities Sustainable Maryland Registered: 92 (59% of Maryland's municipalities)

**Sustainable Maryland Certification:** To achieve certification, municipalities are required to form a Green Team comprised of local residents, community leaders, municipal staff and officials; complete a variety sustainability-related Actions worth a total of at least 150 points for Bronze level certification, or 400 points for Silver level certification, and submit the appropriate documentation as evidence that the Sustainable Maryland Certified requirements have been satisfied. The Sustainable Maryland Action Menu can be seen here: <https://sustainablemaryland.com/certification/actions>

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# COMMUNITY

## Calendar of Events

### Thanksgiving Bingo

Date and time: Tuesday, November 26, 4:30–5:30 p.m.  
Description: How well do you know American history? Test your knowledge of the history, significance, and impact of Thanksgiving and win prizes! Register at <https://pgcmls.info/event/12008150>  
Ages: Teen (13–18 yrs), Adults  
Location: Spauldings Branch Library, 5811 Old Silver Hill Rd, District Heights, MD 20747  
Contact: 240-455-5451, <https://pgcmls.info/event/12008150>

### Festival of Lights

Date and time: Friday, November 29, 2024, 5–9 p.m.—Wednesday, January 1, 2025  
Description: From the comfort of your own car, bring the family to experience dazzling scenes that celebrate the magic of the holiday season at the annual Festival of Lights! [pgparks.com/event\\_list/festival-of-lights](http://pgparks.com/event_list/festival-of-lights).  
Location: Watkins Regional Park, 1130 Largo Rd, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

### Town of Upper Marlboro Tree Lighting

Date and time: Saturday, December 7, 2024, 1–5 p.m.  
Description: In honor of the holiday season, the Town of Upper Marlboro brings together community members through our annual Downtown Tree Lighting Ceremony and Christmas Towne event! With the help of community volunteers and our Public Works crew, Main Street is covered in beautiful lights and festive decorations to raise the holiday spirit. From there, the event kicks off on the Main Street mall where we line the strip with an array of festive activities: games, vendors, hot chocolate, caroling, and interactions with Santa Claus himself! We then conclude the evening by formally lighting our Christmas tree together as a community. If you are looking for a festive time of celebration this winter, look no further than the Tree Lighting Ceremony!  
Location: Town of Upper Marlboro, MD, Main Street mall  
Contact: [Events@UpperMarlboroMD.gov](mailto:Events@UpperMarlboroMD.gov)

### Holiday Parade and Armory Illumination

Date and time: Saturday, December 7, 2024, 3:45–6 p.m.  
Description: Kick off the holiday season with our annual Armory Illumination! Join the Mayor and City Council for this annual tradition. The Holiday Parade kicks off at 3:45 pm from City Hall. The Illumination will take place at approximately 5:15 p.m. directly in front of the Laurel Armory, 422 Montgomery Street, Laurel MD 20707.  
Location: Laurel Armory - Anderson & Murphy Community Center, 422 Montgomery Street, Laurel, MD 20707  
Contact: [www.cityoflaurel.org](http://www.cityoflaurel.org)

### Let the Season Begin at Belair Mansion

Date and time: Sunday, December 8, 2024, 12–4 p.m.  
Description: See the Belair Mansion decked out in all its finery and revel in the live holiday music from local favorite...Bedlam. No better way to begin your holiday season. No reservations are needed. Free  
Location: Belair Mansion, 12207 Tulip Grove Road, Bowie, MD 20715  
Contact: 301-809-3089

### Motown and More at the Holidays

Date and time: Thursday, December 12, 2024, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.  
Description: Back by popular demand! Celebrate the Holidays with the soulful sounds of Motown. The soul-stirring melodies of iconic artists like the Temptations, Stevie Wonder, Nat King Cole, the Jackson 5, James Brown, and Chuck Brown are guaranteed to get you swaying in your seat and singing along with the Brencore Allstars. Gather your group and get your tickets early—this show is sure to sell out!  
Cost: \$15 [https://www.pgparks.com/event\\_list/motown-and-more-at-the-holidays](https://www.pgparks.com/event_list/motown-and-more-at-the-holidays)  
Ages: 60 & Better  
Location: Prince George's Publick Playhouse, 5445 Landover Road, Hyattsville, MD 20784

### 'Tis The Season: A Jazzy Holiday Concert

Date and time: Saturday, December 14, 2024, 2–4 p.m.  
Description: FAME is presenting its annual intergenerational community holiday concert. Join us and get the holiday season started with multiple spirited sounds of music and an unforgettable experience. Visit [FAMEmusic.org](http://FAMEmusic.org) for Details.  
Cost: \$20.00  
Location: Performing Arts Center, Dr. Henry Wise Jr. High School, 12650 Brooke Lane, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774  
Contact: 240-929-6598, [info@famemusic.org](mailto:info@famemusic.org)

### Candle Making Workshop

Date and time: Saturday, December 21, 2024, 1–3 p.m.  
Description: Are you ready to ignite your creativity? Look no further! Harmony Hall Arts Center invites you to our delightful Candle Making Workshop. Participants will get hands-on experience where you'll make your very own Coffee or Hot Cocoa scented candles. We will provide a candle kit with all the essentials, and our talented CRAF Team artists will guide you through each step. From melting the wax to adding the fragrant notes, you'll be a candle-making pro in no time!  
Cost: \$20 [www.pgparks.com/event\\_list/candle-making-workshop](http://www.pgparks.com/event_list/candle-making-workshop)  
Ages: All ages  
Location: Harmony Hall Arts Center, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, MD

### Sylver Logan Sharp: Home for the Holidays

Date and time: Saturday, December 21, 2024, 8–9:30 p.m.  
Description: Celebrate the holiday season in spectacular style by attending an unforgettable performance from the sensational Sylver Logan Sharp, the former lead singer of the legendary group CHIC. As the holiday season draws near, there's no better way to get into the festive spirit than by experiencing a live concert that promises to blend the soulful vibes of classic holiday tunes with the unique flair that only Sharp can deliver. Her dynamic voice and vibrant stage presence are sure to add a special twist to all your holiday favorites, making this event a must-see for music lovers. Having toured extensively across the U.S., Europe, Japan, and the UK, Sharp's performances are a testament to her prowess as a world-class artist.  
Cost: \$25; \$20 Senior/Student  
Location: Prince George's Publick Playhouse, 5445 Landover Road, Hyattsville, MD 20784

## Hyattsville Joins Seven Prince George's County Municipalities in Calling for a Ceasefire in Gaza

*A newly launched grassroots organization—Prince George's 4 Palestine—aims to build political support across the County for a ceasefire in Gaza, an end to U.S. military aid for Israel, and long-term Palestinian liberation*

By PRESS OFFICER  
**Prince George's 4 Palestine**

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. (Nov. 13, 2024)—Last week, the City of Hyattsville passed a resolution calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza. Prince George's County is now tied for the county with the most local ceasefire resolutions across the U.S. with resolutions adopted in Brentwood, Cheverly, College Park, Colmar Manor, Hyattsville, Mount Rainier, New Carrollton, and Riverdale Park.

The municipal resolutions have been supported by a grassroots group of County residents who have been organizing in support of Palestine since October 7. Members of the newly named Prince George's 4 Palestine have organized rallies at Mount Rainier Circle and the Cheverly home of Representative Glenn Ivey (MD-4), held a petition delivery and sit-in at Representative Ivey's office where six constituents were arrested, canvassed door to door, and collaborated on a letter from 25+ elected officials to County Council urging support for a ceasefire resolution.

"I am proud to have introduced Cheverly's ceasefire resolution in March 2024, making us the first municipality in Prince George's County to pass such a measure," said Nicole Bryner, a Councilmember for the Town of Cheverly. "It has been inspiring to see more communities throughout the County follow suit. My hope is that our collective voices send a clear message to our elected leaders to end support and funding for this devastating atrocity."

"I'm grateful to my colleagues in Maryland District 4 for paving the way and continuing the call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza," said Lauren Rauk, Councilmember for the Town of Brentwood. "Our community stands firmly in support of peace, justice, and human dignity. By passing Resolution 2024-03, the Brentwood Town Council affirmed our commitment to human rights and support for Congressional and worldwide calls for an immediate and sustained ceasefire

in Gaza."

"In Colmar Manor, we are a diverse and compassionate community that believes in standing up for peace and human rights. It was vital for us to add our voice to the collective call for an end to the violence in Gaza through a ceasefire resolution which many of our neighboring communities have passed," said Colmar Manor Mayor Monica Casanas. "Our town's solidarity with global struggles reflects our commitment to justice and the well-being of all people, no matter where they are."

"I am proud that I was able to help lead the efforts to pass ceasefire resolutions in my town and other nearby municipalities," said Phia Emeritz, a Councilmember for the Town of Colmar Manor. "We continue to witness heinous, inexcusable violence, enabled by our federal government, that violates U.S. law, international law, and the tenets of human rights and dignity. It is only through a united effort that we will see any justice, and I applaud anyone with the courage and moral clarity to speak against this genocide."

"The members of our community were clear: Hyattsville needed to speak up on the violence in Gaza and call for a ceasefire," said Jimmy McClellan, a Councilmember for the City of Hyattsville. "Resolutions like this give our City the opportunity to weigh in on important issues that affect our residents. I am proud of the Council's public discussion and decision on the matter."

"I'm proud that College Park is standing on the right side of history in supporting the call for a ceasefire in Gaza," said College Park Mayor Fazlul Kabir. "As local leaders, we have a responsibility to speak up against injustice, regardless of where it occurs. By passing this resolution, we are sending a strong message that the people of College Park value human rights and will not be silent in the face of atrocities. I urge our federal representatives to listen to their constituents and take action to stop the bloodshed in Gaza."

"As Chair of the New Carrollton City

Council, I thought it was necessary to use our platform to call out the genocide taking place in Gaza," said New Carrollton City Council Chair Briana Urbina, Esq. "Until our federal leaders, who are in the position to put a stop to the violence against innocent people, use their power in Congress, it is incumbent upon all of us to speak truth to power in every way that we can."

"The City of Mount Rainier is proud to join cities worldwide affirming our commitment for human rights, calling for a ceasefire in Gaza, and the return of all hostages on both sides," said Mount Rainier Mayor Celina Benitez. "For myself, as well as many of our residents who have survived a civil war, it was important to take a stand as others took for us and, by doing so, we can be here to tell our story. No child or person should have to endure living in terror."

"I was very proud to vote for the ceasefire resolution passed by the Riverdale Park Town Council in June," said Riverdale Park Councilman Richard Allen Smith. "Our town strives to be not only a place of welcome and inclusion, but also a place of active engagement with our world. Whether through our Sister City program, welcoming new neighbors from across the globe, or exercising our civic voice through resolutions like this one, I'm proud to call Riverdale Park home."

"We are proud of our municipal elected officials and the advocates across Prince George's County pushing for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza," said Chloë Waterman, a spokesperson for Prince George's 4 Palestine. "The overwhelming support for these resolutions reflects the deep commitment of our residents to justice, peace, and human dignity. We are calling on our elected representatives at all levels of government to follow suit and do all within their power to end Israel's genocide in Gaza, including by echoing the call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, ensuring our tax dollars are not supporting military aid for Israel, and putting an embargo on weapon sales."

## Governor Moore Commemorates Veterans Day on the Eastern Shore, Posthumously Commissions Harriet Tubman as Brigadier General in Maryland National Guard

By PRESS OFFICER  
**Office of the Governor**

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Nov. 11, 2024)—Governor Wes Moore today visited the Eastern Shore to commemorate Veterans Day and to participate in ceremonies honoring veterans for their service, including an historic posthumous commission of Harriet Tubman as Brigadier General of the Maryland National Guard. The governor's visit reinforces the Moore-Miller Administration's commitment to supporting veterans and military families and to strengthening community for those who have served our country.

"In the military, I learned the creed that all of us who have worn the uniform of this country live by: To leave no one behind. In combat, it doesn't matter where you're from; it doesn't matter how you identify; it doesn't matter what political party you represent. Success and survival depend on the person to your right and to your left—and there is only one path forward, together," said Gov. Moore. "In your service and your sacrifice, you show that progress doesn't just happen, progress is made to happen. Thank you for being the best of us. Maryland stands with you, today and every day."

This morning, Governor Moore joined American Legion Post 91 in Cambridge for their Veterans Day breakfast alongside Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families Secretary Anthony Woods; Maryland Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Andrew Collins; Congress-



PHOTO CREDIT MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

**Governor Wes Moore, House Speaker Adrienne A. Jones, Ernestine "Tina" Martin Wyatt and Maryland Adjutant General Janeen L. Birkhead after the commissioning proclamation ceremony.**

man Andy Harris; American Legion Department of Maryland Commander David Heredia; American Legion Post 91 Commander Richard Colburn and local officials. During the program, the governor presented three \$10,000 Maryland Veterans Trust Fund grants, which will help support projects that enhance social connectedness and strengthen ties to local communities for veterans and military families on the Eastern Shore.

"We owe our deepest gratitude to those who have served and their families," said Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families Secretary

Anthony Woods. "Utilizing the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund to invest in organizations like the American Legion affirms our appreciation and shared dedication to this community."

"Having Governor Moore and Secretary Woods join us at Post 91 on Veterans Day is a profound honor," said American Legion Department of Maryland Commander David Heredia. "The donations announced during today's ceremony represent an investment in programs that

# COMMENTARY

## Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita,  
Children's Defense Fund



### ChildWatch:

## Honoring General Tubman

On Veterans Day, November 11, the state of Maryland posthumously named Harriet Tubman a one-star brigadier general in Maryland's National Guard. Many people know about Harriet Tubman's legacy of liberation as she freed herself from slavery on Maryland's Eastern Shore and then returned to the South more than a dozen times, risking her own life and freedom each time, to lead groups of family members and friends to freedom too. Her fellow abolitionist John Brown first called her "General Tubman," a name he knew fit "one of the bravest persons on this continent." Now this new honor officially recognizes her service and leadership during the Civil War—another key piece of her extraordinary legacy.

She was recruited to serve as a spy and scout by Union officers who already knew her reputation and valued her familiarity with the South, fierce intelligence, and fearlessness. While stationed in South Carolina she was quickly able to build a network of local scouts and informants from nearby plantations using many of the same clandestine skills that made her such a successful conductor on the Underground Railroad. Of course she risked being captured and executed if discovered, but that was the same risk she was willing to take at every step throughout her life. Fear did not turn her around.

Her most legendary military accomplishment came in June 1863 when she became the first

woman in U.S. history to oversee a military action in a time of war by coordinating the successful Combahee River Raid with Colonel James Montgomery. They and their troops liberated more than 750 men, women, and children during that raid, destroying a Confederate depot and nine plantations as they went. She then immediately recruited dozens of those newly freed men to enlist as members of the Union 2nd South Carolina Colored Infantry. In addition to serving as a spy and military leader she also worked as a skilled nurse, and in 1865 was appointed nurse matron at Fort Monroe's Colored Hospital in Hampton, Virginia. Despite all of her wartime contributions, her original petitions to the U.S. government to receive a military pension for her service were denied. But this new formal honor is a powerful reminder that despite deep disappointment, despite long delays, history will always keep moving forward.

This reminder, and the official ceremony held at the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park and Visitor Center in Dorchester County, Maryland, came at a deeply symbolic moment. Just days earlier, Angela Alsobrooks was elected as Maryland's first African American Senator. In the neighboring state of Delaware, U.S. Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester, who was already the first African American and first woman to rep-

resent Delaware in Congress, was also elected as Delaware's next Senator. As current Senator Laphonza Butler (D-CA) ends her own appointed term, Senators-elect Alsobrooks and Blunt Rochester will become the first two Black women ever to serve together in the U.S. Senate. Their victories also make them just the third and fourth Black women elected to the Senate in our nation's history, following Senator Carol Moseley Braun (D-IL) and Senator, now Vice President, Kamala Harris (D-CA).

History will keep moving forward. Maryland Governor Wes Moore, who is Maryland's first African American governor, said this at the ceremony: "Harriet Tubman lived the values and virtues that I was taught when I served in the United States Army, and many of the people here today learned too: Live mission first, people always. Lead with honor, integrity, duty, and courage. Leave no one behind. And with each act of courage, Harriet Tubman helped bring us together as a nation and a people. She fought for a kind of unity that can only be earned through danger, risk, and sacrifice. And it is a unity we still benefit from to this day." Harriet Tubman is an eternal inspiration and an example of the leadership our nation deserves.

—November 15, 2024

## Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



### To Be Equal:

## Election of President With 34 Felony Convictions Makes a Mockery of Felony Disenfranchisement

"Today it is perfectly legal to discriminate against criminals in nearly all the ways that it was once legal to discriminate against African Americans. Once you're labeled a felon, the old forms of discrimination—employment discrimination, housing discrimination, denial of the right to vote, denial of educational opportunity, denial of food stamps and other public benefits, and exclusion from jury service—are suddenly legal."

—Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*

One out of every eight Black people in Florida, where President-Elect Donald Trump is registered

to vote, is disenfranchised due to felony convictions.

Trump, who was convicted of 34 felony charges, is not.

Florida law allows those convicted of felonies to vote only after their full sentences have been served, including probation and parole, and all fines, fees, and court costs have been paid.

The vast majority of disenfranchised Floridians have served their sentences. Trump has not even been sentenced yet.

But under Florida law, Trump is subject to the far less restrictive laws of New York state, where he

was convicted. Only those currently incarcerated on felony charges are barred from voting in New York.

Felony disenfranchisement is a relic of Jim Crow white supremacy. Its enforcement after the election of a convicted felon to the nation's highest office is indefensible.

Confederate states were required to ratify the 14th Amendment to be readmitted to the Union after the Civil War. No longer legally able to deny the vote based on race, the states rushed to deny the vote to anyone convicted of a felony, while at the same time enacting "Black Codes"—laws "essentially intended to criminalize Black life," Douglas Blackmon wrote. While white people accused of crimes often escaped punishment, Black people were arrested and convicted "almost always under the thinnest chimera of probable cause or judicial process."

Almost 160 years later, Black Americans are three times as likely to be disenfranchised as non-Black Americans. Nationwide, about one in 22 Black citizens of voting age is disenfranchised. In five states—including Florida—more than one in 10 Black adults is disenfranchised.

The United States is alone among the world's largest nations in these harsh restrictions on voting. Of the 136 countries with populations of 1.5 million or more, most—73—never or rarely disenfranchise a citizen because of a conviction. Of the other 63, the U.S. is among the most restrictive and disenfranchises a wider swath of citizens.

Over the last eight years, the number of Americans disenfranchised for felony convictions has fallen dramatically due to new laws and policies. In Maine, Vermont, and the District of Columbia, even those who are incarcerated have the right to vote. In 38 states, voting rights are restored upon release from incarceration or upon completion of parole or probation.

But 10 states, including Florida, withhold indefinitely the right to vote from those convicted of felonies, or require additional measures like payment of fines and fees before voting rights are restored. In Virginia, home of the former capital of the Confederacy, the right to vote can be restored only by the arbitrary whim of Governor Glenn Youngkin.

Felony disenfranchisement not only is racially discriminatory and anti-democratic, it makes our communities less safe. Returning citizens whose voting rights were restored are less likely to be arrested than those who remained disenfranchised.

"Restoring voting rights gives citizens the sense that their voice can be heard in the political process and contributes to building an individual's positive identity as a community member," researchers for The Sentencing Project wrote.

The election of a President with 34 felony convictions makes a mockery of any defense of felony disenfranchisement. Lawmakers in every state must acknowledge the racist origins of these policies and relegate them to the garbage heap of history.

—November 15, 2024

## Climate Activists Urge Maryland Lawmakers to Brace for Trump

By MORGAN LEASON  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Nov. 14, 2024)—Maryland climate advocates are urging the state legislature to immediately allocate resources to climate and clean energy, amid concerns that federal funding will dwindle under President-elect Donald Trump.

A coalition of climate activists and other organizations is worried Trump will reduce federal dollars to Maryland and what that might mean for the

state's climate protection policies.

Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan calls for an investment of \$1 billion annually into clean energy projects. But this could be hard to meet without the money the state was expecting from a Democratic president.

So the advocates are pushing for passage of the Responding to Emergency Needs from Extreme Weather, or RENEW, Act. This plan would collect fees from the oil and gas industry to pay for the effects of climate change.

"In order to withstand climate impacts and to transition to clean energy fast enough, Maryland needs to increase its source of dedicated funding for climate," Jamie DeMarco, a prominent climate lobbyist representing the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, told Capital News Service. "The federal government will not be providing those funds under the Trump administration, and Marylanders shouldn't be left footing the bill."

A week after the election, climate activists now face the

challenge of navigating its implications. Trump has already indicated that he intends to scale back federal regulations and does not share the same priorities as these activists when it comes to environmental protection.

That means that when Trump takes office in January, these climate plans will be on a different footing. Trump is already moving quickly, naming several members of his cabinet, including the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Trump said in a statement this week that Lee Zeldin, the intended nominee for EPA administrator, "will ensure fair and swift deregulatory decisions that will be enacted in a way to unleash the power of

American businesses, while at the same time maintaining the highest environmental standards," according to the Washington Post and other news organizations.

Later on Fox News, Zeldin remarked that within the first 100 days of the Trump administration, Republicans will "roll back regulations" that are causing businesses to "struggle" and are "forcing" them to move overseas, according to the Post.

Across the country, activist groups are expecting a complete reversal in climate actions from the current administration, as reported by the Sierra Club.

The group says the green resistance movement is defiant and ready to fight back.

Greenpeace pointed out Zeldin's low national environmental score of 14%. The Environmental Defense Fund plans to watch Zeldin's confirmation process closely, emphasizing the need to keep up the momentum of the global clean energy race.

In Maryland, activists are focused on the same things.

"We need to make the polluters pay and use those funds to turbocharge clean energy and adaptation measures in Maryland," DeMarco said.

### Commission from A3

promote veteran wellness and strengthen community reintegration efforts. These initiatives align with our shared mission to ensure veterans and their families receive the resources and respect they deserve."

Following the ceremony in Cambridge, Governor Moore joined Maryland National Guard Maj. Gen. Janeen L. Birkhead, House Speaker Adrienne A. Jones, and Del. Edith Patterson for a commissioning and recognition ceremony at the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park and Visitor Center. Along with members of the Maryland National Guard, the governor and Maj. Gen. Birkhead posthumously commissioned Harriet Tubman to the rank of Brigadier General for her military service to both the United States and Maryland.

"Harriet Tubman lived the values and virtues that I was taught when I served in the United States Army, and many of the

people here today learned too: Live mission first, people always. Lead with honor, integrity, duty, and courage. Leave no one behind," said Gov. Moore. "And with each act of courage, Harriet Tubman helped bring us together as a nation and a people. She fought for a kind of unity that can only be earned through danger, risk, and sacrifice. And it is a unity we still benefit from to this day."

Ernestine "Tina" Martin Wyatt, the great-great-grandniece of Harriet Tubman, represented Tubman's family and received the commissioning proclamation on her behalf.

A number of Harriet Tubman's descendants took part in the commissioning ceremony, attended by military, community, and local leaders. The Maryland Army National Guard's 229th Army Band performed ceremonial music and the Maryland Air National Guard's 104th Fighter Squadron provided a flyover.

"Harriet Tubman's military service was

defined by her bravery, wit, and dedication to doing what is right and it truly stands as an example for all veterans to emulate," said Maryland Adjutant General Janeen L. Birkhead. "I am so proud that her legacy will officially be tied to the Maryland National Guard, as she was born here, lived here, and served here just like our soldiers and airmen."

Closing the day, Governor Moore joined Maj. Gen. Birkhead, Secretary Woods, and veterans for a behavioral health roundtable discussion at the Maryland Army National Guard's Easton Readiness Armory. The group reflected on their own military service and challenges experienced by some veterans following transition to civilian life. Together, they also discussed how to raise awareness about and how to strengthen behavioral health resources for veterans and military families.

## The Prince George's Post

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# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## A Legacy of Growth: David Iannucci Concludes Historic Chapter in Prince George's County Economic Development

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCEDC

LARGO, Md. (Nov. 13, 2024)—Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (PGCEDC) today announces the retirement of President and CEO David S. Iannucci, marking the conclusion of an extraordinary career spanning more than four decades in economic development and public service. Under Iannucci's visionary leadership, Prince George's County has experienced unprecedented economic growth and transformation, including a 10-year span leading all Maryland Counties in job growth and the historic successful bid to relocate the FBI headquarters to Greenbelt, Maryland.

"David Iannucci's impact on Prince George's County's economic landscape has been nothing short of remarkable," said Orlan Johnson, Chair of the PGCEDC Board of Directors. "His strategic vision and unwavering dedication have positioned our County as the premier business destination in the Maryland-DC region. David has been a leader in the economic development arena for the State of Maryland as well as in many major jurisdictions in the state, so we were fortunate to have him at the helm here in Prince George's County."

"Two of the things I most appreciate about David is the vast experience he has brought to the EDC and his incredible understanding of economic development," said Marva Jo Camp, Esq., Vice Chair of the EDC Board of Directors. "His deep knowledge of both policy and practice, combined with his strategic vision and ability to navigate complex economic landscapes has been instrumental in positioning Prince George's County as a premier business destination."

Working with focused leadership from the County Executive and Congressional Delegation, Iannucci's dedication culminated in one of the region's most significant economic development achievements: securing the new FBI headquarters in Greenbelt, Maryland. This landmark victory, years in the making, exemplifies Iannucci's patient, strategic approach to economic development and his ability to bring transformative projects to fruition.

Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks has worked closely with Iannucci throughout this journey. "It is an honor to acknowledge and congratulate Mr. Iannucci on his retirement. Over the course of his remarkable career, David has left an indelible mark on our community, serving as a steadfast leader and tireless advocate for eco-



PHOTO COURTESY PGCEDC

David S. Iannucci

economic development in our County. He has driven transformative projects that have reshaped our community, including playing a pivotal role in bringing the FBI's new headquarters to Prince George's County. His leadership, vision, and unwavering commitment have been instrumental in creating opportunities for our residents, fostering innovation, and laying the foundation for a brighter economic future. David's impact will

be felt for generations to come, and we are deeply grateful for his dedicated service. On behalf of the residents of Prince George's County, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to David for his outstanding contributions and wish him the very best in this next chapter of his life. His legacy will always be a part of our County's story."

During his tenure, Iannucci led the implementation of the \$50 million Economic Development Incentive Fund into a powerful engine for growth, leveraging over \$1.1 billion in private sector investments. But beyond the impressive numbers, his impact is best measured in the thousands of Prince George's County residents who now work in the businesses that grew and expanded because of County support.

As Assistant Deputy Chief Administrative Officer under former County Executive Rushern Baker III, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, and Executive Director of Baltimore County's Department of Economic Development, Iannucci built a reputation as someone who understood that successful economic development requires both vision and attention to detail. Iannucci also served as Chief Legislative Officer under former Governor William Donald Schaefer.

A graduate of the University of Maryland College Park and the University of Maryland School of Law, Iannucci has always maintained deep roots in the community he serves. As a longtime Prince George's County resident and member of the Maryland Economic Development Association Hall of Fame and Maryland Regional Manufacturing Star, his commitment to the region extends far beyond professional duty.

Iannucci has placed attention on addressing economic mobility, equity in federal spending in the DMV, and Maryland's economic competitiveness. As PGCEDC prepares for this transition, the organization remains committed to advancing its vision of inclusive economic prosperity.

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

### Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

## Older Veteran Asks About Special Social Security Credit for Military Service

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

**Dear Rusty:** I served in the U.S. Army from January 1958 to Feb 1961. What increase should I receive for those years and who do I call and at what phone number? **Signed: Proud Veteran**

**Dear Proud Veteran:** First, thank you for your military service! I expect you are referring to the "special extra credits for military service" which are available to some who served in the U.S. Military in earlier years. It is important to note that these "extra credits" take the form of an adjustment to your military pay record while serving and are not an incremental amount added to your monthly Social Security benefit because you served.

Military pay has been subject to deductions for Social Security since 1957. Thus, while serving between 1958 and 1961 you paid SS tax on your military earnings. But, for purposes of determining your Social Security benefit, your military earnings record would be increased by \$300 for each quarter you served on active duty, up to a maximum of \$1,200 increase per year of service. That means for 1958-1960, when calculating your SS benefit, \$1,200 would be added to your military earnings record for each year you served. FYI, for those who served after 1967, this adjustment was automatically made by Social Security. But for service years prior to 1967 (as in your case) you would need to inform Social Security of your service when you claimed SS and provide a copy of your military form DD-214 (your discharge papers). SS would then make the appropriate adjustment to your military earnings record prior to calculating your benefit amount. And, for clarity, additional credits for military service are not available to those who served after 2001.

A key point to understand is that this adjustment to your military pay may—or may not—affect the amount of your Social Security benefit. Social Security determines your benefit amount based on your highest earning 35 years over your entire lifetime (adjusted for inflation). If, after you served in the military, you had at least 35 years of civilian employment where you earned more than your military pay, it is probable that your military pay is not included when calculating your Social Security benefit. If that is the case, it is likely that the "special extra credits for military service" would have no effect on your Social Security payment. If, however, your military pay (including those special extra credits) for any year is more than you earned in civilian life, then you can contact Social Security (1.800.772.1213), provide them with a copy of your DD-214, and ask that they recalculate your Social Security benefit to include the extra credits for your years of military service.

Again, thank you for your service to our country, and please do not hesitate to contact us again if you have any further questions. FYI, you may also find the "For Veterans" section of our AMAC Foundation website interesting ([www.amacfoundation.org](http://www.amacfoundation.org))

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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).

## Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation Releases 2024 Achievement Report on Economic Development Strategic Action Plan

Report Highlights Transformative Impact on County's Growth and Workforce

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCEDC

LARGO, Md. (Nov. 12, 2024)—Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (PGCEDC) proudly announces the release of its highly anticipated 2024 Achievement Report on the Economic Development Strategic Action Plan. This report provides an in-depth assessment of the County's strides in job creation, innovation support, and community investment as part of the 2022 Strategic Action Plan. The updated plan, structured around three core priorities—Growth Opportunities, Human Capital, and Strong Places—reflects Prince George's County's commitment to sustainable and inclusive economic development.

The updated 2022 Strategic Action Plan, developed through a two-year collaborative effort with PGCEDC, Employ Prince George's, and Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) builds on the County's success in promoting economic and employment development.

"Our 2024 Achievement Report is a testament to the power of public-private partnerships and strategic vision," said David Iannucci, President & CEO of PGCEDC, emphasizing the importance of continued collaboration and funding to maintain this positive trajectory. "The progress outlined here reflects not only our collective commitment to economic resilience but also our unwavering dedication to inclusive growth. We look forward to working with our partners to build on this success, ensuring that Prince George's County remains a model for sustainable economic development."

Through strategic partnerships and targeted programs, Prince George's County has successfully bolstered its local economy, supported its residents, and created new pathways for business growth. The Achievement Report documents this progress with measurable data and success stories, reinforcing the County's role as a leader in regional

economic innovation.

**Innovation Collaborative of Prince George's County:** PGCEDC has developed an entrepreneurial ecosystem involving key institutions such as TEDCO, the University of Maryland, and Bowie State University. This has resulted in over 200 new business partnerships and mentoring for over 50 BIPOC and women-owned startups.

**Innovation Station Business Incubator (ISBI):** Serving as a one-stop resource center, ISBI has provided critical support, including mentorship and pre-accelerator programs, to over 80 businesses. Sixty percent of participants come from underserved communities. ISBI's focus on BIPOC and women entrepreneurs has expanded opportunities for scalable business growth.

**Federal Presence:** PGCEDC's efforts to attract and retain federal agencies have proven successful, including the landmark relocation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation headquarters to Prince George's County. Additionally, federal clusters are being further strengthened with collaborative initiatives supporting NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center and related contractors, positioning the County as a central hub for federal research and innovation.

**Healthcare and Research:** Continued investments in local healthcare infrastructure, including new facilities in Largo and Oxon Hill, have provided both healthcare access and employment opportunities, while the collaboration with the University of Maryland's Discovery District is fueling advancements in research-intensive industries.

**Grow Prince George's Program:** Funded initially by the American Rescue Plan Act, this economic gardening initiative has provided 1,700 minority and women-owned businesses with vital resources. From market research to digital optimization, the program has enabled these businesses to thrive in the post-pandemic economy. PGCEDC continues to prioritize diverse entrepreneurship as a core component

of the County's growth strategy.

**Youth Career Connections (YCC):** As part of Employ Prince George's workforce programs, YCC connects K-12 students with industry pathways and career mentors, setting a solid foundation for the County's future workforce. With 50 dedicated career coaches, YCC has helped 4,000 students access career counseling and has placed 1,200 internship opportunities in high-growth industries.

**STEM Partnerships:** Partnering with local schools and higher education institutions, PGCEDC has launched STEM-focused programs, reaching over 5,000 students and preparing them for roles in technology, healthcare, and research fields essential to the County's economic future.

**Placemaking Initiatives:** In collaboration with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, PGCEDC has rolled out placemaking projects in Suitland, Riverdale Park, and Largo, creating inviting, business-friendly spaces that have improved the local quality of life and strengthened communities. These initiatives have contributed to a 20% increase in local foot traffic and business engagement.

**Business Improvement Districts (BIDs):** PGCEDC's focus on transit-oriented development has led to the creation of BIDs in key areas, improving infrastructure, accessibility, and livability for businesses and residents alike.

The 2024 Achievement Report emphasizes the need for ongoing investments, particularly in innovation ecosystems and workforce training, to ensure continued growth. PGCEDC plans to expand its Grow Prince George's program and enhance Youth Career Connections to bridge talent directly to in-demand job sectors.

To access the full report and learn more about the achievements and strategic vision for Prince George's County, please download the full 2024 Achievement Report [HERE](http://www.pgcdec.com/pressroom). Or visit <https://www.pgcdec.com/pressroom>