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PHOTO BY ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN, HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE

CLINTON, Md. (Nov. 13, 2024)—Pictured from top left are, Rachel Jordan, moderator; and panelists the Rev. James Robinson; and Council Member Sydney Harrison; From bottom left, panelists Jennifer Ward and Dr. Sonja Richmond; Dr. Archinard's son, Blaine and panelist Dr. Tom-meka Archinard.

# **Roundtable Talk Focuses on Access to Hospice Care and How it Brings Hope**

# *By* ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN **Hospice of the Chesapeake**

LARGO, Md. (Dec. 4, 2024)— Access to end-of-life care and how it brings hope to patients and families were two overarching themes dominating the discussion at Hospice of the Chesapeake's "Hospice and Palliative Care Community Roundtable." Held Nov. 13 at the Tree of Life Christian Ministries in Clinton, Maryland, the free event featured medical professionals and Prince George's County community leaders sharing their experience and expertise with members of the community.

The panel was moderated by Hospice of the Chesapeake's Director of Advocacy & Legislative Affairs Rachel Jordan, DNP, FNP-BC, who is passionate about bringing health equity to the county where she grew up and calls home. Other Hospice of the Chesapeake team members speaking on the panel included Vice President of Medical Affairs and Hospice Medical Director Dr. Sonja Richmond; and Bereavement Counselor Jennifer Ward. Also on the panel were community professionals and leaders Tree of Life Christian Ministries Pastor the Rev. James Robinson; Prince George's County District 9 Council Member Sydney Harrison; and University

of Maryland Capital Region Health Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Tom-meka Archinard.

The panelists emphatically expressed that hospice care is something anyone who has a prognosis of six months or less is entitled to. "The World Health Organization considers end-of-life care a basic human right," Dr. Archinard said. Though she understands the historical mistrust of the medical field by members of the Black community, Archinard said people are missing out on essential care that provides

See HOPE Page A2

# City of District Heights Addresses Tragic Loss of Khamya Ferrell, Reaffirms Commitment to Community Safety

# *By* PRESS OFFICER **City of District Heights**

DISTRICT HEIGHTS, Md. (Dec. 4, 2024)—In a significant development, the Prince George's County Police Department has arrested 19-year-old Chance Waters of Hyattsville, charging him with the murder of 14-year-old Khamya Ferrell: a bright and promising teenager from neighboring Suitland, whose life was tragically cut short from a triple shooting in the City of District Heights on May 31, and succumbed to her injuries on June 5, 2024.

"Our hearts are heavy for Khamya's family and friends especially now, as we approach the holidays—a time when families should come together in celebration, not in mourning. No family should have to experience this kind of ache," said Mayor Cynthia Miller. "She was a young girl with endless potential, and her loss has deeply affected every corner of our community. We will not allow this loss to be in vain; instead, it will fuel our determination to make District Heights safer for everyone-certainly our children."

Additionally, the City continues to provide full support to the Prince George's County Police Department in their investigation into this tragic event. District Heights's Chief of Police Ronald Tarpley expressed a call to action: "The holiday season is a time to gather with loved ones and reflect on what matters most-our families and our community. This loss underscores how crucial it is for us to work together to prevent violence and protect one another. We will not allow this loss to be in vain; instead, it will fuel our determination to make District Heights safer for everyone."

In a statement, Commissioner Xander Harcourt emphasized the unity of District Heights: "I'm sending my thoughts and meditations to the family of Khamya Ferrell. I hope they know that the entire city is with them, and that through this tragedy we have made our community safer, more unified, and resilient."

In the months since this tragedy, the City has reaffirmed its commitment to collaborating with community partners, includ-

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# Nearly 75 Percent of PGCPS Schools Achieve

Hon. Todd M. Turner Graduates from Leadership Maryland's Executive Program

## **Top Three Ratings on Maryland Report Card**

*Highlights include academic gains and improved school environments* 

## *By* PRESS OFFICER **Prince George's County Public Schools**

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Dec. 4, 2024)—The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) report cards and star ratings for the 2023–2024 school year show 72.5 percent of Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) received the three highest ratings, maintaining performance levels similar to last year.

Maryland School Report Card star ratings are based on multiple academic and non-academic measures designed to help families and students understand school performance and progress, while equipping school leaders with data to make decisions on where to invest instructional time and resources.

Twelve percent of PGCPS schools gained at least one star this year. Additionally, PGCPS stands out as one of only three school districts in Maryland with a 5-star middle school: Robert Goddard Montessori.

Report card survey results revealed improvements in both teacher and student perceptions of school climate across elementary, middle, and high school levels, underscoring the district's efforts to create positive and supportive learning environments.

"We are incredibly proud of the academic gains our students have achieved, but equally proud of the strides we've made in fostering positive school cultures," said Superintendent Millard House II. "When staff and students feel good about their schools, it creates a foundation for even greater academic success."

#### Academic Gains Across All Levels

The report cards reflect academic and non-academic progress across PGCPS:

### High Schools:

- 82 percent of high schools showed gains in English/Language Arts proficiency.
- 93 percent of high schools improved their "On Track in Ninth Grade for Graduation" metric.

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2024 Graduates Recognized at December 3rd Ceremony

## *By* PRESS OFFICER **Leadership Maryland**

EASTON, Md. (Dec. 5, 2024)-Leadership Maryland announced today that Hon. Todd M. Turner, Executive Director, of Prince George's County Office of Ethics and Accountability (OEA) has completed the Executive Program, a professional development program dedicated to building a better Maryland by harnessing the strength of its local business and community leaders. Leadership Maryland honored Turner a resident of Bowie and the entire Executive Program Class of 2024 at its 31st graduation ceremony held December 3 at the Hilton Baltimore BWI Airport. Turner is now a member of Leadership Maryland's powerful alumni network, consisting of more than 1,500 esteemed leaders from all over the state.

Executive Director Turner was one of 51 individuals chosen by a committee to complete the eight-month hands-on learning program. The class participated in an orientation and closing retreat that bookended five, two-day sessions focused on Maryland's five main geographic regions and the most vital issues impacting economic development, educa-



PHOTO COURTESY LEADERSHIP MARYLAND

Hon. Todd M. Turner

tion, health and human services, criminal justice, the environment, and multi-culturalism/diversity across the state. The Executive Program is open to senior-level executives with significant achievements in their careers and/or their communities. Ideal Leadership Maryland members have a desire to learn more about Maryland's most critical issues and a personal commitment to be a force for positive change in their organizations, their communities, and their state.

"On behalf of our staff, board, and membership, I congratulate the Executive Program Class of 2024 on completing the program and joining our alumni family," said David Fike '16 (LM), president and CEO, of Leadership Maryland. "Each class year brings its own unique lessons, and I am proud

to have witnessed the ways the Class of 2024 embraced each one on their journey to become a force for positive change in their organizations, communities, and state."

Turner was appointed by former Prince George's County Executive Angela D. Alsobrooks and confirmed by the Prince George's County Council to serve as the second OEA Executive Director in October 2022. OEA is responsible for increased accountability and oversight by identifying fraud, abuse, and illegal acts and supports the Board of Ethics in exercising its authority granted to it under the Prince George's County Code of Ethics. Prior to serving as Executive Director, Mr. Turner served eight years as a member of the Prince George's County Council, representing the 4th Council District, where he served two consecutive years as Council Chair and one year as Vice-Chair. In addition, he served as a Council Member for the City of Bowie (2005–2014), representing the Council District 3rd (2005-2011), and as an At-Large Member of the Council (2011–2014). He served as Mayor Pro Tem from 2007-2009, becoming the first African American to hold the

position in the City's history.

Executive Director Turner is a graduate of the Academy of Excellence in Governance at the Institute of Governmental Service of the University of Maryland (2017), the Leadership Greater Washington class (2017), and the Leadership Prince George's class (2012). In addition, he is a recipient of the Elizabeth and David Scull Metropolitan Public Service Award from the Washington Metropolitan Council of Government (2014).

For more information about Leadership Maryland, please visit leadershipmd.org, call 410-841-2101, or email info@leadershipmd.org.

Leadership Maryland is a statewide nonprofit offering professional development programs dedicated to building a better Maryland by harnessing the strength of its business and community leaders. Established in 1992, Leadership Maryland's Executive Program selects as many as 52 diverse and accomplished senior-level leaders from Maryland's public and private sectors each year to come together as a class for an eightmonth learning program focused on the state's most vital social, economic, and environmental issues. To learn more, please visit leadershipmd.org.

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# TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

## In & Around Morningside-Skyline

#### Tom Moran, former Principal, **Grand Knight, and Rotary President**

Thomas Francis "Tom" Moran, 95, longtime Oxon Hill resident and former Principal of Oxon Hill High, died December 1 at Greenspring Retirement Community.

Tom was a graduate of Frostburg State in 1953, received his Master of Education from George Washington University and went on to teach, first at Suitland High where he met Ginger. Tom and Ginger were married at St. Ignatius Church in Oxon Hill, in 1956.

They were charter members of St. Columba Catholic Church when it was founded in 1960. Tom was active with the Knights of Columbus where he served as Grand Knight, and the Rotary Club where he was President.

He was Vice Principal at Bladensburg Junior High, Principal at Benjamin Stoddard and at Oxon Hill High in 1970. He finished his public-school career by serving as principal at Frederick Douglass High School before retiring to start a career as an administrator in the Catholic School system. He served as Principal of St. Joseph's Regional Catholic School in Beltsville for 11 years before retiring once again. In 2001 he came out of retirement to serve for a year as Superintendent of Schools for the 105 schools of the Washington Archdiocese.

Survivors include his sons Thomas, Kevin, Tim, Mike, and daughter Margaret, their families and his grandchildren. Mass of Christian Burial was at Kalas, Dec. 6, with burial at St. Barnabas Church Cemetery in Temple Hills.

#### Marty Loughmiller, Crossland '66

Clair Martin "Marty" Loughmiller, Jr., 76, longtime Morningsider, died November 21 at the Solomons Rehab and Care Center in Dowell, Md.

Marty was the son of Clair and Hazel Lucille Loughmiller who lived at 503 Maple Road in Morningside back in 1952. He graduated from Crossland, Class of 1966.

He worked as a delivery driver for Wonder Bread and, according to his official obit, brought smiles to everyone he encountered along his route. He had a passion for sports, especially the Orioles and Ravens. And he enjoyed taking long drives, eating Maryland steamed crabs, and knocking down pins at the bowling alley.

He was predeceased by his parents and son Bruce. Survivors include his daughter Yvonne Donley, sisters Patricia Hunter of Chesapeake, VA, and Susan Loughmiller of Salem, NH, as well as grandchildren Alexander Donley, Maxwell Loughmiller and Benjamin Loughmiller. As one obit says, "He loved family, he loved friends, he loved Morningside!"

#### **Town of Morningside**

Breakfast with Santa will be held Saturday, Dec. 14, 9 a.m., at the Morningside Fire House. The menu includes pancakes, sausage, fruit, juice, coffee, Santa Secret Shop, entertainment, and a visit and small gift from Santa himself. Cost is \$6 per person, and you must preregister and prepay for the event. Each child registered and paid will receive a gift from Santa. There'll also be a Santa /Secret Shop where the kids can shop for their loved ones.

On December 15, Christmas Caroling begins 6 p.m. at the Town Hall. The carolers will ride through Town singing carols and end up back at the Town Hall.

Morningside information, 301-736-2300.

#### Neighbors & other good people

Recently, I ran the obituary of Christine Murphy who, years ago, taught English at La Reine High School. My daughter, Elaine Seidman sent this note, "I loved Mrs. Murphy! Such a wonderful teacher. She was the one that had me read "Too Late the Phalarope."

#### **Changing landscape**

At Congressional Cemetery in Southeast Washington, a fresh bouquet of poinsettias has been placed on the grave of former D.C. Mayor Marion Barry Jr., often referred to as Mayor for Life.

The much awaited McDonald's, corner of Allentown & Suitland Rd., is moving along-right now it is sheathed in Tyvek posters (the builder, I assume).

Christmas wreathes are now available at Miller Farms, which probably has happened at Christmas since The Farms opened in 1879.

A new Dunkin' has opened on Woodyard Road in Clinton and there's a "Help Wanted" sign Need a job? Check it out ICE is back at Gaylord until December Call, Dec. 20, and Pastor and Mrs. Kelvin 31. Step into a wonderland carved by arti- McCune, their 39th on Dec. 21.

## by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

sans out of two million pounds of ice. Experience the story of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer Larger-than-Life. Info: phone 1-301-965-4000.

On November 6, in an old Georgetown building that originally housed a Ford dealership, Barnes & Noble opened a spectacular three-story bookstore.

A house at 6415 Woodland Road, in Morningside, recently sold. No price listed. It had 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, 1 half bath, and a 2-car garage. Doesn't sound like the Morningside homes I've been in.

### Word of the Year

Every year the Oxford English Dictionary names the Word of the Year. This year it's "brain rot." However, there are complaintsthe first being that it's two words. Some think the word should be "slop." According to Shira Ovide, Washington Post columnist, "The specifics of slop go in and out of fashion, but slop never dies."

### Milestones

Happy Birthday to Karen Windsor, Alexis R. Paige, Ramona Britt, Patricia Branch and Kimberly White, on Nov. 30; Mary Doyle, Susan McKay and Jon Foster, Dec. 1; John Anthony, Jr., Vonn Branch and Tyonda Simms-Taylor, Dec. 2; Louise Lantz, Mary Straud, and Senator Mike Miller, Dec. 3; Mark Witherow, Jr. and La'Keshia Johnson, Dec. 4; Denise (Eskew) Simms, Dec. 5; Virginia Rosch, Dec. 6; Sandra Mickey and Brian Doyle, Dec. 7; Crystal Pruitt and Charles Boxley, Dec. 8; Beth Shipman, Dec. 9; Sharon Fowler and Diane Zirkle, Dec. 10; Michelle Anderson, Dec. 11; Bernie Barbour Pace, Thomas Shipman Jr. and Jim Trexler, Dec. 13. Linda Gryskewicz, Dec. 15; Stacie Branham-Smith and Erin Nicole Brown-Sandoval, Dec. 16; Bradley Wade and David Williams III, Dec. 17; Charlene Baker and Paul Ratliff, Dec. 18; my grandson Michael Gallegos, Dec. 19; Ricky Nichols, Dec. 20; and Evelyn McKeown, Dec. 21.

Happy Anniversary to Johnny and Helen Richardson, their 22nd on Dec. 14; Margaret & Leslie Greene, Dec. 18; Ray and Betty

## Hope from A1

control of how and where someone dies to the patients and their families.

She shared her mother's own experience with hospice and how her hospice providers worked to get her from Louisiana to Dr. Archinard's home in Maryland so she could be with her daughter and grandchildren for her final days. "I can't even imagine how I would feel if she wasn't with me at that moment. I can't imagine if she was in a hospital bed, despite however good and caring the care may have been. It would not have been me and my four children which is what she wanted."

Another theme that came up throughout the discussion was that too many people look at hospice as giving up. "Hospice is not giving up hope. It's enhancing hope," Dr. Richmond said. "Hospice does not mean do not treat. It means I see you and not your disease. I see you and I want to help you with your symptoms. I want to enhance your quality of life. I want you to lean into your spirituality and lean into whatever and whomever gives you that strength and to you know that you are not on this journey alone."

The discussion, which ended with questions and comments from the audience, helped to clear up confusion about the difference between hospice and palliative care, addressed the role of grief support, and shared how the community can access all the services hospice providers offer. To view a video recording of the discussion, visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g74wv9yNDeE&t=1021s.

## Safety from A1

ing joining the Greater District Heights Community Coalition, to implement solutions that mitigate crime and foster a safer environment for all residents. "We stand together in grief, but we also stand together in strength and determination," added Mayor Miller. "While this holiday season is marked by sorrow for many in our community, we must also let it remind us of the power of unity, compassion, and hope. District Heights is a safe city, and we will honor Khamya's memory by striving for a community where such tragedies are never repeated."

The City of District Heights is a vibrant community located in Prince George's County, Maryland. Known for its rich history and diverse population, District Heights is committed to providing exceptional services and fostering a safe, inclusive, and thriving environment for all its residents.

## Ratings from A1

## • Middle Schools:

- Gains in social studies proficiency were observed.
- Elementary Schools:
  - Improvements in math proficiency were noted.
- Attendance:
  - Both elementary and middle schools showed reductions in chronic absenteeism.

## **Brandywine-Aquasco**

## SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAM

The Prince George's County Department of Family Services offers the Senior Nutrition Program (a nutritious, well-balanced, healthy, hot lunch (Tuesday and Thursday). Individuals who are 60 & better can reserve a meal by contacting Nutrition Manager, Austin Simpson at (301) 265-8475 or by stopping by the SAARC Senior Social Room on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday between 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Lunch reservations are required a week in advance by contacting (301) 265-8475. The suggested donation is \$4. If you need to cancel your meal, please do so at least two days in advance. Please bring exact change to cover your donation. Seniors must schedule round trip transportation service by calling The Bus (301) 499-8603 and select Option #6 to speak to an operator for scheduling bus service to participate in senior centers in Prince George's County. There will be no lunch program when Prince George's County schools are closed or have a delayed opening due to inclement weather conditions. Lunch is subject to change depending on the Office on Aging's schedule.

"Accommodation for individuals with disabilities is available upon request. Please contact the facility two weeks in advance of the program's start date. Additionally, the Department of Parks and Recreation requests a 72-hour advance notice for the provision of sign language interpreters." Weather policy and center closures: For the latest information on M-NCPPC closures due to weather, maintenance, or emergencies, please sign up for PG Parks Alerts by going to www.pgparks.com, click on "news", scroll down to the bottom and click on PGPARKS ALERTS.

Do you have a special skill or talent you would like to share with others? Check out www.pgparks.com for M-NCPPC Volunteer opportunities or contact the Facility Director. From time to time, please stop at the center front desk and make sure your personal information is correct. Let us know if you have any changes including emergency contact names and /or telephone numbers.

SAARC Senior Program: Information Corner: Senior Nutrition/Transportation 301-265-8475, Legal Aid 800-896-4213 x7750, Department of Family Services 301-265-8401, Seniors County Information 301-265-8450, Medicare Information 800-633-4227, Call-A-Bus 301-499-8603. SAARC (Southern Area Aquatics & Recreation Complex is located at 13601 Missouri Avenue, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Telephone: 301-782-1442/ TTY: 301-699-2544.

### HARMONY HALL ARTS CENTER HOLIDAY MARKET PLACE

Join us at Harmony Hall's Market Place Saturday, December 21, 2024, from 12–6 p.m. Enjoy live music, warm refreshments, and unique gifts. Free for all ages. Event lasts six hours. Free venue parking. Address is 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744.

Get ready to immerse yourself in the festive spirit at Harmony

## by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

Hall's Inaugural Holiday Market Place. Enjoy the enchanting sounds of live music while sipping on warm refreshments. Explore a variety of vendor tables offering unique, handcrafted items and perfect stocking stuffers for everyone on your list. This free event is open to all ages, so bring your family and friends for a delightful holiday experience. Do not miss out on this magical opportunity to celebrate the season with us.

## FCF SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Join us at Santa's Workshop for a festive holiday extravaganza on December 21 from 1-5 p.m. Event lasts for four hours. Come and celebrate Christmas with us. Santa will be in town, and you are going to have some great photo opportunities and memories. We will have cookies, gingerbread houses, arts and crafts and of course, Santa Claus! Come out and visit us. Santa's excited and we are too. We cannot wait to meet you and bring some cheer to your family this holiday season. Meet Santa and his elves at 24 Industrial Drive, Waldorf, Maryland. Agenda: Take photos with Santa, Cookie Decorating, Ornament Decorating, Create Christmas Cards, Make Gingerbread Houses, Write letters to Santa. Do not miss out on this spectacular event, see you there. Free for all ages.

#### FALL 2024 PINNING CEREMONY

Join the Bowie State Nursing Department for their annual pinning ceremony. This is a traditional ceremony to highlight the seniors in the program who are slated to graduate each semester. We are honored. The Pinning Ceremony will be held in the Fine & Performing Arts Center, Dionne Warwick Theater on December 17, 2024, from 6-8 p.m.

#### **BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY**

The Winter 2024 Commencement celebrates the achievements of the graduating class with their families and loved ones December 19, 2024, in the Leonidas S. James Physical Education Complex, Bowie State University from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

#### KUDOS TO BSU ALUMNI

Congratulations to Vinnett Mason ('96) who recently announced her new role at T. Rowe Price as Vice President, Head of Risk Enablement. In this position, she is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the risk enablement program, including developing and implementing risk strategies, policies, and initiatives. She also serves on Bowie State's College of Business Board of Advisors. #BowieBOLD. "Risk is not just about mitigation, it is about empowering organizations to navigate challenges confidently, seize opportunities, and thrive in an ever-changing world." Vinnett Mason.

#### **Maryland School Report Card Ratings for PGCPS**

- Five-star: 4 schools (2 elementary, 1 combination, 1 high)
- Four-star: 23 schools (15 elementary, 8 combination)
- Three-star: 110 schools (86 elementary, 6 middle, 8 high, 10 combination)
- Two-star: 52 schools (15 elementary, 18 middle, 15 high, 4 combination)
- **One-star:** 0 schools

\*Combination schools include those with elementary, middle, and/or high school grade configurations.

## **Reminder: New Laws Take** Effect January 1, 2025 **Newly Designated Security Guard Employers**

## By PRESS OFFICER **Maryland State Police**

PIKESVILLE, Md. (Dec. 4, 2024)—The Maryland State Police Licensing Division reminds individuals or businesses that employ security guard services or employ in-house loss prevention personnel about upcoming changes in Maryland law that become effective January 1, 2025.

Other than those exempt in Business Occupations and Professions Article, §19-101(n), an individual or any business that employs one or more people for security services or loss prevention are now required to license those employees as security guards. The newly designated "Security Guard Employer" must also register online and submit proof of insurance with the Maryland State Police Licensing Division.

Please note: On January 1, 2025, the Maryland State Police Licensing Division will transition all Professional License applications from the current paper format to an all-electronic application submission and electronic fee collection (no checks or money orders will be accepted) process

in the Licensing Portal. This includes applications for Security Guards, Security Guard Agency, Security Guard Employer, Private Detective, Private Detective Agency, Dual Agency, Security System Technician, Security System Agency, Special Police, Railroad Police and Bullet Proof Body Armor applications.

All paper applications must be physically received at the Licensing Division, located at 1111 Reisterstown Road, Pikesville, MD by Friday, December 27, 2024. A mail drop is available at the Licensing Division for your convenience.

PAPER APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2024 WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AND WILL BE RETURNED WITH INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO RESUBMIT ELECTRON-ICALLY WITHIN THE LI-CENSING PORTAL.

Learn more about the new legislation and what this means for you as an individual or business who employs security guard services and sign up for a virtual training session online at Maryland State Police Licensing Division.

# COMMUNITY

# Calendar of Events

## Kwanzaa Celebration & Sacred Spaces Exhibit Artmaking Workshop

Date and time: Saturday, December 14, 2024, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Description: Join us for our annual Kwanzaa Celebration, which will feature our Sacred Spaces exhibit artmaking workshop into the festivities. The workshop, led by Sacred Spaces exhibit featured artist Jabari Jefferson, offers community members the opportunity to actively engage in the artmaking process for the upcoming exhibit. Don't miss the Sacred Spaces exhibit opening reception on Feb. 8. This exhibit features art and new technology, exploring Maryland African American spirituality and history. This Kwanzaa celebration will also include a local vendor marketplace, cultural foods, family-friendly activities, and a special performance by Ni Dembaya African Drum & Dance Ensemble! Register: https://bit.ly/KwanzaaSacredSpaces Location: Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum, 84 Franklin Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

### St. Philip's Episcopal Church Food Pantry Distribution

Date and time: Sunday, December 15, 2024, 9 a.m.-noon Description: We will have fresh produce as well as non-perishables and a limited supply of frozen items. Partner of Capital Area Food Bank. Location: St. Philip's Little Chapel, corner of 6th and Prince George Street behind the church sanctuary on Main Street, next to the playground, Laurel, MD 20707

### **Dinosaur Park Open House**

Date and time: Saturday, December 21, 2024, 12-4 p.m. Description: Dinosaur Park hosts free open house days every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month! Explore the grounds where dinosaur bones have been discovered! Learn about fossils and recent dinosaur bone findings. Cost: FREE

#### All Ages Ages:

Location: Dinosaur Park, 13100 Mid Atlantic Boulevard, Laurel, MD Contact: 301-627-1286; MD Relay 7-1-1, dinosaurpark@pgparks.com

## **Afternoon Aviators: Train Stations**

Date and time: Saturday, December 28, 2024, 1–2 p.m.

Description: Explore a variety of STEM and aviation-themed sciences with a short lesson and activity. Ideal for learners ages 8-12. THIS MONTH: Did you know there is a train station near the College Park airport? Come learn about the history of the B&O Railroad and design your own version of the train station. No registration required.

\$5 adult; \$4 senior; \$2 student; FREE children under 2 and Cost: Field of Firsts members

Ages: All

Location: College Park Aviation Museum, 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD

Contact: (301) 864-6029, collegeparkaviation@pgparks.com

# 'Reimagining Hope' Podcast Shines a Light on the Conversation of Serious Illness

## By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (Dec. 3, 2024)—As families struggle with serious progressive illness in themselves or their loved ones, finding information, resources and support is more critical than ever before in our history. In response, Hospice of the Chesapeake and Chesapeake Supportive Care are introducing a new, innovative and informative podcast series, "Reimagining Hope."

Hosted by Rachel Jordan, Director of Advocacy & Legislative Affairs, the series will bring guests to the table who can provide valuable insight and help you reimagine the hope you may be missing. The podcast will provide quick, easy-to-understand information while giving you the critical skills and real time tools you can use today to navigate advanced illness.

Jordan said that as a nurse practitioner she sees patients and their families struggling every day to figure out what resources and services are available to them to care for themselves or a loved one. We are living with serious illness longer today than ever before in our history and whether you are at diagnosis, months into curative treatment or nearing the end of life, each has their own unique experience.

"I love my role at Hospice of the Chesapeake but most importantly, I'm a daughter, a mom, a caregiver, an Army veteran, and a community advocate," Jordan said. "I have a passion for raising awareness about care available for those living with serious illness and that's what I hope to share with you."

Discussions will include important topics like sustaining comfort, grief during the holidays, how to manage the overwhelming number of medications that are prescribed and many more. "We hope these talks will bring you some



PHOTO BY SANDRA DILLON, HOSPICE OF THE C

PASADENA, Md.-(Oct. 27, 2024) Host of the podcast "Reimagining Hope," Rachel Jordan, left, prepares to interview Dr. Sonja Richmond for the new podcast's first episode.

comfort, skills and peace," Jordan said.

The podcast debut[ed] Dec. 4. The first three episodes are as follows:

- "When is it too much? Managing Mom and Dad's Medications" with guest Dr. Sonja Richmond, Hospice of the Chesapeake, Vice President of Medical Affairs & Hospice Medical Director.
- "Navigating Grief During the Holidays," with guest Jennifer Ward, Chesapeake Life Center, Bereavement Counselor
- "Sustaining Comfort: Hydration and Nutrition at the End of Life" with guest Dr. Richmond.

The podcast, which can be found at https://sites.libsyn.com/556806/site, is part of the nonprofit's community outreach and education programming, which is made possible by the generous support of the John and Cathy Belcher Institute.

Hospice of the Chesapeake is the leading provider of compassionate, expert care for individuals and families facing serious illness across Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, and Prince George's counties. As Maryland's largest independent, notfor-profit hospice, the organization is committed to enhancing the quality of life for patients by managing symptoms, providing education, and focusing on what matters most to each individual and their loved ones. With a team of highly skilled professionals, Hospice of the Chesapeake offers personalized support to help families navigate the challenges of advanced illness and loss, ensuring comfort, dignity, and peace of throughout the journey. mind more information, For visit www.hospicechesapeake.org.

## Leadership Maryland Announces the Graduation of the Executive Program

## Class of 2024 and Emerging Leader 1st Class

91 business and community leaders across both programs recognized at December 3 ceremony

## **Bv PRESS OFFICER** Leadership Maryland

EASTON, Md. (Dec. 5, 2024)-Leadership Maryland announced today that 51 members of the Executive Program Class of 2024 and 39 members of the Emerging Leader Program 1st Class have completed the professional development programs dedicated to building a better Maryland by harnessing the strength of its business and community leaders. Leadership Maryland honored participants in both programs at its 31st graduation ceremony held on December 3 at the Hilton Baltimore BWI Airport. As graduates, these individuals are now the newest members of Leadership Maryland's powerful alumni network, consisting of more than 1500 esteemed leaders from all industries and regions of the state.

Members of Leadership Maryland's flagship Executive Program were chosen by a committee to complete the eightmonth experiential learning program. The Class of 2024 participated in an orientation and closing retreat that bookended five, two-day sessions focused on Maryland's five main geographic regions and the most vital issues impacting economic development, education, health and human services, criminal justice, the environment, and multi-culturalism/diversity across the state. More than 100 experts representing Maryland's business, government, education, and non-profit communities served as panelists and guest speakers.

In its inaugural year, the



PHOTO COURTESY LEADERSHIP MARYLAND

Leadership Maryland graduating members, pictured at their graduation ceremony at the Hilton BWI Airport on December 3, 2024.

from June to November, consisting of monthly day-long sessions that included both interactive training led by a facilitator and panel discussions featuring leaders from across the state as guest speakers. The program's curriculum offered a holistic approach to leadership development, designed to help each applicant increase their self-awareness and gain behaviors, skills, and tools to become more adaptive, inclusive, strategic, and impactful leaders.

"On behalf of our staff, board, and membership, I congratulate the Executive Program Class of 2024 and Emerging Emerging Leader Program ran Leader First Class on complet-

ing the program and joining our alumni family," said David Fike '16 (LM), president and CEO, Leadership Maryland. "With the launch of a new program this year, Leadership Maryland has doubled our opportunity to meet incredible community leaders and rising stars from around the state, and I am honored to celebrate the 91 individuals who so wholly dedicated themselves to this unique experience."

The Executive Program is open to senior-level executives with significant achievements in either their careers and/or their communities. The Emerging Leader Program is open to individuals who are advancing in their careers, are actively involved in their communities, and desire to become stronger leaders in both areas. Ideal Leadership Maryland members have a desire to learn more about Maryland's most critical issues and a personal commitment to be a force for positive change in their organizations, their communities, and their state.

For more information about Leadership Maryland, please visit leadershipmd.org, call 410-841-2101 or email info@leadershipmd.org.

Leadership Maryland is a statewide nonprofit offering professional development programs dedicated to building a better Maryland by harnessing the strength of its business and community leaders. Established in 1992, Leadership Maryland's Executive Program selects as many as 52 diverse and accomplished senior-level leaders from Maryland's public and private sectors each year to come together as a class for an eight-month learning program focused on the state's most vital social, economic and environmental issues. And new in 2024, Leadership Maryland's Emerging Leader Program brings together a class of the state's rising stars and gives them the skills and tools they need to advance in

Prince George's County Graduates from the **Executive Program Class** of 2024 include:

Starlet "Star" Hunter '24 Director, Community Engagement MGM National Harbor

Hon. Todd M. Turner, Esq. '24 **Executive Director** Prince George's County Office of Ethics & Accountability

Christina L. Cornwell '24 EL Director/Emergency Manager City of Laurel

Amrita G. Madabushi '24 EL Collegiate Professor University of Maryland Global Campus

Sonia Srivastava '24 EL Broadcast Specialist City of Bowie

Michael J. White '24 EL Assistant Fire Chief Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department

their careers. With an alumni network comprised of leaders from all industries and regions of the state, Leadership Maryland has established thousands of Marylanders on their career leadership path, equipped with the knowledge, skills, and connections needed to influence positive change. Visit leadershipmd.org.

# COMMENTARY

**Marian Wright Edelman** Founder and President Emerita, Children's Defense Fund



## **<u>ChildWatch</u>**: **Giving the Gift of Books**

As parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles, and adults everywhere are busy choosing holiday gifts for the children they love, books should always be at the top of the list. The right book can spark a lifelong love of reading and open up a whole new world for a child or teenager that will last far longer than a toy. For more than 30 years, the Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools® program has been built around a superb collection of diverse books that reflect a wide variety of cultures and experiences. For some young scholars, the CDF Freedom Schools curriculum is the first time they've seen books with characters who look like them. For others, the storylines draw them in, teach them about moments in history they may not have studied in school, and make them fall in love with reading in ways they've never experienced. All children and young people should be able to see themselves in the books they read and be exposed to a wide range of books reflective of the nation and world we all share. But far too often

**Ben Jealous** Executive Director, Sierra Club



## Among the Powerful Voices We Lost in 2024, Louis Gossett, Jr.'s Echoes Loudly

of the NAACP, at the end of 2013 Image Awards. I was with my dear friend Louis Gossett, Jr., the actor and activist who won an Oscar for his role in the film "An Officer and a Gentleman." Lou said to me, "You know, Ben, I've been in this racial justice movement my whole life, but you know, sometimes, brother, I feel like we're fighting over who's in first class. What we should be doing is looking out the window, because the plane has fallen like 20,000 feet in the last two minutes.'

He saw I was a little confused. So he

It was my last year as national president continued, "The planet is dying. It doesn't matter who's in first class on a dead planet.'

> Lou's words have stuck with me for over a decade. It was Lou's voice echoing in my ear that inspired me to get back into the environmental movement and take my current job as the head of the Sierra Club.

> December is the customary month of remembrance. A time of year we take stock; a moment on the calendar when we pause to reflect on the giants we have lost

these are exactly the kinds of books that are now under attack by adults seeking to limit what children and young people read and learn.

Last year, CDF celebrated National Reading Month by releasing a special CDF Freedom Schools Banned Books We Love Book List featuring a selection of titles from the CDF Freedom Schools Integrated Reading Curriculum (IRC) that have now been banned in libraries, schools, and institutions across the country. For adults who are committed to encouraging children and young people to celebrate themselves and all they have in common with others in a multiracial, multicultural democratic society, the holidays are an ideal time to seek out highquality, diverse literature like this to support and share.

For kindergarten through second grade, these books include "Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation" by Duncan Tonatiuh; "Mae Among the

Louis Gossett, Jr. is one of those giants. He died this past March.

Lou never shied away from using his platform to fight for people and the planet. Remembering his passion for justice and the path he forged can be a guiding light. His example, like that of scores of other Black leaders we lost in 2024, has a special resonance for America's Black men and boys. But it is an example that should inspire anyone who sees a situation that their own moral calling tells them needs to change.

As a child, Lou loved superheroes. When he did not see anyone who looked like him playing his favorite superhero, Superman, he decided to become one both on and off the screen. The character he portrayed in "An Officer and a Gentleman," Gunnery Sergeant Emil Foley, was a soldier highly decorated for his patriotism. Offscreen Lou was a true patriot himself

Lou often spoke of the need to focus on the "bigger picture." He pictured concentric circles as he thought about how people could make a difference and have Stars" by Roda Ahmed, illustrated by Stasia Burrington; "Smoky Night" by Eve Bunting, illustrated by David Diaz; "Those Shoes" by Maribeth Boelts, illustrated by Noah Z. Jones; "Marisol Mc-Donald Doesn't Match" by Monica Brown, illustrated by Sara Palacios; and "Something Happened In Our Town" by Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, and Ann Hazzard, illustrated by Jennifer Zivoin.

For third through fifth grade, they include "Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13" by Helaine Becker, illustrated by Dow Phumiruk; "14 Cows for America" by Carmen Agra Deedy and Wilson Kimeli Naiyomah, illustrated by Thomas Gonzalez; "Sadako and The Thousand Paper Cranes" by Eleanor Coerr, illustrated by Ronald Himler; "Sonia Sotomayor: A Judge Grows in the Bronx" by Jonah Winter, illustrated by Edel Rodriguez; and "In Our Mothers' House" by Patricia Polacco.

For sixth through eighth grade, the

an impact in their family, community, country, as well as the world. He founded the Eracism Foundation to promote cultural diversity, historical enrichment, and anti-violence initiatives for young adults, teens and pre-teens through "Shamba Centers" throughout the country.

Lou contributed one of the autobiographical essays in my book Reach: 40 Black Men Speak on Living, Leading, and Succeeding. In it, he wrote about meeting Nelson Mandela when the South African leader was finally released from prison after 27 years. Lou said Mandela's message was simple: there is no time to focus on revenge, which is a "self-inflicting disease;" the only thing we have time to focus on is "uplifting ourselves and one another for the bigger picture, which is the salvation of the planet."

Lou spoke of the values passed on to him and his cousins by their grandmother: "collective responsibility; empathy; being ready, willing and able to help another person when he or she is down." Those are values to live by. I can relate. My own grandmother's wisdom continues to

books include "Forged by Fire", by Sharon M. Draper; "Brown Girl Dreaming" by Jacqueline Woodson; "Discovering Wes Moore" by Wes Moore; "The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963" by Christopher Paul Curtis; "Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry" by Mildred D. Taylor, and "The 1619 Project: Born on the Water" by Nikole Hannah-Jones and Renee Watson, illustrated by Nikkolas Smith. And last but not least, for ninth through twelfth grade, the titles include "Monster" by Walter Dean Myers; "Piecing Me Together" by Renee Watson; "A Lesson Before Dying" by Ernest J. Gaines; and "Darkness Before Dawn", "Panic", and "Romiette and Julio, all by Sharon M. Draper.

Share books like these with your own family and friends this season! You may be choosing the perfect gift that unlocks a new world-or that makes the child or young person holding it in their hands feel seen, known, and reassured that they are not alone.

—December 6, 2024

guide me. Her sage advice continues to be one of my mantras in life: "Pessimists are right more often, but optimists win more often. As for me, I'll take winning."

Of course, in addition to Lou, we lost many Black men this year whose lives and work inspired millions. Icons of stage and screen like James Earl Jones and John Amos, historymaking sports legends such as Willie Mays, and titans of the Civil Rights Movement like Rev. James Lawson, whom Dr. King called "the leading theorist and strategist of nonviolence in the world." We lost Quincy Jones, who not only left an indelible mark on the music industry but was a champion for civil and human rights. And many others.

In my introduction to Reach, I noted that imitation has always been the first step for those seeking to achieve great things. Children pick up sticks to reenact the battles of warrior heroes. Toddlers preach to congregations, or sing to crowds, of teddy bears and puppets. Ba-

See ECHOES Page A5

## Journalist Fatalities Are Rising a Memorial Is Going up in Their Honor

death and require verification be-

## By APRIL QUEVEDO and SHAUN CHORNOBROFF **Capital News Service**

WASHINGTON 4, (Dec. 2024)—When Tom Durkin was alerted in November 2012 that James Foley, a friend of more than two decades, had been kidnapped by ISIS while working as a freelance war correspondent in northwest Syria, he went to work with a group of friends to try and bring Foley home.

On Aug.19, 2014, Durkin received a text. It read, "I'm so sorry about what just happened."

"I just knew what I was going to find out."

Durkin flipped on his television and saw an image of his longtime friend kneeling in the sand moments before he was beheaded.

Now details for a new memorial in the nation's capital honoring people like Foley who lost their lives while working in journalism are being shared with the public. The Fallen Journalists Memorial, planned to be completed in 2028, will be located on the National Mall near the U.S. Capitol

At least 3,100 journalists have been killed around the world since 1837 according to a Capital News Service analysis of databases of fallen journalists maintained by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), a nonprofit that promotes press freedom and defends the rights of journalists, and the Freedom Forum, the nonprofit organization that operated the Newseum in Washington, D.C. prior to its closure at the end of 2019. Nearly 90% of those recorded deaths have occurred over the last 50 years.

The databases created by both organizations are a result of extensive research into each reported fore names can be added to their lists, though their parameters are different. The Freedom Forum's database extends as far back as 1837 (and concludes in 2019), and includes names of individuals tied to newsrooms who died while in the field or otherwise as a result of their work, while CPJ's efforts began in 1992 and includes only journalists confirmed murdered in direct reprisal for their work; in combat or crossfire; or while car-

rying out a dangerous assignment. When the Newseum closed, the country lost its only memorial commemorating journalists who lost their lives as a result of their work. Journalist fatalities reached a high in 2017 with 126 recorded fatalities before falling below 50 deaths per year from 2019 through 2022, according to the CNS analysis.

"I commend people, especially young people, that still are determined to be journalists and talk truths to power and expose things, because it's becoming riskier," said Durkin, who is now the director of safety education for the James Foley foundation, an organization that promotes journalist safety and helps Americans who have a family member taken hostage overseas.

The Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation formed in the wake of the Capital Gazette massacre. In June 2018, a gunman stormed into the publication's newsroom in Annapolis, Md. and killed four journalists and one staff member, the deadliest attack on journalists in American history. Jarrod Ramos was given multiple life sentences for the shooting in 2021

Congress approved legislation for the memorial in 2020. In September, six years after the shooting, the first public images of the planned Fallen Journalist Memorial in Washington were unveiled. The memorial's construction will be funded by a nonprofit organization created by former U.S. Representative David Dreier, who served as the chairman of the Tribune Publishing Company (the former owners of the Capital Gazette) from January 2019 through February 2020.

The memorial will be between the National Museum of the American Indian and the Voice of America at Independence Avenue, Maryland Avenue and 3rd Street Southwest, putting it close to the three branches of government. Each of the memorial's entry points lead to a circular Remembrance Hall that has the First Amendment inscribed in a glass lens

If the foundation meets its fundraising goals on schedule, the memorial will be completed and dedicated in June 2028, the 10th anniversary of the Capital Gazette shooting.

"The memorial is dedicated not only to the journalists who lost their lives, but also in the words of the legislation 'to commemorate America's commitment to freedom of the press," Barbara Cochran, the president of the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation, told CNS.

Iraq leads the world in journalist fatalities by nearly double the next country on the list, with 288 incidents compared to the Philippines' 165. Ten countriesincluding Syria, Mexico and Russia-make up 49% of all mediarelated deaths since 1975. War and civil unrest are prevalent issues among the top ten countries.

When Durkin sees reports of journalists dying in combat zones like Gaza or Ukraine, he said it

Fallen Journalists Memorial design concept revealed to the public in September 2024.

reminds him of the friend he lost. "Instances like this makes me

think of Jim and like the risks that he was willing to endure to cover things in Syria, to cover things in Libya, and now you're seeing it in Gaza," Durkin said. "It's like it's this really difficult catch 22 because we need journalists to tell us what's going on, but those journalists are increasingly putting their life at risk to tell us this."

The risk journalists face while working in a war zone is evident in the current conflict between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Prior to October 2023, just 25 journalists lost their lives in the area. As of November, that figure has risen to 156-a more than 500% increase over a roughly 12month period. The jump has landed Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory in third for media fatalities among all countries with at least one fatality reported since 1974.

"At times, it feels like there's indiscriminate bombing that journalists are just caught in the crossfire," Durkin said.

When the Fallen Journalists Memorial is fully erected, it will have the U.S. Capitol as a backdrop. At night, up-lit glass elements will release a glow with the dome of the Capitol visible, a choice the designers of the memorial made to pay homage to the role of journalism in democracy, the foundation said on its website.

While a list of names will exist digitally, unlike many D.C. tributes, there will not be any on Fallen Journalists Memorial. "Because sadly," Cochran said,

"This is an unfinished story."

## The Prince George's Post

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# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## **Social Security Matters**

## Ask Rusty: Was Your IRMAA Article Incorrect?

By RUSSELL GLOOR,

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

**Dear Rusty:** In a recent article about Medicare's "Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount" (IRMAA) and how IRMAA affects Social Security taxes, you described which income gets included in the IRMAA calculation. You said it is "your combined income from all sources, including 50 % of the SS benefits you receive." That 50% number might be true in some cases, but I think a more accurate, general answer is that "your taxable SS benefit is what gets added to IRMAA." For example, we have enough income every year that we are always taxed at 85% of our SS benefit, so 85% of our SS values get added to our IRMAA. The way your answer reads, a reader of the article might think everyone has 50% of their SS benefit added to IRMAA. *Signed: IRMAA Victim* 

**Dear IRMAA Victim:** I think you may have confused two terms I used when describing Medicare's "Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount" or "IRMAA." I also used the term "MAGI" (Modified Adjusted Gross Income), and it's important to distinguish between those two terms.

- MAGI is what determines if the IRMAA provision applies, and IRMAA will affect how much your Medicare premium is. But MAGI is also used for another purpose—to see if your SS benefits are taxable. Your MAGI consists of your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) from your income tax return, plus any non-taxable interest you may have had, plus 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year
- IRMAA is a factor which will increase your monthly Medicare premium if your MAGI is over certain thresholds for your tax filing status. MAGI is used to determine if a higher Medicare premium applies, and it is also used to see if your SS benefits are subject to income tax.

Your MAGI does, indeed, always use only 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year (not 85% in some cases). That's because the SS contributions included in MAGI relate to SS contributions your employer paid on your behalf. Only half of your received SS benefits are used to determine MAGI because that's the amount of your SS benefits attributable to your employer's contributions. Said another way, the SS payroll tax you personally paid while working was from your taxable income, so it is not included in MAGI. But the amount your employer contributed was not taxable by the IRS and, thus, is included in MAGI. So, it's the portion of your SS benefits attributable to your employer which is included in MAGI. Thus, the terminology that MAGI is "your combined income from all sources, including 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year" is correct. MAGI is what determines how much of your SS benefits are taxable, but your MAGI also determines if IRMAA applies to your Medicare premiums. Your benefits are taxable if, as a married couple filing jointly, your total MAGI exceeds \$32,000. If your MAGI is over the first threshold but less than the 2nd threshold (\$44,000 for married filers) then 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year are included as part of your income taxable by the IRS. But if your MAGI goes over the 2nd threshold (\$44,000 for married filers) then up to 85% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year will be included as part of your income taxable by the IRS. In short, MAGI determines how much of your income is subject to taxation. But MAGI is also used to determine if IRMAA applies. And how much your MAGI exceeds the separate IRMAA thresholds determines what your Medicare premium will be.

## **M&T Announces Winners of the Prince George's County Small Business Accelerator Program**

Sadija A. Smiley Awarded \$5,000 grand prize to support Stillborn and Infant Loss Support Inc.

## *By* PRESS OFFICER **M&T Bank**

LARGO, Md. (Nov. 12, 2024)—Sadija A. Smiley and Stillborn And Infant Loss Support Inc. (SAILS) have won the \$5,000 grand prize in the small business accelerator pitch competition hosted by M&T Bank (NYSE: MTB) and FSC First. This program aims to equip entrepreneurs with essential skills and guidance to build resilient businesses, drive economic growth in Prince George's County, and create generational wealth for their families.

SAILS provides compassionate support to families experiencing miscarriage, stillbirth, and infant loss. Through community building, education, and support groups, the organization helps families navigate grief with dignity and strength.

"We are incredibly grateful to receive the \$5,000 grand prize, which will allow us to provide more resources, foster community, and support families who have faced unimaginable loss," said Sadija A. Smiley, winner of the pitch competition. "This funding will enable us to expand our support groups, develop additional educational resources, and continue creating a safe space for healing. Together, we are ensuring that no one must face this journey alone." The competition was the culmination of an eight-week program launched on September 24. This hybrid program, featuring virtual and in-person courses at various county locations, covered topics such as business planning, capital sourcing, financial management, marketing, and branding. The program concluded on November 12 with a pitch competition, followed by the announcement of awards, funded by M&T Bank.

Nicole Angela Sergeant, owner of Freckled LLC, secured the second-place prize of \$3,000, while Tiffany Kelly, owner of House of Ketubah Bridal (HOK Bridal), earned the third-place prize of \$2,000. All participants were recognized for their hard work and progress with certificates celebrating their commitment to the program.

To qualify, businesses had to be based in Prince George's County, in operation for at least two years, and in good standing. M&T Bank also offers similar accelerator programs in Montgomery, Howard, and Frederick counties, as well as Baltimore City.

"In partnership with Prince George's County, M&T Bank is proud to have hosted the Business Accelerator Program, which equips local entrepreneurs with the resources to help their businesses thrive," said Jim Peterson, M&T Bank's Vice President and Small Business Ambassador. "This program provides mentorship opportunities, and the tools small business owners need to succeed in a competitive landscape. We're thrilled with this year's turnout and celebrate everyone who participated."

This event marked the second business accelerator program M&T Bank has sponsored in Prince George's County this year, following a Spanish-language program hosted in partnership with the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation in June.

M&T is a financial holding company headquartered in Buffalo, New York. M&T's principal banking subsidiary, M&T Bank, provides banking products and services with a branch and ATM network spanning the eastern U.S. Visit www.mtb.com.

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

## Deportation of Migrants Would Hit Maryland Economy, Experts Warn

*By* SHAUN CHORNOBROFF and MENNATALLA IBRAHIM **Capital News Service** 

WASHINGTON (Dec. 3, 2024)— Throughout his campaign for a second term, President-elect Donald Trump promised his administration would carry out the largest mass deportation operation in American history.

If successful, Trump's move would put the estimated more than a quarter-million Maryland residents without legal status at risk of deportation, which experts say could damage the state's economy longterm. "(This policy) is a very real worry," Benjamin Orr, the president and CEO of the nonpartisan Maryland Center on Economic Policy, told Capital News Service. "It's going to have terrible impacts on families, and it's also going to really slow down and harm our state's economy." Willow Lung-Amam, an associate professor in the University of Maryland's urban studies and planning program and a director of its Urban Equity Collaborative, takes her class on a walking tour through Langley Park each year. It's only a square mile, and the latest U.S. Census data indicates that 83 percent of its 22,000 residents are Hispanic—many of whom are living there without legal permission. During Trump's first term, Langley Park lived in fear of ICE raids.

ment, administrative, and waste management services; and 15 percent in accommodation and food services, entertainment and recreation.

People living in the country without legal permission paid more than \$1.2 billion in taxes, including \$476.3 million in state and local taxes, and \$4.3 billion in total spending power in 2022, according to the American Immigration Council.

"Unauthorized immigrants, over their lifetimes, contribute far more in terms of tax payments and productivity than they cost," Michelle Mittelstadt, the director of communications for the Migration Policy Institute, said. Last month, Gov. Wes Moore told The Baltimore Banner that he is grateful for immigrants communities' contributions to the state and is committed to protecting all Marylanders, regardless of "the actions the new administration takes on immigration policy." The United States historically has expelled the majority of migrants without legal status to Mexico and other Central American countries. And with the majority of those living in Maryland without legal permission hailing from those nations, according to the Migration Policy Institute, Mittelstadt said the state could see a larger number of deported people in Trump's second term. The nation has experienced several mass deportation episodes in the past. Most recently, nearly 454,000 migrants living in the country without legal permission were deported between 2008 and 2014, according to a study by Robert Lynch, an economics professor at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland. "In each of these episodes, politicians and proponents of the deportations asserted that the policy would create jobs for American workers, raise their wages and grow the economy," Lynch said on a Nov. 20 virtual press call. "But in each case, jobs for American workers did not materialize, their wages did not go up and the economy did not grow." One of the modern examples of mass deportations within the United States centered around Arizona, where anti-immigration laws resulted in the state losing an estimated 40 percent of its workers living in the country without legal status between 2008 and 2015. While a national recession at the same time resulted in immigrants leaving several states, a study co-authored by Lynch in July found that Arizona had the greatest decline in its migrant population.

in the state saw a 2 percent decline in employment rates.

In his first term, Trump cut refugee admissions to historic levels, enacted a Muslim travel ban and made it more difficult for immigrants of all statuses to enter the country.

Notably for Maryland, Trump changed the H-2B visa program, a seasonal visa for foreign workers, from first-come, firstserved to a lottery system, which hurt the

So, the article correctly states that IRMAA only counts 50% of the SS benefits received because that is what is included in MAGI (which is what determines if IRMAA applies). But the amount of SS which may be taxable income by the IRS could be up to 85% of benefits received during the tax year if your MAGI is high enough.

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.

## Echoes from A4

bies step into their parents shoes and try to walk. But we cannot imitate or draw inspiration from—that which we have never seen, heard, or read about. I hope people continue to learn about my friend Louis Gossett, Jr. and the other giants we lost because the examples they set are surely ones to be imitated.

Lou's hope was that younger generations grow up to remember that bigger picture of which he spoke. That "instead of talking about the salvation of the Irish or the Jew or the Black, they talk about the salvation of mankind and the planet. I think we can ask for and expect nothing less." Hear, hear.

#### —December 4, 2024

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

In June 2019, Trump promised to carry out large-scale mass deportations. ICE removed more than 250,000 people the previous year, 55 percent of which were convicted of felonies or misdemeanors, according to the agency.

The result in Langley Park was widespread panic, largely empty streets and residents hesitant to leave their homes, according to a CBS report from July 2019.

With the president-elect declaring even more drastic measures during his second term, Lung-Amam worries for areas with large migrant populations.

"What I fear for communities like Langley Park are not just the level of deportations ... but the larger sense that that community doesn't matter, or that the people in it don't matter," Lung-Amam said.

Immigrants without legal status represent 4.2 percent of Maryland's overall population and nearly a quarter of Maryland's immigration population, according to the American Immigration Council, a Washington-based nonprofit advocacy group.

Nearly 150,000 individuals without legal status are employed in Maryland, according to a 2019 report by the Migration Policy Institute, a nonpartisan think tank in Washington. More than a quarter of this population works in construction; 17 percent in professional, scientific, manage-

In the aftermath of its policies, Arizona saw a 2.5 percent decrease in total employment due to the departures, according to a Moody's Analytics analysis, and American-born, non-Hispanic white men Maryland crabbing industry.

"Women, particularly from Mexico, have come to Maryland during the crabpicking season to work and do these jobs," Mittelstadt said. "These are not considered high-skill jobs. However, it does take a very particular skill to do them."

In August 2018, the Washington Post reported that about a third of crab-picking jobs were vacant across the Eastern Shore.

Lynch argues that large-scale mass deportations only hurt the local and federal economies, partially due to the misnomer that deporting working immigrants creates more jobs for Americans.

"The idea that mass deportation will help American citizens in the future is likely an illusion," Lynch said during the press call, rejecting the notion that immigrants living in the United States without legal permission are doing the jobs American workers otherwise would do.

"(Those living in the country without legal status) have different skills, different abilities to work, different willingness to work," Lynch said. "They are often not in competition with American workers but they work cooperatively, increasing each other's productivity and wages, creating more jobs and growing the economy for everyone."

As many as 28 million Americans will be in families with at least one member without legal status by the beginning of 2025, according to a report from FWD.us, a bipartisan political organization advocating immigration and criminal justice reforms.

In Maryland, 84,000 immigrants without legal status are married and 51,000 of them are married to non-U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, according to the Migration Policy Institute.

Orr worries that Maryland may see a decline in consumers' spending in anticipation of Trump's second term, which may combine the mass deportation of immigrants without legal documentation to live in the country with a dramatic slash to the federal government, which is the largest single employer in the state.

"It will be a shock both morally and ethically," Orr said. "A shock to families and communities and a shock to our economy that will be very difficult to recover from."

# **COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY**

## **UNITED METHODIST**

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"A CHURCH ON THE REACH FOR GOD" 9363 D'Arcy Road Upper Marlboro, MD

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Reverend Twanda E. King, Pastor www.uumchurch.com

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Pastor: Rev. Waymond B. Duke

BAPTIST

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5018 Lakeland Road College Park, MD 20740 301-474-3995 www.fbc-cp.org

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## **COMMUNITY CHURCH**

## WORD OF GOD COMMUNITY CHURCH

"The Church Where Everybody is Somebody and Jesus is Lord

4109 Edmonston Road Bladensburg, MD (301) 864-3437

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Morning Worshin Celebration- 10:30 a m Wed, Night Bible Study - 7:45 p m Elder Willie W. Duvall, Pastor

Have a Safe Weekend

## **Designing Climate EarthTalk**<sup>®</sup> Q&A **Resilient Housing**

By Tim Weighart | November 27, 2024

Dear EarthTalk:

How can we design houses and buildings that are resilient to climate change, that can survive the extreme weather events increasing in a warming world?

-P. Smith, Wayne, PA

Since the frequency and intensity of floods, wildfires and heat waves has increased due to climate change, the U.S. housing market has become steadily more volatile. Billions of dollars' worth of damages have already piled up from these disasters, and they will only increase unless we drastically shift how we build. To make matters worse, climate disasters disproportionately affect vulnerable populations due to their proximity to areas most susceptible to hazardous climate conditions and the poorly constructed buildings.

Despite the scope and precarity of housing issues in the era of climate change, the Climate-Resilient Housing Initiative has put forth plans to build affordable, sustainable and resilient homes for 10 million people by 2030. Many types of model homes have been developed and built to demonstrate how housing could be adapted to handle natural disasters. For example, homes that will be built in areas

SERVICES—MISCELLANEOUS

prone to flooding could either be elevated on stilts or designed to be buoyant in anticipation of rising water levels.

Other examples of climateresilient housing include homes designed for rising temperatures and drought conditions, including features like reflective surfaces, green spaces, solar panels and good insulation. Architects have found plenty of affordable ways to produce climate resilient housing as well by building well-insulated, wind-resistant houses with locally sourced clay, or designing wooden buildings that can easily be taken apart and moved to higher ground in the event of a flood. Other housing allows for an easy exit in the event of a fire, or the ability to safely adjust airflows to provide ventilation during windstorms.

In light of the impending dangers to our housing, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has released a report outlining recommended resiliency strategies for buildings. Also, companies like Green Builder Media are putting resources into learning how to make climate-resilient housing. And since natural disasters are bringing down the value of houses so rapidly, realtors are being encouraged to implement proper climate-resiliency stan-

dards into their homes in order to keep them marketable.

The vast majority of U.S. housing was built decades ago, long before climate change was a threat. As such, millions of homes are completely unprepared for the natural disasters that are coming their way. We still have a long way to go before we're fully prepared, but the technology, scientific knowledge and financial incentives are all there for us to begin building more resilient communities.

**CONTACTS:** How To Make Housing More Resilient Against Disasters. Natural https://www.unep.org/news-andstories/story/5-ways-make-buildings-climate-change-resilient; How Climate Change Contributes To Issues Within The Modern Housing Market, https://www.theverge.com/23951 223/housing-climate-changezoning-nimby-sustainable-design

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit Earth-Talk. See more at https://emagazine.com. To donate, visit https//earthtalk.org. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org

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