

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SINCE 1932

Vol. 93, No. 8 February 20 — February 26, 2025 Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents

Black Ink Open House

By PRESS OFFICER
Pyramid Atlantic

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (Feb. 10, 2025)—Now in its second year, Pyramid is pleased to hold BLACK INK. This Black artist-centered open house is FREE and open to everyone. Its purpose is to celebrate and showcase local Black artists and creatives, particularly printmakers.

The event includes art demonstrations in letterpress printing, papermaking, screenprinting and more; a pop-up market curated by Nubian Huelman, open studios, and an exhibition with artist talk.

BLACK INK happens on **Saturday, February 22** from 12–6 p.m. at Pyramid Atlantic (4318 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville, MD). The open house is FREE with **RSVP required**. Visit bit.ly/blackink2025 to RSVP and see the most up to date agenda. Learn more about Pyramid at pyramidatlantic.org or call 301-608-9101.



IMAGE COURTESY PYRAMID ATLANTIC

Sarah's Mudcloth by Sarah Matthews

Schedule

- 12–6 p.m.
- Pop-Up Market curated by Nubian Huelman
- Tattoo Demonstrations by Gremlins Tattoo Lounge
- Exhibition of prints by Curlee Raven Holton: Finding a Voice Through Printmaking 12–4 p.m.:

- Open Studios and Demonstrations in Letterpress, Relief Printmaking, Monotypes, Bookmaking, Lithography, Screenprinting and Papermaking. Featuring Mosiah Ballard, Jeanette M. Bolden, Michael Booker, IBé Crawley, Ennis Hodgson, Imar Hutchins, Camilla King,

Sarah Matthews, Brittany Murray, Corey Richardson, Kimberly Thorpe 3 p.m.:

- Artist Conversation with Curlee Raven Holton and Imar Hutchins 4–6 p.m.:
- Happy Hour Mocktail Social with DJ Aquarian

The 2025 Black Ink is made possible in part by a grant from The City of Hyattsville.

Founded in 1981, Pyramid Atlantic is a nonprofit contemporary art center. Our mission is to sustain and elevate a welcoming arts hub in Hyattsville, MD that champions contemporary printmaking, papermaking, and book arts. We equip, educate, and exhibit while prioritizing artistic integrity, creative growth, and inclusivity. Our vision is to anchor an arts community that recognizes and uplifts the importance of artists, the intrinsic values of working with your hands, and the economy of artist-made work. pyramidatlanticartcenter.org

Council Member Watson Applauds County Schools Receiving State Recognition for Gifted Education Programs

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of Council Member Ingrid S. Watson

Council Member Ingrid S. Watson is congratulating two District 4 schools for being recognized for having outstanding gifted and talented education programs: Benjamin Tasker Middle School and Heather Hills Elementary School. The Maryland State Department of Education recognized 14 schools with Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education (EGATE) Awards on Thursday, February 6. Six schools in Prince George's County received the honor. Benjamin Tasker Middle School was honored for the second time, while Accokeek Academy, Glenarden Woods Elementary, Heather Hills Elementary, Valley View Elementary, and Walker Mill Middle School received their third EGATE Award.

"We are incredibly proud of the teachers, administrators, and staff at Benjamin Tasker Middle School and Heather Hills Elementary School for their hard work and dedication, which has led to receiving this distinguished recognition. We are honored to have them in District 4!" said Council Member Watson. "We also applaud the four other schools in Prince George's County that earned this same level of exceptional recognition."

Since 2010, the EGATE program has recognized 133 public schools. To achieve the EGATE designation, school personnel work to document gifted and talented programs over a 15-month period, identifying 21 criteria for excellence under four program objectives: student identification, curriculum and instruction, professional development, and program management and evaluation.

All EGATE schools will be honored Saturday, February 22 during an awards ceremony at Severn Run High School in Severn.

For more information on Gifted and Talented Programs, please visit the MSDE website.

Distinguished Prince George's County Resident Pens Memoir

Medical Trailblazer Tells of Many 'Firsts' as a Black Anesthesiologist

By ELAINE K. WATKINS
Melville Q. Wyche, Jr., M.D.

BOWIE, Md. (Feb. 12, 2025)—Melville Q. Wyche, Jr., M.D., a Bowie resident and a trailblazer in anesthesiology practice and education, is the author of "They Called Me Super Doc: An Anesthesiologist's Memoir". Through vignettes personal and professional, Dr. Wyche recounts his achievements and setbacks during the journey from his roots in segregated Washington, North Carolina, to retirement in the Washington, D.C., area.

Dr. Wyche graduated from Hampton University (Hampton, VA) and Meharry Medical College (Nashville, TN) and cut his teeth in anesthesiology in the U.S. Army (three months on-the-job training), ultimately becoming chief of Anesthesia and Operating Room, United States

Army Hospital, Camp Zama, Japan. In 1967, he became the first Black doctor accepted into the Department of Anesthesiology Residency Training Program at the University of Pennsylvania and in 1970, became the first Black faculty member of that department.

Dr. Wyche served as chief of Anesthesia Service and Oxygen Therapy Service, Philadelphia General Hospital in the 1970s, and as director, Department of Anesthesiology, Pennsylvania Hospital (Philadelphia) in the 1980s.

In 1988, Dr. Wyche joined Howard University Hospital as chief of the Anesthesiology Division of Surgery and program director, Anesthesiology Training Program, and a year later, was appointed professor and chairman of the newly established Department of Anesthesiology. In 2000, he was elected

president of the medical staff at Howard University Hospital.

On the national level, Dr. Wyche has served as associate examiner for the American Board of Anesthesiology; residency inspector, Residency Review Committee for Anesthesiology; board member of the Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research; and as a member of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, among other national accomplishments. He is the first Black physician elected to membership in the Association of University Anesthesiologists.

"My father and mother were both educators, but I took another path, or so I thought. I chose medicine, little knowing that my entire career would be devoted to academics, helping to shape the lives and practices of young men and women," said Dr. Wyche.

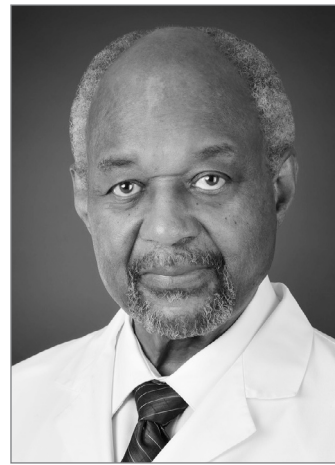


PHOTO COURTESY
EWS AND ASSOCIATES, LLC

Melville Q. Wyche, Jr., M.D.

Dr. Wyche served as a member of the Governor's Task Force for Improvement of Prince George's County Maryland Hospital System in 2002. He and his wife, Alice Mahan Wyche, own and operate two assisted living facilities in Bowie. He is a former commodore of the Seafarers Yacht Club, Inc., and a founding director and former board member of the Seafarers Foundation, Inc., in Annapolis, Maryland.

To purchase the memoir, visit [They Called Me Super Doc](https://www.theycalledmesuperdoc.com).

Council Member Krystal Oriadha Announces 2nd Edition of DMV Green Book

Guide Empowers and Supports Black-Owned Businesses Across the Region

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of Council Member Krystal Oriadha

Council Member Krystal Oriadha (District 7) has just released the 2025 edition of the DMV Green Book, a comprehensive directory dedicated to promoting and supporting Black-owned businesses across Prince George's County and the greater DC region. This annual publication serves as a vital resource for residents looking to invest in and uplift the Black business community.

Building on the historic legacy of the Green Book, which offered Black Americans safe travel guidance during the era of segregation, the DMV Green Book is now taking the lead in connecting consumers with Black entrepreneurs, professionals, and service

providers across a range of industries such as restaurants, retail, construction, and beauty. This initiative seeks to empower Black-owned businesses, especially in light of recent challenges posed by the Trump administration's policies.

"Economic empowerment is key to building thriving communities," said Council Member Oriadha. "The DMV Green Book isn't just a directory—it's part of a larger movement to ensure Black-owned businesses receive the visibility and support necessary for success. Through targeted investments in local businesses, we are cultivating generational wealth, creating jobs, and advancing economic equity. This effort is especially crucial as we navigate the challenges posed by the Trump administration's policies, which

have impacted communities of color in various ways."

The 2025 edition of the DMV Green Book will feature an expanded business directory with new categories and listings, a spotlight on nonprofits and DEI supportive corporations making a difference in the region, and influencers and local bands all on an interactive digital platform to make it even easier for consumers to find and support Black culture.

To celebrate the launch, Council Member Oriadha invites the community to tune into her Building Black Wealth Instagram Live Series. This series features conversations with community leaders, entrepreneurs, and business owners, highlighting economic development, financial literacy, and wealth-building strategies designed by and for African Americans.

National Harbor Hosts its Annual Fooduary Event From February 23–March 1

Weeklong Food and Entertainment Celebration at one of the DMV's Top Destinations

By PRESS OFFICER
National Harbor

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. (Feb. 4, 2025)—National Harbor and its restaurant and entertainment partners are showcasing offerings throughout the property during its 2025 Fooduary event from Sunday, February 23 through Saturday, March 1. Fooduary, with more than two dozen participating locations, is a celebration of food and entertainment including specially-priced prix fixe menus, cooking and cocktail demonstrations and classes from National Harbor chefs and bartenders and other special offers and giveaways.

Restaurants will offer prix fixe \$55 and \$40 dinner and \$25 lunch menus as well as special brunch deals. Participating restaurants include Bond45, Rosa Mexicano, Grace's Mandarin, Osteria Costa, Harbor Social, Silver Diner, Fiorella Italian Kitchen & Pizzeria, Succotash, Diablo's Cantina and Brother Jimmy's BBQ. There are also \$15 fast casual specials at Mezeh, BurgerFi and Crimson Coward.

Fiorella Italian Kitchen & Pizzeria is featuring a special Fooduary Wine Dinner on Thursday, Feb. 27 from 7 to 10 p.m. The dinner features five carefully curated courses artfully paired with five exquisite wines and is \$95 per person, prepaid. Space is limited.

Customers may also present their Fooduary restaurant receipt at The Capital Wheel ticket booth to receive a discounted ticket for \$15 (plus tax). The Yard Milkshake Bar will have February specials and Sip & Develop will offer a free snack when a session is booked. Fogo de Chao will provide a \$25 bounce back card with any lunch or dinner purchase, one card per couple.

"Fooduary is a great opportunity to explore National Harbor's restaurants and experiences. With prix fixe menus starting at \$15, it allows more guests to try something they wouldn't normally," said Deborah Topcik, senior director of marketing at National Harbor. "And it's a great opportunity to try some of our unique experiences including Sip & Develop."

National Harbor fans are encouraged to visit the website www.nationalharbor.com/fooduary to learn from chefs and bartenders where they can view tricks of the trade and sign-up for a class.

For more info on National Harbor, visit www.NationalHarbor.com.

INSIDE

In & Around Morningside-Skyline

Brandywine-Aquasco

Coalition to Support Prince George's County Fire and EMS Celebrates 100,000 Residents United for Change

Towns and Neighbors, Page A2

Empowering Women Everywhere: 'Where My Girls At' Women's Empowerment Summit

Dr. Sheena Rogers Chosen for the Leadership Maryland Executive Program Class of 2025

Community, Page A3

ChildWatch:

Teaching Black History

Black, Native American, Latino, Asian American, LGBTQ, immigrant, and women's history are all American history.

Commentary, Page A4

EmpowerHER Global Business Summit 2025 Ignites "Momentum in Motion" for Women Entrepreneurs

M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Board Announces Resignation of Commissioner William Doerner, PhD

Business and Finance, Page A5

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Water main break leaves Skyline water-less

I woke one morning last week to no water!

I wondered if it was just my house, or just our block. I soon learned it was area-wide and that there was a major water main break.

WSSC Water set up water-distribution stations at Cosca Park in Clinton, Rosecroft Raceway in Fort Washington, and Marlo Furniture in Forestville on Tues., Feb. 11, and Wed., Feb. 12. They gave out 3 gallons of clean water per vehicle.

WSSC Water General Manager/CEO Kishia Powell spent part of Wednesday out in the rain, helping hand out water.

Crews worked through the night at the site of a 54-inch diameter water main break in a wooded area off I-495 near MD 214 (Central Avenue). An access road and bridge were put into place to reach the location of the broken pipe. Next, excavation occurred. Crews assessed the damage to the pipe and determined how many pipe segments needed to be replaced.

As the water returned, a Boil Water Advisory went into effect.

WSSC Water worked with the Maryland Department of the Environment to sample and test water from multiple locations in Southern Prince George's County. Finally, at 4:25 Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 12, WSSC Water lifted the Boil Water Advisory. Full water pressure had returned, and tests showed the water was safe to drink. So, now I have water. And don't have to boil it.

But, repair work on the broken main continues.

Blood Drive at the VFW

VFW Auxiliary and the Red Cross are hosting a blood drive and invite you to participate. It will be at the VFW, 6527 Suitland Rd., on Saturday, March 16, 11 a.m.

For more information, call 301-736-2301.

Wanted: Prince George's Centenarians

Do you know any Prince George's County resident born in 1925 or earlier? M-NCPPC (Department of Parks and Recreation) is hosting a luncheon for County residents born in 1925 or earlier (January 1, 1925, to December 31, 1925) as a way to celebrate our centenarians.

Luncheon will be held Friday, May 9, at the Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center, 7120 Contee Road in Laurel.

If you know someone born in 1925 or earlier, and resides in Prince George's County, please share this information or complete the online registration form at pgparks.com/centenarian no later than March 14.

For centenarian registration assistance, contact the staff at Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center, 301-206-3351/3350, or send an email to Seniors@pgparks.com.

Corben Thompson, AF vet, dies at 95

Corben M. Thompson, longtime resident of Skyline before moving to Huntingtown, died at home January 13, 2025. He was 95.

He was born August 8, 1929, in Piney Grove, Md., to Elwood Leroy and Mildred Genivive (Unsworth) Thompson. He grew up in Capitol Heights, one of eight boys.

He served in the Air Force from 1950 to 1954, some of the time in the Korean War.

In 1955, he married Barbara McPherson. They settled in Skyline, a block down Skyline Drive from the McHales. Several of their children were good friends of my kids.

Corben continued his love of aircraft and machinery and went on to work as a machinist for United Airlines, the Federal Government, Naval Research Lab, and the Department of Commerce.

He was a member of Huntingtown United Methodist Church.

He loved spending time with his

grandchildren. And enjoyed tinkering and repairing things. He loved birds, animals, his dogs, listening to music, fishing, and hunting. He was a great fan of the Redskins and Nationals.

He's survived by his wife of nearly 70 years, Barbara; children, Karlyn Davis and husband Jerry, Roy Thompson and wife Patricia, Laura Hoffman, Jennifer Parker and husband Clayton, and Kristi Thraikill and husband Dan; grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his granddaughter Amanda Davis.

All services were private. Donations in Corben's name may be made to the Calvert Churches Community Food Pantry.

Changing landscape

The U.S. may stop making pennies. Do you think we should? From years ago—along with my kids and those blue albums where we used to post the pennies—I have a fondness for pennies. I vote to keep them.

The fabric retail chain Joann, once a leading destination for do-it-yourself and craft enthusiasts, is closing more than 500 stores. I notice that our closest Joann is in Brandywine. Is that one among the closings?

A home at 4907 Procopio Drive, in Camp Springs, has just sold for \$480,000.

Milestones

Happy Birthday to Larry Miller, Feb. 24; Kevin Gray, Feb. 25; Angela Hutchinson and Thomas "TJ" Flaherty, Feb. 27; Terrence Flaherty, Feb. 28; and Gerry Joliffe, Feb. 29, who'll have to wait three years—'til 2028—to celebrate his leap-year birthday.

Happy anniversary to Clifford and Nancy Lantz, on Feb. 26, and to Freda and Michael McDonald, their 45th on Feb. 28.

Email me (muddmm@gmail.com) with birthdays and anniversaries.

Brandywine-Aquasco by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

DC BOAT SHOW AT NATIONAL HARBOR

DC Boat Shows are excited to welcome boating enthusiasts to the 3rd Annual DC Boat Show May 2, 2025, to May 4, 2025, at National Harbor. The address is 168 National Plaza, National Harbor, Maryland. Join us for a week-end getaway on the Potomac River and kick off the boating season. There will be a wide variety of vessels from Sail to Power, and new to Quality Pre-owned for immediate sale and to order. Tour the boats, grab food and drinks, listen to live music throughout the show, peruse the vendor tents for the latest in boating gear, meet the experts, and commute with boaters from local and far away harbors! National Harbor is one of the many destinations on the Potomac River, stay for the weekend and take the water taxi to Old Time Alexandria, The Wharf, Georgetown. Visit website, <https://dcoatshows.com/>, and purchase your tickets.

FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

Prince George's County Family Justice Center (An initiative of the Circuit Court) Changing Lives, Restoring hope. Hours of operation: Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Telephone 301-780-8008, princegeorgescourts.org/358. Established as an initiative of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, the Family Justice Center is a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary organization created to enhance the provision of services for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and elder abuse in the aftermath of trauma and victimization.

Recognized as a best practice for victim services and support, the Prince George's County Family Justice Center provides an array of co-located services from 23 private nonprofit and government agencies. This "one-stop shop" process eliminates barriers to service, enhances victims' access to essential resources, and provides services in a more efficient, effective, and client-centered manner. Their mission is to serve the needs of people impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and elder abuse through a sustained continuum of services, delivering integrated, comprehensive, and client-driven options that will empower survivors to find hope and restoration in their lives.

Services are provided in a welcoming, secure, and confidential state-of-the art professional environment. All clients are treated with dignity and respect by a team of dedicated professionals that have an immediate sense and understanding of where you are and what you may have experienced.

FOOD PANTRIES IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

Food pantries and distribution centers in Prince George's County, Maryland administer several assistance programs. The locations may have meals, free food, gift baskets and items such as clothing available to the low-income seniors and disabled in the community. Resources offered by these centers

can range from groceries and boxes of food up through limited amounts of financial help for bills, housing, or basic needs such as diapers or baby formula.

Some of the Prince George's food banks partner with national non-profits, government agencies, or local charities. For example, many sites can help people apply for resources such as food stamps, LIHEAP, or low-income housing. Other services will also be arranged as needed.

Anything noted above would of course be in addition to helping needy families by providing free or low-cost food, meals, and perishable items. The goal is to prevent hunger in the region.

Greater Refuge Ministries Food Pantry address 9512 Piscataway Road, Clinton, Maryland, 20735. Phone: 866-515-1317. The First New Horizon Baptist Church located at 9511 Piscataway Road, Clinton, Maryland, 20735. Telephone: 301-856-9177. Free meals, including delivery to the homebound, can be arranged. Other support may help pay bills, offer grocery and prescription vouchers, shelter, and other services for the low income and people facing a hardship. Bethel House located at 6810 Floral Park Road, Brandywine, Maryland, 20613. Telephone: 301-372-1700. Fresh fruits and vegetables can be provided along with snacks for students in Prince George's County. Many other pantries operate in the region. For more details, call 410-737-8282. Callers can learn about Meals on Wheels for senior citizens on Christmas and Thanksgiving programs.

PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST-PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR

David Satcher was born in Anniston, Alabama in 1941. He matriculated at Morehouse College earning a bachelor's degree, and then at Case Western Reserve University, earning his master's degree and doctorate. In 1993, Dr. Satcher became the first African American Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). A physician-scientist and public health administrator, Dr. Satcher was a four-star admiral in the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. As the 16th Surgeon General of the United States, from 1998–2002, he was the first African American to hold the position. Additionally, he was the 10th Secretary for Health in the Department of Health and Human Services from 1998–2001, the first African American man serving in this role. He was only the second person in history to serve in these two positions concurrently. During his career as a physician and professor, Dr. Satcher held leadership positions at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, Morehouse School of Medicine, and Meharry Medical College. In 2006, Dr. David Satcher founded the Satcher Health Leadership Institute. Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia. Year 1993 School Timeline Historical Context.

Coalition to Support Prince George's County Fire and EMS Celebrates 100,000 Residents United for Change

By PRESS OFFICER

Coalition to Support PGC Fire and EMS

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. (Feb. 11, 2025)—Leading municipalities across Prince George's County are joining forces to create a powerful set of recommendations for our next County Executive. These recommendations provide a foundation for creating systematic changes inside the PGC Fire/EMS department.

- Reduce Barriers to Volunteerism
- Commitment to Expedited, Large Scale Recruitment
- Renegotiate single role EMS services
- Improved Data Transparency
- Facility Support for Volunteer Properties and Apparatus
- Establish a Task Force for Efficiency and Recruitment

The Coalition to Support Prince George's County Fire and EMS includes the City of College Park, City of Greenbelt, City of New Carrollton, Town of Bladensburg, Town of Cottage City, Town of Edmonston, City of Glenarden, Prince George's County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association and individual municipal leaders.

"Public safety is a core responsibility of any government, and addressing deficiencies in our Fire and EMS services is essential to ensuring the well-being of every resident and community in Prince George's County," says Bladensburg Mayor Takisha James.

Representing over 100,000 residents of Prince George's County, the Coalition to Support Prince George's County Fire and EMS is forwarding these recommendations to every candidate for County Executive and requesting a response for how they intend to support and swell the ranks of the Prince George's County Fire and EMS Departments.

Contact Information:

Coalition to Support Prince Georges County Fire and EMS
Councilmember Danielle Carter, City of Mount Rainier
240-539-2021

Former Vice Mayor Stefan Leggin, Town of Brentwood
202-579-2096

Coalitionpgcfireandems@gmail.com

Fighting for Freedom: Exploring Black Craftsmanship

By PRESS OFFICER

DAR Museum

WASHINGTON (Feb. 11, 2025)—The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Museum is proud to announce its new exhibition, Fighting for Freedom: Black Craftspeople and the Pursuit of Independence, curated by the Black Craftspeople Digital Archive. This exhibition seeks to embrace the stories of all those who pursued independence by centering on the lives and experiences of Black craftspeople and artisans from the 18th and 19th centuries. The exhibit will be on view from **March 29 to December 31, 2025**.

This exhibition highlights the creations, contributions, and legacies of African Americans as they fought for freedom from the earliest calls for American independence and beyond. Fighting for Freedom spans the war years of the American Revolution through the present, as African Americans sought to pursue agency and liberty through craft. The underpinning idea of African American craft as a catalyst for freedom-seeking displays itself in a host of ways in this exhibition, encompassing furniture, metals, ceramics, textiles, art, tools, and personal accessories.

The Founders' cries for liberty from tyranny and oppression resonated with African Americans and were embraced by Black craftspeople, both free and enslaved.

Fighting for Freedom features more than 50 objects from public and private lenders and includes items made by both free and enslaved craftspeople. With artifacts from the 18th, 19th, and 21st centuries, this exhibition tells the stories of countless known and unnamed figures whose skills and commitment created not only objects but independence in many forms. Examples of Black craftsmanship in the exhibit include:

- Revolving wooden table made by John Hemmings for Thomas Jefferson's use at Polar Forest in 1811. On loan courtesy of the Thomas Jefferson's Monticello Foundation
- Landscape of Lookout Mountain and Moccasin Bend by itinerant painter Robert Duncanson from 1855, depicting a location where self-emancipated people crossed the Tennessee River for freedom in the North. On loan courtesy of Michael and Julie Meyer.
- Silver coffeepot, 1742–1768, from the shop of Alexander Petrie in Charleston, South Carolina, likely made by Abraham the silversmith. On loan from the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA).
- Modern quilt back chair made in the style of Richard Poyner by artisan Robell Awake to honor his legacy and push back against craft histories that ignored Black makers.

The exhibit will be accompanied by a variety of educational programs, including monthly virtual lectures, weekly family craft activities, and an annual symposium. Details can be found at: <http://www.dar.org/museumevents>. Most will be free and available to the public.

For more information, visit the DAR Museum website at <https://www.dar.org/museum/exhibitions/current-exhibition-1> or contact Sarah Kirspel at skirspel@dar.org.

Subscribe to **The Prince George's Post**

Call (301) 627-0900 Today!

COMMUNITY



Empowering Women Everywhere: 'Where My Girls At' Women's Empowerment Summit

By MONICA BISCOE
Where My Girls At

LANHAM, Md. (Feb. 14, 2025)—On Saturday, March 1, 2025, join us for the highly anticipated 'Where My Girls At' Women's Empowerment Summit, at the JW Marriott, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. This transformative experience is designed to celebrate, uplift, and empower women from all walks of life.

This groundbreaking event is your opportunity to connect with trailblazing speakers, participate in dynamic workshops, and cultivate a supportive community dedicated to fostering personal and professional growth. The summit features keynote speaker, Creator and Visionary, Minista Jazz. As Founder of Much Different, she pushes the boundaries of AI, activism, and Afrofuturism, by boldly building a bridge between tech and the real stories that need to be told.

At the 'Where My Girls At' Summit, attendees will:

- **Be Inspired:** Hear from influential leaders and changemakers who will share stories of resilience, triumph, and success.
- **Engage & Learn:** Participate in hands-on workshops designed to ignite self-discovery, enhance skill sets, and drive empowerment.

Event Details:
Where My Girls At Empowerment Summit
 Date: Saturday, March 1, 2025
 Time: 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
 Location: JW Marriott, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC
 Registration: <https://wheremygirls2024.eventbrite.com/>

• **Build Connections:** Network with like-minded individuals who share your passion for growth, collaboration, and celebrating the power of women.

This event is more than a summit—it's a movement. A movement that inspires women to discover their strength, embrace their potential, and take charge of their futures. Don't miss this extraordinary opportunity to be part of an unforgettable experience that celebrates the resilience, brilliance, and limitless power of women.

Let's rise together. Let's empower one another. Let's show the world 'Where My Girls At.'

For media inquiries, sponsorship opportunities, or additional details, please contact:

Kiah Campbell
kcampbell@wheremygirls.com
 757.449.7726

Dr. Sheena Rogers Chosen for the Leadership Maryland Executive Program Class of 2025

Creative Information Technology, Inc., Director of Health Informatics and Business Integrations, Prince George's County resident, one of 53 selected for statewide professional development program

By PRESS OFFICER
 Leadership Maryland

EASTON, Md. (Feb. 14, 2025)—Leadership Maryland announced today that Sheena Rogers, Director of Health Informatics and Business Integrations at Creative Information Technology, Inc., has been chosen to participate in the Executive Program as a member of the Class of 2025.

Dr. Rogers is one of 53 individuals chosen for the Leadership Maryland Executive Program's 32nd class, who will complete the eight-month, hands-on learning program focused on the state's most vital issues. The program will run from April to December, and include 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



PHOTO COURTESY LEADERSHIP MARYLAND

Dr. Sheena Rogers

100 experts representing Maryland's business, government, education, and non-profit communities will serve as panelists and guest speakers.

"We are excited to announce our next class and welcome these accomplished and motivated individuals to the Executive Program," said David Fike '16 (LM) president

and CEO, Leadership Maryland. "After a careful review and interview process, I am confident that the 53 members of the Class of 2025 represent a powerful cross-section of leaders who have a strong desire to make a broader impact within our state. I look forward to watching them grow as they build their knowledge, experience, and connections through our premier leadership program."

Leadership Maryland's flagship Executive Program is open to senior-level executives with significant achievements in either 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. For more information about Leadership Maryland, please visit leadershipmd.org, call 410-841-2101 or email info@leadershipmd.org.

Resident of the Sky Bridge at Town Center Helps Spread Love With Unique Hand-Crafted Cards

Renee Manago Griffin leads Watermark University class to create heartfelt pieces and memories with fellow residents

By PRESS OFFICER
 Watermark Retirement Communities

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Feb. 11, 2025)—Giving and receiving cards for Valentine's Day has a long tradition of bringing joy and love to others. For one resident of The Sky Bridge at Town Center, a Watermark retirement community, this tradition has taken on new life as she now leads a Watermark University class to teach her fellow residents how to make their own unforgettable cards by hand.

Renee Manago Griffin has always been a crafter, enjoying the process of making something by hand, especially when it's for others. "For years, I've done a lot of different crafts; I've tried my hand at flower arranging, clothing designs, jewelry, crocheting, and of course, card making."

"I decided to make a few cards for the women at my church. After the holidays they told me that they threw out most store-bought cards but kept mine because they loved that they were specially made," said Griffin. "It's not as common to get cards these days so handmade cards are extra special."

Around major holidays she began to send out even more cards, a pursuit she enjoyed with fellow artists at Riverdale Baptist Church, where "everyone would come to just talk, do art, eat together, and socialize." During the pandemic, she and the church community used cards to cheer up others in the community during that



PHOTO COURTESY WATERMARK RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

Members of the class proudly show off their handmade cards at the end of the Valentine's Day session on Feb. 6.

difficult time.

This passion for card making has followed her into her new home at The Sky Bridge at Town Center, as well. After moving to the community in August 2023, Griffin embraced having an entire room dedicated to crafting and started teaching a class on card marking for her fellow residents.

Now, around major holidays, residents in the community come together to bring out their creative side and brighten the spirits of those around them. This month, they poured some extra love into their creations in honor of the Valentine's Day holiday on Thursday, Feb. 6.

"I'm so pleased with the group," she said. "We just have a lot of fun."

Griffin's work with card making has even drawn national attention throughout the Watermark Retirement Communities. She was featured in the Expressions calendar for the 2025–26 year. "No matter what, it brings people joy to get a card and to make a card," she said.

Watermark Retirement Communities® creates extraordinary and innovative communities where people thrive. We believe aging is about renewal rather than retirement. Visit watermarkcommunities.com to learn more.

MedStar Health Brings the Most Advanced Robotic Surgery System—da Vinci 5—to MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center

By CHERYL RICHARDSON
 MedStar Health

CLINTON, Md. (Feb. 10, 2025)—MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center continues to lead the way in robotic surgery, recently debuting the da Vinci 5 (DV5) robot, the newest and most advanced generation of the Intuitive robotic surgical system. The da Vinci 5 robotic system enhances the hospital's existing robotic surgery program, delivering more than 10,000 times the computing power of previous da Vinci robotic systems.

The new DV5 robot offers advanced capabilities for minimally invasive procedures including hysterectomies and gynecologic surgery; urological procedures of the prostate, kidney, and bladder; and gastrointestinal procedures like bowel surgery, cholecystectomy, gallbladder removal, and colon cancer surgery.

"The addition of the da Vinci 5 robotic surgical system to our existing da Vinci robot provides the capability to have two dedicated operating rooms to perform robotic surgery simultaneously," said Nahid Mazarei, MD, OB/GYN and a leader of MedStar Southern Maryland's robotic surgery program who performed the hospital's first gynecological surgery utilizing the new da Vinci 5 system in December 2024. "This allows MedStar Southern Maryland to offer advanced



robotic procedures to even more patients. We are proud to offer our community the most advanced technology close to home."

Enhanced Surgical Benefits for Patients

More than 150 design innovations in the DV5 system provide even greater surgical outcomes



for patients and greater capabilities for surgeons including:

- Enhanced surgical senses via Force Feedback technology allow surgeons not only to see more of the surgical area but also feel it through the movements of the robotic arms. This improves surgical precision, especially

The da Vinci 5 robot complements MedStar Southern Maryland's existing da Vinci robotic technology.

PHOTOS COURTESY MEDSTAR HEALTH

- in delicate procedures.
- The highest resolution 3D imaging system provides an even clearer, more magnified view of the surgical site.
- Workflow enhancements provide greater surgeon autonomy, allowing the surgeon to perform more functions to streamline care team workflow in the operating room. This often results in shorter surgeries in many cases.

The da Vinci 5 robot complements MedStar Southern Maryland's existing da Vinci robotic technology. Minimally invasive robotic surgery offers patients multiple benefits including less overall trauma to the body due to small and fewer incisions, reduced blood loss, shorter hospital stays, less scarring and post-operative pain, and a quicker return to their lives.

Stephen T. Michaels, MD, president of MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center and senior vice president of MedStar Health, added, "The addition of a second robotic surgical system reinforces MedStar Southern Maryland's commitment to providing access to innovative technologies and surgical techniques that continue to improve the health of our community."

COMMENTARY

Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Teaching Black History

At the February 13 Senate confirmation hearing on Linda McMahon's nomination to become Secretary of Education, among the questions about withholding funding from schools teaching some lessons on gender and diversity, equity, and inclusion, Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT) pressed the specific question of whether public schools that offer classes in Black history might now be at risk of losing federal funding. Her initial answer was "I'm not quite certain," adding that she "would like to take a look at these programs and fully understand the breadth of the executive order and get back to you on that." In the middle of Black History Month this was yet another stark reminder of what has *always* been at stake in the debate over whether to teach or erase Black history.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson, "the Father of Black

History," was born in Virginia in 1875 to parents who had both formerly been enslaved. When his family moved to Huntington, West Virginia, they were close to Frederick Douglass High School, one of the rare high schools open for Black students, but he remained largely self-taught while working in the local coal mines to help support his family first. He finally had the opportunity to enroll at Douglass and attend school full time when he was 20. In between teaching and school leadership jobs that followed, he went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Berea College, a second bachelor's and a master's degree from the University of Chicago, and ultimately became the second Black scholar after W.E.B. DuBois to receive a doctorate from Harvard University, where he earned his Ph.D. in history in 1912. But as a historian and educator, everything in his formal experience showed him

Black history was "overlooked, ignored, and even suppressed by the writers of history textbooks and the teachers who use them." He was deeply alarmed that as a result so few people, including Black people, knew anything at all about Black people's achievements, and he dedicated his professional life to correcting this.

Dr. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (today the Association for the Study of African American Life and History) in 1915, and established the first observance of "Negro History Week" in 1926. Before the observance grew to a full month, he chose the second week of February to coincide with Frederick Douglass's and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays. Dr. Woodson understood just how critical it was to claim our rightful place in the history books and teach future generations about the great thinkers and role models who came before us. As he said: "Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history." But he also understood that this was much more than just an academic discussion. He saw the connection between erasing Black history and assaulting Black bodies, and said the crusade to teach the truth about Black history was even "much more important than the anti-lynching movement, because there would be no lynching if it did not start in the schoolroom. Why not exploit, enslave, or exterminate a class that every-

body is taught to regard as inferior?"

In his seminal book "The Mis-Education of the Negro", Dr. Woodson also explained that providing a standard "mis-education" to young Black children in the school system—"the thought of the inferiority of the Negro is drilled into him in almost every class he enters and in almost every book he studies"—was a calculated and insidious attack: "When you control a man's thinking you do not have to worry about his actions. You do not have to tell him not to stand here or go yonder. He will find his 'proper place' and will stay in it. You do not need to send him to the back door. He will go without being told. In fact, if there is no back door, he will cut one for his special benefit. His education makes it necessary." He believed teaching students about Black history and Black accomplishments was a crucial corrective step.

Most of us now understand the wisdom behind teaching not just Black children but all children Black history in our increasingly multicultural nation and world. Once again: Black, Native American, Latino, Asian American, LGBTQ, immigrant, and women's history are all American history. None of our children and young people can afford miseducation and ignorance about the rainbow of others around them—or forced attempts to make them believe their own history and existence are subversive, marginal, inferior, or only worthy of the back door.

—February 14, 2025

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Administration's Slash-and-Burn Campaign to Dismantle Education Is Unlawful, Unpopular, and Disastrous

"Presidents Trump and Musk and their billionaire buddies are so detached from how Americans live that they cannot see how ending public education and canceling these contracts kills the American Dream. This is not about Democrats versus Republicans. This is about billionaires versus the middle class. If kids from working class families do not have access to schools, how can they build a future?"

—U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro

The Elon Musk-led slash-and-burn squad euphemistically known as the Department of Government Efficiency has revoked the contracts of researchers who are years into the collection, analysis, and study of educational data.

It has pulled about 100 Department of Education employees, including those with even the slightest connection to diversity, equity, and inclusion policies, from their jobs.

At her Senate confirmation hearing, the nomi-

nee for Secretary of Education—an extremist advocate for diverting public funds to private schools—outlined her plan for dismantling her own department.

Meanwhile, extremist allies in the House of Representatives were preparing legislation to divert the resources slashed from educational initiatives to billionaires.

The current administration appears recklessly determined to sabotage our nation's competitiveness in the new technology-based economy by undermining federal oversight and support for education. Openly mocking its own legal and moral duty to eliminate educational opportunity gaps as "wokeness," the administration will abandon students in underserved communities, shifting evermore resources toward the wealthiest Americans.

The Department of Education has been a cabinet-level agency for only 46 years, but opponents of educational equity have been trying to eliminate federal oversight and support for education since shortly after the Civil War. Just a year after President Andrew Johnson signed a bill creating the first Department of Education, resentment over the education of formerly enslaved people led to the demotion of the agency to an office within the Department of the Interior.

Federal support for education remained rela-

tively feeble for nearly a century, until the landmark Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965. Part of President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty, the Act represented the first significant federal investment in primary and secondary schools and a commitment to closing the achievement gap.

Both Republican and Democratic presidents have reauthorized the Act over the years, most notably 1994's Improving America's Schools Act under President Bill Clinton, 2002's No Child Left Behind Act under President George W. Bush, and 2015's Every Student Succeeds Act under President Barack Obama.

The Trump administration is drafting an executive order that calls on Congress to eliminate the Department of Education, but members are unlikely to defy the strong public sentiment in favor of it. Only 29% of voters want to see the Department eliminated, and nearly 70% support increased funding for education.

A clue to the motivation behind the administration's unpopular and disastrous campaign against education lies in Musk's own publicly-declared desire to displace American-born engineers with lower-paid immigrants. He falsely claims that Americans aren't educated enough for the work, but seems determined to make that claim a reality.

—February 14, 2025

Ben Jealous

Executive Director,
Sierra Club



The Climate-Driven Insurance Crisis

The climate crisis is costing all of us a lot of money in our everyday lives. Higher utility bills. Higher healthcare costs. Housing prices skyrocketing in some areas and home property values nosediving in others. Climate change—as well as the pollution that causes it and the natural disasters caused by it—is exacting a steeper and steeper financial toll on American households.

Amidst our evolving climate realities, many Americans are feeling the financial pinch of the climate crisis in insurance costs. Amy Bach, the Executive Director of United Policyholders, a nonprofit founded to help insurance consumers, calls it "the price tag of climate change."

Bach told CBS News Chicago, "It is not just the price tag, but it is also the pain of people and their homes flooding that didn't used to flood. [The insurance companies] are saying, 'okay, how are we going to maintain the same level of profitability in the face of climate change?' And how they are do-

ing that is raising prices and cutting coverage—you know, shrinking the number of homes that they will insure in areas that they would deem vulnerable."

In Illinois, roughly 250,000 customers insured by Allstate will pay at least 14% more in homeowners insurance starting this month due to the impacts of increasing severe weather. This comes after Allstate raised rates by 12% last year.

And in California, the largest private insurer State Farm has asked the state's Department of Insurance to approve an average rate increase of 22% because of the devastation of the Los Angeles County wildfires. The request stated that as of February 1, the company had received more than 8,700 claims and already paid over \$1 billion to customers. And State Farm predicted it would pay out significantly more and the fires would "collectively be the costliest in the history of the company."

As some companies look to rate hikes, many insurers' answer has been to stop writing in-

surance altogether in areas they now see as carrying too much risk.

The recent wildfires in Southern California have further made clear the threat of insurance systems being upended by climate change. Home insurance not only provides protection against disasters, it is usually an essential requirement for getting a mortgage. So when insurers run for the hills—or away from the hills, in some cases—it helps deprive the next generation of would-be homeowners of that core piece of the American Dream. And it causes plenty of pain for existing homeowners as well.

Craig Kushen lives in Coto de Caza, California, on the edge of the fire prone Cleveland National Forest. He has been in the thick of his state's insurance crisis for years—well before the most recent fires that ravaged Greater Los Angeles. His home insurer, Chubb, dropped his coverage about six years ago. Even back then, insurance companies were well aware the climate cri-

sis was making certain areas increasingly vulnerable to natural disasters.

"My insurance through Chubb was roughly \$4,000 when I was dropped. I was luckier than most in that I had really great insurance agents working to find me a new plan. But the policies they were showing me after I lost my Chubb policy were in excess of \$20,000—five times the amount. So I got the only insurance I could find at the time that was even somewhat reasonable, and that was the CalFAIR Plan."

The California Fair Access to Insurance Requirements (FAIR) Plan was started 50 years ago to provide more options for Californians and protect consumers. According to the California Department of Insurance website, the FAIR Plan is available to those "who cannot obtain insurance through a regular insurance company."

That means, as Craig Kushen points out, that insurance companies and brokers throughout many parts of California are now routinely telling consumers their "only" option is the FAIR Plan.

But a safety net program like California's FAIR Plan hardly solves the worsening insurance crisis. Maximum payouts under FAIR, originally capped at \$1 million, are currently capped at \$3 million. That is a lot in most places, but California is a state famous for high home prices—home prices which are already

a central reason for the state's housing crisis. There are 33 cities in the San Francisco Bay area alone with median home prices above \$2 million.

And FAIR is not a public plan. It is technically a private association controlled and operated by insurance companies. And as costs go up for FAIR to offer coverage and pay out claims, additional costs are incurred by the participating companies. And those costs get passed on to consumers in the form of rate hikes. State Farm's request for an emergency rate increase cited "tremendous strain" from the company's "par-

ticipation in FAIR Plan losses."

The climate-driven insurance crisis is bound to get worse as long as the root cause of increasing extreme weather and disasters persists. From super-charged hurricanes and heavy "Lake Effect" snows caused warmer waters to unprecedented wildfires brought on by extreme drought, the only real remedy is to quit our use of fossil fuels and transition to 100% clean energy once and for all.

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

—February 10, 2025

The Prince George's Post

The Prince George's Post
P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151
Phone: 301-627-0900 • Legal Fax: 301-627-6260
Email: pgpost@gmail.com
Contents © 2025, The Prince George's Post

Publisher/Senior Editor Legusta Floyd	Editor Lisa Duan
General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager Brenda Boice	Administrative Assistant/ Billing Julie Volosin
Legal Advertising Assistant Robin Boerckel	Web Manager Kylar Quesenberry

Prince George's County, Md. Member National Newspaper Publishers Association, and the Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia Press Association. The Prince George's Post (ISSN 10532226) is published every Thursday by the New Prince George's Post Inc., 15207 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151. Subscription rate: 25 cents per single copy; \$15 per year; \$7.50 senior citizens and students; out of county add \$1; out of state add \$2. Periodical postage paid at Southern Md. 20790. Postmaster, send address changes to Prince George's Post, P.O. Box 1001, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20773.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Governor Moore Launches Resource Website for Maryland Workers Impacted by Recent Federal Actions

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Feb. 14, 2025)

—Governor Wes Moore today launched the Maryland Public Servants Resource Website, which serves as a centralized hub for programs and resources to support Maryland's federal employees and contractors impacted by federal workforce layoffs, firings, and changes to federal funding. The resource website reinforces the Moore-Miller Administration's commitment to coordinating with state and local partners to provide updates and resources to impacted Marylanders, while investing in an economy that can weather future disruptions. The website launch comes the day after the Office of Personnel Management advised federal agencies to dismiss probationary employees, which could potentially impact roughly 200,000

jobs nationally and thousands of Marylanders. To date, thousands of federal workers across the country have been terminated.

There are approximately 160,000 federal civilian jobs in Maryland, representing approximately 6% of jobs in the state. Maryland has the second highest concentration of federal employees in the nation, behind only Washington, DC. Additionally, approximately 225,000 jobs in Maryland in 2023 were directly supported by federal contract dollars.

The website provides resources for impacted federal workers, including information on unemployment insurance, job search and career support, legal resources, and an index of key rules and regulations that govern the federal employment process.

Visit:

<https://response.maryland.gov/federalpublicservants/>.

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

About Claiming Social Security When I Have a Health Savings Account (HSA)

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 have reached my full retirement age (66 plus 8 months) and plan to apply for Social Security this month, but I've seen articles which say that when I apply, I must also take Medicare Part A. This, even though I am continuing to work and am covered by my employer's health insurance (a high deductible plan). I contribute bi-weekly into an HSA (Health Savings Account). I've read that Medicare back dates Part A coverage by 6 months, which suggests I would have had to stop contributing to my HSA six months ago. If this is true, will I need to pay penalties and such to the IRS? I'm not able to find anything else about this topic, and I'm wondering what you might have to say. I have my wife and two children on my employer's HDHP. We contribute \$6,000 annually to our HSA and my employer contributes \$1,250 on January 1st each year. We can live without the HSA, but the taxes and IRS penalties concern me. **Signed: Wanting to Claim SS (but concerned)**

Dear Wanting to Claim: I'm afraid that what you've read is correct—it is mandatory for you to take Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage) when receiving Social Security benefits after age 65. Medicare Part A is free to you, and even though you are still covered under your employer's creditable high deductible healthcare plan and can delay taking Medicare Part B, you must take Medicare Part A to collect Social Security after 65. Medicare and your employer's plan will coordinate healthcare benefit payments.

That does, however, also mean your Health Savings Account (HSA) will be affected because, as you have found, Medicare will backdate your Part A coverage by 6 months. And because Part A is not a high deductible plan (a requirement for HSA), any contributions you make after the effective date of Part A will be subject to an IRS penalty, and your HSA contributions won't be considered tax-exempt. This will mean the IRS will likely assess a 6% excise tax on any contributions made after your Part A effective date, and you'll need to pay income tax on those contributions.

What you may wish to consider is stopping your HSA contributions now and waiting an additional six months or so to claim your Social Security benefits (to get beyond the HSA penalty phase). This would have the advantage of avoiding the IRS penalty on your HSA contributions and would also increase your Social Security benefit due to Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs). You earn DRCs at the rate of .677% for each month beyond your FRA that you wait to claim, which means an SS benefit about 4% higher if you wait six months longer to claim SS.

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.

EmpowerHER Global Business Summit 2025 Ignites "Momentum in Motion" for Women Entrepreneurs

Global Business Summit Returns March 14, 2025, at MGM National Harbor

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCEDC

LARGO, Md. (Feb. 10, 2025)—Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (PGCEDC) proudly announces the 2025 EmpowerHER Global Business Summit, taking place on Friday, March 14, 2025, at the MGM National Harbor. Themed "Momentum in Motion," this premier gathering will bring together women entrepreneurs, business leaders, and industry pioneers to inspire growth, foster connections, and provide actionable insights to accelerate success.

Timed with International Women's Day, the summit aligns with the global call to action to invest in women and advance economic progress.

Tickets are available at: www.pgcdec.com/empowerher2025

A Transformative Experience for Women in Business

EmpowerHER Global Business Summit is more than a conference—it's an interactive experience where women from diverse industries, backgrounds, and cultures gather to exchange knowledge, gain strategic insights, and unlock new business opportunities. Attendees will engage with high-impact speakers, expert-led panels, hands-on workshops, and networking opportunities designed to accelerate business growth and leadership.

"EmpowerHER Global Business Summit provides the resources, education, and

network women need to scale their businesses, build wealth, and take charge of their futures," said PGCEDC Interim President & CEO Ebony Stocks, CEcD. "Our goal is to not only celebrate women's achievements but to create tangible opportunities for their success—whether through funding access, procurement connections, or global expansion strategies."

The event features influential women entrepreneurs, industry experts, and global thought leaders, including keynote speaker Dr. Charlene Dukes, a trailblazer in education and leadership.

2025 Summit Highlights:

- **Keynote Address:** Dr. Charlene Dukes, esteemed educator and business leader
- **Exclusive VIP Networking Lunch** with top executives, investors, and government officials
- **Women in Business Panel:** Featuring dynamic entrepreneurs who have scaled their businesses
- **Interactive Breakout Sessions** tailored for startups, seasoned business owners, and industry experts
- **Procurement & Exporting Opportunities**
- **Access to Capital & Funding Strategies:** Expert-led discussions on securing investment and financial growth
- **Wellness & Mindfulness for Entrepreneurs:** Balancing success with well-being

Expanded Programming & Networking

- New this year, the summit will feature:
- **VIP Experiences:** Exclusive networking, premium seating, and executive resources
 - **Women-Owned Business Spotlights:** Showcasing successful entrepreneurs and their journeys
 - **Live Business Coaching:** Practical, hands-on advice from industry veterans
 - **Real-time engagement,** networking, and post-event follow-ups

Join the Movement

The EmpowerHER Global Business Summit 2025 is set to be the must-attend event for women looking to accelerate their businesses, expand their networks, and gain valuable insights from industry leaders.

To register, apply for sponsorships visit www.pgcdec.com/empowerher2025. To request media credentials email Rhett Butler rbutler@co.pg.md.us

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.

M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Board Announces Resignation of Commissioner William Doerner, PhD

By PRESS OFFICER
M-NCPPC

LARGO, Md. (Feb. 10, 2025)—The Prince George's County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) announced Thursday during its weekly meeting the resignation of Commissioner William Doerner, effective February 14, 2025. In his parting words, Commissioner Doerner stated, "It's been a pleasure to serve in this role on behalf of the residents. We all bring to this role different perspectives based on our own unique backgrounds, life experiences, and trainings. I feel blessed to have had that opportunity."

Commissioner Doerner was first appointed to the Prince George's County Planning Board and bi-county agency in November 2016 and reappointed in October 2019. In Prince George's County, all members of the M-NCPPC Planning Board are appointed by the County Executive, subject to approval of the County Council. The County Executive will appoint the next Planning Board member to

fill the vacant position, which is set to expire in June 2026.

"Commissioner Doerner has been a tremendous asset to the County, the Planning Board, and M-NCPPC over the past nine years," says Chair Peter A. Shapiro. "From his thorough review of development cases, guidance on numerous master plans and studies, frequent use of the bi-county trail system, and active participation in many recreational activities, Commissioner Doerner has demonstrated his unwavering commitment to our wonderful County."

The Prince George's County Planning Board meets weekly to review subdivisions, site plans, and other development applications and develop and make recommendations to the County Council on land use policies to guide the growth and development of the County. In addition, the Planning Board provides managerial oversight of the M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Department and the Department of Parks and Recreation. Together, with fellow colleagues from the Montgomery County Planning Board, they guide M-NCPPC's bi-county mission to

manage physical growth and plan communities; protect and steward natural, cultural, and historic resources; and provide leisure and recreational experiences.

The Prince George's County Planning Board, together with the Montgomery County Planning Board, make up The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission—a bi-county agency set up under State law in 1927 to acquire, develop, maintain, and administer a regional system of parks and administer a general plan for the physical development of both counties. In Prince George's County, the agency also administers the public recreation program. The Planning Board's responsibilities include supervising preparation of land use plans and comprehensive zoning maps, advising the County Council on zoning map amendment and special exception applications, and reviewing and approving site plans. The Board also oversees the Commission's work in the County, as carried out by the Parks and Recreation and Planning Departments. Visit www.pgplanningboard.org.

5 Tips for Organizing Your Home Office

(Family Features) When temperatures creep up again, it signals time for an annual tradition: spring cleaning. While big projects like windows are hard to overlook, don't forget smaller areas that need attention, too, such as your home office.

Making sense of a year's worth of paperwork and clutter can take some serious time, especially as many people have been working from home more than normal, but getting organized can help you tackle home management tasks more efficiently. Making the office a priority can reduce frustration when it comes to spending additional time in your office while working from home.

These five tips can help get you started:

1 Make sure you have furniture that can adequately store your stuff, including plenty of space for files, reference books and computer equipment. Pieces need not be costly to be functional and there are plenty of attractive options available online and at both small and major retailers.

2 Arrange the space with its intended use and your own work style in mind. For example, if you don't need ample space to spread out over a large, flat work area, eliminate that space—it's simply an invitation for clutter.

3 Place items you rely on frequently, such as a calculator or ruler, within arm's reach so they can easily be put away between uses. Capture these items in containers and bins to keep the space looking neat and free of clutter.

4 Establish a filing system that lets you keep track of important papers you need to keep and have a shredder handy to help you discard any sensitive documents. Whether you alphabetize, color code or use some other method, group paperwork into segments for categories such as bills, banking,



PHOTO COURTESY OF PEXELS

Getting organized can help you tackle home management tasks more efficiently.

health care, auto, insurance and so on for easy access in the future.

5 Tangled cords can make even the most organized spaces look messy, and they may pose a fire or tripping hazard. Get control of your cords by storing devices you don't use regularly and securing the remaining cords with twist ties or clips. Remember to use a surge-protected power strip to minimize the chance of damage should a power surge occur.

Find more tips to make your workspace tidy and organized at eLivingtoday.com.

Source: Family Features

COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

UNITED METHODIST

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

Worship Service:
9 a.m.

(301) 735-9373
Fax: (301) 735-1844

Rev. Dr. Timothy West, Pastor

ALL ARE WELCOME

Web Site:
www.westphaliaum.org

Union United Methodist Church

14418 Old Marlboro Pike,
 Upper Marlboro, MD

Church (301) 627-7389

Sunday School: (Children/Adults) - 8:30 a.m.
 Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

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

BAPTIST

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HIGHLAND PARK

'A Bible Based, Christ Centered & Spirit Led Congregation'

6801 Sheriff Road Landover, MD
 20785 **(301) 773-6655**

Sunday Biblical Institute:
 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday Worship:
 7:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m.
 Saturday Worship:
 6:30 p.m.

'WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS WITH JESUS':
 12 noon (The Power Hour) and 6:45 pm

'A Time of Prayer, Praise, Worship, & The Word'
Dr. Henry P. Davis III, Pastor
www.fbhp.org

Forest Heights Baptist Church

We exist to strengthen your relationship with God.
 6371 Oxon Hill Road
 Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745

Sunday School (Adults & Children) - 9:30 A.M.
 Worship Service - 11:00 A.M.
 Wed. Prayer Service & Bible Study - 7:00 P.M.
 Office (301) 839-1166
 Fax (301) 839-1721
 E-mail: FHBC@verizon.net
 Pastor: Rev. Waymond B. Duke

BAPTIST

First Baptist Church of College Park
 Welcomes You Where Jesus Christ Is Lord and King
 Stephen L. Wright, Sr., Pastor

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

Sunday School 9:30a.m.
 Sunday Worship 11a.m.
 Holy Communion 1st Sunday
 Wednesday Bible Study 7-8p.m.
 Wednesday Prayer Service 8p.m.

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

Intercessory Prayer: Sundays - 8:30 a.m.
 Church School: - 9:15 a.m.
 Morning Worship Celebration - 10:30 a.m.
 Wed. Night Bible Study - 7:45 p.m.
Elder Willie W. Duvall, Pastor

Have a Safe Weekend

EarthTalk® Tick-Borne Illnesses on the Rise: What Can Be Done? Q&A

By Kelsey Ritter | February 12, 2025

Dear EarthTalk:
 Does the rise in diseases like Lyme Disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever mean tick populations are on the rise? Are there eco-friendly ways to control ticks?

—J.B. via email

Common tick-borne diseases include Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, babesiosis and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. Lyme disease is the most well-known, caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*, and is transmitted by black-legged ticks, commonly known as deer ticks. Unfortunately, these minuscule creatures can be found everywhere, and according to Dr. Ben Beard, from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Risk occurs in backyards, as well as in neighborhood green spaces and public lands used for recreation." Symptoms of Lyme disease can range from a characteristic bulls-eye-shaped rash to fever, joint pain, and, in severe cases, neurological problems.

In addition to Lyme disease, ticks can spread other diseases. *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* causes anaplasmosis, which can lead to fever, headache and muscle aches. Babesiosis, another tick-borne illness, involves a

parasitic infection that affects red blood cells, leading to fever and fatigue. Rocky Mountain spotted fever, caused by *Rickettsia rickettsii*, can cause severe symptoms like rash, fever and nausea, and can be fatal. According to public health expert Annalies Winny, rising heat and humidity helps ticks thrive in more places for longer periods, and could be contributing factors to the tick's increase.

Ticks become infected with disease-causing microorganisms when they feed on infected animals like deer, rodents or birds. Once infected, they can transmit these pathogens to humans through bites, if attached for a certain period (usually 36–48 hours). Try to avoid tick-prone areas, like tall grasses and wooded environments, especially during warmer months when ticks are most active.

Spending time outdoors is great, but ticks can be a bit of a buzzkill. To protect yourself, apply an EPA-registered insect repellent. Wear long sleeves, pants and socks, and tuck your pants into your socks or boots to keep ticks at bay. Stick to well-cleared trails, as ticks tend to hide in tall grasses and wooded areas. After your outdoor adventure, check your body, especially in the cozier areas such as the armpits or

behind the knees. Tweezers will do the job to remove a tick, if found. Then, clean the area with rubbing alcohol or soap and water. It is helpful to shower within two hours to wash off any ticks, and wash your clothes in hot water to kill any that might have hitched a ride. If you develop flu-like symptoms, a rash or other signs of illness within a few weeks of a tick bite, consult a healthcare provider. Early treatment with antibiotics is effective in treating many tick-borne diseases, including Lyme disease.

Ticks are most active in spring and summer, but they can be found year-round, depending on your location. Ticks can pose a significant threat, so stay vigilant and take proactive measures.

CONTACTS: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks>

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

CLASSIFIEDS

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Let the Multimedia Specialists of MDDC Ad Services help you in growing your business and increasing your customer base. CALL TODAY at 855-721-MDDC, Ext. 4 and start seeing results NOW!

BUSINESS SERVICES

Increase the digital presence of your business! Contact MDDC Ad Services to receive a FREE Digital Footprint Consultation for your business from a TOP PERFORMING advertising agency! Call 855-721-MDDC, Ext. 4, www.mddcadservices.com.

FOR SALE

Get Boost Infinite! Unlimited Talk, Text and Data For Just \$25/mo! The Power Of 3 5G Networks, One Low Price! Call Today and Get The Latest iPhone Every Year On Us! 855-977-5719

Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-855-407-6870

Prepare for power outages today with a GENERAC Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with quali-

FOR SALE

fying purchase. Call 1-855-993-0969 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

REAL ESTATE

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-866-541-7929

SERVICES—MISCELLANEOUS

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-337-5228 www.dental50plus.com/MDDC#6258

Save loads of money with your advertising budgets! CONNECT with

SERVICES—MISCELLANEOUS

the Multimedia Specialists of MDDC Ad Services. Expand your brand's reach in our Bulk Advertising Network - CALL TODAY! With one call, one placement, one bill, you'll reach over 1,000,000 readers in the entire Mid-Atlantic region. Call 855-721-MDDC, Ext. 4 or email kberrier@mddcpress.com.

Let the Multimedia Specialists of MDDC Ad Services help you in growing your business and increasing your customer base. Call today at 855-721-MDDC, Ext. 4 and start seeing results NOW.

VEHICLES WANTED

DONATE YOUR CAR/TRUCK/RV - Lutheran Mission Society of MD Compassion Place ministries help local families with food, clothing, counseling. Tax deductible. MVA licensed #W1044. 410-228-8437 www.CompassionPlace.org

Be prepared before the next power outage.

It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase* - valued at \$535.

Call 855-993-0969 to schedule your free quote!

*Terms and Conditions apply.

GENERAC

WESLEY FINANCIAL GROUP

You CAN Cancel Your Timeshare

We have helped over 30,000 American families save over \$450,000,000 in timeshare debt and maintenance fees. We can help you too.

Get your free information kit and see if you qualify:

Call 1.888.984.2917

*This is an Advertisement. Wesley Financial Group, LLC ("WFG") and/or its affiliates, successors, or assigns are not lawyers and/or a law firm and does not engage in the practice of law or provide legal advice or legal representation. Actual results depend on each client's distinct case and no specific outcome is guaranteed.

NO HIDDEN FEES. NO HIDDEN ANYTHING.

Plans start at just \$20/month.

Consumer Cellular **866-337-1676**

© 2024 Consumer Cellular Inc. Terms and Conditions subject to change.

DENTAL Insurance
 Great coverage for retirees.

Get your **FREE** Information Kit from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company.

Call **1-855-337-5228**
Dental50Plus.com/MDDC

Products/features not available in all states. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solution. To find a network provider go to physiciansmutual.com/finder. This specific offer not available in CO, HI, NY, VA - call 1-800-969-4881 or respond for a similar offer in your state. Certificate: C254B465, C250A938 (0), C25421, (R), C254P4; Insurance Policy P154B461 P150A409 (GA), P154A (OK), P1540K (TN), P15410, 6347

MARYLAND | DELAWARE | DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MDDCPRESS FOUNDATION

HELP FUND THE FUTURE OF JOURNALISM
mddcpress.com/foundation

LET THE PROS HANDLE IT! LeafFilter GUTTER PROTECTION

Say "NO" to Cleaning Out Your Gutters. Protect Your Home With LeafFilter.

20% OFF + **10% OFF**
 Your Entire Purchase* Seniors + Military

++ We offer financing that fits your budget!
 Promo: 285

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE INSPECTION! **1-844-566-3227**

*See restrictions for full warranty details. The inspection is required. This offer is not available in all states. Call us for more details. © 2024 LeafFilter, Inc. All rights reserved. LeafFilter is a registered trademark of LeafFilter, Inc. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. LeafFilter is not responsible for any damage to your property or any injury to you or your family. LeafFilter is not responsible for any damage to your property or any injury to you or your family. LeafFilter is not responsible for any damage to your property or any injury to you or your family.

DONATE YOUR CAR, TRUCK, RV
 Your donation helps provide food, clothing, hope.

LUTHERAN MISSION SOCIETY OF MD
Compassion Place MINISTRIES

Tax deductible. MVA licensed #1044

410-228-8437
www.CompassionPlace.org

NU LOOK HOME DESIGN

MADE IN USA

50% OFF + No Interest til 2030

ROOFING
 SIDING
 WINDOWS
 DOORS
 GUTTERS

20+ Years Experience | 50,000+ Satisfied Clients | Lifetime Warranty on Everything! | Locally Owned & Operated

Schedule A FREE In-Home Estimate Today!
Call 855.852.0597

*Restrictions apply.

MD License #1200718200 | PA License #P017032 | DE License #P0140069 | NJ License #11202 | VA License #T2010068