

# The Prince George's Post



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## Gateway Open Studios Tour

Four Towns, One Community, 250 Artists

By PRESS OFFICER  
Gateway Arts District

GATEWAY ARTS DISTRICT, Md. (March 27, 2025)—The public is invited to explore the vibrant art community located in the four towns of Mount Rainier, Brentwood, North Brentwood, and Hyattsville that comprise Maryland's Gateway Arts District. On this one day, the artists have their studios open at the same time and visitors can explore the depth and breadth of this unique community.

The 2025 GATEWAY OPEN STUDIOS TOUR happens on **Saturday, May 10, 2025** from 12–5 p.m. The event is FREE and open to the public. Visit <https://www.gatewaycdc.org/ost2025> for a map of participating artists and studios to plan your self-guided tour.

The Gateway Arts District is the largest in the region, but it is easy to underestimate as many of its artists work in spaces tucked away or without public hours. An exciting element of this event is that visitors can see spaces not always open, view artists' work and workspaces, and talk to the artists about their practice on this special day of open houses.

The district roughly encompasses a two mile stretch from Mt. Rainier to

Hyattsville with most locations on or around Route 1/Rhode Island Avenue. While some intrepid art goers choose to walk, Free shuttles will be operated along the corridor to help people cover more ground. Street parking is available as well at Lots 1, 3, and 4 in Hyattsville. Shuttle routes and a parking map will be available on the OST website.

In addition to visual art, many neighboring businesses will be poised to welcome visitors for food, drink, and further discovery of the many small and creative places within the Gateway Arts District.

After the open studio tour, all are welcome to the outdoor afterparty from 5–7 p.m. hosted by Broken Square and featuring music, skateboarding, and a food truck at 3698 Wells Ave, Mount Rainier, MD.

Thank you to our sponsors Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council, MiXT Food Hall, M-NCPPC, and Gateway CDC.



Chalk Riot artists making plans for an installation.



Maya Johnson, artist at the Gateway Media Arts Lab in Mount Rainier, MD.



Jun Lee from Washington Glass School in Mount Rainier, MD

## Edward Burroughs Makes History as Youngest Prince George's County Council Chair

Council elects Chair Burroughs and Vice Chair Krystal Oriadha

By PRESS OFFICER  
Prince George's County Council Media

The Prince George's County Council has elected District 8 Council Member Edward Burroughs III as Chair and District 7 Council Member Krystal Oriadha as Vice Chair for the remainder of the 2025 Legislative Year.

At age 32, Council Chair Burroughs is the youngest Chair, based on known records, to serve on the Prince George's County Council. In 2010, he became the youngest elected official in Maryland when was elected to represent District 8 on the Prince George's County Board of Education. Burroughs, a life-long Prince Georgian, spent thirteen years serving as a Board Member, starting in 2008 when he was selected by his peers as a sophomore. He went on to work in the Office of the Prince George's County State's Attorney, leading the youth court division and developing innovative ways to steer young people away from the criminal justice system. He was sworn into his seat on the Council in Feb. 2022.

Council Vice Chair Oriadha was sworn into her seat on the Council in Dec. 2022. Her previous career accomplishments combine more than a decade of professional experience within the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. She is co-founder of PG ChangeMakers, a grassroots organization addressing housing, food insecurity, healthcare, LGBTQ+ rights, police reform, education, and systemic racism. She was the youngest Junior Project Manager for Hewlett Packard's Global Enterprise Management Team, employed as a federal government Senior Communications Consultant, building national campaigns around issues including human trafficking, domestic violence, and adolescent pregnancy prevention. She was the recipient of the 2019 Innovation Fund 40 under 40 Award for Public Service and the 2018 Howard University Alumni MoveMakers Award.

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## Playing for charity: How athletes give back and gain from philanthropy

### Frances Tiafoe Gives Back to College Park Youth Tennis Center via Charitable Fund

By MATTHEW KIRAS  
Capital News Service

At age 4, Frances Tiafoe began playing tennis. At age 27, he is one of the world's most talented and successful players, winner of three ATP titles and a semifinalist at the U.S. Open in September 2024.

Tiafoe hasn't forgotten where he grew up—at the Junior Tennis Champions Center (JTCC) in College Park.

In 2023, Tiafoe launched the Frances Tiafoe Fund with the United States Tennis Association Foundation. In April 2024, the fund directed \$50,000 to the JTCC as one of its first gifts.

"Growing up here and seeing all the great things that have been done not only for me but my peers before me, after, and still to this day," Tiafoe said. "I definitely want to get back to this place very much."

Tiafoe's support of the tennis center is an example of how athletes' philanthropy connects with their passions and communities. His life story is rooted at the center.

Tiafoe's parents emigrated to the United States from Sierra Leone. His father came to the U.S. in 1993 while his mother followed in 1996 amid civil war in their home country. In 1999, Tiafoe's father got a job working

on a construction crew at the tennis center in College Park. When the project was completed, he remained at the center as a custodian during the day and as the person who rolled the clay courts at night.

Tiafoe literally grew up on the tennis courts at JTCC stoking his passion for the game and helping him to develop into a world-class player.

Ray Benton, CEO of the Junior Tennis Champions Center, said that the gift from Tiafoe's fund will support tennis programs in county parks and schools in Prince George's County.

"Frances has been very vocal that he wants to see more kids

who look like him coming out of Prince George's County and getting college scholarships," Benton said.

Tiafoe's fund launched with \$250,000. The U.S. Tennis Association Foundation contributed \$150,000. Clif Bar, the energy bar brand that Tiafoe works with as an endorser, donated \$100,000.

**Frances Tiafoe presents a \$50,000 check to the Junior Tennis Champions Center in College Park in April 2024.**

ABBI ROSS/THE SHIRLEY POVICH CENTER FOR SPORTS JOURNALISM



## Purple Line Schedules Spring 2025 Community Advisory Team Meetings

Virtual Meetings will Provide Construction Progress Updates and Future Construction Plans

By PRESS OFFICER  
Purple Line Project

RIVERDALE, Md. (March 31, 2025)—The Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration has scheduled the spring 2025 Purple Line Community Advisory Team (CAT) virtual meetings to be held from April 22 through May 8. Participants in these virtual meetings will include CAT members, many appointed by neighborhoods, as well as local residents, civic leaders, business owners, associations and representatives from local governments. This round of CAT meetings will provide neighborhoods along the 16-mile alignment within Prince George's and Montgomery counties localized progress reports and a look ahead to upcoming construction activities.

"2025 is a year of transformation for the Purple Line with the project currently more than 76% complete," said Senior Project Director, Ray Biggs II. "Our team is eager to share details about recent project achievements, including the current status of testing for the light rail vehicles, as well as progress of track installation and station construction."

The Purple Line project team presenting during the CAT meetings includes representatives from Maryland Transit Administration, the concessionaire Purple Line Transit Partners, construction partner Maryland Transit Solutions and operations and maintenance partner Purple Line Transit Operators. Time is provided at each meeting for CAT members and the public to ask questions. Virtual CAT meetings for the Purple Line project are hosted on Microsoft Teams, offering captioning services in multiple languages. The full meeting

schedule and instructions on how to enable live captioning is posted to the project website meetings and event page. Past CAT meeting presentations and recordings can also be found on the project website.

All CAT meetings will take place 6–7:30 p.m. Microsoft Teams links will be posted at <https://www.purplelinemd.com/public-meetings-events/> by March 31. The schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, April 22 College Park
- Thursday, April 24 Long Branch
- Tuesday, April 29 University Boulevard
- Wednesday, April 30 Lyttonsville/Woodside

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### INSIDE

Join NCRTV for World Amateur Radio Day!

M-NCPPC Announces Events and Festivals for April

National Harbor Celebrates Juneteenth

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Alzheimer's Association to Hold Awareness Education Program in Prince George's County

Data released at the 2023 Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC) showed that Prince George's County ranks fourth among the nation's 3,142 counties for prevalence of Alzheimer's in adults age 65+.

Community, Page A3

ChildWatch: Revisiting an American Prayer

"...when every man and every woman shall sit under his or her own vine and fig tree, and none shall be afraid; when justice will roll down like waters and righteousness as a mighty stream."

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President/CEO of ESFCU Inducted Into the African American Credit Union Coalition's Hall of Fame

The Velocity Companies Celebrates the Grand Opening of the Prince George's County Health & Human Services Building at Hampton Park

Business and Finance, Page A5



# TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

With Mary McHale, will return soon!

### Brandywine-Aquasco by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

#### DR. SUMANTH G. REDDY

Dr. Reddy returns to Bowie State, he brings with him a wealth of experiences and insights from his journey. He plans to integrate these into his curriculum, enriching the academic environment and inspiring students to pursue their own adventures.

"Education extends beyond the four walls of a classroom," Dr. Reddy emphasized, "by embracing the world as our classroom, we prepare students to navigate and contribute to a diverse and dynamic global society." For those interested in learning more about upcoming trips or to join the Outdoor Club @bsuoutdoorclub, Dr. Reddy can be reached at sreddy@bowiestate.edu or via his office at (301) 860-3614.

#### 2ND ANNUAL BULLDOG 5K WALK/RUN

Join us for the Bulldog 5K Walk/Run Sunday, May 18, 2025, from 2-5 p.m. in support of our student-athletes! Walk, Run, Donate. Proceeds will benefit the Bowie State University Foundation, helping student-athletes succeed academically as they matriculate through BSU. Early Bird Registration: \$40. Day of 5K Race: \$50.

#### SAVE THE DATE

Bowie State University 14th Annual Bulldog Golf Classic will be held October 7, 2025. Proceeds from the Bulldog Golf Classic provides scholarship funding for student-athletes and helps meet the growing needs of the Bowie State University Department of Athletics. We look forward to seeing you at the 14th Annual Bulldog Golf Classic. More details coming soon. To learn more about sponsorship opportunities, please contact: Jennifer Coke, Executive Director of Philanthropy at 301-860-4778 jcoke@bowiestate.edu.

#### CLUB 300

All group walks are on Monday mornings beginning at 8:30 a.m. and concluding by 10:30 a.m. Pre-registration is not required, however everyone attending the walk must sign in and out. Please also bring your own water and if needed, your own snack.

May 5, 2025, Patuxent River Park—Please arrive by 8:15 a.m.; this walk will be led by a Park Naturalist! Be ready to walk as a group at 8:30 a.m. Meet at: Picnic pavilion entrance (2nd entrance) 16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. May 12, 2025, Watkins Regional Park—Meet at: Watkins Regional Park (parking at the administration/tennis bubble parking lot), 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland. May 19, 2025, Fairwood Community Park—Meet at: Fairwood Community Park pavilion, 12390 Fairwood Parkway, Bowie, Maryland 20720. After the Fairwood Community Park walk, gather at the pavilion for the annual Club 300 birthday party celebration with live music and a birthday treat. Bring a blanket or lawn chair to enjoy the show.

May 26, 2025, Memorial Day Holiday—No group walk scheduled due to holiday.

Club 300 Weather Policy: For outdoor group walks, in the event of inclement weather (heavy rain, lightning, weather advisories, code red or temperature below 32 degrees), outdoor group walks will be cancelled. PG Parks Alerts: Sign up for our Parks Alerts and get the latest information on M-NCPPC Closures due to weather, maintenance or other emergencies. Go to PG Parks Alerts-Park and Recreation- Prince George's County MD.

Weekly E-Newsletter: Sign up for our weekly-e-newsletter.

A short summary of the week's best events and activities will be in your inbox every Monday morning. Go to [www.pgparcs.com](http://www.pgparcs.com) and scroll to the bottom of the webpage and complete the enrollment form. For more information, email [seniors@pgparcs.com](mailto:seniors@pgparcs.com) or call 301-446-3403. To register for Club 300: <https://mncppcapps.org/pgparcs/club300/new/Registration.php>.

#### EASTER BAKE SALE

A fundraiser to benefit the Peter A. Gross Scholarship. Home-made cookies (dozen \$18, Sweet Potato Pie \$20, 7Up Cake iced \$10; Reg \$25, Carrot Cake (Sheet) \$25, Strawberry Short Cake \$25. Limited Supply. Pre-Orders only no later than April 13. Monetary donations are always welcome. Pick up Location: St. Philip's Church, Baden Maryland. Pick up Dates Times: Saturday, April 19, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., Sunday, April 20, from 11 a.m. to Noon. Point of Contacts: Trena Hall 703-201-3863, Janice Harper 301-385-2620, Michele Chase 240-882-3369, Tasha Harley 443-404-5373.

#### MOSTLY PIANO MUSIC STUDIO RECITAL

Students of Avis Balkcom-Williams performed Sunday, February 9, 2025, at Clinton United Methodist Church 10700 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735. Isaac Dozie (Ode to Joy Ludwig van Beethoven, My Daydream Faber). Dorian Perry (When the Saints Go Marching In traditional) (My Daydream Faber). Emanuel Dozier (Sweet Molly Malone James Yorkston (Fur Elise Ludwig van Beethoven). Courtney Tucker, violin (Autumn Leaves Joseph Kosma) (Myra's Song Myra). Shayla Garcia (Frere Jacques traditional, (Snake Dance traditional). Ava Skeete (Star Spangled Banner Francis Scott Key), (Can Can Jacques Offenbach). Angelina Moose (Down by the Bay traditional), (Jumpin' Jazz Cats (duet) Faber). Daley Perry (Sakura traditional), (Morning Theme Edvard Grieg). Aydan Skeete (Oompa Loompa (Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory), English, Daly, & Sean Van Fleet, Aardvark Boogie (Faber). Dylan Perry (Night of the Aardvark Boogie Faber). Dylan Perry (Night of the Tarantella traditional) (Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho Jay Roberts). Angelica Moose (Ballade Friedrich Burgmuller), (Spinning Song Albert Ellmenreich). Angelina & Angelica Moose (One Love Bob Marley). Barry Fletcher (Since I Lost My Baby Michael McDonald), (Ordinary People) John Legend). Avis Balkcom-Williams (Africa Toto), (Meet the Flintstones Hoyt Curtin, Joseph Barbera & William Hanna). Thank you for attending and supporting these young musicians. Mostly Piano Music Studio (Avis Balkcom-Williams WWW.AVISMOSTLYPIANO.COM.

#### FOUNDERS' DAY CELEBRATION

Join Bowie State University in celebrating 160 years of excellence during our Founders' Day as we honor the legacy of alumni, students, faculty and staff who embody what it truly means to be Bowie Bold.

#### DISCOVER YOUR BOLD

At Bowie State University, we shape future leaders with innovative programs and state-of-the-art facilities, equipping students with the skills in a rapidly changing world. Bowie State University provides you with an exceptional and affordable education, including more than 65 bachelor's, master's, doctoral and certificate programs. Our proximity to major metropolitan area gives student easy access to high-value internships and career opportunities, cultural experiences and recreation.

## Around the County

### Join NCRTV for World Amateur Radio Day!

Join the National Capital Radio and Television Museum for World Amateur Radio Day!

NCRTV will be taking part of a nationwide amateur radio event highlighting our very own Ham Radio station—K3RTV!

World Amateur Radio Day, held on April 18 each year, is celebrated worldwide by radio amateurs and the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). It was on this day in 1925 that the IARU was formed in Paris. Join us in celebrating 100 years of IARU!

Our Ham Radio Open House is an exciting opportunity for all community members to get hands-on with ham radio and wireless technology. NCRTV's Ham Station—K3RTV—will be broadcasting all day long, providing demonstrations to the public, and highlighting some of the unique and interesting ways that amateur radio can intersect with fun and learning! We will also be demonstrating smaller "Handie-Talkies," discussing the role amateur radio can play in emergency communication, and how the SKY-WARN Amateur Radio Network assists the National Weather Service!

This event is part of a nationwide effort organized by The National Association for Amateur Radio (ARRL) and is part of Citizen Science Month in April where ordinary people across the country will work to document 1 million acts of science!

The event will run **Friday, April 18, 2025** from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Tours of the museum will be offered at a discounted rate of \$5.00 per person (\$3.00 for Bowie Residents!) There is no charge to join us for our ham activities!

The Museum is in the 1906 Harmel House located at 2608 Mitchellville Rd., Bowie, Maryland, 20716. For more information, call us at 301-390-1020, or email [info@ncrtv.org](mailto:info@ncrtv.org).

### M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County Announces Events and Festivals for April

RIVERDALE, Md. (March 26, 2025)—Discover something new this spring with the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County! From outdoor adventures and family-friendly festivals to cultural celebrations and community engagement, there is something for everyone this April. Mark your calendars and join the Department for a month of exciting events.

#### Upcoming events include...

**5k Glow Walk/Run for Autism | Saturday, April 5, 7:30–9 p.m.** Watkins Regional Park

Light up the night for a good cause. Wear your best glow gear and take part in this inclusive fun walk/run to help raise awareness and acceptance for Autism. Registration includes a t-shirt, glow gear, post-race refreshments, and a contribution to the You Fit Scholarship Fund, which helps provide access to M-NCPPC sponsored summer day camps.

**Major Taylor Ride | Saturday, April 12, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.** Watkins Regional Park | FREE

Celebrate the legacy of African American cycling world champion Marshall "Major" Taylor with a day of cycling, community, and fun! Join bicycle enthusiasts from around the area as they take over Watkins Regional Park and enjoy a variety of activities, food trucks and club-hosted rides.

**Kinderfest | Saturday, April 26, 12 noon–5 p.m.** Watkins Regional Park | FREE

A festival just for kids! Kinderfest returns to Watkins and is packed with live entertainment, games, train and carousel rides, hands-on nature activities, crafts, food vendors, and more. Bring the family for an unforgettable day of fun!

**The Ultimate HBCU Experience | Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

Southern Area Aquatics and Recreation Complex | FREE  
Teens and pre-teens, step into the world of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) at the Ultimate HBCU Experience! Enjoy a dynamic mix of guest speakers, Greek Life, and a homecoming show while learning more about the rich culture and legacy of HBCUs. Advanced registration is recommended.

**Montpelier Herb, Tea & The Arts Festival | Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.**

Montpelier House Museum | FREE  
Welcome spring and delight in the sights and sounds of nature, art, and history at this fun festival for the entire family. Visit with vendors on the grounds, relax to live music, attend gardening talks and workshops, tour the house museum, and visit the Arts Center.

For more information about upcoming M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation events, visit <https://www.pgparcs.com/activities-events/events>.

### National Harbor Celebrates Juneteenth with a Marketplace, Live Entertainment and a Waterfront Movie

*Fourth Annual Juneteenth Celebration, "Rooted in Resilience, Growing in Unity"*

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. (March 24, 2025)—National Harbor will hold its fourth Annual Juneteenth Freedom Celebration on **Thursday, June 19** from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. The event is free and open to the public, inviting the community to come together for a cultural celebration. The event, "Rooted in Resilience, Growing in Unity," honors Juneteenth's legacy commemorating the ending of slavery when the emancipation proclamation was finally enforced in Texas on June 19, 1865.

## YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH PART FIVE

# In Massachusetts and Elsewhere, Youngsters Find Healing Through Art

By TOLU TALABI  
Capital News Service

LYNN, Mass. (March 24, 2025)—In a red brick building in this small city 13 miles northeast of Boston on a Friday last November, several children sat closely around a paint-splattered table.

A woman in black clothing, with gray braids fastened into a low bun, told them to pick up a wooden ball and board, tiny wood pieces, glue guns and markers on the table.

Each child began to build a maze. Their goal? To learn about getting through the worst in life and not giving up.

"I hope all of you understand that giving up is a choice. It's not an option," Michelle Richardson, community engagement manager at Raw Art Works, told the children in a calm, warm voice. Pointing to a child, she asked: "Can you grab one of those wooden balls right there?"

"That right there is a representation of you so you can put your name on it," Richardson said. "You can paint it in your favorite color. You can paint it in multiple colors, but it's a representation of you, so make sure when you make your maze, you can get through it."

The children's gathering reflects the essence of Raw Art Works, a nonprofit youth development organization rooted in art therapy. RAW creates a space where youths aged 9 to 19 express themselves

and heal through art. The organization serves 290 youths weekly.

RAW is not unique. Art therapists work in medical institutions, wellness centers, schools and community programs nationwide. Advocates of the practice say in such places, young people often find peace through the creative process.

That's what Noah, who's now 13, found. He rolled his wooden ball through his maze. The ball had a face that switched from happy to sad as it rolled over words like "New school = New bullies." "You suck." "Ignore it." "Push through it." "You'll find happiness!! All in the end." Noah, who started with RAW at age 12, said the maze activity made him go back in time to when bullies left him struggling mentally and socially. Building that maze helped him realize he could move beyond all that.

"There's going to be a roll of emotions," Noah said. "But no matter what, you will always make it to happiness."

#### The power of self-expression

Art therapy allows people to express their emotions through creative endeavors. Then, in either a one-on-one or group setting, art therapists help clients process the art and the emotions that produced it.

There are over 8,000 credentialed art therapists in the United States and over 3,000 art therapists with board certifications, a license required to practice art ther-

apy in certain states, according to LeeAnn Mandrillo, executive director of the Art Therapy Credentials Board.

There's some evidence this approach can help even the most troubled patients. A 2024 Journal of Mental Health study examined the behavior of 948 young people in the inpatient psychiatric unit of a public hospital in Sydney, Australia. The study found when those youths were involved in art therapy, staffers were less likely to have to restrain or sedate them—meaning they were experiencing less distress. The study also found the average length of stay and readmission rates were significantly lower when patients practiced art therapy.

Art therapy works because it can help people express feelings that may be too overwhelming to discuss, said Gioia Chilton, an art therapy researcher who has published over 25 peer-reviewed articles. Chilton, who teaches at the George Washington University graduate art therapy program, said art therapy can be helpful in addressing trauma.

"You don't have to talk about it (difficult feelings) because it's really hard to talk about, and in fact, it's often impossible to talk about because trauma is stored in the brain in a section where it's not the language portion of the brain. It's more so the visual portion of the brain," Chilton said.



# COMMUNITY

## Around the County from A2

The event at National Harbor will kick off at 11 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. with a Black-owned marketplace in the Capital Canopy (151 National Plaza). More than 30 vendors will showcase Black-owned businesses and provide a range from clothing to accessories to home goods.

Live entertainment will take place from 2 to 6:30 p.m. and will include music, performances and interactive experiences on the Plaza Stage (150 National Plaza).

Movies on the Potomac will feature Black Panther starting at 7 p.m. on the big waterfront screen (150 National Plaza.)

"We are excited to host our fourth annual Juneteenth celebration," said Lauren Fells who is the marketing content manager and is coordinating the event at National Harbor. "This is a great event to showcase diversity and unity in our community. It's a day filled highlighting black owned businesses, arts, music, culture, and food." National Harbor has a number of African American owned businesses, many of these are women owned and several are veteran owned. "There is something for all ages to experience," Fells added.

For more information, visit [www.nationalharbor.com/events](http://www.nationalharbor.com/events) and search for "Juneteenth."

## M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Board and Department Announce April 2025 Events and Meetings

LARGO, Md. (March 26, 2025)—The Prince George's County Planning Board and the Prince George's County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) announce their upcoming public events and meetings for April 2025. For more details, review the list of events and meetings below or visit [www.pgplanningboard.org](http://www.pgplanningboard.org) and [www.pgplanning.org](http://www.pgplanning.org). Events and meetings are subject to change.

### Prince George's County Planning Board Meetings

Thursday, April 10 | 10 a.m.  
 Thursday, April 17 | 10 a.m.  
 Thursday, April 24 | 10 a.m.  
 Online and M-NCPPC Largo Headquarters (Auditorium), 1616 McCormick Drive, Largo, MD 20774

The Prince George's County Planning Board meets on Thursdays to consider planning, zoning, subdivision, and other matters within its jurisdiction. The meetings may be viewed in person at the M-NCPPC Largo Headquarters and via live streaming video. Public participation is encouraged. Everyone who wishes to speak virtually at the Planning Board meeting must register online by noon on the Tuesday, two days prior to the Planning Board meeting. On-site registration to speak at in-person meetings will be available, however advance registration is strongly encouraged. Written comments, documents, and exhibits must be received via email, hand delivery, or mail by noon on the Tuesday before the Planning Board meeting to be included in the record. For more details, visit: [www.pgplanningboard.org](http://www.pgplanningboard.org).

### Subdivision and Development Review Committee Meeting

Friday, April 11 | 9:30 a.m.  
 Friday, April 25 | 9:30 a.m.  
 Subdivision and Development Review Committee (SDRC) is a coordination and interagency meeting early in the development review process with the applicant and M-NCPPC staff, where the public can be invited to virtually view the meeting only. The meetings are held virtually and may be viewed via live streaming video. The agendas are posted online.

### Love My Largo: A Blue Line Corridor Event

Saturday, April 5 | 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
 The Prince George's County Planning Department and partners will host Love My Largo—a Blue Line Corridor event designed to reimagine McCormick Drive and Lottsford Road as a vibrant, connected corridor leading to the future Downtown Largo. The temporary placemaking demonstration will take place on Saturday, April 5, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Largo, MD. Community members are invited to join in the festivities and learn about safer streets, future planning projects, and the civic plaza planned for the Wayne K. Curry Administration Building. For more information, visit <https://pgplan.org/lovemylargo>.

### Brown Bag Lunch Series: Subdivision Applications

Tuesday, April 8 | noon–1 p.m.  
 M-NCPPC Largo Headquarters, 1616 McCormick Drive, Largo, MD 20774

The Prince George's County Planning Department will host a monthly Brown Bag Series covering various Development Review topics at the M-NCPPC Largo Headquarters. The session on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, will cover Subdivision Applications in Prince George's County. Register at least a week in advance at <https://pgplan.org/brownbag>.

### Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission

Tuesday, April 15 | 6:30 p.m.  
 Hosted by the Prince George's County Planning Department, the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission meeting will be held virtually on the third Tuesday of the month. For meeting details, visit <https://www.pgplanning.org/county-wide-planning/historic-preservation> or call 301-952-3680, or email [HistoricPreservation@ppd.mncppc.org](mailto:HistoricPreservation@ppd.mncppc.org).

### M-NCPPC Full Commission Meeting

Wednesday, April 16 | 10 a.m.  
 The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission will hold its Full Commission meeting in a hybrid format from the M-NCPPC Headquarters in Wheaton and via video conference. Agenda packets will be available online.

### Assistance

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

## Council Member Wanika Fisher to Host 'Chillum Park Day' for Grand Playground Re-Opening

By PRESS OFFICER  
 Office of Council Member  
 Wanika Fisher

On Saturday, April 5, District 2 Council Member Wanika B. Fisher, Esq. is partnering with the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) to host "Chillum Park Day" to celebrate the reopening of the park's newly remodeled playground. This family-friendly event will feature guest speak-

ers, a ribbon cutting and rededication, activities, music, community spirit, and an ice cream truck!

"I'm thrilled to co-host this event with the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission as we celebrate the reopening of the park and rededication to the community, particularly at a time when many people are feeling disconnected," said Council Member Fisher. "District 2 is home to many of our county's children, and as someone who

believes that children are our future, I'm delighted to see a space where they can thrive, connect in person, and foster the trust essential for a vibrant community to flourish."

Registration is recommended but not required. Register here: <http://bit.ly/3FJDF7s>

The event will take place on **Saturday, April 5** from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Chillum Park, 5701 16th Avenue Chillum, MD 20782.

## Alzheimer's Association to Hold Awareness Education Program in Prince George's County

*Community encouraged to attend to learn about Alzheimer's and dementia, warning signs, and available resources*

By CINDY SCHELHORN  
 Alzheimer's Association

ARLINGTON, Va. (March 28, 2025)—The Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter and the Cedar Heights Community Center in Seat Pleasant are partnering on an Alzheimer's awareness education program, to be held at the community center on **Wednesday, April 23** at 11 a.m. The address is 1200 Glen Willow Dr, Seat Pleasant, MD 20743.

"We are interested in educating our constituents about Alzheimer's and dementia because it is affecting all of us, either directly or indirectly," said volunteer Michelle Stroman, who helped to schedule the presentation. "Some of us have family members and friends who have displayed some symptoms of what we think is Alzheimer's and dementia. We would like to know what we should look for, what we can do to help, and when we should back off."

Nearly 7 million Americans age 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's, including 127,000 in Maryland. Data released at the 2023 Alzheimer's Association International

Conference (AAIC) showed that Prince George's County ranks fourth among the nation's 3,142 counties for prevalence of Alzheimer's in adults age 65+.

The program will provide an overview of Alzheimer's and dementia and discuss warning signs of the disease, the difference between normal aging and when symptoms of memory loss may reveal a larger problem, and the importance of an early diagnosis. Participants also will hear about both community resources and those provided by the Alzheimer's Association to support people living with the disease, their families and caregivers.

"It's critical to educate our community about the importance of having baseline cognitive testing and to learn about all of the free resources the Alzheimer's Association has," said Laura Byer, MBA, MSOD, Program Manager with the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter.

Presenting the program is Alzheimer's Association volunteer Michael Smith, who cared for his wife when she was diagnosed with younger-onset Alzheimer's. Since her passing Smith has devoted innumerable

hours fundraising for the Alzheimer's Association and acting as both a community educator and support group facilitator with families in the Veterans Administration affected by Alzheimer's and dementia.

"I am passionate about volunteering for the Alzheimer's Association to honor my late wife Bernita and to ensure that families and caregivers are supported and guided during the challenging journey of caregiving," said Smith.

The program is free and open to the community. Registration is not required. For more information, call 800.272.3900 or visit [alz.org/nca](http://alz.org/nca).

*The Alzheimer's Association is a worldwide voluntary health organization dedicated to Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our mission is to lead the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia—by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia®. Visit [alz.org](http://alz.org) or call 800.272.3900.*

## GWRCCC Hosts Earth Day 5K Walk, Alternative Fuels Vehicle Display & Green Expo to Promote Sustainability and Clean Energy

By PRESS OFFICER  
 GWRCCC

WASHINGTON (March 27, 2025)—The Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC) is excited to host the Earth Day 5K Walk, Alternative Fuels & Green Expo on **April 19, 2025** in Washington, D.C. This event will bring together community members, clean energy advocates, and industry leaders to promote alternative fuel solutions, environmental sustainability, and healthier communities.

The event will kick off at 8 a.m. with check-in for walkers and exhibitors, followed by an opening ceremony at 9:30 a.m. featuring a performance of the National Anthem and welcoming remarks from special guests.

### Event Highlights:

- **5K Walk (10 a.m.–12 p.m.)**—Participants will walk from the U.S. Capitol, around the Washington Monument, and back to the starting line, raising aware-

ness about clean transportation and environmental sustainability.

- **Alternative Fuel Vehicle Displays (10 a.m.–3 p.m.)**—Public transit vehicles, school buses, and municipal trucks powered by cleaner fuels such as electricity, biofuels, propane, natural gas, and hydrogen will be on display.

- **Green Expo (10 a.m.–3 p.m.)**—Leading energy, environmental, and public health organizations will showcase innovative solutions in alternative fuels, renewable energy, and advanced transportation technologies.

- **Finish Line Celebration (12–1 p.m.)**—Walkers will be greeted with music, snacks, and inspirational briefings from environmental leaders.

- **Recognition & Awards Ceremony (1:30–2 p.m.)**—A special session recognizing participants, sponsors, and industry leaders for their contributions to a greener future.  
 "This event is an incredible opportunity

for our community to come together and engage with the latest advancements in sustainable transportation and alternative fuels," said stated Antoine M. Thompson, CEO & Executive Director of GWRCCC. "By walking, learning, and networking, we're taking meaningful steps toward a cleaner, healthier future."

The GWRCCC Earth Day 5K Walk, Alternative Fuels & Green Expo is free and open to the public. Participants can register online in advance.

*The Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC), focused in the Washington, D.C. metro area, is one of nearly 80 coalitions in the U.S. that fosters economic, environmental, and energy security by working locally to advance affordable, domestic transportation fuels, environmental justice, energy efficient mobility systems, and other fuel-saving technologies and practices. Find out more at <https://gwrccc.org>.*

## Chair from A1

She also served on the 2019 Clinton Foundation's 20/30 Leadership Council.

Chair Burroughs and Vice Chair Oriadha issued this joint statement:

"We look forward to working together and with our Council colleagues to advance policies that uplift our communities. Together, we will focus on expanding economic opportunities, improving public safety, and ensuring every resident can access quality services. We are committed to fostering collaboration, transparency, and equity in all we do."

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# COMMENTARY

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



**ChildWatch:**

## Revisiting an American Prayer

As Women's History Month draws to a close, there's been one more broad attack on methods of sharing our nation's history: on March 27, President Donald Trump issued a new executive order affecting the 21 museums and 14 education and research centers that are part of the Smithsonian Institution, including the American Women's History Museum, which is still years away from breaking ground on its official site, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and the National Zoo. According to the order, the Smithsonian Institution is "under the influence of a divisive, race-centered ideology," which falls under a larger "concerted and widespread effort to rewrite our Nation's history, replacing objective facts with a distorted narrative driven by ideology rather than truth. Under this historical revision, our Nation's unparalleled legacy of advancing liberty, individual rights, and human happiness is reconstructed as inherently racist, sexist, oppressive, or otherwise irredeemably flawed."

The order says, "Museums in our Nation's capital should be places where individuals go to learn—not to be subjected to ideological indoctrination or divisive narratives that distort our shared history," and assigns Vice President JD Vance to work with Congress to deny funding for exhibitions or programs that "degrade shared American values" and "divide Americans based on race." Another piece of the order seeks to "determine whether, since January 1, 2020, public monuments, memorials, statues, markers, or similar properties within the Department of the Interior's jurisdiction have been removed or changed to perpetuate a false reconstruction of American history, inappropriately minimize the value of certain historical events or figures, or include any other improper partisan ideology" and "take action to reinstate" them, allowing tributes to White supremacist Confederate generals and others that were removed in the last five years to be brought back to former positions of glory.

Five years ago on the same date, March 27, our nation lost the "Dean of the Civil Rights Movement," Rev. Joseph Lowery. When Joe was about 11 years old in 1930s Alabama, a policeman hit him in the stomach with a bully stick for being in a White man's way. He responded by trying to run home to get his father's gun. His father stopped him from retaliating that day, but Joe made it his mission to fight back against injustice when he grew up, and he remained a courageous warrior for justice all of his life. Rev. Lowery was a constant companion to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who led the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the march from Selma to Montgomery, and a co-founder and later long-term president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He fought against apartheid in South Africa and for LGBTQ rights and marriage equality at home. And many Americans remember his moving benediction at the end of President Barack Obama's first inauguration, and his prayer for our nation that day.

Rev. Lowery began by quoting from the final verse of "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing": "God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, Thou who has brought us thus far on the way, Thou who has by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path we pray..." He continued by acknowledging a moment of national and global financial uncertainty: "Because we know You've got the whole world in Your hand, we pray for not only our nation, but for the community of nations. Our faith does not shrink, though pressed by the flood of mortal ills. For we know that, Lord, You are able, and You're willing to

work through faithful leadership to restore stability, mend our brokenness, heal our wounds, and deliver us from the exploitation of the poor, of the least of these, and from favoritism toward the rich, the elite of these."

He asked forgiveness for sowing "seeds of greed and corruption" that led to reaping "the whirlwind of social and economic disruption," and prayed that Americans would be willing "to make sacrifices, to respect Your creation, to turn to each other and not on each other." And he prayed: "Help us to make choices on the side of love, not hate; on the side of inclusion, not exclusion; tolerance, not intolerance. And as we leave this mountaintop, help us to hold on to the spirit of fellowship and the oneness of our family. Let us take that power back to our homes, our workplaces, our churches, our temples, our mosques, or wherever we seek Your will... We go now to walk together, children, pledging that we won't get weary in the difficult days ahead. We know You will not leave us alone. With Your hands of power and Your heart of love, help us then now, Lord, to work for that day when nations shall not lift up sword against nations; when tanks will be beaten into tractors; when every man and every woman shall sit under his or her own vine and fig tree, and none shall be afraid; when justice will roll down like waters and righteousness as a mighty stream."

Some Americans might see that prayer today as degrading or divisive, yet many others might still say: *amen*.

—March 28, 2025

**Marc Morial**

*President and CEO, National Urban League*



**To Be Equal:**

## George Foreman Was the Last Man Standing From Boxings Heavyweight Golden Era

*"Athletes are artists whose artistry dies with their youth. For fighters, it tends to be worse, as the youth is literally beaten out of them. But George Foreman—erstwhile bully, seller of grill gadgets and mufflers—did the greatest thing any athlete can do. He beat time."*

—Mark Kriegel

When former world heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali tried to intimidate reigning champ George Foreman at the start of their fa-

mous "Rumble in the Jungle" in 1974, Foreman almost fell down laughing.

"Someone must have told him, 'Tell him this to psych him out,'" Foreman said years later. "He opened his eyes just a little bit and said, 'You were just a kid in high school when I fought Sonny Liston. You don't deserve to be here.'" Foreman had never spent a day in high school.

When Liston lost the title to Ali in 1964, Foreman was a 15-year-old dropout, living in poverty, headed for a life of crime. While Ali was making

a stand against racism, eventually losing his title and his boxing license in 1967 for refusing the draft, "politics didn't even exist" for Foreman.

"I was so ignorant I thought Lyndon Johnson was President of Texas because every time I saw him he was wearing a cowboy hat," Foreman said.

That all changed for Foreman when he joined the Job Corps, which not only led him to a career in boxing, but a lifelong love for reading and learning. The first book he read the whole way through was *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*.

Foreman's decision to wave a tiny American flag after his Olympic gold medal win in 1968 was seen by some as a response to the Black power salute track and field champions Tommie Smith and John Carlos had given days earlier. But it was about gratitude for the chance in life that Great Society programs had given him, he said. He was just saying what Smith and Carlos were saying in a different way.

"They were trying to say, 'We are Americans!'" Foreman said. He held a similar view of the controversial decision by Colin Kaepernick and other NFL players to kneel during the national anthem: "If we are the country we say we are, we can handle it."

The 1970s were regarded as a golden age of

boxing, and the greatest era for heavyweights. Foreman was the last of the three who, along with Ali and Joe Frazier, dominated the era. It was a decade that included the most famous fights in history, beginning with 1971's "Fight of the Century" when undefeated reigning champion Frazier defended the title from the undefeated former champion Ali.

Foreman, too, was undefeated by the time he faced Frazier in the "Sunshine Showdown" in Kingston, Jamaica, in 1973. But Frazier was so heavily favored that announcer Howard Cosell was genuinely shocked by Foreman's dominance of the two-round fight. Cosell's repeated cry "Down goes Frazier!" remains iconic to this day.

Even more surprising was the 45-year-old Foreman's 1994 victory over 26-year-old Michael Moorer. With one knockout punch, Foreman set three boxing records: the oldest ever to win the heavyweight title, with the longest interval between championships, and the largest age gap between fighters.

But for Foreman, nothing ever topped winning the Olympic gold medal.

"That was the most impossible thing that could ever happen to anyone," he said. "I had never had a dream come true."

—March 28, 2025

**Purple Line from A1**

- Thursday, May 1 Riverdale Park/New Carrollton
- Tuesday, May 6 Silver Spring
- Thursday, May 8 Bethesda/Chevy Chase

The Maryland Transit Administration is one of the largest multi-modal transit systems in the United States. The Purple Line is a 16-mile, 21-station light rail line that will extend from Bethesda in Montgomery County to New Carrollton in Prince George's County. It will directly connect to the Metrorail's Red, Green and Orange

Lines at Bethesda, Silver Spring, College Park and New Carrollton. The Purple Line will also connect to MARC, Amtrak, and local bus services. To learn more, visit purplelinemd.com, and follow Purple Line on Facebook, Instagram, Bluesky, X/Twitter and YouTube.

**Healing from A2**

**Inside RAW Arts**

RAW takes a slightly different approach than other art therapy organizations. RAW does not focus on or treat an individual's diagnosis even though it serves youths who have anxiety, eating disorders, are suicidal or have trauma from witnessing shootings or losing family members.

Instead, RAW uses art therapy techniques and the power of community to promote healing. Children are placed in groups led by licensed art therapists and two trained co-leaders who are teens. Some groups are also led by staff who aren't licensed art therapists, but they receive training at RAW.

RAW currently has 30 such groups, each with a different focus, ranging from visual arts to film to shared identity. Each group follows the same model. The day starts with check-in, where the children answer a simple question such as, "What's your favorite breakfast cereal?" or a question related to the art they will create that day. They also rate their day from one to 10, with 10 meaning their day was "awesome."

Children then receive a prompt centered on a theme or issue and make art in response to it. The youths have the option to share their art with the group, but sharing is not mandatory. The day ends with check-out, where they rate their day again from one to 10.

If the number drops or doesn't improve, the group leader or co-leader thanks the child for being honest and speaks with the child.

And if their number improves just a little, "something good happened here," said Jason Cruz, an art therapist and director of culture and experience at RAW. "They're coming at a zero and you give them the opportunity for an hour to raise up their score even if it's a two. That's progression and that's success."

One of the groups, a group of boys called Men 2 Be, explored the prompt, "What's beneath the surface?," in which they made iceberg sculptures. Cruz said the children used the metaphor of an iceberg to show what's beneath their own surface — the good and the bad — to show who they are.

In another group, called "Pulse," children used embroidery to showcase their struggles.

A child stitched the words: "You are more than just your diagnosis," alongside a stitching of a self-portrait.

Using embroidery taught the children—who in many cases struggle with anxiety—to slow down, said Alison Miller, an art therapist and clinical director at RAW.

"If you rush, you're going to get more frustrated, right?" Miller said. "Your thread is going to get tangled."

If a child wants more one-on-one support, RAW will refer the child to an in-house clinician. Youths who show signs of suicide ideation are directed to RAW's care worker, who connects the child and their parents to mental health services outside the program.

RAW's model generally works, though, because the youths participate in the same routine and meet with the same group members once a week, Miller said.

Adults who went through the RAW program years ago said they found it to be life-changing.

Jonathan Rodriguez, who's now 33, came to RAW when he was 13 and in a local gang.

"I was a troubled kid," Ro-

driguez said. "To have a place where I could get that off my chest really helped me become a more understanding and patient person, especially now as a father. I'm reliving my second childhood right now. I get to be that person I didn't have for my kids."

Lissa Bautista, 25, first came to RAW at 14. She said her art helped her find herself. She's now a makeup artist, model and graphic designer.

"[Art] helped me navigate through my life problems," Bautista said.

**Art therapy elsewhere**

Art therapy takes different forms in different places. In Uvalde, Texas, survivors and community members developed a mural that helped them heal after the mass shooting at Robb Elementary School on May 24, 2022.

The Uvalde Love Project, organized by art therapist Wanda Montemayor, brought students, teachers and families together to work on a 300-square-foot mural featuring clay tiles. The mural depicts a large green tree, blue

See **HEALING** Page A6

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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  
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<b>Publisher/Senior Editor</b> Legusta Floyd	<b>Editor</b> Lisa Duan
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# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

### Can My Wife and I get Spouse Benefits From Each Other?

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

**Dear Rusty:** My wife and I are currently collecting Social Security. We both started receiving SS at 62 years old. That said, we get by on a tight budget.

A retired friend told us about an option which allows a spouse to collect half (1/2) of the other spouse's SS monthly income. My question has two parts: 1. Can we both collect on each other's SS? And 2. Are there any pitfalls? **Signed: Seeking an Increase**

**Dear Seeking:** Well, I'm afraid spousal benefits aren't quite that simple. One spouse may be eligible for additional benefits from the other, but only if that spouse's personal Social Security retirement benefit at their full retirement age (FRA) is less than half (50%) of the other spouse's FRA entitlement. Note that for spouse benefits, FRA amounts are used regardless of when you actually claim benefits. Full retirement age for both you and your wife is 66, so that means that if you both claimed at 62 your FRA entitlements were higher—about 25% more—than you are both currently receiving.

Since you applied for benefits some time ago at about the same age, one way to estimate if one of you may be entitled to an additional amount as a spouse is to evaluate your current monthly amounts. If either of you are getting a benefit which is less than half of the other's amount, it's possible that the one with the lower benefit may be entitled to more as a spouse. And note, only one spouse is eligible for benefits—you cannot both get spouse benefits from each other.

Another way to explore this is for the spouse with the lowest monthly Social Security benefit to contact Social Security at 1.800.772.1213 to ask if spouse benefits are available. Noting that contacting SS these days can be a time-consuming process, yet another way is for you to provide us (the AMAC Foundation's SS Advisory Service) with both of your current monthly SS benefit amounts (before any deductions) and the exact ages when each of you claimed. Using that information, we can do the math to see if either of you might be entitled to more as a spouse. But, in the end, only the spouse with the lower benefit may be eligible, and then, only if their FRA entitlement (not their actual current amount) is less than 50% of the other spouse's FRA entitlement.

*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](http://www.amac.us) is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation's capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country. And the AMAC Foundation ([www.AmacFoundation.org](http://www.AmacFoundation.org)) is the Association's non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting and educating America's Seniors. Together, we act and speak on the Association members' behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at [www.amac.us/join-amac](http://www.amac.us/join-amac).

## President/CEO of Educational Systems Federal Credit Union Inducted Into the African American Credit Union Coalition's Hall of Fame

By PRESS OFFICER  
ESFCU

GREENBELT, Md. (March 12, 2025)—Girado Smith, President/CEO of Educational Systems Federal Credit Union (ESFCU) has been inducted into the African American Credit Union Coalition's Hall of Fame. Smith's induction took place last month during the America's Credit Union's Governmental Affairs Conference in Washington, D.C.

"It is truly an honor to be inducted into the AACUC's Hall of Fame," said Smith. "This recognition is not just a reflection of my efforts but also the incredible team I've had the privilege of working with during the past 18 years. Together we continue to innovate, grow, and make a lasting im-

act on the communities we serve. I am truly humbled by this recognition and look forward to the bright future ahead of us."

As President/CEO of Educational Systems Federal Credit Union, where he previously served as the Chief Financial Officer for over 18 years, Smith has led the credit union's financial operations and strategic direction. He is committed to serving the education community and expanding the credit union's reach by offering customized solutions and excellence in member service. He is driven to shape a culture of teamwork and inclusion within our industry and played an integral role in partnering with the AACUC to form the Rosemary Brinkley C-Level Leadership Development Program.

Smith is one of five credit union leaders

who was inducted in the AACUC's Hall of Fame on March 4. Learn more about the other honorees here: <https://members.aacuc.org/news-releases/Details/aacuc-announces-2025-african-american-credit-union-hall-of-fame-honorees-239984>.

Last December, ESFCU and Howard University Employees Federal Credit Union (HUEFCU) announced that they had merged to significantly expand the range of financial services available to employees, students, alumni and family members of Howard University as well as Howard University Hospital. In April of 2024, the Washington Business Journal named ESFCU as the 12th largest credit union in the Greater Washington area.

## The Velocity Companies Celebrates the Grand Opening of the Prince George's County Health & Human Services Building at Hampton Park

By PRESS OFFICER  
The Velocity Companies

CAPITOL HEIGHTS, Md. (March 27, 2025)—The Velocity Companies proudly announces the grand opening of the Prince George's County Health & Human Services (HHS) Building at Hampton Park, on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, located at 9187 Central Avenue, Capitol Heights, MD.

The grand opening of this state-of-the-art, multi-agency facility marks a major milestone in the \$250 million redevelopment of Hampton Park and serves as a testament to the power of public-private partnership to drive meaningful economic and community impact. Developed by The Velocity Companies in collaboration with Prince George's County, the HHS Building is a cornerstone of the County's strategic vision for integrated, accessible, and community-centered services.

"This project embodies our vision of creating spaces that not only drive economic development but also serve the well-being of our community," said Brandon Bellamy, CEO of The Velocity Companies. "Through this public-private partnership, we are investing in infrastructure that shapes a healthier, more connected, and more prosperous future of Prince George's County."

Strategically positioned in the heart of Hampton Park, the 115,000 square foot facility brings together multiple vital agencies under one roof—including the Prince George's County Department of Family Services, the Prince George's County Health

Department, the State of Maryland Department of Social Services, and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) Senior Center.

By consolidating services in a centrally located, modern facility, the HHS building increases operational efficiency, improves access for residents, and serves as a catalyst for job creation and local economic activity.

"The HHS Building at Hampton Park is the result of intentional collaboration between the County and the private sector," said Jonathan Butler, Director of the Prince George's County Office of Central Services. "This project reflects our continuing commitment to providing accessible, high-quality services while supporting local economic revitalization."

The grand opening of the HHS Building reinforces Prince George's County's dedication to sustainable development, interagency coordination, and improving quality of life for its residents. It also represents a major step forward in realizing the broader vision for Hampton Park as a vibrant mixed-use destination where residents can live, work, and play.

The Velocity Companies continues to lead transformative, community-driven real estate development. The completion of the HHS Building at Hampton Park underscores the company's commitment to creating dynamic projects, especially in under-invested communities, that elevate health outcomes, economic vitality, and innovation through strategic public-private partnerships.

Located on the Blue Line Corridor, Hampton Park will ultimately feature 80,000+ square feet of new retail, 400+ market-rate residential units, a 120-room nationally branded hotel, and a variety of amenities designed to foster community connection and economic momentum.

For more information on The Velocity Companies, please visit [thevelocitycompanies.com](http://thevelocitycompanies.com).

*The Velocity Companies is an impact-driven company that specializes in real estate investment and property development. The Velocity team brings extensive experience and a proven track record of success in commercial real estate development, community development, investment, finance, and project management. Driven by their commitment to providing a significant impact in under-invested communities, the team boldly pursues projects that champion the health and vitality of local economies through meaningful development. For more information, visit <https://thevelocitycompanies.com>*

*H&R Retail, founded in 1983, is the largest retail-only brokerage firm in the Washington, D.C./Baltimore metropolitan area, specializing in landlord and tenant representation as well as investment sales. With offices in Baltimore and Bethesda, Maryland, the firm exclusively represents over 20 million square feet of retail space and 150 big-box, specialty stores and restaurants. H&R Retail provides its clients with unparalleled market knowledge, exceptional service and support in negotiations.*

## Maryland Humanities Board Members Receive Statewide and Regional Honors

The Daily Record and Afro News Praise Residents of Laurel, Baltimore County and Baltimore City

By SARAH WEISSMAN  
Maryland Humanities

BALTIMORE (March 28, 2025)—The Daily Record has named Dr. Kimberly R. Moffitt and Christian Pulley, who both sit on the Maryland Humanities Board of Directors, to its 2025 listing of Maryland's Top 100 Women. Chanel Johnson, who serves as Maryland Humanities' Interim Chair of the Board of Directors, made Afro News' list of Who's Who in Black Baltimore.

Celebrating its thirtieth anniversary, Maryland's Top 100 Women recognizes outstanding achievements by women through professional accomplishments, community leadership, and mentoring. A panel of business and legal professionals, previous Maryland's Top 100 Women, and a representative of The Daily Record reviewed the final applications and selected this year's honorees who represent the non-profit, government, and corporate sectors.

"The 2025 Maryland's Top

100 Women are leading companies, creating change, breaking barriers and charting new territory. They are leaders who make a difference in their communities and also mentor and inspire future leaders toward success," said Suzanne Fischer-Huettnner, managing director of BridgeTower Media/The Daily Record.

Kimberly R. Moffitt (she/her) has recently been appointed the Dean of the Cathy Hughes School of Communications at Howard University. Currently, she serves as Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). Before assuming this role, she was Director of the Language, Literacy, and Culture Doctoral Program and a professor of Communication/Media Studies—as well as affiliate Professor of Africana Studies—at UMBC. A media critic whose research focuses on mediated representations of marginalized groups as well as the politicized nature of Black hair and the body, Moffitt has published several ar-

ticles and book chapters. She is the founding parent of Baltimore Collegiate School for Boys Charter School.

"I am honored to be recognized in this class of phenomenal women," says Moffitt. "While it appears to be almost revolutionary to celebrate the incredible contributions made by one's gender, I thank The Daily Record for doing just that for the last thirty years."

**Christian Pulley (she/her) is the City Administrator for the City of Laurel.** She has received both the City of Laurel's Kristie M. Mills Leadership Award and its Meritorious Service Award for Professional Employee. Pulley is a graduate of Leadership Maryland. She has served on the Maryland Municipal League's Conference Planning Committee and International City/County Management Association Conference Evaluation Committee. Pulley has a certificate from The Senior Executives in State & Local Government Program from Harvard University. She received her Master of City and Regional Planning

from Morgan State University.

"I am extremely grateful to be honored as one of Maryland's Top 100 Women," Pulley says. "It's a privilege to be recognized with other inspiring women who uplift our great state!"

Maryland's Top 100 Women will be honored at a reception and awards celebration on May 5 at Towson University Arena. See the full 2025 list of Maryland's Top 100 Women here.

Who's Who in Black has made it their mission to "focus [on] the celebration and elevation of black culture, black achievement and black people. We recognized the deficit of mainstream media's inclusion of the stories that truly reflect who we are as a people." Powered by Real Times Media, Who's Who in Black serves as a hub for African American professionals across multiple industries to network with and support each other.

Featured on their website, Real Times Media explains their purpose for this network is rooted in the knowledge "that we are

stronger together, that our collective voice cannot be silenced, that our movements create ripples around the world. We pay homage to the sacrifices of our ancestors as we clear the path for the future for our descendants."

Chanel Johnson (she/her) is the Executive Director for the Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum and Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture. In these roles, Johnson is dedicated to serving Maryland to amplify and support African American heritage initiatives, groups, and museums to gain further access to resources, partnerships, and reach new audiences and heights. She previously served as Executive Director for the Prince George's African American Museum as well as the Education Director for the Creative Alliance in Baltimore. Johnson received a graduate degree in Arts Management from American University. She is a practicing visual artist and has a home studio with her husband, Eric Johnson, in Baltimore City.

"Being a lover of Black history, a lover of Baltimore and a great lover and admirer of the Afro Newspaper, I feel truly blessed and honored to receive this recognition," says Johnson. "As an artist and museum direc-

tor, I have the privilege of sharing Black history and culture through my work, therefore, to be recognized in this way is truly special and humbling."

Lindsey Baker, CEO at Maryland Humanities, says: "I am deeply grateful to work in partnership with such outstanding board members at Maryland Humanities. I am thrilled to see their leadership, dedication, and impact celebrated on this stage—exactly where they belong," Baker continues.

"Their work embodies the very best of what it means to lead with purpose and passion."

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### Healing from A4

skies, a stream, flowers, words of hope and messages to friends who were killed in the shooting.

For a year, Montemayor and a team of art therapists worked with young people in Uvalde to treat their trauma. The children participated in group counseling while assembling the mural.

Montemayor said the project helped participants heal.

“One child feared sleeping alone, and after they had been working with us, they were able to start sleeping on their own and were able to start going out in public,” Montemayor said.

Meanwhile in New York City, The Art Therapy Project provides group art therapy to youths and adults. The organization places youths in groups based on the problem they are facing, be it abuse, housing insecurity or drug use. Founded in 2011, the organization has provided group art therapy to over 4,000 youths.

While such an approach is beneficial to youth because they receive support from their peers, one-on-one art therapy is helpful if an individual is dealing with a specific diagnosis because art therapists can customize the treatment to the problem, said Lisa Pascal, an art therapist and art therapy manager of Create Arts Center.

Located in Silver Spring,

Maryland, Create provides individual and group art therapy. Tamar Hendel, a Holocaust survivor who found healing through art, opened the center to help others heal.

Pascal added a community-centered approach has its benefits but “the only problem is trying to get a group that is a good fit because they have to be similar in age and diagnosis for the group to be effective.”

### ‘Now I’m happier’

RAW’s history dates to 1988. Two art therapists, Mary Flannery and Beau Diehl, founded the organization after providing art therapy to incarcerated youths.

They found youths who were not incarcerated could also benefit from art and community, said Rosario Ubiera-Minaya, executive director of RAW.

“They started to notice that the group dynamic was very positive to be able to learn from each other and relate to each other,” Ubiera-Minaya said.

RAW is based in downtown Lynn, a city of about 100,000 residents with a majority-minority population and a poverty rate 2.6 percentage points higher than the national average in 2023. RAW also has a program that has worked with 668 youth in Lynn Public Schools, but sessions tend to be rushed, Ubiera-Minaya said. Group sessions at RAW run for about two hours.

“The model works within

the amount of time that we dedicate, but also not only per session, but for the continuum of our program,” Ubiera-Minaya said. “So ideally, a child starts in fourth grade and stays with us throughout the number of years and is able to tap into different resources and opportunities throughout all that time. ... That’s why it’s impactful.”

However, youths have to wait about three to four years to attend sessions at RAW—and 249 young people were on the waitlist as of mid-March. There is a waitlist because there aren’t enough art therapists to provide for all youths, according to Cruz.

But the youths currently at RAW said it serves them well.

“I was in a bit of a sad place,” 13-year-old Zanna said, referring to when she first came to RAW. “But now I’m happier. I’m happier because I met people who like to do the same things as me.”

During the maze activity, 13-year-old Ahona, still new to RAW, looked proudly at her incomplete maze. It had a zig-zag with rough edges and a yin-yang sign. The zig-zag and its roughness represented the trials she faced growing up and the yin-yang showed the need for balance in her life.

“There’s still more to go, so I left my maze incomplete,” Ahona said. “I would really like to continue this journey and find a way out to knowing myself.”

## EarthTalk® Still Bullish on Wind Power in the U.S. in the Age of Trump V2?

By Krisha Chhabra | March 20, 2025

*Dear EarthTalk:*  
*How is wind power doing in the U.S.? Is Trump going to harm it?*

—P.K. via email

Wind energy is the largest single source of renewable energy in the U.S., comprising 10 percent of the nation’s electricity mix. In Iowa and South Dakota, wind provides more than half the electricity. In 2024, U.S. wind electricity generation surpassed coal-fired generation in March and April, as wind power generally produces more electricity in the springtime. Over the course of 2024, the wind industry avoided 351 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions—equivalent to 61 million cars worth of emissions.

The wind industry is also a major job creator. According to the U.S. Department of Energy (DoE), 131,000 people are employed directly in the sector, with more than 300,000 jobs supported overall. “Wind turbine technician” is the fastest growing job in the country, likely to increase by 44 percent over the next decade. The industry has attracted \$330 billion in investment over the past 20 years.

Small wind turbines are emerging as key players in the

growing distributed wind market, which generates electricity for on-site, local needs. In 2022, DoE estimated that distributed wind could meet half of U.S. electricity demand, offering communities rate stability. They are particularly valuable in rural areas, where water conservation needs make thermal generators less desirable. Innovation continues to drive the wind industry. In 2024, the Massachusetts-based Pecos Wind Power won a \$200,000 award to bring the PW85, an 85-kilowatt small wind turbine, to market. The PW85 is designed to maximize efficiency in low-wind conditions, reducing costs by 55 percent compared to similar projects. Its installation process requires no crane and takes just a week instead of the usual six, further cutting costs and expanding wind energy’s reach.

Despite these advancements, the wind industry faces political challenges. On January 24, 2025, President Trump signed an executive order halting approvals, permits and loans for new wind energy projects on federal lands or waters. The order prohibits the development of the Lava Ridge Wind Project, a large wind farm in Idaho that the Biden administration approved

in December. The administration justified the orders by citing wind energy’s supposed unreliability and potential harm to wildlife, particularly whales, despite no specific evidence linking offshore wind to whale deaths.

This executive order raises concerns about long-term investment in wind. Developers may hesitate to invest due to high political risk. Francis Pullaro, president of RENEW Northeast, an association of energy industry and environmental advocates, notes that “there’s a lot of uncertainty now as to how all this is going to be implemented.” The potential rollback of projects could slow the country’s transition to renewable energy and weaken progress made in reducing carbon emissions.

**CONTACTS:** Wind power facts , <https://cleanpower.org/facts/wind-power/>

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