

# The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SINCE 1932

Vol. 93, No. 17 April 24 — April 30, 2025

Prince George's County, Maryland

Newspaper of Record

Phone: 301-627-0900

25 cents

## Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation Hosts Cheonan City Delegation Following Successful Visit to South Korea

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCEDC

LARGO, Md. (April 17, 2025)—Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (PGCEDC) proudly hosted a distinguished delegation from Cheonan City, South Korea, on April 15–16, 2025, strengthening the growing international partnership first initiated during a Prince George's County delegation visit to Cheonan in September 2024. The delegation will also visit Atlanta, Georgia after their tour of Prince George's County.

The delegation's itinerary included a warm welcome and formal gift exchanges at the Prince George's County Building where they met Acting County Executive Tara H. Jackson and County Council Chair Edward P. Burroughs III. The delegation also made site visits to innovation leaders including NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and the University of Maryland Discovery District. These visits highlighted the County's strength in research, smart technology, and economic development.

The Cheonan City delegation included:

- Kim Seog-pil, Deputy Mayor
- Song Min-chul, Director of Enterprise Support Division
- Park Su-mi, International Exchange Team Leader
- Kim Hyeon-sik, Secretary to the Deputy Mayor
- Lee Eun-hye, International Exchange Team Member



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Cheonan delegation also engaged with local leadership, including members of the County Council, Congressman Glenn Ivey, and key representatives from the state and federal levels.

"Prince George's County is honored to host our partners from Cheonan City as we continue to strengthen our global ties," said Acting Prince George's County Executive Tara H. Jackson. "This visit builds on the momentum of last year's successful trade mission, where our delegation engaged with South Korean small and medium-sized enterprises during the 2024 Cheonan City Dance Festival. Through collaboration and shared priorities, we're unlocking new pathways for innovation, economic growth, and

international cooperation that will enrich our residents and businesses for years to come."

The visit follows a successful business trade mission where representatives from PGCEDC and local Prince George's County-based companies engaged with 19 South Korean small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) during the 2024 Cheonan City Dance Festival. The initial engagement fostered ro-

See DELEGATION Page A5

## Fort Foote Elementary Principal Honored With National Leadership Award

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (April 17, 2025)—Fort Foote Elementary School Principal Dr. Ryan Daniel was named a National Distinguished Principal by the Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals (MAESP). The honor was presented in a special ceremony at the school on April 11, recognizing Dr. Daniel's exceptional leadership and dedication to student success.

A proud graduate of Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), Dr. Daniel brings 18 years of educational experience to her role. Her journey has taken her from the classroom as a teacher and mentor to leadership positions as assistant principal at Calverton Elementary and principal at Chillum Elementary, before joining Fort Foote in 2021.

"Dr. Daniel brings both heart and innovation to her work as a leader, and is dedicated to creating learning environments where students feel supported, seen, and valued," said Superintendent Millard House II. "She's equally

committed to empowering educators and working tirelessly to build meaningful partnerships that strengthen the home-to-school connection."

Through Daniel's leadership, Fort Foote has cultivated a strong, collaborative school culture focused on equity and academic growth. The school's targeted efforts to support English Language Learners (ELL)—including strategic teacher collaboration, data-driven interventions, and family engagement through Parent Academies—have significantly closed the achievement gap between ELLs and non-ELLs, narrowing it from -17.1% to just 0.3% over the past three years. Fort Foote has also earned recognition as one of Maryland's Top 50 schools for reading performance on the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP).

"Dr. Daniel has the remarkable ability to build and sustain a positive school climate and culture," said Instructional Di-

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## Berwyn Heights Elementary Among Maryland Nominees for 2025 National Green Ribbon School Award

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (April 15, 2025)—Berwyn Heights Elementary School is one of just three schools in the state to be selected by Dr. Carey Wright, Maryland State Superintendent of Schools, as a 2025 Maryland Nominee for the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS) Award. This prestigious national recognition honors schools for their innovative efforts to reduce environmental impact and costs, improve the health and wellness of students and staff, and provide effective environmental and sustainability education.

A proud Title I school serving a diverse population of K-5 students, Berwyn Heights has embedded sustainability into its school culture for nearly two decades. Since becoming a Maryland Green School in 2006, BHES has steadily advanced its environmental initiatives, reaching Sustainable Bronze status in April 2024. The school's environmental practices are wide-ranging, hands-on, and community-centered—from student-led composting and vermicomposting programs to pollinator habitat cultivation and watershed education.

"Sustainability is not just a program at Berwyn Heights Elementary—it's something our entire school district is aspiring to as outlined in our Climate Change Action Plan," said Superintendent Millard House II. "Our district leads the state in the number of Maryland Green Schools, and Berwyn Heights is one of just seven schools to have reached elite 'Sustainable' status."

Berwyn Heights students begin learning about environmental impact as early as kindergarten through in-class instruction, project-based learning, and outdoor activities. Notable programs include raising sunfish for release into the Chesapeake Bay watershed and growing vegetables in the school garden, which is maintained

See NOMINEE Page A3

### YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH PART EIGHT

## Funding Restored to Maryland Youth Mental Health Initiatives

By SASHA ALLEN  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (April 14, 2025)—Maryland mental health advocates and providers are relieved coming out of this year's legislative session, where state lawmakers decided against a drastic cut in funding to the state's year-old, big-money program aimed at improving the mental health of its young people.

The Consortium on Coordinated Community Supports, created under the state's ambitious and expensive education reform plan called the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, will receive \$70 million from the state's fiscal year 2026 budget to award mental health providers in its second round of grants. That's up from the \$40 million Gov. Wes Moore originally suggested spending.

But with some money left over from funding this past fiscal year, the consortium plans to allocate closer to \$98 million in grants. Legislators previously allocated \$119.7 million over two years to set up the consortium and issued its first \$111 million of grants in February 2024.

Partly as a result of those grants, more than 80% of Maryland public schools now have some sort of mental health service available for students. And mental health advocates said the additional funding means the state's effort will continue to reach a large percentage of the state's children.

"This is a critical investment that's ensuring students in every corner of our state have the resources and support necessary to learn and thrive," said Dan Martin, senior director of public policy at the Mental Health Association of Maryland. "We couldn't be happier."

The consortium provides mental health

funding for dozens of services, including in-school counseling, substance abuse treatment and peer support groups for families and students.

But at the beginning of this year's difficult legislative session where the General Assembly would have to fill a \$3 billion budget hole, Moore proposed a spending plan that allocated only \$40 million to the youth mental health effort—even though he once proposed the program should receive \$130 million for fiscal year 2026.

The General Assembly, however, passed a bill on the last day of the legislative session that added \$30 million to the youth mental health budget on top of what Moore had proposed, leaving many relieved for the future of the program.

Sen. Katie Fry Hester, a Democrat representing Montgomery and Howard counties, said this decision was crucial for the future of the consortium and the youth mental health programs it funds.

"I think when you're trying to address the mental health needs of the entire state, you can't really do it piecemeal," Hester said.

If funding for the consortium had been limited to the amount suggested in Moore's budget, "you would have to redo the entire program," Hester added.

The consortium's grant allocations are designed around a "hub and spoke" model that aims to include community organizations in the program. The hubs, or organizations already established in Maryland's counties, including churches and community centers, help promote and run the services of the spokes, or mental health programs. Both are funded through consortium grants.

"The hub and spoke model would not have worked at \$40 million," Hester said.

While the community organizations are in different stages of operation in each county, Mark Luckner, executive director of the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission, said the funding provided will allow for the program to move closer to full implementation this upcoming year.

Luckner said a good number of active service providers have applied for the second round of funding, which the consortium is expected to issue by June 30.

The initial 127 grants were projected to serve about 150,000 people, "and they're well on their way to do that globally," Luckner said at Thursday's consortium meeting.

Luckner said he believes within two years, as many as 22 of the state's 24 jurisdictions will either have a fully operational or almost fully operational youth mental health hub.

"We should just take a moment and celebrate that accomplishment and the consortium is achieving," Luckner said.

Service providers agree. Jan Guszynski is the project manager for Prosper, an app that, under Uneo Health, provides mental health check-ins for adolescents. The app received \$1.4 million grants to provide services in Prince George's, Frederick and Calvert counties.

Before the legislation was passed confirming \$70 million in consortium funding for fiscal year 2026, Guszynski said she was worried for the future of not only mental health services but for the students using them.

"I really, really hope that we do not see these resources shuttered or too heavily impacted as time goes on," Guszynski said. "Because it's hugely important."

Those resources won't likely get shuttered or too heavily impacted if the General Assembly sticks with the outline it set in the budget it just passed, which projects \$100 million in youth mental health funding in fiscal year 2027 and \$100 million annually after that.

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# TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

With Mary McHale, will return soon!

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

#### REMEMBERING MARVIN GAYE

Shelton Cornelius Price, a phenomenal male artist, hails from Washington, DC. As a dedicated healthcare provider and military veteran, he discovered his passion for singing during active duty. Inspired by Motown legends like Marvin Gaye, Shelton's silky-smooth voice has taken him worldwide. His sold-out shows, including performances at the Blue Dolphin Seafood Bar & Grill, Bethesda Blues, Jazz Supper Club, and City Winery Philadelphia, offer an unforgettable "REMEMBERING MARVIN" experience. With a unique ability to captivate audiences, especially the ladies, Shelton's artistry ensures lasting memories.

Buy tickets online. Ticket Price: General \$30, Senior & Student \$25. All ages. Events category: Arts and Performances. Event Programs & Series: Concert. Buy tickets: Harmony Hall Arts Center (301) 203-6070, harmonyhallarts@pgparks.com. The event will be Saturday, May 10, 2025, from 8–10:30 p.m. at Harmony Hall Arts Center, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland.

#### REOPENING CEREMONY

The reopening Ceremony for the New Marlow Heights Center at 2800 St. Clair Drive, Marlow Heights, Maryland was held Saturday, April 19, 2025. The center spans over 20,000 square feet. This state-of-the-art facility is designed to meet the diverse recreational and leisure needs of the entire community from school aged to seniors.

The center features: High school regulation gymnasium lined for basketball, pickleball, futsal and volleyball, fitness center, group fitness studio, two multipurpose rooms, small conference room, two public art displays, lounge, adult changing station, universal bathroom, outdoor splash pad, large inclusive playground for all ages and abilities, outdoor tennis/pickleball/futsal courts and more.

The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities. Register a minimum of two weeks prior to the program start date to request and receive a disability modification. Customers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a special disability call Maryland Relay 7-1-1. Language interpretation is available at all facility front desks. Please ask for assistance. If you need more information, please send an email to marlowheightscc@pgparks.com. Brought to you by: Parks & Recreation M-NCPPC pgparks.com.

#### FITNESS CLASSES

Get ready to break a sweat with our free summer fitness series presented by Adventist. Join us for a season of fitness, fun, and community—right by the water's edge. Whether you are a seasoned fitness enthusiast or just starting your wellness journey, our classes cater to all levels and interests.

Weekly classes run from May 3–September 30 and include Monday Butts & Guts at 7 p.m. Tuesday Just Dance Classes at 7 p.m. is a fun, energetic cardio dance class for all fitness levels that combines different styles of movement to sounds from across the world. Groove is in the heart and good vibes are in. Saturday Yoga at 10 a.m. Exercise for your mind, body, and soul. Experi-

ence a flowing style linking flowing movement with breath in the class. Special attention is paid to easing into postures, finding proper alignment with instructors from Onelife Fitness. Lace up your shoes and get moving. Tone and tighten your core, glutes, legs and thighs in this intense, targeted workout. Leave accomplished. All fitness levels are welcome. Please bring a mat.

#### CLINTON UMC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Join Clinton United Methodist Church's Vacation Bible School. Our theme this year is Road Trip: On the Road with God July 14–July 18, 2025, from 9 a.m. to Noon. Each day our K–5th graders will discover God is with us everywhere we go. Join us for church service on Sunday, July 20, 2025, for the Children's Church VBS summary presentation. Please register your child for VBS on our website: <http://cumcmd.org>. If you need a printed registration form, please contact our office at 301-868-1281. Interested in volunteering time? Contact us and we will let you know how you can help. Church address is 10700 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland, 20735.

#### BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

Join us for our 2ND Annual BULLDOG 5K WALK/RUN rain or shine Sunday, May 18, 2025, from 2–5 p.m. Early Bird Registration: \$40 and day of registration \$50. Walk. Run. Donate. Location: Bowie State University, 14000 Jericho Park Road, Bowie, Maryland 20715-9465. Contact information is Jennifer Coke 301-860-4778 [joeko@bowiestate.edu](mailto:joeko@bowiestate.edu).

#### POTOMAC WATER TAXI

Experience the sunning beauty and rich history of DC's Cherry Blossoms with a cruise along the Potomac River. Departing from National Harbor. One-way or round trip. Majestic views of the Washington D.C. Cherry Blossoms. Our boats are ADA compliant but please note that the Georgetown Dock is not. Sorry, no pets, only service dogs are allowed on the Potomac Water Taxi.

Reservations may be made online or at the ticket booth based on availability. Docking location: National Harbor, 145 National Plaza, National Harbor, Maryland. For more information, please call 877-511-2628.

#### NATIONAL HARBOR CITY IN BLOOM

National Harbor has more than 200 Okame Cherry Trees recognizable by their masses of striking pink flowers. Take a walk along our waterfront and enjoy the views.

#### YOGA CLASS

Saturday Yoga Class presented by Adventist May 3, 2025, from 10–11 a.m. at 150 National Plaza, National Harbor, Maryland. Join us for FREE fitness classes on the Plaza this summer with instructors from Onelife Fitness. Yoga Class: Exercise for your mind, body, and soul. Experience a flowing style linking flowing movement with breath in this class. Special attention is paid to easing into postures, finding proper alignment, and using minimal effort to allow muscle and joint release while holding a pose. Appropriate for all fitness levels.

## Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland to Celebrate Home Dedication Ceremony for Three Families at Allium Place

By PRESS OFFICER

### Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland

SILVER SPRING, Md. (April 17, 2025)—Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland (Habitat MM) is proud to announce the home dedication ceremony for three partner families who are purchasing homes at Allium Place, a new affordable housing development in Silver Spring. The community is invited to join Habitat MM, local leaders, sponsors, and partner families to celebrate this exciting milestone on **Saturday, April 26, 2025**, at 10 a.m. at 4015 Gannon Road, Silver Spring, MD 20902.

This joyous event will feature a ribbon-cutting ceremony, remarks from Habitat leadership and community partners, and the ceremonial presentation of the keys to the three families who are achieving their dream of homeownership.

"We are thrilled to be dedicating these three single family homes as part of this beautiful Allium Place community," said Jeff Dee President and CEO of Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland. "This proj-

ect has been six years in the making, and it is wonderful to see the fruits of our work manifested in the three new homeowners who have partnered with us on a place they can call home."

Habitat Metro Maryland is building 27 homeownership units as part of the larger Allium Place Community which co-locates 3 single family detached homes and 24 owner-occupied condos on a larger parcel with 160+ rental residences. Allium Place represents Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland's continued commitment to increasing access to affordable homeownership opportunities in Montgomery County. The development is designed to provide safe, stable housing and build generational wealth for families who otherwise may not have had the opportunity to purchase a home.

The event is open to the public.

#### Event Details:

What: Home Dedication & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Three Partner Families  
When: Saturday, April 26, 2025 | 10 a.m.

Where: 4015 Gannon Road, Silver Spring, MD 20902

Who: Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland, partner families, community leaders, sponsors, and volunteers

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Sarah Reddinger at [development@habitatmm.org](mailto:development@habitatmm.org) or 301-332-4391.

Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland is a nonprofit housing organization dedicated to eliminating substandard housing by building, rehabilitating, and preserving homes in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. Through the power of homeownership, Habitat MM partners with families to build strength, stability, and self-reliance. Learn more at [www.habitatmm.org](http://www.habitatmm.org).

Allium Place is an innovative development nestled near the intersection of Randolph and Veirs Mill Road that unites Montgomery County, AHC, Inc., and Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland to transform 6.2 acres of formerly county-owned land into a vibrant, desirable, and transit-oriented mixed-income affordable housing community.

educators as a National Mentor Principal and served in multiple leadership roles, including Executive Board Member, President Elect, President, and now Immediate Past President. She is a contributing author to She Leads: A Woman's Guide to a Career in Educational Leadership, a book celebrating women in education, and serves on Maryland's Blueprint Implementation Team.

Dr. Daniel's leadership has earned her numerous accolades, including PGCP's 2023 nominee for The Washington Post

Principal of the Year and receiving the Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc. Community Service Award in both 2022 and 2024.

She holds a doctorate from Bowie State University and a master's degree from Trinity Washington University.

Established in 1984, the National Distinguished Principals® (NDP) program honors outstanding elementary and middle-level principals who demonstrate excellence in leadership, student achievement, and school culture.

## Around the County

### Spring Concert: Earth Sea Sky

Sunday, May 4, 2025, 4–6 p.m.

Mount Calvary Catholic Church, 6700 Marlboro Pike, Forestville, MD 20747

In Maryland Choral Society's spring 2025 concert, we celebrate the world around us with a variety of lovely, haunting, and exciting pieces from the past century: the exultation of naturalist John Muir in Come to the Woods; the poetry of Wendell Berry in The Peace of Wild Things; the upbeat spiritual Unclouded Day; a setting of the children's classic Goodnight Moon; and many more. In these troubled times, brighten your day with an afternoon of glorious song!

Use discount code MCS2025 to save \$5 on advance tickets: <https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/maryland-choral-society/earth-sea-sky>

Featured artists include: Melissa Wimbish, soprano; McKey Monroe, mezzo-soprano; and Brendan McCoy, tenor.

### Mark Your Calendar for May 14!

### Join us for the Untold Stories of Justice-Involved Women and Girls Conference

We are looking forward to our conference focusing on justice-involved women. This is the second year that we will be hosting the Untold Stories of Justice-Involved Women and Girls Conference. The theme is healing, hope and homecoming.

We will bring together public safety officials, advocates and others to examine effective strategies to assist justice-involved women and girls. A number of topics will be discussed, including effective parenting skills, overcoming trauma, successful reunification and more.

Register: <https://form.jotform.com/250896810902158>

—The Office of the State's Attorney for Prince George's County

### Nike to Host Tennis Camp at Bowie State

BOWIE, Md. (April 17, 2025)—Bowie State women's tennis and Nike Sports Camps are teaming up to host a three-week tennis camp series on the beautiful campus of Bowie State University, held at the BSU Athletics Tennis Courts.

The camp will be led by Bowie State women's tennis head coach Todd Byrom and Zach Tobias, associate head coach for men's and women's tennis at Howard University. Open to boys and girls ages 6–17, the camp welcomes players of all skill levels.

Three sessions will be offered:

- June 23–27
- June 30–July 4
- July 7–11

Campers will receive a Nike t-shirt and top-tier coaching focused on improving fundamentals, match play, and game strategy.

For more information regarding the Nike Camp at Bowie State, please visit <https://www.usportscamps.com/tennis/nike/nike-tennis-camp-at-bowie-state-university>.

For the most up-to-date information on Bowie State Athletics and its 13 varsity sport teams, visit [bsubulldogs.com](http://bsubulldogs.com).

### People Spotlight

#### Hofstra Recognizes Student Employees

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. (April 18, 2025)—During National Student Employment Week, Hofstra University is celebrating the impact and experiences of student workers across campus and in the surrounding community. Through the student employment program—whether through Federal Work-Study or other opportunities—students are receiving more than just a paycheck. They're building transferable skills, gaining practical experience, forming meaningful professional relationships, and in many cases, engaging with the wider community.

The following list are students that are student workers at Hofstra:

**Kyndall Jackson** of Bowie  
**Michaud Fonrose** of Laurel  
**Aaliyah Thomas** of Bowie  
**Gisela Luna Reyes** of Oxon Hill  
**Arden Thompson** of Bowie  
**Angela Tyler** of Capitol Heights

Supporting student employment is one of many ways Hofstra is advancing its commitment to student success, a key priority of the Hofstra 100 strategic plan. On-campus jobs help students integrate into the University community, while Federal Work-Study positions connect them with meaningful opportunities both on and off campus.

Hofstra University's primary mission is to provide a quality education to its students in an environment that encourages, nurtures, and supports learning. At Hofstra, new ideas take shape through collaboration, engagement, and interaction. Hofstra students create their success with small classes and dedicated faculty, alongside a beautiful campus, plus all the opportunities of New York City within easy reach.

#### Danita Hillman Performing With Trine Wind Ensemble

ANGOLA, Ind. (April 7, 2025)—The Trine University Wind Ensemble will present its spring concert, titled "That's Not Baroque," beginning at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 27, in the Ryan Concert Hall of the T. Furth Center for Performing Arts.

**Danita Hillman of Fort Washington**, majoring in Chemical Engineering at Trine, will perform with the wind ensemble on baritone saxophone.

"That's Not Baroque" features selections and musical titles that evoke the Baroque period from 1600–1750 but may not actually be Baroque.

"Music from the Baroque era was characterized by grandeur, drama and ornamentation with titles such as Prelude, Passacaglia and Toccata," said Brad Jopek, Ph.D., director of Trine's music program. "In addition, contemporary musical styles and orchestrations from the 20th and 21st Centuries will be presented with titles such as Elegy, Meditation and Finale containing Baroque musical structures such as fugues, ostinatos and chorales. We also visit Cajun country with 'Bayou Breakdown' and will feature performances by student chamber ensembles."

### Award from A1

rector Sheena Hardy. "Her emphasis on relationship building is evident in the way she fosters open communication and genuine partnerships with all stakeholders, ensuring that the needs of her students and families are met holistically."

In addition to her work within the school, Dr. Daniel is a respected leader at the national level. Through the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), she has mentored first-year

# COMMUNITY

## Marietta's Free Community Day

By STACEY HAWKINS  
Marietta House Museum

Please join us with family, friends, and neighbors on **Saturday, May 3**, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. for our free Community Day featuring Maryland's horse culture. Marietta House Museum will commemorate the Black men responsible for horses in 19th century Maryland with a host of activities. Poet Marcia E. Cole will read her original poem about enslaved horseman Randolph Jackson at the on-site Tack House. At 1 p.m., be sure to attend curator Karen Holl's presentation, "Black Horsemen: Stronger Horse, Stronger Nation."

Enjoy tours, games, children's crafts, the public opening of the original Tack House, a free photo booth, animal encounters brought to Marietta from Clearwater Nature Center, quilts from the Uhuru Quilters Guild, and hands-on archaeology table with interesting artifacts and horse related items. May 3 is also the official season opening of Marietta's Saturday Farmer's Market featuring food trucks, fresh produce, herbs, and more.

Free program. Ages 6 & up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Walk-ins are welcome. Registration is not required, but for those who would like to register, please register at [www.pgpcparks.com](http://www.pgpcparks.com) and use the ticket code: MHMSPEC-GA-20250517

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



PHOTO COURTESY SHENANDOAH UNIVERSITY

The group in Saxon Garden, a 38-acre public garden facing Pilsudski Square, the oldest public park in the city.

## Shenandoah University Sends Students to Poland as Part of its Global Citizenship Project

By PRESS OFFICER  
Shenandoah University

WINCHESTER, Va. (April 15, 2025)—During spring break, Shenandoah University student Jose Barrera, of Clinton, traveled to Poland alongside nine other students, faculty and staff members as a part of the university's Global Citizenship Project (GCP).

The group began its trip in Warsaw and toured a litany of historical and cultural locations, including The Palace of Culture and Science, and Saxon Garden, a 38-acre public garden facing Pilsudski Square, the oldest public park in the city. Group members were even fortunate enough to witness a guard change at Warsaw's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier as they paid their respects to the unnamed soldiers who gave their lives in defense of Poland.

The group continued its sightseeing at St. John's Cathedral and the Royal Castle in Old Town. Members even got to stop by the Presidential Palace, admiring it from the outside, and later also took a tour of the Polish parliament.

One of the highlights of the trip was the group members' visit to a local public school, where they got to sit in on a second-grade English lesson, as well as exchange gifts with the students, adding a heartwarming and personal touch to the experience. They also toured some of the school's special-education facilities, learning about the various different programs and educational support systems in place for students with special needs.

In the latter half of the trip, the group ventured to Krakow to explore the city's architecture and cultural history, and toured the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Museum. This part of the trip served as a powerful reminder to learn from

the past, and left a profound and lasting impact on the group.

Finally, the group wrapped up the trip in Poznan, exploring the Old Market Square and various historical buildings before ending the day with an evening full of song and dance around a campfire in the woods.

Shenandoah University's Global Citizenship Project celebrated its 20th year in 2025 and sent students, faculty and staff members to Colombia, Nepal, Poland, Taiwan and Tanzania this spring. Since its inaugural year in 2005, GCP has sent over 1,400 students, staff, faculty, and trustees to over 70 countries and seven U.S. states and territories so that each participant might learn more about the world and themselves. To learn more about GCP, visit [su.edu/gcp](http://su.edu/gcp).

Shenandoah University was established in 1875, and is headquartered at the top of Virginia, in Winchester, Virginia, with additional educational sites in Clarke and Loudoun counties, and online offerings. Shenandoah is a private, nationally recognized university that blends professional career experiences with wide-ranging education. With approximately 4,400 students in more than 200 areas of study in six different schools, Shenandoah promotes a close-knit community rich in creative energy and intellectual challenge. Shenandoah students collaborate with accomplished professors who provide focused, individual attention, all the while leading several programs to be highly nationally ranked. Through innovative partnerships and programs at both the local and global level, there are exceptional opportunities for students to learn in and out of the classroom. Shenandoah empowers its students to improve the human condition and to be principled professionals and leaders wherever they go. Visit [su.edu](http://su.edu).

## MedStar Health Kicks Off PG Healthy Start Program at Second-Annual Community Baby Shower and Resource Fair

The new program offers life-saving maternal healthcare and resources to new moms and families living in Prince George's County.

By PRESS OFFICER  
MedStar Health

CLINTON, Md. (April 16, 2025)—A first-time program aiming to significantly reduce infant mortality and improve maternal health is now available to patients in Prince George's County. MedStar Health launched PG Healthy Start at the second-annual Community Baby Shower and Resource Fair held Saturday, April 12 at Clinton Baptist Church.

In Prince George's, the maternal mortality rate is 50% above the national average and 40% above the average in Maryland. Currently, only about 55% of women in the county receive prenatal healthcare.

PG Healthy Start expands access to comprehensive healthcare, education, and support services to new and expecting families that enroll in the program through MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center. Needs addressed during pregnancy and for up to two years postpartum include:

- Lactation consulting
- Postpartum care
- Safe sleep training
- Food & diaper insecurity
- Housing instability
- Utility assistance
- Transportation needs
- WIC and SNAP referral
- Family advocacy
- Support groups
- And much more

PG Healthy Start is not only for mothers, but also for fathers and caregivers who play important roles in raising a child.

"Statistics show that we need to do better for our new mothers and families in Prince George's County," said Stephen T. Michaels, MD, FACHE, president of MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center. "As a healthcare leader in the county, we are leading the charge by launching PG Healthy Start; a remarkable program that aligns perfectly with MedStar Health's mission of caring for our patients, those who care for them, and our communities."

MedStar Southern Maryland enrolled dozens of new PG Healthy Start members at this year's Community Baby Shower and Resource Fair, held in partnership between the hospital and Clinton Baptist. Hundreds of people joined this year's fun and festive celebration of motherhood and parenthood, a strong follow-up to last year's very successful inaugural event.

"Coming into this year, following the success of last year's event, we are striving to do bigger and bigger things, offering more support for new and expecting parents," said Pastor Colin Pugh II of Clinton Baptist Church. "Now with the PG Healthy Start Program, families have even more opportunities to connect with local organizations, explore baby essentials, and participate in valuable workshops. I am thankful for our part-

nership and am excited to serve and love our community with the love of Jesus Christ. We grow, we serve, we love!"

"We are so thrilled with the success of the Community Baby Shower, which was grown from the ground up through the passion and commitment of our Community Health team," said Chile Ahaghotu, MD, FACS, vice president of Medical Affairs at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center. "We can't wait to see where this event, this partnership, and the PG Healthy Start program goes in the future."

At the shower, more than 30 non-profits and community organizations shared resources covering lactation support, health care, education, finances, relationship support, and more. Nurses from MedStar Southern Maryland conducted blood pressure screenings, blood sugar checks, and answered questions. In exchange for engaging with the available resources, guests received donated diapers, wipes, and other essentials at no cost. Larger items like pack and play cribs, strollers, and car seats were raffled off.

New this year, speakers representing PG Healthy Start partner organizations held Q&A sessions to share helpful advice about car seat safety, nutrition, and fatherhood support.

If you are a resident of Prince George's or Waldorf and are interested in enrolling in PG Healthy Start, please contact [PGHealthyStart@medstar.net](mailto:PGHealthyStart@medstar.net) or call 301-235-3410.

## Free Cinco De Mayo Lyft Rides Offered Throughout Greater Washington to Prevent Drunk Driving

Over a third of U.S. traffic deaths on Cinco De Mayo involve drunk drivers

By PRESS OFFICER  
WRAP

TYSONS, Va. (April 21, 2025)—Preparing to combat that time of year when, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, over a third (34%) of U.S. traffic deaths involve drunk drivers,\* a local nonprofit organization announced today that free safe rides will be offered to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area during next month's Cinco de Mayo celebrations.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the 2025 Cinco de Mayo SoberRide® program will be in operation beginning at 4 p.m. Monday, May 5 (Cinco de Mayo) and operate until 4 a.m. on Tuesday, May 6 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditional high-risk period.

During this twelve-hour period, area residents ages 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download the Lyft app to their phones then enter the SoberRide® code in the app's 'Payment' tab (under the 'Add Lyft Pass' option) to receive their no-cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. WRAP's 2025 Cinco de Mayo SoberRide® promo code will be posted at 3 p.m. on Monday, May 5 on [www.SoberRide.com](http://www.SoberRide.com).

"Over a third of U.S. traffic fatalities during Cinco de Mayo involve drunk drivers according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration," said Kurt Erickson, WRAP's President.

WRAP also offers its SoberRide® program on the Super Bowl, St. Patrick's Day, Independence Day, Halloween and the winter holidays through and including New Year's.

"Lyft is dedicated to providing access to reliable and responsible rides, and we're proud to partner with programs like WRAP to offer Lyft as an alternative to impaired driving," said Kamillah Wood, Director of Public Policy for Community Safety at Lyft. "Through our Roadway Safety Program and our partnerships with the public, we hope to empower our community with the tools to protect themselves and those around them this holiday season."

SoberRide® is offered throughout Lyft's Washington D.C. coverage area which includes all or parts of: the District of

Columbia; the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince George's and towns therein plus the cities of Bowie, College Park, District Heights, Gaithersburg, Glenarden, Greenbelt, Hyattsville, Laurel, Mount Ranier, New Carrollton, Rockville, Seat Pleasant and Takoma Park; and the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William and towns therein plus the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park.

Sponsors of WRAP's 2025 Cinco de Mayo SoberRide® campaign include the 395 Express Lanes, Anheuser-Busch, Beer Institute, Brown-Forman, Chesapeake Region Safety Council, Constellation Brands, Diageo, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Foundation of Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, Giant Food, Glory Days Grill, Lyft, Molson Coors Beverage Company, New Belgium Brewing, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association. WRAP's 2025 Public Partner SoberRide® sponsors include the District of Columbia Highway Safety Office, Maryland Highway Safety Office/Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration and Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

Since 1991, WRAP's SoberRide® program has provided 94,669 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

Founded in 1982, the nonprofit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Program (WRAP) is an award-winning public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-metropolitan area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with helping to keep the annual percentage of metro-Washington traffic deaths involving alcohol-impaired driving historically lower than the national average. WRAP, however, may best be known to area residents via the organization's popular free safe ride service to prevent drunk driving, SoberRide®.

\*Source: Cinco de Mayo 2023 (12:00 a.m. on May 5, 2023, through 11:59 p.m. on May 5, 2023; NHTSA's Fatality and Injury Reporting System Tool [FIRST])

Crash Date (Year)	BAC .00 g/dL	BAC .01-.07 g/dL	BAC .08+ g/dL	Total
2023	76	5	42	123

## Nominee from A1

year-round with support from the community and shared with local families.

"Our students are learning to be stewards of the environment from their earliest years, and their school community is modeling what it means to make a real, lasting impact," said principal Amanda Alerich. "This nomination reflects the powerful work of educators, students, and families who are committed to building a greener, healthier future."

Throughout the school, conservation efforts have led to measurable reductions in energy and water usage. The school has installed energy-efficient lighting, monitored plumbing for

efficiency, and adjusted HVAC systems to reduce consumption. Staff and students work together to power down unused electronics and incorporate sustainability into daily routines.

Outdoor learning is also central to Berwyn Heights' approach. With support from the Town of Berwyn Heights, the school has developed and maintained outdoor spaces including a sensory garden, pollinator garden, and an outdoor classroom that enhance both education and well-being.

The ED-GRS Award Program celebrates institutions that exemplify sustainability leadership and share resources and strategies others can adopt. Berwyn Heights Elementary's nomination underscores the PGCP's commitment to environmental education and serves as a model for schools nationwide.

# COMMENTARY

## Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



### To Be Equal:

## America's Slide Into Tyranny Is No Longer Hypothetical

*"For as in absolute governments the King is law, so in free countries the law ought to be king; and there ought to be no other."*

—Thomas Paine

In a stunning but unsurprising act of lawlessness, the Trump administration has refused to return a man wrongfully deported to El Salvador, even after a U.S. court ordered the government to do so. With this decision, the administration has

crossed a chilling threshold—one that places it in open defiance of the Constitution, the courts, and the very foundation of our democracy.

This is no longer the erosion of democratic norms. This is their outright collapse.

The deportee, who fled danger in his home country and sought asylum in the United States, was forcibly removed by federal agents despite a judicial order halting his deportation. His fate, now uncertain in a country he fled in fear, is a

grotesque reminder that for many in today's America, due process is not a right—it's a suggestion.

The refusal to comply with a lawful court order is not just an immigration issue. It is a constitutional crisis. The executive branch, once again, is signaling that it is not bound by the rule of law.

This is how democracies die—not with a dramatic coup, but with a series of quiet refusals, deliberate omissions, and willful negligence.

There is a name for governments that imprison, exile, or disappear individuals without judicial review: authoritarian. From Franco's Spain to Pinochet's Chile, history has no shortage of examples where unchecked power replaced fair trials with forced removals and "administrative detentions." And in our own American past, we've seen this brand of injustice before—from the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II to the mass deportations during "Operation Wetback" in the 1950s.

The common thread? The normalization of state violence cloaked in bureaucratic indifference.

Our Constitution was designed with a system of checks and balances—a safeguard against the very tyranny we now face. But those safeguards are failing. When courts are ignored, when Con-

gress is silent, and when federal agents act as enforcers of political will instead of protectors of the people, we are left with a government unmoored from accountability.

Let's be clear: this is not an isolated event. It is part of a broader pattern of constitutional degradation. From the violent suppression of protestors to the vilification of immigrants and the weaponization of executive orders, we are witnessing the federal government operate with impunity.

This moment demands outrage. It demands resistance. And above all, it demands clarity. We are not on the edge of authoritarianism—we are in it.

Our charge, as citizens and as a civil rights movement, is to expose this regime for what it is and to organize with relentless determination to hold it accountable. The stakes are not abstract. They are real, they are human, and they are urgent.

If we are to preserve what is left of our democracy, we must act like democracy itself is at stake—because it is.

—April 19, 2025

## Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita, Children's Defense Fund



### ChildWatch:

### Child Poverty

## A Time for True Renewal

In 2020, when the start of the COVID-19 pandemic led to a holy season like no other, Pope Francis published an Easter Sunday letter directed to movements and organizations working for justice for people with low incomes and those experiencing poverty. He praised them as "an army whose only weapons are solidarity, hope, and community spirit, all revitalizing at a time when no one can save themselves alone... You are looked upon with suspicion when through community organization you try to move beyond philanthropy or when, instead of resigning and hoping to catch some crumbs that fall from the table of economic power, you claim your rights. You often feel rage and powerlessness at the sight of persistent inequalities and when any excuse at all is sufficient

for maintaining those privileges. Nevertheless, you do not resign yourselves to complaining; you roll up your sleeves and keep working for your families, your communities, and the common good." He added: "I hope that this time of danger will free us from operating on automatic pilot, shake our sleepy consciences and allow a humanist and ecological conversion that puts an end to the idolatry of money and places human life and dignity at the centre. Our civilization—so competitive, so individualistic, with its frenetic rhythms of production and consumption, its extravagant luxuries, its disproportionate profits for just a few—needs to downshift, take stock, and renew itself."

That was one call for renewal at a moment when many others were demanding to "reopen

business as usual" and desperate to "get back to normal," even if *business as usual* and *normal* included the exact same structures, systems, and massive inequalities that were already in place. There was a missed opportunity to go far beyond the status quo that preceded the pandemic and reimagine a new vision. The call for true renewal still stands.

The Passover and Easter holidays are seasons of joyous sacred celebration in their faith traditions, with family and community rituals centered on the promises of exodus, deliverance, new hope, and rebirth. I offer again prayers for strength for all those working today towards a time of true renewal.

\*\*

Lord, let us exile defeat  
wrestle despair to the floor  
throw apathy to the winds  
and feed depression to the hogs.

Lord, help us to stand up and fight for our children.

\*\*

God, protect us and keep us from being  
Hypocrites  
Experts  
Attention huggers  
Blamers and complainers  
Snake oil salespeople  
Takers and just talkers  
Lone Rangers

Excuse makers  
Fair weather workers  
Braggers  
Magic bullet seekers and sellers and  
Quitters.

God, send us and help us to be  
Righteous warriors  
Moral guerrillas  
Scut workers  
Nitty-gritty doers  
Detail tenders  
Long-distance runners  
Energetic tryers  
Risk takers  
Sharers  
Team players  
Organizers and mobilizers and  
Servant leaders,  
to save our children.

God, please send the right partners for children and young people and the right coworkers for people in poverty to balance those who speak for powerful adults and interest groups.

God, please send new voices for goodness and tolerance to challenge those who teach our children to hate and who prey on our racial, gender, and class fears.

God, please bring justice for all of our children who are equally sacred in Your sight.

—April 18, 2025

## Ben Jealous

Executive Director, Sierra Club



## The New "Great Dying" Deserves Our Attention and Action

My childhood growing up in Pacific Grove, California was blessed with the kind of exposure to and immersion in nature that all kids deserve. We played among towering redwood trees that seemed to reach all the way to heaven. We surfed at Asilomar Beach, and marveled at both how small we are in our place in nature yet how connected we all are. And, a privilege of living in Pacific Grove specifically, we got to witness the migration of western monarch butterflies.

Those monarch butterflies are just a fraction of the weight of a feather. Yet, they were so numerous when I was growing up that they would bend and bounce the tree branches as they landed on them by the tens of thousands.

According to Natalie Johnston of the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, "Accounts in Pacific Grove as late as the 1990s showed 45,000

monarchs, which we do not see today."

To say those numbers have shrunk significantly since then would be an understatement. At the same we used to see tens of thousands of monarchs, this past season, Pacific Grove saw just 228. A site in Santa Barbara that saw more than 33,000 monarchs as recently as last winter this year saw just 198.

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation says, along the California coast, 4.5 million monarchs overwintered in the 1980s. That number was down to 1.2 million by the late 90s, 293,000 by 2015, 30,000 by 2019, and in 2020, it was less than 2,000.

And while factors including climate change-fueled droughts have likely led to the decline in migrating monarchs in coastal California, other human activity has led to similar declines in other parts of the country. For

example, in the upper midwest, use of herbicides has led to the loss of milkweed, an essential host plant for monarch larvae. In Iowa, milkweed shrank in abundance by 58% between 1999 and 2010. As a result, monarch reproduction declined by 81% in the Midwest over that time period.

The numbers are startling. And that is the kind of math—basic subtraction—everyone can understand.

In December, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) proposed protecting monarch butterflies under the Endangered Species Act. FWS estimated that the eastern migratory population of monarchs declined by around 80% over the past four decades. As for the western population I grew up with, that has declined by more than 95% since the 80s. According to FWS, that means the western monarchs stand more than a 99% chance of ex-

inction by 2080.

The nosedive in the populations of this iconic species and vital pollinator should be setting off alarm bells for all of us. This is the extinction crisis in action.

Because species typically go extinct over many years, and because many of the species going extinct are not the ones we see everyday, most people do not realize we are in an extinction crisis arguably worse than the one that killed the dinosaurs. A catastrophic meteor impact and other natural events caused that mass extinction. The mass extinction we are now in—the Earth's sixth mass extinction event—is being caused by us.

Under natural circumstances, species go extinct at a rate of about one to five species per year. Right now, we are at 1,000 to 10,000 times that rate. It is a wide range, to be sure. But even the low end of that range is terrifying.

The human-caused changes to our planet that are driving the crisis include pollution, habitat destruction like deforestation, industrial-scale agriculture land use, and, of course, wrapped up in all of it, climate change.

The two existential crises facing our planet and the human race—the extinction crisis and the climate crisis—are closely intertwined. Global warming caused by the burning of fossil fuels worsens all the threats con-

tributing to our modern mass extinction event. High temperatures themselves can play a role in whether or not a species declines. And experts say falling short of reducing our greenhouse gas emissions by enough could result in the extinction of between a third and half of all animal and plant species.

It is time to act. The solution to this crisis begins simply with us moving to embrace a more sustainable future. That means leaving the fuels that powered us last century in the past and completing our transition to the one that is already fueling much of America: clean energy. In doing so, we will reduce pollution

and can conserve and restore as much land and as many ecosystems—both land and marine—as we can. Our kids and our grandkids deserve the clean water in which to swim and surf as we have enjoyed, and the pristine forests that touch our souls and awaken our splendor in our natural world. They deserve a world full of critters of all kinds; to witness an abundance of species, each playing their vital role in the ecosystems on which we all depend.

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

## The Prince George's Post

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Contents © 2025, The Prince George's Post

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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.

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# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

### When Should My Wife Claim Social Security?

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

**Dear Rusty:** My wife was born in July 1959, and her recent SS benefit estimate is \$3,337 at her full retirement age, or \$4,397 at age 70. She is presently employed full-time and intends to continue working until she is aged 70. She is wondering when the most financially advantageous time would be to draw her SS retirement.

**Signed: Planning Ahead**

**Dear Planning Ahead:** Obviously, the best time for your wife to get the highest possible monthly Social Security benefit would be age 70. Provided your wife's life expectancy is at least average (about age 87 for a woman her current age), she will likely receive the most in cumulative lifetime Social Security benefits by waiting until age 70 to claim.

For clarity, if your wife were to choose to claim before her full retirement age (FRA), her monthly amount would be less and she would be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test (AET), which limits how much she can earn before her FRA. If the AET is exceeded, SS will take away \$1 for every \$2 her earnings are over the limit (they take away by withholding future benefits until the penalty is satisfied). The AET (\$23,400 for 2025 but changes yearly) is in effect until your wife reaches her full retirement age of 66 years and 10 months, after which she can earn as much as she likes without penalty. Since she plans to work full time until age 70, your wife should likely not claim Social Security before her FRA. As mentioned, claiming at age 70 is probably a more prudent financial option.

Since your wife expects to continue working, she should also know that her estimated benefit will likely increase assuming her more recent earnings are among the highest over her lifetime. Social Security will review current year earnings annually to see if her current earnings warrant a benefit increase (SS benefits are always based on the highest 35 years of work earnings, and that includes earnings even after SS benefit are started). Also, the estimates provided by SS do not include Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) which typically occur annually. FYI, the average annual COLA increase over the past two decades has been about 2.5%.

Based on her estimated FRA benefit, it is also evident that your wife will not get additional benefits as your spouse. For that to occur, your benefit at your FRA would need to be more than twice your wife's FRA amount, which it likely is not. Thus, your wife should make her claiming decision based only on her own benefit opportunity, considering her personal financial needs and her life expectancy.

FYI, your wife's "breakeven age"—the age at which she will have collected the same amount of SS money by claiming at age 70 vs. claiming at her full retirement age (FRA), is about 82 years of age. Thus, assuming her life expectancy is more than 82, it would be prudent to wait until age 70 to claim Social Security.

In the end, the "best" time to claim Social Security depends on a few factors—most notably, life expectancy, and financial need. If the SS money isn't urgently needed now, and your wife's life expectancy is at least "average," then it appears from what you've shared that her best choice would be to wait until age 70 to claim Social Security. If life circumstances change over the years, your wife can take comfort knowing that she can also claim her Social Security at any time before age 70 and she will get benefits right up to the month she claims. Note that by waiting until after her FRA to claim, she will earn Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) of .667% more benefit for each month of delay (about 8% more for each year of delay).

*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).

## The Bowie Business Innovation Center

### Bowie BIC on the Move! Franchising 101

Hosted by Council Member Ingrid S. Watson, District 4  
May 14, 2025 • 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Location: South Bowie Branch Library, Conference Room 210  
15301 Hall Road, Bowie, MD 20721

Cost: Free Register through eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bowie-bic-on-the-move-franchising-101-tickets-1318903589139?aff=oddtcreator>

Bowie BIC on the Move is a dynamic mobile program designed to empower entrepreneurs and small business owners by bringing valuable resources, expert support, and growth opportunities directly to your doorstep. Whether you're just starting out or looking to scale your business, we are here to help you thrive. Workshop Presenter Mr. Hallie Williams, CEO of Right Next Door

## Governor Moore Announces Additional Employment Support for Impacted Federal Workers

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (April 18, 2025)—Governor Wes Moore today announced the launch of a new process to streamline hiring for four critical and hard-to-fill position types across the state government. The governor directed actions to streamline hiring to modernize state government and to support job-seeking federal workers impacted by federal layoffs and firings. Under the Maryland Department of Budget Management, this initiative creates one-stop-shop job pages for four position types—Human Resources, Procurement Officers, Accountants, and Fiscal Accounts Technicians—where federal workers can apply for jobs across agencies and locations with a single application.

"Today's actions mark the latest in our commitment to protect federal public servants against these attacks from Washington and connect them with opportunities to serve our state," said Gov. Moore. "This

new streamlined process will help us hire qualified applicants more quickly, bridge the employment gap, and grow our economy. Maryland is mobilizing, and together, we will leave no one behind."

Applications will be put into an expedited pathway to get considered and potentially interviewed for available openings within weeks. Applications for the program are live, and will remain open until May 2, with subsequent waves of positions opening on a recurring basis.

The new initiative is part of a series of actions to reinforce the Moore-Miller Administration's commitment to supporting Marylanders, while investing in an economy that can weather future disruptions. In February, the governor laid out a 5-point strategy for addressing impacted federal workers, including:

- Building out Maryland Public Servants Resource Website to help laid off federal workers access supports and opportunities—from unemployment insurance to new job postings. To date, the resource website has had 109,000 unique visitors

- and received 152,000 views;
- Launching a new resource page on Teach Maryland to support federal workers interested in starting a second career with Maryland's public schools, which will ensure we both connect Marylanders with jobs and close the teacher shortage at the same time;
- Moving in partnership with county and local leaders to connect federal workers with recruitment events and job fairs in their communities;
- Actively recruiting federal workers into state jobs, and launching a partnership with Work for America's Civic Match platform to connect federal workers with new employment opportunities; and
- Updating processes across state government agencies to expedite hiring to accommodate an influx of applications from federal workers.

If you are a displaced federal worker in Maryland and are interested in continuing your public service in a new way, please consider applying here: <https://www.jobapscloud.com/MD/>.

## College Park National Guard Soldier Receives New Rank, New Responsibilities

By PRESS OFFICER  
New York National Guard

LATHAM, N.Y. (April 16, 2025)—Major General Ray Shields, the adjutant general for the state of New York, announces the recent promotion of members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

Lawrence Provost from College Park, Md., and assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 204th Engineer Battalion, received a promotion March 27,

2025 to the rank of captain.

Army National Guard promotions are based on a Soldier's overall performance, demonstrated leadership abilities, professionalism and future development potential.

These promotions recognize the best qualified Soldiers for a career in the New York Army National Guard.

Army National Guard Citizen Soldiers who serve our state and nation are eligible for monthly pay, educational benefits (from the state and federal government), travel across the globe, technical and leadership training, health and dental insurance and

contributions towards retirement programs similar to a 401(k).

Visit [www.dmna.ny.gov](http://www.dmna.ny.gov) or [www.1800goguard.com](http://www.1800goguard.com)

The New York National Guard (New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs) is the state's executive agency responsible to the Governor for managing New York's Military Forces, which consists of nearly 20,000 members of the New York Army National Guard, the New York Air National Guard, the New York Naval Militia and the New York Guard.

## MONEY: 4 Ways Financial Professionals Recommend You Spend Your Tax Refund

(StatePoint) Receiving a tax refund this year? While it can be tempting to impulse spend, if you want to really treat yourself, financial professionals recommend using the payout for practical expenses.

According to CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNING® professionals, here are smart ways to spend your tax refund that will improve your life:

1. **Build an emergency fund:** Unexpected circumstances, such as illness or job loss, can leave you with more bills and less income. Not having an emergency fund puts you at risk of having to take on high-interest debt to meet expenses. Use your tax refund to create some peace of mind for yourself and your family. And now that you've started the emergency fund, consider using direct deposit to funnel a portion of each paycheck into this account.

2. **Reduce debt:** Paying down debt can feel like an insurmountable challenge. And if it's a challenge you've been avoiding, you can use your tax refund to kick-start your journey. Not sure where to start? A CFP® professional can help you identify which debt to prioritize first, as well as help you craft a repayment strategy moving forward.

3. **Save for retirement:** No matter your age or stage in life, a tax refund offers a great opportunity to give your retirement



PHOTO SOURCE: © AARONAMAT / ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

account a boost. Thanks to compounding, the money you set aside today in an investment account, such as a 401(k) or Roth IRA, will exponentially grow between now and when it's time to tap your nest egg.

4. **Set financial goals:** From planning a vacation or wedding to becoming a homeowner, your goals are worth investing in. Put your tax refund toward something that matters to you.

The best thing you can do may be avoiding future refunds. While it feels great to receive a big check during tax time, a tax refund is effectively an inter-

est-free loan you have made to the government. You're much better off keeping more of your money throughout the year so you can invest it or use it on things you need. Consult a CFP® professional on how to adjust your withholdings to get closer to breaking even next year.

For more tax season tips and to find your CFP® professional, visit [LetsMakeAPlan.org](http://LetsMakeAPlan.org).

With an actionable plan and the help of a qualified financial professional, you can ensure your tax refund is put to good use.

## Delegation from AI

bust dialogue on international expansion, export readiness, and collaboration between U.S. and Korean businesses.

"This reciprocal exchange underscores the value of global collaboration and the strong foundation we are building with Cheonan City," said Ebony Stocks, Interim President & CEO of PGCEDC. "Our shared commitment to innovation and inclusive economic growth makes this partnership a powerful driver of opportunity for businesses on both sides."

The Cheonan delegation also engaged with local leadership, including members of the County Council, Congressman Glenn Ivey, and key representatives from the state and federal levels. These meetings showcased the County's vibrant business ecosystem and commitment to interna-

tional partnerships.

"Welcoming the Cheonan City delegation to Prince George's County reflects our ongoing commitment to building bridges that extend far beyond our borders," stated Prince George's County Council Chair Edward P. Burroughs III. "This partnership not only celebrates cultural exchange but also highlights our shared vision and strength in research, innovation, and global progress. We are proud to be deepening our Sister City relationship and positioning Prince George's County as a leader in international growth."

"Hosting our friends from Cheonan City is the natural next step in a relationship rooted in economic opportunity and shared values," added Martin Ezemma, Director of International Business Development at PGCEDC. "After our impactful visit to Cheonan last fall, this exchange reinforces

our commitment to building sustainable, mutually beneficial trade and innovation ties."

Prince George's County looks forward to continued collaboration with Cheonan City and other international partners to create a global bridge for business, innovation, and cultural understanding.

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### EarthTalk® Q&A

# Microplastics Scourge Fueling Antibiotic Resistance

By Shashwat Mishra | April 14, 2025

Dear EarthTalk:

*What's the connection between microplastics and increased antibiotic resistance?*

—G.R. Symes, Tallahassee, FL

Microplastics are tiny plastic fragments that pollute oceans, rivers and the air. They're now being linked to a serious public health threat known as antibiotic resistance. Scientists have started to uncover how these microscopic particles can be found everywhere from bottled water to human blood, which might be speeding up the spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Given that antibiotic resistance is already a growing crisis with the potential to make common infections untreatable, the role of microplastics in this issue is raising serious concerns. But how exactly do these tiny particles contribute to such a big problem?

One way microplastics fuel antibiotic resistance is by acting as "hotspots" for bacteria to interact and exchange genes. "Microplastics provide a surface for bacteria to attach, form biofilms, and share genetic material, including antibiotic resistance genes," says Mengyan Li, an environmental microbiologist at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. As bacteria gather on microplastics in water systems or soil, they actively pass resistance traits to each other more easily. Over time, these interactions lead to more strains of bacteria that no longer respond to antibiotics, making infections way harder to treat.



CREDIT: PEXELS.COM.

**Who would've thought that microplastics could be to blame for increased antibiotic resistance?**

Besides acting as bacteria breeding grounds, microplastics also carry chemicals that make the problem even worse. Many plastics contain additives like bisphenols and phthalates that increase the chances that they develop resistance. Microplastics can also absorb antibiotics and other pollutants from the environment. This exposes bacteria to low doses of these drugs and encourages them

to adapt. This combination of factors turns microplastics into tiny but dangerous incubators for antibiotic resistance.

That microplastics are everywhere makes tackling this issue really tough. These particles have been found in drinking water, seafood and even human organs, suggesting that we are constantly exposed to them. While the exact health impacts are still being studied, their ability to carry resistant bacteria into the human body is alarming to say the least. If antibiotic-resistant microbes hitch a ride into the digestive system, they could potentially transfer resistance genes to the body's own bacteria. This makes the risk of hard-to-treat infections even worse.

Fixing this problem means reducing plastic pollution at its source. Experts suggest stricter regulations on plastic waste, better filtration in water treatment plants, and more research into biodegradable alternatives. Also, efforts to combat antibiotic resistance are more important than ever. Even though microplastics might seem small and insignificant, their role in the global antibiotic resistance crisis is definitely not.

**CONTACTS:** Microplastics Could Be Fueling Antibiotic Resistance, <https://www.bu.edu/articles/2025/microplastics-could-be-fueling-antibiotic-resistance/>

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