

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SINCE 1932

Vol. 93, No. 34 August 21 — August 27, 2025 Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents

Maryland's Historically Underserved Urban Communities Receive \$8.6 Million to Plant Over 28,000 New Trees

By CELIA PARKER
The Chesapeake Bay Trust

(August 18, 2025)—The Chesapeake Bay Trust (Bay Trust) continues to empower everyday people to restore nature, this time through local grants for community-led tree planting efforts to strengthen their own neighborhoods. With funding from the State of Maryland and BGE, over \$8,677,000 was awarded to 26 community organizations to plant over 28,000 new trees in urban, historically underserved areas across Maryland. The Urban Trees Program was created by the Maryland General Assembly's Tree Solutions Now Act of 2021, which calls for five million trees to be planted across Maryland by 2031, 500,000 of them targeted to urban, underserved areas. The Bay Trust, known for managing funds from the "Protect the Chesapeake and Coastal Bays" vehicle license plate program and other sources, has long empowered local communities through its grantmaking and was tapped in the Act to serve as the administrator of the urban component.

Urban trees have significant benefits to human health, climate, the economy, and the environment. Yet some urban communities are severely lacking in greening, contributing to heat island effect, exacerbating asthma

and other health issues, and reducing quality of life. Providing resources through ground-up, community-based grants empower people to own this piece of community improvement, leading to sustainability.

"Our unwavering commitment to fighting poverty, building more economically-vibrant neighborhoods, and advancing the work of repair requires intentionality—not only in the policies we craft, but also in the partnerships we uplift," said Gov. Moore. "Tree planting is critical to keeping our state resilient and healthy for all Marylanders. In partnership with the 5 Million Trees Initiative, we will continue our push for clean air, clean water, and thriving communities in every zip code, including those that have been historically left behind."

This is the fourth year of grants awarded through the Urban Trees Program to enhance quality of life, human health, and community livability. Funding over nine years will be distributed by the Bay Trust to communities, neighborhoods, civic groups, schools, and others who commit to planting trees in underserved regions as defined in the legislation. Awards are reserved for urban census tracts with low median household income levels, with high unemployment, or that were historically red-lined or for public housing projects.



PHOTO BY KATALINTAMAS, MORGUEFILE.COM

In addition to thousands of new plantings, new this year is a focus on the maintenance of these critical trees. Currently, there is no consensus about how much tree maintenance maximizes the ultimate number of mature trees. To determine how to optimize resource investment, the Bay Trust is implementing a study to compare the survival outcomes of trees that receive two years of maintenance with trees that receive five years of maintenance to determine optimal, cost-effective maintenance plans.

"BGE is proud to support the Urban Trees Grant Program, as it ensures long-term, sustained solutions for communities across our State," said Valencia McClure, Senior Vice President of Governmental, Regulatory and External Affairs, for BGE.

"Enhancing Maryland, while empowering the public to help beautify and protect their own communities, is a fantastic reminder of the power of people to come together for the benefit of all."

Studies show that trees planted in urban communities improve the physical and mental health of people within their proximity, and that increasing urban canopy can reduce asthma and respiratory-related emergencies during heat wave-related events in under-treed areas. For these reasons, many urban communities have adopted urban tree canopy goals, including Baltimore City, which has set a goal of 40% canopy by 2037.

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Governor Moore Announces New Program to Lower Electricity Costs and Improve Grid Resilience

By CARTER ELLIOTT
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (August 11, 2025)—Governor Wes Moore today announced the debut of a newly rewired \$2 million initiative to help lower electricity costs and improve grid resilience by making battery storage more accessible for Maryland residents and business owners. The Maryland Energy Administration will now cover the costs of purchasing and installing battery energy storage systems to promote the expansion of the promising clean energy technology statewide through the Residential and Commercial Energy Storage Program.

"While corporate greed continues to drive up energy costs for Marylanders, our administration is fighting to bring prices down," said Gov. Moore. "When we invest in clean energy, we help expand supply. When we expand supply, we help rein in utility expenses for everyone. Together, we are making Maryland more affordable, more resilient, and more competitive—all at the same time."

The Residential and Commercial Energy Storage program helps make battery storage more accessible to all Marylanders, supports local grid reliability, and advances the state's economic, clean energy and climate goals. Formerly offered as a tax credit, the Maryland Energy Administration has redefined this program to begin offering rebates due to the evolving needs of Maryland's residents and energy marketplace.

The new program is open to both residential and commercial applicants seeking to install qualifying battery energy storage systems, enabling more homeowners and businesses to store electricity for later use, such as during peak demand periods or power outages, and helps improve energy resilience and flexibility. By shifting energy use to times when electricity is cheaper, battery energy storage systems can help reduce monthly energy bills through time-of-use savings.

"The latest consensus-backed science is telling us that climate change is making storms on average about 20% more severe, which presents real and growing challenges to grid reliability and resource adequacy," said Maryland Energy Administration Director Paul G. Pinsky. "This new program will help support emergency preparedness and build resiliency for communities statewide, especially as extreme weather events become more frequent."

When paired with rooftop solar, battery energy storage systems allow Marylanders to store clean, locally generated power for use after sunset or during outages—maximizing the value of their investment and further reducing reliance on fossil fuels and accelerating Maryland's transition to a cleaner, more sustainable energy future.

For more information about the Residential and Commercial Energy Storage Program, please visit the program webpage at <https://energy.maryland.gov/Pages/Energy-Storage-Grant-Program.aspx>.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHESAPEAKE YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra Hosts First-Ever Summer Camp

By DANE KRICH
Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (August 13, 2025)—Sixteen students participated in the Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra's first-ever Summer Camp, spending the week engaged in music-making, collaboration, and learning. Led by CYSO faculty and guest artists, the camp offered a mix of full ensemble rehearsals, sectionals, chamber music coaching, and master classes.

Throughout the week, students worked closely with guest instructor Ms. Preet Saund, Principal Cellist of the Capital City Symphony and Director of Instrumental and Choral Music at Silver Creek Middle School. Ms. Saund has worked with the National Philharmonic, Interlochen Center for the Arts, and the Kennedy Center, bringing her wealth of performance and teaching

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Bowie Businessman Brings Innovative Mobile Flooring Solutions to the Washington, DC Area With Floor Coverings International

By PRESS OFFICER
The Prince George's Chamber of Commerce

BOWIE, Md. (August 18, 2025)—Floor Coverings International (FCI), North America's leading mobile flooring franchise, proudly announces the grand opening of its newest location serving Bowie, Crofton, Gambrills, Glenn Dale, Hanover, Harmans, Mitchellville, Odenton, Severn, Upper Marlboro, and surrounding communities. Owned and operated by Ramsey Moorman, this Bowie-based franchise is revolutionizing the flooring industry with its unique Mobile Showroom concept, delivering more than 3,000 flooring options directly to customers' homes and businesses.

With over 23 years of leadership experience in the telecommunications industry, Ramsey Moorman brings a customer-focused approach and strong business acumen to the flooring sector. "One of my core strengths is Emotional Intelligence and understanding how to identify and navigate challenges to find the right solution," said Moorman. "By

leading with a customer-centric philosophy, we ensure every client receives flooring options tailored to their vision and needs, all from the comfort of their home."

Moorman's passion for service and innovation is supported by his wife, Caryl Moorman, who plays an integral role in operations and community engagement, and their two children who contribute to the family-run atmosphere as "junior marketers."

Floor Coverings International's Mobile Showroom eliminates the inconvenience of traditional flooring shopping by bringing an extensive selection of flooring materials—including sustainable laminates, authentic wood-look planks, waterproof laminates, advanced vinyl flooring, cozy carpets, and luxury engineered hardwood—right to the customer's doorstep.

PHOTO COURTESY OF INNOVATIVE MOBILE FLOORING SOLUTIONS



This approach allows homeowners to view samples in their own lighting and decor, making flooring decisions easier and more confident. The Bowie location aims to meet the growing demand for pet- and kid-friendly floors that combine durability with style.

Looking ahead, Moorman envisions significant growth for his franchise: "In five years, I aim to grow FCI of Bowie into a \$5 million business with 10 team members and five Mobile Showrooms. We plan to expand commercial partnerships and deepen our community involvement through local sponsorships and giving back. Most importantly, I want to build a legacy that benefits my family and the community."

For more information about Floor Coverings International of Bowie, MD, or to schedule a consultation, please visit <https://floorcoveringsinternational.com/locations/us/md/bowie/>, or call (443)332-7447. Email: ramsey.moorman@fcifloors.com.

INSIDE

The Arc PGC Expands Services For People with Disabilities, Thanks to Grant from CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield

"This grant is a game-changer for the families we serve," said Rob Malone, CEO of The Arc Prince George's County.

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Looking Ahead to the 2025 Prince George's County Agricultural Week

With September right around the corner, it's time to celebrate our local agriculture, from open houses and farmers markets, to the return of the Prince George's County Fair!

Community, Page A3

Holding a Vision

... just this week, the National Museum of African American History and Culture was named as one of the first eight Smithsonian museums targeted for a "comprehensive internal review" ...

Commentary, Page A4

Governor Moore Announces Third Round of Build Our Future Grants to Make Maryland's Economy More Competitive

Grants may be awarded to private companies, nonprofit entities, local governments, or colleges and universities in Maryland.

Business and Finance, Page A5

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

Brandywine-Aquasco by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

PURCHASE A PIECE OF HISTORY

Purchase an authentic commemorative brick from the original Martin Luther King, Jr. Building, hand-selected and preserved prior to its demolition. Quantities are limited, and deliveries will begin later this summer. Actual Brick from MLK Building in an Acrylic Display Case shipped directly to your house—\$160. Brick reads “MLK BLDG 1973–2024.” Martin Luther King, Jr. Communication Arts & Humanities Building.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Bowie State University President Aminta Breaux, honored with the Regeneration Pillar Legacy Award by the Regeneration Movement International Outreach & Ministry at its Summer Revival.

The Award celebrates President Breaux’s continued dedication to public service, education and community development across Maryland and beyond, a legacy that aligns with the ministry’s commitment to improving lives through education, health, government and spiritual growth. BowieBOLD.

CLINTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Clinton United Methodist Church Art as Therapy (Mental Health) Beauty for Ashes Retreat Friday, September 19, 2025, via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (Prayer Garden & Multipurpose Room) cost=\$25 per person (lunch included in registration fee). Church address is 10700 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735. Church Office: 301-868-1281. Email: cumcmd@verizon.net.

COME BACK GIVE BACK CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Morgan State University Southern Maryland Alumni Chapter Annual Scholarship Fundraiser will be held Saturday September 13, 2025, 20th Anniversary of the founding of their Chapter from 7:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. 20th Anniversary at Waldorf Jaycees Community Center: 3090 Crain Highway, Waldorf, Maryland 20601. For Dinner Dance tickets MESSAGE

149TH ANNIVERSARY HOMECOMING

St. Philip’s Episcopal Church, Baden Parish will be celebrating their 149th Anniversary Homecoming on Sunday, September 21, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. Guest Speaker, Minister Faye A. Johnson from Genesis Covenant Church in Clinton, Maryland. Message for the day is “We are Trusting and Seeing What God Can Do.” St. Philips Church, Baden Parish is located at 13801 Baden Westwood, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. There will be a lite lunch after the service. Come out and bring a friend.

CRAB FEAST

We will have a Crab Feast Sunday, October 12, 2025, from 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. All YOU CAN EAT; ALL YOU CAN LOVE!

At St. Phillip’s Church Hall: 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. All tickets in advance are \$60.00 Adults, \$25.00-12 & under. Land Lovers food and drinks included. Tickets: Vivian 804-301-9530, Shirley 302-690-4260, Michele 240-882-3369. Peter A. Gross, Sr. Scholarship/Memorial Fund “Proceeds Go to Future Scholarships. “

PHSAA

Good News: We are trying to find other ways of communicating with you, we have 124 people on our Facebook page (Pomonkey High School Alumni Association) and 65 members on our email list. “Like us “ on Facebook to stay informed of our most recent news! If you are not familiar with using Facebook or other forms of social media (and computers, or cell phones), your grandkids are excellent helpers. They use social media all the time and can teach you or help you find the answers. They can access the site for you on your device. Use this free expert service you have at your fingertips. Do not be embarrassed. You taught them and their parents how to use a spoon. Let them teach you.

ALL WHITE EVERYTHING

Join us Saturday, August 30, 2025, for Sunset Social All White Everything at 8:00 p.m. at the Pose Rooftop Lounge & Night Club, Gaylord Hotel, 201 National Harbor, Maryland, 20745. Social Architects-Terry Frasier. Featuring DJ Quick Silver. The event lasts for 5 hours. General admission tickets \$25-\$30. VIP Tickets: \$100, reserved seating. Includes two-hour premium open bar 9:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. Table Reservations Option 1: \$500 includes admission for four guests. Includes seating/reserved table for four guests. Includes two-hour premium open bar 9:00-11:00 p.m. Option 2: \$700 includes admission for six guests. Includes two-hour premium open bar 9:00-11:00 p.m. social-all-white- everything-tickets. CENTER: 720-716-6117, EMAIL: msusmac@gmail.com. Victor Watson 202-215-3656.

Attire: proper attire is an absolute must. No ripped jeans, no athletic wear, no T-Shirts. We retain the right to refuse. Amenities: Two levels, outdoor patio, special guest DJ TBA, event parking. Hotel Reservations–TBA: Room reservations, click on link to book your room. All sales final. No refunds. Thank You Terry Frasier, Social Architects LLC .

FOODEES FEST

The Food Culture Festival will be held at Tanger National Harbor on October 17, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. Tanger Outlets National Harbor, 6800 Oxon Hill Road National Harbor, Maryland 20745. Tickets and information: Visit Eventbrite, the *Destination Magazine*, AllEvents.

The Arc PGC Expands Services For People with Disabilities, Thanks to Grant from CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield

By DENISE STOKES
The Arc Prince George’s County

LARGO, Md. (August 11, 2025)—The Arc Prince George’s County has received a \$200,000 grant from CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield (CareFirst) to support and expand its Support Through Advocacy and Resources (S.T.A.R.) program — a key initiative designed to uplift individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), co-occurring disorders, and their families through compassionate advocacy, navigation, and access to vital services.

The S.T.A.R. program serves individuals in Prince George’s County who are not eligible for Maryland’s Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) benefits or are currently waitlisted for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers. This funding will allow The Arc to expand access to support services—particularly for Spanish-speaking families, a community that has faced persistent language and access barriers.

“This grant is a game-changer for the families we serve,” said Rob Malone, CEO of The Arc Prince George’s County. “It strengthens our commitment to equity, inclusion, and self-determination—values that guide everything we do. With Care-First’s support, we’ll reach more people who’ve been left behind, and help them navigate a path to dignity, stability, and meaningful opportunity.”

The S.T.A.R. program reflects The Arc’s vision of a community where every person—regardless of ability, language, or circumstance—can live a life of purpose, respect, and choice. S.T.A.R. provides personalized guidance and advocacy that empowers families to make informed decisions, prepare for the future, and access long-overdue support.

“CareFirst is proud to support The Arc Prince George’s County as part of our broader commitment to advancing health equity and creating inclusive pathways to quality care,” said Lester Davis, Vice President and Chief of Staff, who leads CareFirst’s Community Health and Social Impact and Public Health teams. “By investing in organizations that break down barriers for individuals with disabilities, we’re helping to ensure healthier futures for everyone.”

This grant is more than a gift—it’s a catalyst for justice and inclusion. Together, The Arc and CareFirst are reimaging what’s possible for individuals with disabilities, their caregivers, and the entire Prince George’s County community.

Since its creation in 1952, The Arc Prince George’s County is an inclusive organization committed to empowering people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and those navigating life-changing circumstances—including seniors and others in need of assistance accessing healthcare and essential service—providing a lifetime of support, understanding, and opportunities to help them reach their greatest potential.

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

With Mary McHale, will return soon!

Walton Global Launches \$400,000 Scholarship Fund to Support Westphalia Residents

By PRESS OFFICER
VSJ & Co.

LARGO, Md. (August 8, 2025)—Walton Global has announced the launch of the Walton-Westphalia Scholarship Fund, a \$400,000 educational initiative designed to support residents of the Westphalia community in Prince George’s County, MD. This commitment further solidifies Walton’s long-standing investment in the area and its mission to empower communities through education, sustainability, and economic opportunity.

Each year, 10 recipients will be awarded a \$10,000 scholarship, disbursed in annual installments of \$2,500 over four years of post-secondary education. The fund supports students pursuing degrees in real estate or environmental science. By year four, the program will have supported 40 students, with a total investment of \$400,000.

“Investing in the success of Westphalia’s students is a direct investment in the future of Prince George’s County,” said Prince George’s County Council Member Wala Blegay. “We look forward to working alongside Walton to cultivate the next generation of professionals who will lead the way in sustainable development and land use planning.”

Working in collaboration with

Council Member Blegay’s office, a community-based Scholarship Selection Committee composed of Westphalia residents and a Walton representative will oversee the nomination and award process. This local engagement ensures the program remains community-centered and accountable.

“The Westphalia community is an essential part of our long-term commitment and vision in Prince George’s County,” said Bill Doherty, CEO of Walton Global. “We are proud to invest in the residents of Westphalia and to help open doors for students who will shape the future of real estate, environmental science, and responsible development.”

To be eligible for the Walton-Westphalia Scholarship, applicants must:

- Be currently enrolled in an accredited real estate or environmental studies program
- Maintain a minimum GPA requirement, as determined by the program, for all four years of eligibility

The program underscores Walton’s continued commitment to investing in the communities where it builds, prioritizing meaningful, lasting impact by empowering residents through education and opportunity. In Westphalia, the company’s vision includes more than 300 acres of land dedicated to the development of a vibrant, mixed-use town center designed to foster growth and community connections.

Applications for the scholarship selection committee and the first student cohort will be announced in the coming months.

For more information about the Westphalia Town Center, visit www.westphalia.com. To learn more about the Walton-Westphalia Scholarship Fund, view the full community update at <https://westphalia.com/community> and look for the July 2025 Community presentation.

Council Member Wala Blegay was elected in November 2022 to represent District 6 on the Prince George’s County Council. District 6 includes Largo, Forestville, District Heights, Mitchellville, Upper Marlboro, and portions of Bowie and Capitol Heights. She currently serves as Vice Chair of the Government Operations & Fiscal Policy Committee and Chair of the Health, Human Services & Public Safety Committee. Council Member Blegay is dedicated to advancing community-led development, public health, and sustainable growth across Prince George’s County. For more information, visit <https://pgc-council.us/335/District-6---Blegay>.

Walton Global is a real estate investment and land asset management company focused on providing innovative land-based real estate solutions to individual and institutional investors around the world. Walton has more than four decades of experience in strategic land acquisition, planning, and development. The company manages a global portfolio of assets across major growth markets in the United States, helping to meet the demand for housing and infrastructure in fast-growing regions. For more information, visit www.walton.com.

NBA Star Jerami Grant Featured on Inspired Lives: Athletes for His Youth Empowerment Work

The season two premiere episode on Amazon Prime spotlights Hour Generation Foundation’s impact in Maryland

By MERCY CHIKOWORE
Hour Generation Foundation

PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY, Md. (August 13, 2025)—Maryland native and NBA standout Jerami Grant is honored beyond the court as the latest feature on Inspired Lives: Athletes. The episode highlights Grant’s commitment to giving back through Hour Generation Foundation, a family-founded nonprofit dedicated to empowering youth in Maryland and Portland, Oregon.

Through mentorship, educational programs, and safe spaces for growth, Hour Generation Foundation focuses on helping young people find their voice and reach their potential. In Maryland, the organization serves communities much like the one Grant grew up in, while in Portland—where Grant plays professionally—it has quickly become a trusted partner for youth development initiatives.

“Growing up in Prince George’s County and going to DeMatha for school gave me the foundation to dream big,” said Grant. “Hour Generation is about giving kids the same opportunities to see their worth and pursue their goals, wherever they are and wherever life takes them.”

The Inspired Lives episode explores Grant’s journey from local gyms in PG County to NBA arenas, while showcasing how his passion for youth empowerment drives his work off the court.

In the episode, three Hour Generation Foundation programs are highlighted including their DeMatha Catholic High School scholarship program that offers tuition assistance for boys from families with limited income; an etiquette brunch where children ages 8-18 learn proper etiquette techniques while dining at La Grande Boucherie in downtown Washington D.C.; and the Hour Generation farm that grows various vegetables with the help of players from DeMatha that is then donated to local senior communities and other nonprofit organizations. Community members, program participants, family members, and Jerami’s father, former NBA player Harvey Grant, share how Hour Generation Foundation is creating lasting impact.

Inspired Lives: Athletes is now available to watch on Amazon Prime for \$3.99.

Founded by NBA player Jerami Grant and his family, Hour Generation Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating opportunities for youth through mentorship, education, and empowerment programs. Serving communities in Maryland and Portland, Oregon, the foundation works to help young people realize their potential and build brighter futures. Learn more at <https://hourgeneration.com>.

COMMUNITY

Calendar of Events



The 2025 Maryland State Fair

The Maryland State Fair returns this weekend for three weekends of fun! The fair runs August 21–24, August 28–September 1, and September 4–7.

Cost: Adults (Ages 12-61): \$15 each; Seniors (Age 62+): \$12 each; Children (Ages 6-11): \$10 each; Children (Ages 5 and under): Free. Discounted tickets available when purchased in advance online.

Location: The Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road, Lutherville-Timonium, MD 21093

Learn More: <https://marylandstatefair.com/>

The Great American Campout

Date and time: Saturday, August 23, 12 noon to Sunday, August 24, 12 noon

Description: Join us for the Great American Campout at Patuxent River Park Jug Bay Natural Area! Do you want to go camping, but don't know how or where to go? Designed for first-time campers, this event provides an opportunity for families to learn basic camping skills, as well as connect with nature. For one night, park naturalists will show you camping newbies how to do it right.

Cost: \$25 to secure a campsite (up to 6 people)

Ages: All ages

Location: Patuxent River Park

Contact: (301) 627-6074 with question. To register visit https://www.pgparcs.com/event_list/great-american-campout.

The Capital Market Turnip Tour Farmer’s Market

Date and time: Saturday, August 23, 10am-2pm

Description: We're teaming up with The Capital Market for a pop-up farmers market packed with local produce, live music, cooking demos, and fun for the whole family. Come out, connect with your community, and support local farmer's! Snap Accepted; double your dollars. Spend \$30, get \$60 in fruits and veggies. Sponsored by Wellpoint. Other upcoming date: September 20 and October 25.

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages

Location: Walker Mill Regional Park, 8001 Walker Mill Road District Heights, MD 20747

Contact: 301-699-2400

Lunchtime Lecture: Forged in Fire: Life, Labor, and the Pursuit of Liberty at an 18-19th Century Iron Furnace

Date and time: Wednesday, September 3, 12 noon–1pm

Description: Join us for a Lunchtime Lecture: “Forged in Fire: Life, Labor and the Pursuit of Liberty at an 18–19th Century Iron Furnace”. Theresa Donnelly will discuss how the Underground Railroad played a part in the lives of the enslaved laborers at the Catoctin Furnace and the iron works. The Catoctin Furnace is an historic iron forge located near Frederick, MD. Built in 1774 and operated by enslaved laborers who made cannonballs for the War. This program is in partnership with Prince George’s County Historical Society.

Cost: FREE, walk-ins welcome

Ages: Ages 12 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Location: Marietta House Museum, 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD

Contact: 301-464-5291, mariettahouse@pgparcs.com



Join Us For Clear the Shelters through August 31st

The Prince George’s County Animal Services Facility and Adoption Center (ASFAC) has partnered with NBCUniversal NBC4’s annual Clear the Shelters pet adoption and donation campaign, which runs from August 1 through August 31.

For more details about Clear the Shelters, including participating animal shelters and rescues and information on local events, visit Clear The Shelters and the Spanish-language site DesocuparlosAlbergues.com. For more information, visit www.princegeorgescountypets4us.com.

Our Shelter is Over Capacity—Adopt/Foster Now!

The Prince George’s County Animal Services Facility and Adoption Center (ASFAC) is CURRENTLY OVER CAPACITY, and there is an urgent need to find loving, FURever homes for its shelter pets, especially its larger and senior dogs.

Without your IMMEDIATE help, the heart-wrenching reality of finding alternative solutions for healthy, adoptable dogs becomes a possibility.

Our Animal Services Facility is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, Tuesday–Friday; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (please arrive one hour before closing), and is ready to help you find and adopt.

For more information and to view adoptable pets, please visit www.princegeorgescountypets4us.com.

Celebrating Local: Prince George’s County Agricultural Week

Celebrate the importance of food, agriculture, and local talent with these upcoming events during the first week of September!

Prince George’s County Extension Open House

Thursday, Sep 4, 5:30-7pm

Join us for a fun-filled evening at the University of Maryland Extension Open House! Discover free community programs, enjoy complimentary ice cream, take home a free plant, and explore our exciting Community Showcase. For more information and to

register, you can find the event on Eventbrite.

Cost: FREE; Ages: All ages

Location: 6707 Groveton Dr., Clinton, MD 20735

Ag Collective Social

Friday, Sep 5, 6:30-8:30pm

Open to beginning farmers, gardeners, local growers, and Ag lovers to mingle, share, and taste the best chili in town! Pre-

sented by the Young Farmers of Prince George’s County.

Cost: Suggested donation \$5/person or \$15/family

Location: R&D Cross, 13801 Martin Rd, Brandywine, MD 20613

For more information and to register: <https://mdfarmbureau.com/sitearticles/prince-georges-updates/>

Farmers Market and Farm Exploration Day!

Saturday, Sept 6

Get out and explore all that county Agriculture has to offer! For more information and to register: <https://mdfarmbureau.com/sitearticles/prince-georges-updates/>

Farm & Family Day

Sunday, Sep 7, 11am-4pm

Fun for the whole family in-



PHOTO BY KCONNORS, MORGUEFILE

AAA ‘Steps Up’ to Provide More Than a Million Meals

Annual Campaign to Address Food Insecurity Supports Maryland Food Bank

By RAGINA ALI
AAA

BALTIMORE, Md. (August 11, 2025)—According to Feeding America, food insecurity continues to be a major concern across the nation, affecting one in seven Americans. With that in mind, AAA Club Alliance remains focused on making a positive impact in local communities with its annual “Stepping Up for Hunger” campaign.

From August 11th through August 24th, AAA Associates will set out to walk, jog, or run 61 million steps and, when they meet that benchmark, the organization will donate 200,000 meals to local food banks through Feeding America.

Now in its sixth year, Associates have logged over 239 million steps through the

Stepping Up for Hunger challenge resulting in AAA donating over one million meals to food banks across the country.

“As an organization, we strive to be there when it matters most; supporting the communities in which our Members and Associates live and work,” said Amber Zionkowski, Manager, Corporate Social Responsibility for AAA Club Alliance. “Our two-week campaign enables our Associates to ‘step up’ and make a difference for those facing food insecurity in our local communities.”

As part of the Stepping Up for Hunger campaign, AAA associates will be volunteering at the Maryland Food Bank next Thursday, August 21, packing and distributing food for those experiencing food insecurity.



STEPPING UP
FOR HUNGER



AAA provides automotive, travel, and insurance services to more than 65.2 million members nationwide, over 80,000 members in Washington, D.C. and more than 1 million members in Maryland. AAA advocates for the safety and mobility of its members and has been committed to outstanding road service for more than 100 years. AAA is a non-stock, not-for-profit membership corporation working on behalf of motorists, who can map a route, find local gas prices and electric vehicle charging stations, discover discounts, book a hotel, and track their roadside assistance service with the AAA Mobile app (AAA.com/mobile) for iPhone, iPad and Android. For more information on joining or renewing a Membership, visit www.AAA.com.

BACK TO SCHOOL: Protecting Kids’ Mental Health This School Year

(StatePoint)—From schoolwork and homework to friendships and extracurriculars to potentially dealing with difficult situations like bullying, there is a lot for kids to navigate during the school year.

Fortunately, efforts are being made to provide tools that help protect kids’ mental health—and parents and teachers can be proactive about getting involved.

Preventing Bullying

Bullying is a direct cause of mental health issues and can be one of the major stressors kids face both at school and after hours due to the rise in cyberbullying. It’s important that children treat each other with compassion, as unkind words and actions can have devastating effects on the long-term wellbeing of classmates.

Celebrating 10 years, Pilot Pen’s “Erase Bullying for Good” initiative helps students, parents and teachers understand and stop bullying. Sales from Pilot’s FriXion Clicker erasable gel pens support STOMP Out Bullying, the nation’s leading nonprofit dedicated to this issue. In fact, Pilot’s contributions to anti-bullying or-

ganizations between 2015-2025 will equal over \$650,000, helping fund a variety of initiatives that are making communities a safer place for students.

The campaign recommends these tips to help erase bullying before it starts at your child’s school:

- Advocate for the adoption of bullying prevention programs. This might include special teacher and faculty training, peer mentoring and “Bullying Boxes,” where students can file anonymous reports of bullying.
- Institute wellness rooms, which are safe spaces where students experiencing distress can retreat and relax.
- Ensure your school actively celebrates both diversity and differences, and that all students are respected and valued. Establish programs that teach empathy, tolerance, kindness, acceptance and conflict resolution.
- Ask your school to establish internet use guidelines to educate students and help stop after-hours cyberbullying.
- Teach kids about the difference between being a bystander—someone who watches bullying happen—and being an

upstander—someone who intervenes when bullying is taking place. Encourage them to be an upstander when it feels safe to do so and to report bullying when they witness it.

If you’re experiencing bullying, or if you have a friend, child or student who is, lean on resources designed to help. Pilot’s “Erase Bullying for Good” campaign and STOMP Out Bullying provide tools to help you react effectively to bullying when it happens and learn what to do next. To access these resources, visit power-toopen.com/erase-bullying.

Navigating Emotions

It’s easy for students to get overwhelmed by the demands of their classes. Be sure that kids have the time and space outside of schoolwork to have fun, cultivate friendships and practice self-care.

Encourage hobbies like exercise, meditation, team sports and outlets for their creative ex-

pression like journaling, drawing and music. These activities can help kids build self-confidence and manage relationships; skills they need to be resilient in the face of stressful situations.

Parents can help by establishing open lines of communication and equipping kids with tools that can encourage them to express themselves more freely and help eliminate some homework-related frustration. FriXion erasable pens made with thermo-sensitive ink technology write smoothly and erase cleanly, giving students the power to write, erase and rewrite anything from term papers to poetry, without tedious rewrites and with less stress.

Cultivating kindness and compassion in communities and giving kids the tools they need to build their self-confidence helps protect students’ mental health and helps ensure everyone has a safe, healthy and successful school year.



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COMMENTARY

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



ChildWatch:

Holding a Vision

A few months before the National Museum of African American History and Culture’s official opening in September 2016, Dr. Rex M. Ellis, the museum’s founding Associate Director for Curatorial Affairs, spoke to college-aged servant-leaders who were preparing to teach in Children’s Defense Fund (CDF) Freedom Schools® summer programs. The museum was the realization of a dream that had been a very long time coming, beginning more than a century earlier with Black Civil War veterans seeking a place to memorialize their contributions to our nation, and the ultimate work of constructing and completing the final vision seemed to mirror some of the stories shared inside its walls, requiring faith, determination, and persistence. Dr. Ellis described some of the joy and triumph his colleagues felt as

they neared the finish line: “When we began back in 2005, we had nothing. We had no building. We had no collections. We had no land to put a building on and very little money. We had a very small staff of about three people ... Many said it could not be done. ‘How are you going to raise over \$540 million and a building that you say will have over 300,000 square feet and seven stories? It’s too much,’ they said. ‘It can’t be done,’ they said. ‘It will certainly take more time to build, and what about collections? How are you going to find a world-class collection? Most of the stuff worth having museums have already collected. You’re not going to get the good stuff.’” The audience began cheering as he kept speaking. “We’ve got Chuck Berry’s Cadillac, but that’s not all. We’ve got Maybelline, his guitar. But that’s not all. We got hip-hop artist Chuck

D’s jacket. The original funkmaster George Clinton, we got his Mothership. We got Prince’s tam-bourine. We got Nat Turner’s Bible. We got Harriet Tubman’s shawl. We got Radio Raheem’s boombox from Do the Right Thing. We got a training plane flown -by Tuskegee Airmen. We got the Olympic torch that Muhammad Ali signed in the 1999 games in Atlanta, his head gear, his training robe, and on and on and on ... We never stopped believing that we could do it. We could build this museum. We could make it happen. We didn’t give up, didn’t turn back, didn’t listen to those who said that we would fail, and the more people saw and experienced our belief, they caught the fever too.” He then explained how this alone should inspire this group of young teachers: “Believe me, if we can build a museum ... there’s nothing that you can’t

do. There’s nothing you can’t reach. There’s nothing you can’t teach. But it begins with the vision, and it begins with a vision that maybe nobody else can see.” That vision was made real in a transformational collection that has inspired and educated over 11 million visitors and helped light the way for the next generation of Americans since the day its doors opened. Now, just this week, the National Museum of African American History and Culture was named as one of the first eight Smithsonian museums targeted for a “comprehensive internal review” by the current administration in order to “ensure alignment” with the vision laid out in President Trump’s executive order on “Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History.” The National Museum of American History, the National Museum of the American Indian, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, and the National Portrait Gallery are among the other institutions named on the initial list. Will Americans stand—or fall—for any ongoing attempts to edit, reframe, hide, or delete pieces of our shared cultural history? Or will the true stories of the vision, determination, exceptionalism, and contributions of all Americans remain firmly out in the light?

Trees from A1

Communities will begin planting trees supported through this round of funding this fall, concentrating on areas such as vacant lots or streets where native trees and resources are scarce. These trees will help to reduce the urban heat island effect, filter polluted stormwater, mitigate the effect of carbon emissions, reduce energy consumption and therefore energy bills, and improve air quality. Increasing tree quantity and quality in urban areas is a cost-effective way to strengthen the health of the Chesapeake Bay, provide urban wildlife habitat, help mitigate flooding issues, and stimulate local green jobs markets enabling families to work where they live and play. “This program provides the opportunity for everyday people to lead on-the-ground greening efforts for their own communities,” said Dr. Jana Davis, president of the Chesapeake Bay Trust. “We are proud to empower local groups to design tree plantings that strengthen their communities, inspire other residents to get involved, and create a ripple effect for a lasting impact.”

Urban Trees Grant Program 2025 Awardees, Prince George’s County:

Prince George’s County Department of Environment, Prince George’s County—\$1,000,000 to plant 2,143 native trees in public spaces (such as parks, schools, open spaces of homeowners’ associations (HOAs), and churches) across the County. Prince George’s County Department of Public Works & Transportation, Prince George’s County—\$1,000,000 for the Right Tree, Right Place Program to facilitate 4,000 native tree installations and follow-up maintenance. Casey Trees, Prince George’s County and Montgomery County—\$936,023 to plant 2,000 trees over three years on public and private lands to reduce surface temperatures, lower utility costs, mitigate stormwater runoff, and increase access to outdoor recreation. Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George’s County—\$673,560 to transform an abandoned golf course into a public green space by planting over 10,000 trees. Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Howard County and Prince George’s County—\$525,000 to partner with the Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake (IPC) and the Patapsco Heritage Greenway (PHG) to plant 700 trees at faith-based in-

stitutions, schools, and other public spaces. Global Health and Education Projects, Inc., Prince George’s County—\$201,286 to plant 320 native trees and develop a community-hosted tree-care education program. Joe’s Movement Emporium/World Arts Focus, Prince George’s County—\$200,000 to create more green jobs and plant 600 trees in Capitol Heights, District Heights, Bladensburg, Mount Rainier, Cheverly, Cottage City, and Colmar Manor. Live Peace Tech Corporation, Prince George’s County—\$66,750 to plant 125 native trees in the Town of Cheverly and Camp Springs to promote environmental sustainability, improve local biodiversity, and foster a greater appreciation for nature. Town of Cheverly, Prince George’s County—\$25,346 to plant 50 native trees within Town of Cheverly by working with residents to plant native trees on private property within underserved areas. For the full press release, including the full listing of Maryland awardees, visit <https://cbtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/Press-Release-Urban-Trees-2025.pdf>.

The Chesapeake Bay Trust (www.cbtrust.org) envisions a restored and protected Chesapeake Bay watershed and other natural resources in our area, from the Coastal Bays to the Chesapeake to the Youghiogheny River. We empower local community-based groups on the ground with the resources they need to take on a meaningful and measurable role in restoring forests, streams, rivers, bays, wildlife, and more in their own communities. Every year, the Bay Trust empowers about 400 groups by providing grants and technical assistance to accomplish environmental education, community outreach, and local watershed restoration projects. The Bay Trust is supported by the sale of the Protect the Chesapeake & Coastal Bays license plate; donations to the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund on the Maryland State income tax form; donations made by hunters, fishers, and boaters in the Maryland online natural resource licensing system; donations from individuals and corporations; and partnerships with private foundations and federal, state, and local governments. The Bay Trust has received the highest rating from Charity Navigator for over two decades. On average, 90 cents of every dollar are directed to the Trust’s restoration and education programs.

Marc Morial
President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Nation’s “Most Effective Anti-Poverty Program” Decimated to Fund More Tax Cuts for Billionaires

“It’s just a given that a civilized society would want to take care of people who are struggling to put food on their table. To see that all unwound for the sole purpose of ensuring there was more money to give tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires is beyond unconscionable—it’s cruel.”
—New York Gov. Kathy Hochul

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as Food Stamp-s, has been determined to be “our nation’s most effective antipoverty program for the non-elderly.” Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, SNAP kept nearly 6.6 million people, including 3 million children, above the poverty line. A 2021 adjustment to benefits kept another 2.9 million people out of poverty. Not only does every dollar invested in SNAP generate an estimated \$1.80 in immediate economic activity, the long-term effect on young children who have access to SNAP is so dramatic that each dollar invested yields an astonishing \$62 in value. But none of that is as important to the Trump administration and its allies in Con-

gress as tax cuts for billionaires. The “Big Ugly Bill” passed by Congress and signed by the President last month will strip more than 22 million American families of some or all of their nutrition assistance. More than 3 million will be dropped from the program entirely in the first year. This heartless and short-sighted transfer of resources from the most vulnerable to the very wealthiest will reverberate throughout the economy, bringing job loss and the failure of small businesses across the nation. Shifting costs from the federal government to the states could trigger tax increases or a complete termination of nutrition assistance in a state. The effect on families of color, who are twice as likely to rely on SNAP as white families, is especially intense. More than two-thirds of the individuals that SNAP helped lift out of poverty in 2023 were people of color and nearly two in five were children. The largest cut to SNAP in American history comes at a time when the Trump administration’s misguided economic policies are creating an even greater need for nutrition assistance. Economic growth

has slowed, prices are soaring, and unemployment—particularly Black unemployment—has surged. In times like these, initiatives like SNAP are a bulwark against recession, helping families maintain purchasing power and keeping local businesses alive. Without them, our economy is weaker and less resilient. The assault on SNAP in the reconciliation package comes from four directions: Reducing the federal contribution to states’ SNAP programs, cutting federal funding for food benefits up to 25 percent, and administrative costs by half. Expanding SNAP’s “harsh, ineffective, and red tape-laden” work requirement. Ending food assistance for 120,000 to 250,000 people with a lawful immigration status, including about 50,000 children. Cutting food benefits for people with low incomes by permanently freezing the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan, increasing the paperwork burden, and restricting deductions. The Trump administration has tried to prop up support for its unpopular agenda with false claims about Americans who receive SNAP benefits. The majority of able-bodied, non-elderly SNAP recipients already are working: 89% of households with children and a non-disabled adult included at least one member who worked in the 12 months before or after receiving benefits. Undocumented immigrants, the administration’s go-to scapegoats, have never been eligible to receive SNAP. Allowing American children to go hungry so billionaires can get enormous tax breaks is immoral. It’s also bad fiscal policy. SNAP supports local businesses, stabilizes communities, and invests in the prosperity of the next generation. Preserving and strengthening SNAP is not only a humanitarian imperative, but an economic one.

Symphony from A1

experience to camp. Campers also received coaching in sectionals from CYSO String Orchestra Director Rob Stojakovich, Concert Orchestra Director Carlos Castrillón, Lily Hensler (band and orchestra teacher at Central Middle School and CYSO board member), and Vivienne Newberger (Assistant Camp Director). Under their guidance, students explored a variety of repertoire, strengthened their technical skills, and developed essential ensemble-playing and musical expression techniques. The camp also provided opportunities for creativity, teamwork, and personal growth beyond rehearsals. Students partic-

ipated in music theory sessions led by CYSO Executive Director Dane Krich, engaged in peer performances with constructive feedback, and enjoyed informal moments together over meals and games. “The goal of this camp was not just to prepare for a concert, but to build community and inspire our young musicians,” said Krich. “We were thrilled to see the students supporting one another, taking musical risks, and having fun while working hard.” The week culminated in a free public performance at St. Anne’s Parish House, showcasing the students’ progress after only a few days of intensive preparation. The CYSO looks forward to making the Summer Camp an annual tradition and wel-

coming even more young musicians in the years to come. For over three decades, the Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra (CYSO) has fostered a passion for music among the youth of Annapolis and surrounding communities—creating the next generation of performers and music lovers. With distinguished conductors and pedagogues, a musically diverse offering of ensembles, and some of the best young instrumentalists that Anne Arundel County and surrounding areas have to offer, CYSO not only empowers its students to become lifelong lovers and performers of music, but also provides them with opportunities and memories that will last a lifetime.

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.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

I’m Still Confused About Medicare Part A and Part B Enrollment

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

Dear Rusty: I’m 64 and still working full time, and plan to continue working at least until I’m 70—it’s a good job, and I enjoy it. My job comes with health insurance, so I don’t really need additional coverage, but I understand I will be required to sign up for Medicare Part A anyway when I turn 65 next year. What I don’t understand is Part B: A colleague of mine, who is a little older than I am, said she signed up for Part B because a penalty will be incurred if we wait until we retire from our jobs and actually need the additional insurance. I’m not sure she’s right. Can you explain what I should do?—Signed: *Confused About Medicare*

Dear Confused: We’re happy to assist you with understanding this. First, enrolling in Medicare Part A (coverage for inpatient hospitalization service) is mandatory to collect Social Security after age 65. If you do not plan to take your Social Security benefits yet, you can defer enrolling in Part A until you claim Social Security. But Medicare Part A is also free to those eligible for Social Security, so there is little reason not to enroll in Part A at age 65 and, when you claim Social Security, you will be automatically enrolled.

Part B, which is coverage for outpatient healthcare services (doctors, medical tests, etc.), is different. Part B is always optional because there is a premium associated with it (standard premium is \$185/month in 2025), but nearly everyone over age 65 requires healthcare coverage. If, however, you are employed and have “creditable” healthcare coverage from your employer (“creditable” is a group plan with more than 20 participants), then you can defer enrolling in Medicare Part B until your creditable employer coverage ends. And you can do so without incurring a “late enrollment penalty” for enrolling in Part B outside of your Initial Enrollment Period (IEP). When your creditable coverage from your employer ends, you will enter an 8-month Medicare “special enrollment period” (SEP) which permits you to enroll in Part B without penalty.

Thus, as long as your employer coverage is “creditable,” you can defer enrolling in Part B without penalty. FYI, you can also enroll in Part B a couple of months prior to your employer coverage ending, asking that your Part B coverage starts when your employer coverage ends, to avoid any gap in healthcare coverage. Note you will likely need your employer to provide you with proof of creditable coverage when you later enroll in Part B.

A couple of extra thoughts:

- If you require prescription drug coverage when your employer coverage ends after age 65, you only have 63 days to acquire that drug coverage without incurring a “Part D” (drug plan) late enrollment penalty. So, if needed, you should not wait to get insurance coverage for prescription drugs after you employer coverage ends.
- If you now have a Health Savings Account (HSA) through your employer, you should discontinue any HSA contributions well before (perhaps as much as six months before) your enrollment in Medicare Part A. That’s because Part A is not considered a “high deductible” insurance plan (a “high deductible” plan is a requirement for having a Health Savings Account). If you do not have an HSA, you need not be concerned about this. If you do, we can also provide you with more info on this.

I hope this answers your questions, but we are always here to assist if you need anything further. Contact us at ssadvisor@amac-foundation.org, or at (800) 750-2622.

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The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] www.amac.us is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation’s capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country. And the AMAC Foundation (www.AmacFoundation.org) is the Association’s non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting and educating America’s Seniors. Together, we act and speak on the Association members’ behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at www.amac.us/join-amac.

Project Opportunity Offers Free Entrepreneur Training for Military Spouses and Dependents



PROJECT OPPORTUNITY

By JOE GIORDANO
Project OpportunitySM

Is Entrepreneurship the right choice for you? Do you have a business idea but not sure where to start? Do you currently have a business and want to take it to the next level?

Project OpportunitySM has developed a 30-hour course (3 hours per week for 10 weeks) which will allow participants to learn how to research, write, and develop

a business plan. This free training is for spouses of veterans, active duty, and guard/reserve personnel and military dependents over the age of 21.

The Fall 2025 class starts this September with a mandatory orientation session on Wednesday, September 10, 2025 from 6:30–8PM.

The class sessions will be held on Wednesdays from 6:30–9PM starting on September 24, 2025, and ending with a Graduation Ceremony on November 12,

2025. Training includes:

- Assessing Your Business Idea
- Marketing Analysis
- Financing and Financial Management Orientation and all classes will be held at Prince George’s Community College, Lanham Hall (Room 203) located at 301 Largo Road in Largo.

To register for the Orientation Session, please complete form found at www.project-opportunity.com/spouse-entrepreneurship-course/.

Governor Moore Announces Third Round of Build Our Future Grants to Make Maryland’s Economy More Competitive

By CARTER ELLIOTT
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (August 18, 2025)—Governor Wes Moore today announced that applications for the Build Our Future grant program—a financial resource for innovative infrastructure projects that support eligible technology sectors—will open again on August 25. Funded at \$7 million for FY 2026, the program’s third round will provide matching grants of up to \$2 million to projects that demonstrate a transformative impact in accelerating growth and innovation in the state’s strategic industry sectors.

“When we invest in industries of the future, we grow the economy, attract greater private-sector engagement, and create new, good-paying jobs in every corner of Maryland,” said Gov. Moore. “Our administra-

tion’s flagship Build Our Future Grant program continues to fortify Maryland’s economic strength and is central to our ongoing mission of generating new pathways to work, wages, and wealth for all.

Administered by the Maryland Department of Commerce, the program was established through Governor Moore’s Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023, a key piece of the governor’s plan to bridge the gap between vision and economic growth in Maryland. Eleven projects received approval for Build Our Future grants in June 2024, and ten projects were approved for the second round of funding in June 2025. The \$15.9 million in program grants issued thus far have spurred \$48.7 million in private capital investment and supported 655 new jobs.

“From cybersecurity training centers to

wet lab space to advanced manufacturing facilities, previous Build Our Future grant recipients have been laying the groundwork for future innovation and success,” said Maryland Department of Commerce Secretary Harry Coker, Jr. “We look forward to identifying and partnering with a new group of innovative projects working to move Maryland forward. The Moore-Miller Administration and the Maryland General Assembly recognize that investing in Maryland is good for business.”

Grants may be awarded to private companies, nonprofit entities, local governments, or colleges and universities in Maryland. Eligible projects include cyber ranges, prototype manufacturing centers, research spaces, sensitive compartmented information facilities, and wet laboratories, among others. Several awardees have already completed their infrastructure projects, which support cyber workforce training, biomanufacturing, and development of new wood-based construction materials.

Applications will open on Monday, August 25, with an informational webinar to be held Thursday, August 21, at 10 a.m. Additional details, including webinar registration and eligibility terms, are available through commerce.maryland.gov.

5 Steps Students Can Take Toward Entrepreneurial Careers

(Family Features)—Entrepreneurship is a career goal for many working adults. Autonomy and personal satisfaction are just a couple of the benefits of running your own business.

It’s a professional path about 3 in 5 teens would prefer over a traditional job, according to a survey by Junior Achievement (JA). Running a successful company depends on multiple factors, including a solid business plan, adequate startup resources and a receptive market, as well as a strong sense of responsibility, work ethic and ability to persevere under pressure.

Beginning to shape the skills and mindset necessary to flourish as an entrepreneur can begin well before entering the workforce. In fact, even students in junior high and high school can begin working toward entrepreneurial goals with these tips from JA, a non-profit that inspires and prepares young people by delivering lessons in financial literacy, work and career readiness.

1. Select Electives Wisely

Students don’t have to wait until they’re in college to begin developing business skills and knowledge. If they have the ambition and drive to become

an entrepreneur, they may find it beneficial to complement the classes needed for graduation requirements with electives that allow them to explore their interest in the business world. Some examples include accounting, marketing, finance, economics, psychology and computer science.

2. Make Part-Time Work Meaningful

Many students enter the workforce in high school to start practicing money management and contribute to expenses like gas and car insurance. While most jobs available to students are service oriented and fall outside the business world, it doesn’t hurt to explore options that put students closer to their entrepreneurial ambitions. For example, local small businesses may be willing to hire someone eager to learn.

3. Take Part in Programs

Kids can challenge themselves by putting their knowledge into practice as real-world entrepreneurs. For example, JA’s Company Program is an immersive program that fosters creativity, critical thinking and business acumen, offering students unique opportunities to explore the



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHUTTERSTOCK. COURTESY OF FAMILY FEATURES

world of business and economics by creating real companies. Participants learn to present their business plans and results during competitions that offer learning opportunities.

Additionally, at the Future Bound competition (made possible through the support of businesses including Chick-fil-A, Delta Air Lines, Pacific Life Foundation and Staples), participants took part in seminars and mentorship. The event featured four programs that empower students with entrepreneurship and financial literacy skills—the Company of the Year National Competition, the Social Innovation Challenge, the Titan National Competition and the National Stock Market Challenge.

4. Seek a Strong Mentor

Some of the best learning comes from emulating others

who are successful in their fields. Meeting regularly with someone who serves as a role model can help students sharpen their vision for the future and learn from the experiences that propelled professionals into their current positions.

5. Define a Future Vision

Creating an inspiration board can help motivated students compile and organize ideas. This board, whether physical or digital, can serve as a source of inspiration and help motivate students to identify and overcome obstacles while working toward bringing their visions for careers as entrepreneurs to life.

Find more ideas to help students gain confidence and skills for future education and careers, and learn more about the competitions, at jausa.ja.org.

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