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Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.[®] Establishes 'Comfort Closets' for Laurel, MD Elementary Schools

By MARSHA MIMS-WORD Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated®, Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter

The Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® recently partnered with two elementary schools in Prince George's County to establish a Comfort Closet. This dedicated space will provide essential clothing items like school uniforms, socks, and undergarments, to ensure all students have access to clean, appropriate attire for school.

"So many families in our local community are facing economic hardships," said Karen S. Hicks, PEO President. "We are glad to support Montpelier and Springhill Lake Elementary Schools to help eliminate a fundamental barrier to learning by promoting dignity, confidence, and consistent attendance."

By meeting students' basic needs, the partnership aims to create a more equitable and supportive school environment where every child can focus on learning without the distraction or stigma of lacking proper clothing.

The chapter collected over 1,100 new and gently used items to stock closets at both schools for the 2025–2026 school year. The Comfort Closet will be restocked regularly, to ensure that it remains a reliable resource for students in need. The goal is to serve as many students as possible throughout the school



Psi Epsilon Omega (PEO) chapter president Karen S. Hicks and First Vice President Marsha Mims-Word as well as a PEO member of the "Uplift Our Local Community" committee sort school uniforms for the Montpelier Elementary School comfort closet.

year, creating a sustainable model of care and compassion within the school community.

dents as possible throughout the school Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorpo-

rated®, Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter was chartered in 2007. Since its founding, the chapter has implemented its service programs in Laurel, Bowie, and Greenbelt, Maryland.

PGCPS Launches New Public Dashboards to Strengthen Accountability and Transparency

Public can now view 100-Day Plan progress and staffing vacancies online

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County
Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Aug. 21, 2025)—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) today announced the launch of new public accountability dashboards, reinforcing the district's commitment to transparent communication and progress reporting as the 2025–26 school year begins.

The new 100-Day Plan Progress Tracker and Priority & School Staffing Vacancy Dashboards are now live on pgcps.org, with school-level staffing dashboards also available on individual school websites. Coming soon, the district will introduce an additional public-facing dashboard offering a performance snapshot for every school. This tool will highlight academic outcomes and school climate measures, with an emphasis on growth and gains demonstrated by schools.

The launch coincides with the reconvening of the Board of Education this week, where Interim Superintendent Dr. Shawn Joseph will preview the tools during the

first meeting of the new school year on Thursday, August 21.

"These dashboards make our work visible and give families, staff, and the community a real-time window into progress," said Interim Superintendent Dr. Shawn Joseph. "Reporting consistently, tracking goals, and sharing wins create momentum. People need to know that we are moving—and these dashboards show action, progress, and accountability."

The 100-Day Plan Progress Tracker allows the public to follow the district's progress on initiatives aligned to Dr. Joseph's priorities: Strategic Alignment, Talent, Academics, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, Community Engagement, and Operations. Presently, progress on goals for days 1–30 and 31–60 is viewable, with updates continuing as work advances.

The Priority & School Staffing Vacancy Dashboards are userfriendly tools that present key district-level data on staffing vacancies across the district. They

See DASHBOARDS Page A3

Leisure Investment Properties Group, in Cooperation With Kristen Zimmerman, Launches Exclusive Sale Offering for Lake Presidential Golf Club

Premier Washington D.C. Market Golf Asset Now Available

By PRESS OFFICER Leisure Investment Properties Group

TAMPA, Fla. (Aug. 13, 2025)—Steven M Ekovich, Broker & Partner of Leisure Investment Properties Group (LIPG), representing the seller in cooperation with Maryland Broker Kristen Zimmerman, is proud to present an exclusive investment opportunity: the acquisition of Lake Presidential Golf Club, a celebrated 18-hole championship course nestled in the vibrant Washington, D.C. suburb of Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

According to Rob Waldron, Senior Managing Director & Partner of Leisure Investment Properties Group "The sale of Lake Presidential Golf Club provides a prospective buyer the unique opportunity to acquire a "Trophy caliber" cash flowing golf course asset with an outstanding reputation, strategic location, and enduring appeal."

Originally envisioned by Greg Norman Golf Course Design and brought to life by Landmark Golf, this remarkable course opened in 2008 to immediate widespread acclaim. Carved into a breathtaking of rolling hills, mature forests, complimented by shimmering water features, Lake Presidential Golf Club delivers a visually stunning and unforgettable parkland golf experience—from tee to green.

This exceptional property is more than just a golf course—it is the heart and soul of the prestigious BeechTree residential community, serving as its recreational and social hub. Recognized by leading regional and national golf publications, Lake Presidential Golf Club has firmly established itself as one of the "Must play" daily fee golf destinations in the D.C. metro area.

For more information, please contact Leisure Investment Properties Group at (813) 269-1144.



PHOTO COURTESY LEISURE INVESTMENT PROPERTIES GROUP

Carved into a breathtaking of rolling hills, mature forests, complimented by shimmering water features, Lake Presidential Golf Club delivers a visually stunning and unforgettable parkland golf experience—from tee to green.

Founded in 2009 and formerly known as the National Golf & Resort Properties Group, Leisure Investment Properties Group has over 270 years of combined investment real estate experience, with advisors specialized in golf courses, marinas, resorts, master-planned communities, RV parks, and hospitality. We partner with owners in each asset

class to provide consulting services, long-term strategic planning, a premier marketing platform, and best-in-class brokerage expertise. Whether your goal is to sell, hold, increase your property's value, or invest in additional assets, our team has a solution that will help you accomplish your goals.

For more information please visit www.leisurepropertiesgroup.com

Chesapeake Bay Trust Helps New Class of Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps Members Dive Into a Year of Service

By PRESS OFFICER
Chesapeake Bay Trust

The Chesapeake Bay Trust (Bay Trust), along with partners State of Maryland, BGE, and others, proudly introduces a new class of 50 Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps members working on natural resources issues throughout Maryland. Today, the new

class met their host organizations to learn more about their job responsibilities for the upcoming year.

The Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps (the Corps), created by the Maryland General Assembly in 2010 and expanded through the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, empowers young people to serve their communities and gain real-world professional

skills through a year-long, stipend-supported term of service. Corps members are matched with nonprofit and government host organizations and receive firsthand training on a wide variety of topics in the realms of climate, energy, watershed restoration, agriculture, forestry, and education.

More than 450 alumni of the Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps have become leaders in the environmental movement as well as engaged individuals in other fields bringing a stewardship ethic to their communities. An unintended benefit, many alumni are hired by their host organizations following their year of service because their hosts find them so valuable, expanding the organizations' capacity.

"The Chesapeake Conservation and

Climate Corps is more than a program, it's an investment in Maryland's future," said Maryland Secretary of the Environment Serena McIlwain. "It empowers the next generation to lead on climate action, protects our treasured natural resources, and opens doors to

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INSIDE

County Animal Services Facility and Adoption Center Joins The Maryland 3000

Bowie State to Host 14th Annual Bulldog Golf Classic Oct. 7

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National Capital Radio & Television Museum's Annual Gala

Inaugural Dyslexia Summit

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"The America That Is Yet to Come"

... calling on Congress to renew the commitment to protecting the freedom to vote by passing the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, and inviting Americans everywhere to join the same call.

Heading to the Maryland Supreme Court in October

CASA's Fight for Safe Housing Continues,

Hospice of the Chesapeake Announces Partnership With OnSite Medical House Calls

Business and Finance, Page A5

TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

Brandywine-Aquasco by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

NOTTINGHAM MYERS UMC HOMECOMING

Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church (Small Church-Big Vision-Bigger God). "Oneness-A Beloved Community" Divinity in Unity (John 17:11) celebrated their Homecoming Sunday, August 17, 2025. Rev. Shemaiah Strickland, Pastor. The guest speaker was Pastor Brian Walker now serving at Kingdom Builders Fellowship. Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church is located at 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

2025 MISSION NUTRITION

Free Fresh Seasonal Produce Monthly Distribution at Gwynn Park Senior High School, 13800 Brandywine Road, Brandywine. Maryland 20613. Dyson Road parking lot inside the cafeteria. 2025 Distribution Schedule: September 16, October 1, November 18, and December 16. Time is 4–6 p.m.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Melvin and Lynnell Thomas who announced that they had exchanged vows in a small private ceremony on July 18, 2025. "In Prince Frederick, Maryland it was a day filled with love, laughter, and cherished memories, marking the beginning of our new journey together. We appreciate all the warm wishes and support we have received. Thank you for being a part of our lives and sharing in our happiness." Melvin & Lynnell Thomas.

CRAB FEAST

There will be a CRAB FEAST Sunday, October 12, 2025, from 2–5 p.m. All you can eat all you can love at St. Philip's Church Hal 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland, 20613. All tickets in advance, \$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."

EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS FCU

Educational Systems Federal Credit Union values are empowering, excellence, trustworthy, caring, and collaborative. Vision: To make financial wellness and stability accessible for all the communities we serve. Mission: To empower individuals and communities through accessible financial solutions. We are committed to fostering financial well-being by providing competitive solutions, personalized services, and educational resources. By building strong partnerships, supporting community growth, and promoting financial literacy, we strive to create a brighter future for our members, Ambassadors, and the communities we serve. esfcu.org 301-779-8500.

CONNECT WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Carla Henry Hopkins, Director Phone: 301-860-3939. Twitter/X-@bsualumnioffice, Facebook-@BowieStateUniversity Office of Alumni Engagement, Instagram-bowiealum, Email: alumni@bowiestate.edu.

CLINTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Clinton United Methodist Church located at 10700 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735. Rev. Malaina Trice, Pastor. Office: 301-868-1281-Fax: 301-868-2464. E-mail: cumcmd@verizon.net. Live Stream on Facebook and Telephonic www.facebook.com/CUMCMD, Telephonic-978-990-5000 Pin 180552#. You are cordially invited to our Art as Therapy (Mental Health) Beauty for Ashes Retreat Friday, September 19, 2025, via Zoom at 7 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.—1 p.m. (Prayer Garden and Multipurpose Room) cost=\$25 per person (lunch included in registration fee). Liberation Theology & Movies- September 6—September 27 from 10 a.m.—1 p.m. Week 1-Just Mercy & 13th, Week 2-Rustin & Origin, Week 3-American Fiction & Sinners, Week 4-Killers of the Flower Moon & The Woman King.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

COME BACK, GIVE BACK CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF THE FOUNDING of their Chapter. Morgan State University Southern Maryland Alumni Chapter Annual Scholarship Fundraiser Saturday, September 13, 2025, from 7–11 p.m. at Waldorf Jaycees Community Center, 3900 Crain Highway, Waldorf, Maryland 20601. For tickets EMAIL: msusmac@gmail.com, MESSAGE CENTER: 720-716-6117 or Victor Watson 202-215-3656.

BOLD GIVING

Take advantage of the MARYLAND HBCU TAX CREDIT! State of Maryland's HBCU Tax Credit Legislation rewards donors who make contributions to qualified permanent endowment funds held at eligible Historically Black Colleges and Universities like Bowie State University. To obtain a tax credit, the donor must apply for a tax credit certificate through the Comptroller of Maryland. Applications are available on the Comptroller's website. Applications must be submitted by email to HBCUtaxinfo@marylandtaxes.gov and will be accepted starting July 1 of the tax year in which the donation was made. Donate to a qualified permanent endowment at BSU.

Please note that Maryland's HBCU tax credit was extended for another five years and will now terminate on December 31, 2028. Thank you to the donors who made a gift in Academic Year 2024–2025. Your impact empowers more than 6,300 BSU students to pursue their dreams and achieve excellence. #BSU4LIFE.

OPEN MIC KARAOKE

Open Mic Karaoke night at Piano Keys Lounge 1ST and 3RD Tuesdays from 6–11 p.m. Karaoke starts at 7 p.m. Drink specials from 6–11 p.m. No talent required. Just bring your energy and have fun. Perform your favorite karaoke hits or original song. VIP tables are FREE (first come, first served). Music by DJ Big. Piano Keys Lounge is located at 7651 Matapeake Business Drive, Suite 104, Brandywine, Maryland 20613

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

Bill Teletchea, drafted by the Braves, dies at 87

William J. Teletchea—whom we knew as Bill—died April 26 at the Delaware Bay Rehabilitation Center.

He was born December 13, 1938, in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

A proud veteran, William served in the United States Marine Corps, exemplifying a lifelong commitment to patriotism and

In his youth, he was a gifted athlete. His passion for baseball led to him being drafted by the Braves organization to play in their minor league system.

He remained an enthusiastic sports fan throughout his life, especially cheering on his beloved Washington Capitals.

Following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, William built a long and proud career as a Union Printer at the Government Printing Office, serving there for more than thirty years.

He was an active member of the American Legion.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Martha Beighley; his parents, Owen Sulpice and Margaret Hughes; his siblings, Owen, Joseph, Jean, and John; his stepson, William; and his grandson, Eddie Banasiak. In his final years, he found companionship and joy with his partner, Loretta Weber.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Jerome's Catholic Church with Interment at Resurrection Cemetery, Clinton, Md.

Foreclosure Prevention Workshop

Sad to say, Prince George's County is among the highest in the nation dealing with foreclosures.

Council Chair Edward Burroughs, of District 8, is tackling this issue by partnering with Strategic Housing Solutions to set up a workshop on Thursday, August 28, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Southern Regional Technology and Recreation Complex, 7007 Bock Road, in Fort Washington. All are welcome.

For more information, call 301-952-3860.

Applause

MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center has been named #1 in Maryland for Patient Safety by Lown Hospital Index for Social Responsibility.

You can win at Bingo

Thanks to Rich Landon, I now know how you can do it:

On Wednesday night, Sept. 3, for example, head for 3611 Stewart Road, in Forestville. There's a well-lighted parking lot—with a police officer on duty. Free coffee.

The doors open at 5 p.m. Sales begin at 6 p.m. Bingo begins at 7.

\$15 or \$30 buys their small or large admission package. Regular prices are \$20 and \$40. Additional game sheets are available at additional cost.

More than \$3,000 in Bingo prizes every Wednesday night.

Pull tab games available for purchase. Sales start at 6 p.m.

The kitchen will be open with a caterer, plus a snack-bar with chips, candy and sodas for purchase.

For Information: call Bingo chairman George Hoehl, 301-599-0307.

Who knows—you might win. Go and see.

Changing landscape

A home at 3002 Irma Court, near Suitland, has sold for \$341,000.

Also, a home at 5800 Delta Lane has sold for \$400.000.

Mexico City pilgrimage

I majored in Spanish at St. Mary's College. One summer, in 1948, I took some of my classes at Mexico City College. But mostly I jaunted all over Mexico, soaking up the scenery, the museums, the food. I even took my first airplane flight in (now that I think about it) a very scary small plane, to Acapulco for one really fun weekend.

But mostly I just enjoyed Mexico City, and, oh! How I would love to do that again. It's a beautiful city, with so much to do.

Now, you have an opportunity to join St. Philip's parishioners on a pilgrimage

to Our Lady of Guadalupe and Mexico City in October.

Dates: October 9 to October 15. Cost: \$2,499, which includes airfare, accommodation, breakfast and dinner daily, and admission fees

You can pick up a flyer at https://www.canterburypillgrimages.com/tour/967 1. (If you go, call me at 301-735-3451 and give me a report.)

Oops!

In my August 15 column I wished a happy birthday to the Beltway on its 41st birthday.

Immediately several of my sharp readers let me know I was wrong.

Parts of the Beltway began opening De-

But it was completed August 17, 1964. So, I apologize: HAPPY 61ST BIRTH-DAY to our Beltway!

Milestones

cember 21, 1961.

Happy Birthday to Le August Brent and Mark Cummings, Jr., Aug. 19; Melody Barnes, Aug. 20; Austin Michael Fowler, Aug. 21; Wayne Anderson, Barbara Phipps and Gavin Michael Glaubitz, Aug. 22; Shelly Sansbury and Joseph R. Maiden, Jr., Aug. 23; Edith Hull, Aug. 26; Shirley Holmes, Chris Busky, William Fowler and twins Anthony and Avery Simmons, Aug. 27, my granddaughter-in-law Michelle McHale, Lavine Callicott and her husband Bill, both on Aug. 29; Wanda Payne Simms, Bria Barbour-Ray, Denis Wood, Jai McCune, Caitlin Rose Woods and Tom Anderson, Aug. 30; Mary Berkley and Travis Mullins, Aug. 31. Christine Hoehl, Judy Busky, Earl Simms, Rebecca Capps and my great-granddaughter Mary Adela McHale, Sept. 1; Suzanne Kenney, Sept. 2; Andrelic Howard, Sept. 3; Loretta Carter, Sept. 4; Frank Howard, Justine Poe, Paul M. Locke, Harietta Boo Henson, my great-granddaughter-in-law Nina McHale and Dan Needham, Sept. 6.

Happy Anniversary to Sharon and Mike Fowler, their 41st on Aug. 11; and my very special next-door neighbors, John and Stacie Smith, who were married on Aug. 23, 2003.

Around the County

Prince George's County Animal Services Facility and Adoption Center Joins Statewide Waived Fee Adoption Event— The Maryland 3000

Adoption fees will be waived at our shelter during the entire month of August.

LARGO, Md. (Aug. 20, 2025)—Prince George's County Animal Services Facility and Adoption Center (ASFAC) is proud to join animal shelters across the state in the return of the "Maryland 3,000" adoption challenge, hosted by the Baltimore Animal Welfare Alliance (BAWA). For the entire month of August, adoption fees will be waived at our shelter, and participating Maryland shelters to help thousands of animals find loving homes.

Though adoption fees are waived, all regular adoption procedures still apply. ASFAC encourages interested adopters to visit www.princegeorgespets4us.com to learn more about the adoption process and what's included when bringing home a new pet.

"Our shelter is excited to be part of this life-saving statewide initiative," said David Fisher, Chief and Administrator of the Animal Services Division. "We have seen firsthand how impactful these events are—not just for the animals, but for the families who welcome them to their home. Our team is ready to help adopters find their perfect pet this August."

The Maryland 3,000 challenge was first launched more than a decade ago and continues to grow in participation and impact. In 2024, Maryland shelters collectively surpassed the goal with 3,119 adoptions. This year, with even more shelters participating, the goal is to exceed that total and place even more animals into loving homes.

For more information and a complete list of participating shelters, visit www.maryland3000.org.

There's Still Time to Register for "The Woods in Your Backyard" Online Course

Monday, September 8 to November 17, 2025

Looking to learn something new this fall that can improve your property's natural areas? There's still time to enroll in the fall 2025 session of "The Woods in Your Backyard" online course from the University of Maryland Extension's Woodland Stewardship Education program. Our self-directed, non-credit course runs 10 weeks from September 8 to November 17, 2025, and allows you to work at your own pace from home without needing to attend evening or weekend workshops. The course provides strategies, such as converting lawn to natural areas and enhancing existing natural areas, to landowners of small parcels of land (1–10 acres) that improve the stewardship of their property for personal enjoyment and environmental quality. It features a handson learning approach to help participants develop and implement a plan for their property. Activities include learning how to map habitat areas, understanding basic ecological principles about woodland and wildlife, choosing and implementing a few habitat management projects, and setting a timetable and recording your progress. Online discussion groups will allow participants to interact with others taking the course. A certificate of completion is awarded when all assignments are completed.

The course costs \$125.00 per person, which includes the 108-page "Woods in Your Backyard" guide, workbook, and a tree identification guide. The course is limited to 25 participants, so sign up now! Registration closes September 8 or when filled. Registration is through Eventbrite; go to https://go.umd.edu/WIYB-Fall25.

For more information, go to https://go.umd.edu/the_course, or contact course coordinator Andrew Kling, University of Maryland Extension, akling1@umd.edu, 301-226-7564.

Bowie State to Host 14th Annual Bulldog Golf Classic Oct. 7

BOWIE, Md. (Aug. 19, 2025)—Bowie State University will host its 14th annual Bulldog Golf Classic on Tuesday, Oct. 7, at the Country Club at Woodmore.

The tournament will bring together alumni, community leaders, corporate partners and supporters for a day of golf, networking and fundraising to support student-athlete scholarships.

Early registration runs through Sept. 1. Entry fees are \$200 for individuals and \$700 for foursomes. Proceeds will go toward creating a permanent scholarship fund for Bowie State student-athletes.

The event will include play on the Country Club at Woodmore

course followed by a networking reception. Organizers said the reception will provide an opportunity to recognize sponsors and highlight the impact of the fundraiser.

Sponsorship packages are available. For information, contact

Sponsorship packages are available. For information, contact Jennifer Coke at jcoke@bowiestate.edu or 301-860-4778, or Clyde Doughty at cdoughty@bowiestate.edu or 301-860-3570.

For more details, visit: https://www.bowiestate.edu/about/bsu-foundation/bulldog-classic/.

More information on Bowie State athletics and its 14 varsity sports teams is available at bsubulldogs.com.

Save the Date! Join Us For Our Annual Green Festival!

Join the Prince George's County Department of the Environment, in partnership with the City of Hyattsville and Prince George's County Park and Planning, for its annual Green Festival (formerly known as Green Summit) on **Saturday, October 11**, 2025, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. at David C. Driskell Community Park in Hyattsville

New this year: Our upgraded pet pavilion, named Pawchella, where you will find information on pet exhibitors and vendors, pet adoptions, licenses, and much more.

Find more information, including exhibitor and vendor applications, at mypgc./greensummit.

COMMUNITY

Marietta House Museum September Events

By STACEY HAWKINS

Marietta House Museum

Marietta House Museum Presents: "HARRIET", the Movie

Includes closed captions and an ASL interpreter signing the Q & A portion of the program

Please join us on **Saturday, Sept. 13**, 1–3 p.m., when Marietta House Museum will show the movie "Harriet". The program includes closed captions for the movie and an ASL interpreter will sign the Q & A portion of the program. Dr. Dennis Doster will lead the Q & A following the program.

This presentation is in partnership with the Prince George's County Office of Human Rights, the Black History Program of Prince George's County Parks and Recreation, and the Prince George's County Historical Society.

This is a free program. Light refreshments will be served. Ages 12 & up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is requested. Walk-ins are welcome. Please register at www.pgparksdirect.com and use the ticket code: MHM-SPEC-GA-20250913

For more information, please call 301-464-5291 or email mariettahouse@pgparks.com

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

Marietta House Museum Presents: History of Fairview and Enslaved Family Research

Please join us on **Thursday, Sept. 25**, 6:30–8 p.m. for "History of Fairview and Enslaved Family Research". Historian Susan Pearl will present the history of Fairview Plantation, which is in today's Fairwood community. Ms. Pearl will discuss the enslaved families who lived and labored at Fairview, a former tobacco plantation, and a neighbor of Gabriel Duvall at Marietta, also a tobacco plantation. Find out what interactions may have existed between the enslaved families on those neighboring plantations.

This program is in partnership with Prince George's County Historical Society. This is a hybrid program recommended for ages 12 & up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. \$5/person. Walk-ins are welcome. Registration is not required; however, online attendees must register to receive the TEAMS link. Register at www.pgparksdirect with ticket code: MHM-SPEC-GA20250925

For more information, please call 301-464-5291 or email mariettahouse@pgparks.com

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

Robinson Named to 2025 Black College Football Player of the Year Watch List

By PRESS OFFICER

Rowie State University Athletics

Bowie State University Athletics

ATLANTA, Ga. (Aug. 12, 2025)—Bowie State University running back Micah Robinson has been named to the 2025 Black College Football Player of the Year Award Watch List, announced Tuesday morning by the Black College Football Hall of Fame.

Robinson, a rising redshirt sophomore from Baltimore, Md., is among 50 student-athletes from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and one of eight from the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) named to the watch list. The award honors the most outstanding player from an HBCU program each season.

The reigning CIAA Rookie of the Year helped lead the Bulldogs to a 6-4 record in 2024. He rushed for 763 yards on 118 carries with five touchdowns, highlighted by a season-long 57-yard run against Elizabeth City State on Nov. 2. Robinson posted career highs in rushing yards (181) and rushing touchdowns (4) against ECSU, as well as receiving yards (58) and receiving touchdowns (2) against B-State.

A key leader in the Bulldogs' ground game, Robinson ranked second in the CIAA with a 6.0 yards-per-carry average.

The full watch list is available here: https://www.blackcollegefootball-hof.org/releases/2025-black-college-football-player-of-the-year-watch-list. Bowie State opens the 2025 season Sept. 6 at Shippensburg University in Shippensburg, Pa.

For the most up-to-date information on Bowie State Athletics and its 14 varsity sport teams, visit bsubulldogs.com.

The Black College Football Hall of Fame, a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, located at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio was founded in 2009 by African American pioneers, quarterbacks James Harris and Doug Williams to preserve the history and honor the greatest football players, coaches and contributors from Historically Black Colleges and Universities. There are 124 Inductees including Mel Blount, James Harris, Willie Lanier, Art Shell and Doug Williams, who serve as Trustees. The Black College Football Hall of Fame has awarded over \$450,000 in direct support to HBCUs and HBCU scholarships since inception. Other major initiatives include the Allstate HBCU Legacy Bowl, the Ozzie Newsome GM & Quarterback Summit (in partnership with the NFL), as well as the Black College Football Hall of Fame Classic (in partnership with the Pro Football Hall of Fame).

Dashboards from A1

provide real-time information on total positions, filled and unfilled roles, and vacancy rates for both educators and school staff. By offering visibility at both the district and individual school level, these dashboards deliver the consistency and transparency families seek when accessing information most relevant to their schools.

The new dashboards are designed to build trust with families and stakeholders by making data accessible, consistent, and action-

National Capital Radio & Television Museum's Annual Gala—Honoring Diane Rehm

Ticket sales end on August 29.

By PRESS OFFICER
NCRTV Museum

The National Capital Radio and Television Museum (NCRTV) invites all to join us for our Annual Gala, on September 13, 2025, at the Bowie Comfort Inn. NCRTV will honor Diane Rehm, a leader in the local broadcasting community with the Ed Walker Lifetime Achievement Award in Broadcasting. Named for long-time local on-air personality and first NCRTV president Ed Walker, the Lifetime Achievement in

NCRTV's Annual Gala

September 13, 2025 5:30–9:30 p.m. Comfort Inn and Conference Center, 4500 Robert S. Crain Hwy, Bowie, MD 20716

Tickets: https://ncrtv.org/gala/

Broadcasting award recognizes the impact that local radio and television communicators have had on the local citizens. Walker received the Lifetime

Achievement Award in Broadcasting in

Our Annual Gala is our largest fundraiser each year, and your support will help us continue to promote and preserve the rich history of electronic media, engage with our community, and further our educational outreach. There are many ways to support us, even if you can't join us for the Gala. Sponsorships, or donations to our silent auction are a great way to show your support from afar.

Ticket sales end on August 29.

Join the Celebration at Hospice of the Chesapeake's Community Open House

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (Aug. 20, 2025)—Hospice of the Chesapeake invites the community to a Community Open House, 9 a.m. to noon, **Tuesday, September 9**, on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, MD. Remarks will begin at 10 a.m.

Guests will hear from Becky Miller, CEO, and Michael McHale, former CEO, as they reflect on the organization's shared past and bold vision for the future. The event will also mark several meaningful milestones:

- Honoring the 10-year legacy of compassion at the Rebecca Fortney Inpatient Care Center.
- Celebrating the opening of the Center for Hope and Healing on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus.
- Experiencing the newly installed Phone of the Wind in the Michael Stanley Children's Garden.

Visitors can enjoy light refreshments, campus tours, and healing arts activities as they connect with Hospice of the Chesapeake's mission of caring for life throughout the journey with illness and loss.

Come celebrate the extraordinary care made possible by so many people in our community, from individuals and fami-



PHOTO BY BRIAN@LANDISPHOTOGRAPHIC

A summertime view of the Michael Stanley Children's Garden. Members of the community will have an opportunity to walk through the garden during tours of the John & Cathy Belcher Campus in Pasadena at Hospice of the Chesapeake's Community Open House.

lies to organizations and businesses.
RSVP by Aug. 27 to Lauren Thurston at lthurston@hospicechesapeake.org. For

questions, please call 443-837-1531.

At Hospice of the Chesapeake, we support individuals and families facing progressive, serious illness to reimagine hope—living each day with intention and peace—while ensuring our nonprofit organization

remains a vital resource for future generations. We develop care plans to minimize symptoms and focus on what matters most for patients and families in Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles and Prince George's counties. Caring for life throughout the journey with illness and loss is the mission of Hospice of the Chesapeake. For more information, please visit www.hospicechesapeake.org.

Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled to Host Inaugural Dyslexia Summit

Advancing understanding, support, and advocacy for individuals with dyslexia through a free, accessible statewide event

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland State Library Agency

BALTIMORE (Aug. 12, 2025)—The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD), in partnership with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and other community organizations, is proud to announce the inaugural Dyslexia Summit, taking place on **Thursday, October 16, 2025**. This free event will be held virtually via Zoom Webinar and live-streamed on the Maryland State Library Agency's YouTube Channel, ensuring accessibility for participants throughout Maryland and bevond.

Dyslexia is a common learning difference that affects the way the brain processes written language, making reading, spelling, and writing more challenging. It is estimated to impact up to one in five individuals, regardless of intelligence, background, or educational opportunity. While often identified in childhood, dyslexia is a lifelong condition that can affect academic success, workplace performance, and daily life.

The Dyslexia Summit is designed to foster a community-wide conversation about dyslexia, bringing together educators, parents, researchers, advocates, librarians, and professionals to deepen understanding and share effective strategies and resources. The event will cover important topics such as the complexities of dyslexia when paired with other conditions like anxiety or ADHD, assistive technologies, advocacy, and educational support.

"The Dyslexia Summit is a vital step toward ensuring individuals with dyslexia have access to the resources, technology, and community support they need to thrive," said Ashley Biggs, LBPD's Marketing and Outreach Librarian. "Our goal is to make this a welcoming space where families, educators, and advocates can learn from experts and each other. By working together, we can build stronger networks that empower every learner."

The summit's rich program includes keynote presentations from nationally recognized leaders. Drs. Brock and Fernette Eide, founders of The Dyslexic Advantage, will highlight the unique strengths often found in individuals with dyslexia. Additional sessions will feature experts discussing early identification, challenges related to co-occurring conditions, assistive technology demonstrations, and effective advocacy for inclusive educational policies.

"We are proud to host this important summit in partnership with the Maryland State Department of Education and our community allies," said John Owen, Director of LBPD. "Our library's mission is to provide equitable access to information and resources for all Marylanders with print disabilities, including dyslexia. This event exemplifies our commitment to education, accessibility, and empowerment."

Registration will begin on September 1, 2025. For updates and more information, please visit https://msla.maryland.gov/Pages/Dyslexia-Summit.aspx.

As the state library agency for Maryland, Maryland State Library Agency (MSLA) administers state and federal funds to support Maryland libraries in their mission to offer outstanding resources, programs, and excellent customer service. The State Library Resource Center, located in the central branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, serves as Maryland's state library. MSLA has oversight of the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled; Maryland's Public Libraries; the State Library Network including the three regional libraries; the Library Capital Grants Programs; and the Deaf Culture Digital Library.

oriented. Once key performance indicators are established in partnership with the Board of Education, additional public-facing dashilled boards aligned to districtwide strategic goals may follow.

"Launching these dashboards is about more than data," Dr. Joseph said. "It's about building confidence, demonstrating results, and making sure our community knows exactly where we stand and where we are headed."

For more information and to view the dashboards, visit www.pgcps.org

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), one of the nation's 20th largest school districts, has 201 schools and centers, more than 133,000 students and nearly 20,000 employees. The school system serves a diverse student population from urban, suburban and rural communities located in the Washington, DC suburbs. PGCPS is nationally recognized for college and career-readiness programs that provide students with unique learning opportunities, including dual enrollment and language immersion.

COMMENTARY

Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita, Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

"The America That Is Yet to Come"

This month marked the 60th anniversary of the And today we strike away the last major shackle Voting Rights Act of 1965, the historic legislation President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law at the U.S. Capitol with many of the Democratic and Republican lawmakers who had helped secure its large bipartisan victory and civil rights leaders, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., John Lewis, and Mrs. Rosa Parks, by his side. In his remarks President Johnson was very clear as he shared his views about the truth of American history that began in 1619 and led up to that moment:

"Today is a triumph for freedom as huge as any victory that has ever been won on any battlefield. Yet to seize the meaning of this day, we must recall darker times. Three and a half centuries ago the first Negroes arrived at Jamestown. They did not arrive in brave ships in search of a home for freedom. They did not mingle fear and joy, in expectation that in this New World anything would be possible to a man strong enough to reach for it. They came in darkness and they came in chains.

of those fierce and ancient bonds. Today the Negro story and the American story fuse and blend."

President Johnson continued: "The stories of our Nation and of the American Negro are like two great rivers. Welling up from that tiny Jamestown spring they flow through the centuries along divided channels. When pioneers subdued a continent to the need of man, they did not tame it for the Negro. When the Liberty Bell rang out in Philadelphia, it did not toll for the Negro. When Andrew Jackson threw open the doors of democracy, they did not open for the Negro. It was only at Appomattox, a century ago, that an American victory was also a Negro victory. And the two rivers—one shining with promise, the other darkstained with oppression—began to move toward one another. Yet, for almost a century the promise of that day was not fulfilled. Today is a towering and certain mark that, in this generation, that promise will be kept. In our time the two currents will

finally mingle and rush as one great stream across the uncertain and the marvelous years of the America that is yet to come."

After outlining concrete steps his administration would take next to do its part to fulfill this promise and enforce the law, President Johnson ended his remarks by returning to the American ideals the Voting Rights Act embodied: "The central fact of American civilization—one so hard for others to understand—is that freedom and justice and the dignity of man are not just words to us. We believe in them. Under all the growth and the tumult and abundance, we believe. And so, as long as some among us are oppressed—and we are part of that oppression—it must blunt our faith and sap the strength of our high purpose. Thus, this is a victory for the freedom of the American Negro. But it is also a victory for the freedom of the American Nation. And every family across this great, entire, searching land will live stronger in liberty, will live more splendid in expectation, and will be prouder to be American because of the act that you have passed that I will sign today."

The contrast between that moment and this one is abundantly clear.

When the Voting Rights Act was first enacted, I was in the trenches as a young civil rights lawyer directing the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF) office in Jackson, Mississippi. As LDF and its current President and Director-Counsel Janai Nelson say, that battle has a new front today: "[W]e again find ourselves at a moment where Black people's political power is under severe threat, and the legitimacy of our democracy

is undermined as a result. In recent years, the legislative intent of the VRA was severely undercut by two Supreme Court decisions, rendering the law unable to fully protect those it was designed to empower. When coupled with the passage of regressive voting rights laws at the state level, it's abundantly clear that American democracy is in crisis. States with a history of race discrimination in voting are continuing to suppress the votes of our country's most marginalized groups in a concerted effort to consolidate power and further entrench white supremacy with sanction from a majority in Congress that refuses to act . . . If we are to continue the pursuit of the multiracial democracy that the VRA set in motion 60 years ago and if we are to honor our republican form of government founded on representation by the people, we must be unwavering in our commitment to fulfill the promise of Selma, refuse to cede any further ground, and mobilize in support of equal voting rights and fair elections."

Today LDF and Children's Defense Fund are both among the more than 200 coalition members of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights calling on Congress to renew the commitment to protecting the freedom to vote by passing the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, and inviting Americans everywhere to join the same call. It is a reaffirmation of the fundamental American belief that freedom and justice and dignity are not just words and the unceded determination to fulfill the complete promise of the America that is yet to come.

—August 22, 2025

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Federal Overreach Seeks to Undermine the Success of America's Black Mayors

"Public safety is people having a roof over their heads, good-paying jobs, strong schools, and accessible mental health care. That's what safety looks like."

-Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson

"The status quo has failed. We cannot police our way out of crime. We have to invest in people, prevention, and healing.'

-Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott

American cities reflect the soul of the nation. From their skylines and cultural institutions to their small businesses and neighborhoods, cities are where American identity is built, tested, and transformed. They are global symbols of innovation, diversity, and resilience, and their leadership is central to the nation's future.

For generations, Black mayors have shaped that future by fighting for equity, accountability, and justice. Their leadership has centered marginalized communities and expanded access to opportunity. Today, that legacy is as vital as ever.

This past week, misleading statements from national leadership describing the District of Columbia as overtaken by "violent gangs," "roving mobs of wild youth," and "drugged-out maniacs" evoked a familiar and troubling pattern. Once again, fear-based narratives are being used to justify federal overreach and to undermine local governance, particularly in cities led by Black mayors. These attacks are not only factually inaccurate, but they are also politically motivated, racially coded, and historically rooted.

Across the country, Black mayors are demonstrating that community-based leadership is effective and transformative. The work of mayors past and present illustrates a sustained commitment to justice, even in the face of systemic barriers and public criticism.

In the 1970s, Detroit Mayor Coleman Young eliminated the city's notoriously violent STRESS unit and implemented one of the earliest models of community policing. He understood that policing without accountability erodes public trust.

In New Orleans, my father, Ernest "Dutch" Morial, fought to integrate city departments and create more equitable access to public services. As the city's first Black mayor, he laid a foundation for representative governance at the local level.

During my own two terms as New Orleans mayor, our investments in innovative youth programs and a commitment to police accountability slashed the rate of violent crime in half and transformed a corrupt law enforcement agency into a national model.

Washington, D.C.'s Mayor Marion Barry expanded youth employment and education programs, launching the city's first summer jobs initiative and establishing a precedent for municipal investment in young people.

Today, that legacy continues.

Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott's Group Violence Reduction Strategy, grounded in community engagement and public health, has contributed to the lowest levels of homicides the city has seen in more than 30 years. In Chicago, Mayor Brandon

Johnson has prioritized early childhood education, youth employment, and mental health access, alongside a measurable decline in gun violence. Mayor Karen Bass in Los Angeles is advancing housing-first strategies to address homelessness and has pushed back against federal attempts to criminalize urban poverty and violations of the Constitution with the attempted ICE takeovers this

These leaders and many others are governing with urgency, guided by data and driven by the needs of their communities. They are not only responding to crises. They are reshaping systems.

This is not new. Black mayors have long served as a moral compass in American cities, advocating for marginalized populations, resisting federal overreach, and creating innovative local policies rooted in justice.

The challenges cities face, from public safety to housing, from education to economic inclusion, demand comprehensive solutions and collaborative leadership. What they do not need are politically charged narratives that undermine progress and demonize communities.

To be equal, America must trust the leadership of its cities. It must invest in their success. And it must recognize the historic and ongoing contributions of Black mayors who have turned local governance into a platform for transformative change.

Their legacy is not one of chaos. It is one of courage, care, and commitment to what is right.

—August 16, 2025

Service from A1

meaningful careers that strengthen our economy. By developing skilled environmental leaders, we are building a cleaner, more resilient Maryland where both people and communities can thrive."

During their terms of service, Corps participants collaborate directly with their host organizations to gain valuable on-the-job experience as they work to advance environmental conservation, K-12 education, sustainable agriculture practices, clean

and renewable energy technologies, energy efficiency programs and other climate resiliency goals, climate adaptation activities specifically in communities disproportionally affected by climate impacts, and much more. In addition to this real-world experience, Corps members receive professional development and service-learning opportunities including grant writing and project management.

"Protecting Maryland's waterways, wildlife, and green spaces requires a collaborative effort between government, local

organizations and all of our communities who depend on healthy natural resources," said Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Josh Kurtz. "This program is equipping the next generation of environmental leaders to promote the health and sustainability of our entire State."

This year, the Bay Trust and the Maryland Department of Service and Civic Innovation (DSCI) further expand their collaboration and coordination between the 12-month Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps

program and the 9.5-month Service Year Option program. Together, these efforts will support nearly 100 young adults who will dedicate their service to advancing climate solutions, conservation, and community resilience across the state.

"DSCI is proud to partner with the Chesapeake Bay Trust to expand career- and characterbuilding opportunities for young Marylanders in the growing climate and conservation fields," said Maryland Department of Service and Civic Innovation Secretary Paul Monteiro. "Together, we are strengthening communities and advancing Governor Moore's vision of expanding service pathways for every young person across the state."

Funds for the Corps are provided by the State of Maryland, the Chesapeake Bay Trust (supported by the Chesapeake & Coastal Bays vehicular license plate program (the "bays plate"),

a state income tax checkoff, and other sources), the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Department of Service

and Civic Innovation, and BGE. "BGE is proud to recognize this 16th class, which joins hundreds of Corps alumni doing critical work to ensure our commu-

See SERVICE Page A5

Students Honored

Kutztown University's Samuel Martin of Riverdale Earns 2024–25 D2 ADA **Academic Achievement Award**

KUTZTOWN, Pa. (Aug. 19, 2025)—For the second straight year, Kutztown University athletics nets a new department record with 157 student-athletes receiving Division 2 Athletic Directors Association Academic Achievement award status, including Samuel Martin of Riverdale, MD.

The 2024–25 number is 17 more than the previous high mark of 140 achieved last year. For a student-athlete to qualify for the award, they must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale, have completed a minimum of two years (four semesters) of college level work at a two-year and/or four-year institution and also been an active member of an intercollegiate team during the last academic year.

The Academic Achievement Awards, in its 18th year, is a program that recognizes the academic accomplishments of studentathletes at the Division II level.

Alessandro Granados of Hyattsville Named United East Scholar Athlete

CHAMBERSBURG, Pa. (Aug. 11, 2025)— Wilson College is proud to announce that Alessandro Granados of Hyattsville is one of 68 students named a Scholar Athlete by the United East Conference for the Winter and Spring 2025 seasons. This number breaks the record of 66 set a year ago. It is the second consecutive year the Phoenix have had at least 60 conference scholar athletes, and the fourth straight year with at least 50.

To be selected, a student-athlete competing in a winter or spring conference-sponsored sport must achieve a grade point average of 3.2 or higher for the winter and spring semesters and must have been in good standing on his or her team.

The league named a total of 1,184 scholar-athletes for the winter and spring seasons. The recipients represent all 17 full members of the conference and an additional four associate members. Wilson ranked seventh overall in the field.

University at Albany Dean's List, **Spring 2025**

ALBANY, N.Y. (July 30, 2025)—The Dean's List at the University at Albany recognizes the outstanding academic achievements of full-time undergraduate students.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn a grade point average (GPA) of 3.25 or higher in their first semester of study and a GPA of 3.50 or higher in subsequent semesters.

The following students have earned Dean's List at the University at Albany in Spring 2025:

Nia Gibson (Bowie) Sita Nair (Laurel)

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

How Do I Apply for Social Security and Receive my Payments?

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 ready to apply for my Social Security benefits, and I'm aware of how my benefits are calculated. What I would like to know about is how the application process actually works and how my benefits are received. Signed: Ready to Collect

Dear Ready to Collect: Essentially, you have two main options for applying for Social Security benefits, and also two separate options for receiving your payments:

To apply for benefits, you can either contact Social Security at 1.800.772.1213 to make a telephone appointment to complete your application while speaking to an SSA representative on the phone, or you can submit your application for SS benefits online.

When using the telephone option, you will be guided by an SSA agent while completing your application and can discuss your benefit options directly with that agent (just be sure to be available to receive SSA's call at the scheduled time). You can also make an appointment by calling your local SS field office directly (get the number for your local SS office at this link: www.ssa.gov/locator). It is not usually necessary to visit your local SSA office in person to apply.

If you are reasonably proficient with computers, you can, instead, apply online, but you will first need to create your personal SSA account online at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Once you have your personal account set up, you will be able to see your estimated benefit amount at different claim ages, which should help you decide when it is best to apply. Here is a short video which explains the process applying benefits https://www.ssa.gov/hlp/video/iclaim r01.htm.

If applying online, you can start your online application at www.ssa.gov/apply and re-access it multiple times as needed until you are ready to submit it; just be sure to write down the "reentry code" which is provided when you begin your online application.

When you are ready to submit the application, just select "Submit" and your application will be sent to SSA's application processing unit for review. They will contact you if there are any questions about your application, or if any additional documentation is needed. Note that it typically takes a couple of months for your payments to start and note that payment is made in the month following the month earned. For example, if you begin your benefits in August your first payment will be received in September (on either the 2nd, 3rd, or 4th Wednesday of each month thereafter, depending on your

For receiving your monthly SS payments: you will (on your application) be able to specify how you wish your monthly payments to be made. The preferred option used by most beneficiaries is to have your monthly Social Security payment deposited into a financial (e.g., bank) account, details for which you will specify when applying. However, you can also choose to receive your monthly payments in the form of a debit card (called "Direct Express") which will be replenished monthly. If you choose to have your payment deposited in your bank account, be sure to have your bank account information ready when you apply. Note that Social Security no longer issues payments via printed checks (except in rare circumstances).

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

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

Service from A4

nities are healthy and resilient," said Valencia McClure, Senior Vice President of Governmental, Regulatory and External Affairs for BGE, which has been supporting the program since its inception in 2010. "Thanks to the Corps, these young professionals enter the workforce ready for action and committed to advancing sustainable practices

The 2025–26 Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps participants will serve this year in Allegany County, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Frederick County, Howard County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Talbot County, and Washington County.

"The Corps empowers lifelong stewards of our natural resources," said Dr. Jana Davis, president of the Chesapeake Bay Trust. "These young people graduate with the skills, professional network, and handson experience to propel their careers and have a lasting impact on our communities, whether they choose to stay in the environmental field or bring their environmental stewardship ethic to other fields. We need green everywhere!"

The Chesapeake Bay Trust (www.cbtrust.org) envisions a restored, protected, and resilient Chesapeake Bay watershed and other natural resources in our area.

CASA's Fight for Safe Housing Continues, Heading to the Maryland Supreme Court in October

CASA continues years long fight for housing justice against landlords of Park Tanglewood Apartments

By PRESS OFFICER

CASA

RIVERDALE, Md. (Aug. 19, 2025)— CASA, a leading immigration advocacy group, is taking its legal battle against landlord Tanglewood Venture LP to the Maryland Supreme Court. In July 2023, CASA member tenants filed rent escrow actions against the Park Tanglewood apartment complex, where tenants have endured years of unsafe and unhealthy living conditions. Park Tanglewood did not have a rental license for over two years due to the poor conditions, but still wanted the tenants to pay their full rent to the court in order for the court to oversee repairs. After two years of appeals, the issue has finally reached Maryland's highest court.

"The Supreme Court of Maryland has granted our appeal, with oral arguments scheduled for October. Given that the Court accepts only a select few cases for review, we are encouraged that they have chosen to hear our arguments on this critical issue," shared Jacob Kmiech, Esq., CASA staff attorney.

"The District Court and Circuit Court ruled against tenants like me, even though Park Tanglewood operated without a rental license for years. I'm fighting for a decent place to live and for the landlord to address the pest issues. But instead of fixing the problems, Park Tanglewood is just trying to avoid responsibility," shared CASA member Gary Wilson, one of the last remaining plaintiffs fighting this case.

In July 2023, CASA filed 22 rent escrow cases against Park Tanglewood to pressure the landlord into meeting basic living standards. For years, tenants have endured bedbug infestations, rodents, insects, broken A/C, and unreliable heat and hot water. On top of these issues, the landlord illegally collected rent for over two years without a valid rental license. Out of the original cases, eleven were settled, nine were voluntarily dismissed, and only two, including Wilson's, were dismissed at the landlord's request.

During the appeal process, one tenant moved out while Wilson continued living at the complex. The judge dismissed the cases as moot, ruling that since the landlord could not legally collect rent for the unlicensed period, there was no active dispute. This created a harmful legal loophole. Landlords now have little incentive to improve conditions because they can force tenants to pay rent into escrow in district court, only to have cases dismissed later on appeal as moot. As a result, tenants remain stuck in unsafe and unhealthy housing with no effective solution.

Wilson shares, "I would like to see the tenants in my building resolve their issues. Right now either management has to get their act together or the tenant has to move out. Many of the tenants just moved out. I am fighting so that management has to hold up their end of the deal."

"The Supreme Court of Maryland traditionally hears only cases of great public importance, so we are very pleased that they have taken Gary's case," shared Jonathan Riedel, Esq., supervising attorney for housing. "We look forward to explaining why a landlord who violates the law shouldn't be rewarded—least of all under a law that was enacted to protect tenants."

The statement of the issues in the case can be found on the Supreme Court's web-

With over 173,000 lifetime members across 46 US states, CASA is a national powerhouse organization building power and improving the quality of life in working-class: Black, Latino/a/e, Afro-descendent, Indigenous, and Immigrant communities. CASA creates change with its power-building model blending human services, community organizing, and advocacy in order to serve the full spectrum of the needs, dreams, and aspirations members. www.wearecasa.org

Hospice of the Chesapeake Announces Partnership With OnSite Medical House Calls to Expand **Access to Palliative Care Home Visits**

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN **Hospice of the Chesapeake**

PASADENA, Md. (Aug. 21, 2025)—Hospice of the Chesapeake is proud to announce a new partnership with OnSite Medical House Calls, a trusted provider of medical house call services, to expand access to high-quality palliative care for patients in the comfort of their own homes.

Through this collaboration, patients living with serious illnesses will have access to in-home palliative care visits designed to manage symptoms, provide guidance on care goals, and support families through complex medical decisions. By combining the hospice's expertise in advanced illness care with OnSite Medical House Calls' experience in delivering medical care directly to patients' homes, this partnership ensures that more individuals can receive compassionate, personalized support without unnecessary hospital visits.

"This partnership allows us to extend

the reach of our palliative care team while http://www.hospicechesapeake.org or call keeping our clinics in Waldorf and Pasadena open to patients who prefer inperson visits," said Becky Miller, CEO of Hospice of the Chesapeake. "By working together with OnSite Medical House Calls, we're able to give continuity to our care making sure patients and families have access to the support they need, whether in our clinics or at home."

rector of OnSite Medical House Calls, added: "This partnership strengthens our shared mission to meet patients where they are, with the care they need and the compassion they deserve." This partnership reflects a shared com-

Nicole Bachmann, CRNP, Medical Di-

mitment to easing the burden of illness while empowering patients and families with the tools, resources, and care they need to focus on quality of life.

For more information about Hospice of the Chesapeake's services or to learn about please partnership,

1-877-462-1102.

At Hospice of the Chesapeake, we support individuals and families facing progressive, serious illness to reimagine hope—living each day with intention and peace—while ensuring our nonprofit organization remains a vital resource for future generations. We develop care plans to minimize symptoms and focus on what matters most for patients and families in Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles and Prince George's counties. Caring for life throughout the journey with illness and loss is the mission of Hospice of the Chesapeake. For more informaplease www.hospicechesapeake.org.

OnSite Medical House Calls provides compassionate primary medical care, as well as palliative care to patients in the comfort of their own homes. For more information, visit: https://www.onsitemedicalcalls.com/

Lt. Governor Miller Leads Maryland Delegation to Florida for AI Exchange

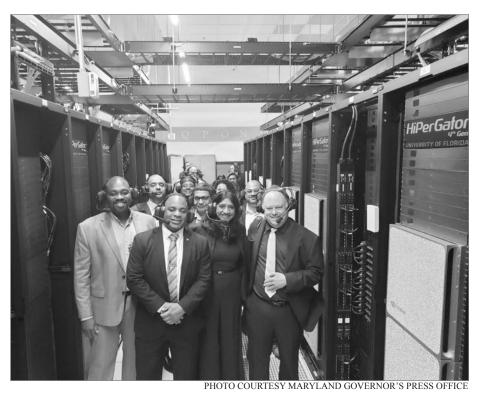
By PRESS OFFICER Maryland LG News

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (Aug. 14, 2025)-As Maryland strengthens its role as a global leader in cybersecurity, technology, and artificial intelligence (AI), Lieutenant Governor Aruna K. Miller led a high-level state delegation to the University of Florida's HiPerGator AI computing facility.

As part of a collaborative exchange, Maryland leaders learned more about the successful integration of AI into higher education, workforce development, and economic growth. The delegation also explored best practices for a responsible and ethical AI strategy that will strengthen public institutions and help solve global chal-

"The Moore-Miller Administration is committed to making Maryland a national leader in AI innovation," said Lieutenant Governor Aruna K. Miller. "We are bringing together our brightest minds and boldest ideas to build an AI future that is inclusive, ethical, and beneficial to all

The delegation included cabinet members, state officials, and leaders from Johns Hopkins, Morgan State, the University of Maryland, and UMBC. Together, these institutions are leading breakthroughs in AI, quantum science, life sciences, and engi-



The delegation included cabinet members, state officials, and leaders from Johns Hopkins, Morgan State, the University of Maryland, and UMBC.

in top talent and cutting-edge infrastruc-

"The remarkable advancements in AI taking place in Maryland highlight the critical need for a statewide approach and ro-

neering, fueled by strategic investments bust computing facilities," said Maryland Higher Education Secretary Sanjay Rai. "These resources are essential to fully realize the potential of current investments and propel Maryland to the forefront of AI innovation."

Q&A

EarthTalk® Consumers on Their own as Trump Kills **EnergySTAR**

By Ester Weinhardt | August 13, 2025

Dear EarthTalk:

Now that the Trump administration has scrapped the EnergySTAR program, how can consumers make sure they are *getting energy-efficient appliances?*

—Brian Longworthy, Puyallup, WA

Have you ever seen a little blue sticker on your appliances, or paid attention to the EnergySTAR label when shopping for new ones?

Those blue EnergySTAR labels are the most widely recognized symbol when Americans search for energy-efficient appliances. A joint effort between the EPA and the Department of Energy, the program is estimated to have saved \$500 billion in energy costs and 4 billion metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions since 1992. The EnergySTAR label is only offered to appliances and homes that meet their product-specific high standards.

However, earlier this year, the Trump administration initiated plans to cut the EnergySTAR program, despite protests from economists, environmentalists and consumer advocates. With the EnergySTAR label disappearing, consumers should know how to still make energy-efficient decisions in their homes.

Another label that appears on appliances is the yellow Energy Guide, managed by the Federal Trade Commission. It lists the estimated annual energy cost (\$) and electricity use (kilowatt/hour),

and shows a scale comparing the product to similar models. While useful for reference, it's important to remember that these are based on national averages, and your costs may increase if you use the appliance more or live in an area with higher average living costs.

The Consortium of Energy Efficiency places energy-efficient appliances on a Tier List from 1 through 4, with Tier 1 being equivalent to the minimum EnergySTAR standards, and Tiers 2, 3, and 4 showcasing increasing exceptional performance. While they don't provide stickers on products, CEE has an online directory, where you can check the tier rating once you find an appliance you like and are thinking of buying.

Finally, the U.S Department of Energy and organizations like SoCalGas have guides on saving energy and electrical costs in your home. These include tips for buying new appliances, such as looking for blue-flame gas stoves or testing the seal on fridge doors. There's advice for improving the energy usage of your current appliances, like adjusting your thermostat when away from home. Even regular cleaning of appliances can ensure they are working as efficiently and safely as possible. A 2022 study by researchers at San Jose State University found that the most impactful way for consumers to cut energy usage and costs isn't by changing out older appliances for more energy efficient new ones but by changing their own behavior in terms of energy consumption choices based on household profile, no matter what equipment they have.

Although it's discouraging to see the EnergySTAR program potentially cut, it's valuable for households to make an effort to improve



With the EnergySTAR label disappearing, consumers should know how to still make energy-efficient decisions in their homes.

their energy usage or buy energy-efficient appliances, in whatever steps possible for them.

CONTACTS: The CEE Directory: https://ahridirectory.org/; The Energy Guide: https://www.efficiencyvermont.com/blog/how-to/howto-read-the-energy-guide-label; Department of Energy Tips: https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/appliances-and-electronics.

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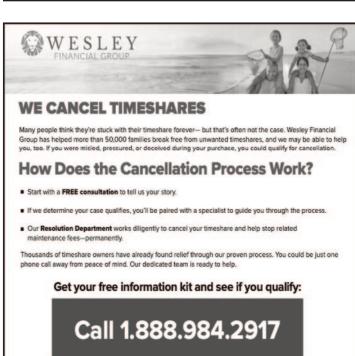
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