

The Prince George's Post



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REALTORS® Support Annual Local Food Drive

By ANIYAH WASHINGTON
PGCAR

LANDOVER, Md. (Dec. 15, 2025)—The Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® (PGCAR), the premier advocate for real estate and private property rights in the County, representing nearly 3,500 real estate professionals, hosted its highly anticipated annual holiday charity event at The Grove at Oak Creek. This year's event achieved remarkable success, raising over \$3,000 in support of the Prince George's County Public Safety Assistance Program (PSAP) holiday food drive.

The funds raised will be dedicated to purchasing and assembling complete holiday food baskets, ensuring they reach families in need across Prince George's County just in time for



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

The Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® (PGCAR) hosted its highly anticipated annual holiday charity event at The Grove at Oak Creek.

the holiday season. Through this heartfelt initiative, REALTORS®, in partnership with PSAP and other committed sponsors, endeavor to address

critical needs within the community. This year, over 1,000 food baskets will be distributed, bringing joy and much-needed relief to local families.

"Giving back to our community is at the heart of what RE-

See **FOOD DRIVE** Page A3

Celebrating LEED Gold Certification for the Bladensburg Branch Library

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (Dec. 12, 2025)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is pleased to announce that the Bladensburg Branch Library building has been awarded LEED Gold Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council® (USGBC).

LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification is the most widely used green building rating system in the world and is recognized internationally as a symbol of excellence in sustainable design. As the first PGCMLS structure to be awarded LEED certification, the Bladensburg Branch Library stands as an anchor in

the Bladensburg community. "It is with great enthusiasm that we celebrate the LEED Gold Certification for the Bladensburg Branch Library," says Dr. Mark Winston, Chief Executive Officer of PGCMLS. "This recognition highlights our commitment to the economic resilience and community well-being of Prince George's County, as we prioritize sustainability and energy efficiency among the 19 branches in the library system." Designed by Gant Brunnett Architects and opened in 2023, the two-story Bladensburg Branch Library building incorporates architectural references to the nearby historic Bladens-

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AT&T, Human I-T Provide Laptops to Community Youth Advance in Prince George's County

By PRESS OFFICER
AT&T Corporate Communications

AT&T and Human I-T provided Community Youth Advance 200 refurbished laptops to distribute to students in Prince George's County who have limited access to technology.

The first batch of 50 computers, funded by an AT&T contribution, were given during a special fall event at the G. James Gholson Middle School in Landover. Additional distribution events will be held at three other schools between now and early January: William Wirt Middle School in Riverdale; Greenbelt Middle School in Greenbelt; and Largo High School in Upper Marlboro.

"A laptop in the hands of a motivated middle school scholar is a powerful catalyst. It doesn't just assist them with completing assignments; it unlocks their full potential for digital literacy, creativity, and critical thinking. The value of this connection to the digital world—and the opportunities it creates for this young scholar—is truly immeasurable," said Terra Harris, executive director, Community Youth Advance.

According to U.S. Census Bureau data, millions nationwide still don't have access to the internet or connected devices needed to fully participate in the online world, an issue known as the digital divide.

This effort is part of AT&T's initiative to help address the digital divide through internet accessibility, affordability and safe adoption. AT&T is committing \$5 billion to help 25 million people get and stay connected to high-speed internet by 2030.

"AT&T is proud to continue to collaborate with organizations like Community Youth Advance to help close the digital divide in Prince George's County," said Katie McEvoy, regional director of External Affairs, AT&T Maryland and Delaware. "Programs like



PHOTOS COURTESY AT&T

Above and at right, refurbished laptops were distributed to students on December 9, 2025 at G. James Gholson Middle School in Landover.

this—along with our infrastructure investments in Maryland—are among the ways we're providing the resources necessary to close the digital divide in our state."

Learn more at att.com. And, learn more about AT&T's other investments in Maryland at Maryland.att.com.



Community Youth Advance delivers innovative programs for students and educators year-round—after school, on weekends, and during summer breaks. By addressing gaps in academic achievement, fostering leadership skills, and building self-confidence, we equip young people with the tools to thrive. For over 20 years, we've partnered with communities across Prince George's County to empower youth and create lasting impact

At AT&T, our corporate responsibility work is dedicated to bridging the digital divide across the country. We are committed to providing people of all ages and from every community with the essential resources they need to thrive in the digital era. For generations, we have supported programs that impact millions of individuals nationwide, and since 2021, we have committed \$5 billion to initiatives that enhance connectivity, promote digital literacy, and improve access to high-speed internet. Our efforts particularly focus on uplifting underserved communities, including students, older adults, and those on tribal lands, ensuring everyone can participate in the digital world and benefit from its opportunities.

Eleanor Roosevelt High School Students Help Unveil New Raider Media Center in Collaboration With Heart of America and Pull Up Fund

By PRESS OFFICER
Heart of America

GREENBELT, Md. (Dec. 10, 2025)—Heart of America (HOA), a nonprofit organization dedicated to transforming learning spaces for underserved students since 1997, and Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) in Maryland, unveil[ed] the newly transformed Raider Media Center at Eleanor Roosevelt High School on December 10, 2025. The project marks another significant milestone in HOA's multi-mil-

lion-dollar, year-long initiative to transform 47 libraries throughout the district.

Eleanor Roosevelt High School is a nationally recognized flagship school for academic excellence and achievement. The new Raider Media Center honors the legacy and academic success of the school and its students while introducing a modern, flexible, and inspiring learning environment designed to spark curiosity, collaboration, and innovation.

The Raider Media Center transformation is part of one of

the most significant public-private partnerships in the country dedicated to revitalizing public-school libraries. With the unveiling of Eleanor Roosevelt High School, HOA and PGCPS continue their collaborative work to ensure that every learner has access to modern, flexible spaces that empower academic success today and for generations to come.

"Eleanor Roosevelt High School is known for academic excellence and a vibrant school community, and the redesigned Raider Media Center reflects that

spirit," said Jill Hardy Heath, HOA President and CEO. "This transformation blends modern design, flexible tools, and technology that meet the needs of today's learners. Heart of America is proud to partner with PGCPS to create environments that inspire curiosity, collaboration, and a true love of learning."

The reimagined Raider Media Center features a comprehensive redesign that blends HOA's signature community-driven biophilic design with a wide range of technology enhancements and flexible learning tools:

- The space includes more than 50 new soft seating options, flexible training tables, modular circulation desks, stackable chairs, mobile dry-erase boards, mobile workstations, and new storage systems, including bookcases, ottomans, benches, and shelving.
- The new mobile furniture solutions allow teachers and librarians to adapt the room in real time so the space can evolve with curriculum and project needs.
- Technology additions include a mobile charging station, 3D printer and filament, 30 new Chromebooks, and a maker cart.
- Throughout the Raider Media Center, students will find fresh paint, new lighting, wall murals, and inspirational quotes

that reflect the school's history, energy, and academic tradition.

In the week leading up to the unveiling, Eleanor Roosevelt High School students and community volunteers helped bring the transformation to life by assembling furniture, unboxing and reshelving books, installing graphics, organizing materials, and preparing the space for opening day. Their hands-on involvement offered a special opportunity to contribute to their own school's next chapter—a powerful expression of pride, ownership, and community spirit.

"The new Raider Media Center demonstrates our commit-

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'Not fit for a dog': Maryland Reformatory Boys Died Through Years of Disease, Neglect

The institution in Cheltenham, Maryland, has a storied history of abuse, neglect and labor exploitation since its start in 1873 as the first juvenile detention center for Black boys in the Southern United States.

Community, Page A4

City of New Carrollton Appoints Veteran Law Enforcement Leader Linwood C. Alston as Chief of Police

Tara Eggleston Stewart Is the New Deputy Director for M-NCPPC

Business and Finance, Page A5

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

Brandywine-Aquasco by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday to Taylor Terry, Shawnee Hendricks, Nurbert Hughes, Nadia Prah, Anthony Bell, Elvi Falby, Valentine II Grant, Somto Mbakwe, Doris Mackall, Lily Jalloh, John Stahl, Alaya Bell, Jahmaiyah Dorsett, Elijah Kerrick, Carolyn Woodard, Donald Hill, B. Kent Maudlin, Theodore (Ted) Mosley, Carol Hughes, Juliett Adaku Mbakwe, Iyana Rojas, Keinel Peralta, Ikechi (Ike) Mbakwe, Latsha Bell, Carolyn Beads, Betty Rivers, Joelle Robinson-Oghogho, Shelton Trice, Wendell Wallace, Luz Knight, Joanne Quarm who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating birthdays in December. May you have many more birthdays to celebrate.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to Ronald and Sandra Jones, Dr. Francis and Agatha Nicol, Ikechi (Ike) and Chidinma (Chidi) Mbakwe who are celebrating Wedding Anniversaries in December who are Clinton United Methodist Church members.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Jason Beckwith: from Bowie State University to the Big Leagues. When Jason Beckwith steps into his role as Senior Vice President of Human Resources for the Washington Nationals, he does so with quiet strength, focused intention, and a life shaped by conviction and character. His story is one of transformation, not just professionally but personally. At the heart of that journey is his experience at Bowie State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Beckwith’s path was not linear. Born in Washington, D.C., and adopted at a young age, he was raised in Germantown, Maryland, where his family was deeply connected to the church. Education was not a debate; it was given. Inspired by older mentors in his community, many of whom attended Bowie State University. Beckwith initially enrolled elsewhere but quickly realized something was missing. Transferring to Bowie State University in his sophomore year, he found not only a campus but a community that felt instantly like home.

CIAA

Get ready to head to Baltimore for the CIAA 2026 February 24–28, 2026. Bowie State University continues to be the university host for this exciting basketball tournament! We are calling all Bowie State University alumni, family, and friends to join faculty, staff, and students as we support and cheer on our men and women athletes. Beyond the games at the arena, there is something for everyone. Receptions, mixers, panel discussions, restaurant tours, career fairs and more. The Baltimore Hilton Inner Harbor is the host hotel for Bowie State University, and we are ready to make it our home for the week.

BSU WINTER COMMENCEMENT 2025

Bowie State University is proud to announce Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley, nationally renowned pastor and champion for its Winter 2025 Commencement. The ceremony will be held on December 19, 2025, at 9 a.m. in the Leonidas S. James Physical Education Complex. Dr. Wesley is the senior pastor of the historic Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Vir-

ginia, where he serves as only the eight pastors in the church’s more than 200-year history. Under his visionary leadership, the church has grown to more than 12,000 members with a weekly online presence exceeding 25,000, expanding its reach and ministries while steadfastly upholding its call to spiritual formation, social justice and community engagement.

FOOTBALL SUNDAY

Piano Keys in Brandywine, Maryland showing Football games each and every Sunday. FREE ADMISSION. The door opens 11 a.m.–1 a.m. Brunch 11 a.m.–5 p.m. A La Carte menu showing the games with audio. DJ OZS. LIVE BAND 7 p.m–1 a.m. 1st & 3rd Changing Phaces, 2nd & 4th WHAT BAND DJ BIG JOHN. Catch every tackle, touchdown, and triumph on 9 screens. Game day specials, and an atmosphere that rivals the stadium. For more information or to make a reservation WWW.PIANOKEYSLOUNGE.COM. Piano Keys and Lounge is located at 7651 Matapeake Business Drive Brandywine, Maryland.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Christmas Eve Service will be held at Clinton United Methodist Church December 24, 2025, at 7 p.m. Melaina Trice, Pastor. Church address is 10700 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735.

DIABETES AND FITNESS

“Each day is an opportunity to make great choices when it comes to your diet and exercise. They both have a direct impact in keeping your blood sugar levels in check. Exercise aids diabetes management by improving the sugar levels in your blood. It also increases insulin sensitivity and directly enhances overall cardiac health. It can also be effective for weight management.”

“Walking, biking, weight/resistance training and swimming/water exercise are a few things you can do right away. 150 minutes of modern intensity aerobic exercise along with strength training two times a week is recommended. It does not have to be all at one time.

You can do 10–15 min a few times a day if needed. The point is to be consistent.” Information from the SCOOP (Charles County Senior Center News.

MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

The meaning of Christmas is primarily the celebration of Jesus Christ’s birth, marking God becoming human, bringing messages of hope, love and salvation, but it is also a global cultural event filled with secular traditions like gift-giving, family gatherings, festive decorations, and Santa Claus, embodying themes of generosity, compassion, and unity for people of all backgrounds. The word itself means Christ’s Mass” (Cristes Maesse) and is observed by Christians on December 25 with Eastern Orthodox churches often following the Julian calendar (January 7). Source: Britannica.

“*Merry Christmas to everyone*”

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

Leukemia Fundraiser coming up January 24 for Morningsider Billy Fowler

This past October, Morningside native Billy Fowler was diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukemia. The treatments are intensive and prevent him from being able to work. Billy, 38, lives with his wife and daughter in Milford, Mich., and his Morningside family and friends are hoping to send them as much support as possible.

Mark your calendars for the Battle for Billy, a fundraiser that will be held Saturday, January 24, from noon to 5. The day will include a spaghetti dinner with salad and roll for \$10, a raffle for a 55" high-definition smart TV (\$10 per ticket or 3 for \$25), a cake raffle, a chance auction with a variety of items (6 tickets for \$5; each ticket you put for an item increases your odds of winning it), a 50/50 raffle, a bake sale, whack-a-wreck, t-shirts, and bracelets.

It’ll be a good time, and it’s for an excellent cause. Anything you can contribute will be appreciated.

The fundraiser will be held at 6901 Ames St. For more information, or if you want to make a donation, call Karen Rooker at 301-335-3365; Billy’s mother, Sharon Fowler 240-579-6761; or Amy Foster 301-996-7396.

Hernandez Family Welcomes Twin Boys

When daughter Kathleen Shearer and I attended the Morningside Thanksgiving November 20, one of those I had the opportunity to meet was Ilka Hernandez of Larches Ct, who was pregnant. But not for long.

She gave birth to twin boys the following Tuesday, November 25. They are home and getting to know their older sister and two brothers. Congratulations!

More Thanksgiving

Kathleen has returned home to Cincin-

nati after three enjoyable weeks wildly spent visiting me. In addition to the Morningside Thanksgiving, we celebrated Thanksgiving at home with 16 of my kids, grandkids, various spouses, a couple of dogs, plus a visit from Jim Reilly, who is an honorary McHale whether or not he wants the distinction.

Kathleen and I also had the pleasure of visiting my husband’s second cousin Patty Bass in Washington, and my cousin, Mary Robey, in Centreville, Va. Mary, a kid of only 90, is one of my last remaining first cousins.

When we weren’t socializing, Kathleen and I assembled numerous jigsaw puzzles. It’s always fun to have visitors help us.

Frankenstein at the Synetic

My grandson Conor joined us for a trip to Arlington to see Synetic Theater’s production of Frankenstein; or The Modern Prometheus. My hearing is so bad now that theater is a real challenge, but Synetic specializes in wordless, movement-based plays.

This is the second performance of theirs that I have seen, and both were excellent. Next month, I will see them perform Shakespeare’s Antony and Cleopatra, also wordless, in Washington.

Donald Isenberg, longtime Morningsider dies

Donald Isenberg died last month at his home on Morgan Rd. He will be remembered for his generosity, whether it was showing up to Morningside clean-up days with donuts or Subway sandwiches, or distributing huge bags of potatoes among his neighbors, or even slipping someone a little money to take their parent out for a nice dinner. And he will be missed. According to his wishes, he was cremated with no ceremony.

I’ll tell you more about Donald in next week’s column.

Morningside spot-repairing around town

The retaining-wall project on Woodland Rd is nearly complete, with only about 1–2 more days of work left. After that, Morningside will focus on spot-repairing particularly bad portions of curbs and sidewalks around town, though they’ll save bigger repair and emplacement jobs for spring.

Rec Committee celebrates Thanksgiving by helping

The Morningside Recreation Committee took a donation of food, water, and clothing to the Prince George’s House Men’s Shelter in Capitol Heights. They also assembled Blessing Bags with towels, soap, razors, and other personal items that were delivered to another shelter.

Changing landscape

The City of District Heights has installed at least four speed cameras and 6 to 8 stop-sign cameras. Slow down!!

Elmendorf Drive, 6013, recently sold for \$303,000.

Pine Grove Drive, 6708, \$390,000.

Skyline Terrace, 6300 \$400,000.

Milestones

Happy Birthday to Charlene Baker, and Paul Ratliff, Dec. 18; my grandson Michael Gallegos, Dec. 19; Ricky Nichols, Dec. 20; Evelyn McKeown, Dec. 21; Timothy Flaherty, and Morningside Mayor Irving Robinson, Dec. 22; Paul Ford, and Russ Kyser, Dec. 23; Kendall Lanehart, and Ken Miller, Dec. 24; Jean Nichols, Jason Tomlinson, Samantha Bowie, and Christine Mucker, Dec. 25; Jeffrey Norton, and Michael Nichols, Dec. 26; Virginia Simms, Carolyn Jeffcoat, and Kirra Starr Mears, Dec. 27.

Happy Anniversary to Ray and Betty Call, Dec. 20; Nola and Bruce Thomas, Dec. 27.

Around the County

Prince George’s County Department of the Environment Announces New Community Resilience Hub Grant Program in Partnership With the Chesapeake Bay Trust

Funding will strengthen neighborhood-serving facilities that protect vulnerable residents during extreme heat, flooding, and power outages.

LARGO, Md. (Dec. 11, 2025)—The Prince George’s County Department of the Environment (DoE) announced the launch of the Prince George’s County Community Resilience Hub Grant Program, a new funding opportunity administered by the Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT) to help local organizations strengthen neighborhood-level resilience to climate change.

The program supports the development and operation of Community Resilience Hubs—trusted, community-serving facilities that provide resources, coordination, and support before, during, and after climate-related emergencies. This includes flooding, extreme heat, power outages, and severe storms. Eligible applicants include nonprofits, faith-based institutions, community associations, municipalities, watershed groups, and colleges or universities.

Funding awards of up to \$50,000 are available, with most grants expected to range from \$20,000 to \$30,000. A total of \$217,000 is available for this round of funding. Grants may support a wide variety of resilience activities, including building upgrades, emergency power systems, communication tools, landscape improvements, community programming, or operational costs that strengthen a facility’s ability to serve residents during extreme weather events.

“Prince George’s County is committed to ensuring every community has the tools, resources, and physical spaces needed to stay safe during a changing climate,” said Dr. Samuel E. Moki, Director of the Prince George’s County Department of the Environment. “Resilience hubs are powerful engines of equity and preparedness. They are places our residents know and trust—places that will be there in moments of crisis and in moments of community building. We are proud to partner with the Chesapeake Bay Trust to expand these lifelines across the County.”

Resilience Hubs may offer services such as access to cooling or warming spaces, charging stations for phones or medical devices, emergency distribution of food and water, health and social services, and community education on climate mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Application Deadlines: The Community Resilience Hub Grant Program accepts applications quarterly until all available funds have been allocated. Upcoming deadlines include:

- December 22, 2025, at 4 p.m.
- March 19, 2026, at 4 p.m.

Applicants are encouraged to review the full guidance and submit proposals through the Chesapeake Bay Trust at: <https://cb-trust.org/grants/prince-georges-county-community-resilience-hub-grant-program/>

Venture X® to Launch its First Flexible Office Space in Prince George’s County

Scheduled to Open in January 2026, the New Location in College Park Will Offer 59 Private Offices for Startups and Entrepreneurs, Catering to Minority-Owned Businesses COLLEGE PARK, Md. (Dec. 9, 2025)—Venture X®, which leads the way in providing flexible offices for the modern workforce, is announcing the opening of a new location in Prince George’s County. The 13,898-square-foot space is scheduled to open in mid-January 2026 at 5825 University Research Court, Suite 2000. It’s located in the Greater College Park Discovery District, a research park where academic, government, and technology leaders come together to nurture innovation.

Owned by seasoned product strategist Moniesha Jackson Shorter, the new Venture X College Park location, the first in the county, will offer 59 private offices to help entrepreneurs, small businesses and new founders drive to success on their own terms. “I’m excited to offer this space as our company joins the coworking revolution, which is part of a bigger vision to empower entrepreneurs and turn their dreams into thriving businesses,” said Shorter, whose career before joining Venture X included 20+ years as a technology executive before founding a successful digital marketing agency. “We’re here for professionals who are talented and driven but often face barriers like limited access to mentorship, networks and affordable infrastructure, all key factors that improve survivability for minority-owned businesses. My goal with Venture X College Park is to create the kind of support system I wish existed when I first became an entrepreneur.” Sitting in the heart of the Discovery District, the location will feature two conference rooms, one training room, a café that can also serve as an event space for members, free parking, electric vehicle charging stations, and close proximity to food trucks and abundant dining options. Shorter will serve as general manager and sales manager of the company, focusing on overall operations and general revenue growth. Her background as a technology executive for Fortune 100 and 500 companies and founder of Cornerstone Creative Group, a digital marketing agency specializing in growth strategy and integrated marketing solutions that help businesses scale with clarity and impact, has prepared Shorter for her new role.

A proud part of the community in Prince George’s County, Shorter is on the University of Maryland Alumni Association Board of Governors as a member at-large. She is also a three-time breast cancer survivor, who is now a patient advocate supporting other women who have been affected. For more information on Venture X College Park, visit www.venturex.com.

Venture X® is a shared workspace and flex office community that is a blend of a boutique hotel and modern office styles, with a high level of design that feels professional and welcoming. Venture X is part of Vast Coworking Group™, the world’s largest privately-owned franchisor of coworking spaces and the third-largest network globally and has been recognized by Inc. as one of the best coworking spaces in the U.S. Visit www.venturex.com. For information about franchise opportunities visit www.venturexfranchise.com.

COMMUNITY



Certification from A1

burg Waterfront. It boasts solar panels on its roof; energy-efficient HVAC and lighting systems and low-emissions materials inside the building; permeable pavers and electric car charging stations in its parking lot; and a dedicated public bus shelter directly outside the branch’s front doors—all features which contributed to the branch’s final Gold-level LEED score.

Green buildings like the Bladensburg Branch Library allow organizations like PGCMLS to operate more sustainably, to spend less on energy consumption, and to give those who use the building a healthier, more comfortable space to gather. Through design, construction, and operations practices that improve environmental and human health, LEED-certified buildings also help to make communities like Prince George’s County more sustainable.

The Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is a beacon within its diverse and dynamic community. The Library serves Prince George’s County, Maryland’s 966,000+ residents through 19 public branches, a law library in the County Correctional Center, various pop-up services and events, and 24/7 access to free online resources. As a trusted and responsive community leader, PGCMLS democratizes knowledge and opportunity by providing safe, accessible spaces where customers of all backgrounds can freely engage with the resources needed to build knowledge, literacy, skills, and creativity at every phase of life. Learn more at pgcmls.info/about-us.

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is committed to transforming how buildings and communities are designed, built and operated to create thriving, healthy, equitable and resilient places that advance human and environmental wellbeing. USGBC leads market transformation through its LEED green building program, robust educational offerings, an international network of local community leaders, the annual Greenbuild International Conference & Expo, the Center for Green Schools, and advocacy in support of public policy that encourages and enables green buildings and communities. For more information, visit usgbc.org. The U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED® green building program is the world’s most widely used and was created as a leadership standard defining best practices for healthy, high-performing green buildings. Learn more at usgbc.org/LEED.

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Food Drive from A1

ALTORS® do,” said Faye Smith, Chair of PGCAR’s Community Service Committee. “This holiday season, we’re honored to come together to support those in need and make a positive difference through our partnership with PSAP.”

President Carole Webb added, “This event truly reflected the spirit of togetherness and service that defines PGCAR. Moments like these remind us of the powerful impact we can make when we unite with a common purpose and a heart for service.”

REALTORS® are proud participants in efforts that support the communities in which we live, work, and serve.

The Prince George’s County Association of REALTORS® is the voice for real estate in Prince George’s County, Maryland, representing more than 3,500 real estate professionals in the national capital area, PGCAR is an affiliate of the Maryland and National Association of REALTORS®. We are proud to serve our members and our community and work to ensure professionalism in the industry. Our volunteers and staff work to offer services to real estate professionals and to provide avenues for our members to become more successful. We proudly work to promote and protect home ownership and private property rights.

We have moved ...

The Prince George’s Post’s new physical address as of December 13, 2025:

**15209 Marlboro Pike, Suite 209
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151**

From College Park to the Heartland, Sailor Supports U.S. Navy’s “Take Charge and Move Out” Mission

By ALVIN PLEXICO
Navy Office of Community Outreach

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. (Dec 11, 2025)—Every sailor’s story of naval service is unique. For Airman Daniel Garcia, this story began in College Park, Maryland, where skills and values learned there would be foundational to success in the Navy.

“I learned growing up to work hard for what you want in life because nothing is ever handed to you,” Garcia said.

Garcia graduated from Parkdale High School in 2018.

Garcia joined the Navy two years ago.

“I joined the Navy because I wanted to provide new opportunities for my family,” Garcia said. “I also wanted to serve my country.”

Today, Garcia serves as an aviation maintenance administrationman assigned to Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron Three (VQ-3) in Oklahoma City. Garcia supports the nation’s nuclear deterrence mission at Strategic Communications Wing One (STRATCOMMWING ONE). Its “Take Charge and Move Out” (TACAMO) mission provides airborne communication links to nuclear missile units of U.S. Strategic Command.

The TACAMO mission originated in 1961 when a Marine Corps aircraft was used to test



PHOTO PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS JUSTIN JOHNDRO

Airman Daniel Garcia

the feasibility of an airborne Very Low Frequency (VLF) communications system. Once the test was successful, funding for the program was granted, and it has continued to grow ever since.

The U.S. Navy’s presence on an Air Force base in a landlocked state may seem strange, but the position is strategic, allowing squadrons to quickly deploy around the world

in support of the TACAMO mission.

The U.S. Navy is celebrating its 250th birthday this year.

According to Navy officials, “America is a maritime nation and for 250 years, America’s Warfighting Navy has sailed the globe in defense of freedom.”

With 90% of global commerce traveling by sea and access to the internet relying on the security of undersea fiber-optic cables, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity of the United States is directly linked to recruiting and retaining talented people from across the rich fabric of America.

Garcia has many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during military service.

“I am proud to represent my command’s honor and represent our Navy’s core values,” Garcia said.

Garcia serves a Navy that operates far forward, around the world and around the clock, promoting the nation’s prosperity and security.

“Serving in the Navy provides lots of opportunities,” Garcia said. “It’s an honor to serve my country and help better those around me.”

Garcia is grateful to others for helping make a Navy career possible.

“I want to thank my wife, Miryam, and our kids for their support throughout this journey,” Garcia added.

Fun Spring Events to Support Care and Community at Hospice of the Chesapeake

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (Dec. 9, 2025)—Hospice of the Chesapeake invites the community to celebrate spring with three unforgettable signature events designed to fuel its mission of providing compassionate hospice, supportive and grief care across the region.

Mark your calendars for these April, May and June experiences that each offer their own blend of excitement, elegance and community impact:

• **Bubbles and Bingo: A Black-Tie Affair—6 p.m. Friday, April 10**

After last year’s successful debut of this bingo meets glam, its return was a guarantee. This year, the event will be held at the U.S. Naval Academy’s Fluegel Alumni Center. Guests will enjoy sparkling cocktails, champagne, and an exceptional gourmet dinner. The fun continues with lively bingo rounds, each offering a chance at luxurious prizes. Proceeds provide essential care and support to patients and families in Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles and Prince George’s counties.

• **Boots and Bling: A Culinary Experience—6 p.m. Friday, May 8**

Expect a night full of flair, flavor and waterfront charm. Set against the breathtaking backdrop of the beautiful Rod ‘N’ Reel Resort in Chesapeake Beach, guests will enjoy delicious, themed food stations; delightful cocktails; and a silent auction brimming with one-of-a-kind local items. With music and sweeping Chesapeake Bay views, it’s an evening designed for pure enjoyment—all while bringing comfort and care to families in Calvert County.

• **Fashion for a Cause—6 p.m. Thursday, June 4**

A perennial favorite, Annapolis’s premier fashion celebration returns to the U.S. Naval Academy’s Fluegel Alumni Center. This red-carpet event spotlights the season’s best looks, with community models showcasing summer 2026 styles from local boutiques. Guests will savor signature cocktails and an array of sweet and savory offerings from area restaurants and food trucks before and after the high-energy runway show. The event supports the nonprofit’s Community Health programs, including Chesapeake Kids, a vital program serving children with life-limiting illnesses and young people coping with grief.

For tickets, sponsorships or underwriting opportunities, please



PHOTO BY ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN, HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE

Hospice of the Chesapeake Board Member Greg Kernan and Chief Strategy & Information Officer Monica Escalante dance at the 2025 Boots and Bling event at Rod ‘N’ Reel Resort.

contact the events team at 443-837-1531 or events@hospicechesapeake.org.

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. For details, visit <https://www.hospicechesapeake.org>.

Media Center from A1

ment to creating dynamic, engaging learning spaces that support the whole student. This redesign offers innovative tools, flexible areas for collaboration, and technology that prepares learners for the future,” said Dr. Shawn Joseph, Interim Superintendent of Prince George’s County Public Schools. “We’re grateful to Heart of America and the Eleanor Roosevelt students who helped bring the space to life, making this project especially meaningful.”

“The transformed Raider Media Center is everything our students hoped for: bright, welcoming, and designed for the way they learn today. Every element supports creativity and collaboration,” said Tammi Tatro, Eleanor Roosevelt High School Library Media Specialist. “Seeing our students help assemble furniture, unpack books, and prepare the space created such a sense of ownership and excitement. This is more than a renovation. This is a space where students will discover new ideas, connect with each other, and grow.”

The redesign was completed in partnership with Pull Up Fund, the local philan-

thropic partner funding the larger initiative. Pull Up Fund, based in Prince George’s County, has deep local ties and a history of supporting a variety of educational, youth, and health development initiatives in historically excluded communities.

With the opening of the Raider Media Center, HOA and PGCPs mark another major milestone in their shared mission to reimagine educational spaces and advance equitable access to high-quality learning resources for students throughout the district.

Heart of America is a 501c3 nonprofit that transforms learning spaces and helps bridge resource gaps. Our work focuses on the whole student, knowing that the physical spaces where young people learn are just as important as what they are learning. Since 1997, we’ve worked towards education equity by renovating nearly 1,400 spaces in classrooms, libraries, STEAM labs, college/career centers, school gymnasiums, and community centers, and more. We have provided current resources, including over 4.4 million books, and infused over \$14.3 million in technology. <https://www.heartofamerica.org/>

Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS), one of the nation’s 20th largest school districts, has 200 schools and centers, more than 132,854 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. PGCPs’s mission is to ensure all students graduate with the skills and knowledge to thrive in a globally competitive world. <https://www.pgcps.org/>

Pull Up Fund proudly supports the youth of Prince George’s County. We are pulling up communities around the county and connecting them with resources to help them thrive. Prior Pull Up Fund grants have supported an array of different issues including increasing access to mental health services, supporting youth development initiatives, and providing resources for individuals returning to the community after incarceration. <https://pullupfund.org/>

COMMUNITY

‘Not fit for a dog’: Maryland Reformatory Boys Died Through Years of Disease, Neglect

By NICOLE RAMOS
Capital News Service

CHELTHENHAM, Md. (Dec. 11, 2025)—A 10-year-old dead of exhaustion. More than a dozen dead from pneumonia. About 100 youths succumbed to tuberculosis.

These are some of the main findings from a new Capital News Service analysis of death records for Black youths who died at the notorious House of Reformation and Instruction for Colored Children in southern Prince George’s County.

The institution in Cheltenham, Maryland, has a storied history of abuse, neglect and labor exploitation since its start in 1873 as the first juvenile detention center for Black boys in the Southern United States.

About 300 youths are estimated to have died while in custody, according to state Sen. William C. Smith Jr., D-Montgomery County. They were buried in mostly unmarked graves in two sections of the woods next to the facility.

“This was a state-sanctioned activity, and we were responsible for this,” said Smith, chair of the Judicial Proceedings Committee and member of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland.

CNS’ investigation further uncovered details about the deaths of youths, most of whom were Black, who died in detention at the House of Reformation and two other Maryland correctional institutions between 1877 and 1941.

In total, CNS compiled and analyzed 177 recorded deaths of incarcerated youths—142 from the House of Reformation, 34 from the Maryland House of Correction at Jessup and one from the House of Refuge for Juvenile Delinquents, now the Charles H. Hickey Jr. School in Baltimore County. The details of their deaths came from death certificates, newspaper articles and grand jury reports. Nearly all were boys.

There are at least a dozen unverified accounts of additional deaths.

The ages of the 177 youths at their times of death ranged from newborns to 21. The death certificates had many gaps on the origin of the youths, but from available records, they originated from 14 counties and Baltimore City in Maryland. Eleven of them came from outside of Maryland and for 42, no hometown or birthplace was listed.

“The burial site at the House of Reformation is not the only place in Maryland where incarcerated children are buried,” said Marc Schindler, former chief of staff and assistant secretary for the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services.

For youths from the House of Reformation, many are buried in unmarked graves in the woods adjacent to the manicured Cheltenham State Veterans Cemetery, about nine miles south of Andrews Air Force Base. Four barely visible tombstones and rows of cinder blocks are disappearing under debris in the woods from about a century of neglect. Smith is pushing for an investigation of the deaths and a proper burial for the youths.

“It was such a horrific metaphor for what’s happened to all these children,” said Crystal Foretia, former policy and legislative administrator at Department of Juvenile Services who researched the House of Reformation and the gravesite in 2024.

At the former House of Correction at Jessup, an unassuming cement marker notes 182 inmates who died before 1951 are buried in the vicinity. “Judge each man by what he might have been” is also inscribed. The Capital News Service investigation found 34 death certificates from the House of Corrections for youths 21 years old or younger. Two of those were newborns.

Tuberculosis was the official cause of death for 57% of the cases CNS examined. The disease, a contagious bacterial infection, primarily affects the lungs and can be spread through the air. Pneumonia was the second-highest official cause of death, cited in 10% of cases. Exhaustion was cited as a contributing cause for nine deaths involving some boys who had not reached puberty. James Tilghman, age 11, died of “cardiac dilation” and exhaustion in 1909. Typhoid, a bacterial infection that spreads through contaminated food and water, killed 12 boys.

Based on investigations about the treatment of the youths at the facilities, the medical conditions cited on the death certificates may not be accurate.

A state-sanctioned activity

Reform schools popped up in the United States in the 19th century to move juvenile offenders out of prison, but many youths still ended up at the House of Correction at Jessup. Known as “The Cut” or “The House,” the Jessup facility opened in 1879 and was the second prison established in Maryland. It operated until 2007, though an extension of the facility, now named Jessup Correctional Institution, is still a prison.

The House of Reformation and House of Refuge operated as segregated, privately run reformatories for “delinquent” boys, and were supported by local and state funds. The House of



PHOTO CREDIT ROB WELLS/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

A tombstone marks the burial of William Jones, an inmate at the neglected House of Reformation gravesite in Cheltenham, Maryland.

Refuge—now the Charles H. Hickey Jr. School—opened exclusively for white youth almost 20 years before the House of Reformation. The state took over the House of Refuge in 1918.

In 1937, the state took over the House of Reformation at Cheltenham after pressure from church leaders, newspapers, community advocates and unions. It was subsequently replaced with the Cheltenham Youth Detention Center. Both the Cheltenham and Hickey reformatories now are secure detention facilities for youths awaiting trial or placement.

Leaders at the House of Reformation, House of Refuge and House of Correction physically abused youths in custody, according to news coverage in the early 20th century. All three facilities instituted variations of a convict leasing system, contracting out boys to work around the state under the guise of vocational reform.

Despite some similarities, clear disparities persisted between the House of Reformation and the House of Refuge, including funding, educational opportunities and institutional conditions, according to an unpublished Department of Juvenile Services report authored by Foretia.

‘Not fit for a dog’

Not all of the Black boys sent to the House of Reformation had committed a crime. “A lot of these boys were placed in the facility for incorrigibility, or for being a minor without proper care. Or vagrancy, which could be translated into homelessness,” Foretia said.

Boys described as “feeble-minded” were sent to the reformatory; under modern diagnostic criteria, such boys could have been diagnosed as intellectually disabled.

A Child Welfare League of America investigation in 1934 revealed the facility endangered the health of the boys overcrowded into dormitories, among them boys suffering and dying from tuberculosis.

Many of the boys also had venereal diseases, according to a 1935 grand jury report from the Criminal Court of Baltimore City. Boys at the Cheltenham institution were “ruled almost entirely by fear” and wouldn’t speak to them, reported the grand jury members who visited the facility.

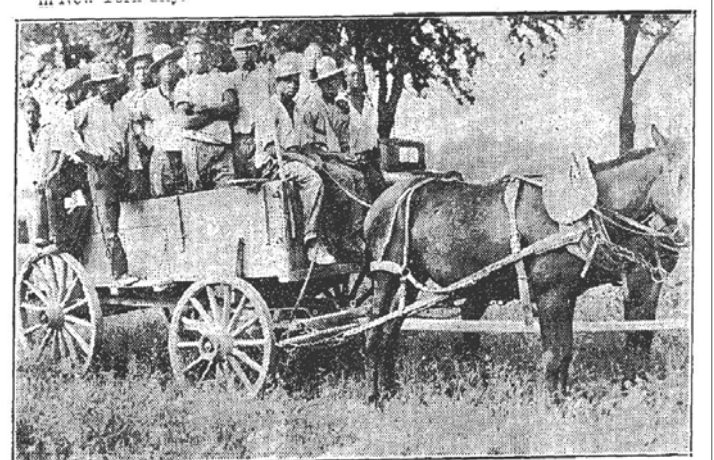
The facility’s practice of contract labor was described by one newspaper as “virtual slavery, peonage and a chain gang.” The institution forced boys to work six days a week for contractors around Maryland to help pay for the costs of the reformatory.

Smaller boys worked in on-site factories for broom making, shoe repair or chair caning; the broom factory was described as “a veritable firetrap” in 1926.

Some boys were “paroled to service,” meaning they were forced to exclusively work for private families until they were 21 years old. This practice was not found in facilities for white youth, according to the Department of Juvenile Services report.

In 1934, The Afro-American newspaper closely followed the

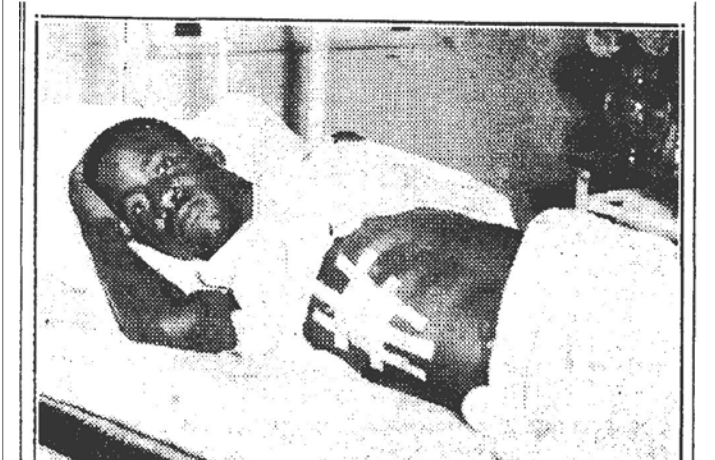
See NEGLECT Page A5



DOWN ON MARYLAND’S CLUB FARM—Group of boys coming from work at Maryland House of Reformation at Cheltenham. Many complaints have come from the institution recently about brutal treatment of boys by white guards. John Pyles, white superintendent, says it’s all right for guards to strike boys.

PHOTO PHOTO BY THE AFRO-AMERICAN

A photo from the Sept. 22, 1934 edition of The Afro-American newspaper describing Cheltenham youth working as farm laborers.



AUDREY BRUNSON,
who was shot by a white guard.

PHOTO BY THE AFRO-AMERICAN

An image from the January 28, 1939, Afro-American newspaper depicting Cheltenham inmate Audrey Brunson recovering after being shot by a white guard.

Maryland Senator Continues Fight for Deceased Cheltenham Juveniles as he Pushes for Modern Juvenile Justice Reform

By AKIRA KYLES
Capital News Service

A Maryland senator is working to keep history from repeating itself in Maryland’s juvenile justice system. But to move forward, he’s first looking back.

Sen. William C. Smith, Jr., D-Montgomery County, is bringing a spotlight to the deaths of as many as 300 Black youths at the Cheltenham House of Reformation, a juvenile detention facility near Andrews Air Force Base in southern Prince George’s County. The youths are buried with few markers in an overgrown wooded area adjacent to the Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery.

“The state should ultimately, obviously issue a formal apology for the way that we’ve handled these youths,” Smith told Capital News Service.

Smith, chair of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, called for a commission to conduct an independent investigation into what happened at Cheltenham and plans to introduce legislation when the Senate convenes next month.

Smith found that juveniles charged and processed as adults wind up costing the state about \$17 million a year, or about \$150,000 per juvenile. During the time juveniles are processed as adults, which can take up to 180 days on average, they are not provided services or education.

“That’s been a major core focus of mine, is just reforming this process because I think you’re going to save money, and you’re going to have better safety outcomes, and you’re also, by the way, going to have better outcomes for the youth,” Smith said.

In the January 2026 General Assembly session, Smith will reintroduce Senate Bill 422, which would raise the age at which a juvenile would be eligible to be tried as an adult from 14 to 16. The bill would also eliminate certain crimes for which 16-year-olds are currently eligible to be charged as adults. The bill was originally introduced in January 2025.

Maryland is in violation of federal standards designed to keep juveniles out of the adult prison population. Under Maryland law, juveniles are charged as adults for 33 offenses, but under federal law, juveniles aren’t supposed to be locked up with the adults in prison or jails, according to data from the United States Department of Justice’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. As a result, the rate of Maryland youth

in the adult prison population is eight times the federal standard in 2024, according to the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy.

While advocating for Maryland juveniles today, Smith learned about other Maryland juveniles who never got justice.

In the 1800s, much like the federal guidelines today, the General Assembly recognized the need to separate children from adults in the system, so they created two institutions for juveniles: The House of Refuge for Juvenile Delinquents for white boys and The House of Reformation for Colored Boys at Cheltenham for Black juvenile boys.

Smith has worked with multiple agency members to research the conditions at Cheltenham and visited the institution’s burial site in the woods, covered with thorns and overgrown grass. There are four headstones with writing and dozens of moss-covered cinderblocks marking the resting place for others who died between 1877 and 1941, according to death certificates. Researchers originally thought there were 80 graves of the young boys at the Cheltenham burial site. A Washington Post investigation found at least 230 youth died in custody, but the number could be higher. Smith said the number of young boys buried there is closer to 300. A vast majority of the graves are unidentified.

“There are racist, systemic inequities that are baked in and still present today,” Smith said. “That shouldn’t be controversial, I think it’s just incumbent upon us to identify, to understand and then to address it.”

Smith said not only should the burial site be improved but what happened to the youths before they ended up at the burial site needs to be addressed.

“The stories need to be told, people need to be identified, families need to be reconnected with this history and story,” Smith said. “The field and the graveyard need to be restored and maintained to a place of proper reverence for what happened there.”

Smith added, “At a time where there are efforts to reclassify, erase history, fail to acknowledge things, I think this is the perfect time to say, you know, we need to look this history in the eye and understand what we’re doing in the modern time to curtail injustices that we see that have permeated.”

Capital News Service reporter Nicole Ramos contributed to this story.

The Prince George’s Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

About Remarrying and Benefits From an Ex-spouse

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 am almost 57, divorced after a 14-year marriage. My former spouse is 15 years older than I and made significantly more money than me. I am required to retire from my job at age 60 but expect to keep working in some capacity.

I have a girlfriend of a similar age to me. She did not earn as much as her former husband as she mainly raised their children. She is also divorced from an older spouse who made more money than she did. I am trying to figure out if we will be penalized if we marry, or if it matters if we wait until after we reach 60 years of age. Can I claim my own benefits when I become eligible at 62, then claim survivor benefits later, whenever my former spouse passes? Is that affected if, or when, I remarry? I do not want to give up my potential survivor benefits from my ex-spouse. Are those affected if I remarry?

If I understand correctly, if I remarry even after 60, we would both forfeit divorced spousal benefits, is that right? Given that my girlfriend’s former spouse probably made more money than I, would she be forfeiting her former spousal benefits if we were to marry, even after age 60?

Lastly, I am considering retiring abroad as an expat. Any suggestions about how that would affect our Social Security benefits? **Signed: Starting Over**

Dear Starting Over: With certain exceptions, benefits from a living ex-spouse cannot be collected if you remarry (regardless of your age when you remarry). So, from what you’ve shared, whenever you remarry both you and your new wife will forfeit eligibility for benefits from your respective ex-spouses while they are living (FYI, there are exceptions for those who are disabled).

However, the rules are different for a surviving ex-spouse: if you remarry before age 60, you will forfeit your surviving ex-spouse benefit. But if you remarry after age 60, you retain eligibility to collect survivor benefits from a deceased former spouse. So, if you and your girlfriend remarry after you are both age 60, you will both still be able to claim survivor benefits based on your former spouses’ records.

And, yes, it is possible for you to initially claim your own SS retirement benefit at 62 and claim your surviving ex-spouse benefit later (after your former spouse dies). Provided you remarry after age 60 you do not lose that option, but if you were to claim a surviving ex-spouse benefit before reaching your full retirement age (FRA), the monthly payment amount would be reduced (all SS benefits taken before FRA are reduced).

Note too, that if you plan to continue working after you are first eligible for SS benefits, Social Security has an “earnings test” which limits how much you can earn from working while collecting early benefits. The limit changes yearly (for 2025 it is \$23,400) and if exceeded, SS will take back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. And, as you likely know, claiming at age 62 will also mean a benefit payment of about 30% less than available at your FRA of 67. So, if you plan to work after age 62 and plan to claim early SS, you should take the “earnings test” into consideration. FYI, the earning test no longer applies after you reach your full retirement age.

Now, regarding retiring overseas, be aware that Social Security has limits on where you can collect U.S. Social Security benefits. I suggest you use Social Security’s Payments Abroad Screening Tool to find out if benefits are payable wherever you plan to retire abroad. That SSA tool can be found here:

https://www.ssa.gov/international/payments_outsideUS.html

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 ssadviser@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.

Neglect from A4

shooting of inmate Aubrey Brunson by a white guard. Brunson survived the shooting. The newspaper was one of the few outlets that provided a platform for the House of Reformation boys to disclose their abusive experiences. They described being whipped, beaten, flogged, lashed and clubbed.

Some, like George Washington, personally wrote to The Afro-American. “I am a crippled boy, and have not got no people and have been down here 7 years and 3 months and 13 days and I have never been beat up so bad before since I have been here as I got beat up this afternoon about 12:30. I cannot put up with getting beat up for nothing,” Washington wrote.

Others, like George Clark, continued speaking out about the facility when they made it out. Clark told the Afro-American in 1934, “Cheltenham is a place not fit for a dog.”

Capital News Service reporters Akira Kyles, Brandyn Fragosa, Zaka Hossain, Raphael Romero Ruiz, David Landerman, Sophia Hernandez-Pina and Editor Rob Wells contributed to this story.

City of New Carrollton Appoints Veteran Law Enforcement Leader Linwood C. Alston as Chief of Police

By PRESS OFFICER
City of New Carrollton

NEW CARROLLTON, Md. (Dec. 10, 2025)—The City of New Carrollton announces the appointment of Linwood C. Alston as its new Chief of Police. Chief Alston brings more than 30 years of law enforcement leadership, government security management, community engagement, and public safety innovation. In this role, Chief Alston will oversee all police operations and lead the department’s more than 20 employees in advancing a clear vision of transparency, accountability, and community-first policing.

As the City of New Carrollton’s Chief of Police, Chief Alston will provide strategic leadership for the department, overseeing long- and short-term planning, policy development, emergency response management, and crime prevention initiatives. He will be responsible for ensuring the enforcement of state laws and municipal ordinances, the protection of life and property, and the continued strengthening of relationships between the police department and the community. His role also includes managing the department’s annual budget, supervising and developing personnel, evaluating policies for effectiveness and compliance, and ensuring officers receive ongoing professional training aligned with modern policing standards.

Chief Alston most recently served as Chief of Police for the City of Mount Rainier, where he led department-wide modernization efforts, implemented data-driven policing strategies, expanded youth and community outreach programs and secured and managed millions of dollars in grant awards. His extensive career also includes service as Deputy Chief of Police for the Capitol Heights Police Department and leadership as President and CEO of Atlas International Security & Investigative Services, Inc., a regional security com-



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF NEW CARROLLTON

Chief Linwood C. Alston

pany that employed more than 100 sworn personnel.

“Chief Alston’s record of integrity, leadership, and innovation makes him the ideal choice to lead our police department,” said Mayor Phelecia E. Nembhard. “His dedication to building community trust, improving officer morale, and prioritizing transparency aligns perfectly with New Carrollton’s commitment to safety and service. We are thrilled to welcome him to New Carrollton.”

Beyond his local service, Chief Alston is a recognized leader in public safety across the State of Maryland. He served as President of the Police Chiefs’ Association of Prince George’s County and as a Commissioner on the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission. As a Public Safety Legislative Advocate, he has also testified before the Maryland General Assembly on matters related to public safety, accountability, and police reform.

Throughout his distinguished career, Chief Alston has been honored with the Maryland State Senate Resolution for Heroic Actions, the State of Maryland Governor’s Citation for Bravery, and a Proclamation from the Town of Capitol Heights recognizing his bravery and heroism.

Prince George’s County Planning Board Announces Tara Eggleston Stewart as the New Deputy Director for M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George’s County

By PRESS OFFICER
M-NCPPC

LARGO, Md. (Dec. 10, 2025)—The Prince George’s County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) announces the appointment of Tara Eggleston Stewart as the new Deputy Director of Recreation and Leisure Services of M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George’s County. Eggleston Stewart will provide high-level administrative oversight of the Department’s Aquatics & Athletic Facilities, Northern Recreation and Leisure Services, Southern Recreation & Leisure Services, Special Programs, and Youth & County-wide Sports Divisions.

“Tara Eggleston Stewart’s expertise, passion, and commitment to advancing inclusive recreation services are unmatched,” said Darryl Barnes, Chairman of the Prince George’s County Planning Board, “Her deep connection to the community and her proven leadership in parks and recreation make her an incredible asset for the Department.”

The Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George’s County, a six-time National Gold Medal Award winner, is a national leader in innovation, service, and community impact. With more than 29,000 acres of parkland, including trails, cultural spaces, and historic sites, the Department remains dedicated to creating inclusive, accessible, and sustainable opportunities for all residents and visitors. With a guiding plan, Formula 2040, and the mission to help people “Live More, Play More,” the Department provides opportunities for active lifestyles, meaningful connections, and community pride through programs, classes, events, and accessible facilities.

“I am honored to return to the Department of Parks and Recreation, where my



PHOTO COURTESY M-NCPPC

Deputy Director of Recreation and Leisure Services Tara Eggleston Stewart

passion for service and community were born,” said Eggleston Stewart. “I look forward to working alongside our dedicated staff to expand access and strengthen our programs to ensure Prince George’s County residents have the opportunity to Live More, Play More.”

About Tara Eggleston Stewart

Tara Eggleston Stewart is a nationally recognized leader committed to serving the community. Returning to the Commission from the City of Rockville Recreation and Parks, she began her journey with M-NCPPC as a summer day camp participant, later working as a seasonal employee throughout high school and college. She went on to build a distinguished 21-year career with the Department, serving in key leadership roles including Division Chief for the Aquatics and Athletic Facilities Division and the Arts and Cultural Heritage Division.

Eggleston Stewart is a proud Howard University graduate and holds a master’s degree in Sports Business from New York University and is a current Doctoral student in Clemson University’s Park, Recreation, and Tourism Management Program.

He is an alumnus of Howard University and is a graduate of the Anne Arundel Community College Police Academy and the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions (MPCTC) Leadership Development Institute. He has completed advanced leadership programs with the FBI-LEEDA Command Leadership Institute, the FBI-LEEDA Media Relations, and the

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Leadership Academy. His leadership philosophy emphasizes officer development, technology integration, and proactive community engagement.

“I am honored to join the City of New Carrollton and serve alongside a dedicated team committed to the safety and well-being of every resident,” said Chief Alston. “Together, we will continue to strengthen relationships, promote transparency, and ensure the City of New Carrollton remains a safe, welcoming, and connected community.”

Chief Alston remains well-informed on emerging trends and best practices in law enforcement through his active involvement in the International Association of Chief of Police (IACP), the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), and the Maryland Municipal Chiefs of Police Association (MMCPA).

The City of New Carrollton celebrates 73 years of service to the community. Known for its rich history, diverse community and thriving economy, New Carrollton is an award-winning sustainable City situated outside of Washington, DC, offering residents and visitors alike a blend of urban convenience and suburban charm. Visit www.NewCarrolltonMD.gov. Stay updated with the latest news, events, and updates by following us on our social media platforms: Facebook: @NewCarrolltonCity; Twitter: @NewCarrolltonMD and Instagram: @CityNewCarrollton.

Among her extensive list of achievements and affiliations, Eggleston Stewart has twice been named to the Aquatics International Magazine’s “Power 25” for her impactful work advancing community outreach and diversity in aquatics. She regularly shares her knowledge through presentations at state and national conferences and published contributions in Aquatics International and the National Recreation and Park Association’s Parks & Recreation Magazines. In 2024, she was inducted into the American Academy for Parks and Recreation Administration as a Professional Fellow and currently serves as a member of the American Park and Recreation Foundation Board of Directors.

The Prince George’s County Planning Board, together with the Montgomery County Planning Board, make up The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission—a bi-county agency established by State law in 1927 to acquire, develop, maintain, and administer a regional system of parks and administer a general plan for the physical development of both counties. The Planning Board’s responsibilities include supervising preparation of land use plans and comprehensive zoning maps, advising the County Council on zoning map amendment and special exception applications, and reviewing and approving site plans and subdivisions. Visit www.pgplanningboard.org.

With over 29,000 acres of parkland, trails, athletic fields, playgrounds, and more, the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George’s County provides an award-winning park system through progressive, quality, innovative leadership and a commitment to its community and environment. The Department delivers first-class recreational activities and programs for people of all ages and ability levels. Visit www.pgsparks.com.

EarthTalk®
Q&A

RIP Jane Goodall as the World Celebrates her Legacy

By Marium Zahra | December 4, 2025

Dear EarthTalk:
Everyone knows Jane Goodall was a great conservationist, but what exactly did she accomplish in her lifetime and what will be her legacy?

—Winnie Marcus, Wilmington, DE

Jane Goodall was an English anthropologist and primatologist. Around the world, she was most known for her 65-year-long study of wild chimpanzees. She pioneered the research on chimpanzees and completely transformed our view of the species. Before her passing in October 2025, she had dedicated her life to being a global advocate for human rights and environmental protection, even starting a youth empowerment program called “Roots and Shoots.”

Ever since childhood, Goodall loved the outdoors, nature and animals. She was unable to afford college to pursue her passion, but a trip to Nairobi, Kenya to visit a friend allowed her to meet paleoanthropologist Louis Leakey. Eventually, this connection allowed her to get a job at a local museum and later as part of a research team that would travel to Gombe Stream to study wild chimpanzees in Tanzania.

Many challenges, including disease and disagreements with fellow researchers, marked Goodall’s time in this expedition. Still, her commitment to observation and ethical research led the team to realize many breakthroughs that challenged scientific ideals of the time. Her research revealed that chimpanzees are omnivores who

hunt for meat, not herbivores as previously thought. She also discovered that chimps use and manufacture their own tools, a trait once thought to be exclusive to humans.

Goodall continued her research at Cambridge University, where many researchers disagreed with her naming the chimpanzees rather than assigning them traditional number designations. This conflict led her to write her recognized book “My Friends, the Wild Chimpanzees.” ““I thought chimps were so like us but nicer, but they have a dark and aggressive side, just like we do, and they’re capable of violence, brutality, killing and a kind of primitive war,” Goodall said. ‘But also, just like us, they have a loving, compassionate and truly altruistic side, so that an adult male may adopt an orphan whose mother has died. There was this little infant, who was just three and a half, we thought he would die; there was nobody looking after him. And then, to our amazement, a 12-year-old male adopted him, carried him around, shared his food and his nest with him, and saved his life,’ she added.

While this was Goodall’s most well-known work, it was not her last. After receiving her Ph.D, Goodall continued to advocate for wildlife protection and conservation of endangered habitats. As a researcher, Goodall left her legacy on challenging the idea of human uniqueness. Her youth empowerment, reforestation and activism also inspired multiple generations to come together for conservation.

CONTACTS: “My Life with The Chimpanzees”, <https://a.co/d/4qghX8o>; Take Action For Forests & Greening Your



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Jane Goodall left her legacy on challenging the idea of human uniqueness, but her activism also inspired multiple generations to come.

Community, <https://janegoodall.org/take-action-for-forests-greening-your-community/>.

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