

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY *SINCE 1932*

Vol. 94, No. 28 July 9 — July 15, 2026 Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents

Governor Moore Breaks Ground on Addison Park, Bringing High-Quality Affordable Housing to Seniors in Capitol Heights

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (June 24, 2026)—Governor Wes Moore today joined public officials and private leaders to officially break ground on Addison Park Senior Residences, a high-quality affordable housing project for seniors in Capitol Heights, Maryland.

“All Marylanders deserve a safe and accessible place to call their own,” said Gov. Moore. “Our state works to build affordable housing like Addison Park, so we can create spaces for communities to feel safe and come together. And, this building will serve as a beautiful living space where Capital Heights seniors can gather, enjoy themselves, and access everything they need to thrive.”

Addison Park will host 293 units for seniors aged 62 and older across two four-story buildings. The property will include a fitness center, furnished



PHOTO CREDIT POLLY IRUNGU, MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

Governor Wes Moore today joined public officials and private leaders to officially break ground on Addison Park Senior Residences, a high-quality affordable housing project for seniors in Capitol Heights, Maryland.

clubroom, laundry facility, and an outdoor recreational area fit with grills. Secured access control and elevators featured on the property will add to the

safety and accessibility for residents. Addison Park will also host Mission of Love Charities on-site to provide supportive services for its residents and

community members. The project is set to be completed in late

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CASA Celebrates New Community Hub With Ribbon Cutting and Launch Event

By PRESS OFFICER
Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)/Prince George's County

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (June 2026)—Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)/Prince George's County hosted a Ribbon Cutting & Community Launch Event on Sunday, June 28, 2026 at its new community hub located at 16202 Old Central Avenue, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

The event marks a significant milestone in CASA's 25-year history of advocating for children and youth involved in the foster care system. Through a community partnership, CASA has established a new home in the Bowie/Upper Marlboro area that will serve as a collaborative space for staff, volunteers, trainings, meetings, and community engagement.

After many years of growth and impact in its previous location, CASA made the strategic decision to relocate to better support its long-term vision.

“This new location represents more than a physical space—it represents our continued commitment to being a trusted voice for children and youth in foster care throughout Prince George's County,” said Yolanda Johnson, Executive Director of CASA/Prince George's County. “We are excited to deepen our connections within the community while expanding opportunities for volunteers, partners, and supporters to engage with our mission.”

CASA extends its deep gratitude to the Prince George's County

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District Heights Dental Practice Joins Multi-State Effort Providing Free Care to Over 450 Uninsured Patients

Milestone effort marks the highest number of patients served during the annual free day of care since 2017

By PRESS OFFICER
Pine Dentistry & Braces

DISTRICT HEIGHTS, Md. (July 1, 2026)—Pine Dentistry & Braces is proud to share the local impact of the 11th annual Sharing Smiles Day. Coincidentally overlapping with National Smile Day on May 31, Pine Dentistry & Braces turned a day of celebration into a massive day of nationwide action, opening its doors to provide free essential dental care to uninsured families.

Network-wide, the event reached a major milestone, serving 466 patients—marking the highest patient turnout for Sharing Smiles Day since 2017. In total, 22 dental practices hosted Sharing Smiles Day across 10 states. Three of those offices were in Maryland, including Pine Dentistry & Braces right here in District Heights.



“I really like to help the community,” Dr. Martha Sanchez, one of the volunteer doctors, said. “I know a lot of people don't come to the dentist because they don't have the funds or the insurance. So, when I get a chance like this it's nice to be able to help them and let them know the options they have. If they are in pain, at least we can help to ease that pain.”

An estimated 360 clinician team members, hygienists and office staff across the nation volunteered their time on a Sunday to make sure uninsured families didn't slip through the cracks of the oral healthcare system. Patients who participated received vital oral healthcare at no cost, including dental exams, limited emergency care, extractions, and restorative treatments.

“My favorite moment during Sharing Smiles Day was fixing the front teeth of a patient and she was really, really happy that she could smile again,” Dr. Kenia Marmol, a volunteer doctor, said. “That made me happy, too.”

While last year's milestone 10th anniversary focused on the event's decade-long legacy, the 2026 initiative looked forward, directly tackling the escalating coverage gaps that leave nearly 70 million American adults and eight million



PHOTO COURTESY PINE DENTISTRY & BRACES

Pine Dentistry & Braces turned a day of celebration into a massive day of nationwide action, opening its doors to provide free essential dental care to uninsured families.

children without dental insurance.

With this year's number of patients served, the cumulative impact of Sharing Smiles Day has now successfully delivered essential care to more than 4,200 patients since its inception. In ad-

dition to the three practices participating in Maryland—including two in Baltimore—the massive volunteer effort

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United Communities Against Poverty Transitions Operation of Shepherd's Cove Shelter After 24 Years of Service

Shelter operations will continue uninterrupted as UCAP deepens its focus on alleviating poverty, promoting self-sufficiency, and advancing economic stability.

By PRESS OFFICER
United Communities Against Poverty, Inc.

CAPITOL HEIGHTS, Md. (June 30, 2026)—United Communities Against Poverty, Inc. (UCAP), the designated Community Action Agency serving Prince George's County, today announced that effective July 1, 2026, Community Crisis Services, Inc. (CCSI) will assume operation of Shepherd's Cove Shelter following coordination with Prince George's County.

The shelter will continue operating its Capitol Heights location, ensuring uninterrupted services for the residents and families who depend on it.

The transition reflects UCAP's strategic decision to strengthen and broaden its portfolio of anti-poverty programs, resources, and

services while ensuring that Shepherd's Cove residents continue to receive high-quality care.

For 24 years, UCAP has operated Shepherd's Cove, providing far more than emergency shelter. Through compassionate care, comprehensive case management, permanent supportive and transitional housing placements, three daily meals, childcare, summer camp, housing navigation, and supportive services, the organization has helped thousands of Prince George's County residents experiencing homelessness take meaningful steps toward stability and self-sufficiency.

In its 2025 Impact Report, UCAP noted the shelter served more than 500 individuals, provided more than 86,000 meals, helped 68 residents transition into stable housing, and supported 145 families through housing and related stabilization services.

“This transition marks the close of an important chapter in UCAP's history, but not our commitment to the people of Prince George's County,” said Rasheeda Jamison, President and CEO of UCAP. “For 24 years, Shepherd's Cove has provided safety, stability, and a path forward for families facing the hardest moments of their lives. That legacy of compassion, dignity, and hope will always be part of UCAP's story.”

In 2025, UCAP served 1,335 families and 3,192 individuals through its emergency food pantry, distributed 5,000 pantry bags, assisted 108 households through homeownership and mortgage counseling programs, weatherized 70 homes, supported 130 seniors through the Thrive Guaranteed Income Pilot, and distributed more than 30,700 diapers and nearly 2,000 menstrual hygiene products to families in need.

“Our mission to alleviate poverty in Prince George's County is as strong today as ever,” Jamison added. “This transition allows us to deepen our investment in the programs that address the root causes of poverty, helping individuals and families not simply overcome crisis, but build lasting self-sufficiency.”

UCAP will continue working closely with Prince George's County and CCSI over the coming weeks to ensure a seamless transition for residents, staff, and community partners.

For more information about UCAP's programs or to support its mission, visit www.ucappgc.org.

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Prioritize Brain Health with a Peanut-Packed Menu

Emerging nutritional science is clear that what people eat doesn't just fuel the body; it shapes memory, mood and cognitive health.

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

Brandywine-Aquasco by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Wedding Anniversaries to Bonnie and Daniel Droter, Karl and Romonia Pinkney, Ugo and Mamou, Nana and Kennedy Akwo, Anthony and Dr. Joelle Oghogho who Clinton United Methodist members celebrating Wedding Anniversaries in July.

A LIFE GIVEN A LIFE GIVEN BACK

Every time Dr. Karmalita Contee, Bowie State’s Director of private scholarships and grants walks across campus, she carries with her generations of family history, a career shaped by service and gratitude for the second chance she’s been given.

A proud BSU alumna, Contee’s life story contains many full circle movements. Some are purposeful and intentional, while others are happy coincidences. “My connection to Bowie State began long before I pursued a graduate degree here. Both my parents graduated from BSU in the 1940s and hoped I would follow in their footsteps. But I wanted a bit more distance from home while remaining within the HBCU community. I chose the University of Maryland Eastern Shore for my undergraduate studies.”

After graduation, Contee spent 32 years in corporate America, moving across departments. Her philosophy was simple: keep learning along the way. When she decided to earn her master’s degree in public administration, BSU was the natural choice. “Not only was it my family history, but BSU allowed me to balance work, school and home seamlessly.” Her final role, at the Verizon Foundation, was in corporate philanthropy, an experience that would prove essential to her next career chapter. “It introduced me to something I didn’t know existed.” “The Verizon Foundation provides educational grants, and I couldn’t have imagined that the position was preparing me to come back to BSU.”

After accepting a buyout, Contee planned to take time to decide what came next, but fate intervened at a family celebration she organized at BSU. While she managed a surprise wedding vow renewal for several dozen guests on campus, newly named BSU President Aminta Breaux arrived at the party thinking it was a donor event. Despite the miscommunication, President Breaux noticed Contee’s leadership and energy and encouraged her to consider joining the university. “This literally occurred the day I took the Verizon buyout.”

Eighteen days after retiring, Contee began her next chapter. Using her Verizon Foundation experience, Contee noticed that scholarships created through the Division of Philanthropic Engagement weren’t consistently matched with students who met donor criteria. She proposed the role of director of private scholarships and grants in the Division of Enrollment Management & Student Affairs.

Today she oversees the lifecycle of donor-funded awards, working to ensure fairness and meaningful connections between donors and recipients. She emphasizes that BSU scholarships are more than financial support. “Every donor has a story and values they like to see reflected in recipients. We connect BSU students to scholarships meaningfully, so they understand it’s

about building legacies in areas such as education or nursing.” Her work with students involves helping them grow into confident young professionals. She guides them on everything from navigating formal dining situations to entering a room with confidence, skills she believes open doors as powerfully as financial support. “I was fortunate. My Mom sent me to etiquette training where I learned how to walk into a room and shake hands firmly. Every child of color does not have that opportunity.” Many students stay connected to Contee long after graduation, a cycle of community she works hard to build.

Even as she poured herself into supporting students, Contee was fighting another battle. In her early 30s, kidney damage was caused by medication slowly working. “At one point, I could barely walk because I was exhausted. My life became work, dialysis and sleep.” She waited five years, and after some false hopes, Contee received her gift of life: a donor kidney in August 2024. Recovery was long and often exhausting, but her Bowie State family, hospital team, relatives and friends never stopped supporting her. She returned to campus in January 2025, using a walker but determined to resume her work. “There are currently over 100,000 people in the United States waiting for life-saving organ transplants.” Please consider registering to be a donor by visiting Donate Life America www.donatelife.net.

CLINTON UMC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Join Clinton United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School July 13–July 17 from 9 a.m.–12 p.m. Each day our PreK–5th graders will learn about how Jesus gives us strength to face challenges. Our theme this year is Snowball Mountain Challenge: “Find your strength in God.” Pastor Melaina Trice. Join us Sunday, July 19 at our 10:30 a.m. service for a short VBS presentation. Please register your child for VBS Registration 2026 on the church website: <http://cumcmd.org/>. If you need a printed registration form, please contact church office: 301-868-1281 or Audrey Johnson Vacation Bible School Director at 301-922-5384 or ajohnsoon12906@yahoo.com. If interested in volunteering time, contact us and we will let you know how you can help.

CYBER SQUAD

CYBER SQUAD July 13–July 17, 2026, from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. at Bowie State University in the Computer Science Building. Fee is \$350.00. Register Now. Think you have what it takes to outsmart a hacker? This summer, campers will step into the world of cyber and learn how to think like the people who protect and crack digital systems. Through hands-on challenges, real-world scenarios and interactive labs, you will learn how to defend networks, spot threats and keep data safe.

What you’ll explore: What cybersecurity and ethical hacking actually look like in the real world. How networks work and how to protect them. Password security and encryption—why your data is more vulnerable than you think. Digital privacy and staying safe online.

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

With Mary McHale, will return soon!

‘GATHER’ Launches as New Community-Based Healthy Aging Initiative

Program brings together leading community organizations to strengthen connection, learning and well-being for older adults and caregivers

By PRESS OFFICER
Partners In Care, Inc.

PASADENA, Md. (July 6, 2026)—Partners In Care Maryland, Inc., in collaboration with Chesapeake Life Center, proudly announces the launch of “GATHER: Learn. Connect. Thrive.,” a yearlong healthy aging and social learning initiative.

“GATHER” is designed to strengthen social connection, lifelong learning, emotional wellbeing and aging in place through accessible, community-based programming for older adults and caregivers across Maryland.

At its core, the series is built on a simple belief: healthy aging depends not only on healthcare, but also on connection, purpose, learning, resilience and belonging.

A Community-Centered Approach

GATHER offers in-person, virtual and hybrid experiences hosted throughout the county at trusted community locations including senior centers, libraries, faith communities, Chesapeake Life Center and the Center for Hope & Healing.

- Programming includes:
- Community conversations and peer learning
 - Wellness, mindfulness, movement and healing experiences
 - Therapeutic arts and expressive pro-

- gramming
- Caregiver education and support
- Workshops on aging in place, brain health, safety and resilience
- Sessions on caregiving, grief and emotional well-being

Supplemental microlearning tools—including short videos, tip sheets and caregiver resources—extend learning beyond each session and support ongoing engagement.

The first event will be “Scamademic 2026.” Protect yourself from scams with the tools and information you need to stay safe. Join special guest Andre Lingham of Safe Aging Strategies as we cover how to recognize warning signs, report suspicious activity and prevent fraud before it happens. Together with your family and caregivers, you can help stop scams in their tracks.

It will be held from 2 to 3:30 p.m. **Tuesday, July 28**, in the Partners In Care Conference Room, 8151-C Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, MD 21122. To register, visit <https://partnersincaremd.salsalabs.org/gatherscamdemic/index.html>.

Why GATHER Matters

As Maryland’s older adult population grows, so does the need for community-based support that addresses both practical needs and social well-being. Older adults and caregivers are increasingly impacted by isolation, caregiver stress,

chronic illness, transportation barriers, digital literacy gaps, financial exploitation and grief.

Research consistently shows that strong social connections, lifelong learning and community engagement improve cognitive health, resilience and overall quality of life. GATHER responds with a relationship-centered model that integrates education, wellness and human connection into one coordinated experience.

A Shared Vision for the Future

Our vision is to create a vibrant and connected community where older adults remain engaged, informed, resilient and supported throughout the aging journey.

Partners In Care Maryland, Inc. is a volunteer-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to helping older adults age 60+ remain independent and age in place with dignity and respect. Through its unique Service Exchange/Time Banking model, members support one another with transportation, handyman services, social engagement and other neighborly assistance—neighbors helping neighbors. Partners In Care is proud to be a part of Chesapeake Health Partners, a organization focused on strengthening community-based care and support services across the region.

Around the County

Chair Oriadha Announces Two-Year Moratorium to Prevent New Data Centers from Operating in Prince George’s County

LARGO, Md. (June 30, 2026)—Yesterday, Prince George’s County Council Chair Oriadha announced legislation establishing a two-year moratorium that would prohibit new data centers—including hyperscale data centers—from operating in Prince George’s County.

Since this issue first came before the County, Chair Oriadha has stood with residents, civic associations, and community advocates who have raised concerns about the impact data centers could have on neighborhoods, energy infrastructure, water resources, the environment, and the County’s long-term future.

“From day one, I have stood with our residents because I believe our communities deserve to come first,” said Chair Oriadha. “This legislation is another major step toward ensuring that new data centers do not operate in Prince George’s County.”

The proposed moratorium would prohibit new data centers from operating for two years, giving the County the opportunity to conduct a comprehensive review of land use, infrastructure capacity, environmental impacts, energy demands, public safety considerations, and the long-term economic implications of these developments.

“Our residents have been clear—they don’t want this for Prince George’s County,” Chair Oriadha said. “This legislation reflects that commitment and ensures we are putting people before profits.”

Chair Oriadha thanked the residents and community organizations who have remained engaged throughout this effort and reaffirmed her commitment to protecting Prince George’s County’s neighborhoods, natural resources, and quality of life.

“This is one step closer to ensuring that new data centers do not come to Prince George’s County,” Chair Oriadha added. “I will continue working alongside our communities every step of the way.”

Prince George’s County Department of Social Services Announces Transition of Health Insurance Connector Entity to HealthCare Access Maryland

LANDOVER, Md. (June 30, 2026)—The Prince George’s County Department of Social Services (PGCDSS) announced today that health insurance enrollment services and outreach under the Prince George’s County Health Connect (PGC Health Connect) program will transition to HealthCare Access Maryland (HCAM), effective July 1, 2026. Other Family Investment services, including medical assistance, will continue to be available through PGCDSS via socialservices.mypgc.us and 301-909-7025.

PGC Health Connect has proudly served as the county’s connector entity since the inception of Maryland’s marketplace in 2013. Connector entities serve as trusted, community-based resources for health coverage assistance. Through community outreach, education, and one-on-one support, trained experts help residents enroll in health insurance through Medicaid and Maryland Health Connection, the state’s official insurance marketplace.

This transition occurs as Maryland prepares for major federal modifications to Medicaid eligibility and renewal requirements. The PGCDSS is working closely with HCAM and Maryland Health Connection to ensure a seamless operational transition. Residents will experience full continuity of care, with uninterrupted access to trusted, local assistance with enrolling in, renewing, and maintaining health insurance coverage through Medicaid and private health plans.

“Our primary focus has always been the health and well-being of Prince George’s County families,” said Jennifer Amaya Thompson, Director of the Prince George’s County Department of Social Services. “As PGC Health Connect transitions its connector services to HealthCare Access Maryland, we are confident that our residents will continue to receive the dedicated, high-quality enrollment support they deserve. We look forward to working closely with HCAM to ensure a seamless transition and to building new strategies that keep our community healthy and covered.”

For more information about health insurance enrollment services or to connect with a Consumer Assistance Worker, residents can visit www.hcamaryland.org or contact the Connector Call Center at (410) 500-4710. Medicaid information will continue to be available through Maryland Health Connection by calling 1-855-642-8572 (toll-free).

Prince George’s County Launches Summer Heat Readiness Initiative to Protect Frontline Workers

LARGO, Md. (June 25, 2026)—As summer temperatures begin to rise, the Prince George’s County’s Department of the Environment (DoE) is taking proactive steps to protect frontline workers and ensure reliable service delivery through a coordinated Summer Heat Safety and Readiness Initiative.

A key component of this effort is the continuation of earlier trash and recycling collection times, which were implemented to reduce worker exposure during peak heat hours. Beginning Monday, June 29, 2026, **residents are asked to place their trash and recycling carts at the curb by 5 a.m. on their regular collection day.** This time adjustment is for workers’ safety to avoid waste collection during the hottest times of the day. Residents should note that services may be delayed throughout the day while workers navigate the high temperatures.

“Extreme heat is not just a matter of comfort—it’s a public health and workplace safety issue,” said Dr. Samuel Moki, DoE Director. “By adjusting operations and reinforcing safety practices, we are taking practical steps to protect the employees who serve

COMMUNITY



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY WELLPOINT MARYLAND

Father’s Day Celebration by Anew INSPIRED Change

By PRESS OFFICER
Wellpoint Maryland

Wellpoint Maryland played a key role in the recent 15th Annual Father’s Day Experience, organized in partnership with Anew Inspired Change. This event focused on providing support to fathers and men facing challenges such as homelessness.

The theme for this year was “He Rocks Anew Foundation: From Pressured to Becoming Pressure,” highlighting the journey of rebuilding lives.

Participants received professional styling, grooming services, a catered meal, and access to essential community resources—all at no cost. #WellpointMaryland #AnewInspiredChange #FathersDayExperience #CommunitySupport



Around the County from A2

our communities every day.”

The County is also working in coordination with operational agencies to reinforce heat safety measures, including access to hydration, rest breaks, and other protective practices during high-temperature conditions.

Residents are reminded to place trash and recycling at the curb the night before their scheduled collection day to ensure timely pickup.

These efforts reflect Prince George’s County’s broader commitment to adapting services in response to changing climate conditions and supporting the well-being of its workforce.

For more information, visit mypgc.us/clearthecurb

Bowie National Guard Airman Receives New Rank, New Responsibilities

LATHAM, N.Y. (June 30, 2026)—Air Force Major General Gary Charlton, the commander of the New York Air National Guard, announced the recent promotion of members of the New York Air National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

Rianna Viavattene from Bowie, Md., and assigned to the 174th Attack Wing, received a promotion May 28, 2026 to the rank of technical sergeant.

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

These promotions recognize the best qualified Airmen for a career in the New York Air National Guard, according to Charlton.

Air National Guard Citizen Airmen who serve our state and nation are eligible for monthly pay, educational benefits (from the state and federal government), travel across the globe, technical and leadership training, health and dental insurance and contributions towards retirement programs similar to a 401(k).

For more information about the New York Air National Guard or contact a recruiter, visit <https://dmna.ny.gov/ang/>.

Free Housing Resource Fair to Deliver Expert Support and Solutions to Prince George’s County Residents

By PRESS OFFICER
United Communities Against Poverty, Inc. (UCAP)

CAPITOL HEIGHTS, Md. (June 11, 2026)—To help local residents navigate an increasingly complex housing market, United Communities Against Poverty (UCAP) has partnered with Marvel Truesdale – The Real Estate Educator of The Home Team Realty Group to host a massive Housing Resource Fair on **Wednesday, July 15, 2026**.

The free, county-wide event will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at United Communities Against Poverty, located at 1400 Doewood Lane, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. All residents from across Prince George’s County are welcome to attend.

Designed to provide families and individuals with the knowledge, resources, and direction needed to move forward with financial confidence, the fair will feature lively panel discussions, real solutions from trusted professionals, and an interactive Q&A session where attendees can get their specific housing ques-



tions answered live on the spot.

The Housing Resource Fair will cover a wide array of vital county and community programs, including:

- First-Time Home Buyer & Downpayment Assistance Programs
- Affordable Apartments & Low Income Senior Community Options
- Housing & Credit Counseling
- Expert guidance from Realtors, Loan Officers, Home Inspectors, and Title Companies
- Foreclosure & Mortgage Assistance
- Employment Resources & Financial Literacy
- Legal Assistance & Estate Planning

- Energy and Utility Assistance

In addition to invaluable resources, the event features exciting raffles and giveaways. Both entry and parking are completely free, and bilingual assistance and walk-ins are warmly welcome.

While walk-ins are permitted, attendees are encouraged to pre-register. For more information or to register for the event, please contact Jennifer Glover (UCAP) at 301-322-5700 Ext. 172 or Marvel Truesdale at 301-283-1601.

Come get the knowledge, resources, and direction you need to move forward with confidence.

Voting Now Open: Help Maryland State Police Win the 2027 Best-Looking Cruiser Contest

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Department of State Police

Maryland State Police is proud to once again to participate in the American Association of State Trooper’s Best-Looking Cruiser Contest and **voting is now officially open through July 13**.

This national contest highlights the

unique cruisers of state police agencies across the country, and our entry this year celebrates America’s 250th while also honoring the places that make Maryland unique, including the Suttler Post Farm Clydesdales in St. Mary’s County. These Clydesdales have the time-honored tradition of bringing the official White House Christmas Tree to Washington,

D.C. each year.

Maryland State Police placed in the calendar for the first-time ever last year and finished in 4th. We encourage Marylanders to cast their votes once again. Every vote bring us closer to a win!

Marylanders can vote here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2026bestlookingcruiser>

Marietta Historic Site & Museum’s 13th Annual Wine & Jazz at Marietta

By STACEY HAWKINS
Marietta Historic Site & Museum

Please join us on **Saturday, August 1**, 1–5 p.m. (Rain date Aug. 8) for our 13th Annual Wine & Jazz at Marietta. Celebrate African American jazz heritage with local popular musicians at Marietta. In honor of the nation’s 250th anniversary, the event will include a traditional African drum performance to honor the roots of Ameri-

can jazz.

Listen to popular local jazz musicians, Jazzy Blu, and AJQ Plus 1.

Visit food and craft vendors and shop at the Farmers Market. Stroll through the booths of local Maryland wineries and sample the delicious wines of Cove Point Winery, Misfit Winery, Imperial 94 Winery, Far Eastern Shore Winery, and Sheree Harvest Wine.

Ages 21 & up. Early Bird tickets are \$10/person online until July 25, 2026.

From July 26 through August 1, 2026, \$15/person online and at gate. Cash only at gate. To purchase online use ticket code: MHM-SPEC-GA-20260801

For more information, please call 301-464-5291 or email marietta-house@pgparks.com. Marietta Historic Site & Museum is located at 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD, and is a property of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Community Hub from A1

Council and Self-Storage Zone for making it possible for the organization to operate this new space free of charge—an investment that directly strengthens services for children and families across the county.

CASA also extends special appreciation to Councilmember Tim Adams, who sponsored the launch event and is a strong supporter of CASA’s work in the community.

The event featured a ribbon-cutting

ceremony, networking opportunities, and remarks from CASA leadership, volunteers, and community partners. Guests heard from a former CASA youth whose journey exemplifies the power of advocacy and support.

Each year, CASA/Prince George’s County trains and supports community volunteers who advocate for the best interests of children and youth in foster care. Currently, approximately 315 children are in foster care in Prince George’s County, nearly 75% of whom are age 14 and older. CASA volunteers and advo-

ates serve approximately 180 children and youth annually.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)/Prince George’s County *trains and supervises community volunteers who advocate for the best interests of children and youth in foster care. For 25 years, CASA has worked to ensure that every child has a safe, permanent, and nurturing home while empowering older youth to successfully transition into adulthood.*

Care from A1

spanned Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia.

Pine Dentistry & Braces is part of a network of dental offices managed by Benevis, the national leader in pediatric Medicaid. Benevis and its family of brands manage 1.3 million visits a year, making them uniquely positioned to bridge dental health disparities. By offering compassionate care, the organization continues its 20-year commitment to breaking down financial hurdles and helping children achieve healthy, confident smiles.

To learn more about the initiative and its ongoing community impact, visit www.SharingSmilesDay.com.



Pine Dentistry & Braces is one of Maryland’s leaders in Medicaid and affordable dental care for children and their families. Supported by Benevis’ family of brands, Pine Dentistry & Braces and its doctors are committed to improving lives by providing high-quality dental care in a fun, compassionate environment. To learn more about Pine Dentistry & Braces, visit www.pinedentistry.com.

Benevis is a leading dental healthcare delivery organization for practices focused on delivering life-changing oral

care and orthodontics to underserved communities. Through comprehensive care and operational services that expand access to dentistry, Benevis has a 20-year history of providing the highest quality care to approximately 5 million children and adults. Its network reaches more than 100 locally branded dental offices across the U.S. that deliver treatment through 1.3 million visits each year. Benevis also advocates for programs and legislation that ensure all families have access to the oral healthcare they need and deserve.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Why Doesn’t My Social Security Record Show All My Military Earnings?

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

Dear Rusty: When I look at my earnings on my Social Security account, I see that in 1955 and 1956 have no earnings. I was in the U.S. Navy as a first officer and have my DD-214 paperwork which shows my military service from Oct. 1954-Oct. 1958. My Social Security earnings record shows that I had earnings in 1954, 1957, and 1958 but doesn’t show that I was paid in 1955 or 1956. Shouldn’t I have received Social Security credit for all my service years? **Signed: An Older Veteran**

Dear Older Veteran: First, I want to thank you for your military service. Whether your earnings while in the military would provide you with any additional Social Security benefit depends on your career earnings after leaving military service. Here’s why:

Your monthly Social Security (SS) benefit is based upon the highest earning 35 years over your lifetime (with earlier years adjusted for inflation). From those highest earning 35 years, SS develops your Average Indexed Monthly Earnings (your lifetime “AIME”) which is the basis of the SS benefit you get if you claim for benefits to start at your full retirement age (FRA). So, if - after you completed your military service - you had at least 35 years of other employment where you earned more money than you did while serving, then your military pay won’t affect your Social Security benefit.

FYI, Social Security payroll tax has been withheld from military pay since 1957, which is why your SS earnings record shows your military pay only for 1957 and 1958. Your SS record wouldn’t show military pay prior to 1957 because you didn’t contribute to SS from your military pay during those years. The earnings you see in your SS earnings record for 1954 are likely from non-military employment prior to starting active duty in October 1954.

SS does provide older veterans with “special extra credits for military service,” but those credits are only a supplemental earnings amount added to your military pay record during the years you served. It is not a bonus amount added to your monthly Social Security payment; rather it is only an amount added to your military pay record used when calculating your Social Security benefit. For those who served prior to 1957, Social Security would have no record of your military earnings during those early service years. But when you claimed Social Security later in life, they would have asked if you served in the military and given you “special extra credit” in the form of presumed earnings for your service years. They likely asked for a copy of your DD-214 and would have added \$160 to your military earnings record for each active-duty month from October 1954 through December 1956, and additional earnings credits for 1957 and 1958.

But that doesn’t mean you get a special Social Security bonus for your military service. If you have at least 35 years of civilian employment after serving in the Navy, your service years would only affect your SS benefit if those military service years were among the highest paying 35 years over your entire lifetime. Click here to read more on this topic: <https://amacfoundation.org/veterans-and-the-special-extra-credit-for-military-service/>. And, again, please accept our appreciation for your service to our country.

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.

SCORE North Atlantic Region

Developing Financial Projections for Your New Small Business

July 23, 2026 • 6:00 p.m.
Location: Online • Cost: \$10.00

Register: <https://www.score.org/md/business-education/>

You’re starting or have started your new small business. Great!! But... you’re worried about what your sales will be, or if you can make a profit and how you will manage your cash flow. If you need help in any of these areas, this webinar is for you! We’ll review calculating your startup costs, projecting sales, creating a projected profit and loss statement and cashflow statement.

All registrants will receive the link to the recorded webinar after the live event.

This webinar is part of SCORE’s Small Business Essentials (SBE) Webinar Series. The series is designed to prepare anyone who is considering starting a business to make the decisions and plans you need to successfully launch your business. All webinars are taught by experienced certified SCORE Mentors.

Prince George’s County Department of Housing and Community Development Launches Two New Financial Assistance Programs to Expand Homeownership Opportunities

By ALEXIS R. YEOMAN
Prince George’s County Department of Housing and Community Development

LARGO, Md. (July 1, 2026)—The Prince George’s County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is expanding access to homeownership with the launch of two new financial assistance programs designed to help first-time homebuyers overcome one of the greatest barriers to purchasing a home—down payment and closing costs. The Homeownership Equity Program and the Critical Workforce Housing Assistance Program complement the County’s successful Pathway to Purchase program, creating additional pathways to affordable homeownership for eligible homebuyers.

“Homeownership remains one of the most effective ways for families to build generational wealth and achieve long-term financial stability,” said Jonathan R. Butler, Director of the Prince George’s County Department of Housing and Community Development. “These new programs reflect the County’s continued commitment to expanding access to homeownership by providing meaningful financial assistance to residents and the critical workforce professionals who serve our communities every day.”

Each program has its own eligibility requirements and financing guidelines. To apply, prospective homebuyers must first obtain a mortgage through an approved participating lender. The lender will then submit the application for financial assistance to DHCD on the buyer’s behalf.

Homeownership Equity Program

The Homeownership Equity Program is designed to increase homeownership opportunities for moderate-income County residents while encouraging investment in communities located inside the Capital Beltway. Eligible applicants must be first-time homebuyers and Prince George’s County residents who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Public sector employees;
- Former renters from designated ZIP codes or neighborhoods inside the I-495 Capital Beltway; or
- Multi-generational caregivers.

Qualified buyers may receive up to \$30,000 per buyer for down payment and closing cost assistance through a zero-percent interest loan that is forgiven at 20 percent annually over five years, helping participants build equity while reducing long-term housing costs. Eligible homebuyers cannot exceed 120% of the Area Median Income (AMI). See chart below.

Critical Workforce Housing Assistance Program

The Critical Workforce Housing Assistance Program supports the recruitment and retention of essential workers by helping them purchase homes in the communities where they live and serve. Eligible professionals include:

- Full-time teachers employed by Prince George’s County Public Schools;
- Full-time nurses employed by Prince George’s County hospitals or medical offices; and
- Full-time first responders, including firefighters, emergency medical technicians, correctional officers, police officers, public safety dispatchers, and deputy sheriffs employed by Prince

George’s County Government.

Qualified first-time homebuyers may receive up to \$50,000, or 25 percent of the home’s purchase price (whichever is less), in the form of a zero-interest deferred loan to assist with down payment and closing costs. The loan is “forgiven” 10% per year for 10 years. If the homeowners live in the home for 10 years, they do not have to repay the loan. Eligible homebuyers cannot exceed 120% of the Area Median Income (AMI). See chart below.

Pathway to Purchase Continues

The County’s flagship Pathway to Purchase program will continue to provide up to \$50,000 in down payment and closing cost assistance for eligible first-time homebuyers with household incomes at or below 80 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI). Assistance is provided as a zero-interest deferred loan that encourages long-term homeownership by offering loan forgiveness after sustained occupancy.

Together, these three homebuyer assistance programs provide targeted solutions that expand access to affordable homeownership, help residents build equity, strengthen neighborhoods, and support a more stable and prosperous Prince George’s County.

For eligibility requirements and complete program information, visit the County’s homebuyer assistance program webpage https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/departments-offices/housing-community-development/first-time-home-buyers-assistance-programs?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery or contact an approved participating mortgage lender: https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/default/files/media-document/PATHWAY%20TO%20PURCHASE%20Participating%20Lenders%20-%204-20-2026.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

Prince George’s County Homebuyer Assistance Programs Program Income Limits Based on Area Median Income (AMI) Limits		
Household Size	Pathway to Purchase Program Income NOT to exceed 80% AMI	Homeownership Equity Program and Critical Workforce Housing Homebuying Assistance Program Income NOT to exceed 120% AMI
1	\$93,050	\$139,500
2	\$106,350	\$159,450
3	\$119,650	\$179,400
4	\$132,900	\$199,300
5	\$143,550	\$215,250
6	\$154,200	\$231,200
7	\$164,800	\$247,150
8	\$175,450	\$263,100

Safeguarding Every Sip: WSSC Water Releases Latest Water Quality Report

Annual Report Highlights Utility’s 108-Year Commitment to Water Quality Excellence

By PRESS OFFICER
WSSC Water

LAUREL, Md. (June 25, 2026)—WSSC Water today released its 2025 water quality report, which provides detailed testing results of the drinking water delivered to its 1.9 million customers in Montgomery and Prince George’s counties. The report also features WSSC Water’s state-of-the-art laboratory, which underwent a major expansion last year, nearly doubling in size and growing testing capacity. More than 500,000 water quality tests are performed annually at this laboratory. The number is expected to increase to more than 750,000 by 2045.

The report provides key water quality data to customers and covers the following topics:

- Where your water comes from
- The importance of source water protection
- Impacts on water quality
- How and why we test your drinking water
- Detailed water quality results

Thanks to rigorous testing procedures and a commitment

to meeting strict federal Safe Drinking Water Act standards, Maryland’s largest water utility proudly boasts 108 years without a single drinking water quality violation.

“Trust is built every day, and at WSSC Water, our 1.9 million customers can trust that every time they turn the tap, they are receiving safe, clean drinking water,” said WSSC Water General Manager & CEO Kishia L. Powell. “Our dedicated team conducts water quality testing around the clock, monitoring our water from source to tap to ensure it meets all strict Safe Drinking Water Act standards. Protecting public health is our highest responsibility, and this annual report demonstrates our unwavering commitment to safeguarding every sip.”

In addition to providing important test results, the report highlights the benefits of the expanded laboratory, including a Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) testing lab, new capabilities for taste and odor analysis, and increased overall testing capacity in anticipation of stricter federal water quality requirements.

The 2025 Water Quality Re-

port is available online at <https://www.wsscwater.com/annualreport>. Customers may also request a hard copy by emailing communications@wsscwater.com.

WSSC Water is a not-for-profit public utility focused on serving our 1.9 million cus-

tomers, not shareholders. Every dollar collected is reinvested directly into infrastructure, technology and workforce to strengthen reliability, improve service and protect public health for generations to come.

The Prince George’s Post

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Contents © 2026, The Prince George’s Post

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Prince George’s County, Md. Member National Newspaper Publishers Association, and the Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia Press Association. The Prince George’s Post (ISSN 10532226) is published every Thursday by the New Prince George’s Post Inc., 15209 Marlboro Pike, Suite 209, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151.
Subscription rate: 25 cents per single copy; \$15 per year; \$7.50 senior citizens and students; out of county add \$1; out of state add \$2.
Periodical postage paid at Southern Md. 20790.
Postmaster, send address changes to Prince George’s Post, P.O. Box 1001, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20773.

HEALTH *and* WELLNESS

Prioritize Brain Health with a Peanut-Packed Menu

FEATURE IMPACT

A healthy brain goes beyond reading exercises and completing puzzles – it extends to the kitchen, too. Emerging nutritional science is clear that what people eat doesn’t just fuel the body; it shapes memory, mood and cognitive health.

Among the foods you can include in your diet to give your brain a boost are peanuts and peanut butter, staples valued not only for their convenience but also for their cognitive benefits. In fact, a study published in the “Journal of the Prevention of Alzheimer’s Disease” found adults 60-80 years old who did not eat peanuts and peanut butter regularly were 30-50% more likely to perform poorly on tests measuring learning, memory, language, processing motor speed and attentiveness compared to those who did consume peanuts and peanut butter.

It’s not just the older generation that can benefit. According to research published in “Clinical Nutrition,” a study of college students ages 18-33 showed consumption of peanuts and peanut butter was associated with improved memory function and decreased anxiety, depression and stress.

Consider this key information from the Georgia Peanut Commission before your next meal planning session.

Nutrients that Give the Brain a Boost

Despite their small stature, peanuts pack a nutrition punch. Their unique blend of various vitamins, minerals and bioactive compounds includes:

- Niacin, which can slow cognitive decline and reduce the risk for Alzheimer’s disease, according to the “Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry”
- Vitamin E, found to promote healthy brain aging and delay cognitive decline
- Resveratrol, believed to be beneficial in fighting against Alzheimer’s disease and other nerve degenerating diseases, per the “Journal of Biological Chemistry”
- P-coumaric acid, an antioxidant that appears to target the neurotransmitters in the brain that regulate mood, stress and anxiety

Peace of MIND

Peanuts are included in the MIND diet, a combination of the Mediterranean and DASH diets, which specifically includes foods shown to benefit the brain.

Adding peanuts to your menu can be a breeze. Look no further than a powerful main course like Crunchy and Creamy Cold Green Pea and Peanut Salad, a perfect accompaniment at potlucks and cookouts as an easy side or light main course. Make breakfast-on-the-go part of your daily commute with Flourless Blueberry Muffins that require just five ingredients, including creamy peanut butter, or add a pinch of protein to snack time with Protein Balls that can be refrigerated until hunger strikes.

Brain Food for Thought

Supporting your brain starts with the right nutrition, and evidence makes clear peanuts and peanut butter should be top-of-mind as you head to the grocery store. For help getting started, find more recipes and nutritional information by visiting GAPeanuts.com.



Crunchy and Creamy Cold Green Pea and Peanut Salad

Recipe courtesy of The Peanut Institute
Servings: 8

Dressing:

- 1/3 cup sour cream
- 1 1/2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 2 teaspoons apple cider vinegar
- 2 teaspoons sugar

Salad:

- 1 package (20 ounces) green peas, frozen
- 1 cup celery, chopped
- 1/3 cup red onions, chopped
- 1 cup dry roasted peanuts
- 6 slices thick cut bacon, cooked and crumbled

1 pinch salt, or to taste
1 pinch freshly ground black pepper, or to taste

To make dressing: In small mixing bowl, whisk sour cream, mayonnaise, apple cider vinegar and sugar.

To make salad: In large mixing bowl, combine frozen green peas, celery and onion. Pour dressing over salad and toss to combine. Refrigerate at least 2 hours.

Before serving, stir in roasted peanuts and crumbled bacon. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper.

Nutritional information per serving:
230 calories, 17 g carbohydrates, 12 mg cholesterol, 3 g saturated fat, 9 g unsaturated fat, 5 g fiber, 11 g protein, 249 mg sodium, 6 g sugar, 1 g added sugar.

Flourless Blueberry Muffins

Recipe courtesy of The Peanut Institute
Servings: 12

- 2 bananas
- 1 cup creamy peanut butter
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 cup blueberries

Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease muffin pan.

In blender or food processor, combine bananas, peanut butter, eggs and baking powder; blend until smooth. Fold in blueberries by hand.

Pour mixture into muffin tin. Bake 12-15 minutes.

Store in airtight container up to 3 days.

Nutritional information per serving:
155 calories, 10 g carbohydrates, 31 mg cholesterol, 2 g saturated fat, 9 g unsaturated fat, 2 g fiber, 6 g protein, 98 mg sodium, 5 g sugar.

Protein Balls

Recipe courtesy of The Peanut Institute
Servings: 24

- 1 cup chunky peanut butter
- 1 tablespoon vanilla
- 1/4 cup honey
- 2 cups quick oats
- 2 tablespoons ground flaxseed
- 1/2 cup shredded coconut
- 1/2 cup dried, chopped cranberries
- 1/8 teaspoon iodized salt
- 1/4 cup water

Using stand mixer, combine peanut butter, vanilla, honey, quick oats, flaxseed, coconut, cranberries, salt and water; mix until well combined.

Form dough into 1-ounce portions and refrigerate 30 minutes before serving.

Nutritional information per serving:
130 calories, 7 g fat, 14 g carbohydrates, 3 g protein, 2 g fiber, 60 mg sodium.



