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PHOTO COURTESY FLIPPO CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

The celebration brought together current employee-owners, retirees, elected officials, and community leaders to recognize the company's history and the role employee ownership has played in its growth.

Flippo Construction Company Celebrates 26 Years of Employee Ownership, 55 Years in Business

By ERIC MOUILLESSEAUX
Flippo Construction Company, Inc.

FORESTVILLE, Md. (Aug. 10, 2028)—Flippo Construction Company, Inc. celebrated two major milestones Thursday, August 6, during its annual Shareholders Day event, marking the company's 26th anniversary as an employee-owned company and 55 years in business.

Founded in 1971 by Earl Flippo, the Prince George's County-based heavy civil construction company transitioned to employee ownership in 2000 when Mr. Flippo sold the company to the employees who helped build it. Today, Flippo Construction operates as a 100% employee-owned company through

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The Police Accountability Board of Prince George's County Releases "Driver's Guide" to Inform Community About Roles and Responsibilities During Routine Traffic Stops

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County
Police Accountability Board

LARGO, Md. (Aug. 5, 2026)—The Prince George's County Police Accountability Board (PAB) announces the publication of "The Driver's Guide"—an authoritative resource developed to enhance public understanding of law enforcement protocols during traffic stops.

Prepared in collaboration with the Office of the County Executive, the Prince George's County Council, the Prince George's Police Department, and the Inspector General for Integrity, Compliance, and Police Accountability, this guide outlines recommended conduct for drivers and passengers when engaging with law enforcement officials. The objective is to facilitate safer and more informed interactions for all parties.

"The Driver's Guide equips residents with crucial information regarding expectations during traffic stops, as well as their rights and responsibilities," said Mr. Earl O'Neal, PAB Board Member. "The publication represents a significant advancement in

strengthening communication and fostering mutual respect between citizens and public safety personnel."

The County Executive and Council are committed to improving road safety and eliminating adverse traffic stop outcomes in Prince George's County. This guide is instrumental in achieving that goal. The guide will be available in English, Spanish, Yoruba, and French—to ensure it is accessible to the majority of county ESL residents. All stakeholders, partners, and community members are encouraged to review "The Driver's Guide" and share its insights widely. The document is available for download on the PAB website.

About the Prince George's County Police Accountability Board: *The PAB serves as the primary public interface for Police Accountability in Prince George's County and is devoted to promoting transparency and building community trust. Through education and advocacy, the PAB supports public safety, advances accountability, and strengthens collaboration between law enforcement and the community.*

Prince George's County Teenager Wins First-Place in National Teen Alzheimer's Awareness Scholarship Contest

Jasmine Adams awarded \$5,000 college scholarship from Alzheimer's Foundation of America

By PRESS OFFICER
Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA)

(Aug. 11, 2026)—Jasmine Adams, a teenager from Lanham, MD, was named the first-place winner (essay category) of the Alzheimer's Foundation of America's (AFA) national 2026 Teen Alzheimer's Awareness Scholarship Contest. Jasmine received a \$5,000 college scholarship for her essay about her grandmother's battle with Alzheimer's disease and how those experiences influenced her to pursue a career in medicine, public health, and Alzheimer's research.

"Jasmine's essay highlights the challenges of Alzheimer's disease, the resiliency of caregivers, and the passion that drives people to make a difference in the fight against Alzheimer's," said Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr., AFA's President and CEO. "AFA is grateful that Jasmine chose to share her story, because it helps raise awareness, reduce stigma, and re-

inforce to the millions of other families just like hers that they are not alone. We congratulate her on earning this honor and look forward to her continuing to help others affected by Alzheimer's."

In her winning essay, Jasmine recounts watching her grandmother—once the heart of her family—gradually lose her memories to Alzheimer's disease, including the ability to recognize her granddaughter. Yet, Jasmine says that her grandmother continues to shape the foundation upon which she is building her future, quoting the legendary poet Maya Angelou, "people will never forget how you made them feel."

Seeing the impact on other loved ones who are serving as caregivers, including her mother and grandfather who are facing health challenges themselves, inspires Jasmine to raise awareness, eliminate stigma, and advocate for additional caregiver support.

Jasmine chose to share her family's

story because in her view, "silence is the enemy of progress. For too long, families have suffered the crumbling of their homes in isolation due to the stigma of dementia. I have learned that by speaking openly about the toll this takes on maternal health and the elderly, we can begin to build a community of support that prevents the caregivers from becoming patients themselves."

Noting that "Alzheimer's may have taken my grandmother's memory, but it has given me a mission," Jasmine will be pursuing opportunities in medicine, public health, and Alzheimer's research. She recently graduated from Takoma Academy and will be attending Spelman College in Atlanta this fall.

AFA's annual Teen Alzheimer's Awareness Scholarship Contest asks high school seniors to describe how Alzheimer's disease has impacted their lives, what they have learned about themselves, their families, and their community in the face of this disease,

and how they plan to raise Alzheimer's awareness in the future. Students can submit entries as essays or videos. This year, AFA awarded more than \$73,000 in college scholarships to 94 students from across the country. More than \$600,000 in college scholarships have been awarded since the program's inception.

For more information about AFA's Teen Alzheimer's Awareness Scholarship Contest, or to donate in support of the program, call AFA at 866-232-8484 or visit www.alzfdn.org.

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide support, services and education to individuals, families and caregivers affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias nationwide and to fund research for better treatment and a cure. Its services include a National Toll-Free Helpline (866-232-8484) staffed entirely by licensed social



COURTESY PHOTO

Jasmine Adams and her grandmother

workers, caregiver support groups, educational programs and publications for caregivers, dementia-care training for healthcare professionals, the National Memory Screening Program, and more. For more information about AFA, call 866-232-8484, visit www.alzfdn.org, or connect with us on Facebook, X (Twitter), Instagram, or LinkedIn. AFA holds Charity Navigator's top 4-star rating.

Governor Moore Announces Cloudforce Chooses Maryland for Major AI Platform Expansion, Bringing 250 New Jobs to the State

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Aug. 12, 2026)—Governor Wes Moore today announced that AI platform company Cloudforce is expanding its headquarters in Prince George's County, retaining more than 130 employees and adding 250 new Maryland jobs over the next five years. Located at National Harbor, Cloudforce is leasing an additional 15,000 square-feet of office space, effectively doubling its headquarters footprint as the company scales its secure AI platform for higher education and broader public-

sector customers around the world.

"Cloudforce's expansion and continued commitment to Maryland is a win for our state's workers, students, and our future," said Gov. Moore. "Our administration is making historic investments to support partnerships with world class leaders like Cloudforce and building pathways to work, wages, and wealth, so that Maryland communities have a leg up in this rapidly evolving economy."

The company selected Maryland after an extensive analysis of potential expansion sites across the DC-Metro region. Cloudforce cited Maryland's

concentration of technical talent, access to leading universities, and the Moore-Miller Administration's focus on economic competitiveness, service, and workforce development as key factors in the decision.

"Cloudforce's continued investment at National Harbor reflects what we've long believed—that great companies want to be in environments that help them attract talent and support long-term growth," said Peterson Companies CEO Jon Peterson. "We're proud that National Harbor has been part of Cloudforce's journey, and we're excited to continue providing the space and community that

supports their next chapter."

Cloudforce has grown from a Microsoft cloud specialist into a frontier AI platform company. Its flagship product, nebulaONE®, gives institutions governed access to leading AI models and agentic workflows, helping them provide private, secure, and equitable AI access at scale. In 2025, Cloudforce was named Microsoft's global Education Partner of the Year, recognition driven by nebulaONE's adoption at leading institutions including the University of Maryland, UCLA, London Business School, the University of Oxford, and many others.

"The truth is, our success has been powered by the people, partners, and community that welcomed us when we planted roots in Maryland," said Cloudforce Founder and CEO Husein Sharaf. "When it came time to grow, we had every option on the table, including markets across state lines and across the country. We chose to double down here instead, because we'd rather strengthen the place that helped build us than start over somewhere new. That means more great jobs, deeper investment in this

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Brandywine-Aquasco by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

ZAHRA THOLLEY ’25

Zahra advises today’s students that chances to connect are everywhere at Bowie State. “Use your resources. If you’re writing an essay, go to the writing center. If you’re looking for job opportunities, go to the many events on campus like the annual visit by LAIKA Studios.”

Even if a visiting company or organization doesn’t seem like it’s relevant, she says to be bold and go anyway. “I spoke with the creative team from Major League Baseball when they came to campus, and it was amazing to learn about their opportunities.” She also shares more specific advice for creative majors. “Don’t be quick to get rid of your art. Keep it! It’s important to hold on to what you created as far back as your childhood, because you get to see your progress.”

As she moves into the professional world, Tholley continues building her business. She recently returned to campus to perform in senior capstone projects caused by dancers who had been part of her 2025 senior thesis. Looking ahead, Tholley plans to continue growing her business while staying true to the creative vision she developed at Bowie State. “I learned to trust my instincts, embrace creativity and follow the threads of inspiration wherever they lead.” Tagged as Entrepreneurship Innovation Center, Visual Communication & Digital Media Arts, Bulldog Pitch Competition, Writing Center.

SOUTHERN MARYLAND ALUMNI CHAPTER

Southern Maryland Alumni Chapter of Morgan State University will be sponsoring its 21st Blue & Orange Dinner Dance Awards Program. This event is our major fundraiser in support of students from the Southern Maryland area who are or will be attending Morgan. Needless to say, in today’s climate, it remains so important that we try to support them financially and otherwise. The event will be held from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, September 12 at Greater Waldorf Jaycees, 3090 Crain Highway, Waldorf, Maryland 20601.

ST. PHILIP’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH BADEN PARISH

St. Philip’s Episcopal Church, Baden Parish celebrates 150 years of faith and heritage located at 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland and joyfully invites the community to celebrate its 150 Anniversary Homecoming on Sunday, September 20, 2026, at 10 a.m. The celebration will be held at the church. The Anniversary Worship Service will feature The Reverend Rachelle Sam of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington as the guest speaker. “The Spirit of the Lord Is Here” celebration recognizes God’s faithfulness throughout the church’s 150-year history and looks ahead with hope for future generations. Following the worship service, guests are invited to enjoy a light luncheon.

Each year, Homecoming at St. Philip’s is a reunion. It is a celebration of faith, family, and legacy. Members, former members, friends and the surrounding community gather to reconnect with one another while honoring the vision, perseverance, and sacrifices of the church’s founders. Their steadfast faith established a foundation that continues to inspire generations to worship, serve, and share God’s love. Everyone is warmly welcome to attend this historic milestone. Bring your family, invite a friend, and

join us as we celebrate 150 years of God’s grace, enduring faith, and the rich heritage of St. Philip’s Episcopal Church, Baden Parish.

CRAB FEAST

All you can eat Crab Feast sponsored by Peter A. Gross Sr. Scholarship October 11, 2026, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Adults \$75.00. Children 12 and under \$35.00. Advance purchased tickets only. No tickets sold at the door. Menu: Fried Chicken, Hot Dogs, Corn on the Cob, String beans, Tea, Lemonade. St. Philip’s Church Hall, 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland. Ticket Contacts: Shirley Cleaves 302-690-4260, Vivian Rich 804-301-9530, Michele Chase 240-882-3369. Cash or Cash app: SPAGScholarship.

THE CAPITAL WHEEL

Take your adventure to new heights on the Capital Wheel where magic meets the skyline! Soaring 180 feet above the Potomac River, this unforgettable ride offers breathtaking views of the DC skyline, from the Washington Monument to Georgetown and beyond with 42 cozy, climate-controlled gondolas. The Capital Wheel is a must-do experience all year long. Keep the fun going with a spin on the whimsical Spirit Park Carousel, the toast to the view at Flight Deck, our waterfront lounge serving up specialty drinks, beer, wine, and unbeatable sunsets. Whether it’s your first ride or your fiftieth, The Capital Wheel is where unforgettable memories take flight! Please visit The Capital Wheel for daily operating hours.

RIDGELEY ROSENWALD SCHOOL MUSEUM

Learn the story of BLACK EDUCATION & COMMUNITY in Prince George’s County with a free visit to our historic school. Engage with local history. Learn the story of how the Ridgley family and community, along with the help of the Rosenwald rural school program, fought to stake their claim in Prince George’s County and establish a school that would last for generations.

Free and Interactive tours: Our skilled museum educators tailor the museum tour to the personal interests of visitors or the topics being covered in the classroom for school group visits. Our tours integrate multi-modal learning techniques and activities as requested throughout to ensure a dynamic experience. This program is brought to you by Parks & Recreation MNCPPC live more, play more pgparks.com.

Small group and classroom-size visits available upon request. If you plan to visit with a group of 6+ or outside of the normal operating hours, please contact us at least two weeks in advance at RidgeleyRosenwald@pgparks.com. Museum hours are Thursday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., 8507 Central Avenue, Capitol Heights, MD 20743.

The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities. Register a minimum of two weeks prior to the program start date to request and receive disability modification. Customers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, call Maryland Relay 7-1-1. Language interpretation is available at all front desks. Please ask for assistance.

Prince George’s County in Partnership With the Chesapeake Bay Trust, Invests Over \$400,000 to Strengthen Community Climate Resilience Across 15 Local Projects

By PRESS OFFICER
Department of the Environment

LARGO, Md. (Aug. 12, 2026)—The Prince George’s County Department of the Environment (DoE) is investing more than \$400,000 in 15 community-led projects that will strengthen neighborhood resilience, improve emergency preparedness, expand food security, and help residents better withstand the impacts of severe weather. Through the Community Resilience Hub Grant Program, administered by the Chesapeake Bay Trust, Prince George’s County nonprofits, faith-based organizations, community associations, and County municipalities will establish Resilience Hubs, trusted community-serving facilities that support residents before, during, and after local climate-related events. These Resilience Hubs complement emergency facilities such as cooling and warming centers and shelters by serving as coordination points for communications, distributing resources, building community cohesion, and advancing climate mitigation and adaptation goals year-round.

Projects include community gardens and food forests, renewable energy planning, resilience education, neighborhood emergency preparedness, outdoor learning spaces, and mobile resilience hubs that will strengthen local response before, during, and after climate emergencies. Since launching in FY26, the program has generated strong interest from community organizations across Prince George’s County, demonstrating growing demand for neighborhood-based resilience investments.

“The Chesapeake Bay Trust is proud to manage this innovative grant program with

Prince George’s County that empowers people with resources and services in the face of environmental threats,” said Dr. Jana Davis, president of the Chesapeake Bay Trust. “These community resilience hubs promote the health, safety, and security of our communities and can serve as a model for how we increase community resilience for future generations.”

The inaugural funding round attracted 26 applications requesting nearly \$870,000.

The Community Resilience Hub Grant Program 2026 Awardees:

- **Town of Cottage City:** \$40,000 for a local community garden and climate resilience educational workshops.
- **Greenbelt Homes, Inc.:** \$35,000 for renewable energy storage research and use in a housing cooperative.
- **Town of Berwyn Heights:** \$38,200 for a mobile resilience hub to address community needs during climate-related events.
- **City of Laurel:** \$20,000 to create an outdoor educational pavilion and educational programming on sustainable behaviors and community preparedness.
- **Housing Initiative Partnership:** \$37,375 to research renewable energy as a source of power for three housing units.
- **St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church:** \$15,760 for a community resilience hub.
- **Langley Park Civic Association:** \$18,904 to establish a food forest in the Langley Park Community.
- **Alice Ferguson Foundation:** \$12,152 for educational workshops to increase preparedness for climate-related events.
- **Nehemiah Family Worship Center:**

- \$23,000 for educational workshops on developing sustainable food production to address food security in Prince George’s County communities.
- **Wisdom Warriors Inc.:** \$44,804 to establish a resilience hub site to provide educational workshops; host community engagement events; and provide tools including solar chargers, emergency kits, and printed preparedness guides.
- **Fish of Laurel, Inc.:** \$50,000 to install a permanent commercial solar backup generator system providing at least 30 kilowatts (kW) of electrical power.
- **Centro de Apoyo Familiar:** \$20,000 to establish community resilience hubs serving Prince George’s County communities through workshops and training sessions on climate preparedness, environmental stewardship, and community resilience.
- **Gethsemane United Methodist Church:** \$33,000 to support Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system upgrades to efficient, sustainable systems.
- **Town of Capitol Heights:** \$28,500 to establish a resilience hub and develop an outdoor garden space for community resources and programming.
- **Town of Bladensburg:** \$22,000 to establish a resilience hub and provide educational programming and hands-on workshops on sustainable food production.

The Chesapeake Bay Trust (www.cbtrust.org) envisions a restored and protected Chesapeake Bay watershed and other natural resources in our area, from the Coastal Bays to the Chesapeake to the Youghiogheny River.

Around the County

Good Trouble Think-Tank— Investing in the Next Generation of Leaders Scholarship

The Investing in the Next Generation of Leaders Scholarship honors the extraordinary life, leadership, and enduring legacy of Congressman John R. Lewis by supporting first-year college students who demonstrate perseverance, determination, and commitment to building a brighter future.

Scholarship Eligibility

- Applicants must:
- Be an incoming first-year student attending Prince George’s Community College for the Fall 2026 semester.
 - Be nominated by a parent or legal guardian.
 - Submit all required documentation by the application deadline.

Required Documents

- The parent or guardian must submit:
- A copy of the student’s Fall 2026 class schedule from Prince George’s Community College.
 - A copy of the student’s high school diploma (or official proof of graduation).
 - A 500-word (or less) letter explaining why their son or daughter deserves to receive the scholarship. The letter should highlight the student’s character, perseverance, educational goals, community involvement, and future aspirations.

Nomination Period

- Opens: Monday, August 3, 2026
Closes: **Monday, August 24, 2026**

How to Submit

Email all nomination materials to: getn2goodtrouble@yahoo.com
Subject Line: John R. Lewis Legacy Scholarship Nomination Scholarship Award \$500
The recipient(s) will be announced and recognized in September 2026.

Continuing Legacy

The John R. Lewis Legacy Scholarship celebrates students who are ready to pursue higher education with courage, determination, and a heart for serving others. By investing in the next generation, we honor Congressman Lewis’ lifelong commitment to justice, education, and creating opportunities for all. Apply today and help carry forward a legacy of hope, leadership, and “Good Trouble.”

SAVE THE DATE— Observe the Moon Night With Capitol Tech

Join Capitol Tech for a fun and free evening of space exploration! As a NASA-registered event site for International Observe the Moon Night, we invite the community to explore the wonders of space through interactive activities, astronomy talks, rocket launches and more!



IMAGE BY PEXELS FROM PIXABAY

Event Details

- Date:** Saturday, September 19, 2026, 6–10 p.m.
Location: On-Campus: Capitol Technology University, 11301 Springfield Road, Laurel, MD 20708
Open to students and the public.
This event is rain or shine with indoor and outdoor activities scheduled, please dress for the weather.
Talks & Lectures | Auditorium | 6–8 p.m.
6 p.m.—Welcome & Introduction to Capitol Tech
6:15 p.m.—The Artemis Program
6:45 p.m.—Exploring the Night Sky & the Moon
Activities | On-Campus | 6–8 p.m.
Apollo 11 Landing Site Recreation | Campus Field
Build a Rocket | Fusion Lab
Lunar Map | Outside Auditorium
Straw Rockets | Hallway Near Fusion Lab
Activities | On-Campus | 8–10 p.m.
Observe the Night Sky | SFOTC & Area Behind Fusion Lab
Night Rocket Launch | Campus Field
More information at <https://www.captechu.edu/degrees-and-programs/stem-events/observe-moon-night>

Small Business Owners— This Opportunity Is for YOU!

The Bowie Business Innovation Center is hosting Small Business Open Door 2.0: Tools. Strategy. Growth. on **September 23, 2026**, from 11 a.m.–2 p.m. through virtual sessions. Register at www.bowieBIC.com

This is an opportunity for entrepreneurs and small business owners to receive personalized, one-on-one guidance from experienced professionals. Participants can choose up to three 20-minute sessions focused on the areas that matter most to their business, including: Sales Strategies, Microlending, Business Credit Repair, Alternative Financing, Marketing, Business Plan Assistance, AI for Business Owners, GovCon Insights, Book-keeping 101

Whether you’re launching, growing, or looking for your next opportunity, the right tools and strategy can help move your business forward.

Let’s continue investing in our entrepreneurs and strengthening the small business community across Bowie and Prince George’s County!

COMMUNITY

The Gallery at Marlboro Hall at Prince George’s Community College Announces Inaugural Exhibition

“Chess, Not Checkers” explores strategy, visibility, and power in contemporary art

By JAZMINE STEELE
Prince George’s Community College (PGCC)

LARGO, Md. (Aug. 13, 2026)—The Gallery at Marlboro Hall at Prince George’s Community College announces “Chess, Not Checkers,” a group exhibition that examines the strategic decisions artists make to navigate systems of power, visibility, and historical inequity. The exhibition features work from the College’s permanent collection, including pieces by Elizabeth Catlett, Jacob Lawrence, and more than a dozen other artists. “Chess, Not Checkers” opens Aug. 27. A panel discussion will take place Aug. 29 from 3 to 5 p.m., followed by a public reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Admission is free. Curated by gallery director Eden Reff-Presco, Ed.D., “Chess, Not Checkers” brings together artists whose practices reveal how foresight, resilience, and positional awareness operate within cultural, political, and institutional landscapes. The exhibition uses the metaphor of chess, a game defined by hierarchy, limitation, and strategic calculation, as a framework for understanding how artists anticipate, respond to, and reshape the conditions in which they work.

“Visibility within the art world has never been neutral,” Reff-Presco said. “This exhibition explores the deliberate, often unseen decisions artists from historically marginalized communities make to sustain presence, agency, and creative autonomy within systems that have not always been designed to support them. Like a game of chess, success often depends not only on talent but also on strategy, anticipation, and the ability to see possibilities beyond immediate constraints.”

Rather than responding passively to history, the artists and contributors represented in this exhibition position themselves within it. Their works examine inherited narratives while asserting alternative structures of meaning, expanding conversations around power, memory, resistance, identity, and representation.

“This exhibition reflects Prince George’s Community College’s commitment to creating opportunities for students and community members to experience art not only as a form of expression but also as a catalyst for critical thinking, reflection, and deeper social understanding,” PGCC President Falecia D. Williams, Ed.D.,

See EXHIBITION Page A6

Alpha Gamma Omega Omega Chapter Surpasses Black Dollar Days Goal, Investing More Than \$16,000 in Black-Owned Businesses

By RACINE TUCKER-HAMILTON
Alpha Gamma Omega Omega Chapter

MARYLAND CITY, Md. (Aug. 4, 2026)—Alpha Gamma Omega Omega Chapter (AGOO) of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® (AKA) demonstrated the power of collective economic action by surpassing its Black Dollar Days goal, investing \$16,452.69 in Black-owned businesses throughout June, nearly 40% above its goal of \$11,830.

The month-long initiative encouraged members to intentionally support Black-owned businesses as part of the sorority’s commitment to economic empowerment and community investment. Through their collective purchasing power, chapter members supported 89 unique Black-owned businesses across more than 40 cities in at least 10 states, including Maryland and Washington, DC, creating meaningful economic impact both locally and nationally.

“Black Dollar Days is more than a campaign, it’s a movement rooted in purpose,” said AGOO Chapter President Nicola Kennedy. “Every purchase we made represented a conscious investment in Black entrepreneurs, Black communities, and Black families. By intentionally directing our dollars to Black-owned businesses, we are helping build stronger businesses, create opportunities, and contribute to the generational wealth that strengthens our communities.”

Among the businesses supported were New Digz Consignment Boutique, The Spice Suite, Felicia C. Everette Insurance, Jai Essentials: A Mother’s Love, and Sankofa Yoga, representing a diverse range of Black-owned businesses.

One of the month’s special events was a partnership with New Digz Consignment Boutique located in Crofton, Md., where members gathered for a Black Dollar Days shopping event. The collaboration generated \$3,800 in buying power in a single evening, directly benefiting the Anne Arundel County business while creating an opportunity for community engagement.

“Black Dollar Days reflects AKA’s longstanding commitment to economic empowerment and supporting Black entrepreneurship. It shows how intentional spending can create measurable impact while strengthening local economies and



PHOTO COURTESY ALPHA GAMMA OMEGA OMEGA CHAPTER

Members of Alpha Gamma Omega Omega Chapter and guests browse merchandise during the Chapter’s Black Dollar Days kickoff event at New Digz Consignment Boutique in Crofton, Maryland.

expanding opportunities for Black-owned businesses,” added Kennedy.

Alpha Gamma Omega Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® was chartered on April 26, 2025, to serve the communities of Maryland City, Jessup, Russett, and Annapolis Junction, Maryland. Through programs focused on service, education, health, economic empowerment, and advocacy, the chapter is committed to strengthening communities and improving the quality of life for all.



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COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

How We Are Shaping the Future With Our Dollar

“I believe in destiny. But I also believe that you can’t just sit back and let destiny happen. You are going to have to get out there and make it happen.”

—Spike Lee

Black Americans are tired of being disrespected at the cash register, and we’re taking our grievances to the bank.

A year into the call to boycott Target for re-treating on its diversity, equity, and inclusion com-

mitments, the Urban League movement commissioned a report to understand where our dollars are going today and why. Titled Economic & Psychographic Research on Black America, this study accompanied our 2026 State of Black America Report as a special section.

The research included focus groups and polling of Black Americans from every age group and region in the country, as well as sets of non-Black peers with the same demographics. The findings across five categories—groceries, health and well-

ness, saving and investing, beauty, and travel—painted a picture of where our dollars are going today and why.

The key takeaway was that our community is no longer showing up for companies and brands that aren’t showing up for us, and we’re taking our \$2.1T in spending power, just shy of the entire GDP of Canada (\$2.5T), with us.

The report found that 45% of Black consumers say they would reduce spending or actively seek alternative brands if a company reduced or eliminated its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, compared with 31% of non-Black consumers. Online backlash and boycotts are no longer simply a public relations issue. They are growing business issues with measurable marketplace consequences for customer loyalty, brand reputation, and long-term revenue.

And we’re understanding the value of supporting one another. We found that 58% of Black consumers say supporting Black-owned businesses is important to them, compared with 31% of non-Black consumers. Price and product quality remain important, but they are no longer enough. Trust and respect are drivers.

And we’re not just buying; we’re building. We

found that Black respondents were more interested in business savings accounts (19% vs. 14%), business checking accounts (17% vs. 12%), and Individual Retirement Accounts (16% vs. 11%). And among Black adults ages 18 to 34, interest rises to 29% for business savings accounts and 25% for business checking accounts.

For our young people, these investments have extended into the future of industry. 41% of Black consumers spent money on content creation during the past year, compared with 33% of non-Black consumers. Among Black consumers ages 18 to 34, average spending on content creation reached \$1,920, compared with \$1,530 among non-Black consumers.

My takeaway from this research is that much of our influence is nothing new. We’ve shaped fashion and beauty trends, music consumption, and turned the Box Office on its head, as we saw last year with the performance of Sinners. Today we’re coalescing that influence and our dollars around an economy that serves us better than the one that has been handed to us for centuries. We have a generation of people who are taking their futures into their hands and creating a world that works for all of us.

—August 8, 2026

COMMUNITY

Prince George’s Film Festival and Department of the Environment Announce Call for Films for Inaugural Climate and Environmental Storytelling Track

First-ever festival track will showcase films exploring climate action, environmental justice, sustainability and resilience

By PRESS OFFICER
Department of the Environment

LARGO, Md. (Aug. 13, 2026)—The Prince George’s Film Festival (PGFF) and Prince George’s County Department of the Environment (DoE), in partnership with the Prince George’s Arts and Humanities Council (PGAHC), today announced a call for film submissions for the festival’s inaugural Climate and Environmental Storytelling Track.

Filmmakers are invited to submit narrative films, documentaries, short films, animation and student works exploring climate action, environmental justice, sustainability, clean energy, conservation, resilience and community-led environmental solutions. Submissions will be accepted through the Prince George’s Film Festival’s Film-Freeway platform until August 28, 2026.

The new track will harness the power of film to deepen public understanding of environmental challenges, elevate diverse perspectives and inspire community action. Its inaugural programming will begin November 19 at the Braveboy Climate Leadership Summit with a special film screening followed by a moderated discussion about the role of storytelling in advancing climate awareness and action.

The track will continue during the Prince

George’s Film Festival, November 19–22, with a curated selection of environmental films from Prince George’s County and around the world. Programming will also include filmmaker conversations, panel discussions and audience talkbacks designed to connect residents with the people and ideas behind the stories.

The Climate and Environmental Storytelling Track will create space for films that examine both the effects of environmental change and the people working to address them. Through stories rooted in lived experience, innovation and community leadership, the initiative will connect global environmental concerns with the choices, challenges and opportunities facing local communities.

“Climate change is not only a scientific or policy issue—it is a human story that affects our health, homes, neighborhoods and future,” said Dr. Samuel B. Moki, director of the Prince George’s County Department of the Environment. “Film can make complex environmental challenges more accessible, elevate voices that are too often excluded from these conversations and help residents see themselves as part of the solution. We are proud to partner with the Prince George’s Film Festival to bring these important stories to our community.”

The partnership combines DoE’s commitment to environmental education, climate resilience and

community engagement with PGFF and PGAHC’s work to elevate filmmakers, cultivate creative talent and connect audiences through meaningful storytelling.

“Storytelling has the power to make complex climate and environmental issues personal, relatable, and deeply human in ways that facts and data alone cannot,” said Rhonda Dallas, LEED AP, CEO and Chief Curator of the Prince George’s Arts and Humanities Council. “This new track creates an opportunity for filmmakers to inspire purposeful dialogue, elevate community voices and encourage action around some of the most consequential issues of our time. We look forward to receiving submissions from filmmakers whose work challenges, informs and inspires audiences.”

Filmmakers may submit eligible projects at <https://filmfreeway.com/PrinceGeorgesFilmFestival> through August 28, 2026. Submission requirements, eligibility guidelines and additional information are available on the FilmFreeway page. Selected films will be featured as part of the 2026 Prince George’s Film Festival’s Climate and Environmental Storytelling Track.

Additional information about the Braveboy Climate Leadership Summit, including registration and programming details, is available here: <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/departments-offices/events/2025/11/braveboy-climate->

leadership-summit. For Festival schedules, screening locations and ticket information: <https://www.pgfilmfestival.com/>.

The Prince George’s Film Festival celebrates storytelling by presenting exceptional films from around the world while elevating filmmakers, fostering industry relationships, and highlighting the varied voices and creative talent of Prince George’s County. Presented by the Prince George’s Arts and Humanities Council and the Prince George’s Film Office, this year’s festival returns November 19–22 in a focused, abbreviated format featuring select screenings, filmmaker conversations, and community experiences.

The Prince George’s Arts and Humanities Council is the County’s designated local arts agency and is committed to advancing the creative economy, supporting artists and arts organizations, and expanding access to cultural experiences throughout Prince George’s County. Through programs, partnerships and investments, PGAHC works to strengthen communities and amplify the County’s diverse creative voices.

The Prince George’s County Department of the Environment advances environmental stewardship and sustainability through innovative programs, education, and partnerships that promote climate resilience, clean communities, and a healthier future for all residents.

Governor Moore Statement on Maryland Victory in FBI Headquarters Lawsuit

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

Governor Moore released the following statement after the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland ruled in favor of Maryland and Prince George’s County, blocking the Trump administration’s unlawful attempt to move the FBI headquarters away from the thoughtfully selected Greenbelt site to the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, D.C:

“President Trump tried to take from Maryland what Maryland had already won. He failed.

“From the beginning, we said the decision to move the FBI headquarters to Greenbelt was final, earned, and the Trump Administration’s attempt to overturn it was illegal and wrong for our national security. Today, the court agreed.

“Maryland fought back—and Maryland won. I am grateful to all of Team Maryland

—especially Congressman Steny Hoyer—who have worked tirelessly for decades to make this a reality. I am proud of this coalition for standing together and refusing to let this Administration play political games with the safety of our nation or the future of our state.

“Now it is time to stop the games and get to work building the world-class FBI headquarters that our public servants deserve, where it belongs: in Prince George’s County, Maryland.”

merce. Additionally, Prince George’s County Economic Development Corporation is offering a \$125,000 conditional loan through its Economic Development Incentive Fund. Cloudforce may also qualify for various state and local tax credits, including the Job Creation Tax Credit.

“We’re very proud to have an innovative, forward-thinking company like Cloudforce choose to expand in Maryland,” said Maryland Department of Commerce Secretary Harry Coker, Jr. “Not only is the Cloudforce team creating good jobs for our residents and supporting career pathways for students and recent graduates, they are providing their business clients the solutions they need to succeed and thrive in an ever-changing world.”

“Maryland is already home to the universities, entrepreneurs, and workers that can lead the next era of AI,” said Prince George’s County Executive Aisha Braveboy. “Cloud-

force’s decision to expand here shows how we turn those assets into good jobs and real opportunity. Their work with the University of Maryland and Prince George’s Community College, their commitment to training local talent, and their global leadership in AI are exactly the kind of innovation ecosystem we need to grow.”

“The Prince George’s County Economic Development Corporation is excited to see Cloudforce Group continue its growth by expanding its headquarters in Prince George’s County,” said President and CEO of Prince George’s County Economic Development Corporation Ingrid Watson. “This investment reflects the confidence innovative technology companies have in our business environment and will contribute to the County’s commercial economy through job creation, business expansion, and increased local tax revenue.”

The Prince George’s Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

I worked for my Ex-husband but wasn’t paid and now have little Social Security; What are my options?

By RUSSELL GLOOR, National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the **Association of Mature American Citizens** (Author note: This is article number 500 in the AMAC Foundation’s “Ask Rusty” series of Social Security articles, which have been published nationwide every week since February 2017. “Ask Rusty” is provided free of charge as an integral part of the AMAC Foundation’s mission to “support and educate America’s seniors.” If you would like to help the AMAC Foundation fulfill its mission, charitable donations are graciously accepted at <https://amacfoundation.org/donate/>).

Dear Rusty: Sadly, I was in business with my ex-husband. I’m a nurse and he was a chiropractor. He refused to pay me “on the books” and now, at age 73, after divorcing him due to his financial irresponsibility (I don’t want to burden you with the thefts that he perpetrated), I am stuck with a small \$773 Social Security payment each month. At age 73 I am now faced with having to go back into the workforce. Is there anything I can do to prove that I worked 40 years for my husband but wasn’t paid? **Signed: Distressed Divorcee**

Dear Distressed: We are so sorry to hear of your unfortunate circumstances. Assuming your ex-husband is now collecting Social Security retirement benefits (or is at least eligible to if you are divorced at least 2 years), you should be able to collect an ex-spouse benefit as his former wife. In that case, you would be entitled to receive 50% of the Social Security benefit he was entitled to at his own full retirement age (because he and you were married for over 10 years).

The way that will work is that you would continue to receive your personally-earned \$773 monthly Social Security retirement amount earned from other employment, but you would also be entitled to a supplemental “spousal boost” to bring your payment up to half of the SS payment amount your ex-husband is entitled to at his SS full retirement age. In other words, because you were married to your ex for more than 10 years, you are entitled to the same Social Security benefits as though you were still married. That is true, even if he has remarried and his new wife is also getting a spouse benefit from his record. You will still be entitled to an ex-spouse benefit from your ex-husband as his former wife. And if he dies before you, as a surviving ex-spouse you will get the same Social Security benefit he was receiving at his death, instead of the smaller amount your will get while you are both living.

Regarding rejoining the workforce, while you can certainly go back to work at age 73 without it negatively affecting your Social Security benefits, if you are struggling financially, I suggest you visit this website sponsored by the National Council on Aging: www.benefitscheckup.org. At this website, you can enter your zip code and find much information about other supplemental assistance you may be entitled to where you live, including healthcare and medication assistance, housing, nutritional assistance, etc.

Regarding your question: “Is there anything I can do to prove that I worked 40 years and wasn’t paid?” Social Security determines benefits based solely on your personal earnings as reported to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), which is, in turn, dependent on how your joint income taxes were filed over the years you worked in your husband’s business. Social Security is unable to assist you with IRS matters. I’m afraid yours is more of a legal matter you would need to pursue by discussing your situation directly with the IRS or engaging an attorney for assistance.

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.

Girado Smith Recognized as a 2026 Influential Marylander

By MIGUEL GONZALEZ
Educational Systems FCU

GREENBELT, Md. (Aug. 11, 2026)—Educational Systems Federal Credit Union is proud to announce that Girado Smith, President/CEO, has been named a 2026 Influential Marylander by The Daily Record.

The annual awards program recognizes leaders who have made significant contributions in their respective fields and demonstrated leadership across Maryland. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Influential Marylanders program, with honorees recognized in areas including civic leadership, education, finance, healthcare, philanthropy, technology and more.

Smith was recognized in the finance category for his leadership at Educational Systems Federal Credit Union and his commitment to advancing the Credit Union’s mission of empowering individuals and communities through accessible financial solutions.

“Leadership is not about recognition—it is about responsibility. It means serving with purpose, making thoughtful



PHOTO COURTESY ESFCU

Girado Smith

decisions and always keeping people at the center of the work,” said Girado Smith, President/CEO of Educational Systems Federal Credit Union. “At Educational Systems Federal Credit Union, we are committed to helping people

achieve financial wellness and long-term stability through trusted service, innovative financial solutions and meaningful community partnerships. I am truly honored to be recognized among this year’s Influential Marylanders, and I accept this honor on behalf of our dedicated team and the members and communities we are privileged to serve.”

Under Smith’s leadership, Educational Systems Federal Credit Union continues to focus on providing personalized service, educational resources and financial solutions that support members and the communities it serves. The Credit Union remains committed to strengthening community partnerships, promoting financial literacy and creating greater access to financial wellness.

The 2026 Influential Marylanders will be honored at a celebration on September 30, 2026, at The Grand Lodge in Cockeysville.

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Educational Systems Federal Credit Union has proudly served the education community since 1955. With \$1.3 billion in assets and 13 branches, the Credit Union serves over 80,000 members of the education community including school employees, students, parents and individuals working for education-related organizations. For more information, visit esfcu.org.

Andrews Federal Credit Union Promotes Employees to New Leadership Roles

By NATALIE TATE
Andrews Federal Credit Union

SUITLAND, Md. (Aug. 7, 2026)—Andrews Federal Credit Union today announced the promotion of three exceptional leaders whose talent, commitment, and results have helped strengthen the organization and the members it serves. These promotions reflect Andrews Federal’s ongoing commitment to developing leaders from within and investing in the future of the credit union.

Rosalind Bishop has been promoted to Vice President of Community Engagement in recognition of her outstanding leadership in expanding Andrews Federal’s presence throughout the military and civilian communities. Since joining the credit union in 2014, Bishop has built strategic partnerships, advanced financial wellness initiatives, and strengthened the organization’s community impact while enhancing the Andrews Federal brand.

Sasha Harding has been promoted to Assistant Vice President of Retail Operations – Stateside. Her leadership has strengthened branch operations, developed high-performing teams, and improved the member experience across the retail network. Her promotion recognizes both her operational expertise and her ability to lead through change.

Kendrick Navarro has been promoted to Assistant Vice President of Cybersecurity after advancing from junior programmer to one of the organization’s technology leaders. His innovative approach to cybersecurity, commitment to protecting member information, and leadership in modernizing technology have positioned Andrews Federal for continued growth in an increasingly complex digital environment.

“One of the things that makes Andrews Federal special is our commitment to developing great leaders from within,” said Kenneth Orgeron, President and CEO. “Rosalind, Sasha, and Kendrick



PHOTO COURTESY
ANDREWS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Rosalind Bishop

have consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, a passion for serving our members, and a commitment to our culture. Their promotions reflect not only what they have accomplished, but the confidence we have in what they will continue to achieve as we grow.”

Andrews Federal believes great member experiences begin with exceptional employees. By investing in leadership development and promoting talent from within, the credit union continues to build a culture where employees can grow meaningful careers while making a lasting impact on the members and communities they serve.

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Founded in 1948, Andrews Federal Credit Union has grown to serve more than 162,000 members in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey, and military installations in central Germany, Belgium, and the Netherlands. For more information about Andrews Federal, visit andrewsfcu.org.



PHOTO COURTESY
ANDREWS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Sasha Harding



PHOTO COURTESY
ANDREWS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Kendrick Navarro

Celebrates from A1

an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), allowing its workforce to share directly in the company’s long-term growth and success.

The celebration brought together current employee-owners, retirees, elected officials, and community leaders to recognize the company’s history and the role employee ownership has played in its growth.

Among those in attendance were Roderick Lewis, Regional Director for U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen, and State Delegate Denise Roberts. Lewis delivered remarks on behalf of Senator Van Hollen, reading a statement highlighting the economic benefits of employee ownership and the importance of ESOPs in helping workers build wealth while strengthening American businesses. The statement also referenced the American Ownership and Resilience Act, legislation introduced

by the Senator in May 2025 to encourage the expansion of employee-owned companies.

Delegate Roberts followed with remarks recognizing the unique role employee-owned businesses play in strengthening local economies and creating opportunities for employees to build long-term financial security.

The event also recognized several employees whose outstanding work contributed to Flippo Construction receiving an Excellence in Infrastructure Award from the Heavy Construction Contractors Association for the company’s performance on the Loyola Avenue Storm Sewer Replacement Project in Alexandria, Virginia.

President and CEO John Morgan concluded the celebration with remarks reflecting on the company’s history, its employee-owned culture, and its enduring legacy. He recalled the early years of the business and Earl Flippo’s decision to entrust the company’s future to its employees, describing

it as a defining moment that continues to shape Flippo Construction today.

Mr. Morgan also recognized two retirees in attendance, Wilbur “Pee Wee” Danzler and Melvin Holmes, who were among the company’s original employees. “Thank you, guys, for setting the pace and creating the legacy for all of us to follow,” he said.

Reflecting on the company’s impact throughout the region, Mr. Morgan highlighted many of the landmark projects that Flippo employees helped build over the past five decades, including Constitution Gardens, the Kennedy Center Renovation, the original Washington Metro system, Reagan National Airport, Dulles International Airport, the Washington Convention Center, the Baltimore Convention Center, Jack Kent Cooke Stadium, the former Verizon Center (now Capital One Arena), the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, and the Pentagon Facilities.

“Millions of people have walked through, traveled through, or enjoyed projects built by Flippo employees,” Morgan said. “Most of them will never know the names of the people who made it happen, but we know. And that is something every employee-owner here should be proud of. Because for 55 years, Flippo employees have been building more than just infrastructure. We have been building a reputation. We have been building relationships. And we have been building a company that people trust.”

The celebration carried special significance because the company was unable to commemorate its 50th anniversary with a large gathering in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year’s event not only honored the company’s history and accomplishments but also celebrated the employee-owners whose dedication continues to build on the legacy established more than five decades ago.

