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Melwood Enterprises Recognizes Employee Marc Lusby During National Disability Employment Awareness Month

By PRESS OFFICER
Melwood Enterprises

UPPER MARLBORO, Md.—As the disability community celebrates National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) this October, Melwood Enterprises is recognizing employee Marc Lusby who, upon completion of a four-year apprenticeship with the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE), will become the first stationary engineer with a disability in Melwood's history.

This month, Lusby is taking the next step in his training as he moves to a new contract site, where he'll take a leading role as a maintenance engineer. At his previous assignment, he worked across approximately 400,000 square feet as an apprentice, gaining hands-on experience and building his mechanical knowledge. Now, at a 128,000-square-foot two-story building, he'll work more independently at a single location,

learning from a new chief engineer while also helping guide an apprentice of his own.

"Marc's story demonstrates what can happen when people with disabilities are given the opportunity to learn, develop their skills and advance their careers, and we're so proud of what he has accomplished," said Brice Alexander, Executive Director of Melwood Enterprises. "Marc is one of hundreds of Melwood Enterprise employees who deliver world-class service to our customers across the region, challenging stereotypes and demonstrating the incredible value and capability of workers with disabilities."

Lusby's journey exemplifies the power of the AbilityOne Program, which leverages the power of the federal government to create employment and career pathways for people with disabilities. Lusby entered the apprenticeship with no mechanical background after beginning his Melwood career as a custodian. Through hands-on train-



PHOTO COURTESY MELWOOD ENTERPRISES

Melwood Enterprises recognizes employee Marc Lusby

ing, determination, and a willingness to learn, he developed the skills that are now preparing him for a career as a stationary engineer.

As Lusby continues his training toward the license required to become a full-time stationary engineer, he is also helping create a path for the next person who follows.

"Melwood has provided a

path that I didn't know was possible. The union apprenticeship has been an incredible opportunity to learn and build skills that will serve me throughout my career," Lusby said. "I know my future is bright, and I hope my example opens the door for other people with disabilities to

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University of Maryland Capital Region Health Awarded State Grant Funding to Support Capital Area Violence Intervention Program

By PRESS OFFICER
University of Maryland Capital Region Health

LARGO, Md. (Sept. 22, 2026)—University of Maryland Capital Region Health has been awarded nearly \$100,000 in state grant funding to support its Capital Area Violence Intervention Program (CAP-VIP). CAP-VIP is a hospital-based violence intervention program providing care and support services to patients recovering from violent injuries. The funding, which totals \$99,999.49, was awarded through the Maryland Department of Health Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention. Established in 2024, the Center seeks to create safer communities by addressing firearm violence.

Based in the only trauma center in Prince George's County, CAP-VIP provides support to patients ages 15 to 40 who are at high risk for repeat violent injury. Through trauma-informed

care, intensive case management, and community-based programs, CAP-VIP addresses factors that contribute to violence and poor health outcomes, including barriers related to employment, housing, education, and behavioral health services. The funding awarded to CAP-VIP will allow the program to provide patients with clothing and rideshare services, and will help train frontline staff on responding to gun violence.

"Violence is a public health challenge that affects individuals, families, and communities long after a patient leaves the hospital," said Nathaniel Richardson, Jr., President, UM Capital Region Health. "This funding will help us continue providing critical support and re-

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Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® Installs 2027 President, Officers, and Directors

By ERICA KALEDA
Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® (PGCAR)

REALTORS®, friends, family, and colleagues gathered to celebrate the Installation Ceremony of PGCAR's 2027 President, Charnise Carter, of Realty One Group Performance. Carter was installed by her sister, Brandi Calhoun. Charnise will officially assume leadership of the 3000 member Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® (PGCAR) on October 1, 2026.

In a momentous event filled with excitement and anticipation, we proudly congratulate our newly elected President and the distinguished members of the 2027 Board of Directors. This significant occasion marks the beginning of our new year for PGCAR, as we embrace a future of growth, innovation, and community-building.

Under President Carter's leadership, her vision is: know your market, know your county, know your business, know your community, Charnise explained: "As REALTORS®, knowing our community means more than knowing real estate. It means knowing our communities, supporting our businesses, understanding our growth, and recognizing the opportunities that make Prince George's County a great place to live, work, and invest."

Other newly elected and installed Officers and Directors include:

Officers

President-Elect—Leisel L. Taylor, Keller Williams Preferred Properties
Secretary—Carole Warren, Keller Williams Preferred Properties
Treasurer—Paul "Carlos" Lancaster, Samson Properties
Past President—Carole Webb, Samson Properties

Directors

Yolanda Burgess, Platinum Partners Realty
Erick Burke, 212 Degrees Realty LLC
Cherice Clark, Clark Premier Realty Group LLC
Chazi Diggs, Capital Structures Real Estate
Donald L. Frederick, Jr., RE/MAX United Real Estate
Stephanie Ireland, eXp Realty LLC
Christian Jackson, Keller Williams Preferred Properties
ArLancia Williams, Keller Williams Preferred Properties

The Voice for Real Estate in Prince George's County: PGCAR is the voice for REALTORS® in Prince George's County, Maryland. Representing more than 3,000 real estate professionals in the national capital



PHOTO COURTESY PGCAR

The Installation Ceremony of PGCAR's 2027 President, Charnise Carter, of Realty One Group Performance

area, PGCAR is an affiliate of the Maryland and National Association of REALTORS®. We are proud to serve our members and our community and work to ensure professionalism in the industry. Our volunteers and staff work to offer services to real estate professionals and to provide avenues for our members to become more successful. We proudly work to promote and protect homeownership and private property rights.

Governor Moore Welcomes New Microsoft Discovery Center at Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in University of Maryland's Discovery District

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Sept. 22, 2026)—Governor Moore today delivered remarks at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Microsoft's Discovery Center at the Capital of Quantum in the University of Maryland. The new quantum research center, in the heart of the University of Maryland's Discovery District, will serve as a development hub for next-generation quantum technologies, marking a critical milestone in Maryland's momentum to become a global leader for quantum information science and technology innovation.

"Quantum has the potential to transform every part of our economy and society and the opening of this new discovery center is another step in Maryland leading the nation in this



PHOTO MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for Microsoft's Discovery Center at the Capital of Quantum in the University of Maryland.

emerging sector," said Gov. Moore. "Our partnership with Microsoft and our continued investment in the Quan-

tum ecosystem, creates jobs, stimulates our economy, and drives innovation. Together, we will solve some of the

world's most pressing challenges right here in Maryland."

Launched by Governor Moore at IonQ's College Park headquarters in January 2025, the Capital of Quantum Initiative is a public-private partnership with the state, the University of Maryland, College Park and private partners to catalyze more than \$1 billion in investments in Maryland's quantum industry. Since the Capital of Quantum Initiative was announced, the State of Maryland and the University of Maryland have reached over \$500 million in pledged investments to strengthen the state's quantum ecosystem through academics, workforce development, and technical support.

"Maryland is positioning itself at the forefront of the quantum revolution, and the launch of the Discovery Center marks another major step forward," said

Congressman Glenn Ivey. "Here in Prince George's County, we have the talent, research institutions, and entrepreneurial ecosystem to turn groundbreaking discoveries into new companies, good-paying jobs, and economic opportunity. I'm proud to join Governor Moore, the University of Maryland, Microsoft, and our partners in building the Capital of Quantum right here in Maryland and ensuring our region helps lead the next generation of American innovation."

"This moment fulfills the commitment that UMD made a year ago when we joined the State of Maryland in announcing Microsoft as a member of our growing quantum community," said University of Maryland President Dar-

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Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition Announces 15th Anniversary Clean Energy & Transportation Conference and Expo

This year's conference marks a major milestone: 15 years of driving clean transportation forward across the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia (DMV).
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Educational Systems Federal Credit Union Named 2026 Top Workplaces Remote Work Award Winner

Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® Honor 2026 REALTOR® of the Year, Carole Webb

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

Brandywine-Aquasco by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

CLINTON UMC HISTORY

Clinton United Methodist Church is a multicultural and inter-generational congregation in Clinton, Maryland, that has served the community since October 31, 1965. History & Atmosphere: Founding: Established on October 31, 1965, serving as a spiritual beacon in the local community. Features a diverse, multi-cultural, and multi-ethnic congregation with many active-duty military members and veterans from nearby Andrews Air Force Base. Leadership: Led by Pastor Rev. Melaina Trice, a Full Elder in the Baltimore-Washington Conference. Visitor Reviews: Highly rated at 4.8 out of 5 stars, with visitors and members praising the welcoming environment and prayerful community.

Services & Specialties: Worship Services: Held in person and online every Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. (also available via live stream or phone-in at 978-990-5000, access code 180552#). Communion: Practices open Communion where all are welcome to the Lord’s table without membership or age requirements. On-Site Amenities: Features a peaceful Prayer Garden for reflection and wheelchair-accessible facilities. Study & Engagement: Offers regular Bible study sessions and community events such as their annual Vacation Bible School and upcoming Fall Festival. If you’d like, information can be provided on upcoming community events, details on how to join online worship, or ministerial contact options. Please contact the church office, (301) 868-1281, or email cumcmd@verizon.net for general questions about our church services. Share. <https://cumcmd.org>. Clinton United Methodist Church 10700 Brandywine Road Clinton, Maryland, 20735-3860.

MEN WHO COOK

Join Prince George’s County Executive Aisha N. Braveboy and the Office of Community Relations for Men Who Cook for Breast Cancer 2026, a community event supporting breast cancer patients, survivors, and supporters. Event Details: Saturday, October 10, 2026, from 12–3: p.m. Doors open at 11:45 a.m. at Oxon Hill High School, 6701 Leyte Drive, Oxon Hill, Maryland. Enjoy dancing, food tastings and samples from amateur and celebrity chefs, prizes, workshops, breast cancer resources, and more! Tickets: \$10 per person. Proceeds benefit Fight Through Flights, Inc., a non-profit organization supporting breast cancer patients and survivors in Prince George’s County. Purchase Tickets: https://www.pgcedc.com/men-who-can-cook-2026?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery. ADA Accommodation: If you need an ADA accommodation, please call 301-952-4729. Help us elevate the fight against breast cancer while celebrating community, food, and fellowship.

BSU ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Kobe Brown (’26) never planned to go to college. When Kobe Brown walked across the graduation stage in May 2026, he was already employed as a contract specialist for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Four years earlier, he said, “I never

wanted to go to college.” That candor is part of what makes Brown’s story so compelling. After a semester in community college that left him unconvinced college was for him, he found his way to Bowie State University through open enrollment, transferring in for what he now calls the best decision he ever made.

Brown graduated with a bachelor’s degree in business administration and a concentration in management. He credits much of his success to his Strada HBCU Initiative scholarship which offered Brown far more than tuition help. The program centers on career connections and professional development, giving students the interpersonal skills that transfer directly into job offers. “The Strada scholarship is more than just money going towards your tuition. I was able to network with other people and take professional development courses throughout the year. I learned how to communicate and especially have an elevator speech ready because you never know who you might rub elbows with one day.”

The scholarship also connected Brown to an annual national summit where students from historically Black colleges and universities across the country gather to network. A leadership contract through Strada led to Brown’s first internship, as a human resources intern at a data center. One internship led to another and by graduation, Brown had completed a total of six. “I probably got up to 200 no’s. All you need is one yes. So, I just say, keep yourself out there.”

That persistence eventually led him to a contract specialist trainee internship with the DHS during his senior year, a position that became a full-time role upon graduation. Brown says balancing a demanding federal internship with a full course load meant learning to manage his time. He studied and completed coursework on his off days, allowing him to focus fully on his work during internship hours. “This schedule definitely prepared me for the real world. Things aren’t always going to be straightforward. Different, unexpected things are always coming at you”.

Brown lived on campus for two years before commuting an hour each way from Southern Maryland for the rest of his time at Bowie State. While the balancing act wasn’t always easy, he says it mirrors the discipline his career would eventually demand. Looking ahead, Brown plans to build his federal career and eventually pursue a director-level role to put his management degree to work. His advice for incoming students is simple seek out internships early and treat professional relationship-building as a skill, not an afterthought.

“Networking is essential. You never know who you might run into one day, or when somebody might need you”. For Brown, that philosophy is also what it means to be Bowie Bold. “Being Bowie Bold is being ambitious. We’re an entrepreneurial school with a drive to always excel.” Brown’s path from a reluctant college freshman to a federal contract special shows how unexpected opportunities can reshape a career trajectory. “It’s never too late. Your plans can always change. I never saw myself doing what I’m doing now, but I’m glad I was open to changing them.” Tagged as management and business, scholarships.

Nearly 700 Turn out for St. Charles Running Festival, Raising Close to \$30K for Hospice of the Chesapeake

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

ALL PHOTOS TAKEN SEPT. 12, 2026, AT THE ST. CHARLES RUNNING FESTIVAL HELD AT THE REGENCY FURNITURE STADIUM IN WALDORF, MARYLAND, BY ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN, HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE.

WALDORF, Md. (Sept. 16, 2026)—Hospice of the Chesapeake was honored to once again to be included as the official charity partner for the St. Charles Running Festival, presented by Lennar. Hundreds of runners, walkers and neighbors gathered on Sept. 12 at the Regency Furniture Stadium in Waldorf, Maryland, for a morning of competition, camaraderie and community giving. The 10K, 5K and post-race Taste of Southern Maryland food truck festival capped off a day that organizers say reinforced the event’s place as a growing Waldorf tradition

Highlights of the day included honoring the overall winners of the 10K race: the overall male champion Eric Song, who crossed the finish line first with a time of 40:18, and Emmaline Pendleton, the overall female champion, who clocked in at 43:14. The overall winners of the 5K race were male champion Ibrahim Al Qaabil with a time of 20:34 and female champion Sheri Wilson with a time of 26:18.

Once again, the festival rallied to raise tens of thousands of dollars for its official charity partner. With nearly 700 participants and many generous sponsors, the event delivered nearly \$30,000 to support patients and families facing serious illness and grief in Charles County. This success was made possible by Hospice of the Chesapeake’s Premier Sponsor, the Brian and Patricia Giese Foundation, as well as Community Partner and Finish Line Sponsor University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center, Champion Sponsor Waldorf Toyota and Stride Sponsor SMECO.

“The generosity we saw today will go straight to the patients and families who rely on us,” said Heather Marchese, Director of Philanthropy. “We’re grateful to every runner, volunteer and sponsor who showed up for this cause, and we’re especially thankful to Corrigan Sports Enterprises, and its president Lee Corrigan, for including Hospice of the Chesapeake once



The St. Charles Running Festival presented by Lennar raised \$29,076 for its official charity partner, Hospice of the Chesapeake. Pictured from left are Kerri Stancil, Heather Marchese, Carolyn Herring, who presented the check on behalf of Lennar and Corrigan Sports Enterprises, and Lisa Railey.

again as the official charity partner. We’re already looking forward to continuing this tradition again next year.”

For more information about the St. Charles Running Festival, visit www.StCharlesRun-Fest.com.

Hospice of the Chesapeake provides expert, compassionate care for individuals and families navigating serious advanced illness and loss. Care is built around a genuine partnership between skilled clinicians, healthcare partners, and the patients and families we serve—centered on supporting quality of life at every stage. For more than 45 years, we have had the privilege of caring for more than 65,000 patients



Runners burst from the starting line as the race begins.

and more than 100,000 family members across the communities we serve. Hospice of the Chesapeake is proud to be a part of Chesapeake Health Partners, an organization focused on strengthening community-based care and support services across the region.

Around the County

Blessing of the Animals and the Upper Marlboro Pet Parade

Celebrate the special bond between people and their pets at our annual community gathering on **Sunday, October 4, 2026** at 11:15 a.m. at Trinity Church, 14515 Church Street, Upper Marlboro, MD! Enjoy a day filled with fun, friendship, and furry companions.

- Event Schedule
- 11:15 a.m.: Gather at Trinity Church
- 11:30 a.m.: St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals
- 11:45 a.m.: Upper Marlboro Pet Parade begins
- 12 p.m.: Parade ends at School House Pond, 14100 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro.

All are welcome—bring your beloved pets and join your neighbors for this joyful community tradition!

Donations will be collected to support Prince George’s County Animal Services.

RSVP: pmantoci@gmail.com;
Event Sponsor—Trinity Church | trinityuppermarlboro.org

Registration Is OPEN! Let’s Elevate Prince George’s County Fall Clean & Green: Elevate The Scene

Hosted by the Prince George’s County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) in collaboration with County Executive Aisha N. Braveboy

Prince George’s County, it’s time to make our communities shine! Registration is officially OPEN for our bi-annual county-wide community cleanup! Join thousands of Prince Georgians as we come together to pick up litter, plant flowers, trees, and shrubs, and make a lasting impact across our County.

YOU choose the location. YOU choose your team. TOGETHER, we get to work!

- Date: **Saturday, October 24, 2026**
- Time: 8 a.m.–12 p.m.
- Location: Anywhere in Prince George’s County!
- **REGISTER:** mypgc.us/CleanAndGreen

Whether you’re participating individually, gathering your neighbors, or organizing a team, there’s an opportunity for everyone to make a difference. Help us elevate Prince George’s County, one community at a time!

Save the Date: Indigenous Arts & Culture Festival at Piscataway Park

Saturday, October 24 | 11 a.m.–4 p.m., 3400 Bryan Point Rd, Accokeek, MD 20607

This October, join the Accokeek Foundation in celebrating the vibrant arts and culture of Indigenous Peoples. This event honors the history, culture, and resiliency of Indigenous communities both near and far, featuring music, dancing, arts, and cultural celebrations.

REGISTER: https://www.accokeek.org/event-details/indigenous-arts-culture-festival?blm_aid=361660

This event is free and open to all. Registration contributions support the Accokeek Foundation’s work in Piscataway Park. The Accokeek Foundation is a nonprofit that connects people to land, history, culture, and community through stewardship, education, agriculture, and shared care for the Piscataway Park landscape. The organization exists to protect and interpret a living cultural landscape while creating meaningful opportunities for learning, conservation, community engagement, and environmental stewardship.

International Show Jumping Returns to Upper Marlboro

68th Annual Washington International Horse Show
October 19–25, 2026
The Show Place Arena, Prince George’s Equestrian Center, Upper Marlboro, MD

Celebrate Maryland’s October Horse Month with international show jumping at the Washington International Horse Show presented by MARS Equestrian™.

For seven days and three exciting nights, elite Olympic and international show jumpers and the country’s finest hunters will convene in Upper Marlboro, MD, to vie for championship titles.

Rounding out an unforgettable week are exhibitions, special guests and great shopping with more than 20 vendors on the concourse offering riding apparel, tack, gifts, jewelry, toys, home decor, show souvenirs and lots more. Parking is free throughout the week. Learn more and get tickets: <https://wihs.org/tickets/>

WIHS is proud to host Opening Night Salute to Service, an evening honoring our military, first responders and educators with exciting jumping and special guests. It’s about power and speed as international horses and riders compete in two featured classes, on Thursday, October 22, at 6:30 p.m.

Jump for TAPS: When the American flag Jump for TAPS is cleared, funds are raised for Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors. TAPS is the national nonprofit organization providing compassionate care and comprehensive resources to all those grieving a death in the military or veteran community. WIHS is proud to have partnered with TAPS for more than 15 years.

50% Off Ticket Discounts: To thank those who serve our country and communities, special 50% off ticket discounts (adult or child) are available for active duty, reserve, and retired military personnel, disabled veterans, first responders (law enforcement, firefighters, paramedics, EMS/EMTs), and teachers. Get your 50% off for Thursday night with code USA2026 on Ticketmaster. <https://www.ticketmaster.com/washington-international-horse-show-tickets/artist/835801>

For the young and young at heart WIHS Kids’ Day presented by Land Rover Alexandria is a free, fun, educational event created to share the joy of horses with kids, and their parents too. Saturday, Oct. 24, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. (Rain or Shine) Learn more at <https://wihs.org/kids-day/>

COMMUNITY

Marietta Historic Site & Museum Presents: Black Fashion: Wearable Language in the 19th & 20th Centuries

By STACEY HAWKINS
Marietta Historic Site & Museum

Please join Sonya McKenney, Montpelier Historic Site & Museum’s collections manager, on **Saturday, October 10** at 1 p.m. for a discussion on how fashion was a form of communication by the men and women, with and without agency in the 19th & 20th centuries. Following Q & A, guests will make a fabric craft, and light refreshments will be served. \$5/person. Ages 12 & up. Registration is required. Please register on www.pgparksdirect.com and use ticket code: MHM-SPEC-GA-20261010. For more information, please call 301-464-5291 or email mariettahouse@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.

Prince George’s Community College Foundation to Host 2026 Partners for Success Gala

By SONJI JOYNER
Prince George’s Community College

LARGO, Md. (Sept. 22, 2026)—Prince George’s Community College Foundation will host the 2026 Partners for Success Gala on **Friday, Oct. 16**, at MGM National Harbor. The biennial event raises funds for scholarships that support PGCC students as they pursue their education and prepare for life after college. This year’s gala, themed “Future in Focus,” highlights the connection between a student’s experience at PGCC and the opportunities that follow. Proceeds from the event support scholarships that allow students to remain enrolled, complete their programs and prepare for what comes next. The evening will keep PGCC students at the center, including a special video presentation offering a closer look at their experiences at the College. PGCC alumnus and saxophonist Michael Murphy also will perform during the evening. The Foundation’s Excellence, Equity and Elevation Awards recognize three individuals whose work reflects the values and partnerships that advance the College and its students. This year, Troy Weaver will receive the Excellence Award, presented by Educational Systems Federal Credit Union; Samantha Howard will receive the Equity Award; and Kathleen deLaski will receive the Elevation Award. The gala reflects the College’s broader commitment to ensuring students have the resources and opportunities they need to complete their education and move into what comes next. PGCC President Falecia D. Williams, Ed.D., said that investment extends beyond individual students to the future of the region. “The future is not something we wait for. It is something we build. Every investment in Prince George’s Community College strengthens the talent and ambition that will shape our region,” Williams said. “Our partners help students move from promise to preparation, and from preparation to impact. When we put the future in focus, investing in our students today is how we build a stronger tomorrow.” The gala also offers an opportunity to recognize the donors, sponsors and community partners whose support makes scholarship opportunities possible. Dena Wilson, executive director of the PGCC Foundation, said the theme reflects what that support can mean for students beyond the financial award itself. “Future in Focus reflects what is possible when philanthropy and partnership come together around our students,” Wilson said. “Our donors and partners help expand opportunities for students to achieve their goals and strengthen the communities they will serve. When we invest in their future, we invest in our shared future.” The 2026 Partners for Success Sponsors include: Educational Systems Federal Credit Union as the Visionary sponsor and Atlantic Union Bank as the Trustee Circle sponsor, in addition to a host of other friends and supporters. For more information about Partners for Success and to purchase tickets, visit the Partners for Success web page: <https://www.pgcc.edu/pfsgala/>. *Named a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance, designated by the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security (2022–2027), Prince George’s Community College (PGCC) provides high-quality education and training for the progressive and career-oriented residents of Prince George’s County. From new high school graduates and career seekers to more seasoned professionals and senior citizens looking to enhance their skill sets, PGCC is comprised of students who represent a wide range of ages, backgrounds, and goals. Serving nearly 25,000 individuals annually, the College is the first choice for higher education for residents of Prince George’s County. Collaborative partnerships, responsive degree programs, and training programs, and a commitment to student success enable PGCC to address diverse education and workforce development demands. For more information, visit the College’s website at www.pgcc.edu. Prince George’s Community College is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104; (267-284-5000); www.msche.org. The Middle States Commission on Higher Education is an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Council on Higher Education.*

from stationary engineers to HVAC technicians in pursuit of their journeyman licensure. Workers with disabilities, including injured veterans, who are interested in apprenticeship opportunities with Melwood Enterprises should apply through the company’s job board.: <https://recruiting.ultipro.com/MEL1004MHTC/JobBoard/23add39c-bea8-4103-9bd6-f0474cce1fec/?q=&o=postedDateDesc> Melwood Enterprises delivers top-tier business solutions to public and private sector clients across more than 70 locations in the

Laurel Historical Society Presents “Heritage on Tap: A Laurel Oktoberfest”

By PRESS OFFICER
Laurel Historical Society

LAUREL, Md. (Sept. 23, 2026)—Oktoberfest is coming to Laurel! The Laurel Historical Society (LHS) will host its inaugural Heritage on Tap: A Laurel Oktoberfest on **Saturday, October 17** from 4–8 p.m. at the Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center (7120 Contee Road, Laurel, MD 20707). This festive fall event will feature local craft breweries, Oktoberfest-inspired fare, German wines, casino games, friendly competitions, and more all while raising critical funds to support LHS’s mission to preserve Laurel’s past for the future. Guests are invited to enjoy craft beers from three local breweries, including Laurel’s own Jailbreak Brewing Company, as well as nearby Denizen Brewing Co. and Pherm Brewing Co. The evening will also feature German wines, hors d’oeuvres and delicious desserts with

Oktoberfest flair. And what would Oktoberfest be without a little friendly competition? Guests can test their knowledge of local history with pub-style trivia, compete in a stein holding competition, and try their luck at a variety of classic casino games for a chance to win fantastic prizes. “We invite you to join us for our first Heritage on Tap and help us toast Laurel’s history!” said LHS Executive Director Kristen Norton. “At the heart of this event is an opportunity to come together to celebrate our community and its rich cultural heritage. All while raising critical funds to support the Laurel Historical Society’s efforts to preserve and share Laurel’s history.” Heritage on Tap is a fun new fundraiser, offering an alternative to the organization’s more formal Annual Gala. Going forward, LHS will alternate yearly between a formal spring gala, and this relaxed fall celebration. Tickets are \$55 for LHS members and \$65 for nonmembers. Designated driver tickets are available at a discounted price of \$45. This event is for guests 21 and older. Please note that there will be no day-of ticket sales. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.laurel-historical-society.org/heritage-on-tap. Tickets may also be purchased at the Laurel Museum (817 Main Street, Laurel, MD 20707) prior to the event during the museum’s open hours, Friday to Sunday, from 12 to 4 p.m. Heritage on Tap is sponsored in part by Fred Frederick Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram and H.J. Poist Gas Company.

The Laurel Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit founded in 1975 with the mission to deepen the understanding of the past and cultural heritage of Laurel, Maryland to connect and inspire, for today and the future. To learn more please visit laurelhistoricalsociety.org



Andrews Federal recently provided a \$25,000 donation to support Serve Our Willing Warriors. Serve Our Willing Warriors President/Co-Founder and Executive Director accept the donation from the Andrews Federal executive leadership team.

PHOTO COURTESY ANDREWS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Andrews Federal Credit Union Donates \$25,000 to Serve Our Willing Warriors

By NATALIE TATE
Andrews Federal Credit Union

SUITLAND, Md. (Sept. 22, 2026)—Andrews Federal recently provided a \$25,000 donation to support Serve Our Willing Warriors, a Northern Virginia-based charitable organization that provides cost-free respite stays and restorative programs for wounded, ill, and injured active-duty service members, veterans, and their families. The \$25,000 donation will fund an expansion of the organization’s Mental Health Wellness Program to include financial education. Participants in the new programming will receive a one-week on-site intensive workshop that includes lodging, meals, materials, activities, mental health resiliency support, and financial

education training. Participants will receive instruction in budgeting, debt reduction, savings strategies, credit management, insurance, investing, retirement planning, money mindset, family communication, and long-term planning. A recent survey by Blue Star Families indicated that financial stress is a major concern for the majority of military service members. According to credit union leadership, this partnership underscores Andrews Federal’s commitment to reducing that strain for those who have served. “Serve Our Willing Warriors helps military service members, veterans and families to restore their lives following illness and injury,” said Kenneth Orgeron, President and CEO of Andrews Federal Credit Union. “We are proud to support the program’s

focus on financial education and resiliency, and to give our service members and veterans the tools they need to enhance their economic well-being and quality of life.” Serve Our Willing Warriors President/Co-Founder Shirley Dominick and Executive Director Sarah Ford visited the Andrews Federal headquarters to meet with the executive leadership team and accept the donation.

Founded in 1948, Andrews Federal Credit Union has grown to serve more than 163,000 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.

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George’s County Announces October Events

By PRESS OFFICER
M-NCPPC

RIVERDALE, Md. (Sept. 28, 2026)—M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George’s County will host a series of free and low-cost events throughout October, offering residents and visitors opportunities to celebrate the fall season with family-friendly festivals, cultural programs, arts events, and Halloween-themed activities.

Upcoming Events:
Fall Farm Festival | Free
Saturday, October 3, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
Old Maryland Farm (Watkins Regional Park)
Celebrate the season at Old Maryland Farm’s annual Fall Farm Festival! Enjoy a day of fall family fun with a pumpkin

patch, farm-themed games, hands-on activities, friendly farm animals, local vendors, and delicious food. Whether you’re racing hobby horses, trying your hand at pumpkin bowling, or exploring the farm, there’s something for everyone to enjoy.

Waterfront Art Festival | Free
Saturday, October 10, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.
Bladensburg Waterfront Park
Join us at Bladensburg Waterfront Park for a day filled with creativity and inspiration. Explore a variety of artworks from talented local artists, ranging from paintings to jewelry, photography, and sculpture, and everything in between. Immerse yourself in the vibrant art market while enjoying live music and the scenic views of the Anacostia River. Grab tasty food and treats, create some art of your own, or take a relaxing boat tour!

Through the Dark, the Light Beckons with Dissonance Dance Theatre
Saturday, October 10, 7–8:30 p.m. & Sunday, October 11, 4–5:30 p.m.
Prince George’s Publick Playhouse
Washington, D.C.’s Dissonance Dance Theatre celebrates its 20th anniversary season at the Publick Playhouse with Through the Dark, the Light Beckons, a powerful evening of movement and meaning rooted in the African American experience. Featuring beloved company repertoire and world premieres by acclaimed choreographer Shawn Short, the program unfolds in three chapters: the pulse and grit of the city’s streets, the fragments of memory that shape us, and the spirit, soul, and sophistication of everyday people. For more M-NCPPC, Dept. of Parks and Recreation events, visit pgparks.com.

Recognizes from A1

see that they can have a future in this field, too. I’m excited to take what I’ve learned to a new site, take on more responsibility, and continue growing in my career.” Lusby’s story also demonstrates the effectiveness of Melwood Enterprises’ unique and revolutionary approach to apprenticeships. By serving as the employer, Melwood Enterprises removes labor costs from the customer, and provides a pathway to career skills and building that can be replicated and scaled across the trades,

D.C. region and across the mid-Atlantic, while expanding employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Boasting a team of seasoned performers, industry-respected certifications, unparalleled retention rates, and excellence in long-standing contracts, Melwood Enterprises delivers satisfaction, stability, and exceptional return on investment. For more information about Melwood Enterprises, a part of the Melwood family of companies, visit www.MelwoodEnterprises.org.

COMMUNITY

Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition Announces 15th Anniversary Clean Energy & Transportation Conference and Expo

Regional leaders, policymakers, and green tech innovators gather in Greenbelt, MD on October 22, 2026, to advance low to zero emissions vehicles for fleets, climate resilience, and equitable transit solutions.

By PRESS OFFICER
Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)

WASHINGTON (Sept. 28, 2026)—The Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC) today announced its 2026 Annual Clean Energy & Transportation Conference, Expo, and Awards Luncheon, taking place on Thursday, October 22, 2026, at Martin’s Crosswinds in Greenbelt, Maryland.

This year’s conference marks a major milestone: 15 years of driving clean transportation forward across the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia (DMV). The landmark gathering brings together top regional leaders, public officials, fleet managers, industry pioneers, and community advocates to accelerate low- and zero-emission vehicle adoption, maximize clean energy funding, and build an equitable green economy.

“Fifteen years of progress, partnership, and impact is something worth celebrating,” said Antoine M. Thompson, CEO of GWRCCC. “As transportation remains the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, accelerating the transition to sustainable mobility is both an environmental imperative and a public health necessity. This year’s conference will focus heavily on turning private sector, state and federal investments into local, tangible climate solutions that improve air quality and create green jobs across our entire region.”

Conference Highlights Include:

- **Interactive Industry Panels:** Discussions featuring leading experts on fleet electrification, alternative fuel infrastructure (EV, hydrogen, biofuels), workforce development, and federal/state grant opportunities.

- **Alternative Fuel Vehicle Showcase:** Hands-on exhibition featuring the latest electric, hybrid, and alternative fuel commercial and public transit vehicles.
- **Annual Awards Luncheon:** Celebrating regional clean transportation leaders, innovative fleet managers, and community climate champions.
- **High-Level Networking:** Connecting regional utilities, local municipal leaders, corporate partners, and technology providers.
- **Power 15 Campaign & Scholarship Support:** Highlighting GWRCCC’s 15th-anniversary fundraising initiative and support for the Ron Flowers Future Green Leaders Scholarship.

- 2026 GWRCCC Awardees**
- **Transit Fleet of the Year: Prince George’s County Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T)**
 - Trailblazer Award—E-85: Burl Haigwood
 - CEO & Chair Award: Rev. George Gilbert
 - CEO & Chair Award: Burl Haigwood
 - CEO & Chair Award: Paul Winters
 - CEO & Chair Award: Jim Dankowski
 - DC Visionary Award: Al Carr
 - Automotive Dealership of the Year: ETHERO Truck and Energy
 - **Job Creation and Workforce Development Award: Prince George’s Community College, Workforce Development Program**
 - Trailblazer Award—Electric Vehicle Charging: Cyrus Mokhtari
 - CEO & Chair Award: Gyasi Gomez
 - CEO & Chair Award: Katherine Magruder
 - Trailblazer Award—Propane: Steve McCoy

- Energy Efficiency and Innovation Award: Electrify Equity
- Media Award: WUSA 9
- CEO & Chair Award: Tracey Thompson
- Trailblazer Award—Hydrogen: Bill Lehner
- CEO & Chair Award: Amber Perry
- VA Visionary Award: Amy Posner
- GWRCCC Partner of the Year Award: Green & Health Homes Initiative

Event Details:

- What: 2026 GWRCCC Annual Clean Energy & Transportation Conference, Expo & Awards Luncheon
- When: **Thursday, October 22, 2026** | 8:30 a.m.–6 p.m. EST
- Where: Martin’s Crosswinds, Greenbelt, MD
- Registration & Sponsorship: Registration and sponsorship packages, including opportunities for vehicle display and the 15th Anniversary Souvenir Journal, are currently open.

For registration, sponsorship opportunities, or to view the conference agenda, visit gwrccc.org.

The Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC) is a public-private partnership designated by the U.S. Department of Energy. Operating across D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, GWRCCC works with local governments, private fleets, utilities, and community groups to promote sustainable transportation, reduce petroleum consumption, and advance environmental justice through clean energy solutions.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Governor Moore Signs Executive Order Codifying Responsible Data Center Development Framework, Calls to Repeal Tax Exemption

Governor Moore to Work with General Assembly to Repeal 2020 Maryland Data Center Sales and Use Tax Exemption

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Sept. 23, 2026)—Governor Moore today signed an executive order codifying a framework that outlines strict guardrails for transparent and accountable data center development in Maryland. The new order establishes a Maryland Data Center Task Force to ensure ratepayers and the environment are protected, communities are empowered, and transparency and accountability are enforced.

Additionally, the Governor announced his support and commitment to work directly with the General Assembly in the upcoming legislative session to repeal the Data Center Sales and Use Tax Exemption, originally enacted in 2020.

“While federal inaction and Donald Trump’s aggressive rollback of safety regulations have granted Big Tech free reign to write their own rules—raising electricity bills and polluting our air and water

—our administration is taking action to put control in the hands of Marylanders,” said Gov. Moore. “By signing this executive order, we are establishing clear safeguards to ensure Marylanders do not foot the bill, our people benefit, community voices are heard, and our environment is protected—all while centering transparency and accountability throughout the process.”

The executive order creates one standard, one review process, and one public record for every large data center proposed in Maryland that covers 25 megawatts or more as soon as it seeks any State action—including a permit, incentive, or letter of support. Each project is judged on five principles: ratepayer and grid protection, economic benefits for Marylanders, community voice, environmental protections, and transparency and accountability.

The executive order also establishes the Maryland Data Center Task Force, housed in the Governor’s Office. The task force is responsible for reviewing every project, publishing the rules in advance, maintaining the public Data Center Dashboard, and supporting local

governments. It will coordinate with neighboring states and recommend further actions to the Governor to strengthen these protections and enhance enforcement.

The task force will include members from the Maryland Energy Administration, as well as Departments of Commerce, Labor, Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Planning. Projects will receive a written, public determination from the task force: Aligned, Conditionally Aligned, or Not Aligned.

To center transparency and accountability, the order also establishes a Data Center Dashboard, a public website—updated monthly—that serves as the State’s record of data center development. For every project under review, the dashboard will show the location and legislative districts, the developer, its parent company and any disclosed anchor tenant, and projected power demand and water use. The dashboard will also show additional information—such as every State action the project has requested and its status, the Determination and the reasons for it, the signed commitments, and the annual reports.

IRS Launches new Mobile app, Expanding Digital Services for Taxpayers

IRS2Go becomes IRS app, adding secure mobile access to selected Individual Online Account services

By PRESS OFFICER
Internal Revenue Service

WASHINGTON (IR-2026-114, Sept. 25, 2026)—The Internal Revenue Service today announced the launch of the new IRS mobile app, replacing IRS2Go and expanding the agency’s digital services to give taxpayers more ways to securely access IRS tools and account services from their mobile devices.

“The new IRS app puts more services at taxpayers’ fingertips,” said IRS Chief Executive Officer Frank J. Bisignano. “It advances our digital-first agenda to meet taxpayers how and where they choose to interact with the IRS, whether at home or on the go. Our goal is to make IRS services easy to access and more consistent across all of our platforms.”

For more than a decade, IRS2Go has helped taxpayers check refund status and find free filing resources. The new IRS app builds on that foundation by adding a broader set of secure, account-specific features. Taxpayers can now securely sign in to the official IRS app and access selected account in-

formation and self-service options, including:

- Check refund and amended-return status
- View available balance information
- Make payments and review payment activity
- View select notices and letters
- Access available tax records and transcripts
- Manage certain profile and communication preferences
- Access an Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN)

This is just the beginning—the IRS will continue expanding the app with new capabilities and services over time.

The IRS app is free and available through the Apple App Store and Google Play. Current IRS2Go users do not need to download a separate app. Users with automatic updates enabled will receive the IRS app through the normal update process. Taxpayers can also visit IRS App on IRS.gov for verified links and additional information.

The IRS app expands secure mobile access to selected IRS Individual Online Account services. It does not replace IRS.gov

or the IRS online accounts. IRS.gov continues to provide comprehensive tax information, guidance, forms, tools and services. IRS Individual Online Account, Business Tax Account and Tax Pro Account will continue to be available through IRS.gov, with the IRS app initially extending selected Individual Online Account features only. Telephone and in-person assistance also remain available for taxpayers who need individualized help or whose issues cannot be resolved through self-service.

Taxpayers should use verified IRS links or the official IRS app listings in the Apple App Store and Google Play and be cautious of look-alike apps, advertisements and unsolicited messages claiming to provide access to IRS accounts. The IRS will not ask taxpayers to provide sensitive personal or financial information through an unsolicited text, email, or pop-up message. Taxpayers who are unsure whether a message or app is legitimate should avoid clicking unsolicited links and use verified resources to locate the official app.

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Mom Worries Daughter Making Bad Social Security Decision

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

Dear Rusty: My question is not for me, but for my daughter who 62 years old. She does not want to take her Social Security now. Her husband was a doctor and passed away recently. She had been married to him for more than 10 years and, in the meantime, he married someone else. I thought the President erased taxes on earned money so that people could collect what was due them no matter what they earned. My daughter keeps telling me she has already earned too much this year and cannot collect her widow’s benefits until next year. I don’t understand what no tax on Social Security means then. Also, she wants to wait until she is 67 before she collects her own money. She has been a nurse and believes her own benefits may be larger than her widow’s benefits. Is she correct to wait for that long?
Signed: Worried Mom

Dear Worried Mom: Your daughter is likely correct. There are two factors which come into play in your daughter’s circumstance—one is the Annual Earnings Test (for those collecting early SS benefits), and the other relates to Federal income tax on SS benefits received. I’ll try to clarify both of these for you:

If your daughter claims her widow’s benefit at age 62, her benefit will be significantly reduced (by approximately 20+%) from what she would get at her SS full retirement age, and that would be a permanent reduction. And, if she works (which you imply she does) she would also be subject to Social Security’s Annual Earnings Test (AET) which limits how much she can earn by working prior to reaching her SS full retirement age (her “FRA,” which is age 67). The earnings limit for 2026 is \$24,480 (changes yearly) and, if her annual 2026 earnings exceed that amount, Social Security will take away \$1 of benefits for every \$2 she is over the annual limit. For example, if she is \$25,000 over the limit, SS would take way benefits equal to \$12,500. That would mean she wouldn’t get any SS benefits for the remainder of this year and likely some of next year also. And, if her earnings are significantly more than the annual limit, she may even be temporarily ineligible to receive a widow’s benefit (until she either reaches her FRA or earns less money). FYI, the Annual Earnings Test will go away when your daughter reaches age 67 but, until then, the AET will likely restrict her ability to receive Social Security benefits if she continues to work full time.

The next factor to be aware of is the so-called “One Big Beautiful Bill” (OB BB) which the President claimed means “no tax on Social Security.” This is an entirely different factor than the Annual Earnings Test (AET) described above. The above AET discussion dealt with SS earnings limits while taking benefits before FRA, whereas the OB BB deals with income tax on Social Security benefits actually received. The OB BB (enacted last year) provides an extra \$6,000 deduction per person (on the tax return filed with the IRS) for those 65 years of age or older. That extra IRS deduction is designed to offset (either totally or partially) any income tax which is levied on Social Security benefits received by those age 65 or older. It’s also important to know that the OB BB only provides temporary income tax relief, because the law expires after the 2028 income tax year.

All of which leads me to conclude that your daughter’s decision to wait longer to claim her widow’s benefit from her deceased ex-husband is a prudent choice. As long as she is working and earning more than the annual earnings limit before age 67, the AET will restrict how much Social Security she is able to receive. If she later stops working or goes to part-time employment, she can revisit her decision at that time. And, depending on her own personally earned Social Security benefit amount at age 67 (vs. her widow’s benefit), she can assess whether to claim her personal SS retirement benefit or to, instead, claim her benefit as her ex-husband’s widow if that amount is larger than her own SS retirement. And, unless Congress later extends the OB BB prior to 2029, she will, at that time, likely need to pay income tax on the Social Security benefits she receives.

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.

AMAC | Washington DC | 917-846-8485

Educational Systems Federal Credit Union Named 2026 Top Workplaces Remote Work Award Winner

By PRESS OFFICER
Educational Systems Federal Credit Union

GREENBELT, Md. (Sept. 23, 2026)—Educational Systems Federal Credit Union has been named a 2026 Top Workplaces Remote Work Award winner by TopWorkplaces.com.

The award is based solely on employee feedback gathered through a confidential third-party survey administered by employee engagement technology partner Energage LLC. The survey measures the employee experience and its component themes, including whether employees feel respected and supported, enabled to grow and empowered to execute.

“At Educational Systems Federal Credit Union, we are committed to creating a workplace where our Ambassadors feel supported, connected and empowered to

do meaningful work,” said Girado Smith, President/CEO of Educational Systems Federal Credit Union. “This recognition reflects the flexibility, collaboration and shared purpose that help our teams serve members and communities with excellence, whether working remotely or in person.”

The Top Workplaces program recognizes people-first organizations across the country. TopWorkplaces.com awards are based on employee feedback and celebrate organizations that prioritize workplace culture, employee engagement and meaningful support for their teams.

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, stu-

dents, parents and individuals working for education-related organizations. For more information, visit www.esfcu.org.

Energage is a purpose-driven company that helps organizations turn employee feedback into useful business intelligence and credible employer recognition through Top Workplaces. Built on 20 years of culture research and the results from 30 million employees surveyed across more than 80,000 organizations, Energage delivers the most accurate competitive benchmark available. With access to a unique combination of patented analytic tools and expert guidance, Energage customers lead the competition with an engaged workforce and an opportunity to gain recognition for their people-first approach to culture. For more information or to nominate your organization, visit www.energage.com or topworkplaces.com.

Prince George’s County Association of REALTORS® Honor 2026 REALTOR® of the Year, Carole Webb

By ERICA KALEDA
Prince George’s County Association of REALTORS® (PGCAR)

LANDOVER, Md. (Sept. 25, 2026)—Please join us in celebrating the 2026 REALTOR® of the Year, Carole Webb of Samson Properties in Bowie, MD. Ms. Webb has been a REALTOR® and member of the Prince George’s County Association of REALTORS® (PGCAR) for over 26 years, where she has served in many different roles culminating to 2026 Association President.

Each year, PGCAR members nominate one REALTOR® who has best served the real estate profession and the community. REALTOR® of the Year (ROTY) winners are selected for possessing numerous qualities including high principles of integrity, adherence to the REALTOR® Code of Ethics, exceptional service to clients, imaginative and creative advertising programs, community service, notable business accomplishments, and state, local and/or national association activity.

At an event attended by her family, friends and fellow colleagues, Emcee, Melanie Gamble, 2027 President of the Maryland REALTORS® made the announcement: “The REALTOR® who has demonstrated significant business-accomplishments, faithfulness to the Code of Ethics, leadership, civic and community



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® (PGCAR)

2026 REALTOR® of the Year, Carole Webb of Samson Properties in Bowie, MD

involvement, and local, state and National Association activity to a degree which makes her truly worthy of the title PGCAR “REALTOR® of the Year” is our 2026 President Carole Webb.”

Congratulations, Carole, and thank you for all you do for the REALTORS® of Prince George’s County.

The Voice for Real Estate in Prince George’s County: PGCAR is the voice for REALTORS® in Prince George’s County, Maryland. Representing more than 3,500 real estate professionals in the national

capital area, PGCAR is an affiliate of the Maryland and National Association of REALTORS®. We are proud to serve our members and our community and work to ensure professionalism in the industry. Our volunteers and staff work to offer services to real estate professionals

and to provide avenues for our members to become more successful. We proudly work to promote and protect homeownership and private property rights.



Kaiser Permanente Mid-Atlantic States Health Plans Earn Top National Rating for Quality and Service

By PRESS OFFICER
Kaiser Permanente

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (Sept. 16, 2026)—Kaiser Permanente’s commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid health plans in the Mid-Atlantic region received a 5 out of 5 rating from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) in the 2026 Health Plan Ratings.

This marks the eighth consecutive year that Kaiser Permanente’s commercial health plan has achieved the highest possible quality rating, making it the only health plan in the nation to sustain this record. For the fourth year in a row, Kaiser Permanente’s commercial plan is also the only plan in Maryland, Virginia, or Washington, D.C., to receive the top score of 5 out of 5 on NCQA’s Health Plan Report Cards.

Out of more than 956 health plans rated nationwide, only 18 plans received the prestigious 5 out of 5 rating, placing them in the top 2% of health plans in the country. Kaiser Permanente is proud to be among them.

“This 5 out of 5 rating from NCQA affirms what our members experience every day: Kaiser Permanente delivers among the best care and service in the nation,” said Emily Holliman, regional president, Kaiser Permanente, Mid-Atlantic States. “Out of more than 956 health plans rated nationwide, our plans stand among the top 2 percent—a reflection of our teams’ commitment to high-quality, coordinated care.”

NCQA also rated Kaiser Permanente’s Medicaid and Medicare plans in the Mid-

Atlantic among the best in the region across categories such as treatment, prevention, equity, and patient experience. The Medicaid plan in Maryland and the Medicare plans in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C., received 5 out of 5, the highest rating awarded to any Medicaid or Medicare plan in the region.

Achieving the highest NCQA rating means Kaiser Permanente members consistently benefit from coordinated, effective, and compassionate care.

“For Kaiser Permanente, this recognition reflects our commitment to delivering extraordinary care every day for the communities we serve,” said Ameya Kulkarni, executive medical director, Kaiser Permanente, Mid-Atlantic States. “Our 5 out of 5 rating is the result of exceptional physicians, innovative thinking, and a relentless focus on improving patients’ lives. We make it easy for patients to get the care they need, including proactively offering recommended screenings and ensuring seamless follow-up and support when additional care is required. We are proud to be building a health care experience that is advanced, accessible and focused on helping every patient achieve the best possible outcome.”

This integrated and coordinated approach ensures that members receive timely and appropriate care while improving health outcomes across populations. Kaiser Permanente provides care at 34 medical centers across Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Virginia, as well as through virtual care options, including video visits, secure messaging, and phone

consultations. With about 1,800 physicians across approximately 65 medical and surgical specialties, the Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group’s award-winning physicians care exclusively for members of Kaiser Permanente Health Plan.

Consumers can compare health plans on the NCQA website at <https://report-cards.ncqa.org/>.

NCQA is a national, private, not-for-profit organization that evaluates health plans based on dozens of quality measures, including clinical performance, patient experience, prevention, equity, and treatment. NCQA primarily used the 2025 Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) to establish its 2026 ratings. HEDIS is the most widely used performance measurement tool in health care. The ratings and methodology are posted on NCQA’s website at <https://www.ncqa.org>.

This article was sponsored by Kaiser Permanente, which serves 12.9 million members in nine states and the District of Columbia. Care for members and patients is focused on their total health and guided by their personal Permanente Medical Group physicians, specialists, and team of caregivers. In the Mid-Atlantic region, Kaiser Permanente provides care at 34 medical centers located in Maryland, Washington, DC, and Virginia. With 1,800 physicians in more than 65 specialties, the Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group, which provides care exclusively to Kaiser Permanente members, is the largest integrated multi-specialty medical group in the region

