

The Prince George's Post



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Moore-Miller Administration Celebrates Opening of Veterans Benefits Office in Prince George's County

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration

GLEN BURNIE, Md. (Oct. 13, 2026)—The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA), in partnership with the Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families (DVMF), marked the opening of a new Veterans Benefits Office at the MVA Largo Branch Office on Tuesday, October 13. This is the 11th DVMF office co-located inside of an MVA branch office, advancing the Moore-Miller Administration's ongoing commitment to strengthen support for veterans and military families by making benefits and services they have earned as part of their service more accessible.

Motor Vehicle Administrator Chrissy Nizer was joined by Secretary Ed Rothstein and Deputy Secretary Jimmy Anderson of the Department of Veterans and Military Families, Representative Glenn Ivey, Senator Nick Charles, Delegates Karen Toles and Kent Roberson, George Onyenyeonwu, Director of Prince George's County Office of Veterans Affairs, members of the Maryland



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION

Veteran Benefits Office opening at Largo MVA Branch Office on October 13, 2026.

Veterans Commission and local veterans' organizations for the ribbon cutting.

The additional Veterans Benefits Office location at 10251 Central Ave in Upper Marlboro further enhances the MVA's One-Stop Government Shop

model, which integrates partner services directly into the footprint of each branch location. During Fiscal Year 2026, DVMF engaged with nearly 200,000 individuals statewide; more than one-third of those interactions occurred at

offices co-located within MVA branch offices.

"Here at the MVA, our work is customer-driven and we are committed to connecting our customers to life's opportunities through the services we provide," said Administrator Nizer. "We best serve our customers by understanding who they are, identifying their needs, and meeting them where they are. Bringing our government partners into our branches has removed hurdles, opened doors to services and supports veterans and their families' needs. Our hope is that this new point of connection will help expand veteran opportunities and support their ability to thrive in Prince George's County."

Maryland is home to more than 344,000 veterans living in the state, more than 37,000 active-duty service members and more than 26,000 national guard and reserve members. Additionally, there are more than 68,000 military-connected family members.

"Our ongoing partnership with MVA reflects a shared commitment to responsive, accessible public service," said

Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families Secretary Ed Rothstein. "Prince George's County is home to Maryland's largest veteran population, and this new office at the Largo MVA gives veterans and their families a convenient place to receive personal guidance and access the benefits they have earned. By working together and meeting people where they are, we are putting Maryland's commitment to leaving no one behind into action."

Maryland offers comprehensive support, resources and protections for military service members, veterans and their families through dedicated state initiatives.

The MVA offers several programs designed specifically for veterans and military personnel, including:

Veteran License Designation: Veterans may add a "Veteran" designation to their Maryland driver's license or ID card.

Commercial Driver's License Skills Test Waiver: Eligible veterans and active-duty service members may qualify to waive the skills test when applying for a Commercial Driver's License.

Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program Testing Exemption: Active-duty

See **VETERANS** Page A5

The Clean Water Partnership Honored for Driving Economic Impact in Prince George's County

By PRESS OFFICER
The Clean Water Partnership

Representatives from Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (PGCEDC) and the offices of Prince George's County At-Large Council Members Jolene Ivey and Wala Blegay joined in recognizing The Clean Water Partnership (CWP's) contributions to local economic development, small and minority business growth, workforce development and sustainable infrastructure. Maryland Economic Development Week highlights the important role economic development plays in strengthening Maryland's business climate, creating and retaining jobs, attracting investment, expanding the tax base and enhancing quality of life.

Since its launch in 2015, CWP has invested approximately \$387 million in design, construction and maintenance of 428 stormwater restoration projects completed or advanced throughout Prince George's County. Approximately \$273 million of that investment has been directed to minority and County-based businesses, while more than 50 percent of project labor hours have been performed by Prince George's County residents.

CWP has also completed eight Mentor-Protégé Program cohorts, resulting in approx-



PHOTO COURTESY CLEAN WATER PARTNERSHIP

On October 1, 2026, The Clean Water Partnership (CWP), the community-based public-private partnership between Corvias Infrastructure Solutions (CIS) and Prince George's County, was recognized during Maryland Economic Development Week for its significant economic impact in Prince George's County, including its commitment to supporting local businesses, strengthening the County-based workforce, and investing in communities.

imately \$60 million in competitive contract awards, and has expanded its workforce and education impact through initiatives such as its Treating & Teaching program, which has reached more than 60 schools. Together, these

investments demonstrate how CWP is leveraging sustainable infrastructure to drive economic opportunity, strengthen the local businesses and create lasting impact throughout Prince George's County.

Maryland Transit Administration to Host Public Meeting for College Park MARC Accessible Station Project

Design of College Park MARC Station Improvement Project Will Advance Moore-Miller Administration Priorities of Safety and Accessibility

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Transit Administration

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (Oct. 15, 2026)—The Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) is working to improve MARC train accessibility for all. MTA invites the community to come out for a public meeting to view concepts for the College Park MARC Accessible Station Project on October 27 from 6–7:30 p.m. at the College Park City Council First Floor Community Room.

Participants who attend the October 27 meeting will have an opportunity to review

Meeting Details

Date: **Tuesday, October 27, 2026**
Time: 6–7:30 p.m.
Location: College Park City Council
First Floor Community Room
Address: 7401 Baltimore Avenue,
College Park, MD 20740

the selected concepts, ask questions and provide input for consideration. The College Park MARC station improvements build on the station's growing role in the region's public transportation network and are funded by the Federal Transit Adminis-

tration's All Stations Accessibility Program through 30% design.

"The Moore-Miller Administration is prioritizing the advancement of infrastructure that better connects Marylanders to opportunities and each other," said MTA Administrator Tony Bridges. "By engaging in public feedback that focuses on ensuring accessibility and most importantly, passenger and employee safety, we are making sure to listen to those most affected by the changes we make."

See **MEETING** Page A3

Sip & Savor: A Taste of Prince George's Returns to Newton White Mansion

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN
Hospice of the Chesapeake

LARGO, Md. (Oct. 15, 2026)—Hospice of the Chesapeake is excited to announce the return of Sip & Savor: A Taste of Prince George's, from 1 to 4 p.m. on **Sunday, Nov. 15**, at the elegant Newton White Mansion in Mitchellville, Maryland. This culinary event will bring together community members, local restaurants and businesses for an afternoon celebrating the flavors, culture and care that make the region so special, while supporting Hospice of the Chesapeake's mission to serve patients and families throughout Prince George's County.

Guests will enjoy a showcase of savory and sweet dishes prepared by local chefs and caterers, along with refreshing beverages and music in a picturesque garden setting. Throughout the afternoon, attendees can take part in interactive experiences highlighting the mission and impact of Hospice of the Chesapeake.

Sip & Savor is more than a tasting event. It is an opportunity to support compassionate care for neighbors in need. As the largest independent nonprofit hospice organization in Maryland, Hospice of the Chesapeake cares for more than 200 patients and families each month in Prince George's County. Funds raised through the event help provide expert medical care and symptom management, emotional and spiritual support, grief counseling and bereavement services and specialized care programs for veterans and children.

The event is made possible by Hospice of the Chesapeake's Premier Sponsor, the Brian and



ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN,
HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE

Delicious sweets from Butterqueen were among the many offerings at last year's Sip & Savor.

Patricia Giese Foundation, as well as Savory sponsor John & Cathy Belcher and Artisan sponsor The Hussman Foundation. Thanks to the generosity of donors and supporters, Hospice of the Chesapeake can deliver care regardless of a patient's ability to pay, making every contribution truly life-changing.

Businesses and individuals interested in supporting the event can become a sponsor or underwrite an experience, such as a food station, music set or mission moment. Sponsors and underwriters will be recognized during the event, on the event website and on social media. For more information, contact events@hospicechesapeake.org.

People can also purchase individual tickets, which include full access to food and drink tastings, entertainment and event experiences. Proceeds from ticket sales directly fund the care Hospice of the Chesapeake provides to local patients and families.

For sponsorship and underwriting information and for tickets, visit <https://www.hospicechesapeake.org/sip-savor-registration/>.

For details, contact Lauren Thurston at 443-837-1531 or events@hospicechesapeake.org.

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

Brandywine-Aquasco by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Until November 1, 2026, celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with an exhibition that highlights Latinx and Hispanic artists in the DMV area. Hispanic Heritage Month adds the rich lineup of cultural events in D.C. This month honors the influence of Hispanic art, music, and cultural traditions. Hispanic culture spans Spain and over 20 Spanish-speaking nations, shaped by indigenous, European, and African heritages. U.S. Population: The U.S. Latino population has reached roughly 68 million, making up about 20% of the total U.S. population and driving more than half of the country’s population growth.

President Lyndon B. Johnson first introduced Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968. It grew into a month: President Ronald Reagan signed a law in 1988 to expand the one-week celebration into a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to shine a spotlight on unique voices and experiences of Hispanic/Latino Americans and recognize their history, journeys, and achievements through these celebrations. We can all help to inspire younger generations and bring communities together. National Museum of the American Latino. PEW Research Center.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Displaying her hands for service by the way she willingly gives. Demonstrating the heart of a lady by the way she daily lives. Seeking out women and children to provide for their basic needs. Supporting whatever the mission some of the first to take the lead. Strong, dedicated, and faithful to the work both far and near, answering the call in many ways the sole purpose of why she’s here. She stands beside the godly men of Clinton CUMC. Faithful follower, sister in Christ for whom the Son set free. Only the work done for the Lord will count in the very end. The way she’s given to the least of these. She shall truly be called a friend. No program, nor service, no earthly reward. No activity under the sun can compare to the words of the Almighty. Saying, all my daughters, “Well done.” Words by Kendra Neal, member of Clinton United Methodist Church in Clinton, Maryland.

BEAC CHAPTER

BEAC Scholarship application is open now. Application period from October 1–November 15, 2026. Empowering students for a better future at Bowie State University. We are awarding (2) students \$500 Scholarships for spring 2027. Attend Bowie State University. Submit a Video. Share your story, your goals, and how this scholarship will help you succeed. Provide a Transcript with a minimum GPA of 2.5 and at least 30 credit hours. ELIGIBLE STUDENTS: Accepting applications from Sophomores, Juniors & Seniors. Winner will be announced December 15, 2026. For more information, contact beacscholarships@gmail.com. Congratulations to our fall 2026 Scholarship Winners. Zaire Bond, Jadin Holiday. Your dedication inspires a stronger Bowie State tomorrow.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Explore iconic Smithsonian Museums without the exhaustion! Enjoy a curated, small-group highlighted tour of the National Museum of American History and guaranteed entry into the Air & Space Museum. Free cancellation. Cancel up to 24 hours in

advance for a full refund. Reserve now and pay later. Keep your travel plans flexible. Book your spot and pay nothing. Duration is three hours. Check availability to see starting times. Live English tour guide. From \$47 per person.

Highlights: Explore the National Museums of American History and Air and Space. Walk along the National Mall and see the iconic Smithsonian Castle. Learn about military pop culture, and presidential history. Witness the history of flight with the Wright Flyer and space command modules. Enjoy reserved timed entry to the National Air and Space Museum.

Full Description: Begin your tour at the National Museum of American History. Explore military, pop culture, and presidential history as you wander through the exhibits. Next, walk along the National Mall and see the iconic Smithsonian Castle up close. Learn about its origins and hear stories about its history. Enjoy the great views and photo opportunities along the National Mall. Finally, head to the National Air and Space Museum with your reserved timed entry ticket. Witness the history of flight with the Wright Flyer and space command modules.

CONGRATULATIONS

Welcome and motivate. People, places, purpose, prosperity. A bigger life awaits. Congratulations to our newest Platinum Director Venus Jones on achieving the rank of Platinum Director with Travorium! A brighter tomorrow together. “Venus, your dedication and leadership are shining through. We’re proud to celebrate this milestone with you and excited to see where your journey takes you next! Passport to a brighter you. Travel more, meet new people, see bigger places, create opportunity, build a brighter you. Dream, travel, earn, repeat. Membership has its privileges. Team We.

BEAC HALLOWEEN PARTY

BEAC Bulldog Empowerment Alumni Chapter, Bowie State University National Alumni Association presents BEAC Halloween Party Alumni Fundraiser, Saturday, October 31, 2026, from 5–9 p.m. at CK Lounge, Bowie, Maryland. A portion of the proceeds will go to scholarships. Music by DJ WHITE the MIC. Food & drinks available for purchase. Tickets: \$25 available on Eventbrite. For more information, please call 301-857-7806. Bulldog Empowerment Alumni Association. Alumni, Scholarships, Brighter Futures. Once a Bulldog Always a Bulldog.

SOCKABLE FUNDRAISING USA

Sockable Fundraising USA Fundraiser through November 3, 2026. Step into giving with BEAC. Shop fun, stylish socks during our Sockable Fundraising USA fundraiser and help support the Bulldog Empowerment Alumni Chapter Scholarship fund. Socks are a practical favorite for all ages and make a great gift all year round. This easy online fundraiser is a simple way to give back while adding flair to your sock drawer. Our Goal: We need 20 BEAC members to commit to selling 10 pairs of socks to reach our goal of at least 100 pairs of socks. Proceeds will support the Bulldog Empowerment Alumni Scholars. EDUCATE, EMPOWER, ELEVATE. <https://bitly/4y5BdBI>, bsubeac2017@gmail.com. “There’s A Spot in My Heart”. Bowie State University National Alumni Association.

Bowie High School NJROTC Cadet Earns High-Distinction Cisco Cybersecurity Certification

By GEORGE HINTON
Bowie High School

BOWIE, Md. (Oct. 14, 2026)—Cadet Mofolafoluwa Dosumu, a standout student leader at Bowie High School and Team Captain of the Bowie High School NJROTC Cyber Patriots Team, has officially completed the Cisco Certified Support Technician (CCST) Cybersecurity certification.

Cadet Dosumu achieved an exceptional score of 965 out of 1000, falling just 35 points short of a perfect score. The CCST Cybersecurity examination is a rigorous, industry-aligned assessment that validates foundational knowledge

in security principles, network security, endpoint safety, vulnerability management, and incident handling.

In addition to mastering complex technical coursework, Cadet Dosumu demonstrates ongoing leadership as the Team Captain of Bowie High’s Cyber Patriots unit, guiding fellow cadets through national youth cyber defense competitions that simulate real-world network security administration.

This achievement highlights Cadet Dosumu’s strong personal dedication, hard work, and technical promise as he prepares for a career in technology and defense. Furthermore, his accomplishment reflects the ac-



PHOTO COURTESY BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL NJROTC

Cadet Mofolafoluwa Dosumu

ademic and leadership excellence promoted by the Bowie High School NJROTC program.

WSSC Water Marks Imagine a Day Without Water With Call for Emergency Preparedness

State and County Officials Join WSSC Water to Emphasize Importance of Preparing for Water Emergencies

By PRESS OFFICER
WSSC Water

LAUREL, Md. (Oct. 15, 2026)—On Imagine a Day Without Water, WSSC Water officials joined Maryland Secretary of the Environment Serena McIlwain, Maryland Secretary of Emergency Management Russell Strickland, county emergency preparedness officials and county fire departments to deliver an important message: Don’t just imagine a day without water. Be prepared for it.

The message comes just over two weeks after a power outage at WSSC Water’s Potomac Water Filtration Plant prompted an essential-water-use-only request for 1.9

million customers in Prince George’s and Montgomery counties. While drinking water remained safe and service was maintained throughout the event, the incident served as a powerful reminder of the importance of preparing for unexpected water service interruptions.

WSSC Water and its emergency preparedness partners urge residents to prepare for a water service interruption by storing water at home:

- **Store at least one gallon of water per person per day for a minimum of three days.**
- **Don’t forget your pets!**

During today’s event at the WSSC Water Support Center in Laurel, officials

demonstrated how residents can prepare for water emergencies, including the importance of storing an emergency water supply. With fire apparatus from both counties on display, the event also highlighted water’s critical role in firefighting and emergency response.

Residents are encouraged to make water part of their household emergency preparedness kits before a disruption occurs. For more information about preparing for water emergencies, visit <https://www.wsscwater.com/prepare>. For additional guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on safely storing emergency drinking water, visit tinyurl.com/CDC-WaterStorage.

Around the County

Prince George’s County Celebrates Completion of Phase I Improvements at Animal Services Facility and Adoption Center

Approximately \$1.7 million in upgrades expands dog housing capacity and improves animal care, adoption spaces, and daily operations.

LARGO, Md. (Oct. 9, 2026)—Prince George’s County today celebrated the completion of Phase I capital improvements at its Animal Services Facility and Adoption Center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony highlighting safer animal housing, new cat interaction rooms, and upgraded equipment to support daily care.

Phase I represents approximately \$1.7 million of a \$3.1 million Capital Improvement Project at the facility, located at 3750 Brown Station Road in Upper Marlboro. Following a year of construction and improvements, the completed work provides more functional spaces for animals, employees, volunteers, and prospective adopters.

“This investment reflects our commitment to compassionate animal care and to supporting the employees and volunteers who provide that care every day,” said County Executive Aisha N. Braveboy. “These improvements create safer spaces for animals and better opportunities for residents to meet a pet and welcome them into a loving home.”

- A key improvement replaces temporary kennels in the Intake 1 Dog Room with permanent kennels, increasing capacity by 14 dogs. New cages in the Cat Mall and dedicated cat interaction rooms provide improved housing and spaces where prospective adopters can get acquainted with cats.
- Additional Phase I improvements include:
- Kennel tops to improve animal safety, two new HVAC units, and new ductwork in the Placement Room.
 - Replacement flooring and fresh paint in the Intake 1 Dog Room and Placement Room.
 - Expanded laundry equipment, including three 65-pound washers and four 55-pound dryers.
 - New pressure washers and a ride-on floor scrubber to support cleaning and disinfection.
 - A renovated staff and volunteer break room and an enclosed outdoor break area that provides flexible, all-weather space for facility operations.

“These upgrades address the practical needs of caring for animals every day—from safe housing and clean bedding to reliable equipment and dedicated adoption spaces,” said Department of the Environment Director Samuel B. Moki, Ph.D. “We are especially grateful to our staff and volunteers, who adapted throughout construction and continued providing the care our animals depend on.”

The County Council and Executive Branch allocated \$2.7 million toward the overall project. An additional \$400,000 was provided by the Office of Central Services’ Capital Programs Division, which managed the project in partnership with the Animal Services Division.

Residents can support the facility’s work through adoption, fostering, and volunteering.

COG Recognizes City of College Park for Climate and Energy Leadership

Winners contributed to lower greenhouse gas emissions in the region

WASHINGTON (Oct. 14, 2026)—At the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Board of Directors meeting, area leaders presented the 2026 Climate and Energy Leadership Awards to the **City of College Park’s Municipal Food Scrap Collection**, Arlington County’s E-Bike Voucher Program, the Center for Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health IN-powering Communities (CEEJH INC)’s Mid-Atlantic Climate Action Hub 2.0, Prince William County Public Schools’ Bel Air Elementary School Geothermal HVAC Renovation, and Neighborhood Sun Benefit Corp.’s Enterprise Community Development Portfolio of Low- and Moderate-Income Community Solar Farms.

The awardees implemented a broad range of climate solutions, which have contributed to the COG regional goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 and supporting environmental efforts to advance equity in traditionally disadvantaged neighborhoods.

The awards were announced by City of Takoma Park Councilmember and COG Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee Chair Cindy Dyballa and Workplace Management Solutions Expert at JLL and Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee Chair Ian Marcus.

Small Government Sector Award: City of College Park’s Municipal Food Scrap Collection

Food scraps make up approximately 24 percent of residential waste and contribute to methane emissions when placed in the trash, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. To address this, the City of College Park began a drop-off food scrap composting program in 2019 that allows residents 24-hour access to dispose of food scraps and food-soiled paper products. This program was expanded in 2022 to include Curbside Food Scrap Collection, free of charge to residents after they purchased the cost-share container. Currently, there are almost 500 participants in the program, approximately 11 percent of the City’s population. Through December 2025, the City has diverted 330 tons of food scraps from the landfill, reduced an estimated 227 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e), and prevented \$18,000 in future economic damage.

The Council of Governments is an independent, nonprofit association where area leaders address regional issues affecting the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia.

COMMUNITY

Marietta Historic Site & Museum Presents: Women and Children on the Underground Railroad

By STACEY HAWKINS
Marietta Historic Site & Museum

Want to know more about the women and children who used the Underground Railroad? Then this is the program for you! Please join us on **Thursday, November 5**, 6:30–8 p.m., as historian and founder of UGR3DAY Underground Railroad Experiences, Dionne Patterson, presents “Women and Children on the Underground Railroad.” *This presentation is online using Microsoft TEAMS.*

Ms. Patterson has written several children’s books about the Underground Railroad. She has published multiple articles about the resilience, survival, and ingenuity of many Underground Railroad “travelers” who sought freedom from enslavement.

Ages 12 & up. \$5/person. Registration required. To register online, please go to www.pgparksdirect.com and use ticket code: MHM-SPEC-GA-20261105.

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

Meeting from A1

The project will transform how passengers access MARC trains by adding two new low-level platforms, one on each side of the station, making it easier for passengers of all abilities to board and exit trains. The existing at-grade pedestrian crossing will also be removed, creating a safer station environment by eliminating the need for pedestrians to cross active train tracks.

The project will also include improved signal and communications to help riders navigate the station, benches and shading, bicycle storage

facilities, environmentally sensitive lighting, nature-based stormwater infrastructure and tree plantings.

For more information, visit <https://www.mta.maryland.gov/college-park-marc>

The Maryland Transit Administration is one of the largest multi-modal transit systems in the United States, and operates local and commuter buses, Light Rail, Metro Subway, MARC Train Service and a comprehensive Mobility paratransit system. To learn more, visit mta.maryland.gov, check us out on Facebook or YouTube and follow us on Twitter/X and Bluesky Social.

Holistic Homes, Inc. Launches Mental Health App Pilot on World Mental Health Day in Honor of the Late Camille Holman

“Healing Beyond the Clinic” community forum, in partnership with NAMI Prince George’s County, connected technology, supportive housing, holistic wellness, and community-based mental health resources.

By PRESS OFFICER
Holistic Homes, Inc.

PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY, Md. (Oct. 9, 2026)—Holistic Homes, Inc. marked World Mental Health Day with the pilot program launch of “Himmer,” an innovative AI-powered mental health app designed to expand access to personalized wellness routines and connect individuals to coaching support beyond traditional clinic services. Recruitment for the pilot kicked-off at “Healing Beyond the Clinic,” a World Mental Health Day community forum presented by Holistic Homes, Inc., in partnership with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Prince George’s County on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), “More than 1 in 5 adults in the United States experience mental illness each year.” In addition, more than 1 in 20 adults experience serious mental illness each year. NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) estimates that African Americans are more likely to experience disparities in mental health treatment than the general population. In September, NAMI issued an advocacy Medicaid Action Alert to protest proposed changes to Medicaid, which minority populations with mental



PHOTO COURTESY HOLISTIC HOMES, INC.
The late Camille Holman, 39-Year-old daughter of Ms. Lisa Bass Cooper, Founder of Holistic Homes, Inc.

health conditions use extensively. The proposed changes have the potential to worsen mental health care parity for the population.

“We founded Holistic Homes in 2023 because housing stability and holistic mental health recovery are connected,” said Lisa Bass Cooper, who spent two years developing the Himmer app’s features for mental health support. “Adults living with mental health conditions need more than a place to live or treatment in isolation. They need safe, supportive housing and holistic wellness plans from practitioners in our community that address the whole person.”

For Cooper, that mission is also

deeply personal. Her late daughter helped inspire the vision centered on humanitarian values of dignity, creativity, wellness, and care that reaches beyond a diagnosis. Cooper often summarizes the philosophy behind that work in one sentence: “Mental health challenges are what you have; they are not who you are.”

The free community forum brought together mental health advocates, professionals, families, and people with lived experience for an open conversation about what recovery can require beyond medication management and talk therapy, including supportive housing, accessible wellness resources, community support, and person-centered integrative care.

“Our Himmer app was created from lived experience and an understanding of the barriers that prevent many people from receiving adequate mental health support. Disparities in housing, transportation, technology, affordability, and culturally responsive care continue to leave too many people without the help they need. This tool makes wellness resources more accessible and connects individuals with support beyond the clinic,” said Cooper.

Truist Foundation supported the development of Himmer with funding granted to Holistic Homes in 2024 to support the development of its AI-pow-

See APP PILOT Page A4



A PLACE TO CALL HOME MAY BE WITHIN REACH

Get flexible loan options and the right support.

Our flexible financing solutions, including our STAR (Steps Toward Achieving Results) program, offer affordable options and personalized support to help you find the right fit.



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HEALTH *and* WELLNESS

Infinity Mental Health Marks World Mental Health Day by Recommitting to Patient-First Care Across Maryland and Washington, DC

Founded in 2019 by a DC-born clinical social worker, the Upper Marlboro practice has grown from a single practitioner to a team of nine therapists with in-house psychiatric prescribers

By PRESS OFFICER
Infinity Mental Health, LLC

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Oct. 10, 2026)—On World Mental Health Day, Infinity Mental Health is renewing a simple promise to the Maryland and Washington, DC communities it serves: every phone call answered, every email returned, and a provider who is prepared for every appointment. Founded by Angela White, LCSW-C, LICSW, the practice now offers therapy, psychiatric evaluation and medication management, school-based services and community mental health education.

From Forensic Evaluations to Patient-First Care

White, who was born in Washington, DC and raised in Montgomery and Prince George’s counties, founded Infinity Mental Health in 2019 while working as a clinical social worker in the District. The organization began as an assessment center providing forensic mental health evaluations for civil, criminal and immigration cases. Along the way, White heard the same feedback again and again: people could not find quality, professional mental health providers. Infinity responded by pivoting to outpatient mental health treatment.

White’s goal was to guarantee that at least one practice in the metropolitan area would make patient care the foundation of everything it does.

“I have heard horror stories from patients about their therapist cooking dinner during virtual appointments, or a therapist ghosting them and no longer responding,” White said. “At Infinity

Mental Health, we are founded on the patient experience. Everyone will have their phone calls answered, their emails responded to, and a provider who is prepared for them.”

That commitment extends to access. White has fought to keep the practice in-network with all major insurance plans, and Infinity employs a team of Patient Navigators who help patients, at no cost, resolve the non-clinical obstacles that keep them from starting or staying in care.

Growing to Meet the Community’s Needs

Today Infinity Mental Health is a team of nine therapists, including licensed social workers and professional counselors. They provide individual, family and couples therapy and in-office care for children as young as 5 and their parents. Clinical specialties include depression, anxiety, PTSD and trauma, mood disorders, co-occurring disorders and family conflict.

In 2024, the practice added in-house psychiatric prescribing after too many patients struggled to reach a psychiatrist for intakes and refill appointments. Experienced, board-certified Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners now see patients virtually, with in-office prescribing visits coming soon.

Infinity has grown from a single practitioner into an organization trusted by public and private partners:

- **Government contracts:** a school-based mental health with the Howard County Public School System, where Infinity reports a 96% school-year patient retention rate.

- **Community partnerships:** the Prince George’s County Family Justice Center, where Infinity provides trauma therapy for survivors of abuse and human trafficking, and Family Works Together warmline management.
- **Chronic Illness:** designed for patients and caregivers navigating life altering diagnosis, treatments, and adjustments. Addressing the nuances of the population
- **Maternal Mental Health:** responding to the mental health crisis of postpartum depression and anxiety.
- **Corporate wellness:** workshops for employees and supervisors on burnout, compassion fatigue and stress management.

“We Serve Where We Do Business”

That phrase guides how Infinity Mental Health shows up locally: its team takes part in local mental health initiatives and community events, with reducing stigma as a central goal. The need is real. More than 1 million Maryland adults live with a mental illness (NAMI, 2025), and 1,082,305 Marylanders live in a community without enough mental health professionals (NAMI Maryland). Nationally, 39.7% of high school students reported persistent sadness or hopelessness in the CDC’s 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

“Starting a business with a mission focus has not been easy. The political climate, insurance regulations and social factors are always changing,” White said. “But we remain committed to the care of Maryland and DC residents, and

we will keep expanding to meet our community’s needs.”

Infinity Mental Health is a certified Minority, Disadvantaged and Small Business Enterprise (MBE/DBE/SBE).

Mental Health Education as Prevention

Infinity Mental Health treats education as a core part of care, not an add-on. The practice delivers evidence-informed workshops for schools, congregations, nonprofits and employers on topics such as recognizing anxiety and depression, trauma-informed support, stress management, and burnout and compassion fatigue for employees and supervisors.

The research supports this approach. A 2018 meta-analysis in PLOS ONE found that structured mental health training improved participants’ ability to recognize mental disorders and increased the help they offered others, with effects lasting up to six months. The need is especially urgent at work: the American Psychological Association’s 2024 Work in America Survey found that 67% of U.S. workers reported at least one outcome tied to burnout in the past month, and 39% worried that disclosing a mental health condition would hurt them at work.

“Education is how we reach people before a crisis,” White said. “When a teacher can spot the signs of depression, or a supervisor knows how to talk about burnout, someone gets help weeks or months sooner. That is the kind of impact we want to have in every community we serve.”

Get Involved

Schools, congregations, community organizations and employers interested in hosting a mental health workshop, and individuals or families seeking care, can contact Infinity Mental Health at 240-667-2524 (Maryland) or 202-843-7622 (Washington, DC).

If you or someone you know is in crisis, call or text 988, the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

Founded in 2019 by Angela White, LCSW-C, LICSW, Infinity Mental Health is a licensed group practice headquartered at 9701 Apollo Drive, Suite 491, Upper Marlboro, Maryland, serving patients across Maryland and Washington, DC. Its team of nine therapists and board-certified Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners provides individual, family and couples therapy, psychiatric evaluation and medication management, school-based services, corporate wellness programs and community mental health education. The practice is in-network with all major insurance plans and offers free Patient Navigator support. Its promise: Feel Your Best with Expert, Personalized Mental Health Care.

Sources

- NAMI, Medicaid & Mental Health in Maryland fact sheet (2025)
- NAMI Maryland, Mental Health in Maryland fact sheet
- CDC, Mental Health and Suicide Risk Among High School Students, YRBS 2023
- Morgan, Ross & Reavley, Systematic review and meta-analysis of Mental Health First Aid training, PLOS ONE (2018)
- APA, 2024 Work in America Survey

Black Children at Risk for Severe Form of Asthma, New Research Suggests

By PRESS OFFICER
UVA Health

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (Oct. 15, 2026)—New UVA Health Children’s asthma research could improve care for children—especially Black children—with severe symptoms that require targeted treatment.

A team of UVA asthma experts found that Black race and ethnicity was the single strongest risk factor for developing harmful inflammation responsible for “T2-high asthma.” Children with this type of asthma tend to suffer from frequent asthma attacks and often have difficult-to-manage symptoms.

The new findings could help identify children with the condition and get them tailored treatments sooner. The results also support testing children with severe, difficult-to-treat asthma—regardless of their race—for high levels of T2 inflammation, UVA experts say.

Harmful Asthma Inflammation

Black children are much more likely to die of asthma than white children, and they are known to suffer T2 inflammation at higher rates. But doctors have struggled to determine if race drives this disparity, or if there are other factors, such as environmental pollution or family income, that could be contributing.

This prompted the UVA researchers to investigate the factors that influence T2 inflammation. They looked at more than 450 children with either T2-high asthma and T2-low asthma. These children came from a broad geographic area of Virginia that includes both rural and urban areas, helping the researchers assess how much of a role environment might play.

The scientists determined that race was the No. 1 predictor of high levels of T2 inflammation. Based on their subsequent analysis, the researchers say they are confident

that race and ethnicity are contributing to a child’s chances of developing T2-high asthma.

The research team also looked at the development of T2-high asthma over time and found interesting correlations with age. By preschool, more than a third had developed T2-high asthma, climbing to more than half by kindergarten.

This has important implications for the care doctors provide children with difficult-to-treat asthma, the UVA experts say. First, they recommend that physicians consider Black children at elevated risk for T2-high asthma. Second, they suggest blood and allergen testing for any child with asthma symptoms that are difficult to manage.

By understanding if T2 inflammation is driving asthma, doctors will be better positioned to tailor treatments to improve outcomes and help children live happy, healthy lives.

Virtual Live Webinar Forests in Focus: The Science of Tick Readiness in Maryland

Wednesday, November 4, 2026, Noon–1 p.m.

By PRESS OFFICER
University of Maryland Extension

If you want to learn more about tick-borne illnesses and how to stay safe in the woods this upcoming webinar is for you!

The Forestry Extension Program at the University of Maryland is excited to host a lunchtime webinar with Dr. Robyn Nadolny, Biologist and Vector-Borne Disease expert with Defense Centers for Public Health at Aberdeen Proving Ground. Dr. Nadolny will discuss the current research and trends on tick-borne illnesses in Maryland, highlight her center’s tick testing program for Military beneficiaries (MilTICK), and provide tips on how to stay safe out in the woods.

This webinar is free, but **registration is required**. Access this URL to register: <https://go.umd.edu/TickTalk2026>.

Please reach out to Daniel Pratson (dpratson@umd.edu) with any questions or reasonable requests for accommodations.

University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other legally protected class.

App Pilot from A3

ered mental health app. The funding helped advance the organization’s goal of providing personalized guidance and support to people navigating mental health conditions.

“Access to mental health support should extend beyond a clinical setting and meet people where they are,” said Bernita Bailey, Truist market president. “Aligned with Truist’s purpose to inspire and build better lives and communities, Truist Foundation is proud to support the development of Himmer and Holistic Homes’s work to connect more people in Prince George’s County with personalized tools and community-based support that can help them build healthier, more stable lives.”

World Mental Health Day: From Awareness To Action

World Mental Health Day was first observed on Oct. 10, 1992, as an initiative of the World Federation for Mental Health. The observance was created to advance mental health advocacy and educate the public about mental health issues. Today, the World Health Organization describes its objective as raising awareness of mental health issues worldwide and mobilizing efforts in support of mental health.

“NAMI Prince George’s County is proud to stand alongside Holistic Homes because

mental wellness cannot end at the clinic door. Housing stability, community support, and lived experience are just as vital to recovery as clinical care. This forum reflects our shared commitment to educating individuals and families by connecting them to real resources. Together, we are making an impact where healing extends into every part of a person’s life,” said Ms. Pamela R. Browne, executive director of NAMI Prince George’s County.

The forum’s panel speakers featured Wanda Fisher, interim co-chair of the Prince George’s County Continuum of Care (CoC) Board; Diana N’Diaye, parent with lived experience; and LaToya Tinsley, mental health counselor intern at My Empowering Impact Mental Health and Wellness Clinic.

Panelists brought professional, community, and lived-experience perspectives to a discussion about mental health recovery, supportive housing, wellness, and the resources individuals and families need to thrive. The program also featured a demonstration of the Himmer App, mental health support resources, and opportunities for community engagement.

Thanks to Truist Foundation and The Wawa Foundation for their support.

Founded in 2023, Holistic Homes, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to enriching the lives of adults living with

mental health conditions through supportive housing and holistic wellness therapies. The organization is on a mission to transform supportive housing through innovative mind-body wellness programs and person-centered resources that recognize the relationship among housing stability, mental wellness, and recovery. HolisticHomesForUs.org

NAMI Prince George’s County *is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. The organization works to build better lives for individuals and families living with mental illness through support, education, and advocacy, while promoting awareness, access to care, employment opportunities, affordable housing, and community partnerships. NAMIPGC.org*

Truist Foundation *is committed to Truist Financial Corporation’s (NYSE: TFC) purpose to inspire and build better lives and communities. The Foundation, an endowed private foundation established in 2020 whose operating budget is independent of Truist Financial Corporation, makes strategic investments in a wide variety of nonprofit organizations centered around two focus areas: building career pathways to economic mobility and strengthening small businesses to ensure all communities have an opportunity to thrive. Embodying these focus areas are the Foundation’s leading initiatives—the Inspire Awards and Where It Starts. Learn more at Truistfoundation.org.*

The Prince George’s Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Did I Understand You Right—I Won’t Get all my SS Benefits Immediately?

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

Dear Rusty: I was a little confused with one of your past articles. This September I hit my full retirement age and for every month I continue to delay, my SS benefit goes up a little more. But reading your article sounds like the extra benefits are only added at the end of the year. For example, let’s say that at my full retirement age in September I get \$3,524, and in January 2027 I would get \$3,619. According to the Ask Rusty article I read, if I start my benefits in June of 2027, I will have earned \$3,735, but it sounds like I would only get \$3,619 up until the end of the year, and then they would adjust it. If this is the case, would I get retroactive money back for the 6 months I did not get the correct amount? **Signed: Seeking Clarification**

Dear Seeking: Thanks for your inquiry. Your understanding of the previous Ask Rusty article is correct. If you start your benefits in June 2027 (10 months after your full retirement age (or your “FRA,” in Sept. 2026), you will initially only get the Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) you earned through the end of 2026. The DRCs you earned from January 2027 to June 2027 would not be credited until January 2028, and you would not get any retroactive benefits for the DRCs earned during the January—June 2027 timeframe.

SSA’s reasoning for this is somewhat confusing but has to do with your ability to claim retroactive benefits when you claim after reaching your full retirement age. When claiming after reaching your FRA you have the ability to claim benefits retroactively for up to six months. So, to avoid potentially overlapping benefit payments, SSA defers applying your current year’s DRCs until January of the following year. Thus, you essentially lose the extra 2027 DRC money for the remainder of 2027. And, FYI, the one exception to this rule is that when benefits are claimed mid-year at age 70, all DRCs are immediately paid. Please understand that I’m not endorsing this SSA rule; only trying to explain how it works and why. Like many SSA rules, there are nuances to how benefits are paid. And this is a classic example. And just remember, as attractive as taking 6 months of retroactive benefits may sound, it also means your monthly amount would be reduced by about 4% for the rest of your life.

As you contemplate when you should claim your Social Security retirement benefits, you should always keep in mind your anticipated life expectancy when making that decision. If you expect to live at least to the “average” life expectancy for those in their mid-60s (about mid-80s for someone your current age), then waiting longer to claim is usually a better long term financial decision (even considering the DRC issue described above). But if your life expectancy is less than “average,” claiming sooner is usually a better choice.

If you have further questions about when to claim Social Security, please contact us at SSadvisor@amacfoundation.org or 1.888.750-2622. There is never a fee for our advisory service because we are a non-profit organization.

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

Veterans from A1

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Military and Veteran License Plates: More than 100 veteran and military-themed license plates are available, including Space Force plates. Veterans with a 100% service-connected disability are eligible for free permanent registration.

Maryland Veterans Trust Fund: MVA provides customers with the opportunity to donate to the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund when they complete or renew their vehicle registration. Since Veterans Day 2025, customers have donated nearly \$150,000 to help veterans and their families navigate financial hardship.

More information about services available at the Largo Branch Office can be found here: <https://mva.maryland.gov/locations/mva-largo>. The MVA’s One-Stop Government Shop program is nominated for an award from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. You can support Maryland’s efforts to provide efficient and convenient services to our residents once per day by visiting this link.: <https://transportationawards.secure-platform.com/a/gallery?roundId=49>

Find more information about DVMF by visiting <https://veterans.maryland.gov/>

Flippo Construction Receives Three Honors at ABC Excellence in Construction Awards

By PRESS OFFICER
Flippo Construction Company, Inc.

FORESTVILLE, Md. (Oct. 14, 2026)—Flippo Construction Company received two Excellence in Construction Awards and a STEP Platinum accolade from Associated Builders & Contractors (ABC) Chesapeake Shores Chapter.

The Excellence in Construction Awards recognize outstanding achievement in construction and highlight projects that demonstrate excellence in craftsmanship, execution, and overall project performance. Flippo received an Excellence Award for a Federal Office Building Vault project in Washington, D.C., and a Merit Award for the Loyola Avenue Storm Sewer Upgrade project in Fairfax, Virginia.

“Our company is honored to be recognized by ABC Chesapeake Shores. Both of these projects presented unique challenges that required experience, teamwork, and a commitment to doing the job right,” said John Morgan, President & CEO of Flippo Construction Company. “I am extremely proud of the way our crews responded to those challenges and of the quality of work they delivered. These awards are a testament to their hard work, professionalism, and dedication, and I am proud to see their efforts recognized.”



PHOTO COURTESY FLIPPO CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

Flippo Construction was formally recognized at the Associated Builders & Contractors (ABC) chapter’s 2026 Excellence in Construction Awards Gala.

The ABC Safety Training and Evaluation Process (STEP) honor recognizes contractors that demonstrate a comprehensive commitment to safety through effective safety programs, employee training, performance measurement, and continuous improvement. The Platinum level designation is ABC’s second-highest level of recognition in the STEP program.

Flippo Construction was formally recognized at the chapter’s 2026 Excellence

in Construction Awards Gala, held at The Westin Annapolis in Annapolis, Maryland.

The honors add to a year of industry recognition for Flippo Construction Company. In April, the company received the Excellence in Infrastructure Award from the Heavy Construction Contractors Association (HCCA), also recognizing Flippo’s work on the Loyola Avenue Storm Sewer Upgrade project.

UMES Advances Towards Historic Milestone: Opening First Veterinary School at a Public HBCU

Letter of Reasonable Assurance clears the way for Maryland’s first in-state veterinary school to begin recruiting and admitting its inaugural class in 2027

By PRESS OFFICER
The University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES)

PRINCESS ANNE, Md. (Oct. 13, 2026)—The University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) School of Veterinary Medicine has received a Letter of Reasonable Assurance from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council on Education (COE), marking a major step toward welcoming its inaugural Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) class in summer 2027.

The AVMA Council on Education’s action permits UMES to begin recruiting applicants and admitting students. Applications are not yet open, but the university will announce application dates, deadlines and submission instructions soon. UMES’ veterinary program will be the first to be physically located in Maryland and the first veterinary school at a public historically Black college or university (HBCU).

“The Letter of Reasonable Assurance allows UMES to move forward with recruiting and admitting our inaugural veterinary school class,” said Dr. Stanley Robertson, dean of the UMES School of Veterinary Medicine. “Our rigorous, year-round three-year program will combine early hands-on learning with clinical experience in the communities and practice settings where veterinarians are needed. By drawing on the Eastern Shore’s agricultural setting and a network of clinical partners, we intend to graduate confident, practice-ready veterinarians sooner and strengthen the workforce serving animal health, agriculture and public health in Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic region.”

Reasonable Assurance is granted to a developing veterinary medical education program that does not yet enroll students but has demonstrated an acceptable prospect of achieving full accreditation. It does not confer accreditation. After students enroll, the program will continue through the COE’s prescribed accreditation process as the inaugural class progresses through the program.

In granting the Letter of Reasonable Assurance, the AVMA affirmed the strength of UMES’ plans for establishing the veterinary school, concluding that, “if implemented as proposed,” the program could be expected to meet accreditation standards during the provisional accreditation period.

The decision follows a comprehensive COE site visit conducted in June. During the visit, the evaluation team reviewed the school’s planning and readiness across the COE’s 11 accreditation standards, including organization, finances, facilities, clinical resources, curriculum, faculty, students, research and program assessment.

“This affirmation by the accrediting agency positions UMES to meet the nation’s growing need for veterinarians,” said UMES President Heidi M. Anderson. “It gives Marylanders who aspire to become vets the opportunity to train and remain in state, and it creates a durable new source of revenue for the university at a time when the economics of higher education are shifting.”

UMES has developed a rigorous, year-round DVM curriculum that students will complete in three years, rather than the standard four years. The program will integrate case-based instruction, simulation, clinical-skills training and supervised experiences across university-operated and affiliated clinical sites. Its semi-distributed clinical model is designed to expose students to varied

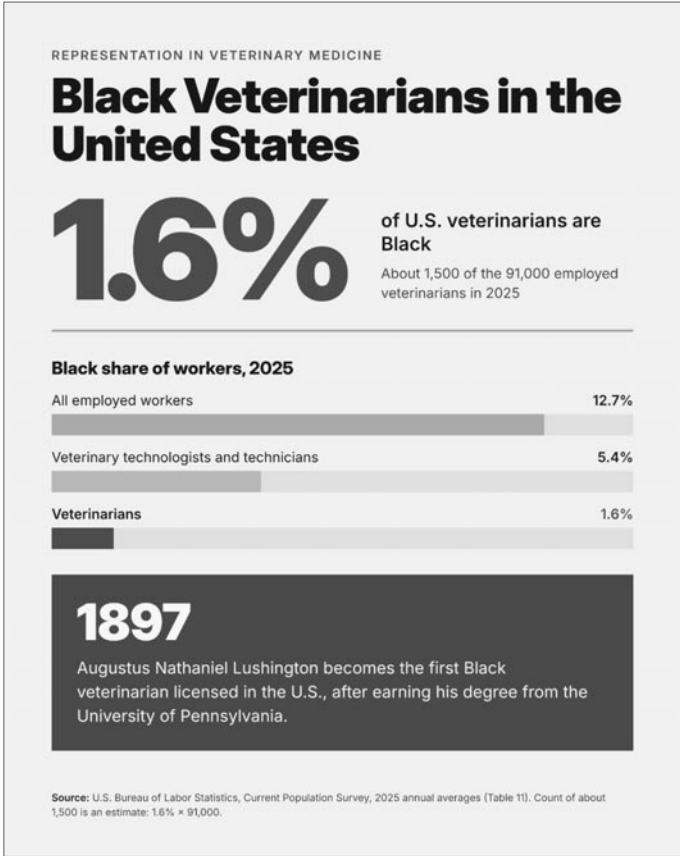
Registration Is Open for the 2026 Braveboy Climate Leadership Summit!

Join Prince George’s County’s Department of the Environment for the 2026 Braveboy Climate Leadership Summit. This year’s theme, “Climate Leadership in Action: Bridging Innovation, Equity, and the Workforce of the Future,” brings together residents, students, community leaders, and climate professionals to explore practical solutions for a more resilient future. Enjoy engaging discussions, interactive workshops, and exhibits on green careers,

sustainable agriculture, tree equity, clean energy, and community resilience. Be part of the conversation—and the action!

Register today:

<https://braveboyclimate2026.rsvpify.com/>
Thursday, November 19, 2026, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
Bowie State University | Martin Luther King Jr. Center
14000 Jericho Park Road, Bowie, MD 20715



species, practice settings, communities and career pathways while maintaining faculty oversight and consistent academic and clinical standards across all training sites.

The school will prepare veterinarians to serve needs across companion-animal care, agriculture, public health, research and other areas of veterinary medicine.

Prospective applicants should monitor the School of Veterinary Medicine website for the official application opening date and instructions. The inaugural class is planned to begin in summer 2027.

Information about prerequisite courses, admissions requirements, and the proposed selection process is available on the admissions section of the UMES School of Veterinary Medicine website. Program updates are also available through the School of Veterinary Medicine’s LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram channels.

Application information: <https://www.umes.edu/svm/how-to-apply/>

Ranked as the sixth highest among public Historically Black Colleges & Universities (Tie) according to U.S. News & World Report data, and #13 among all HBCUs, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore provides affordable access to higher education while developing innovative technology and research in key fields such as agriculture, science, pharmacy, and engineering. UMES offers 10 post-baccalaureate and upper division certificates; 41 bachelor’s degree programs; 19 master’s degree programs; six Ph.D. Programs; and four professional doctorate programs.

EarthTalk® Q&A

Outrunning Global Warming? Coral Reefs Move Toward Poles

By Serena Goragandhi | October 10, 2026

Dear EarthTalk:

Is it true that coral reefs are moving toward the poles due to the warming oceans? Can they outrun climate change's damaging effects?

—Mike T., Seattle, WA

Greenhouse gas emissions around the globe are driving tropical ocean temperatures to historic highs. As a result, coral reefs are attempting to migrate toward cooler, higher-latitude waters. This shift has sparked widespread debate over whether these vital ecosystems can naturally outrun the devastating impacts of climate change. Marine organisms are indeed expanding their geographic ranges, but recent scientific modeling reveals that adaptation speeds cannot keep pace with the sheer velocity of modern environmental degradation.

The biological urge for marine life to track cooler temperatures is well-documented. As Dr. Noam Vogt-Vincent, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) climate and global change postdoctoral fellow at the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) Marine Ecological Theory Lab, explains regarding historical shifts: "As the ocean warms, species tend to move poleward... We know from the fossil record that coral reefs have previously expanded their ranges in response to past climate change, but we didn't know whether this was a matter of decades or millennia."

To test whether this migration can outrun current warming trends, researchers turned to advanced predictive modeling. Using high-

powered simulations on the University of Hawai'i's Koa supercomputer, a recent multi-institution study evaluated how global coral networks will respond over time. Dr. Lisa McManus, a HIMB assistant research professor and co-author of the study, noted the scope of the project: "By modeling coral reefs globally and incorporating evolution and connectivity, this study provides an unprecedented long-term view of how these complex ecosystems will respond to climate change."

The supercomputer simulations delivered a sobering reality check. While coral larvae can drift poleward via ocean currents, the pace is far too slow to offset the mass destruction happening in equatorial zones. Furthermore, high-latitude environments present unexpected secondary barriers. Cooler waters often feature higher ocean acidification rates and a lack of established, interdependent species networks, meaning that arriving corals face severe survival hurdles even if temperatures are temporarily favorable.

Corals do possess some natural resilience mechanisms, including waterborne larval dispersal and shifts in symbiotic microalgae ratios to gain temporary heat tolerance. However, these evolutionary adjustments happen incrementally, whereas thermal stress events like widespread bleaching occur with abrupt, catastrophic frequency. This widening gap between slow adaptation and rapid environmental decline leaves many reefs vulnerable to collapse before they can evolve. So, relying solely on natural migration or localized survival shifts provides a false sense of security for the future of these marine habitats.

Ultimately, scientists emphasize that corals cannot simply outrun climate change. While new, small patches of high-latitude coral will likely establish over time, safeguarding the vast majority of the

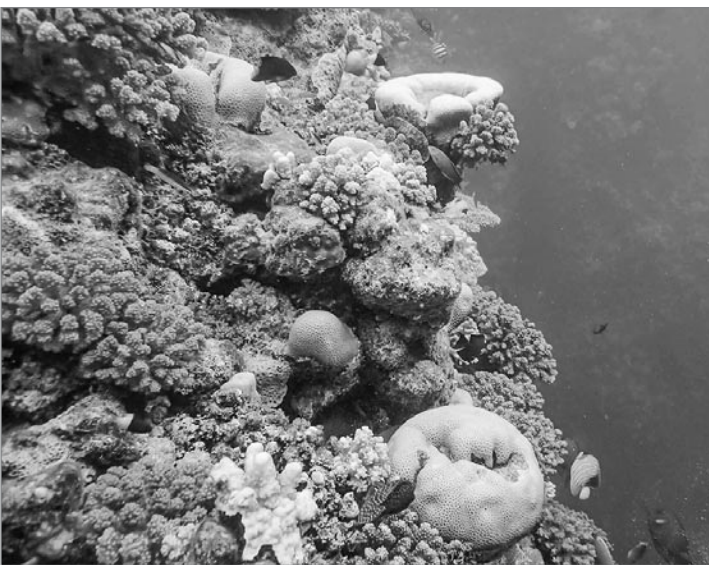


PHOTO CREDIT: PEXELS.COM

Coral reefs may be moving poleward but it's still anybody's guess if they can outrun climate change.

world's reef ecosystems relies entirely on ambitious, immediate reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions.

CONTACTS: NOAA Corals
<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/ocean/corals/>; Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology, himb.marine.hawaii.edu; NASA Coral Reef Airborne Laboratory, <https://impact.earthdata.nasa.gov/casei/campaign/CORAL/>.

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