

# The Prince George's Post



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## Hispanic and Latino Communities Worry About 2020 Census Undercount

By LUCIANA PEREZ URIBE  
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON (October 8, 2020)—Elian Contreras started work in early August as a census taker in Prince George's County, Maryland.

He helps with the "nonresponse followup," which consists of interviewing in-person the residents of every household who did not respond to the 2020 Census either online, by phone or on paper. On most full-time workdays, Contreras will knock on 60 doors, receive multiple distrustful glances from community members and get less than seven people to fill out the census.

Despite the low response rate, Contreras pushes forward to earn his pay and because he said he's "heavy on civic duty."

He and others are concerned that COVID-19 will lead to an inaccurate count, especially for Hispanic and Latino households, who are often distrustful of the census.

"It's 2020, we're in the middle of a global pandemic, a lot of people aren't going to be counted," Contreras told Capital News Service. "So, the more that I count people, the more people that are going to be represented, especially from communities that I come from."

Contreras, a junior majoring in music composition at the University of Maryland, College Park, was born in the United States but embraces his Hispanic heritage.

Latino populations are "hard-to-count," according to a 2018 research study conducted by the Leadership Conference Education Fund, a civil rights organization.

Latinos are not only at higher risk of not being fully counted in the 2020 Census, but also have been undercounted by the U.S. Census Bureau for decades, the fund wrote. The Center on Poverty and Inequality at Georgetown University Law Center contributed to the report.

Today there are more than 56 million Hispanics living in the United States, and roughly a third live in hard-to-count areas. The main barriers to an accurate representation of Latino communities are language, poverty, education and immigration status, the fund found.

In 2015, Hispanics constituted 17.6% of the nation's total population, making them the largest ethnic or racial minority, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

That reality makes it "espe-

cially important to make sure that the 2020 Census fairly and accurately captures the growing Latino community," the report said.

"We run the risk that Latino community most impacted by COVID might also be the ones to receive less funds for the next 10 years," said Lizbette Escobedo, director of the National Census Program for the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials.

An undercount has very real consequences for a community. The census occurs every 10 years and dictates how much federal funding a location will receive based on its population. The money pays for healthcare, job training, education and countless other federal programs.

Population data also is used to allocate seats and draw district

lines for the U.S. House of Representatives, state legislatures, and, in some cases, local governments.

The 2020 Census count was further hindered by COVID-19 when field operations were temporarily suspended in early March. This led to confusion and controversy as to when the count would wrap up.

In multiple reports released in early September, Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-New York, chairwoman of the House Oversight and Reform Committee, warned that states with an undercount of just 1% could lose hundreds of millions of dollars in funding unless deadlines were extended.

Amy Rivera, president of Political Latinxs United for Movement and Action in Society, a student group at the University of

Maryland, expressed concern that an undercount heightened by the pandemic could leave Hispanic and Latino populations with fewer resources and less funding during a time they're needed most.

"This whole epidemic has made things more difficult," Rivera said. "Now you don't just worry about the count, you worry about spreading a very dangerous disease to a very vulnerable population."

Census takers may be hesitant to knock on the doors of largely Hispanic and Latino neighborhoods because many individuals in this population have worked on the front lines of the pandemic and tend to have higher rates of infection, Rivera said. It has been widely reported that communities of color are being hit disproportionately hard by COVID-19.

As of now, the bureau is set to continue data collection operations through Oct. 31. The deci-

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IMAGE COURTESY PGCMLS

## Library Launches Read Woke Challenge

By DONNA SCOTT-MARTIN  
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (October 6, 2020)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) encourages a love of reading for all Prince Georgians with special programs and reading challenges throughout the year. PGCMLS is collaborating with the Read Woke Challenge, a national initiative to encourage reading, personal growth, and social justice, as part of its ongoing work to advance racial and social equity.

Readers of all ages are encouraged to read (or listen to) at least five books between October 6 and December 15, 2020 that explore diversity, inclusion, equity,

anti-racism, and the many perspectives of the human experience. Readers can register on Beanstack through PGCMLS to participate. All who log five titles through December 15, 2020 will be entered to win a \$50 Amazon gift card raffle.

"Read Woke is a movement. It is a feeling. It is a style. It is a form of education. It is a call to action; it is our right as lifelong learners," comments Cecily Lewis the creator of the Read Woke Challenge. "It means arming yourself with knowledge in order to better protect your rights. Knowledge is power and no one can take it away. It means learning about others so that you can treat people with the respect and dignity that they deserve no matter their religion, race, creed, or

color," continued Lewis, the School Library Journal 2020 School Librarian of the Year.

To qualify as woke, a book must:

- Challenge a social norm
- Give voice to the voiceless
- Provide information about a group that has been disenfranchised
- Seek to challenge the status quo
- Have a protagonist from an underrepresented or oppressed group

The Library offers book recommendations through Beanstack, Next Reads, and the Prince George's County Heritage Project. Readers can also receive personalized book recommendations by contacting Ask a Librarian at 240-455-5451 or askalibrarian@pgcmls.info.

## Health Department Releases Halloween Guidance, Offers Tips for Safer Activities

Health Officer recommends against traditional trick-or-treating; indoor haunted houses not allowed in the County

By GEORGE LETTIS  
Prince George's County Health Dept

LARGO, Md. (October 8, 2020)—Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the potential for virus transmission associated with some Halloween activities, the Prince George's County Health Department is not allowing indoor haunted houses and does NOT recommend traditional door-to-door trick-or-treating this year. If you choose to trick-or-treat, you can reduce the transmission risk by staying with members of your household and closely following health and safety guidelines.

"To avoid the spread of COVID-19

and other respiratory illnesses, it's very important to remain at least 6 feet away from others, wear face coverings, avoid large gatherings, and maintain good hand hygiene," said Prince George's County Health Officer Dr. Ernest Carter. "Closely following the guidelines Prince Georgians have so far done a good job adhering to will give our communities the best chance to have a safe and healthy Halloween."

And clearly, if you have COVID-19, or you may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you absolutely should not participate in in-person Halloween festivities and should not give out candy to trick-or-treaters.

The Health Department also recommends practicing these additional Halloween COVID-related safety tips:

- Consider Halloween-themed cloth face coverings instead of costume masks. Costume masks have mouth and nose holes and when worn alone do not provide the same protection as face coverings. Do not share masks, fangs, or similar items. Note: Costume masks on top of cloth masks can be dangerous and limit breathing.

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## PGCPS Announces Developer to Build New Schools Through Innovative Construction Program

Board of Education to vote on proposed developer at Oct. 21 meeting

By OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS  
Prince George's County Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (October 7, 2020)—Today, Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) Chief Executive Officer Dr. Monica Goldson announced the next stage of the school system's innovative and collaborative school construction program, a move designed to address rapid enrollment growth amid aging school buildings.

Prince George's County Education and Community Partners—which is comprised of Fengate Capital Management Ltd. and Gilbane Development Company, Inc., Gilbane Building Company, Stantec and Honeywell—will be recommended to the Prince George's County Board of Education to lead the Alternative Construction Finance Program, a public-private partnership. The Board is expected to vote on the proposed developer during its Thursday, Oct. 21 meeting.

With the Board's approval, Fengate Capital Management Ltd., Gilbane Development Company, Inc., and Gilbane Building Company will serve as the design-builder; Stantec as the architect and design lead; and Honeywell as the lead services provider. The design-build team of Gilbane and Stantec combines the expertise of the nation's top K-12 schools builder and designer with services provided by Honeywell through local school-based staff.

The new schools will result in upgraded learning environments for approximately 8,000 students. If approved, over the next four years the developer will build the new Drew-Freeman, Hyattsville, Kenmoor and Walker Mill middle schools in addition to an Adelphi area middle school and a south county kindergarten through eighth grade school. Under the normal process, it would take at

least 12 years to build the new facilities. All schools are scheduled to be ready for occupancy July 2024.

"By taking this non-traditional route, Prince George's County Public Schools is showing that students should not be forced to wait longer than necessary for high-quality learning environments," said Dr. Goldson. "I am proud to lead the first school district in the nation that seeks to build and maintain schools through this innovative approach. Patchwork replacements prevent our buildings from functioning effectively. I am happy to have Prince George's County Education and Community Partners join our program as we modernize our aging infrastructure to meet the 21st century needs of our students."

Board Chair Dr. Alvin Thornton said, "The construction of much-needed modern schools for the children of Prince George's County is a high priority for the Board of Education. The Board has actively engaged with Dr. Goldson, County Executive Alsobrooks and the County Council in the development of the innovative alternative construction and financing initiative, and looks forward to its final consideration of the recommendation of Prince George's County Education and Community Partners as the developer during its October 21, 2020 meeting. This ACF initiative is an essential part of the Board and Dr. Goldson's long-term student development and facilities enhancement strategic plan."

"Our children deserve high-quality learning environments that respect their dignity, so I am proud that through this partnership we are show-

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### INSIDE

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- MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center Needs Your Help: Fill Out Our Community Health Needs Survey
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**Local Foundation Partners With Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter Of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® to Raise Money to Help Maryland Families**

PEF awards scholarships to students, supports seniors with meals, provides food assistance to families and conducts education and awareness campaigns on a number of topics impacting the community.

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**To Be Equal: Trump Turns His Back on Struggling Americans, Small Businesses, State and Local Governments**

"All the president wants is his name on a check," Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi said. "We're here to honor our heroes, crush the virus, put money in the pockets of the American people..."

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**PGCEDC Rejoins MOU in Alliance With Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**

This MOU signals to the region that the GWHCC and the PGCEDC are working together to bridge language and cultural gaps through collaborative programming, mutual marketing and bilingual business initiatives.

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# TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

### Trunk-or-Treat in Morningside (door-to-door not recommended!)

On Halloween, October 31, Morningside is hosting Trunk-or-Treat, which has been a success the past two or three years.

Decorated cars will be properly spaced on the Town Hall parking lot. And with spacing and precautions in place, those in costume will get a candy bag. There'll also be prizes.

Those who wish to participate must RSVP by calling 301-736-2300 or emailing [generalmailbox@morningsidemd.gov](mailto:generalmailbox@morningsidemd.gov) by Oct. 22. If they don't have at least five cars RSVP'd, there'll be no Trunk-or-Treat.

The Town does not recommend going door-to-door.

### Couple's cruise-of-a-lifetime cut short by COVID-19

For more than a year, Joe and Brenda Farmer, of Skyline, planned an around-the-world cruise aboard the Cunard QE2 to celebrate Joe's retirement. They sailed from New York on Jan. 3, enjoyed London, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Sri Lanka, Equatorial Suez Canal—and then came March 5. The virus hit. Ports closed.

Joe was particularly sad not to have made it to Australia and Indonesia. Instead, the Queen Elizabeth 2 sailed for London's Heathrow Airport. Joe said behavior aboard the ship changed: no need to dress up after 6.

The Farmers flew home to Skyline Drive on April 15.

### Virus update

Maryland was doing well, but the region (DC, MD, VA) now has infections at a 19-day high: 129,425 total cases, including 761 new ones. As for coronavirus deaths: 3,979 cases, including 6 new deaths. These figures were as of Thursday, Oct. 8.

I am still here, pretty much shut in. Last week I drove to Sunday Mass and made one CVS and Safeway run for essentials. Son John gassed the car for me—first time the gas tank has been filled since March.

### Neighbors & other good people

Morningside held two Census events in the VFW parking lot. Those who completed their Census had their names entered into a drawing. Winners were:

TVs were won by Derdera Sistare-

Ayers and Shirley Pickens. \$10 Walmart gift cards went to Carlos Huerta, Todd Mullins, Derdera Sistare-Ayers, Johnny Williams, Michael Trimboli, Elana Gutierrez, Mary Langley, Shirley Osborne, Mamie Dean and Bonnie Kamenicky.

Seat Pleasant Mayor Eugene Grant has won reelection, 414 to 375, defeating former city employee Gigi Riley. This begins his 5th term of office as mayor.

Betsy, who has just moved to Morningside, owns her own Dog Walking & Pet Sitting Service. She will do Overnights (at your house), Boarding (overnights at her house), Doggy Day Care, Cat visits, Puppy visits (multiple in a day). You can contact her at [www.WiddlePawsGo.com](http://www.WiddlePawsGo.com). This item is from NextdoorMorningside.

### Changing landscape

The Washington Monument has reopened, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week, closed 1–2 p.m. daily for cleaning. Tickets available only on-line, at [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov), beginning at 10 a.m. each day for the following day. Each ticket good for up to four people. Elevator occupancy limited to eight people, and time at the top to 10 minutes per group. Face coverings are mandatory.

You might wonder why I so often have news about Washington: When we moved here in 1958 we learned with delight that the U.S. Capitol was only about 12 miles away. The City became our playground. We knew where the parking was good. Washington was our dinners out, our tours, our shopping center, our theater, our museum, our library, our place to go to. In a much smaller way, that's still true.

### Morningside/Skyline Memories: 12 years ago at the polls

It's hard to say what it will be like on Election Day 2020. But in my 2008 column, I wrote: "Those of you who voted before Election Day missed a good time. There's something special about the camaraderie of standing in line with 300 other voters, inching along to the magic place where you can finally cast your vote."

Back then Election Judge Elnora McCall told me when she arrived at Skyline polls, at 5 a.m., the line started down Ridgecrest, to John Street to Randolph

Road and on down to Suitland Road and into the shopping center. Until it started to rain.

When I got there about 10:30, the line snaked along the front of the school, down the side of the building to the back of the school. I got in line behind Chester Lanehart, longtime Skyline resident, Melinda Rivas and her 7-month-old son Andrew from Heritage Park, and Mary Jane Adams from Pickett Drive in Morningside. We chatted.

Judge McCall said the number of voters was 2,231, twice as many as the past election. 2004. The last voter showed up at 7:45 and the polls closed at 8.

Poll-workers included the other chief judge, Helen Cordero, Christine Aldridge, Lorraine Andrade, Jessie Dean Barrett, Clara Champ, Jacquelyn Godwin, Pauletta Green, Joyce Hansberry, Demetries Harmon, Suzanne Kenney, Jerry Hilton Russell Sr., Tyrell Lee Samuels, Vanessa Searles, Angela Logan Tomas, George Walker Jr., Geraldine Walker, Cheryl Wall and Victoria Wynn.

I wonder how many of them are back this year. Skyline School polls isn't.

### Margaret Harden, Census retiree

Margaret Ann Harden, 68, who had a career working at the Census Bureau, died June 12. She graduated from St. Patrick's Academy in Washington and worked at the Navy Yard before Census.

She was predeceased by her parents, Joseph and Kathleen Harden, formerly of Hillcrest Heights. Survivors include siblings Joseph, Patrick, James and Kathleen Harden and Mary Foster, niece and nephews, and aunts Mary Margaret McMahon and Sister Rose Marie Canty, CSC. Services were at Kalas in Oxon Hill.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to former Morningside Council Member Carol (Kline) DeGraba, Andrew Nicholas Smith and VFW 9619's Nola Cook, Oct. 18; Clyde Miller, Catherine Alvis, Jody Nyers and Christina Ramsey Eckloff, Oct. 22; and Mary Flood Dawes, Oct. 23.

Happy 40th anniversary to Michael and Anita (Fulton) Freeman on Oct. 18. From the Internet: "The 40th wedding anniversary has always been synonymous with the ruby. This dazzling stone's deep red hue is the perfect symbol of burning love that's lasted for 40 years."

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

### UMES JUNIOR NAMED TO STATE-LEVEL POST

Aaliyah Edwards appointed University System of Maryland student regent. Aaliyah, a junior exercise science major from Parkville, Maryland is the first student to serve a two-year term representing peers on the University System of Maryland's governing board.

A 2019 state law change doubled the number of student appointees to two that Maryland's governor can make to the panel responsible for oversight of all but two of the state's public, four-year colleges.

Edwards will be a non-voting member of the system's Board of Regents for the 2020-21 academic year, then transition next year to being a voting member. Salisbury University senior Nathaniel Sansom is the current USM student regent with voting privileges. "I take this position very seriously," said Edwards, a dean's list student. "I wanted to show people you have to take chances. You have to step out of your comfort zone."

"The amended state law is designed to give students an opportunity to observe the board conducting business before assuming a voting role. Edwards will be the first to benefit from that scenario. At the urging of Star Ames, a fellow UMES student she considers a mentor. Edwards submitted an application that led to a recommendation by a screening panel that she be presented as a qualified nominee to Gov. Larry Hogan. The pandemic lockdown disrupted the formal process, so Edwards was sworn in during a low-key ceremony by a clerk in Towson.

"This position is the best one I could step into," she said. "I'm really big on leaving a mark everywhere I go. I want to be a student; UMES is proud of." Edwards is UMES' third undergraduate in the current USM governance system era to serve as a student regent, and the second in the past three years. Senior Langston Frazier, a golf management student, served during the 2018-19 academic year and had a front-row seat when regents endorsed the chancellor's choice to name Dr. Heidi M. Anderson UMES president.

A native of Trinidad and Tobago, Edwards said she and Frazier have spoken, and he has offered congratulations and advice on how to approach the job representing an estimated 173,000 students across 12 institutions. As a high school student in Baltimore County, a career in law intrigued Edwards.

When she enrolled at UMES, however, she settled on studying exercise science, a choice she hopes will lead to a graduate degree as a physician assistant.

Edwards who has been a campus tour guide is anticipating fellow students reaching out with questions about navigating challenges that go with being a college student under the cloud of a global pandemic. "It has been alarming to me" Edwards said. "You only have four years to make great memories. You have people who will be sophomores (this fall) who didn't have the full freshman year experience."

"I like politics because I like helping people," she said. "I see this (appointment) as an opportunity to help students who don't know how to get information." "Being a Black woman in America, I feel fortunate I'm in a place where I can get change done". Information from UMES THE KEY, September 2020 newsletter for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends.

### FOOD DRIVE

The Prince George's County Police/District VII and St. John's Episcopal Church/Grace Lutheran Church present A Faith and Blue Initiative Food Drive for the Fort Washington Food Pantry at 9801 Livingston Road Fort Washington, Maryland. Non-perishable food can be dropped off at the District VII Station from October 1 through October 31, 2020. Information received from Advisory Neighborhood Community Initiative by Council Member Mel Franklin.

### JUST ONE MORE THING

As our state begins to lift the Stay at Home order, let's not forget to continue practice: social distancing/limit travel, frequent hand washing, small gatherings, wearing a mask that covers the nose and mouth when going out, wear gloves when going out, move: get some exercise and eat right, get 8 hours of sleep daily.

How can you take care of someone else if you do not take care of yourself? Dedicate time to pray, meditate, journal writing, or another quiet time activity of choice. Give your feet a good soaking and rub down. Have a cup of tea. Read a good book. Find a reason to smile. Get outside. Get some fresh air and sunshine. (Add your own idea). Let us come through this a healthier and wiser you. Information received from our Pomonkey High School Alumni Association, Inc. Newsletter.

## Around the County

### Sheehy Auto Stores Annual Fall Food Drive Runs Through October 25

FAIRFAX, Va. (October 6, 2020)—Sheehy Auto Stores throughout Washington, D.C.; Richmond, Virginia; Hagerstown, Maryland; and Baltimore, Maryland areas will collect canned goods and non-perishable food as part of the company's annual Fall Food Drive running through October to benefit food banks serving each community.

"This year, given the on-going pandemic and effects it is having on so many families, the need to help put food on the table is much greater than in years past," said Vince Sheehy, President and CEO of Sheehy Auto Stores. "We welcome everyone to visit us at any of our locations to join us in this annual campaign."

Sheehy Fall Food Drive drop-off locations include:

Sheehy Ford of Marlow Heights  
5000 Auth Road  
Marlow Heights, MD 20746

*Sheehy Auto Stores is the 37th largest dealer group in the country and serves customers throughout the Mid-Atlantic. A family-owned business which began as one Ford store in 1966 in Marlow Heights, Md., the company has grown to more than \$1.6 billion in sales with more than 45,000 new and used vehicles sold each year. The company is recognized as a leader in customer satisfaction, retention and community involvement. For more information visit [www.sheehy.com](http://www.sheehy.com).*

### MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center Needs Your Help: Fill Out Our Community Health Needs Survey

CLINTON, Md. (October 6, 2020)—Calling all Southern Maryland residents: it's time for your voices to be heard. MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center invites every member of the community it serves to fill out the 2020 Community Health Needs Assessment Survey. The results of this survey help MedStar Southern Maryland to shape its community outreach and community benefit priorities over the next three years.

"It's a great way for the members of the community to have their voices be heard and have a say in the ways our hospital will be working to address the needs of the community," said Chantal Tuell, MPH, the hospital's community health outreach project coordinator.

The survey, which is available in English, Spanish, and Korean, is anonymous—no names needed. It is free to participate, easy to fill out, and it only takes about 10 minutes to complete. Community members can fill it out via computer or on a mobile device. The deadline to complete the survey is Friday, October 23.

The hospital will also hold a free, virtual information-gathering session at the end of October, giving residents and community members the chance to share their perspectives and feedback directly. For updates about this information-gathering session, residents are encouraged to keep an eye on the hospital's website and social media channels.

"This is an opportunity to make sure we hear from all of the relevant stakeholders and communities that surround MedStar Southern Maryland to make sure that as we are crafting the community needs assessment, and developing the strategies to address our community's needs, that we're taking our community's perspective into account," said Lori Werrell, regional director of population and community health for MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center and MedStar St. Mary's Hospital.

The last needs assessment revealed important areas of community concern, including health and wellness, access to care, and social determinants of health. The resulting strategy incorporated expanded chronic disease management events and programs as well as community health workers to help strengthen linkages to care.

"Past surveys have helped guide our movement to evidence-based programming, as well as the addition of community health workers, which is an important part of building trust and removing barriers to care," Werrell said. "This data also helps us achieve closer alignment with state and federal priorities so that we can realize economies of scale that can amplify our impact."

After the survey is complete, the hospital will convene an advisory task force in December to sift through the data and develop priority areas. The completed strategy will be completed by June 30, 2021 and will go into effect on July 1, 2021.

Visit [www.medstarhealth.org/communitysurvey](http://www.medstarhealth.org/communitysurvey) to complete the survey for MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center by October 23.

—Cheryl Richardson, MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center

### Vie Management Donates Application Fees Across Full Property Portfolio For the Month Of October to Susan G. Komen & Kicked It In Heels National Student Housing Firm Gives During Breast Cancer Awareness Month To Fight For a Cure

MIAMI, Fla. (October 2, 2020)—Vie Management, a student housing real estate investment company that promotes healthy lifestyles, is supporting the fight for a breast cancer cure by donating proceeds from its application fees for leases at its student and multifamily communities, including Vie Towers in Hyattsville, during October to the Susan G. Komen Organization and Kicked It In Heels Foundation.

"We are honored that during this time of uncertainty we can still rally all our communities together to support a wonderful cause to find a cure for breast cancer and support breast cancer survivors," said Derrick Milam, COO of Vie Management. "It was important for us to not only donate to the Susan G. Komen Organization that focuses on investing in breakthrough research to prevent and cure breast cancer, but to also donate to the Kicked It In Heels Foundation that has done so much for breast cancer survivors."

The communities participating in this donation include Vie Towers in Hyattsville, Maryland, Vie Lofts at San Marcos in San Marcos, Texas, Vie at University Downs in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Vie Villas at Boca Raton in Boca Raton, Florida, Colonie Apartments in Amherst, New York, Southgate Apartments in State College, Pennsylvania, and Hillcrest Apartments and Oakwood Townhomes in Big Rapids, Michigan.

For more information about Vie Management, please visit [www.viemgmt.com](http://www.viemgmt.com) or call 786-899-2954.

—Press Officer, Vie Management

# COMMUNITY

## Maryland State Police Continues to Stress Importance Of 'Move Over' Laws

By OFFICE OF MEDIA COMMUNICATION  
Maryland State Police

PIKESVILLE, Md. (October 5, 2020)—This month marks the two-year anniversary of Maryland's "Move Over" law being expanded to include all service vehicles on state roads.

The Maryland State Police is using this milestone as a reminder on just how important it is for motorists to adhere to these vital motor vehicle safety laws. All 50 States have enacted "Move Over" laws to protect first responders and other emergency workers who are often stopped on busy roads and highways for traffic stops, roadwork or accident scenes.

Maryland's "Move Over" laws require drivers approaching from the rear of an emergency vehicle using visual signals while stopped on a highway to, if possible, make a lane change into an available lane not immediately adjacent to the emergency vehicle.

This movement should only be done if another lane in the same direction is available and the move can be made safely and without impeding other traffic. If moving to another lane away from the stopped emergency vehicle is not possible, the law requires drivers to slow to a reasonable and prudent speed that is safe for existing weather, road, and vehicular or pedestrian traffic conditions.

The intent of the law is to provide an extra barrier of safety for police officers, fire fighters, emergency rescue personnel and service and utility workers working along Maryland roads. It is hoped that drivers will become more aware of police and emergency workers stopped along the road and move away from them or slow down as they pass by the traffic stop or incident scene.

The original law went into effect

in 2010. In 2014, the law was expanded to not only include police cars but also tow trucks, fire trucks and medical and rescue trucks as well. On Oct. 1, 2018, the law expanded again to transportation, service and utility vehicles, as well as waste and recycling trucks, with yellow or amber flashing lights or signal devices.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, more than 150 law enforcement officers have been killed since 1997 after being struck by vehicles along America's highways. In fact, traffic-related incidents, including vehicle crashes, are one of the leading causes of death for law enforcement officers. From 2007 to 2017, 39 percent of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty were lost in traffic-related incidents, the U.S. Department of Transportation said.

Also, according to the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration, more than 4,000 people were injured, and 53 people were killed in work zone crashes between 2014 and 2019. In 2019 alone, there were 694 crashes that resulted in injury and seven that resulted in fatalities in Maryland. These are tragedies and many were preventable.

Motorists appear to have received the message, which is appreciated. Since the law expanded in 2014, troopers went from issuing 5,408 citations and 12,179 warnings to 1,673 citations and 5,677 warnings in 2019 for move over violations. Through Sept. 28, 2020, troopers have issued 865 citations and 3,179 warnings for similar violations this year.

For more information on the "Move Over" law, visit [www.roads.maryland.gov](http://www.roads.maryland.gov).

## Maryland Department of Health Encourages Residents to Participate in Annual Walk Maryland Day Events

*"Walk Towards Wellness" throughout "Walktober" to experience the benefits of Maryland's official state exercise*

By PRESS OFFICER  
Maryland Department of Health

BALTIMORE (October 7, 2020)—The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) encourages Marylanders to take part in today's 6th annual Walk Maryland Day through planned walks across the state, while maintaining social distancing and wearing face coverings. The event is a highlight of the state's month-long celebration of "Walktober," which focuses on Maryland's official exercise.

Walk Maryland Day 2020 urges all Marylanders to Walk Towards Wellness, stressing the importance of physical exercise, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Walks have been organized statewide with safety measures in place, and residents can become Walk Maryland Day "Sole Mates" by joining one of the official walks, or register walks they take alone or with others. Registration is still available at [mdot.maryland.gov/walktober](http://mdot.maryland.gov/walktober).

"The COVID-19 pandemic has helped highlight the importance of walking as a critical aspect of well-being," said MDH Secretary Robert R. Neall. "Maryland was the first state in America to designate an official state exercise in 2008 because we believe in the value of walking as an accessible, affordable activity for all."

"Today and throughout Walktober, I encourage people of all ages and abilities to get outside and see Maryland's beauty by taking a walk," added Acting Deputy Secretary of Public Health Dr. Jinlene Chan. "Enjoy the crisp fall weather and the health benefits of this great physical activity."

Walktober events are a collaborative effort between the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Maryland Department of Health, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Maryland Department of Planning, the Maryland Department of Commerce, the Maryland Office of Tourism and MDOT Motor Vehicle Administration's Maryland Highway Safety Office, as well as community partners. In Maryland, there are more than 1,200 miles of trails on state public lands alone.

Follow Walktober updates on Twitter @WalkCycleMD or on Facebook at [facebook.com/WalkCycleMD](https://www.facebook.com/WalkCycleMD).

*The Maryland Department of Health is dedicated to protecting and improving the health and safety of all Marylanders through disease prevention, access to care, quality management and community engagement. Follow us at <http://www.twitter.com/MD-HealthDept> and at [Facebook.com/MDHealthDept](https://www.facebook.com/MDHealthDept).*

## Local Foundation Partners With Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter Of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® to Raise Money to Help Maryland Families

By RACINE TUCKER-HAMILTON  
Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter (PEO)

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. (October 5, 2020)—The Pearl Elegance Foundation (PEF) in partnership with Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter (PEO) of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., successfully executed its first-ever Matching Campaign fundraiser, raising more than \$17,000 in less than 30 days. PEF was established in 2014 and is the charitable arm of Psi Epsilon Omega chapter of AKA sorority.

"Due to COVID-19 the scheduled fundraising activities for our foundation had to come to a halt; but, we were concerned that many of the Maryland families, seniors, and students who rely on our support would suffer," said Benita Swindell, PEF President. "Thanks to a

generous major donor we were able to launch our matching campaign. Our PEF Board of Directors and members quickly went into action virtually and the community responded in a big way."

The solely virtual campaign ran from June 13–July 13, 2020 and was amplified through the power of social media. PEF supporters answered the call by hitting send, sharing, double tapping, and reposting the call to give, which resulted in more than \$12,000 in online donations. In addition to the funds that were actively raised, a PEF member donated \$5,000 that was used to match, dollar for dollar, donations up to the first \$5,000. All in all, the Matching Campaign raised a total of \$17,050 and was a phenomenal success.

PEF awards scholarships to students, supports seniors with meals, provides food assistance to families and conducts

education and awareness campaigns on a number of topics impacting the community. Since COVID-19, PEF has also provided support to first line medical professionals and families in economic crisis. The organization is currently offering small community grants to Maryland nonprofits and individuals.

*Pearl Elegance Foundation, Incorporated is a non-profit 501(c)3 charity, established in 2014 in Maryland. PEF is a direct outgrowth of the Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.*

*Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated®, Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter was chartered in 2007. Since its founding, the chapter has been aggressively implementing its programs of service in Laurel, Bowie, and Greenbelt Maryland.*

## CIAA Announces Plans for Winter and Spring Athletic Competition

By GREGORY C. GOINGS  
Bowie State Sports Information

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (Oct 2, 2020)—After careful consideration the Board of Directors for the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA), in conjunction with its Athletic Directors Association (ADA), has voted to delay the start of all winter sports seasons which includes men's and women's basketball, men's and women's indoor track and field, and women's bowling. Men's and women's basketball will begin their seasons on January 9, 2021 while start dates for indoor track and field and women's bowling are still under review.

Additionally, at the recommendation of the CIAA ADA and with approval from the Board of Directors, the conference has opted not to sponsor championship seasons for football as well as men's and women's cross country during the 2020-21 athletic year while women's volleyball will proceed with a 2021 spring season.

"Delaying the start of our winter sea-

sons acts in the best interest of our student-athletes, coaches, and support staff as it ensures proper resocialization for all parties while affording our membership the opportunity to implement recommended health and safety measures prior to competition," said CIAA Commissioner Jacqie McWilliams. "Although unfortunate and unprecedented circumstances this year will prohibit athletic seasons for some, we remain committed to bolstering opportunities that amplify the experiences of our student-athletes, member institutions, partners and fans."

Both men's and women's basketball will feature a 16-game conference schedule while offering teams the autonomy to play up to six contests against non-conference opponents. All teams will adhere to a uniform COVID-19 testing and reporting policy prior to each contest.

"Throughout this process our Board, the ADA, and conference staff have been consistent about the safety and well-being of our students and staff being the number one priority," stated Virginia State Uni-

versity President & CIAA Board Chair Makola Abdullah. "Despite some tough decisions, we remain steadfast in our commitment to ensure that all of our membership is in the best possible position for the foreseeable future."

The conference will proceed with spring sports on schedule, as prescribed by NCAA Division II, but will continue to monitor any changes in legislation that could impact those plans.

"The leadership within our conference remains committed to ensuring the safety, health, and well-being of our student-athletes, coaches and staff. Decisions of this magnitude, while never easy, are made with those factors as the primary focus," said Clyde Doughty, Bowie State VP of Intercollegiate Athletics & Recreation and CIAA ADA President. "These are unprecedented times for all of us and we continue to work collectively to identify the solutions that act in the best interest of our membership."

An update on CIAA Championships for spring and winter seasons will be provided at a later time with the plan for regular season competition now approved.

## The Maryland Center for History and Culture Announces Virtual Conversation With David Simon on October 22

*Second in series of four conversations celebrating the institution's new identity*

By PRESS OFFICER  
The Maryland Center for History and Culture

BALTIMORE (September 28, 2020)—The Maryland Center for History and Culture (MCHC) is excited to welcome Baltimore-based journalist, author and television producer, David Simon, to its virtual stage on October 22 for the second installment of the institution's Core Conversation Series. Beginning at noon, David and Allison Tolman, vice president of collections and interpretation at the MCHC, will explore the concept of dialogue—why dialogue is imperative to interpretation, how it connects the past with the present, reveals multiple and new perspectives, encourages questions and examination, and more.

"David Simon graciously agreed to join us for this important conversation, and we think there's no one better to share his thoughts on highlighting multiple perspectives within the same story to bring all the pieces to light," said Mark Letzer, president and CEO of the Maryland Center for History and Culture.

David Simon is well-known for his portrayal of Baltimore in the celebrated HBO series *The Wire*, which depicts the political and socioeconomic fissures in an American city. His other television credits, including *Generation Kill* and *The Plot Against America*, continue the trend of his commentary on society and dedication

to sparking dialogue.

The Core Conversation Series was borne from the new identity of the Maryland Center for History and Culture, formerly the Maryland Historical Society, and the institution's core values—Community, Authenticity, Dialogue and Discovery. The series will include four conversations following these themes. The first featured Librarian of Congress, Carla Hayden discussing Discovery with the MCHC's Library Director, Catherine Mayfield.

This virtual program is free and open to all audiences, however, registration is required. Those interested in registering can do so at [www.mdhistory.org/calendar/dialogue-with-david-simon/](http://www.mdhistory.org/calendar/dialogue-with-david-simon/). Once registered for the program, attendees will receive an automated confirmation email with connection instructions.

The Maryland Center for History and Culture's series will continue throughout the fall, with other noted speakers to be announced. Visit [mdhistory.org](http://mdhistory.org) for a full list of fall virtual programming.

The Maryland Center for History and Culture is now open with limited hours and capacity due to COVID-19. Museum hours are Wednesday to Saturday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. These hours will also apply to the library when it reopens in October after building upgrades are complete. Entry will be monitored to ensure proper social distancing. Masks will be required.

### Halloween from A1

- Bring alcohol-based hand sanitizer when trick-or-treating.
  - Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth, as germs can spread that way.
  - Candy should be given out using a scoop or tongs so the candy is not directly handled. Children should not reach into candy bowls or bags.
  - Consider providing individually wrapped goodie bags on a table at the edge of the driveway or yard. When preparing and handing out treats, be sure to follow proper hand hygiene.
  - Avoid parties and party games like bobbing for apples or other activities that might involve sharing items that come into contact with other people's mouths or noses.
  - When returning home with treats, children should wash hands properly with soap and water before eating anything.
- High-Risk Halloween Activities NOT ALLOWED this year in Prince**

### George's County:

- Indoor haunted houses (people will likely be crowded together in dark rooms and screaming)

### High-Risk Halloween Activities NOT RECOMMENDED this year in Prince George's County include:

- Traditional trick-or-treating where treats are handed out to children who go door to door
- Traditional trunk-or-treats should be shifted instead to one-way, drive-thru distributions for candy, and residents are encouraged to attend those sponsored by County Government or municipal governments.
- Large street parties or festivals are discouraged.
- Hay rides

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) consider the following to be low- and medium-risk Halloween activities:

### Low Risk

- Pumpkin carving or decorating with members of your household, or outdoors with neighbors and friends
- Decorating the inside and outside of your home
- Indoor scavenger hunt for household members
- Outdoor scavenger hunt where children are given lists of Halloween-themed things to look for while they walk outdoors from house to house admiring Halloween decorations at a distance
- Virtual Halloween costume contest
- Halloween movie night with household members

### Medium Risk

- Halloween movie night outdoors with local family and friends
- Open-air, one-way haunted forest
- Visiting a pumpkin patch or orchard where hand sanitizer use is required before touching pumpkins or apples

For more information about COVID-related Halloween health and safety guidance, please visit [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov).

# COMMENTARY

## Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



### To Be Equal:

## Trump Turns His Back on Struggling Americans, Small Businesses, State and Local Governments

*“Today’s failure to deliver badly needed fiscal assistance to cities of all shapes and sizes is going to amount to increased job losses, decreased public safety and a greatly impaired economic recovery. Cities across the country have been struggling with budget shortfalls for months as a direct result of the pandemic, and hundreds of bipartisan mayors have been echoing the call to congressional and administration leaders for an economic lifeline in the form of immediate flexible fiscal relief. The victims of today’s failure will be the American people—residents in cities across the country—led by Republicans, Independents and Democrats—who will see critical*

*services further reduced or eliminated entirely.”*  
—U.S. Conference of Mayors

On the same day that Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell warned that the U.S. economy would face “tragic” consequences without additional federal stimulus, President Trump announced there would be no stimulus until after the election.

“I have instructed my representatives to stop negotiating until after the election when, immediately after I win, we will pass a major Stimulus Bill that focuses on hardworking Americans and Small Business,” he tweeted.

In response to his recklessness, the stock market plummeted.

He immediately backtracked, calling for a bill that would land \$1,200 checks emblazoned with his name in voters’ mailboxes days before they cast their ballots, still refusing to entertain a comprehensive aid package.

“All the president wants is his name on a check,” Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi said. “We’re here to honor our heroes, crush the virus, put money in the pockets of the American people beyond a check with his name on it.”

Last week, the House passed an updated version of the HEROES Act that includes support for small businesses; invests in testing, tracing, and treatment; and provides direct payments of \$1,200 per taxpayer and \$500 per dependent. Notably, it includes support for state and local governments—a sticking point for an administration that still thinks it can sabotage Democratic governors and mayors by withholding aid, even as the virus wrecks the economies of Republican-run states and cities as well.

Right now, 26 million Americans are receiving unemployment insurance—payments which were drastically slashed when the federal supplement expired on July 31. Those who lost their jobs early in the pandemic are about to see their benefits expire entirely.

Major companies including Disney, Allstate and two major airlines, have announced plans to fire or

furlough more than 60,000 workers.

At least 164,000 businesses have closed since March.

Between 10 million and 14 million renter households are behind on their rent, putting as many as 34 million people at risk of eviction.

And more than 1.2 million jobs in state and local governments have been lost as a result of falling revenues.

The President’s assessment of the situation? “Our Economy is doing very well.”

From the vantage point of the wealthiest Americans, it may appear so. But, as Chairman Powell observed on Tuesday:

The burdens of the downturn have not been evenly shared. The initial job losses fell most heavily on lower-wage workers in service industries facing the public—job categories in which minorities and women are overrepresented.... Combined with the disproportionate effects of COVID on communities of color, and the overwhelming burden of childcare during quarantine and distance learning, which has fallen mostly on women, the pandemic is further widening divides in wealth and economic mobility.

Early in the pandemic, President Trump bafflingly retweeted meme that compared him to Nero fiddling while Rome burned. In actively sabotaging the nation’s economic recovery, he’s doing worse than fiddling; he’s pouring gasoline on the fire.

## Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,  
Children’s Defense Fund



### ChildWatch:

## Please Help Ensure Our Children’s Future By Voting

*The Peacemaker taught us about the Seven Generations. He said, when you sit in council for the welfare of the people, you must not think of yourself or of your family, not even of your generation. He said, make your decisions on behalf of the seven generations coming, so that they may enjoy what you have today.*

—Oren Lyons, Seneca Faithkeeper,  
Onondaga Nation

On October 16–18, 2020 thousands of congregations across our nation will celebrate the Children’s Defense Fund’s annual multifaith National Observance of Children’s Sabbaths. This year’s theme is Reimagining Our Future: Justice and Joy for All Children. Although we all must maintain

physical distance and our celebrations are taking new forms this year we must strive for social and spiritual connection and work for justice for all children with urgency amidst the extraordinary crises of the COVID pandemic, our entrenched poverty and racism pandemics, the lack of affordable housing, unequal education, too few employment opportunities, and a Cradle-to-Prison Pipeline® that must be replaced with a pipeline to college and gainful employment.

Our collective national trauma around these profound and challenging concerns demands we reimagine a future where justice and protection for all children are at the center of national concern. We must find new ways to work together to eliminate child poverty and decrease the violence so

many children face across our nation who have been left behind. And we must replace callous political leadership that puts the desires of the rich and the powerful ahead of the needs of children and people to ensure equal justice and care for all.

CDF’s annual Children’s Sabbath seeks to inspire action and equip people of faith to take immediate and sustained actions for children left behind. In this critical election year the Children’s Sabbath actions focus on voter education and turnout. Although children can’t vote, adults can and must vote with children’s needs as a top priority. These final weeks of this election have already shown that our nation is more desperate than ever for leaders whose judgment and behavior are worthy of our children.

CDF recently released a series of guides at our Voting Resource Center to help voters make a plan for voting effectively for children. This presidential election year presents clear choices voters must make up and down the ballot that will make a profound difference in children’s lives. Please vote for candidates at federal, state, and local levels who will:

- Take care of children and families in crisis amid COVID-19
- End racial and economic inequities and promote racial justice in all our policies
- End child poverty now and ensure all families the resources required to provide for their children

- Ensure all children and families access to affordable housing
- Ensure all children access to comprehensive, affordable health and mental health coverage and care
- Ensure families access to affordable quality early childhood services and education
- Promote equitable education policies to close the achievement gap between rich and poor
- Enable children and families to remain safely at home and out of the child welfare and juvenile justice system
- End the Cradle-to-Prison Pipeline®
- Protect children from gun violence
- End family separation and the detention of immigrant children.

CDF’s Voting Resource Center includes links to help voters ensure they are registered and know how and where to vote in their states to combat disinformation and discouragement and resist widespread voter suppression tactics.

Visit CDF’s Voting Resource Center to access and share these links with family and friends. Use the National Observance of Children’s Sabbaths to learn more about how your family and place of worship can faithfully respond to children’s needs throughout the year. Ask the young people in your lives what problems they hope elected leaders will act on. We are making decisions right now for generations to come. Please don’t let our children down.

## Anthony Brown

Maryland Congressional District 4



## Congressman Brown Highlights Neighborhood Impact of Purple Line Delays, Calls for a Real Plan From Governor Hogan

WASHINGTON (October 5, 2020)—Congressman Anthony G. Brown (D-MD) highlighted how Governor Larry Hogan’s mismanagement of the Purple Line project has impacted Prince George’s County neighborhoods. Contractors have halted construction

and are preparing to walk off the job, over cost-disputes with the state. The project may be delayed until 2026 or later.

The Purple Line was supposed to connect Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties, creating job

and education opportunities for residents as well as providing community revitalization. Mid-construction, many roads along what would become the light-rail line have been torn-up and closed, and half-finished overpasses and construction sites now sit dormant. Meanwhile, traffic and congestion in Maryland continues to get worse.

“The loss of opportunities for our communities and the blight of this unfinished project on our neighborhoods is a constant reminder of the complete and utter failure by Governor Hogan. After delaying the Purple Line after being elected, scaling the project back before hand-picking the lowest-cost bid, Governor Hogan now fiddles while the partnership is on the verge of collapse. Aside from vague vapid promises, the governor hasn’t provided a real plan for how he will get the Purple Line back on track,” said Congressman Brown. “Raiding other state transportation funds is not an option. Governor Hogan must get back to the negotiation table, demonstrate he can actually cut a deal, and deliver the Purple Line as quickly as

possible. This is about quality of life for Marylanders and the future of our state’s economy. We all deserve better.”

Governor Hogan’s first and only statement on Purple Line delays, attacked the construction firm he personally chose for this project and claimed there was “a whole group of great construction companies that want to finish the job.” No real plan has been laid out and he took no responsibility. Transferring the project at this stage could cost Maryland taxpayers millions of dollars and unacceptable delays.

Compounding the state’s looming transportation crisis, The Maryland Department of Transportation has proposed slashing nearly \$3 billion from its six-year capital budget including; delaying \$900 million in road projects, \$500 million in improvements to Baltimore-Washington International Marshall Airport and cuts to commuter buses and MARC service.

## Baltimore Delegation Announces More Than \$8.3 Million for Johns Hopkins University Research On COVID-19 Racial and Ethnic Disparities

WASHINGTON (October 6, 2020)—U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen and Congressmen Dutch Ruppersberger, John Sarbanes and Kweisi Mfume (all D-Md.) today announced \$8,310,893 in federal funding for Johns Hopkins University (JHU) to research COVID-19 health disparities among underserved populations and minority communities.

“COVID-19 has exposed longstanding inequities in our health care system, making

Black, Latino and Indigenous communities in Maryland and around the nation more likely to face higher rates of infection, hospitalizations and death,” said the lawmakers. “This federal funding will help Johns Hopkins University expand its efforts to increase COVID-19 testing and response efforts to meet the needs of these hardest-hit communities of color. Team Maryland will continue to secure federal resources to combat COVID-19 across the state and tackle life-threatening racial and

ethnic health disparities.”

The awards are distributed among the following JHU programs:

- \$3,517,791 for “Protecting Native Families from COVID-19,” a JHU study to address high COVID-19 mortality rates among American Indian and Navajo Nation communities.
- \$3,222,658 for the Johns Hopkins Center for AIDS Research to study the effectiveness of testing strategies to address disparities among

African American, Latino, and socioeconomically disadvantaged populations in Baltimore.

- \$1,570,444 for Juntos (Together), a JHU collaborative community-led initiative to increase COVID-19 testing in the Latino/Latina community in Baltimore.

Funding comes from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) RADx Underserved Populations initiative, which aims to understand COVID-19 disparities among communities disproportionately affected by the disease. NIH has awarded nearly \$234 million through this program to improve COVID-19 testing for underserved and vulnerable populations nationwide.

## The Prince George’s Post

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# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

### About the Mystery of Spousal Benefits

By RUSSELL GLOOR,  
AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor  
Association of Mature American Citizens

**Dear Rusty:** From what I've researched, the formula for spousal benefits seems very complicated. I read somewhere that it was a good idea to start the lower earning spouse's benefit at age 62 and have the higher earning spouse file at full retirement age, for the spouse to get maximum benefit. But that information does not seem correct from other things I've read. Please help me clear this up. My wife's birth year is 1956 and she now gets \$656/month in Social Security benefits after claiming at 62. I have not claimed my benefits yet and Social Security's estimator says I qualify for about \$2850/month when I reach full retirement age. My birth year was 1957. So, if I take my benefit now at 63 will my wife's benefit go up? And if I wait until my full retirement age to claim, will she get half of my benefit? I've tried to research all of this, but it is still very unclear. **Signed: Seeking Knowledge**

**Dear Seeking:** Yes, the spousal benefit formula is complicated, especially when both of you are entitled to your own Social Security benefits. And there's never a simple answer to whether it is a good idea for the lower earning spouse to start benefits first at age 62. For one thing, it depends upon whether they are still working, but it also depends upon health, life expectancy, and need for the money early.

Nevertheless, if your wife's current age 62 benefit is \$656, then her benefit at her full retirement age (had she waited) would have been about \$895. This is known as her Primary Insurance Amount, or "PIA." Spouse benefits are computed using PIA amounts, so if your full retirement age (FRA) benefit will be \$2850, here's how your wife's spousal benefit will be calculated if you claim your SS after your wife has already reached her FRA:

- 50% of your FRA benefit (PIA) is \$1425. Because your wife's PIA is \$895, her spousal boost is \$530 (\$1425 - \$895). Her spousal boost (\$530) will be added to her actual early benefit (\$656) and her new benefit amount as your spouse, at her FRA, will be about \$1186. Obviously, less than half of your FRA benefit amount.

The computation changes if you claim your SS benefit now, before your wife has reached her full retirement age, because getting her spouse benefit before her FRA means her spousal boost will be reduced (she automatically gets her spousal benefit when you claim).

The reduction to the spousal boost is actuarial, according to the number of months before her FRA that it is taken. If you were to claim now when your wife is 64, her spousal benefit would be computed like this:

- The spousal boost amount of \$530 would be reduced because your wife hasn't yet reached her FRA. Instead of the full \$530 spousal boost, it would be reduced to about \$442. The reduced spousal boost is added to your wife's early SS benefit of \$656, for a total benefit of about \$1098. Once again, less than 50% of your FRA benefit amount.

So, as you can see, because your wife took her own benefit at age 62, she cannot get a spousal benefit equal to 50% of your FRA benefit, regardless of when you claim. If you claim your Social Security before your wife reaches her FRA, your wife's spousal boost amount will be reduced, further lowering the total benefit amount your wife is entitled to as your spouse. The basic rule is this: any time any Social Security benefit is taken before one reaches their full retirement age, that benefit is reduced. And a spouse who claims their own SS retirement benefit before FRA will never get a spouse benefit equal to 50% of the other spouse's PIA.

The 2.1 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] [www.amac.us](http://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](http://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](http://www.amac.us/join-amac).

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## Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation Rejoins MOU in Alliance With Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Honoring Hispanic Heritage Month and Promoting Collaboration within the Hispanic Business Community

By PRESS OFFICERS

PGC Economic Development Corporation and Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

LARGO, Md. (October 1, 2020)—On Monday, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (PGCEDC) joined with the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GWHCC) to formalize their commitment to enhance the connection between Prince George's County the Hispanic small business community by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This MOU signals to the region that the GWHCC and the PGCEDC are working together to bridge language and cultural gaps through collaborative programming, mutual marketing and bilingual business initiatives.

"I am happy today to join Nicole Quiroga and the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to sign this MOU, part of a continued relationship between our organizations," said David Ianucci, President and CEO of the EDC. "Prince George's County recognizes and is proud of our Latino business community and this MOU will provide a very good opportunity for both of our organizations to enhance our connections and to discover what our local business community can do to further support them."

The signing of this MOU is the result of a continued relationship that has been nurtured between the two parties over the course of the past several years. Working together, the organizations will collaborate to expand their goals by economically empowering and growing the Latino business community in Prince George's County and the region. In addition to that, GWHCC agreed to provide 10 complimentary Chamber memberships to select Prince George's County Latino-owned businesses a seat on their Advisory Board for PGCEDC. This partnership will also help Latino-owned businesses learn how to create quality jobs, connect to existing Prince George's County businesses, form new partnerships and secure local and federal government procurements opportunities in the County.

"It is a privilege to partner with Prince George's Economic Development Corporation, especially during Hispanic Heritage month, as we continuously look for impactful and effective ways to support the Latino Small Business community in the region," said Nicole Quiroga, President and CEO of the GWHCC. "Prince George's County is home to a large number of Latino-owned businesses and together, with our friends at PGEDC, we will continue to identify the tools and resources small business owners



PHOTO COURTESY PGC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Nicole Quiroga, President and CEO of GWHCC (l. to r.) and David Ianucci, President and CEO of PGCEDC sign Memorandum of Understanding, along with David Diaz, Chief of Staff, GWHCC and Rocio Treminio-Lopez, Latino Liaison, PGCEDC

need to move through these challenging times. We are thrilled to collaborate with such a remarkable organization."

To view the Memorandum of Understanding signing, click here. If you would like more information about the MOU or about the GWHCC or PGCEDC respectively, please contact David Diaz at [ddiaz@gwhcc.org](mailto:ddiaz@gwhcc.org) or Lori Valentine at [lvalentine@pgcedc.com](mailto:lvalentine@pgcedc.com).

The Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is a 501(c)(6) organization, founded in 1976, that supports the economic development of the Greater Washington metropolitan area. The GWHCC membership consists of businesses and individuals who represent a broad range of segments of commerce in the Greater Washington area.

The Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation provides business services that help attract, retain, and expand businesses, create high-quality jobs, and expand Prince George's County's commercial tax base. EDC's mission of business attraction and expansion is accomplished through our main business initiatives including Business Development, Innovation Station Business Incubator (ISBI), International Business Development, and Marketing/Communications.

### Developer from A1

ing them our commitment to their success," said Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. "When I took office, we promised innovative solutions in our local government, and that is exactly why I was proud to advocate for and help secure the passage of our public-private partnership legislation during the 2019 session of the Maryland General Assembly. As a government, we will continue to make the critical investments needed to ensure all children in our County receive a quality education."

"The selection of a development team for this groundbreaking school construction model is a critical step forward toward employing creative strategies that build schools to meet the needs of our students," said Prince George's County Council Chair Todd M. Turner (D-District 4). "Today's announcement is part of a working partnership developed over several years with Dr. Goldson, the Board of Education, County Executive Alsobrooks and state lawmakers, and the Council celebrates our joint commitment to this first of its kind school construction model in the U.S. and our state of Maryland. The Council will continue working with the school system and County, its oversight and budgetary processes, as negotiations for this important project move forward."

"Prince George's County Education and Community Partners is fully committed to leveraging this new multi-school project to enhance the quality of life of the residents, workers and communities of Prince George's County," said Darin Early, Principal-in-Charge for Gilbane Development Company.

### Community investments

This first-of-its-kind contracting process doubles state small and minority business inclusion goals by ensuring local and minority business participation through each part of the process.

Prince George's County Education and Community Partners will

allocate at least 30 percent of the total contract value, approximately \$225 million, to local and minority-owned businesses over the life of the program. An estimated \$135 million is expected to be allocated in the first four years. Additional community benefits will include the development and implementation of business and workforce development programs, student internships, apprenticeships and scholarships.

PGCPS estimates this agreement will stimulate Prince George's County economy and add approximately 4,100 jobs during the design-build phase of the project.

### Background

Through collaborative efforts by PGCPS, Prince George's County Government, Prince George's County Council and the County's Legislative Delegation in Annapolis, the Maryland General Assembly approved initial legislation in 2018 to establish a public-private partnership (P3) model, also known as the ACF program, for school construction in the County. As a result of work led by the Alternative Construction Funding Workgroup, a multi-member coordinating group made up of the County partners created by the Prince George's County Council in 2018, the General Assembly passed additional legislation in 2019 to support the ACF program.

Under the ACF program, a private developer designs, builds and finances the new facilities as well as maintains them for over 30 years. At the end of the 30-year term, each school is expected to avoid major maintenance costs for another 15 years, resulting in additional savings to PGCPS.

The ACF program is one of many steps in a multi-year, county-wide project to address aging school infrastructure. The PGCPS Department of Capital Programs will continue to oversee the replacement and development of new schools on a parallel construction path that uses traditional funding sources.

### Quick facts

- Five new middle schools and one K-8 school
- \$29.8 million initial annual investment in school construction
- Approximately \$174 million in expected savings in deferred maintenance and construction costs
- Benefits: Building new schools faster—cuts the delivery time in half; lower construction costs, preventative maintenance
- 8,000 total seats

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# COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

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**WESTPHALIA**  
United Methodist Church

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9363 D'Arcy Road  
Upper Marlboro, MD

**Two Worship Services:  
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Sunday School: 9:30**

**(301)735-9373  
Fax: (301) 735-1844**

**Rev. Dr. Timothy West,  
Pastor**

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[www.westphaliaum.org](http://www.westphaliaum.org)

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20785 (301) 773-6655

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Sunday Worship:  
7:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.  
Saturday Worship:  
6:30 p.m.

'WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS  
WITH JESUS':  
12 noon (The Power Hour) and 6:45 pm

"A Time of Prayer, Praise,  
Worship, & The Word"  
Dr. Henry P. Davis III, Pastor  
[www.fhbp.org](http://www.fhbp.org)

**BAPTIST**

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College Park**  
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Christ Is Lord and King  
Stephen L. Wright, Sr., Pastor

5018 Lakeland Road  
College Park, MD 20740  
**301-474-3995**  
[www.fbc-cp.org](http://www.fbc-cp.org)

Sunday School 9:30a.m.  
Sunday Worship 11a.m.  
Holy Communion 1st Sunday  
Wednesday Bible Study 7-8p.m.  
Wednesday Prayer Service 8p.m.

**UNITED METHODIST**

**Union**  
United Methodist Church

14418 Old Marlboro Pike,  
Upper Marlboro, MD

**Church (301) 627-7389**

Sunday School (Children/Adults) - 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

**Rev. Dr. Kendrick D. Weaver,  
Pastor**  
[www.uumchurch.com](http://www.uumchurch.com)

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Rev. Ranesa Mayo, Pastor

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**BAPTIST**

**Forest Heights  
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Sunday School  
(Adults & Children) - 9:30 A.M.  
Worship Service - 11:00 A.M.  
Wed. Prayer Service & Bible  
Study - 7:00 P.M.  
Office (301) 839-1166  
Fax (301) 839-1721  
E-mail: [FHBC@verizon.net](mailto:FHBC@verizon.net)  
Pastor: Rev. Waymond B. Duke

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COMMUNITY  
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(301) 864-3437

Intercessory Prayer: Sundays - 8:30 a.m.  
Church School: - 9:15 a.m.  
Morning Worship Celebration - 10:30 a.m.  
Wed. Night Bible Study - 7:45 p.m.  
Elder Willie W. Duvall, Pastor

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## Undercount from A1

sign to conclude the count on this date follows a lengthy and winding legal fight.

To account for time lost during the suspension in March, the bureau in April extended the count through Oct. 31. But, shortly after, the bureau reversed plans and shortened its deadline to Sept. 30.

Local governments, civil rights groups and civic organizations filed a lawsuit—*National Urban League et al. v. Wilbur L. Ross Jr. et al.*—against the administration's attempt to rush census operations.

On Sept. 24, U.S. District Judge Lucy Koh in the Northern District of California required the bureau to once more extend the deadline, which was interpreted by many as reverting to Oct. 31.

Instead, the bureau announced a target date of Oct. 5, 2020. Last week, the federal judge said that this earlier deadline violated the original court order.

In the lawsuit, plaintiffs argued that a shorter timeline could lead to an undercount of minorities. The so-called "Rush Plan", the Urban League argued, was meant to suppress the political power of communities of color by excluding undocumented people from the final apportionment count.

Apportionment is the process of using population data to allocate each state's seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. Historically, new census data results in northern and eastern states losing congressional seats and southern and western states gaining seats - a reflection of higher population growth in those latter two regions.

In late July, President Donald Trump generated new controversy by releasing a memorandum pushing to exclude undocumented immigrants from census apportionment totals.

On Sept. 10, a special three-judge court in New York rejected the Trump administration's plan.

The Census Bureau did not respond to multiple requests from CNS for comment.

The attempt to exclude illegal immigrants from the census count—as well as attempts in early March by the Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross to add a citizenship question to the census—heightened confidentiality concerns and left a lingering distrust for many Hispanic and Latino individuals, according to Escobedo.

"Having that incidence of the government trying to force people to put their (citizenship) status—that definitely caused a lot of people to be very distrustful, to break any type of trust in the government," Rivera said.

Rivera, who identifies as Latinx, said that while the census form was relatively straightforward and easy to fill out, the real difficulty was appeasing her family's distrust of the government, despite all being legally in the United States.

"When it comes to, I guess, trust between immigrants, and the government, there is none," she said.

Rivera said she also had difficulties answering the race and ethnicity question.

This year, the census employed a two-tiered question for Hispanic and Latino individuals. It requires individuals to respond if they are Hispanic/Latino for the ethnicity question, and then fill out a subsequent question about their race.

In 2015, the Census Bureau conducted "The 2015 National Content Test." The results indicated that a "combined question with detailed checkboxes" was the optimal format for the 2020 Census. But in 2018, the bureau announced that it would maintain the dual question format.

To portray a more accurate representation of the Latino and Hispanic population, the bureau must reevaluate the language used in its surveys for data collection on race and ethnicity, Escobedo said. Many people cannot find a proper race to identify with, as Latinos are often mixed, she explained.

"The very definition of what it means to be Hispanic or Latino is very subjective," said Rivera. "It's hard to box anybody into a category."

Unable to find a race she identified with listed in the 2020 Census, Rivera said she decided to mark herself and her family as "other."

## Maryland State Police Warn Citizens of Law Enforcement Telephone Scams

By OFFICE OF MEDIA COMMUNICATION  
Maryland State Police

PIKESVILLE, Md. (September 30, 2020)—Maryland State Police are warning the public about a telephone scam in which the caller has cloned, or, "spoofed," a Maryland State Police telephone number in an attempt to scare victims into thinking they are the target of a criminal investigation.

A complainant reported today that she had received a call in which the caller ID on her phone showed "State Police" and the number 410-386-3000, which is the actual number for the Maryland State Police Westminster Barrack. When the woman answered the call, the person on the other end of the line told her that a criminal complaint had been filed against her. The victim asked for the caller's badge number before the caller hung up on the victim. This is just one of several phone "spoofing" scams reported to Maryland State Police in recent months.

These scammers are using scare tactics and sophisticated technology to attempt to take advantage of the public. The Maryland State Police would NEVER solicit personal information from any citizen over the phone.

Anyone who receives such a phone call should hang up and then contact their local state police barrack. Callers may remain anonymous.

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