

# The Prince George's Post



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## PGCMLS November Virtual Author Series

Features Former U.S. Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey

By DONNA SCOTT-MARTIN  
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (November 4, 2020)—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) continues to provide dynamic virtual events for readers to learn from leading national authors. The November lineup features award-winning authors and renowned poets, including Pulitzer Prize-winner and former U.S. Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey, NEA Fellow in Literature Randall Horton, Kendra Allen (winner of the 2018 Iowa Prize for Literary Nonfiction Kendra Allen) (was Thursday, November 5), and bestselling author Michael Farris Smith (was Monday, November 9).

### Wednesday, November 18 at 7 p.m. | NEA Literature Fellow Randall Horton in Conversation

Dr. Randall Horton discusses his new poetry collection “{#289-128}.” He is currently the only tenured Full Professor in the United States of America at a university or college with seven felony convictions. He is a member of the experimental performance group Heroes Are Gang Leaders. Their latest project, “The Baraka Sessions,” was named best vocal jazz album by NPR in 2019. Horton is a Professor of English at the University of New Haven. He is the recipient of the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award and is a National Endowment of the Arts Fellow in Literature. Co-presented with the Prince George's County Human Relations Commission and Black Caucus of the American Library Association.

### Thursday, November 19 at 7 p.m. | Natasha Trethewey in Conversation

Former U.S. Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey discusses her memoir “Memorial

Drive” with Prince George's County Poet Laureate Sistah Joy Alford. Trethewey is the author of five collections of poetry: “Monument” (2018), which was longlisted for the 2018 National Book Award; “Thrall” (2012); “Native Guard” (2006), for which she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize; “Bellocq's Ophelia” (2002); and “Domestic Work” (2000). Co-presented with the Prince George's County Human Relations Commission and the Black Caucus of the American Library Association.

Featured authors' books are available for checkout through the PGCMLS online catalog and through OverDrive. Washington, DC and Maryland-based Loyalty Bookstores is the independent bookstore partner for the Prince George's County Memorial Library System. Featured author event titles are available for purchase at [loyaltybookstores.com](http://loyaltybookstores.com).

Select PGCMLS author

events are presented in association with the following partner libraries: Anne Arundel County Public Library, Carroll County Public Library, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Howard County Library System, Kent County Public Library, Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County, Talbot County Free Library, and Worcester County Library.

**Randall Horton**  
in Conversation  
NEA Fellow in Literature  
Wednesday, November 18 at 7 pm  
Virtual Event

Logos for Prince George's County Memorial Library System, hrc, Loyalty, and Black Caucus.

**Natasha Trethewey**  
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## Prince George's County Launches On-Demand Rideshare Service

By PAULETTE L. JONES  
Department of Public Works and Transportation

LARGO, Md. (November 6, 2020)—On Monday, November 9, 2020, the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) is launching “Prince George's Link”, a flexible, on-demand microtransit service being piloted in the Fort Washington area from National Harbor to East Swann Creek Road. The pilot service will run for six months with a possible extension to become part of DPW&T's regular service.

Like other rideshare services, “Prince George's Link” uses a smartphone app for riders to schedule customized curb-to-curb microtransit trips. A small neighborhood-friendly bus will pick riders up and drop them off anywhere within the defined service boundaries. Along the way, the bus may pick up other passengers who also request service. Social distancing will be enforced, and passengers and transit operators are required to wear face coverings.

“We are excited for the opportunity to offer a new customized transit experience that will provide our residents increased access to desired points of interest in their community,” said DPW&T Director Terry Bellamy.

To use the new rideshare program, passengers must first download the free TransLoc app

from the Google Play or Apple iOS store prior to requesting a ride. The app will provide estimated pick-up times, track vehicles in real-time, and alert customers when their ride is about to arrive. Passengers will also be notified when they are approaching their desired destination.

The cost to use this premium service is only \$2.00 per trip, making “Prince George's Link” more affordable than traditional rideshare services, which could cost riders more than five times the amount for a similar trip.

Wait times for service are subject to vehicle availability and demand. The County fleet includes a lift to accommodate riders with disabilities, strollers and mobility devices. Customers with service-related questions can receive assistance by calling 301-499-8603.

“Prince George's Link” is intended to complement “TheBus”

and Metrobus service and address gaps in service in the County. The new pilot program will be implemented in partnership with TransLoc, a Ford Smart Mobility Company. TransLoc is the largest provider of agency-owned microtransit systems for municipal transit agencies in the U.S., with the company's products used at more than 500 agencies.

## Baltimore Convention Center Field Hospital COVID-19 Testing Site Serves As a Model in the Transition to Safe, Comfortable Winterized Sites

Infection prevention a key consideration in the move to indoor spaces

By PRESS OFFICERS  
Maryland Department of Health

BALTIMORE (November 6, 2020)—The Baltimore Convention Center Field Hospital COVID-19 testing site, operated by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) in partnership with Johns Hopkins Medicine and the University of Maryland Medical System, has moved indoors to accommodate patients as the weather turns cold this fall and winter. As of Wednesday, November 4, testing operations at the BCCFH have been relocated to climate-controlled space selected with patient and staff safety in mind.

“Testing is a key element of Governor Hogan's Maryland Strong: Roadmap to Recovery,” said Maryland Department of Health Secretary Robert R. Neall. “Winterizing our testing infrastructure will

allow us to continue accommodating large numbers of patients through the cold months ahead and to maintain accessible, safe and comfortable testing sites for Maryland residents.”

The BCCFH testing site's new indoor location was chosen for its ability to safely accommodate high volumes of tests. 1,143 individuals were tested during the first day of indoor operations on Wednesday. More than 38,000 COVID-19 tests have been performed to date at the site, which is one of the busiest walk-in sites in Maryland.

More than 32,000 square feet of floor space and 32-foot-high ceilings provide ample room for physical distancing and air circulation. The facility's air-filtration system completely exchanges indoor air with fresh air from outside four times every hour. Additionally, each individual testing station at the site has a dedicated industrial-grade HEPA filter.

Staff working at the site are required to wear an N-95 mask at all times.

“Our new space's design was meticulously scrutinized by infection preventionists,” said Dr. James Ficke of Johns Hopkins Medicine. “We worked closely with MDH's indoor testing working group and others to make sure that this site represents some of the highest standards and latest thinking on infection prevention.”

Among the many modifications that were made to the space to accommodate testing are new walls and other barriers designed to maximize infection control.

“This is one of the most innovative testing sites in the state,” said Dr. Charles Callahan from UMMS. “The

infrastructure that we have in place here reflects months of planning and attention to the smallest of details. We hope that we can serve as a model of safety and patient accommodation for other testing sites across the state.”

“The Baltimore City Health Department is excited to collaborate with the Baltimore Convention Center Field Hospital as part of ensuring availability of testing for all of our city's residents throughout the winter months,” said Baltimore City Health Commissioner Dr. Letitia Dzirasa. “With cold and inclement weather season upon us, expanding availability of testing in a way that meets residents' weather-related needs will be a critical piece of the puzzle.”

Other COVID-19 testing sites across the state are taking similar action to prepare for cold weather. The MDH testing sites at the corner of Calvert and Bladen Streets in Annapolis and the Six Flags America theme park will both be converted to winterized models in the coming weeks. Testing operations at the Annapolis site will move into a new semi-permanent tent on November 16, while additional heaters are being added to the existing tents at Six Flags currently.

The Baltimore Convention Center's indoor testing space is accessible from a pedestrian entrance on Charles St. The site is open every Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. In preparation for Thanksgiving, the site will open on Monday, November 23 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The site team also plans to expand its schedule after Thanksgiving. Details will be announced in the near future.

The Six Flags and Annapolis sites also are expanding operating hours for the winter. The Six Flags site is now open on Mondays from 2 to 6 p.m., Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, and Fri-



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
Each testing station at the site has a dedicated industrial-grade HEPA filter.



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
With more than 32,000 square feet of floor space and 32-foot-high ceilings, there is ample room for physical distancing and air circulation at the Baltimore Convention Center's new indoor testing space.

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Startup 'dAAB' Launches Private Beta of Platform For Black Businesses, Uses Video Comment Reviews as Key Feature

dAAB is launching their private beta testing for 4-5 weeks, and will launch their platform for public use in December.

CSM to Conduct National Search for New Chief Academic Officer

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# COMMUNITY

## Prince George's Community College Announces Plans for Spring 2021 Semester

By COURTNEY DAVIS  
Prince George's Community College

LARGO, Md. (November 5, 2020)—Prince George's Community College (PGCC) announced today its plans for the upcoming spring 2021 semester, which include offering the majority of its courses virtually to promote the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

The College's COVID-19 Task Force has been working closely with local officials to monitor coronavirus conditions in Prince George's County, which was one of the hardest-hit areas in the region. According to the latest data, Prince George's County has seen a rise in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in recent weeks, specifically some of the highest reported numbers since August.

"Promoting the health and safety of our community is paramount, guiding each decision we make as we navigate through the ongoing pandemic using a data-informed approach," said Dr. Falecia Williams, Prince George's Community College president. "These uncertain times have reinforced the need for higher education to be innovative. Our students and College community are very much a part of our decision-making process, and we've learned that a virtual environment presents not only challenges, but also a wealth of opportunities. It's a fresh, creative approach undergirded by our same historic mission," she added.

For the spring 2021 semester, students will be able to choose their courses from three options to best meet their learning styles and needs: online, remote, and hybrid. Online courses enable students to learn on their own time within the established schedule of deadlines for each course. Remote courses require students to meet virtually in real time on designated days each week for live faculty lectures and video conference discussions.

Select hybrid courses allow students completing lab-based work to learn both virtually and in person. In-person sessions in the hybrid courses are structured to enforce social distancing and safety in accordance with coronavirus precautions. The College's plans also leave flexibility for select student-facing services to offer limited hours of in-person sessions, by appointment only.

Prince George's Community College has implemented a number of measures to promote the health and safety of the small percentage of students, faculty, and staff whose work requires them to visit the campus, including enhanced cleaning procedures and reconfigured HVAC systems to allow improved air quality. The College is working closely with staff at its extension centers to promote similar measures.

All virtual courses are taught by Prince George's Community College faculty and offer the same educational rigor of being academically, intellectually, and personally challenging. Courses are nationally accredited so credits transfer and meet requirements for professional certifications and licensures.

The spring semester starts on Jan. 19. There is still time for first-time students to apply and register. Registration for returning students continues through Nov. 8 and opens for all students on Nov. 9. A listing of credit class schedules can be found on the website. Classes are available in 8-week, 12-week, and 15-week formats.

For more information or to apply and register, email [apply@pgcc.edu](mailto:apply@pgcc.edu) or call 301-546-0864.

*Named a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance designated by the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security (2015–2020), Prince George's Community College (PGCC) provides high-quality education and training for the progressive and career-oriented residents of Prince George's County. From new high school graduates and career seekers to more seasoned professionals and senior citizens looking to enhance their skillsets, PGCC is comprised of students who represent a wide range of ages, backgrounds, and goals. For more information, visit the College website at [www.pgcc.edu](http://www.pgcc.edu).*

## Supreme Court Hears Case Affecting Maryland LGBTQ

By PHILIP VAN SLOOTEN  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (November 6, 2020)—The Supreme Court heard arguments Wednesday on *Fulton v. City of Philadelphia*, which questions whether religious-based foster care agencies that choose not to work with same-sex parents are exempt from nondiscrimination laws.

Maryland's Catholic Charities of Baltimore no longer provides foster or adoption services, but FreeState Justice, a statewide LGBTQ advocacy group, fears other social services could be affected by a religious-exemption ruling.

At Wednesday's hearing, Justice Stephen Breyer asked Lori H. Windham, a lawyer for the petitioners, if Catholic Social Services could just evaluate a couple "irrespective of same or different sex," but she said it would be "essentially a validation of the relationships in the home" and against the organization's "deeply held religious beliefs" regarding same-sex marriages.

In 2018, the City of Philadelphia prohibited Catholic Social Services from placing children in foster homes because it learned through a Philadelphia Inquirer article that the organization could refuse same-sex couples for religious reasons.

While Justice Brett Kavanaugh pointed out Catholic Social Services had not actually turned away any same-sex parents, the city's attorneys

stated the potential rejection from an organization contracting with the city was still a concern.

Sharonell Fulton and Toni Simms-Bush, both of whom fostered children through Catholic Social Services, sued the city for limiting their choice of provider based on religious beliefs.

Justices listened via phone conference as a continuing COVID-19 precaution while Windham, and Department of Justice attorney Hashim M. Mooppan, argued Philadelphia's nondiscrimination ordinance violated her clients' right to freely exercise their religious beliefs.

Attorneys Neal K. Katyal and Jeffrey L. Fisher argued the city's position that its nondiscrimination ordinance was neutrally applied and did not single out Catholic Social Services based on their religious beliefs.

"Ruling (for religious exemptions) would insert federal courts into contracting decisions in all 50 states and imperil government services in many spheres," Katyal told justices Wednesday. "It means (government contractors) could discriminate against LGBT kids or categorically against foster parents for gender or religion."

Mark Graber, a University of Maryland law professor and a leading scholar of constitutional law and politics, said this case asks whether religious agencies that contract with the government, or that receive public funds for public services, can be exempted from nondiscrimination laws.

## Prince George's County Creative Arts Center Pivots to Celebrate the Holiday Season Safely

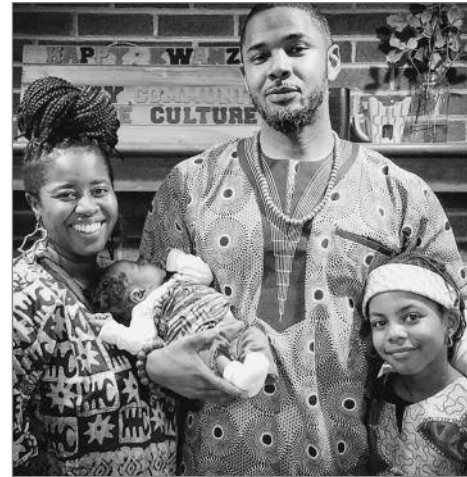
By PRESS OFFICER  
Substantial Art & Music

SUITLAND, Md. (November 5, 2020)—This year, Substantial Art & Music with Creative Suitland Arts Center will host the 2nd annual "It's a Kwanzaa Celebration." It will be a virtual holiday program featuring performing artists and educators from the DMV area. To ensure the safety of the audience, talent, vendors, and crew, we've decided to hold the celebration virtually on the first day of Kwanzaa—Umoja, Saturday, December 26, and streamed via YouTube. The pandemic has kept families apart for several months; this event is an opportunity to commune over powerful foundational principles and love of family, friends, and community.

Kwanzaa is a Pan-African holiday created by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966. Kwanzaa celebrates family, community, and culture from December 26–January 1. The celebration's goal is to engage Prince Georges County residents and the greater DC metro area with an empowering and educational Kwanzaa experience while supporting the arts.

The Substantial Art & Music Kwanzaa Celebration will feature award-winning Prince George's County educator and author Brother Victorious, along with storytelling, dance, drumming, workshops, lectures, craft activities, and virtual marketplace.

The arts community, like so many others, has been impacted significantly by the pandemic. With community support, we can ensure the success of It's a Kwanzaa Celebration's goal of elevating local artists by creating opportunities to showcase their talent and en-



SubArtMusicFounders Rachele and Stan Robinson



PHOTOS COURTESY: KELLY MAVEN MEDIA  
West African Dance and Drum Ensemble

gaging families in the 7 principles of Kwanzaa. This is our way of bringing the community together even though we are apart. Learn more about the celebration at: <https://youtu.be/NppJcS-NCvU>

To make a contribution, visit: <http://bit.ly/Kwanzaa2020>

To become a sponsor, contact: [subartandmusic@gmail.com](mailto:subartandmusic@gmail.com)

Website: [www.subartandmusic.com](http://www.subartandmusic.com)

Instagram and Twitter @subartandmusic @substantialmusic  
[www.Kellymavenmedia.com](http://www.Kellymavenmedia.com) | 301 300 4011

Creative Suitland is an arts-based community development strategy to include residents and businesses in defining the cultural and creative spirit of greater Suitland area. The Greater Suitland area considers the central Prince George's County communities of Suitland,

Coral Hills, Silver Hill, Forestville, Capitol Heights, District Heights, Camp Springs, Hillcrest Heights, Marlow Heights, & Temple Hills.

Joe's Movement Emporium was approached by the Revenue Authority to enhance arts and cultural activities as a means to boost the local creative community. Joe is a leader in the creation of the Gateway Arts District and Art Lives Here initiative that informed the organization's expertise in the field of creative placemaking. Substantial Art & Music, LLC (SAM) is an organization focused on providing consulting services to the art and music community. SAM was founded in 2017 by husband and wife duo, Stan "Substantial" Robinson and Rachele Etienne-Robinson. Together they provide design and consulting services to emerging and established artists. Additionally, they provide art and music programming and advocacy.

## Alzheimer's Association Shares Tips to Support Alzheimer's, Dementia Caregivers

More than 16 million Americans provide unpaid care for people with the disease

By CINDY SCHELHORN  
Alzheimer's Association

MCLEAN, Va. (November 6, 2020)—Nearly half of all caregivers providing help to older adults are doing so for someone living with Alzheimer's or another dementia. These caregivers are twice as likely to indicate substantial emotional, financial and physical difficulties, compared to those caring for someone without dementia.

"Alzheimer's and dementia take a devastating toll on the more than 16 million Americans providing unpaid care for someone with the disease," said Kate Rooper, president of the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter. "Nearly 60 percent of those caregivers rate the emotional stress of caregiving as high or very high, and more than one-third report symptoms of depression."

November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month and National Family Caregivers Month. The Alzheimer's Association encourages people to lend a helping hand to family members and friends caring for a loved

one with Alzheimer's or other dementia. Providing help and support to caregivers can be easier than most people think. Even little acts can make a big difference.

The Alzheimer's Association offers these suggestions:

- **Learn:** Educate yourself about Alzheimer's disease—its symptoms, its progression and the common challenges facing caregivers. The more you know, the easier it will be to find ways to help.
- **Build a Team:** Organize family and friends who want to help with caregiving. The Alzheimer's Association offers links to several free, online care calendar resources that families can use to build their care team, share tasks and coordinate helpers.
- **Give Caregivers a Break:** Make a standing appointment to give the caregiver a break. Spend time with the person living with dementia and allow the caregiver a chance to run errands, go to their own doctor's appointment, participate in a support group or engage in an activity that helps them recharge. Even one hour could make a big

difference in providing the caregiver some relief.

- **Check In:** Many Alzheimer's and dementia caregivers report feeling isolated or alone. So start the conversation—a phone call to check in, sending a note, or stopping by for a visit can make a big difference in a caregiver's day and help them feel supported.
- **Tackle the To-Do List:** Ask for a list of errands that need to be run—such as picking up groceries or prescriptions. Offer to do yard work or other household chores. It can be hard for a caregiver to find time to complete these simple tasks that we often take for granted.
- **Be Specific and Be Flexible:** Open-ended offers of support ("call me if you need anything" or "let me know if I can help") may be well-intended, but are often dismissed. Be specific in your offer ("I'm going to the store, what do you need?"). Continue to let the caregiver know that you are there and ready to help.

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He said that answer has to be no.

"Let's say the state runs a fire department," Graber told Capital News Service on Thursday, "If private people want to contract with the city and run their own fire department, when there's a fire you have to put it out regardless of if that house is of a black person, a gay person and so forth. The state is allowed to license a behavior and attach nondiscriminatory conditions to a license. So, if you want to participate in the state adoption program, you have to play by the state rules."

Maryland's adoption program is managed at the state level by the Maryland Department of Human Services. It is a foster-to-adopt program where families are selected as "foster / adoptive homes," according to its website.

Maryland contracts with private religious and secular agencies, such as Lutheran Social Services and Adoptions Together. Both work with same-sex couples.

Former College Park, Maryland, City Councilmember PJ Brennan and his husband, Nick, adopted Benji, 3, and Kayden, 16 months, through Adoptions Together, which has locations in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C.

"One of the reasons we stuck with Adoptions Together is because of their ethical approach to adoption," PJ Brennan told Capital News Service on Monday. "They make sure they are working with and counseling the birth family and not coercing them into a decision they don't want to make."

Nick Brennan added that Benji's birth mother chose them because they were a gay couple. This was to honor her sister who also was gay and wanted children but passed away before having them.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DOCUMENTARY ASSOCIATES  
Former College Park City Councilmember PJ Brennan and his husband, Nick, adopted their sons Benji, 3, and Kayden, 16 months (not pictured), through a secular Maryland agency.

"This was a way to honor her memory," Nick said, adding the birth mother told them, "Everyone is entitled to have a family, if they want a family."

Catholic Charities of Baltimore is a faith-based agency that no longer provides foster or adoption services in Maryland, but Christine Collins, the director of communications, said their agency continues to manage over 80 other social service programs throughout the state.

These include services for the homeless, food-insecure, elderly or disabled, and those seeking help with immigration or government benefits.

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# COMMENTARY

## Anthony Brown

Maryland Congressional District 4



### President-Elect Biden Will Be a President For All Americans, and Together This Country Will Build Back Better

WASHINGTON (November 7, 2020)—House Armed Services Committee Vice Chair Anthony G. Brown (MD-04) released the following statement on the election of Joseph R. Biden as the 46th President of the United States and the historic election of Senator Kamala Harris as Vice President:

"The American people have spoken, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris will be the next President and Vice President of the United States. Despite a global pandemic, our democracy prevailed. At this critical moment, we chose decency and will restore the soul of this nation.

"This is a win for all Americans, regardless of party. President-elect Biden has the experience and empathy that our country needs in our Commander in Chief. As the COVID-19 pandemic rages on, our economy struggles, climate change threatens our planet and we reckon with systemic racial inequality,

the leadership of President-elect Biden will guide our country through these unprecedented times.

"I look forward to working with the incoming Biden administration to make this country more secure and prosperous. We will rebuild alliances that have been strained over the past four years and engage the global community. We will support our active-duty servicemembers and veterans, and uphold our sacred promise to them and their families. We will revitalize Black, Latino, urban and rural communities in this country that have been overlooked for far too long and have been devastated by this pandemic. We will ensure justice and equity extends throughout our criminal justice system, education, housing and health care. We will invest in modern infrastructure and create new, well-paying jobs along the way. We're beginning a new chapter as a country. Under President-elect Biden, better days are ahead."

### Van Hollen Statement on the Election of Joe Biden, Kamala Harris

WASHINGTON (November 7, 2020)—Today, U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) released the following statement regarding the election of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris to serve as President and Vice President of the United States.

"The American people have spoken, and they have overwhelmingly chosen Joe Biden and Kamala Harris to lead our nation. Joe has spent decades working to ensure every American gets a fair shot, and he has not once forgotten where he's from and who he's fighting for. Joe will bring that passion to the White House and will work to unite us and create positive change while fighting back against the health and economic toll of the COVID-19 pandemic. Kamala has been an ardent voice for justice and equality in the United States Senate and prior,

and I know she will continue standing for these unmovable principles as she takes on the role of Vice President.

"Our country faces enormous challenges, but by electing this historic ticket, the American people will have two seasoned leaders at the helm, able and prepared to do the hard work required to lead us forward. I am proud to have worked closely with both Joe in the White House and Kamala in the Senate on a range of issues over the last several years. Together, I am committed to repairing the damage of the past four years, turning the page on the politics of hate and division, working to address the urgent needs of the American people, and ensuring a more equal and inclusive America. We must never rest in our pursuit of a more perfect union."

### Capital Caring Health Recognizes National Hospice and Palliative Care Month

Seven Things You Should Know About Specialized Home Care

By NANCY COOK  
Capital Caring Health

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (November 2, 2020)—Capital Caring Health (CCH) today launched a community-wide education campaign in partnership with WTOF radio to enlighten the community about hospice and advanced illness care in time for National Hospice and Palliative Care Month, observed in November. The campaign also spotlights the disparity of advanced illness care and hospice utilization by minority populations, and the continued need for education and awareness of this important health care alternative.

"We're committed to raising awareness throughout all communities we serve in Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C., so that families understand the difference advanced illness and hospice care can make to quality of life for loved ones facing serious illness," states Tom Koutsoumpas, President and CEO of Capital Caring Health. "Common misconceptions can keep patients and families from investigating these care options, while surveys show people often wish they'd known earlier such care was available."

As one of the oldest and largest hospices in the country—in the top ten of the 4,300 hospices nationwide in terms of size—Capital Caring Health is paving the way for individuals from all walks of life to understand and access specialized home care when facing an advanced or life-limiting illness.

At Capital Caring Health, experience teaches what a difference advanced illness and hospice care can make to individuals and families during their most challenging times. With specialized care and support—primarily delivered at home—the focus is always on providing the best quality of life possible—as defined by each individual and family.

Research shows there are significant disparities in utilization of hospice by minorities:

- 83% of hospice patients in the United States are Caucasians, while African Americans represent only 8%, followed by Hispanics at 6.4%, Asians at 2% and Native Americans at .05%.

The study also revealed that nearly 60% of the LGBTQ community have concerns about health care providers not being sensitive to their needs.

"At Capital Caring Health, our care is unconditional and guaranteed for one and all regardless of your race, religion, ethnicity, culture, mental health status, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender ex-

pression, or ability to pay," explained Tom Koutsoumpas.

"It is our hope that this month, we are able to reach more members of the community in need of personalized, compassionate care, delivered in the home, that they remember these seven key points," he concluded:

1. Hospice and advanced illness care are comprehensive medical care and support services that comes to You—in your home or wherever you are living;
2. Hospice and advanced illness care are covered by Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance—however Capital Caring Health never turns anyone away if they are unable to pay;
3. Hospice and advanced illness care provide invaluable medical and social support for the family caregiver as well as their loved one for six months or more, as needed. It is not a 'last resort' for specialized care;
4. Capital Caring Health provides grief counseling to anyone in the community who has suffered a loss, regardless of whether they are in our care or not;
5. Capital Caring Health cares for patients of all ages—from infants to centenarians, with a specialized pediatric hospice and palliative care program, and a special Veterans program that provides customized medical and support services. Our Primary Care at Home program launched earlier this year provides pre-hospice, in-home primary and urgent care to seniors (ages 65+) who are home limited due to a chronic illness or mobility issue.
6. Capital Caring Health's care team provides comprehensive care to keep patients in their homes in comfort, and also have four inpatient units for 24/7 care should additional support be needed on a short-term basis—all designed to keep patients home where its safe and out of the hospital;
7. Capital Caring Health's funders, partners and volunteers offer a myriad of support services to help patients 'celebrate life' and fulfill their last wishes.

For more information or to download our No Place Like Home Guide, visit [capitalcaring.org](http://capitalcaring.org) or call our 24-Hour Care Line: 800-869-2136.

Capital Caring Health is one of the leading nonprofit providers of elder health, hospice, and advanced illness care for persons of all ages in the mid-Atlantic region. Since the beginning of hospice care over 40 years ago, we have served 140,000 patients and their families in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

## Todd M. Turner

Prince George's County Council Chair



### Council Chair Issues Statement Announcing Postponement of Joint Public Hearing For Countywide Map Amendment

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (November 6, 2020)—The District Council and Prince George's County Planning Board Joint Public Hearing on the proposed Countywide Map Amendment (CMA), scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2020, has been postponed.

This decision was reached given recent metrics indicating a resurgence in COVID-19 cases; in alignment with the advice of public health officials and Phase II COVID-19 public health emergency operations in Prince George's County; and due to recent disclosures required under State law which

prevents a quorum of Council Members required to hold the Joint Public Hearing with the Planning Board to consider the proposed CMA.

To ensure full consideration and opportunity for public comment, as well as an orderly implementation of the new Zoning Ordinance, additional notification will be provided for the proposed CMA hearing, once the County's emergency status indicates the meeting can be held safely, and the District Council and Planning Board determine it is appropriate to proceed in accordance with State law.

## Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,  
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

### Changing Symbols

"What we're really talking about ...[are lessons learned that] I think are helpful for people who are looking at what's going on in our country right now and saying, 'How did we get here, and how do we turn around?' And so this book really is about how we offer what I call hospice care to that which is dying away, which I think is literally all of the things which this administration is offering us in this moment, and also how to offer prenatal care to the things that we want to birth, to the country that we actually want to live in."

This is how Black Lives Matter Global Network co-founder Alicia Garza recently described her new book *The Purpose of Power: How We Come Together When We Fall Apart*. The record setting election turnout showed millions of Americans are asking similar questions and using their votes to make their voices heard. How do we turn our nation around now? How do we make sure the old things die away, and help the better country we want to live in finally be born?

For months there have been hopeful signs our nation's long overdue racial reckoning may be underway at last, including some physical signs of change. From statues and school names honoring racist leaders and perpetrators of Native American genocide to Confederate flags and monuments that proliferated alongside Jim Crow, Americans are dismantling longstanding symbols of White supremacy, bigotry, and hate. President Trump was a not-surprising exception as he continued to applaud Confederate leaders, refused to reject White supremacists, and denounced people who rejected symbols of hate as hating America. Yet even his loud voice could not stop the changing tide. The wave of opposition to racist and bigoted symbols is proving stronger than the individuals still embracing and clinging to them. The decision to finally remove the Confederate emblem from Mississippi's state flag and the Election Day vote to

approve a new design were among the strongest signals yet that even in the South it is a new day and world and the time for rejecting dead racist ideologues and the dying ideology they represent has come.

These changes have been repeated at a rapid pace in the last few months across the country and even in other parts of the world. New names have been especially welcome at our nation's schools. It is well past time that people and institutions held up to our children as "great" and those honored in the naming of crucial formative spaces for children reflect values that affirm the dignity, sacredness, and equality of every person and child.

In the midst of the catastrophic emergencies people of color are disproportionately facing from COVID-19, poverty, and police brutality, some people might be tempted to dismiss names and symbols as unimportant. To save our communities and achieve a just future for our children and nation we need to dismantle the racist systems and structures they represent. This means not only reforming policing and the criminal justice system but also confronting our unjust economic and political systems that create deep disparities in income, housing, education, health, and well-being and hurt children and families of color. Removing Confederate flags from statehouses, choosing new names honoring African Americans and Native Americans for schools and public buildings, and taking down statues honoring racist leaders are not sufficient steps for dismantling systems, but changing these symbols is still an important step.

These changes are all part of the urgent march forward to ensure those who continue to bear the burden of our national birth defects of Native American genocide, slavery, and the exclusion from the electoral process of non-propertied men of all colors and all women are able to experience a fair chance to succeed and to replace unjust symbols, policies, and practices of the past with new ones that ensure access, equality, and justice for all. Let's finally help a new America be born!

—November 6, 2020

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# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

### Younger Wife Is the Higher Earner

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

**Dear Rusty:** I've seen examples of how to maximize Social Security, but I've never seen an analysis for our situation. I'm 61 and my wife is 57, but she has been the primary breadwinner, while I just barely made eligibility. Our plan is for me to start at age 62 (\$500 a month) and then switch to my spousal benefit at age 74 when she starts her benefits at age 70 (her benefits should be \$2,500 a month). Are we missing anything? We are both in good health with an average life expectancy but there is a very good chance my wife will exceed the "average." **Signed: Planning Ahead**

**Dear Planning:** Well first, be aware that Social Security's rules are "gender neutral"—that is, the rules are the same regardless of which of you is the higher earner. That said, you and your wife seem to have a good strategy, for with her as the higher earner with the highest benefit, maximizing her SS payment by waiting until age 70 is an excellent plan. Since her longevity outlook is very good, she should get the most in cumulative lifetime benefits by waiting. Your plan to claim at age 62 is also prudent if you will not be working full time. That's because if you claim before your full retirement age (FRA), you'll be subject to an earnings test, which limits how much you can earn before SS takes back some of your benefits.

If you exceed the earnings limit, Social Security will assess a penalty of \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit and take back benefits equal to that amount. For example, if you were collecting SS this year the earnings limit is \$18,240. If you earned \$25,000, you'd be \$6,760 over the limit and SS would take back benefits equal to \$3,380. And at your \$500 monthly benefit rate, they would withhold benefits for 7 months to recover what you owe. And that's true until you reach your full retirement age when the earnings limit goes away (born in 1959, your FRA is 66 years and 10 months). At your FRA you would get time credit for any withheld months, but if you're planning on that SS income starting at age 62, and you're still working, the earnings limit could derail your benefit income plan. Of course, if you won't be working after you claim early benefits, the earnings limit doesn't apply. And for clarity, your wife's earnings from working don't count toward your personal earnings limit, and the limit goes up considerably in the year you reach your FRA. If you plan to continue working and the earnings limit is an issue, you might choose to wait until your FRA to claim your benefit. By doing so you would avoid the earnings limit, and you would also assure that you would receive the full 50% of your wife's FRA benefit amount when she claims.

If you claim at age 62, your spousal benefit (when your wife claims) will be less than half of your wife's FRA benefit amount because you claimed your own benefit early. Your spousal benefit will consist of both your own (reduced) benefit and a spousal boost to bring you up to your spouse benefit amount. When your wife claims at age 70, your spousal boost (the difference between your full FRA benefit amount and half of her FRA benefit amount) will be added to your own (reduced) early SS benefit, yielding a spousal benefit less than half of your wife's FRA benefit amount. The only way you can get the full 50% spouse benefit is to wait until your own FRA to claim your own Social Security and later get the higher spouse benefit for the rest of your life.

In the end, your health, financial need and life expectancy should be the primary factors considered when deciding when to claim.

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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## Startup 'dAAb' Launches Private Beta of Platform For Black Businesses, Uses Video Comment Reviews as Key Feature

dAAb launches beta testing with users and business, plan to debut publicly by December 2020

By IMANI POPE-JOHN  
dAAb Global

BALTIMORE (November 5, 2020)—dAAb Global, will launch their new social commerce platform, in beta this month, with a public release in December. The platform, dAAb, was founded in 2019, with a mission to develop a centralized platform to accommodate businesses and customers, offering a dedicated digital space to locate, support, and promote black-owned businesses. The platform will have unique features, like video commenting, which will increase visibility and engagement for the business owner, while offering the potential customer a chance to see interactive content from the businesses.

"This private beta will launch for a pre-determined group of users, both consumers and business owners. We're using this time

to test features, fix bugs, and get an idea about server load time, downtime, speed, as well as overall acceptability of our site," said dAAb's Chief Executive Officer and Co-founder, Chanelle Burt.

Users will experience a seamless interface designed to explore businesses using robust search and geographical tools. It intentionally creates new opportunities for the promotion of Black businesses which will improve customer relationships and retention.

dAAb is launching their private beta testing for 4-5 weeks, and will launch their platform for public use in December. It will provide an effective way for businesses to promote holiday sales and high-light shopping experiences.

"Videos have higher engagement on social media platforms, and we realized it was an opportunity for our platform to offer a way for businesses to receive reviews

through videos, and be able to respond to or use them for unique business promotion," said Burt.

"With increased consumer spending in Q4, we're hoping to provide more opportunities for Black businesses owners. The data we collect will also provide insight into consumer spending habits that will allow business owners to prepare for 2021."

*In 2019, dAAb Global was created by Nicole Newborn and Chanelle Burt, who've been friends since high school and also studied at Morgan State University together. dAAb was established to satisfy the nationwide desire to improve the economic state of the Black community. The overall mission is to provide a unified platform that will simplify the ability for users to locate, support, and promote Black-owned businesses. Visit [daabonline.com](http://daabonline.com) for more information.*

## COVID-19 Relief Programs Now Available for Maryland Restaurants, Artists, and Entertainment Venues

Governor Urges Local Jurisdictions to Match State's Investments to Help Families and Small Businesses

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL  
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (November 5, 2020)—As part of Governor Larry Hogan's \$250 million economic recovery package for Marylanders affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, new financial assistance programs are now available to restaurants, independent artists, arts organizations, entertainment venues, and Main Street businesses across the state.

"This economic recovery initiative will be critical to the struggling restaurants, small businesses, and Main Streets across the state that are attempting to weather this crisis," said Governor Hogan. "I have directed our team to ensure that this much-needed funding gets out the door as quickly as possible. We are urging counties and local jurisdictions to match these new state investments by utilizing their remaining CARES Act funding so that we can direct even more resources to where they're needed most."

**Support for Local Restaurants.** For restaurants across Maryland, a new grant program is available. The state will distribute a total of \$50 million across each county and Baltimore City based on the number of restaurant establishments located in each of the 24 jurisdictions. Restaurants interested in this new grant program must apply through their local jurisdiction, which are launching their own relief programs. Anne Arundel County has previously announced that it will match the state's investment in the restaurant relief program.

The chart [at right] is the funding for restaurant relief expected to be allocated throughout the state.

**Support for Arts Organizations.** The Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC), an agency of the Maryland Department of Commerce, has received an additional \$3 million to reinvest in its Emergency Grant Program, aimed at helping those in the arts community that have experienced losses

Allegheny County	\$649,548
Anne Arundel County	\$5,019,627
Baltimore City	\$6,571,385
Baltimore County	\$7,081,047
Calvert County	\$646,295
Caroline County	\$144,223
Carroll County	\$1,201,501
Cecil County	\$663,645
Charles County	\$1,099,568
Dorchester County	\$233,143
Frederick County	\$2,052,745
Garrett County	\$319,894
Harford County	\$1,758,876
Howard County	\$2,506,018
Kent County	\$238,565
Montgomery County	\$8,230,497
Prince George's County	\$6,105,099
Queen Anne's County	\$443,514
Somerset County	\$113,861
St. Mary's County	\$779,674
Talbot County	\$531,350
Washington County	\$1,352,231
Wicomico County	\$840,400
Worcester County	\$1,417,294

IMAGE CREDIT MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

because of programming, operations, and events that have been modified or canceled. New applications are being accepted until November 13 for impacted county arts agencies, Arts & Entertainment District management entities, arts organizations, and independent artists through the MSAC website.

**Support for Hometown Tourism Efforts.** Destination Marketing Organizations (DMO) will receive \$2 million through the governor's initiative to support hometown tourism efforts that promote local restaurants, attractions, and shops. Each local jurisdiction's DMO will receive funds specifically earmarked for marketing purposes, to help drive visitors to local venues

and stores. This new funding greatly enhances the annual marketing assistance that Maryland Commerce's Office of Tourism provides directly to the local tourism offices. Additional information is anticipated to be sent out to DMOs early this month.

**Support for Main Street and Small Businesses.** \$50 million will be used to fund the remaining applications submitted for the Maryland Small Business COVID-19 Emergency Relief Grant Fund. While new applications are not being accepted for this program, this additional funding will help clear the backlog of approximately 5,000 remaining small business applications submitted in March and April earlier this year. Similarly, an additional \$5 million will go toward the Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority (MSBDF), for COVID-19 relief loans for businesses owned by economically and socially disadvantaged entrepreneurs that applied earlier this summer.

New applications are also being accepted for state programs at our partner state agencies. Both the Maryland Department of Labor and the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development will receive \$20 million to reinvest in their coronavirus relief programs. Labor began accepting applications on October 28 for its COVID-19 Layoff Aversion Fund, which is designed to prevent or minimize the duration of unemployment resulting from layoffs. DHCD has launched its web page with resources for Main Street businesses, entertainment venues, and tourism non-profit organizations.

For more information about financial assistance available to businesses across Maryland, please visit the Maryland Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information for Business web page.

## CSM to Conduct National Search for New Chief Academic Officer

By ANGELA WALTERS SMALL  
College of Southern Maryland

(November 5, 2020)—The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) will launch a national search for a new chief academic officer to replace CSM Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Eileen Abel, who will leave Nov. 30, 2020 to become Executive Director of the University System of Maryland Southern Maryland (USMSM).

"We congratulate Dr. Abel on her new position, and look forward to building on the existing partnership with USMSM that will facilitate access to the baccalaureate degree for more CSM graduates," said CSM President

Dr. Maureen Murphy. "Dr. Abel has been an integral part of the CSM leadership team for five years, and I know I speak for each member of the CSM family when I say we will miss her innovative, steady, and compassionate hand in our day-to-day lives."

"A piece of my heart will always be with the College of Southern Maryland," said Abel. "The professionals who join to serve the mission of our nation's community colleges are like no other when it comes to lifting the underserved, fighting for inclusion and equity, and committing to each student's success. It has been an honor to serve beside my CSM colleagues."

"The Regional Higher Education Centers offer a unique model of access to bachelor completion and graduate programs right here in Southern Maryland," Abel continued. "I look forward to building stronger bridges between CSM and USMSM to create opportunities for CSM graduates to continue their academic journey toward their four-year degrees and beyond."

A CSM interim vice president of academic affairs will be announced soon, said Murphy. The national search for a permanent academic officer will begin January 2021 with the goal to name a permanent replacement in June 2021.

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