

# The Prince George's Post



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## Maryland Expands Text-Based Outreach To Book Vaccine Appointments for Prince George's County Residents

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL  
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (March 3, 2021)—Maryland officials have expanded text-based outreach to

book vaccine appointments for eligible Prince George's County residents at the Six Flags America mass vaccination site. To help ensure vaccine equity, the state has committed to set aside at least 500

Six Flags appointments for county residents, in addition to what county residents are able to book online and through the state's call center.

During beta testing of this ap-

pointment-making tool, the state conducted outreach to a subset of the Prince George's County pre-registration list and invited those individuals to sign up for appointments. On Sunday (Feb. 28), this led to filling all 300 slots that were available.

With this appointment-booking tool, each resident is contacted three times over the span of several days, and with each attempt, the response rate increases to as high as 96%. The time it takes an individual to complete this process through the SMS appointment booking tool is 1-3 minutes. State officials update the county on who has been scheduled for appointments or has already been vaccinated.

This system builds on a pilot program the state launched in late January to book appointments through outbound calls to Prince George's County residents. Additional actions that the state has taken to support vaccination efforts in Prince George's County include:

In January, the Maryland National Guard deployed its first vaccination support team to the Prince George's County Health Depart-

## University of Maryland Capital Region Health and First Baptist Church of Glenarden to Open a COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic

By JANIA MATTHEWS  
University of Maryland Capital Region Health

CHEVERLY, Md. (March 4, 2021)—Today, Governor Larry Hogan and Brigadier General Janeen Birkhead announced the State of Maryland will partner with the First Baptist Church of Glenarden (FBCG) and the University of Maryland Capital Region Health to establish a large, community focused-vaccination site in Prince George's. When fully operational, this new site will deliver 900 COVID-19 vaccine doses per day.

FBCG and UM Capital Region Health leaders comment on this announcement:

"Prince George's County has been disproportionately impacted by this pandemic and the only way for our families, friends and neighbors to get back to normal is through vaccination, says John K. Jenkins Sr., Pastor of First Baptist Church of Glenarden. "With the support of the State and backing of county leaders, we are honored to be able to host a COVID vaccination site focused on the communities that we have been serving for decades and will continue to serve long after the pandemic has passed."

"This is an opportunity to expand access to the COVID-19 vaccine to residents in Prince George's County," said Nathaniel Richardson, Jr. President and CEO, UM Capital Region Health. "Partnering with First Baptist Church of Glenarden and Pastor Jenkins is an extension of our well-established efforts to improve the health and wellbeing of our community."

The FBCG vaccination clinic will be held in its Family Life Center and is scheduled to open on March 16, 2021. Updates on scheduling and site operation hours will be posted at [umcapitalregion.org/getthevaccine](http://umcapitalregion.org/getthevaccine).

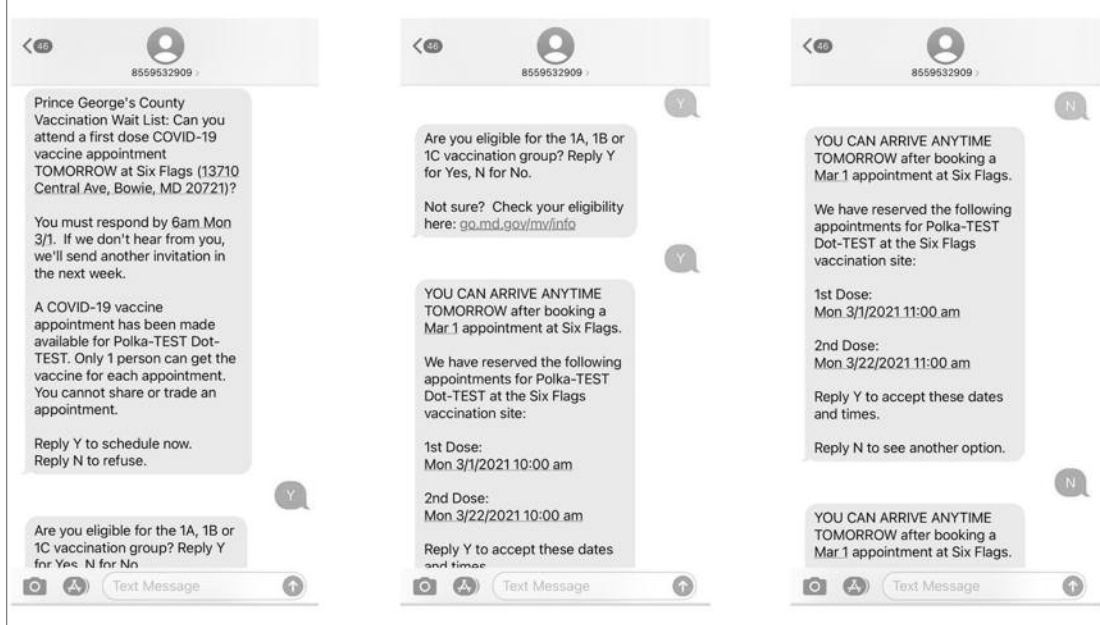


IMAGE COURTESY MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

Maryland officials have expanded text-based outreach to book vaccine appointments for eligible Prince George's County residents at the Six Flags America mass vaccination site.

See OUTREACH Page A4

## Vaccine Hunters Take Control of Appointment Search

By CALLAN TANSILL-SUDDATH  
Capital News Service Annapolis Bureau

Frustrated with the slow rollout, many residents are turning to a Facebook group for help in hunting down COVID-19 vaccine appointments.

The Maryland Vaccine Hunters group has existed for just over a month but boasts, at publishing, nearly 55,000 members.

Nancy Knuth, 75, lives in Parkton with her 76-year-old husband; the two have been eligible to receive vaccines since the state entered phase 1B on Jan. 18 but were unable to make appointments without assistance.

Knuth said she checked online multiple times a day for nearly three weeks and never managed to book any, but after she joined Maryland Vaccine Hunters, someone procured vaccine appointments for the couple and their daughter, who runs a preschool.

"I tried Walgreens, I tried CVS, I'm on the Baltimore County Registry, I tried Six Flags; I just wasn't having any success. Then one of the gals offered to help; I gave her my information and within two days, she had appointments for all three of us," Knuth said.

Elliot Hazzard, a 25-year-old geographic information system technician living in Mount Airy, created the group out of concern over wasted vaccine doses and after noticing frustration about the decentralized nature of the state's vaccine registration system.

Hazzard read an article about another New Orleans-based group called the Nola Vaccine Hunters—the central goal of which is to help ensure no extra dose is left unused—and decided Maryland could use a similar resource.

The group's stated intent is purely "to get vaccines in arms," and it does not outwardly criticize the state's approach to vaccine distribution, but it has evolved into a pseudo-matchmaking service for people eligible to receive the vaccines, and people willing to help others make appointments.

"The original purpose of my group was to connect people with pharmacies or with vaccination sites that had expiring doses. But the group has kind of evolved into more of a COVID vaccine information clearinghouse," Hazzard said.

The group has been a game-changer when it comes to scheduling vaccines, and strangers so willing to help one another has instilled in Nicholas Brown a much-needed sense of hope; "it has restored my faith in humanity," Brown said.

Brown, who lives in Bowie, joined Maryland Vaccine Hunters less than a week ago, and in that time has helped between 10 and 15 people find vaccine appointments; at present, he is assisting someone going through cancer treatment, he told Capital News Service.

But the group's exploding popularity—an increase of nearly 35,000 members since Feb. 19—does concern Brown as he worries it will only exaggerate the existing disparities between who can and cannot make vaccine appointments.

If someone has a team of people helping them procure an appointment, they are at a much greater advantage than someone with minimal internet access who does not know about the group.

Hazzard said there have been conversations about the importance of outreach; he and other volunteers encourage

## Environmental Film Festival Presents "The Falconer" Profiling D.C. Native Master Falconer Rodney Stotts

By HELEN STRONG  
Public Relations Consultant

The 2021 Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital, in collaboration with THEARC Theater, a program of Building Bridges Across the River, will present the East Coast premiere of "The Falconer", a story of empowerment through nature that profiles the work of Washington, D.C. native Rodney Stotts, one of very few Black Master Falconers in the U.S. To sign up for the free screening, which is available for viewing from March 19-28, visit [bit.ly/Falconer-DCEFF](http://bit.ly/Falconer-DCEFF).

The screening will be followed by an online discussion with Rodney Stotts, Corina Newsome, co-founder of Black Birders' Week, environmental engagement specialist Akiima Price, and filmmaker Annie Kaempfer.

Directed by D.C. native Annie Kaempfer, "The Falconer" follows Stotts as he strives to provide his community's underserved youth and endangered raptors with a safe haven for mutual healing and growth. Rodney Stotts never planned to become an environmentalist. Growing up in Southeast Washington, D.C., he seemed destined for a life of drugs and street violence. A former drug dealer, inmate, single father, drive-by-shooting victim, and survivor of the crack epidemic, he left that life behind when he joined the Earth Conservation Corps, an organization that involves young people from vulnerable communities in cleaning up their local rivers and habitat to encourage wildlife restoration. Discovering a love of birds along the way, Stotts developed a passion for the art and sport of Falconry.

The film presents an intimate portrait of Rodney and his dream



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT ANNIE KAEMPFER

Rodney Stotts and his Red-tailed hawk named "Stuff."

of building a bird sanctuary so he can share his love of birding with the next generation. Acting as his own narrator, he discusses his work as a licensed Master Falconer, his environmental work with the Earth Conservation Corps, which was responsible for bringing the bald eagle back to the Anacostia, and the creation of his Oak Hill Raptor Center, in Laurel, Md., where youth from Rodney's stressed community learn about raptors, nature, and personal responsibility. The film shows Stotts as he and his youthful helpers from the Capital Guardian Youth Challenge Academy, run by the D.C. National Guard, begin the demanding work of refurbishing a hundred-year-old dairy barn to create the Raptor Center. His goals are to protect raptors, heal and release them, take care of the birds that are non-releasable, teach young people about caring for the

birds and their natural environment, and for a few, how to become falconers.

"All this is healing. All this is medicine. All this changes who you are," says Stotts.

This documentary is a story of second chances: for the injured birds-of-prey in Rodney's care, for young people who bear the brunt of social and environmental injustice, and for Rodney himself. Directed by Annie Kaempfer and produced by Annie Kaempfer and William Stefan Smith, the film was edited by Jason Pollard and Juliet Weber. "The Falconer" was made possible through the assistance of a grant from the Spike Lee Fellowship Fund.

Annie Kaempfer is an independent filmmaker whose work has screened at festivals, including Mill Valley, Big Sky and Twin Cities. Her feature debut, *The Fal-*

*coner*, won Best Environmental Feature at BendFilm, a Special Jury Prize at Cinema on the Bayou Film Festival and 1st Prize Storyteller's Award at the Destiny City Film Festival. The film is set to air on PBS's "America Re-framed" in 2021. A Spike Lee Fellowship and Alan Landsburg Documentary Award recipient, Annie graduated from NYU Tisch School of the Arts with an MFA in Film-making. She brings a collaborative spirit, devotion to aesthetics, and focus on real-world impact to all her film projects. Annie serves on the Board of the Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital and has consulted for the Ford Foundation, JustFilms and FotoDC. Annie was born in Washington, D.C. and lived in London and Maine before settling in Brooklyn with a lawyer/musician, one small child, and an overly exuberant rescue Saint Bernard.

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**To Be Equal:**  
National Urban League Grieves the Passing of Transformational President Vernon Jordan  
He honored her faith in him with his bravery, his grace, his brilliance, and his excellence.

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# TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

### Police need next-of-kin information for fatal accident—Can you help?

On February 25, at 6:30 p.m., a 59-year-old man died in a crash along Kirby Road and Marwood Drive in Clinton. He was pronounced dead at the scene. His '96 Toyota Camry was struck by a 2019 Dodge ProMaster City van. The van driver was hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

Prince George's County Police knew the name of the victim, but nothing else—he used a PO Box for an address. The only traceable item they found was a business card for John McHale, manager of Eastover Auto Parts in Forestville where Joe was employed. John, who happens to be my son, thought I should publicize this sad story and maybe locate Joe's next of kin.

"Joe" is the victim's first name. His full name won't make the press until police find next of kin and/or where Joe lived.

Cpl. Jason Tyler, of the County Police, visited Eastover. He learned from John that Joe had been employed there as a driver for 12 years. However, John was unable to provide much information because Joe didn't talk about family or home.

However, John has since found this information on Joe's original job application: He was born July 15, 1960. He attended Brandywine Elementary, graduated from Gwynn Park High School and served in the Army, retiring as sergeant. In the 1990s he worked for Ourisman Chevrolet and B&M Auto.

John remembers Joe as a homebody who loved watching westerns, a "quiet, thoughtful gentleman, an early-riser who usually showed up an hour early for work, a hard-worker, always quick to jump in and help other employees." He's sad to lose a nice guy and a long-time employee.

It's essential to find a relative who can claim Joe's body and give him the burial he deserves.

Cpl. Jason Tyler Badge #2774 is in charge of this case and welcomes any information on next of kin or where he lived. His number is 301-731-4422.

### Neighbors & other good people

Debra Strachan graduated from Suitland H.S. in 1981, and went on to a 36-year career with the federal government, most recently Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command. She started work at 15 as a house-

keeper at Suitland Nursing Home, trained in nursing, began her federal career with the Department of the Navy, eventually becoming an Electronic Acquisition Specialist. Now retired, she lives in Upper Marlboro and has recently been honored for her long career.

Washington Auxiliary Bishop Michael Fisher is moving north to be the new bishop of Buffalo, N.Y. In his early years as a priest, he served as pastor of Holy Family Parish in Hillcrest Heights, 1995-99.

### Town of Morningside

The Morningside Town Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 16, 7 p.m. For information, call 301-736-2300.

Town elections for two Council seats is coming up May 3. More into to follow.

### Changing landscape

Via Roma Restaurant has opened across from the new immigration building in Camp Springs. For now, there is carryout only. They also have a coffee bar and breakfast starting at 7 a.m.

The Temple Hill Road Bridge remains closed to traffic while the Department of Public Works & Transportation completes a total reconstruction of the bridge. The bridge, located over Pea Hill Branch in Clinton, failed under the severity of a storm, resulting in its closure. A detour is in place.

Washington's cherry blossoms will peak between April 2 and April 5. The Cherry Blossom Festival will span March 20 to April 11 and feature numerous events to celebrate the blooms.

A 60-bed inpatient rehab hospital is planned for Bowie, to serve patients recovering from stroke, neurological disorders, brain and spinal cord injuries, amputations and more, and would offer 24-hour nursing care. The builder, Encompass Health Corp, plans a mid-2022 opening.

The Museum of the Bible and the International Spy Museum have both reopened.

Cicadas will soon emerge in tremendous numbers. They are from Brood X, and have been living underground for the past 17 years.

There's a new First Lady high up in a tulip tree at the National Arboretum in NE Washington. The female bald eagle arrived a few weeks ago and has pushed out and displaced the last First Lady. It seems to be okay with her mate, Mr. President.

### Mary's virus report

I have had no reaction to my two Pfizer shots, and I'm relieved that most of my family has also had them. Before long we'll go back to family parties.

However, through 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 2, Maryland had 383,170 cases, 468 just in the last day. Also, there have been 7,905 deaths with 26 the last day.

A new vaccination site has opened at a minor league baseball stadium in Charles County; appointments available. Vaccine doses are increasing at existing sites, doubling in Prince George's County.

After a Covid "uptick," 200 Naval Academy midshipmen have been moved from Bancroft Hall to an off-campus hotel where they are not allowed to have guests and the Academy serves meals to them directly during their stay.

### May they rest in peace

• Dorothy M. Lanham, 98, of Upper Marlboro, who was born in Meadows Maryland (where Joint Base Andrews is now), died March 15. She was an R.N. at the historic Freedmen's Hospital (now, Howard University). Her husband Brooke Lanham, Sr. predeceased her. Survivors include children, grand- and great-grandchildren. Services were at Holy Redeemer Church in Washington with burial at Cheltenham.

• Jacob Siegel, 99, who spent 40 years with the Census Bureau before retiring in 1983 as a senior statistician died Oct. 26 at his home in Rockville. He was a lecturer at Georgetown and former president of the Population Association of America.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to my Texas daughter Therese Gallegos and Belinda Benavidaz, March 14; Jacob Thompson, Jose Gryskewicz and Jonathan Capps, March 15; Constance Bennett and my great-grandson Riley McHale, March 16; Sharon Ryan, Helene Williams, Judy Bornman and Alysha Perez, March 18; Kristopher Calhoun and my longtime Skyline neighbor Audrey Pridgen, March 19.

Gladys Davidson would turn 104 on March 20. She was born in 1917. If you know her, let me know.

*Happy St. Patrick's Day to my readers—Irish or not!*

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

### OFFICE OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

The Office of Alumni Engagement is celebrating the tremendous and extraordinary accomplishments of our phenomenal alumnae throughout the month of March. The Office of Alumni Engagement Page provides current information about institutional and other Alumni events and programs. It is also dedicated to keeping us informed of University news.

Bowie State University Office of Alumni Engagement "Live at 5" Wednesday, February 24 for a Facebook Chat special CIAA Edition featured BSU's Men's and Women's Basketball Coaches: Darrell Brooks ('79 & '19) and Shadae Swan.

Want to stay in the loop with BSU? Make sure you check your inbox every Saturday at 7 a.m. for the latest issue of BSU news, events, and alumni profiles, BSU at a Glance is a quick read to keep yourself up to date with your alma mater. We are #Bowie BOLD, #BSU 4 Life.

### KUDOS TO BSU ALUMNI

Congratulations to Bowie State University Alumni Carissa Smith ('16) for her recent appointment as a senior advisor to the White House Office of Public Engagement. In this role, Smith will be working to amplify Biden-Harris Administration's efforts as it relates to women and girls, health, and education.

### KUDOS TO BSU ALUMNI

Bowie State University Derrick Young '19 & Ramunda Young, Founders and Owners of MahoganyBooks open second location at National Harbor. "So proud to be a Bowie State University alum and bring a few more jobs and black books to Prince George's County. Come through this summer to our New National Harbor location." Derrick Young ('99) MahoganyBooks Co-Founder. [www.mahoganybooks.com](http://www.mahoganybooks.com).

### ALUMNI PROUD

Bowie State University Alumni Proud: Honorable Joanne C. Benson ('61) State Legislator and Legacy Maryland State Senator, 24th Legislative District.

### BSU IN THE NEWS

"Congratulations to Bowie State University President Aminta H. Breaux, recipient of the Washington Business Journal Diversity in Business Award. The class of 2021 class of 25 honorees was nominated by Washington Business Journal readers and chosen by a panel of judges that includes alumni of the program and editorial staff." A virtual awards ceremony will be held on March 18, 2021. [www.bizjournals.com/washington/news](http://www.bizjournals.com/washington/news).

### SUMMER 2021 CLASSES

Learn, discover, and hope without limits. Choose from a wide variety of engaging and enriching learning experiences, in areas such as: Animal Interests, Workforce Training, Music, Art, and Theater, Wellness and Fitness. Please visit [www.csmdu.edu/ContinuingEducation](http://www.csmdu.edu/ContinuingEducation) to view the full schedule and register for classes.

### PGCPS PROUD IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Teacher Tuesday, sharing Distance Learning Tips. Barack Obama Elementary second-grade teacher Tiffany Harrell makes learning fun and engaging by using everyday objects to get students excited about science.

### 2021 READING PROGRAM

Information for the United Methodist Women 2021 Reading Program can be found by visiting [www.umwmissionresources.org](http://www.umwmissionresources.org) or call 800-305-9857. Contact: Tangelia Terry, Secretary of Program Resources at 443-694-0468 or [Mst2136@yahoo.com](mailto:Mst2136@yahoo.com).

### TEENS VISUAL ART SUMMIT

Art Spark-Teen Art Summit invite your creative side Saturday, March 20 and Sunday, March 21, 2021. Register today at [Arts.PG-PARKS.com](http://Arts.PG-PARKS.com). Free for ages 13-18. Virtual Teens are invited to ignite their creativity through ARTSPARK, a series of workshops for visual and performing artists.

### WESTPHALIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Church History: In 1967, congregations from the "Jackson-St. Luke Charge" merged under the name of "Jackson-St. Luke Methodist Church." After the merger, it was decided that worship services would be held at St. Luke Methodist Church while preparations were being made to erect a new church to be built on Westphalia Road.

After many preparations and negotiations under the pastoral leadership of Rev. John H. Coursey, the "Groundbreaking" for the new church was accomplished on February 4, 1968. The Pastor and congregation members agreed to select a name for the new church, Westphalia United Methodist Church.

The first service for Westphalia United Methodist Church was held on September 22, 1968. Worship services continued at the Westphalia Road location for 42 years. During those years, various pastorate leadership and congregation members helped to form the foundation of Westphalia United Methodist Church in the community as it continued to evolve.

Another "Groundbreaking" for a new church took place on April 20, 2008, under the pastorate leadership for many years of Rev. Dr. Timothy West. On August 15, 2010, while the new church was being built, Westphalia moved into a temporary location, Arrowhead Elementary School for 22 months. During that time, Westphalia was blessed to become a midsize church of approximately 500 members and continues to grow.

On May 6, 2021, Westphalia held its Consecration Service after completing Phase I of its 600-seat sanctuary, 250-seat Fellowship Hall, and office meeting spaces. Soon Phase II will be completed with additional spaces. The Lord continues to bless Westphalia United Methodist Church as it walks in its vision and mission. [Westphaliaum.org](http://Westphaliaum.org).

## Around the County

### Local Students Honored

**Local Student Named To Dean's List At Pitt-Bradford**  
BRADFORD, Pa. (March 2, 2021)—The University of Pittsburgh at Bradford has named 420 students to its fall 2020 Dean's list. Dean's list status is awarded to students who have earned a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Greenbelt, Md.: **Destined-Treasure M. Kintum**, first-year, business management  
—*Kimberly Marcott Weinberg, University of Pittsburgh at Bradford*

### Student Named to the Dean's List at Columbus State Community College

COLUMBUS, Ohio (March 2, 2021)—The following student has been named to the Autumn Semester Dean's List at Columbus State Community College. To be named to the Dean's List, a student must achieve a grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 or higher and be enrolled for six or more credit hours.

Greenbelt, MD: **Heather Babin**, Hospitality Management  
—*David Wayne, Columbus State Community College*

### Local Students Selected to University of Minnesota Twin Cities Dean's List

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL, Minn. (Feb. 26, 2021)—The following students have been named to the 2020 fall semester Dean's List at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.

To qualify for the Dean's List, a student must complete 12 or more letter-graded credits while attaining a 3.66 grade point average.

Cheltenham, MD: **Mohamed Ibrahim Jr.**, Senior, Col of Educ/Human Development

Mount Rainier, MD: **Roslyn Brehl**, Senior, College of Liberal Arts  
—*University Public Relations, University of Minnesota Twin Cities*

### Update: Temple Hill Road Bridge Remains Closed as New Bridge is Built

LARGO, Md. (March 2, 2021)—The Temple Hill Road Bridge will remain closed to traffic while the Department of Public Works and Transportation completes a total reconstruction of the bridge. The bridge located over Pea Hill Branch in Clinton, Maryland, failed under the intensity and severity of a storm, resulting in its closure. A detour is in place to assist vehicles with alternate travel routes.

Prior to the closure, funding had been allocated for the bridge's reconstruction as one of several Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) in Prince George's County. All major utility work is completed and construction on the new bridge is underway. The project's estimated date of completion is March 2022, weather depending.

The County is dedicated to making roadways safer for all users and the new design includes safety elements that consider drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists. To improve vehicular safety, the new bridge will be higher, larger, and wider, with an added 36 feet to its length and 68 feet to its width. Pedestrians will be accommodated along a new sidewalk and cyclists along wide shoulders that tie in with the roadway approaches to the bridge. Additionally, roadway lighting will be included to increase visibility. This approach is part of the Vision Zero Prince George's strategy to utilize engineering to help eliminate traffic-related fatalities in our County.

### Detour Information:

• Cars should use Plata Street, Old Branch Avenue, and Piscataway Road (MD 223)

• Trucks are directed to Kirby Road, Old Branch Avenue, and Piscataway Road

For more information on the Temple Hill Road Bridge Replacement Over Pea Hill Branch project, visit <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/30210/Temple-Hill-Rd-Bridge-Repl-over-Pea-Hill-Branch>.

—*Paulette L. Jones, Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation*



# COMMUNITY

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) Community Collaborations**

**Women in Faith:** (<https://ww1.pgcmls.info/event/4900352>) Diverse Voices Speak features local faith leaders in conversation about gender, identity, and religion on **March 15** at 7 p.m.

**W. Ralph Eubanks** (<https://ww1.pgcmls.info/event/4894167>) discusses Mississippi's world-renowned literary legacy and his book "A Place Like Mississippi" on **March 25** at 7 p.m.

**The Elephant We Don't See: A Diversity Dialogue** (<https://ww1.pgcmls.info/event/4920436>) returns for a discussion of "I Am Woman" by Lee Maracle on **March 30** at 7 p.m.

—Donna Scott-Martin, PGCMLS

**Marietta House Museum and the Prince George's County Historical Society Present: Women's Views of "That Peculiar Institution"—Thoughts on Slavery in their Diaries and Letters**

Join us on Thursday, **March 25**, 6:30–7:30 p.m., as Hammond Harwood House director, Barbara Goyette, gives voice to Nineteenth Century Women. A Women's History Month virtual presentation: Women's Views of "That Peculiar Institution"—Thoughts on Slavery in their Diaries and Letters

What Were They Thinking? In this talk, we will consider the voices of antebellum women—enslaved and free—in the border and southern states through reading their memoirs, diaries, and letters. Their thoughts and actions, as they themselves described, cover a range of topics from family life, to economics, to slavery.

Register through Parks Direct: [www.parksdirect.com](http://www.parksdirect.com) or our direct link: <https://tinyurl.com/vapzrh57>. \$5/person, ages 13 and older. You must register to receive the link for this event and must have access to Microsoft Teams. Questions about registration? Please email [stacey.hawkins@pgparks.com](mailto:stacey.hawkins@pgparks.com) or call 301-262-0532.

Marietta is located at 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD 20769 and is a property of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. —Stacey Hawkins, Marietta House Museum

**Three Howard University Theater Artists Investigate the Black Artist Experience in a Devised Three-Part Web Series Presented by Young Playwrights' Theater**

"Silence is Violence: The Future of the Field" is written and performed by Autumn Angelette, Ayanna Fowler, and Jaucqir LaFond, and directed by YPT Artistic Director Farah Lawal Harris. All three episodes will be available to stream for free on **Friday, March 26, 2021**, on YPT's YouTube Channel. YPT is currently accepting donations in support of this project and YPT's larger mission to inspire young people to realize the power of their own voices. Reserve tickets and make donations at <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=121323>

## Grief Support Programs for Spring, Summer

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN  
**Hospice of the Chesapeake**

**Chesapeake Life Center announces virtual grief support schedule for spring** PASADENA, Md. (Feb. 25, 2021)—Chesapeake Life Center offers a variety of grief support programs and workshops in person and via telehealth platform. The following are support groups that will meet virtually through Zoom for Healthcare through June.

**SoulCollage Grief Support Group** has participants create a series of collages to commemorate lost loved ones and to visually journal the grief process. The group will meet from 6 to 8 p.m. on the first Monday of the month, April 5, May 3 and June 7.

**Loss of Life Partner/Spouse Monthly Morning Group** is for individuals grieving the death of a spouse or life partner. It will meet from 10:30 a.m. to noon on the third Wednesday of the month, April 21, May 19 and June 16.

**Parent/Parental-Figure Loss Monthly Support Group** is a monthly drop-in group that is open to adults grieving the death of a parent or parental figure. It will meet from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month, April 28, May 26 and June 23.

**Six-Week General Grief Support Group** is a facilitated six-week support group offering attendees an opportunity to explore grief themes and share strategies for navigating loss in a community of trust. It will meet from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, April 6 to May 11. A six-week commitment is required.

One group that will be meeting virtually and in-person simultaneously is the Child Loss Support Group. This group is for parents who have experienced the death of a child of any age or circumstance. The group will meet on the John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena,

Maryland, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month, April 7, May 5 and June 2.

Per Center for Disease Control guidelines, the number of people who will be allowed to participate in programs in person is limited to six to allow for physical distancing. Face masks must be worn at all times. Acknowledging that not everyone has access to this technology or may not be comfortable with it, the center suggests people call or email the office and grief professionals will work with individuals to help them find other appropriate resources if needed. Registration is required for all groups and can be completed by calling 888-501-7077 or emailing [griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org](mailto:griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org). For details on telehealth bereavement services, visit [www.hospicechesapeake.org/clc-covid-19](http://www.hospicechesapeake.org/clc-covid-19). Visit [www.hospicechesapeake.org/events](http://www.hospicechesapeake.org/events) for a complete listing of in-person and virtual groups and workshops for adults and children.

**Summer programs for grieving children and teens**

PASADENA, Md. (Feb. 25, 2021)—Chesapeake Life Center will offer four different Saturdays of summer grief programs for children and teens that are filled with adventure, music and art. There are three program options for children ages 6 to 11. Just pick the one that suits your child's needs best. As these will be held in person, space is limited which means a child can only attend one of the programs.

**Adventures in Grief** will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 15 at Terrapin Adventures at Historic Savage Mill at 8600 Foundry St. in Savage, Maryland. Grief for kids can be a wild journey, sometimes feeling like a safari or climbing up a mountain. Come and explore this grief adventure, how it looks and feels different for everyone, in a very physical way.

**Summer Grief Art Workshop** is a creative program designed to help younger children use art to gain support, express their feelings, and make their grief visible through arts and crafts. It will be held at a location yet to be determined in Anne Arundel County. It will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 26.

**Rhythm and Grieve** will be held from 10 to 4 p.m. July 17 at a Prince George's County location that is yet to be determined. Like other forms of art, music allows children to express their grief constructively in non-verbal ways. In this workshop kids will make their own instruments as a way to honor their loved ones, creatively express their emotions, and connect with others in the process. Get ready for grief out loud!

For teens ages 12 to 18 who are entering grades 6 through 12, there is **Teen Adventures in Grief**. It will take place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 14, at Terrapin Adventures. By using team building exercises and other activities to help them get to know each other, teens will find a space where the many emotions of grief are met with care and compassion. Professional counselors offer the expertise to support these teens as they navigate grief while having fun and discovering they are not alone. Registration is required by Aug. 2. As these events have limited participation, the Chesapeake Life Center team is confident it can offer a safe experience for all participants, and will take all the necessary precautions, following guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control.

The cost for each program is \$40, and includes snacks, meals, activities and a T-Shirt. Scholarships are available; inquire upon registering. Call 888-501-7077 or email [griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org](mailto:griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org). Also, visit [www.chesapeakelifecenter.org](http://www.chesapeakelifecenter.org) for ongoing children's programs.



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# COMMENTARY

## Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



### To Be Equal:

## National Urban League Grieves the Passing of Transformational President Vernon Jordan

*“Black people today, for all our righteous anger and forceful dissent, still believe in the American Dream. And we must, in this year of doubt and confusion, remind a forgetting nation that this land is ours, too. This nation too often forgets that this land is sprinkled with our sweat, watered with our tears, and fertilized with our blood ... And so it is Black people who, by our belief in the ideals of American democracy, can help this nation to overcome its crisis of spirit and enter a new era of hope and fulfillment.”*

—Vernon E. Jordan,  
National Urban League  
Conference Keynote Address,  
2010

The nation has lost one of its greatest champions of racial and economic justice. Vernon E. Jordan, who served as Executive Director of the National Urban League from 1971 to 1981, was a transformational leader who brought the movement into a new era. He was a personal mentor and dear friend. His passing leaves a tremendous void that can never be filled.

Jordan assumed leadership of the National Urban League at a crucial moment in history, after the passage of the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, and the Fair Housing Act. The broad, legal goals of the 20th Century Civil Rights Movement had been achieved. His mission, as he saw it, was to empower Black Americans to realize the promise of these victories. In his words, “Black people today can check

into any hotel in America, but most do not have the wherewithal to check out.”

The exceptional poise and dignity with which he conducted himself was just as striking as his impressive height. He was born into an era when Black men in his native Georgia were routinely addressed as “Boy;” his mother pointedly nicknamed him “Man.” He honored her faith in him with his bravery, his grace, his brilliance, and his excellence.

As a child, he heard Thurgood Marshall speak at an NAACP meeting and immediately told his father, “I’m going to be a lawyer like Thurgood Marshall.”

Graduating in 1953 from the same segregated Atlanta high school that Martin Luther King, Jr., had attended years before, Jordan defied expectations by enrolling at the virtually all-white DePauw University in Indiana. It was the beginning of a life spent challenging the boundaries of where Black people belonged.

The title of his memoir, “Vernon Can Read”, was inspired by an incident that occurred when he was a college student with a summer job as a chauffeur. He would spend his breaks reading, which amazed his employer.

He entered Howard Law School at the height of the desegregation movement and quickly took his place on the front lines. He went to work for civil rights attorney Donald Hollowell, which successfully sued the University of Georgia for racial discrimination in its admission policies. He personally escorted the first two Black stu-

dents, Charlayne Hunter and Hamilton E. Holmes, past a mob of howling white protesters to the university admissions office.

“There were no thoughts about being afraid,” he later said. This is what I went to law school to do—and I’m now here, doing it.”

Before joining the National Urban League, Jordan served as the Georgia field director for the NAACP, director of the Voter Education Project of the Southern Regional Council, and executive director of the United Negro College Fund.

He was recruited to lead the League after the unexpected drowning of Whitney M. Young in Nigeria; Martin Luther King, Jr., had died just three years earlier. “It was a challenge to be walking in his shoes,” he said. “After the losses of King and Young, and the turn towards conservatism that really began in the seventies, both the League and Black America were in a state of sadness, of disappointment.”

After hearing no mention of the crisis facing Black Americans in either President Gerald Ford’s State of the Union Address or Sen. Edmund Muskie’s response, Jordan produced the first State of Black America® report in 1976.

The National Urban League would not be where it is today without Vernon Jordan. We have lost more than a leader; we have lost a brother. We send our prayers to his wife, Ann, his daughter, Vickie, and his entire family and extended family as we rededicate our commitment to his vision of justice and equality.

## Steny H. Hoyer

Maryland Congressional District 5



## Hoyer Statement on the Appointment of Tylease Alli to Serve as House Reading Clerk

WASHINGTON (March 4, 2021)—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) released the following statement today after Speaker Nancy Pelosi appointed Tylease Alli to serve as the House Reading Clerk:

“I join in thanking Joe Novotny for his many years of service to the House of Representatives and to the American people, and I congratulate Bowie resident Tylease Alli on being selected to be the next Reading Clerk. I am proud that a Prince Georgian will now be the voice of the

House, heard by millions of Americans on C-SPAN as she plays a critical role in House procedure. For years, Members on the Education and Labor Committee have gotten to know Tylease well, relying on her to ensure that the important business of that committee can proceed smoothly as it works to bring opportunity to American students, teachers, workers, and communities. I look forward to welcoming her to the House Floor.”

## Hoyer Participates in Virtual Townhall With CASA

WASHINGTON (March 8, 2021)—[Monday] evening, Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) joined immigration advocates and CASA community members for a virtual townhall to discuss legislation he will bring to the House Floor the week of March 15 to protect Dreamers and those with TPS and DED status, and legislation to create a pathway to citizenship for undocumented farm workers.

“I was glad to join my dear friend Gustavo Torres to speak with CASA advocates this evening,” said Congressman Hoyer. “After four years of cruel and inhumane policies implemented by the Trump Administration, Democrats in Congress and the Biden-Harris Administration are working together to address the challenges of our nation’s immigration system while protecting immigrant families. I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance legislation that protects immigrants and refugees in Maryland, and I appreciated the opportunity to engage in this important conversation with CASA this evening.”

“I look forward to bringing the Dream and Promise Act and the Farm Workforce Modernization Act to the House Floor next week to protect Dreamers and TPS holders and reach for the kind of immigration reforms that are long overdue,” continued Congressman Hoyer. “I will continue to work closely with Gustavo,

CASA, and immigrant rights activists in our community to ensure the ideals on which our nation was founded are brought to fruition.”

“CASA is enormously gratified to have Leader Hoyer—a man who fully embraces the contributions that immigrants make to this country—as our representative,” said Gustavo Torres, Executive Director, CASA. “Our members shared with him the crisis facing current and should-be TPS holders, DACA-mented youth, farmworkers, asylees, and those essential workers that have kept us safe during this crisis. We know that our Congressman will work hard to align the Caucus to achieve long overdue justice for immigrant families.”

At [Monday night’s] event, CASA members representing diverse immigrant experiences had the opportunity to meet directly with Congressman Steny Hoyer. Over 440 CASA members joined the virtual town hall conversation from organizing committees in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania as well national membership, which includes immigrants from 43 states. The meeting was held in four languages and the participants included directly impacted DACA holders, TPS holders, Asylum seekers, farmworkers, and essential workers from dozens of industries joining for an update on the status of moving immigration reform forward in Congress.

## Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,  
Children’s Defense Fund



### ChildWatch:

## President Biden’s Cabinet Reflects a More Just and Inclusive United States of America

This year’s Women’s History Month sees our nation moving forward and including women at all levels of authority including Kamala Harris as our Vice President. Other extraordinary women have been nominated for cabinet and sub-cabinet positions by President Biden.

Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-Ohio), former Congressional Black Caucus chair, has been nominated to become the second Black woman Secretary of Housing and Urban Development following Patricia Roberts Harris. Isabel Guzman has been nominated to lead the Small Business Administration at a critical time when businesses led by women and people of

color have been disproportionately hurt by the pandemic. Rep. Deb Haaland (D-N.M.), one of the first two Native American women elected to Congress, is President Biden’s nominee to lead the Interior Department. She would be the first Native American cabinet secretary to oversee the department that includes the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Dr. Cecilia Rouse has been confirmed as the first African American Council of Economic Advisers chair. Katherine Tai, nominated to become U.S. Trade Representative, would be the first Asian American and woman of color in that role. And Linda Thomas-Greenfield has been confirmed as the second Black woman U.S.

Ambassador to the United Nations, following Susan Rice, who now directs the White House Domestic Policy Council.

Other huge glass ceilings shattered include Avril Haines becoming the first woman director of National Intelligence and Dr. Janet Yellen, our first woman Federal Reserve chair, who has now become our first woman Treasury Secretary. Former Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm and Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo, the first women governors in their states, are Secretaries of Energy and Commerce. And for the first time, women constitute the entire White House senior communications team. President Biden also has created a White House Gender Policy Council to help coordinate policy impacting women and girls and bring our nation closer to full gender equality and inclusion.

Gender representation is not the only way the new administration is moving forward. General Lloyd Austin is the first Black Secretary of Defense; California’s Attorney General Xavier Becerra would be the first Latino to lead the Department of Health and Human Services; Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg is the first openly gay cabinet member; Dr. Miguel Cardona, Connecticut’s first Latino education com-

missioner, who grew up speaking Spanish as a first language in his Puerto Rican family, is now the Secretary of Education; Alejandro Mayorkas, whose family fled Romania and the Nazis during World War II and then Havana after the Cuban Revolution, is our first Latino and first immigrant to lead the Department of Homeland Security; and Michael S. Regan would be the first Black man and second African American to lead the Environmental Protection Agency. Other federal nominees include assistant secretary of health Dr. Rachel Levine, the first openly transgender person nominated for a high federal position.

It’s hard to be what you can’t see and our children have not always seen government leaders at the highest levels who look like them and come from similar backgrounds and share similar experiences and who are able to make fair decisions reflecting our diverse population. This is the kind of representation all of us need and deserve.

### Outreach from A1

ment’s clinic.

MDH has assigned 50 volunteers from the Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps to the county.

The state prioritized Prince George’s County for the retail pharmacy program to expand the availability of vaccines.

The state placed the first mass vaccination site at Six Flags America in Prince George’s County, and guarantees at least 500 appointments per week for county residents, in addition to what they are able to book online and through the call center.

Governor Hogan has appointed Brigadier General Janeen Birchhead to head up the Maryland Vaccine Equity Task Force, which is also engaging directly with county leaders.

A telephone-based support line is available for residents without internet access who require assistance finding providers and making appointments for mass vaccination sites. The COVID-19 Vaccination Support Center—available at 1-855-MDGOVAX (1-855-634-6829)—is open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

### Vaccine Hunters from A1

members to reach out to people they know who may not have a broadband internet connection or might just not feel comfortable using the internet or social media as a primary means of communication.

Acting Maryland Health Secretary Dennis Schrader announced in late February that the state has plans to open a centralized online portal for pre-registration at the three operational mass vaccine sites: a reversal from what he described as a potential “single point of failure,” during a meeting Feb. 1.

Hazzard, whose group turned him into an unintentional COVID-19 vaccine insider, supports the decision, saying it seems like a “step in the right direction,” but wishes it would go further.

“I just don’t think it goes far enough, I think, in order for things to truly be easy, every single vaccination site in the state of Maryland should schedule appointments through one state-run website,” Hazzard said.

Maryland has administered 1,394,725 first doses as of March 3.

## The Prince George’s Post

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