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Northwestern Mutual Grows D.C.-Area Presence

Company opens new office in Bowie

By PRESS OFFICER
Northwestern Mutual

MILWAUKEE (May 19, 2021)—Northwestern Mutual, a financial security company focused on comprehensive financial planning through both insurance and investments, is announcing the opening of a new office within the greater Washington, D.C. area in Bowie, Maryland.

"We're thrilled to expand our presence into Prince George's County," said Northwestern Mutual Managing Partner Leo Tucker. "It's a diverse and vibrant community right next door to Washington, D.C., and

offers immense opportunity to deliver financial planning solutions to historically underserved groups. We look forward to sharing our holistic approach to financial planning with future clients and potential advisors in the area."

With 64 percent of the population identifying as Black/African American, Prince George's County is also considered home to some of the most affluent African-American neighborhoods in America.

Managing Director Heather Zepeda will oversee the Bowie office, comprised of a diverse team of financial professionals. The group, several of whom

live in Prince George's County, plans to identify opportunities for financial education and support for many of the thriving businesses owned by historically underrepresented groups in the area, as well as general contractors and employees of several government agencies based there. As the team grows its presence, they will focus recruiting efforts on the nearby University of Maryland and Historically Black Colleges and Universities including Howard and Bowie State.

Northwestern Mutual has been serving the Washington, D.C. community since 1870. The Bowie office is one of six

in the Beltway area, with the others in D.C., Fairfax, Reston, Tysons and Rockville. It is also one of several Northwestern Mutual offices opening this year that will focus on underpenetrated market expansion.

Tucker and Zepeda have focused on diversity and inclusion through creating an inclusive work environment, attracting and developing a diversity of talent, building a pipeline for growth opportunities and engaging with the diverse communities they serve. This work was recognized in 2020 when

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PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL

The Bowie Northwest Mutual team at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Summer Months Usher in Deadliest Period For Teen Drivers

Greater Washington Nonprofit urges parental involvement this summer in preventing teen drinking

By PRESS OFFICER
Washington Regional Alcohol Program

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (May 27, 2021)—Citing the fact that summer's arrival also ushers in that contiguous period (May–August) when the greatest number of U.S. teen traffic deaths occur (with June being the

single deadliest month of the year regarding such fatalities)[1], a Washington-metropolitan area alcohol education group is urging parental involvement to combat both teen drinking and drunk driving this summer.

The Falls Church-based, nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is providing area parents of teens with "Ten

Tips for Prevents to Prevent Underage Drinking" (which are available as a downloadable and or printable pdf at wrap.org/tips2021.pdf). WRAP's ten annual summer tips, designed to inform Greater

See TEEN DRIVERS Page A5

15-20 YEAR OLD FATALITIES IN MOTOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC CRAHSES BY MONTH OF CRASH AND YEAR FATALITY ANALYSIS REPORTING SYSTEM (FARS) 2015-2018 FINAL & 2019 ARF

Month	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2015-2019	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
January	229	7%	202	6%	237	7%	229	7%	196	7%	1,093	7%
February	199	6%	227	7%	207	6%	209	7%	165	6%	1,007	6%
March	244	7%	280	8%	253	8%	242	8%	238	8%	1,257	8%
April	267	8%	255	7%	247	7%	239	8%	203	7%	1,211	8%
May	323	10%	319	9%	303	9%	286	9%	280	10%	1,511	9%
June	318	9%	341	10%	296	9%	266	9%	282	10%	1,503	9%
July	305	9%	324	9%	316	10%	285	9%	246	9%	1,476	9%
August	320	10%	303	9%	312	9%	249	8%	255	9%	1,439	9%
September	277	8%	288	8%	274	8%	293	10%	245	9%	1,377	9%
October	323	10%	310	9%	328	10%	278	9%	244	9%	1,483	9%
November	279	8%	301	9%	271	8%	260	8%	253	9%	1,364	9%
December	264	8%	274	8%	274	8%	227	7%	231	8%	1,270	8%
Total	3,348	100%	3,424	100%	3,318	100%	3,063	100%	2,838	100%	15,991	100%

CHART COURTESY OF WRAP

Prince George's County Council Adopts \$4.6 Billion FY 2022 County Budget

Unanimous Council Support for "The People's Budget"

By ANGELA ROUSON
Prince George's County Council Media

The Prince George's County Council, convening virtually on Thursday, May 27, 2021, unanimously adopted a balanced \$4.6 billion Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2022. The County's new spending plan, which reflects a 2.2-percent increase over last year's budget, takes effect with the new Fiscal Year, which begins July 1, 2021.

Following Council adoption of what Council Chair Calvin S. Hawkins, II, called "The People's Budget," he noted the impact of COVID-19 on Prince George's County, and shared his optimism for its fiscal future.

"These are times like none other—not only for the challenges, but also for the opportunities before us. This final budget package is built upon sound and responsible principles of fiscal management, which we continue to follow. It will take time for our slow economy to heal, but Prince George's County is not standing still, and we will not be pulled back."

The Council concurred with the County Executive's proposed \$2.34 billion appropriation for education, consistently the top spending priority in Prince George's County. Included among Council enhancements to the approved budget, was added funding to support a partnership between the Health and Police departments to improve Mobile Crisis Intervention initiatives, including the addition of mental health crisis workers to 911 and expansion of mental health crisis teams. The Council also provided additional funding for officer recruitment from Prince George's County and to ensure adequate staffing.

Additionally, the Council in-

creased funding for Federally Qualified Health Centers; supported the hiring of a consultant for a 10-year Homeless Plan update; increased funding for the County's Youth Services bureaus; supported a Fair Housing Program to address unfair, wrongful evictions; and increased support for the County's Developmental Disabilities Administration, to reduce the devastating impact of COVID-19 on operations.

The Council also ensured funding for housing rehabilitation along the Purple Line Corridor; funding to the Economic Development Corporation to support Purple Line Corridor businesses, including Latino entrepreneurs affected by the construction and the pandemic. There are also monies to develop and deploy the Prince George's Supply Schedule in the County's Office of Central Services, providing opportunities for County-based businesses, and to support a countywide flood assessment by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. For more FY 22 County Budget information, including additional Council-initiated budget enhancements and the Chair's remarks, visit the Council's FY 22 Budget Portal.

In bi-county budget action earlier this month, Prince George's and Montgomery county lawmakers unanimously adopted new FY22 spending plans for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC); the bi-county portion of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC); and the Washington Suburban Transit Commission (WSTC).

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County Announces Memorial Day Sale of Peace Cross Commemorative Bricks

RIVERDALE, Md. (May 27, 2021)—In honor of Memorial Day, the Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County is offering a 50% off sale of Commemorative Bricks at the Bladensburg Memorial Peace Cross. This monument, commonly referred to as the Peace Cross, is owned by the Department of Parks and Recreation which has embarked on a mission to restore it.

To support fundraising efforts for the Peace Cross' restoration, the department has developed a commemorative brick program. Through its webpage, www.pg-parks.com/peacecross, the public can purchase a custom brick to be inscribed with text of their choice. Many families use the brick in memorial of those who are no longer with us. Peace Cross Com-

memorative Bricks ensure that loved ones can be honored in an enduring way.

The Peace Cross Memorial was constructed in 1919 in honor of World War I servicemen who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. On June 19, 2019, in a landmark decision, the U.S. Supreme Court voted 7–2 to allow a Veteran's memorial cross to continue to stand on public land in Maryland. Over the years, the monument has fallen into disrepair and is in need of maintenance. Help restore this historic landmark and give to a noble cause by purchasing a commemorative brick today. Every donation will go directly towards the memorial's restoration. To purchase a brick at this reduced rate, visit www.pg-parks.com/peacecross now through June 7, 2021.

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

How to have a Crab Feast in your backyard

The McHales held their annual Crab Feast on Sunday, May 23. As usual, son John McHale made it all possible.

I provided the picnic table and the grill. John arrived with a half-bushel of crabs from Wild Seafood in Jessup and the accouterments necessary for the feast: pop-up canopy, large shade-curtain, 30-inch-wide craft paper for the tablecloth, 5-gallon painter’s buckets for shell-trash, two electric fans to keep the bugs away and cool the crabbers, crab knives and Old Bay.

Hotdogs were cooked on the grill. Family arrived with potato salad, coleslaw, deviled eggs, meatballs, veggies, corn-on-the-cob, and other tasty picnic-style vittles.

There was beer. The guests included my sisters Rosie Nickodemus (who did her first crab) and Stella Thelen (who wouldn’t) from Saginaw, Michigan, my local children and grandkids, and a few cicadas.

Neighbors & other good people

The anonymous winners of a \$731.1 million jackpot—the largest in Maryland lottery history—finally claimed their prize.

Sandra L. Christensen, 78, active member of Oxon Hill Lutheran Church and Cornerstone Lutheran in Carmel, Ind., died Oct. 13, 2020. She was known for pencil drawings of historic buildings and churches in Southern Maryland. She was the widow of Edward Christianson. Survivors include children, grandchildren and great-grandsons. Services were in Indiana; burial will be at Arlington.

Town of Morningside

Morningside has two meetings coming up: Work Session, Tuesday, June 8, 7 p.m., Town Meeting on Tuesday, June 15, 7 p.m., both at the Town Hall. For information: 301-736-2300.

Karen Rooker, Clerk-Treasurer for Morningside, emailed this information to correct the tax report I had in last week’s column:

“The tax increase that is mentioned in your column is from Prince George’s County. The Town is not raising taxes. The tax rate is staying the same, however the Town will see a slight increase in revenue because we did not lower the taxes as to receive the same amount as last year.

So if someone is paying more, it is due to the increase in property values in the Town not because the Council raised taxes.”

Our talented schoolkids

Virtual Talent Show winners at Benjamin D. Foulois, in Morningside, are: Best Overall Performance, Brynn Brown; Most Creative Performance, Madison Streets; Funniest Performance, Solomon Sloan; and Most Challenging Performance, Braxton St. Hill.

Mykha Lizette Floresca and Jaina Dotson, both of Oxon Hill High School, were among 300 students from Calvert, Charles and Prince George’s counties to win awards for projects during the 2021 Maryland History Day competition. Mykha placed 1st in Senior Individual Exhibits for her project, “Talking to Ourselves: Blueprints of the Mind.” Jaina won for her documentary, “Communication in History: Posters and Protest Signs in the Black Freedom Struggle.”

For more information on the Maryland Day winners, go to www.mdhistoryday.org.

Changing landscape

The New State of the Art Medical Center is opening on June 12 in Largo. It will provide improved access to primary and ambulatory care services, and serve as a tertiary care center for critically ill patients. I’ll tell you more about it in next week’s column.

There’s a big field recently cleared on Auth Road. I think it used to house what I called the Weather Building. Will be watching to see what it becomes.

The cicadas have been singing and the trees are cluttered with exoskeletons. But I’ve only seen about 10 live cicadas in my yard and am feeling rejected.

A home at 5811 Suitland Road recently sold for \$234,000.

One Maryland One Book

OMOB was started in 2007 by Maryland Humanities. Each year a book is chosen, and Marylanders are encouraged to read it.

The 2021 selection is “The Book of Delights: Essays by Ross Gay” who wrote one essay each day over a year and took the time to find delights in everyday life. I’ll check it out.

Among my favorite OMOB reads over the years are: (2018) “Bloodworth: The

True Story of the First Death Row Inmate Exonerated by DNA Evidence,” by Tim Junkin; (2015) “The Boys in the Boat”, by Daniel James Brown; and (2013) “King Peggy: An American Secretary, Her Royal Destiny, and the Inspiring Story of How She Changed an African Village,” by Peggelene Bartels and Eleanor Herman.

Go to the One Maryland One Book website for a good OMOB selection for your Book Club.

Emma Moreno, worked

Presidential Inaugural Committees

Emma Tamez Moreno, 84, of Upper Marlboro, Census Bureau executive, died April 23. She was born in San Antonio and married her high school sweetheart David in 1955. As a military family they were stationed in France, California, Panama City, the Philippines and Andrews AFB.

After moving to Maryland, she worked for the Census Bureau, served as the Deputy Director of the Bureau’s Congressional Affairs Office 1992–1996 and as Special Assistant to the Director of the Census Bureau, 1992–2000. After retiring, she became Director of Federal Affairs for the League of United Latin American Citizens.

Emma worked with the Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts, multiple Presidential Inaugurals, her local senior center and Brookfield United Methodist Church in Upper Marlboro.

She’s survived by husband David, three children, two grandchildren, and her sister, Eileen Laskowski. Services were at Lee Funeral Home with burial in the Brookfield UMC Cemetery. Exploring new places was her favorite hobby.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Fay Norton-Cummings, June 6; Malik Reed, June 6; Trisha Reamy, June 7; Ryan Fowler, John Nichols, June 8; Robin Murphy and Rev. Frank Ways, June 9; Laura Smith Jenkins, June 10; Fannie Dimes and Meghan Trexler Decker, June 11;

Pedro Swann and Jennifer Jenkins McClelland, June 11; Keenus Clark and Shirley Profit, June 12.

Happy 27th anniversary to former Morningside Council Member Carol (Kline) and Dr. Tom DeGraba, June 4; and to Bucky and Debbie Treter, their 45th, June 5.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

DISTANT ECHOES: BLACK FARMERS IN AMERICA

Frank DeVille and James Isaiah Lee, both of Brandywine, Maryland were featured in the DISTANT ECHOES: BLACK FARMERS IN AMERICA exhibition that opened on Friday, February 3, 2006 at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum, 830 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. The opening of this exhibition consisted of a lavish reception and a curators’ tour.

The exhibition Distant Echoes is comprised of sixty images featuring photographs by John Francis Ficara that depict the lives and working conditions of black farmers from various parts of the United States. For the last 60 years black farmers in the United States have been in a decline. John Ficara has spent years documenting the experience of black farmers, whose entire way of life may someday be nothing more than a distant echo.

For years, black family farmers in the United States have been in crisis. Their plight has gone largely unnoticed by most Americans. Facing decades of prejudice and discrimination, black farmers continue to work the land, even as they lose their property at approximately, 1,000 acres a day.

The Reginald D. Lewis Museum of Maryland African History and Culture is the largest African American museum in the East Coast. The museum’s Permanent Exhibition introduces visitors to Maryland’s African American heritage through three galleries: THINGS HOLD, LINES CONNECT: African American Families and Communities in Maryland; BUILDING MARYLAND, BUILDING AMERICA: Labor and the Black Experience; and THE STRENGTH OF THE MIND: Black Art and Intellect. Each tells the story of perseverance, triumph, and the celebration of life through the inspiring history and living culture of Maryland’s African Americans.

The Distant Echoes exhibition was on display until April 30, 2006. After this date, it will be on display at various locations in thirteen states. Congratulations Frank and Isaiah. Your work and the work of others like you are a genuine tribute to our generations and our African American heritage here at home and across this great country of America.

MARCHING BANDS OF PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY

Development of the Marching Bands of Prince George’s County by Dr. James Lally who retired in 1981 after 31 years of service. Prior to 1946, instrumental music was not offered by the public schools in Prince George’s County. Time was made available during the school day to private instructors who taught individuals who paid them for the opportunity.

In the late 1940s instrumental music teachers were hired by

the Board of Education. By 1950 several high schools had established bands. They were Maryland Park, Bladensburg, and Oxon Hill. At first credits could not be earned for band and no grades were given.

At Oxon Hill, when the program began, there was only one student in a school of 650 who played an instrument. The teacher had to teach every instrument and present a concert with the band by Christmas.

In 1951 Suitland High School opened and by 1952 had a band of 26 students. By 1956 there were 90 youngsters in the band and a great many programs, both marching and concert were given. The band at Suitland, as well as at other high schools brought a great deal of pride to the student body and to the community.

At that time much of Prince George’s County was rural and many of the students had little opportunity to travel. Several of the students had never been to Washington, D.C. It was quite exciting for them to travel to the Cherry Blossom Parade in Washington, The Apple Blossom Parade in Winchester, and other events. Within a few years they performed in Macy’s Thanksgiving Parade as “The Largest High School Band in the United States” N.B.C sent their people down to help with television make-up and to show the band and its members how to perform on television. The television audience responded by sending numerous complimentary letters to the students.

The performance and the fan mail brought a good deal of pride to the band and to the school and as well to the community. Prior to those years the schools in Prince George’s County did not get recognition they deserved. Some parents sent their children to school in Washington, D.C.

The activities of the bands as well as other groups helped the parents recognize that many good things were happening in schools. Another plus was the help given to the bands by civic groups. The Lions Clubs in District 22-C organized a marching and concert band competition held at the National Guard Armory in Washington, D.C. It drew huge crowds and allowed the people of the Metropolitan Washington to see the performers also helped to cement community support for the schools.

Performances at the Redskin games, George Washington University football games and other local institutions also helped. As Jim Gibbons said during a broadcast, “Watching the Suitland Band perform was the price of admission”. It was an exciting time for the teachers and the students and brought a great deal of pride to the county. Information from Prince George’s County Retired Teachers Association.

Around the County

Local Students Honored

601 Graduate From Union University

JACKSON, Tenn. (May 21, 2021)—Six hundred one students graduated from Union University May 15 during spring commencement services of the 196th graduating class on the university’s Great Lawn, including:

Bowie, MD: **Esther Kuhnert**, Bachelor of Arts in English. Also named to the Union University President’s List for the spring 2021 semester.

The President’s List includes full-time students who achieve a 4.0 grade point average on a four-point scale.

Brandon O. Gibson, chief operating officer for the state of Tennessee, delivered the commencement address.

“Your education has been a renewing of your mind—continually learn, continue to renew your mind as you go through life and always seek God’s will,” she said. “As you zig-zag through life, remember your time at Union fondly. Even the last year has provided you with a much-needed education, and you are well-equipped to embrace the twists and turns that will come.”

Located in Jackson, Tenn., Union University is a liberal arts-based university affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Founded in 1823, Union is the oldest institution relating to the Southern Baptist Convention.

—Tim Ellsworth, Union University

Recipients of the 2021 MAEF Academic Scholarship

HAVRE DE GRACE, Md. (May 25, 2021)—Barbara Hamilton of Marriottsville, Md., and Lynn Thomas of Fallston, Md., have been awarded the 2021 Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation Academic Scholarship. The MAEF Academic Scholarship was open to rising junior or senior undergraduate or graduate students enrolled in majors leading to careers in agricultural education or Extension education.

Hamilton is a full-time student at the University of Maryland College Park where she is enrolled in a Bachelor of Science program in Secondary Education and Agriculture Science and Technology. Hamilton was an active member of the Maryland FFA in her high school ag program and a dedicated advocate of agricultural education in schools.

Hamilton states, “I will be a passionate teacher who cares deeply about agriculture, and that will be something my students notice and appreciate.”

Thomas is a full-time student at the University of West Virginia pursuing a degree in Agricultural & Extension Education with minors in Horticulture, Agribusiness Management, and Food Science & Technology. Thomas was an active member of the Maryland 4-H for 14 years and served as Maryland Dairy Princess from 2018–2019.

“My future goals in agriculture education include teaching in a middle or high school agri-science program and serving as an FFA Advisor at a Maryland school. I also want to become a leader in my community and state agriculture organizations to increase my agriculture outreach,” said Thomas.

The recipients of the MAEF Academic Scholarship will receive \$1,500 each in support of their academic achievements and pursuit of a career in agricultural or Extension education.

Recipients of the 2021 Dr. Ronald J. Seibel Scholarship

HAVRE DE GRACE, Md. (May 25, 2021)—Joshua and Zachary Baker of Adamstown, Md., have been awarded 2021 Dr. Ronald J. Seibel Scholarships from the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation. The Seibel Scholarship was open to students pursuing a two-year or four-year degree in majors leading to careers in agriculture.

Zachary and Joshua Baker are full-time students at the Institute of Applied Agriculture in College Park, Md. Post-graduation, the brothers plan to return to their family farm located in Montgomery County, Md.

“I am very passionate about agriculture and my family’s farm. I am excited to carry the torch and add my spin on my grandparent’s legacy and my father’s legacy. I have grown up seeing how hard-working and passionate my father is to continue to grow and expand our operation. He has made vast improvements and has been able to balance all the aspects of our business to ensure we are always progressing. I want to be able to take what he has taught me and learn more relevant knowledge and practices in our industry to follow in my father’s footsteps,” said Joshua Baker in his application for the scholarship.

The brothers will receive \$1,000 each.

Ronald J. Seibel established this scholarship fund during his lifetime to support students seeking agricultural degrees or certificates. As a former educator and longtime director of the Institute of Applied Agriculture at the University of Maryland, Dr. Seibel was a passionate supporter of agricultural education.

Dedicated to increasing agricultural literacy and agricultural education, MAEF is a nonprofit organization with programs serving pre-kindergarten through post-secondary audiences. MAEF signature programs include “Infusing Ag in the Classroom” professional development courses for teachers; mobile science labs; mobile agricultural showcases and Maryland FFA. Funded by the Maryland “ag tag” license plate revenues, gifts, grants and program fees, MAEF promotes the importance of agriculture in everyone’s daily lives. For more information visit www.maeftonline.com.

—Amie McDaniels, MAEF

Local Students Graduate From Lackawanna College

SCRANTON, Pa. (May 27, 2021)—Lackawanna College recognized its largest-ever single graduating class with a combined virtual 127th commencement ceremony on May 16 that celebrated both the Class of 2020 and 2021. The Class of 2020 was invited to participate in the ceremony as the COVID-19 pandemic impacted their ceremony last May.

During the virtual ceremony, Lackawanna College President Dr. Jill Murray and President Emeritus Mark Volk addressed students and congratulated them on their success. Graduates submitted videos and were featured in the virtual ceremony thanking family and friends. Faculty and staff also recorded videos to congratulate students. Lackawanna College streamed the ceremony on their website and provided an opportunity for graduates from the classes of 2020–21 to join the celebration live through Zoom.

Maryland graduates included:
Associate in Arts
Professional Studies
Andrew Bostic, Bowie, Md.
Dejahn Courtney Warren, District Heights, Md.

Associate in Science
Business Studies
Donovan Robinson, cum laude, Hyattsville, Md.

—Heather Gogas, Lackawanna College

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Marietta House Museum “Stargazing: Pathway to Freedom”, A Virtual Presentation

By STACEY HAWKINS
Marietta House Museum

Please join us on **Saturday, June 12, 6:30–7:30 p.m.** for a virtual presentation of “Stargazing: Pathway to Freedom”.

Our evening will begin with a brief presentation about the tie between the North Star and the Underground Railroad and historical accounts of Marietta based enslaved individuals who sought their freedom possibly by using the stars to show them a pathway northward.

Gordon Bjoraker, a local astronomer and scientist with NASA, will discuss the navigation process to use the brilliant North Star, which was used by freedom seekers who journeyed northward and some-

times westward to find freedom.

What was the best time of the year for escaping slaves to journey using the stars as their directional compass? What is meant by “the drinking gourd” star path? Find out when you join us for this program. Go outside with us and gaze at the night sky to find the north star!

\$5/person. Ages 12 & up. Please register on www.pgparcs.com using Parks Direct.

Questions about registration? Please email stacey.hawkins@pgparcs.com or call 301-262-0532.

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

Summer Is Around the Corner and Things Are Heating Up at BDM

Reconstruction and African American Memory
June 19, 10 a.m.—12 p.m., Virtual Event

Join the Community CoCreation Lab and its partners, the Bancker-Douglass Museum, the Prince George’s African American Museum and Cultural Center (PGAAMCC), Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC), Reginald F. Lewis Museum, and the University of Maryland Black Alumni Association for this highly engaging Juneteenth virtual experience!

Attendees will enjoy a history lecture from Dr. Christopher J. Bonner, a historian and Associate Professor at the University of Maryland College Park who was most recently seen analyzing the history displayed in Will Smith’s Netflix documentary, *Amend*.

Following the Juneteenth lecture, Quint Gregory, University of Maryland College Park Art History Department will give a demonstration of the Smithsonian’s Freedmen Bureau Transcription project. Register: <https://bdmuseum.maryland.gov/events/>

Lake Arbor Jazz Festival Gets Re-Born With a Live Intimate Summer Concert Series at National Harbor

By PRESS OFFICERS
Lake Arbor Jazz / National Harbor

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. (May 24, 2021)—The Prince George’s Cultural Arts Foundation, a registered 501(c)3, in partnership with National Harbor, and a variety of returning sponsors led by Xfinity, announced plans to bring back one of the DMV’s top live performance music events, the Lake Arbor Jazz Festival. The format of the LAJF, a historic festival now in its 11th year, will be modified to a summer outdoor concert series. This concert series has been formatted to reflect music lovers’ appetite to slowly return to live performances in an intimate, safe environment at one of the most accessible, family-friendly and popular entertainment destinations in the region.

Hosted again by seasoned DMV broadcast personality Tony Richards, this much anticipated Summer Concert Series will be held over a five-week period beginning on Thursday, July 1, 2021 through Sunday, August 1 from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at National Harbor’s majestic outdoor venue, Southpointe (701 National Harbor Blvd.) Under a covered tent overlooking the National Harbor Marina, this year’s performers are a “who’s who of smooth jazz and R&B” that include Najee, Avery Sunshine, Jeff Bradshaw, Maysa, Nick Collione, Gerald Albright, Norman Brown along with DMV region favorites Brian Lenair, the String Queens, Pink Palish and Phaze II.

“After a challenging year of pivoting, planning and prayer, LAJF, along with our like-minded community partners, wanted to play a leading role in carefully shepherding our residents and music enthusiasts across the region, back into a welcoming and safe setting to relax and allow the power

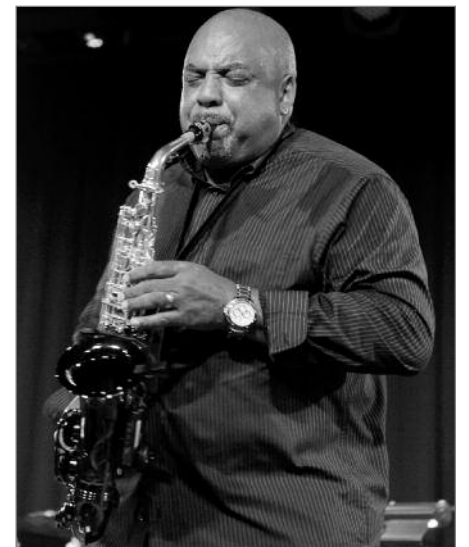
of music to bring us all back to a place of healing, joy and peace,” said Kevin Alexander, LAJF founder and president of the Prince George’s Cultural Arts Foundation.

“We’re very excited to have this great musical lineup at National Harbor to enhance our summer of music,” said Jackie Saunders, AVP of marketing for National Harbor. “Guests can pair a concert with dining, shopping and all of the other attractions around National Harbor to make it a full summer getaway experience. And it couldn’t be better timing with Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center re-opening July 1—right next door to the concert venue.” National Harbor has a variety of overnight packages and offers.

For over a decade, LAJF has become the region’s preferred jazz destination featuring noted national jazz recording artists along with some of the region’s most accomplished musicians. Since its inception in 2010, LAJF has drawn over 50,000 attendees and awarded more than \$40,000 in educational scholarships to deserving Prince George’s County students pursuing college education in the visual and performing arts. This one-of-a-kind event brings together a diverse audience of contemporary and traditional jazz music lovers, young and old, for an unforgettable music experience with fans coming from as far away as New York and North Carolina.

Event sponsors to date include the Lake Arbor Foundation, Wellspring Manor & Spa and Prince George’s Arts & Humanities Council. For information on performances, dates, times and ticket information, please visit www.lakearborjazz.com.

The Prince George’s Cultural Arts Foundation, a nonprofit, volunteer-led organization supports the growth and enrichment of arts



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY LAKE ARBOR JAZZ / NATIONAL HARBOR

Najee Albright

and culture in Prince George’s County, Md., through the development of collaborative programs and community partnerships that promote music, drama, the fine arts, entertainment, sports, recreation and other activities. The Lake Arbor Jazz Summer Concert Series is a program of the Prince Georges Cultural Arts Foundation. For more information, visit www.lakearborjazz.com.

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UM Prince George’s Hospital Center will permanently close on June 11.



COMMENTARY

Hoyer Statement Following Meeting With Prince George's County Police Chief Malik Aziz

WASHINGTON (May 27, 2021)—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) released the following statement today after a virtual meeting with Prince George's County Police Chief Malik Aziz:

"At a time when police departments around the nation are working to stamp out systemic bias and ensure our officers have the tools they need to effectively protect the communities they serve, I was pleased to meet with Prince George's County Police Chief Malik Aziz. During our conversation, Chief Aziz reaffirmed his pledge to address the most pressing issues facing his department, including a particular focus on community-policing, rebuilding officer morale, and reducing crime in Prince George's County.

"I have complete confidence that Chief Aziz will listen to the concerns of Prince Georgians and place their well-being and dignity at the forefront of his leadership. I appreciate his strong record of championing community policing as a strategy to build fellowship between police and the people they protect, especially in communities where this trust has been severely broken. I am glad that Chief Aziz is dedicated to improving the workplace conditions and morale of our officers by creating an environment where the over 1,800 officers in the Prince George's County Police Department can continue to effectively serve our residents.

"In a moment such as this, I am pleased that Prince Georgians can rely on Chief Aziz to lead with justice and equality when addressing the significant challenges facing our communities. I look forward to working with Chief Aziz to strengthen trust in our Police Department."

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

A Century Later, Tulsa Massacre Exemplifies America's Reluctance to Confront Its Legacy Of White Supremacism

"I will never forget the violence of the white mob when we left our home. I still see Black men being shot, Black bodies lying in the street. I still smell smoke and see fire. I still see Black businesses being burned. I still hear airplanes flying overhead. I hear the screams," she said. "I have lived through the massacre every day. Our country may forget this history but I cannot."

—107-year-old Viola Fletcher, survivor of the 1921 Tulsa race massacre

They killed an estimated 300 people. They inflicted serious injury on more than 800 people. They burned more than 1,250 homes to the ground, along with every church, school and business. They left 10,000 people homeless, and wreaked about \$200 million in property damage in today's dollars.

Not a single one of the murderous white mob that obliterated the affluent Black neighborhood of Greenwood, Oklahoma, ever was prosecuted. Every insurance claim filed by a Black property owner was denied.

Though it was covered extensively in newspapers at the time, the Tulsa race massacre, which happened 100 years ago this week, was nearly lost to history. Someone ripped an article about the arrest that triggered the massacre, along with half the editorial page, from the only copy of the May 31 Tulsa Tribune to be microfilmed. Even most Black residents of Tulsa never heard about the massacre when they were growing up. Oklahoma school began including it in their curriculums only last year.

A century later, the Tulsa massacre is one of history's clearest examples of America's deep-seated reluctance to confront the legacy of white supremacy, and of the intense, enduring economic scars Black Americans bear to this day.

The effort to suppress history that makes white Americans uncomfortable didn't begin or end with the Tulsa massacre. The Jim Crow south of my childhood was steeped in the mythology of the Lost Cause — the erroneous claim that the Civil War was not fought over slavery, but against the encroachment of Federal power.

A more recent manifestation is the alarmist backlash against the 1619 Project, the New York Times' Pulitzer Prize-winning examination of slavery's role in shaping the American present. The University of North Carolina board of trustees went so far as to defy the recommendation of the university's dean, chancellor, and faculty and deny tenure to Nicole Hanna-Jones, the journalist who conceived the project.

Critical race theory, a decades-old academic concept which suggests that racism is embedded in American law and public policy, is white supremacy's latest bugbear. The idea that America's social and economic inequities are the result of deliberate policy choices—rather than differences in effort and ability—is a dangerous one for those invested in preserving the status quo. As Adam Serwer writes in *The Atlantic*, it suggests that different policy choices could produce a more equitable society.

It may be this fear, rather than the more commonly-cited factor of shame, that motivated suppression of the Tulsa race massacre. To acknowledge that the wealth of Greenwood was taken by force is to acknowledge that a massive debt is owed.

The violence that raged for 24 hours in Greenwood ostensibly was triggered by an accusation—likely false, according to the 2001 report of the Tulsa Race Massacre Commission—that a 19-year-old Black shoeshiner assaulted a 17-year-old white elevator operator. But many observers at the time suggested that white resentment of Black prosperity was the primary cause of the attack.

The Chicago Defender reported in June 1921: Letters had been sent to prominent men of the Race demanding that they stop extending the bounds of the district within which they were segregated. A rumor has been extant for some time to the effect that it was the desire of white industry or of private citizens to appropriate the lands which the Race had gained possession of. Since the area had become a segregated district to them, the value had increased and white speculators saw a chance for immense profits if they could only drive the inhabitants out.

According to the 2001 Commission report, "At the time, many said that this was no spontaneous eruption of the rabble; it was planned and executed by the elite. Quite a few people—including some members of this commission—have since studied the question and are persuaded that this is so, that the Tulsa race riot was the result of a conspiracy. This is a serious position and a provable position—if one looks at certain evidence in certain ways."

Whatever the true motivation, white Tulsans moved quickly to exploit the economic devastation and terror of Greenwood residents, swooping up their land for a pittance. A city committee proposed converting the land to commercial use, emphasizing the desirable racial segregation that would result:

We further believe that the two races being divided by an industrial section will draw more distinctive lines between them and thereby eliminate the intermingling of the lower elements of the two races, which in our opinion is the root of the evil which should not exist.

In its 2001 report, the Commission recommended payment of reparations to survivors and descendants of survivors but 20 years later they have not been paid.

Hughes Van Ellis, who was an infant at the time of the massacre, testified before a House Judiciary Subcommittee earlier this month.

"We were made to feel that our struggle was unworthy of justice, that we were less than the whites, that we weren't fully Americans," he said. "We were shown that in the United States, not all men were equal under the law. We were shown that when Black voices called out for justice, no one cared.

"Please, do not let me leave this Earth without justice."

Hoyer Applauds Greenbelt Mass Vaccination Site for Boosting Vaccine Equity, Vaccinating Thousands of Marylanders

WASHINGTON (May 25, 2021)—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) released the following statement today applauding the Greenbelt Mass Vaccination site for getting thousands of vaccines into the arms of Prince Georgians. The mass vaccination site will close one week from today, on Tuesday, June 1. Congressman Hoyer played a key role in bringing the site to Prince George's County. In February, Congressman Hoyer urged the Biden Administration to set up a federally run vaccination site in Prince George's County to meet the needs of families in the County and improve lagging vaccination rates.

"The Greenbelt Mass Vaccination site has played an essential role in ramping up equitable

vaccinations in Prince George's Country and in our region, with well over 100,000 vaccinations administered since the facility opened on April 7," said Congressman Hoyer. "I was proud to advocate for a FEMA-run mass vaccination site in Prince George's County to help eliminate the equity gap in vaccine access.

"Today, Maryland is seeing a sharp decline in COVID-19 infections and deaths," Congressman Hoyer continued. "Thanks to the outstanding efforts of volunteers, staff and servicemembers at the Greenbelt site, our communities are closer than ever before to defeating this virus. Vaccinations remain free of charge and walk ups are still available at this location through

June 1. With one week remaining until the site shuts down its operations, I encourage all Marylanders to get vaccinated as soon as possible."

The COVID-19 vaccine is free at the Greenbelt mass vaccination site and is available now without an appointment. The site is currently offering the Johnson & Johnson vaccine as well as second-dose Pfizer vaccinations. Marylanders 12 years of age and older are eligible for the vaccine. To learn more, visit <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/city-administration/public-information-communications/coronavirus/vaccination-information>. Visit <https://massvax.maryland.gov> to find other vaccination sites in Maryland.

Greenbelt Review of SCMAGLEV Reveals Project Benefits Inflated, Financial Feasibility in Question

The City of Greenbelt filed its comments on Monday, May 24, 2021 on the Baltimore-Washington SCMAGLEV Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Greenbelt's comments, which were endorsed by the City of College Park and the Town of Landover Hills, have uncovered 222 pages' worth of errors and omissions in the DEIS. Chief among these are that the Project's ridership estimates and related projections (including travel time savings, induced travel, and reliability benefits) are grossly over-inflated, leading to further inflation of estimated congestion relief and projected revenues. These fundamental flaws are apparent despite the fact that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has failed (and in some cases refused) to provide key information to the public, including the Project's ridership modeling reports, which are the foundation for much of the information in the DEIS.

Norman Marshall, President and founder of Smart Mobility, Inc., who assisted Greenbelt with its review, states, "The supposed congestion relief for non-SCMAGLEV travelers will not materialize. Instead, construction of the SCMAGLEV will create a two-tier system with a fast ride for the affluent and negative consequences for everyone else."

Mr. Marshall's report concludes that, "the DEIS overestimates travel time savings and reliability benefits by a factor of five or more. Three quarters of the purported economic benefits of SCMAGLEV are travel time and reliability benefits and these are overestimated by a factor of 15 or more. . . . The other significant

economic benefits calculations in the DEIS rest both on inflated ridership and on unreliable vehicle miles traveled (VMT) multipliers."

Further, the DEIS does not address who will pay the billions of dollars needed to construct the SCMAGLEV and does not demonstrate that operating and maintenance costs will be offset by revenues, leading to huge unanswered questions regarding the financial viability of the Project and the possible need for public subsidies.

The theme of deficient or hidden information runs throughout the DEIS. The review also found that the DEIS relies on very limited geological information to evaluate the proposed routes (only 23 soil samples were taken along the roughly 40-mile alignment, for an average of approximately one boring every 1.7 miles), even though tunneling location and design is dependent on that information, and fails to explain how and why the FRA eliminated other routes—which may have been safer or better suited to the Project—from consideration early in the NEPA process.

These issues are in addition to the incredible toll the Project would have on the natural environment, which has been well-documented by local jurisdictions and advocacy groups, including the Maryland Coalition for Responsible Transit, the National Parks Conservation Association, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

As Greenbelt's Mayor Byrd summed up: "The Project would harm human health and the environment, destroy parkland, adversely affect the true public transit

options that serve the area, and generally reduce the quality of life of Greenbelt, College Park, Landover Hills and other Prince George's County residents. These negative impacts would disproportionately fall on environmental justice communities along the proposed routes, while the Project would provide benefits to only a small minority of people who are wealthy enough to afford the high fares and fortunate enough to live near one of its stations, of which there are only three."

The inaccurate information and inflated benefits portrayed in the DEIS—as well as the information entirely hidden from public view—has added fuel to years-long local opposition to the SCMAGLEV Project. In their letter to the FRA, Greenbelt, College Park, and Landover Hills voice staunch opposition to the SCMAGLEV and request that the agency halt its consideration and stop wasting taxpayer dollars on this harmful and unnecessary Project.

Greenbelt submitted the results of the review to the FRA and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) yesterday evening, before the public comment period's official deadline. The comments were also sent to Transportation Secretary Buttigieg, Governor Hogan, Senators Cardin and Van Hollen, and Congressman Hoyer, along with State and local officials. The full comments and associated materials, including cover letter and attachments, can be found at www.greenbeltmd.gov/maglev.

For more information, contact Holly Simmons, Community Planner, at hhsimmons@greenbeltmd.gov or (202) 578-6013.

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Teen Drivers from A1

Washington parents on how best to deter teen drinking during the dangerous summer months, include:

- **Understand the Dangers...** Drinking underage not only increases the chances of dependency later on in life but also leads to short and long-term consequences as well as leading to other risky behaviors.
- **Know the Law...** The District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia all have zero-tolerance laws, making it illegal to consume, possess or purchase alcohol under the age of 21.
- **Be a Role Model...** Parents should be role models to their teens and make sure their own behaviors are appropriate. Use alcohol moderately, serve as a responsible host and never drink and drive.
- **Know your Liability...** In most cases, it's unlawful for parents to allow their children's friends to consume alcohol in their home. Parents or adults may face criminal charges later on if these same "friends" are involved in a crash.

"In 2019, an average of four-dozen teenagers died in U.S. motor vehicle crashes every single day during the summer months (May–August)," said WRAP President Kurt Erickson. "For too many parents, unfortunately, summer's unstructured time may also be a deadly time for their teenage children and their friends."

In 2018, 24-percent of young drivers (ages 15 to 20 years old) killed in U.S. crashes had been drinking (with a blood alcohol concentration [BAC] level of 0.01 grams/deciliter or higher according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration). That same year, nearly one-in-five (19%) young drivers killed in U.S. traffic crashes has a BAC of 0.08 g/dL or higher.[ii]

According to the 2020 Monitoring the Future survey sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, alcohol remains the "substance most widely used by today's teenagers." In addition, the most recent national survey of adolescent drug use reports increases in binge drinking amongst all three surveyed age groups (8th, 10th and 12th grade students).[iii]

In addition to its tips for parents to deter underage and drunk driving this summer, WRAP also encourages parents to be aware of social networks which their children use. Party promoters often prey on youth via social media sites and by promising a good time and access to alcohol for a fee, according to WRAP.

"Make no mistake about it, parents play an integral role in when and if their children drink alcohol," said Erickson. "These tips are simply meant to reinforce their efforts to foster a healthy and safe summer for them and their teenage children."

Founded in 1982, the nonprofit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is a coalition of diverse interests using effective education, innovative programs and targeted advocacy to end alcohol-impaired driving and underage drinking in the Washington, DC metro area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths historically lower than the national average. WRAP, however, may best be known to area residents via the organization's popular free safe ride service for would-be drunk drivers, SoberRide®. For more information, visit WRAP's web site at www.wrap.org.

[i] National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) / Fatality Analysis Reporting System (2019 below)

[ii] NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts: Young Drivers (2018 Data, 2018 Data) <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/812968>

[iii] 2020 Monitoring the Future survey, <http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/pubs/monographs/mtf-overview2020.pdf>

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