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PHOTOS COURTESY STATE FARM

Good Neighbors Coming Together to Steer Our Youth in the Right Direction

Motor vehicle crashes are the No. 1 cause of death among teens in this country. Inexperience is a leading cause of crashes among teen drivers.

By DWAYNE M. REDD
State Farm®

Traditionally, the only way for new drivers to gain experience was to practice in the family car with a parent or to incur the cost of a driver's education instructor. This could often leave new drivers with limited experience and feeling uncertain about their driving skills.

To help with this, local State Farm agent Adrian Wilcox (Largo), the Office of Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, the Prince George's County Police, and Mothers Against Drunk Driving — Maryland (MADD) partnered to host a July 22 workshop for

our youthful drivers and their parents to help them become empowered about their driving experience, provide them an opportunity to understand the impact of distracted and impaired driving, and why we need them to be responsible drivers.

After hearing opening remarks from Adrian, PG County Police, and County Executive Alsobrooks, MADD introduced a victim impact panelist who shared her story about how an accident changed her life and the life of her family.

"It is very imperative that we educate our teens as they become comfortable with the ways of the road," says Roderick Howard, Regional Executive Director —

MADD. "We believe at MADD that teaching students early will help keep our roads safe for many years to come."

"Giving back to the community and especially our youth has always been extremely important to my office," shares State Farm Agent Adrian Wilcox. "And as your local agent, this was the perfect way for me to do so. I was honored to partner with MADD, County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and her office, and the Prince George's County Police because imparting real life stories will help our young drivers be successful drivers once they get behind the wheel of a vehicle"

The mission of State Farm is to

help people manage the risks of everyday life, recover from the unexpected, and realize their dreams. State Farm and its affiliates are the largest providers of auto and home insurance in the United States. Its 19,200 agents and 59,000 employees serve approximately 84 million policies and accounts—over 81 million auto, fire, life, health and commercial policies and over 2 million financial services accounts. Commercial auto insurance, along with coverage for renters, business owners, boats and motorcycles, is available. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company is the parent of the State Farm family of companies. Visit <http://www.statefarm.com>.

Non-Profit Organization Seeking Local Families for Hosting High School Exchange Students

By PRESS OFFICER
ASSE International Student Exchange Programs

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs (ASSE), in cooperation with your community high school, is looking for local families to host boys and girls ages 15–18 for the next academic year. Students from all over the world—places like Germany, Spain, Italy, Japan, and Ukraine, to name a few—are excited to study in the USA; all they need now is you!

Loving and caring host families are the cornerstone of our program and vital to its mission of bridging the gap between people, cultures, and nations. During this time of social distancing, we need to look forward to and celebrate opportunities to bring humanity back together. By generously opening your home to a young person from overseas, you and your family help us continue our global commitment to increasing international peace, understanding, and unity.

Preparations are well underway for the 2021–22 program year and the arrival of our new future leaders this Autumn. ASSE students come with an enthusiasm to practice their English and experience American culture—food, sports, shopping, and more. They also love to share their own culture with their host families—who welcome them not as guests,

but as family members—giving both the students and families a rich cultural experience.

In addition, ASSE students have pocket money for personal expenses, along with health, accident, and liability insurance. ASSE students are selected for participation based on academics and good citizenship. Host families can choose their students from a wide variety of backgrounds, countries, and personal interests.

ASSE's top concern is the health of our host families, host communities, and exchange students. Even as the U.S. and many other countries continue to live under temporary stay-at-home orders, we would like to reassure you that these students will not travel unless it is considered safe to do so by the U.S. and foreign governmental agencies entrusted with public health and safety.

To become a host family, or to find out how to become involved with ASSE in your community, please call us at the ASSE Eastern Regional Office, 1-800-677-2773 or go to www.host.asse.com to begin your host family application. There are many students to choose from, so begin the process of welcoming your new son or daughter into your family today!

Hyattsville Resident Moises Severino Lands Summer Internship With Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery

By AMBER MCGINNIS
Washington College

Hyattsville Resident Moises Severino earned a competitive summer internship with the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery. As an intern in the office of historian at the National Portrait Gallery (NPG), Severino researches topics related to upcoming exhibitions and assists the senior historian with administrative duties related to the scholarship center of NPG.

Severino is a rising sophomore at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland, majoring in psychology. He obtained his internship through the Starr Center at Washington College's Explore America Summer Internship program, which placed 27 students with prestigious cultural centers across America this year.

"Recently I have been researching historical figures, as well as helping to curate a new and upcoming exhibit about the imperialism period in 1898. So far, I've been fortunate enough to make new connections and gain information about subjects I had no idea about!" said Severino.

The Starr Center at Washington College coordinates the Explore America Summer Internship program, which annually places more than two dozen students in full-time, paid positions at nationally prominent cultural institutions, including four different Smithsonian museums, the National Archives, the Library of Congress, and the National Park Service. Working with the internship hosts, the Starr Center arranges for spots to be held for Washington College students, who in turn are carefully selected through a competitive process that matches their interests and skills

with special opportunities.

Students help research and plan major exhibitions, curate artifacts, develop educational programs, lead tours, and produce multimedia content. The program has a track record of converting internships into careers: many recipients have been hired by their internship supervisors, parlayed their experiences into jobs at similar institutions, or gone on to graduate study at leading universities in their chosen fields.

Founded in 1782, Washington College is the tenth oldest college in the nation and the first chartered under the new Republic. It enrolls approximately 1,250 undergraduates from more than 35 states and a dozen nations. The College is home to nationally recognized academic centers in the environment, history, and writing. Visit washcoll.edu.



PHOTO COURTESY WASHINGTON COLLEGE

National Portrait Gallery intern Moises Severino



PHOTO COURTESY THE TELEVISION ACADEMY FOUNDATION

Jovan Brooks

Student From Upper Marlboro Selected for Prestigious Television Academy Fellowship

By PRESS OFFICER
Television Academy Foundation

Jovan Brooks, of Upper Marlboro, MD, has been selected for the prestigious Television Academy Foundation Internship Program. He is one of just 50 students chosen by Television Academy members from across the country for the 2021 program.

Brooks is currently an Electronic Media & Film major at Towson State University in Towson, MD. He will be interning remotely this summer in the scripted series department at Pine Tree Entertainment in Hollywood, CA.

"This internship is an immense opportunity that will provide me with the ability to meet other hard-working students and to learn from some of the most equipped professionals in the field," said Brooks. "I also view it as reassurance to continue working hard towards achieving my goals. Ultimately, I am still reeling with excitement and ready to begin this new journey."

"From an early age I would write stories about myself, my relationship with my older brother and his perseverance with Cerebral Palsy, and different fictional characters," said Brooks. "I have a love for television, specifically coming-of-age series that portray some of the most notable times in a young person's

life. HBO's Euphoria is one example of a series that captures all the emotion, experience, and bliss of youth through a unique and cinematic lens. Such shows—along with my attachment to storytelling—continue to shape my aspirations to portray life onscreen."

Typically, the Television Academy Foundation's annual Internship Program provides 50 paid internships, at top Hollywood studios and production companies, to college students nationwide. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Television Academy Foundation has had to reimagine its internship program this year offering the 50 students selected from across the country the chance to either

intern remotely or enroll as a Summer Fellow.

The Internship Program also includes virtual professional development panel discussions with leaders in the television industry and customized seminars covering personal brand building and navigating the job market ahead. Interns also become life-long members of the Foundation's alumni family giving them access to events and networking opportunities as they build their careers in the industry.

Established in 1959 as the charitable arm of the Television Academy, the Television Academy Foundation is dedicated to preserving the legacy of television while educating and inspiring those who will shape its future. Visit TelevisionAcademy.com/Foundation.

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

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

Prince George's celebrated as Tree City USA and as #1 Digital County

For the 37th year in a row, the Arbor Day Foundation—in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters—has named Prince George's County a Tree City USA.

Prince George's has achieved Tree City USA status by meeting four core standards of urban forestry management: maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry, and celebrating Arbor Day.

The Tree City USA program has been greening up cities and towns across America since 1976. It's a nationwide movement that provides the framework necessary for communities to manage and increase their public trees.

And here's an organization honoring my County:

Prince George's has been named the #1 Digital County in the United States in the 19th annual Digital Counties Survey, in the large population category.

The survey, conducted by the Center for Digital Government (CDG), identifies best technology practices among U.S. counties, including initiatives that streamline delivery of government services, encourage open data, collaboration and shared services, enhance cybersecurity, and contribute to disaster response and recovery efforts.

I'm proud to live in Prince George's County!

Town of Morningside: Movie Night, July 30

Bring chairs & blankets and join your neighbors in the field next to the Town Hall for a night of friendship and a free movie on Friday, July 30, beginning when it gets dark (about 8:30). Bring your own refreshments or purchase them there.

The movie is "The Secret Life of Pets" (PG), 1 hour, 40 minutes. Other movie nights will be Friday, Aug. 13 and Friday, Aug. 27.

Updates or other movie information: 301-736-2300 or check the website, www.morningsidemd.gov.

Neighbors & other good people

Ruth Sanford, the matriarch of one of Morningside's founding families, turns 96 on August 8. She will be celebrating her birthday with her 3 daughters; 2 great-granddaughters, Mandi &

Megan; and 4 great-great-grandchildren, Sofia 7, Stella 6, Weston 3, and Wren 10 mths. Ruth, I miss your newsy phone calls back in the days when you lived on Allies Road.

Joan Williams, of Suitland, a member of St. Philip's choir and my long-suffering piano teacher, died July 16. I'll pay tribute to this amazing woman in next week's column.

Fr. Everett Pearson, pastor of Mt. Calvary Catholic Church in Forestville, hosted a 30th anniversary party at the rectory for his 1991 Ordination Class of the Archdiocese of Washington with his fellow priests. Five priests were ordained. Four of them attended the celebration: Fr. Everett Pearson, Fr. Mike Salah, Fr. Bob Buchmeier, and Fr. Phil Parent. The 5th priest, Fr. Derek Georg, was not there; sadly, he has died.

Suitland High '65 has multi-year reunion coming up

Suitland High's Class of 1965 is planning a multi-year reunion for November 6 in Annapolis.

I checked the website and found this information: The reunion will be at the DoubleTree Hotel in Annapolis, Saturday, Nov. 6, as well as an informal get-together at Mike's Restaurant in Riva on Friday evening and a Sunday Brunch at Yellowfin. A tour of the school is planned for Saturday and, if they get enough interest, there'll be a Golf Outing on Friday morning at Bowie Golf Club.

Everyone who plans to attend should fill out an RSVP for the events they plan to participate in, so we can get a headcount. You can find everything else you need to know by going to shs.myevent.com.

Changing landscape

For three weeks in September, more than 610,000 white flags, each about a foot tall, representing the American lives lost to Covid-19 and holding written memories from loved ones, will be packed tightly into 60-foot-by-60-foot quadrants on 20 acres near the Washington Monument and the National Museum of African American History.

The Washington Monument has reopened to the public seven days a week, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Masks are required inside the Monument, regardless of vaccination status. To buy tickets, go to recreation.gov.

Jeff Bezos not only went into space, but he also has given \$200 million to the National Air and Space Museum.

I'm back!

I'm back from a lovely week in Saginaw, Mich. I rode with daughter Sheila and her daughters Leah and Claire who are in their 20s and had never been to Ohio or Michigan. I was delighted to give them a tour of my childhood home; a large Victorian house built about 1860, where brother Tom still lives with his wife Evelyn.

We stayed with sister Rosie who has a beautiful swimming pool—everyone else swam but it was too cool for me. Daughter Kathleen drove up from the Cincinnati area and joined us. My youngest sister Stella took the girls to some local pubs (like The Big Ugly Fish) and to a concert (Chicago-style music) on the banks of the Saginaw River. We had pleasant weather the whole time (while you were boiling here in Maryland).

Dr. Feeney: Prince George's teacher and Superintendent

Dr. Edward J. Feeney, 92, former Superintendent of the Prince George's County Public Schools, formerly of Camp Springs, died July 1 at his home in Catonsville.

He grew up in Maine. At age 19, he fielded constituent concerns from all over Maine while his boss, Sen. Owen Brewster, stumped the nation unsuccessfully for the 1952 Republican presidential nomination. When Brewster was defeated, Feeney came to Washington as an aide to Sen. Joseph McCarthy (R-Wis.) at the height of McCarthy's campaign to discover Communists in government.

After less than a year with McCarthy, in 1953, he left politics and became an elementary school teacher. He moved to Prince George's—at one time he lived on Wilkins Drive in Camp Springs—and worked his way to the top of the school system.

He served as Superintendent of the Prince George's County Public Schools from 1976 to 1984. His longevity is due in part to the fact that he is regarded as having improved education in the County—achievement test scores for the county's 112,000 students rose in almost all grades. He retired from PGCPs in 1984 after 30 years of service.

Dr. Feeney is survived by his wife of 63 years, Joan Feeney, six children and many grand- and great-grandchild-

See **MORNINGSIDE** Page A7

Around the County

Council Chair Calvin S. Hawkins, II, Addresses Regional Decision to Advance Managed Lanes Project

Environmental and Economic Concerns Remain

(July 22, 2021)—The Transportation Planning Board (TPB), during its meeting on Wednesday, July 21, 2021, approved by resolution, the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's I-495 and I-270 Managed Lanes Project, a large-scale endeavor with a potential substantial impact on the lives of people and motorists throughout our County and the region.

Council Vice Chair Deni Taveras, serving as TPB representative, expressed that while a consensus of the Council supports the overall project, there are still issues to be addressed. As previously stated by this body, the Council remains very concerned about the potential adverse economic and environmental impacts on our residents and communities throughout the region, and specifically, in Prince George's County.

Additionally, without the construction of the Purple Line and the Southern Maryland Rapid Transit project, it will be difficult to connect working families to the bus rapid transit they need to travel I-270 without incurring expected toll charges.

Understanding that these issues cannot be resolved by the Transportation Planning Board, the Council will continue its work with the Office of Governor Hogan and state transportation officials to address the important concerns that remain.

—Karen D. Campbell, Prince George's County Council Media

ICYMI: Rep. Clyburn Honors Congressman John R. Lewis on the One Year Anniversary of His Death

LARGO, Md. (July 20, 2021)—Last week, the Good Trouble Think-Tank honored the life and legacy of Congressman John R. Lewis on the one-year anniversary of his passing. Majority Whip James E. Clyburn (D-S.C.) reflected on his over 60-year friendship, and their journey during the civil rights movement.

"I used to give the prayer before we marched," said Congressman Clyburn. The Congressman also shared his thoughts on the John R Lewis Voting Rights Act. He said, "A lot is going on and just because it's not on the front page of the newspaper, it doesn't mean it's not happening."

The full conversation can be heard here <https://anchor.fm/reneeclarke2/episodes/Good-Trouble-Think-Tank-Interview-with-Majority-Whip-Congressman-James-E-Clyburn-e14c597>

The Good Trouble Think-Tank podcast is ideal for listeners to engage with the Good Trouble Think-Tank and Get Into Good Trouble. The podcast offers 20–30-minute engaging conversations; perfect for daily commutes or busy routines.

Good Trouble serves as a grassroots answer to Congressman Lewis's call to action to organize and seek change, justice, and equality for all.

—Renee Clarke, Good Trouble Think-Tank

Heart to Hand Receives \$2.2 Million Grant From the Centers for Disease Control

Local Nonprofit is the only Community-Based Organization in Maryland awarded funds by the CDC

LARGO, Md. (July 21, 2021)—Heart to Hand, Inc., a local nonprofit headquartered in Largo, Maryland, has received a \$2.2 million grant from the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the PS21-2102 Comprehensive High-Impact HIV Prevention Programs for Community-based Organizations (CBO) funding stream. The purpose of the funding is to implement comprehensive HIV prevention programs to reduce morbidity, mortality, and related health disparities in accordance with the Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative: A Plan for America and CDC's High-Impact HIV Prevention approach.

About \$210 million was awarded over five years to 96 Community-based Organizations nationwide with approximately \$42 million being distributed in fiscal year 2021. Heart to Hand, Inc.'s award will provide \$440,000 annually towards HIV prevention and treatment activities for up to five years. Heart to Hand, Inc., is the only CBO in the State of Maryland to receive the award and one of four Washington metropolitan area recipients. With these funds, they will develop innovative approaches to preventing the spread of HIV among populations most at risk in Prince George's County and Montgomery County through an expanded Data to Care (D2C) and Linkage to Care model. The grant will extend through June 30, 2026.

"We are thrilled to receive funding to implement comprehensive HIV prevention programs in Prince George's and Montgomery counties," says Dedra Spears-Johnson, Executive Director and Co-founder of Heart to Hand, Inc. "It will strengthen our current programs so we may continue to reach the most vulnerable individuals at risk for, newly diagnosed with and out of HIV care to link them to prevention, screening, and treatment resources." Spears-Johnson continues, "This is a full circle moment since over 30 years ago, I worked on HIV programs at the CDC and am now leading Heart to Hand towards leveraging CDC funding to impact the communities we serve."

For more information on the award received, please contact Heart to Hand Inc. For information regarding the Comprehensive High-Impact HIV Prevention Programs for Community-based Organization funding, visit their website HeartToHandinc.org.

Heart to Hand, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3), community-based public health organization located in Largo, Maryland with over 20 years of experience in public health, with a focus on HIV and other sexual health issues. The mission is to provide support, education, and resources that promote healthy lifestyles, decrease health disparities, and increase access to quality health care. Heart to Hand is the leading provider of free services to those living with sexually-transmitted infections in Prince George's County. To learn more, visit HeartToHandinc.org.

—Dedra Spears-Johnson, Heart to Hand, Inc.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

BADEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

"Some recollections of my service at Baden Elementary School by Richard E. Hohing Principal, Baden Elementary School 1948–1954. I told Dr. William S. Schmidt many years later at his retirement that in 1948 they gave me the keys to Baden School and a "Do It Yourself Kit" and I went on from there. My total salary that year was \$2,800.00 plus \$300.00 for serving as principal for a total of \$3,100.00. Money did go further than thank goodness."

"There were no drapes or curtains on the stage at Connick Hall, so I petitioned the Board of Education for some. Arthur Robinson, Supervisor of Maintenance and Custodial Services, found a set that had been ordered in error for Colmar School and said we could have them if we wanted to pick them up. A committee of ladies from the P.T.A. remodeled them to fit at both sides and across the top of the stage. They also took the gray flannel lining and made a two-panel draw curtain. Mr. Harold Suit and I put together two pieces of one-inch galvanized pipe for it to slide on. We had to file down the edges of the pipe coupling so the curtain rings would pass over it. It did all work and improved the appearance of the stage and the draw curtains worked for the programs we had for many years."

"Another thing we did to have a school lunch program: We were allowed to have a modified Class B Lunch program and we served it free to every child that wanted it. The child brought a protein sandwich from home, and Mrs. Gladys Rawlings, and later Thelma Rawlings, and later Alice Watson prepared soup or a hot vegetable and dessert to go with it. Our little P.T.A. of about 50 families raised over \$700.00 to finance this along with the surplus foods and some help from Miss Weagley and the Board of Education."

"The pictures that I want to present to the Baden Elementary School were found by me on a trip to my hometown of Frostburg, Maryland, in a box of family pictures. I am proud to add them to the memorabilia there at the "Old Baden High School". Information received from Prince George's Retired Teachers Association".

145TH HOMECOMING ANNIVERSARY

St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Baden Parish located at 13801 Baden Westwood Road Brandywine, Maryland 20613-8126 will be celebrating their 145th Homecoming Anniversary on Sunday, September 19, 2021. "The Lord Has Done Great

Things for Us" Psalm 126:3.

Worship Service-Holy Eucharist will be held at 10 a.m. We are honored to have Rev. Antoine "Tony" Love as our Speaker of the Hour. Family and friends are invited to attend our services. Please plan to attend and hear the spiritual message. Lite lunch will be served immediately following service.

We have a Patron Listing and Souvenir Journal for this day. If you wish to publish your information and/or memorable items for the Homecoming Anniversary Souvenir Book to Vivian G. Rich (804-301-9530) or Shirley A. Cleaves (302-690-4260). The booklet is scheduled to be printed and collated on Sunday, September 5, 2021. More information will be included in next Article August 5, 2021.

AMERICAN LEGION

American Legion Brandywine Post 227 located at Cherry Tree Crossing Road Brandywine, Maryland modified Post Hours are Monday thru Thursday 4 p.m.–9:30 p.m., Friday 3 p.m.–11:30 p.m., Saturday 2 p.m.–11:30 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m.–9 p.m.

Annual Event is back, \$50 for all you can eat crabs, chicken, com-on-the cob with draft beer and water. Limit will be 100 tickets for this all you can eat Crab Feast August 21 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The location is Post Hall. August 28, Yard Sale/Flea Market 8 a.m.–2 p.m.

Yard Sale/Flea Market Saturday, August 28, 2021, at Post 227. Time: 8 a.m. Duration: 6 hours. Rain or shine; Post Hall and Outside space permitted. \$10 per table/space. Food and beverages available for sale by Post members only. Stop by Post or call to reserve. 301-782-7150. Contact Information: Commander Bowen

We are accepting Donations again. Clean out your closets and help support your local community. Look for the tan shed for your donation drop. Benefits the Post local Boy Scouts and Brandywine community. The following items are accepted: All clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, bed linen, drapes, and stuffed animals. Please put your donations into plastic bags and deposit in the shed. You can get a receipt when you drop off your donation.

This is a great opportunity for our Post to assist our local veterans and community. Please share and support this drop-off-site with families, your church, and friends. To all who have served America. Thank You.

COMMUNITY

The Prince George's County Food Equity Council and Washington Gas Unveil Cold Storage Trailers to Ensure Fresh Food is Available to Those in Need

Three new refrigerated trailers that are part of a \$315,000 investment by Washington Gas to support food security will increase food storage capacity, reduce food waste, and create sustainable infrastructure to respond to future food system disruptions

By PRESS OFFICERS

Prince George's County Food Equity Council / Washington Gas

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. (July 20, 2021)—Today, the Prince George's County Food Equity Council (FEC), an initiative of the Institute for Public Health Innovation (IPHI), and Washington Gas introduced three new cold storage trailers at non-profit food assistance organizations in Brandywine, Landover, and Lanham. In partnership with Washington Gas, the FEC helped partners purchase, upgrade, and design a wrap for the refrigerated trailers that will enable food assistance providers and food pantries to distribute more fresh food to residents in need.

The three new 58 x 8-foot trucks will each be shared by at least four neighboring organizations. Participating organizations will work together to purchase perishable foods like fruits, vegetables, and dairy that will be stored in the shared refrigerated space. The trailers provide an opportunity to distribute more fresh and healthy food items to underserved and vulnerable families. The new space helps increase the amount of food that can be stored and distributed while also reducing the amount of perishable food wasted due to insufficient cold storage space.

Over the course of the pandemic, food insecurity has skyrocketed with an estimated 150,000 food insecure residents in Prince George's County, the highest food insecurity rates in the region. Food pantries have doubled down to meet the growing demand; however, infrastructure challenges have remained a significant barrier to increasing services.

"Cold storage space has been a major challenge for food assistance organizations and food pantries throughout the county," said Sydney Daigle, FEC Director. "The increased demand on local service organizations requires more food and more space to store that food. If an organization can't properly store the food they're receiving, they'll have to limit the amount they're bringing in. By increasing the amount of space organizations have to properly store healthy food and keep it fresh, organizations can serve more families in need. That's a huge win for our county."

The three non-profit partners consider the project a way to strengthen their capabilities and build a better safety-net system for clients in their areas. "We know that our ability to reliably serve

food for vulnerable clients is a collective effort," said Pastor Tino Cione from Trinity Church of God, one of the trailer host sites. "The new trailers demonstrate how teamwork makes it possible to help us and other local service providers ensure more healthy food gets in the hands of more people at our distribution locations. This is an incredible gift that will have a positive impact across our local food distribution network."

Washington Gas sees this as an opportunity to continue its support of immediate and long-term food security needs in the region, part of the company's wider giving strategy supporting social service organizations throughout the DC-region. It also ties closely with the company's mission of improving the quality of life by safely and reliably connecting customers to affordable sources of energy today and beyond. Funding for this project went toward the purchase and upgrades of the three trailers at Key to Karma, Shabach! Emergency Resource Center, and Trinity Assembly of God. Washington Gas also supported the hiring of local artists to design and paint the outside of the trailers.

"We applaud our partners at the Prince George's County Food Council for the innovative approach of adding cold food storage capacity to better meet the critical needs of our community," said Blue Jenkins, President of Washington Gas. "As a provider of essential and reliable energy services to the region and members of this community, we are committed to giving back and supporting our neighbors in need with essential fresh foods. We recognize that food insecurity issues have grown significantly during the pandemic and we all have a role to play in caring for our communities."

"Throughout the pandemic, we have provided \$315,000 to assist the distribution and availability of nutritious food for residents in communities across the region," added Jenkins. "Together, our collaboration makes possible the infrastructure for sustained and reliable access to essential food for our neighbors now and into the future."

While food insecurity pre-dates the COVID-19 pandemic, financial insecurity and intersecting challenges caused by the pandemic increased food insecurity and raised these challenges as a top priority for funders, non-profit partners, and local government.

"The COVID-19 pandemic, which threatens public health and safety for our residents, has worsened existing food insecurity issues throughout our region, including Prince George's County," said

Council Member Todd M. Turner (4th Council District). "These challenges have spurred local government, community partners, and funders to jointly develop creative strategies to help feed our community. These new refrigerated trailers offer great examples of the innovative solutions that help to increase the amount of fresh, healthy foods that food distribution partners are giving to families in need every day."

In addition to addressing the growing trend of food insecurity, the project serves as a proof of concept for future innovative food system infrastructure projects. Partners will continue to share best practices and explore lessons learned to develop additional cold storage solutions and increase the distribution of healthy, fresh food in Prince George's County.

The Prince George's County Food Equity Council (FEC) is a local food policy council that works to help residents grow, sell, and choose healthy foods. Since 2013, FEC has been a voice for county residents at the policymaking table. The FEC focuses on systematic and sustainable changes to promote health, economic opportunity, food security, and well-being in Prince George's by advocating for policy that creates a more equitable local food system. The FEC is housed within the Institute for Public Health Innovation. For more information, visit www.pgcfec.org and follow FEC on social media @pgcfec. IPHI develops multi-sector partnerships and innovative solutions to improve the public's health and well-being across Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Our work strengthens health systems and policy, enhances conditions that promote health, and builds community capacity to ensure equitable health opportunities for all. IPHI is one of over 40 public health institutes across the country and a member of the National Network of Public Health Institutes. For more information on IPHI, see www.institutephi.org, and follow IPHI on Facebook and Twitter @InstitutePHI.

Washington Gas, a wholly owned subsidiary of AltaGas Ltd, is a regulated natural gas utility that provides safe, reliable and affordable natural gas service to more than 1.2 million customers in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. The company has been providing energy to residential, commercial and industrial customers for more than 173 years. Visit us at www.washingtongas.com and follow us on Twitter @washingtongas, LinkedIn and Facebook.

UW-Madison Announces 2021 Spring Graduates

MADISON, Wis. (July 23, 2021)—Just over 7,600 students received degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison on May 8, including students from your area.

There were two live ceremonies at Camp Randall, one for undergraduates and one for all graduate degree candidates. Graduating were 5,493 undergraduate students, 1,266 master's degree students and 871 doctoral candidates.

The commencement speaker was actor and singer Andre De Shields, who graduated from UW-Madison in 1970. He invoked the pandemic and the police killing of George Floyd in his video keynote address to undergraduates, encouraging graduates to transform the world with their talent.

"This year has helped to reveal qualities in each of you that are essential to building a happy and productive life in this new world," Chancellor Rebecca Blank told the graduates. "Resilience. Persistence. Flexibility. Awareness of your own needs, and the needs of others. And kindness."

Many graduates had overcome much during the pandemic. Like Shehrose Charania, who maintained her studies while caring for two parents sick with COVID-19. And Noor Bontz, a nursing student who treated the first, and subsequent, waves of COVID-19 patients in a Milwaukee intensive care unit.

"UW-Madison has allowed us to thrive and asked us to be a better version of ourselves," said student commencement speaker Lusayo Mwakatika, whose parents were watching the livestream in Malawi.

For more information about UW-Madison, visit <http://www.wisc.edu>. Here are the degree recipients from Prince George's County:

Fort Washington, MD
Joziah Mays, College of Letters and Science, Bachelor of Science, Computer Sciences

—Mike Klein, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Western Golf Association Announces New Youth Caddie Program at the University of Maryland Golf Course

By PRESS OFFICER
Western Golf Association

GLENVIEW, Ill. (July 22, 2021)—Western Golf Association (WGA) leaders have announced a new pilot youth caddie program to provide underprivileged local students a summer job opportunity at the University of Maryland (UMD) Golf Course in College Park.

The WGA's youth caddie program at the UMD Golf Course officially kicked off on Memorial Day weekend and will continue throughout the summer until Labor Day. The majority of the caddie rounds will take place on weekends and during special events at the UMD Golf Course.

Ten local youth caddies from under-resourced backgrounds were selected by WGA leaders to be part of the inaugural caddie class for their academic excellence and leadership abilities. They are students at Elizabeth Seton High School and Bishop McNamara Catholic School.

"We believe caddying is the best summer job for young people, as it helps them develop important life skills by working closely with positive role models, professionals and community leaders," said WGA Chairman Kevin Buggy. "We are excited to establish this new

youth caddie program in an important and growing area for us. Caddies have the unique opportunity to learn about a variety of career paths and personalities while working outside, getting exercise and having fun. In addition, in a few years, they will learn about and become eligible to apply for the Evans Scholarship to the University of Maryland."

The Evans Scholars Foundation (ESF), which is overseen by the WGA and provides full tuition and housing scholarships to youth caddies nationwide, is expanding in the East, with organization leaders recently announcing that two Maryland caddies will attend the University of Maryland in College Park beginning this fall.

In addition, leaders have purchased a property near campus to serve as a future Evans Scholarship House. After caddying for several summers, youth who have financial need and meet academic and leadership qualifications can apply for the Evans Scholarship.

"In addition to providing golfers a great experience during their round, having young people caddie is a chance for us to give back to the community by providing work opportunities to local students and helping develop them into fu-

ture leaders," said Jeff Maynor, UMD Golf Course Head Professional and Director of Golf. "Along the way, we are introducing a new group of diverse students to the game of golf."

Along with Maynor, the caddie program is being supported by newly awarded Evans Scholar Nana Keita. Keita, from Greenbelt, Maryland, graduated from Elizabeth Seton High School and was a participant of the WGA's Caddie Academy program in Chicago.

"I'm excited and honored for the opportunity to work with these young students," said Keita. "Being a caddie changed my life. It helped me develop a strong work ethic that I applied on the golf course and in the classroom and made it possible for me to attend college on a full scholarship."

Special programming for the youth caddies will take place throughout the summer, including a field trip to the BMW Championship at Caves Valley Golf Club in August and a special campus tour of the University of Maryland. Golf lessons will also be provided to all participants.

WGA and ESF leaders are working to grow awareness of their mission and impact in the East. The 2021 BMW Cham-


pionship, a PGA TOUR FedExCup Playoff event that is run by the WGA, will be held at Caves Valley in August. All profits from the tournament benefit and help raise awareness for the ESF.

To learn more about the WGA and ESF, visit: www.wgaesf.org.


The Western Golf Association, headquartered in Glenview, Illinois, has supported the Evans Scholars Foundation since 1930. One of golf's favorite charities, the Evans Scholars Program is the nation's largest scholarship program for caddies. Currently, a record 1,045 caddies are enrolled in 19 universities across the nation as Evans Scholars, and more than 11,320 caddies have graduated as Evans Scholars since the program was founded by famed Chicago amateur golfer Charles "Chick" Evans Jr. Scholarship funds come mostly from contributions by 33,500 golfers across the country, who are members of the Evans Scholars Par Club program. Evans Scholars Alumni donate more than \$15 million annually, and all proceeds from the BMW Championship, the third of four PGA TOUR Playoff events in the PGA TOUR's FedExCup competition, are donated to the Evans Scholars Foundation. The BMW Championship will be held at Caves Valley Golf Club from Aug. 23-29, 2021. Proceeds from the event will help support the Evans Scholars Program. To learn more about the WGA and ESF, visit www.wgaesf.org.

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PGCPS Student Transfer Season Opened July 26

By OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
Prince George's County Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (July 23, 2021)—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) will accept student transfer requests for the 2021-2022 school year beginning July 26, 2021. The Office of Student Records, Transfers and Archival Services will accept applications through August 13, 2021.

Parents and guardians can submit transfer requests elec-

tronically through the SchoolMax Family Portal. Portal access is limited to parents and legal guardians. Electronic transfer requests are only accepted from students enrolled in PGCPS.

The Office of Student Records, Transfers and Archival Services will not accept transfer requests to schools that exceed state-rated capacity. For more information and a list of schools eligible to receive transfer students, visit the Student Transfers webpage: <https://offices.pgcps.org/student-transfers/>.

COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

The State of Black America 2021, “The New Normal: Diverse, Equitable and Inclusive,” Charts a Path Forward as the Nation Emerges From “Three Pandemics”

“Building a fair, representative democracy is how we achieve long-term advances on issues from employment to education, from health care to housing, and from civil rights to criminal justice. It’s how we count every vote – and make every vote count. It is how we advance equality, opportunity, and justice in areas where too many Americans are still let down, left out, and left behind. The job before us will not be easy; it never has been. But our aims are worth fighting for ... Make no mistake, we have the capacity to repair our country and forge a nation that recognizes the dignity of every human being and that finally makes real the promise of America.”

—Former U. S. Attorney General Eric Holder, Chairman, National Democratic Redistricting Committee, 2021 State of Black America

Few events have shaped American history and our national perspective on racial inequity as profoundly as the grief, civil unrest, and economic devastation brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic didn’t simply unmask the

stark racial inequities in our economic, health care and criminal justice systems and institutions – revealing not one but three pandemics,

The National Urban League’s 2021 State of Black America® report, “The New Normal: Diverse, Equitable & Inclusive,”—released last week —charts a path forward as the nation emerges from these three pandemics.

The United States in 2021 finds itself at crossroads of racial reckoning. One path leads backward, toward the “old normal:” a return to the marginalization, discrimination, and segregation that left Black and Brown Americans exceptionally vulnerable to a deadly virus and economic desperation. The other path leads toward a “new normal”: a nation where police approach the communities they serve as allies and collaborators, and not hostile combatants; where every citizen has equal access to the ballot box, where fatal complications in pregnancy are just as rare for Black mothers as for as white mothers, where the value of a home is not determined by the race of its owner.

The New Normal: Diverse, Equitable, and Inclusive makes the case that dismantling structural racism—identifying and repairing the cracks in our national foundation—will result in more resilient and dynamic institutions that expand opportunity for everyone. To quote a flippant sentiment frequently shared on social media, “Equal rights for others does not mean less rights for you. It’s not pie.”

Perhaps the most vivid illustration of the tension between the forces competing for the soul of America was the January 6 insurrection, when a violent mob dissatisfied with the results of the 2020 Presidential Election stormed the U.S. Capitol in an effort to overturn it.

Led by white supremacists and right-wing extremists, the insurrection represented both a counterresponse to the ongoing protests against racial injustice and an almost perfect example of the injustice that inspired them.

In the months leading up to the insurrection, peaceful racial justice protesters around the nation had been met with the aggressive tactics of militarized police, clad in fatigues and armor, assaulted with tear gas and rubber bullets, buffeted by the violent winds of swooping helicopters.

The extremists who stormed the Capitol on January 6 had openly plotted the insurrection on social media, declaring their intentions to “storm the government buildings, kill cops, kill security guards, kill federal employees and agents.” Yet they were met with no troops in riot gear, no military helicopters. No tear gas was deployed as the mob shoved its way past barricades. Vastly outnumbered police stepped aside and allowed the mob to storm the Capitol.

The mob was motivated by furious resentment over historic Black and Brown voter turnout that contributed to the loss of their preferred candidate, Donald Trump. Baseless claims of fraud sought to tarnish the integrity of elections in

Black and Brown communities, and lawsuit after lawsuit sought to invalidate votes in those jurisdictions. The “Big Lie”—the myth that the election was “stolen”—succeeded largely because it blamed voters of color for stealing it. It frames the promise of a multicultural, pluralistic democracy as an act of theft from the dominant white majority.

Whether we are to achieve a “New Normal” that is truly diverse, equitable, and inclusive will depend in large measure upon our response to the “Big Lie.” A capitulation on voting rights is not only a fast track back to the “old normal,” it would further entrench the white supremacist ideology that has warped our society over centuries.

Compelling analysis from our 2021 research partners—the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Equity, the Center for Policing Equity, and the Brookings Institution—turns some conventional wisdom on its head. Did stop-and-frisk programs not only fail to curb juvenile crime, but contribute to its increase? How does easing financial hardships affect health conditions like hypertension? Can a smartphone app lift unbanked households out of poverty and help repair their credit?

As Jordan wrote in the very first State of Black America, “It is our hope that this document will pierce the dark veil of neglect that has thus far smothered efforts to right of the past and the present. It is presented as an alternative to failed public policies. I hope that it will be read closely in the White House and in the Congress, and that it may influence decision makers to open their eyes to the plight of Black Americans.”

Visit www.StateOfBlackAmerica.org to view the full report. Our dynamic Virtual Event, which includes in-depth discussion of the issues raised by the report, can be accessed at <https://soba.iamempowered.com/2021-virtual-series>.

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children’s Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

The Moton School Legacy

As a teenager, many of Barbara Johns’s wildest fantasies were about a surprising subject: a new school. “My imagination would run rampant—and I would dream that some mighty man of great wealth built us a new school building or that our parents got together and surprised us with this grand new building and we had a big celebration—and I even imagined that a great storm came through and blew down the main building and splattered the shacks to splinters—and out of this wreckage rose this magnificent building and all the students were joyous and even the teachers cried . . .” Then a day came when 16-year-old Barbara decided to put her dreams into action. “It was time that Negroes were treated equally with whites, time that they had a decent school, time for the students themselves to do something about it. There wasn’t any fear. I just thought—this is your moment. Seize it!”

The year was 1951, and Barbara was a junior at segregated Robert R. Moton High School in Prince Edward County, Virginia. As her younger sister Joan later remembered, “Most of the school supplies that we got were torn and tattered, and we didn’t have enough supplies to write with. The school we went to was overcrowded. Consequently, the county decided to build three tarpaper shacks for us to hold classes in. A tarpaper shack looks like a dilapidated black building, which is similar to a chicken coop on a farm . . . It was a very difficult setting for trying to learn. And I remember we were always talking about how bad the conditions were but we didn’t know what to do about it. So one day, my sister and a group of students that she chose decided to do something about it.”

The “something about it” Barbara did was to organize and lead the student body at Moton High in a strike in April 1951. More than 400 students walked out of

classes to protest their school’s terrible conditions and demand facilities more like the county’s white high school. NAACP attorneys Spottwood Robinson and Oliver Hill became involved after Barbara’s persistent calls to their Richmond office and after the students agreed they were willing to fight for an integrated school instead of just a better segregated one. The legal case against the Prince Edward County school board was ultimately bundled with four similar cases by NAACP attorneys in *Brown vs. Board of Education et al.*, leading to the landmark Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation in public schools in 1954.

Barbara Johns’s courageous decision to do something about her dream helped change history, just like the brave actions of many children and youths during the Civil Rights Movement. Sadly, the triumph of *Brown vs. Board of Education* was not the end of the story for Black children in Prince Edward County. As disgraceful as the conditions were at their old woefully unequal schools, more disgraceful was what came next. Instead of complying with the U.S. Supreme Court decision, the state of Virginia pursued a campaign of “massive resistance,” enacting a variety of new laws and policies designed to prevent public school desegregation. More court decisions followed declaring Virginia’s actions illegal. While other districts eventually gave in, Prince Edward County’s Board of Supervisors continued to refuse to desegregate their schools and voted instead in June 1959 to shut down the county’s entire public school system.

A number of white county schools quickly reopened as segregated “private schools,” supported by tuition grants from the state and tax credits from the county. They became the model for similar “segregation academies” across the South. But no

schools were available in Prince Edward County for Black children or poor white families in the largely rural community who couldn’t afford the modest tuition charged at the new private schools. The denial of public education lasted for the next five years. In a March 1963 speech marking the centennial of the Emancipation Proclamation, Attorney General Robert Kennedy said: “We may observe with much sadness and irony that outside of Africa, south of the Sahara, where education is still a difficult challenge, the only places on earth known not to provide free public education are Communist China, North Vietnam, Sarawak, Singapore, British Honduras—and Prince Edward County, Virginia. Something must be done about Prince Edward County.” It took another Supreme Court decision to finally force the county to reopen its public school system with desegregated schools in 1964.

Seventy years after the students’ strike, the former Moton School is now a National Historic Landmark and museum honoring “the birthplace of America’s student-led Civil Rights Revolution.” Barbara Johns’s parents sent her to live with relatives in Montgomery, Alabama to finish high school. She then attended Spelman College and Drexel University, raised five children with her husband Reverend William Powell, and became a librarian in the Philadelphia Public Schools before passing away in 1991. Today, when there is discussion over what kind of history schools should be allowed to teach, we must continue making sure children know the full truth about stories like this and the cloud of witnesses like Barbara Johns Powell who sacrificed for a more just America. Her legacy of struggle for a quality education for every child is still the unfinished business of the Civil Rights Movement and of America.

Hoyer, Brown Applaud Nomination of Del. Erek Barron to be Next U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland

WASHINGTON (July 26, 2021)—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) and Congressman Anthony G. Brown (MD-04) released the following statement today on the nomination of Del. Erek Barron to become the next United States Attorney for the District of Maryland:

“We congratulate Del. Erek Barron on his nomination to become the next United States Attorney for the District of Mary-

land and commend President Biden on this great choice. Del. Barron’s history of public service on behalf of Marylanders, his commitment to promoting good governance, and his work on criminal justice reform will serve him well as he takes on this new responsibility. Del. Barron is a champion of civil rights, public safety, and protections for our most vulnerable neighbors. He has the experience, passion, and

vision needed to ensure equal justice for every Marylander.

“This is a historic nomination as Del. Barron would become the first African American and first Prince Georgian to serve in this office. As our nation continues its reckoning with systemic racism, we know that Del. Barron will be an effective partner in this effort. We urge the Senate to confirm Erek Barron swiftly.”

Prince George’s County State’s Attorney Aisha Braveboy Statement Regarding Erek Barron’s Nomination for Maryland U.S. Attorney

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (July 26, 2021)—Prince George’s County State’s Attorney Aisha N. Braveboy released the following statement regarding Erek Barron’s nomination for U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland:

“I want to extend my sincere congratulations to Delegate Erek Barron on his well-deserved nomination for U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland.

“His passion for public service in the Maryland

General Assembly is both noteworthy and commendable as he worked diligently on behalf of Prince George’s County residents. Not only is he known for his devotion to enforcing the law, his professionalism, experience and credentials in this field – but also his dedication to pursuing equal justice for all. I am certain that he will take this position with the same vigorous commitment and tenaciously represent our residents extremely well.”

The Prince George’s Post



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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Should I Claim Family Benefits?

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

Dear Rusty: I was born in 1956 and my wife in 1961. I've got 45 years of SSA earnings, and I will have income in 2021. We have 4 minor children, the youngest born in 2012. When is the best time for us to apply for benefits? Are we eligible for family benefits? My statement infers that we are. **Signed: Older Dad**

Dear Older Dad: Born in 1956, your full retirement age (FRA) for Social Security purposes is 66 years and 4 months. If you claim your SS benefit at any time before your FRA, it will be permanently reduced. If, for example, you claimed your SS benefits now, the amount would be permanently cut by about 14%. Your wife's FRA is 67 and, similarly, she will receive a reduced SS retirement or SS spousal benefit if taken any time before her FRA.

Your wife isn't normally eligible for benefits until she is 62 years old, but if she is providing full time childcare to your minor children, she is eligible for spouse benefits sooner. Child-in-care spouse benefits are available at any age for your wife if she is providing care for at least one of your minor children under the age of 16. You must be collecting your own SS benefit for your wife to be eligible for this.

Once you start collecting your Social Security, your minor children will become eligible for benefits also. Minor child benefits are available to any child under the age of 18, or 19 if still in high school. All your children who qualify under that definition would be eligible for benefits based upon your Social Security earnings record. But, because of Social Security's Family Maximum, the amount each child receives would be less than half of your FRA benefit amount.

The Family Maximum amount is different for everyone because it is computed using each person's Primary Insurance Amount, or "PIA," which is the amount you are entitled to at your FRA. The Family Maximum normally computes to somewhere between 150% and 180% of the primary beneficiary's PIA, and that amount is shared by all those collecting. So, in your family's case, your PIA amount is first deducted from your Family Maximum amount and the remaining 50% to 80% is equally apportioned among all those collecting benefits on your record (including your wife if she receives child-in-care benefits). If all 4 of your children are minors, and your wife is collecting child-in-care benefits, those 5 individuals would each receive an equal portion of the remaining family maximum amount after your PIA is deducted.

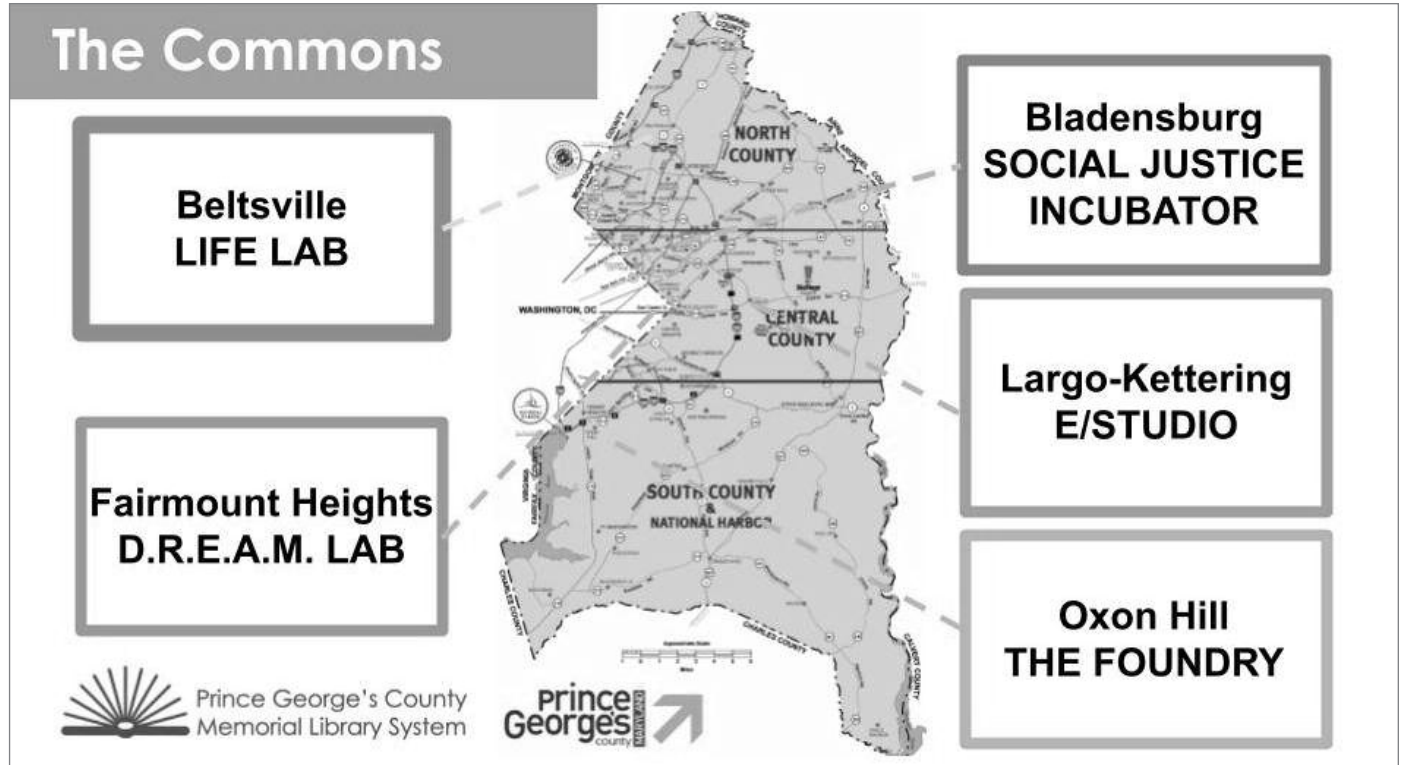
It's probable that your family would get the entire family maximum amount, for as long as your wife and minor children are eligible for benefits. But remember that claiming your own benefit before your full retirement age results in a permanent reduction to the benefit you will receive for the rest of your life. So, you should evaluate which option is financially better considering your life expectancy — claiming now and getting the full Family Maximum amount in these earlier years or waiting longer (even up to age 70) to receive a higher personal benefit for the rest of your life. You should also consider that if you die first, your wife's survivor benefit will be based upon the amount you are receiving at your death, so the age at which you claim also affects your wife's benefit as your widow.

Finally, if you claim before you have reached your full retirement age, Social Security's earnings limit will apply until you reach your FRA. If you work and exceed the limit (\$18,960 for 2021), Social Security may withhold your benefits for several months, and your dependents won't receive their benefits while yours are withheld. Note too that your earnings limit will go up by about 2.5 times during the year you attain FRA.

The 2.3 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] www.amac.us is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation's capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country. And the AMAC Foundation (www.AmacFoundation.org) is the Association's non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting and educating America's Seniors. Together, we act and speak on the Association members' behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at www.amac.us/join-amac.

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The Commons



PGCMLS Receives \$2.52 Million in Major Gifts From the Pull Up Fund

By NICHOLAS BROWN
PGCMLS

LARGO, Md. (July 14, 2021)—Since it was founded in 1946, the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) has served as a pillar of the community in Prince George's County, bringing together residents and the programs and resources that help them achieve their dreams. The Library's multi-generational impact on the community and track record of developing innovative social equity programs, as has been accentuated during the COVID-19 pandemic, has resulted in two major gifts totaling \$2.52 million from the Pull Up Fund, which lays the foundation for the Library's evolution over the next three years. \$500,000 is dedicated to launching a new program in July 2021 called Online 2Go, which offers over 900 borrowable laptops with built-in internet to customers. \$2,020,000 will support the launch of The Commons, which will feature five technology labs and a work-study and fellowship program located at branch libraries throughout the county.

Founded by native Prince Georgian Sam Brin, the Pull Up Fund (pullupfund.org) is committed to "pulling up to underserved communities and connecting them with the resources they need to thrive." The Pull Up Fund has supported social equity projects in Maine and Prince George's County. Brin's commitment to Prince George's County focuses on education, food security, and reentry, with an aim of making life in the county more equitable.

"I look back fondly on my years visiting my local library branch as a youth in Prince George's County. Since then, PGCMLS has shown an impressive ability to adapt to the times and remain a vital community resource. I was excited to find ways

to give back to the library system and to bolster their important work throughout the county."

—Sam Brin

"On behalf of the entire community, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Sam Brin and the Pull Up Fund for their sincere commitment to helping our residents reach their individual potential," said Roberta Phillips, CEO of the Library. "Online 2Go meets an immediate need for internet access in our community and The Commons enables the Library to create new opportunities for discovery, personal achievement, and addressing systemic inequities in technology disciplines."

These major gifts mark the largest private gifts in the history of the Prince George's County Memorial Library System, which begins its 75th anniversary celebration in fall 2021. The Online 2Go and The Commons projects were developed collaboratively by Roberta Phillips, Michelle Hamiel (COO for Public Services, PGCMLS), and Nicholas A. Brown (COO for Communication and Outreach, PGCMLS), along with Sam Brin and his team. The PGCMLS Foundation, the Library's charitable arm, is the recipient of these funds that expand Library services and directly benefit Prince George's County residents. Individuals and corporations interested in supporting the Library's work may contact Shelley R. O'Brien, Director of Development and Donor Engagement, at shelley.obrien@pgcmls.info.

About Online 2Go

Online 2Go builds on the Library's existing mobile WiFi hotspot borrowing program that was launched in 2016 and has provided over 1,223 households with free internet access. Public computers and internet at branch libraries has been an essential service for several decades, with 1.7+ million computer and WiFi sessions taking place in FY 2019. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 12.8% of households in the county lack home broadband access, meaning that over 116,352 Prince Georgians need internet access. The Online 2Go program will serve approximately 7,800 households per year.

Borrowable Chromebooks with built-in internet service will be available for three weeks at a time (renewable once, for a grand total of 6 weeks maximum per loan). The laptops will be available at all PGCMLS branches, with extra devices available for customers who reside in communities that have the greatest need for home internet access. The pilot launch will take place on Monday, July 19, with devices available at three initial branch libraries: New Carrollton, Oxon Hill, and Spaldings. The program will expand to all open branches by early fall 2021. For more information visit pgcmls.info/borrow-technology.

About The Commons

The Commons connects community in physical and virtual spaces for customers to create, explore, inspire, and realize to-

gether. The Commons provides access to technology, creative spaces, and digital literacy programs that empower Prince Georgians to discover their interests, providing a boost to their own personal achievement, whether a middle schooler who is bound for a STEM-focused high school or an immigrant entrepreneur.

The major gift from the Pull Up Fund will support the development of The Commons labs, new programming and services, and an opportunity pathway for participants to obtain paid work-study positions and competitive fellowships for higher education or technical training as they progress through The Commons programming. Planning and design for The Commons is underway and labs are expected to be operational in 2022. Additional details about programming, access, and the work-study and fellowships will be announced in the coming months. Additional support for The Commons comes from the PGCMLS Foundation, which is raising matching funds for the Life Lab Career Center at the Beltsville Branch Library and the D.R.E.A.M. Lab expansion at the Fairmount Heights Branch Library.

One of the goals of The Commons is to advance opportunities for BIPOC, low income, and immigrant/refugee Prince Georgians to pursue STEM and creative technical training, higher education, and careers. This can only be accomplished with discovery opportunities, training programs, leadership development, and opportunities to gain practical experience that will translate into success in the workforce.

The Commons Locations:

- Beltsville Branch Library: Life Lab Career Center
- Bladensburg Branch Library: Social Justice Incubator
- Largo-Kettering Branch Library: E/Studio—Small Business and Entrepreneurship
- Fairmount Heights Branch Library: D.R.E.A.M. Lab Expansion—Music & Design Production
- Oxon Hill Branch Library: The Foundry—Innovative & Creative Production

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Want to know more, register for the Project Opportunity Prince George's Fall 2021 Orientation Session which will be held on Thursday, August 26, 2021 from 6:30–8:30 p.m. at The American Job Center National Harbor, 6800 Oxon Hill Road, Suite 208, National Harbor Maryland 20745 www.project-opportunity.com/class/registration

Attendance at the Orientation Session is a vital step in our application process. If you are interested in this class but unable

to attend you must contact Program Director Joe Giordano, joe.giordano@project-opportunity.com

Classes Begins Thursday, September 16, 2021. Project Opportunity is an intensive curriculum based 10-week cohort program. The Fall 2021 program will meet every Thursday, September 16–November 11, 2021 from 6:30–9:30 p.m. at The American Job Center 6800 Oxon Hill Road in National Harbor Through grants and community business support this program is



PROJECT OPPORTUNITY

free to all veterans. The curriculum and material are facilitated by small business professionals and subject matter experts. The program concludes with a formal business pitch and Graduation Ceremony on Wednesday November 17, 2021.

Training Includes:

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- Business Structure and Taxes
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Amazon, BAE Systems, CACI, Huntington Ingalls, TSA Among Companies Seeking to Hire Top Military and Defense Industry Talent

When: Aug. 3, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

Where: Gaylord International Convention Center, National Harbor, Maryland

To register in advance: Transition Connection Registration

For more information: <https://seairspace.org/hiring-event>

For active-duty military, military spouses, veterans and defense industry professionals seeking new opportunities in the job market, the Navy League of the United States is debuting its Transition Connection job fair at the Gaylord National Harbor on Tuesday, Aug. 3 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

HEALTH *and* WELLNESS

Oncologists Remind Marylanders: It's Time to Screen for Cancer

Public Service Campaign With Music Icon Patti LaBelle Connects Marylanders With Resources to Schedule Medical Appointments for Early Cancer Detection

Millions of people delayed medical care during the COVID-19 pandemic. Local oncologists are participating in a new initiative encouraging Marylanders to schedule potentially lifesaving cancer screenings.

Led by two national nonprofit organizations with local ties—the Community Oncology Alliance (COA) and CancerCare—the “Time to Screen” campaign provides assistance and educational resources to help adults screen for six common cancers: breast, colorectal, cervical, prostate, lung and skin. The initiative lets consumers access information on the importance of screening and find local cancer screening locations through a website and toll-free hotline.

“Early cancer detection may save lives. As we emerge from the pandemic, it’s time for Marylanders to schedule their regular cancer screenings like mammograms and colonoscopies,” said Frederick Smith, MD, Medical Oncologist and COA practice member at Regional Cancer Care Associates in Chevy Chase. “Adults, especially those over the age of 40, should visit TimeToScreen.org for help finding free or low-cost cancer screening options. Do it for yourself and the people you love.”

As part of the campaign, Grammy award winner and “Godmother of Soul” Patti LaBelle will appear in television, digital and radio public service announcements (PSAs) now through October 2021.

“I’ve learned timing is everything in life, and right now, it’s time to take control of your health,” said LaBelle. “I know what it’s like to lose loved ones far too early to cancer.

Don’t wait until it’s too late. I tell everyone, ‘Honey, it’s time to get screened.’”

Research has shown a considerable drop in cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment for older adults in 2020, including an 85 percent decline in breast cancer screenings and a 75 percent decline for colon cancer screenings. “Time to Screen” is engaging oncology practices, medical professionals and employers in Maryland to reverse this trend, equipping adults with resources that could help them catch cancer early.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States. Maryland’s incidence rate for all cancers is higher than the U.S. average. Black adults have higher death rates than all other racial/ethnic groups for many cancer types. Cancer is the leading cause of death for Hispanic and Latino adults. Social determinants of health including incomes, health literacy and physical access to care contribute to these disparities.

“Time to Screen” is a partnership between COA, a national non-profit advocacy group dedicated solely to independent oncology practices and the patients they serve, and CancerCare, a national non-profit that provides free, professional support services and information to help people manage the emotional, practical and financial challenges of cancer. Screening recommendations are based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) guidelines.

People can visit www.TimeToScreen.org or call toll-free 1-855-53-SCREEN (1-855-537-2733) to learn more about cancer screen-

ings and find a convenient location.

About the Community Oncology Alliance COA is a non-profit organization dedicated to advocating for community oncology practices and, most importantly, the patients they serve. COA is the only organization dedicated solely to community oncology where the majority of Americans with cancer are treated. The mission of COA is to ensure that cancer patients receive quality, affordable and accessible cancer care in their own communities. More than 1.5 million people in the United States are diagnosed with cancer each year and deaths from the disease have been steadily declining due to earlier detection, diagnosis and treatment. Learn more at www.CommunityOncology.org. Follow COA on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/oncologyCOA](https://twitter.com/oncologyCOA) or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CommunityOncologyAlliance.

Founded in 1944, CancerCare® is the leading national organization providing free, professional support services and information to help people manage the emotional, practical and financial challenges of cancer. Our comprehensive services include case management, counseling and support groups over the phone, online and in-person, educational workshops, publications and financial and co-payment assistance. All CancerCare services are provided by master’s-prepared oncology social workers and world-leading cancer experts. To learn more, visit www.cancercare.org or call 800-813-HOPE (4673).



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What All Women Should Know About Bladder Cancer

(StatePoint) Karen S. was a long-time oncology nurse when she got her own cancer diagnosis at age 54. What she thought had been recurrent urinary tract infections was revealed to be bladder cancer.

This year, nearly 19,500 women nationwide will be diagnosed with bladder cancer. And while research shows that bladder cancer is more prevalent among men (more than 64,000 U.S. cases are diagnosed annually), women are typically diagnosed with more advanced tumors and have a worse outcome at nearly every stage of the condition. These outcomes could be due to attributing typical warning signs to other medical conditions, such as recurring urinary tract infections or blood in the urine, which is often thought to be associated with menstruation or menopause, and as a result, goes unreported to physicians for longer.

But for both male and female patients, advancements in technology are significantly improving detection and disease management.

Cystoscopy, the gold standard diagnostic tool for bladder cancer detection, has historically been performed using only white light for visualizing suspicious lesions. Now, more doctors are recommending Blue Light Cystoscopy (BLC), a procedure that uses both white and blue light. But not every facility offers BLC.

“I’m so grateful for the expertise at the bladder cancer center where I was treated and for my doctor choosing to use blue light technology for my diagnostic procedure,” says Karen.

An early bladder cancer diagnosis can give you more treatment options. If you have any of the following symptoms, experts advise consulting your doctor:

- Blood or blood clots in the urine
- Pain or burning sensation during urination
- Frequent urination
- Feeling the need to urinate many times throughout the night
- Feeling the need to urinate, but not being able to pass urine
- Lower back pain on one side of the body

For women in particular, sudden changes in urination habits can be signs of bladder cancer. Being vigilant at every age is critical. It was for Mary Beth M. who at first ignored the blood in her urine. When she eventually saw a urologist, she learned she had high-grade, non-muscle invasive bladder cancer with several tumors in her bladder.

“I never expected to be diagnosed with bladder cancer at 28. It’s so important to pay attention to the signs and symptoms, no matter how old you are,” says Mary Beth, who was also diagnosed using BLC.

Blue Light Cystoscopy is only at select locations. Ask your primary care physician or urologist for more information. You can also learn where BLC is available by visiting <https://rebrand.ly/Find-BLC>.

Early and thorough detection is crucial. No matter your age or gender, be aware of both the symptoms of bladder cancer and the latest technologies available in the detection and management of the disease.

Providing Better Care to Loved Ones With Diabetes

(StatePoint) More than 34 million Americans are living with diabetes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and 90–95 percent of those diagnosed have Type 2 diabetes. With many Americans having deferred medical care since the start of the pandemic, delayed or overdue diabetes diagnoses are expected in the coming months. Experts encourage those living with diabetes and their loved ones to navigate the disease head-on and with confidence.

“Instructions given to those with a new diabetes diagnosis at the hospital are often one-size-fits-all and can feel rigid, so it’s fairly typical for a diagnosis to be met with some resistance or even denial at first,” says Jennifer Sheets, president and CEO of Interim HealthCare Inc., the nation’s leading franchise network of home healthcare, personal care, healthcare staffing, and hospice services.

As Sheets explains, a holistic, personalized approach to diabetes care can lessen symptoms while improving the quality of life for the individual impacted—and their loved ones, and new resources can help your family find its footing.

One such resource is “Caring for a Loved One With Diabetes,”

a new guide from Interim HealthCare Inc. The latest offering in its HomeLife Enrichment series, the guide equips families with tools to care for the whole individual, not just one facet of diabetes management, including mind, body, and spirit, as well as the family dimension. According to Interim HealthCare Inc., this wide-angle approach can lead to more compassionate care, improved health and a positive outlook amid health challenges.

Sheets also suggests that families consider professional home-based care, which can serve not only as an educational extension of the doctor’s office, but an opportunity to tailor care in a personal way that makes sense to the patient.

“Making the lifestyle changes recommended by a physician after a diabetes diagnosis can be overwhelming,” explains Sheets. “By extending the education provided by a physician into a ‘real-life’ setting, home health clinicians and paraprofessionals get a total view of the patient to tailor a realistic and effective care plan.”

In the case of Interim HealthCare, which is anchored by more than 25 years in diabetic chronic care, its proprietary training programs enable home health clini-



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cians and paraprofessionals to provide valuable education and assistance in familiar surroundings—at home or in assisted living communities. This intimate, unedited view into an individual’s daily life results in care plans accounting for a patient’s specific needs, personal motivations and unspoken obstacles, for improved health management and ideally, a more rewarding and better quality of life.

“Patients are often more comfortable sharing with a home-based health professional than their doctor what their actual habits are. Whether it’s the occasional drink or consumption of food with lesser nutritional value, once a clinician knows what their patient is truly dealing with, they

can help the patient make practical adjustments that can become part of everyday life and with that confidence, kickstart a new understanding and better management of their diabetes,” says Sheets.

To download the free diabetes caregiver guide, now also available in Spanish, visit info.interimhealthcare.com/diabetes-guide. To learn more about Interim HealthCare’s diabetes care program, contact a locally owned and operated office. Access the office locator at interimhealthcare.com/locations/.

“With knowledge and the power that unique home-centered care provides, living well with diabetes is absolutely possible,” says Sheets.

Birth Control and Blood Clots: What College Students Should Know

(StatePoint) As college students gear up to return to campus, they will have long lists of things they need, or need to take care of, before they leave. One item that might be overlooked is their healthcare.

While items like bandages and cold medicines always make the grade, women heading off to college have other factors to consider, including for many, their first decisions about birth control.

The birth control pill is the number one contraceptive choice among millions of women of child-bearing age in the United States. While experts stress that the pill is safe and effective, they also caution that birth control with estrogen, including the pill, patch or

ring, can increase a woman’s risk for potentially deadly blood clots.

Birth control pills with estrogen increase a woman’s risk for blood clots three-fold, and some newer birth control pills pose a risk two-times greater than older birth control pills. The use of birth control patches and rings containing estrogen poses a risk double that of birth control pills. These risks are significantly increased when women have other blood clot risks factors, such as a genetic clotting disorder like factor V Leiden or a family history of blood clots.

The National Blood Clot Alliance and the Alexandra Rowan Foundation urge women who might be exploring their birth control options as they head

off to college to understand their blood clot risks and take these steps:

- Complete a Risk Assessment, available at www.womenandblood-clots.org, and discuss their results with their doctor.
- Speak with their doctor about their existing risk for blood clots, including any personal or family history of blood clots, and identify contraceptive options to reduce their risk.

It’s also important to recognize the signs and symptoms of blood clots in the legs or arms, including:

- Swelling
- Pain or tenderness not caused by an injury
- Skin that is warm to the touch, red, or discolored



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Left untreated, blood clots in the legs or arms can break apart and travel to a person’s lung and be deadly. Symptoms of a blood clot in your lung may include:

- Difficult breathing
- Chest pain that worsens with a deep breath or cough, coughing up blood

- Faster than normal or irregular heartbeat

Seek immediate medical attention if you experience any of these signs or symptoms. Acting quickly may help save your life, or the life of a friend or family member.

