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Merry Christmas

from *The Prince George's Post*

PHOTO BY MIESHA MAIDEN FROM PIXELS



PHOTO COURTESY TOWN OF UPPER MARLBORO

Sarah Franklin, new Mayor of the Town of Upper Marlboro

Four Commissioners Seated in Historic First For the Town of Upper Marlboro

Sarah Franklin will serve as the town's new mayor, Janice Duckett becomes the new board treasurer

By RAY FELDMANN
Town of Upper Marlboro

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Dec. 16, 2021)—Commissioner Sarah Franklin has been selected by her board colleagues as the new Mayor of the Town of Upper Marlboro in Prince George's County, Town Clerk John Hoatson announced today. Franklin was chosen during an organizational meeting of the governing board following last month's election, as per the town charter.

Commissioner Janice Duckett, who received the most votes in the Nov. 2 town election, was selected as the board's treasurer. Duckett and Franklin received 82 and 78 votes, respectively. Franklin and Duckett were officially sworn in as mayor and com-

missioner, respectively, on Monday, Dec. 13, along with incoming commissioners Karen Lott and Thomas J. Hanchett.

"I am honored that my fellow Commissioners have put their trust in me to be Mayor" Franklin said following Tuesday night's town board meeting. "I am looking forward to working as a part of this team and living up to the responsibility.

"Our town is ready to thrive," she added, "and I am invested in putting in the work to see this happen."

This marks the first time in the town's 326-year history that it has four members sitting on its governing Board of Commissioners. Up to now, the town had been led by a three-member board.

Former Town Mayor Linda Pennoyer re-

ceived 68 votes in the Nov. 2 election but declined to be sworn in, citing personal reasons. A special election will be held on Jan. 25, 2022 to fill her slot as a fifth commissioner.

The Nov. 2 vote totals were as follows:
Janice Duckett82
Sarah Franklin78
Karen Lott78
Linda Pennoyer68
Thomas J. Hanchett66
Bryan Bontrager29

This past August, the then-three-member Board of Commissioners unanimously passed a resolution that increased the composition of the Town's elected body from three to five members, consisting of four Commissioners and one President/Mayor.

UMES Winter Grad Receives Coveted Early Admission to Veterinary School

By GAIL STEPHENS

University of Maryland Eastern Shore School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences

PRINCESS ANNE, Md. (Dec. 14, 2021)—Hard work and determination are paying off for Gaibrielle Bressler. The senior in the University of Maryland Eastern Shore Pre-Vet program will not only be graduating a semester early, but has been accepted for early admission to Purdue University's College of Veterinary Medicine in Indiana after graduation to earn her doctorate. When she walk[ed] across the stage on December 17 during UMES' 25th winter commencement, she [was] fully prepared for the next step toward achieving her dreams.

Along with the knowledge gleaned from a rigorous academic schedule, the general agriculture major with a concentration in animal and poultry science is also armed with hands-on experiences guaranteeing her success in the path forward. The one directly attributing to that is Purdue's competitive Vet Up College internship program that Bressler attended along with 26 peers last summer. She earned the honor in 2020, but the program was put on hold until last summer when it resumed in a virtual format due to the pandemic.

The goal of the program is to prepare students "to be competitive in the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine applicant pool," said Dr. Kimberly Braxton, a UMES alumna, assistant professor, pre-veterinary advisor and campus veterinarian. Successful completion of the internship can

line students up for one of the coveted early admission offers that are a potential benefit from the program.

Bressler claimed one of the coveted spots for early admission to the program. For the 2021–22 admissions cycle, Purdue's veterinary program received 1,537 applications for 84 seats including the pre-admission spots, said Lori Stout, the school's director of admissions and recruitment. According to the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges, 10,834 qualified applications had



been received across the system for the 2021–22 admissions cycle. On average, the acceptance rate is between 10–15 percent.

"Gaibrielle exemplifies the adage, 'It's good to have great teachers...but they always need great students,'" Braxton said.

"She is such an excellent student, professional and young woman with great character that is not only rare in students today, but are traits that will take her far in both her career and life."

"I was in awe when the dean of the school called me. All I could say was 'thank you' over and over again," Bressler said. "Now when people ask my career goal, I don't say, 'I want to be a veterinarian' anymore, I say 'I'm going to be a veterinarian.'"

Bressler, born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, moved to Prince George's County seven years ago. She has always had a passion, she said, for "being around, caring for and learning about animals" and believes that she chose the right school and right career path.

"UMES has helped me achieve my goals by maintaining a pre-vet program designed for students to be able to take animal science courses and work hands-on with them on the UMES farm," Bressler said. She also attributes her academic success to dedicated faculty members, such as Braxton.

"She works so hard to ensure that her students accomplish and succeed in their goals," Bressler said. Braxton works closely, she said, with each of her students and provides numerous professional experiences and opportunities to enhance what is learned in the classroom. Bressler has "scrubbed in" with Braxton on spay and neuter surgeries on dogs and cats for clinics such as those held through area human societies. There she practiced surgical and animal restraint techniques.



PHOTOS COURTESY UMES

UMES pre-vet student Gaibrielle Bressler (L) with Dr. Kimberly Braxton

Bressler has also worked as a veterinary assistant at the Dupont Veterinary Clinic in Washington, D.C. since last winter, going home biweekly and working on the weekends.

"It's so interesting to see how each individual animal is different even though they all have the same anatomy," she said.

As for what area of veterinary medicine she sees herself specializing in, Bressler said, "I'm not completely sure, but I know that I want to work with many species and sizes and potentially open a shelter. I would also like to be a professor at an HBCU with a pre-vet program. The

sky is really the limit when it comes to all of the tasks that I hope to accomplish!"

Advice that Bressler would like to pass along to her successors is, "If you have a goal or anything you are passionate about, make sure you take advantage of all the opportunities that are available to you, because you can never have too much experience. It can make all the difference."

Gail Stephens, agricultural communications associate, University of Maryland Eastern Shore School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences, gstephens@umes.edu, 410-251-7009.

Hoyer Joins VP Harris at Event Highlighting Electric Vehicle Investments in the Build Back Better Agenda

By MAYA VALENTINE
Congressman Steny Hoyer's Office

BRANDYWINE, Md. (Dec. 13, 2021)—On December 13, Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-

05) joined Vice President Kamala Harris, Department of Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy, Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), and Prince George's

County Executive Angela Alsobrooks in Prince George's County, Maryland, to highlight the electric vehicle investments included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Build Back Better Act. Below are his remarks as prepared

for delivery:

"Thank you, Madam Vice President, for coming to Prince George's County and welcome to Maryland's Fifth District. It is an honor to welcome you as we celebrate the \$7.4 billion investment

for Maryland in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. I want to thank you, as well as Secretary Granholm and Gina McCarthy, for being here, and for your tireless efforts along with President Biden to get this law enacted. I also want to thank and recognize County Executive Alsobrooks for hosting us today.

"Soon we will see the impact of the Infrastructure Investment

and Jobs Act all around us—on our roads, in our environment, and across our economy—promoting greater job growth and opportunities for people in Maryland and across the country.

"This law will mean safer, more reliable commutes for working families—whether they travel

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

The last two zebras have come home for Christmas!

Two zebras, AWOL since the end of August (variously reported Aug. 26 and Aug. 31), have returned to the herd.

After communicating with the zebra's owner, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) notified the Prince George's County Animal Services Facility & Adoption Center (ASFAC) that the absentees had returned. Apparently, neither USDA nor ASFAC was involved in the recapture. I guess the zebras just missed their family. And the hay.

The zebras had escaped from a large farm on Duley Station Road, owned by Jerry Holly. The County is continuing its investigation and will take appropriate legal action regarding alleged violations of the Prince George's County Animal Control Ordinance.

When my daughter Therese was here in the fall, she and I drove to Croom hoping to catch sight of the three zebras. (One later died after falling into an illegal trap.) We cruised around, checked out driveways and fields and woods, but no luck. Anyway, I'll let Therese (now back in Texas) know the outcome. But how we would have loved to catch a sight of the escapees!

Morningside Memories: Christmas

It's not the same. It's nothing like the same. You old-time Morningsiders know what I mean.

I used to walk over to what is now Glau-bitz Circle to see Santa. There was some kind of program or sendoff (I don't recall) but it helped to announce Morningside Christmas.

The Morningside Sportsmen, with Santa at the helm and siren blaring, cruised the community, kids following, running door-to-door collecting canned goods for the poor. Every-body gave.

There were hayrides through the Town. Several groups went a-carrying around the neighborhood.

And most houses were decorated—some, amazingly—and all were candidates for "Best Christmas Décor." Prizes were given and the winners announced in the Morningside newsletter. And in this column.

It will never be the same.

Neighbors and other good people

Apostle Dr. Deborah L. Durham, pastor of Let's R.O.C.K. Outreach Ministries, Inc. on Suitland Road, died Dec. 4. Her service was Dec. 15 at Camp Springs Community

Church. I'll have her obituary in a future column.

Carol DeGraba, former Morningside Councilwoman and daughter of longtime Morningsider Martha Kline, sent news that her son Thomas is working for General Dynamics and pursuing a master's at the Institute of World Politics, in Washington. Son Nicholas graduated from the U. of Maryland with a degree in electrical engineering and is working at Electrify America.

George Murphy, 83, of Fort Washington, who retired in 1997 as director of central operations for NOAA, died Aug. 3. He was a Prince George's election judge and member of the County's citizen review board for foster children. He was a Mason and taught Bible class at Mount Ennon Baptist Church in Clinton.

Shamar Branham, great-nephew of my next-door neighbor Stacie Branham-Smith, has been awarded a basketball scholarship by the University of Maryland. He is a Car-dozo High graduate.

Seven in the running to be my County Council rep

As of the 9 p.m. deadline Tuesday, Dec. 7, the County's Board of Elections listed seven hopefuls seeking the District 8 seat recently vacated by Monique Anderson-Walker. She resigned to become running mate of gubernatorial candidate and State Comptroller Peter Franchot.

The seven now running for District 8 are Edward Burroughs III, Sidney Gibson, Ebony Sunala Johnson, Tony Knotts, Jerry Mathis, Marjorie Smith and Vernon Wade. District 8 is my district. I'm checking out these candidates so I can vote in the primary election on Jan. 4, 2022.

Changing landscape

The iconic blue gingham dress worn by Judy Garland as Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* has been discovered in a green shoebox at Catholic University's drama department. It had been given to the late Father Gilbert Hartke, founder of the drama department, by actress Mercedes McCambridge. The department is delighted to have found the dress but believe it's too valuable to put on display.

NY Chicken & Grill is open for business at 9021 Woodyard Road in Clinton. For hours, call 301-877-4000.

The City of College Park has opened its new \$47 million City Hall.

A home at 6713 Poplar Road, in Morningside, recently sold for \$375,000.

Charles I. Jones, loved Red Lobster, Jerry's Seafood

Charles Israel Jones Jr., 79, Metro retiree and longtime Skyline resident, died at home on Nov. 12. A lot of neighbors called to tell me that Charles—affectionally known as "Pops"—had died. It seems everyone knew him.

He was born in Kinsale, Va., son of Charles Sr. and Evelyn Jones. He graduated from Armstead T. Johnson HS and in 1962 joined the U.S. Army.

In time, after an honorable discharge, he moved to Washington and met his future wife, Bobbie N. Brown. After a long courtship, they married and from their union were born two children, Kendall Elden and Belva Anita.

Pops enjoyed working in his yard, carpentry and "talking smack." He loved to dine at his favorite restaurant, Red Lobster, but later upgraded to Jerry's Seafood Restaurant. He loved watching the Redskins (now Washington Football Team).

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Bobbie, son Stephon T. Ashton and five brothers. Survivors include his children, Kendall and Belva, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, a goddaughter and special friends. Services were at Clinton Baptist Church, Senior Pastor Colin Pugh II.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Kendall Lanehart and former Morningside Councilman Ken Miller, Dec. 24; Jean Nichols, Jason Tomlinson, Samantha Bowie and Christine Mucker, Dec. 25 (Christmas!); Jeffrey Norton and Michael Nichols, Dec. 26; Virginia Simms, Carolyn Jeffcoat and Kirra Starr Mears, Dec. 27; Christopher Garris, Anne Lucas, Patsy Anderson and my granddaughter Samantha McHale, Dec. 28; Brayden Proctor, Dec. 29; Amy Anthony Wade and Robert Tretler, Dec. 30; Pat Spry and Janet Ferguson Hemming, Dec. 31.

Happy 67th (!) anniversary to Gerald and Arvilla Atkinson, Dec. 27; Nola and Bruce Thomas, their 44th on Dec. 27; my grandson David and Nina McHale, their 21st on Dec. 30; and another grandson, Isaac and Eva Gallegos, on their 1st anniversary, Dec. 31.

*As Tiny Tim said,
"God bless us, every one!"*

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

ANNUAL SUPER BOWL SPAGHETTI DINNER

St. Philip's Church Baden Parish, 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613-8426, Sunday, February 6, 2022, from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Grab and Go Only Spaghetti Dinners. Raffle at 1 p.m.

Basket of Cheer Raffle, \$5.00 each or three for \$10.00. All Dinners cost \$5.00. Pre-orders and Pre-payments only. Cash App is also available. Dinners will include "Mitty's Homemade Spaghetti, Potato Chips, Garlic Bread, Water, Fruit Cup, and a Desert. Spaghetti dinner orders can be pre-ordered until Sunday, January 30, 2022.

Points of contact regarding this matter are Shirley Ann, 302-690-4260 or Doretha Ann 301-233-3136 and/or Vivian 804-301-9530. Benefit St. Philip's Church 301-888-1536. Thanks in advance Vivian Rich, Secretary.

CONGRATULATIONS

Prince George's County Council Member Mel Franklin received an award from the BiCounty Business Roundtable and Delegate Barnes for Legislative Excellence in Adelphi, and earlier in the day, he led the MaCo Large County Coalition's Winter Luncheon in Cambridge, Maryland.

PART III GLIMPSES OF PROGRESS BY DECADES (1910-1919)

The second decade opened with requests for and delegations opposing the movement toward consolidation of schools in the county. A preponderance of small schools continued to exist.

Several new high schools (Baden, Hyattsville, Brandywine) were organized in the county and the colored school at Bowie was transferred to the State Board of Education "for maintenance and control in connection with the State Normal and Industrial School, to be used as a Model School for said Institution." Information received from the Forty-Second Annual Report State Board of Education of Maryland.

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today. Win Hayward Financial Advisor Office: 240-599-7490. Information received from Educational Systems Federal Credit Union Fall Newsletter.

KUDOS TO BSU ALUMNI

Bowie State University Head Football Coach Damon Wilson ('00 & '21) was named the American Football Coaches (AFCA) NCAA Division II Region 2 Coach of the Year. The AFCA recognizes five regional Coach of the Year winners in each of the Association's five divisions.

JUST A REMINDER

Calling all BSU alumni! If you have moved or changed your email or mailing address, please let us know. By keeping your information current, you will continue to receive BSU news and updates. For questions and support, call 301-860-4301 or send an email to the Advancement Services Office at advancementservices@bowiestate.edu or call 301-860-4301. We are #BSU4LIFE! Taking Tomorrow Boldly.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Michael Robinson Sr. BSU alumni ('95) who was named as the new Carroll County Director of Fire and Emergency Medical Services. He joined the county in this new role back in September.

BSU WINTER COMMENCEMENT

Bowie State University Winter Commencement will be held on Wednesday, December 22, 2021, 10 a.m. at the AC Jordan Arena Leonidas S. James Physical Complex. The live ceremony can be viewed at bowiestate.edu/commencement.

NEW YORK AMSTERDAM NEWS

Harlem Renaissance Classic brings the BBCU experience to Harlem. Bowie State and Lincoln University headlined a double-header basketball classic to highlight the HBCU experience for college bound youth and parents in Harlem. Stay connected visit Website: bsubulldogs.com.

WATCH NIGHT SERVICE

Need a place to go? Celebrate with Westphalia Hour of Prayer Watch Night service: Old Journey Ending 2021 and New Beginning for 2022. Reflect, Repent, Renew Friday December 31, 2021, at 11 p.m.–midnight. Doors close at 11:15 p.m. The service will be virtual and in person.

YouTube/www.youtube.com. Westphalia 9363 D'Arcy Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774, Rev. Dr. Timothy West, Senior Pastor.

*"MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE"*

Around the County

Prince George's County Student Named to Fall 2021 President's List

More than 1,000 students have been honored for their academic achievement at Fairmont State University after completing the fall 2021 semester.

Dr. Mirta Martin, President, and Dr. Dianna Phillips, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, have released the President's List and the Dean's List to recognize high-achieving students for their academic distinction. Full-time students who earned a 3.4 or better grade point average are named to the Dean's List. Full-time students achieving a perfect 4.0 grade point average are named to the President's List.

The 120-acre main campus of Fairmont State University sits on a hillside in Fairmont, West Virginia, the county seat of Marion County. The University turns opportunity, passion and hard work into excellence in a vibrant, close-knit campus community where students and teachers become your friends for life. Students enjoy the opportunities offered by a comprehensive state university combined with the personal attention and campus atmosphere expected from a small, private school.

Term: Fall Semester 2021; County: MD - Prince George's President's List: **Michael Porter**

—*Hannah Mersing, Fairmont State University*

Free Holiday Lyft Rides Offered Throughout Greater Washington to Prevent Drunk Driving

More than a third of U.S. highway deaths during the holiday involve drunk drivers

WASHINGTON (Dec. 10, 2021)—Preparing to combat that time of year when, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, more than a third of all U.S. traffic deaths involve drunk drivers (38%, Christmas; 36%, New Year's Day – NHTSA, 2019), a local nonprofit organization announced today that free safe rides will be offered to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area during the winter holidays beginning on December 17.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the 2021 Holiday SoberRide® program will be in operation nightly, beginning at 10 p.m. until 4 a.m. from December 17, 2021 to January 1, 2022 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

Each evening, during this six-hour period, area residents ages 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a SoberRide® code in the app's 'Promo' section to receive their no-cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. A separate Holiday SoberRide® promo code will be posted at 9 p.m. on December 17, 24 and 31 on www.SoberRide.com.

During the 2019 winter holidays (COVID-19 prevented last December's full-out campaign), over 1,100 (1,121) persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used WRAP's Holiday SoberRide® program rather than possibly driving home impaired. The charity also officers its SoberRide® program on St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Independence Day and Halloween.

"More than a third of all U.S. traffic fatalities during the holiday season in 2019 involved drunk drivers according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration," said Kurt Erickson, WRAP's President.

SoberRide® is offered throughout Lyft's Washington D.C. coverage area which includes all or parts of: the District of Columbia; the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince George's; and the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William.

"Lyft is dedicated to providing access to reliable and responsible rides, and we're proud to partner with programs like WRAP to offer Lyft as an alternative to impaired driving," said Kamillah Wood, Director of Public Policy for Community Safety at Lyft. "Through our Roadway Safety Program and our partnerships with the public, we hope to empower our community with the tools to protect themselves and those around them this holiday season."

Sponsors of WRAP's 2021 Holiday SoberRide® campaign include the 395 Express Lanes, Anheuser-Busch, Beer Institute, Brown-Forman, Constellation Brands, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, Giant Food, Glory Days Grill, Heineken, Kendall-Jackson, Lyft, Molson Coors Beverage Company, New Belgium Brewing, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association. In addition, WRAP's 2021 Public Partner SoberRide® Sponsors include the District of Columbia Department of Transportation's Highway Safety Office, Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration's Highway Safety Office and the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

Since 1991, WRAP's SoberRide® program has provided 81,184 free safe rides home to would-be-drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

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.

More information about WRAP's SoberRide® initiative can be found at www.SoberRide.com.

—*Alexandra Lucchesi, M.S., Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP)*

COMMUNITY

In Move to Electric Vehicles, Maryland Is Doing Better Than Most States

By ALEX ARGIRIS AND MICHAEL TOUMA
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON (Dec. 9, 2021)—The future of the American automobile industry is electric, President Joe Biden said in an August executive order, pledging to make half of all new cars and trucks sold in 2030 zero-emission vehicles.

Biden on Wednesday put the purchasing clout of the federal government behind his push for electric vehicles, signing a new executive order to convert the 645,000-vehicle federal fleet to zero-emission cars and trucks by 2035. The latest move is part of a series of steps Biden ordered to reduce the federal government's carbon footprint.

"The actions and investment required to achieve these goals will protect the environment, drive innovation, spur private sector investment, improve public infrastructure, and create new economic opportunity," Biden said in the order.

But weening the nation off of gas-fueled vehicles might be easier said than done, although Maryland is doing better than most states.

Compared to Europe's electric vehicle sales compound annual growth rate of 60% from 2016 to 2020, as well as China's 36% growth rate, the United States is lagging behind at just 17%, according to Pew Research Center.

Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, Maryland ranks seventh in adapting to electric vehicles, according to Zutobi, an international online driver education firm. The metric measures the number of registered electric vehicles in each state, the percentage of all registered vehicles that are electric and the number of public chargers, based on a scale of 1 to 10.

Of the 10.2 million electric vehicles on roads around the world, China accounts for 44% of them, Europe 31% and the United States just 17%, according to the Pew study.

Maryland had 40,587 registered electric vehicles as of the end of November, Deputy Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation R. Earl Lewis Jr. told Capital News Service in an interview.

Lewis, who chairs the Maryland Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council, also noted that Maryland has over 1,000 electric vehicle charging stations in the state.

"One of the challenges is the concern about range anxiety - that vehicles will be charged, there won't be enough charging stations, and people can get stranded," Ben Grumbles, the Maryland secretary of the environment, told CNS. "So working with companies and agencies like the Maryland Department of Transportation to significantly expand more corridors for infrastructure charging is very important."

The \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill, which Biden signed into law in November, includes \$63 million for the expansion of Maryland's electric vehicle charging network over five years.

"It was one of the most important components when the debate was playing out in Congress," Ben Grumbles told CNS. Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, a Republican, "was leading the charge with governors and members of Congress on a bipartisan basis saying this infrastructure bill is about cleaner transportation and cleaner energy."

Consumers considering the purchase of electric vehicles could get additional encouragement if Biden's \$2.2 trillion "Build Back Better" package of social spending and climate initiatives gets through Congress. That's because one provision included in the bill is a tax credit for the purchase of an electric vehicle.

The package also includes billions of dollars to convert the federal vehicle fleet and United States Postal Service vehicles to electric power.

The bill narrowly passed the House last month but faces an uncertain future in the Senate.

On the state level, funding for charging stations has come from a number of sources, including from a vehicle manufacturer.

Volkswagen, which sold diesel-powered vehicles equipped with illegal "defeat devices" that emitted ten to forty times above the NOx standard from 2009 to 2015, was required to give settlement funds to states impacted by its actions. According to the Maryland Department of the Environment, about 16,357 of these illegal vehicles were sold in Maryland, making the state eligible to receive nearly \$76 million.

"When the state got funding through the Volkswagen cheating scandal several years ago, we could allocate up to 15% of our entire settlement to electric vehicle charging," Grumbles said. "And we've done exactly that. That translates into over \$11 million for electric vehicle charging stations."

Maryland is also taking additional steps toward getting zero-emission vehicles on the road, including a public education campaign about the potential benefits of electric cars.

"This is a choice that will make sense for them for a lot of different reasons," Lewis said. "Some people know it has a better environmental profile and others want to make the choice because they want to save dollars and operating costs."

Lewis pointed to high fuel prices for gas-powered cars as a primary potential cost reduction when purchasing an electric car.

On a national level, Maryland has made it a priority to partner with other states to meet a net-zero goal of vehicle emissions.

Maryland joined a task force with California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island and Vermont, in which the



PHOTO CREDIT JAMES R. CARROLL/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

RIVERDALE PARK, Md. - Maryland is doing better than most states adapting to electric vehicles, according to a recent study. This is an electric charging station in the parking lot of the Whole Foods Market here.

states "agree to coordinate actions to support and ensure the successful implementation of our Zero-Emission Vehicle programs," according to a memo from the group.

Another element of the electric car wave is a shift in production, Carole Delion, Division Chief of Connected & Automated Transportation Systems in the State Highway Administration, told CNS.

"The push toward electric batteries is wild," Delion said. "So many companies are moving forward with them."

Lewis also pointed to the fact that electric cars require far fewer parts to manufacture compared to gas-powered vehicles, making the production of more electric cars a reasonable initiative.

"We have very aggressive goals (in Maryland)," Grumbles said about a zero-emission future. "And we're glad that the federal government now has very aggressive goals. If all the stars align, it is achievable. But it's going to take a lot of work."



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COMMENTARY



PHOTO COURTESY WASHINGTON REGIONAL TRANSPLANT COMMUNITY
Beth and Abbie Bachmore

Abbie's Gift: An Everlasting Miracle

Written by Beth Bachmore

Our daughter Abbie was not just any kid. At 12 years old, she was wise beyond her years—an old soul if you will. Sure, Abbie could be goofy and emotional, especially when it was her turn to wash dishes, but she was sweet, compassionate and carefree. Abbie was confident and had an infectious personality that drew people to her. Her unmatched energy might have something to do with keeping up with three older brothers.

Abbie excelled in the classroom, was a Girl Scout, liked riding her bike, loved music, playing soccer and swimming. Her favorite musical was "Hamilton" and we had planned to take her to New York City to see the show on Broadway for her 13th birthday. Sadly, that trip never happened.

In February 2021, when I came home from work my son Sam mentioned Abbie was breath-

ing strangely. She seemed okay, but I took her to the local ER in case. Doctors ran tests and discovered Abbie's blood sugar was elevated. They determined she likely had undiagnosed type 1 diabetes. Out of an abundance of caution, doctors recommended Abbie be admitted to Inova Fairfax Children's Hospital for a CT scan and to learn more about lifestyle changes we'd have to make due to her diagnosis.

Shortly after arriving at Inova Fairfax, Abbie unexpectedly coded in the CT, and doctors and nurses rushed into her room to "get her back." Standing outside the CT room with my husband in disbelief, we waited for news. She was critical but stable, so they brought her back to her room. She coded once more and was again able to be resuscitated. After doctors stabilized her, it seemed the worst was behind us as Abbie watched TV, texted her friends and communicated with us. But then another heartbreaking turn of

events. Abbie became agitated, eventually unresponsive, and was declared brain dead due to complications from acute onset Diabetic Keto Acidosis. Within 72 hours, we lost the heartbeat of our family. Now 10 months later, I still cannot put our shock into words.

Despite our grief, we decided to donate Abbie's organs. I knew without a doubt she would have wanted to help others. As devastating as it was to lose our baby girl, we knew if she couldn't use her organs why wouldn't we give them to someone who could? Now, her organ donation is a bright light in this painful experience. Still, we will miss Abbie's larger-than-life presence around the Christmas tree this year.

I feel at peace knowing the holidays will be very different (in a good way) for the four people Abbie saved through her lifesaving organ donations. A dad in his 30s received one of Abbie's kidneys and now can spend more time

with his family. Her other kidney went to a woman in her 20s who was very ill but now can follow her passion and travel the world. She also plans to work in nursing. A woman in her 60s received both of Abbie's lungs and with every renewed breath she takes I imagine she is grateful to have a second chance at life. Lastly, a teenage boy received Abbie's liver and now can go on to graduate high school and accomplish his dreams.

While our hearts are breaking celebrating the first Christmas without our Abbie, we know we would regret it if we didn't say yes to organ donation on her behalf. I understand people are hesitant to think about their mortality, but I implore you to be part of the miracle and register to be an organ, eye and tissue donor at BeADonor.org.

We founded the Abigail C Bachmore Memorial Foundation Inc. to keep Abbie's memory alive, which raises awareness about pediatric organ donation and pediatric diabetes. We hope to spread kindness and prevent other families from experiencing similar pain.

COMMUNITY

Maryland General Assembly Elects Davis State Treasurer

By ALEXANDRA RADOVIC
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Dec. 9, 2021)—The Maryland General Assembly on Thursday elected longtime Delegate Dereck Davis as the new state treasurer.

Members of the Legislature filled out paper ballots and the Senate leadership accompanied their votes into the House of Delegates chamber where, after a careful tally, nearly all the votes went to Davis.

Davis addressed fellow lawmakers after the vote.

"The incredible show of support means a great deal to me," he said. "It is with a great deal of humility and a spirit of Thanksgiving that I stand before you today as treasurer-elect for the state of Maryland."

Davis, 54, now-outgoing chair of the House Economic Matters Committee, as treasurer will serve on the Board of Public Works, among other duties.

Davis, D-Prince George's, was elected to the House of Delegates in 1994, according to the General Assembly website. He graduated from the University of Maryland with a bachelor's degree in political science in 1989 and a master's in public policy in 1999.

Davis said during a Special Joint Legislative Committee to Select the State Treasurer meeting on Nov. 29 that public service has been a lifelong dream for him.

He is "one of the youngest African-Americans ever elected to the Maryland General Assembly," according to his website.

"I'm motivated by Maryland and all that it has to offer its citizens," Davis said. "I want to continue to carry out the treasurer's duty to protect and safeguard state funds in these volatile times."

Davis, who represents District 25, was elected chairman of the House Economic Matters Committee in

2003, "becoming just the fourth African-American to chair a House standing committee and the first from Prince George's County," according to his website.

The treasurer of Maryland "is the principal custodian of the State's cash deposits, monies from bond sales, and other securities and collateral and directs the investments of those assets," according to a state website.

Davis, born in Washington, D.C., serves as deputy director for the Office of Community Relations in Prince George's County, a position he has held since 2011.

The delegate's website states that before becoming treasurer, Davis "successfully sponsored legislation that lowered the states drunk driving threshold to .08, raised the states minimum wage above the national rate (and) increased financial assistance for low income residents to pay electric bills."

During the November committee meeting, Davis said he plans to continue improving the state's finances in his new role.

"I want to continue to work towards fully funding the state's pension fund," he said. "I want to work to increase participation by Maryland residents in saving for their children's education."

Davis told lawmakers that despite his shy demeanor, he will "stand up and certainly speak and communicate the will and desires of the Legislature in a bipartisan fashion."

Davis will take the place of Nancy Kopp, who announced recently that she is stepping down after serving as treasurer since 2002. Kopp was the state's 23rd treasurer and became a member of the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame in 2012.

Kopp was "named by her colleagues as the most effective woman legislator and one of the ten most effective members of the House of Delegates," according to the Maryland State Treasurer website.

Chief Judge Joseph M. Getty Congratulates Student Winners of the Maryland Judiciary's 16th Annual Conflict Resolution Day Bookmark Art Contest

By PRESS OFFICERS
Maryland Courts

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Dec. 10, 2021)—The Maryland Judiciary's Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office (MACRO) held its 16th annual bookmark art contest and announced 10 student winners and 14 honorable mentions from schools throughout Maryland. Students were asked to create bookmarks on the theme of preventing or resolving conflicts peacefully. Contest winners in kindergarten through eighth grade were announced at an awards ceremony and reception for students and parents hosted by MACRO and featuring Court of Appeals of Maryland Chief Judge Joseph M. Getty.

"I am honored to meet with students and their families to congratulate them on their creativity and thoughtfulness in creating award-winning artwork featuring ways to peacefully resolve conflicts," said Chief Judge Getty, Court of Appeals of Maryland. "I am inspired by their work and pleased to know that young people are being educated about peace-making and conflict resolution, especially in these challenging times. This is a critical skill and I am encouraged to know that parents and teachers are working with students on conflict resolution and positive, peaceful alternatives to violence."

The Maryland Judiciary received 2,215 bookmark entries from students at 45 Maryland schools, and the winning entries were from Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Frederick, Harford, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, and Washington counties.

Chief Judge Getty announced the prize winners and congratulated each student. He discussed with them the messages conveyed in their original artwork. Students created bookmarks focused on themes of resolving or preventing conflicts, apologizing, respecting differences, talking things out, solving problems together, listening, tolerance, diversity, inclusion, building peace, respecting one another, consideration for others, and alternatives to violence. Ten cash prizes totaling \$750 were awarded to the 10 first, second, and third place winners.

Bookmark Contest winners:

Grades K-2: First Place Winner: Rhys W. Goodloe, Kent Island Elementary School, Queen Anne's County (Grade 2); Second Place Winners (tie): Aliya Nicholls, Matapeake Elementary School, Queen Anne's County (Grade 2); **Syeda Anaya, Glenn Dale Elementary School, Prince George's County (Grade 1);** Third Place Winner: Bryce Dye, Fountain Green Elementary School, Harford County (Grade 1); Honorable Mentions: Sarah Baird, Grasonville Elementary School, Queen Anne's County (Grade 2); Brent Myers, Fountain Green Elementary School, Harford County (Grade 1); Violet Dietzen, Chapel Hill Elementary School, Baltimore County (Grade 2); and Lucas Focht, Fountain Green Elementary School, Harford County (Grade 1).

Grades 3-5: First Place Winner: Maxwell Ibe, Heather Hills Elementary School, Prince George's

County (Grade 5); Second Place Winner: Anna Nelson, Seaverna Park Elementary School, Anne Arundel County (Grade 4); Third Place Winner: Brenden Nguyen, Bayside Elementary School, Queen Anne's County (Grade 4). Honorable Mentions: Maximos Piquero, Bayside Elementary School, Queen Anne's County (Grade 5); Melody Ellis, Bayside Elementary School, Queen Anne's County (Grade 3); Amelia Martinez, Bayside Elementary School, Queen Anne's County (Grade 5); Annabelle Colgan, Bel Air Elementary School, Harford County (Grade 5); and Eleanor Bradley, Grasonville Elementary School, Queen Anne's County (Grade 5).

Grades 6-8: First Place Winner: Nana Mensah, Western Heights Middle School, Washington County (Grade 8); Second Place Winner: Brynn Marcella Fazio, New Market Middle School, Frederick County (Grade 8); Third Place Winner: Maylie Houser, New Market Middle School, Frederick County (Grade 8). **Honorable Mentions: Laila Brianna-Marie Jones, Hyattsville Middle School, Prince George's County (Grade 7);** Olivia Hughes, New Market Middle School, Frederick County (Grade 7); Grace Lin, Rocky Hill Middle School, Montgomery County (Grade 6); Samantha Pantzar, New Market Middle School, Frederick County (Grade 7); and Jesse Shenge, Julius West Middle School, Montgomery County (Grade 7).

For more information about the Annual Conflict Resolution Day Bookmark Art Contest and to see the winning entries, visit: mdcourts.gov/macro/events/conflictresolutionday.

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

I Have VA Coverage; Should I Get Medicare Part B?

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

Dear Rusty: I am a 74 year old veteran enrolled with the VA. I have never had Medicare Part B. Should I? My only source of income is Social Security. **Signed: Retired Veteran**

Dear Retired Veteran: First, thank you for your service to our country. Like you, I use the VA for certain healthcare needs but, unlike you, I am also enrolled in Medicare Part B. The decision on whether to have both is a personal choice only you can make, but I'll give you some things to consider:

If you are 100% satisfied with your VA coverage, and if that coverage is conveniently available to you, and if the VA provides all the health care you will ever need wherever you happen to be, then enrolling in Medicare Part B may not be needed in your personal situation. For me, the nearest full service VA facility is about 40 miles away, while just about every imaginable private healthcare service is nearby. Thus, for convenience reasons, I am enrolled in Part B so I can use any doctor or medical service provider I want within just a few miles of my home. I also travel a fair amount, and I like the convenience and flexibility of using any healthcare provider I happen to be near, without worrying about finding a VA facility or VA-affiliated private provider. So, for me, it all comes down to convenience and flexibility to use any healthcare provider I want. I use my VA coverage when it's convenient for me, but otherwise use non-VA providers. But your needs may be different.

Your choice may especially be different since your only source of income is Social Security. There is a premium associated with Medicare Part B (\$170.10 per month for 2022) which would be taken from your Social Security payment, thus reducing it. That may create a financial issue for you, which is obviously an important consideration when deciding if you should also enroll in Part B to supplement your VA coverage. But there's yet another concern if you enroll in Part B now.

Since you're 74 and have relied solely on the VA for your healthcare needs since turning 65, you'll be subject to a Late Enrollment Penalty if you enroll in Part B now, and that penalty may make Part B even more unaffordable for you. Your VA health care coverage isn't considered a "creditable" alternative to Part B, which means that a Late Enrollment Penalty of 10% additional premium will be assessed for each full year you went without Part B coverage. For example, instead of the standard Part B premium of \$170.10, your premium with the late enrollment penalty could be about \$323 per month. And, unfortunately, that penalty lasts for as long as you are enrolled in Part B and will increase along with any increases to the Part B premium as time passes.

For your awareness, if Social Security is your only source of income, you may be eligible for your state's Medicare Savings Program which can assist you with paying Medicare premiums and copayments. If your income falls below the required thresholds you may be eligible for the Medicare Savings Program as described at this website: www.benefits.gov/benefit/4396.

Finally, the AMAC Foundation has a repository of helpful information for America's veterans, which you can browse at this link: www.amacfoundation.org/veteran-resources/.

The 2.4 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.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Arthur A. Jones-Dove Graduates From Leadership Maryland

Atkins Vice President and Upper Marlboro resident recognized at December 7 ceremony

By PRESS OFFICER
Leadership Maryland

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Dec. 8, 2021)—Leadership Maryland announced today that Arthur A. Jones-Dove, PE, PMP, CCM, MBA, PgMP, Vice President at Atkins, a member of SNC-Lavalin Group, has completed the professional development program dedicated to building a better Maryland by harnessing the strength of its local business and community leaders. Leader-



PHOTO COURTESY ATKINS, MEMBER OF THE SNC-LAVALIN GROUP

Arthur A. Jones-Dove

ship Maryland honored Jones-Dove, a resident of Upper Marlboro, and the entire Class of 2021 at its 28th annual graduation ceremony held December 7 at the Hilton Baltimore BWI Airport.

Jones-Dove was one of 49 applicants chosen by committee to complete Leadership Maryland's eight-month hands-on learning program. The class participated in an orientation and closing retreat that bookended five, two-day sessions focused on Maryland's five main geographic regions and the most vital issues impacting economic development, education, health and human services, criminal justice, the environment, and multi-culturalism/diversity across the state. The class was originally selected as the Class of 2020 but was postponed one year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"With the events of the past two years, our communities greatly need connectedness, shared vision, and resilient leadership, which makes our mission of empowering a diverse network of local leaders more important than ever," said Renée M. Winsky '05, president and Chief Executive Officer, Leadership Maryland. "With the understanding, connections, and clarity of

purpose gained from their program experience, the 49 members of the Class of 2021 are now better poised to make a positive impact, and we look forward to seeing all they'll accomplish for our state."

Leadership Maryland is open to senior-level executives with significant achievements in either their careers and/or their communities. Ideal Leadership Maryland members have a desire to learn more about Maryland's most critical issues and a personal commitment to be a force for positive change in their organizations, their communities, and their state. For more information about Leadership Maryland, please visit www.LeadershipMD.org, call 410-841-2101 or email Info@LeadershipMD.org.

Leadership Maryland is a professional development program dedicated to building a better Maryland by harnessing the strength of its local business and community leaders. Each year, as many as 52 diverse and accomplished executives from Maryland's public and private sectors are selected to come together as a class for an eight-month hands-on learning program focused on the state's most vital social, economic and environmental issues. The first Leadership Maryland class graduated in 1993, and the organization's alumni network now consists of more than 1,300 leaders from all industries and regions of the state. To learn more, please call Leadership Maryland at 410-841-2101 or visit www.LeadershipMD.org.

MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center Retains NICHE 'Exemplar' Status

Hospital continues commitment, dedication to providing exemplary nursing care for older adults through unique program

By CHERYL RICHARDSON
MedStar Health

CLINTON, Md (Dec. 16, 2021)—MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center has once again received the highest and most prestigious level of recognition as a 2021-2022 'Exemplar' member organization of Nurses Improving Care for Health-system Elders (NICHE). NICHE hospitals are world-class healthcare systems grounded in best practices and driven by innovation in which all older adults, age 65 and over, receive age-friendly, exemplary nursing care. This is true for older adults receiving care at MedStar Southern Maryland.

NICHE helps long-term and post-acute care organizations exceed quality standards set forth by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. NICHE offers education and resources to help member organizations succeed with the Patient Driven Payment Model, Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement, the Five-Star Quality Rating System, Phase 3 Implementation of Federal Regulations and more.

"The sustainment of our NICHE top-tier designation allows us to continually focus on caring for our elderly patients, a significant portion of our patient population," said Cody Legler, DNP, APRN, NP-BC, RN-BC, NEA-BC, CNL, vice president and chief nursing officer at MedStar Southern Maryland.

NICHE

NURSES IMPROVING CARE FOR HEALTHSYSTEM ELDERS

NICHE member organizations gain access to resources and tools that help nursing teams effectively meet the needs of older adult patients. Membership includes access to NICHE course offerings; training and consultation through the NICHE Leadership Training Program; member-only webinars and continuing education courses featuring the latest research, best practices and innovations for improving clinical outcomes; and the ability to collaborate and learn from peers in NICHE hospitals and other healthcare organizations around the world.

In addition, NICHE offers gerontological review courses for both nursing and certified nursing associates. Once the nurse finishes the gerontological resource nurse course, they can be well prepared to sit for the gerontological nursing certification. Certification in the nursing course is associated with being a content expert in the field.

"Maintaining the highest level of recognition exemplifies our commitment and passion to caring for older adults in our

community and beyond, and to maintain a positive practice environment by exceeding nursing-sensitive outcomes," said Jennifer Bierbaum, DNP, APRN-CNS, AGCNS-BC, GERO-BC, who is the NICHE program site sponsor and director of Nursing Practice and Innovation at MedStar Southern Maryland. "I am honored and proud to work with MedStar Southern Maryland and the continued focus on the care of the older adult."

To learn more about NICHE, visit <https://nicheprogram.org/>.

MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center, located in Clinton, Maryland, is a 182-bed acute care hospital serving the Washington, D.C., metro and Southern Maryland area. The hospital is focused on caring for patients and their loved ones utilizing advanced technology under the guidance of expert clinicians. Quality, Safety, Wellness, and Patient Satisfaction are achieved through a spirit of patient centered services that connect us to the community we serve. Visit MedStarSouthernMaryland.org.

Ledo Pizza Teams Up With University of Maryland Power Forward Donta Scott

Popular Maryland-based pizza brand signs Terrapins basketball player

By PRESS OFFICER
Ledo Pizza

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Dec. 16, 2021)—Already the Official Pizza of the Maryland Terrapins, Ledo Pizza is continuing to show its support for the athletic program by partnering with Terps basketball player Donta Scott.

The Maryland-based pizza brand is uniting with Scott to use his name, image and likeness in its second NCAA sponsorship, following a deal with Terps wide receiver Dontay Demus. Scott will serve as a Ledo Pizza ambassador through April 5, 2022.

The six-foot-eight-inch power forward from Philadelphia is a junior pursuing a major in Family Science. Scott was named to the 2022 Karl Malone Power Forward of the Year Watch List and rated the No. 49 player in the country by CBS Sports for the 2021-22 season. In the 2020-21 season, Scott recorded

Maryland's fifth-highest single-season three-point percentage in school history, shooting 43.8% from behind the arc. Scott also recently authored his first book, "WIRED DIFFERENTLY: My School Journey," a short story reflecting on his own experiences to encourage young people who learn differently to overcome the obstacles in front of them.

"We're beyond excited to sponsor another talented Terp athlete and honored to be able to team up with such a great young man like Donta," said Ledo Pizza CMO Will Robinson. "As the official pizza of the Maryland Terrapins, it couldn't be a better fit to have him rep our brand. We can't wait for fans to join us in cheering on the Terps this basketball season!"

Earlier this year, Ledo Pizza announced its partnership with University of Maryland Athletics to sponsor its men's football, basketball, soccer and lacrosse teams. Ledo Pizza's special in-stadium offer—eight-inch cheese and pep-

peroni pizzas—is available at all basketball home games.

At Ledo Pizza, every pizza is rolled to order with fresh handmade dough topped with high-quality ingredients, like its famous thick pepperoni and fresh sausage. The menu also features freshly baked subs, lasagna, spaghetti, jumbo wings, soup, salad and cheesy garlic bread. To learn more about Ledo Pizza, visit ledopizza.com.

Founded in 1955 in the suburbs of Maryland and now headquartered in Annapolis, Ledo Pizza is a regional pizza franchise that is dedicated to offering a fresh, affordable menu served in a family-friendly atmosphere. Ledo Pizza believes strongly in community involvement and the brand is a proud partner of the Baltimore Ravens. Ledo Pizza is also the Official Pizza of the Maryland Terrapins. Visit ledopizza.com follow the brand on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter:

Maryland Small Business Development Center

Commercial Leases-Complicated Contracts

January 6, 2022 • 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Location: Online

Cost: Free of Charge-Registration Required:

<https://mdsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/16981>

The Commercial Lease is almost certainly the most complicated contract that any small business will ever see or deal with (well except for loan documents). This session will expose attendees to the common features and common pitfalls of a commercial lease. In a post-pandemic world, tenants have more power than ever before, so we will also discuss points where tenants can negotiate more favorable terms. Presenter, Matt Johnston, Esquire

Get Your Marketing Kickstarted In 2022

January 6, 2022 • 12 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Location: Online

Cost: Free of Charge-Registration Required:

<https://mdsbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/16965>

Get the New Year started off right in this exciting session, you will discover the essential elements that need to go into building a winner marketing strategy to hit your 2022 lead generation goals. We will discuss several of the profitable marketing tactics and the pros and cons of each to help you decide if it should be part of your 2022 strategy. Presenter, Antonio Guerrero, Dott Digital Marketing

ENVIRONMENT

Antoine M. Thompson, Executive Director of GWRCCC Advocates for Electric Vehicles & Electric Vehicle Equity With Vice President Kamala Harris



Antoine Thompson discusses the importance of electric vehicles with Vice President Kamala Harris.

PHOTO COURTESY THE GREATER WASHINGTON REGION CLEAN CITIES COALITION

By PRESS OFFICER GWRCCC

WASHINGTON (Dec. 16, 2021)—On Monday, Dec. 13, 2021, in Brandywine, MD, Antoine M. Thompson, Executive Director of Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition shared with Vice President Kamala Harris and other key leaders, the importance of electric vehicles on improving the health for kids, families and communities. Vice President Harris launched the White House's Electric Vehicle Charging Networks, a key component of the Biden-Harris Infrastructure Law. The federal government is leading the effort to fund the installation of over 500,000 electric vehicle charging stations across the country.

“It is important that GWRCCC advocates for Electric Vehicle Equity so that urban, rural and communities of color are not left behind. Let’s learn from the lessons of broadband and the internet,” stated Antoine M. Thompson, Executive Director of GWRCCC. “We must ensure that this law does not expand the number of electric vehicle charging deserts

in the U.S.,” added Thompson. Other key officials and leaders at the event included U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen; US Senator Ben Cardin; U.S. Secretary of Energy, Jennifer Granholm; U.S. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer; National Climate Advisor, Gina McCarthy; Prince George’s County Executive, Angela Alsobrooks; Acting Director, Prince George’s County Department of Public Works, Martin Harris; and Mahidhar Reddy, founder and CEO of SemaConnect.

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?516718-1/vice-president-harris-briefing-electric-vehicle-investments>

The Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition fosters economic, environmental, and energy security by working to advance, affordable, domestic transportation fuels, energy efficient mobility systems, and other fuel-saving technologies and practices to improve air quality. Antoine is a former NYS Senator and former Chair of the New State Senate Committee on Environmental Conservation. For more information, visit www.gwrccc.org.

briefing-electric-vehicle-investments

The Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition fosters economic, environmental, and energy security by working to advance, affordable, domestic transportation fuels, energy efficient mobility systems, and other fuel-saving technologies and practices to improve air quality. Antoine is a former NYS Senator and former Chair of the New State Senate Committee on Environmental Conservation. For more information, visit www.gwrccc.org.

How Single-Use Plastics Are Driving Climate Change

(StatePoint) Did you know that single-use plastic is a major driver of climate change and is harmful to human health—even when it’s recycled? According to a new report, leading consumer goods companies are driving the expansion of plastic production. And by doing so, are threatening the global climate and the health and safety of communities around the world.

The Greenpeace USA report, “The Climate Emergency Unpacked: How Consumer Goods Companies are Fueling Big Oil’s Plastic Expansion,” exposes the business links between the world’s largest consumer goods and fossil fuel companies. Without this transparency, the report’s authors say that consumer goods companies are largely able to avoid accountability for environmental or human rights violations committed by the companies that supply plastic for their packaging.

“The same well-known brands driving the plastic pollution crisis are helping fuel the climate crisis,” says Greenpeace USA global plastics project leader, Graham Forbes. “Despite their best efforts to appear climate-friendly, consumer goods companies are working alongside the fossil fuel industry to expand plastic

production, which could lock the world into catastrophic emissions levels and a planet warmed beyond saving.”

Indeed, over 99 percent of plastic is made from fossil fuels, and according to industry estimates, plastic production could triple by 2050. This projected growth would increase global emissions from the plastic life cycle by over 50 percent on 2019 levels by 2030, equivalent to nearly 300 coal-fired power plants. This is the same timeframe that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has warned human caused emissions must fall by nearly 50 percent to limit warming to 1.5 degrees C.

The report also details how single-use plastics hurt people who live on the frontlines of its production. Plastic production has been linked to health issues like cancer and asthma, and these impacts are disproportionately felt by poor communities and communities of color.

Despite the many adverse impacts of single-use plastic packaging, the report finds that consumer goods companies have partnered with fossil fuel companies for decades to advocate recycling, while oppos-

See CLIMATE Page A7



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Teach Kids How to Protect the Earth

(Family Features) Teaching kids about the environment from an early age starts lifelong habits and creates awareness about the way humans affect the Earth. Connecting those lessons to school is an easy way to reinforce how the whole family can make everyday changes that make a difference.

Lower lunchtime impact. Between brown bags, baggies and other packaging waste, school lunches generate a heap of trash. Instead, encourage kids to pick colorful reusable lunchboxes they can use again and again. Bento-style boxes add kid-friendly fun while keeping food separated so you can skip plastic baggies. Another earth-friendly suggestion for school lunch: instead of single-serve products, buy larger bulk packages you can use to fill reusable containers.

Manage transportation. Getting kids to and from school affects the environment in multiple ways, from energy consumption to pollution. You can reduce your family’s impact by having kids ride the bus or carpooling with others in your neighborhood. Avoid idling while at school pickup and drop off and advocate for your school district to use clean energy options, like propane, for its transportation fleet.

According to the Propane Education &

Research Council, propane school buses offer multiple benefits for school districts and students alike. Not only do propane buses save school districts’ money, but they also reduce harmful emissions, giving students a healthier ride to school.

Find more information at BetterOurBuses.com.

Stop water waste. Over the past year, ac-

tainers, while also encouraging kids to practice healthy habits by staying hydrated throughout the day.

Skip the supply splurge. While there’s something exciting about breaking open a brand new box of crayons or markers, it’s not really necessary to buy all new supplies year after year. Reusing what gets sent home at the end of the year saves money and prevents waste of still-functional supplies that would otherwise take up space in landfills.

Encourage resourceful recycling. Get kids excited about recycling by designing and decorating recycling bins using leftover materials around the house. When it’s fun and they’ve had a hand in creating the tools, kids are more likely to remember to put recycling in its place.

Include the whole family. Family time can be a precious commodity while school is in session, so make it meaningful when you can by bringing everyone together for a cause.

Take the family to a local recycling center for an afternoon of volunteering or gather everyone for a pick-up day at a nearby park.

School is often the center of kids’ worlds, so bringing lessons about protecting the environment into the education setting is a natural way to introduce them to ideas for protecting the Earth and its resources.



A Better Option for Buses

When it comes to schools and education, paying more attention to earth-friendly practices isn’t limited to just your home. Switching to propane buses is one of the main ways school districts are updating their transportation plans to ensure every child has a safe, clean, healthy ride to school.

Energy Mix

Electric vehicles make sense for several uses, including the passenger cars parents use to drive their students to school, but propane has a fuel range and performance better suited for school transportation vehicles that travel long distances at a time.

Energy Equity

Generally, the more affordable energy is, the more equitable its distribution will be. The cost of a propane school bus and its refueling infrastructure is one of the most affordable options for school districts. Propane buses are nearly four times less expensive than electric buses.

Plus, school districts save money throughout the lifetime of propane buses. Propane school buses cost 30-50% less per mile to operate than diesel, according to the Propane Education & Research Council, and some districts are saving more than \$1 per gallon, which can add up to thousands of dollars over a single school year. That’s money that can go back into classrooms.

Carbon Footprint

In most of the United States, propane school buses are a lower carbon option than electric school buses charged using the electric grid. New innovations in the industry have also led to a renewable propane option for school buses, which ensures low-carbon options well into the future. Because it’s produced from renewable raw materials, renewable propane is a lower carbon option than conventional propane and is cleaner than other energy sources.

Harmful Emissions

While diesel exhaust is classified by the World Health Organization as a carcinogen, propane buses don’t expose students to the same harmful emissions. Propane school bus engines lower greenhouse gases and other harmful emissions to near-zero levels, which improves air quality and eliminates concerns about breathing-related issues.

In fact, propane school buses significantly reduce the harmful emissions that are federally regulated due to their negative impact on human health and are a known trigger for issues like asthma, bronchitis and other respiratory problems.



