

# The Prince George's Post



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## Library Commemorates Military Service of Black Marylanders on July 26

By SILVANA QUIROZ  
Prince George's County  
Memorial Library System

LARGO, Md. (July 15, 2022)—As part of the "In Freedom's Name" exhibit, the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is honored to present an exceptional panel to discuss the significant contributions of Black Marylanders through military service. This special event marks the closing of the 5-month tour of "In Freedom's Name" throughout Prince George's County. "This exhibit and special event connect the history of service and sacrifice of Black Marylanders to contemporary life in the local community," said Nicholas A. Brown, COO for Communication and Outreach.

The event will be held on Tuesday, July 26 at 6:30pm–7:30pm at the Oxon Hill Branch Library (6200 Oxon Hill Road, Oxon Hill, MD 20745). It will feature a panel of the exhibit's curators and local leaders in the veterans community, including: The Honorable Mel Franklin, Council Member At-Large, Prince George's County Council; Brigadier General Janeen L. Birkhead, Commander, Maryland Army National Guard; Dr. James Dula, Prince George's County Office of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Glenn T. Johnston, Chair, Public History & Humanities, Stevenson University; Shane Warren, Exhibit Sponsor and Owner, Warren Builds LLC.

This event is sponsored by Warren Builds, Council Member Mel Franklin Jr., PGCMLS, and the Prince George's County Office of Human Rights.

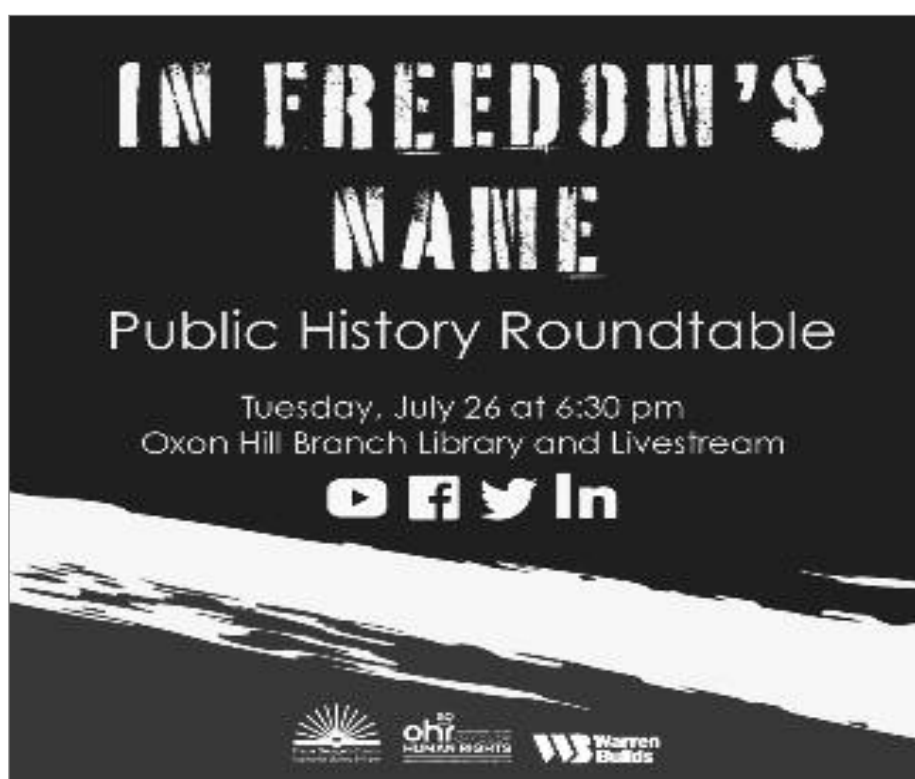
"In Freedom's Name: Maryland's Black Men and Women and their Defense of Liberty" is a touring exhibit that celebrates the military service and sacrifice of Black Marylanders throughout history. The exhibit features 38 panels that include 63 major stories and 245 photographs and im-

ages. It explores the stories of Marylanders and Prince Georgians whose courage and service are an inspiration for young people and adults alike.

Developed by the Maryland Military Historical Society, in partnership with Stevenson University's Department of Public History & Humanities, the exhibition at PGCMLS is sponsored by Warren Builds and County Council Member-at-Large Mel Franklin. "In Freedom's Name" was previously displayed at Baltimore's Enoch Pratt Free Library, the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of African American History and Culture, and public libraries in Anne Arundel, Frederick, and Howard counties.

For more information to attend the rest of the "In Freedom's Name" exhibit visit [pgcmls.info](http://pgcmls.info)

IMAGE COURTESY OF PGCMLS



## Hogan Administration Announces \$5 Million in Grants to be Awarded to Heritage Projects by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority

By DAVID BUCK  
Md. Department of Planning

CROWNSVILLE, Md. (July 14, 2022)—The Hogan administration announced today that 107 matching grants totaling \$5.1 million were awarded to Maryland nonprofits, local jurisdictions, and other heritage tourism organizations by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA). Grant funds support heritage tourism projects and activities that attract visitors and expand economic development and tourism-related job creation throughout Maryland.

"Heritage tourism is an economic development tool that creates jobs and brings visitors to the state while making our communities better places to live and work," said Governor Larry Hogan. "Our administration is proud that this funding will allow for 107 projects to move forward and congratulate Maryland's Heritage Areas and their tourism partners for their support in changing Maryland for the better."

Organizations receiving grant awards include museums, parks, educational organizations, and other entities that steward and cel-

ebate the unique cultural and natural resources located within one of Maryland's Heritage Areas.

MHAA oversees Maryland's system of 13 locally-administered, certified Heritage Areas. Today, all Maryland counties and Baltimore City have at least part of a state-certified Heritage Area within their boundaries. Heritage Areas foster broad public-private partnerships to preserve and enhance the best of Maryland's historic sites and towns, unspoiled natural landscapes, and enduring traditions. These tangible links to both place and past remind residents that they have a special piece of the American story to treasure and share with others and that, in doing so, are contributing to the economic well-being of Maryland's communities.

Maryland's Heritage Areas contribute to Maryland's economy by preserving and enhancing the places that attract cultural and heritage tourists—people who focus their travels on historic sites, museums, cultural activities, or the natural beauty of Maryland's Atlantic and Chesapeake Bay coastal

See GRANTS Page A5

## House Passes Veterans' Health Care Bill with Funding for Two Maryland Veterans Clinics

By MAYA VALENTINE  
Office of U.S. Congressman Steny Hoyer

WASHINGTON, DC (July 14, 2022)—Today, Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05), Senators Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and Ben Cardin (D-MD), and Congressmen Dutch Ruppersberger (MD-02), John Sarbanes (MD-03), Kweisi Mfume (MD-07), and Anthony G. Brown (MD-04) praised House passage of legislation yesterday to open two veterans clinics in Baltimore and Prince George's County. The bipartisan Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act (PACT Act) which passed yesterday by a vote of 342-88, provides healthcare benefits for all generations of toxic-exposed veterans for the first time in the nation's history and will improve access to care for all those who served in our nation's armed forces. The bill now returns to the Senate for final approval, after which it will go to President Biden to be signed into law.

The lawmakers fought to include authorization and funding for the two Maryland veterans' health clinics—one in the Baltimore region and another in Prince George's County. \$43 million will support the construction of a new Baltimore Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC), which will replace and expand the outpatient services currently provided at the existing Baltimore VA Clinic Annex on Fayette Street while reducing the strain on the Baltimore VA Medical Center. \$32 million is set aside

for the construction of a Prince George's CBOC; this new facility will be significantly larger than the existing clinic in the southern part of the county and represent a major upgrade for area veterans, as the new clinic will be equipped to provide services beyond the capabilities of the current clinic as well as the Southeast D.C. CBOC.

"The values of our state are reflected in how we treat and care for our veterans," said Congressman Steny Hoyer. "This is a strong piece of legislation that will make a difference in the lives of Prince George's County veterans and their families, and I was so glad to ensure it passed the House. I look forward to continue working with the Congressional Delegation in the House to expand and improve the services and resources available to our veteran communities."

"We've got to keep our promises to veterans who put themselves at risk to serve our country, and that includes ensuring they have access to high-quality health care. The bipartisan PACT Act will do just that—investing \$75 million in new and upgraded outpatient clinics that will help deliver much-needed services to Maryland veterans," said Senator Van Hollen. "This is a big win for our communities and a critical step forward in improving the network of care for veterans across our state while also making a historic investment in care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxins. That's why we'll continue working to get it to the President's desk so it can be signed into law as soon as possible."

"Maryland veterans served this nation with honor and they deserve access to top-notch health care services in a timely and convenient manner," said Senator Cardin. "Providing health care benefits to the thousands of American veterans exposed to toxins emanating from burn pits is essential. Expanding the network of Community Based Outpatient Clinics available to Baltimore area veterans and greatly upgrading the facilities and services for veterans

See VETERANS Page A3

## At NGA Summer Meeting, Governor Hogan Advances Bipartisan Discussions on School and Community Safety

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL  
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (July 15, 2022)—As part of the National Governors Association (NGA) Summer Meeting in Portland, ME, Governor Larry Hogan today took part in a bipartisan discussion with fellow governors on school and community safety. The discussion included a focus on Maryland's Safe to Learn Act, which the governor enacted in 2018.

"Maryland's Safe to Learn Act is a national model for common sense reforms to protect schools, hire and train school resource officers, and expand behavioral health services," said Gov-

ernor Hogan. "The nation's governors are committed to working together on solutions that will provide more tools to help keep our schools safe."

The governor is a member of the NGA's bipartisan working group that will study and make recommendations designed to combat gun violence and provide families confidence in the safety of their schools and communities.

Enacted with bipartisan support, the Safe to Learn Act expanded funding and responsibilities for the Maryland Center For School Safety (MCSS)—including grants to conduct school safety assessments, improve the physical safety of school facilities, and im-

plement best practices to enhance safety; created aggressive statewide standards for school safety, requiring school resources officer or equivalent law enforcement coverage in every school system; required standardized training and certification for school resource officers; required each school system to have behavioral health teams to identify and provide interventions for students who pose a threat to safety.

Building on the Safe to Learn Act, the state created a new Safe Schools Maryland tip line devoted to streamlining the reporting of possible threats to students and school facilities. Trained professionals are available to respond to reports 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, by calling 1-833-632-7233.

In addition to Governor Hogan, the following governors participate in the working group on behalf of all 55 states and territories: Governor Asa Hutchinson (AR), Governor Phil Murphy (NJ), Governor Spencer Cox (UT), Governor Kathy Hochul (NY), Governor Ned Lamont (CT), Governor Henry McMaster (SC), and Governor Gretchen Whitmer (MI).

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You can learn more about the Safe Schools Maryland tip line and all of the additional resources available thanks to the Safe to Learn Act, at <https://schoolsafety.maryland.gov/Pages/Tipline>.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Governor Hogan at the Summer NGA Meeting in Portland, ME on July 15, 2022, discussing Maryland's Safe to Learn Act and its resources, such as the Safe School Maryland tip line.

### INSIDE

#### Register for Free Back-to-School Shots, Including COVID Vaccines

The County Health Department is encouraging families to be sure their child has the required immunizations ahead of the upcoming school year.

Around the County, Page A2

#### Finally a Pro Coach for the PG Valor Pro Team

PG Valor basketball team is now an entity under PG Valor Sports, LLC ... But that's not the only recent upgrade for the organization.

Community, Page A3

#### Hoyer Statement on House Passage of the FY2023 National Defense Authorization Act

This legislation will make our nation safer and better able to respond to threats while securing key American interests around the world ...

Commentary, Page A4

#### Storm Aftermath: Who Pays for Damage Caused by Trees Falling on Your Home or Car?

Now that the storm has passed and clean-up is underway, what may not be clear is who pays for repairs.

Business and Finance, Page A5

#### NASA Reveals Webb Telescope's First Images of Unseen Universe

The dawn of a new era in astronomy is here as the world gets its first look at the full capabilities of NASA's James Webb Space Telescope.

Environment, Page A6

# TOWNS and NEIGHBORS

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

### Prince George's County Fair Coming to Upper Marlboro in September!

Our County Fair is back! And will be at the Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro on September 8–11. It'll all be there: 4-H Livestock and Crafts, Beautiful Baby Contest, Vendors, Exhibitors, Performers and Rides.

Hours: Thursday and Friday, 5 to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission: Up to age 13, \$5; ages 13 and older, \$6. Thursday night is free for ages 55+.

As for Rides: Single ticket, \$1.75; Book of 30, \$40; Book of 50, \$60.

The Prince George's County Fair began in 1842 as a friendly gathering for local farmers to showcase their produce and livestock and have a little fun. It has the distinction of being the oldest running Fair in Maryland.

It started out as mostly livestock and field crops, eventually came to include women's arts as well, with competitions for the best jams, jellies, canned goods, pies, breads, cookies, clothing, quilts and handicrafts. It was (and is) quite an honor to be deemed the Best in the County!

By the way, volunteers are needed! To volunteer or for more information about the Fair, call 301-404-5566.

### Town of Morningside: National Night Out

National Night Out 2022 will be celebrated in Morningside on Tuesday, August 2, as the biggest Crime Prevention event of the year. Lock your doors and spend the evening outside with your neighbors. Hours are 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Enjoy free food, drinks, games, music, give-a-ways, police demos and more. Join your neighbors, celebrating the Morningside community and police partnership!

### The Morningside Independence Day Parade

I was there. Where were you?  
I got ready for the Parade by pur-

chasing American flags for the Daughters of St. Anne who have a convent in Skyline. They have come here from Eritrea, in Eastern Africa, to work with the Eritrean community in the Washington area.

I walked over with them, and met up with grandson Conor McHale and his daughter Mary. And we waved our flags big time, as did many all along the parade route, from the firehouse to the VFW.

The Parade featured entries from the Town, including Mayor Cann and Council Members, Police Department and the Fire Department. Members of the VFW Auxiliary drove by, handing out poppies. And about a dozen candidates for the upcoming election drove past, some finding time to shake hands. Candy was tossed and granddaughter Mary was quick to grab it up.

A man in one of the cars leaned out as he passed the flag-waving Sisters and hollered, "God bless you!"

As the parade came to an end, there was about a mile of cars backed up, and, I assume, some pretty mad drivers.

I missed the members of Suitland Road Baptist Church who used to set up chairs and hand out water. I was, however, delighted to have my friend Kathy Elborne show up. And Wayne Gordon was there with his camera. But there were very few under the Baptist tree with me this year.

The parade ended all too soon. May it be longer next year!

### Neighbors and Other Good People

In Ruth Sanford's obituary last week, I failed to mention her grandson Craig Alan Crowl, son of Marjorie and John Crowl. He joined the U.S. Marines at 18, right out of high school, and served six years before dying in a Marine operation in 1996. He was only 24, surely a great sadness in Ruth's life.

My sister-in-law, Evelyn Mudd, died after a long illness on July 10 in Saginaw, Mich. I'll tell you next week a little

more about this amazing woman who married my brother Tom.

Congratulations to Kristen and Julian Ehiem on the birth of their twins, Ambrose and Teresa. Before her marriage to Julian, Kristen was Parish Secretary at St. Philip's Church.

### Changing Landscape

County Executive Angela Alsobrooks recently announced plans for the redevelopment of the county's former regional hospital (Prince George's Hospital) site in Cheverly into a \$500 million mixed-use area with shops, hotels, grocery stores and more. The project will span 26 acres and include 1,000 housing units, 40,000 square feet of retail outlets and space for grocery stores and a new hotel. The Prince George's Hospital Center closed in 2021. The new University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center has replaced it.

Tropical Smoothie Café, 7607 Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, hosted its Grand Opening on the 4th of July at the Osborne Shopping Center. Hours are 7 a.m.–9 p.m. M–F, 8 a.m.–9 p.m. Sat., 8 a.m.–9 p.m. Sunday. 301-574-8069. (Other Tropical Smoothie locations: 8805 Woodyard Rd., Clinton; Joint Base Andrews; and coming up in Ritchie Station Court.)

A growing mix of tenants have signed on with National Harbor developer Peterson Cos. for space at the waterfront development since the start of the pandemic, including Bombay Street Food, Silver Diner, and Tom's Watch Bar.

Fogo will replace McLoone's Pier House, which opened in 2010 but closed at 141 National Plaza amid the pandemic. The space overlooks the water and includes patio seating. The Fogo chain started in 1979 and features fresh cuts of fire-roasted meats, along

See MORNINGSIDE Page A7

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY REV. SHEMAIAH STRICKLAND

Rev. Shemaiah Strickland's first sermon with the Nottingham Myers and Christ Church United Methodist Churches Cooperative Parish took place on July 4, 2021, which proved fitting given her first year of ministry.

Immediately upon entering the pulpit, Pastor Strickland rolled up her sleeves and went to work familiarizing herself with the two churches and assessing their unique needs. In July, the Parish held an official Welcome Service at Nottingham Myers UMC for the new pastor. That month, Pastor Strickland was also featured in *By Faith* magazine, and Christ UMC reopened their doors.

By September, everyone had discovered Pastor's passion for singing, but we had the opportunity to sing happy birthday to her as she relished turning thirty. The music continued when she orchestrated a special YouTube concert featuring the Lomax sisters of the Washington Metropolitan area.

October was a particularly exciting month. We collectively celebrated Pastor Appreciation Month and cheered as she was commissioned as a Provisional Elder in the UMC. We celebrated Men's Day and ended the month with Vision Casting Sunday.

Throughout the holiday season Pastor Strickland oversaw the charity efforts of both churches. The new year began with a transformative Self Care Series, followed by men women's Bible studies. Little did we know that the Pastor was just getting started.

Our Lenten Season journey to the cross began in March when Pastor was moved to collaborate with local churches to deliver a series of special worship services and events. March was certainly a full month, but we collectively paused to marvel over how stunning the parish's women look in their hats during Women's Day weekend. In April, Pastor took part in the Seven Last Words Service at Union Memorable Methodist Church. We kicked off May with an amazing three-day Clean State Revival and ushered in the warm weather with a second round of Bible studies, and a Mental Health series.

What a year. We shared in many of Pastor Strickland's firsts. Along the way she has empowered, enlightened, energized, and at times, exhausted, the congregations she affectionately refers to as Jacob and Esau. We stand in awe and anticipation of what manifestations and blessing await. *Information received from Joyce Lee THE MESSENGER (Nottingham Myers and Christ United Methodist Churches Cooperative Parish July 2022 Newsletter).*

### BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

Join the Bowie State University Department of Athletics for the 11th Annual Bulldog Golf Classic on Tuesday, October 11, at the Country Club at Woodmore. Shotgun start at 8:30 a.m.

Registration fees through September 1, 2022, per foursome: \$650; per golfer: \$175; Golf Clinic: \$100. Golf

Classic includes eighteen holes, greens fee and golf cart; breakfast and lunch during tournament; complimentary beverages; gift bags; prizes and much more. The Bulldog Golf Classics is a SOLD-OUT event year after year. Do not delay in securing your spot. Register today. For more information, visit the website: bowiestate.edu/bulldogclassic.

### BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Best of Live at 5 all Summer Long. This month we are revisiting All THE WAY LIVE (Our Giving Tuesday marathon) with some of BSU's BOLDEST supporters. Week of July 4, 2022, spotlight was "All the Way Live" with Dr. Monifa McKnight.

### PG COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Prince George's County Health Department recommends vaccinations for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Protect our babies from COVID-19. Children 6 months to 4 years old are now eligible to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Talk to your child's health care provider if you have questions.

Following reviews of clinical trial data, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) authorized and recommended Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines for children 6 months through 5 years old. Data shows both vaccine brands provide safe and effective defenses for this age group against COVID-19 infection and its most severe symptoms.

Visit [health.mypgce.us/covid-vaccine](https://health.mypgce.us/covid-vaccine) or [covidvax.mary.gov](https://covidvax.mary.gov) to locate vaccine providers and make appointments. Residents can also call Maryland's GoVAX. Call Center at 1-855-MD-GOVAX. *Information received from Council Connections.*

### SUMMMER INTERNS

Council Chair Calvin S. Hawkins, II welcomed summer interns to the Legislative Branch. Student interns are taking their place in County Council offices at the Wayne K. Curry Administration Building in Largo and Council Chair Calvin S. Hawkins, II was excited to greet them. These high school and college students, part of the Prince George's County "Alsobrooks Summer Passport Experience," will have meaningful work experiences in the offices of Council Members and throughout Legislative Branch Administration divisions. We look forward to their new ideas and contributions. *Information received from Council Connections.*

### RISE ABOVE ALL ELSE

The 2022 virtual celebration of achievement celebrating and supporting our youth will be presented by the Kappa Alpha Psi Foundation tonight, Thursday, July 21, at 6:30 p.m. Pre-Show, 7:30 P.M. Program. Keynote Speaker: Representative Val Demings. "We Rise Above All Else." "Encourage, uplift, support, serve, sisterly love," Theresa L. Foster 14th National Silhouettes President.

## Around the County

### Bowie Resident Inducted into Honor Society for First-Year Success

MANCHESTER, NH (July 11, 2022)—Saint Anselm College student **Brandon Potts** of Bowie, MD, a criminal justice major in the class of 2025, has been accepted into Alpha Lambda Delta, a national honor society for first-year success, for the 2021–2022 academic year.

To be eligible for invitation, students must be enrolled full-time at an institution with an active chapter of Alpha Lambda Delta and have a 3.5 grade point average or higher in their first semester or first year.

Alpha Lambda Delta was founded in 1924 by Maria Leonard, the Dean of Women at the University of Illinois, to recognize academic excellence among freshman women. One year prior, Dean Thomas Arkle Clark had founded Phi Eta Sigma, an honor society to recognize academic excellence among freshman men. Both groups became coeducational in 1976 in response to Title IX. Alpha Lambda Delta has grown to over 280 chapters and has initiated over one million students.

—Paul Pronovost, Saint Anselm College

### Art Works Now: Creative Aging—Making Art Accessible for All Ages!

Through the Lifetime Arts organization and the National Guild for Community Arts Education, Art Works Now learned the best practices for serving students who are 55 years of age and up. After many years of successful programming through the city of Hyattsville's "Hyattsville is Home" programs, we offered a more technically focused, sequential learning, student-driven, and completely FREE art education program for the older adult learners in our community. Now after 3 years and expanding from 1 class offering to 6, we are eager to see where the creativity and needs of our students lead us!

Learn more about Art Works Now and view their free courses at <https://www.artworksnow.org/programs/#CA>

—From Council Member Deni Taveras, News You Can Use Newsletter

### Register for Free Back-to-School Shots, Including COVID Vaccines

The County Health Department is encouraging families to be sure their child has the required immunizations ahead of the upcoming school year. If your child needs immunizations, including the COVID-19 vaccine, make an appointment at one of the free clinics hosted at Prince George's County Public Schools' school-based wellness centers throughout July. The COVID-19 vaccine will be available for families who make back-to-school immunization appointments. Visit [health.mypgce.us/immunizations](https://health.mypgce.us/immunizations) for additional details. Make your appointment now!

—From the Prince George's County Council, Council Connections Newsletter

### County Council Adopts Resolution Concerning Bowie-Mitchellville and Vicinity Sectional Map Amendment

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. (July 15, 2022)—The Prince George's County Council, during session on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, unanimously adopted CR-089-2022, legislation initiating a new Sectional Map Amendment (SMA) to comprehensively rezone land and implement the approved land use and development policies approved in the 2022 Bowie-Mitchellville and Vicinity Master Plan. The SMA solely applies to properties within the 2022 Approved Bowie-Mitchellville and Vicinity Master Plan boundary.

Council Chair Calvin S. Hawkins, II, noted the SMA as an important "next step" in the implementation of the Bowie-Mitchellville Master Plan. "The SMA is an important next step following Council approval of the Bowie-Mitchellville and Vicinity Master Plan and we are pleased to see the forward momentum. The Council is continuing to embrace development and land use policies that support thriving communities and help to achieve their full potential."

The Bowie-Mitchellville and Vicinity SMA is the second phase of the 2022 Approved Bowie-Mitchellville and Vicinity Master Plan. This Master Plan was approved by the County Council, sitting as the District Council on land-use matters, on March 8, 2022, with the adoption of CR-018-2022. ...

The SMA covers the northeastern portion of Prince George's County, approximately 59 square miles, including planning areas 71A (Bowie and Vicinity), 71B (City of Bowie), 74A (Mitchellville and Vicinity), and 74B (Collington and Vicinity) in their entirety. New zoning regulations will be applied to select properties in the plan area based on the recommendations of the Approved Master Plan.

—From the Prince George's County Council, Council Connections Newsletter

### Medstar Health Celebrates National Recognition for Stroke Care at Medstar Southern Maryland Hospital Center

CLINTON, Md. (July 11, 2022)—MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center has received the American Heart Association's Gold Plus Get With The Guidelines®—Stroke quality achievement award for its commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines, ultimately leading to more lives saved and reduced disability.

"We are incredibly pleased to recognize MedStar Southern Maryland for its commitment to caring for patients with stroke," said Steven Messe, M.D., chairperson of the Stroke System of Care Advisory Group. "Participation in Get With The Guidelines is associated with improved patient outcomes, fewer readmissions and lower mortality rates—a win for health care systems, families and communities."

MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center is located in Clinton, Maryland. For more information, visit [MedStarSouthernMaryland.org](https://www.MedStarSouthernMaryland.org).

—From Cheryl Richardson, MedStar Health

# COMMUNITY

## Out on the Town:

Upcoming Event Highlights for July 21–July 27

### In Freedom's Name Touring Exhibit at Oxon Hill Branch Library

Thursday, July 22–Tuesday, July 26, 2022  
*In Freedom's Name: Maryland's Black Men and Women and their Defense of Liberty* is a touring exhibit that celebrates the military service and sacrifice of Black Marylanders throughout history. The exhibit features 38 panels that include 63 major stories and 245 photographs and images. It explores the stories of Marylanders and Prince Georgians whose courage and service are an inspiration for young people and adults alike.

Oxon Hill Branch Library is open Monday 10 am-6 pm, Tuesday-Wednesday 12-8 pm, Thursday-Friday 10 am-6 pm, Saturday 10 am-5 pm, and Sunday 1-5pm.

Cost: FREE  
 Ages: All ages welcome  
 Location: Oxon Hill Branch Library,  
 6200 Oxon Hill Rd, Oxon Hill, Md. 20745  
 Contact: 240-455-5451

### Prince George's Shakespeare in the Parks presents *The Tragedy of Macbeth*

Friday, July 22, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, July 24, 3 p.m.  
 Inspired by the novel-turned-movie *Gangs of New York*, this 1850's interpretation features some of the region's best stage combat artists and seasoned actors. Paired with Shakespeare's iconic language, this fast paced 90-minute adaptation will leave audiences breathless. Bring your lawn chair, a picnic, and enjoy the Bard under the stars with Prince George's Shakespeare in the Parks!

Cost: FREE  
 Ages: All ages welcome!  
 Locations:  
 – Friday: Meadowside Nature Center,  
 5100 Meadowside Lane, Rockville, MD 20855  
 – Sunday: Prince George's Publick Playhouse,  
 5445 Landover Rd, Hyattsville, Md. 20784  
 Contact: 301-446-3232; TTY 301-699-2544

### Animal Services Volunteer Orientation

Saturday, July 23, 10 a.m.  
 If you are 18 years old or older and are interested in helping with animals at the Animal Services Facility and Adoption Center (ASFAC) visit our website at [www.princegeorgespets4us.com](http://www.princegeorgespets4us.com) or call 301-780-7200 to inquire how you could help! We are seeking volunteers to help walk dogs, play with cats, assist with feeding, and more  
 Ages: 18+  
 Location: Animal Services Facility and Adoption Center,  
 3750 Brown Station Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772  
 Contact: [www.princegeorgespets4us.com](http://www.princegeorgespets4us.com), 301-780-7200

### I Spy: A Children's Living History Program

Tuesday and Wednesday, July 26 and 27, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.  
 Kids learn real 18th century spying techniques during a hands-on interactive spy mission for General George Washington. Find out how the Continental Army successfully outwitted the British and won the Revolutionary War. No registration required—drop in any time between 11 am and 2 pm. Groups of 10 or more, please call ahead.

Cost: FREE  
 Ages: 6–12  
 Location: Darnall's Chance House Museum,  
 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Dr,  
 Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772  
 Contact: 301-952-8010; [DarnallsChance@pgparks.com](mailto:DarnallsChance@pgparks.com)

### Jazz on the Lawn: Downtown Tumbao

Wednesday, July 27, 7–8 p.m.  
 Pack a picnic, grab a blanket or lawn chair, and enjoy some of the finest local jazz musicians while relaxing on Riversdale's grounds. Downtown Tumbao brings Latin jazz and colorful rhythms to this concert sponsored in part by the Maryland State Arts Council and the Town of Riverdale Park.

Cost: FREE  
 Ages: All ages welcome!  
 Location: Riversdale House Museum,  
 4811 Riverdale Rd, Riverdale Park, Md. 20737  
 Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

## Bowie's Sunday Sunset Concert Series

Join us every Sunday evening from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend for a concert in the park. Concerts are free and begin at 7 p.m. and last one hour. If you are unable to attend in person, you can still view the concerts live on Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. on Comcast Channel 71 & 996 or Verizon Channel 10. Note: *Concerts may be canceled due to inclement weather.*

### Upcoming Performances:

Jul 24: Big Band Theory of Baltimore (Big Band)  
 Jul 31: Annapolis Bluegrass Coalition (Bluegrass/Country)  
 Aug 7: 40 Dollar Fine (Classic Rock)  
 Aug 14: US Navy Sea Chanters (Broadway)  
 Aug 21: Smooth Band (R&B/Jazz)  
 Aug 28: US Navy Cruisers (R&B/Classic Rock)  
 Sep 4: 4 the Road (R&B/Classic Rock)

Cost: FREE  
 Ages: All ages welcome!  
 Location: Allen Pond Park, Robert V. Setera Amphitheater, 3330 Northview Dr, Bowie, Md. 20716  
 Contact: 301-809-3078, [cityofbowie.org](http://cityofbowie.org)

## Finally a Pro Coach for the PG Valor Pro Team

PG Valor Basketball Team Announces Former NBA Player as New Head Coach

By PRESS OFFICER  
**PG Valor Basketball**

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Md. (July 10, 2022)—American Basketball Association (ABA) expansion team PG Valor Basketball announces more organizational changes as a new season approaches. PG Valor basketball team is now an entity under PG Valor Sports, LLC, a Maryland registered business. But that's not the only recent upgrade for the organization.

After two unprecedented years of game cancellations and postponements due to COVID 19, the PG Valor Basketball team is preparing for a reset, reboot and renewal for the organization. Since their inception, the owner of the PG Valor Basketball team has always believed in building and giving an opportunity to those who show that they really want a chance to advance their coaching, playing, and media careers on a professional level. Some opportunities proved to be lucrative and some opportunities never materialized. PG Valor hopes to propel their organization to new and higher levels, with the announcement of their new head coach, Danilo "J.R." Pinnock.

"Yes! Again! We are going to keep making changes until we get all of the right pieces in place. A lot of businesses have 'trial and error' periods and we aren't any different. We tried some ideas and processes and we were either successful or we learned from those experiences and made changes. Whether it be with staff, players or coaches, we are going to keep going until we get it right. Mistakes have been made from running the organization to trusting the wrong individuals. But in

the end we are still here! We are the longest running Maryland based professional organization. And if we must give a reminder—we are woman- and minority-owned! I believe that J.R. (Pinnock) joins the organization with experience, a willingness to grow and a different mindset and perspective in working with us. We continue to be destined to do great things in the professional and competitive sports world," stated PG Valor Sports, LLC owner LaDonna M. Smith.

Pinnock, an American-Panamanian basketball player, was born in Fort Hood, Texas. He attended George Washington University and was a leading scorer in 2005-06 and helped them in two NCAA tournaments. During his junior year, and the second round of the 2006 NBA draft, he was picked 58th overall by the Dallas Mavericks. However, on draft night, Pinnock was traded to the Los Angeles Lakers. After playing seven preseason games with the Lakers, Pinnock moved on to play in Germany for the Giessen 46ers. He then returned to the United States and played in the NBA D-League for the Arkansas RimRockers and in September 2007 he was picked up first overall in the D-League Expansion Draft by the Rio Grande Valley Vipers.

Additionally, Pinnock has extensive relationships with overseas organizations such as BSN (Baloncesto Superior Nacional), the professional basketball league of Puerto Rico. In 2010 he won his first professional championship with the Capitanes de Arecibo and then won with the team again in 2011. He has also played in several other leagues such as German BBL (Germany) (2006-07); Panama CBS



League (Panama) (2007); Greek Basketball League (Greece) (2007-08); Venezuelan SuperLiga (Venezuela) (2008 and 2015); Legadue (Italy) (2008-09); Argentina LNB (Argentina) (2008-09); ISBL (Israel) (2009-10); Dominican LNB (Dominican Republic) (2010-11 and 2015); and Mexico LNBP (Mexico) (2012-13).

When Pinnock was asked for a statement, humbly, he simply replied, "I'm excited about the opportunity." He currently resides in Maryland and has been coaching his own AAU youth team, Mason Elite DC Team Pinnock.

PG Valor has tryouts scheduled for August 20 and September 10, 2022 in Greenbelt, Md.

For more information about PG Valor, including tryouts, purchasing tickets, the upcoming season, and all other PG Valor Sports, LLC news, visit their website at [www.pgvalor.com](http://www.pgvalor.com); social media @pgvalorbball or by contacting them via email at [pgvalorbasketball@gmail.com](mailto:pgvalorbasketball@gmail.com).

*PG Valor is an American Basketball Association (ABA) team in Prince George's County, Maryland. In addition to competing in the ABA from November through March for regular season games and from March through April for playoff and championship games, PG Valor competes in charity games against other professional and local teams. PG Valor is minority and woman owned by LaDonna M. Smith, from Fairmount Heights, Maryland. As of 2022, PG Valor became a registered entity under PG Valor Sports, LLC—a Maryland-based company.*

## Pyramid Atlantic Announces Completion of New Mural in Hyattsville

By KATE TAYLOR DAVIS  
**Pyramid Atlantic Art Center**

HYATTSVILLE, MD (July 11, 2022)—Muralist John Ortiz finished "The Sky's The Limit" on Monday, July 11th. This project, funded in part by The City of Hyattsville's Corridor Investment Grant program, enlivens the Church Place alley wall of Pyramid's facility. The former coating, a patchwork of different shades of white, has been replaced by a colorful vista that is evocative of the screenprinting process.

"I went with soothing/fresh colors, organic shapes, and drew a lot of inspiration from screenprinting. I thought about how the sky's the limit with printmaking—it's experimental, adventurous, and there is really no limit to what you can do," says Ortiz.

Of the design, Pyramid Executive Director Kate Taylor Davis remarks, "I am excited that John's mural speaks to

what happens inside our building. It works on a couple levels, both as a vibrant landscape and also as a hint of what can be done at Pyramid. In addition to inspiring a few selfies, I hope it also inspires curiosity."

Ortiz draws his inspiration from a love of diverse art and design. Growing up between Washington, DC and New York City, he was introduced to graffiti at a young age. His approach to the creative process, combined with a keen interest in abstract expressionism, is showcased in his mixed media art and printmaking. This style contains great movement and interaction between organic and geometric shapes. He currently has a studio at Pyramid Atlantic.

Ortiz was assisted in the execution of the mural by fellow artist Korey Richardson. Richardson's artistic practice



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN ORTIZ, COURTESY OF PYRAMID ATLANTIC  
**Converting a patchwork of white into a colorful landmark, "The Sky's the Limit" mural by John Ortiz breathes new life into the Church Place alleyway in Hyattsville, Md.**

includes painting and printmaking with themes related to history, popular culture and identity.

"The Sky's The Limit" will be up for a minimum of three years. It is Davis' hope that this side wall will rotate murals every few years to give multiple artists a giant public canvas.

*Pyramid Atlantic is a nonprofit contemporary art center fostering the creative disciplines of papermaking, printmaking, and book arts within a collab-*

*orative community. We equip, educate, and exhibit in our historic Hyattsville home. Our vision is to create an artistic hub in Hyattsville that inspires and enables local, national, and international artists to create and innovate in our core disciplines; elevates the local arts and small business scene; and enhances the quality of life for artists and neighbors. We value artistic excellence, infrastructure for artists, hands-on experiences, and collaboration. Learn more at [www.pyramidatlantic.org](http://www.pyramidatlantic.org).*

### Veterans from A1

within Prince George's County will bring such needed, state-of-the-art health care services within easier reach for all veterans who call Maryland home."

"Improving the network of Community Based Outpatient Clinics will help deliver the quality health care that Maryland's veterans deserve," said Congressman John Sarbanes. "I am pleased the House has passed this bipartisan legislation to fund two new Maryland CBOC facilities and expand care for veterans nationwide, especially those exposed to toxic chemicals."

"We owe a great debt of gratitude to our veterans as a nation, so it is a privilege to fight for them in Congress," said Congressman Kweisi Mfume. "Helping to meet the health care needs of veterans is just one aspect of the work we do each day to honor them for their service."

"We make a sacred promise to our service members when they return home—to provide our veterans with the best health care our country has to offer. Critical to upholding that promise, is a commitment to access in the communities our veterans live in," said Congressman Anthony Brown. "This legislation and funding will help meet Maryland veterans where they are and provide the quality care that they deserve. We'll never stop fighting for the brave men and women who have served and we'll always have their backs."

### Additional Background on the Baltimore and Prince George's County CBOC Plans

For the Baltimore CBOC, this legislation provides for a lease of an approximately 112,624 square foot outpatient clinic, including 800 parking spaces. The

new facility would enable VA to enhance outpatient services and provide more primary care space than is currently available at the Baltimore VA Clinic Annex.

For the Prince George's County clinic, the PACT Act provides for a lease of an approximately 85,116 square foot outpatient clinic, including 600 parking spaces. The new facility would enable VA to accommodate the workload that the Southern Prince George's County and Southeast D.C. CBOCs currently service, which has increased since the closure of the Greenbelt CBOC in 2015, and allow more patients to receive care closer to their homes.

Both clinics will allow for the full implementation of the Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) model of care delivery, improving operational efficiencies and the

# COMMENTARY

## Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita,  
Children's Defense Fund



### ChildWatch:

## Proctor Institute: Providing Sustenance and Hope

When I was a child my father was pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church in Bennettsville, South Carolina, and my mother was director of the youth and senior choirs, church organist, founder and head of the Mothers' Club, and fundraiser-in-chief. We watched Daddy and Mama staying up to date by subscribing to theological and church music publications and buying the latest books by leading theologians and thinkers, and they did not confine their self-improvement to reading. They went to Union Theological Seminary, to a Black Mountain, North Carolina conference center, and to Oberlin College for summer courses and other enrichment, and they went away every year for a week to the Minister's Institute at Hampton Institute in Virginia, sometimes taking me along. I would wander along Hampton's waterfront and through the chapel and library at the college Booker T. Washington attended and where he later taught while my parents listened to the latest developments in their fields. I'd join them in the evenings to listen to great sermons and choirs.

Today, the Children's Defense Fund shares some of the same opportunities for learning, development, great preaching, singing, and much needed fellowship at the annual Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry. At the Proctor Institute, civil rights icons and students, community organizers and seminarians, and advocates and artists come together in an intergenerational, interracial, multi-ethnic, ecumenical Beloved Community committed to pursuing justice for our nation's children. This year's Proctor's Institute will be a hybrid event with both virtual and in-person options July 18-21. Everyone is welcome!

The 2022 theme is "Raising Democracy by Resurrecting Hope." Study sessions, plenaries, and the Great Preacher Series will all reinforce this theme while workshops give participants a chance to build organizing skills, deepen understanding of policy concerns, discover programs and strategies to try back home, and share perspectives on justice, community, children, and the work to which we are called. As CDF says: "Movement building is hard work. We can't do it alone. One generation alone can't get it done. We need each other, and we need deep spiritual sustenance to keep going and create the just world our children deserve. CDF's Proctor Institute is where we can sing and pray, strategize and struggle, organize

and advocate. It's where we can share our stories—our hurts and hopes, pain and passion for justice—in Beloved Community. The Proctor Institute refreshes and renews us so we can continue the hard, hopeful, sacred work of pursuing justice for children and ending child poverty."

Those able to gather in person again will be at CDF's Alex Haley Farm in Clinton, Tennessee, the spiritual home of the children's movement. Scholar and theologian Rev. James H. Evans, Jr. composed this grace for the 1999 dedication of Haley Farm's Langston Hughes Library:

And Jesus said, "Suffer the little ones to come to me"

Let them be included  
Let them be visible  
They are "the least of these"

Let them come,  
These lost lambs  
Leave no child behind.  
Deep in their eyes is the Kingdom of God  
Let them come.

If they come dragging their tender wings  
Through the fire and the mire  
Let us dry and clean their wings  
In the sunshine of our trying  
Let them soar with full bellies  
Bellies full of pasta, collard greens  
Arroz con pollo and sweet tea.  
Let them soar with minds bursting with impatient ideas.

Ideas of cold fusion and hot jazz  
New medicine, new law and new life.  
Let them soar with hearts overflowing with sweet hope

Hope in and beyond city streets  
Rural roads and suburban cul-de-sacs.  
Hope in worlds not yet known

As we eat of this bounty  
Let them into our hearts, our lives.  
Put them on our laps and  
Let them eat from our plates

As you welcome us to your banquet feast  
Bless this repast to our use  
And us to thy service.

At a moment when we and our children desperately need sustenance and hope, let this continue to be our prayer.

## Steny H. Hoyer

Maryland Congressional District 5



## Hoyer Statement on House Passage of the FY2023 National Defense Authorization Act

WASHINGTON, DC (July 14, 2022)—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) released the following statement tonight after the House passed the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023:

"Today, the House passed a National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for 2023 that reflects bipartisan consensus and was the product of many hours of work by Chairman Adam Smith, Ranking Member Mike Rogers, and the Members and staff of the Armed Services Committee. This legislation will make our nation safer and better able to respond to threats while securing key American interests around the world and upholding our nation's democratic values and commitment to human rights. In addition to a \$15 minimum wage for federal contractors, this bill is consistent with the language in President Biden's FY23 Budget Proposal to provide a necessary 4.6% cost of living adjustment for members

of the military and civilian Pentagon employees, which Biden has also said he will provide to the federal civilian workforce in calendar year 2023, honoring the principle of pay parity of which I have long advocated. This NDAA recognizes that a successful national defense depends both on our posture abroad and our strength at home, including how well we are able to make opportunities available to our people and secure our supply lines for components and products critical to national security.

"Importantly, this NDAA makes clear America's continued commitment to our NATO allies in Europe and to helping the Ukrainian people defeat Vladimir Putin's criminal and unconscionable invasion of their sovereign territory. Moreover, it contains provisions to strengthen the capabilities of the United States and our allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region, key to defending democracy as well as securing global

supply chains and protecting the flow of goods, services, and energy. In addition, this NDAA addresses critical challenges in the Middle East and continues to strengthen the U.S.-Israel partnership in developing anti-drone technologies, an effort that strengthens the security of both nations as we confront threats from Iran and its proxies.

"I am glad that this legislation also contains a number of other important and beneficial provisions, including to extend National Guard resources to the fight against wildfires, an expansion of Special Immigrant Visas to Afghan allies, and efforts to clean up harmful PFAS and other contamination near U.S. military installations. This is a very good, robust NDAA, and I am proud that our Democratic Majority once again was able to advance it on a bipartisan basis. I hope the Senate will join us in adopting strong legislation, so we can send a final product to President Biden's desk without delay."

### Veterans from A3

veteran experience. They will be state-of-the-art, energy-efficient health care facilities offering primary care, mental health, specialty care, and ancillary services to veterans.

### About the PACT Act

Among its many priorities, the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act of 2022 will:

- Expand VA health care eligibility to Post-9/11 combat veterans, which includes more than 3.5 million toxic-exposed veterans;
- Create a framework for the establishment of future presumptions of service connection re-

lated to toxic exposure;

- Add 23 burn pit and toxic exposure-related conditions to VA's list of service presumptions, including hypertension;
- Expand presumptions related to Agent Orange exposure—Includes Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Guam, American Samoa, and Johnston Atoll as locations for Agent Orange exposure;
- Strengthen federal research on toxic exposure;
- Improve VA's resources and training for toxic-exposed veterans; and
- Set VA and veterans up for success by investing in: VA claims processing; VA's workforce; and VA health care facilities.
- Establish 31 new VA health care facilities across 19 states, including the two in Maryland.

## Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



### To Be Equal:

## National Urban League's First-Ever Hybrid In-Person and Virtual Conference Kicks Off On Wednesday in Washington, D.C.

"I thank you, Urban League, for all of your leadership, and I look forward to fighting with you ... Part of the strength of this organization and all of the leaders in this room is we have always been motivated by knowing what can be, unburdened by what has been. This is a fight that is born out of optimism. This is a fight that is born out of knowing that we must fight for the soul of our country also out of love of country. And this is a fight we will win."

—Kamala Harris, address to the National Urban League Conference

The last time the National Urban League convened for an in-person Conference in July of 2019, special counsel, Robert Mueller was taking a seat to testify to the House Judiciary and Intelligence committees about his investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election, and the then-President's efforts to obstruct that investigation.

That President was then engaged in a racist campaign of slander against four congresswomen of color and spreading lies about immigrants and voter fraud.

The first cases of the deadliest pandemic in American history were months in the future. An insurrection against the United States government was still an unimaginable prospect.

Next week, the National Urban League and our network of affiliates and allies gather in Washington, D.C., with the nation's most influential voices in government, business, social activism, and the arts. Our task: to confront the transformation of the nation's political, social, and economic landscape and chart a path toward a more equitable and resilient society.

The nation is only beginning to grapple with the aftershocks of the past few years. The 2022 Conference is an opportunity to highlight and redefine the National Urban League's role in re-

sponding not only to the medical and economic crises wrought by the COVID pandemic, but to the rise of extremism and an unprecedented assault on democracy and civil liberties.

The Conference kicks off Wednesday with the Urban League Fights For You Rally on Civil Rights, Hate Crimes, Women's Rights & Economic Justice at the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial. The rally sets in motion the relaunched Reclaim Your Vote campaign of civic engagement and defense of democracy.

Joe Biden and Kamala Harris last addressed the Conference as candidates for the nation's highest office; now they head the administration tasked with leading the nation out of its current turmoil. High-ranking members of the Biden-Harris Administration, including Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Marcia L. Fudge, Census Director Robert L. Santos, and Envi-

ronmental Protection Agency Michael S. Regan will share their vision for repairing the damage inflicted by the previous administration and reimagining our national institutions and systems to be more diverse, equitable, and inclusive.

On the second day of our last in-person Conference opened—less than a day after Mueller's testimony about the continued threat of interference in American elections, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell twice blocked legislation to improve election security. Since then, he has repeatedly led filibusters to defeat voting rights.

Then, we were alarmed that Black Americans were being deterred and denied participation in elections.

Now, we are alarmed that there no longer will be elections in which to participate. More than 70 election deniers are candidates for state offices that run, oversee, or protect elections. The Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case that could open the door for a state legislature to refuse to certify the results of a presidential election and instead select its own slate of electors—much as the plotters of the January 6 insurrection attempted to do.

It is these extraordinary threats to the foundation of our democracy that we will confront as the National Urban League Conference convenes next week in Washington, D.C. To participate virtually, visit our Conference website and follow the social media hashtag #NULCONF22.

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# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## Social Security Matters

### Ask Rusty:

## What Do My Wife, and My Ex-wife, Get If I Die?

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 am a 77 year old married male. I am retired and started drawing Social Security at age 66, and my monthly amount is a little over \$3,000. My present wife is 52 and employed, and we have been married for 22 years. I also have an ex-wife who is 85, not married, and drawing Social Security. My ex-wife and I were married 13 years.

When I am deceased, what happens to my Social Security benefits? When my present wife decides to receive SS benefits, would she draw the higher benefit of our monthly amounts? Would my ex-wife be able to increase her benefit? *Signed: Planning Ahead*

**Dear Planning Ahead:** In the event of your death, here is how Social Security eligibility would work for your current wife and for your ex-wife:

For your current wife, unless she is disabled, she cannot collect a survivor benefit as your widow until she is at least 60 years old. However, if she claims her survivor benefit before reaching her full retirement age (FRA), it will be reduced. Claimed at age 60, her benefit as your widow would be 71.5% of the amount you were receiving at your death. If she waited beyond age 60 to claim, her survivor benefit would continue to grow until it reached maximum at her FRA of age 67 (100% of the benefit you were receiving when you died). She would also have the option to wait until age 62 and claim her own reduced personally-earned SS benefit first while allowing her survivor benefit to grow to maximum at age 67; or she could take her reduced survivor benefit only first and allow her personally-earned SS benefit to grow to maximum at age 70. She should choose whichever strategy would give her the highest benefit for the rest of her life.

Note, too, that if your current wife were to collect any benefit before reaching her full retirement age (67) and she works, she would be subject to Social Security's earnings test. The earnings test limits how much can be earned before some of her benefits are taken away by Social Security. For reference, the 2022 earnings limit is \$19,560, but it changes annually. If the annual earnings limit in force when your wife claims is exceeded, and she hasn't yet reached age 67, SS will take away benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 over the limit. The limit is higher, and the penalty is less in the year FRA is reached, and the earnings test goes away when your current wife is 67.

Regarding your ex-wife, if you die first, and because you were married for more than 10 years, your ex-wife will be entitled to collect a survivor benefit from you, if that amount (what you were receiving at her death) is more than she is currently receiving based on her own lifetime work record (she would get the higher of the two amounts). Your ex-wife would need to contact Social Security to claim her survivor benefit from you, and your ex-wife collecting a survivor benefit from you will not affect your current wife's benefit in any way—both can get their full survivor benefit from you independent of each other and neither will be reduced because more than one wife is collecting.

For clarity, since you and your ex-wife are both already collecting Social Security, your ex-wife may be entitled to a spousal boost from you while you are both living, if her own personally-earned FRA benefit amount is less than 50% of your SS benefit, and that would have no effect on either your own current benefit or your current wife's survivor entitlement. Your ex-wife would need to contact Social Security directly to apply for her ex-spouse benefit from you while you are both living.

The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] [www.amac.us](http://www.amac.us) is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation's capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country. And the AMAC Foundation ([www.AmacFoundation.org](http://www.AmacFoundation.org)) is the Association's non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting and educating America's Seniors. Together, we act and speak on the Association members' behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at [www.amac.us/join-amac](http://www.amac.us/join-amac).

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## Grants from A1

areas and unspoiled scenery of Maryland's mountains. The Maryland Heritage Areas Program provides \$2.4 billion in annual economic impact and MHAA grants generate \$319.8 million in state and local taxes and supports 33,815 full- and part-time jobs annually. A full economic impact study can be found at [mht.maryland.gov/heritageareas\\_impact.shtml](http://mht.maryland.gov/heritageareas_impact.shtml).

MHAA is an independent unit of government chaired by the Secretary of Planning and administered by the Maryland Historical Trust, a division of the Maryland Department of Planning. Since its creation in 1996, MHAA has awarded more than \$57 million dollars in grants and helped leverage more than \$1.63 billion in non-state funding

for heritage tourism projects and activities in Maryland's 13 Certified Heritage Areas.

To learn more about the Maryland Heritage Areas Program and the state's certified Heritage Areas, please visit [mht.maryland.gov/heritageareas.shtml](http://mht.maryland.gov/heritageareas.shtml).

### Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Grant Awards for FY23 Summary:

Total Requested Funds—  
\$6,411,491.83  
Funds Awarded—\$5,100,000  
Total Match Leveraged—  
\$13,323,804.87

View the full listing of the FY23 grants at: <https://mht.maryland.gov/documents/PDF/MHAA/Maryland-%20Heritage-Area-Program-List-for-Press-Release.pdf>

## Storm Aftermath: Who Pays for Damage Caused by Trees Falling on Your Home or Car?

AAA Insurance Offers Tips for Protecting Your Home, Auto and Wallet

By PRESS OFFICER  
AAA Insurance

WASHINGTON, DC (July 13, 2022)—Strong summer storms are back as evidenced by the intense storm that rolled through the region Tuesday [July 12], toppling trees onto homes and vehicles and causing power outages. Now that the storm has passed and clean-up is underway, what may not be clear is who pays for repairs.

"[Last week's] strong storms have left many home and vehicle owners wondering what damage is covered under their insurance policies and how to start the claim process," said Ragina Cooper Ali, Public and Government Affairs Manager for AAA Mid-Atlantic. "Property damage from strong winds and damaging storms can be an unexpected financial hardship for many. If you were fortunate enough to avoid damage, these storms are a reminder that now is the time for homeowners to review their insurance policies to become familiar with their coverage, so they are prepared and informed should a disaster strike."

### AAA Insurance Offers Tips on How to Deal with Damage After a Storm: Vehicles

- Physical damage to a car caused by heavy wind or fallen tree limbs is covered under the optional comprehensive portion of an auto policy.
- If your car is damaged by a fallen tree or limbs, you would need to file a claim using your vehicle policy's comprehensive coverage.

### Homes

- If your tree falls on your house, your insurance will cover removal of the tree and home repairs due to damage.
- If your tree falls on your neighbor's house, your neighbor's homeowner's policy would provide insurance coverage. The same holds true if your neighbor's tree falls on your home; you would file a claim with your own insurance company.

- If a tree falls in your yard, but doesn't hit anything, you would pay for its removal in most cases.
- Additionally, if a tree on your property is weak, damaged, or decayed, but you do nothing about it, and it crashes down on a neighbor's home (or vehicle), you could be held liable for damages.
- Wind-related damage to a house, its roof, its contents and other insured structures on the property is covered under standard homeowner's insurance policies. Wind-driven rain that causes an opening in the roof or wall and enters through this opening is also covered.
- Damage to a house and its contents caused by a collapse is covered under standard homeowners insurance policies.

### AAA Insurance Recommends These Tips to Help the Claims Process Go Smoothly:

- Take appropriate immediate and temporary measures to prevent further damage. If you do make minor repairs before an insurance adjuster arrives, save receipts to submit for reimbursement.
- Call your insurance agent or company immediately. Be prepared with a list of questions ahead of time: Am I covered? Does my claim exceed my deductible?



IMAGE BY WALLYR, COURTESY OF MORGUEFILE.COM

## SDAT Raises Business Personal Property Exemption from \$2,500 to \$20,000

By MEGHANN MALONE  
Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation

BALTIMORE, Md. (July 11, 2022)—The Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) today announced that HB268, which raises the exemption from personal property assessment for all Maryland businesses from \$2,500 to \$20,000, has taken effect. This legislation will save

14,217 businesses from paying taxes on \$44.2 million in assessment, and is an extension of HB90, which SDAT sponsored in 2018 and exempted 28,493 businesses from \$10.8 million in assessment.

"Thanks to these legislative efforts, 42,000 of Maryland's smallest businesses will not

have to pay taxes on \$55 million in assessment," said SDAT Director Michael Higgs. "The department remains committed to playing a role in reducing taxes, supporting businesses and changing Maryland for the better."

HB268 took effect on June 1, 2022, and is effective for tax years starting after June 30, 2022, and includes annual filings submitted as early as January 2022. SDAT will automatically adjust assessments of filings that were submitted between January 1, 2022, and June 30, 2022 so that reported business personal property less than \$20,000 is not assessed.

Late filing penalties previously billed on 2022 business personal property returns reporting less than \$20,000 have been abated and filers who have already paid a late filing penalty billed on a return filing reporting less than \$20,000 are being mailed a refund check for the penalty paid.

Beginning in 2023, filers with a total original cost of personal property less than \$20,000 will also be able to self-attest on their Annual Report that their personal property falls within the exemption range and will no longer be required to submit a return detailing their personal property.

## Cardin, Cornyn, Van Hollen, and Wicker Lead Bipartisan Letter Urging SBA to Process All Eligible COVID EIDL Applications

Letter Signed by 48 Senators Comes Amid Complaints From Small Business Owners that Their Applications Have Not Been Processed

By PRESS OFFICER  
U.S. Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship

WASHINGTON, DC (July 15, 2022)—U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship Chair Ben Cardin (D-Md.) and U.S. Senators John Cornyn (R-Texas), Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), and Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), along with 44 senators, today sent a letter to U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman urging the SBA to process COVID Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) applications that were received prior to the agency's May 6, 2022 deadline.

The COVID EIDL program has provided loans to nearly four million small

businesses since the beginning of the pandemic—serving as an essential source of capital for small businesses, especially those that could not obtain credit to survive the pandemic from other lenders.

"While we recognize the agency has assisted an unprecedented number of small businesses throughout the pandemic, our offices continue to hear from thousands of prospective borrowers awaiting consideration," the senators wrote. "We also continue to hear from EIDL applicants with disputed rejections who have received no communication from the administration in months. EIDL was a lifeline for businesses throughout this pandemic, but many of them continue to struggle. The program is too important to shut down prematurely. While

funds remain, we expect SBA to process all eligible applications and appeals that have been submitted by the request deadline."

On Thursday, April 28, the SBA announced a May 6, 2022 submission deadline for COVID EIDL loan modifications, increase requests, and denial reconsiderations. Many applicants who submitted their applications prior to the deadline remain in limbo due to the SBA's decision to stop processing certain applications. Instead, the SBA has issued a vague commitment to process "workable" applications, which has led to many deserving borrowers not receiving the funds they need.

The senators continued, "Given that many applicants have not received final consideration, we find it difficult to understand SBA's decision to stop processing requests that were submitted by the May 6th submission deadline ... 'Workability' is not an acceptable standard to justify rejecting a borrower who is eligible and in need. The bar for denial is eligibility, not SBA's willingness to continue processing applications. We find it particularly troubling that your agency continues to tell our offices that loans cannot be completed due to the exhaustion of funds when \$800 million in loan subsidy remains—enough to support more than \$7 billion in lending."

# ENVIRONMENT

## NASA Reveals Webb Telescope's First Images of Unseen Universe

By PRESS OFFICER  
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

GREENBELT, Md. (July 12, 2022)—The dawn of a new era in astronomy is here as the world gets its first look at the full capabilities of NASA's James Webb Space Telescope, a partnership with ESA (European Space Agency) and CSA (Canadian Space Agency).

The full set of the telescope's first full-color images and spectroscopic data, which uncover a collection of cosmic features elusive until now, released Tuesday, are available at: [www.nasa.gov/webbfirstimages](http://www.nasa.gov/webbfirstimages).

"Today, we present humanity with a groundbreaking new view of the cosmos from the James Webb Space Telescope—a view the world has never seen before," said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson. "These images, including the deepest infrared view of our universe that has ever been taken, show us how Webb will help to uncover the answers to questions we don't even yet know to ask; questions that will help us better understand our universe and humanity's place within it."

"The Webb team's incredible success is a reflection of what NASA does best. We take dreams and turn them into reality for the benefit of humanity. I can't wait to see the discoveries that we uncover—the team is just getting started!"

NASA explores the unknown in space for the benefit of all, and Webb's first observations tell the story of the hidden universe through every phase of cosmic history—from neighboring planets outside our solar system, known as exoplanets, to the most distant observable galaxies in the early universe.

"This is a singular and historic moment," said Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator for NASA's Science Mission Directorate. "It took decades of drive and perseverance to get us here,

and I am immensely proud of the Webb team. These first images show us how much we can accomplish when we come together behind a shared goal, to solve the cosmic mysteries that connect us all. It's a stunning glimpse of the insights yet to come."

"We are elated to celebrate this extraordinary day with the world," said Greg Robinson, Webb program director at NASA Headquarters. "The beautiful diversity and incredible detail of the Webb telescope's images and data will have a profound impact on our understanding of the universe and inspire us to dream big."

Webb's first observations were selected by a group of representatives from NASA, ESA, CSA, and the Space Telescope Science Institute. They reveal the capabilities of all four of Webb's state-of-the-art scientific instruments ...

"Absolutely thrilling!" said John Mather, Webb senior project scientist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. "The equipment is working perfectly, and nature is full of surprising beauty. Congratulations and thanks to our worldwide teams that made it possible."

The release of Webb's first images and spectra kicks off the beginning of Webb's science operations, where astronomers around the world will have their chance to observe anything from objects



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF NASA, ESA, CSA, AND STSCI

This landscape of "mountains" and "valleys" speckled with glittering stars is actually the edge of a nearby, young, star-forming region called NGC 3324 in the Carina Nebula. Captured in infrared light by NASA's new James Webb Space Telescope, this image reveals for the first time previously invisible areas of star birth.

within our solar system to the early universe using Webb's four instruments.

The James Webb Space Telescope launched Dec. 25, 2021, on an Ariane 5 rocket from Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana, South America. After completing a complex deployment sequence in space, Webb underwent months of commissioning where its mirrors were aligned, and its instruments were calibrated to its space environment and prepared for science. ...

The James Webb Space Telescope is the world's premier space science observatory. Webb will solve mysteries in our solar system, look beyond to distant worlds around other stars and probe the mysterious structures and origins of our universe and our place in it.

NASA Headquarters oversees the mission for the agency's Science Mission Directorate. NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, manages Webb for the agency and oversees work on the mission performed by the Space Telescope Science Institute, Northrop Grumman, and other mission partners. In addition to Goddard, several NASA centers contributed to the project, including the agency's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California, Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, Ames Research Center in California's Silicon Valley, and others.

For a full array of Webb's first images and spectra, including downloadable files, visit: [webbtelescope.org/news/first-images](http://webbtelescope.org/news/first-images).

## Earth TALK™ Is Climate Change Good For the Economy?

By Dylan Stoll (July 7, 2022)

Dear EarthTalk:

*Is climate change actually good for the economy, given all the clean-up/restoration jobs severe weather is creating and the employment surges in green energy?*

—P.B., New Haven, CT

Strangely enough, climate change does produce jobs and boost the economy as we struggle to make ourselves more resilient to its ravages. Some would argue that the renewable energy sector owes much of its success to the climate crisis. According to the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, renewable energy use has increased by 90 percent since 2000, around when the climate crisis became mainstream.

Now the industry is worth billions of dollars and provides hundreds of thousands of jobs. According to a report by Advanced Energy Now, U.S. clean energy investment increased by 20 percent from 2018 to 2019, reaching a competitive value of \$78.3 billion. Meanwhile, a 2020

report by the National Association of State Energy Officials found that wind and solar energy were responsible for some 544,000 jobs in 2019, whereas the fossil fuel industry was only responsible for 214,000 jobs.

Legislation produced in response to climate change can also boost the economy and provide jobs. In a blog post released by the White House, the federal government outlines the importance of investing in infrastructure associated with transportation and power not only as a means of combating climate change but also to strengthen the economy. Their infrastructure brief released in November 2021 refers to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, legislation that focuses \$1.2 trillion towards infrastructure that improves everything from power grids to public transportation.

There are also those who clean up and restore locations destroyed by natural disasters like hurricanes, which according to the Environmental Defense Fund have increased in frequency by three times since 1900 because of the climate crisis.

However, despite all the economic positives associated with the climate change response, the environmental and public health "risks" still far outweigh the potential economic "benefits." According to a study published in the peer-reviewed journal *Science*, the U.S. gross domestic product, a measure of economic health, will face an annual loss of one-to-two percent, with worst-case scenarios costing as much as 10 percent, if the federal government fails to enact stronger measures to combat climate change. And things aren't looking any better globally: Insurance giant Swiss Re estimates that climate change is on track to reduce global economic output by as much as 14 percent overall by 2050.

The economic costs associated with climate change are so great that even insurance companies, not scientists, are warning people. According to consultants Capgemini and the financial industry body, EFMA, insurance claims from natural disasters have increased by 250 percent over the past 30 years, an increase they believe is due to climate change. Moreover, less than 10 percent of insurers are preparing adequately, meaning the industry will be hit harder if the effects of climate change become more severe.

But the future may not be all doom and gloom. In the same report, Swiss Re states that if we can limit global temperature increases to two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, economic losses by 2050 will only reach a maximum of five percent!

### CONTACTS:

- Swiss Re's "It's time to take action on climate change": [www.swissre.com/risk-knowledge/mitigating-climate-risk/its-time-to-take-action-on-climate-change.html](http://www.swissre.com/risk-knowledge/mitigating-climate-risk/its-time-to-take-action-on-climate-change.html)
- "Estimating economic damage from climate change in the United States": [www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.aal4369](http://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.aal4369)

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## Governor Hogan Announces \$18.8 Million for Chesapeake Bay Restoration Projects

Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund Supports 22 Projects at 77 Sites

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL  
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (July 11, 2022)—Governor Larry Hogan and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) today announced the award of \$18.8 million to 22 ecological restoration projects that will improve water quality and habitat in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, while building local resilience to climate impacts. These awards encompass 77 unique sites that will be restored using best management practices, including riparian buffer and reforestation plantings, stream restoration, stormwater management, and wetland creation.

"Our administration's commitment to environmental stewardship has included making record investments in Chesapeake Bay restoration, and fully funding the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund," said Governor Hogan. "Each of these projects plays a critical role in improving the quality of the bay and making our ecosystem more resilient."

Grants are made possible with funding through the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund, which targets the most cost-efficient and effective non-point source pollution reduction projects. The projects awarded this funding round will benefit local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay by removing more

than 41,083 pounds of nitrogen, 4,332 pounds of phosphorus, and 7,967 tons of suspended solids.

"We are grateful for the governor's continued leadership in fully funding the Trust Fund, which is one of the most important water quality financing programs in the Chesapeake Bay watershed," said DNR Secretary Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio. "This program allows us to identify the most meaningful and cost-effective projects in communities across Maryland to improve water quality and meet our Bay restoration goals."

This year's awards were selected from 51 proposals that were received. Proposals were prioritized based on cost-efficiency (state dollar per pound of nutrient and sediment reduced), project readiness, scientific rigor, geographic distribution, and overall quality.

The projects are listed on the DNR website along with other programs that are accessible through the department's Grants Gateway application process. Through the improved connections across similar grant programs, the department seeks to support more comprehensive and integrated projects that achieve at least one of the following outcomes: fostering healthy ecosystems, building resiliency, or providing outdoor learning experiences.



IMAGE CREDIT: PEXELS.COM.

While climate change might benefit the economy overall, we would rather not have to deal with it at all.