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Economic Development Corporation's Step Forward Initiative Graduates First Women's Entrepreneurial Cohort

Cohort of Ten Minority Women Entrepreneurs Take the Next "Step Forward" to Increase Capital Reach

By RHETT BUTLER
PGC Economic Development Corporation

LARGO, Md. (July 26, 2022)—Last week, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation continued its mission to help small and minority women-owned businesses, graduating its first cohort of the Step Forward Initiative. The inaugural cohort of ten minority women entrepreneurs completed a program that began during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, preparing them for the vibrant Prince George's County economic landscape.

"The Step Forward Initiative is a six-month program designed to serve the needs and challenges of established businesses in their quest to obtain access to capital," said Ebony Stocks, Executive

Vice President of the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation. "It quickly grew to be so much more, and we've encouraged all of our cohort participants and the broader business community to take advantage of our other programs at the EDC. This is just an example of what we do daily to give our business owners support, and for this cohort, it is just the beginning."

The six-month program featured workshops with guest speakers that covered various topics to prepare the business owners to thrive in the market. Topics included business planning, marketing, business process, and legal business formation, all explained by industry experts. The financial training was designed to

See GRADUATES Page A4



The Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation recently graduated its first cohort of the Step Forward Initiative.



NASA Goddard Center Director Shares Plans to Retire

By JACKIE MCGUINNESS/
NASA Headquarters, Washington
MICHELLE JONES
Goddard Space Flight Center, Md.

Dennis Andrucyk, director of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, has announced his intent to retire after more than 36 years of federal service, including multiple leadership roles at NASA and as Goddard's director since January 2020.

Andrucyk will continue to serve as Goddard center director while NASA conducts a nationwide search and open competition for a new director. Once a new director is selected, and following a short transition period, Andrucyk will retire; at this time, there is no set date for his retirement.

"Dennis is an exceptional leader and a brilliant engineer who continues to serve NASA and our nation with honor and distinction," said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson. "In my view, his crowning achievement at Goddard's helm has been overseeing the brilliant launch and awe-inspiring first images release of the James Webb Space Telescope, a mission that represents our vision at NASA to explore the secrets of the universe for the benefit of all. I'm grateful for his decades of public service and continued dedication to Goddard, NASA, and our nation."

Among Goddard's accomplishments during Andrucyk's tenure to date are the successful launch and commissioning of the James Webb

Space Telescope, which already is transforming our view of the universe. Other accomplishments during his tenure at Goddard include the Landsat 9 launch, OSIRIS-REx collecting a sample from the asteroid Bennu and beginning its return to Earth, Parker Solar Probe "touching" the Sun, championing NASA's next Venus mission—DAVINCI—ongoing development of the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, as well as the first Minotaur IV launch and multiple International Space Station cargo resupply missions from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility on Wallops Island, Virginia.

In addition to several major mission milestones, Goddard also played a key role, under Dennis' leadership, in celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, 75th anniversary of Wallops, and 30th anniversary of the Hubble Space Telescope. And all of this was done as Dennis led the center through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dennis joined the NASA family in 1988. Since then, he has been a recipient of the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal, NASA Exceptional Service Medal, Goddard Outstanding Leadership Honor Award, and Goddard Exceptional Achievement Award in Diversity and Equal Employment Opportunity. Dennis is also a two-time recipient of the Senior Executive Service Meritorious Presidential Rank Award.

Learn more about Andrucyk's career at NASA: <https://go.nasa.gov/3yZaWV6>



Dennis Andrucyk

PHOTO CREDITS: NASA/TAYLOR MICKAL

Dance Film 33rd & Memphis by Center Stage Management, and Outreach Productions Premieres Monday, August 22, in Silver Spring

Sixteen-year-old Memphis Braxton wants to dance, but without the approval of his parents, his love of dance will die. Memphis must make a decision that could cost him everything, but he would rather die than not dance.

Written & Co-Directed by Shawn Cosby, of Camp Springs

By PRESS OFFICER
MissionKey Communications, LLC

SILVER SPRING, Md. (July 29, 2022)—Centerstage Management Group and Outreach Productions premiere the dance film "33rd & Memphis" in Silver Spring MD, on August 22, at AFI Silver Theatre, 8633 Colesville Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20910, featuring local talent. The film is written and co-directed by award-winning actress and choreographer Shawn Cosby, with musical production by Zimbabwe Reid (Zim Digital). "33rd & Memphis" chronicles the journey and heart of Memphis Braxton, a passionate teenage dancer with the condition cardiomyopathy. Will he risk it all for dance? The audience will learn this and more during the moving family production. (<https://www.33rdandmemphis.com/>)

Filmed at the start of the pandemic in the spirit of community and creative release, 33rd & Memphis shines a light on performers in the DC, Maryland and Virginia areas, including rising stars Nathan Butts (Lead Actor), Amber Miller Moore (Lead Actor), Mike Brooks (Lead Dancer) and additional triple threat talent.

"The DC Metro area has been tremendously overlooked when it comes to talent," Shawn says. "At the height of the pandemic, I had a desire to create something beautiful amid so much tragedy. Something that would be a positive representation of family, love, and the arts—and would showcase the dynamic talent we have here."

Shawn Cosby is a professionally trained performer, choreographer and Artistic Director for Center-Stage Academy for the Arts, home to the acclaimed Showbiz Dancers and Showbiz Next Generation Performers. She has appeared in several feature films, and television shows such as: House of Cards, NBC, BET's Trophy Wife, and is the Writer & Lead Actress of the soon to be released independent film "33rd & Memphis". Shawn has choreographed for numerous recording artists and films including Step Up, and over 400 off-Broadway musicals. She was also featured by NBC during The Wiz Live as part of a spotlight on the arts in public schools. Ms. Cosby is considered a master



Shawn Cosby

teacher in dance and has taught master classes from DC to South Africa and is a recipient of the Alvin Ailey Award for Choreography.

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Learn more about water quality on the opening night of the 2022 LIVE Chesapeake Film Festival, September 30. Environment, Page A5

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In & Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Firefighter Sarah Moumami leads Top Ten with most hours, most runs

The Top Ten members of the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department provided more than 3007 hours of service and 1202 runs for the benefit of Morningside and Prince George's County the month of June. (The Top Ten firefighters are named each year.)

Firefighter/EMT Sarah Moumami led the Top Ten with 501 hours and 202 calls. Next in hours and calls: Yoav Cohn, Sgt. Curtis Fagan, Henry Dorn, Bria Elder, Noah Searchinger, Matthew Morgan, B-Chief James McKnight, Kyle Ring and Samuel Arbogast.

The department as a whole provided 5055 hours and 2009 calls. And remember, they all are volunteers!

The Morningside Volunteer Fire Department was organized in December 1944 after the tragic loss of two lives in a housefire on Pine Grove Drive. The fire station was built in 1945, and still stands at the same location—with many modifications. The first firetruck was a 1929 Model-A Ford purchased from the Oxon Hill VFD for \$250.00.

MVFD President Michael Poetker and Fire Chief Carl McKlveen were pleased to inform Mayor Benn Cann and the Town Council that production has begun on the new Engine 827 at KME Factory. (KME is a sole source manufacturer of high quality, custom fire apparatus serving communities across the US.)

Which means MVFD 27 just keeps getting better and we keep getting safer.

Town of Morningside: Yard Sale, Trunk-or-Treat

A Yard Sale is coming up Sept. 10 at the Morningside Fire Department. Table rental is \$15, or 2 tables for \$25. Info: call 301-736-2300 or email Morningsiderec@morningsidemd.gov.

And looking ahead two months: Halloween. Trunk-or-Treating and Costume Judging. Starting at 6 p.m.

Morningside August meetings: Work Session, Tuesday, Aug. 9, 7 p.m.; Town Meeting, Tuesday, Aug. 16, 7 p.m.

Neighbors & other good people

I'm sad to report that the Memorial for our dear Ruth Sanford has been cancelled. It was scheduled for August 6 at Suitland Road Baptist Church. Covid and other

health issues necessitated the cancellation. Ruth, a longtime Morningsider and a devoted member of the Church, died June 25 in Hagerstown. She was 96.

Author R. J. Hinkemeyer, of Dunkirk, has a new Maryland Mystery book out, "Sins of Stone," which takes place in fictional Bay County south of Annapolis. Among his other titles is "Confessions of the Soul," set on the Eastern Shore.

Lt. Col. James Kelly Sweeney, USAF retired, died July 22 in Aldie, Virginia. During his Reserve years he was called to active duty during the Cuban Missile Crisis, served a 3-year tour in Panama, and a final 4-year tour at Andrews where he served as Chief of Protocol, managing ceremonies for foreign heads of state, chief of foreign air forces, and White House and State Department functions. He was predeceased by his wife of 60 years, Anne Frances Sweeney, daughter Tracy and grandchildren. Burial will be at Arlington.

Come to the Crab Feast

St. Philip's invites you to their All-you-can-eat Crab Feast fundraiser at Sarto Hall on August 21. Feast on crabs, BBQ chicken, fried fish, hotdogs, beef/turkey burgers, potato salad, coleslaw, corn-on-the-cob, soda, beer, music & more.

Hours are 1-5 p.m. Cost: \$70 per person. Sarto Hall is at 3611 Stewart Road in Forestville. For information and tickets, contact Andre Jordan, 841-0141; Renee at the church office, 301-423-4244; or Stephanie at the school, 301-423-4740.

Washington International Horse Show

The 64th Annual Washington International Horse Show returns to the Washington area October 24-30 at The Show Place Arena. The Gaylord Hotel at National Harbor will be the official hotel and the site of the Horse Show Welcome Party. For more information, visit www.wihs.org.

Changing landscape

Piano Keys is a new restaurant at 7651 Matapeake Business Dr. #104, Brandywine. It's closed Monday and Tuesday. Other hours: late afternoon to midnight or 1 a.m. I saw a rave review on NextDoor Morningside. Her order: shrimp and grits, catfish & jerk wings, and peach cobbler. Call 240-816-2211.

Cloud-computing consulting firm Cloudforce, which specializes in the Microsoft cloud operating ecosystem, has tripled its office space at National Harbor. The company now occupies an entire top floor at 120 Waterfront St.

Programs. I have been a devotee of theatre and concerts since I moved here in 1958. Within a year or two I was regularly attending the National Theater (\$5 seats in the nose-bleed section), ushering at Arena Stage, and attending concerts, wherever. I have kept every program, usually with review and ticket stub stapled thereto. Now programs are reduced, smart phone "published" or have vanished entirely. Breaks my heart.

A home at 6319 Suitland Road just sold for \$376,500.

UFOs?

Wayne Gordon sent an email on July 26: "20 years ago today (2002) NORAD detected an unknown blip on their Radar, so they had Andrews scramble two F-16s to see what was going on. According to the Air Force, they didn't find anything. But Channel 5 News said a guy in Waldorf saw a plane that looked like it was chasing a blue light in the sky."

"What is kind of remarkable was that incident happened on the 50th anniversary of a much larger UFO flap over DC back in 1952, which occurred over two weekends in July. There was a whole book written about it and it made the front page of newspapers back then."

Wordle

I continue to work the Wordle every day, though I seem to be in a rut—I keep getting it in 4 moves. However, I now have a 99% standing. If you have a fail-safe 5-letter word to recommend, send it to me.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Markeyce Herring and Connie Kimbles, Aug. 6; Mary Dean, Aug. 7; Denis & Donna Wood, Aug. 7; Maxmilian "Max" Howard, and William Billy Stewart, Aug. 8; and Savannah Foster, Aug. 11.

Happy 43rd anniversary to Morningside Council Member Sharon and Mike Fowler who were wed August 11, 1979. Send birthdays and anniversaries to muddmm@gmail.com.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

WATKINS REGIONAL PARK

Yoga in the Parks August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at Watkins Regional Park (located near the ballfields). Yoga in the Parks is a free yoga program where classes take place in the beautiful outdoors. Enjoy the peace and serenity of a yoga class in one of our many scenic parks. Address is 301 Watkins Park Drive Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774. Email: wellness@pg-parks.com

Cost is free. Link: Register through PARKS DIRECT! (<https://bit.ly/3u61ZJL>) Use activity codes 279A & 17680-479B.

MEET THE NEW BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEMBERS

The Board of Library Trustees is a policy-making body that guides the development of library services. It is composed of seven volunteer citizens appointed by the County Executive. Their policy decisions impact all areas of library operations.

Prince George's County Memorable Library System thanks Hiram Larew and Samuel A. Epps IV for their service as Board of Library Trustees Members.

Patricia Gamette is currently a capital markets compliance manager at Freddie Mac, overseeing the firm's compliance with financial obligations. She holds a J.D. from the George Washington University Law School, a master's degree from American University, and a bachelor's degree from Hampton University.

Robert Fernandez has been a faculty member and librarian at Prince George's Community College since 2017. Fernandez serves on the board of directors of Wikimedia District of Columbia, a 501©3 non-profit organization that works with cultural institutions in the greater Washington DC area.

Prince George's County Memorable Library System also congratulates Sylvia Bolivar for being reappointed as a board member.

HIP-HOP DANCE CLASS

Join us for a fun filled evening of dance instruction with Shanna Lim August 17, 2022, from 7-9 p.m. at the Publick Playhouse, 5445 Landover Road Cheverly, Maryland 20784. Cost is free. Participants will have a fun-filled evening building skills, experience, and self-confidence. Comfortable sneakers and clothing are encouraged. Open to dancers of all experience levels.

Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544, Email: publickplayhouse@pgparks.com. Link: Register thru Parks Direct!

11TH ANNUAL BULLDOG GOLF CLASSIC

Save the date. Join the Bowie State University Department of Athletics for the 11th Annual Bulldog Golf Classic, Tuesday, October 11, 2022, the Country Club at Woodmore. Shotgun start at

8:30 a.m. Registration fees through September 1, 2022. Per Four-some: \$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 Classic is a sold-out event every year.

JOAN EVELYN HAYES, POET

"I was requested to make a statement on how I go about my work, thought I would share. We each have to write a method on who we are and how to write our poems. My speech that I am going to read at our poetry meeting. Good morning audience, students, and fellow artists. My name is Joan Evelyn Hayes, and I am a poet."

"I have been writing poetry since I was a teenager but only in the last fifteen years have published my work. When I work on my poems, especially my lyrical stories, I like to be in a quiet place where I can drift off and glide myself in the tale."

"Any writer will tell you that what you imagine about writing and what you end up writing can be completely different. Sometimes writing takes an existence of its own. You feel the expedition but know not where the journey will end."

"My poetry is from everyday life to intense feelings and short stories. I am by nature a quiet person, but poetry exposes my inner thoughts of sunshine, pain, and rain. My aspiration is to take people along with me, while enjoying my concept or tale. Also, that other artists enjoy my personal writing style and while inspiring others."

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to Berline Brooks, Ray Johnson, Rev. Constance Smith, Melvin E. Thomas, Melvin M. Thomas, Monica Washington, Evelyn Love, Laurette Pinkney, and Jackie Taylor who are celebrating birthdays in August.

WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Congratulations to Sydney Carr and Nyah Christen who will represent the University of Maryland Eastern Shore as 2022 HBCU Scholars through the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence and Economic Opportunity through Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Carr the newly crowned Miss UMES 2022-2023, is a junior majoring in construction management technology. Christen is a sophomore majoring in computer engineering. Information received UMES the KEY (A newsletter for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends May 2022).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PGSPCA Low-Cost Shot Clinic

Date and time: **Sunday, August 7, 2022**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Description: The Prince George's County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PGSPCA) is holding walk-in, low-cost vaccination clinics for cats and dogs, on the first Sunday of the month through September. No appointment is needed. The gates open at 11 a.m., and anyone in line by 1 p.m. will be served. All dogs MUST be leashed or in a carrier. All cats MUST be in a carrier. Cash or credit card only; no checks. Without documentation of a prior rabies vaccine, your pet's rabies vaccine will expire in one year.
Cost: Rabies vaccination: \$15, Distemper vaccination: \$15, Microchipping: \$30
Location: 8210 D'Arcy Road, Forestville, MD 20747
Contact: Visit www.pgspca.org/clinic/shots

“Our Streets, Our Future”

Date and time: **Friday, August 12, 2022** from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Description: Join the Office of the State's Attorney for Prince George's County in their continuation of the “Our Streets, Our Future” gun violence prevention rallies throughout the summer in various communities. Join them for the next one on in Seat Pleasant. During this event they will also honor the life and legacy of Chief E. Earl “Chap” Ivey. Featuring special guests EZ Street and Joe Clair.
Location: Goodwin Park, 311 68th Place, Seat Pleasant, MD 20743
Contact: Register at <https://tinyurl.com/osoftchapivey>.

Summer Harvest

Date and time: **Saturday, August 13, 2022**, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Description: Wondering how to eat summer fruit and veggies? Stop by the Get Fit Mobile unit for new recipes to enjoy and fun activities to try. Good nutrition starts with MyPlate! Learn to plant fresh vegetables to go on your plate. Planting supplies provided. Bring the whole family!
Cost: Free; Register Through PARKS DIRECT!
Location: Ellen E. Linson Splash Park (located at farmers market), 5211 Campus Drive, College Park, MD 20740
Contact: wellness@pgparks.com

Story & Craft—Goats

Date and time: **Saturday, August 13, 2022**, 10-11 a.m.
Description: Join us for a farm-related story, followed by a craft and an animal meet and greet.
Cost: \$3/resident; \$4/non-resident; Register Through PARKS DIRECT!
Location: Old Maryland Farm, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

“Pirates of the Chesapeake” Lecture

Date and time: **Saturday, August 13, 2022**, 2-3 p.m.
Description: From the golden age of piracy to Confederate privateers and oyster pirates, the maritime communities of the Chesapeake Bay are intimately tied to a fascinating history of intrigue, plunder, and illicit commerce raiding. At this event, author Jamie L.H. Goodall introduces infamous men like Edward "Blackbeard" Teach and "Black Sam" Bellamy, as well as lesser-known local figures like Gus Price and Berkeley Muse, whose tales of piracy are legendary from the harbor of Baltimore to the shores of Cape Charles.
Cost: Free
Location: Belair Mansion, 12207 Tulip Grove Drive, Bowie, MD 20715
Contact: 301-809-3089

Free Entrepreneur Training for Veterans

Date and time: **Orientation: Tuesday August 23, 2022**, 6:30-8:30 p.m. **Classes: Every Tuesday, September 13, 2022 through November 15, 2022, 6:30-9:30 p.m.**
Description: Project Opportunity is an intensive curriculum based 10-week cohort program. Through grants and community business support this program is FREE to all veterans, active duty, and reserve personnel. The curriculum and material are facilitated by small business professionals and subject matter experts. The program concludes with a formal business pitch. **MUST BE A PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY RESIDENT FOR CONSIDERATION.**
Cost: Free
Location: 9701 Apollo Drive, Largo, Maryland 20774
Contact: To register for the Project Opportunity Prince George's County Fall 2022 Orientation Session, go to: <https://www.project-opportunity.com/registration/>

Cruzin’ Main Street

Date and time: **Saturday, August 27, 2022**, 5-9 p.m.
Description: The Marlboro VFD, Marlboro Lions Club, and Ledo Pizzeria (Upper Marlboro) host the 16th Annual Cruzin’ Main St. Car Show! Cars will be lined up along Main Street in downtown Upper Marlboro. This event will benefit the Marlboro Vol. Fire Dept & the Marlboro Lions Club. Event Parking is available at the Water Street parking lot across from the 7-Eleven.

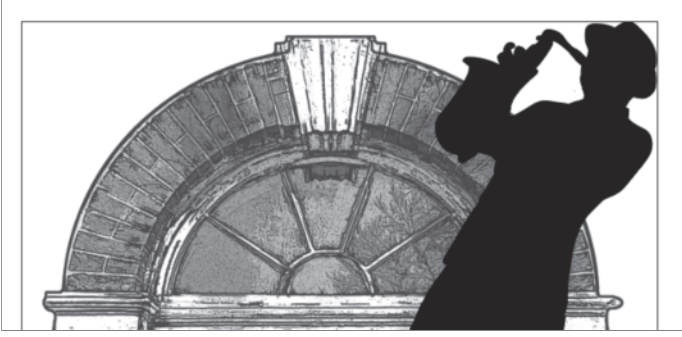
Please note Main Street will be closed from Water Street until Pratt Street in Downtown Upper Marlboro for this event

Show Vehicle Registration: If you are interested in having your car, truck, bike, or even antique fire truck participate at the show, complete the online registration form at <https://marlborocarshow.vpweb.com/contact-show-and-vendor-entries>
Awards, Gift Cards, Money & Door Prizes!
Location: Main Street, Town of Upper Marlboro
Contact: Jeff Wyvill: flylimo@verizon.net

NAMI Peer-to-Peer Course

Date and time: **Wednesdays starting September 14, 2022**, 7-9 p.m.
Description: NAMI Peer-to-Peer is an 8-session recovery-focused course for adults with mental health conditions.
Cost: Free
Location: via Zoom
Contact: Register: kristina.hill@namipgc.org

COMMUNITY



Wine & Jazz at Marietta

By STACEY HAWKINS
Marietta House Museum

Bring your blanket or lawn chairs and join us on Saturday, August 13, from 2–7 p.m., for a leisurely day of Wine & Jazz on the green grounds at Marietta House Museum.

Listen to the sounds of local popular artists AJQ Plus 1 jazz ensemble and Higher Standard Jazz. Local vendors will be onsite with food and crafts. Artisan crafters will be demonstrating woodcarving, decorating tips, artwork, and more. Take a guided tour of Marietta House Museum and the Duvall Law Office at listed times during the day (included with event admission).

Stroll through the booths of local Maryland wineries, including Romano Vineyard and Winery, Olney Winery, and more. Sample their delicious wine in a provided tasting glass.

Ages 21 and up. \$10 per person. May pay at the door or register through www.pgparksdirect.com or call 301-464-5291.

Marietta House Museum is located at 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD 20769 and is a property of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. For more information, call 301-464-5291 or visit PGParks.com.

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

How Do We Apply for My Wife's Spousal Benefit?

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 70 years old and just started receiving my Social Security benefits about 4 months ago and I get close to \$3700 per month. My wife is 65 years old and worked sporadically over the years so is entitled to her own benefits. If we applied under her account, she would get around \$300 a month. If she applies under the spousal benefits, she should get a lot more, but we are not exactly sure how to apply for spousal benefits under her existing account. Can you help guide us?
Signed: Uncertain How to Proceed

Dear Uncertain: Your wife can apply for both her own SS retirement benefit (from her own lifetime work record) and her spousal benefit from you, at the same time. In fact, when she applies for her own Social Security benefit, since you are now collecting your benefits she will be automatically deemed to be filing also for her spousal benefit from you.

Your wife's Social Security payment will actually consist of two elements—her own earned benefit and a "spousal boost" to bring her to her spousal entitlement. So, when she applies for her own SS benefit, she will also get a spousal boost to make her payment equal to what she is entitled to as your spouse. She can apply by calling Social Security at your local office or calling the national service center at 1-800-772-1213 to request an appointment. She also has the option to apply for her benefits online at www.ssa.gov which is, by far, the most efficient way. To apply online, your wife will need to first create her personal "my Social Security" online account, which is easy to do at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. When your wife fills out the application for her benefits, she will be able to identify you as her spouse, and she should use the "Remarks" section of the application to emphasize that she wishes to receive her spousal benefits as well.

Just for your awareness, your wife's spousal benefit will be based on your full retirement age (FRA) benefit amount, not your age 70 amount, and if she claims at age 65 her benefits will be reduced because she hasn't yet reached her own full retirement age (which is 66 years and 4 months if she was born in 1956). Your wife's personal benefit will be reduced by .566% for each month earlier than her FRA that she claims, and her spousal boost will be reduced by .694% for each month earlier than her FRA she claims. So, if your wife claims her benefit before her full retirement age, her payment will be less than 50% of your FRA benefit amount.

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 (amac-foundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvis@amacfoundation.org.

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County Announces Enterprise Golf Course Grand Reopening Event

By PRESS OFFICER

Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (July 28, 2022)—Enterprise Golf Course is excited to announce its Grand Reopening Celebration after completing an extensive Bermuda grass and tee-leveling renovation. Join us at 9 a.m. on **Friday, August 12** at 2802 Enterprise Road, Mitchellville, MD 20721 for great golf, fun and enjoyment. After golf and during lunch, Department leadership will address attendees. All players are invited, no matter the group size. Come out and be part of the first to golf our newly renovated course.

Reopening Schedule

- Continental breakfast
- Shotgun start—\$80/\$40 per player/member, 100 players max, 18 holes, format:

own ball

- On-course contests—closest to the pin, long drive
- After golf lunch—guest speakers
- 08/13/22—normal daily golf operations resume

To make reservations, Contact Toby Todd, Enterprise Golf Course Facility Manager or Shirley Wilson, Administrative Assistant with your group name, size, phone number, and email. Please register as a single, twosome, threesome, or foursome.

For questions about the renovation, call the golf shop at 301-249-2040 or Maryland Relay 7-1-1 for customers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability. View updates and photos of progress at www.mncppc.org/5197/course-renovation-updates.

The M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and

Recreation delivers an award-winning park system through progressive, innovative leadership and a commitment to the community and the environment in Prince George's County. For more on the Department, visit www.pgparcs.com and stay connected on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities in all programs and services. Register at least a minimum of two weeks in advance of the program start date to request and receive a disability accommodation.

The Enterprise Golf Course is a premier public golf course in the Mid-Atlantic Region. It opened in 1976 and is built on a historic property that was formerly the old Newton White Dairy Farm. Features of the course include: 18-hole, par 72, championship course open, rolling fairways, natural scenery, and year-round access.

Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation Partnering With Maryland Black Chamber of Commerce for National Black Business Month in August

Month-long highlight of Black businesses and programing Showcasing why Expansion Starts Here for Black Business

By RHETT BUTLER

PGC Economic Development Corporation

LARGO, Md. (August 1, 2022)—The Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation and the Maryland Black Chamber of Commerce are partnering to celebrate National Black Business Month in August, extending the EDC's tagline to Expansion Starts Here For Black Business.

Black-owned businesses in Prince George's County will be highlighted all month long on the organizations social media platforms, in addition to online and in-person events during the 31-day observance that shines a light on these companies.

"National Black Business Month is a moment to feature several of the many successful businesses based in Prince George's County," said Ebony Stocks, Executive Vice President of Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation. "We are delighted to be able to partner with the Maryland Black Chamber of Commerce to highlight the accomplishments of these businesses while also providing access to the EDC's resources and programming, which fulfill our extended promise that Expansion Starts Here For Black Business."

The Maryland Black Chamber of Commerce will host a webinar on **August 17** from 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. as part of their 2022 Summer Learning Series, Scaling and Preserving Your Business. The event will be held virtually on Zoom and hosted by Mary-

land Black business owners. Attendees will learn the resources needed to scale and protect their business from the best experts.

"It is important to celebrate and recognize Black Owned businesses and the impact they have on the economy," said Kenneth White, Board Chair of the Maryland Black Chamber of Commerce. "This month we are highlighting black owned businesses and sharing their many successes here in Prince George's County. I hope our collaboration inspires new entrepreneurs and provides strategic support for starting, sustaining and growing successful black owned businesses in the County."

As a culmination to the month of celebration, a networking Happy Hour-style event will be held on **Wednesday, August 24**, at a soon-to-be-announced venue in Prince George's County. Details will be forthcoming.

The EDC and Maryland Black Chamber of Commerce continue their commitment to helping small and minority-owned businesses through the August focus on black-owned companies.

Recently, the EDC graduated the first cohort of its Step Forward Initiative on Monday, July 25. This inaugural cohort of ten minority women entrepreneurs completed a program that began during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, and further demonstrating the EDC's commitment to preparing minority companies for the vibrant Prince George's County economic landscape.

The six-month program featured workshops with guest speakers that covered various topics to prepare the cohort to thrive in the market. Topics included business planning, marketing, business process, and legal business formation, all explained by industry experts.

National Black Business Month now provides yet another outlet to showcase how Expansion Starts Here For Prince George's County Businesses.

The Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation's (PGCEDC) mission is to cultivate and promote a strong local economy that supports the growth and prosperity of entrepreneurs and businesses, dedicated to strengthening communities through business development and job creation. For more information about the services the Economic Development Corporation provides to local companies, visit www.pgcedc.com.

The Maryland Black Chamber of Commerce mission is to educate, connect, and advocate for black businesses all across Maryland. The vision of the MBCC is to offer strategic support for starting, sustaining and growing successful black businesses in Maryland. We do this by offering networking opportunities, affinity groups, resources, and partnerships with organizations which provide training, workshops, coaching, and funding assistance. For more information about the Maryland Black Chamber of Commerce, visit www.marylandbcc.org.

Your Infinite Paths Foundation Celebrates Third Anniversary With Inaugural 5K Event

Early Bird Registration Available through August 31

By PRESS OFFICER

Your Infinite Paths Foundation, Inc.

WALDORF, Md. (July 27, 2022)—Your Infinite Paths Foundation (YIPF), a non-profit based in Charles County, MD, invites local community members and families to join them in celebrating three years of service to the community by joining their inaugural 5K event. Kick-off is scheduled for 8 a.m., October 9, 2022, at the Regency Furniture Stadium in Waldorf. Virtual runners are also welcome. Participants can register online at <https://runsignup.com/Race/MD/Waldorf/StepstoSuccess5K>

On-site check-in begins at 7 a.m. Each

participant will receive a swag bag, and first, second and third place medals for on-site runners will be awarded. Sponsorships are available, providing local businesses and nonprofits with an opportunity to get the word out about their offerings. Sponsorship applications can be requested by emailing CEO Kathryn Young at yourinfinitepathsfoundation@gmail.com

"We wanted to celebrate our three year anniversary with an event for serious runners, families needing a fun day and other nonprofits and businesses to get the word out about their offerings, so we are really excited about this," said Young. "We are also planning a few surprises for the day."

Founded in October 2019 in Prince

George's County, Your Infinite Paths Foundation Inc. offers programs and services, based on coaching principles, to empower people in DC, MD and VA, especially those who are economically disadvantaged, to build wealth, health and lasting success.

For more information about how to support the program by volunteering or making a donation, please contact:

Kathryn Young at kathryn.young@yourinfinitepathsfoundation.org or [facebook.com/yourinfinitepathsfoundation/](https://www.facebook.com/yourinfinitepathsfoundation/)

Donate here: [paypal.me/yipfoundation](https://www.paypal.me/yipfoundation)
Volunteer application: <https://forms.gle/fjqSyBmLVbmur7r9>

Prize List Now Available for 2022 Capital Challenge Horse Show

The prize list for the 2022 Capital Challenge Horse Show, to be held September 29–October 9, at Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, MD, is now available online at capitalchallenge.org.

Entries for the 29th annual show opened on Wednesday, August 3, at 10 a.m. ET and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. To submit entries or to learn more about the electronic entry process, please visit <https://entries.showmanagementsystem.com>.

COMMENTARY

Marian Wright Edelman

Founder and President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Encouraging Teachers

"Teaching children may be the highest way to seek God. It is, however, also the most daunting way, in the sense of the greatest responsibility."

—Gabriela Mistral, Chilean Nobel Prize Laureate in Literature

For many children and families the last weeks of summer are winding down now, but for many devoted teachers preparing for the new school year began as soon as the last one ended. As I wrote in a letter to teachers and educators in *The Sea Is So Wide and My Boat Is So Small: Charting a Course for the Next Generation*, after parents, teachers

are probably the greatest influencers and molders of children's futures. Teaching has to be more than just a job; it has to be a calling. I share Nobel Laureate in Literature and teacher Gabriela Mistral's belief that "a love for children opens up more paths for teachers than pedagogic theory does." You can have the best equipped school, smallest class size, and a great curriculum, but if teachers and principals do not love children, children will know it—and be hurt. Teachers must be committed to finding and nourishing the gifts in each child and to building a child's sense of confidence and competence. Teachers' negative attitudes and mes-

sages can compound a child's learning difficulties, but a teacher's regular compliments and support can motivate, and even save a child's life.

I recommend that teachers and adults ponder more of the great poet-teacher Gabriela Mistral's wisdom and sense of mission about educating children:

- "Teach always, in the courtyard and on the street, as if they were the classroom. Teach with your demeanor, expression, and words."
- "Live the beautiful theories. Live with kindness, energy, and professional integrity."
- "Brighten your lessons with beautiful words, with a pertinent story, and relate each piece of knowledge to real life."
- "If we don't achieve equality and culture in the school, where else can such things be required?"
- "A teacher who does not read has to be a bad teacher. She's reduced her job to a mechanical function, by not renewing herself spiritually."
- "Everything can be expressed so long as it's presented properly. Even the harshest reprimand can be made without humiliating or poisoning a soul."
- "It's an intolerable breach of instruction to teach facts without teaching how to learn."

- "The fingers of a potter should be firm and soft and loving, all at the same time."
- "It's vital to consider the school not only as one person's house, but as everyone's house."

Educators, school boards, and communities nationwide routinely say they want all children to have a quality education but too often do not make the uncomfortable and unpopular decisions that make this possible and persist over the long haul. It is time for all public schools and public school systems to become equitable, child-focused institutions that serve all children with love, respect, competence, high expectations, and committed leadership. Educating all of our children can be done if love and commitment to children guide our actions.

I thank all educators who are devoting themselves to preparing and inspiring the next generation, and I urge many more young people—especially young people of color and males, like many of the college-aged servant-leaders who teach in Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools® programs—to consider the noble calling of teacher as a life choice. It will make such a difference in the lives of countless children left behind and to the future of America.

—July 29, 2022

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

#WeAreBG: Hope Surges for the Release of WNBA Star Brittney Griner

"Please continue to pray for my family and all the other families of the wrongfully detained, as our pain remains active until our loved ones are brought home. Let's continue to use our voices to speak the names of all the wrongfully detained Americans and support the Administration as they do what it takes to bring them home today."

—Cherelle Griner, wife of WNBA star Brittney Griner

Of all the things Brittney Griner is, and all the things she represents to her family, her teammates, her friends and her fans—athlete, advocate, philanthropist—she is, above all at this moment, an Amer-

ican who is wrongfully detained in Russia.

In the news this week, the Biden Administration is prepared to negotiate a prisoner exchange for her release brings her one step closer to coming home, where she belongs.

The news coincided with a striking Time magazine cover and in-depth profile that paints a picture of a newly-hopeful Brittney, buoyed by a personal letter from President Biden and a phone call from the President and Vice President Kamala Harris to her wife, Cherelle, assuring the couple that they have not forgotten Brittney's plight and are working diligently to secure her release.

"I was able to read the letter, and it brought me

so much joy, as well as BG," Cherelle said. "I believe every word that she said to him he understood. And he sees her as a person, and he has not forgotten her, which was her biggest cry in her letter."

In a letter to the President earlier this month, Brittney shared her fear that she would remain in Russia forever.

In a Russian courtroom, Brittney flashed a smile as she held up a photo of every player in the WNBA All-Star game wearing Phoenix Mercury jerseys with Brittney's number 42 emblazoned on the back. The league named Brittney an honorary All-Star starter; she responded to the news by joking that she'll have the worst stat line since she can't even be at the game.

"She still has her sense of humor," teammate Brianna Turner said. "It's just insane."

Her "goofy side" is on display in the Time profile, which recounts her "skittering" her 6-foot, 9-inch frame around the Mercury team offices on a motorized tricycle, or commandeering the microphone to ask for a price check on green beans whenever Mercury players spend a day working at team sponsor Fry's Food Stores.

Impending talks between U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken and his Russian counterpart, Foreign Minister Sergey V. Lavrov, would be their first communication since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February. Brittney was taken into detention a week before the invasion.

While Blinken has not confirmed details of the

proposed exchange, multiple news outlets have confirmed it involved Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout, who was convicted in U.S. federal court in 2011 on charges including conspiracy to kill U.S. citizens and officials, delivery of anti-aircraft missiles, and providing aid to a terrorist organization.

Under the proposal, Bout would be exchanged for Brittney and former U.S. Marine Paul Whelan, who has been held in Russia since 2018 on espionage charges. U.S. Ambassador John Sullivan called Whelan's trial "a mockery of justice."

The National Urban League firmly supports the Biden Administration's efforts to bring Brittney home. In June, we joined dozens of other civil and human rights organizations in urging President Biden to strike a deal for her release.

As we noted in our letter, and the Time profile makes clear, Brittney has overcome bullying, hate, and alienation to become an international superstar, an anti-bullying advocate, and devoted patron of BG's Heart and Sole Shoe Drive, a partnership with the Phoenix Rescue Mission to provide shoes to people experiencing homelessness.

"People don't even know how much she has already pushed through," high school teammate and lifelong friend Janell Roy said. "For me to know her past journey, and some of the things that she's dealt with, I can tell you that my sister is not going to come back weak. That's for sure. She's only going to come back stronger."

—July 29, 2022

Chris Van Hollen

United States Senator for Maryland



Van Hollen Meets With Organizations Supporting Survivors of Domestic Violence, Highlights New Federal Actions, Funds to Support Them

BALTIMORE (August 1, 2022)—Friday, U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) hosted a roundtable discussion with community leaders and organizations that support survivors of domestic violence to discuss new funding awards and provisions passed by Congress to help survivors of intimate partner and gender-based violence. The Senator highlighted efforts to successfully reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which included an expansion

of vital protections for survivors. He also discussed direct federal investments he secured for Maryland organizations that provide resources and support to survivors, as well as gun violence prevention measures he worked to pass—such as the closure of the "boyfriend loophole" to keep guns out of the hands of convicted domestic violence offenders—and the need to protect reproductive rights in Maryland following the Supreme Court's harmful decision to

overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

The COVID-19 pandemic and all of the challenges resulting from it caused an uptick in domestic violence cases. Last year, at least 58 Marylanders died because of intimate partner violence. That is the highest number of intimate partner violence homicides on record in fourteen years. Early data suggests that incidents of violent domestic crime in Baltimore City rose by 31 percent in 2021 compared to the year before. The National Domestic Violence Hotline is receiving historic amounts of outreach—and in February, that organization saw the highest number of calls, chats, and texts in its 25-year history. This rise in domestic violence is straining local providers who do so much to deliver resources to survivors.

"We must do more to combat the rising tide of domestic violence—utilizing every tool at our disposal to protect survivors and ensure their safety. That's why it was so important to meet with leaders of organizations who are on the front lines supporting survivors of intimate partner and gender-based violence. We discussed the positive impact of some of the recent measures the Congress has taken to support their efforts, including expanding the Violence Against Women Act, fixing the Victims of Crime Fund, and clos-

ing the dangerous "boyfriend loophole" in our gun laws. I was also proud to secure federal funding for a number of local organizations doing life-saving work on the ground. But we also discussed the fact that the scourge of domestic violence has gone from bad to worse during the pandemic. That's why we need to redouble our efforts, and I am grateful for the input and ideas the leaders brought to our roundtable discussion. I will continue to stand with domestic violence survivors and do everything I can to support local organizations who are making a difference in our communities," said Senator Van Hollen.

The Senator's roundtable included representatives from CHANA, the DOVE Program with LifeBridge Health, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, and Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA). Also, as part of the fiscal year 2022 federal funding legislation, Senator Van Hollen secured a \$600,000 direct investment for the LifeBridge Center for Hope—which houses the DOVE Program—alongside Congressmen John Sarbanes and Dutch Ruppersberger (both D-Md.), as well as \$300,000 for JCADA to expand capacity alongside Congressman Jamie Raskin (D-Md.).

Graduates from A1

assist women-owned businesses in getting the right connections to accelerate business growth. It was provided by partners like Prince George's County Federal Credit Union, Sandy Spring Bank, Capitol One, Main Street Bank, and SCORE.

"When I started, it was the height of COVID-19, and my mortgage-paying job had me traveling a lot internationally; I didn't realize how much of my time was being taken," said Sherrie Brown, owner of Savvy Scents. "My sister and I started a business on the side and applying the things I learned from the cohort, I met with a credit union and recently signed contracts to have my products in stores. This really did help me."

In addition, presentations were made by the Women's Business

Center on the types of funding products available to businesses, the Financial Empowerment Center on how to establish business credit, and by various experts from local lending institutions who discussed financial projections, loan ratios, and more.

"I have an engineering background, so I'm constantly dealing with a lack of confidence in my business acumen; I used this program to learn more about business," said Step Forward graduate Emmalyne Head, owner of Southern Belle Cleaner. "The best part was all of the speakers, which made me rethink what I thought about loans."

Facilitated by the EDC Business Development team of Alicia Moran, Manager of Small Business Services at PGCEDC, and Andre Plummer, Financial Services Program Manager, the Step Forward program helped some

women entrepreneurs pivot during the pandemic.

"All of the workshops elevated my game and helped me think on a broader spectrum," said Step Forward graduate Gina Head, owner of LiveScan MD. "I wound up hiring someone and will implement more of what I learned. I've been Prince George's County for quite a while. This county is improving yearly."

Expected program outcomes for Step Forward participants include their ability to identify loan package deficiencies/shortfalls, have a completed loan application package ready to submit for funding, and have their loan application pre-viewed/prequalified by lenders.

Funded by a grant from Wells Fargo, Step Forward focuses on women-owned businesses based in Prince George's County. Cohorts are competitively selected

annually to join the program. Participants will meet one-on-one with a company and/or banking counselor to work directly on their specific needs and strengthen and/or mitigate shortfalls in their loan packages.

For more information about the Step Forward Initiative and other small business services offered by the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation, visit www.pgcedc.com.

The mission of the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (PGCEDC) is to cultivate and promote a strong local economy that supports the growth and prosperity of entrepreneurs and businesses, dedicated to strengthening communities through business development and job creation.

The Prince George's Post

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ENVIRONMENT

Earn Cash for Your Trash: TerraCycle Announces National Fundraising Opportunity for Schools

By PRESS OFFICER
TerraCycle, Inc.

TRENTON, NJ (July 26, 2022)—It's almost that time of year again—back to school fundraising season. This school year, international recycling leader TerraCycle is helping to take the burden of fundraising off teachers and parents with the upcoming launch of a free and easy fundraising opportunity for K–12 schools across the country.

Schools nationwide can earn money by simply collecting and recycling a wide array of items that are not typically acceptable in curbside recycling. Participating free recycling programs can be found at www.terracycle.com/schools.

Here's how fundraising with TerraCycle will work:

- Create a TerraCycle account for your school.
- Join as many participating free recycling programs as desired.
- Set up a TerraCycle recycling hub with collection bins in your school using materials on hand.
- Spread the word to the school community: let students, parents, and faculty know they can help fundraise just by recycling.
- When the collection bins are full, download a free shipping label for each program and send the trash to TerraCycle to be recycled for free!
- For each shipment, earn points that can be redeemed as a donation to fund field trips, new supplies and more.

As an added benefit, every school that signs up to become a Ter-

See OPPORTUNITY FOR SCHOOLS Page A6

Environmental Themes Prominent in 2022 Chesapeake Film Festival

By PRESS OFFICER
Chesapeake Film Festival

EASTON, Md. (July 27, 2022)—Many of our nation's waterways are much cleaner than they were 50 years ago thanks, in part, to the Clean Water Act of 1972. Yet today, nearly half of U.S. streams, lakes and underwater aquifers are so polluted that they are not safe for fishing, swimming, or aquatic life, including some in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Learn more about water quality in Maggie Burnette Stogner's new film *Upstream/DownRiver*, on the opening night of the 2022 LIVE Chesapeake Film Festival, September 30 at the Avalon Theatre in Easton.

Two of Stogner's earlier films, *Unbreathable—The Fight for Healthy Air* and *In the Executioner's Shadow*—were award winners in past Chesapeake Film Festivals.

Stogner, with more than 30 years of experience in documentary filmmaking, is the Executive Director of the Center for Environmental Filmmaking and a professor of Film and Media Arts at American University. During her nine years at National Geographic, she produced, directed and wrote numerous documentaries, and was senior producer of the

award-winning weekly programs *Explorer* and *Ultimate Explorer*. She also has produced immersive media for world-touring cultural exhibitions for National Geographic, the Smithsonian, Lucas-Films, and others. Her award-winning work in that arena includes two King Tut exhibitions; *The Greeks*; *Real Pirates*; *Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures*; *Indiana Jones and Adventure of Archaeology*; and *Roads of Arabia*.

UpStream/DownRiver follows the world premiere of a film by Sandy Cannon-Brown and Dave Harp. *The Search for the Cooper: A River Hidden in Plain View* follows a historic expedition of four teens and their leaders up the Cooper River that runs through Camden, NJ. The explorers kayak, hike and bushwhack their way along the 17-mile river to discover its secrets and find its source.

Capping the evening of environmental shorts is a captivating film, *Into the Dark*, by director Michael Snyder. Battling sub-zero temperatures and forty-foot seas, a team of scientists embark on a perilous winter expedition into the darkest regions of the Arctic. Their mission: to understand how trace amounts of light may be radically altering the mysterious world of the polar night. What they discover has implications for the global climate and the future of the Arctic.

The prevalence of environmental films continues Oct. 3 through Oct. 9 in the VIRTUAL Chesapeake Film Festival which is FREE to the public. From the 3-minute short, *Green Nettle* from South Africa, to the mesmerizing 90-minute feature from France, *Mediterranean Life Under Siege*, audiences around the world can experience these and other amazing documentaries. *Green Nettle* reveals how local farmers are producing sustainable material from large stinging nettles on the beautiful slopes of Mount Kenya. *Mediterranean Life Under Siege* is about the animals and plants that have survived the growing impact of human activity.

Other environmental films in the VIRTUAL Festival include a spellbinding short from India, *In Search of the Stars*, which shows the profound relationship between the night skies and the life beneath them. Viewers can challenge themselves with the provocative environmental feature *Trashy: A Zero Waste Film*. Follow director Heather Gustafson over the course of a year as she gives up trash for 365 days. It's possible!

For more about these and other films in the 2022 LIVE and VIRTUAL Festivals, visit chesapeakefilmfestival.com or contact Executive Director, Nancy Tabor at 443-955-9144.

Maryland Congressional Delegation Shares Priorities With New Chesapeake Bay Leaders

By PRESS OFFICERS
Senator Ben Cardin's Office

WASHINGTON (July 28, 2022)—U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen and Congressmen Steny H. Hoyer, John Sarbanes, Andy Harris MD, Kweisi Mfume and David Trone met Wednesday, July 27 in the U.S. Capitol with the new president and CEO of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Hilary Harp Falk and the newly selected U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Chesapeake Bay Program Director Dr. Kandis Boyd. The group shared perspectives and progress on challenges including upstream accountability, blue crabs, and the Conowingo Dam, as well as the broader need to maintain unity among Bay Program partners through 2025 and beyond.

"There is no higher priority that we have as a delegation than the Chesapeake Bay. Recognized by presidents as a national treasure, it is the iconic representation of the state of Maryland—quality of life, economy, culture and more," said Senator Cardin. "Team Maryland has worked year after year to ensure the federal government is a strong partner with the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program and stakeholders like the Chesapeake Bay Foundation as we

work to restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay watershed in a sustainable and equitable way. We welcome Dr. Boyd and Ms. Falk to the forefront of this fight. We have reason to be optimistic about the state of the Bay, but there is much more work ahead of us."

"Protecting and preserving the Chesapeake Bay requires an all-hands-on-deck effort. Today's meeting was an opportunity to discuss the significant progress we've made in these efforts but also to underscore all the work that remains ahead. Dr. Boyd and Ms. Harp Falk have already hit the ground running in their new roles, and understand the challenges we face. As a delegation we've fought to deliver historic federal investments for Bay cleanup efforts through annual appropriations and the infrastructure modernization bill, and we must continue to put these dollars where they're needed most—and hold our state partners accountable in following suit," said Senator Van Hollen. "I'm committed to working together to continue these efforts to preserve the Bay for generations to come."

"I was glad to meet with CEO and President of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation Hilary Harp Falk and EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Director Dr. Kandis Boyd. Conservation efforts to

protect the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries are of critical importance our Congressional Delegation," said Congressman Hoyer. "I am particularly concerned about the Blue Crab shortages we are witnessing and the impact that is having on our ecosystem and our economy. I am looking forward to working closely with Hilary as she leads efforts in our state and across the region to advance our mutual goal of cleaning up the Bay, protecting its wildlife, and strengthening its health for future generations."

"As the Maryland Delegation has remained intensely committed to restoring the Chesapeake Bay and securing robust funding to support conservation projects, the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program and Chesapeake Bay Foundation have been essential partners in coordinating and implementing these efforts," said Congressman Sarbanes. "My conversation with Dr. Kandis Boyd and Hilary Harp Falk reaffirmed our shared commitment to restoring and protecting the Bay Watershed, centering the voices of those most impacted by environmental injustice in our solution-making and working collaboratively with the community to be good stewards of the Bay."

"The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure and vital economic engine on

the Eastern Shore, which is why I'm proud to have consistently fought for federal funding for the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program and to have secured language in the FY23 Appropriations bill to help eradicate the invasive blue catfish," said Dr. Harris. "At the meeting, I was pleased to hear of the support from the entire Maryland Delegation and look forward to working with them, the Foundation, and our colleagues in the Senate to sustain this critical language toward eradicating this dangerous and invasive species."

"I grew up on the water, so I understand the importance of our waterways in a very personal way. Marylanders of every stripe, including many of our small businesses, rely on a healthy Bay for food, recreation, and to make a living," said Congressman Mfume. "I am proud of the work we are doing in Congress to bring federal expertise and federal money to the table as we fight for a healthier Bay."

"Congratulations to Dr. Kandis Boyd upon her appointment as EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program Director and to Hilary Falk for her selection as President of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation," said Congressman Raskin. "The Chesapeake Bay is a natural treasure and the pride of Maryland, and I'm thrilled that these two talented leaders are bringing decades of experience in government and conservation to the task of protecting and restoring the Bay. I look forward to working with my Maryland col-

leagues to bolster their Bay preservation efforts."

"Protecting the health of the Chesapeake Bay is essential to Maryland's way of life and its local economies. Every year, billions of dollars in seafood revenue and tourism benefits hardworking Maryland families, and we remain dedicated to ensuring that folks can continue to enjoy the Bay for generations," said Congressman Trone. "I look forward to working with the leadership of the EPA and Chesapeake Bay Foundation to further these efforts on the federal level."

"The Chesapeake Bay and its rivers and streams bind together more than 18-million people. Restoring clean water is vital to the health, welfare, and economic strength of their communities," Falk said. The science-based Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint is working to achieve that goal. We are reducing pollution and underwater dead zones are shrinking over time. At the same time, warning signs like this summer's shortage of blue crabs demonstrate that we still have a long way to go. Climate change also threatens progress. However, today's meeting gives me hope. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation applauds the bipartisan leadership of the Maryland Congressional delegation and others in the region who are standing up for clean water. By

See PRIORITIES Page A7

Earth TALK™ Koalas on the Ropes Following Australia's Black Summer

Dear EarthTalk:

Is it true that koalas are on the verge of extinction? What is being done to help this species survive?

—May Jenkins, Chicago, IL

Despite their status as icons of biodiversity, koalas have been in steady decline for two decades. Yet the conservation status of this Australian native has only just changed from "threatened" to "endangered" in recent months following a series of bushfires that raged across Down Under during the summer of 2019 (later termed "Black Summer").

Prior to Black Summer, disease and climate change were the primary determinants of the size of koala populations. Habitat loss has also contributed to the koala's plight in recent years, including deforestation, urbanization and ecological fragmentation. Indirect factors range from animal grazing to agricultural and mining practices. However, Black Summer presented the ultimate tipping point for koalas.

According to Anne Kerle of the New South Wales (NSW) Threatened Species Scientific Committee, koala populations have declined some 50 percent across Australia due to Black Summer. To combat this, state governments such as NSW announced a commitment of AU\$193.3 million, representing the largest financial promise by a government, to conserve koalas. The majority of funding will go toward habitat conservation and research on koalas, with the remainder dedicated to garnering community support and establishing a koala safety program.

In addition, the Queensland state government has promised more than AU\$24 million will go beyond saving the koalas to inspire remediation efforts for other threatened species. Environment Minister Meaghan Scanlon states that Queensland promotes "one of the most biodiverse places on the planet," emphasizing the critical need to protect threatened species (especially in an area that also upholds the highest number of threatened species due to anthropogenic—i.e. human-caused—habitat loss). According to the Wilderness Society, 90,000 hectares of land was cleared for beef production alone in the span of a single year. This initiative indicates a commitment funding, researching, and creating environmental laws that restrict habitat clearing, according to Queensland Conservation Council Director Dave Copeman.

A large part of koala recovery efforts will be community-based. Along with encouraging activism that holds Australian decision-makers accountable for their actions that destroy koala habitats, education of young people will promote awareness of the need to save koalas, especially because they tend to be inconspicuous in their habitats and thus "out of sight and out of mind."

Just like any threatened species, koalas are worth saving, not just because they are beloved but also for the sake of protecting the biodiversity of Australia's flora and fauna.

CONTACTS: "Australia lists koala as an endangered species across most of its range", <https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2022/06/australia-lists-koala-as-an-endangered-species-across-most-of-its-range/>; "New South

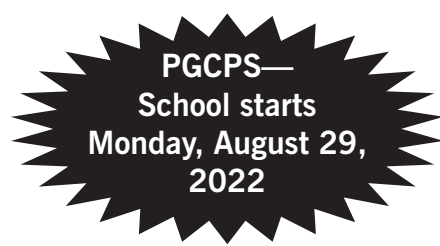


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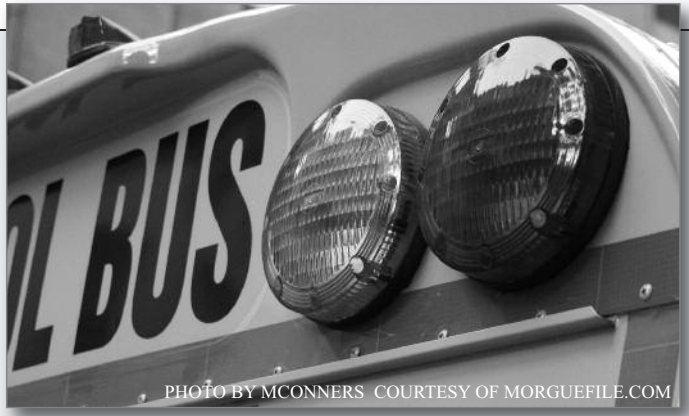
Koalas are on the ropes across Australia thanks to last year's Black Summer and ongoing threats to their habitat.

Wales government lists koala as endangered," australiangeographic.com.au/news/2022/05/nsw-government-lists-koala-as-endangered/; "Queensland announces more than \$24m for koala population and habitat protection," theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/jun/05/queensland-announces-more-than-24m-for-koala-population-and-habitat-protection.

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BACK to SCHOOL



Prince George's County Kicks Off the Stuff TheBus Back to School Supply Drive

By PAULETTE L. JONES
DPW&T

LARGO, Md. (July 19, 2022) —The Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) will host the annual “Stuff TheBus” Back to School Supply Drive from **July 22, 2022 through August 22, 2022**. This drive has provided an opportunity for the County and its various partners to assist students, especially the most vulnerable learners, prepare for the academic year with brand new bookbags and essential classroom supplies.

Since 2018, DPW&T has received significant donations from County government agencies, County staff, the Prince George's County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and the Prince George's County Community Partners to assist with this effort. Despite the pandemic, the (2020) “Stuff TheBus” resulted in over 1,100 backpacks and drawstring bags, and over

12,600 items not including more than 10,000 pencils. The drive and distribution last year (2021) were a total success as well with over 1,000 backpacks and tote bags collected, and over 22,000 items collected in total.

“The Stuff TheBus Back to School Supply Drive is one of our main events of the year. We are Prince George's Proud to provide families with opportunities to collect backpacks and school supplies during these financially challenging times,” said DPW&T's Acting Director Michael D. Johnson.

Prince George's County Schools 2022–2023 academic year starts August 29, 2022. We are looking forward to having another successful drive as we prepare to help our youngest and brightest start their school year off strong.

For more information about the Stuff TheBus Back to School Supply Drive, please contact Paulette Jones, Public Information Officer at pljones@co.pg.md.us.

Back to School Summer In-Person School Registration

Need help registering your child for a Prince George's County public school? In-person registration is available at your assigned school on Wednesday, August 10 and Thursday, August 11, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please contact the school that your child will attend this fall to make an appointment.

Evening hours are also available. Contact the PGCPS Office of Pupil Accounting and School Boundaries at 301-952-6300 or pasb.enrollment@pgcps.org to make an appointment.

Summer Registration Evening Hubs (4–7 p.m.)
August 11, 2022: Oxon Hill High

School, 6701 Leyte Dr. Oxon Hill, MD

Questions on what documents you need to register? Visit the PGCPS website: https://www.pgcps.org/about-pgcps/registration-enrollment#how_to_enroll or call the Office of Pupil Accounting and School Boundaries.

For more information on in-person summer registration, visit the PGCPS Summer In-Person Registration website: https://www.pgcps.org/about-pgcps/registration-enrollment/new-summer-in-person-registration-dates?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

—Community Connections Newsletter, July 28, 2022

Opportunity for Schools from A5

raCycle School through the end of the year will be awarded \$5 towards their fundraising goals.

“School communities have always been some of our most avid and enthusiastic recyclers,” said Tom Szaky, founder and CEO of TerraCycle. “With this initiative, we can reward staff and students for their efforts to keep trash out of landfills, with the added bonus of educating the entire school community about the importance of protecting the planet.”

The opportunity to fundraise for schools is open nationally to any interested school community. For more information, visit www.terracycle.com/schools.

DNR Awards Outdoor Environmental Education Grants for Watershed Studies

Funding Supports Projects Fostering Science and Stewardship

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has announced \$128,000 in awards for student and youth outdoor science, and watershed education in the state. The following schools and nonprofit organizations will receive funding during Fiscal Year 2023.

- Adkins Arboretum, ShoreRivers, and Caroline County Public Schools will engage second grade students in the “Bees, Seeds, and Healthy Streams” field experience at the Arboretum. Through an outdoor issue investigation, students will discover how can native plants, pollinators, and people interact to create thriving land and water habitats.
- The Accokeek Foundation and Prince George's County Public Schools will help students learn about the perspective

of Indigenous communities and the interconnectedness of the environment, cultural preservation, land and water rights, tribal sovereignty, stewardship of ancestral homelands, and Indigenous stewardship ethics.

- Living Classrooms Foundation will engage 500 students from five Baltimore City Public Schools in the School Leadership in Urban Runoff Reduction Project. This project-based learning experience centers on preventing stormwater runoff pollution through six hands-on environmental education experiences during the school year.

Outdoor education funding is made possible from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant.

An additional \$9,995 grant was awarded to the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) to train ed-

ucators on the “Wave of Plastic” curriculum in the eight public middle schools in Charles County. This curriculum engages students in the issues of plastic pollution and culminates in student-driven, informed action projects. This grant is funded by the National Coastal Zone Management Program, and was a special marine debris focus area offered in this year's grant solicitation.

These grants were applied for and managed through the DNR Grants Gateway to provide a single entry point for grantees, and assures access to funding for innovative, local projects. 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.

Back-to-School Solutions that Save Time in the Kitchen

FAMILY FEATURES

When the back-to-school season brings jam-packed schedules full of learning and homework, every minute counts for the parents who make those school days possible. Create some extra time for special moments with the special people in your life by prioritizing easy yet delicious dinners that can help refuel parents and students.

In just five minutes, you can prepare a spicy take on chicken and rice with this family favorite Buffalo and Blue Cheese Chicken recipe. Making some extra time for yourself is as simple as starting with Minute White Rice Cups packed conveniently in single-serving BPA-free cups you can finish preparing in just 1 minute.

When you're looking for a fun way to introduce your little learner to the kitchen, try creating your own homemade Buffalo sauce for this dish by mixing hot sauce, butter, white vinegar, Worcestershire sauce, cayenne pepper and garlic powder. Heat in a saucepan until the butter melts and the mixture simmers, then turn down the heat and wait for it to cool.

If your loved ones aren't big fans of spice, turn to a tamer take on a kid-friendly classic with “Mac” and Cheese in a Cup, a creamy rice version of the familiar favorite made with milk, cheddar and cream cheese. Just because you may not have a lot of time to spend in the kitchen doesn't have to mean suffering through boring meals – simply use the microwave to enjoy this speedy yet tasty option.

It's easy to enjoy the buttery taste and aromatic scent of jasmine rice – regardless of how packed your schedule is – by using Minute Jasmine Rice Cups to make quick dinners a reality. This taste bud-tingling take on mac and cheese made in a microwaveable cup saves you from clean-up duty and leaves more time for homework, after-school activities, school projects and all the excitement that comes with a new school year.

To find more quick yet satisfying and delicious dinner ideas for busy school nights, visit MinuteRice.com.



“Mac” and Cheese in a Cup



Buffalo and Blue Cheese Chicken

“Mac” and Cheese in a Cup

Prep time: 2 minutes
Cook time: 3 minutes
Servings: 1

- 1 cup Minute Jasmine Rice
- 1/3 cup 2% milk
- 1/3 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 tablespoon cream cheese
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 pinch dry mustard powder (optional)

Heat rice according to package directions.

In a microwave-safe cup, stir rice, milk, cheddar cheese, cream cheese, garlic powder and mustard powder, if desired.

Microwave on high, stirring occasionally, 2 minutes, or until heated through and cheese is melted and saucy.

Tips: For extra-cheesy rice, add 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese.

Substitute garlic powder with 1/2 clove minced, fresh garlic.

Buffalo and Blue Cheese Chicken

Prep time: 2 minutes
Cook time: 3 minutes
Servings: 1

- 1 cup Minute White Rice
- 1 breaded chicken tender, sliced
- 2 tablespoons Buffalo sauce
- 1 tablespoon crumbled blue cheese, for garnish
- 1 green onion, sliced, for garnish

Heat rice according to package directions.

In a small, microwave-safe bowl, combine chicken and sauce. Microwave on high 2-3 minutes.

Serve chicken over rice. Garnish with blue cheese and green onion.

COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

Priorities from A5

working together—residents, businesses, local and federal governments—we will finish the job and ensure clean water for our communities and future generations.”

“It was truly an honor and a privilege to speak with the Maryland Congressional Delegation about the most pressing issues affecting the Chesapeake Bay, its watershed, and those that recreate, live, and work in the Bay,” Dr. Boyd said. “More than ever it’s important to address climate change and its impact on the Bay to continue the nearly 40+ years of partnership that has provided marked improvements in the air, land, and water quality surrounding the Bay.”

The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States. Its watershed, declared a national treasure in Executive Order 13508 (2009), comprises a 64,000-square-mile area and includes portions of Maryland, Delaware, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia and the entire District of Columbia. The lawmakers have secured significant federal funding and worked alongside state and local governments in the seven jurisdictions, as well as federal agencies, academic, nongovernmental and other partners to restore the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

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